



Pre-Conference Reports

For the 50th Session of the
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

June 13 - 16, 2018

The Riverside Hotel
Boise, Idaho



Oregon-Idaho Conference
The United Methodist Church

Pre-Conference Reports

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

Conference Boards and Agencies Related to Program and Mission:

- [Camp & Retreat Ministries](#) 2
- [Committee on Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Relationships](#) 3
- [Communications](#) 3
- [Global Ministries/Outreach](#) 4
- [Hispanic Ministries Council](#) 5
- [Holy Land Task Force](#) 6
- [Board of Lay Ministry](#) 7
- [Ministry Leadership Team](#) 7
- [Mission & Ministry](#) 8
- [Native American Ministries \(CONAM\)](#) 9
- [Peace with Justice/Church & Society](#) 10
- [Religion & Race](#) 11
- [United Methodist Volunteers in Mission \(UMVIM\)](#) 12
- [United Methodist Women](#) 13
- [Youth Ministry Team](#) 13

Conference Boards and Agencies Related to Finance & Administration

- [Archives & History](#) 14
- [Episcopacy](#) 15
- [Equitable Compensation](#) 15
- [Finance & Administration \(CF&A\)](#) 16
- [CF&A Annual Recommendations](#) 18
- [Ordained Ministry \(BOM\)](#) 18
- [Pensions & Health Benefits](#) 19
- [Pensions: Clergy Housing Allowance Addendum](#) 23
- [Rules](#) 25
- [Safe Sanctuaries Team](#) 25
- [Statistician](#) 26
- [Trustees](#) 27
- [United Methodist Ministers' Retirement Fund](#) 28

Districts, General Agencies, and Educational Institutions:

- [Cascadia District](#) 29
- [Columbia District](#) 30
- [Crater Lake District](#) 31
- [Sage District](#) 31
- [General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](#) 32
- [Africa University](#) 33
- [Boston University School of Theology](#) 34
- [Candler School of Theology](#) 35
- [Claremont School of Theology](#) 36
- [United Theological Seminary](#) 38

1 **2018 Pre-Conference Reports**
2 **Boards & Agencies of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**
3 **The United Methodist Church**

4
5 **Boards & Agencies Related to Program & Mission**
6

7 **Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries**
8 **David Armstrong, Chair**
9

10 Dave Hargreaves retired.

11 That's my pre-conference report. ☺
12
13

14 But could there be bigger news? After 46 years as the director at Sawtooth Camp, Dave decided it was
15 time to do something different during his summers. His contributions to Sawtooth and to Camp & Retreat
16 Ministry (CRM) cannot be overstated. This camp in the far reaches of Idaho has grown tremendously
17 under his leadership, changing with the times yet retaining that isolated and rustic feeling that campers
18 there so look forward to. He will be greatly missed.
19

20 Stepping into the director's cabin is Robert Poe, an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene and
21 resident hall director at Northwest Nazarene University. Robert has both worked and participated at
22 Sawtooth and brings a wealth of experience working with youth and young adults. Please join me in
23 welcoming Robert to the CRM family.
24

25 Todd Bartlett has now settled into the executive director's position and is doing great things both in the
26 conference office and at the camp sites. He's worked very hard on a much-needed standardization of our
27 financial accounting system, and the site directors now have both better software to work with and much
28 more guidance in creating and submitting information to the conference office. We ended 2017 in the
29 black; it continues to amaze me that we can offer such high-quality camping experiences at affordable
30 prices all while being fiscally responsible.
31

32 Todd has also spent much time this year on training and leadership development, both with the site
33 directors and with the conference office staff. Geneva Cook, who spent a number of years as registrar,
34 is now our camp accountant and growing into the job quickly. Holly Dolan has moved into the registrar
35 position and is doing great, with Geneva to show her the ropes. Todd has gathered a great crew and they
36 will all help provide the great service that CRM is known for.
37

38 We're especially excited this year to be returning to the Nez Perce tribe a piece of land we own at
39 Wallowa Lake Camp. It's river bottom land that was never going to be useful to the camp but holds much
40 sacred worth for the Nez Perce. Many thanks to all who helped make this possible, including Bishop
41 Elaine Stanovsky. Look for a recognition at annual conference!
42

43 Overall, it's been a year of settling back in to what we do best after a tumultuous 2016-17. As we've been
44 for decades:
45

46 **We are people dedicated to creating quality environments of Christian hospitality and learning.**
47

48 And we nurture persons, so they may...

- 49 • **Grow in wisdom and in healthy self-esteem.**
- 50 • **Develop lifestyles of loving interdependence with each other and all of creation.**
- 51 • **Affirm and expand their faith in God and their service as Christian disciples within God's**
52 **world.**

53 With God's help and yours, Camp and Retreat Ministries will continue to offer God's beautiful creation
54 to all.

3 Pre-Conference Reports

Committee on Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Relationships

Barbara Nixon, Coordinator

As much as my heart is in this work, for the last few years it has not been possible to organize a team with any clear and meaningful avenues for action and impact at the conference level. I continue to initiate much interfaith sharing and work for justice at the local level and I am happy to be called upon to discuss/consult about such efforts across the conference.

Communications

Greg Nelson, Director of Communications

To connect and inspire are the key roles of conference communication. This is most obvious in the weekly email blast, *UM Connector*. And that publication is connected to the conference website, district offices, local churches sharing news, and opportunities and information from across the global United Methodist connection.

Connection happens when we learn about how the church is working in the world. Connection also happens as we learn of the struggle within our denomination to find unity while holding differing positions on inclusion of LGBTQ people in our pews and in leadership of our church. Now more than ever we need to be aware of what is happening in our church and our world. And we need to use the values of the church to shape the world.

Inspiration happens when we learn of the ideas others have implemented in their context, and build on them to help find ministry in our own context. While a program, idea, or message may not transfer directly from one community to another, they can be a catalyst for innovation and vitalization locally.

To help expand our story telling capacity, the 2018 budget provided for a half-time communications associate. The hiring of Kristen Caldwell has added new content to the website and social media feeds and helped new voices be heard across the conference. This additional staffing has also allowed for more support by communications staff for conference program teams, district events, and conference events.

Communication coordination across the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area and Western Jurisdiction continue to grow with regular coordination between communication teams in other conferences. Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest conferences work to coordinate key messages and promote events across conference lines. Western Jurisdiction Communicators meet regularly via teleconference to coordinate work and support each other. Together they support the jurisdictional website and committees.

The Director of Communications oversees the web site, annual conference session technology, public relations and crisis communications, weekly *UM Connector*, serves on the Ministry Leadership Team and program directors group, and provides communication support for conference groups and committees.

The Greater Northwest Area website (greaternw.org) is managed cooperatively by the directors of communication from the Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho Conferences.

The conference website (umoi.org) is a resource to churches and church leaders and a connection point for information about our conference and churches. Website traffic holds steady with over 48,000 visits and 147,000 page views in the past year. Social media continues to be a growing area of connection. Facebook “likes” have increased again over the last year. Follow the conference Facebook page to get up-to-date news, announcements, and inspiration.

Over 650,000 emails have been sent to local churches and conference leaders in the last year. Using email as a primary communication method has greatly reduced costs and increased the number of people reached with news, resources, updates, and invitations. It is critical that clergy and conference leaders keep the conference up-to-date about email addresses. Updates should be sent to district offices.

Connect to the conference via these online links:

4 Pre-Conference Reports

- 1 ~ Conference Website: www.umoi.org.
- 2 ~ Episcopal Area Website: www.greaternw.org.
- 3 ~ Facebook: www.facebook.com/UMOrId.
- 4 ~ Twitter: @UMOI

Board of Global Ministries/Outreach Jim Frisbie, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

10 Our Global Ministries Team is continuing to expand and deepen its ministry with and through the
11 local churches of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. We continue to support local churches with
12 missionary itineration, connections for disaster response, opportunities for mission and ministry, United
13 Methodist Volunteer in Mission teams, and our global connection through the General Board of Global
14 Ministries, which links us with fellow United Methodists around the world.

16 **Itineration**

17 We continue to see a steady stream of itinerating missionaries visiting churches and church groups. Roz
18 Collins is our Itineration Coordinator and a valuable link with the work of United Methodist Women.

20 **Global Health Initiative**

21 In June 2017 the Oregon-Idaho Conference adopted an action request to establish an Abundant Health
22 Task Force to lead, inform, and guide the work of the conference and to encourage local churches to
23 participate in the United Methodist Church Abundant Health Initiative. All churches in Oregon and
24 Idaho are invited to participate in this Abundant Health initiative by engaging their congregation and
25 community in health-enhancing ministries through: physical activity, healthy diet and nutrition, tobacco
26 and drug-free living, and/or mental health education and promotion.

28 In the past year, a work team has been gathered to plan and implement our conference program. We've
29 garnered funding for a part-time field coordinator, who begins July 1, 2018. Recently, the team has been
30 gathering information from our local churches about current Abundant Health-related ministries. In addition,
31 a pilot program entitled *Cultivating Mental Health Awareness and Resiliency in Faith Communities* is
32 being developed in the SW Portland metro area with hopes that it can be a model for other communities.

34 **UMVIM/ERT**

35 Becky Platt continues to expand and develop effective systems of training and deployment for Early
36 Response Teams (ERT). She has led, or helped lead, six Early Response classes in the past year and two
37 more are coming up, including a disaster preparedness session for laity at Annual Conference.

39 Louise Kienzle is our new UMVIM Coordinator, and brings active field experience to this role. Please
40 see the UMVIM Report for more on this vital work.

42 **Disaster Response**

43 Dan Moseler, our Disaster Response Coordinator, shares this update on his work:

44 "I attended the Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy in Ontario, CA, where I provided a presentation
45 on the Cascadia Subduction Zone threat to the Pacific Northwest. In preparation for this, I reviewed the
46 risks to churches and camps along the Oregon Coast, including a site visit to Camp Magruder to discuss
47 potential mitigation measures and operational consideration in the event of an earthquake and tsunami.

49 "I worked with my counterparts in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Conferences to obtain an UMCOR
50 grant to support purchase of three shower trailers to support disaster relief and recovery. A grant for
51 \$100,000 was awarded and the trailers were purchased and delivered in December. They are presently
52 being outfitted and evaluated to confirm operational and
53 maintenance procedures.

55 "I participated in numerous UMCOR conference calls in support of storm relief and recovery in the Gulf
56 Coast and Puerto Rico and attended UMCOR disaster response training at the Sager Brown UMCOR

5 Pre-Conference Reports

1 Depot. In this process, I worked with my counterparts to deploy three ERT teams from the Northwest
2 Episcopal Area to Texas, including the first Oregon-Idaho-led team in recent memory.”
3

4 **Connecting Neighbors**

5 The Connecting Neighbors program is a specific process whereby a congregation can engage in study,
6 planning, and implementation of ways that they as a church can respond to the emerging needs in a
7 community. The Lake Oswego United Methodist Church has taken the lead on this under the leadership
8 of Sally Blanchard and can provide a model for other congregations to get involved.
9

10 Lowell Greathouse continues to be a valuable link for our team with both Hispanic Ministries and his role
11 as Mission and Ministry Coordinator.
12

13 Our Global Ministries Team believes that participation in missions is a key element in the growth and
14 vitality of each local church. We are committed to provide opportunities for all who share a heart for the
15 world to get involved in meaningful ways.
16
17

18 **Hispanic Ministries Council** 19 **Jorge Rodriguez Flores, Coordinator**

20 **Hillsboro--Las Naciones**

21 The weekly worship services involve 15 to 20 individuals. The various community ministries that are
22 a part of Las Naciones have included ESL classes, a parenting program called the Family Leadership
23 Initiative, and a Muffin ministry connected with the elementary school located across the street. Over 70
24 people have been involved in these projects and there are 6 regular volunteers involved as well.
25
26

27 While the original vision here was to plant a new church in Washington County, it is clear that Jorge
28 Rodriguez' community organizing skills have helped this ministry gain broad recognition throughout the
29 community. As a faith community, Las Naciones in Hillsboro has dedicated its attention to developing
30 various community outreach projects.

31 These projects are focused in four areas:

- 32 (1) advocacy and justice,
- 33 (2) social services,
- 34 (3) multi-cultural connections and relationships with Hillsboro UMC, and
- 35 (4) new church development.

36
37 Las Naciones holds regular Sunday worship services and weekly Bible studies.
38

39 **Wilder (Idaho) Hispanic Ministry**

40 The attendance at worship in the Wilder congregation dropped from over 60 adults, youth, and children
41 to as few as 30 during the past year. Things have since stabilized at around 40-50 adults, youth, and
42 children, while financial giving has continued to be consistent. The focus during this time has been
43 to provide lay leadership training, church organizational support, and training for someone to attend
44 Licensing School for Local Pastors.
45

46 The vision at Wilder is to continue to provide a strong United Methodist presence in this community,
47 following ten years of pastoral leadership by Rev. Jorge Rodriguez. We want to be able to create a
48 model for replication that can expand our Hispanic Ministry in Oregon-Idaho while also maintaining the
49 ministries we've created, which means being able to work through transitions in locations where we have
50 created an Hispanic ministry. Alejandro Bravo has done excellent work at Wilder, but it has been difficult
51 to manage this ministry given his other full-time work and the need to have a credentialed pastor here
52 to provide a sense of pastoral authority within the congregation. We are working to look for a full-time
53 pastor who can continue with the work done the last 10 years.
54
55
56

6 Pre-Conference Reports

1 Salem--Las Naciones at Open Door Churches

2 In addition to having as many as 40 involved in Sunday worship, there are 7-10 families participating in
3 the twice-a-month community dinner, 2 food sharing partners, 12 in citizenship classes, 10 in parenting
4 classes, and 30 involved in immigration forums.

