

Pre-Conference Reports

Conference Boards and Agencies Related to Program and Mission:

Abundant Health	155
Camp & Retreat Ministries	156
Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Relationships	157
Communications	157
Congregational Development Team	158
Disaster Response Coordinator	159
Global Ministries/Outreach	160
Holy Land Task Force	161
Innovation and Vitality Team	162
Lay Ministry	162
Ministry Leadership Team	163
Peace with Justice	163
Religion & Race	163
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)	164
United Women in Faith	164

Conference Boards and Agencies Related to Finance & Administration

Archives and History	165
Committee on Episcopacy	165
Equitable Compensation	166
Finance & Administration (CF&A)	166
CF&A Annual Recommendations	167
Ordained Ministry (BOM)	168
Faith Foundation Northwest	169
Pensions & Health Benefits	170
Pensions: Clergy Housing Allowance Addendum	175
Rules	176
Safe Sanctuaries Team	176
Statistician	176
Trustees	178
United Methodist Ministers' Retirement Fund	178

Districts, General Agencies, and Educational Institutions:

Cascadia District	179
Columbia District	180
Crater Lake District	181
Sage District	181
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry	182
Candler School of Theology	183
Claremont School of Theology	184
Drew University Theological School	185
Saint Paul School of Theology	186
United Theological Seminary	187

2022 Pre-Conference Reports

Boards & Agencies of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

The United Methodist Church

Boards & Agencies Related to Program & Mission

Abundant Health Team

Emilie Kroen, Team Leader

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. – John 10:10b, NRSV

As United Methodists, we are committed to creating abundant health for all – a global connection striving for mental, physical and spiritual well-being. Lifesaving health ministries are enriching the lives of people around the world, from South America to Africa, from India to the Philippines, in congregations throughout the U.S.

“It will be a double blessing if you give yourself up to the Great Physician, that He may heal soul and body together. And unquestionably this is His design. He wants to give you ... both inward and outward health.” – John Wesley, from a letter written in 1778 to Alexander Knox, a theological writer.

Jesus’ mission on earth was inaugurated by healing (Matthew 4:23-24), and his healing ministries were a central sign that Jesus was the promised Messiah (Luke 7:20-22). Therefore, we understand that continuing Jesus’ ministry of healing is an important part of what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are called to the ministry of healing. We have opportunities to utilize our resources to extend hope to all people, offering them a path to wholeness, joy and abundant life in Christ. We believe that God, who is already at work healing, renewing, and redeeming creation, not only calls us to follow the path of Jesus in this way, but will also empower us with the Spirit as we step forth in mission to seek abundant health for all!

Our Abundant Health Team includes laity with a passion for this ministry who are actively engaged in Abundant Health programs within their local ministry setting. You can see a [list of OR-ID team members here](#).

In the past year, our Abundant Health Team provided several articles in the Conference Newsletter, enhanced our Abundant Health Web page with more resources, hosted a virtual Health Fair, offered recommendation for global giving, and provided support for the grass roots initiative out of Boise First UMC, “*Love Beyond Borders: The Interfaith Movement to End the Pandemic*,” which is committed to the equitable distribution of the vaccine around the world (Advance #3022671). All of these can be accessed on our webpage: <https://www.umoi.org/abundanthealth>. Looking forward, watch for more online learning opportunities and establishing virtual self-sustaining groups to support like ministries.

Following on the success of our Imagine No Malaria campaign, we became an Abundant Health Conference in 2017. Since that time 63 of our local churches have been designated Abundant Health Churches. These congregations engage in nearly 200 different Abundant Health-related ministries in their communities: from community gardens to walking groups (**Body**), “Boost Your Brain and Memory” Seminars to Suicide Prevention Symposiums (**Mind**), and Bible Studies to Spiritual Retreats (**Spirit**).

Body

Our bodies are instruments through which God can work in our communities, the means by which we can share his message of grace and eternal love for all. By caring for the body, we fortify the mission to which God has called us: to live exuberantly as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Mind

Vibrant mental health is a vital part of a person's holistic well-being. Helping people identify, treat, cope with and overcome their mental health challenges is something that will increase their quality of life, not only because the church offers them encouragement, but also because congregations are a community of hope that will provide strength on their journey of healing.

