

**Oregon-Idaho Annual
Conference 2015**

Pre-Conference Reports

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Conference Secretary**

Pre-Conference Reports

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2015 Pre-Conference Reports
Boards & Agencies of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

1 **Connectional Ministries**

2 **Lowell Greathouse, Director of Connectional Ministries-Lite**

3 Three years ago, for budgetary reasons, we eliminated the position of Director of Connectional Ministries
4 (DCM). When this action took place, we not only distributed portions of this role to various members
5 of the cabinet, but simultaneously reduced the number of annual conference districts from five to four.
6 These decisions resulted in a significant impact on the workload of the district superintendents/cabinet. In
7 addition, it made it difficult for us to maximize the learning possibilities present through our connections
8 as a network of congregations stretching from the Oregon Coast to the Grand Tetons. In short, we lost
9 some crucial capacities that have limited our ability to be the kind of transformative annual conference
10 that we seek to be in these challenging times.

11
12 Where, in the past, the role of DCM helped connect us with each other, during the past three years
13 different DS's have added some of these responsibilities to their already demanding roles. As a part
14 of this effort, I have attempted to maintain our connections with the general and jurisdictional church,
15 while also working to relate to a number of annual conference ministries that are a part of our collective
16 identity. This has been a most challenging endeavor, and more often than not has been done piecemeal...
17 with many things simply falling through the cracks. The good news is that now we have a fairly clean
18 slate to re-build a new, more nimble, and more congregationally-based connectional system that is fresh,
19 mission-focused, and better designed to align our collective resources to support our primary work of
20 being healthy, vital congregations...and of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

21
22 There are a number of signs that we can do this connectional work in new and creative ways...and we
23 now have the financial resources needed to create a position to focus on this work. The position will
24 begin July 1 of this year, and the goal of it will be to work with clergy and laity throughout the annual
25 conference to: (1) envision and carry out the ministries necessary to live out the mission of the church
26 today, (2) create and nurture relationships and connections between the local church, districts, the
27 annual conference, and the general church in order to achieve this objective, and (3) align our collective
28 resources as an annual conference in ways that help us live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus
29 Christ for the transformation of the world.

30
31 I am privileged to have been asked to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to working with you to
32 create the kind of creative, connectional system that will help us create a culture in which we can better
33 learn from each other, recognize and promote new ministries that are making a difference, and further our
34 collective mission to transform our world.

35
36

37 **Rules Committee**
38 **Warren Light, Chair**

39 In 2014-2015, the Rules Committee helped to shape a few pieces of legislation as needed. Some of this
40 work involved changing legislation to conform with current rules. Other Action Requests consisted of
41 rule changes, requiring correct numbering, conformation with other current rules, and coherence. This
42 work has been done in preparation for the 2015 Annual Conference in Salem.

43
44 Looking ahead, we can anticipate further legislation in 2016, requiring checking with existing rules.
45 There will also be a need to re-write a current rule made archaic by legislation passed in a prior year.

46
47 Lastly, this year we are asking members of the Annual Conference to submit any ideas regarding rules
48 changes over the summer of 2015, so that we can work with you to write legislation far in advance of
49 Legislative Assembly 2016. Thank you for your collective efforts in this ministry.

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1 **Conference Board of Global Ministries/Outreach**
2 **Jim Frisbie, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**

3 Our efforts to establish and enhance our network of mission and outreach activities continues to grow
4 as we expand the leadership core of the Outreach Team and develop guidelines for various aspects of
5 our work. We continue to support local congregations in their support of Global Ministries projects
6 and missionaries through our apportionments, Advance Specials, Covenant Relationships, Imagine No
7 Malaria, Disaster Preparedness, our Partnership with Liberia, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission,
8 and Early Response Teams.

9
10 Dan Moseler is our Disaster Response Coordinator and has developed detailed guidelines for our
11 response to emerging crises for our local congregations, pastors, superintendents, and bishop. He has
12 worked closely with national leadership to establish these protocols and connect us with other helping
13 agencies, including state and non-profit disaster response teams. This information is accessible on the
14 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference web site.

15
16 Becky Platt is our United Methodist Volunteer in Mission Coordinator. She has developed training
17 and new guidelines for UMVIM teams and leaders to enhance their mission experience. She is also
18 organizing Early Response Team training for this coming July. She has enclosed a more detailed report
19 following this one.

20
21 We are looking for new ways to energize our Mission Partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference.
22 This long-term relationship has been a rich source of friendship and support for many decades, with
23 strong personal contacts with Bishop Innis and others in Liberia. Oregon-Idaho United Methodists
24 continue to be greeted in Liberia as beloved friends from America. The continued struggle in Liberia
25 with Ebola, malaria, poverty, and education offer many opportunities for us to be in mission with this
26 fascinating West African Country.

27
28 Missionary Itineration is a component of outreach that continues to need leadership. The positive impact
29 of a missionary visiting a local congregation cannot be overstated! It energizes and enhances both the
30 outreach and inner enthusiasm of the host church. Please say "Yes!" when there is an opportunity to host
31 a missionary!

32 As your Conference Secretary of Global Ministries I am in my last year of representing the Western
33 Jurisdiction on The Advance Committee for the General Board of Global Ministries. The bi-annual visits
34 to New York have offered me the opportunity to meet many of the leaders of our church worldwide. It
35 has been a joy to engage in meaningful discussion with United Methodists from across the nation and
36 around the world. I am deeply impressed with the dedication of our people leading the church around the
37 world.

38
39 In less than a year we will host General Conference in Portland. This is both a challenge and an
40 opportunity for us. We need to see this as an opportunity to meet United Methodists from around the
41 world and participate in hosting this event. We can all be in mission for this event as we become part of
42 the new mission vision of "From everywhere to everywhere!"

43
44
45 **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)**
46 **Becky Platt, Conference UMVIM Coordinator**

47 United Methodist Volunteers in Mission are alive, well, and growing in the Oregon-Idaho Conference.
48 We are engaged locally, nationally, and internationally. At the local level, we are engaged in events and
49 activities such as Rebuilding Together, Habitat for Humanity, Catalyst NW, Family Bridge, Bethlehem
50 House of Bread, feeding and food bank programs of all sorts, prison ministries, community garden and
51 firewood lots, and many others. Many of our churches are also engaged at the national and global level,
52 for example:

- 53 • A youth team from Rose City Park UMC (Portland, Oregon) to Costa Rica
- 54 • A multi-church team from Bend, Hillsboro and Toledo (all Oregon) to Gray's Harbor, WA

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- 1 • A team from Magic Valley Ministries (Idaho) to UMCOR West (Salt Lake City, Utah)
- 2 • A team sponsored from Albany (Oregon) to the Muau Methodist Hospital in Kenya
- 3 • A team from Ashton, Idaho to Puerto Natales, Chile

4 This year, during our annual conference, we will formally offer prayers of thanksgiving for every team
5 we sent out in the 2014-15 year and prayers of praise and blessing for the teams we will send out in
6 2015-16. To have your team recognized by sending church and destination, record your team and its
7 destination at: <https://umoi-reg.brtaapp.com/AC2015UMVIMPrayerForm>

8
9 As your coordinator and a member of the conference Global Missions Team, the primary accomplishment
10 of this year has been the launch of a new set of policies, tools, forms, and an updated website to support
11 our UMVIM efforts. This has included a review of our church and conference insurance, as well as
12 the insurance available for purchase by the teams (GBGM discontinued its policies in early 2014 and
13 the jurisdictions have picked up this responsibility), enhanced and updated team screening policies,
14 especially for our youth teams and teams dealing with vulnerable populations (disaster response teams,
15 in particular), and forms tailored specifically to our conference. Pick up copies of these new policies and
16 forms at the UMVIM table in the Ministry Marketplace or on the UMVIM page of the OR-ID Website,
17 www.umoi.org/umvim.

18
19 Training will be available on these new policies, in recorded webinar form on the OR-ID website and
20 live, both this summer and in the fall. The first live session will be July 11, as part of our upcoming ERT
21 training event (more below). There will be at least one additional live session, likely in the Boise area, in
22 the fall.

23
24 Regarding our Early Response Team program, we have about 10 trained ERTs in the conference and are
25 seeking more. We are actively partnering with the conferences north and south of us to better utilize our
26 training resources and adapt UMCOR's national ERT model to the west. We will be holding joint ERT
27 training in the Portland and Spokane areas this summer and fall. The Portland event will be July 11 at
28 Tigard UMC; this will be the first ERT training in OR-ID since 2012. In addition to offering basic ERT
29 training, we'll be offering UMVIM Leader training, a special session on spiritual care in disaster settings,
30 and advanced ERT training for those already certified.

31
32 For more information on any of activities mentioned here, and especially the new policies and forms,
33 please contact me at ORIDUMVIM@gmail.com.

36 **Disaster Readiness Team**

37 **Dan Moseler, Conference Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator**

38 This team has formed within the Global Missions ministry area to continue rebuilding for disaster
39 readiness and response both within the bounds of the Conference, as well as in response to requests for
40 support from outside the Conference bounds. We have been working cooperatively with UMCOR and
41 other Western Jurisdiction coordinators to develop and refine plans, and begin to develop and expand
42 training for key persons. In this regard, we have:

- 43 • Developed an operational, fiscal, and budgetary management structure and process within the
44 overall Conference Global Missions ministry area.
- 45 • Begun to develop a training and management structure and process to resurrect an effective
46 United Methodist Volunteers in Missions (UMVIM) program both for disaster response and
47 recovery as well as mission outreach within the Conference, nationally, and internationally.
- 48 • Worked with the Idaho and Oregon Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster to develop
49 communication and coordination relationships.
- 50 • Helped initiate and coordinate two Jurisdiction training events.
- 51 • Conducted training with UMCOR and Pacific Northwest Conference trainers to update and
52 provide initial training for UMVIM Early Response Team members.

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- 1 • Saw one member respond to a flood relief need, followed by a team comprised of members of
2 several churches, to respond for continued flood relief and recovery in Washington.
- 3 • Are working with coordinators in other Conferences to respond to current disaster recovery
4 needs.
- 5 • Planned our first training event within the Conference, to be held in the Portland Metro area in
6 July.
7

8 Our strategy is to first seek to develop a culture of personal and family preparedness as the essential
9 foundation necessary to have members who can respond in a crisis which may occur in their church,
10 community, the Conference, or wherever God may call. We are at the stage where we need to identify
11 leaders within our districts to expand our overall preparedness and response ministries.
12
13

14 **Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**

15 **Barbara Nixon, chair**

16 The Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CCUIC) has not been active this
17 year. This is in part due to an appointment change for the chair, but also due to some difficulty in trying
18 to discern appropriate venues and opportunities for placing concerns/possibilities before churches
19 and individuals in our conference. It is difficult to get onto the conference schedule with work that
20 requires time and meaningful conversation, so we need to consider other strategies. This team is
21 small and members are located all over the conference, so our work is impacted by this as well. If you
22 have any interest in connecting with CCUIC, please contact Barbara Nixon for further information.
23 (revbabs2000@gmail.com)
24
25

26 **Commission On Religion and Race**

27 **John Go, chair**

28 CORR has continually offered “Cross-Cultural-Competency” trainings to support the development of
29 inter-culturally competent leaders in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. In 2014-2015, we had two
30 trainings at Wesley UMC, Eugene (Oregon) and Meridian UMC, Meridian (Idaho). The training, New
31 Heaven and New Earth, is designed to teach skills and tools for building relationships with our neighbors
32 of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
33

34 It is very resourceful and beneficial to laity and clergy in leadership in our local churches, especially
35 congregations reaching out to communities becoming more diverse. Plus, it is a great opportunity to
36 talk with and learn from our diverse training team to expand race relations and to promote intentional
37 diversity and equity. Our goal is to keep up with the work of current racial justice needs and concerns as
38 a partner of the local churches and their leadership throughout the conference.
39
40

41 **Peace with Justice**

42 **Claudia Roberts, Peace with Justice Coordinator**

43 As I sit down to write this report, I am on a train from New York City to Washington D.C. The Peace with
44 Justice Coordinators from conferences around the world just concluded two and a half days of meetings
45 and seminars at the New York City office of the General Board of Church and Society housed in the
46 United Methodist Women’s building across the street from the United Nations. Did you know we have
47 full-time staff who advocate for United Methodists and all Christian partners on issues of justice and
48 peace? In May they will be testifying on reducing nuclear arsenals around the world as the U.N. reviews
49 the International Nonproliferation Treaty. We are a worldwide church with both a global and local
50 concerns regarding people.
51

52 In Washington D.C., several of us will be attending Ecumenical Advocacy Days. This is an annual
53 conference that brings together over a thousand people from many Christian faith traditions to study,

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1 worship and witness around social justice issues. This year the focus is on oppression and mass
2 incarceration. We will have workshops and speakers and amazing worship from Friday evening through
3 Sunday and then on Monday we will visit Capitol Hill and meet with our elected representatives and
4 senators to ask them to support bills that will reduce oppression and mass incarceration in our country.

5
6 As the Oregon-Idaho Peace with Justice Coordinator, I have the privilege of representing all of you at
7 these gatherings. If there is anyone in the conference who has a passion for justice and would like to
8 attend, please get in touch with me. The meetings will happen again in 2017. Your expenses would be
9 covered.

10
11 Now to update you on what the Peace with Justice Program is doing in Oregon and Idaho. We had
12 three grant requests, and two were approved. Those that were approved included a grant to Operation
13 Nightwatch in Portland. This is an ecumenical hospitality ministry that serves low-income and homeless
14 people from three hospitality centers. One is in downtown Portland, one is in Southeast, and one in
15 North Portland. They asked for money for a three-day spiritual retreat for 12 men who are regular
16 guests at the centers. They spend their time together experiencing normal life in a Christian fellowship.
17 Two clergy volunteers lead the retreat and offer both group and individual activities. Many of the
18 guests rarely get outside of the city and appreciate being able to wander in the wooded area of Camp
19 Adams. The justice that comes from this grant is by providing an inclusive experience to people who are
20 marginalized in our community.