5
6 The strategic objective for this project is to establish one or more worshipping faith communities in the
7 Greater Salem Area. This work has developed in significant ways during the past year. There is now
8 a regular worshipping community based at the former Jason Lee UMC. However, the Anglo church
9 at Jason Lee UMC closed last year and deeded the property to the Las Naciones Hispanic Ministry.
10 Las Naciones is now in the process of chartering as a congregation, so that they can take on this
11 responsibility. They have also developed a number of community partnerships with building users and
12 others related to education, culture, and social services. They currently are holding a membership class
13 of 6 leaders, who will serve as the nucleus for this growing fellowship. Being a part of the Open Door
14 Churches (a cooperative parish involving five other Salem churches), Las Naciones is looking at new
15 sites in which to expand, due to the growth of the program.

18 Holy Land Task Force 19 Dee Poujade, Chair

20
21 The Holy Land Task Force was created at Annual Conference 2013. Current Task Force members are Dee
22 Poujade, chair, Rev. Alex Awad, Betty Cobb, Rev. Janine DeLaunay, Babs Eggleston, Liz Jacob, Karen
23 McAlister, Jan Nelson, and Claudia Roberts. Rev. Lowell Greathouse serves as advisor; Greg Nelson is a
24 consultant.

25
26 The initial charge of the Task Force was to identify and study companies affecting the Palestinian people
27 in the Occupied Territory in harmful ways, and to develop information sheets on companies that conduct
28 their business in a manner harmful to Palestinians.

29
30 At Annual Conference 2014 the Task Force was given a further mandate to strongly encourage churches,
31 ministry settings and/or districts to provide a study based on “Kairos Response.”

32
33 In 2015, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference passed a resolution directing that the Annual Conference’s
34 financial bodies “...divest all Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference funds from stock held in Caterpillar,
35 Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett-Packard, and continue to exclude these companies from the Oregon-
36 Idaho Annual Conference investments until these companies end their involvement with the illegal
37 Israeli occupation of Palestine.” The Holy Land Task Force is proud to join the Council on Finance &
38 Administration in reporting that this task has now been completed. Task Force members have been told
39 that Wespath credits the activism of the OR-ID Annual Conference for its work in developing investment
40 funds that are free from these three companies, and these funds are now available to individuals who
41 have pensions through Wespath. For more information on this option, see [https://www.wespath.com/
42 pr20180407/](https://www.wespath.com/pr20180407/)

43
44 The Task Force and Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSa) co-sponsored three resolutions in
45 2016: Call to Civility, Middle East Conflicts, and Seeking Peace in the Holy Land. A 2017 resolution
46 introduced by the Task Force raised awareness of the “free speech” implications of proposed “Anti-BDS
47 Legislation” and led to a letter-writing campaign which generated positive responses from a number of
48 elected officials.

49
50 The Task Force coordinated and led an educational tour of the Holy Land in 2015, and is planning
51 another such tour for October, 2018. The Task Force continues to provide educational resources and
52 speakers to local churches and other venues as requested. *The Kairos Document* ([http://kairos-palestine.
53 ps/sites/default/files/English.pdf](http://kairos-palestine.org/sites/default/files/English.pdf)) is recommended as a “primer” for those wishing to learn more about
54 this issue.

55
56

7 Pre-Conference Reports

1 Task Force members are willing and eager to help coordinate educational programs on Palestine/Israel
2 in any way that is needed. Additionally, United Methodists for Kairos Response (www.kairosresponse.org)
3 a national group working to support an end to the illegal Occupation of Palestine is a recommended
4 resource. Up-to-date information and resources links can be found on the Task Force's web page at
5 www.umo.org/holyland.
6

7 We look forward to our continued work with the churches of the OR-ID Annual Conference in seeking
8 peace and justice in the Holy Land.
9

Board of Lay Ministry **Jan Nelson, Conference Lay Leader**

10
11
12
13
14 The Board of Lay Ministry continues to work to equip laity in the church to be disciples and leaders. The
15 Board had one in-person meeting and several meetings using Zoom, Oregon-Idaho's video-conferencing
16 platform. Jan attended the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders annual meeting in February,
17 where there was a lot of good networking and idea sharing between conferences across the US.
18

19 We continue to look for the best ways to connect members with training opportunities. Too often, training
20 for laity has focused exclusively on teaching people to lead worship, but there are many other ways
21 for lay people to lead. Lay Servant training should be the foundation for all kinds of leadership in the
22 church, but it has been difficult to connect people with classes at times and places that work for them.
23 We are developing a Basic Lay Servant training that can be offered through Zoom technology to anyone
24 with an internet connection, in addition to offering classes in more traditional formats. This format could
25 serve as a model for offering other training opportunities without geographic restrictions. We are also
26 in conversation with lay leaders in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska conferences for possibilities for
27 leadership development in the whole episcopal area.
28

29 We had positive feedback from the laity session at last year's shared annual conference, and there were
30 requests for some specific types of training for laity to use in local churches. This year we are following
31 up on that with workshops that address specific topics that were asked for on last year's feedback forms.
32 We also want to hear requests from laity for other types of training we might offer in the future.
33

34 We are always looking for new people to develop and use their leadership skills serving beyond the
35 local church. Your district and conference lay leaders would be happy to talk to anyone who feels they
36 have gifts to share in this way. We also encourage everyone to share through Facebook what exciting
37 ministries lay people are doing. You can find out what's going on by visiting our page "United Methodist
38 OR-ID Laity." Anyone can post in our group "OR-ID Laity Group." Let everyone know the good news of
39 what your church or group is doing!
40
41
42

Ministry Leadership Team Report

Submitted by the members of the Oregon-Idaho Ministry Leadership Team

43
44
45
46 The Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) is charged with the responsibility of providing on-going oversight
47 for the mission and ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference within the Greater Northwest
48 Area's vision and strategies. The most recent modification of the Conference Rules related to the MLT
49 occurred during annual conference in 2017.
50

51 In order to accomplish this goal in a holistic manner, the MLT includes a diverse group of clergy and
52 lay leaders from throughout the conference, who represent each district and include individuals who
53 serve in a variety of conference capacities. You can find the names of those who serve on the MLT in the
54 Conference Journal and on the umo.org website.
55

8 Pre-Conference Reports

1 A year ago, the MLT reasserted its role at the center of annual conference governance by: (1) analyzing
2 our AC structure and alignment within the context of the Greater NW Area, (2) discussing and outlining
3 strategic priorities that reflect our vision and mission as an annual conference (this includes equipping
4 local churches for ministry, providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, and supporting
5 the foundational structures and systems of the annual conference), (3) reviewing and overseeing annual
6 conference funds, and (4) funding proposals that reflect these priorities within our changing annual
7 conference context.

8
9 The MLT works to promote and support our shared ministries, so that together we may more effectively
10 make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

11 In this regard, the MLT:

- 12 • Works with CF&A to provide input and guidance to the budgeting process regarding annual
13 conference apportioned funds;
- 14 • Oversees the generous funding support the annual conference receives from The Collins
15 Foundation, giving input and direction to this annual grant writing process;
- 16 • Cooperates with the newly-reconstituted Congregational Development Team (CDT) to review
17 and approve new start and revitalization funding requests;
- 18 • Approves funding for Annual Conference initiatives. This past year the MLT approved funding
19 to support the AC initiative related to Abundant Health; the work of Hispanic ministry at Las
20 Naciones in Hillsboro, Oregon and the Hispanic ministry in Wilder, Idaho; a pilot project
21 related to furthering our connections with Black ministries and the Beloved Community;
22 the Transformational Leadership training program in partnership with the ELCA/Lutheran
23 Church; the Igniting Ministry grant for Open Door Churches in Salem, Oregon related to
24 communications/ministry branding; and made funds available for our AC Immigration Work
25 Team to attend a jurisdictional training on immigration and ministry strategies

26
27
28 The MLT was also instrumental in helping the Congregational Development Team (CDT) reach a new
29 phase in its work, which included the hiring of Dr. Leroy Barber as the new Congregational Developer
30 for Vitality.

31
32 The MLT has also approved the creation of several work teams to address issues related to affordable
33 housing, campus ministry, and to look at ways for us to expand our engagement and leadership
34 development capacity among people of color in our communities.

35 36 37 **Mission and Ministry Report**

38 **Lowell Greathouse, Mission and Ministry Coordinator**

39
40 We continue to find ourselves in the midst of significant change throughout our society...and within the
41 life of the church. As a result, there are a number of incredible, new opportunities for us to discover and
42 live into what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ today.

43
44 What I am learning is that what is most important is to simply be the community of faith we wish to
45 see in the world. Yes, there are lots of things to be concerned about...and yes, it is easy to become pre-
46 occupied by the array of challenges and discontinuities that appear before us. But what if we simply
47 decided to act like the church we desire to become in the midst of all the uncertainties and issues? What
48 would we look like as Christians...and United Methodists...if we did this?

49
50 Well, the truth is that I have already seen this become a reality in a number of ways in the Oregon-Idaho
51 Annual Conference--so much so that I had a national leader recently say to me that the Greater NW Area
52 seemed to be forging ahead with ministry, while he had seen many other annual conference contexts
53 become pre-occupied with the future of the church...and as a result, seemed to be having trouble getting
54 traction in the here and now.

55

9 Pre-Conference Reports

1 Consider what is happening among us in Oregon-Idaho and in the Greater NW Area. This year we
2 designed a process called “Table Talks,” so that we could have conversations with one another in deep,
3 civil ways, even while discussing matters such as human sexuality and full inclusion within the life of the
4 church. We have lived into a “distributive leadership” way of using power within the annual conference,
5 which allows us to be more nimble organizationally...and literally distribute our collective leadership
6 among more people who have passion to advance particular ministries. We have become culturally
7 more diverse as our Hispanic ministries expand, our Native American presence deepens, and we focus
8 more attention on how to become a more inclusive church, both in terms of people of color and in terms
9 of LGBTQ full inclusion. We have begun work, in earnest, to make Abundant Health an emphasis in
10 our annual conference. And we are highlighting more local ministry stories...and some of those have
11 received regional and national attention.

12
13 We continue to send mission teams to various parts of the world. We have individuals trained to do
14 Emergency Response Team work following disasters. We send teams of leaders to participate in regional
15 and national trainings and bring back what they learn about best practices.

16
17 We have partnered with the Pacific NW and Alaska Conferences to create a joint effort we are calling the
18 Innovation-Cultivation Team to help us with innovation, multiplication, and inclusion. We have a number
19 of new ministry experiments going on in each district. We have gathered AC work teams to look at how
20 to engage in building affordable housing, how to better interface with people of color around leadership
21 development, and address issues related to immigration. As a result, we are growing and learning in a
22 variety of new, important ways, and this is a good sign not just for the future, but also for today.

23
24 Yes, things are still in process...and yes, we are not sure what the future holds or what we will look like
25 as a denomination in the days ahead. There is the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. There is
26 a Special General Conference Session in February 2019. There is a political climate in the country that
27 magnifies division, hatred, and intolerance among us. We will have to come to terms with what this all
28 means to our collective faith and in the process, decide what kind of people we want to be in the midst of
29 it. But it appears that we’ve already decided in a number of ways to simply become the church we wish
30 to be. Praise God!

31
32 In 2017-18 we made a great deal of progress on multiple fronts, but our journey is not yet over. And
33 we have much still to contribute to the world as followers of Jesus...and as United Methodists. I look
34 forward to joining you in this journey.

Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)

Eva Johnson and Duane Medicine Crow, Co-Chairs

35
36
37
38
39
40 Greetings from the Committee on Native American Ministries/CONAM. We had the honor of delivering
41 the first official words spoken at the 2017 Annual Conference. These words were in recognition of the
42 indigenous people who lived near the shores of the Columbia River since time immemorial.

43
44 Our committee is small, with the same people each year, so gaining three new members this year was
45 a blessing. We meet the first Sunday of each month at Wilshire United Methodist Native American
46 Fellowship in Portland. The meeting is open to all who are interested in native issues. CONAM’s
47 mission is to be a resource in the OR-ID conference, support committee members’ involvement within
48 the conference, and to provide leadership opportunities for personal growth.