Spirit

Resilient spiritual health gives us purpose in our daily lives. We find strength to face our own brokenness and the fractured world around us, allowing us to rise up as disciples who speak words of hope and plant seeds of peace. As we seek to follow Christ and live as he asks us to live, our communities will become places of grace and love.

If you have a passion for this work and would like to join our team, please reach out to Emilie.

Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries **Ruth Marsh, Chair**

In the OR-ID Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, camp happened in 2021. At a certain level, that says everything about the struggle, the incredibly difficult work that dedicated paid and volunteer staff took on, and about the joy of being able to share Christ's love with kids of all ages in the great outdoors! But perhaps you would like a few more details...

During a pandemic, your Camp and Retreat Ministries Board successfully:

- paid our bills,
- retained all of our full-time staff and continued their insurance and housing,
- had no reported transmissions of COVID-19 among campers,
- sold the property in McCall that had lain idle for many years,
- made plans for solar projects at three sites, and
- finalized new mission and vision statements that have been in the works for a while.

This year Camp & Retreat Ministries has taken several steps to follow through on good ideas that we have been bouncing around. For instance, everyone knew that solar power would benefit camps and show our commitment to environmental sustainability. We were already working to partner with Oregon Clean Power Co-op for funding of the first project, at Alton L. Collins, when a grant opportunity from the United Methodist Camp and Retreat (UMCRM) association was announced. Our Executive Director, Todd Bartlett, was able to secure \$75,000 towards our first array. The next projects will be at Wallowa Lake and then at Camp Magruder.

Camp and Retreat Ministries has set aside \$144,000 (15% of the proceeds from the sale of the McCall property) for BIPOC ministry. Our commitment includes making sure that there are opportunities for Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color to feel welcomed and valued at our camps. This year, both paid and volunteer staff will receive diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

There has been one camp director change: it is with sadness and great gratitude for her excellent work that we said goodbye to Kate Vaden, who had been the director at Camp Latgawa for nearly two years.

When your Camp & Retreat Ministries Board meets, this is the mission statement that guides our actions and decisions:

157 Pre-Conference Reports

We are people dedicated to creating sacred spaces of Christian hospitality and learning. We offer these spaces so that people may...

- Experience God's love
- Engage with creation
- Develop loving interdependence with each other and all the Earth
- Act with justice in the world

This is the vision we use to talk about the difference that church camp makes:

A world of wonder, love, and justice

We serve individuals, families, educational institutions, religiously-affiliated groups, social service agencies, community service organizations, and other nonprofit organizations that enrich life in the world.

Thank you for continuing to support Camp and Retreat Ministries. Because of you, camps in our Annual Conference continue to impact lives!

Christian Unity and Inter-religious Relationships **Barbara Nixon and Mike Holloman, Co-coordinators**

No report this year.

Communications **Kristen Caldwell, Communications Manager**

It has been a pleasure this past year to help share the stories of the people who make up our churches in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference while sharing in our collaborative work as part of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area.

This past year the communications office began developing a strategic plan that looks at the long-term goal of being the good news, by doing the short-term goal of sharing the good news. And what is the good news? Creating beloved community by dismantling systemic racism. How does that work in communications? While there is still work to be done in this area, the number one priority will be amplifying voices of people of color in our stories, newsletters, blogs and more, whenever possible.

This year the Communications office has continued to work into a collaborative model of supporting communications efforts across the Greater Northwest Area, which has meant working closely with PNW Conference Communications Director Patrick Scriven and Alaska Conference communicator, Rev. Jim Doepken.

This has involved continuing to develop news stories for the Greater Northwest Area News Site, putting out a weekly combined newsletter and a joint Appointment Express news blast each week during appointment season.