21
22 The second grant was made to the Newport Peace Group, made up of people from many faith traditions
23 including Northwest Native Americans, Latinos and others. Retired UMC pastor Earnie Bell is in a
24 leadership role with this group. They have an annual celebration of World Peace Day on the 21st of
25 September. A small grant was made to help them with some of the expenses and publicity for the
26 event. I was able to attend this event and can report that they had a wide variety of speakers, poets and
27 entertainment that was focused on lifting up peace as a primary goal for all humanity. The food also
28 offered represented our state's diversity as well as our unity as the Children of God.

29
30 My hopes for the coming year are to have more grant requests and more stories to celebrate as we engage
31 in justice work around the conference. There will be application forms available at the Peace with
32 Justice table at the Ministry Marketplace at Annual Conference. Stop by the table and share a story about
33 something your church or community has done or is doing to promote peace and/or justice this year. I
34 would like to meet you and see if there is any way the conference Peace with Justice Program could help
35 your faith community.

36
37 Of course, our ability to fund grant requests depends on the generosity of our congregations to give on
38 Peace with Justice Sunday. This is a national campaign that supports both the major program grants
39 made by The Board of Church and Society and the conference program. The money is divided 50/50
40 between the two areas. If we would donate \$1.00 per member, we would be able to do great things.

41 42 43 **Commission on Archives and History**

44 **Nancie Fadeley, Chair; Shirley Knepp, Oregon Archivist;**

45 **Linda Tewksbury, Idaho Archivist**

46 The highlight of the year for the Oregon Archives was re-discovering an 1862 diary of David
47 Blain(e) and two small account books. When and by whom these documents were placed in the
48 archives is unknown. The diary was found during one of the earlier moves of the archives related
49 to water damage. The diary was examined at that time and declared that it must have been a diary
50 from an early circuit rider.

51
52 This diary came alive when a new volunteer to the Archives, Laura Arskey, solved the mystery
53 of the author of the diary. Laura is a retired archivist from Washington. Within two days she had
54 transcribed enough of the diary to know it was David Blaine's daily diary of 1862. Laura has spent

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1 five months transcribing, researching and writing a document using the diary and the Blaine letters
2 as the main sources.

3
4 David Blaine came from New York in 1853 to the Seattle area. There he built the first church in
5 Seattle and became an important civic leader. He was transferred to Oregon in 1856 and stayed
6 until 1862. The main diary is the record of his ministry in the Willamette Valley. The other
7 documents are records of the Santiam Academy in Lebanon, Oregon, and financial information
8 about the pastor's compensation.

9
10 Willamette University has scanned the 1862 diary and put it on a jump drive. The scanned material,
11 along with Laura's document, will eventually be on the Willamette Archives website. Laura is
12 writing an article based on the diary and a short piece to submit for the "Discovery" section of
13 METHODIST HISTORY.

14
15 Much time has been spent in organizing material from closed churches. Seventeen boxes of closed
16 church materials have been delivered to the Archives this year. Storage boxes have been purchased
17 to store material from closed churches and for older documents and journals. A goal is to inventory
18 and organize the Evangelical United Brethren material once we have caught up with the closed
19 churches. .

20
21 The Oregon-Idaho Commission on Archives and History held a telephone conference in March
22 with members in Idaho and Southern Oregon joining the eight members in the Archives office in
23 Salem. There was discussion about the shortage of volunteers needed to keep up with requests and
24 with the organization of the Archives. There will be a meeting before Annual Conference in June.

25
26 The commission approved the de-accession of the bound copy of a Methodist Church Property
27 case, Circuit Court of Ohio, (Swormstedt and Poe) 1852. This was the court case between the
28 Methodist Episcopal Church and Methodist Episcopal Church South as to who owned the church
29 buildings that were once MEC but were being used as MEC South. The bound copy of the court
30 case was placed in Willamette University's Law Library. From researching this book we believe
31 this is the only copy on the west coast. There are copies at the Ohio United Methodist Annual
32 Conference Archives and in other libraries in Ohio and other eastern states.

33
34 This year researchers have focused on Japanese Concentration (Internment) Camps. Dr. Dale
35 Soden, history professor, Whitworth University, Spokane, Washington is using material from the
36 Oregon archives on Sherman Burgoyne in his book *Outsiders In A Promised Land: Religious
37 Activists In The History Of The Pacific Northwest*. The book will be published by Oregon State
38 University Press in November. Another researcher is working on the Methodist treatment of the
39 Native Americans in Oregon.

40
41 We have assisted in baptismal requests, family history searches and shared copies of the Brewer's
42 paintings with Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont. And we have also accessioned the closed
43 churches and helped churches with their histories for special days of celebration.

44
45 The lighting of the Archive room has been updated with ultra-violet filtering window film being
46 placed on all light fixtures in the document storage area.

47 .
48 Shirley Knepp, a Deaconess appointed to the Oregon Archives, attended the Deaconess
49 Convocation at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina in October, 2014. Don and Shirley Knepp and
50 Linda Tewksbury attended the Western Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History meeting
51 April 9-12, 2015 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Shirley presented the Blain(e) information to the
52 Commission.

53

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1 The members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference Commission on Archive and History are Nancie
2 Fadeley, chair; Shirley Manning Knepp, Oregon archivist; Linda Tewksbury, Idaho Archivist; Jim
3 Barrick, Charles Wallace, Charles Chase, Don Knepp, Laura Arksey, Stuart Shaw, Nia Fleck, Ina
4 Sims, Tom Glass, Jim Ives and Roberta Ives.

5
6

7 **Campus Ministry Higher Education Team**
8 **Joanne Tilton Rannells, Chair**

9 It is good thing that, at this time in the quadrennium, we take a long look at the Campus Ministry settings
10 of our OR-ID Annual Conference. Over the last four years the Annual Conference has asked that each
11 ministry find financial and prayerful support from local leadership and a local board of directors. We have
12 seen a variety of models develop this quadrennium. Over site has varied with each ministry setting. Four
13 years ago we, as an annual conference, set adrift vital ministries to our young people. The challenges
14 have been great! Some ministries have continued and some have not been able to continue. Now is the
15 time to re-visit and re-commit to the young people of our conference who are attending institutions of
16 higher learning.

17
18 We are grateful to those who, in the past, did commit financial resources for scholarships for college
19 students. The conference scholarship programs are through the Board of Ordained Ministry, United
20 Methodist Women and Campus Ministry Higher Education Team of the Annual Conference.

21
22 Beginning in 2011, Campus (Fund #12), 100% of the Asking gift goes directly to support campus
23 ministries. In addition, each individual Campus Ministry has its own Conference Advance Special fund
24 (Boise State #067, Eastern Oregon #)61, Idaho State #068. Oregon State #063, University of Oregon
25 #062, Western Oregon #065). These sources of financial support have not materialized in a significant
26 way. Now a new look must be had. How are we to support campus ministry, if at al

27
28 There are consequences of each decision any of us make. That includes the OR-ID Conference and our
29 decisions. This last year of the quadrennium, a through audit of each ministry will be taken. This audit
30 will include looking at structure, insurance, financials for each ministry setting. Information will be
31 gathered regarding 5013C, property insurance, liability insurance, balance sheets, and the assets and
32 liabilities of each campus ministry setting. Each board of directors will be asked for these important
33 points of their ministry. As chair, I will be guided by Belinda Denicola, the conference treasurer.

34
35 The future lies before us. All of us are challenged to discern, prayerfully, the ways in which the church
36 can journey along side the young people of today. Please join us!

37
38

39 **Board of Lay Ministries**
40 **Mary Foote, Conference Lay Leader**

41 This past year has been filled with strengthened relationships. I sense the expanding network with the
42 folks in the PNW Conference. As we share resources, we see God’s gifts in each other. We have unique
43 qualities but a common mission. Walking together is easy.

44
45 There are relationships forming between new folks on the Board of Lay Ministries. Our board is
46 comprised of energetic, focused servants of Jesus Christ! This is a group with varied backgrounds and
47 never ending ideas. OR-ID laity are well represented!

48
49 When I’ve read too much national and international news, I’m regularly delighted to serve with laity
50 and clergy with one vision. We have one Master. We make disciples – often of ourselves – to change the
51 world!

52
53 Jesus sent the apostles out to spread His word across the land and throughout all time. They had lived
54 together, learned together and developed the closeness only survivors can know. Over the course of his

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1 ministry, the Apostle Paul was imprisoned three times. These are words Paul wrote to the Philippians
2 from his prison cell.

3
4 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love,
5 if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by
6 being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2

7
8 Paul knew the power found when serving together. He knew that faith grows exponentially when
9 professed and practiced together! While imprisoned and writing to communities of seekers, I imagine
10 Paul found strength reflecting on his own journey. While Paul directed his letter to the Philippians,
11 imagine that letter addressed to our Annual Conference. WE can be of one spirit and one mind in our love
12 of Christ! WE can unite with Christians throughout time to serve the one true Lord. Together our work is
13 magnified. I thank God for every day and every opportunity!

14 15 16 **United Methodist Women** 17 **Dixie Jacky, Conference President**

18 The United Methodist Women of the Oregon-Idaho Conference held their annual meeting October,
19 2014 at Eugene 1st UMC with the theme of “Money, Women, and Faith.” This theme kicked off our
20 five year Legacy Campaign which will cumulate with the United Methodist Women’s 150th anniversary
21 celebration in 2019.

22
23 In July 2014, Mission u convened for two schools in Newberg, Oregon and Boise, Idaho with about 140
24 participants attending. The theme was “Learning Together for the Transformation of the World. The three
25 studies presented were: The Church and People with Disabilities; The Roma People of Europe; and How
26 Is It With Your Soul. At the Oregon school, an Ubuntu Day of Service enrolled 13 participants who
27 spent time in worship, study, and work at the Chehalem Youth and Family Services facility.

28
29 During 2014, 122 women participated in the UMW Reading Program. Collectively, these women read
30 1102 books, covering topics of leadership development, education for mission, spiritual growth, nurturing
31 for community, and social action.

32
33 We were pleased to offer the Dr. Gertrude Boyd Crane scholarships to the following women: Shannon
34 Jensen; Alyssa Baker; Deena Crandall, Anna Eckelbarger Salas, and Doreen Barlow. Congratulations
35 to these women from the Oregon-Idaho Conference who are studying for advanced degrees in church-
36 related vocations. United Methodist Women has given over \$40,000 in financial aid to 64 recipients
37 since the inception of this scholarship in 1985.

38
39 United Methodist Women sent over \$146,250 to the national organization for mission work around the
40 nation and the world. In addition, the local units of United Methodist Women provided thousands of
41 dollars in support of local community projects.

42
43 The Isobel Zimmerman grant for \$2000 was awarded to the Lillian Vallely Indian School in Fort
44 Hall, Idaho, to hire a cultural teacher. This grant, awarded annually, provides funding for educational
45 opportunities for Native Americans or African Americans.

46
47 A Charter for Racial Justice Award was given to honor the tutors of Jason Lee Memorial UMC in
48 Blackfoot for their work at Lillian Vallely Indian School of Fort Hall, Idaho. Bonnie Becker from
49 Westside UMC in Beaverton was also awarded a Charter for Racial Justice Award for her work with the
50 Spanish-speaking community, her service to the Annual Conference Council on Hispanic Ministries, and
51 her work with Creation Vacation. We continue to urge UMW units and UM churches to study the Charter
52 for Racial Justice and to report and recognize the groups that participate in activities exemplifying the
53 spirit of the Charter for Racial Justice. The Charter for Racial Justice has been renewed every four years
54 by General Conference since 1972. Nominations are sought annually for this award.
55

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1 Nearly 75 women from the Oregon-Idaho Conference traveled to Louisville, KY to attend the quadrennial
2 United Methodist's Women's Assembly. Many of the women from our Conference participated in an
3 Ubuntu Day of Service where they worked at various locations in the Louisville area, cleaning, sorting,
4 gardening, etc. They also participated in a March for Economic Justice from the convention site to the
5 dividing line of East Louisville and West Louisville, carrying signs saying economic injustice = economic
6 insecurity. Keynote speaker Hillary Rodham Clinton and other workshop and Bible study leaders spoke
7 around the theme, "Make it Happen for Women, Children, and Youth."
8

9 A Legislative Advocacy Day was held at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise, with women learning about
10 and participating in the legislative process.
11

12 The United Methodist Women of the Oregon-Idaho Conference strive to turn **Faith, Hope, and Love**
13 **into Action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.**
14
15

16 **Council on Finance and Administration** 17 **Wendy Joy Woodworth, President**

18 CF&A is has been blessed this year with the work and commitment of our new Conference Treasurer and
19 Benefits Officer, Belinda Denicola. She has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience along with
20 a solid foundation of the work being grounded in stewardship and for the purpose of ministry. I hope
21 you have had a chance to meet and welcome Belinda during this past year or will at this year's Annual
22 Conference.
23

24 One thought comes to mind as I write this report - faithful stewardship. In 2014, we received
25 apportionment dollars faithfully from the local churches and we carefully made decisions as to how to
26 use the resources we had. The end result was supporting the ministries of the Oregon-Idaho Annual
27 Conference, paying 100% of our General Church Apportionments and 100% of our Jurisdictional
28 Apportionments. This is an accomplishment we have not had in a number of years, I am not even sure
29 when the last time was we paid 100%. We also were able to maintain our goal in our reserve funds
30 of four months of funding. In addition, we made financial gifts to the four askings that have been
31 underfunded: \$15,000 to Campus Ministry, \$15,000 to Hispanic Ministry, \$10,000 to Youth Ministry and
32 \$10,000 to the Vital Church Project. I am grateful for the faithful stewardship of local congregations and
33 our Annual Conference. Together, we live out our mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the
34 transformation of the world."
35

36 As we prepare to meet for Annual Conference this year, I want to remind you that our work in CF&A
37 is about more than money. We care deeply about the ministries of each local church and the health and
38 vitality of our Annual Conference. Two years ago we reflected on personal stewardship during our report
39 time. Last year we focused on congregational stewardship. This year we will consider our conference
40 theme "Restoring the Sacred Circle" in terms of our call to faithful stewardship as an Annual Conference.
41

42 **Our work is about ministry.**

43 **Our work is about people.**

44 **Our work is about empowering congregations to share the love of God and grace of Christ Jesus.**

