



VOLUME I

HISTORICAL REPORTS



Michigan Annual Conference
Grand Traverse Resort & Spa
May 31- June 2, 2019

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AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of local congregations of The United Methodist Church. Thank you, Michigan United Methodists, for prioritizing Africa University with the contribution of 91.3 percent of your asking in 2018.

Through its investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment, the Michigan Conference continues to affirm the university's core mission of nurturing leaders who help communities to know Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health.

Institutional Update:

- In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.
- Throughout 2018, Africa University addressed the challenges of operating in a depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment in Zimbabwe with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption. Key enhancements in 2018 included the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university's operations as well as the refurbishment of three dormitories for women students.
- With conflict, poverty, and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents and ideas are a part of the search for solutions.
- Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU's insectary – a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitos – shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

The students, faculty, administrators and trustees of Africa University thank the members of the Michigan Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain this ministry. Thank you to the Michigan Conference for all that you have sown into Africa University over the past 27 years. As Africa University and the Michigan Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God for the increase.

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

COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRY

The Committee on African-American Ministry was legislatively formed during the 2017 Annual Conference effective July 1, 2018. In early fall 2018, we took several months to discuss our new structure with both laity and clergy and secured representation from each group as well as from the five active African American United Methodist organizations. The organizations are Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), United Methodist Black Clergy of Michigan (UMBCM), Urban Youth Alliance (UYA), and Training and Equipping African Americans for Ministry (T.E.A.M. – originally known as African American Spiritual Formation). We also asked for representation from those African-Americans who are currently attending seminary.

After solidifying our structure, we spent several months formulating our mission, vision, and purpose. We are currently working on goals and objectives to fulfill our mission and vision. We have a state-wide database of many of our African-American brothers and sisters to be able to be in communication with them regarding resources as well as ongoing activities and events that will be beneficial to them and their respective churches and communities.

We also began working with the Associate Director of Multicultural Vibrancy to identify ways in which her office can work with us to be supportive to the African-American churches and communities. We also look to her office to help us be more actively engaged in collaborating with the other minority ministries in our conference.

Through the former Committee on Racial Ethnic Local Churches, we inherited four churches from the West Michigan Conference who needed on-going support and will be working with them to continue to identify

their immediate and long-term needs. We also began gathering information from the former Detroit Annual Conference churches to offer them needed support.

It is our prayer that we are able to serve these churches, their congregations, and communities with resources that will help them to fulfill our conference's vision to "equip and connect through Christ-centered mission and ministry, bold and effective leaders, and vibrant congregations."

Jan J. Brown / Simmie Proctor, Co-Chairs

BAY SHORE EVANGELICAL CAMP OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DBA: Bay Shore Camp and Family Ministries

Celebration

We're pleased to report that more than 1200 children and youth attended camp at Bay Shore the summer of 2018. We served nearly 19,000 people over the course of the year. In keeping with our vision of "no child left behind," no child was turned away from camp for inability to pay. In fact, individuals donated more than \$135,000 to help kids go to camp.

We are thankful for the countless people who support this ministry with their financial gifts. Aside from those who support make it possible to attend camp through gifts to our Campership Fund, we give thanks for those who gave in excess of \$120,000 to support our general operating budget. Bay Shore now has an operating budget of \$1.1 M.

History and 2018 Recap

An Evangelical United Brethren Camp at the time of the 1968 merger, Bay Shore established its own 501c3 non-profit when The United Methodist Church decided to close the camp and agreed to transfer it to some faithful constituents. Bay Shore continues as an affiliate ministry of The United Methodist Church by representation on the Bay Shore Board from United Methodist-appointed clergy and laity.

In 2018, Bay Shore offered 15 summer child and youth camp events over a course of 7 weeks. Weeks of camp include athletic camps, arts camps and traditional camps. Basketball camp continues to be the most popular week of camp, filling up long before the summer season begins. A week of day camp was added to our 2018 schedule and boasted an impressive first year attendance.

Family (Assembly) Camp, now in its 117th consecutive year, continues to be well attended. More than 500-700 people participate in some portion of the week's events. Inspiring speakers for the adults, engaging programs for the kids and youth, and a wide range of recreational activities draw people of all ages to this multigenerational event. In 2018, the number of children and youth attending this event outnumbered the adults.

Bay Shore serves a wide array of year-round guests. Many attend our programmed retreats including men's retreats, women's retreats, youth retreats, quilt retreats and craft retreats. And others attend events as guests of others who use our facilities to program their own retreats. The recent addition of the Amby Lodge, a 13 room, 33 bed lodge with semi private rooms has opened up even more possibilities. Rooms are comfortable, typical of a nice hotel, and the lodge has a beautiful great room with kitchen for guest use.

The most important events that Bay Shore offers are free! Twice a year, June and October, Bay Shore offers "Free Family Fun Days." Families are invited to attend. Camping is free. All the recreational activities are free. The June event includes all our popular camp activities including swimming, mini-golf, inflatables, ziplining, lasertag, arrowtag, paintball, and barrel train rides. The October event includes popular Fall activities like hayrides and pumpkin painting. Weather dependent, 200-600 people attend these events. In December, Bay Shore stages a drive-through Living Nativity that serves hundreds of guests annually.

What's Next?

As the nature of our society changes, so must the nature of camping ministry. In the coming months and years, Bay Shore plans to roll out new ways to support the church and the family. Partnering with the local church, traveling day camps will be introduced. Partnering with schools and community, an outdoor education program is being developed. Meeting the changing needs of families, onsite day camps and weekend family camping opportunities are being developed. The mission remains the same:

"The mission of the Bay Shore Camp and Family Ministries is to provide an invitation for all people to experience Jesus Christ and to nurture them in their relationship with Him."

Jeff Parsons, Executive Director

CLARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

As part of the Grand Rapids community for the past 113 years, Clark has been serving seniors and their families with an unwavering focus on our mission of *Creating communities of dignity, compassion and respect centered on the lives of older adults and those who care for them*. Every day we touch the lives of over 2000 people on our campuses as well as our collaborations of home and community-based services. Our residential offerings are in independent, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing. We are so proud to say that we have active, vibrant and wonderful communities to serve seniors with an unsurpassed, positive culture and environment.

To meet the needs of residents, enhance quality, and remain focused on our mission, Clark's strategic direction includes the expansion of independent living. Currently, there are growth initiatives underway on both our Franklin and Keller Lake campuses. There will also be enhancement of programming and services for memory care.

Residential Communities

Clark at Franklin

Our legacy campus, Clark at Franklin, was founded in 1906 through a generous donation by Melvin and Emily Clark. This thriving, ecumenical community welcomes people with open arms, warm smiles and provides a fun-loving, engaging and caring environment. Living options include independent townhomes and apartments, assisted living, specialized dementia care, and skilled nursing.

Clark at Keller Lake

Situated on a 40-acre campus, Clark at Keller Lake is located on beautiful natural environment with groomed nature trails winding around the lake. It is conveniently located near shopping and dining establishments. Our independent living option includes spacious townhomes clustered around Keller Lake. There are two assisted living manors each located on the edge of the lake with large decks overlooking the water. They provide a caring, nurturing and activity filled environment with specialized services for residents with dementia. Our new building project will include 70 upscale independent living apartments in a very unique townhome square model overlooking Keller Lake.

Montessori for Aging & Dementia

Clark has integrated a program of Montessori for adults with dementia that is the first of its kind in the United States. People with memory loss often live a life of emptiness with little or no purpose. The Montessori Program offers an exciting, evidence-based approach for setting a revolutionary new standard of excellence in dementia care by providing purpose and creating independence.

Collaborations for Home and Community-Based Services

Atrio Home Care is a collaborative effort of three home health care providers – Clark, Holland Home and Resthaven. Atrio was formed to provide a new level of compassionate, skilled, and quality home care services including a comprehensive range of personal private duty home care services as well as skilled home care services.

Emmanuel Hospice is a partnership of four local faith-based senior services organizations, including Clark, that provide dignified end-of-life support to patients and their loved ones. The mission of Emmanuel Hospice is to put the patient's wishes first and asks the question, "*How do you want to LIVE?*"

TANDEM365 represents an innovative concept aimed at helping older adults navigate the complexities of healthcare while enabling them to remain in their homes. Through customized care coordinated by a team of health care professionals, participants in TANDEM365 have access to the best services and support available with a single point of contact.

Rethinking Dementia ~ Accelerating Change (RDAC) has its roots in the Collective Impact model of collaboration, where stakeholders of all sorts come together to find innovative solutions to common problems. Dementia is a complex problem that affects people's lives in many ways; therefore, the perspectives of various people and organizations is needed. Formed in 2015, RDAC has grown to include 17 partner organizations and is expanding its reach even farther into the community.

RDAC connects people living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia to resources, services, and support that can help them in every stage of the process. It also facilitates collaboration between health care, social services and clinical research.

Clark Foundation

Philanthropy is a major component that gives us the ability to provide our many services. The Clark Foundation provides opportunities to support our mission through the Clark Promise. Through the generous gifts of donors, we are able to provide financial support to those residents who, through no fault of their

own, have depleted their financial resources. Other areas of gifting include the Montessori program, Music Therapy, and many life enrichment activities as well as support to capital projects and initiatives.

At Clark, we are truly living our mission through person-centered care. Our employee “I Believe” giving campaign is a testament to our staff’s commitment and belief in the work we do every day. We see an exciting future ahead for fulfilling the needs and desires of the seniors of our community. Our vision and strategic plan are designed to keep Clark vibrant, competitive, and financially healthy.

Brian A. Pangle, President/CEO

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL and DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

This has been a season of transitions and ministry that has been thirty years in the making. During these past three decades the West Michigan and Detroit conferences empowered multiple study groups, task forces, transition and design teams. Each conference took four separate votes with varying outcomes of affirmation and decline. **January 1, 2019 all the prayers, work, hopes, dreams and visions are now embodied in the “new” Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church.**

This report reflects the work of the two previous Conference Leadership Teams (CLT) and the new Michigan Conference Leadership Council (CLC). It was a remarkable and fruitful year of living in the multiple both/and realities of two conferences working together as they ended, and the intentional “on ramp flow” that began in earnest toward the single new conference.

People

The Michigan Conference Human Resources Committee addressed the monumental task of carefully and graciously making the necessary staff lay-offs, transitions and hiring’s. July 1, 2018 began the new staffing model that represents a total equivalent of 10 full-time positions fewer than were in the combined staff model of the two conferences in 2008. The Design Team and CLC intentionally created new positions specifically designed to support and help strengthen local congregations. These positions were added to the team of passionate leaders who already carried out that focus. Those positions included: Director of Clergy Excellence, Associate Directors for Lay Leadership Development and Multi-cultural Vibrancy, Coordinators for Young Adult, Youth and Children’s Ministry Initiatives, a Coordinator for Event Planning, an Information Technology Specialist, and an EZRA (data base) Administrator.

A staff retreat was led by Bishop Bard and facilitated by leaders from the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI in August. This was a valuable time of building relationships, discovering gifts, casting vision and setting collaborative goals. Monthly meetings by the various staff teams have taken place and been essential in contributing to collaboration and accountability.

The compilation of all Michigan Conference Human Resources Policies and Procedures, evaluation materials and personnel supervision expectations has been in process, along with a check list for employee hiring and dismissals practices. This material and training are being shared with all Michigan Conference directors and district Superintendents.

The six Michigan Conference directors have met monthly with Bishop Bard and the Clergy Assistant to the Bishop for collaboration, alignment of vision, prayer support, and strategic planning. This gathering is often referred to as “The Directors’ Table.”

Places

The former conferences’ offices in Flint and Grand Rapids were exited and lease space was acquired and renovated to accommodate district and conference staff in Grand Rapids and Lansing. The former Salem United Methodist Church, north of St. Johns, has become the site for treasury and pension archives, district records archives and offices for the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Ministry. Negotiations have been in progress for the continuation, creation and utilization of Archives and History storage in collaboration with Albion and Adrian colleges.

Program

The *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church-2016* indicates that the role of the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) is “Keeper of the Conference Vision.” Because of this responsibility, his focus moves between the “30,000-foot view” for perspective and the “3-foot level” for the implementation of action and details. He and the CLC are consistently asking in various contexts, “Tell us how this can strategically align with our Conference Vision?” During this transition year, the CLC and the DCM have had a close working relationship with the leadership of the various boards and agencies for implementation of their work and allocation of financial resources.

Some specific programmatic connections have included, but are not limited to:

- A very close working relationship with Michigan Area Camping Board as they face significant facilities, finance and utilization challenges.
- Implementation of task forces for specific work in the areas of:
 - Grant Applications
 - Mission Congregations
 - Urban Strategy
 - Stewardship/Generosity
- Intentional funding decisions supporting the ministries of historically Native American, Hispanic/Latino, Vietnamese, Korean and African American Congregations.
- Support for Bishop Bard as he traveled across the conference in multiple presentations helping interpret the Report of the Commission on the Way Forward and the implications for the 2019 Special General Conference. If you have read this far and are still paying attention, let Benton know and he will contribute five dollars for camping scholarships, up to a total of five hundred dollars. A tool kit of resources to help congregations deal with difficult conversations was created and provided on the conference website.
- Funding grants were approved for Circles of Grand Rapids, JFON, the New Church Development Committee and start-up program resources for unfunded staff positions.

Please read the reports of our Associate Directors and Coordinators that follow this summary for additional insights related to ministry across the Michigan Conference.

We are blessed to serve Christ in this capacity along with the passionate lay and clergy leadership that willingly give of their time, talent, treasures and witness.

Benton R. Heisler, Director of Connectional Ministries
Amy Mayo-Moyle, Chair, Conference Leadership Council

Ministry Area Reports from Connectional Ministries Program Staff

Associate Director for Multi-Cultural Vibrancy – Brittney Stephan

As the Associate Director for Multi-Cultural Vibrancy, I very much enjoy building relationships, witnessing some incredible ministries at work, consulting with local churches, and dreaming up ways for what our new Michigan Conference can look like together. Through this work of multi-cultural vibrancy, we strive to engage clergy and laity alike in discernment and reflection about their roles and the role of conference leadership, in fully embracing the communities that we serve. This includes the incorporation of an anti-bias/anti-racist approach to both new and existing ministry initiatives that helps us to live out the vision for the Michigan Conference in a way that doesn't compromise the racial, ethnic, and cultural context of our people. This approach involves the utilization of self-assessment tools, resources, and training models that challenge us to look at the systematic analysis and power dynamics needed to create institutional change. This includes a set of programs that strives to create a discipleship pathway of cultural practice that promotes understanding and integrates culture, faith development, and discipleship. These programs will not be exhaustive of one another but work together to help identify reference points in order to provide additional tools and resources for further growth and learning. The resources used in this strategy are not only to help identify particular growth points within an individual/group, but to help move people toward an anti-biased/anti-racist identity that seeks to create a more beloved community through worship experiences and church leadership as a collective whole.

Associate Director for Mission and Ministry – Paul Perez

My work has focused on disaster recovery, young adult ministries, and mission giving and engagement, and leading these programs through transition in the creation of the new conference and staff restructuring.

I have administered \$380,000 of UMCOR grant funding and supervised six disaster case managers in disaster recovery ministries related to flooding in Midland, Hancock, and resettlement of Hurricane Maria survivors from Puerto Rico in Detroit and Grand Rapids. This work will transition to Nancy Money, Coordinator of Disaster Recovery Ministries, in February 2019.

I lead the Boards of Global Ministries of the Detroit and West Michigan Conference in developing and implementing EngageMI, the new Michigan Conference mission giving and mission engagement program.

As the primary staff liaison to the Board of Global Ministries and Board of Justice, I have worked with leaders of each agency to navigate restructuring and begin their work in the new Michigan Conference.

The responsibility for conference young adult programs (EncounterMICall, Mission Intern, Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools, and Global Mission Fellow/US-2 Michigan Affiliate) were transitioned to Lisa Batten, Coordinator for Young Adult Initiatives.

I recently convened a task force of conference staff and cabinet members to coordinate strategies related to urban, rural, and people of color congregations and communities.

Coordinator for Young Adult Ministries – Lisa Batten

The Michigan Conference is engaging bold and effective leaders through missional service. EncounterMICall engages young adults through a collaboration of Wesley Campus Ministry and local congregations and non-profits. The Mission Intern Program, celebrating 20 years, engages young adults in summer ministry programs and offers ministry for children in poverty. CDF-Freedom Schools engages Servant Leader Interns through reading, identity building, music, spoken word, and experiences for children ages 8-15. Global Mission Fellow-US2s engage in mission and justice at two sites in both Kalamazoo and Detroit. Wesley Campus Ministries engage seven campuses and hundreds of students in a variety of ministry settings.

Children's Initiatives Coordinator – Kathy Pittenger

The Children's Initiatives Coordinator position started on July 1, 2018. In this new role I have focused on building relationships, encouraging, empowering, equipping, and engaging with Children's Ministry Leaders and clergy and lay who are invested in Children's Ministries. I have traveled around the state of Michigan hosting "Meet & Greets" to meet people, ask questions, and use those responses to guide my work and ministry. The children's ministry for the conference has a digital presence both on Facebook and on the conference website which allows for curating resources, communication and sharing ideas. We also utilize online webinars, such as the Advent webinar and Methodism 101 for Children's Ministries Leaders. A small group attended the Christians Engaged in Faith Formation Conference in Des Moines, Iowa in October, and the group continues to meet monthly for support and continuing education. I have also led several district workshops and am assisting with the organization of regional network groups. Collaborating with colleagues is important to me and in that vein, I have worked with: Bridget Nelson to create a Local Church Protection Policy template; Rev. Paul Perez on a resource for how families can engage with social justice; Rev. Lisa Batten on curriculum for Mission Intern sites; Rev. Tanya Campen (Rio Texas Conference) on #pictureAdvent and #pictureLent devotions and resources, and on-going conversations with several others. I am excited about the present and future of Children's Ministry in Michigan!

Missionary for Hispanic and Latino Ministries – Sonya Luna

The Hispanic/Latino Ministries Missionary, Sonya Luna's, area of ministry, is to work with the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries to implement the three-year strategic plan, that has three focus areas; Youth Engagement, Multicultural Leadership Engagement, and Community Engagement. The vision is that Hispanics/Latinos will play an integral part in all aspects of the conference and that the development of ministries with the Hispanic/Latino Community will continue to grow so that there can be more places for spiritual growth and faith development for the Hispanic/Latino Community in Michigan. In 2018, in the area of Youth Engagement, the following work was done: the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy was offered for the fifth year, and workshops about college scholarships were offered at two churches. In the area of Multicultural Leadership Engagement, the following took place: key leaders participated in the Reach Network about multi-culturalism, members of the committee attended the Religion and Race Conference Facing the Future, and lay members attended the National Plan Hispanic/Latino Ministries Lay Module 1 Workshop. In the area of Community Engagement, clergy leaders and young adults went to give witness at the border.

2019 MICHIGAN CONFERENCE BUDGET

	2018-Combined Budget	2019 - Michigan Budget
<u>A) Clergy Support Budget</u>		
1) District Superintendents	\$ 2,611,429	\$ 2,102,743
2) Episcopal Fund	\$ 575,310	\$ 562,632
3) Ministerial Education Fund	\$ 656,151	\$ 641,692
4) Episcopal Residence Committee	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
5) Equitable Compensation Committee	\$ 151,200	\$ 125,000
6) Clergy Advocacy	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
7) Abuse Prevention Team	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500
8) Clergy Moving Expense Fund	<u>\$ 410,000</u>	<u>\$ 350,000</u>
 Sub-total Clergy Support Budget	 \$ 4,424,090	 \$ 3,802,067
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	<u>\$ 800,198</u>	<u>\$ 601,976</u>
 Total Clergy Support Budget	 \$ 5,224,288	 \$ 4,404,043
<u>B) Administration Budget</u>		
1) Council on Finance & Administration	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,000
2) Treasurer's Office	\$ 743,461	\$ 684,164
3) Jurisdictional Conference	\$ 36,723	\$ 36,723
4) General Conference Delegation	\$ 4,500	\$ 20,000
5) General Church Administration	\$ 230,679	\$ 225,596
6) Area Administration	\$ 605,232	\$ 556,453
7) Operations	\$ 206,018	\$ 332,783
8) Conference Secretary	\$ 18,300	\$ 18,300
9) Conference Statistician	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
10) Conference Trustees	\$ 145,795	\$ 1,000
11) Committee on Archives & History	\$ 38,342	\$ 40,586
12) Committee on Human Resources	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000
13) Legal Fees	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
14) Contingency Funds	<u>\$ 53,500</u>	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
 Sub-total Administration Budget	 \$ 2,146,850	 \$ 2,031,205
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	<u>\$ 397,630</u>	<u>\$ 343,926</u>
 Total Administration Budget	 \$ 2,544,480	 \$ 2,375,131

	2018-Combined Budget	2019 - Michigan Budget
<u>C) Conference Benevolences Budget</u>		
<i>1) Agencies Relating to Christ-Centered Mission and Ministry</i>		
a) Commission on Annual Conference Session	\$ 334,500	\$ 325,000
b) Commission on Communications	\$ 347,126	\$ 396,000
c) Committee on Journal	\$ 11,220	\$ 11,220
d) Board of Justice	\$ 6,950	\$ 15,000
e) Board of Global Ministries	\$ 118,567	\$ 210,000
f) Engage Program Promotion	\$ 7,000	\$ -
<i>2) Agencies Relating to Bold and Effective Leaders</i>		
a) Conference Leadership Council	\$ 5,750	\$ 10,000
b) Board of Ordained Ministry	\$ 163,232	\$ 95,279
c) Committee on Nominations	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,500
d) Committee on the Episcopacy	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
e) Protection Policy	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,000
f) Clergy Excellence Program Funds	\$ -	\$ -
<i>3) Agencies Relating to Vibrant Congregations</i>		
a) United Methodist Men	\$ -	\$ -
b) United Methodist Women	\$ -	\$ -
c) Board of Laity	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,000
d) Board of Young People's Ministry	\$ 269,250	\$ 350,000
e) Board of Congregational Life	\$ 557,500	\$ 581,000
f) Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry	\$ 67,000	\$ 39,000
g) Committee on Asian-American Ministry	\$ 7,000	\$ 47,000
h) Committee on Native American Ministry	\$ 102,757	\$ 115,000
i) Committee on African-American Ministry	\$ 3,000	\$ 66,000
j) Racial & Ethnic Local Churches	\$ 118,000	\$ -
4) Administrative Expenses/Compensation	\$ 1,214,600	\$ 2,147,841
5) World Service Fund	\$ 1,942,691	\$ 1,899,882
6) Pathways Funding	\$ 135,000	\$ -
7) MI Area Camping	\$ 470,000	\$ 400,000
8) Contingency Funds	\$ 15,000	\$ 25,000
9) Assets Released from Restrictions	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-total Conference Benevolences Budget	\$ 5,916,643	\$ 6,757,722
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	\$ 957,417	\$ 925,303
Total Conference Benevolences Budget	\$ 6,874,060	\$ 7,683,025
<u>D) Other Apportioned Causes</u>		
1) Black College Fund	\$ 261,732	\$ 255,965
2) Africa University Fund	\$ 58,575	\$ 57,284
3) Interdenominational Fund	\$ 51,316	\$ 50,185
Sub-total Other Apportioned Causes	\$ 371,623	\$ 363,434
Provision for Unpaid Ministry Shares	\$ 33,423	\$ -
Total Other Apportioned Causes	\$ 405,046	\$ 363,434
Total Conference Common Budget	\$ 15,047,874	\$ 14,825,633
<u>E) Benefits Ministry Shares Budget</u>		
1) Pension/Welfare Payments to Wespath	\$ 1,260,000	\$ 3,128,220
2) Benefits Office	\$ 500,000	\$ 711,780
Total Benefits Ministry Shares Budget	\$ 1,760,000	\$ 3,840,000

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Board of Congregational Life was established as part of the governance structure for the Michigan Conference. Its members were elected at the 2018 Annual Conference. The Board of Congregational Life supports local churches in the ministry of discipleship through leadership, information, promotion, and assistance. The board's role is to cast and communicate vision, to set benchmarks and to evaluate.

Specifically, the mission of the Board of Congregational Life is to: a) Lead and assist the local churches of the annual conference in their efforts to communicate and celebrate the redeeming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and to invite persons into discipleship through this love; b) Inform the conference and its agencies of the needs and opportunities of small membership churches; c) Interpret and advocate for the unity of the Christian church, while encouraging dialog and cooperation with persons of other religions, starting at the local church level; d) Promote and interpret ethnic local church concerns to the annual conference; e) Collaborate with the director of congregational vibrancy in overseeing any staff and processes related to the development of vital congregations and new church development.

The Board of Congregational Life's divisions (Congregational Vibrancy, Small Membership Church, Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations) met in July and October. The board will meet quarterly with divisions working separately in assigned areas of concern.

In these first months, the board has worked to clarify process and purpose. Each quarterly board meeting will have a ministry emphasis and board members will hear about specific conference ministries within those emphases. It is the board's role to assist conference staff and leadership in setting benchmarks for vibrant and vital ministry in the local church and evaluating practices and programming.

Sherry Parker-Lewis, Chair

DIVISION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

The Division on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (DCUIR) of the Michigan Conference has been very busy this year. With restructuring due to the formation of a new conference we now fall under the Board of Congregational Life, thus the change in our name from "Commission" to "Division." Each of our four members sit on other active boards or committees for other ecumenical or interreligious organizations including the Common Word Alliance, the Detroit Interfaith Outreach Network, the Humanitarian Action Group, Unity In Diversity of Flint and the Mott Community College Culture And Language Partnership Project.