In this collaborative spirit, the communications office here has been supporting the work of the GNW Area disaster response team, [building a web presence](#) helping to create a special Sunday of awareness (Nov. 14) last fall as well as writing news articles and becoming ERT trained.

In 2021, the GNW Area created the Circle of Indigenous Ministries with Rev. Dr. Allen Buck serving as its new executive director. While Rev. Buck continues to serve Great Spirit UMC, he has worked with this office to create both a [landing page for the Circle](#) as well as a [new land acknowledgment resource page](#).

158 Pre-Conference Reports

While committing to the collaborative communications work has been valuable, the communications office has been intentional about re-connecting with folks in the Oregon-Idaho Conference in 2021 and 2022. In July of 2021, the UM Connector (the Oregon-Idaho Conference e-newsletter) returned monthly to tell local story content as well as localized training opportunities, conferences and more.

The communications office has continued to help churches and ministry settings tell their stories to a wider audience. In early May of 2021, the return of Wallowa UMC to the Nez Perce was featured in the [Wallowa County Chieftain, KGW News](#) and [Oregon Public Broadcasting's Think Out Loud](#) program. When Christ UMC Cedar Mill (Portland) announced it had secured enough funding to begin work on the first LGBTQ+ low-income housing unit of its kind in the state, [KGW News again picked up the story](#).

In November and December, in partnership with the Office of Connectional Ministries, the Conference began a "Light of the World" campaign during Advent to recognize laity in the Oregon-Idaho Conference who do amazing things. Every day on our Facebook and Instagram pages, we highlighted one individual. Our "engagement" (as defined by social media algorithms) on everyone was higher than our average posts on the page, so we know it was well-received.

The communications office is continuing to find ways to improve our work, from investing in technology and equipment, to contracting with more specialized graphic designers and videographers, to updating the look and accessibility of our website.

Thank you to everyone across the Conference who has helped this office be a champion for The Good News.

Congregational Development Team **Keren Rodriguez, Chair**

Greetings in the name of Christ! During my tenure as chair of the CDT for these past ten months, I have committed to meeting with church planters, board members, and staff to learn the Team's work.

As a result, we met over zoom every month since I started to preside. We have revised our roles and limitations and have continuously worked with the Innovation and Vitality Team to support the vision of expanding our work through the conference in Oregon and Idaho. This year, we have learned about exciting new projects that the IV Team brings.

As chairperson, I also have the delight to work with other board chairs across the Greater Northwest. We have made an effort to work together while acknowledging our differences in the contexts we serve.

We are excited to learn the new ways that faith communities can be created and firmly believe that "our world is our parish," therefore, the ways in ministry in which we are excited in engaging have reshaped what our work can be. We are in exciting times in places where the "church" as we know it is involved in a new way forward, and with this, we welcome innovative work even in challenging times. And while we celebrate and rejoice in how our "church" is working, we have also shared some grievances.

Over the past year, we were notified of multiple racist attacks on planters of color done by predominant white congregations. These attacks included micro:aggressive behavior:

- Overt racial slurs
- Hostility towards leadership
- Inability to allow Innovator's authority in worship, finances, and leading discipleship.

And while we acknowledge the lack of preparation for sending leaders of color to cross-cultural appointments, we reprimand any harmful behavior to church planters and the ministries that we are supporting.

As a result, the congregational development team, working with staff, moved planters of color to new

159 Pre-Conference Reports

settings for their work to be unhindered by these issues. We grieve this unfortunate situation. We also understand that we belong to an institution and call on our conference's remaining working bodies to continue doing the vital work of dismantling racism within our faith communities.

In addition to this work, Erin Baldwin Day, Chair of the Congregational Development Board in Alaska, and David Reinholz, former chair of the Board of Congregational Development for the Pacific Northwest Conference, and I created legislation that was approved by all three 2021 Annual Conferences in the GNW Area. This legislation requested the creation of a vitality commission in response to the letter of concern received in 2020 requesting more information and transparency for procedures involving innovation and vitality in our conference.

As chair, my commitment to our conference is to continue to support church planters and staff involved in this crucial work. I will also continue to learn my role as the chairperson and work in a group with the rest of our board members to foster innovative and vital work.