45 **Our work is about faithful stewardship.**

46 **Our work is about you, your local church and our Annual Conference.**

47 **May God's Spirit be in the midst of all of our work.**
48
49
50

**ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. Between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Council on Finance and Administration shall implement a spending plan based upon anticipated receipts and projected expenses.
2. The first 200 miles to the Annual Conference session will be exempted from mileage reimbursement.
3. Lay Members entitled to reimbursement under Conference Rule 1.030 will be reimbursed for housing and meals while attending the session; the maximum amount of reimbursement is set at \$400 for 2015.
4. The Oregon-Idaho Conference Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to borrow up to \$500,000 on an open line of credit to cover essential and authorized expenditures during intervals dictated by cash flow needs. Interest on such borrowed funds will be paid from the “Contingency” line item in the budget.
5. The General Fund is maintained and administered by the Council on Finance and Administration. The General Fund reserve (balance) provides working capital (cash flow) for the operation of the Conference, emergencies and unexpected needs that arise from time to time. The annual net operating results in the budget funds not otherwise designated will provide the basis for the General Fund. The General Fund reserve needs to be large enough (\$1.5 million) to support several months of operating expenses for the Conference – to act as a cash flow.
6. The following organizations are given permission to solicit funds among the churches of the Conference without quota:
 - a. Willamette University
 - b. Pacific School of Religion
 - c. Alaska Pacific University
 - d. Rust College
 - e. United Methodist Campus Ministries of the Conference
 - f. Willamette View Foundation
 - g. United Methodist Retirement Center, Salem
 - h. Clergy-mates Emergency Fund
 - i. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
 - j. Northwest United Methodist Foundation
 - k. Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Minister’s Retirement Fund
 - l. Partnership with Liberia Annual Conference
 - m. Oregon-Idaho Camp & Retreat Ministries

**Conference Board of Trustees
Larry McClure, President**

Stewardship of Assets

Conference Trustees have developed recommended insurance minimum standards for your consideration after a 2014 survey across the conference showed that some of our churches do not carry adequate insurance coverage. Our hope is that each congregation will bring their insurance program in line with these recommendations as soon as possible, but in any case within the year. See the Conference website for the draft of these guidelines developed by several laypersons with insurance backgrounds or experience, along with input from a representative from Marsh, the Conference’s property and liability insurance consultant. The Pacific Northwest Conference has established a conference-wide program that has been in existence for over 30 years and Alaska has established its own conference-wide insurance program as well, thus eliminating the requirement for each local congregation to carry separate policies. By spreading risk over our some 200 churches versus each separate congregation, prices may be lower and allow better coverages and limits. The guidelines are consistent with the general church’s

12 Pre-Conference Reports

1 guidelines and we hope you will find them helpful. We invite your comments if you believe any of the
2 recommended coverage amounts to be inappropriate for your congregation or if you have other ideas.
3

4 We are considering alternative policy arrangements for the future, as well. One would provide a
5 conference-wide umbrella policy for excess liability to all churches that maintain the recommended
6 underlying general liability coverage. Another might be the Conference providing all liability coverage
7 while local churches provide policies for their local property. Most churches do not have earthquake
8 coverage primarily due to the cost, but maybe a conference-wide earthquake policy would be more cost
9 effective. Worker's compensation and sexual misconduct liability are two other areas being reviewed.
10 These are a few of the different insurance programs being investigated for the protection of our assets.
11

12 The Conference Trustees plan to present a comprehensive insurance recommendation to the 2016 Annual
13 Conference. Being underinsured may be the cheapest in the short term, but the most expensive in the
14 long term.
15

16 Church Properties are in Trust

17 Local churches hold their buildings and grounds "in trust" for the entire denomination. At the conference
18 level, the Board of Trustees in turn holds "in trust" any church properties, including land, buildings,
19 equipment, as well as bequests and donations that may come to it. For these reasons, the 12 members
20 of the Trustees draw on skills in real estate, law, insurance, finance, property management, and church
21 ministries.
22

23 A local church decision to discontinue and abandon its building comes only after long and careful study
24 and prayer by members and always includes consultation with the district superintendent among others.
25 The final decision rests with the Annual Conference. During this last year the Trustees oversaw sales
26 or lease agreements at St. Paul Center (Springfield, OR), Dufur, Echo, and Jordan Valley UMCs. As of
27 April, we are in active dialogue with district superintendents and local trustees on the future plans for
28 Bennett Chapel, Metanoia House Peace Community, Sunnyside Centenary, and University Park UMCs
29 (all in Portland). We are pleased to see mergers at Halsey-Harrisburg UMCs (now to be named Spirit of
30 the Valley UMC) and North Bend-Coos Bay (now to be named Harmony UMC). North Bend UMC was
31 destroyed by fire in August of 2012.
32

33 Conference Center

34 Our conference headquarters building in Portland is now some 40 years old and is overdue for major
35 refurbishing. Over a weekend in early September 2014 a water pipe burst in the ceiling above a second
36 floor office and work room, causing significant damage, even reaching the ground level records storage
37 area. Plumbers subsequently discovered other pipes in danger of failing and Trustees authorized
38 replacement of all fresh water pipes in the building. In that process, asbestos was discovered throughout.
39 At the same time repairs have been underway, a subcommittee is looking at remodeling to provide better
40 group meeting and office environments in line with new codes and energy saving possibilities and future
41 conference needs. Archiving and storage options are part of this process. Our staff at the Conference
42 Center are to be commended for their patience and adaptability during these transitions!
43
44

45 **Equitable Compensation Commission** 46 **Ruth Marsh, Chair**

47 It is the responsibility of the Equitable Compensation Commission to recommend to the Annual
48 Conference minimum standards for pastoral support. As we strive to make sure that pastors receive a
49 living wage, we are continually aware that individual churches may have financial pressures that make
50 paying a living wage difficult. The minimum salary amount for full time clergy in the OR-ID Annual
51 Conference is slightly below average for Annual Conferences within the US. This year, the Equitable
52 Compensation Commission recommends a 1.5% increase in salary mirroring the amount that Social
53 Security was raised at the beginning of 2015.
54

55 Compensation from the local church includes cash salary, utilities allowance and a home for the pastor to

13 Pre-Conference Reports

1 live in. For the calendar year of 2016 we recommend total minimum compensation, including the use of a
2 parsonage, to be set at the following rate:

- 3
4 Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: \$37,850
5 Provisional Member: \$36,050
6 Local Pastor: \$34,050
7

8 In addition, the minimum cash salary should be increased by \$100 per year of service in the United
9 Methodist Church, capped at a maximum of ten years or \$1,000.

10
11 If an adequate parsonage is not available for the use of the pastor then a housing allowance shall be
12 paid in addition to the above minimum compensation. We recommend that housing allowance be set at
13 \$14,210 annually in the Portland metro area and at \$12,180 in other areas of the Annual Conference.

14
15 The Equitable Compensation Commission recommends the following housing guidelines relating to
16 compensation:

- 17
18 1) For the purposes of housing policy, every parsonage will be considered as meeting the minimum
19 compensation package. This is true whether the clergy are working full-time or part-time.
20
21 2) In lieu of a parsonage, churches will pay a housing allowance to the clergy as part of the
22 total compensation package. The allowance will be at least commensurate to the percentage of
23 employment (e.g. one quarter-time receives one quarter the housing allowance, one half-time receives
24 one half the housing allowance.)
25
26 3) The amount agreed upon at the beginning of the appointment year will be in force until the next
27 appointment year.
28
29 4) Churches and pastors may apply for an exemption to housing allowance recommendations under
30 certain conditions. (For example, a pastor already has a house in the area or adequate housing is
easily available in the local community for a lesser rate.) If no exemption is applied for, churches
must pay the housing portion of the ministerial compensation package.

31 The Commission also recommends, but cannot require, that business and professional expenses, which
32 are not part of a pastor's compensation, be set at no less than \$3,000 annually. This is the same amount as
33 last year.
34

35 The Commission has requested that the Council on Finance and Administration set our budget for 2016
36 at \$40,000 including \$1,500 for the administrative costs of the Commission. This is a reduction of \$20,000
37 from the 2015 budget year.
38
39

40 **Board of Pensions**

41 **Danna Drum, Chair**

42 As you are aware, this is a time of rapid change in the benefits world. In this changing landscape, the
43 Conference Board of Pensions strives to faithfully balance the needs of its beneficiaries and the liabilities
44 and risks to the annual conference. As the implementation of the Affordable Care Act continues, we
45 anticipate that changes to the health insurance benefits we offer are likely in 2017. We will share more
46 about this during our presentation to the annual conference session and seek feedback from the ministry
47 settings and plan participants we serve.

48 **Health and Wellness Benefits**

49 Health insurance benefits continue to be provided through the General Board of Pension and Health
50 Benefits HealthFlex Program. Active participants have opportunities to participate in wellness activities
51 and receive incentives, including an annual health questionnaire and routine screening. All premium costs
52 are directly billed and have not been included in apportionments in quite some time.
53

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1 The Board of Pensions is in its third year of providing a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) benefit
2 for retired clergy. In 2016, the HRA stipend will remain the same as 2015:
3

2015 HRA Benefit for Retired Clergy	Single	Couple
Retirees with more than 20 years of pre-82	\$2,163	\$4,326
Retirees who retired before January 1, 2011:		
At least 5 but fewer than 10 years of service	\$618	\$1,236
At least 10 but fewer than 20 years of service	\$1,236	\$2,472
At least 20 but fewer than 30 years of service	\$1,545	\$3,090
30 or more years of service	\$1,854	\$3,708
Retirees who retired after December 31, 2010		
At least 10 but fewer than 20 years of service	\$927	\$1,391
At least 20 but fewer than 30 years of service	\$1,236	\$1,854
30 or more years of service	\$1,854	\$2,781

4
5 Note: Years of service apply to years of service in the Oregon-Idaho and Alaska Conferences with
6 pension and benefit claim upon the conference. The HRA stipend cannot be used to pay for health
7 insurance premiums if the retiree is not enrolled in Medicare. If the retiree is enrolled in Medicare, the
8 stipend can be used to offset Medicare or Medicare supplement premiums. According to the IRS, if a
9 retiree is not enrolled in Medicare, the stipend can only be used to pay medical, dental or vision out-of-
10 pocket expenses but not premiums.

11
12 The Board of Pensions continues to track the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable
13 Care Act (ACA). The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is identifying potential ACA impacts
14 and is developing some new health benefit options for consideration. The Conference Board of Pensions
15 is reviewing those options for the 2017 plan year and expect to bring recommendations to the 2016
16 Annual Conference Session.

17
18 In 2014, we experienced seven percent more in claims paid compared to the premiums we paid to
19 HealthFlex. Both the traditional PPO and consumer driven plans saw significant increases in claims.
20 Consequently, health insurance premiums will increase by five percent in 2016. This increase is small
21 compared to increases other organizations have incurred in recent years and our annual conference has
22 not seen an increase in health insurance premiums in 2015. The Conference Board of Pensions proposes
23 that this increase be addressed by requiring a \$25 cost-sharing fee for all single plan participants and
24 increasing the plan participants with spouse/dependent coverage from \$50 to \$75. In future years, due
25 to changes resulting from the Affordable Care Act, we anticipate that participants will be required to
26 contribute more toward their health insurance premium. It should also be noted that the traditional plan
27 out of pocket maximum was increased by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to \$5,000
28 for an individual and \$10,000 for a family. The monthly premium billing rate for local ministry settings
29 will remain unchanged.

30 **Pension and Welfare Plans**

31
32 Due to changes made to retirement benefits by previous General Conferences, there are three retirement
33 plans for which the Conference Board of Pensions has responsibility: the Pre-82 Pension Plan,
34 Ministerial Pension Plan, and the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). Depending on when
35 clergy began their service, they may receive retirement benefits from one to three of these plans. CRSP
36 was most recently modified in 2013. Funding for CRSP is supported through direct billings to local
37 congregations at 13 percent of the pastor's compensation. All three plans are fully funded.

15 Pre-Conference Reports

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The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides clergy death benefits, survivor children benefits, minimum surviving spouse benefits, and long-term disability benefits. CPP funding is also directly billed to the local churches or to the appropriate salary-paying unit.

Recognitions

The Board of Pensions recognizes the following persons:

For Retirement at the 2015 Annual Conference Session

- Robert Leroy Flaherty (FE)
- Lisa Jean Hoefner (FE) (April 1 2015)
- Eric David “Jeremy” Landau (FE)
- Deborah Grace Pitney (FE)
- John Edward Pitney (FE)
- Gary D. Powell (FE)
- Carol Ann Seckel (FE) (November 1, 2014)
- Richard Kevin Seckel (FE) (November 1, 2014)
- James Simmons-Cox (FE)
- Elaine Steele (PL)
- Jerry Dean Steele (FE)
- Pearl A. Whistler (PL)

The following clergy are on Medical Leave with Benefits

- Philip William Kears (FE) (July 1, 2010)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Annual Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits presents the following recommendations for your consideration and action.

Health Benefits

1. The Conference Board of Pensions, in consultation of the Council on Finance and Administration, is authorized to adjust the Conference Budget for Health Insurance Premiums and the monthly billed amount between sessions of the Annual Conference, if necessary, due to the receipt of new premium rate information from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
2. The Conference Board of Pensions is authorized to adopt new eligibility policies as required by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for the HealthFlex Program. These policies may include procedures for the cancellation of coverage due to various circumstances. The effective date of these policies will be determined as required by the General Board.
3. The Conference Treasurer is authorized to bill 100 percent of Health Care Insurance Premiums to local churches. Twenty-five dollars will be billed to single participants and seventy-five dollars to participants with spouse/dependent coverage.
4. The active HealthFlex plan will be either choice (1) PPO B1000 (P2) – prescription Percentage co-pay OR choice (2) the Consumer Driven Health Plan – (CDHP P2).
5. The retiree health insurance plan is a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) stipend based on the number of years of service in the Oregon-Idaho and Alaska Conferences per the table above.
6. The following Health Insurance policies will be continued:
 - a. No premium subsidy or stipend will be granted to participants retiring prior to the age of their Medicare eligibility. They shall be responsible for the full payment of their health insurance premium. Those who are eligible to retire under the forty-year rule (§358.2c)) will be granted an exception to receive the retired subsidy or stipend for their health

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1 insurance premium. Upon reaching the age for Medicare eligibility, and enrolling in the
2 Medicare program, the clergy member shall be eligible for conference subsidy or stipend
3 based on the then current schedule as approved by the annual conference.