49
50 Recently, three CONAM members attended the first Western Jurisdictional CONAM meeting, in
51 California. Participants came from Alaska, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Colorado. Because of the
52 long distance between Indian churches, creating ways to support each other was important. Currently,
53 we have representation on the Native American International Caucus/NAIC and Western Jurisdiction
54 Council. Each year members are asked to speak on Native American Ministries Sunday and we thank the
55 churches who participate. The offerings collected are divided: 50% stay in our conference and 50% go
56 toward providing seminary scholarships for Native Americans. Native American Ministry Sunday can be

10 Pre-Conference Reports

1 celebrated throughout the year. To schedule a speaker or get information about CONAM, please contact
2 Duane Medicine Crow (503-362-7085) or Eva Johnson (503-378-7730).

3
4 This year CONAM supported Huckleberry Family camp at Camp Magruder; White Bison training
5 material for Red Lodge Transition program, which supports Native women leaving prison; and travel
6 expenses for a Native elder attending an Indian Child Welfare conference as a presenter on First Food.

7
8 Peace be with you all.
9

11 **Peace with Justice/Church and Society** 12 **Donna Boe, Chair of Church and Society** 13 **Claudia Roberts, Peace with Justice Coordinator**

14
15 There has been some amazing work done in the area of Church and Society by the chair, Donna Boe, and
16 the Peace with Justice Coordinator, Claudia Roberts, with the assistance of Lowell Greathouse, Mission
17 and Ministry Coordinator, and the grant review committee members who include Carole Sullivan
18 and Steve Mitchell in addition to the three already mentioned. We want to thank everyone for their
19 responsiveness in the past year as we seek to address social justice issues that call for action throughout
20 the conference.

21
22 Some of you may not be aware that the conference level Church and Society committee exists to support
23 and promote the United Methodist position on social issues as spelled out in the Social Principles found
24 in the Book of Discipline. These principles are organized into six areas with many subsections under
25 each area. The six areas are The Natural World, The Nurturing Community, The Social Community, The
26 Political Community, and The World Community. There is a pamphlet for the Social Principles available
27 through the General Board of Church and Society or electronically at Amazon. It includes a six-session
28 study guide and would make a great class for youth, adults and especially new members. Understanding
29 the Social Principles helps persons understand more about what being a United Methodist means and
30 how we live out our faith in the world around us. There will be some copies of the Social Principles
31 available at the Ministry Marketplace at Annual Conference in Boise.

32
33 In addition, everyone attending Annual Conference will have an opportunity to review the draft of the
34 proposed revisions to the Social Principles which will be voted on at the next quadrennial General
35 Conference in 2020. This is the first major revision of the social principles since the one done after the
36 merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church in 1968. That revision was
37 adopted by the General Conference of 1972. There will be an event at First UMC Boise on Wednesday
38 afternoon, June 13th at 2:00 pm. There will be a draft of the revisions available and we will split into
39 six groups with each group talking about one of the six areas. Notes will be taken, and the feedback
40 submitted to the General Board of Church and Society. If you are not able to attend at that time but
41 would like to provide feedback, you may go to the website www.umcjustice.org and search for the social
42 principle revisions and provide feedback online. Every conference is being asked to hold one or more
43 meetings for this purpose.

44
45 The Peace with Justice program of the Oregon-Idaho Conference has been proud to offer financial
46 support for several programs and events in this past year. We were able to support the one-day conference
47 entitled "Faith, Justice, Reconciliation" held at Portland First UMC with Dr. Christena Cleveland. This
48 was an ecumenical conference that challenged us to recognize our disunity as Christians and look for
49 ways to build relationships across boundaries of race, class, and privilege. Much of what we discussed is
50 covered in Cleveland's book *Disunity in Christ: Discovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart*..

51
52 As Church and Society Coordinator, Donna Boe initiated an effort to send members of the Magic Valley
53 Ministries to the Conference on Refugees, February 5-6 in Boise, Idaho. The Rev. Mike Hollomon
54 of Magic Valley Ministries, Etha Curruthers of Twin Falls UMC, and Claire McClure of Jerome UMC
55 attended. PWJ funds paid their registration fees, with the hope that the information and inspiration from
56 the Conference would enhance their ministry to the Refugee Resettlement Center in Twin Falls.

11 Pre-Conference Reports

1 We have also voted to support the upcoming training on The Environment Crisis, taking place the first
2 week in May in Ashland, Oregon. Richenda Fairhurst has brought together some environmental experts
3 to explore how people of faith need to respond. The training will help pastors and lay leaders with a
4 passion for environmental justice to be able to carry the message back to their faith communities so that
5 we can all learn how best to respond to the call to heal our planet.
6

7 In early April five of the members of the Oregon-Idaho Task Force on Immigration and Refugees
8 attended a training event sponsored by the Western Jurisdiction Immigration Task Force. It was held in
9 Southern California and provided great speakers and workshops to enhance our skills and understanding
10 of immigration issues. Particularly powerful were the panel discussions where immigrants shared their
11 stories with us. The immigrants came from many places including Central America, the Philippines, and
12 Romania. It was good to learn what other conferences and locations are doing to address the needs of
13 their immigrant neighbors.
14

15 The Conference Peace with Justice fund was also used to purchase “Welcome Your Neighbor” yard signs
16 in three languages: English, Arabic, and Spanish so each of the churches and other ministry settings in the
17 conference could have one. Some of these were distributed last year at Annual Conference but there are
18 still a large number of signs that will be available at this year’s Annual Conference in Boise. Please come
19 by the Church and Society and Peace with Justice table in the Ministry Marketplace to pick up a sign.
20 There is no charge.
21

22 There has been an active presence of United Methodists throughout the conference participating in
23 rallies, marches, demonstrations, vigils and legislative advocacy days throughout the year. Thank you to
24 everyone who has stood up and spoken out to fight injustice and added their voices to the cries for justice
25 and equity for all. We believe that wherever and whenever we gather to speak up for justice, Jesus is
26 there in our midst saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
27
28

29 **Commission on Religion and Race** 30 **Kalina Malua Katoa, Chair** 31

32 The combined Annual Conference with Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest last June gave us an
33 opportunity to meet with the PPNW CORR team for breakfast on Thursday morning. It was so good to
34 meet, pray, and share common mission interest with our brothers and sisters from PNW. We came away
35 from this meeting inspired to explore mission focus on programs for ethnic second and third generations.
36 We had done the Inter-Cultural Communication Competency and Awareness Training for the past five
37 years. But we have not offered any program for the 2nd and 3rd English speaking ethnic generations.
38

39 To address this goal, Rev. John Go and his wife Mia were our pioneers. They planned a four-day *Summer*
40 *Music Camp* event for the ethnic children of the Portland churches. This was held August 14-17. 9:30am-
41 12:00pm at Tabor Heights UMC. The music was directed by Tabor Height’s talented choir director,
42 Howard A. Ashley. There were four ethnic groups of children who attended. They were the Native
43 American of Wilshire UMC, the Tongan of Lents Tongan Fellowship, and the Korean/Chinese and the
44 Chuukees (Micronesian) from Tabor Heights UMC. The program include singing and learning about
45 these four cultural groups. It was an interactive learning experience about history with art and snacks.
46 It was well-facilitated by the pastors and members of these churches. Although this event was mostly
47 attended by ethnic children, there were a few Caucasian children who attended and enjoyed the program.
48 Because of the success of this program, we anticipate doing it again this year.
49

50 We also arranged a meeting with the Native American Ministry pastor, Rev. Allen Buck and the African
51 American Ministry at Hughes Memorial, Rev. Robin Franklin, to learn how CORR can help with their
52 ministries. We met at Tabor Heights UMC on February 16 and learned from Rev. Buck that worship
53 attendance at the Wilshire Native American Fellowship had increased from eight to 40. He encourages
54 the congregation to learn about their core values. This is foundational to building relationship and
55 communities. They also invited everyone to share a potluck lunch after worship. The sharing of a meal is
56 one of Native Americans’ core values.

12 Pre-Conference Reports

1 For the African American ministry, Rev. Franklin shared that the members of the church had suffered
2 greatly from the increasing housing costs in the area. They are also faced with another hardship of finding
3 a culturally and emotionally safe place to be.
4

5 These two stories represent only ten percent of the many unheard stories of twenty ethnic churches in the
6 Oregon-Idaho Conference alone. We asked the question, how could we better support the ethnic pastors
7 and their ministries? We discussed many issues regarding the lack of ethnic leadership. There are very
8 few ethnic pastors with full-time appointments. There is an economic disparity in ethnic churches. The
9 question was, have we aligned our resources with our values? Rev. Allen said that “our values need to be
10 higher than money.”
11

12 As disciples of Christ in our time, how do we answer daily to what the Lord requires of us: “to do justly,
13 and to love kindness and mercy and walk humbly with your God.”
14
15

16 **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)** 17 **Louise Kienzle, Conference UMVIM Coordinator**

18
19 What do you know about UMVIM—United Methodist Volunteers in Mission? Most consider an
20 “UMVIM team” to be a volunteer team of United Methodists that go to serve out-of-state or abroad for
21 a short period of time. But an UMVIM team is so much more than that. If you are a United Methodist, if
22 you are reaching out in service as an expression of your faith, then you are an UMVIM volunteer.
23

24 Since stepping into this position last fall, I have made some updates to the UMVIM pages of
25 the conference website: <https://www.umo.org/missions>. **New!** You can now find information on
26 opportunities to serve at UMCOR West Depot along with links to instructions for packing kits and kit
27 collection points.
28

29 The Global Ministries Team has also added a scholarship for UMVIM team members. This scholarship
30 is available to participants of a registered UMVIM trip led by a trained team leader with priority given to
31 first-time missionaries. More information, policy guidelines and application can be found at <https://www.umo.org/teamleaderresources>
32
33

34 Oregon-Idaho UMVIM teams serving since November have included:

- 35 • A team from multiple churches in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington to Kenya in January 2018
- 36 • A team from Portland First to Costa Rica in February 2018
- 37 • Multiple, unidentified teams to UMCOR West Depot in Salt Lake City
38

39 UMVIM Team Leader trainings have been held in Ashland (March), with five leaders trained, and one
40 is scheduled jointly with Pacific Northwest Conference in Vancouver (May). If you would like to have a
41 training at your church, please let me know.
42

43 In 2017, we deployed our first-ever ERT—Early Response Team, into a disaster zone! This team went,
44 along with members from PNW, to Texas (Rio Texas conference) in late October in response to Hurricane
45 Harvey. Two other ERTs deployed as individuals attached to Desert Southwest Conference teams, also as
46 part of the Harvey response.
47

48 ERT and Connecting Neighbors Trainings, led by Becky Platt, have been held in Pocatello (October) for
49 Church Readiness with 10 in attendance; Portland (October) ERT with 17 in attendance and Personal
50 Readiness with 12 in attendance; Bend (December) ERT with 10 in attendance; Bremerton (January) ERT
51 and Connecting Neighbors jointly with PNW. Coming up is Personal and Church Readiness in Sherwood
52 (May) and Disaster Readiness at Annual Conference.
53

54 *“In service together we will share the love of Christ. We will build relationships, experience grace, and*
55 *develop mutual trust.” Una Jones*

13 Pre-Conference Reports

1 If you feel led to learn more about UMVIM or become a trained team leader, go to <https://www.umoi.org/missions> or contact me at UMVIM@umoi.org.

5 **United Methodist Women** 6 **Rebecca (Becky) Lowe Warren, President**

8 In late 2017 each of the four districts selected justice issue priorities to help guide their mission projects and program emphases. Sage District is concentrating on Child & Maternal Health Care; Cascadia District, Criminalization of Communities of Color; Columbia District, Economic Inequality; and Crater Lake, Climate Justice. At the Annual Meeting of United Methodist Women in October 2018, all four priorities will be featured.

14 In May 2018, 47 women from the Oregon-Idaho Conference will attend Assembly, an international gathering of approximately 8,000, in Columbus, Ohio. Ubuntu, a day of service, will precede Assembly.

17 Mission u has a new format. Instead of meeting at two locations for several days, the missional school will convene in four different sites: Meridian, ID - June 29-30; Tigard, OR - July 13-14; Newman UMC (Grants Pass) - July 20-21; and Twin Falls, ID - August 3-4. The spiritual growth study is “Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living”; the social issue study is “What About Our Money? A Faith Response”; and the geographical study, a repeat from 2017, is “Missionary Conferences in the United States.”

24 At present the Charter for Racial Justice Committee is receiving applications for the Charter for Racial Justice Award that honors individuals or groups who fulfill the goals of the Charter in a significant way. The Committee also awards Isobel F. Zimmerman grant funds for programs that nurture leadership development of Native Americans or African Americans or that support a Foreign Mission Project of United Methodist Women. The Dr. Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship (GBC) provides financial assistance to women of the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Annual Conference whose purpose is to obtain a graduate degree for use in a church-related vocation. Recipients may be announced at Annual Conference.

33 In spirit with the Commission on a Way Forward, United Methodist Women in Oregon-Idaho are learning of the Commission’s purpose and emphasis on unity as the denomination prepares for the special session of General Conference in 2019. Lynda Montgomery and Roz Collins were trained to facilitate conversations on inclusion, unity, and homosexuality. The goal: to reach at least 50% of the United Methodist Women in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference this year.