In total the DCUIR has hosted, sponsored or participated in over 20 high profile events this year. Some of the events include hosting a multi-cultural music and dance concert including a food buffet from around the world with nearly 300 in attendance, hosting a interreligious prayer service that led to multiple interreligious community mission projects, helping to sponsor an interfaith picnic on Belle Isle with over 200 participants, had the privilege of representing The United Methodist Church on multiple occasions in synagogues and mosques after the horrific shootings in a Jewish place of worship this fall, and we were able to send Rev. Laurie Smith Del Pino as a delegate and panelist to the World Parliament of Religions in Toronto, Canada.

So many United Methodist congregations in Michigan are doing great work with other Christian denominations or faith groups. All are wonderful events but like many of the ones listed above are unknown by many in our Methodist community. Though there are some United Methodist congregations doing outstanding work, we appear to be way behind the curve of other Christian denominations. As a major mainline denomination, we have been too inwardly focused for too long. This is usually not by intention, and many times our work is in reaction to the needs of our community. We need to be intentional and include our neighbors in doing God's work in the world.

The current members of the DCUIR are working very hard to make the work of The United Methodist Church more visible.

Rodney Gasaway, Chair

DIVISION OF CONGREGATIONAL VIBRANCY

CONGREGATIONAL VIBRANCY TEAM

During this first year of the Michigan Conference, the Congregational Vibrancy team has been active. The Team consists of:

- Dirk Elliott, Director of Congregational Vibrancy, provides leadership to the Vibrancy Team and oversees the church planting and multiplication work across the conference.
- Naomi García, Associate Director of Congregational Vibrancy, focusing on change, systems and conflict resolution. Naomi oversees the Congregational Resilience, the conference coaching process, and serves as a facilitator.
- Gary Step, Associate Director of Congregational Vibrancy, focusing on revitalization of churches, overseeing Vital Church Initiative, Roads to Vibrancy, and the Local Church Assessment process. Gary also provides staff support and direction for the Reach Summit.
- Laura Witkowski, Associate Director for Lay Leadership Development, has been working with the Lay Servant Ministries, coordinating the process across our new conference and developing a Certified Lay Minister process.
- Bridget Nelson, Youth Ministry Initiatives Coordinator, is expanding a network of youth leaders across the conference. Meeting monthly, leaders learn from each other while providing support and encouragement for each other.
- Jill Smith, Executive Assistant for Congregational Vibrancy, provides behind-the-scenes support for the others on the team, as well as supporting the numerous teams the Vibrancy Team resources.

The Vibrancy Team is ready to work with your church to help bring life and vibrancy to your ministries.

Dirk Elliott, Director of Congregational Vibrancy

NEW START TEAM

The New Start Team's purpose is "to create and multiply new faith communities and disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world."

The New Start Team has set goals for the Michigan conference to do our part in reaching the denomination's goal of making one million new disciples by the end of 2020. Our goals are starting:

- 13 new churches
- 130 new faith communities (averaging 50-100 people)
- 1300 new small groups (averaging 12 people)

To date this quadrennium (2016-2018), the Michigan Conference has started 11 new churches (including churches creating multi-site campuses), over 20 new faith communities (including new worship services), and numerous new small groups that are intentionally reaching unchurched people.

In 2018, we worked with the Cabinet to start two new churches. Cass Community United Methodist Church, realizing that the community has shifted demographics, is launching a new worshipping community focused on reaching the Mid-Town District. We also started a French Speaking church, primarily focused on reaching African residents in Detroit. Traverse City Mosaic church continued to gather people and launched public worship in January.

Church Adoption continues to be a new model of multiplying churches. A church adoption involves a larger, healthy church partnering with a smaller, usually struggling church. The smaller church becomes a multi-site of the parent church. This past year we had three church adoptions. Brighton First adopted Whitmore Lake: Wesley United Methodist Church. Redeemer Church adopted St John's First, and renamed it Redeemer Church: St John's campus. Battle Creek: Chapel Hill adopted two churches in their community and are using them as outreach/mission centers as they discern the long-term usage of the buildings.

The Reach Summit and the Reach Network Groups continue to train leaders. More than 225 attended the Reach Summit in 2019. Dr. Elaine Heath was the keynote speaker. As a Pre-Reach event, Cathy Townley led a half-day workshop on starting new worship services attended by over 75 people. The Network Groups meet monthly and focus on a variety of topics to reach more people and multiply ministries.

Starting new worship services is a great way of reaching new people. It is less expensive than starting a new church, and provides more options for people to attend. The New Start Team has provided several start-up grants to help churches start new worship services.

The New Start Team continues to train and assess leaders to start new small groups, new ministries, new worship services, new sites or venues, and new churches to make disciples for the transformation of Michigan communities.

Dirk Elliott, Director of Congregational Vibrancy
Anthony R. Hood, Co-Chair
Matt Stoll, Co-Chair

REVITALIZATION

This past year has been a year of change and transition for everyone in the conference including the work being done on revitalization. As the new Michigan Conference was created and new districts were formed, we began to slowly birth a new process called "Roads to Vibrancy." This new process will expand on the foundation already in place with Vital Church Initiative (VCI). Please note the work of VCI is still ongoing and vital but is being transformed and expanded! The new process that is forming will have a larger learning platform to offer local churches. This will allow more choices to retool and reimagine ministry in new and exciting ways. These expanded processes will be called Learning Labs. Learning Labs will include multiple classes with extended learning periods and could include a coaching and/or consulting component. The main categories of these Learning Labs are: Leadership, Discipleship, Communications, Mission and Outreach, Worship and Other. Some of the sub-categories featured in Learning Labs will be: Visioning, Simple Governance, Addressing Conflict, Worship, Hospitality and Stewardship. There will also be a host of other Learning Labs that congregations can explore based on their needs and possible areas of growth. Pilots of these Labs started in late 2018 and will continue to grow in numbers and locations as we head into 2019.

As our team explored expanding the area of revitalization, we determined that the key foundational piece missing in almost every consultation was their lack of a clear vision. Therefore; in January of 2019, 24 faculty were trained in the "Church Unique" process of building a "Vision Frame." Currently we are identifying churches that are ready to pilot this new exciting Learning Lab. This lab will walk individual churches through a unique "Vision Framing Process" to help create and implement a Visionary Plan for real church growth. The foundation of this vision framing process is based on the principles outlined in the celebrated book, "Church Unique" by Will Mancini. Through this process local churches will create clarity around the unique identity of their church. Working from that clarity, they will develop actionable plans for articulating, planning, and integrating vision into the culture. Our trained facilitators will be leading local churches to create a custom-built vision frame and a real church growth action plan. Consultation events will continue to be part of the overall process; however, they will only take place once a vision is in place and the church has gained momentum.

As we move to implement "Roads to Vibrancy" we will not have to recreate the wheel or come up with the next best thing; these new processes will expand the integrated, holistic approach we have been building for the last six years. "Roads to Vibrancy" will be an exciting expansion to the groundwork that has been laid.

Our revitalization team has a faculty of over 30 lay and clergy trained as coaches, facilitators, and consultants who are passionate about revitalizing the local church. I believe that the local church is the hope for the world, and once the mission is understood and the vision is in place, these congregations will become an unstoppable force as they embody the hands and feet of Christ to the world around us.

Praise God for the hard work of our local churches and our faculty who are all working on reviving our churches to health and vitality!

Another area of ministry that continues to expand is the Local Church Assessment process. This assessment process was rewritten in 2018 to add action plans, consulting and coaching. These added components have been key to help congregations make the hard choices it takes to attain sustainability. This newer, more refined process is opening the doors to non-conventional roads to renewal, including momentum towards revitalization, adoptions, restarts, and traditional mergers. For others it has allowed churches to close with dignity, grace and celebration. We are continuing to expand this assessment process in every district in order to give congregations options long before they face closure.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Gary Step, Associate Director of Congregational Vibrancy

CHANGE, SYSTEMS, CONFLICT ... 4 GOOD

This has been a year of transition in how congregations are helped to renew their effectiveness for the Gospel. As a conference we have utilized the Vital Church Initiative process for several years. We are now working on a more flexible and expanded responsiveness to this transformational work. Congregational Vibrancy is blessed with an outstanding faculty of facilitators, coaches, consultants and congregational resilience agents (mediators) who work to bring about healthy change in churches throughout the conference.

The ministries of reconciliation begun by the late Terry Gladstone, Deacon, of the former Detroit Annual Conference continue. Growing competent, confident and responsive congregational resilience agents has been generously funded by a grant from the Leadership Team of the former Detroit Annual Conference.

Raising relational competencies of connectional and local leaders, lay and pastoral, is the foundational task of teaching and applying family systems theory in congregational life. These same principles impact the functioning of the Michigan Conference's organizational systems. A positive impact is the goal so that leadership embodies our adaptive faithfulness.

Naomi García, Associate Director of Congregational Vibrancy

MIUMC LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This is an exciting time for laity in Michigan! As the new conference was being designed, you can have hope in the addition of this position of Associate Director for Lay Leadership Development. It clearly recognizes the value of laity in the church!

The mission of Lay Leadership Development in Michigan is to cultivate bold and effective leaders to be persons of influence in their communities and to BE disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world around us. Beginning this ministry from scratch has been an energizing learning process!

Lay Servant Ministries

I have been working with the conference co-directors of Lay Servant Ministries to coordinate the process statewide, create a webpage and develop a clear Certified Lay Minister process. You can see the work being done in Lay Servant Ministries at michiganumc.org/resources/laity/lay-servant.

Resources for the Local Church

Laity Website

Creating and regularly updating the Laity website was a major project in the first few months. I invite you to visit it at michiganumc.org/resources/laity at least once a month as content changes regularly.

Workshops

Work has been on developing workshops to be readily available for districts or clusters of churches to schedule. These include: Local Church UMC Leadership Orientation, Spiritual Gifts Discovery and Local Church Lay Resources Learning Session.

District Lay Leaders and Board of Laity

This position partners and collaborates with the Board of Laity. We have been discussing the Laity Session at Annual Conference 2019 and the transition of districts. I have had one-on-one conversations with District Lay Leaders to talk about their joys, frustrations and areas they need additional support and assistance.

Collaboration with Colleagues

I have been on the team reworking the Vital Church Initiative into *Roads to Vibrancy*. I have also been involved with a team on incorporating Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism work into the leadership of the conference. Both have been rewarding points of collaboration across the state in our variety of ministry areas.

Trainings & Conferences Attended

Being a lifelong learner is an important characteristic of any leader. Of the many learning events attended in the last six months the highlights include: Healthy Congregations, Evolving Faith Conference, REACH Summit, Break-Through Prayer Initiative, Anti-Racism Training, Church Unique Facilitator Training. The most profound for me was the 2.5-day Anti-Racism Training. I cannot speak enough about how important that is for everyone in leadership to go through. The second most profound was the Evolving Faith Conference. It was incredible seeing 18 speakers over two days and 15 of them being persons of color and

women. Between these two events, my awareness of 'who' gets invited into leadership has been heightened in new ways.

The **future** of MIUMC Lay Leadership Development will include the development of a podcast titled, *Pieces of Faith*. The intent is to give an opportunity to model faith sharing, to show laity how their faith 'pieces' together over their life. A release date has not been set. Resources are continually being created for laity and local church use. The Michigan Conference is dedicated to cultivating healthy lay leadership in the church, as it is a critical part of building up the Body of Christ!

Laura B. Witkowski, Associate Director for Lay Leadership Development

YOUTH MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

During 2018, both CCYM and CCYAC folded into the new Young People's Ministry Board. Going forward, this board will manage the projects previously overseen by CCYM and CCYAC.

2018 Highlights:

Youth Worker Network – For a third year, youth workers met monthly to learn best practices and encourage one another in this important work of youth ministry. Members of the group come from all kinds of churches across the state.

Protection Policy – Thanks to conference staff and the Protection Policy Implementation Team, a template for a local church protection policy is now available on the conference website. All churches are encouraged to have a policy in place to ensure that all adults working with children, youth and vulnerable adults are background checked and trained. These policies seek to minimize the risk of abuse or neglect in our ministries and also protect our volunteers and staff from false accusation.

Preparation for Youth 2019 – Money has been raised to contract busses for Michigan youth groups to attend Youth 2019, a national gathering for United Methodist Youth in Kansas City in July 2019. Churches are encouraged to send young people to this special event!

THRIVE Youth Leadership Academy – The fourth year of THRIVE Youth Leadership Academy was small but mighty! The academy brings together high schoolers nominated by their churches as leaders and students ready to go deeper in their faith journey. This experience builds community among young people who are leaders in our conference and will continue to be for years to come.

Youth Service Fund – High school leaders reviewed applications for funding from about 20 churches and gave away about \$15,000 to support local church service trips in Michigan and beyond.

Local Church Resource – Many local churches have called for assistance in the area of youth ministry. These conversations cover a wide range of topics: creation of youth worker job descriptions, training of staff and volunteers, curriculum, starting over, troubleshooting, Protection Policy, group retreats and activities, service trips and funding.

Bridget Nelson, Youth Ministry Initiatives Coordinator

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 ¶1342, ¶1624, and ¶1625 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 2% minimum salary increase for clergy was approved by the annual conference in June, to be effective January 1, 2019. This increase is mandatory for the first 10 years of pastoral service and recommended for each year, thereafter. This is the first year that the commission recommended a salary schedule for the single, Michigan Conference.

In 2018, The West Michigan Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation and the Detroit Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation still had separate budgets of \$70,000 each and

awarded grants separately, even though we began meeting together to plan for a single CEC in 2019. Both conferences were able to stay within their budgets for 2018.

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, ¶1213, and unconventional fundraising ideas – to help reduce the need for salary support from the CEC in future years. In November of 2018, we met to award grants for 2019 jointly and to decide on a salary schedule for 2020, to be voted on at the 2019 Annual Conference in June.

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.

Nancy J. Patera, Chair

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

We are now one conference as of January 1, 2019. It was a good year however it was an interesting year as we continued to receive Ministry Shares as two different conferences while at the same time, acting as one conference as of July 1, 2018. This has made life interesting for the Treasury staff as we have been in three different accounting systems for the year and we look forward to 2019 when we are in one system only.

The final income and expense numbers will be included in the conference journal in the audit section of the Council on Finance and Administration reports. They are not available at the time that this report was created as we are in the middle of the annual audit that is required. It should be noted that 100% of the Episcopal Fund was paid for 2018 per Council on Finance and Administration policy.

When the 2018 budgets for both conferences are combined and then compared against the dollar amount received, the percentage received equals 88.11% of the amount asked. This is lower than the percentage of the prior year, however this was not unexpected. It is expected that the percentage will increase for 2018 and the Council on Finance and Administration is looking at ways to help the local church.

There were 736 churches in the Michigan Conference in 2018. Of those, 425 churches who paid 100% of their 2018 Ministry Shares which is 57.74% of all churches. There were 82 churches who paid 0% of their 2018 Ministry Shares or 11.14% of all churches.

The Council on Finance and Administration is preparing the 2020 budget that will be presented at the 2019 Annual Conference and located within the conference journal. They are working on creating a budget that reflects a decrease for the second straight year. We are looking at being able to have a two-year reduction of nearly \$375,000 when you combine the 2019 reduction and the proposed 2020 reduction.

As part of becoming one conference, the Treasury and Benefits areas held several webinar training sessions to help explain the changes that would be happening in 2019. There was a good turnout for these sessions and there will be more in the future as they are a good way to communicate with the local churches.

The Treasury has held a Local Church Auditor training and has created a list of people who are available to perform audits of the local church. This list can be found on the Treasury website. There will be future training events as we look to expand the pool of people available for local church audits.

The Treasury has a website that is being maintained monthly with new articles and information being posted that we believe the local church will find beneficial. The website is treasury.michiganumc.org and we encourage everyone to visit the site often.

David Dobbs, Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer
Bradley Bartelmay, President, Council on Finance and Administration

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES (BGM)

The Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries is the new United Methodist body purposed with working within the General Board of Global Ministries' guidelines to interpret, support, build, and coordinate programs that engage our conference and local churches in ministry with people and in places around the world.

The vision of Christ Centered Mission and Ministry continues to lead us in creating an exciting highway for our future: we envision expanded fields of aggressive mission opportunity and involvement focused on the ideal of "ministry with." EngageMI, our new giving program, seeks to inspire each congregant and each church to LEARN, GIVE, and SERVE in a better understanding of those we serve.

Our enterprising team is blessed with dynamic and effective leaders, whose 2018 reports follow. Built on strong foundations, their prospective plans are far-reaching, ambitious, and compelling.

May God continue to spiritually guide us as we actively endeavor to raise up disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Brenda DuPree, Chair

CIRCLES GRAND RAPIDS

Circles Grand Rapids is a Chapter of Circles USA (www.circlesusa.org), whose mission is to inspire and equip persons from every economic class to permanently reduce poverty. The Circles model is a data-driven, trauma-informed, two-generation-focused, community-wide solution that, in the words of the Social Principles, "emphasizes measures that build and maintain the wealth of poor people."

We connect people across socioeconomic lines in long-term friendships that offer collaborative guidance for families working to exit poverty (called Circle Leaders) while raising the "Poverty IQ" of the middle-to upper-income partners (called Circle Allies) who accompany them. Circles provides ongoing training and support for cross-class relationships of mutual growth focused on the goals of those working to exit poverty, and transforming the lives of individuals, organizations, and communities.

Circles Grand Rapids (www.circlesgr.org) was launched in January 2016 as a program of Grand Rapids Metro Ministry and is now a program of the Midwest District. Other Circles Chapters in Michigan are in **Newaygo County** (Fremont), **Ottawa County** (Holland), and **Washtenaw County** (Ypsilanti).

Outcomes to Date

- **Class 1** (Jan 2016 - October 2017): Seven of the original 10 Circle Leader families completed the process. Their successes included an average increase in monthly earned income of 63%, an average increase in savings of 800%, and an average increase in social capital (number of supportive, connected persons in their social network) of 500%. UMC participation was brisk with:
 - More than **170 volunteers, the majority from United Methodist congregations**, to provide meals, hospitality, and childcare.
 - **14 Ally volunteers (10 from UMCs)**, who attended regular twice-monthly meetings in ministry with Circle Leaders.
 - Solid financial investment from several UM congregations, Metro Ministry, and the West Michigan Conference.
- **Class 2** (Jan 2018-Oct 2019). At this writing (Feb 2019):
 - Nine of 10 Circle Leaders retained, with 17 regularly attending children.
 - 16 of 17 volunteer Allies retained (11 from UMCs) with seven regularly attending children (for a total of 24 children in four diverse, age-focused groups across the socioeconomic spectrum).
 - Partnership with a Grand Rapids UMC to host weekly meetings at no cost, providing kitchen and spaces for meetings and children's programming.
 - Engagement from **over 250 volunteers** to date for meals, hospitality and child programming (**majority from UMCs**).
 - Five of seven regular children's leaders are **GVSU students**; three of eight regular hospitality volunteers are also GVSU students; the other five are **young adults from UMCs**.
 - Continued generous financial support from UMC congregations and significant new investment from the Michigan Conference.
 - Increasing program name recognition and interest from community organizations interested in partnerships, client referrals, and launching new Circles GR sites.
 - Circles Leader successes include: a single mom purchased a home with assistance from a community partner organization; another single mom secured certification required for a job with growth potential at Spectrum Health (her first with full benefits); a single widow head-of-household

raising young grandchildren significantly cut expenses for child care; an under-employed husband/father got a better job and drastically reduced debt.

- o Specific numerical data is being tracked through Circles USA data management system.

STRATEGIC PLANNING 2018-2022

- A thorough strategic planning process was completed in November 2018. Specific tasks, responsible staff, and timelines were defined to accomplish goals for stabilization and expansion. The plan includes:
 - o Hiring a Development Director to ensure strong and growing financial support for Circles GR.
 - o Working with the Circles GR Advisory Council, CBGM, Conference Leadership Council, and Circles USA to establish ongoing training and support to enable uncomplicated replication of the model in other communities across the Conference with the goal of increasing impact by resolving poverty for more families and raising Poverty IQ in more congregations and communities.

ENGAGE MI Circles GR is a Michigan Conference Mission/Ministry Project.

STAY CURRENT WITH CIRCLES Please like and follow CirclesGR on Facebook.

GRATITUDE We are deeply grateful for United Methodist visionaries, supporters, and generous sharers of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As one Circle Leader recently texted: ***Thank you Circles for all that you do! I'm staying focused, gaining confidence in knowing that I am not my situation! God has given me peace within!***

Julie Liske, Chapter Director

CONFERENCE SECRETARY OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The BGM dinner was held at the Grand Traverse Resort during conference in Traverse City. 120 persons attended, hearing an update on the Flint Water Crisis, given by Gregory Timmons.

In 2018, Michigan Conference has hosted several GBGM Missionaries:

Princess Jusu, Liberia (15 churches), **Kulli Toniste & Rev. Douglas Childress, Estonia** (3 churches) **Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Tapia, Philippines** (2 churches), **Dr. Lester & Deborah Dornon, Nepal & Helen Roberts-Evans, Liberia**. Long time missionary in Liberia, **Mary Randall Zigbuo Mantor** retired at the end of 2018. While in Michigan in the fall, she spoke in 11 churches.

Many thanks to all the churches who have willingly invited, hosted, fed, housed, gifted and transported our United Methodist missionaries around Michigan. The timing of missionary visits is not always the most convenient for the programming in our local churches. BUT...they are an important part of our churches and our witness around the world! I especially appreciate all of the mission "angels" who give above & beyond, offering abundant hospitality "in a foreign land".

We have 9 districts and 6 DSGMs at this time. I hope to recruit persons for Mid-Michigan, Greater Southwest and Heritage Districts before the May 2019 meeting.

While in Liberia on a VIM trip October 25 – November 8, 2018, Brenda DuPree, Karen Williams, and I had the privilege of spending time with 4 of our GM missionaries: Princess, Jusu, Nancy Carew, David Guinkpa and Helen Roberts Evans. We also met Frank, a Global Mission Fellow (GMF) from Ivory Coast, serving at Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village (after school tutoring and recreation).

December 3 – 5, 2018, Brenda DuPree, Jody Pratt and I attended the GM Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. It was a beneficial time of gathering information, meeting personnel and understanding the mission of GM. We also had a tour of the new headquarters in the center of Atlanta, which it shares with Grace UMC.

Jacqueline K Euper, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS

The Michigan Conference partners with the General Board of Global Ministries to host Global Mission Fellow US2, young adults, serving in mission and justice for two years. GMF-US2s, ENGAGE with local communities, CONNECT the church in mission, GROW in personal and social holiness. In 2018-19 five GMF-US2s served in campus ministry, environmental justice, community organizing, poverty and homeless ministry, and feeding programs through their sites at Sunnyside UMC, Wesley Campus Ministry at WMU, the NOAH Project, and Motown Mission. GMF-US2s receive site supervision, mentoring, initial and ongoing training, retreats, and live in intentional community with other young adults.

Lisa Batten, Young Adult Initiatives Coordinator

LIBERIA MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP TEAM

On behalf of all of us on the Michigan Area Liberia Partnership Team I want to thank you for your generous support of the projects and mission opportunities in Liberia. I continue to be humbled and amazed by all of the incredible work that has been done by the good people of Michigan. I am equally amazed by all the incredible work that has been done in Liberia. Here are a couple of the highlights of things that happened in 2018 here in the state of Michigan to support mission in Liberia.

In 2018 this Michigan Area sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to Liberia.

Over 500 different churches in Michigan contributed to mission projects in Liberia.

In October of 2018 a mission team lead by Jackie and Terry Euper went to Liberia with a team made up of members from churches primarily in the Crossroads District. They visited, hospitals, schools, wells, and the Judith Craig Children's Orphanage.

Plans are underway to ratify a conference covenant between the Michigan Conference and the Liberia Annual Conference.

A 2019 Summit of all U.S. Liberia Ministry Partners will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on April 4-6, 2019.

A group of leaders including Rev. Charles Boayue Jr, Rev. Duane Miller and Rev. Jon Reynolds went to a meeting with Bishop Samuel Quire of the Liberia Annual Conference to learn more about the Liberia Annual Conference's five year Strategic Plan.

Rev. Jon Reynolds of Cass Community United Methodist Church was elected chair of the task force after the tragic passing of long-time supporter of Liberia, Kayte Aspray.

The Liberia Ministry Partnership Team hopes to increase mission giving in Liberia by 5% in 2019. We have also set a goal of increasing the number of churches currently giving money to projects in Liberia by 5% in 2019.

Jon Reynolds, Chair, Liberia Ministry Partnership Team

MICHIGAN HAITI COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

This has been a year of transition for the Michigan Area Haiti Task Force – now the Michigan Haiti Covenant Partnership. Not only have we changed our name and leadership, but also now experience a new leader of the Eglise Methodist d'Haiti (EMH). The election (January 2018) and installation (September) of the Reverend Jean Lesly Dorcelly as Bishop of the Haiti District of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) brings new leadership to the Haiti Methodist Church for the first time in 9 years.

A team selected by the Haiti Covenant Partnership (HCP) attended the installation services at the Port Au Prince Methodist Church - next to the newly rebuilt and dedicated New College Bird Methodist School, which was completely destroyed in the January 2010 earthquake. Rev. Don Gotham, Rev. Anita Hahn, and I were accompanied by Anita's husband (Kevin) and daughter (Lisa) as official representatives of Bishop Bard at the Service of Installation. An awesome service was led by the Immediate Past Leader of the MCCA.

Groups from Haiti Artisans for Peace (HAPI), Haiti School Project (HSP), Jeremie Haiti Project (JHP), Pure Water for the World, and Soaring Unlimited, sent teams to the Cap Haitien, Port Au Prince, Petit-Goave, Jeremie, and Leon Circuits – literally from one end of the country to the other. We worked on these projects this past year: safe drinking water with Sand and Sawyer Water Filters; mobile medical clinics; continuing schooling for young school-age women with "Days for Girls" kits; beginning a Ministry Center for the Leon Circuit which has no parsonage/manse; providing special dress clothing for young boys and girls in many ministry centers; helping to fund salaries for Methodist school teachers; provided money to help establish additional micro-credit banks through the EMH/UMC partnership; and building more classrooms for the Harry and Ella Brakeman School in Petit-Goave.