- 4 b. The conference shall pay 100 percent of the premium payment for those persons eligible
5 for benefits under the CPP Disability program. After one year the conference will pay the
6 premium for the participant and 50 percent of the premium for the spouse and/or family.

7
8 **Pension and Welfare Plans**

- 9 1. Effective January 1, 2016, the Pre-82 (MRPF) past service rate for ordained and local pastors
10 shall be \$585 per service year, with 70 percent continuing payment to the surviving spouse,
11 and that Addendum A of the Clergy Retirement Security Program be so amended.
- 12 2. Concerning the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP): The Conference Treasurer
13 will bill each local church for CRSP at the rate of 13 percent of the pastor's compensation
14 (including cash salary plus utilities and housing allowance [25% of cash salary if parsonage
15 is provided], plus any tax deferred annuity and/or contribution towards Social Security) for
16 eligible clergy. Local churches served by retired clergy are exempt from this billing.
- 17 3. The Conference Treasurer will bill each local church (with a pastor appointed three-
18 quarter time or full time) at a rate of 3.2 percent of the pastor's plan compensation for the
19 Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) for eligible clergy.
- 20 4. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference meeting in Salem, Oregon, June 11-13, 2015 approves
21 the Addendum: Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or
22 Former Clergypersons of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.
- 23 5. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference meeting in Salem, Oregon, June 11-13, 2015 approves
24 the 2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, as
25 submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions and approved by the General Board of Pension
26 and Health Benefits.

27
28 **Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**

29 **2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary**

30 The 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and
31 implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding
32 plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for review and
33 be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable
34 written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). This summary
35 document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such,
36 it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations
37 of the conference. Ugg"vj g'hqmy kpi 'hqw'r ci gu*38c/f+. You may request the full contents of the 2016
40 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefits office.

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary

The 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the General Board of Pension and Health benefits for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBPHB). This summary document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may request the full contents of the 2016 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefit office.

Following is the summary of the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP) that received a favorable written opinion from GBPHB for the 2016 conference benefit obligations:

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC)

Plan Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982

CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by annual conferences. The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP-DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2014 is \$1.105 billion, while total plan assets are \$1.274 billion resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 115%. The Oregon-Idaho Conference portion of the liability is .7097% and the 2016 contribution is \$621,779. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by direct billing to the salary paying unit. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The Oregon-Idaho Conference has elected to cover clergy serving 50%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2016.

Effective January 1, 2014 CRSP-DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy have the opportunity to earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP, therefore if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3%, which is unchanged from 2013 and prior. The 2016 CRSP-DC contribution is anticipated to be \$122,698 and will be funded by direct billing to the salary paying unit.

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2014, exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan, an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2014 is \$3.018 billion, while total plan assets are \$3.345 billion, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 111% and no required contribution for 2016. The Oregon-

Idaho Conference's % of the total liability is .8082%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of \$4.332 billion and the Oregon-Idaho Conference's portion of that balance is \$37,385,554 or .86% of the total.

Pre-1982 Plan

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergy person retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors: 1) years of service with pension credit and 2) Conference pension rate. Years of service with pension credit are approved by each Conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and *The Book of Discipline*. The pension rate, also called the past service rate, is the dollar amount chosen by the Conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit. The pension rate may change from year to year. The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM based benefit does not change.

The 2016 Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the Oregon-Idaho Conference will be \$585.00 representing a 2.63% increase from the 2015 rate. The conference expects future increases to be approximately 2.50%, which is based on: The conference intends to increase the PSR at a rate that will keep it at 1% of CAC..

The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 70% level.

Based on the final actuarial valuations from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits as of January 1, 2014 for 2016, the portion of the Pre-82 liability attributable to the Oregon-Idaho Conference and funded status is, as of 1/1/2014, as follows:

Funding Plan Liability	\$18,432,852	
Assets in the Plan	\$21,948,100	
Funded status	\$3,515,248	represented by a 119% funded ratio

In addition to the assets in the Plan it is anticipated that amount will be funded through the following funding sources:

Non plan assets designated for retiring Pre-82 obligations	\$2,760,294
Present value of incoming new money	\$

Active Health Benefit Program

Plan Overview: The Oregon-Idaho Conference offers the Self Funded-HealthFlex program which is best described as a Self Funded-HealthFlex to its active eligible participants.

The total cost of the program for 2016 is anticipated to be \$1,695,518 and will be funded by Direct Billing of the Salary Paying Unit. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 2.00%, due to: Based on past year's claims experience.

Additional Conference Sponsored Coverage

The Oregon-Idaho Conference has elected to provide health benefits coverage to the following groups during periods, where without conference funded premiums; the participants would be provided coverage or benefits:

Clergy and/or lay participants on disability: 1 participants at an estimated cost of \$14,688 as of 12/31/14.

Surviving spouses and/or children of deceased clergy and/or lay participants: participants at an estimated cost of \$ as of 12/31/14.

Clergy and/or lay participants on leave of absence: participants at an estimated cost of \$ as of 12/31/14.

Clergy in full connection with no record of appointment: participants at an estimated cost of \$ as of 12/31/14.

Clergy in the Voluntary Transition Program: participants at an estimated cost of \$ as of 12/31/14.

Other (): participants at an estimated cost of \$ as of 12/31/14.

The total estimated cost of conference sponsored coverage is \$14,688 as of 12/31/14.

Post-Retirement Medical Benefit Program (PRM)

Plan Overview: The Oregon-Idaho Conference post-retirement medical program currently offered is a Stipend plan made available to eligible retired clergy.

The expectation for 2016 is to offer a The conference provides a stipend program which funds a health reimbursement account (HRA for each eligible retiree. plan. The funding obligation for 2016 is anticipated to be \$346,478 with the funding sources to be Account assets and new incoming askings. On a longer term basis, the Conference intends to be funded by: The conference Board of Pensions has established an account to fund the obligation and will add to the account through apportionments to fund future benefits obligations..

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 12/31/2014, the following is the funded position of the post-retirement medical benefits:

Accumulated Post Retirement Obligation (APBO) or net conference cost	\$5,950,696
Expected Post Retirement Obligation (EPBO) or net conference cost	\$6,852,164
Service Cost (SC) or net conference cost	\$95,884
Assets designated for PRM	\$7,014,813

These values are based on a 3.50% long term discount rate, a .0% % long-term expected return, and a current increase trend of 7.0% with an ultimate medical increase of 5.0%, beginning in 2019.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if the conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and they are able to satisfy the eligibility requirements which include full-time appointment with plan compensation equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation or the Conference Average Compensation, whichever is less. The Oregon-Idaho Conference has elected to make CPP eligible clergy appointed at least ¾ time, have mandatory participation, while clergy appointed less than ¾ time have optional participation under special arrangements.

For 2016, the Oregon-Idaho Conference has an expected required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan of \$198,554, which is anticipated to be funded by: billing premiums to the salary payiing units. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 1.20% per year due to: Based on CAC increase.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) for Lay and Clergy

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and

affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

Conference office lay employees working an average of 20 hours per week or more are eligible after being vested for 6 months for a plan sponsor funded pension contribution of 12% of salary. Lay employees are encouraged to make contributions toward their retirement through payroll deductions to the UMPIP. The estimated contribution for the Oregon-Idaho Conference is anticipated to be \$49,467 and will be funded through in the staff budgets of the conference and apportioned to the churches.

Other Conference Benefit Obligations: Defined Contribution (DC) Type

DC Plan Overview: The Oregon-Idaho Conference currently offers a Long Term Disability and Life insurance plan for lay employees made available to employees that work at least 30 hours per week. The funding obligation for 2016 is anticipated to be \$8,944 with the funding sources to be Apportioned. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.5% per year due to: Inflation.

DC Plan Overview: The Oregon-Idaho Conference currently offers a Life insurance for eligible retired lay employees. The funding obligation for 2016 is anticipated to be \$8,906 with the funding sources to be Apportioned. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.5% per year due to: Inflation.

Other Conference Benefit Obligations: Defined Benefit (DB) Type

DB Plan Overview: The Oregon-Idaho Conference currently offers Retiree Grants made available to retired clergy not covered by the vesting rules of the Pre82 Plan. The funding obligation for 2016 is anticipated to be \$3,682 with the funding sources to be: Apportionment. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be .0% per year due to: No Increases-Fixed Amounts. The liability associated with this benefit is estimated to be \$92,050 based on a discount rate of 4%.

Conclusion:

The 2016 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and the above Summary document incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the Oregon-Idaho Conference's obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Oregon-Idaho Conference.

ADDENDUM:

Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference: WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”); and

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation; and

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

**BOARD OF PENSIONS
INFORMATIONAL DATA**

1		
2		
3		
4	Denominational Average Salary (DAC)	Conference Average Salary (CAC)
5	1993 - \$31,520	1993 - \$24,665
6	1994 - \$33,017	1994 - \$25,639
7	1995 - \$34,832	1995 - \$26,788
8	1996 - \$36,602	1996 - \$28,005
9	1997 - \$37,084	1997 - \$28,685
10	1998 - \$38,298	1998 - \$29,298
11	1999 - \$39,700	1999 - \$31,275
12	2000 - \$40,805	2000 - \$32,672
13	2001 - \$42,233	2001 - \$33,990
14	2002 - \$42,930	2002 - \$34,689
15	2003 - \$45,717	2003 - \$37,196
16	2004 - \$49,325	2004 - \$43,536
17	2005 - \$50,931	2005 - \$43,983
18	2006 - \$52,394	2006 - \$45,287
19	2007 - \$54,081	2007 - \$46,616
20	2008 - \$56,044	2008 - \$48,824
21	2009 - \$58,226	2009 - \$49,931
22	2010 - \$60,341	2010 - \$51,153
23	2011 - \$61,716	2011 - \$52,409
24	2012 - \$62,781	2012 - \$53,534
25	2013 - \$63,867	2013 - \$54,376
26	2014 - \$65,186	2014 - \$55,674
27	2015 - \$66,295	2015 - \$56,981
28	2016 - \$67,333	2016 - \$57,672
29		
30		
31	Past Service Rate	Health Insurance Apportionment For Local Church Pastors
32	1992 - \$269.45	1992 - 70%
33	1993 - \$281.50	1993 - 70%
34	1994 - \$293.00	1994 - 70%
35	1995 - \$302.00	1995 - 70%
36	1996 - \$311.00	1996 - 70%
37	1997 - \$321.00	1997 - 70%
38	1998 - \$331.00	1998 - 70%
39	1999 - \$341.00	1999 - 60%
40	2000 - \$352.00	2000 - 50%
41	2001 - \$363.00	2001 - 40%
42	2002 - \$375.00	2002 - 30%
43	2003 - \$387.00	2003 - 20%
44	2004 - \$398.50	2004 - 10%
45	2005 - \$411.00	2005 - 10%
46	2006 - \$425.00	2006 - 10%
47	2007 - \$451.00	2007 - none*
48	2008 - \$488.00	
49	2010 - \$514.00	
50	2011 - \$524.00	
51	2012 - \$536.00	
52	2013 - \$544.00	
53	2014 - \$557.00	
54	2015 - \$585.00	
55		
56		

* Beginning in 2007, the health insurance premium for active clergy is billed directly to the local congregations.

Northwest United Methodist Foundation
Tom Wilson, Executive Director

The Foundation's habit is to use opportunities like this report to highlight our recent successes and share plans of upcoming improvements to our ministry. While there are plenty of both to share, the words seem empty without first taking a moment to speak of our greatest disappointment. Sadly, few of you had the chance to meet Barry Morris.

Barry joined our staff on February 17, 2014. He came from Houston where he had been the C.F.O. of the Heartspring Methodist Foundation. He was a devotee of the *Good to Great* philosophy and was always imagining and implementing better ways to serve the church. He had a genuine respect for all people and a deep desire to learn from their knowledge and experiences. Just six short weeks after joining our team Barry had a massive heart attack while out running; he never recovered. Our lives are fuller today from his example; for this, the board and staff of the Foundation will always be grateful. Nevertheless, he is missed greatly. He leaves behind a loving wife, Susan, and two exceptional daughters.

The purpose of the Foundation is to assist with the transfer of abundance between generous persons within our local churches and the life-giving ministries to which they and their loved ones are devoted. We serve local churches and conference agencies in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. These services fall primarily into four categories: Endowment Consultation and Resourcing, Planned Giving Education, Financial Management Services and Church Loans.

In 2014 the total assets managed by the Foundation grew by more than \$4 million to over \$42 million. We added 22 new church and agency accounts and distributed \$3.7 million of investment income to our ministry partners to support their ministries. Our office received \$556 thousand in stock gifts that were liquidated and remitted directly to our churches.

Our Endowment Consultation and Resourcing services took a giant leap this year with the introduction of the *Gift Legacy* program. The program is accessible through the Foundation's website and offers a wide variety of planned giving resources for individuals and churches. Whether donor stories, helpful tutorials, giving calculators or will writing guides, these and much more can be found by simply clicking on www.nwumf.org.

In 2015 we will launch the Provide & Protect campaign. The campaign is designed to encourage and assist people in documenting their final plans and wishes. The program has at least two key goals, these being to encourage persons to consider the church in their wills and to aid and comfort those who survive them by clearly providing information that helps in the often chaotic days following death and in the accurate execution of the deceased's estate plan.

The Foundation continues to find itself between the proverbial rock and hard place with regard to the petitions sponsored by the Holy Land Task Force. Please know that the Foundation takes the peacemaking intent of this petition very seriously. Also, know that the Foundation has been a zealous advocate of United Methodist's Socially Responsible Principles for decades. The same is true for Wespath, our investment advisors. In this case the Task Force calls for divestment while our investment managers remain convinced the best approach is shareholder engagement. Like so many issues in the church, both solutions have potential, and potential flaws.

We invite you to visit our website for more information about our ministry. Copies of our annual audits are also available through the website or upon request. We consider it a privilege to work with United Methodists throughout the Northwest and always welcome input as to how we are doing and how we might do better.