39 United Methodist Women enjoy representation on the Abundant Living Initiative Task Force. The “active living” component of abundant living sparked an effort to go “Around the World in 80 Days” beginning March 26 and culminating June 13, the first day of Annual Conference. Through logging daily mileage from walking, jogging, swimming, etc., participants are hoping to log 25,000 miles.

45 **Conference Youth Ministry Team** 46 **Anna Eckelbarger Salas, Youth Ministries Coordinator**

48 Over the last year, youth ministry has been developing in new ways across the conference. In order to improve responsiveness and create adaptive “bottom up” models of conference youth leadership, there has been a move to District Youth Coordinators in each of the four districts. These persons help to connect with youth workers in their district and provide support and resourcing. The coordinators also help to provide conference connection between persons doing the work on the ground and leadership who set budgets and provide needed trainings and vision.

54 The District Coordinators have been meeting with Lowell Greathouse throughout the year to hone

14 Pre-Conference Reports

1 the vision and mission of the work being done for and with youth and their leaders. Conference youth
2 ministry in local churches is changing. Gone are the days where paid people are guiding the ministry
3 in most of our congregations. Instead, in many of our churches, there are volunteers who are helping to
4 shape teaching, lead activities, and provide spiritual development.

5
6 These persons are capable but perhaps feel untrained. Often volunteers are willing to be present but
7 feel uncomfortable taking the lead in developing these students. It has long been a dream to provide
8 leadership development camps again on the conference level but after meeting with youth workers
9 and noting the changes happening with youth ministry across the conference, the youth coordinators
10 recommended focusing on developing youth workers in 2019 instead.

11
12 In order to support our young people more fully, we have included a funding line in our budget request
13 for 2019 in order to help facilitate a youth worker camp. This camp would offer learning experiences and
14 knowledge of best practices that will help to empower youth leaders from all different backgrounds in all
15 different kinds of churches in our conference

16
17 We desire to help raise up empowered and well-trained lay people within our churches as we head into
18 the next phase of youth ministry. Our vision takes a long view. We are not simply looking to get young
19 people into pews; but, we are looking for ways to shape and develop young people who are transformed
20 as they become leaders in our conference and the wider church. In order to develop young leaders, we
21 must have youth workers who recognize and foster leadership potential in their local churches.

22
23 This youth worker camp is not a destination but a first step as we work to provide support and new
24 leadership development for our youth. This is not a short-term thing; we want to commit to our youth
25 and their value in the Church. To share this commitment more fully, we are committed as well to
26 communicating what's happening in our churches. Youth are being shaped and formed in Oregon and
27 Idaho. We want our conference to know about it, so we are working to collect, share, and celebrate the
28 ways that young people are finding safe space and identity in our churches.

29 **Boards & Agencies Related to Finance and Administration**

30 **Commission on Archives and History**

31 **Nancie Fadeley, Chair**

32 **Shirley Manning Knepp, Oregon Archivist**

33 **Linda Tewksbury and Steve Walker, Idaho Archivists**

34
35 The Oregon part of the Oregon-Idaho Archives is located in the MICAH building at Salem
36 First United Methodist Church. We have been blessed with three volunteers in 2017. Unfortunately,
37 illness caused Laura Arksey to retire. Laura was the driving force behind inventorying the closed
38 churches. After she was unable to work in the archives she worked from her home. She deserves a big
39 vote of thanks for the exceptional work she did on the closed churches and the work on the Blaine diary.

40
41 Research requests have been varied this year. Native American material has again been the most
42 researched material. Jason Lee came next. Other researchers were trying to find the location of an early
43 camp meeting place near Hillsboro. Most of the requests for research come from individuals wanting to
44 know information about pastors who served in Oregon.

45
46 An old pulpit Bible was returned to the family of the minister whose name was written in gold lettering
47 on the front of the Bible. The family, from Florida, contacted the archives to do some research. Shirley
48 recognized the name and contacted them about the Bible.

49
50 Shirley and Don Knepp attended the Western Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History with the
51 Historical Society in June 2017. The meeting was held in Anchorage, Alaska. Shirley was one of the
52 presenters. Her power point program was on Women in Ministry, The Japanese in Hood River in the
53 1940's and Harry Denman. Women in ministry highlighted Grace Weaver, the first woman ordained as

15 Pre-Conference Reports

1 an elder in full connection in the Western Jurisdiction. Shirley was able to complete a book of Grace's
2 journey in ministry that included many of her poems. The book was presented to those attending the
3 conference.
4

5 The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church **Ministry of Memory Award** was awarded to
6 Shirley and Don Knepp for their work in the Oregon Archives and as officers in the Western Jurisdiction
7 Commission on Archives and History.
8

9 The current project is getting all the camp material in order. A collection of Meredith Groves' material
10 was presented to the archives. Archival boxes were purchased to protect much of the older material in
11 the archives.
12

13 The Jason Lee United Methodist Church (Salem) closed and the 100 years of material is being brought to
14 the archives to be inventoried.
15
16

17 **Committee on the Episcopacy** 18 **Cheryl Bittle, Chair** 19

20 The Oregon-Idaho Conference Committee on the Episcopacy organized in fall 2016 and selected the
21 following officers: Chair, Cheryl Bittle; Vice-Chair, Cesie Delve Scheuremann; Secretary, Lydia Henry.
22 The Committee assisted with orientation meetings with the Bishop throughout the conference in fall
23 of 2016 and winter 2017, then provided support for the reception for Bishop Stanovsky at the joint
24 conference meeting in June 2017.
25

26 A full committee meeting with Bishop Stanovsky was held in December 2017 to discuss common issues
27 of administration and support to enhance the work of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. In addition, the
28 Bishop shared goals and objectives for the Conference as we go forward toward the Special General
29 Conference with the report from the Commission on the Way Forward. Following the meeting, a sub-
30 committee completed the evaluation documents received from the Western Jurisdiction Committee on
31 the Episcopacy and submitted them for inclusion in the annual evaluation of bishops of the Western
32 Jurisdiction in winter 2018.
33

34 The committee is committed to magnifying the Bishop's work in the Oregon-Idaho conference and
35 continuing to make disciples for the transformation of the world.
36
37

38 **Commission on Equitable Compensation** 39 **Daryl Blanksma, chair** 40

41 The Commission on Equitable Compensation is charged by *The Book of Discipline* with recommending
42 to the Annual Conference standards for pastoral support.
43

44 **The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends** that for 2019 the Oregon-Idaho Annual
45 Conference fix the *minimum* base compensation, including the use of a parsonage, at the following rates:
46

47 ****Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: \$39,382**

48 ****Provisional Elder: \$37,504**

49 ****Local Pastor: \$35,424**
50

51 This recommendation represents at 1.5% increase over what was approved for 2018.
52

53 In addition, the minimum cash salary shall be increased by \$100 per year of service in the United
54 Methodist Church, capped at a maximum of ten years or \$1,000.
55

16 Pre-Conference Reports

1 Local churches should note that ¶ 331.10b of *The Book of Discipline* states that deacons who are
2 appointed to a local congregation, charge, or cooperative parish, shall receive a salary from the
3 local church, charge, or cooperative parish not less than the minimum established by the equitable
4 compensation policy of the annual conference for elders. Provisional deacons shall receive a salary not
5 less than the minimum established for provisional elders.
6

7 Compensation from the local church includes cash salary, utilities allowance, and a home for the pastor's
8 use. We encourage churches and clergy to allocate compensation in ways that will assist clergy and their
9 families to retain as great a portion of their income as is legally possible. Moving money out of cash
10 salary and into a utilities allowance or a housing allowance could lower the amount clergy pay in taxes.
11 Be sure to seek qualified assistance in making decisions that will affect tax liabilities.
12

13 **The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends** the following housing guidelines relating
14 to compensation:
15

16 **1. If an adequate parsonage is not available for the use of the pastor, then a housing allowance shall
17 be paid in addition to the above minimum compensation as part of the total compensation package. A
18 two-tier formula will be applied with a housing allowance set at **\$13,173** for most areas of the Annual
19 Conference and **\$15,368** for areas with unusually high housing costs. This represents a 3% increase over
20 2018.
21

22 **2. For the purposes of housing policy, every parsonage will be considered as meeting the minimum
23 compensation package. This is true whether the clergy are working full-time or part-time.
24

25 **3. In lieu of a parsonage, churches will pay a housing allowance to the clergy as part of the total
26 compensation package. The allowance will be at least commensurate to the percentage of employment
27 (e.g. one quarter-time receives one quarter the housing allowance, one half-time receives one-half the
28 housing allowance.)
29

30 **4. Churches and pastors may apply to the Commission for an exemption to housing allowance
31 recommendations under certain conditions. For example, a pastor already has a house in the area, or
32 adequate housing is easily available in the local community for a lesser rate. If the Commission does not
33 grant an exemption, the church **must** pay the housing portion of the ministerial compensation package.
34

35 **The Commission also recommends**, but cannot require, that a reimbursement for travel and professional
36 expenses be set at no less than **\$3,500** annually. This is the same amount as last year. This reimbursement
37 is not part of the pastor's compensation and should be included as part of the administrative budget of
38 the church, not part of salary. For IRS purposes, churches should be sure they have adopted an Account
39 Reimbursement Policy which is available from their district office.
40

41 The Commission has requested that the Council on Finance and Administration budget \$12,500 for the
42 Equitable Compensation Fund for 2019, and budget \$600 for the administrative costs of the Commission.
43
44

45 **Council on Finance and Administration** 46 **Rick Beadnell, Chair** 47

48 CF&A is passionate about making sure that the way we spend our Conference resources is closely
49 aligned with the priorities set by our area Cabinet and our Ministry Leadership Team. We do this by
50 attempting to understand the plans behind budget requests coming to us, and being intentional in our
51 decision making.
52

53 CF&A would like to thank our Conference employees who make up our Office of Stewardship and
54 Finance under Director Dan Wilson-Fey's supervision. This is a small, dedicated group of hardworking
55 people who handle a myriad of finance and accounting challenges.
56

17 Pre-Conference Reports

1 **Looking back on calendar 2017**

2 Several factors contributed to a successful financial year in 2017 . . .

3 ****We kept the same total apportioned budget we had in 2016 with no increase**

4 ****110 of our 184+ churches paid 100% or more of their Shared Ministries (apportionments)**

5 ****The stewardship of our budget stakeholders, who came in under the spending plan**

6 ****Unexpected high rates of return in the form of interest and dividends on our Conference investments**

7

8 We continued to emphasize our connectedness to our Worldwide Church ministries by paying our

9 General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference apportionments at 100%, even though as a Conference
10 we received only 81.3% of the total apportioned to our local churches.

11

12 **Quick peek at the first quarter of calendar 2018**

13 The 2018 apportioned budget approved by our last Annual Conference is **\$3,420,533**. This was a decrease
14 from 2017 of about 8.7%. CF&A is estimating that Shared Ministry (apportionment) receipts will be
15 short

16 of the budget by **\$505,659**, leaving us with a spending plan of **\$2,914,874**.

17

18 First quarter 2018 Shared Ministry receipts are about 2% higher than 2017's first quarter results. Our
19 expenses for the first quarter are staying slightly below our planned levels.

20

21 **Looking forward to calendar 2019**

22 We started working on the budget by trying to first articulate and understand our Conference priorities.

23 Then all budget stakeholders were asked to submit written budget requests and narrative reasoning. The
24 response was excellent, and we proceeded to a series of budget information sessions where CF&A was
25 able to ask questions of the major stakeholders.

26

27 CF&A is recommending an overall 2019 budget of **\$7,622,388**. After subtracting direct billed health and
28 pension benefits and applying reserves where appropriate, we have an apportioned budget of **\$3,400,264**.

29 This is a **decrease of less than 1%** compared to 2018. Over a five-year period, our apportioned budget
30 has been trending downward, with our 2019 recommendation being about 10% less than what it was in
31 2014, even though some costs such as employee salaries have risen substantially during that period.

32

33 The next step in the budget process involves presenting CF&A's recommendation to our Ministry
34 Leadership Team, which will culminate by mid-May. So it is still possible that some modifications will be
35 made before the final budget proposal is presented at Annual Conference.

36

37 **CF&A Goals for 2019 and beyond**

38 ****Work diligently with our Ministry Leadership Team to ensure that we are spending funds in line
39 with the priorities that have been established for our Conference**

40 ****Continue to strengthen the processes around developing the budget by making intentional decisions**

41 ****Work to decrease our apportionments-to-payment gap, as we are on the low end compared to other
42 conferences**

43 **** Continue to create a narrative budget to help tell the story of how our spending supports our
44 Conference ministries**

45 ****Communicate with churches and members to help them understand what they are
46 getting for their Shared Ministry (apportionment) dollars**

47 ****Faithfully steward the financial resources of the Annual Conference**

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 \$307.93 for 2018.
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” reserve fund.
5. The General Fund reserve (balance) provides working capital (cash flow) for the operation of the Conference, emergencies, and for 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 reserve. CF&A is authorized to hold a minimum of 4 months of average monthly budget in this account.
6. The following organizations are given permission to solicit funds among the churches of the Conference without quota:
 - Willamette University
 - Pacific School of Religion
 - Alaska Pacific University
 - Rust College
 - United Methodist Campus Ministries of the Conference
 - Willamette View Foundation
 - Willson House, Salem
 - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
 - Northwest United Methodist Foundation
 - Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Ministers Retirement Fund
 - Partnership with Liberia Annual Conference
 - Oregon-Idaho Camp and Retreat Ministries

**Board of Ordained Ministry
Clay Andrew, Chair**

The Board of Ordained Ministry continues its work to recruit, nurture, prepare and credential people for ordained, licensed, and certified ministry. Our work, as is the case with work across our conference and the denomination, is continuously morphing as we respond to changing cultural, economic, and ecclesial realities.