Local Church Programs were presented to many Michigan Conference congregations on various aspects of the mission and ministries which Michigan United Methodists support. The needs are great for support for these ministries – prayer warriors, financial contributors, teachers to teach teachers, leaders who have a passion for clean water and for girls' and women's education, special funding to provide micro loans for new small businesses promoting entrepreneurship, and men and women who can carry water, sling paint, lay blocks, help build roofs, and share the love of Jesus with their hands and feet as well as their words. All are needed!

Your Haiti Covenant Partnership leadership has begun to explore and establish a network of congregations and teams from throughout The United Methodist Church to help coordinate and prioritize the various mission/ministries throughout the Methodist Church of Haiti. More on this as we move into 2019.

Several issues have been raised about the Haiti Hot Lunch Program. We have communicated with the leadership of The Advance and are assured that the communication and accounting issues are being resolved. I pray and expect that the Haiti Hot Lunch Program will continue to be a vital means of providing health and nutrition to the 22,000 students in Methodist schools in Haiti.

We look forward to welcoming new mission volunteers as we move into 2019 with our renewed scholarship program helping with \$100 of support for first time UMMVIM members.

I look forward to greater communication and connection in our Wesleyan tradition during this coming year and building our linkages through the Michigan Haiti Covenant Partnership in the Michigan Conference in 2019.

Karl L Zeigler, Chair, Michigan Haiti Covenant Partnership

MI CONFERENCE-EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS / DISASTER RESPONSE

Work has continued through 2018 implementing the MI Conference Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response plan by supporting the deepening of our ERT bench strength and training and equipping our new District Disaster Coordinators. Pertaining to major relief efforts, long-term recovery in Midland from 2017 flooding has been completed, as well as Michigan based evacuee resettlement from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Houghton – Hancock

Severe rains and flash flooding devastated the area in June 2018 aka. “The Father’s Day Flood.” Two Disaster Case Managers, Marci Vivian and Dennis Leopold, were hired this past Fall to lead the remaining recovery efforts there and are working with local churches of various denominations and with local foundations to organize and fund the recovery effort. It is planned that they will continue their work through October 2019. Current focus is to get remaining homes with unmet needs mucked out, as well as getting sanitized, and furnaces and water heaters installed and operating. Relief support is largely leaning on volunteer organizations as this area did not reach federal disaster assistance level of damage.

ERT Support

Our ERT bench strength continues to grow as around 140 trained men and women have been trained and certified, with training continuing into 2019 coordinated by Robert McCormick. 2019 will see the beginning of retraining for many people who were trained in 2015 as badges expire after three years. Recertification of current ERTs will require participation in a three-hour class versus the eight hours for new trainees.

District Disaster Recovery Coordinators

Regularly scheduled Conference EP/DR meetings are bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the respective month and are generally held via Zoom. A major focus in 2019 is aimed at the roles of the District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) including relationship building and partnering with civic Emergency Management Directors at both the local and State levels. This forum also serves to keep our DDRCs connected with latest direction, resources and training from UMCOR. Some of these areas include: Asset Mapping (Note: Nehemiah was the first to do asset mapping, Nehemiah 7.66 to 7.72); Ministry of Caring; Pre-Planning for Disaster Case Management; and Connecting districts with VOAD- Emergency Mgmt regions. Finally, efforts continue toward having a DDRC named and engaged in each of our MAC Districts. As of the time of this writing we have two remaining DDRC positions to fill.

2019 Objectives for the Conference EP/DR

- Asset Mapping by district
- Ministry of Caring in disaster areas
- Pre-planning for Disaster Case Management
- Connecting District DRCs with VOAD and EM-Homeland Security county-based regions
- Re-build Early Response Team (ERT) bench strength
- Re-build ERT Team Leader bench strength
- Add ERT Trainer capacity to 4 people
- Engage current base of ERTs in recovery/rebuild work in the MI Area
- District DRCs to roll out connecting neighbors to their district churches

Dan O'Malley, Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator
Robert Miller, EP/DR Committee Chair

MISSION INTERN

In summer 1998, Rev. Carl Gladstone left Albion for a summer in Dallas with the General Board of Global Ministry's summer intern program. After working with children at Project Transformation, then a nascent program for college-age young people exploring servant ministry, Carl had an idea. With his mom, the late Rev. Terry N. Gladstone, the Mission Intern Program was born, and this year, in 2019, Mission Intern turns 20 years old!

Over the past two decades, Mission Interns, college-age young people exploring vocational calls to servant ministry, have served thousands of children and families in poverty around the state. What started with six interns at three sites in Detroit has grown; in 2018, 27 interns served eight sites all over, including Kalamazoo, God's Country Cooperative Parish in the Upper Peninsula, and Metropolitan Detroit. Almost 300 individuals were cared for, loved, and accompanied in the name of Jesus Christ last summer by our state's next generation of servant leaders. These Mission Interns have gone on to become deacons, elders, local pastors, AmeriCorps and Peace Corps Volunteers, missionaries, amazing lay leaders, and more.

While the Mission Intern Program's early focus was aligned with the Council of Bishops' 2000 initiative focused on children and families in poverty, the program works with any church or faith-friendly organization that provides college-age young people with the opportunity to practice servant-leadership and explore a vocation and call to servant ministry. If you know a college-age young person who would be a good Mission Intern, or your church or organization desires to partner with us, contact us online: www.missionintern.org. Donate to us through EngageMI, CCMM #3039.

Alexander Plum, Chair, Mission Intern Program Board

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

The Michigan Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission serve locally, nationally, and internationally in a ministry endorsed by the UMC partner church, partner agency, or non-governmental agency that serves in cooperation with a local host. Michigan recorded thirty-two domestic/international teams in 2018. We are aware there are many more teams going that do not register with North Central Jurisdiction or request insurance.

In the process of combining conferences the VIM scholarship committee has revised criteria for international trip funds (including Haiti) and insurance costs will no longer be reimbursed. Scholarship applications will need to be in place sixty days prior to travel with team documentation/insurance and trained team leaders. In response to requests for VIM mission training we will schedule trainings on an annually, rotating locations around the state. Some district VIM committees may have allocated funds for projects and we encourage teams to seek out several funding sources.

In 2018 the VIM coordinator began discussions with MIConnect to provide a VIM page for trip information, reports, training dates, and scholarship criteria/applications across the state. The VIM page should be in place by late spring 2019.

Jody A. Pratt, Michigan UMVIM Conference Coordinator

THE ADVANCE

The ADVANCE provides mission and ministry opportunities to engage the people of The United Methodist Church for the transformation of the world. You can find projects and ministries specific to the vision and goal of your church on the Michigan Conference home page, The ADVANCE website and in the new ENGAGE MI Booklet 2019 resources. Thank you for your support to the Mission and Ministries of The ADVANCE.

Karen Williams

DAC SPOTLIGHT CHURCH 2018

2018 was the final year for the Detroit Annual Conference's Spotlight Church Program. Next year begins the ENGAGE MI GIVING PROGRAM, information on Ministries and Giving can be found on the Michigan Conference home page.

The DAC Spotlight Church program was designed to bring awareness to the many projects, ministries, and Missionaries in the DAC and to encourage congregations in faithful giving and support. Many of our churches strive to go the extra mile and are designated a Spotlight Church by fulfilling the eight required steps.

This year 92 churches in the Detroit Annual Conference have been designated as a Spotlight Church. Congratulations to each of the 2018 Spotlight Churches.

ANN ARBOR

1. Ann Arbor First
2. Belleville First
3. Carleton
4. Dexter
5. Dixboro
6. Fowlerville Trinity
7. Highland
8. Howell First
9. Lulu
10. Marble Memorial
11. Monroe First
12. Monroe St. Paul's
13. Northville First
14. Plymouth First
15. Saline First
16. South Lyon First
17. West Side
18. Weston
19. Ypsilanti First

BLUE WATER

1. Forester
2. Kilmanagh
3. Kingston
4. Lexington
5. Mayville
6. North Branch First
7. Owendale
8. Paint Creek
9. Pigeon First
10. Port Huron First
11. Sandusky First
12. Sutton Sunshine

CROSSROADS

1. Bancroft
2. Bethany
3. Birch Run
4. Clarkston
5. Davison
6. Fenton
7. Flint Court Street
8. Fostoria
9. Gaines
10. Genesee
11. Grand Blanc
12. Halsey
13. Laingsburg
14. Middlebury
15. Montrose
16. Morrice
17. New Lothrop First
18. Ortonville
19. Owosso First
20. Phoenix
21. Pittsburg
22. Seymour Lake
23. South Mundy
24. Thetford Center
25. Waterford Trinity

DETROIT RENAISSANCE

1. Birmingham First
2. Cass Community
3. Grosse Pointe
4. Livonia St Matthew's
5. Orchard
6. Troy Big Beaver
7. Utica
8. West Bloomfield
9. Wyandotte First

MARQUETTE

1. Greenland
2. Gwinn
3. Hancock First
4. Ishpeming Wesley
5. Marquette Hope
6. Munising
7. Ontonagon
8. Rockland St Paul's
9. Stephenson
10. Trenary
11. White Pine Community

SAGINAW BAY

1. Caro
2. Coleman Faith
3. Fairgrove
4. Gladwin First
5. Good Shepherd
6. Gordonville
7. Kochville
8. LaPorte
9. Midland First
10. Mio
11. Spratt
12. Tawas
13. Wagarville Community
14. West Branch First
15. Whittemore
16. Wisner

TOTAL SL Churches 92

WM SIX LANES 2018

2018 was the final year for the West Michigan Conference's Six Lanes Giving Program. We continued to enthusiastically support global missions and missionaries and are looking forward to involvement in the new ENGAGE MI GIVING PROGRAM that will begin in 2019. It is our hope that the generous giving and mission work of our past will continue to ignite and inspire our churches and disciples to look for people and places to be in "ministry with". The Michigan Conference home page highlights and lists current projects, ministries and missionaries that welcome your support.

GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God.

The boundaries of the new districts of the Michigan Conference were announced, and the Greater Southwest District began to give form and substance after the District Uniting Conference in May 2018. Our next step was to gather around the table leaders representing the Greater Southwest District churches and discern how the district should function and how it should connect to the annual conference and our local churches. Our team looked at the structure of what the Michigan Conference mandated and *The Book of Discipline*. We all felt the Greater Southwest District ought to exist for the local church. Our mission came

together as: **“The mission of the Greater Southwest District is to organize, equip, and engage the people called United Methodist in Southwest Michigan so that every local church offers a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.”**

Our leadership structure emerged from the mission statement and shaped the members of the Vision Team as what they must do, should do, and could do to organize meetings. The structure reflects the mission statement of the district and uses a modified form of the single board governance model. The Leadership Team engages in strategic planning, setting budget priorities and evaluation. The chair of each of the nine teams in the Organize, Equip and Engage categories as well as four at large members make up the Leadership Team.

Organizing:

- District Committee on Ministry: DCOM interview and approves people who get called to serve The United Methodist Church as Local Pastors, Elders or Deacons.
- Committee on Location and Building: Matters related to approval of local church building projects, mergers of congregations and sale of local church property for review and approval.
- Committee on District Superintendency: Oversight and evaluation to the work of the District Superintendent and all District staff is the focus.

Equipping:

- Lay Servant Ministry: Providing training opportunities for people seeking to respond to God’s call by serving as Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers is the core of this group.
- Local Church Vibrancy: Through planning training events, coordinating Local Church Assessments and awarding Fresh Expressions grants to churches with new and engaging ministries to do what they do even better.
- Clergy Wellness and Formation: Care of body, mind and spirit and attention to lifelong personal, professional and spiritual growth for those serving local churches and extension ministries is the mission.

Engaging:

- Engaging projects and Priorities: Think of the local area and global missions. They develop grant programs to help congregations fund local outreach efforts, underwrite the cost of mission trips and reach their communities through acts of compassion and justice. They review and prioritize requests and grants and budget line items.
- Communications, Publicity and Evangelism: Keeping our churches connected to what’s happening in the Great Southwest District and connecting people to what’s happening in their local United Methodist Church is the focus.
- Event Coordination: Planning all the details related to District conferences, training opportunities and special events.



We wanted a way to connect the churches and we ask each church to send a square of fabric for a quilt. The quilt was made with 102 squares and the Methodist cross and hangs in the District office. Looking at the quilt I see the differences from the churches and how all the blocks blend together. We can be different but all the same in Christ.

We are always looking for individuals with a heart to serve and a passion for helping local congregations do what they do even better.

Wynne Hurlbut CLM, District Lay Leader
Dwayne Bagley, District Superintendent

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

HERITAGE DISTRICT

The Heritage District has done its very best to hit the ground running despite numerous obstacles, most of them logistical, but it has been a delight to welcome the three churches from the former Lansing District, the 28 churches from the former Albion District, and the 71 churches from the former Ann Arbor District. Heritage District is now comprised of 102 churches, making it the second largest district in the new Michigan Conference.

District Superintendent Elizabeth Hill has led us from the inception, even though she was still dealing with many issues from the former Blue Water District from where she came. We met for a special session when it was determined that we needed to choose a new name for the district rather than the one initially proposed. The meeting was very well attended and a consensus was reached early on in the process. Optimism reigned high throughout the evening as did the spirits of those in attendance as they began to see some of the potential with this newly expanded district.

Because of the large number of churches and the expansive territory we cover, our district has been divided into zones. It is our intention that both our district superintendent and our district lay leader will be making visits to each of the zones no later than mid-summer. One of the many bright spots in the initial six months as a district has been the expanded use of Zoom technology. Meetings are now more readily available for all to attend, and as difficult as the weather has been, few if any meetings have been delayed or cancelled. Of course, one of the additional features is that we are able to accommodate younger voices in order that they might have an equal voice in some of the most relevant areas. People who have previously been unable to participate due to their jobs or outside activities are no longer prevented from doing so.

Our initial District Conference was held at Manchester: Sharon United Methodist Church. We are so very thankful to these wonderful folks who extended their gracious hospitality to us all on a frigid Saturday morning.

One of the many challenges with a change of this magnitude is the potential for us all to hunker down and protect our territory because “we have always done it our way.” This has not proved to be an issue at all. The District Leadership Team, Superintendency Committee, Missions Committee, DCOM, Lay Servant Ministries team, as well as others have worked diligently to put their best foot forward as we strive for an even more streamlined transition.

Max Waagner, District Lay Leader

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

– see under Board of Young People’s Ministries, p. 70 –

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC / LATINO MINISTRY

The Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries started a three-year strategic plan in 2018.

The three focus areas are Youth Engagement, Multicultural Leadership Engagement, and Community Engagement. A brief description of each of these focus areas will be given as well as a description of what was achieved in each of those areas in 2018.

Description of the Focus Areas

Youth Engagement:

The purpose of the Youth Engagement Initiative is to empower youth to become Bold and Effective Leaders so that they can lead and guide the development of Vibrant Congregations.

This initiative will address the concern of disempowerment among the youth and educational attainment. It will also help address the burdens that youth have to bear and help develop not only their social holiness, but also personal holiness.

Multicultural Leadership Engagement:

The purpose of this initiative is move people and congregations toward intentional, multicultural, contextual faith development to celebrate a strong multiethnic presence in our church and communities.

This initiative will work with the Hispanic/Latino members to become leaders in their churches. It will address the concern of disempowerment and educational attainment within the Hispanic/Latino community.

Community Engagement:

The purpose of the Community Engagement is to identify opportunities that break down barriers preventing the Hispanic/Latino community from full engagement in the Life of Church and society.

This initiative will work with the Hispanic/Latino community and organizations where local church can collaborate and support. It will look for not only the needs of the Hispanic/Latino community, but also the assets. This initiative will also overlap with the previous initiative. It will give an opportunity for the Hispanic/Latino leaders and the non-Hispanic/Latino leaders to use what they learn and put it into action in their communities.

Achievements in 2018**Youth Engagement:**

Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) took place on June 20-23, 2018 at Adrian College. Thirteen youth participated in the academy and ten adults facilitated the program. There was an empowerment workshop at HYLA where the youth learned about writing poetry and wrote poems. Two workshops about college scholarships were given at La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church on January 28, 2018 and at Grace and Peace United Methodist Church on February 18, 2018.

Multicultural Leadership Engagement:

Hispanic/Latino Ministry sites were featured as part of a TOM (Teaching on Mission) Talk at the 2018 Annual Conference. The link to the video is:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=tom+talk+con+la+gente&view=detail&mid=84CFFDCF43D188B5816284CFFDCF43D188B58162&FORM=VIRE>. Testimonies from the ministries were also shared at the 2018 Annual Conference meal. We also did a pre-conference workshop at the 2018 Annual Conference called Beyond the Border, which was an introduction to Hispanic/Latino Ministries and was about people moving beyond the borders we construct.

Four members of the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries attended the General Board of Religion and Race: Facing the Future Conference about Cross Cultural/Cross Racial Appointments in Newark, New Jersey on May 7-9, 2018.

Three leaders from Centro Familiar Cristiano United Methodist Church attended the Michigan Conference Reach Network workshops on multiculturalism and six lay members from the Hispanic/Latino ministries attended Module 1 training in Wisconsin.

Community Engagement:

We held two community events around the topic of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) at First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti and at Christ United Methodist Church of Battle Creek. We supported a team of two pastors and three young adults to the Love Knows No Borders Demonstration at the San Diego Border.

We collaborated with the Director of Mission and Ministry of the Michigan Conference, Rev. Paul Perez, in supporting the Mano a Mano Puerto Rican Recovery Project for families that had relocated to Michigan after Hurricane Maria. There were two caseworkers that collaborated with the two Hispanic/Latino Churches in Detroit and Grand Rapids to serve the families. Each site had a celebration to close the project. The two caseworkers were Latina women from the Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The Mano a Mano project served 36 households.

Rey Mondragon, Committee Chair
and Sonya Luna, Missionary for Hispanic/Latino Ministries

CONFERENCE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Detroit Annual Conference and West Michigan Conference Human Resources (HR) committees continued working together as one during 2018. The committee jointly made every effort to evaluate and plan for the impact of staff changes on the Michigan Area. Staffing and policy decisions and interpretations were aided throughout the year so that the Michigan Conference would be properly staffed on July 1 and employees who chose to leave or were not selected for positions were cared for through the outplacement process.

At the 2018 combined Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conference held in Traverse City, the committee brought one petition that passed. "R 7 Michigan Conference Human Resources Policy #1," allows for changes in the Conference HR policies to be made as needed by the committee between annual conferences, with subsequent conference approval.

In addition, one petition, “R 8 Michigan Conference Human Resources Policy #2,” was referred by the conference to the committee for consideration. Following is a summary of the way in which the HR Committee adopted or declined to adopt the provisions of that petition.

1. Reviewed and added to “Types of Employment” section where there was confusion noted under Item 1 in the resolution.
2. Aligned all titles of conference staff to their existing and proper titles.
3. Strengthened identification of whether policy was referring to exempt, non-exempt, full-time, part-time and/or temporary employee.
4. Clarified how holiday pay works for part time employees.
5. Did not mandate lunch hours for all employees.
6. Made grammatical changes and made sentence structure clearer.

As we approach becoming one conference, our staff members and district personnel have dealt with questions regarding their employment; new job descriptions, new reporting relationships, and new workplaces. Conference employees have demonstrated professional attitudes despite uncertain and changing scenarios. The committee members are deeply grateful for the dedication and many gifts that each conference employee brings to the ministries of the conference and districts.

The HR Committee remains focused on working to staff and support the Michigan Conference in being able to effectively Equip and Connect through Christ-Centered Mission and Ministry with Bold and Effective Leaders through staffing support, policy development and interpretation, and training.

Ellen Zienert, Chair

BOARD OF JUSTICE

Comprised of four divisions – Church and Society, Religion and Race, Status and Role of Women, and Disability Concerns – the Board of Justice seeks to bring faith and practice together on the pressing issues of our contemporary world. Our role is to inspire and equip the Michigan Conference and its members and agencies so that they may breathe life into the words of the United Methodist Social Principles and be a clear witness to the hope and good news that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our task this past year has been to build a working Michigan Area board as approved by the 2017 Annual Conference. This has been a time of discernment for all of us as we have worked together to define our responsibilities, create a viable organizational structure, honor our four areas of concern and history, and begin operating as a statewide entity. We have established a solid base for doing the Word.

Our officers are:

Chairpersons: Rev. George Covintree Staff Liaison: Rev. Paul Perez and Rev. Brittney Stephan
 Church and Society: Rev. Albert Rush
 Status and Role of Women (COSROW): Patricia Bostic and Rev. Hillary Thurston-Cox
 Disability Concerns Liaison: Coleen Wilsdon
 Religion and Race: Tina Campbell and Rev. Scott Manning
 Peace w/Justice Coordinator: George Jonte-Crane and Rev. Ellen Brubaker
 UMW representative: Randi Clawson and Alice Tucker
 General Board of Church and Society (GBCS): Rev. Paul Perez

We have developed a communication plan using the monthly MIConnect to bring issues of justice and peace, stewardship of the earth and water accessibility, race and gender equality, LGBTQ+ and refugee rights, prison reform and human trafficking before our congregations. We have enlisted the assistance of David Lundquist to serve as our Communications Coordinator. Rooted in the Social Principles and Wesleyan theology, each article will suggest action steps the local church and individuals can do in response.

Through our Division on Religion and Race, we are working with the Board of Ordained Ministry and the districts on cross cultural/cross racial training.

We continue to serve as a source of funding for projects throughout the conference, being responsible for the local distribution of the conference’s Peace With Justice offering, the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, and other designated funds. A Board of Justice grant application has been developed with a May 1st deadline set for requests. Announcement of awardees will be in June each year.

In 2018, we provided grants to:

- Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON Michigan)
- The Michigan Area's *Keep Making Peace* Conference
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church

We held the final combined Social Justice dinner of our two conferences at the 2018 Annual Conference with COSROW presenting a program on “#metoo and the Church.” Lee Goodrich from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women was our guest speaker. The Harold Stanton Peacemaker of the Year Award for 2018 was presented to the Rev. Julie Liske, for her outstanding work as director of the Circles, Grand Rapids. Three resolutions were presented from the board at the 2018 Annual Conference; two were approved and one was referred.

I close with these words from the Book of Micah: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah. 6:8), May they continue to serve as a reminder of our call to be advocates for peace, justice, and inclusion in the church and in our world.

George Covintree, Chair

DIVISION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The Division on Religion and Race is now an agency that operates as part of the Board of Justice of The Michigan Conference. The Division on Religion and Race attends and reports to the meetings of the Board of Justice as necessary from our own regularly scheduled meetings. Further, the Division on Religion and Race serves as the Michigan Conference's compliance of Discipline provisions relating to the annual conference connection and responsibility to the General Commission on Religion and Race.

Our purpose is to challenge, lead, and equip the people of The United Methodist Church to become more interculturally competent and ensure institutional equity and to facilitate vital conversations and monitoring about religion, race, and culture within The Michigan Conference Area. These roles are in addition to the agency responsibility to monitor for inclusiveness and actions that pertain to race and culture.

The Division on Religion and Race is on target to meet numerous goals, including providing training to the various districts of the Michigan Conference. This training will be based on training a delegation from the Michigan Division on Religion and Race attended at the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Religion and Race Training Event held in coordination with the staff of the General Commission on Religion and Race.

The Division met with the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the dean of the cabinet to discuss how the Division on Religion and Race can assist with training relevant to their work and equipping clergy and candidates for ministry in an intercultural context. The Division on Religion and Race is committed to its mission and mandate in ¶ 643 of *The Book of Discipline* and the work set forth to help improve on vital conversations, programs and training, and policies of institutional equity and intercultural competencies at all levels of the church.

Tina (Ernestine) Campbell, Convener
Scott E Manning, Co-convener

DIVISION ON STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

Think about how great things can and will be.

Making women matter is a task this division embraces.

We will report on changing roles and attitudes.

We will examine issues on fair and equal pay, and inclusiveness.

The fight is to advocate and challenge society on hard issues, including dealing with sexual harassment and gender discrimination. To develop and fund programs and resources on equality for women.

We will submit articles featuring status of women in the military, maternal health, the changing role of Native American women and maternal healthcare. Just a beginning of our focus.

Now that we are one conference, we must work to ensure the message includes every district, whether it's upper, lower or in between.

We will study gender role attitude change of young women, role quality and well-being in mid-life women.

We are sharing solutions together towards tomorrow.

Patricia Bostic, Co-Chair

BOARD OF LAITY

The purpose of the Board of Laity is to provide an awareness of the role of the laity both with the local congregation and through their ministries; to promote the partnership of laity and clergy; to communicate lay concerns within the conference; and to empower laypersons within the conference.

We have nine new districts in the Michigan Conference, and welcomed three new District Lay Leaders in 2018: John Preston (Northern Skies), Lori Harless (Central Bay) and Max Waagner (Heritage.) We also welcome Laura Witkowski, who is the Associate Director for Lay Leadership, working with us to help develop bold and effective lay leaders.

We have established goals to guide our work with a focus on vitality, vibrancy and vision. Our goals include:

1. Develop training for local and district lay leaders.
2. Develop and conduct exciting laity session at Annual Conference.
3. Promote lay servant classes.
4. Develop laity tools (webinars, calendars)
5. Promote technology for better communication
6. Excel at selection of equalization at-large members for Annual Conference.
7. Connect local churches with their district and Annual Conference.

We continue to work to improve communications and have worked to establish better web resources and to write articles for MIConnect. We continue to develop an improved laity orientation session for annual conference and in 2019 will present information on “How to be an effective lay leader.”

We are committed to active lay leadership in working together with the clergy to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We will continue to use our spiritual gifts to love and serve God and neighbor, and transform lives of people in Michigan and beyond.