United Methodist Ministers' Retirement Fund

Frank P. McNamara, President

Since it was organized and incorporated in 1909, the United Methodist Ministers' Retirement Fund has provided financial support to assist the retired clergy of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. Our investment portfolio has grown from its original \$3,500 in 1909 to today's \$2 plus million. We have stayed faithful to both our long-term investment strategy and our policy of distributing funds for the benefit of retired clergy. We continue to contribute 5% of the three-year average ending balance of our funds. For 2014 we were able to contribute \$95,444.

As a denomination and as a conference we have been increasingly aware of the challenge of providing a secure retirement for our participants at a sustainable cost to the annual conference and its churches. UMMRF is pleased to be an active partner in this venture. The result of the UMMRF annual gift is a reduction in costs for our congregations. In addition to investment earnings, we seek to continue to grow the fund through our annual solicitation of both active and retired clergy during the fourth quarter of the year. We encourage you to remember UMMRF in your will or other estate planning vehicle.

The UMMRF is directly connected to the annual conference. The members of the Board of Directors are reported in the Conference Journal and listed in the nominations section.

Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries

Karen Nelson, Chair

Camps are important to the health and vitality of individuals and congregations. They have a tremendous impact on the people who attend them. Camps offer a place for growth, for renewal, for community building, for defining and redefining one's relationship with God and with other people, for transforming lives, and for bringing forth wholeness.

The mission of Camp and Retreat Ministries is to create quality environments of Christian hospitality and learning. We nurture persons so that they may grow in wisdom and healthy self-esteem; develop lifestyles of loving interdependence with each other and all of creation; and affirm and expand their faith in God and their service as Christian disciples within God's world.

This mission informs all that we do. Our camp and retreat programs are designed to enhance and develop spiritual practices in campers of all ages. Passionate worship, intentional faith development, and radical hospitality are among those practices taught and practiced by staff and campers. We offer more than 100 events that intentionally engage leadership development, spiritual nurture, just community, and pathways of healing. In addition to the programs we offer, many of our conference churches use our sites to develop and run their own weekend retreats for small groups or entire congregations. Our sites are also places of radical hospitality for other non-profit groups from around the area and beyond. We are also continuing to strengthen our ecumenical partnerships.

This year has included a huge change for us as our Executive Director for the past 15 years, Rev. Lisa Jean Hoefner, retired at the end of April. Lisa Jean has provided leadership that has strengthened our camp and retreat ministries and helped to make them an even more vital part of our annual conference. In anticipation of a change in leadership, Lisa Jean and the Board have worked to be sure that all of our policy and procedure manuals are up-to-date and familiar to both paid staff and volunteers.

Following a nation-wide search, Rev. James Parkhurst was hired as our new Executive Director, effective April 1, 2015. Rev. Parkhurst comes to us with many years of experience in a variety of camp settings, including most recently as Executive Director of the camping and outdoor ministry programs of Detroit Annual Conference. Jim also has experience in the single board governance model that we use and in working cooperatively with other annual conference camping programs.

Each of our sites has continued to work on upkeep and improvements, including a new deck around the

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1 dining room at A.L. Collins Retreat Center, a new Shorehouse Lodge at Camp Magruder, continuing
2 work on a welcome center at Camp Sawtooth, a volunteer staff center at Wallowa Lake, and numerous
3 other renovations and upgrades at all of our sites. This work is possible because of the generous
4 contributions of many people in time, money, and talents.

5
6 This year has also included changes and updates to our registration process, making it easier to complete
7 camper registration on-line. In response to family and church feedback and the changing needs of our
8 communities, both Suttle Lake Camp and Camp Magruder are providing camper weeks this summer that
9 allow for all ages during the same week. This change has been carefully planned and will include a new
10 mix of paid and volunteer summer staff.

11
12 Our own camping programs, use of the facilities by churches, and our hosting of hospitality groups are all
13 ways that camping touches lives. Camping continues to be a vital ministry where people come to know
14 Christian community and let Christ transform their lives.

15 **Board of Ordained Ministry**

16 **Linda Quanstrom, Chair**

17 In our presentation to the Clergy Session of the 2013 Annual Conference, the Board of Ordained Ministry
18 reiterated its commitment to “recruiting, nurturing, preparing, and credentialing excellent and outstanding
19 clergy people” and we outlined the considerations and criteria we employ to meet this goal. We continue
20 to pursue this focus while we set forth additional efforts to support newly licensed and ordained folks
21 through their first five years of ministry.

22
23 We believe we have made strides aligning with this quadrennial goal and though our pool of candidates
24 has declined, we are committed to yielding to the Church the best of the best. To that end, we continue
25 investing in our recruitment initiative as well. The Board interviewed one candidate for provisional status
26 and one candidate for full membership in its February 2015 meeting. So we continue to explore creative
27 and effective recruitment strategies. Identifying individuals who show gifts and graces for ministry is
28 something everyone within the Conference can do and so we encourage folks to inquire of people who
29 show promise if they have considered entering the ministry or if they have ever felt a call to ministry.
30 If they would or have, refer them to their pastor or to Rev. Courtney McHill, the Board’s recruitment
31 coordinator, and encourage them at every appropriate opportunity.

32
33 The Board conducted its first Orientation to Ministry in August 2014, with good and encouraging
34 feedback. This event is a new Disciplinary requirement and is an opportunity for potential ministry
35 candidates, as well as candidates in the early stages of candidacy, to learn more about the variety of set-
36 apart ministries (deacons, elders, and local pastors) and their distinctions. It is inspirational as well as
37 instructive wherein candidates and current clergy share their call stories and celebrate the many ways
38 God calls us. The Board will sponsor its second Candidacy Summit and Orientation to Ministry in August
39 2015.

40
41 We continue to connect regularly with the chairs and registrars of the District Committees on Ordained
42 Ministry to clarify policies and procedures in order to foster a consistent and seamless process of review.
43 Members of BOM and the DCOMs are working hard to prepare and assist the candidates balancing
44 rigorous review with support and assistance.

45
46 We enjoyed the terrific service of our first Administrative Assistant, Jenn Richter, until she resigned to
47 accept another position in November. We are very pleased and feel very fortunate to have secured the
48 interest of retired O-I clergy member, Rev. Janet Farrell, who was hired to fill this position in January
49 2015.

50
51 Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry put in countless hours and effort to do the work that is its
52 responsibility. Much of the work of the Board happens behind the scenes. We undertake our work with
53 integrity and an awareness of its importance to the church now and in the future. We are grateful for the

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1 support and encouragement of many as we do our very best to provide principled Christian leaders for the
2 church as we all seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
3
4

5 **Conference Response Team** 6 **Bonnie McOmber, Coordinator**

7 The mission of the Conference Response Team (CRT) is to facilitate congregational healing when a
8 situation threatens its spiritual wholeness. (The OR-ID conference response team began in 2001. For
9 more information on response teams see 2012 Book of Discipline P363 and Book of Resolutions #2043.)
10

11 The CRT sees their role as responding to a hurting congregation by offering a safe and sacred place
12 for people to begin processing the questions, concerns, emotions and faith challenges raised by a crisis
13 impacting their congregation or ministry setting.
14

15 The CRT has empathy, compassion and counseling skills specific to faith and spiritual challenges. These
16 skills could be helpful to a congregation/ministry setting to cope with:
17

18 **Church organization or structural issues** that cause anxiety and stress in a congregation including
19 such things as yoking or blending of congregations, church closures, changes in worship space due to
20 **unanticipated damage or financial necessity;**
21

22 **Issues arising out of an unexpected change in pastoral leadership or other staff in a congregation.**

23 These could include an unanticipated leave of absence, an illness or a termination for cause, etc.
24

25 **Accusations against a pastor or other church member** regarding a possible criminal offense, a possible
26 chargeable offense, or accusation against any church member based on ethnicity, gender, age, or sexual
27 harassment;
28

29 **Grief in a congregation** over the sudden death of a pastor or lay person in the congregation; grief over a
30 pastoral divorce or any other loss experienced by the congregation;
31

32 **Helping a congregation respond to a disaster or tragedy** that impacts not only the congregation but
33 also their friends, families and neighbors;
34

35 **Issues that may divide a congregation;**
36

37 **Any other instance** as requested by the Bishop or the Bishop's representative.
38

39 The CRT is not called to any judicial or disciplinary processes for legal resolution of a situation and
40 currently is not able to engage in prolonged conflict resolution processes. In every instance the team
41 works closely with the District Superintendent for that congregation to insure that follow up action is
42 taken by appropriate resources.
43

44 Members of the CRT are recommended to the Bishop and Cabinet for approval and then appointed.
45 Members agree to serve for a minimum of four years and receive necessary training to fulfill the mission
46 of the CRT.
47

48 During the last year, the CRT has responded to several occasions, none of which involved misconduct.
49 We continue to be available to work with congregations who are hurting and would like some "outside"
50 help to resolve situations and move forward. If you think that the Conference Response Team would be
51 helpful to your congregation, please contact your District Superintendent about having the CRT visit your
52 church. The services of the Conference Response Team are funded by the Oregon-Idaho Conference
53 through the shared giving of the churches in this conference with no charges to individual churches.
54
55

Safe Sanctuaries

Warren Light, Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator

“God cares for all. God suffers when children, youth, and vulnerable adults suffer. The United Methodist church was founded by John Wesley who taught: First, do no harm. Do all the good you can. Stay in love with God . . . [we] recognize that staying in love with God requires safe sanctuary for the Vulnerable and support for survivors of sexual violence. This [policy] is a core missional statement . . .” --*Template for Risk Reduction and Prevention Policies for Local Ministry Settings*

In 2015, the new Safe Sanctuaries Team met with Randy Ellison, Co-Coordinator, We Will Speak Out U.S.-Oregon [www.wewillspeakout.us and <http://www.boysdonttell.com/>]. Randy is an adult survivor of teen sexual abuse at one of our UMOI ministries. He shared his story and his resilient faith, and touched us with his courage and insight. The Team evaluated what it means to be a “survivor-centered” ministry. The team identified the following needs:

- The critical need for ministries to carry adequate insurance regarding sexual abuse liability of \$1 million/\$3 million. This coverage not only promises that insurance companies adequately cover liability (including legal support), but also provides survivors with adequate support. While some insurers are counseling lower coverages, the Team recognizes that lowering minimums puts churches and church folk at risk. It also undercuts survivors. Ahead:
- Updated website support [coming summer 2015]
- Some budget support in 2016.
- More follow-up with local ministry on policy writing, training, and events.

We encourage anyone with questions or ideas to contact us at uowesleycenter@gmail.com or 541.346.4694. Thank you and Blessings.

Vital Church Project

Rev. Stephan W. Ross

The Vital Church Project is in its fourth year. The project includes conference-wide efforts to establish new faith communities for new people, to strengthen existing congregations, and to nurture and strengthen congregational leadership.

Congregational participation in the original program of Congregational Leadership Development (CLD) decreased in number again this year with a total of just seven congregations in the 2014-15 season. In the 2013-14 year 10 congregations participated in the CLD course. As of May 2015 eighty-one congregations have been through the CLD training. Nine congregations have been through a weekend consultation with this program showing continued demand. This past year has been marked by an increase in the number of congregations seeking coaching and consulting in areas where they feel specific needs for improvement.

The implementation of simple governance continues to be a major desire in our congregations. Changing a local church structure is deceptively complex and many congregations have found the transition difficult. The VCP has engaged with several congregations either in preparation for single board governance, or to help them straighten out difficulties they have encountered. Our self-published book called *Leadership and Organization for Fruitful Congregations* is a useful introduction for churches considering this adaptation. Copies can be obtained from the VCP office (becky@umoi.org) for \$12 each. Net proceeds benefit the conference revitalization ministries. The book is also available in Kindle format on Amazon.com.

We continue to mature in our relationship with the other conferences in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area. The VCP Director continues to participate as a member of The Tuell Center advisory team. Here are some of the opportunities we have been able to provide to Oregon-Idaho leaders this year:

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- 1 **Transitions Workshop:** a three-day event for all clergy moving into new appointments. They
2 get information about their new mission field, training in effective ministry for the first year in an
3 appointment, and they set up a strategy for the first year.
- 4 **Transforming Leadership:** a four-day event each summer designed to help clergy throughout the
5 Western Jurisdiction build a culture of missional focus and innovative leadership. The fourth annual
6 event was held this May.
- 7 **Certified Lay Minister Training:** a three-day training for Lay Assigned ministers. The course
8 includes training in leadership, preaching, polity and other aspects of congregational leadership.
- 9 **Cultural Competence Training:** Besides a two-day introduction to the principles of cross-cultural
10 competence there have been two events this year for pastoral leaders in cross-cultural appointments.
- 11 **Young Clergy Gathering:** Our second annual two-day event this past March helped deepen the
12 nurturing relationships and peer mentoring among our younger clergy across the connection.
- 13 **Visionary Leader Project:** The VLP, working through the Tuell Center and our Board of Lay
14 Ministry, continues to seek to find ways to build relationships and nurture excellence among our key
15 lay leaders across the GNW area.
- 16 **Circles of Presence:** Lay and clergy leaders from across the episcopal area were trained this April in
17 this powerful technique to nurture the innovative abilities in our churches. Watch for opportunities to
18 participate in Circles of Presence in your area.
- 19
20 Most recently our VCP Director and the Developer from the PNW Conference have worked with a task
21 force to develop an area-wide framework and strategy for congregational vitality. This work is now
22 being integrated into the way your conference staff can help you on the path toward a more focused
23 engagement with your mission field.
- 24
25

26 Communications

27 Greg Nelson, Director of Communications

28 In a communication age, every aspect of the connectional church needs to be focused on communication.
29 As people of The Story we need to tell our story, the story of our connection, the story of our church,
30 and the stories of our connection to the community. The Director of Communications oversees the
31 web site, annual conference session technology, public relations and crisis communications, weekly
32 UM Connector, serves on the Ministry Leadership Team, and provides communications support for
33 conference groups and committees.

34

35 Conference communications work to inform and inspire the people of the Oregon-Idaho Conference with
36 resource information for use in local ministry, news of the United Methodist connection, and the stories
37 of vitality in our Oregon-Idaho churches and ministries.