If you would like to know more about our work or have any suggestions, [please feel free to contact me](#).

Disaster Preparedness and Response **Louise Kienzle, Interim Disaster Response Coordinator**

The disasters of 2020 moved into recovery in 2021. In the past year, we have been working with nine Long-term Recovery Groups (LTRG's) in Oregon; eight covering wildfire recovery and one covering flood recovery, all while still having restrictions from COVID-19. In Oregon, from May 2021 to present 2022, there were 1,661 wildfires burning a total of 654,000 acres. In July 2021, the Bootleg Fire in Klamath-Lake Counties burned more than 413,000 acres in 39 days. More than 2,000 people were evacuated from homes in the Fremont-Winema National Forest in what would become the third-largest wildfire in state history.

Blue Mountain Region LTRG is getting ready to close its final case while Klamath-Lake LTRG is just getting started. An UMCOR Solidarity Grant was approved and used to help survivors with immediate assistance and recovery needs through Stronghold and the Klamath-Lake LTRG. The OR-ID Disaster Fund has been used to provide needed assistance for survivors. Volunteers have distributed UMCOR Cleaning Kits and Hygiene Kits requested from churches and organizations in Jackson and Klamath County.

The last two years have proven that severe drought and climate change are making wildfires bigger and more dangerous. Drought emergency declarations have been made in both Oregon and Idaho. And there is the potential for other types of disasters.

At the end of 2020, UMCOR West in Salt Lake City closed. This has left it more difficult to get disaster response kits to affected areas in a timely manner. That's why we are working to set up Disaster Response Supply Centers throughout the Conference. Churches that have provided space and oversight include Trinity UMC (Salem), Rainier UMC, and Hermiston UMC. There is still a need for Supply Centers in Southern Oregon, Eastern Oregon and Idaho.

What can you do now?

- You can continue to give to UMCOR and the Conference Disaster Fund to help support these recoveries and the disasters still to come.
- Train as an ERT and/or serve on a Volunteer in Mission Long-term Recovery Team.
- Provide support for teams that come from other areas to help with recovery.
- Assemble disaster response kits.
- Become a Disaster Response Supply Center.

You can contact the conference disaster response coordinator at drc@umoi.org if you have questions, need more information, or want to get involved.

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

These past two years have been a challenge for all of us, and this is particularly true for those involved in mission and outreach. Volunteer In Mission and Early Response Teams have been unable to go to or work on site. But with the lingering needs of the 2020 spring floods in the Pendleton area, the windstorm and fires in September, and the ice storm in February 2021, there has been a continued need for a missional response to crises within the bounds of our Annual Conference. In many ways, though we have had to meet remotely and work through others, our Mission Team has been more active than in the previous years. One benefit of the on-line communication has been our enhanced connection with mission leaders and teams from our sister conferences in the Northwest and the Western Jurisdiction. It seems I am involved in one or more Zoom meetings with our teammates each week.

It is our hope that as things open up, we will be able to translate that connectivity into coordinated action as we address the needs that have emerged and are emerging.

UMVIM & ERT: ([See the report here.](#))

Itineration

The world-wide nature of the pandemic has facilitated communications via Zoom and other electronic means with missionaries and mission projects around the world. If anything, there seem to be more conversations happening than in the past. We hope that sets the stage for both continuing the electronic communication and future in-person itineration.

We have had to get creative. There have been interesting and fruitful mission conversations over Zoom. Pastors have included worship elements, such as recordings of missionaries reading the Sunday scripture, and small group and multiple-church conversations.

Through our Western Jurisdiction connection, each Annual Conference has selected two persons in mission to promote to local churches and groups. For Oregon-Idaho these are Elizabeth Yambasu and Jeanne Ntomo. We are also encouraging support of Ellyn Dubberly.