John Wharton / Anne Soles, Conference Lay Leaders

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 The United Methodist Church. Lake Louise is governed by a 16-member Board of Trustees. 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 2018, there were four high school camps, two family camps, a multi-age 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. Summer 2019 promises to bring a few more exciting activities that will engage campers and support our 2019 theme ~ "Recharge! Love God – Love People." Check out our website at <http://www.lakelouisecommunity.org/camps.html> to see all the exciting camps scheduled for 2019.

Lake Louise's year-round retreat ministry continued to grow in 2018, serving pastors, lay people and youth from the 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 2019 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, volunteers and work groups from churches. We are indebted to work groups from Mason, Alden, and Holland First United Methodist Church. These groups gave countless hours and immeasurable skill to projects and assist with the necessary seasonal set up and cleanup during the spring and fall of each year.

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.

Lake Louise ~ a four season destination for your next retreat or gathering!

Jim Willford, Executive Director

MICHIGAN AREA COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

The Michigan Area Committee on the Episcopacy is comprised of members of the new Michigan Conference. The committee is made up of 10 laypersons and 10 clergy.

The work of the committee is defined by *The Book of Discipline*. This year the committee met 4 times. The committee 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. This year the committee reported on the evaluation of the bishop. The North Central Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee has developed a process that includes a survey of leaders around the conference in evaluating the bishop. Another responsibility of the committee is assisting the bishop in the upkeep of the episcopal residence.

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 LOAN FUND
of The United Methodist Church
Missions & Church Extension Trust Fund

2018 was another successful year of growth for the Michigan Area Loan Funds. As of December 31, we had loans outstanding of \$10,500,000. We continue to offer mortgage loans to churches for remodeling, additions, repairs and new church starts. Investors to the Michigan Area Loan Fund earn 2.5% on their investment accounts. The fund is registered with the Securities Bureau of the State of Michigan, which authorizes the fund to accept investments from individuals and churches in Michigan.

The Michigan Area Loan Fund has completed its organizational restructuring to be in alignment with the new Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. Its organizational documents were updated to accommodate potential 2019 General Conference action. As a result, the Michigan Area Loan Fund is positioned to serve United Methodist churches in Michigan as well as organizations that share historic common bonds and convictions.

We said earthly goodbyes to Denny Buwalda and Chuck Veenstra, two dedicated individuals who capably served the Michigan Area Loan Fund for many years. Their presence will be deeply missed. However, we continue to follow their business and ministry approach in serving congregational needs. We welcomed Karen Thompson, Senior Director of Loan Services. Karen brings significant experience with financial administration from her previous career in the investment, treasury management, and debt financing activities at a state university. She is joined in the office by Ann Buck, Director of Account Services, who previously worked in the Treasurer's Office of the West Michigan Conference. Ann continues to serve our churches and individuals with debt service and investment transactions. We also benefit from a diverse and dedicated group of volunteers oversee loan management and operations.

On December 31, 2018, we said goodbye to Wayne Barrett, our Resident Agent, long time financial stewardship educator and promoter of financially sound practices in churches. He also served as the overall senior administrator to the Michigan Area Loan Fund and was active in the development and growth of the United Methodist Foundation. He plans to travel between Florida and Michigan and will serve as he is called. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to The United Methodist Church. We have been blessed by your leadership.

David S. Bell, Resident Agent
Karen Thompson, Sr. Director of Loan Services



The mission of the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping (MAUMC) organization is to grow disciples of Jesus Christ by providing camp and retreat experiences. The vision of MAUMC is reaching out and changing lives by faith experiences which inspire relationships through quality camps.

The MAUMC organization began the year with high expectations and planned successes for the camping programs. Based upon recommendations of the executive director and business manager, the board approved nearly \$900,000 in program projects. These projects were designed to begin to address years of neglect and lack of funding at the various camps. Projects planned included a remodeled bathhouse at Wesley Woods, a new generator for Lake Huron Retreat Center, new vehicles for various camps, a new electrical system for Myers Lake Campground and new cabins at Lake Michigan Camp and Retreat Center as well as Lakeview Family Camp. While some of these projects were successfully completed, many others went from dreams to nightmares. As an example, the approved Wesley Woods bathhouse was projected to cost \$35,000. However, as camp was set to begin, the board was informed the bathhouse was not going to be ready for use. Therefore, portable showers and toilet facilities were rented. It was determined that **no** architectural plans were ever developed for this project. The existing bathhouse was gutted before plans were developed and the real cost to repair and rebuild the bathhouse was going to exceed \$400,000. As a result, the board suspended this project due to lack of funds to proceed.

Another example of failed leadership was the purchase of cabins. Six cabins were purchased in 2018 at Lake Michigan Camp and Lakeview Camp, but not one was ever used because no plan was ever developed for proper placement or completion of the interiors. All cabins are now in the process of completion for the 2019 season.

In the 2017 Conference Journal report, the executive director highlighted the development of a new accounting system for the organization. This system was to improve cash management and to bring better accountability to the organization's financial processes. Unfortunately, the highly touted accounting systems and processes were never fully implemented or properly utilized. As a result, the board was unable to receive accurate financial or donor reports, the 2017 and 2018 audits were not able to be completed, vendors were not paid on time and employee wages and benefits were incorrectly managed.

In July 2018, the Board selected Mr. Joel Wortley, formerly the board chair, to become the interim executive director. Mr. Wortley is a retired CFO and a certified governmental financial manager. Mr. Wortley immediately began to evaluate the current financial systems and with the help of additional staff, and contract auditors and accountants, steps were taken to perform system and transaction reviews and bring the accounting structure back into operational condition. We can now say the vendors are paid on time, payroll and benefits are properly managed and the financial systems will soon be fully operational.

Camping programs continued throughout 2018 even while administrative turmoil ravaged the camp program. Over 1500 persons participated in one of the programs conducted at one of the five residential camps, over 5000 persons camped at one of the three RV camps and over 6800 participated in a retreat at one of the retreat centers.

I would like to say the state of the camping program is strong, but that is not accurate. The financial condition of MAUMC is tenuous and participation is down at most venues. Revenues do not meet expenditures and the cash position declined by over \$300,000 in 2018. The board took action and closed Camp Albright for the 2019 year in an attempt to close the gap between declining use and declining revenues. The board is evaluating various options to make the camping program a viable and sustainable program in the future.

Joel Wortley, Interim Executive Director

MICHIGAN AREA UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Michigan Area United Methodist Church Historical Society has been incorporated since 1958. The name was changed from Michigan Methodist Historical Society in 1975.

The Society has 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; and promote, support, and nurture the conference archives.

“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.”

Officers are elected for the quadrennium. The officers are Diana Spitnale Miller - President, Lois Omundsen - Vice President, Sharon Scott - Secretary, and M. Kay Mowery - Treasurer. Kay Mowery resigned in November 2018. Della Wilder was appointed to finish the term.

Board meetings were held in 2018 on March 1 at the Gunnisonville United Methodist Church and on November 1 at the Michigan Conference Center in Lansing.

Our group welcomes historians of churches, those interested in history and preserving it, clergy and lay, to join the Society. Membership includes receiving news about the Society activities and free registration to our sponsored events.

The “Roots and Branches” Historical Convocation was held Saturday, April 7, 2018, at the Leighton United Methodist Church in Caledonia MI. The theme was 50 Years of The United Methodist Church. The keynote speaker was Dr. Sarah Blair, Assistant Director of the EUB Heritage Center, United Theological Seminary, Dayton OH. Her presentation was “United in United Methodist Church: Why It’s There and What That Means.” Other presentations were given on the “Central Jurisdiction: The Great Compromise” by Rev. Tom Robinson and “Relationships of the General Commission on Archives and History and The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church with Conference Organizations” by Diana Miller. and Tips for Historians by Dan Yakes. “The History of Leighton United Methodist Church” presented by Ken Gackler and “Resources for the Local Historian” presented by the archivists – Assistant William McNitt (Adrian College) and Justin Seidler (Albion College) rounded out the program.

Nine certificates were presented to those churches that had been in existence for 150 years and older and had made application to receive one. Representatives from three churches were able to attend the Convocation. Others received their certificate by mail after the event. Later in June and July it was decided to give certificates to churches whose anniversaries were imminent – Greensky Hill in Charlevoix, 185 years, and Rollin Center in Manitou Beach, 150 years – and who had not been aware of our program.

Diana Miller and Mary Whitman attended the memorial service at Chelsea Retirement Home for Rev. James Simmons who passed away April 24, 2018. In his retirement he was the archivist for the Detroit Conference Archives at Adrian College for a number of years.

Our next Roots and Branches Convocation will be Saturday April 27 at the Clark Library at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant from 10 am - 3 pm. The theme will be “First Nations and Christian Connections: Catholicism and Methodism”. The keynote speaker will be Jason Sprague presenting his dissertation “‘The Shadow of a Cross’: Odawa Catholicism in Waganakisi, 1765-1825.” Other topics on how Christianity came to the First Nations in Michigan will be presented.

Diana Spitznale Miller, President

MICHIGAN COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY (MiCONAM) (aka: Michigan Indian Workers Conference)

This year with the merger of the West and Detroit conferences, the Indian Workers Conference moved to join with the **Committee on Native American Ministry**. The Indian Workers Conference (IWC) was an organization that served to enhance coordination between the eight United Methodist Indian Missions and distribute funding to the Indian Missions. The new MiCONAM will seek to continue with the functions of the former IWC, while addressing other needs that extend into congregations throughout the state, including the Act of Repentance, and the Native American Liaison role on church boards. This merger happened late in the year and we have a lot of work to do in this transition.

MiCONAM has been working with Northern Waters District Superintendent Anita Hahn and the Michigan Annual Conference planning board to provide an on-site sharing of Anishinabe culture at the Grand Traverse Resort at this year’s conference. We have seen a lot of interest in the off-site excursions the past couple of years to Kewadin and Greensky Hill. We are pleased that we can expand on this sharing by bringing a dance exhibition to the 2019 Annual Conference this year.

The MiCONAM will be holding our next meetings on the Gun Lake Tribal Reservation at Camp Jijak, where Bradley and Salem Indian Missions will be hosting. The meetings will be May 3 & 4, 2019.

R. Todd Williamson, Vice-Chair

Executive Committee

Chairperson: Terry Wildman (Northport Indian United Methodist Church)
 Vice Chairperson: Todd Williamson (Bradley/Salem Indian United Methodist Church)
 Secretary/Treasurer: Valerie Maidens (Northport Indian United Methodist Church)
 Northern Waters District Superintendent: Anita Hahn
 Michigan Area Conference: Benton Heisler, Director of Connectional Ministries

Church Delegates

Jan Jensen – Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church
 Steven Antoine – Kewadin Indian United Methodist Church
 Charlene John – Northport Indian United Methodist Church
 Marion Jarman – Bradley Indian United Methodist Church
 MaryEllen Raterink – Salem Indian United Methodist Church
 Judy Bannister - Mt. Pleasant Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church

Church Pastors

Jonathan Mays – Greensky Hill

George Pamp – Kewadin

Terry Wildman - Northport

Todd Williamson – Bradley and Salem

Owen White Pigeon – Mt. Pleasant Chippewa United Methodist Church

2018 Meeting Dates / Locations

May 5, 2018 – Saganing Learning Center (Standish, MI)

October 6, 2018 – Northport Indian United Methodist Church (Northport, MI)

CHURCH REPORTS**Bradley Indian United Methodist Church (2018). Delegate: Marian Jarman. Pastor: Todd Williamson.**

- ❖ Sunday attendance averages 19 people per service.
- ❖ Pastor Todd continues his pastoral education through NACOS. His absences have been covered by retired Pastors Nancy Boelens and Sandy Vandenbrink. August 18th, Pastor Todd performed his First Marriage Nuptials. Pastor Todd started a Talking Circle at Jijak Campgrounds with Robert Olivarri and Native Elder George Martin. Pastor meets regularly with Elder Bill Church regarding the history of our missions. They plan to prepare a brochure with pertinent facts for future generations.
- ❖ Combined Easter Service (Sunday, April 1) with Salem Mission United Methodist Church and three children were baptized. After worship, a delicious potluck was served for 55 attendees.
- ❖ Native American Sunday rescheduled for April 29th. There were 85 parishioners from Wayland, Salem Indian and Bradley Indian UMCs in attendance. Wayland United Methodist Church presented both Native churches with a plaque saying, "In recognition of the brotherhood and sisterhood, we share through the unity of love in Christ". A delicious catered meal followed worship service.
- ❖ After the Memorial Day Veterans ceremonies, refreshments were served at the Bradley Indian Cemetery.
- ❖ Our annual summer All Nations for Christ Camp Meeting was a grand success. Guest speakers: The Saults from Canada and Grand Traverse Band Tribal Chairman Sam McClellan. Music provided by Zayn Marr, DJ Coad and Kleene SL8 Band.
- ❖ A benevolence fund has been set up for disbursements to local households with financial and/or medical needs.
- ❖ Bradley and Salem held a combined Harvest Celebration at the Gun Lake Recreation Center. Eddie Francisco and Pastor Todd provided music. Because the weather was cold and windy, the Celebration moved to the church with devotionals given by Pastors Todd, Phil Wilson and Lay Speaker Lee Raterink. Fellowship with a delicious catered meal by Kathy Church followed. Newly appointed District Superintendent Margorie Crawford attended our function.
- ❖ Improvements: Our pastor's name plate installed over the entrance door. Installed parking signs designating three handicap spots; and new refrigerator purchased. New computer, printer and Quick Books program purchased to help Treasurer Lilly DeKonning with church financial reporting. Because we received an endowment from the Gun Lake Tribe, all expenses need to be documented and reported to their accounting office.

Salem Indian United Methodist Church (2018). Delegate: Mary Ellen Raterink. Pastor: Todd Williamson.

- ❖ Sunday Worship at 11:30 then fellowship over a luncheon afterwards.
- ❖ We are all quite involved in our tribal community and we do come beside many in our path and offer help, love, encouragement. There is something special about this little church/congregation. A highlight from the past year has been the return of Kevin Hall, son of the late Phoebe Hall. He and his sisters had some health struggles the last few years, but there have been Sundays when they all came together to worship at Salem.
- ❖ We have had some issues with our wet basement. Thanks to funding from the Gun Lake Tribe in August we had a contractor come in and install a system to keep the water out. The system is performing well. We recently completed replacing the deck boards on our entry and ramp at Salem.
- ❖ We are moving forward with plans for the construction of an outdoor worship space this spring and plan to begin outdoor worship services summer of 2019.
- ❖ Our church will need a new roof soon.
- ❖ We will be celebrating our Centennial in 2021. Planning process to begin this coming year.
- ❖ We received a translation of the Lord's Prayer, that was wood-burned on a wooden plaque by a long-time Salem supporter, Casey Church. We recognize the importance of the Anishinabemowin Language and pleased to have wooden plaque displayed in our church sanctuary.

Northport Indian United Methodist Church (2018). Delegate: Charlene John. Pastor: Terry Wildman.

- ❖ Sunday worship at 11:15 am; coffee hour 10:15 am. Average 15-20 attendees. One service cancellation on Sunday, April 15th due to the storm of the century dumping 12-14 inches of snow and making roads very hazardous for travel.
- ❖ New Church Roof – we are so grateful to report a new roof has been installed on our church and dining hall. Contractor Scott Wack and his wife and friends volunteered their labor for this project. Our roof was in very bad shape and would not have survived another winter without the help of these awesome people. Last fall, with the help of Central United Methodist Church and Scott's friends, the roof was completed before winter. New roof was paid with donations and additional funds raised by our church.
- ❖ Pastor Terry created a church website and we've been receiving inquires and visitors from the postings.
- ❖ Spring Revival held March 16-17-18 and Pastor Jeremy Wicks (Mosaic United Methodist Church) was our speaker.
- ❖ Spring Splash at Great Wolf Lodge (April 28-29) – for the first time we sent nine young people to the annual Michigan UMC sponsored Spring Splash event. Val Maidens and Trish Elbert went as supervising adults (after completing the required Policy Protection training at Mosaic United Methodist Church). It was a fun-filled 2-day event for our young people and long, long two days for the adults who kept “eyes” on the very active youths.
- ❖ Church Women United held their annual meeting at our church on May 3rd. Pastor Terry and Darlene share Native American culture, stories and their music with the group.
- ❖ Spring Campgrounds Cleanup – we are very thankful to have Central United Methodist Church as our Mission partner for 16 years. Leland United Methodist Church participated for the first time this year. Cleanup included raking/blowing leaves and pine needles; painting and cleaning the dining room and kitchen; used leaf blowers to blow debris from the tabernacle and washed the pews. For the first time this year, a group power washed 150 cloth-covered chairs in our church. A group cleared leaves and fallen branches from our All Native American Cemetery. All this cleanup was done in the drizzle of rain. We are so blessed to have these awesome believers as our friends in Christ. We love them.
- ❖ Open House June 1st – Partnered with Kewadin Indian United Methodist Church and held an open house for Annual Conference attendees at Kewadin's church. The head count was 185 people – that's a lot of fry bread!
- ❖ Sunday, June 24th – Mancelona United Methodist Church invited Pastor Terry and Darlene to have worship service and our congregation attended.
- ❖ August 10-11-12 Camp Meeting: Edwin Taylor and wife Barbara (from Walpole Island 1st Nations Canada) were camp speakers. Great attendance. Edwin held an Ojibwe language workshop on Saturday. About 30 participants attended the workshop.
- ❖ Fall Revival held Nov 9-10-11. Our main speaker, Edwin Taylor (Canada) had to cancel due to health issues with wife. Friday evening speaker was Bob Dominic (Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church) and Pastor Terry and Darlene ministered Saturday and Sunday.
- ❖ Northport Indian United Methodist Church have paid 100% 2018 Ministry Shares to Michigan Conference.

Kewadin Indian Mission United Methodist Church (2018). Delegate: Steve Antoine. Pastor: George Pamp.

- ❖ Sunday worship at 11 am; 1st Sunday is Communion. Average 25 regular attendees. Sunday Bible School average eight children.
- ❖ Tuesday evenings Native (Ojibway) language classes are held for all ages.
- ❖ Wednesday evenings Bible Study classes are held with 20-25 attendees.
- ❖ Thursday evenings AA meetings.
- ❖ Memorial Day – Military Honor Ceremony was held at our all Native American cemetery. Refreshments served for attendees after ceremony. We've been doing this for the last 20 years.
- ❖ June 1st, a combined Annual Conference Open House with Northport Indian United Methodist Church was held at our Community Dining Hall and church. There were approximately 185 people from the conference in attendance during the evening event. Native style food was served. Pastor Terry and Darlene Wildman provided music and story-telling. Jenny Brown and husband did a workshop on Native-style basket weaving. It was a fun filled evening for everyone.
- ❖ Held our Spring/Easter Revival March 22-25; Summer Camp Meeting July 12-15 and Fall Revival November 15-18.
- ❖ The last Sunday in August, we had our annual Summer Picnic for members and family.
- ❖ Chillicothe Ohio youth group came for one week in June to complete work projects around church, campgrounds and cemetery.
- ❖ Our monthly Ministry Shares to the Michigan Conference Treasury have been paid 100% for 2018.

Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church (2018). Delegate: Jan Jensen. Pastor: Jonathan Mays.

- ❖ Sunday worship 9 am. Average 40 attendees. Sunday evening services at 5 pm with rotation of Native pastors and lay speakers.
- ❖ Easter Lenten Services – “Love Leads the Way” with special services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Easter Sunrise, Easter Breakfast and three Easter Communion Services (9a & 11a) at America House.
- ❖ Held our Spring Sugarbush maple syrup making with Forest Gotts and Robin Lees.
- ❖ Robin Lees and Kathy Mays attended “The Power of the Bold” UMW Assembly in Columbus Ohio on May 18th.
- ❖ Pastor Mays and project leaders received the 2018 Community Award for the Restoration of the Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church at the Michigan Historic Preservation Network ceremony at MSC on May 18th.
- ❖ Heritage Youth Action Camp on July 11-13. Summer Camp Meeting July 27-29.
- ❖ Archeological project ongoing with Archeologist Wes Andrew’s LTBB team.
- ❖ Cemetery Committee continuing efforts to update and file records.

Mt Pleasant Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church (2018). Delegate: Judy Bannister. Pastor: Owen White Pigeon.

- ❖ Sunday worship services 11 am and 7 pm; Thursday evenings 7 pm. Attendance has been good.
- ❖ NYE Watch Dec 31-Jan 1 “Behold and Make All Things New”. Easter Revival March 29-April 1 with Rev. Sam McClellan “In Remembrance”. Camp Meeting Aug 27-Sept 3 with Rev. Fred Caiutu “Reach to Meet”; morning service with Irene Bois; and afternoon service with Rev. Sam McClellan. Thanksgiving Services: Nov 22-25 with Rev. Sam McClellan “Harvest is Ready.
- ❖ In 2018, 24 baptisms and one wedding ceremony.

Saganing Native American Center (SNAC) 2108 – Rose M. Bledsoe.

Rose Bledsoe represents the Saganing Mission on the Arenac County Multipurpose Collaborative Body and participates in Project CONNECT. Both entities embrace all local social service agencies and encourage a cooperative effort, sharing information and resources in order to better service the entire community.

- ❖ SNAC reopened in April to host the Indian Workers Conference on May 5th. The building remains closed during November until April to save on fuel and electric expenses.
- ❖ Paul Perez (Associate Director of Mission and Ministry) informed Rose SNAC has been chosen as an “Engage Project” for 2019.
- ❖ SNAC Outreach Program and Diaper Pantry served approximately 35 families with 1800 diapers distributed and 47 care packages (paper towels, laundry detergent, shampoo, trash bags, tissues, etc.).
- ❖ The local Chippewa Tribe scheduled a cemetery clean up in May. Rose shared her findings on cemetery mapping and received input on how to proceed further. Robert Bledsoe made 20 crosses to be placed on unmarked gravesites. Rose contacted the Anthropology Department at Central Michigan University and inquired about the possibility of formal mapping of gravesites. CMU replied saying several graduate students may be interested in starting this project in the spring 2019.
- ❖ Rose made inquiries as to the possibility of having the Center designated a historic landmark.
- ❖ SNAC hosted a Memorial Day fellowship and refreshments after the Annual Graveside Ceremony led by the local veterans.
- ❖ Back to School Bonanza volunteers met on August 25th and gave 113 backpacks filled with school supplies to area children. Items had been donated by individuals and local churches. Kids Klothesline (Outreach Program of Standish Community United Methodist Church) provided clothing during the event and Standish Rite Aid Pharmacy sent two representatives to administer flu shots.
- ❖ SNAC held a “Special Worship and Celebration” on August 26th. 85 attendees had a joyful time of praising and singing. Fried chicken with many potluck dishes were enjoyed by everyone.
- ❖ SNAC closed early this fall due to water heater problem. The Diaper Pantry is temporarily housed at the Standish Community United Methodist Church until repairs are completed.

Valerie Maidens, Michigan CONAM Secretary

MICHIGAN 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.

The Michigan Communications (MICOM) team comprised of Director of Communications (DOC) Mark Doyal, Editor/Senior Content Manager Kay DeMoss, Mlconnect 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 2018.

The launch of the new Michigan Conference also created a new Communications Commission. It comprised of the Bishop, Assistant to the Bishop, Lay Leaders, the Directors of Connectional Ministries, and three volunteer members Onieka Mobley, Dillon Burns, and Vicky Prewitt. The organization met three times in 2017/2018. The elected members provide excellent guidance from a local church perspective. The other significant changes for communications under the new conference structure is the transition of EZRA (database) management and IT services to Administrative Services.

Here were some of the critical developments of 2018:

Brand Launch

The Michigan Conference began operating as a single entity on July 1, 2018. MICOM launched the new Michigan Conference brand across the denomination with new colors, fonts, and logos. A brand guide was written and distributed to staff and critical conference leadership. Transitioning to the new logo will be an ongoing effort in addition to the update of staff and offices.

Website

The MICOM team completed a three-year initiative to launch a robust new state-wide content management system (CMS/website). On August 1, 2018, MICOM simultaneously began 12-new websites. They included MichiganUMC.org, nine new District websites, a new annual conference meeting site, and a new general conference site. Providing resources and information to the local church is the purpose of each CMS. What is unique about the new website is the turn-over of content. Mlcom trained 25 content editors to update the site daily. Adding fresh daily content has led to dramatically increased user approval ratings.

The new sites have been well received. MichiganUMC.org had over 30,000 visitors in the first 12 weeks, with approximately 9,000 users browsing the site weekly. The growth curve is expected to continue to grow. The first quarter of resulted in over 200,000 page views with top rated pages: clergy resources, pastor resources, local church resources, news site, new appointments, classifieds, resources – A Way Forward, conference administration, district directory, people finder, calendar of events.

Social Media

Michigan Conference social media continues to see significant growth. In July 2018, the new Michigan Conference Facebook Page and Facebook Group, Twitter and Instagram debuted. Communications also launched new Facebook pages for the nine new districts, and four ministry pages. Five other groups including Children's Ministries, Order of Elders, and Young Adult Ministries received groups. The Michigan Conference Group reaches 1000 people each week, and over 2200 people see the page.

Mlconnect

Guided by award-winning Editor/Senior Content Developer Kay DeMoss, Mlconnect, the weekly digest of United Methodist life in Michigan, subscribership remained steady in 2018. Each week nearly 8,000 people are reached with news, information, resources, and inspiration. Mlconnect 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. Also, UM News shared 17 of Kay's stories with four more Mlconnect stories printed in UM Insight.

Video/Vimeo

Video messaging and production continues to grow. Last year Mlcom produced and posted 65 original educational and missional videos on our Vimeo site, vimeo.com/miumc. That led to more than 38,000 plays, a full 55 complete days of viewing conference videos. Highlights include TOM Talks, ENGAGE, Finding Hope in A Foreign Land, We Are One – and introduction to the Michigan Conference, One Cookie At A Time, Ash Wednesday For All, Weaving Our Future, and Truth And Reconciliation For All.