38

39 Key events in the last year include:

- 40
- 41 • Continuing improvements to the conference website and contact database. A new leader
42 search feature now includes the ability to dynamically find both clergy and lay persons in conference
43 leadership and see membership of conference committees and leadership teams.
 - 44 • In connection with United Methodist Communications, 22 local churches participated in
45 website training to create updated websites for their local church.
 - 46 • Providing ongoing support for presentations and messaging at the Annual Conference Session.
 - 47 • As the host conference for the 2016 General Conference, we have the opportunity to show
48 a welcome to the world and share our Northwest values of justice and acceptance. The Director of
49 Communications supports this effort as a member of the local host committee and liaison to general
50 and jurisdictional groups that will meet in Portland to plan and prepare for General Conference.

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1 The conference website is a resource to churches and church leaders and a connection point for
2 information about our conference and churches. In the last year it has been visited over 50,000 times.
3 Social media connections through Facebook and Twitter provide additional channels for connection to
4 churches and individuals.

5
6 Email is the lifeblood of conference communications. In the past year the conference office and districts
7 and camp and retreat ministries have sent out over 500,000 emails with news, updates, invitations and
8 opportunities. All clergy and conference leaders should be sure that any changes in email address are
9 reported to their district office to ensure that information continues to flow.

10
11 Connect to the conference via these online links:

- 12 ~ Conference Website: www.umi.org;
- 13 ~ Imagine No Malaria Website: INM.greaternw.org
- 14 ~ Episcopal Area Website: www.greaternw.org;
- 15 ~ Facebook: www.facebook.com/UMOrId;
- 16 ~ Twitter: @UMOI

17 18 19 **Holy Land Task Force** 20 **Dee Poujade, Chair**

21 The Holy Land Task Force was created at Annual Conference 2013 to identify and study companies
22 affecting the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territory in harmful ways, and to develop information
23 sheets on companies that conduct their business in a manner harmful to Palestinians. Task Force
24 members are Dee Poujade, chair, Betty Cobb-Colgan, Janine DeLaunay, Babs Eggleston, Liz Jacob,
25 Karen McAlister, Jan Nelson, Claudia Roberts, and Steve Sprecher.

26
27 At Annual Conference 2014 the Task Force was given a mandate to strongly encourage churches,
28 ministry settings, and/or districts to provide a study based on “Kairos Response” in preparation for
29 further action at Annual Conference 2015.

30
31 The Task Force has been distributing the resource, Working for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and
32 Israel (http://umc-gbcs.org/content/general/Working_for_a_Just_and_Lasting_Peace.pdf), to all churches
33 in the Conference (hard copies available from Task Force members and during Annual Conference 2015).

34
35 In cooperation with Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA), in November the Task Force
36 sponsored a “Teach In” on the Kairos document (<http://kairosusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Kairos-USA-Call-to-Action.pdf>), at Clear Lake UMC with discussions led by Rev. Diane Dulin, Kairos
37 Director of Church Participation, and Maya Rotem, an Israeli Jew and member of Jewish Voice for
38 Peace. Participants also viewed the film Land and Honor and heard from filmmaker Art Wright about his
39 experiences in making the film. (More information available at www.umi.org/holyland).

40
41
42 The Task Force also coordinated a Study Trip to the Holy Land in February-March, 2015. Eight
43 Oregonians joined eight Nebraskans for 10 days of visits to holy sites and meetings with local Israelis
44 and Palestinians to learn first-hand what is happening in the Holy Land, and how caring, concerned
45 Christians can help bring peace to this troubled region.

46
47 A number of churches have planned, or are planning, educational programs on Palestine/Israel, and Task
48 Force members are eager to help coordinate such programs in any way that is needed. Additionally,
49 United Methodist Kairos Response, a national group working to support an end to the illegal Occupation
50 of Palestine, has many excellent resources for individual or group study (www.kairosresponse.org).

51
52 As a result of study, and personal experience in Palestine/Israel, the Task Force concluded that divestment
53 from companies profiting from the illegal Israeli Occupation of Palestine is the right thing – the moral
54 thing – for our church. Thus, at Annual Conference 2015, we are introducing several pieces of legislation
55 related to divestment.

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1 The Palestinian people first issued a call for divestment in 2005 (<http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>).
2 Divestment is widely recognized as an effective, moral, non-violent tool to alter corporate behavior,
3 and has been successfully used in such diverse locations as the American South (during the Civil Rights
4 Movement) and South Africa (where it is widely acknowledged as being a major contributor to the
5 ending of Apartheid).

6
7 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference will be joining a long list of UMC Annual Conferences, including
8 our neighbors in the Pacific Northwest, Cal-Pacific and Cal-Nevada annual conferences (all of whom
9 have already passed divestment resolutions similar to the ones we are proposing), in voting to remove
10 church funds from US companies who continue to manufacture products that directly perpetrate the
11 Occupation, in spite of a long history of “engagement” asking these companies to change their business
12 practices.

13
14 The United Methodist Church has adopted a number of resolutions relating to the Israeli-Palestinian
15 “conflict” (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/opposition-to-israeli-settlements-in-palestinian-land>,
16 <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/saying-no-to-violence-in-middle-east-conflict>), and it is expected
17 that the issue of divestment will again be brought before the General Conference when it meets in
18 Portland next year. As the hosts for that Conference, we believe that we should set a good example.
19 “... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, to walk humbly with your
20 God?” (Micah 6:8)

21 22 23 **Statistician’s Report**

24 **Ted Wimer, Conference Statistician**

25 The 2014 total Professing Membership in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference was 26,997; a 3%
26 decrease from 2013. (This number was on a downward trend of over -12.8% during the time period
27 2009–2014 [~4,000persons]). However, over the same time period (2009-2014) the number of
28 Constituents in the churches had a gain of almost 5,000 persons. This may be another indicator of the
29 changing face of “rethinking church.”

30
31 We keep these records of what is going on in all of our congregations for many reasons. One of the
32 most important is for the local church itself. We can see trends for how effective our local ministries and
33 missions are. On a broader view, there are indicators which help us find areas of vitality in our Annual
34 Conference. The GCFA collects these numbers from all of the Annual Conferences and compiles the data
35 for the General boards and agencies; to see trends and to plan ahead. The analysis this year includes some
36 looking at the time period 2009-2014.

37
38 The number of persons participating in Christian formation groups decreased overall during 2014.
39 However since 2009 they have increased by 20% (2009-2014). Weekly Worship attendance, Sunday
40 School attendance and VBS all decreased in 2014, however the number of Other Small Group Ministries,
41 other than Sunday School increased 24%! The number of persons served by community outreach is up
42 by 1%, to 259,098 persons. This indicator shows our overall emphasis on Local Church vitality through
43 community outreach is growing. Over the time 2009-2014 this area has grown by 53%!

44
45 For 2014 the membership in the UMW decreased by 9% to 3,319, while the amount they paid for local
46 church and community work stayed about the same at \$268,606. The UMM membership decreased by
47 3%, while the amount they paid for local church and community work stayed steady at \$38,067.

48
49 The number of UMVIM Teams sent increased from 19 to 25; and the number of churches involved with
50 sending specific team members increased by 57%, to 245 persons!

51
52 The total Number of Households giving to the local church stayed stable at 13,807, and the Total Income
53 received for operations of the local churches stayed about the same at \$26,134,631, which is good news.
54 There is a slight shift away from Pledged giving toward Non-Pledged giving and Unidentified givers.
55

27 Pre-Conference Reports

1 The Market Value of Church property (buildings, land & equipment) increased slightly while the Value of
2 other Church Owned Assets (bank accounts, securities, etc.) decreased. Debt secured by church-owned
3 assets decreased, however, the Other Debt increased. During 2009-2014 secured debt decreased by 52%,
4 while Other Debt more than doubled! The total Income Received for Operations Budget has stayed about
5 the same in 2014, but the amount paid on all expenditures increased by 5%. The income from Interest
6 and Dividends increased by 48% in 2014. The income from building use fees, rental, and outright gifts
7 has increased, too.

8
9 The total amount remitted for General Advance Specials increased by 7% in 2014 to \$246,285. One
10 Great Hour of Sharing giving decreased by 11% to \$40,760. In fact, all Special Sunday Giving has
11 declined since 2009.

12
13 Looking at individual local churches as well as background trends over the time period 2009-2014 there
14 is one indicator which should be watched. An example is the UMW: As numbers of participants in UMW
15 has decreased, the amount spent on projects has continued to rise. The same is true with many local
16 churches regarding their membership and operating income. My conclusion is fewer people are feeling
17 called to do more. If these loyalties are generational, then this may indicate future downturns in several
18 areas.

19
20 To see all the statistics for 2014 – for individual churches as well as totals by District and the entire
21 Annual Conference – look in your Annual Conference Journal – the very back of Volume 2.

22 23 24 **Conference Treasurer & Benefits Officer** 25 **Belinda Denicola**

26 It has been a busy first year as your new Conference Treasurer and Benefits Officer. Bill Mullette-
27 Bauer left some big shoes to fill. Even though I spent the last 22 years as the assistant to this position
28 in Louisiana, I've spent a lot of my time during this first year in Oregon-Idaho in training. I quickly
29 discovered how much the support staff in my office are vital to the work that we do to serve this
30 conference. The staff have been very supportive and patient as I strive to learn all the processes and
31 dynamics of OR-ID and my deep-felt gratitude goes out to all of them. They are truly a blessing in my
32 work and in my life. I know that you join me in expressing my gratitude as I offer a big "Thank You"
33 to Bill Mullette-Bauer for his continued support; Sandra Reinemer, Assistant Treasurer/Controller; Lisa
34 Pronovost, Assistant Benefits Officer/HR Manager; Jerryn Johnston, Accounts Receivable & Payables;
35 Jennifer Aldrich, Bookkeeper for Camp & Retreat Ministries; and last but not least, Sally Blanchard,
36 Office Manager/Administrative Assistant. They all have my deepest appreciation and admiration.

37
38 One of the biggest celebrations that I have experienced during the past year was, because of reduced
39 spending and adequate reserve levels, our conference was able to pay our 2014 General and Jurisdictional
40 Church apportionments at 100%! According to GCFA, this was the first time in memory that this has
41 been accomplished by the OR-ID Conference. Also in 2014, the local churches of OR-ID paid 79.89%
42 of their Shared Ministry Giving, which was the highest pay-out since 2007. However, Special Askings
43 and Special Sunday Offering receipts were significantly down. My prayer is that we do not forget how
44 important these ministries are to the annual conference and making Disciples of Jesus Christ.

45
46 Another celebration worth lifting up is that the Council on Finance & Administration (CFA) is proposing
47 little to no increase for the 2016 conference budget over 2015. OR-ID received a 2.2% decrease in the
48 General Church apportionments. The conference has been very blessed to have been a recipient of a
49 leadership grant from the Collins Foundation that has supported many training events for clergy and laity.
50 However, the grant will not "last forever" and we will eventually need to develop a funding plan that will
51 be independent and sustainable of grants.

52
53 Like CFA, the Conference Board of Pensions is dedicated to keeping spending down for local churches
54 by not proposing an increase to health insurance premiums for the local churches in 2016, even though
55 the claims experience was at a higher ratio than premiums received of about 120%. The board felt that

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1 by 2017, the conference will be faced with some tough decisions such as whether or not to recommend
2 going to the HealthFlex Exchange program or staying with programs that are similar to what we currently
3 have. Either way, costs will probably increase for local churches and participants due to the ever-
4 changing healthcare structure across the country with the Affordable Care Act.

5
6 These are only two of the boards and agencies that I serve on as the Conference Treasurer and Benefits
7 Officer. My work is plentiful and rewarding. My hope is that I can make a small difference in Oregon-
8 Idaho that will better our clergy, laity, churches, conference, and denomination. Thank you for letting
9 me be a part of this wonderful conference and I look forward to many years of partnering with you as we
10 strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Les Bon Temps Roulet!

11
12
13 **District Reports**

14
15 **Cascadia District**

16 **Peg Lofsvold, District Superintendent**

17 **Linda Grund-Clampit, District Administrative Assistant**

18 *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,*
19 *faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. --Galatians 5: 22-23*

20 The fruit of the Spirit is ripening throughout Cascadia District! In a geography known for rich vineyards
21 and orchards, and deep rivers and native bounty, our congregations are feeding people, body and soul,
22 right where they are planted.

23
24 New ground is being tilled in experiences building relationships with neighbors. In the Salem-Keizer
25 community, every congregation has worked together this year to find a fruitful new way to connect with
26 new people for Christ. The bold concept, where every pastor serves the whole UM community, and every
27 congregation brings their best gifts, goes to all-church conference votes in May.

28
29 It's planting season in Cascadia, planting faith communities, new ministries, and new ideas. La Naciones,
30 the Hispanic community planted in Washington County less than two years ago, has grown to over 30
31 worshipers on Sunday and in house churches. They serve persons who work as migrant labor, and offer
32 cross-cultural parenting classes with the Forest Grove UMC. McMinnville Co-operative Ministries has
33 dug deep in their efforts to provide housing, to advocate for those who live outside, and to create with
34 them an "everyday congregation." Bend UMC had all the resources they needed to bloom where they
35 are planted. All they lacked was imagination, brought to them by new clergy and lay leadership. Their
36 creativity has already led to growth, ecumenical partnerships, and a dream of tiny houses and multiple
37 church sites.

38
39 Pruning can seem painful, but long-term health depends on it! Right-sizing congregations financially
40 continues. Letting go of "too big" ministry is lifting the weight of "dead branches." Woodburn UMC
41 faced that reality two years ago; there was hurt and anger when people realized they had to change. This
42 spring, they joyfully adopted a new vision of ministry with their neighbors--the hundreds of seniors
43 living next door. Other churches are adapting new ways of being church, are considering merging or even
44 closing their ministry with dignity. Joy, relief, peace all come with careful pruning.

45
46 Well-tended congregations are bearing fruit, as they continue to find ways to strengthen their ministries.
47 Three congregations (Hillsboro, Madras, and Tigard) brought teams of leaders to the new Creating
48 Cultures of Congregational Generosity training. They are putting new stewardship systems into place;
49 coaches support their work. Commitment to apportionments remains high in Cascadia. Every church gave
50 something; together we raised 83% of our share to support our collective work. (First quarter 2015 is up
51 by 2.4% compared with 2014.) We did this while exceeding our commitment to Imagine No Malaria:
52 100% of our congregations and camps learned, shared, and raised money for this global effort. Pastoral
53 leadership is strengthened through Certified Lay Ministry training for lay pastoral leaders. An additional

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1 clergy colloquy has sharpened our focus on best practice, while growing our sense of camaraderie.