Our 2018 candidacy class includes one person recommended for commissioning as an Elder, and we continue to support eight commissioned candidates in the process. Additionally, there are many candidates working with their District Committees on Ordained Ministry as they explore their calls and navigate the early steps of our ordination process. Although the future of ordained ministry looks very different than it once did, God continues to call extraordinarily gifted persons into ministry in our conference.

In the coming year, the Board will complete its development of a new Disciplinary requirement: an Eight Year Assessment of all clergypersons. This assessment will include a formal review and an in-depth

19 Pre-Conference Reports

renewal opportunity. Our goal in developing this new process is to insure that it is life-giving for our clergy and for our annual conference. More information about this process can be found in the Book of Discipline, paragraph 349.3, and details about the Oregon-Idaho process will be available later this year.

We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our work with the Bishop, the District Superintendents, the other boards and agencies, and the people of our annual conference to encourage excellence in ministry.

Conference Board of Pensions Danna Drum, Chair

The Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) oversees the health and wellness benefits and pension and welfare plans for annual conference clergy and lay staff. Over the last year, the CBOP has focused on two areas: 1) Transition to the HealthFlex Exchange through Wespath, giving participants greater choices in health coverage and 2) Evaluation of current financial reserves and consideration of incorporation of the CBOP to assure the CBOP remains adequately funded and assets protected to meet its obligations to active and retired clergy well into the future.

Health Insurance

Health insurance benefits continue to be provided through the Wespath HealthFlex Exchange. Claims experience continues to concern the CBOP; in 2017, claims paid totaled 126% (compared to 155% in 2016) of premiums paid. Consequently, the overall premium increase for the annual conference will be nine percent in 2019. To offset the overall premium increase, the CBOP recommends the defined contribution for participants be increased by eight percent and the CBOP will use approximately \$44,000 from its reserves. The blended rate charged to ministry settings will remain unchanged in 2019 at \$1294 monthly.

Health Reimbursement Account Benefit for Retired Clergy

The Board of Pensions is in its sixth year of providing a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) benefit for retired clergy. CBOP recommends increasing the stipend amount by three percent in 2019.

Participation: Retiree must have been enrolled in the active HealthFlex program in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area (Oregon-Idaho, Alaska and Pacific Northwest) for at least 5 years of the last 10 years prior to retirement and a member of the Oregon-Idaho Conference at the time of retirement.

Years of Service Eligibility:

1. “Years of Service” is defined as years of service with pension and benefit claim upon the denominational pension plans (Pre82, MPP & CRSP).
2. Years of Service applies to years served as clergy under appointment within the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area effective September 1, 2012.

Retirement Prior to Age 65/Medicare Eligibility:

1. Clergy retiring with 40 or more years of service will be eligible for the HRA stipend, however, the stipend may not be used to pay health insurance premiums until the retiree is enrolled in Medicare.
2. Clergy retiring with less than 40 years of service may opt to remain on the HealthFlex “active” insurance plan and pay the total cost of the premium until s/he reaches the age of 65 and is enrolled in Medicare. Or the retiree may opt to find other coverage outside the HealthFlex active plan and then apply for the stipend once s/he reaches the age of 65 and is enrolled in Medicare.

Clergy Couples: For clergy couples in which both clergy persons qualify for the subsidy, the years of service of the spouse with the highest level will be used to determine the couple’s subsidy regardless of

20 Pre-Conference Reports

1 who was officially listed as the participant at the time of retirement unless calculating the subsidy for
2 each individual clergy person as singles results in the greatest benefit.

4 **2019 HRA Benefit for Retired Clergy**

	Single	Couple
6 Retirees with more than 20 years of pre-82	\$2,228	\$4,456
8 Retirees who retired before January 1, 2011:		
9 At least 5 but fewer than 10 years of service	\$637	\$1,274
10 At least 10 but fewer than 20 years of service	\$1,273	\$2,546
11 At least 20 but fewer than 30 years of service	\$1,591	\$3,182
12 30 or more years of service	\$1,910	\$3,820
13		
14 Retirees who retired after December 31, 2010:		
15 At least 10 but fewer than 20 years of service	\$955	\$1,433
16 At least 20 but fewer than 30 years of service	\$1,273	\$1,910
17 30 or more years of service	\$1,910	\$2,865

18 Note: Years of service apply to years of service in the Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest and Alaska
19 Conferences with pension and benefit claim upon the conference or Wespath. The HRA stipend cannot
20 be used to pay for health insurance premiums if the retiree is not enrolled in Medicare. If the retiree is
21 enrolled in Medicare, the stipend can be used to offset Medicare or Medicare supplement premiums.
22 According to the IRS, if a retiree is not enrolled in Medicare, the stipend can only be used to pay medical,
23 dental or vision out-of-pocket expenses but not premiums.

26 **HEALTH BENEFITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION:**

27 The CBOP presents the following health benefits recommendations to the 2018 Annual Conference
28 Session for consideration and action:

- 30 1. The Conference Board of Pensions, in consultation with the Council on Finance and Administration,
31 is authorized to adjust the Conference Budget for Health Insurance Premiums and the monthly
32 billed amount between sessions of the Annual Conference, if necessary, due to the receipt of
33 new premium rate information from Wespath.
- 34 2. The Conference Board of Pensions is authorized to adopt new eligibility policies as required
35 by Wespath for the HealthFlex Program. These policies may include procedures for the
36 cancellation of coverage due to various circumstances. The effective date of these policies will
37 be determined as required by Wespath.
- 38 3. The Conference Treasurer is authorized to bill \$1294 per month to local churches and 100% of the
39 premiums to other participants' ministry settings to support the defined contribution toward
40 health insurance benefits. Participants will pay any difference between the defined contribution
41 amount and the total premium for the plan and benefit options they select. The Conference
42 Board of Pensions may approve use of the blended rate for non-local church settings if such
43 change is mutually agreed upon by the ministry setting and the Conference Treasurer.
- 44 4. The CDHP C2000P2 with vision exam coverage and no dental coverage will be the default plan. The
45 annual Defined Contribution for active HealthFlex Exchange participants in 2019 will be as
46 follows:
47 Single Participant \$9,348
48 Participant + Spouse \$17,376
49 Participant + Family \$22,224
- 50 5. The retiree health insurance plan is a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) stipend based on the
51 number of years of service in the Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest and Alaska Conferences per
52 the eligibility policy and table above.

21 Pre-Conference Reports

1 6. The following Health Insurance policies will be continued:

2 a. No premium subsidy or stipend will be granted to participants retiring prior to the age of
3 their Medicare eligibility. They shall be responsible for the full payment of their health
4 insurance premium. Those who are eligible to retire under the forty-year rule (§357.2c))
5 will be granted an exception to receive the retired subsidy or stipend for their medical
6 expenses. Upon reaching the age for Medicare eligibility, and enrolling in the Medicare
7 program, the clergy member shall be eligible for conference subsidy or stipend based on
8 the then current schedule as approved by the annual conference.

9 b. The conference shall pay 100 percent of the medical insurance premium payment at the
10 default level of benefits, for those persons eligible for benefits under the CPP Disability
11 program. After one year the conference will pay the premium for the participant and 50
12 percent of the premium for the spouse and/or family.

13
14 **Pension and Welfare Plans**

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

21
22 The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides clergy death benefits, survivor children benefits,
23 minimum surviving spouse benefits, and long-term disability benefits. CPP funding is also directly billed
24 to the local churches or to the appropriate salary-paying unit.

25
26 The CBOP continues to be fully funded for these plans and worked with Wespath to complete a
27 comprehensive review of all CBOP reserve funds to determine that current reserves appear to be
28 sufficient to meet future liabilities for these benefits.

29
30 **Recognitions**

31 The Board of Pensions recognizes the following persons:

32
33 **For retirement at the 2018 Annual Conference Session**

- 34 Gwendolyn Drake
- 35 David Hargreaves (Camp & Retreat Ministries)
- 36 Steven Mitchell
- 37 Pamela Nelson-Munson
- 38 Lynn Rabenstein (3/1/2018)
- 39 David Raines (11/1/2017)
- 40 Laura Truby (Minister of Other Denomination)
- 41 Robin Yim

42
43 **The following clergy are on Medical Leave with Benefits**

- 44 Margaret Lofsvold
- 45 Katherine Raines

46
47

1 **PENSION AND WELFARE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

2 The Conference Board of Pensions presents the following pension and welfare plan-related
3 recommendations for your consideration and action:

4

5 **Pension and Welfare Plans**

6 1. Effective January 1, 2019, the Pre-82 (MRPF) past service rate for ordained clergy and local pastors
7 shall be \$631 per service year, with 70 percent continuing payment to the surviving spouse,
8 and that Addendum A of the Clergy Retirement Security Program be so amended.

9 2. Concerning the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP): The Conference Treasurer will bill each
10 local church for CRSP at the rate of 13 percent of the pastor's compensation (including cash
11 salary plus utilities and housing allowance [25% of cash salary if parsonage is provided]) for
12 eligible clergy. Cash salary includes deductions from payroll and any contributions toward
13 social security. Local churches served by retired clergy are exempt from this billing.

14 3. The Conference Treasurer will bill each local church (with a pastor appointed three-quarter time or
15 full time) at a rate of 3.0 percent of the pastor's plan compensation for the Comprehensive
16 Protection Plan (CPP) for eligible clergy.

17 4. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference meeting in Boise, Idaho, June 13-16, 2018, approves the
18 Addendum: Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or
19 Former Clergypersons of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

20 5. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference meeting in Boise, Idaho, June 13-16, 2018 approves the 2019
21 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, as submitted
22 by the Conference Board of Pensions and approved by Wespeth.

23

24 **Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**

25 **2019 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary**

26 The *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement
27 a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be
28 submitted annually to Wespeth for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following
29 the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespeth. This summary document is only
30 a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all
31 the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may
32 request the full contents of the 2019 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the conference benefits
33 office.

34

35

BOARD OF PENSIONS 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 Wespath, during the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, to 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 Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath 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**

Denominational Average Salary (DAC)

1993 - \$31,520
 1994 - \$33,017
 1995 - \$34,832
 1996 - \$36,602
 1997 - \$37,084
 1998 - \$38,298
 1999 - \$39,700
 2000 - \$40,805
 2001 - \$42,233
 2002 - \$42,930
 2003 - \$45,717
 2004 - \$49,325
 2005 - \$50,931
 2006 - \$52,394
 2007 - \$54,081
 2008 - \$56,044
 2009 - \$58,226
 2010 - \$60,341
 2011 - \$61,716
 2012 - \$62,781
 2013 - \$63,867
 2014 - \$65,186
 2015 - \$66,295
 2016 - \$67,333
 2017 - \$68,876
 2018 - \$70,202
 2019 - \$71,361

Conference Average Salary (CAC)

1993 - \$24,665
 1994 - \$25,639
 1995 - \$26,788
 1996 - \$28,005
 1997 - \$28,685
 1998 - \$29,298
 1999 - \$31,275
 2000 - \$32,672
 2001 - \$33,990
 2002 - \$34,689
 2003 - \$37,196
 2004 - \$43,536
 2005 - \$43,983
 2006 - \$45,287
 2007 - \$46,616
 2008 - \$48,824
 2009 - \$49,931
 2010 - \$51,153
 2011 - \$52,409
 2012 - \$53,534
 2013 - \$54,376
 2014 - \$55,674
 2015 - \$56,981
 2016 - \$57,672
 2017 - \$59,206
 2018 - \$58,941
 2019 - \$59,699

Past Service Rate For Local Church Pastors

1	1992 - \$269.45	16	2007 - \$451.00
2	1993 - \$281.50	17	2008 - \$488.00
3	1994 - \$293.00	18	2010 - \$514.00
4	1995 - \$302.00	19	2011 - \$524.00
5	1996 - \$311.00	20	2012 - \$536.00
6	1997 - \$321.00	21	2013 - \$544.00
7	1998 - \$331.00	22	2014 - \$557.00
8	1999 - \$341.00	23	2015 - \$570.00
9	2000 - \$352.00	24	2016 - \$585.00
10	2001 - \$363.00	25	2017 - \$600.00
11	2002 - \$375.00	26	2018 - \$615.00
12	2003 - \$387.00	27	2019 - \$631.00
13	2004 - \$398.50	28	
14	2005 - \$411.00		
15	2006 - \$425.00		

Conference Rules Committee

Steve Mitchell, Chair

The Conference Rules Committee was inactive this year, as no major issues have been presented.