Additionally, thanks to the state-wide ZOOM video program, Mlcom has been able to bring training and meetings to thousands across the state, regardless of distance or weather. ZOOM has saved thousands of hours in travel and tens of thousands of dollars savings in mileage reimbursements.

E-marketing

Through our email program, Mlcom sent out 100s of targeted email messages. These include the popular Mlconnect, spiritual messages from Bishop David Bard, resource and training opportunities, death notices, and more. The open rate of these messages to thousands of subscribers is 30%-80%, sometimes triple the national open average.

Publications

Mlcom facilitated the printing of dozens of publications in 2018, including the Annual Conference Program, Conference Journal, ENGAGE.

Other

Director of Communications, Mark Doyal continues to lead the United Methodist Association of Communicators. At the Annual United Methodist Association of Communicators Awards in Philadelphia, Kay received First Place/Class III Writing/Non-Fiction ... Impossible Dreams Come True (Remembering Robert C. Smith); Third Place/Class II Digital Publications ... Mlconnect; Third Place/Class IX Publicity and Advertising ... Ingather Offering: Haiti and Liberia. Mark accepted awards for three videos: Meet The Bishop, Haiti/Liberia Offering, and How Two Conferences Came Together.

In July, Mark was named by Council of Bishops President Kenneth Carter to the 8-member, "United Methodist Communications Dream Team." The team was assembled to provide educational resources in advance of General Conference 2019. In addition to Michigan missions and ministries, Mark also continues to advise other agencies including the Connectional Table and Council of Bishops.

Mark A. Doyal, Director of Communications

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE TRUSTEES, BOARD OF

Although we did not begin our work as a board of trustees until January 1, 2019, we did take part in the annual risk management review in October with the West Michigan Board of Trustees and the Detroit Board of Trustees. To enable the new board to be up and operating on January 1, 2019, we elected officers at the October meeting.

On January 1, 2019 the work and responsibilities of the following board of trustees were merged into the Board of Trustees for the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church: The West Michigan Board of Trustees, the Detroit Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees for the Michigan Area Ministry Center.

Our first official board meeting took place in January. At that meeting we did the following:

1. Reviewed the list of conference owned properties that the board is responsible to maintain.
2. Heard reports on the properties that are being held by the trustees for sale.
3. Reviewed the outstanding work that needs to be done at the Ministry Center and the Ministry Center North. Work that needs to be done might be called "cosmetic" in nature.
4. Discussed the process for annual review of all conference owned parsonages.

The following is a list of properties being held by the trustees to sell.

1. Former DCM parsonage: Tricklewood
2. Flint Eastwood
3. Fort Gratiot parsonage
4. Unionville United Methodist Church
5. Lakeville land
6. Kalamazoo Stockbridge Ave United Methodist Church

We have renewed the mortgage for the Ministry Center for another five years.

At the time this report is written, we have only one church closing to report, and that is the Trowbridge United Methodist Church.

Our meeting dates have yet to be determined by conference staff, but we plan to meet in April, the summer, October and January of 2020.

Brent L. Webster, Chair, Michigan Conference Board of Trustees

DETROIT CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This is the final report of the Board of Trustees of the Detroit Conference of The United Methodist Church. On January 1, 2019, our work came to an end, and our responsibilities were transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Since the corporate session at the 2018 Annual Conference our property holdings have changed or remained the same in the following ways:

- The former Flint Faith United Methodist Church has been sold with a closing date of 11.15.18.
- The former Flint Eastwood United Methodist Church is still for sale with at least one price reduction.
- The former Marquette Laurium United Methodist Church as sold on 11.9.18.
- The former Bluewater Unionville United Methodist Church has been “restored” although its usability is in question.
- We have received a contingency offer on the former Fort Gratiot parsonage.
- We are currently holding the former Flint Lincoln Park United Methodist Church until the conference new church development committee makes a decision about a possible new church start at that location. Currently part of the building is operating a soup kitchen that was a part of the Lincoln Park United Methodist Church ministry.
- In the fall of 2018 a new parsonage was purchased in the DeWitt area for the conference benefits officer.

In the fall we held our annual risk management review with representative of Church Mutual Insurance Company.

At this time we have no new church closings to report, and that is very good news.

At each of our meetings we have spent time with the Board of Trustees of the West Michigan Conference as we prepare to become one conference.

I would like to thank the following individuals for their outstanding gifts of time and talent in service to our board of trustees. Some will be “retiring” while others will continue onto the new board: Lynn Geer, Rob Long, Doris Sain, Greg Hamilton, Faith Timmons, Ken Dowell, Karl Bauman, and Don Archambeau.

Brent L. Webster, Chair, Detroit Conference Board of Trustees

WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the West Michigan Conference is incorporated in the state of Michigan and was organized and functions under the mandate of *The Book of Discipline*.

The Board of Trustees are pleased to report to you a brief review of major activities in 2018:

- The board and other agencies diligently cared for all conference property and equipment.
- Sold the closed Christ United Methodist Church in Lansing for \$300,000.
- Approved some major repairs to the Episcopal Residence in Dewitt.
- Completed the sale of the West Michigan Conference Center (11 Fuller SE, Grand Rapids).
- Worked with the Chancellor Office to resolve the property line dispute at the Lake Michigan camp.
- Made repairs to the DCM Parsonage in Grand Rapids to get it ready for sale.
- Acquired a parsonage in Dewitt for the DMC.
- Sold the closed Vermontville United Methodist Church to the Village of Vermontville.
- Transferred the title of the closed Christ United Methodist Church in Traverse City to the Mosaic Church.

West Michigan Trustees has been responsible for all the real property owned by the West Michigan Conference.

One of their final motions in 2018 was to transfer all their responsibilities to the new Michigan Conference Trustees.

William Gehman, President, West Michigan Conference Board of Trustees

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Gospel of John offers such a powerful and intimate view of the Incarnation: “The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.” (The Message, Eugene Peterson). This decision and movement of God provides the foundation for the vision of the Mid-Michigan District: creating the spaces and leaders through which God’s hospitality and wholeness can thrive in communities! We live into this vision through our three core values:

- Engaging local churches in transformational, Christ-centered mission and ministry in their communities;
- Identifying, equipping, supporting and deploying bold and effective leaders;
- Creating and partnering with processes that form vibrant congregations.

This year, in order to foster closer relationships and partnerships between our local churches and explore a common vision while caring for the necessary business of charge conferences, we held Missional Hub Charge Conferences with music led by the Michigan State Wesley Foundation in 12 locations across our new district this fall.

The lay leadership of the district gathered together for Lay Leadership Forums throughout the year for support and empowerment of the local church. The topics of these gathering included naming of the new district, sharing spiritual journeys and learning about MI Engage.

The clergy also gathered for clergy forums/clergy praxis sessions with a focus on theory, practice and application of effective ministry. The topics have included effective children’s and youth ministry, worship planning, naming of our new district and fellowshiping with colleagues.

The Mid-Michigan District has continued support for the Michigan State Wesley Foundation, Maple Valley Community Center of Hope, South Lansing Ministries and Shalom Peace Center.

The Fall District Conference was held at REACH Summit in East Lansing, with workshops led by Rev. Paul Perez on MI Engage and Rev. Gary Step on congregational vibrancy.

The Lansing District Board of Church Location and Building (BLOC) provided valued consultation services to the Lansing urban churches, leading to the listing and sale of the former Christ United Methodist Church, Vermontville United Methodist Church, Quimby United Methodist Church, Grovenburg United Methodist Church church and parsonage, and soon the 700 W. Mt. Hope property.

In 2018, our district transitioned from Lansing District to District 5 to the Mid-Michigan District. We were both sad and proud that our District Superintendent Kennetha Bigham-Tsai moved on to new challenges as the chief connectional ministries officer of The United Methodist Church Connectional Table. With that transition, we welcomed our new District Superintendent, Rev. Jerome R. DeVine.

With the transition of leadership, we also had some staff changes. Our long-time administrative assistant to the district superintendent, Sus’ann Busley, took on the new position of administrative assistant to Rev. Benton R. Heisler, Director of Connectional Ministries. We welcomed Sarah Gillette as the new executive assistant to the district superintendent.

Paul Hahm, District Leadership Team Chair
Nona Spackman, District Lay Leader

MIDWEST DISTRICT

The Midwest District is establishing the foundation for leadership in the new Michigan Conference structure. Persons have been recruited for each committee. In addition to those required by *The Book of Discipline* (dCom, Church and Location, and Superintendency), we have created the following committees: Finance, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Mission, and Education. A representative from UMW and UMM will also be part of the Leadership Team, whose role is to help the Midwest District carry out its goal to be in Mission together with Witness.

Margie R. Crawford, District Superintendent
Suzanne Hewitt, Midwest District Lay Leader

NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT

Hi! My name is John Preston. #ILOVEGOD. New guy! #Goofball First time report! #notsurehowtodothis. Our mission in the Northern Skies District is the same as your mission no matter where you reside in God's Kingdom: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. #GodRules In the Northern Skies district we value our heritage, discipleship, and hospitality. Our unique position in the Northern Lower Peninsula and the entire Upper Peninsula makes us value God's beautiful creation. **Just sayin!** We look to share what God has gifted each of us with the rest of the world. May we be successful in this mission to transform the world. As leaders within our local churches let us encourage each member to grow in discipleship through prayer, education, and then, make and take opportunities to strengthen our relationships with God and His people through fellowship.

The Marquette District was renamed the Northern Skies District #CoolNameEh? and prepared for its new role in the newly formed Michigan Conference. #AboutTimeWhoWho The Northern Skies District was represented at the Board of Laity quarterly meetings in Lansing to help plan the 2019 Michigan Annual Conference. As a result of those meetings, Lay equalization applications were adopted then posted on the Northern Skies District website and on the Northern Skies Laity Facebook page. Our equalization allotment for Michigan Annual Conference 2019 was 8-1-1: 8 lay persons, 1 youth, 1 young adult. From the applications received, 8 were chosen, plus one young adult. The Youth slot remains open at this writing. Laity at large will be Paula Wright from Gladstone, Kay Bashore from Pickford, B.J. Ash from Manistique, Liane Callow from Menominee, Patti Steinberg from Crystal Falls, Larry Molloy Calumet, Pamela Quayle from the District office will be retiring but will shadow her replacement at this Annual Conference. I'll see you all at the 2019 Annual Conference.

Other activities of the Northern Skies District included hosting Bishop Bard for question and answer sessions regarding the One Church Plan promoted by the Council of Bishops. United Methodist Women 150TH anniversary was hosted by Zeba United Methodist Church inside the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community community building. Ironwood Wesley United Methodist Church was the 2018 District Mission of the year. Both men and women participated in their respective Walk to Emmaus at Camp Michigamme. Camp Michigamme was held for all age groups during the summer months and is in the midst of raising funds for a new building (WigWam) on site which will meet the needs of Camp Michigamme and the Emmaus Community alike. In October Rev. Faith Fowler spoke at District Cross Training event in Gladstone United Methodist Church. Consequently, Erica Thomas, Director of Camp Michigamme, was inspired along with many others to put together a mission sending 20 youth and young adults to Rev. Faith Fowler's Cass Social Services mission in Detroit. We want to inspire our youth and young adults with this dynamic move of God. #WayToGoErica!

District Double Header in Marquette, Child Protection Training was held at Iron Mountain Trinity United Methodist Church in November. BASIC and Advanced Lay classes are being offered in Newberry and Escanaba at this writing with more classes to follow. Thank you Liane Callow! #AWESOME! God's Country Cooperative Parish, thank you Randy, continues to be a blessing to the many small churches in the eastern U.P. For all activities and events all year long you can go to the Northern Skies District website or Facebook page. Don't forget to like us! Because we like you! Stay in touch.

John Preston, District Lay Leader

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The new Michigan Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) began officially July 1, 2018. The tasks have been many: team-building as a new group of leaders working together, writing a new policies and procedures document to keep us all on the same page, learning and implementing our new interview process, re-aligning the agencies processing our psychological evaluations, and working with our new Office of Clergy Excellence! Jennifer Browne, Director of Clergy Excellence and her Executive Assistant, Debbie Stevenson, decided quickly that the many tasks required by the Board would require additional support, so we have brought on Cheryl Poole as the part-time BOM Administrative Assistant. Their new office has been rapidly coming up to speed in figuring out what needs to be cared for by whom and taking responsibility for important tasks. We are grateful to be working together! It is most definitely a new era for United Methodists in Michigan to have this new office of support for clergy. It is also meaningful to have a new line of communication between the Board, the Directors' Table, and the Full Cabinet. We continue the process of adaptive learning and leadership as we do our work.

We look forward to a new chapter in working with the Division on Religion and Race to increase the cultural competency of our clergy and lay leaders across the conference. We are also looking forward to all the possibilities for clergy afforded by the new G.P.S. experience that will begin for a few in 2019 and start in earnest for the conference in 2020.

I would like to express my appreciation to Dean Prentiss and David Eardley who researched so diligently to come up with our new interview process and structure. It has been well-received by candidates so far, as well as support persons and Board members. I would also like to thank Billie Lou Gillespie, Thom Davenport, and Jennie Browne who spent many hours building a training for the new District Committees on Ordained Ministry. Our goals are quality and consistency for each of the dCOMs, as they process candidates and evaluate and encourage Licensed Local Pastors. It is a new idea to attempt to have each candidate's experience be the same across the new conference, and I am grateful for the time and effort of the dCOM chairs, registrars, and members to do this work. Appreciation also goes to Jan Brown and everyone on the Support Committee who has been re-organizing the Residency Program for our candidates, as well as making sure that so many other tasks get done, including distributing Continuing Ed money and Seminary Grants, encouraging clergy through appointment changes, and more. Thank you to our Full, Associate, and Provisional Member Registrars, Tim Ziegler and Julie Greyerbiehl, who have had a challenging year implementing all the changes that the BOM Task Force put in place and keeping our candidates on track. Thank you to all the hard-working members who have had to roll off the board, including Jodie Flessner who has served as LP Registrar and is joining the Cabinet, as well as the brave new ones coming on! Additionally, I am grateful to all the BOM members who serve on the Conference Relations, Candidacy, Continuing Formation, Recruitment, and Executive committees for completing all the rest of our many responsibilities. Most of all, I am grateful for our candidates, who persevere in their callings during such a challenging time in our denomination. My prayer continues to be that all our candidates will have a place to serve and live out their callings within The United Methodist Church.

Laura Speiran, Chair

OFFICE OF CLERGY EXCELLENCE

The Office of Clergy Excellence (OCE) has had an exciting and productive first eight months of existence, with a steep learning curve and multiple reasons for gratitude.

A primary task in this first year has been to learn about, support, and participate in the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM). Both Executive Assistant Debbie Stevenson and I serve as facilitators of communication, connectors of ideas, and administrators of decisions in relation to the work of the BOM. I'm grateful to all the BOM members, and especially to chair Rev. Laura Speiran, for her patient coaching as I learn about the complicated details of the Board's work. The help of former BOM Administrative Assistants Nancy Arnold and Sus'ann Busley have been invaluable for Debbie.

As part of working with the BOM, I have participated so far in two Candidacy Summits, one Interview Week, one Residency Program and many meetings. Board members devote an extraordinary amount of time and energy to the process of credentialing those who are called to be licensed or ordained church leaders. They are committed to doing the best job possible as they make important and sometimes difficult decisions.

The credentialing process is complicated, so much so that many may wonder why it takes so long. Two elements of the process over which we have limited control are UMCARES, the GCFA-created software by which we track the candidacy process up to certification, and the psychological assessments that are a required part of it. Newly hired and part-time BOM Administrative Assistant Cheryl Poole has undertaken the laborious and detailed work of cleaning up and updating the conference's UMCARES records. A smoother and more user-friendly experience will be the result of her efforts. Cheryl has also done an excellent job of populating and managing the Clergy page of the conference website. We are grateful to Director of Communications Mark Doyal for his instruction and assistance.

To explain the credentialing process, I have visited with each of the nine District Committees on Ministry (dCOMs). The visits have given me the chance to meet most of the dCOM members, to explain the credentialing process, especially the steps that are new or revised, and to answer their questions. A significant task in my second year as DCE will be continuing to work with dCOM members and their district superintendents to build conference-wide consistency in the credentialing process. The goal is to create a process that is clear, fair, and understandable so that we can recruit, encourage and support our clergy leaders.

The Office of Clergy Excellence is closely involved with a BOM-related venture created by the 2016 General Conference: the Eight-Year Assessment, which we have titled "God's Positioning System" (GPS). I am working with the Continuing Formation Team of the BOM to create and implement this opportunity for active

clergy to reflect, renew and reclaim their callings. It's a new idea and will undoubtedly move through many incarnations as time goes on. The trial group, consisting of the clergy of the BOM with additional members from the Full Cabinet, will begin their 6-month GPS journey at Annual Conference 2019.

Other groups in which I participate include the Conference Leadership Council, the Directors Table, and the Full Cabinet, allowing the perspectives of the BOM and clergy leaders in general to be at the table during conversations about management details, as well as the larger, big-picture conversations about vision and direction. I am grateful to Bishop David Bard, as well as other conference staff leaders, especially Revs. John Boley and Benton Heisler, for welcoming me into those conversations.

I give thanks for the existence and annual meeting of the BOM Staff Network, a national group of those who work with Boards of Ordained Ministry. While the group includes a remarkable variety of staff configurations and positions, we have many problems and concerns in common, which we address in face-to-face and virtual gatherings. I especially appreciate the work of Meg Lassiatt, Director of Candidacy, Mentoring and Conference Relations, and her staff at GBHEM.

Many thanks to the Michigan Conference Leadership Council for a grant that has allowed me to initiate projects that contribute to the development and support of clergy excellence around the conference. At this early point in 2019, those projects include a pre-GC 2019 series of clergy leader conversations with the Bishop, and the formation of a small group of clergy with similar congregational patterns of growth. Future plans include additional small clergy groups as well as bringing leadership and spiritual growth speakers to the conference.

I owe particular gratitude to OCE Executive Assistant Debbie Stevenson, whose organizational and detail skills mean that the voluminous BOM files of both former conferences are now organized, culled and easy to access. Debbie has become the "face" of OCE for candidates, potential candidates, BOM and dCOM officers and members, Superintendents and conference staff, clergy from within the Michigan Conference and those from outside it. She is note-taker, reservation-maker, form-provider, question-answerer and communication-facilitator for all of us.

Of late Debbie is also the chief decision-maker when it comes to our new office suite at Conference Center North. We hope the new OCE office, next door to the Offices of Treasury/Administrative Services and Benefits/Human Resources and the Mid-Michigan District Office, will be ready by late spring. We look forward to sharing one location so that the work we do will contribute even more effectively to the support and development of clergy leaders around the conference.

Most of all, I am grateful to the movement of God's Holy Spirit, working through the Design Team and conference decision-makers, for the creation of the Office of Clergy Excellence and the position that I am honored to hold. In so many ways the clergy of the Michigan Conference are moving into a new world – in our new statewide conference, in our denomination, and in our nation and our world. I am truly blessed to be walking with them, and to be given the opportunity to help shape the direction and quality of that journey.

Jennifer Browne, Director of Clergy Excellence

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS (CBOPHB)

I. WELCOME TO THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Following more than three years of praying, planning, and preparing, the Joint Distributing Committee [comprised of members from the Board of Pension & Health Benefits of both annual conferences] concluded its responsibility in 2018 to produce a benefits structure for the Michigan Conference and passed it to the Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits (CBOPHB) for implementation. While many elements of the former benefits plans have been retained, no person or entity has escaped at least some changes in policy, procedure and/or payment. Despite the reality that some changes would be well-received and others would not, every decision and resulting impact were carefully considered in striving to provide the best compromises and solutions for all involved parties.

The many transitions required to implement the new benefits plans have taken enormous time and effort by many individuals and entities. In some situations, transition has continued to be problematic in the first quarter of 2019. Nevertheless, the Michigan Conference begins its existence with a strong and valuable ministry of caring through its benefits programs.

Benefits Ministry Shares

Benefits Ministry Shares are billed monthly to every local church to fund current conference retirement and welfare plan liabilities as well as all ministries through the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits/Benefits Office. The amount of the Benefits Ministry Shares is calculated using a fixed percentage of each church's clergy compensation. The percentage will be determined on an annual basis, and adjusted to reflect appointments of half time or less, retiree appointments, or District Superintendent Assignments.

Health Care

The CBOPHB reaffirms its commitment to providing a comprehensive, sustainable group health care plan for actives and retirees while constantly assessing the financial realities required by all. Health insurance expenses are billed monthly.

II. PRIOR YEAR BENEFITS-RELATED BALANCES

For some, this section of the CBOPHB report will be new. Hopefully for most, it will be not applicable. Billings generated by the CBOPHB are directly associated with current liabilities for clergy/employee benefits or deferred compensation. Any payments not reimbursed to the CBOPHB by the local church or other agencies, by default, are absorbed by the CBOPHB and ultimately the annual conference for the expenses incurred. Therefore, permanent records of outstanding balances for retirement plan contributions, welfare plan premiums and health care expenses are kept on file by the CBOPHB with the intention to recover the balances in the future.

The following list includes the balances on record as of January 1, 2019. Payments subsequently remitted in 2019 may not be reflected in the totals below but may be confirmed with the Benefits Office.

If left unaddressed, these balances must become part of a local church's financial plan when a local church considers building expansion, merger, separation, or closure. Please contact the Director of Conference Benefits & HR Services for further details or to discuss payment options for prior year balances.

Outstanding Prior Year Benefits-Related Balances					
	Church Name	Pension/Disability	Health	Total	% of total balances
Northern Skies District					
31001	Algonquin	532	0	532	
31007	Crystal Falls Christ	4,851	0	4,851	
31012	Ewen	192	0	192	
31022	Hulbert Tahquamenon	100	0	100	
31034	Michigamme Woodland	2,155	0	2,155	
31037	Negaunee Mitchell	572	0	572	
31041	Painesdale	770	0	770	
31045	Republic	462	0	462	
	NS District Total	9,634	0	9,634	0.74%
Northern Waters District					
32010	Bear Lake	2,962	4,470	7,432	
32012	Boyne City	3,211	19,711	22,922	
32019	Charleviox Greensky Hill	10,091	23,368	33,459	
32034	Harbor Springs	10,582	13,518	24,100	
32040	Indian River	2,047	6,313	8,360	
32046	Lake Ann	7,235	24,316	31,551	
32058	Mesick	617	4,432	5,049	
32064	Onaway	608	0	608	
	NW District Total	37,353	96,128	133,481	10.28%
Central Bay District					
33004	Auburn	1,292	0	1,292	
33009	Birch Run	346	0	346	
33013	Caseville	1,104	0	1,104	

33035	Hemlock	0	15,402	15,402	
33060	Pinnebog	2,658	0	2,658	
33061	Port Austin	0	4,110	4,110	
33062	Poseyville	546	0	546	
33066	Saginaw Ames	648	0	648	
33069	Saginaw New Heart	5,100	0	5,100	
33076	Standish	11,260	6,285	17,545	
	CB District Total	22,954	25,797	48,751	3.76%
Midwest District					
34033	GR La Nueva Esperanza	42	35,984	36,026	
34050	Kent City Chapel Hill	1,825	6,354	8,179	
34054	Lowell First	2,607	6,756	9,363	
34064	Muskegon Crestwood	772	2,510	3,282	
34067	Newaygo	4,354	3,362	7,716	
34074	Ravenna	5,265	6,073	11,338	
34077	Salem Indian Mission	5,979	3,171	9,150	
34079	Shelby	6,935	37,565	44,500	
	MW District Total	27,779	101,775	129,554	9.98%
Mid-Michigan District					
35010	Carland	2,838	0	2,838	
35015	Corunna	20,899	0	20,899	
35057	Muliken	6,167	7,861	14,028	
35068	Pittsburg	8,120	0	8,120	
35081	Vernon	5,765	0	5,765	
	MM District Total	43,789	7,861	51,650	3.98%
East Winds District					
36008	Buel	1,842	0	1,842	
36009	Burton Christ	12,297	0	12,297	
36022	Dryden	486	0	486	
36029	Flint Bristol	2,430	0	2,430	
36031	Flint Charity	33,003	0	33,003	
36033	Flint Faith	36,705	0	36,705	
36044	Harbor Beach	1,756	0	1,756	
36047	Imlay City	12,691	0	12,691	
36048	Jeddo	0	3,899	3,899	
36060	Melvin	635	0	635	
36064	Mt Morris First	7,046	45,821	52,867	
36075	PH Washington Ave	4,241	0	4,241	
36078	Richmond First	6,342	0	6,342	
36080	Saint Clair First	3,090	0	3,090	
36096	Yale	1,480	0	1,480	
	EW District Total	124,044	49,720	173,764	13.38%
Greater Southwest District					
37006	Bangor Simpson	2,833	8,468	11,301	
37059	Lawrence	4,821	37,815	42,636	
37073	Oshtemo LifeSpring	7,709	15,421	23,130	
37077	Paw Paw	0	42,291	42,291	
	GS District Total	15,363	103,995	119,358	9.19%

Heritage District				
38004	Ann Arbor Calvary	1,536	0	1,536
38006	Ann Arbor Korean	94,806	0	94,806
38013	Britton Grace	0	8,769	8,769
38024	Deerfield	3,309	0	3,309
38029	Erie	5,415	0	5,415
38034	Hartland	950	0	950
38051	Litchfield	231	3,433	3,664
38052	London	1,294	0	1,294
38063	Monroe Heritage	178	0	178
38066	Morenci	10,658	14,574	25,232
38085	Samaria Grace	5,653	0	5,653
38090	Springville	1,155	0	1,155
38096	Wellsville	1,640	0	1,640
38098	Whitmore Lake Wesley	6,467	0	6,467
38102	Ypsilanti St Matthew	275	0	275
	HT District Total	133,567	26,776	160,343
				12.35%
Greater Detroit District				
39007	Dearborn Hts Stephens	5,556	1,517	7,073
39010	Detroit Calvary	30,183	0	30,183
39011	Detroit Cass Community	45,862	0	45,862
39012	Detroit Central	2,208	0	2,208
39013	Centro Familiar Cristiano	2,975	15,306	18,281
39014	Detroit Conant Avenue	18,423	0	18,423
39015	Detroit Ford Memorial	4,534	0	4,534
39017	Detroit Mt Hope	33,555	0	33,555
39018	Detroit Peoples	36,853	45,556	82,409
39019	Detroit Resurrection	14,423	0	14,423
39021	Detroit Second Grace	4,667	0	4,667
39022	Detroit St Paul	30,991	20,380	51,371
39023	Detroit St Timothy	13,749	10,557	24,306
39034	Garden City	4,276	0	4,276
39036	Harper Woods	565	0	565
39043	Madison Heights	3,742	0	3,742
39047	Mt Vernon	234	0	234
39051	Pontiac Grace & Peace	1,935	17,252	19,187
39052	Pontiac St John	1,400	0	1,400
39053	Redford Aldersgate	2,341	0	2,341
39054	Redford New Beginnings	4,972	0	4,972
39061	Southfield Hope	10,360	0	10,360
39072	Waterford Four Towns	15,207	0	15,207
39076	Westland St James	26,548	0	26,548
	GD District Total	315,559	110,568	426,127
				32.82%
Closed Churches				
	Melvindale New Hope	3,087	12,501	15,588
	Flint Eastwood	17,997	0	17,997
	Flint Lincoln Park	962	0	962
	Argentine	3,915	0	3,915
	Bennington	535	0	535
	Ruby	1,365	0	1,365
	Lakeville	1,382	0	1,382

	Shelby Twp New Hope	2,949	0	2,949	
	D'born Hts Warren Valley	915	0	915	
	Closed Churches Total	33,107	12,501	45,608	3.51%
	Michigan Conference totals	763,149	535,121	1,298,270	

III. STEPS TO RETIREMENT

The following information should be examined by anyone contemplating retirement within the next ten years.