2
3 Harvest is before us, a harvest of spiritual depth, in wide-open fields. There is work to be done and room
4 to grow. We must pray and pray and pray. We must put our assets to work, and develop comprehensive
5 stewardship of talent, buildings, and money. We must change our church culture from “what about us” to
6 “what about others.” We must exercise our collective creative imaginations, to see the possibilities God
7 has placed on our doorstep. We must encourage partnerships of every variety. All of these efforts must
8 be undergirded with a desire to share Jesus with people that they and we together may know love, joy,
9 peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

10
11
12 **Columbia District**
13 **Lowell Greathouse, District Superintendent**
14 **Deb Payne, District Lay Leader**

15 This year marks my fifth and final year as a District Superintendent in the Oregon-Idaho Annual
16 Conference. It has been an amazing joy, a challenging responsibility, and a humbling experience to be
17 asked to serve in this role during this particular time in the life of our church.

18
19 In my five years, I have seen over 20 congregations from the district participate in Congregational
20 Leadership Development trainings, 2 churches proceed through a consultation process, and 8
21 congregations vote to discontinue and close...with another church merging with a neighboring
22 congregation. I’ve seen 3 new church plants begin in the district, over 200 people attend the first Joint
23 Columbia-Vancouver District “Signs of Life” training this past spring, and the completion of a district-
24 sponsored Habitat for Humanity Build in 2013. There has been an increase in apportionment giving
25 from 78% in 2011 to nearly 84% in 2014. And during this time, I’ve worshipped in nearly 50 different
26 churches, preached in 25 of them, and traveled along the Columbia River Gorge 31 times. There have
27 been approximately 50 different appointment changes in the district, and we currently have slightly over
28 6,000 members in our churches...with nearly 3,000 people in worship on an average Sunday.

29
30 But we are also a collection of approximately 50 congregations...in which most of us share our facilities
31 with other building users....and 22 of our churches have other worshipping communities sharing our
32 space. There are 20 food pantries among us, 13 clothes closets, 15 community gardens, 14 backpack
33 buddy programs, and 2 after school programs present as well. Ten churches sent out UVMIM teams in
34 the last two years, and 16 of our churches have covenant relationships with missionaries.

35
36 Finally, we have a Church Extension Society that oversees over \$3 million in funds, a District Committee
37 on Ordained Ministry that is working with a number of ministerial candidates, and a District Learning
38 Resource Team that has offered a variety of different programs in the past five years. And during these
39 five years, we’ve moved from being the Metro District focused on the greater Portland Metropolitan to
40 being a collection of churches that truly run along the Columbia River. But we are generally speaking
41 about a group of small churches: 29 of us have worship of under 50 on a Sunday morning and 29 have
42 a membership of under 100. At the same time, there is a lot of health and vitality among us, as we’ve
43 expanded into new ministries...re-sized our budgets and realities...or celebrated our history and passed
44 our resources on to others so that there can be a legacy for a new generation of United Methodists. It has
45 been a full, five years...but we are full of a great deal of life as well.

46
47 ...and now Erin Martin comes on as the new District Superintendent, to bring her gifts and graces to this
48 remarkable community of congregations. You will be richly blessed by her presence among you! At the
49 same time, you will have much life and vitality...and challenges from time-to-time...to share with her
50 as well. I will hold you all in prayer and remember with fondness the work we have been about together.
51 Thank you once again for letting me be a part of your journey. It has been an honor and joy to be your
52 District Superintendent!

53
54

Crater Lake District

The Rev. Gwen Drake, District Superintendent

Kay Burdick, District Administrative Assistant

Teri Watanabe, District Lay Leader

5 Changes continue to happen in the Crater Lake District.

6
7 The 2014 Annual Conference elected Teri Watanabe as the new District Lay Leader. Our past District
8 Lay Leader, David Armstrong, moved to Idaho. Teri brings a deep grounding in the Holy Spirit, new
9 perspectives and faithful leadership in her first year. She is slowly getting to know the churches and the
10 people in our district.

11
12 Crater Lake District has had two mergers in 2014-15. Harrisburg and Halsey voted to merge on October
13 12, 2014. Their new name is Spirit of the Valley United Methodist Church in Halsey. North Bend and
14 Coos Bay United Methodist Churches voted to merge on January 11, 2015. Their new name is Harmony
15 United Methodist Church.

16
17 Trinity United Methodist Church in Eugene became the fifth church in our district that has gone through
18 a Consultation Weekend. We had a Congregational Leadership Development training in the southern part
19 of our district for Ashland and Sutherlin, with some Roseburg leaders participating.

20
21 The Myrtle Creek United Methodist Church is partnering with Tau Moli in starting a Samoan Fellowship
22 in Medford. They worship Sunday afternoons at the Medford United Methodist Chapel.

23
24 If we had a way to count all the people our churches touch through hunger ministries, homeless shelters,
25 mission trips and projects, community dinners, recovery programs, trunk or treat, volunteering, building
26 homes, we would be able to see our church and district as Christ's feet and hands in the community. We
27 are growing in our witness and service in acts of service. The challenge we have is to truly connect and
28 build relationships so that "they" become "we" and our congregations include the people who eat on a
29 weekday or pick up food at the food bank or attend a recovery group in our building. Then we became
30 more than a Sunday morning congregation, we become "everyday" congregations. I believe this will
31 change our story, if we begin to tell this story.

Sage District

Kim Fields, District Superintendent

32
33
34
35
36 The preacher Ecclesiastes once stated, "There is a time and a season for everything." He then went on
37 to speak of beginnings and endings, saying, "There is a time to be born and a time to die." Ecclesiastes
38 could have been writing about the Sage District. For this has been a year of beginnings and endings, of
39 births and of deaths, in the Sage District.

40
41 Amity UMC has been going through a rebirth as a part of the Cathedral of the Rockies. Worship
42 attendance is up over 150 and they just completed the new sanctuary they have been dreaming of and
43 planning for over 30 years. Yet, at the same time the Jordan Valley Church voted to close its doors and
44 sell its facility after celebrating 140 years of faithful ministry. Whitney experienced a bit of a death and
45 a rebirth all at the same time as they voted to tear down their old sanctuary to make room for something
46 new. Sadly, there were no ordinations at Annual Conference this past year, but new pastoral life is
47 springing up in the form of gifted Certified Lay Ministers who are faithfully and effectively serving many
48 of our smaller churches. It is hard when we have to say goodbye, to churches or facilities or ways of
49 being the church, but God has a way of birthing something new to take the place of the old. That is just
50 the way that the church, and life itself, works. At least that is what God seems to be doing in the Sage
51 District

52
53 Of course many other things are happening in the Sage District. Messy Church has brought new life to
54 the NEO cooperative. The Northwest Leadership Institute, featuring Tony Campolo, called over 200 of

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1 us to “be the church.” Four churches in the Upper Snake River colloquy completed the Congregational
2 Leadership Development curriculum, which means that the majority of churches in each of the four
3 colloquies have now been through it. Finally, in 2014 our apportionment payments exceeded what we
4 were able to give in 2013 both in absolute numbers and percentage. This coupled with improved giving
5 from all of our districts enabled us to pay our conference apportionments to the General Church in full.
6 This is a tremendous accomplishment. What is more, through the first quarter of this year our giving is
7 up an additional 2.5%, which in my mind is a very hopeful sign.

8
9 Yes, there are signs from God all around us. There are signs of life and of death, beginnings and endings,
10 and that is OK. After all, God created the world to be that way, and when God looked upon the creation
11 God said it was good.
12
13

14 Universities and Seminaries

15 **Africa University**

16 **James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement**

17 Africa University gratefully celebrates the Oregon Idaho Conference’s investment in the Africa University
18 Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2014. The Oregon Idaho Conference was one of 31 annual conferences—the
19 highest number to date—to invest 100% of their asking in the AUF. Thank you for your growing investment
20 in nurturing new disciples and sending them forth to transform the continent of Africa and the world.
21

22
23 **Student Enrollment:** Full-time student enrollment at Africa University held steady in 2014 with 1,478
24 young men and women from 25 African countries. Female students were a record 53.4% of the total
25 enrollment—an achievement that is worth highlighting in a context where women consistently lag behind
26 men in access to higher education.
27

28 **Graduation:** In June 2014, 480 young people were awarded degrees from Africa University at the 20th
29 graduation ceremony, bringing to total number of alumni to more than 5,300. Without your support, a
30 college education would have been unattainable for the majority of these students.
31

32 **Academic Programs:** Africa University is a sought-after as a partner in addressing social challenges
33 in sub-Saharan Africa. A collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden supports a new
34 master’s degree program in Human Rights, Peace, and Development. Africa University is also preparing
35 to launch its first PhD program, which links issues of Peace, Leadership, Governance, and Development,
36 and targets policymakers.
37

38 **Leadership and Service:** Africa University graduates are answering the call to serve, heal, and uplift
39 communities. Currently, more than a dozen graduates are helping communities to experience God’s love
40 through service as Global Mission Fellows and missionaries in Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Others
41 contribute as leaders of new institutions and initiatives, and as directors of United Methodist agencies.
42

43 In Africa University, the Oregon-Idaho Conference has helped to start a good work, but that work is not
44 yet finished. For every individual who has been touched by the ministry that is Africa University, there are
45 many others—tens of thousands, in fact—who are awaiting the miracle of an answered prayer.
46

47 **As you gather for the 2015 annual conference, we invite you to make 100% support for the Africa**
48 **University Fund, and other shared ministries, an Oregon-Idaho Conference tradition.**
49

50 Africa University is counting on your prayerful support as it continues to contribute to, and on behalf of,
51 our global church. We pray that your investment will remain strong and that through your faithfulness,
52 others will experience God’s light and hope in their lives. Thank you, Oregon-Idaho United Methodists,
53 for what you have already done and for what you will do in the future. May God bless and keep you always
54 in abundance.

Candler School of Theology

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

For 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 Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Here, students are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus. This unique approach ensures that our graduates are ready to serve wherever God leads.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. We are one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in the city of Atlanta offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, Candler celebrated its Centennial, marking our 100th anniversary with a series of commemorative events highlighting memories of the past and visions for the future. The yearlong celebration began in the fall of 2014 with the dedication of the final phase of our new LEED-certified building and the premiere of *Religion and Reason Joined: Candler at 100*, a new book on our history. The commemoration continued through the spring of 2015 with guest lectures, exhibits, and “Prophetic Voices,” a major academic conference addressing the challenges and opportunities facing theology in the 21st century.

Not only has Candler expanded its physical space this year—we have expanded degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler introduced five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Religious Leadership, the Master of Religion and Public Life, and two dual degrees with social work and development practice.

Candler’s student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 447, with 320 seeking the Master of Divinity, 43 the Master of Theological Studies, 14 the Master of Religious Life, 20 the Master of Theology, 29 the Doctor of Ministry, 10 the Doctor of Theology, and 11 enrolled as Non-Degree students. The student body is 52 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and the median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 42 denominations, with nearly half identifying as United Methodist.

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 in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

Claremont School of Theology

A YEAR OF ENGAGEMENT

The last year has seen a rise in the number of United Methodist students attending Claremont School of Theology (CST). The increase from 47 to 62 students represents a 32% increase from the previous year. But the numbers only begin to tell the story of CST’s engagement of The United Methodist Church over the last year.

CST’s commitment to engaging the life of the Church is embodied in its President, Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan. He models an approach that the best way for the seminary to be responsive to the needs of the Church is to be present within it. President Kuan spends most Sundays visiting congregations outside of Claremont

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1 - frequently as a guest preacher. Last summer, President Kuan participated in five Annual Conference
2 gatherings within the Western Jurisdiction, which he intends to repeat in 2015. He has also presented at
3 church conferences, including a lecture on leadership for the **United Methodist Asian American and**
4 **Pacific Islander Clergywomen Conference**, hosted by CST in October 2014.

5
6 This has been a productive year for the **Center for Global Methodism (CGM)**, which serves the
7 Methodist community at CST. Two small groups composed of United Methodists students have met
8 throughout the academic year: a vocational discernment group; and a commissioning support group.
9 CGM has also sponsored several opportunities throughout the year for United Methodist students to be
10 formed by opportunities to meet and engage with Church leaders on multiple levels.

11
12 United Methodist speakers of national and international renown were also welcomed to the CST campus
13 over the last year. CGM co-sponsored a set of lectures by Prof. Joerg Rieger, Wendland Cook Professor
14 of Constructive Theology at the Perkins School of Theology. And in March 2015, CST welcomed Rev.
15 Adam Hamilton, Founding Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS to deliver the
16 **Wallace Chappell Lectures**.

17
18 In January 2015, the **Young Clergy Initiative** was launched in partnership with Cal-Pac. Bishop
19 Minerva G. Carcaño appointed the Rev. Allison Mark to assume leadership of the program, which is
20 housed on the CST campus. The initiative aims to foster a “culture of call” amongst the congregations
21 that make up Cal-Pac. In addition to providing office space, CST provides faculty and administrative
22 support to the program. The YCI addresses the need for future generations of clergy to provide
23 leadership and spiritual guidance capable of sustaining the Church’s global mission.

24
25 In November, CST and Cal-Pac launched a new podcast called “**The Branches,**” that focuses on the
26 challenges of Christian life in the 21st century. The first episodes featured interviews with Bishop
27 Minerva G. Carcaño and CST President Jeffrey Kuan during the Advent season. The two leaders were
28 invited to reflect on their memories of Advent and Christmas from their early years in ministry and their
29 present practice in a season of giving.

30
31 On July 11, 2014 Bishop Carcaño joined the Episcopal Bishop of Los Angeles in calling for a **Weekend**
32 **of Compassion for Unaccompanied Migrant Children**. CST responded, marshaling its academic and
33 pastoral resources to produce accessible information to assist congregations in their efforts to educate
34 their parishioners. In a series of essays and videos, CST faculty and alumni/ae offered historical,
35 scriptural, theological and pastoral context to the situation.

36
37 The year ahead promises to be full of impactful ministry for CST, as its online-hybrid MDiv program
38 enters its second year and the Young Clergy Initiative takes shape. Stay connected to life at CST by
39 visiting cst.edu or following CST on social media on Facebook and on Twitter @CST_News.