I have edited the Conference Rules to reflect the current *Disciplinary* paragraphs referred to in the rules, as well as cross-references within the rules.

Please contact me with any issues or questions that come up regarding our rules.

Safe Sanctuaries Team

Lydia Henry, Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator

“Our hope and belief today is that the church is a place where all people will find the unconditional love and care they so desperately need to grow and thrive. But, we know that abuse occurs in local ministries, large and small, urban and rural. It is a reality which cuts across all economic, cultural, and racial lines...”¹

2017 was a year that saw heightened awareness and conversations around sexual abuse and its effects on survivors, families, friends, and our communities as a whole. The #MeToo movement encouraged many to step forward and share, many for the first time, their stories. The Safe Sanctuaries team supported all who have experienced sexual abuse or assault in any manner in December 2017, with the blog, #MeToo², and followed in April with a column, *Embrace Your Voice – Sexual Abuse Awareness Month*.³

The *Safe Sanctuaries Team* meets throughout the year with the District Administrative Assistants. The team offers support for their work in supporting churches’ efforts to become compliant with the OR-ID standards for abuse risk reduction and prevention. Both groups work together to identify and develop ways to make information easy to find. A joint project to update the website is in process for 2018-2019.

Other activities by the Safe Sanctuaries team include:

**Conducting Safe Sanctuaries Trainings in October for Portland area churches and in April, 2018 for Camp & Retreat Ministries summer staff.

**Providing phone and email support for ministry settings with questions about Safe Sanctuaries policies and procedures.

**Continuing budget support for anticipated trainings and programs.

**Exploring alternative ways to provide training to meet local and area needs.

We encourage anyone with questions or ideas to contact us at 503-804-7758 or lydiahenry626@gmail.com.

Safe Sanctuaries keeps our missional statement always in the forefront of our activities: “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.”⁴

1. General Conference (Resolution 3084, “Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church, pg. 240, 2012 Book of Resolutions).

2. <https://www.umi.org/blogdetail/10206619>

3. <https://www.umi.org/newsdetail/embrace-your-voice-april-is-sexual-abuse-awareness-month-11124695>

4. Template for Risk Reduction and Prevention Policies for Local Ministry Settings.

Statistician's Report

Ted Wimer, Conference Statistician

Our yearly statistics reports record what is going on in each of our congregations. These statistics can help local churches see trends for how effective our local ministries and missions are. Some statistics show us areas of vitality in our Annual Conference. The GCFA (General Council on Finance & Administration) collects these numbers from all of the Annual Conferences and compiles the data for the General Boards and Agencies; to see trends and to plan ahead.

This year we had a few changes to the tables for the new quadrennium. Thanks to assistance from our Treasurer's office, the District Administrative Assistants and local church clergy and treasurers, 99% of local churches have submitted their data for 2017. The total Professing Membership in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference was 23,920; a 2.9% decrease from 2016. During this period there was a 1.5% increase in the number of "Constituents!" Worship attendance decreased to 11,475; about half the professing membership. The number of persons participating in Christian formation groups decreased overall during 2017. Sunday School attendance increased 6.3% in 2017, even though the number of classes decreased by 16%. Ongoing small group classes (all ages, other than Sunday School) increased by 6%!

The number of persons served by community outreach is up by 13%, to 331,354 persons. The number of "persons engaged in community mission" decreased by 3%, to 11,080! These indicators show our overall emphasis on Local Church vitality through community outreach continues to expand. The number of UVMIM Teams sent increased from 12 to 16; and the number of persons sent out as team members increased from 92 to 146! Giving to General Advance Specials rose by 43% while giving to UMCOR dropped by 21%. This could be the result of the many hurricanes and forest fire events that occurred during 2017 and individual response.

For 2017 the membership in the UMW decreased by 10% to 2565, while the amount they paid for local church and community work fell 8% to \$197,548. The UMM membership dropped to 507 while the amount paid for local church and community work increased by 3%.

The total Number of Households giving to the local church decreased by 1% to 12,230 and the amount received through Pledges decreased by 4%. However the Amount Received from Non-Pledging and Unidentified Givers increased by 13% and 8%; resulting in a 2% increase in general (worship) giving. The amount paid by the local church on All Expenditures stayed the same. The Market Value of Church property (buildings, land & equipment) increased by 4%. Debt secured by Church Physical Assets decreased by 17%; and Other Debt decreased by 29%! Income from Building-Use Fees increased by 4% in 2017. Income from Capital campaigns increased by 14%. The income from other sources including sale of buildings increased 77%.

Giving directly to UMC Causes increased by 60%. The amount given to Non-UMC Benevolent/charities decreased by 13% in 2017.

Looking at the background trends over the time period 2009-2017 there is an interesting trend. Many local churches continue to support their operations even though their membership has declined. Some have downsized, but not all. One conclusion is fewer people are feeling called to do more. If these loyalties are generational, then this may indicate future downturns in several areas.

To see all the statistics for 2017 – for individual churches as well as totals by District & the entire Annual Conference – look in the back of your 2018 Conference Journal.

Board of Trustees

Larry McClure, president

Return of Camp Property to Nez Perce Tribe

Before arrival of European-American settlers, Native people occupied the land that is now southeastern Washington, southwestern Idaho and northeastern Oregon. As settlers began to pour westward on the Oregon Trail, in 1855 much of this land was protected as a reservation for the Umatilla, Yakima, Nez Perce, Cayuse and Palouse peoples. After gold was discovered in the region in 1860, the reservation was reduced by 90% in the much-contested treaty of 1863, known to the Nez Perce as the “steal treaty.» The Nez Perce lost the land on which Wallowa Lake United Methodist Camp is located in this treaty, which was never signed by leaders of the bands located outside the proposed new reservation boundaries. The camp property was purchased in 1923. Since that time, strips of land under, and adjacent to, the stream feeding Wallowa Lake have been part of the original Wallowa Lake United Methodist Camp near Joseph, Oregon. For decades, this now non-accessible parcel was gradually hemmed in by commercial development, houses and summer cabins with potential liability for damages incurred from falling trees on neighboring buildings. This area is the ancestral territory of the Nez Perce people who today have a priority for restoring fish runs in their traditional lands. The Board of Trustees of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference recommend return of this property by transfer to the Tribe which has expertise in stream management for fish protection. The 2018 Annual Conference must approve this non-financial transaction.

Church Properties Held in Trust by the Oregon-Idaho Conference

Transitions of ownership for local United Methodist properties continued during this past Conference year with your Conference Trustees assuming responsibility for churches whose congregations made difficult decisions to close after many years of service. Management and sales of these properties has been aided by Connelly Woody, member of Lake Oswego UMC with commercial real estate experience. The 2018 Annual Conference is slated to vote on closures at **Weston** and **Ontario** in June.

Meanwhile, the inventory and current status of previously-closed properties managed by the Conference Treasurer’s office follows (as of April 15):

Bennett Chapel This property had been leased to Imago Dei Church and has now been sold to another church organization planning new ministries at that SE Portland location. A buried oil tank had to be decommissioned before this sale was completed.

Clatskanie The Clatskanie UMC decision to close was accepted at the 2017 Annual Conference. The sale was completed in February and the new owner is the same as the purchaser of our Bennett Chapel property.

Dillard This church and parsonage involved two different transactions, delayed in part by septic system issues that had to be resolved. Another worshipping community plans to use the church building. The former parsonage was purchased by the daughter of a previous pastor who once lived there.

Dundee The church campus is leased to Word of Faith Fellowship. A separate parcel of vacant residential land is again on the market after a developer chose not to proceed (and forfeited its earnest money).

Jason Lee (Salem) The new start Las Naciones United Methodist Fellowship under the leadership of the Rev. Jorge Rodriguez Flores is awaiting approval of its legal charter. Another faith group is also using the facilities and a food pantry continues. The former parsonage is leased to Libby’s Loft (Oxford House), providing a home for adults recovering from addictions.

Lents (Portland) The Lents Tongan Fellowship is meeting there and caring for this church and parsonage.

Olex farm land (eastern Oregon) We discovered that the Conference owns a quarter acre of farm land near Olex that was once the location of a country church and was farmed by a local rancher for decades. It has now been sold to the adjacent land owner to clean up the records.

Sunnyside Community House (Portland) accommodates various non-profit community organizations

28 Pre-Conference Reports

1 and ministry partners. United Methodists still serve in this urban setting. A new management framework
2 is being studied. The former Sunnyside UMC and its two neighboring houses face a backlog of
3 maintenance issues that are gradually being addressed.

4 **Woodlawn (Portland)**, site for a UMC new start effort, continues to be leased for varied purposes.
5 Several building modifications have been made. Albina Head Start is located in the building.

6 Property Tips for Church Leaders

7 Remember there are guidelines and checklists for discontinuation, abandonment or merger of local
8 church property that clarify what has to happen before, during, and after the process.

9
10
11 Word for the wise: always organize and maintain church records since these will eventually be sent
12 to the Conference Archives in Salem after a church closure. And develop a habit of recycling unused
13 equipment, materials and long-stored stuff!

14
15 Research your church or parsonage property to determine if there is a buried oil tank which needs to be
16 decommissioned. If any leakage occurred in adjacent soils, environmental cleanup can be extensive and
17 expensive before a sale can proceed.

18
19 Examine your church property deeds to make sure “United Methodist” is in the name of your church
20 and that the trust clause is included. The Conference Treasurer can provide suggested wording when
21 amending and re-recording the deed with county officials. The fee is minimal to avoid headaches for
22 church leaders who follow you.

23 Local Church Insurance

24 We appreciate those local churches that annually submit a copy of the declarations page from their
25 current insurance policies. A Conference trustee is compiling and analyzing these reports to get a picture
26 of how well church properties are protected.

27 Conference Center

28
29 A Portland architectural firm has completed a feasibility analysis of engineering and infrastructure issues
30 that would impact remodeling. In the meantime, ownership of three lots under the Conference Center
31 with neighboring First United Methodist Church still needs to be resolved as well as parking lot access
32 for Conference visitors and staff.
33
34
35

36 **The Board of The United Methodist Minister’s Retirement Fund** 37 **Arvin Luchs, President**

38
39 The United Methodist Minister’s Retirement Fund was incorporated with contributions totaling \$3,000.
40 Now, 109 years later, that has grown to \$2,139,680.02 (as of 4-1-18). While the value of the fund has
41 grown, its mission has remained the same—a permanent fund whose earnings benefit those who retired
42 from this Annual Conference.

43
44 This year the Fund dispersed \$221,892 in grants to 268 “claimants”—clergy retired from this Conference,
45 surviving spouses and dependent children. Because of delays caused by investment transitions, that
46 represents a distribution of earnings for 2015 and 2016. An annual distribution from earnings in 2017 is
47 currently in preparation.

48
49 The Fund’s steward is a Board of sixteen clergy and laity elected by the Annual Conference to serve
50 three-year terms. The Conference Treasurer is the Fund’s *ex-officio* Treasurer and our investment
51 consultant is Karen Manczko from Wespath Investments. Their diligence and faithfulness—especially
52 during the last three years of transition—is deeply appreciated.

53
54 That Board tracks investments and sets policies for distribution in order to assure that UMMRF will
55 continue to grow and serve in perpetuity. Assets are managed by Wespath Investments—an arm of our

29 Pre-Conference Reports

1 United Methodist agency that also oversees all of our denomination’s pensions and health benefits. It is
2 part of the more than 23 billion dollars they shepherd on behalf of us all.
3

4 The vitality and future of the Fund depends not only upon invested returns but on gifts contributed by
5 the generosity of members and friends throughout Oregon, Idaho and beyond. Many have found it an
6 appropriate way to celebrate and honor the ministry of a beloved pastor or perpetuate the memory of a
7 loved one whose care shaped our lives. Such gifts may be sent to the Conference Treasurer with note that
8 it is to benefit the “UMMRF.”