1. Review the *2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, ¶357, pertaining to retirement.
2. Attend a pre-retirement seminar within 10 years of retirement.
3. Confirm your service record with Wespath Benefits & Investments to assure that it is accurate. This is especially important with respect to pre-1982 service and the post-2006 Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Plans since these benefits are calculated based upon years of service. Often it takes significant time to correct a special situation or service record error.
4. Confirm your Social Security record to be certain that all payments have been properly credited. The Social Security Administration is not required to correct errors over 3 years old.
5. Notify in writing the following persons by January 1 for the following year's July retirement season:
 - A. Resident Bishop
 - B. Your District Superintendent
 - C. Rev. Don Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & HR
 - D. Rev. Mark Erbes, Chairperson of Committee on Conference Relations of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM)
6. Once your intention to retire is confirmed in writing by the Office of the Bishop, the Benefits Office notifies Wespath Benefits & Investments and materials are sent directly to the participant from Wespath detailing retirement plan payment options. A pension projection is available anytime through the Wespath at 800-851-2201 or www.wespath.org (Benefits Access).
7. Review and update all beneficiary designations on your Retirement and Welfare Accounts at Wespath Benefits & Investments.
8. **Health Insurance**
 - A. Review the conference eligibility and cost sharing requirements for health care coverage in retirement. It is the subscriber's responsibility to understand the specific rules relating to eligibility for coverage in retirement prior to the subscriber's retirement date.
 - B. If you are retiring at age 65 or older, you are eligible for Medicare. You (and your spouse if Medicare eligible) must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B effective the date of your retirement to qualify for the Conference Retiree Group Coverage. If you opted out of Social Security, you must arrange to purchase Medicare Benefits in order to be eligible for coverage under the Conference Retiree Group Coverage. Send photocopies of Medicare cards for you and your spouse to the Conference Benefits Office as soon as they become available. This is essential in order to coordinate health care coverage and avoid lengthy delays and/or denials of medical claims.
 - C. If you are retiring earlier than age 65, you (and your spouse) must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B when reaching age 65 in order to continue health coverage through the conference. Send photocopies of Medicare cards for you and your spouse to the Conference Benefits Office as soon as they become available. This is essential in order to coordinate health care coverage and avoid lengthy delays and/or denials of medical claims.

IV. CONFERENCE HEALTH CARE POLICIES

Introduction: This section describes the provisions and requirements of the Michigan Conference group health care plans. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. All required submissions, underwriting, and payments must be remitted in a timely manner. ***It is the subscriber's responsibility to understand the specific rules relating to eligibility for***

coverage both while active and in retirement. Questions may be directed to the Conference Benefits Office or submitted in writing to the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits. Do not rely on verbal responses to questions raised in informational meetings or provided by representatives other than the Board of Pension & Health Benefits.

In the event any of the health policy provisions need to be interpreted, the Committee on Health Benefits is authorized to make any needed interpretation. This will be considered final unless appealed to the full Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits, which will have the final authority to decide any issue. In the event of any dispute or disagreement by a participant, the Committee on Health Benefits is authorized to negotiate and settle the matter subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriter of the coverage and review by the Board of Pension & Health Benefits.

ACTIVE GROUP HEALTH CARE PLAN

Enrollment/Effective Date of Coverage: Health Care eligibility begins the first day of a new appointment/hire, change in appointment/employment status, or a life-qualifying event (i.e. loss of other health coverage), provided all required submissions, underwriting, and payments have been remitted in a timely manner. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. It is the responsibility of the subscriber to submit enrollment forms within the required timeframe. **If the enrollment process is not completed within 30 days of eligibility, the subscriber must wait until the next open enrollment period.**

Eligible Subscribers: Active Plan eligible classes include the following:

(Full-time for health coverage eligibility is defined as regularly working at least 30 hours per week)

1. Full-time Clergy (Ordained Clergy and Local Pastors) under Episcopal appointment with the Michigan Conference as the responsible agency for providing benefits.
2. Full-time Lay Employees of the Michigan Conference and its approved, related agencies.
3. Full-time Lay Employees of a local church (including District Superintendent Assignments) until the employee turns age 65 provided the local church lay employee policy offers health care to all eligible full-time lay employees. All conference eligibility requirements must be observed. The local church is the responsible agency for all lay employee health insurance premiums. Premium-sharing schedules may be determined by local church employee policies, but must meet employee affordability requirements as defined by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
4. Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees on Medical Leave receiving disability benefits, provided the subscriber was enrolled in the Michigan Conference Group Active Health Care Plan at the time they were granted Medical leave.
 - a. The subscriber must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B at the date of first eligibility.
 - b. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber's Medicare card to the Conference Benefits Office at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.
5. Dependents of deceased Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee subscribers provided the dependents were enrolled in the group active health care plan at the time of the subscriber's death.
 - a. Dependents of a retired subscriber will continue health coverage under the same eligibility and funding provisions as the subscriber.
 - b. A surviving spouse that remarries will continue to receive the health care benefit. However, the new spouse is not eligible for coverage.
6. Enrolled dependents of deceased Local Church employee subscribers as allowable by the health care plan if continued coverage is a provision of the local church employee policy, and if the local church maintains responsibility for the health insurance premiums.

Eligible Dependents:

1. Spouse.
2. Children and Legal Dependents under age 26.
3. Qualifying Adult Children with disabilities. (Per insurance regulations, Adult Children with disabilities may not continue on the conference plan after the subscriber is deceased.)

Changes in Eligibility: All changes in appointment, employee, or family status that affect eligibility in health coverage must be submitted within 30 days of the date the change occurs, otherwise loss, lapses, or gaps in coverage may occur. Subscribers are responsible for providing family status changes (including

marriages, births, adoptions, legal guardianships) in writing to the Conference Benefits Office. A delay in notification could mean a delay or denial of coverage until the next open enrollment period.

Working Aged 65: Active Clergy under eligible Michigan Conference Appointment and Conference Lay Employees in Conference/Related Agency employment retain eligibility status in the conference active group health care plan.

1. The conference active group plan continues to be the subscriber's primary coverage.
2. Subscribers and dependents must enroll in Medicare Part A at the time they turn age 65, but are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B until the effective date of the subscriber's retirement.
3. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber/dependent Medicare card to the Conference Benefits Officer at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.

Funding of Active Health Care Policies:

1. Active Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Employees: Health insurance premiums are shared by the salary-paying unit (Michigan Conference, Conference Related Agency, or Local Church) and the subscriber according to the contribution schedule as established by the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits action.
2. Disabled Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Employees: Health insurance premiums are paid by the Michigan Conference to the extent established by CBOPHB action.
3. Dependents of deceased Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee subscribers: Health insurance premiums are paid by the Michigan Conference to the extent established by CBOPHB action.

Termination:

1. A subscriber may voluntarily terminate a subscriber's health insurance policy by submitting a request in writing to the Conference Benefits Office.
2. Health insurance policies are terminated the date of a subscriber's termination from an eligible Clergy Appointment or Conference/Related Agency employment.
 - a. Coverage for terminated employees cannot be extended since COBRA coverage is not offered through the Michigan Conference.
 - b. Under special provisions of the CBOPHB, a policy will be extended for up to one year for a clergyperson appointed to an eligible leave of absence status. Eligible leaves of absence include Medical Leave and Sabbatical Leave only.
3. Health Insurance policies for a local church employee are terminated effective:
 - a. The termination date of local church employment. Coverage cannot be extended since COBRA coverage is not offered through the Michigan Conference.
 - b. The first of the month in which the subscriber turns age 65.
4. Health Insurance policies will be terminated for non-payment of premiums according to the following schedule:
 - a. Policy may be terminated at six months in arrears.
 - b. In a delinquency situation involving a clergyperson appointed to a local church, a repayment plan must be submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee of The Board of Pension & Health Benefits to extend coverage past the six-month period.
 - c. A terminated policy may be reinstated within 30 days of termination if the outstanding balance has been remitted in full.

Waiver of Coverage:

1. **Mandatory Enrollment:** The active group health care plan is generally a mandatory plan for all eligible appointed clergy. Appointed clergy may waive coverage if they have alternate health care coverage given any of the following situations:
 - a. Spouse's plan
 - b. Military plan
 - c. Former employer plan
 - d. Medicaid plan
2. Enrollment of eligible dependents is optional as determined by the subscriber.
3. Eligible Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees that waive conference health care coverage must have a Waiver of Coverage form on file in the Michigan Conference Benefits Office.
4. Persons waiving coverage have opportunity to enroll themselves and eligible dependents in the conference health care plan annually during open enrollment or at the time of a life-qualifying event.

RETIREE GROUP HEALTH CARE PLAN

Introduction:

This section describes the provisions and requirements of the Michigan Conference retiree group health care plan. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. All required submissions, underwriting, and payments must be remitted in a timely manner. ***It is the subscriber's responsibility to understand the specific rules relating to eligibility for coverage in retirement prior to the subscriber's retirement date. Questions may be directed to the Conference Benefits Office or submitted in writing to the Board of Pension & Health Benefits. Do not rely on verbal responses to questions raised in informational meetings or provided by representatives other than the Board of Pension & Health Benefits.***

It is crucial that clergy who have served appointments during their career in Extension Ministries or another Annual Conference are knowledgeable regarding years of service credit, coverage, and cost sharing in order to effectively plan for retirement.

Eligibility and Cost Sharing:

1. Grand-parented populations have been established for clergy members/conference employees of the former Detroit and West Michigan Conferences for all current retirees and all active participants who are eligible to retire by January 1, 2024. "Eligible to Retire" refers to the definitions as defined by the *2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.
2. Grand-parented populations will follow the provisions of their respective former conference that were in place December 31, 2018 in determining post-retirement eligibility and cost sharing. Individuals may contact the Conference Benefits Office to confirm eligibility and specific cost sharing at the time of retirement.
3. Post-retirement health care eligibility and cost sharing for participants not included in either grand-parented population will be determined per the health care policy when final provisions are established by the CBOPHB.

Termination:

1. A subscriber may terminate their health insurance policy during retirement at any time. However, the termination is nonrevocable and a subscriber cannot re-enroll at a future date.
2. The health insurance policy of a retired ordained minister whose clergy membership is terminated with the Michigan Conference for any reason will be terminated the effective date of the termination of the subscriber's clergy membership.
3. Health insurance policies will be terminated for non-payment of premiums according to the following schedule:
Policy may be terminated at six months in arrears.
 - a. A terminated policy may be reinstated within 30 days of termination if the outstanding balance has been remitted in full.
 - b. Since termination of a retiree policy is permanent following the 30-day window for reinstatement, subscribers in a delinquency situation are strongly encouraged to initiate communication with the Executive Committee of The Board of Pension & Health Benefits to negotiate a realistic repayment schedule prior to the date of termination.

Presented by The Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits
Rev. Steven J. Buck, President
Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Director of Conference Benefits & HR

PROTECTION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
(aka MICHIGAN CONFERENCE PROTECTION POLICY TEAM (MiC PPT))

2018 has been a year of discovering and addressing the issues which have emerged with the implementation of the Michigan Conference Protection Policy. The team meets once month to address the issues and to review the application files from the trainings held across the state. The trainings are held in various districts, by the trainers who were trained in 2017 on the new policy. The current number of trainers is fifty-one. With the decline in the number of youth conference and district events, we do not see a need to train additional trainers.

The MiC PPT has received numerous requests for advice on how to develop their local church policy. One of our achievements this year has been to develop a template local churches can use to guide them through the development of their own policy. By using this template, they can be confident they have included all necessary information to help insure the safety of their children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Our team has used several communication outlets so that those who offer trainings, have the necessary information and forms either from the Michigan Conference web site or hard copies from the Conference office. We have been actively communicating through MI Connect and the conference web page of changes and clarification of the procedures for registering training sessions. Aritha Davis keeps our files, fields questions and handles the distribution of training packets. She is deeply appreciated by the team.

With the addition of Bridget Nelson, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, and Kathy Pittenger, Conference Children's Coordinator, we are able to be in touch with what is happening with events for children and youth in the Michigan Conference. We meet once a month on the second Wednesday to handle business and review files of applicants who have been trained and complete the remaining steps to be authorized. Our goal is: 1) be available; 2) be pertinent; and 3) do everything we can to protect children, youth and vulnerable adults in the Michigan Conference.

MiC PPT members: Mike Darby, David Elmore, Marguerite Zawislak, Phyllis Hart, Bridget Nelson, Conference Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Kathy Pittenger, Conference Children's Initiatives Coordinator, and Judy Herriff, Facilitator.

Judy Herriff, Facilitator

RULES OF ORDER COMMITTEE

The Rules of Order Committee believes it assists conference agencies to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by ordering the life of the annual conference for effective ministry through its continued work of perfecting the conference rules and structure.

The committee met once since the last annual conference, on September 19, 2018, and the following actions were taken:

1. Officer elections were held. John Hice (District Superintendent on the committee) chaired the first part of the meeting. Todd Price (Chair), Judy Coffey (Vice Chair) and Jim Searls (Secretary) were all elected by acclamation.
2. Confirmed the submission deadlines for 2019AC for General Conference 2020 Nominations and 2019 Annual Conference Resolutions to be February 15, 2019.
3. Discussed the laity and clergy forms for nomination of General Conference delegates. Editorial changes were made post meeting to clean them up for the new conference.
4. Addressed the impact of electronic voting for all ballots/questions at Annual Conference. Conference staff are working to provide final details and rollout.
5. The Rules committee will hold their next meeting on March 13, 2019 at 9:30am primarily for legislation review, but also to provide recommendations for Nominations for the two members who will be going off committee.
6. There may be a need to meeting on April 24, 2019 to complete the review of petitions. This will be decided if required during the March 13 meeting.

We look forward to being of service to you, the members of the 2019 Michigan Annual Conference, in our session this Spring in Traverse City.

Todd L. Price, Chair

THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS



BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY – Boston, Massachusetts – <http://www.bu.edu/sth/>
Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we live together as disciples in uncertain times!

BREAKING NEWS:

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

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

- **Creative Callings:** Our vocational project is an exciting partnership with local churches, seeking to create “a culture of call.” It is sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment.
- **Engagement with the UMC:** Many of our students are delegates, project leaders and assistants, and class participants in General Conference 2019.
- **Congregational courses:** The Continuing Scholar program offers current BUSTH courses to alums and local clergy as continuing education credit for a small fee per course.
- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** The Clinic provides internships and workshops that foster justice and peace-building.
- **Travel seminars:** These courses engage students with immersion journeys to the Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, Argentina, and other sites of learning and ministry. Attendees from the recent Serbia and Croatia Seminar presented to the 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada.
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** We continue to build robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ, and to develop new communities with the Unitarian Universalist and Baptist Churches.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* and *State of Formation* cohort of emerging leaders.

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:

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

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

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

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:

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

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

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean



EMORY

CANDLER
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY – Atlanta, Georgia – candler.emory.edu

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

This is especially important to note amid the current uncertainty in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward from the Special Session of General Conference, we will continue to invite and welcome wholeheartedly those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

Candler is also privileged to be one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University in Atlanta. With the resources of a top-tier research institution and the reach of a global city, our students benefit from a rich academic and hands-on learning environment: The General Board of Global Ministries is in Atlanta, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Candler’s intentional involvement with our surrounding community has contributed to our inclusion on a list of “Seminaries that Change the World” for six years running. In short, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain

in their places of ministry and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they're enrolled – they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded \$5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100 percent of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them – and the churches they lead – well into the future.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

Jan Love, Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL – Madison, New Jersey – www.drew.edu

Drew University Theological School continued its multi-year self-transformation by launching its new curriculum for the Master of Divinity in the fall of 2018. This entirely reconceived degree seeks to form graduates that are rooted in the Christian story and traditions, capable of effective and creative leadership, and spiritually and socially resourceful for cultivating the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ in, with and for the church and the world. A new two-year degree, the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry, also launched and offers students the opportunity to prepare for public leadership or a specialized vocation through deep theological and ethical reflection informed by biblical, historical, theological and practical sources. New pathways in the Master of Arts, the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry were also created as part of the curriculum transformation process which seeks to more intentionally focus the school's service to the church, as well as to the academy and civil society. Drew welcomed 145 entering students this academic year, its largest entering class in over a decade, with an overall enrollment of 350 for the current academic year. In the coming year a new 5-year strategic plan will be developed, new degree delivery options that increase accessibility and affordability for prospective students, as well as new partnerships with annual conferences, other church bodies, and values-based organizations that share and strengthen Drew's mission to advance peace, justice, love of God, neighbor, and the earth.

Javier A. Viera, Vice Provost - Dean



DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL – Durham, North Carolina – www.divinity.duke.edu

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

Admissions: Duke Divinity School welcomed an entering class of approximately 200 new students from 30 different states and several countries, including China, South Korea, the UK, and Zimbabwe. Our Master of Divinity program remains central to our identity, enrolling 112 students. Our Master of Theological Studies and Master of Arts in Christian Practice programs received enrollments of 24 students and 14 students, respectively. The Master of Theology (nine students), Doctor of Ministry (22 students), and Doctor of Theology (four students) all had strong enrollment. Our new Certificate in Theology and Health Care saw enrollment double this year to eight students. The ages of students enrolled in the M.Div. program range from 21 to 69, with a median age of 23, and students from minority groups comprised more than 22 percent of incoming M.Div. students, with black students making up 15 percent. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 32 percent of the incoming class identified as a race/ethnicity other than white (an increase from 26 percent last year). Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Hispanic students, two percent; Asian students, seven percent; and American Indian students, one percent. For the first time, the majority of students entering the Doctor of Ministry program identify as an ethnic group other than white. Female students made up 51 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 49 percent. It was only the second time in school history that the incoming cohort of M.Div. students had a female majority (2005 being the other year). Across the degree programs, 42 percent of students in the incoming class were female, and 58 percent were male. There were 23 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 55 percent affiliated with The United Methodist Church (up from 41 percent last year). Nondenominational students made up 17 percent of the new M.Div. students; Baptists, eight percent; and Anglican-Episcopal, three percent.

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

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

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

Looking to the Future: The Divinity School continues to discern fresh strategies to respond faithfully and wisely to the changing dynamics of the church, the academy, and the world. An example of our strategic work is a new focus throughout the school on Thriving Communities. Through this focus we are concentrating on the centrality of healthy congregations and gifted pastors in cultivating thriving communities. This approach offers opportunities to build on Duke Divinity School's traditional strengths, but in a new key. We look forward to cultivating even stronger synergies among our work with the Clergy Health Initiative, Thriving Rural Communities, Hispanic House of Studies, and a revised Field Education program

(all generously supported by The Duke Endowment), alongside longstanding commitments to the Office of Black Church Studies, the Anglican/Episcopal and Baptist Houses of Study, and initiatives in Leadership Education; Theology and the Arts; and Theology, Medicine, and Culture.

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

L. Gregory Jones, Dean, Duke Divinity School



GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Atlanta, Georgia – www.gammon-itc.org

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

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

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

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

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

Ken J. Walden, Ph.D., President-Dean



GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Evanston, Illinois – www.garrett.edu

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

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

RESPONSIVE AND RELEVANT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

New Partnership with North Central College

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

Creative Course Opportunities

Faith in Place Environmental Justice Course

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

Connectional Learning

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

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

INCLUSIVITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

ENSURING A VIBRANT FUTURE

Hope for Creation and Green Seminary Certification Program

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

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

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

Lallene J. Rector, President



METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO – Delaware, Ohio – www.mtso.edu

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

Full-tuition pledge extended to those pursuing United Methodist candidacy

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

Master of Arts in Social Justice program launched

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

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

Ohio Northern University and MTSO have teamed up to offer incoming college students a unique 3+3 program leading to a Master of Divinity degree. The program is the only one of its kind in Ohio and one of only a few in the country. The typical path to an M.Div. requires seven years of undergrad and graduate study. Through the 3+3 program, students will save time and money by completing the degree in six years. Starting the program at ONU in Ada, they may choose one of three majors: religion, youth ministry, or religion and ecology. The next step is three years of study at MTSO. After their first year at MTSO, 3+3 students will complete a Bachelor of Arts degree from ONU. After completion of seminary coursework, they will earn an MTSO M.Div.

Danny Russell, Director of Communications



UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Dayton, Ohio – www.united.edu

459 men and women are being equipped as faithful, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders for the Church:¹

292 Masters Students

167 Doctoral Students

Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States²

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

Online degrees:

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

United students live in 39 different states.

Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.

Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):

New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.

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

Doctor of Ministry Degree:

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

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

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

Practical education designed to resource the Church:

The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.

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

A focus on Church Renewal:

165 Course of Study students⁴

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

Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision

Academic AND Spiritual Growth:

95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth.⁵

Diverse Christian Views:

Over 30 different denominations

19 international students from 15 different countries

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

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

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

Kent Millard, President

¹ Data represents Fall 2018 headcount enrollment, unless otherwise specified.

² ATS 2017-2018 Annual Data Tables. Data represents Fall 2017 headcount enrollment.

³ ATS 2017-2018 Strategic Information Report for United Theological Seminary. Graduation rates represent the percentage of students who were able to complete their chosen degree within a specified period of time which approximates two times the normal length of the degree.

⁴ Data represents unduplicated headcount enrollment in the 2017-2018 academic year.

⁵ United Theological Seminary 2017-2018 Student Satisfaction Survey, in which 30% of students responded.



WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WASHINGTON, DC

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Washington, DC – www.WesleySeminary.edu

Fostering wisdom and courage

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

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

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

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

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

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

In **Wesley’s 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program**, in partnership with Shenandoah University, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degrees in six years. **Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees.**

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

Take your ministry to the next level

Wesley is a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs in specialized tracks that can include international study. Their 2020 tracks will include **Church Leadership Excellence**, offered in conjunction with Wesley’s internationally respected **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** and **Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community**, and a track designed for military chaplains. Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

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

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

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

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

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

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

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

The African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the **Public Theology specialization** allows master's degree students to gain community leadership and advocacy skills. Learn more at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies/> or <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

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

Stay connected

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

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

David McAllister-Wilson, President



Increasing everyone's ability to succeed in a diverse community.

United Methodist Community House (UMCH) is committed to providing vital assets to otherwise marginal residents living within the Southeast side of Grand Rapids, Michigan. We provide services through our Child Development Center, Senior Programming, and Youth Services. 98% of individuals and families served through our programs and services are classified as low-to-moderate income households.

Administratively, we were able to overcome a significant deficit between January 2018 and December 2018 for which we are mighty grateful. We are also implementing the most aggressive expansion campaign in our 117-year history. Our goal is to develop internal revenue streams that will enable UMCH be able to cover most of our administration and operational expenses. This will enable the vast majority of contributions to go to providing direct programming to those we serve.

Because of the support of the West Michigan Conference and beyond, we were able to do the following in 2018:

- Remodeled and expanded our Child Development Center to create slots for infant and toddler care (aged 0-2) in our community. As a result of this, we have successfully:
 - Install a new security entrance for our facility to better protect our children and seniors.
 - Opened 5 infant care rooms significantly impacting the need for infant care slots in our community.
 - Expanded our capacity by providing 48 new slots for infant and toddler care in our Center.
 - Positively impacted the workforce by hiring new 21 staff for our expanded classrooms.
 - Supported the continued education of staff by providing opportunities to obtain the necessary certifications.
- Provided over 9,000 rides and 12,000 meals to senior citizens who use our services. We also provided 21 additional programs that address social, health, educational and spiritual needs of our senior clients. To accomplish this, we partnered with the following:
 - Health care professionals including podiatrists, optometrists, dieticians and chiropractors.
 - Grand Valley State University nursing students.
 - Grand Rapids Community College nursing students.
 - Fitness professionals.
 - Experts on insurance and government related programs affecting this population.
- Provided nearly 320 slots for youth in our 8-week summer day camp experience giving them memories that will last a lifetime.
- Engaged over 472 youth in top quality educational programs through our fully accredited Child Development Center and other youth based before/after school and summer time programming. We are actively preparing our youth for higher learning and employment opportunities.