42 **Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary** 43 **Lallene J. Rector, President**

44 Greetings from Garrett-Evangelical!

45
46 Early in the calendar year, I met with various constituencies of Garrett-Evangelical Theological
47 Seminary, including alums, faculty, staff, trustees, and students regarding their hopes and concerns for the
48 school. As a result, we began the 2014-2015 academic year with the following priorities:

- 49 • To prepare and equip our graduates as public theologians,
 - 50 • To nurture a more diverse community at Garrett-Evangelical so that the entire community
51 develops cultural competency,
 - 52 • To value and promote inclusivity at Garrett-Evangelical, and
 - 53 • To construct a sustainable model for theological education.
- 54

34 Pre-Conference Reports

1 **Public Theology**

2 This year we launched a Public Theology Lecture Series to help the Garrett-Evangelical community
3 understand more about the intersection of theological perspectives and shared values held in the public
4 arena as persons in ministry work with others toward the common good and the wellbeing of all persons
5 and creation.
6

7 In the fall, we will offer a course, “Public Theology in the City,” taught by Dr. David Frenchak, former
8 president of Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE). The class will collaborate
9 with the mayor’s office in Evanston on an anti-violence initiative. Dr. Frenchak will also provide a Public
10 Theology lecture this spring.
11

12 **Cultural Competency & Inclusivity**

13 As part of the commitment to nurturing a more diverse community, we welcomed a new Vice President
14 for Academic Affairs, Dr. Luis R. Rivera, our first Latino Academic Dean. Our current ethnic/racial
15 profile is:

- 16 • 20% black; 6% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino; and 54% White; 14% International
- 17 • More than 33 religious traditions, four continents, 15 countries and 36 states are
18 represented in the student body
- 19 • 232 students are United Methodist with 25 additional students from other Pan-Methodist
20 denominations
- 21 • 94 new students began their studies at Garrett-Evangelical this fall, raising total fall
22 enrollment to 365 (FTE of 305)
- 23 • The average age of the entering Master of Divinity student is 31
- 24 • 52% of the study body is women
25

26 Consistent attention to issues of inclusivity, justice, and grace within the seminary setting are critical for
27 preparing future leaders to enter an increasingly diverse world. To respond to these concerns, Garrett-
28 Evangelical will offer a number of Circle of Trust conversations this spring for trustees, faculty, staff, and
29 students. Our goals are: 1) to provide safe space to discuss difficult topics, 2) to reduce any gap between
30 stated values and actual behavior, both personally for participants and institutionally; and 3) to update our
31 1997 statements of inclusivity.
32

33 Our priority continues to be making seminary education affordable. To this end we award more than
34 \$2.5 million in scholarship aid to students each year and we lead all United Methodist seminaries in the
35 Dollars for Scholars program with 45 recipients. In October, the seminary publicly launched The Final
36 Lap of its \$100 million Forging Our Future campaign, and announced that \$88 million has been received
37 to date. Much has already been accomplished, but more remains to be done (expanding the number of
38 new leadership scholarships from 80 to 100, renovating Sherman apartments, endowing several more
39 faculty positions, continuing to grow the unrestricted endowment), gifts for any of these goals are always
40 welcome.
41

42 Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We are dedicated to serving The United Methodist
43 Church and the church at large. For more information about Garrett-Evangelical and our work, I
44 encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus.
45

46 **About Us**

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

- 48 • Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853
49 by largely the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- 50 • Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry
51 and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged
52 with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.

35 Pre-Conference Reports

- 1 • Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the
2 Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett
3 Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.
4
5

6 **Iliff School Of Theology**

7 **Thomas V. Wolfe, President and Chief Executive Officer**

8 Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we
9 continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

10
11 The Iliff School of Theology's commitment to the Wesleyan tradition of providing intellectually alive and
12 spiritually grounded theological education for our students continues. From Tanzania to Texas, Denver to
13 Delhi, Missouri to Mexico, Iliff students and graduates are holding constructive tension with the human
14 condition as it is and courageously standing with those who seek justice.
15

16 This past year saw one of Iliff's largest enrollments since its founding by the United Methodist Church
17 in 1892 - 333 students, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist – all actively engaged in both the
18 classroom and a host of ministry contexts. Some are leading congregations toward revitalization while
19 others are doing ministry by establishing new forms of community.
20

21 Interest in online and hybrid classes continues to grow from across the nation in our Journey MDIV
22 Program - one of the first to bring quality theological education online. As a concerted move by Iliff
23 to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities,
24 many MDIV students are also participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program,
25 funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.
26

27 We welcomed participants to our first Spanish-Speaking Local Pastors Licensing School hosted in
28 partnership with the Rocky Mountain Conference and participated in healing events for commemoration
29 of the Sand Creek Massacre. In addition, Iliff students participated in an immersion trip to Africa
30 University and are planning an additional experience this year. We look forward to continuing these vital
31 relationships.
32

33 Iliff created numerous events for area clergy and supporters. Via forums on leadership, policing, the role
34 of faith in world events, and more, campus speakers included: Amy Goodman, Garry Kasparov, and the
35 Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp, this year's Jameson Jones Preacher. Bridging theological education to new
36 arenas was further cultivated through Iliff's Authentic Engagement™ Program with trainings for civic
37 and non-profit groups. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary's Center for
38 Faith and Service when we were named as one of the nation's "Seminaries That Change the World."
39

40 We continue to look to the future with courageous theological imagination. We are grateful for our
41 denominational connection.
42

43 www.iliff.edu

44 1-877-887-7822
45
46

47 **Rust College of Holly Springs, Mississippi**

48 **David L. Beckley, President**

49 Established in 1866 by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Church on a former slave auction
50 site, Rust College reached another milestone in the 2014-2015 academic year – the 149th Anniversary of
51 its founding. This achievement in and of itself is one that alumni, students, faculty, staff, and supporters
52 from every arena can be particularly proud. Rust is the oldest one of 11 Historically Black Colleges and
53 Universities established after the Civil War by the Methodist Church still in existence today serving more
54 than 1,000 students annually from Mississippi 27 states and several foreign countries. Rust's Mission

36 Pre-Conference Reports

1 continues to be in tune with the church's overall philosophy – *doing no harm, doing good and staying in*
2 *love with Jesus Christ* as we serve the young people who look to Rust as their bridge to a better tomorrow
3 through education.

5 **Highlights for 2014-2015 year include:**

- 6 • Dr. Gemma Beckley, Chair and Professor of Social Work, has been awarded a Fulbright
7 Scholar Grant to do research in India during the 2015-2016 academic year. Dr. Beckley is the
8 first Fulbright awardee in Rust College history.
- 9 • The University Senate Team of the United Methodist Church stated in their exit review that
10 Rust College is in full compliance and will be presented to the Senate at their Spring Meeting
11 for a final decision on the continued listing of the College as a United Methodist related
12 institution.
- 13 • Rust College was named 2nd of the top15 least expensive schools to receive a degree, with an
14 average cost of \$18,584 over a 4½ year period for students to graduate.
- 15 • On June 19, 2014 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-Commission on Colleges
16 reaffirmed Rust College's accreditation for another 10 years with no required follow-up, which
17 is a major milestone for the College.
- 18 • The Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation reaffirmed the
19 Baccalaureate Social Work Program for Rust College for eight years.
- 20 • As a part of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Rust
21 College junior, Larance Carter, from Vicksburg, Mississippi was one of five students from the
22 State of Mississippi recognized as an HBCU All-Star.
- 23 • Rust College received recognition from President Barack Obama for its participation in the
24 President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge Inaugural Report prepared
25 by the U. S. Department of Education. The institution was acknowledged for its efforts in
26 "creating a safe space for interfaith dialogue."
- 27 • Rust College students won first place at the Southern Conference on African-American
28 Studies Quiz Bowl at Alabama State University on February 6, 2015. The Quiz Bowl team's
29 knowledge of African-American history and culture allowed them to beat the other competing
30 universities.
- 31 • Our frugal fiscal practices continue to keep us financially sound. For the last 48 years, Rust
32 College has had a policy of only building "debt-free" non-income producing building. As a
33 result of this policy, Rust has long term debts less than \$1.5 million related to residential hall
34 construction and renovations in 1990.

35
36 As you, our friends of the United Methodist Church, continue to uphold your promise of educational
37 opportunity established many years ago, we, the members of the Rust College family, will uphold the
38 promise made by our founder, Rev. A. C. McDonald in 1866, "*to do not hothouse work*" but will work
39 to build men and women morally, spiritually and academically sound. We are thankful to you for your
40 prayers and financial support. Without it we would not have been able to sustain quality academic
41 programs or offer scholarship assistance to needy students. Again, thank you for your commitment to
42 "our" legacy established 149 years ago. Your continued support is essential as we endeavor to build a
43 stronger legacy for this generation and those in years to come who will look to Rust and our great church
44 for higher educational opportunities.

45
46 The College expresses thanks for the dedication and leadership of the following Trustee, Bishop Grant J.
47 Hagiya, of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
48
49
50

1 **United Theological Seminary**
2 **Wendy J. Deichmann, President**

3 Is God calling you to the ministry of Jesus Christ? Come and check out amazing opportunities for study
4 and spiritual growth in person or online at www.united.edu!

5
6 Why United?

- 7 • United offers an excellent, accredited M.Div. degree required for ordination in The United
8 Methodist Church.
- 9 • United students participate in a community of deep faith and avid learning.
- 10 • Degree programs include traditional and/or online classes.
- 11 • United specializes in preparing persons for ordination and pastoral ministry.
- 12 • Join our graduates' long track record of successful service!
- 13 • United's focus on church renewal will prepare you to become an agent of new life and
14 revitalization, Spirit led, a faithful leader in the mission of Jesus Christ!
- 15 • At United you can enroll in a hybrid UM Course of Study program.
- 16 • United's D.Min. program leads the nation through the faithful ministries of its pastoral
17 graduates.
- 18 • United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual
19 formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus
20 Christ in the world.

21 What could be more interesting, important or exciting?

22
23 In addition to expanding residential offerings in Dayton, Ohio, United continues to extend its service
24 across the U.S. and the world. United's degree programs are accessible anywhere with Internet service in
25 conjunction with periodic intensive weeks of class and community activities in Dayton.

26
27 Please let us know if you have questions about how United can best assist you. If you would like to help
28 make it possible for a future pastor to study at United, please let us hear from you. We invite you to call
29 or visit soon! For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu. Thank you for your prayers,
30 partnership, service and support in the ministry of Jesus Christ! www.united.edu

31
32
33 **Wesley Theological Seminary**
34 **David McAllister-Wilson, President**

35
36 At Wesley, we are a church-based seminary committed to **multiplying the number of people who love**
37 **God and love their neighbor** locally, nationally and globally. Our degrees and programs – traditional
38 and new alike – reflect our dedication to the Great Commandment and Great Commission. We ask you to
39 pray for us, hold us accountable, and join us in this Kingdom work.

40
41 *Equipping Faith Leaders through Degree Programs*

42 In fall 2015, our new master of divinity curriculum launches. We thoroughly **redesigned the M.Div. to**
43 **prepare leaders for both church and society**. This 81-hour degree offers flexibility and an excellent
44 core curriculum focused on empowering passionate, mission-focused leaders.

45
46 Wesley also offers a 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to **equip those**
47 **called to ordained deacon ministries or a wide range of ministries**.

48
49 In our doctor of ministry program, we continue to offer **the most practical and spiritually renewing**
50 **tracks** in theological education. These include leadership excellence, pastoral counseling, arts, and new

38 Pre-Conference Reports

1 mission-focused tracks. Wesley is accepting applications to two tracks based in Cambridge, England.
2 These tracks, *Transformative Leadership in Wesleyan Perspective* and *Creative Ministry for Church*
3 *Renewal in a Changing World*, are each limited to 20 students.

4
5 Wesley provides **more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships** to our students thanks to the
6 consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary.

7
8 *Talk to someone at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley's degree*
9 *programs equip people to lead others to loving God and neighbor.*

10 ***Providing Resources to Faith Communities and Leaders***

11 Wesley's **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be the go-to resource for actionable best-
12 practices for clergy and laity. The center's free *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter provides well-researched,
13 discipleship-growing ideas to more than 15,000 people. Visit www.churchleadership.com for resources
14 in: Taking Church to the Community, Doing Good Well, Funding Your Congregation's Vision, and
15 Reaching New Disciples. Also, learn about the newest book by the Rev. Tom Berlin and the Rev. Dr.
16 Lovett Weems Jr., *High Yield: Seven Disciplines of the Fruitful Leader*.

17
18
19 In early 2015, we developed the **Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown** to help
20 the church turn itself inside-out. The institute encompasses the existing Urban Ministry Program and the
21 Missional Church Program, which includes Heal the Sick, an initiative to congregations for public health
22 work in their parishes.

23
24 The third component of the Institute for Community Engagement is Wesley's emerging **Center for**
25 **Public Theology**. Under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology, Mike McCurry,
26 we are developing this center to provide churches and their leaders, and seminary students tools to help
27 navigate the connection between faith and public policy.

28
29 The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and
30 theology. The center celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Dadian Gallery in late 2014.

31
32 Wesley faculty members are continually developing resources to the faithful, including books by **Drs.**
33 **Carl Works, Deborah Sokolove, F. Douglas Powe Jr., Cedric Johnson, and Lovett H. Weems Jr.**

34
35 Throughout the academic year, Wesley hosts Second Mondays--a series of lectures on campus and
36 streaming live. This year we explored "Living Matthew 25--Focusing on the Big Things." In this
37 chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and welcome the
38 stranger. In their lectures, **Wesley's faculty unlocked the Holy Scriptures and the church's history,**
39 **traditions, and theology to clarify these Gospel imperatives.** These presentations are available
40 at www.youtube.com/c/wesleyseminaryedu and via live stream at [www.ustream.tv/channel/wesley-](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/wesley-seminary)
41 [seminary](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/wesley-seminary). Sign up for the monthly electronic newsletter *eCalling* at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling to
42 be reminded of this opportunity.

43
44 *Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu about the exciting ways Wesley's resources are equipping people*
45 *to spread the love of God and love of neighbor.*