9 **Districts, General Agencies, Educational Institutions**

10 **Cascadia District**

11 **Tim Overton-Harris, District Superintendent**
12 **Linda Grund-Clampit, Administrative Assistant**
13 **Paula Sadler, District Lay Leader**
14

15 As I have come to know this diverse and dynamic district I am aware of how far flung it is and how it is
16 made up of so many differences: between peoples, geographies, communities, needs, expectations, and
17 possibilities. One thing, however, holds us all together – our love for God and neighbor. Everywhere
18 from the lush valleys of wine country to the shores of the mighty Pacific to the high desert and the
19 majestic geological formations of the John Day River valley I have found United Methodists faithfully
20 engaged in loving God and neighbor.
21

22 Together we provide food to many thousands of people each and every week. We offer space for recovery
23 groups and host parenting classes and ELS classes, tutor kids, witness to justice and peace. We open our
24 doors to other Christian groups, to community concerts, to warm the homeless on cold winter nights. We
25 staff and stuff clothing centers and thrift shops. We provide after-school programs, Messy Church events,
26 Bible studies, book studies, lecture series and “No Joke” events. We are the ones that will host a funeral
27 when no one else will. We will perform the weddings when no one else will. We will let the Red Cross
28 and the schools and anyone else that needs a place use our space. And each and every week we gather
29 over 2,700 strong in 49 faith communities for worship. We are loving God and neighbor!
30

31 We are a force for God’s transforming presence in the world. But things are not all well with us. We
32 continue to be challenged to prove our relevance to our neighbors, friends, and even family members.
33 Some of our churches are struggling – perhaps because of the isolated nature of where they are and the
34 declines in their communities related to jobs and opportunities. Perhaps because we aren’t able to connect
35 with those living near us because we don’t understand their culture or their ways. Perhaps because we
36 have not paid attention to what people need around us. Perhaps because we refuse to see that what we
37 have always done no longer speaks to the needs of those outside our walls.
38

39 I want to push us in the Cascadia District to be innovative, to be inclusive, and to find ways to multiply
40 our successes and discover new ways of being church. I have ideas for how we can move into the next
41 phase of our life together. I have thoughts about what might be and what we can do. Some of these
42 thoughts and ideas will be made clear at Annual Conference this year. Some will be shared in the fall. I
43 will encourage you to try different things, to explore doing things differently, to listen to your neighbors
44 and God and move in the direction that those voices lead. And above all else, I will steadfastly work with
45 you to create partners of God and Christ for the transformation of lives and the world. That is, I will work
46 with you to love God and neighbor.
47

48 Thank you for welcoming me in as your DS and for all the ways you love God and neighbor.
49
50
51

Columbia District
Erin Martin, District Superintendent
Lydia Henry, District Lay Leader

“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.”

Psalm 126:1

In the Columbia District, 2017-2018 was the year we began to dream. At our Cluster Charge Conferences in the fall, we asked ourselves the open-ended, magnificent question, “What if...” That is, if we could dream collectively, what would we see and say for ourselves? The answers varied wildly and wonderfully, but there was also a resonant, underlying thread of a dream for deeper connection across ministry settings and with people outside of ourselves. Many people said things like, “What if we shared each other’s worship traditions, met together more regularly, worked on one big mission project together, shared our strengths across congregations, all worshipped in one building.” People said, “What if we talked to each other, listened to each other, didn’t judge each other.” “What if children and elderly laughed, played, and read together.” “What if we connected with people who don’t come to church,” and then someone took that sentiment even further saying, “What if we connected with people who don’t **want** to come to church?” Namely, what if we could relate to people on their own terms, not on our terms. One of my favorite dreams was this one, “What if Jesus was right, and the Kingdom of God is among us, and we lived into that reality?” Finally, there were beautifully big missional dreams. Dreams like ending global warming, showing up for the housing crisis in Portland, and providing safe sanctuaries for children and immigrants. It turns out, the hearts and minds of the laity and the clergy in the Columbia District are filled with glorious dreams.

This year in ministry, we were able to realize two specific dreams. The first was an event that we hosted in November 2017 with comedian, Jeremy McLellan. The dream went something like this: What if we could gather together and actually have fun? What if we could do something less churchy and more outrageous and different? To that end, we hosted an evening of comedy at the Sunnyside Community House (one of our four Columbia District New Start projects this past year) where we invited our District innovators to speak about their new start projects (Courtney McHill, Allen Buck, Jon Umbdenstock, and Olivia Smith) and then handed the microphone over to Jeremy McLellan. Afterward, we gathered for “after-glow,” a time of fellowship and conversation. The gathering was diverse (numerous members of the Muslim community attended the event), eclectic (people from different congregations and generations intermingled), and FUN! The event sparked a deeper dream in me that in the District we would continue to promote and practice creativity with each other and in the name of Jesus. The second dream was hosting a conversation on the issue of race. In February 2018, Dr. Christena Cleveland came and led a day-long conversation on her book entitled, *Disunity in Christ*. It was an extraordinary day in which we named white privilege and practiced with each other through affinity groups, Jesus’ example of “self-emptying” from Philippians 2 where we consider the needs of others above our own. The day was challenging, provocative and healing in embodying the dream of God’s beloved community in our midst. Again, that sparked in me the deeper dream to not just host an event, but to lead the way in the District in promoting Jesus’ alternative way of racial peace and justice in an otherwise racially divisive cultural climate.

In April 2018, District Lay Leader, Lydia Henry, realized one of her biggest dreams. She, along with the Columbia District Lay Development Team, hosted the first-ever District Lay Retreat at the Canby Grove Retreat Center. The weekend was rich in conversation, deep in community building across congregations, and long in worship, laughter and play. We have started something this year in realizing a bigger, more long-term dream of an empowered laity in the Columbia District.

There is much more to celebrate in this year of dreaming big for the Columbia District, but allow me to close by saying as God continues to restore the fortunes of the Columbia District, let us continue to be a people who dream.

Crater Lake District
John Tucker, District Superintendent

This has been a year of continuing to build relationships with the clergy and congregations of the Crater Lake District. A new District Leadership Team has been formed that acts as both a visioning strategic team and oversight management team. I am pleased to have Adam Briddell, Karlene Clark, Rich Fuss, Teresa Hart, Steven Berry, and Lynn Egli serving on that team.

After consulting with the District Leadership Team, I have decided to begin doing assessments in all the churches in the Crater Lake District. These assessments are based on ¶13 of *The Book of Discipline* and provide me with an opportunity to really get to know the churches in Crater Lake. As of this June's Annual Conference, I will have conducted full assessment workshops at Klamath Falls, Wilbur, Harmony (Coos Bay), Albany, Wesley (Eugene), and College (Philomath) and smaller scaled assessment conversations with Reedsport, Monroe, Tenmile, and Lakeview. More assessment workshops are scheduled for the fall. After the workshops, I send the churches a report with some observations and assignments for them to complete prior to a second conversation with the district superintendent.

With the District Leadership Team's help and support, I also conducted a \$1000 Prize contest where clergy and laity from the district were invited to write an essay on the following disciplinary question: *What is your understanding of humanity, and the human need for divine grace?* (¶324.9.c)

Those submitting essays were told to avoid theological jargon and write for a skeptical audience. I had a panel of three judges, all from outside the district, read and evaluate the essays and determine a winner. The prize was \$1000 to be paid according to the percentage that the winner's church paid to its 2017 apportionments. For example, if the winner's church paid 50% of their apportionments, the winner would receive \$500 and the remaining \$500 would go toward that church's 2018 apportioned giving. We had ten submissions this year; seven from clergy and three from laity. The winner was Rev. Richenda Fairhurst, who is the Senior Pastor at Ashland.

I enjoy spending time with clergy and laity in the district. I also enjoy working with my cabinet colleagues and Bishop Elaine. Being a district superintendent is a dizzying, exciting, heart-wrenching, fulfilling, frustrating, energizing, exhausting and renewing experience. I have been on the job now for two years and I am still not totally sure how to answer the question: *What exactly do district superintendents do?* Hopefully, next year's report will have some answers.

Sage District
Gwen Drake, District Superintendent
Terri Bartish, District Administrative Assistant
Josh Bynum, District Lay Leader

This is my seventh year as a District Superintendent; my second year as the Sage District Superintendent. I will be retiring July 1, 2018. Karen Hernandez will be the new District Superintendent for Sage District.

I met one-on-one with most of the pastors in the summer of 2017. I presided over 33 Annual Charge Conferences in the Fall. I met with most of the SPRC's to do a pastoral review.

The Shared Ministry Apportionment giving remained steady at 74.7% for 2017. At the 2018 first quarter report, Sage District contributed over 19% of total apportionments, representing more money than the other three districts. Go Sage District!!

Sage District has the strongest congregations in Oregon-Idaho Conference and a few very fragile congregations. I continued to look for creative ways with the Cabinet and congregations to bring strong leadership into each area. We have the most certified lay ministers and lay assigned in the conference.

32 Pre-Conference Reports

1 We have two areas where churches are working cooperatively to provide leadership in every church, the
2 Magic Valley and Northeast Oregon. The 2018 Annual Conference will vote on the faithful completion
3 of Ontario First United Methodist Church.

4
5 This year my focus has been to finish some hard work and hand off the rest to the next District
6 Superintendent. What to do in Twin Falls has been on my heart and mind for more than a year. With
7 Twin Falls UMC as part of the Magic Valley Ministry, it has not received the focused attention needed to
8 engage the rapidly growing and changing community around them. I have worked with Bill Gibson and
9 a strategic team from Boise to address this situation.

10
11 Wilder Hispanic Ministry is working on bringing in a new pastor to assist them in growing. Alejandro
12 Bravo has provided important leadership during this interim time and they are united in their request for a
13 pastor with credentials.

14
15 The new church start, CrossPoint, in downtown Boise continues on its slow path of growth under the
16 leadership of Dana Hicks.

17
18 I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve the Sage District!
19
20

21 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

22
23 GBHEM launched a new mission and vision in August 2017. The updated mission and vision simplify
24 GBHEM's role as the primary leadership development agency for The United Methodist Church.

25
26 **Mission:** Build capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in
27 Christ's calling in their lives, by creating connections and providing resources to aid in recruitment,
28 education, professional development and spiritual formation.

29
30 **Vision:** Generations of thriving, diverse and compassionate Christian leaders for The United Methodist
31 Church and the world.

32
33 The **Office of Discernment and Enlistment** at GBHEM hosted **Exploration**, a biennial event for young
34 adults ages 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry as a United Methodist
35 deacon or elder. More than 350 attended the event in Portland, Oregon in November 2017.

36
37 The **Young Clergy Initiative (YCI)** funded **34 innovative projects** across the church in 2017 to attract
38 young people to ordained ministry. Since its inception, more than 100 projects have been funded through
39 YCI.

40
41 GBHEM works with the **Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (CCTE)** to
42 distribute grants for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the Central Conferences. In 2017,
43 the CCTE awarded **67 grants totaling more than \$1 million** to the seven Central Conferences of The
44 United Methodist Church.

45
46 The **Publishing Ministry**, established to engage, nurture, and advocate for the intellectual life of The
47 United Methodist Church, released **13 books in 2017**, reaching more than 10,000 people.

48
49 In 2017, GBHEM's Office of **Loans and Scholarships** awarded **2,000+ students with \$4.1 million** in
50 scholarships and **350 students with \$1.4 million in low-interest loans**. More than **\$1.6 million was**
51 **awarded to 200 recipients of the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship**, which helps United
52 Methodist clergy avoid excessive educational loan debt, minimize financial stress and build financial
53 acumen.

54
55 To aid pastors in their ministry journey, GBHEM's **Candidacy Office** introduced **EM360**. A formation
56 guide to help pastors and congregations meet mission and ministry goals, EM360 is a tool to help clergy

33 Pre-Conference Reports

1 leaders **identify and gauge pastoral effectiveness**. In 2017, **1,438 candidates enrolled in UMCARES**
2 to seek certified candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry. A total of **589 candidates were certified**.
3

4 **The Black College Fund distributed more than \$9.68 million in 2017** to the Historically Black
5 Colleges and Universities related to The United Methodist Church for faculty development, infrastructure
6 maintenance, academic programs and scholarships.
7

8 **Clergy Lifelong Learning** led African-American, United Methodist pastors who lead predominantly
9 white churches in **cross-cultural diversity training** in South Korea in 2017. Continuing education and
10 coaching opportunities are available through the innovative, multilingual platform, UMC Cyber Campus.
11

12 In 2017, **Schools, Colleges, and Universities** established the **Siri S. Gadbois Fund** in partnership
13 with the National Association of Schools & Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC)
14 for mentoring among institution leaders (kickoff in 2018). The **Cutting-Edge Curriculum Award** was
15 created to recognize 10 exceptional faculty members who are building effective and innovative academic
16 courses (winners announced at the end of 2018 spring semester).
17

18 In partnership with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM provides e-readers to theological schools in remote
19 areas of Africa and Asia, offering access to the latest textbooks and references books. The **E-Reader**
20 **Project** distributed **667 e-readers in 2017** and nearly **2,500 devices to 22 theological seminaries** since
21 the program inception in 2013.
22

23 In 2017, GBHEM and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) hosted two
24 **academic theological colloquies**. Initiated in service to the intellectual life of the church, the colloquies
25 are intended to be a resource for the church. The first colloquy (March 2017) focused on **human**
26 **sexuality and church unity**, the second (November 2017) reflected on the practice of **Missio Dei**. Both
27 events produced a study guide and book.
28
29

30 Africa University

31 James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

32
33 **Africa University's students, faculty, administrators and support staff, trustees, alumni, partners**
34 **and friends are grateful to the Oregon-Idaho Conference for investing in the Africa University Fund**
35 **(AUF) apportionment at 100 percent in 2017. Thank you, Oregon-Idaho United Methodists, for your**
36 **continuing generosity and faithfulness to this ministry.**
37

38 Africa University enjoyed a banner year in 2017, thanks to the local congregations and leadership of The
39 United Methodist Church. United Methodists throughout the connection organized special celebration
40 events to mark Africa University's 25th anniversary. Africa University's contributions were highlighted and
41 churches affirmed their commitment and support.
42

43 Institutional Update:

- 44 • Africa University hosts a campus community of almost 1,417 students as well as faculty and
45 staff from 31 nations. There are 392 students enrolled part time, giving the institution a total
46 enrollment of 1809 students.
- 47 • Amidst an ongoing transition in the governance of Zimbabwe, teaching and learning activities
48 are unfolding without interruption.
- 49 • A new, leaner academic structure, which includes the Institute of Theology and Religious
50 Studies, is encouraging innovation and multidisciplinary training opportunities for both clergy
51 and laity.
- 52 • Africa University's insectary and researchers are providing critical data on mosquitos and
53 regional malaria control programs to aid Africa's efforts to eradicate malaria and other insect-
54 borne diseases.