**We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the United Methodist Women
and the West Michigan Conference!**

Eric Williams, Chief Executive Officer

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is privileged to serve so many congregations and United Methodist organizations. The Foundation continues 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 receive the most from available financial resources. Ranging from value-aligned investment services to stewardship and generosity consultation, we are eager to come alongside your local church to help you fulfill God's vision and mission for your local church or organizational ministry.

We welcomed a new staff person to our team in 2018. Karen Thompson, Senior Director of Loan Services, brings significant experience with financial administration from her previous career in the investment, treasury management, and debt financing activities at a state university. Karen was serving as the Vice-President of our Board of Directors until joining our staff. Jeff Regan, Sr. Director of Stewardship, continues to be our primary field staff person assisting local church leaders and pastors with effective year-round stewardship ministry. Marian Coles, Sr. Director of Operations, provides detailed customer service assistance and handles a multitude of administrative responsibilities. Ann Buck, Director of Account Services, relates to Michigan Area Loan Fund clients and responds to inquiries regarding life income gifts and charitable remainder trusts.

Wayne C. Barrett retired from the Foundation at the end of 2018. Wayne had been serving part-time as Senior Executive since his retirement several years ago from full-time work. Wayne is the single most influential person over the past several decades to build the Foundation into the largest regional United Methodist Foundation in the North Central Jurisdiction. Wayne was a forerunner in so many areas of foundation ministry, including capital campaigns, stewardship consultation, and clergy personal finance. The staff misses his regular office presence. David S. Bell, President and Executive Director, is deeply grateful for Wayne's mentorship and guidance over numerous years. We all pray God's blessing upon Wayne and his wife, Linda, as they enjoy this new era of full-time retirement.

The Foundation has completed its organizational restructuring to be in alignment with the new Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. Its organizational documents were updated to accommodate potential 2019 General Conference action. As a result, the Foundation is positioned to serve United Methodist Churches in Michigan as well as organizations that share historic common bonds and convictions. We are delighted with the ways in which this alignment will enhance our client services.

In addition to investment and stewardship services, we are one of the largest providers of scholarships and grants to Michigan clergy and seminary students. We encourage you to visit the scholarships and grants page of our website, www.umfmichigan.org, to learn more.

We awarded the 2018 Wayne C. Barrett Steward Leader Awards to the following churches:

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids
- Dundee United Methodist Church
- First United Methodist Church in Saline
- Valley United Methodist Church in Allendale

David S. Bell, President and Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES and UMRC FOUNDATION

United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) provides a continuum of care and services to older adults from nine locations serving twelve Michigan counties, caring for more than 2,000 seniors and their families each year. These include market rate and affordable independent and assisted living options, skilled nursing care and rehabilitation, specialized dementia and Alzheimer's care, cognitive behavioral therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) at locations in Ypsilanti, Jackson, and Lansing. We are thankful for the prayers and support of so many United Methodist churches and affiliates who help us provide loving communities and care for older adults.

UMRC has been a leader in caring for older adults since its faithful founding in 1906. Building on a foundation of 113 years of service, UMRC promotes the wellness, dignity, and independence of older adults by providing high-quality and innovative residential and supportive services. The UMRC Foundation was created in 1998 as the fundraising arm supporting benevolent care for residents who have outlived their savings, as well as growth opportunities for the organization. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2018,

UMRC Foundation's mission is to promote the wellness, dignity, and independence of seniors by supporting the residents, staff, and communities UMRC serves.

In embracing our Christian mission and guiding beliefs, UMRC is welcoming of ALL, and we reaffirm our commitment to caring for the needs of a growing population of older adults. Over the last several years, the UMRC Board and leadership team have taken great strides to strategically position UMRC to meet the needs of a senior population that is expected to double for older adults, and triple for adults 85 and over, by 2030. **Michigan is the fastest aging state in the nation, according to the 2017 U.S. Census Bureau.**

In order to meet the needs and wishes of this growing population of older adults, UMRC's vision is to continue the growth of the organization, creating and enhancing options to increase the number of seniors it serves, all while focusing on UMRC's faith-based mission.

Campaign: On November 8, 2018, the UMRC Foundation marked the record-breaking success of its **Growing to Serve** comprehensive campaign, raising approximately \$27.7 million by the end of 2018, and exceeding its original \$26 million goal. The **Growing to Serve** campaign supports UMRC's three priority initiatives, including capital projects, benevolent care, and resident services and life enrichment activities for residents at Chelsea Retirement Community and Thome Rivertown Assisted Living in Detroit.

Construction Updates: The **Growing to Serve** campaign launched UMRC's largest ever capital project in its 113-year history:

1. The new addition to the **Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center** was recently completed. Short-term rehabilitation guests at Kresge Center have now moved in and are enjoying their own private rooms in this attractive new space. A public Open House took place on February 13, 2019. Renovations to the existing Kresge Center building will begin in full swing with project completion expected in 2020.
2. The state-of-the-art **McMullen Wellness Center** is also nearing completion with a dedication planned on April 1, 2019. With a heated, zero-barrier, pool, as well as hot tub, walking track, exercise equipment, and much more, the McMullen Wellness Center will offer the best possible health and fitness outcomes for our residents and staff.
3. A transformative gift of \$1 million from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation has made possible an addition to **Huron Valley PACE** in Ypsilanti that doubles the number of low-income older adults we can serve. We look forward to celebrating the completion of this expansion in Spring 2019.

Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE): UMRC's PACE programs include Huron Valley PACE in Ypsilanti, Thome PACE in Jackson, and Senior CommUnity Care of Michigan in Lansing. PACE is a proven, community-based, cost-effective alternative to nursing home care, serving low-income older adults who are nursing home eligible, but are able to live safely and independently in their community with the help of PACE services. Each PACE Day Health Center provides its participants with a "one-stop shop" for all medical, social, and supportive needs. Door-to-door transportation is provided up to five days per week for each participant to the Day Health Center and back home. PACE also provides respite for family and in-home caregivers of PACE participants. Together, UMRC's PACE locations served 558 older low-income in 2018.

Support for UMRC Staff: The UMRC Foundation supports UMRC staff through **Emergency Relief Aid** for employees experiencing a financial crisis and **Staff Scholarships** for employees who wish to pursue a degree or certification program. UMRC also continues its **CNA Pathway Program**, developed to attract those seeking a new career as a Certified Nursing Assistant by paying associated fees upfront for qualifying candidates. A 5-year, \$500,000 grant received in 2018 from Bob and Ellen Thompson is helping support the CNA Pathway and Staff Scholarship initiatives.

In 2018, UMRC earned **Great Place to Work®** certification by *Fortune Magazine's* Best Workplaces in the area of Aging Services. UMRC's The Cedars of Dexter independent living community received Holleran Consulting's **2018 Choice Community Award** for Employee Engagement.

Over the past five years, the UMRC Foundation has raised over \$33 million with the sole purpose of making a positive difference in the lives of older adults, both now and in the future. These funds have supported and created UMRC's innovative care and services, strengthened the safety net of benevolent care, elevated our UMRC staff and care partners, provided enriching programming and serene spaces for residents and their families, and improved the communities in which UMRC serves.

2019 Plans: Last year, UMRC began a due diligence process to consider affiliation with Porter Hills Presbyterian Village, Inc., a nonprofit senior living organization based in Grand Rapids. Together, these two faith-founded organizations serve over 6,700 older Michigan adults annually, of all income levels,

across 22 counties in the Lower Peninsula. UMRC and Porter Hills combined will create the third largest nonprofit senior living organization in the state. Together, their commitment to affordable housing places it among the country's top 25 nonprofit affordable housing organizations. Final board approval for this affiliation will take place in February 2019.

Our United Methodist roots continue to guide our efforts to serve older adults and their families. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to visit with UMCs and UMWs over the past year, as well as to be a sponsor at the 2018 Annual Conference in Traverse City. We look forward to meeting with more churches and affiliate groups over the coming year to share the good work they are helping us accomplish on behalf of older adults and their families.

Thank you very much for your commitment to our mission of service to older adults. Visit us in person at one of our nine locations, or on our website at www.umrc.com.

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UNITED METHODIST UNION OF GREATER DETROIT
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One of the things I enjoy about being the Executive Director of the United Methodist Union is the opportunity I have, from time to time, to visit our district churches. Sunday, September 9th, found me at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills for their church picnic and the kickoff of their fall preaching series, "Doing Good and Showing Love." Rev. Melanie Carey's sermon came complete with a John Wesley bobble-head, and an interview with Mary Keyer, (***A Kinder Word Ministries: I'm In***), who uses the revenue from the sale of her t-shirts, bags and mugs to do random acts of kindness all around the community. The sermon also featured a **wonderful video of a four-year old African-American boy in a superhero cape**, who feeds the hungry and homeless in Atlanta. Why? "Because," he said, "It's just the right thing to do." This young superhero calls himself President Austin, and he is a model of compassion. (Take a moment and check out his story on YouTube - it will warm your heart!) Austin's message is simple, yet powerful: "**Show love.**" He sounds a bit like John Wesley who preached.

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can.*

Rev. Melanie Carey wove these three illustrations together in a powerful tapestry of faith as she invited her congregation to participate in a Kingdom assignment.

As Christians, we know that the Kingdom of God comes in all kinds of ways when people open their hearts to "Do all the good we can" and "Show love." I believe that John Wesley's call to make a difference was intended for institutions as well as individual people. Even the United Methodist Union has a role to play in sharing God's grace. For 99 years, we have strived to "**do good**" with and for the churches that God has entrusted to us. Though our specific functions have changed throughout the years, our resolve to support and assist churches continues. It is my prayer that the Trustees of the Union will always be up to the task, as they were this year.

New Church Development

The Union continues to work closely with the Office of Congregational Vibrancy, the Extension Fund and other groups to provide grants for new church starts. Presently, we are providing support to two new church starts.

- A three-year grant of \$100,000 to support the Canton Friendship/Shelby Township new church start has drawn to a close. Though this church has not grown as quickly as anticipated, it is located in a growing area with tremendous potential. We have high hopes for the future growth of this faith community.

- In March, Dirk Elliott, Director of Congregational Vibrancy, and our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr., approached the Union about the possibility of an African Diaspora new church start in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. The Union agreed to provide a one-year grant of \$86,000 to begin this project. Co-pastors Gertrude Mukalay Mwadi and her husband John Kabala Llunga Ngoie started worshiping with a small group in September in the facilities of the Embury United Methodist Church in Birmingham. This group has a new name, French Ministry of the African Diaspora.
- Numerous other property related issues continue to happen in the Detroit Renaissance District, now named the Greater Detroit District. Several churches have been closed. Dearborn Heights Warren Valley United Methodist Church was sold and the proceeds are being utilized to refurbish the parsonage and church building of the closed Melvindale New Hope United Methodist Church. Centro Familiar Cristiano United Methodist Church will move into these facilities when the work is completed. At that time, the present Centro Familiar Cristiano facilities will be sold and the proceeds used for debt retirement and new church development projects. The Union is working closely with the Board of Church Location & Building to support these efforts.

Support Through Loans

Another fact of our ministry involves making loans to churches and other United Methodist ministries.

- In 2013, several leaks allowed water to damage the magnificent Kresge organ at Metropolitan United Methodist Church. When the trustees addressed the integrity of the entire building, they discovered the need for extensive tuck pointing and sealing. This project was divided into several parts over a period of five years. The Union extended a second loan this year of \$200,000 to complete the work that is going on right now outside my window at our offices at Metropolitan.
- The Union worked closely with New Beginnings United Methodist Church when their pipes froze and water flooded their building. They had a difficult time finding a contractor who would be willing to do anything but replace the entire heating system. That option was cost prohibitive for this small congregation. The Union assisted them in locating a contractor who was willing to investigate the heating issues and make a temporary fix. This fall, we extended a loan of \$8,300 for a seven-year term with a \$115.00 monthly payment so permanent repairs could be made.

The Union extends loans to churches at the very competitive rate of 4.5%. We have observed over the last several months that many financial institutions are beginning to be less willing to consider a loan to a local church. In addition, we work very closely with congregations who are experiencing financial issues that make it difficult for them to make their loan payments. The Union is committed to providing support and assistance, and being flexible about loan payments when necessary.

Grants for Ministry

Sometimes, it's hard to believe that more than 50% of the Union budget is re-invested in churches and special projects. Day after day, our support makes a real difference in the ministries that take place in the Greater Detroit District. The purpose of a Union grant is **not** to keep a struggling congregation alive for a few more months. Our goal is to partner with churches that have a vision, a plan and are willing to implement it. The Union provides some financial support to make that vision a reality. Good planning, congregational buy-in and a willingness to work together are important ingredients for a Union grant.

- Nothing changes more rapidly with regards to worship experiences than the technology that United Methodist Churches utilize to provide them. People today expect a certain level of multi-media savvy in worship. Scott Memorial United Methodist Church needed to upgrade their aging equipment and replace a broken projector. We partnered with them for a one-time technology grant. This matching grant would provide half the cost of the new equipment.
- The Union has worked closely during the last several years with the 4½ churches that came together to form DownRiver United Methodist Church. Last year, we extended a \$500,000 loan to them for the renovation of their new facilities. This year, we extended a grant to expand a budding ministry to children and youth in their new location. We have great hopes for this congregation.
- Central United Methodist Church is a congregation with a rich history, located in the central core of downtown Detroit. The demographics of this area are significantly changing as more people are moving into this area. New families with children are starting to attend Central United Methodist Church. The Union partnered with this congregation to provide a Director of Discipleship & Congregational Life to develop and implement a ministry to children and families.

- On July 1st, 2018, seven new churches and seven churches that retained their membership in the Union when they had been moved to other districts became part of the Greater Detroit District. One of those churches was Mount Vernon United Methodist Church that had been part of the Blue Water District. The Board of Missions of the Blue Water District and the Union worked together this fall to extend a church maintenance grant for the repair of a number of windows.

We continue to provide the following grants: Pastor Salary Support, Urban Methodist Youth Camp, Clergy Family camperships, Cass Community United Methodist Church, and financial support for several summer programs for children and youth. We are pleased to partner with Detroit Centro Familiar Cristiano, Detroit Conant Avenue, Detroit Peoples, Detroit Second Grace, Pontiac Grace & Peace, Utica and Westland St. James United Methodist Churches.

Looking Forward

The work of the Union continues all year long as we grapple with the issues and challenges local churches face. We are fortunate to have an outstanding Board of Trustees and professional consultants who are willing to share their expertise and experience with others. In addition, we have an outstanding office staff of Connie Perrine and Audrey Mangum, who are always ready to listen and provide a wealth of information about everything from contractors to loans. It is a privilege to be part of such an effective team! I wouldn't want to close without expressing my appreciation for those retiring from our Board of Trustees: Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel, Bob O'Daniel, Rev. Latha Ravi, Cliff Stallings and Claudia Oleson, who as our former President becomes a lifetime member.

The work of the United Methodist Union plays a significant part in the life of the Greater Detroit District. In our own way, the United Methodist Union strives to live out the call of John Wesley to...

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can.*

It is my deepest prayer that God will continue to guide and uphold the ministry that has been entrusted to the United Methodist Union.

Carol J. Johns, Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DETROIT CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Women of the Detroit and West Michigan conferences met to continue the preparatory work of combining the two conferences into the United Methodist Women Michigan Conference. Meetings began in January 2018 and were held monthly through April 2018. A Steering Committee was formed in 2017 to conduct these meetings. The Steering Committee was made up of members holding executive positions in each conference: Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Chairpersons of Nominations, Communication Coordinators, and the Detroit Conference Standing Rules/Webmaster Chairperson. In addition to those members, there were two National Directors of the United Methodist Women and one member of the Program Advisory Group from the Michigan area. There was a conference call with one of the National United Methodist Women staff, Marisa Villarreal, on February 21, 2018. The conference call resulted in Ms. Villarreal coming to Michigan for the March meeting and personally working with the Steering Committee. This monumental work needed to be completed in order to start having joint meetings, to prepare for closing and receiving year-end reports from the two conferences, and to make arrangements for the Leadership Training and the Joint Annual Organizational Meeting in October 2018.

The fourth Annual United Methodist Women Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund fell on March 23, 2018. The Legacy Fund is an initiative created to celebrate the 150 years of mission work of the United Methodist Women and to provide a financial foundation for future generations of women who will be working for the betterment of women, children and youth. The goal of the Legacy Fund is to reach \$60 million by 2019. The United Methodist Women (and its previous organizations) was established in 1869; therefore, 2019 is the actual year of the 150th anniversary and the beginning of the United Methodist Women's mission work.

The United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 was held in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, 2018. The theme of the Assembly was "The Power of Bold". The Detroit Conference had over 187 people attend the Assembly and one of the top 5 conferences to increase its attendance by 30% from the 2014 Assembly. In fact, the Detroit Conference was the first conference to increase its attendance by 30% and was eligible to

have five members meet the Assembly's keynote speaker, Leymah Gbowee, who was the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner for her work in leading a women's peace movement that brought an end to the second Liberian Civil War in 2003. The two Michigan conferences had over 300 people attend the Assembly. The Assembly had many great speakers, workshops, community gatherings, an experience hall, and wonderful fellowship of over 6,000 people.

Detroit and West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women invited Deborah Moore (Individual Volunteer Midwife to Kenya) to speak at the UMW luncheon at the Michigan Area Annual Conference in Traverse City, June 2, 2018. Ms. Moore spoke on one of the United Methodist Women priority issues, Maternal and Child Health. The luncheon hosted over 130 people.

Mission u events in 2018 were: One-day event July 21 at Southfield Hope U.M. Church; Sampler event August 16 at Lake Huron Retreat Center (LHRC); Hands On Mission Experience (H.O.M.E.) August 16 in the Port Huron area; Two-day event August 17-18 at LHRC, and Mission u of the North October 15-16 at Gaylord United Methodist Church.

Mission u topics were: Spiritual Growth Mission Study, Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living. Social Issue Study: What About Our Money? A Faith Response. A second-year of the Geographic Mission Study: Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States. Children's Study: Money Matters. Youth Study: Is It Just Money? Our Dollars, God's Money. Study leaders were Rev. Jan Brown, Rev. Faith Fowler, and Charissa Shawcross. The missionaries and mission moments were shared by Victoria Booker from Justice For Our Neighbors, Rev. Dr. Tommy McDoniel from Asbury Family Development Center, Rev. Faith Fowler from Cass Community Social Services with a Tiny Homes project update, Brandon Smith, and Erin Schrieber.

September and October were the months that the nine new districts of the United Methodist Women Detroit and West conferences (now the "Michigan Conference") held their first joint Annual Celebrations and Business Meetings.

The United Methodist Women held the Conference's Leadership Training October 26, 2018, at Petoskey United Methodist Church in Petoskey. Prior to the training sessions, the conference presented another United Methodist Women priority issue on the "School-to-Prison Pipeline". There were approximately 75 people in attendance. The presentation included an introduction and definition of the subject, statistics on the issue, and a 4-person panel discussion. Members of the panel were a retired teacher/administrator in the Detroit Public Schools, a Director of Ministries at Petoskey United Methodist Church, a retired counselor in the Petoskey Schools, and a probate court judge serving Emmett and Charlevoix Counties.

The Joint Detroit and West Michigan Annual Meetings and the Michigan Conference Organizational Meeting were held the next day, October 27, 2018. The keynote speaker at the Annual Celebration was Rita Smith, the North Central Jurisdiction UMW President. The topic was "Have Courage! Embrace Change and Grow!"

The Detroit and West Michigan UMW conferences discontinued their campaign to repair the United Methodist Community House (UMCH) in Grand Rapids. As of February 9, 2018, the United Methodist Women West Michigan Conference no longer owned the property at 904 Sheldon SE and the surrounding lots and properties accumulated in recent years. The ownership was transferred to the Board of Directors of UMCH. The Detroit Conference donated over \$3,000.00 towards programming at the UMCH.

The Detroit Conference UMW 2018 total remittance to United Methodist Women, Inc. was 95.3% (\$181,150.20) of its pledge and is for mission work nationally and globally.

The United Methodist Women Detroit Conference officially ended December 31, 2018.

Marchelle "Micki" Phelps, UMW President, Detroit Conference

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

2018 was a whirlwind year of activity, as United Methodist Women of both the Detroit and West Michigan conferences continued to meet regularly and work closely to combine and blend our Standing Rules, our finances and our leadership.

Besides this work towards merging, seven members, who attended the annual Leadership Development Days, held in St. Louis, MO, sponsored by the National office of United Methodist Women, were given additional training to help educate our membership across the state about the Way Forward. The expectation was that we would take the information and material to our districts and local membership. Opportunities for sharing the information and asking questions at all 12 district celebrations and other

conference events, i.e., Mission u, took place throughout the year. We promoted the listening sessions that were offered by the Bishop and encouraged everyone to educate themselves about the Way Forward topic. And, we encouraged members to have conversations in their local congregations and with their pastors.

The steering committee, that formed a year ago, continued to meet through the winter and spring. In May and August we held joint leadership team meetings of the two conferences. We helped the nine new districts understand the changes that were happening, primarily the financial changes. Also, what it would mean for the churches which were literally re-locating and how the core groups could and should incorporate those churches. There was lots of confusion, but we felt that we stayed right on top of all this and were able to assist women and units to acclimate.

In May the quadrennial National Women's Assembly was held in Columbus, OH. 300 women from Michigan traveled by bus and car. We had the 2nd largest delegation. The theme was The Power of Bold. We celebrated for two and half days how we are, how we can be, and how we should be BOLD. We heard amazing speakers, experienced amazing workshops and worship.

In June, at the joint Detroit and West Michigan Annual Church Conference, held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, United Methodist Women from both conferences shared display space for their promotional materials and hosted a joint luncheon with approximately 300 women (and men) in attendance. The key note speaker, Deborah Moore, a UMVIM Individual Volunteer from Reed City, brought tears to everyone's eyes as she shared her years of working as a nurse-midwife in Kenya.

The summer Mission u event was held at Albion College in July. The spiritual growth study was a continuation of the study the year before, "Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living," led by Pastor Deb Johnson. The new social issue study was called, "What About our Money?", led by Nichea Ver Veer Guy. And, we continued a 2nd year with the geographic study on the Missionary Conferences, led by Pastor Julie Elmore Yoder. The 39th annual fall Mission u event was held at the Gaylord United Methodist Church in October, with the same study leaders.

Throughout the year, we continued to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the organization of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations (1869-2019). The 4th Annual Day of Giving was celebrated on March 23, 2018. Contributions to the Legacy Fund were encouraged throughout the year.

The six former districts in West Michigan Conference held various events through the winter and spring, i.e., spring renewals / spiritual growth retreats, mission days, and social action days. As of July, the realignment of nine new districts began. All the new districts held their district Annual Celebrations during September and October. All district leadership made a concerted effort to address the changes and the need for adapting at their respective Celebrations.

One Conference Annual Celebration was held October 26, at the Petoskey United Methodist Church. The final business of each former conference was addressed. And, the official business for the new Michigan Conference was cared for, including the new Standing Rules, the new Budget and Pledge to Mission and the new conference leadership. It was a great facility and opportunity for the UMW of both former conferences to come together and celebrate a new beginning. The featured speaker was Rita Smith, the current President of the North Central Jurisdiction. We were also honored to have with us the current UMW President of Liberia.

Friday evening prior to the Annual Celebration, both a counterpart training and an educational program were offered. A very distinguished panel provided information and insights on the topic of the School to Prison Pipeline dilemma, which is one of the four current official UMW initiatives. The panel including, Sharon Appling, retired Detroit Public School teacher/administrator; Doug Mantha, Director of Ministries at Petoskey United Methodist Church; Karen Starkey, retired Petoskey High School counselor; and, Hon. Valerie K. Snyder, 7th Probate District Court Judge.

The final gathering of the year was the conference leadership team meeting, held at the Mason United Methodist Church. This group consisted of all out-going and all in-coming leadership team members. It was the end the year of whirlwind activity. We began the year as UMW from two different conferences. We realized we approach and evaluate various topics and processes differently. We have various traditions and customs that are different. It was apparent that we needed on-going conversation and patience and willingness to listen to each other. But, in the end we worked well together. We were patient with each other. We listened to each other and we realized that we are all United Methodist Women whose PURPOSE is the same. We ALL believe in FAITH, HOPE and LOVE in ACTION for women and children around the world.

Linda Darrow, UMW President, West Michigan Conference

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES, BOARD OF

Michigan Young Adults and Youth are engaged in a variety of Ministry!

As your Board of Young People's Ministries, we strive to provide support, resources, and leadership for ministries aimed at serving our youth, young adults, and college students. We are a newly formed board and have worked hard during this first year to establish guidelines for funding, definitions and clarification on terms used in this area of ministry, and parameters around our scope of ministry and influence.

During this year we have provided grants to Valley Church, Motor City Wesley, and set aside money for new programming to enrich our leaders in youth, young adult, and campus ministries.

The Mission Intern Program is celebrating its 20th anniversary of raising up young adult leaders through mission. Nine sites will host 22 young adults over an eight-week summer program that address children in poverty, home repair, and volunteer organizing. Young Adult interns receive training that includes issues of charity and justice, the effects of trauma, conflict management, and spiritually grounded self-care. Growing bold and effective leaders through mission.

EncounterMICall Intern Program is a collaboration between Wesley Campus Ministries and local churches or non-profits. Young adults are matched with a site and serve 10 hours weekly, 32 weeks (fall and spring semesters), receiving bi-weekly one on one mentoring at their site and bi-weekly small group leadership formation facilitated by the Wesley Director serving the Wesley interns relate to. In the 2018-19 year, 17 EncounterMICall interns served in children, youth, young adult, worship, feeding and homeless ministries.

Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools are located in three local United Methodist churches. Fourteen Servant Leaders interns teach a six-week reading curriculum that closes the achievement gap as well as healthy self-identity through song, spoken word, and experiences. Inspired by the work of Ella Baker, CDF-Freedom Schools has five essential components; High quality academic enrichment, Parent and family development, Civic engagement and social action, Intergenerational servant leadership development, Nutrition, health and mental health. Our MI Conference CDF-Freedom Schools serves over 100 children!

The Michigan Conference partners with the General Board of Global Ministries to host Global Mission Fellow US2, young adults, serving in mission and justice for two years. GMF-US2s, ENGAGE with local communities, CONNECT the church in mission, GROW in personal and social holiness. In 2018-19 five GMF-US2s served in campus ministry, environmental justice, community organizing, poverty and homeless ministry, and feeding programs through their sites at Sunnyside United Methodist Church, Wesley Campus Ministry at WMU, the NOAH Project, and Motown Mission. GMF-US2s receive site supervision, mentoring, initial and ongoing training, retreats, and live in intentional community with other young adults.

Young adults interested in growing as bold and effective leaders through serving can find application information at: <https://michiganumc.org/resources/young-adult/>

Our Youth are gearing up to head down to Kansas City in July for YOUTH 2019. Thousands of youth from all over the United States will join in four days of discipleship, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and life-changing fun!

YOUTH 2019 provides youth and youth leaders with chances to connect with each other, denominational leaders, and connectional agencies to help them discover all the wide varieties of ministries and resources in The United Methodist Church.

Youth Ministry Toolbox is on its way to provide a variety of resources to help local churches and communities better minister to and with youth in their areas.

For updated information on Youth Ministry Development please check out:

<https://michiganumc.org/resources/local-church/young-people/youth-ministry-development/>

The Board of Young People's Ministries also coordinates with the Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry to assist in providing resources for campus ministries and college students. For more information about campus ministries, please see the report of the Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry or go to <https://michiganumc.org/resources/wesley-foundation/>.

As we look forward into a new year together, we will continue to strive for excellence and work diligently to provide what is needed for effective and life-changing ministries to youth, young adults, and college students as we all work together to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*.

Christy Miller-Black, Chair

DIVISION OF YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Michigan Conference is engaging bold and effective leaders through missional service. EncounterMICall engages young adults through a collaboration of Wesley Campus Ministry and local congregations and non-profits. The Mission Intern Program, celebrating 20 years, engages young adults in summer ministry programs and offers ministry for children in poverty. CDF-Freedom Schools engages Servant Leader Interns through reading, identity building, music, spoken word, and experiences for children ages 8-15. Global Mission Fellow-US2s engage in mission and justice at two sites in both Kalamazoo and Detroit. Wesley Campus Ministries engage seven campuses and hundreds of students in a variety of ministry settings.

Lisa Batten, Coordinator for Young Adult Ministries

DIVISION OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry Development

During 2018, both CCYM and CCYAC folded into the new Young People's Ministry Board. Going forward, this board will manage the projects previously overseen by CCYM and CCYAC.

2018 Highlights:

Youth Worker Network – For a third year, youth workers met monthly to learn best practices and encourage one another in this important work of youth ministry. Members of the group come from all kinds of churches across the state.

Protection Policy – Thanks to conference staff and the Protection Policy Implementation Team, a template for a local church protection policy is now available on the conference website. All churches are encouraged to have a policy in place to ensure that all adults working with children, youth and vulnerable adults are background checked and trained. These policies seek to minimize the risk of abuse or neglect in our ministries and also protect our volunteers and staff from false accusation.

Preparation for Youth 2019 – Money has been raised to contract busses for Michigan youth groups to attend Youth 2019, a national gathering for United Methodist Youth in Kansas City in July 2019. Churches are encouraged to send young people to this special event!

THRIVE Youth Leadership Academy – The fourth year of THRIVE Youth Leadership Academy was small but mighty! The academy brings together high schoolers nominated by their churches as leaders and students ready to go deeper in their faith journey. This experience builds community among young people who are leaders in our conference and will continue to be for years to come.

Youth Service Fund – High school leaders reviewed applications for funding from about 20 churches and gave away about \$15,000 to support local church service trips in Michigan and beyond.

Local Church Resource – Many local churches have called for assistance in the area of youth ministry. These conversations cover a wide range of topics: creation of youth worker job descriptions, training of staff and volunteers, curriculum, starting over, troubleshooting, Protection Policy, group retreats and activities, service trips and funding.

Bridget Nelson, Youth Ministry Initiatives Coordinator

DIVISION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Good morning and thank you, Michigan Conference, for your faithful and substantial support for Michigan United Methodist campus ministry in 2018!

Campus ministries are **extension ministries of the Church** and are among the most significant disciple-making communities of The United Methodist Church.

¶ 120. The Mission – The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and **extension ministries of the Church** provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs (*The Book of Discipline 2016*, Part IV, The Ministry of All Christians; **emphasis added**).

The Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (DHECM) supports these 10 Michigan United Methodist campus ministries, and their individual reports follow at the end of this report.

- Central Michigan University (Wesley@CMU)
- Ferris State University (Wesley House)
- Grand Valley State University (Wesley Fellowship)
- Michigan State University (Wesley at Michigan State University)
- Motor City Wesley (Wayne State University)

- Northern Michigan University
- Wesley Foundation at the University of Michigan
- Western Michigan University (Wesley of Kalamazoo)
- Adrian College
- Albion College

The Albion College UM ministry was dormant during 2018 and we plan to creatively re-engage with them in 2019.

These are the currently active social media sources for Michigan United Methodist campus ministry:

- Donate to campus ministries: <https://campusministry.networkforgood.com/>
- Michigan UM campus ministry on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/umconcampus/>
- DHECM presence on the web: <https://umconcampus.org>
- Loans and Scholarships: <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships>
- Michigan Conference website: <https://michiganumc.org/resources/wesley-foundation/>

There were two Wesley Foundation Director transitions this year. Rev. Bob Roth retired from the Wesley Foundation at the University of Michigan and was succeeded by Rev. Tim Kobler. Rev. Lisa Batten transitioned from Wesley of Kalamazoo to become the Michigan Conference Young Adult Initiatives Coordinator. She was succeeded by Jess Davenport. Both local boards worked diligently throughout the transition process.

We are partners with local churches in caring for students who further their spiritual and educational journeys. We receive the report of college and university students that local churches prepare as part of the annual church conference process. Thank you for your responses so far! As of the submission of this report, 59 local churches have shared 427 students attending 96 schools or military service. This database is available to our campus pastors for their outreach ministries.

Samson Kobbah III entered his second year as our Campus Ministry Social Media Coordinator as an intern with the EncounterMICall program. He refreshes and manages our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/umconcampus/>) and has started an exciting podcast ministry with Motor City Wesley called Uproar! (<http://www.motorcitywesley.org/uproar>).

The EncounterMICall program is a Michigan United Methodist creation that began in the fall of 2014 among three clergy from the Area – Paul Perez, Carl Gladstone, and Lisa Batten. Rev. Lisa Batten describes this ministry as “a collaboration between Wesley Campus Ministries and local churches or non-profits...In the 2018-19 year, 17 EncounterMICall interns served in children, youth, young adult, worship, feeding and homeless ministries.”

We moved from two separate Boards of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM) to a single Division (DHECM) with seven members on July 1. We give thanks for these BHECM At-Large members who concluded their service on June 30, 2018:

- Detroit: Gary Galbraith, Jack Harnish, Dennis Irish, Rick Miller
- West Michigan: Len Brown, Larry Edris, Donald Graham, Mark Johnson, Robert Kleinhans, Scott Manning.
- The West Michigan BHECM also included the local Wesley Board Chairpersons (or designated members) as ex-officio members: Gordie Barry (GVSU), Andrew Dillon/Kim Metzger (MSU), Deb Johnson (FSU), Debra Lindstrom (WMU), Carol Paquette (CMU).

In the Fall of 2016, we embarked on a bold fund development project with Network for Good. Not only did we enter a contract with them, but we also hired Rev. Cora Glass as a part-time Campus Ministry Fund Developer. Cora laid the foundations for each of our ministries to establish a campaign with Network for Good and consulted with them on best fund development practices. In September we concluded a major portion of that contract that included a Personal Fundraising Coach. We had a strong relationship with Leigh Reynolds who provided us with skilled coaching and strategic insight for our work. One clear result from this relationship is the Engagement Plan that guides our work as a new Division. This is our purpose statement from that document:

The Michigan Conference DHECM advocates for campus ministry throughout the Michigan Conference connectional structure to secure primary financial resources and provide accountability and evaluation for our UM campus ministries. We help our intentional UM campus faith communities make bold and effective young adult leaders and disciples for the Church and the world by promoting the healthy spiritual and social development of young adults on campus.

Our Wesley ministries are separately incorporated with 501(c)3 status as affiliated United Methodist organizations through the IRS Letter Ruling with the General Council on Finance and Administration. Our Directors and local Boards worked intensely to clarify and organize this status at the end of the year to transition from processing payroll through the Conference Treasurer's Office. I commend our ministries on their focused attention and accomplishment of this transition. In recognition of the added payroll processing expense in 2019, the DHECM is reimbursing the ministries for these costs.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2018 Annual Conference Golf Outing. We raised \$1,400 for our ministries. Richard Burstall has organized this event since the beginning.

A scheduled site evaluation was completed with the Wesley Foundation at Michigan State University. With the suspension of program ministry funds for 2018, Wesley Fellowship at GVSU engaged in a year of discernment on the viability and vitality in their ministry with the assistance of a paid consultant, J. Cody Nielsen with Convergence on Campus.

The Conference Merit Scholarship program is primarily funded by the United Methodist Student Day offering. A portion of the conference total offerings is returned to the conference for the award. The 2018 amount for both Detroit and West Michigan was \$1,220 each. The Detroit BHECM awarded Beatrice Alghali \$610 and Suzanne Hutchison \$610 both of whom are pursuing degrees at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. The West Michigan BHECM awarded Eric Falker \$1,220. Eric is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary.

The Francis Asbury Award is an annual recognition chosen by the BHECM. 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." The West Michigan recipient was Jeff Williams.

Our students, campus pastors, chaplain, staff, and local Wesley Board members inspire disciple-making on our campuses. We praise God for the renewal and transformation of their hearts, minds, and bodies by the grace, compassion, and justice of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you, Michigan Conference, for your vital support in sustaining these life-changing communities of faith on campus.

Jeff Williams, Chair

ADRIAN COLLEGE

The mission statement for Adrian College reads: "Adrian College, a liberal arts college in the United Methodist tradition, is committed to the pursuit of truth and dignity of all people. Through active and creative learning in a supportive community, undergraduate and graduate students are challenged to achieve excellence in their academic, personal, and professional lives, and to contribute to a more socially just society."

While it is significant that the College name its United Methodist identity, the core values of this relationship are captured by an emphasis on "the pursuit of truth and the dignity of all people." Truth is a contested term these days, and we do not settle for simple answers. However, we do not presume that all things are relative. Truth matters. Human dignity confronts us with the intrinsic worth of each and all people.

Adrian College hosts several 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's recent book is titled, *For Each and All: The Moral Witness of Asa Mahan* (Nashville: Foundry Books, 2018). <https://www.amazon.com/Each-All-Moral-Witness-Mahan/dp/1945935294>

Chris is active in the national organization of scholars known as "Historians Against Slavery" and contributes to conferences, workshops, and blogs on a regular basis.

Highlights of Recent Work in Chaplaincy 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)

Who we are:

We are open. Wesley@CMU is open to *all* students—and all means all. Undergrads, grads, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, agnostic, European, African, South American, Asian, LGBTQ, trans, cis, regardless of political affiliations and economic status, Wesley welcomes students with the same care: a comfortable place, good food, and a loving environment.

We are authentic. With Wesley staff, what you see is what you get. We don't hide our differing personalities under a mask chosen by focus panels. We don't sugarcoat the Church or our behavior. Students see who we are.

And so, they become comfortable being who *they* are. College is a time filled with challenges, some as simple as a bad homework day, some as difficult as sexual assault. Wesley is a safe space for students to share who they are and receive trained, committed Christian care.

We are a community. Today's students crave community. Living in a highly competitive environment and an "I must succeed" world, Wesley provides a place where all members are valued, where all gifts are appreciated, and where talents are shared. In being open and authentic, we create a space where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's "beloved community" forms again and again.

What we do:

We provide a home away from home. Our building is open from 9 am to 10 pm or longer most days, as a safe space where students can enjoy a cup of coffee and find comfort and counsel.

We host community building events. Weekly dinners, dancing, movies, and more bring students together to build relationships.

We invite students to a deeper faith. Worship services call students to think about their faith and behave accordingly.

We develop leaders. We train staff how to build effective teams and understand group dynamics, enabling them to grow from freshmen followers to leaders of overseas mission trips in three years.

2018 By The Numbers

- 177** The average number of contact hours spent per week in Wesley activities. (A student who spends one hour at worship and one at dinner makes 2 "contact hours" that week.)
- 179** The number of people attending multiple Wesley events over the year.
- 55** The number of students regularly attending over the year.
- 32** The number of new students still coming regularly 3 months later.
- 77** The average number of staff hours spent per week throughout the year.
- 63%** The cost per student at Wesley compared to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.
- \$35,094** The cost per new member in the West Michigan Conference in 2016†.
- \$3,150** The cost per new "regular" at Wesley.
- \$33,222** Donations by individuals.
- \$47,843** Funding from Mission Shares and Apportionments.
- \$14,957** Decrease in Mission Share/Apportionment funding from 2016.

†2016 data was the most recent available at time of publication.

Charles Farnum, Director

WESLEY HOUSE AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY (FSU)

Overview of the Ministry

Wesley House at Ferris State continues to provide an open, welcoming, and safe space for students and Ferris faculty/staff to grow spiritually and to encounter the love of God. This mission fuels everything we do as we encourage the development of faithful, active Christian leaders for the Church and the world. This school year our leadership team is comprised of six student volunteers. Working as a team, these leaders set the tone for our ministry. In addition, we have five students serving as interns through the EncounterMICall Program. These students serve in local church ministry working with food pantries, youth, children, outreach, technology, congregational care and hospitality.

Even in the midst of radical change in our conference and districts we have strengthened our connections with local churches. We continue to partner with churches in both the Northern Waters and Midwest Districts. With great joy we attended all the Northern Waters hub conferences this fall, serving as the pie taste-testers and sharing about the ministry of the Wesley House. We are certainly proof of the power of

the connectional system, and grateful for the generous partnerships and support that makes our ministry possible. One of the ways Wesley House students enjoy serving the connection is by hosting our annual youth overnight. This year we had over fifty youth in attendance, many for the first time. Wesley students lead every aspect of this retreat and always do an excellent job. This event allows youth to engage in what Wesley campus ministries are all about and informs them of the opportunities to stay connected spiritually when they head off to college. Our connection with the Big Rapids' United Methodist churches has also been strengthened this year, as Wesley interns are visible in worship services and the congregations come together for monthly community worship at Church in a Café.

Engaging in service continues to be the most effective way of engaging new students into the Wesley House community. Our spring break mission trip for 2018 led us to Louisiana where our group of 24 worked to rehab homes and engage with members of the community. In addition, we continue to serve at the Third Avenue lunch program monthly and enjoyed participating in FSU's Relay for Life. The FSU Student Food Pantry located at the Wesley House has been going strong for three years and continues to serve 75 students each month on average.

By the Numbers:

In 2018, the Wesley House at Ferris State:

- 400 students have been directly contacted by invitation in Fall 2018
- 200 students have engaged with our ministry on any level in the last term
- 100 students are involved in our ministry (1/month)
- 35 students are invested in our ministry (1/week)
- 12 students moved on due to graduation or changing schools

Why Campus Ministry at Ferris State University?

One-third of our leadership team and at least one of our student interns engaged in ministry this fall are persons who had no affiliation with any religious tradition before coming to Ferris State. Campus ministry offers a pathway for emerging adults to engage spiritually, many for the first time. This is where the church needs to be, this is where The United Methodist Church can be most effective in creating a strong foundation for individuals, as well as strengthening our future as a denomination.

Devon Herrell, Director

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP AT GVSU

Grace and peace to you. The Wesley Fellowship at GVSU (Grand Valley State University) has spent the past year in a process of discernment. Working with a consultant, the Board of Trustees and interim director have seriously committed themselves to seeking what God may be calling this ministry to be and do. As a result of that process, new mission, vision, values and purpose were discerned.

Vision: Wesley Fellowship at GVSU is an inclusive community enabling individuals to grow in faith and social justice.

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by welcoming and affirming, equipping, challenging, the mind, heart and spirit.

Values: Open Doors, Open Hearts and Open Minds, Inclusive, Accepting, and Committed to social justice.

Our Purpose: We are a campus ministry at Grand Valley State University which is committed to the United Methodist Wesleyan traditions and actions of social justice and the inclusiveness of all people; the spiritual formation and soul tending of students, staff and faculty; and missional experiences which include reflection on the actions.

While the discernment process was underway, in Winter 2018 and Fall 2018 semesters, the Wesley Fellowship at GVSU pursued, with great intentionality, a model of traditional campus ministry: student recruitment at "Campus Life Night" *, information and recruitment tables in the student center, active social media engagement and on campus posters to tell students about Wesley. We hosted Sunday dinners and discussion, we held worship, we organized several 24-hour service retreats.

Campus ministries, on many campuses, do similar events and activities. They are busy places. And they are places where many students are nurtured to grow in faith. That model, familiar to so many people has never been, despite our best efforts, a fruitful model for us at GVSU.

As our discernment process has progressed and we continue to reflect on the particularities of our campus and the uniqueness of our situation at GVSU, a new model has arisen.

This year, 2019, we are trying a new thing. We have no scheduled events or programs. No worship, no Bible study. Nothing.

What we do have is a team of four students who are serving as community organizers. Using and modifying the practices of community organizers, these students will be sent out into the GVSU community to listen deeply to their fellow students. What are they longing for? What is God calling them to?

These four students have spent time together considering what Christian community is and what a distinctly United Methodist Christian community might look like at GVSU based on our mission, vision, values, and purpose. They are thinking about who might God be calling to join us? Where on campus are they called to be a welcoming, accepting Christian presence?

What about worship, Bible study, service? Eventually we will be doing those things as they are what Christian communities do. The difference will be that what we do, and how we do it will emerge from the gathered community, and not be done to meet an external expectation about who we are.

We are doing a new thing. Will we be successful? Who knows? Our intent is to be faithful to what we understand God calling us to do and be. We appreciate your prayers and support as we embark on this new thing at GVSU. To God alone be the glory.

* We passed out 570 bags of cotton candy with information about Wesley, in addition to 400 "Wesley Fellowship at GVSU Be You With Us" Wristbands and talking with students about the Wesley Fellowship.

Nancy Janisch, M Div., Interim Director

WESLEY at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU)

The Michigan Conference equips and connects through Christ-centered: Mission and Ministry, Bold and Effective Leaders, Vibrant Congregations. MSU Wesley engages this vision as a Christian Community of Young Adults that Loves without Exception, Serves without Judgement and Rejoices without Restraint.

Love without Exception: MSU Wesley gathered 70 students Michigan State University and Lansing Community College this last year. These students come from a variety of ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Ours is a diverse faith community where all are welcome. As students navigate this diversity they develop a richer more intimate relationship with Jesus. This diversity also challenges students to develop as Bold and Effective Leaders. Our student leaders hosted the Keep Making Peace Conference. Led worship at Annual Conference. Worked with local churches through the Encounter MI Call Internship.

Serve without Judgement: MSU Wesley approaches mission and ministry fully expecting transformation of the servant and the served. In 2018, more than 30 students were connected to missional opportunities. Twenty student missionaries traveled to South Carolina to build two houses with Habitat for Humanity. Another ten volunteered with the Greater Lansing Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

Rejoice without Restraint: MSU Wesley Students rejoice without restraint in worship and Biblical Reflection. On Thursday nights students gather for Thank God it's Thursday we averaged 25 unrelated young adults for contemporary praise worship. On Sunday nights 15-20 students gather for a shared meal and Biblical Reflection. A team of six students lead worship for 12 Mid-Michigan District Missional Hubs. Five of our students are working on new mission initiatives in two local churches on the Mid-Michigan District.

The 2018 budget was \$147,000. \$46,000 came from the BHECM now called Division of Higher Education. \$12,000 came from the Lansing District now Mid-Michigan District. The remainder comes from partnering congregations (EL University United Methodist Church Sycamore Creek, Holt United Methodist Church, Okemos United Methodist Church, Lansing Central United Methodist Church, Williamston United Methodist Church, Asbury United Methodist Church) and individual partners from the Michigan area and Alumni.

Amanda Northrup class of 2020 discovered Wesley to be a place where she felt like she belonged. "The weekly lunch bunch has been a great place for me to connect with other students who don't exactly think like me. I am especially grateful for the mission trip we took to South Carolina. I met my best friend Eric on that trip and we have started a new Dungeons and Dragons Small Group that continues here on campus. In spite of Pastor Bill's reservations the D and D group has proven to be a great way to connect new students to the Wesley Faith Community" said Ms. Northrup.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

William Chu, Director

MOTOR CITY WESLEY

Motor City Wesley continues to serve as your United Methodist laboratory for innovative campus ministry from the heart of Detroit, MI. This past year we released our “Motor City Hymns” benefit album of original, student-created music recorded over Spring Break in Nashville, TN. We launched a multi-campus, multi-church initiative bringing the core #motowesley experience to more campuses around Metro Detroit alongside new partner congregations. And, we designed our upcoming “Moto Creative” ministry connecting local churches with teams of college students to help them better communicate about the great ministries they offer. The Fall 2019 season will bring new opportunities for justice-oriented Christian discipleship and formation through a new weekly speaker series and mealtime discussion groups. We thank the United Methodist churches of the Michigan Conference for your support and welcome any and all new congregations to partner with us in reaching students. As we say, “Help us reach more young adults so they can help your church reach the whole world.” More at MOTORCITYWESLEY.ORG

Carl Gladstone, Director

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Greetings to you from your Wesley Foundation at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor! We are celebrating a wonderful year of growing student leadership and involvement, as well as celebrating 136 years of ministry in the midst of campus.

We are a pluralistic community academically, theologically, by age and interest. All students from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Concordia University and Washtenaw Community College are welcome. We are a community of persons committed to caring, sharing, serving, learning, and growing with each other regardless of ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital or economic status, disability, or other human differences. Our common bond is God’s love shown through Jesus Christ.

We have welcomed many new first-year and graduate students into the life of the Wesley Foundation who have become active student-leaders in this community. We seek to be a home away from home by providing a welcoming and nurturing environment on the university campus. Through worship, fellowship, study, and service we seek to build an open and diverse Christian community.

Our weekly programs include worship, free meals, Bible studies, small group studies, and service opportunities. We have been growing our coffee house ministry, Divine Brew, which has been a fantastic outreach for our students and other young adults and alumni in the community.

We continue to forge partnerships with area local churches to help meet the growing needs of our community. Through student interns, service projects, collaborative mission trips, worship experiences, and social justice efforts, our students and local church leaders have had the opportunity to learn from one another and to combine our resources for effective ministry.

Our board of directors continues its focus on our long-range goals and how to expand our ministry of development. We continue to prioritize projects and develop plans for fundraising and endowment development for sustainable ministry.

We are focused on ways to help students discern God’s call in their life. We seek to help students to better understand their gifts and graces and how to implement them in faithful ways in their communities. Through service learning, reflection, internships, and mission events, the students in our community can better discern who they are designed to be and what God is calling them to do.

Our students have been planning mission and service events and exploring ways to become active volunteers in our community. We have worked with the community of Flint, the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, Food Gatherers, the Spectrum Center, the city of Ann Arbor, and other area agencies to provide helping services to the community.

I am excited to see the many ways that God is working in the lives of these young people and look forward to seeing them help proclaim the nearness of the realm of God. Let us continue to lift them up in prayer and strive to work together to support them as they seek out their calling in life and faith. We thank you for your prayerful support!

Tim Kobler, Director/Chaplain

WESLEY at WMU (Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo)

WESLEY at WMU (Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo) Wesley Campus Ministry serving Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Kalamazoo College where we seek to be an authentic, transforming, Christ centered community.

Belong- Creating Community

In 2018, Wesley of WMU was the church home to 106 students – defined as students who participated at least three times a month in Wesley activities. Additionally, we house nine young adults in the Wesley Intentional Living Center which focuses on learning to create Christian community. Wesley of WMU is the home to two WMU campus registered student organizations – Voices Gospel Choir and Campus Beet. We also share space with ERRACE, our local anti-racism training organization. With 17 graduates and a new director, building relationships will be vital for the next few years. As the new director, my main goal this year has been creating community and building relationships to form a foundation for students to grow in their faith at Wesley.

Believe- Discipleship

We worship every Sunday evening and share a meal together. Throughout the year we have had nine different small groups or studies engaging different students with topics ranging from a basic Bible study, to a Christian running group, and prayer group. The WILC residents share in a Bible study weekly. Additionally, we are growing in discerning our social justice role by participating with ISAAC, our local faith-based community organizing catalyst. We are headed on a spring break trip to work with Habitat for Humanity and use that experience to learn about our systemic housing problem in Kalamazoo. Additionally, students and board members have completed various critical Anti-Racism trainings. We are continuing to discern the best way to serve our ever-evolving campus population.

Become- Leadership Development

Wesley of Kalamazoo has six undergraduate students on our leadership team, one Global Mission Fellow-US2, and one WMU grad in a gap year heading to seminary next year, all employed in staff-leadership positions. We engage in vocational discernment throughout the year with trainings, trips, Bible and book studies, and building relationships. The majority of our leaders do not have a United Methodist background, so we are going through a UM membership curriculum together as well. There are also five EncounterMICall interns working in local churches and organizations discerning where God is calling them to serve in the church and the world.

We look forward to another year learning and growing together, becoming the people God has called us to become.

Jess Davenport, Director and Campus Pastor