34 Pre-Conference Reports

- The university is also making trailblazing, regional contributions in migrant and refugee protection, child rights, and harnessing intellectual property for development.

The first 25 years of AU’s ministry have produced more than 8,000 graduates who lead efforts to make disciples, minister to the poor, improve public health, and better the quality of life in communities across Africa.

A record number of annual conferences—35—achieved or exceeded their 100 percent investment in the AUF. The strong support of the Oregon-Idaho Conference helped the Western Jurisdiction to celebrate an overall investment of 100 percent to the AUF for the first time.

Africa University is embracing emerging opportunities for service and impact within and beyond the church in Africa. As you and your fellow congregants take stock of your impact in ministry, remember the students who are being equipped at Africa University. At the June 9th graduation ceremony, more than 600 young people will join the ranks of the Africa University alumni. Your graciousness is their miracle and they give thanks to God for you.

Thank you, Oregon-Idaho Conference, for your foundational role in the Africa University story. Thank you for playing your part in bringing this remarkable dream to life. May God bless and keep you always in an abundance of grace and mercy.

*Africa University Development Office: 1001-19th Avenue South
P O Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007
Tel: (615) 340-7438, Fax: (615) 340-7290
jsalley@gbhem.org, www.support-africauniversity.org*

Boston University School of Theology **Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean**

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we travel together in this journey of discipleship!

BREAKING NEWS:

- **Students:** Our entering students were the most diverse in our history, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchange and fruitful collaboration.
- **Faculty:** We welcomed three amazing faculty this year: **Rebecca Copeland** in Theology (focus on environmental theology); **Theodore Hickman-Maynard** in Black Church Studies; and **Cornell William Brooks** as Visiting Professor of Social Ethics, Law, and Justice Movements. Thanks to loyal alums, we also endowed the Harrell Beck Professorship in Hebrew Scripture and installed Kathe Darr as the first Beck Professor.
- **Congregations:** The Lilly Endowment awarded the Center for Practical Theology \$1.5 million to create an innovation hub, which will foster creative vocational reflection in congregations, and a sharing of the congregations’ wisdom.
- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- **Scholarships:** We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Dale Andrews Scholarship in Practical Theology and Race, Korean Student scholarship, and the Bishop John H. Adams and Dr. Dolly D. Adams Scholarship for candidates for ordained ministry in the AME, AMEZ, and CME churches.
- **Arts Initiatives:** Recent exhibits and events include “Symbols and Art of China, Korea, and Japan” and “Bridging Divided Communities through the Arts”

35 Pre-Conference Reports

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

- 3 • **Congregational courses:** Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning
4 together.
- 5 • **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** Internships and workshops that foster justice
6 and reconciliation.
- 7 • **Travel seminars:** Courses engaging local communities on Arizona-Mexican border, Israel
8 and Palestine, India, spiritual life centers, and Serbia and Croatia (with focus on interreligious
9 dialogue).
- 10 • **Ecumenical partnerships:** Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan
11 denominations, while launching robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church
12 and United Church of Christ.
- 13 • **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring
14 *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*. The focus is on enriching theological education with
15 interreligious learning and leadership opportunities.

17 **TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

- 18 • **Campus action:** Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified
19 Green School in BU, and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as
20 one of the “Seminaries that Change the World.”
- 21 • **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** Student-initiated internships for service
22 with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international
23 organizations.

25 **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:** Celebrating differences while joining in action.

- 26 • Faculty and students have led and participated in service for victims of hurricanes and
27 fires, protests on behalf of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, protests of white supremacist
28 movements, protests and services on behalf of immigrants and DACA young people, and
29 ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
- 30 • The community (often student-led) has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including
31 theological issues). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and
32 communal action.

34 **OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:**

- 35 • Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Anna Howard Shaw Center

36 As BUSTH looks back on 2017, it celebrates transformational leaders who keep the word of Jesus Christ
37 alive. Their living legacy and perceptive witness gives us hope and courage for the future.
38
39
40

41 **Candler School of Theology**

42 **Jan Love, Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and**
43 **Professor of Christianity and World Politics**
44

45 For more than 100 years, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has prepared *real* people
46 to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students
47 have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous
48 Christian leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. One of 13 official
49 seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler has been included on a list of “Seminaries that
50 Change the World” for five years running, and was recently named a “Bright Spot in Theological
51 Education” by Auburn Seminary.

36 Pre-Conference Reports

1 Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research
2 institution offering extensive resources and a demonstrated commitment to service. Our location in
3 Atlanta provides a hands-on learning environment rich with opportunity: The General Board of Global
4 Ministries is headquartered here, as are numerous public health, international development, and social
5 service organizations. Simply put, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major
6 denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and
7 improving global health.

9 In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single
10 degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law,
11 public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online,
12 so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and immediately apply to their context
13 what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve
14 as pastors in local churches while they're enrolled—they earn a salary as they earn course credit and
15 pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

17 Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an
18 enrollment of 455, reflecting 49 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age
19 of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of
20 students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

22 Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach
23 to tackle this issue. In 2017-2018, we awarded \$5.3 million in Candler scholarships, with 97 percent
24 of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 75 percent of tuition. Plus, our
25 comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students
26 now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

28 Half of Candler's faculty are United Methodist and 58% come from traditions within the larger Methodist
29 family. This year, we welcomed fellow United Methodist Helen Jin Kim to the faculty as Assistant
30 Professor of American Religious History, and we sent best wishes along with our colleague Mary Lou
31 Greenwood Boice as she retired after 25 years of remarkable service to Candler.

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

40 Claremont School of Theology

41 Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President and Professor of Hebrew Bible

42 CST values its connection to The United Methodist Church, and we are so thankful for your love,
43 prayers, and gifts. Our dedication to "preparing our graduates to become agents of transformation and
44 healing in churches, local communities, schools, non-profit institutions, and the world at large" has not
45 wavered and is made possible by your continued support.

47 In 2015, CST developed a **five-year strategic plan** based on three goals: promoting transformative
48 education; engaging local and global communities; and, achieving long-term institutional stability. CST's
49 groundbreaking approach to theological education is leading the way. Enrollment is up again; students,
50 professors, and graduates are truly **creating a difference for the world we live in**; and, our advancement
51 numbers are strong. Still our endowment has never been particularly robust, and with an aging campus
52 and the rising cost of higher education, we are running a budget deficit. Many free-standing seminaries
53 are experiencing this problem, too. One way of ensuring a healthy future is to embed in a like-minded
54 university, so last summer we began exploring the possibility of embedding within **Willamette**
55 **University** in Salem, Oregon to insure our **long-term institutional sustainability**.

37 Pre-Conference Reports

1 Willamette is one of few United Methodist-related universities in the western U.S., which makes it
2 possible for CST to retain both its affiliation as a United Methodist seminary and its reputation as an
3 excellent theological school with renowned programs. Further, partnering with Willamette provides a
4 number of interesting opportunities to strengthen *both* institutions – including dual degree programs,
5 joint degree programs with Willamette’s current graduate schools (Atkinson Graduate School of
6 Management and the College of Law), and coursework for Willamette undergraduates. **CST has always
7 met challenges with courage** – from its founding in 1885 in San Fernando Valley to its affiliation with
8 and later break from University of Southern California, to its 60 years in Claremont – CST’s mission has
9 always survived. Embedding within Willamette allows us the opportunity to thrive in a new way.

10
11 Even after announcing a possible move, CST’s alumni and friends have been supportive—evidenced by
12 a **35% increase in revenue/contributions** from alumni and friends in the first 6 months of the 2017-
13 18 fiscal year, as compared to the same period of time in the 2016-17 fiscal year. We believe this is an
14 indication of the continued support of our mission and students, and see this as a vote of confidence in
15 our efforts to create a stable financial model able to sustain the CST mission for years to come.

16
17 Additionally, our **Spring enrollment of 424 students is the highest in CST history**, demonstrating that
18 the potential move has not deterred students from seeking the **transformative education** offered by CST.
19 In fact, our M.Div. program has had a 60% jump over the past three years, our D.Min. program has had
20 a 204% increase, and our **number of United Methodist students has doubled** in the same time period.
21 Our current enrollment is also the most diverse in CST’s history:

- 22 • Our youngest student is 22, and our oldest is 82, with an average age of 42
- 23 • Our student body is 22% United Methodist, 55% other Christian, 15% non-Christian traditions,
24 1% non-religious, and 7% unaffiliated/undeclared
- 25 • And, nearly 60% of our students identify as people of color (16% black/African American,
26 15% Asian, 14% international/non-resident, 6% Hispanic, 4% Pacific islander/native
27 Hawaiian, 3% two or more races, along with 7% undeclared and 35% white.)

28 In a world rife with division, our students, professors, and alumni are agents of healing who model peace
29 with justice. CST is made up of people who are **engaging local and global communities** on a variety
30 of issues, from environmental justice and immigration reform, to confronting Islamophobia and peace-
31 building. We could not do this critical work without you.

32
33 In 2017, we wished **farewell** to two retirees: **Karen Dalton and Helene Slessarev-Jamir**. Karen is a
34 United Methodist pastor who served as CST’s Associate Professor of Practice of Ministry, Director of
35 Field Education, and was co-director of the Center for Global Methodism. Her teaching was shaped
36 by her passion for connecting theory and practice, and by her strong interest in leadership and spiritual
37 formation. Helene served as CST’s Mildred M. Hutchinson Professor of Urban Studies and Professor
38 of Ethics, Politics, and Society. As a political scientist by training with an expertise in urban policy
39 and civil rights, Helene’s research was situated at the intersection of politics and religion. She also
40 served as a member of the Board of Directors of Sojourners and on the UMC’s National Committee for
41 Hispanic/Latino Ministry and its National Immigration Task Force. These women contributed to CST’s
42 deep commitment to The United Methodist Church, our ecumenical mission, and our interreligious
43 partnerships. They are missed.

44
45 We also said **goodbye** to **Rev. Jeanne Audrey Powers**. Jeanne Audrey exercised bold and courageous
46 leadership and made possible CST’s Center for Sexuality, Gender and Religion (CSGR) which fosters
47 intellectual inquiry, open dialogue, and spiritual care within religious communities. Five years ago,
48 CSGR founded the Jeanne Audrey Powers Award, which recognizes graduates who demonstrate
49 outstanding service or leadership in LGBTQIA communities and display a commitment to be an activist
50 for social change on gender and sexuality issues. CST is fortunate to have had a friend and supporter like
51 Jeanne Audrey.

52
53 Thank you again for supporting Claremont School of Theology as we continue **creating a difference for
54 the world we live in**. We invite you to **Stay connected** by visiting us at cst.edu, on Facebook, and/or on
55 Twitter @CST_News; and, to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at <http://cst.edu/cst-newsletter/>.

United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio)
Dr. Kent Millard, President

“Now to him who by the power of God at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...”

— Ephesians 3:20

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, celebrated a 77% increase in new students for the fall of 2017. While 71 new students enrolled in September 2016, 126 new students enrolled in September 2017. This was made possible by increasing student aid opportunities and empowering faculty members, trustees and administrators to personally recommend candidates for a \$5,000 grant toward tuition. United experienced God’s provision, trusting what God said through St. Paul: “[God] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

Many of the seminary’s new students are current pastors who want to become more effective leaders for the Church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. United’s Doctor of Ministry program has 170 students enrolled this year from 29 states, 2 non-US countries and 27 Christian denominations. The average number of doctoral students in all Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is 60 students, making United one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs among ATS member schools.

The Doctor of Ministry program provides academic rigor, peer group support, spiritual growth and practical application. Pastors identify a need within their community and, with the support of a peer group, mentor and United faculty, they develop a model of ministry that will resolve the challenge in their congregations or communities.

Rev. Rudy Rasmus, pastor of the 9,000-member St. John’s United Methodist Church in downtown Houston is a current doctoral student, who says he has been both challenged and supported in the DMin program.

“The program is rigorous,” Rev. Rasmus says. “It is contextual, it is intentional and the professors and staff are at the top of the form.”

United also has 212 students enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program who usually seek to serve as pastors in local congregations. 88% of entering students are ordained or seeking ordination to serve a local congregation compared to 56% in other ATS member schools.

United also provides a two-year Master of Arts in Christian Ministries degree, which many persons serving as Directors of Christian Education or other local church positions pursue.

United provides flexible course options: 90% of students take at least one course online, and courses are also available as traditional on-campus courses, week-long on-campus intensive classes and virtual courses that meet simultaneously on campus and in the cloud via webcast.

If you are interested in pursuing further seminary education, contact United’s Office of Admissions at admissions@united.edu or call 800-322-5817.