- Elizabeth Yambasu, the daughter of the late Bishop John Yambasu of Sierra Leone, is a Global Mission Fellow serving with the Faith and Justice Network in Liberia. eyambasu@umcmmission.org
- Jeanne Ntomo serves with her husband Gaston as directors of the Wings of the Morning aviation mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. jeannentombo2021@gmail.com
- Ellyn Dubberly is serving in El Salvador where she is working with the Bishop's office on a children's program for 13 Methodist Churches. edubberly@umcmmission.org

More information on the work of these amazing missionaries can be found on the [GBGM website](#). Individuals, groups and congregations can make direct contact via Zoom with missionaries in the field with the #STILLINMISSION portal of GBGM. We encourage each congregation and active small group to engage with and support the work of Global Ministries.

Disaster Preparedness and Response: [See the full report here.](#)

Connecting Neighbors

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

Abundant Health: [See the team's report here.](#)

161 Pre-Conference Reports

As United Methodists in the Western Jurisdiction, we lead the denomination in both per/member support of missions and participation in Covenant Relationships with individual missionaries. We can be proud of our leadership in this regard, and look for new and effective ways of enhancing our connection with the worldwide ministry that we share.

Our Global Ministries Team believes that participation in missions is a key element in the growth and vitality of each local church. We are dedicated to provide opportunities for all who share a heart for the world to get involved in meaningful ways. We believe that the neighbors we are called to love exist both next door and halfway around the world. No matter who you are, God is calling you to step into the journey of mission.

Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force **Dee Pujade, Chair**

The Holy Land Task Force was created at Annual Conference 2013. You can see the [current list of members here](#).

The Task Force has not met during the Covid pandemic, but has exchanged e-mails on pertinent issues, and will be submitting several resolutions to the 2022 Annual Conference. Since its inception, the membership of the Task Force has changed due to resignations and deaths; at present, it could use a few more members who would like to work on this issue. At present, the only time commitment required is to respond to e-mails and occasionally share information to local congregations and individuals, as well as advocating for justice in whatever manner possible. Those interested can [contact Dee Pujade](#).

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

In subsequent years, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference passed additional resolutions relevant to the Task Force's work, including:

- 2014 - Encouraging churches to study the Kairos Palestine Response
- 2015 - Divesting from stock in Caterpillar, Motorola and Packard until these companies end their involvement with the illegal occupation of Palestine
- 2017 - Opposing any state or federal legislation that seeks to restrict the right to address injustice through boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS). This legislation included a provision that letters be written to legislators expressing the Conference's opposition to so-called "Anti-BDS" Legislation. Read the letter.
- 2018 - Child Incarceration and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 2018 - Aligning Investments with Values Regarding Palestine and Israel (renewed/revised)
- 2018 - Supporting Middle East Peace Efforts

Pending legislation for AC 2022 is renewal of the 2015 resolution, Aligning Investments with Values, and a new resolution, Identifying and Opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land.

The Covid restrictions of the past two years have greatly limited our ability to do outreach to churches and community organizations; however, individual members continue to advocate through participation in on-line webinars, including those presented by United Methodists for Kairos Response (<https://www.kairosresponse.org/webinars.html>), and writing letters to legislators to express opinions on legislation involving Palestinian human rights.

The Task Force continues to provide educational resources and speakers to local churches and other venues as requested. *The Kairos Document* (<http://www.kairos-palestine.ps/index.php/about-us/kairos-palestine-document>) is recommended as a "primer" for those wishing to learn more about this issue, and copies of it—or any other information on this topic—are available from Task Force members.

162 Pre-Conference Reports

Task Force members are also willing and eager to help coordinate educational programs on Palestine/Israel in any way that is needed. Additionally, United Methodists for Kairos Response, a national group working to support an end to the illegal Occupation of Palestine, is a recommended resource (<https://www.kairosresponse.org/>).

Information and resources links can be found on the Task Force's web page at <https://www.umoi.org/holyland>. We look forward to our continued work with the churches of the OR-ID Annual Conference in seeking peace and justice in the Holy Land.

Innovation Vitality Team

No report this year.

Board of Lay Ministry **Paul Nickell, Conference Lay Leader** **Sarah Richard, Associate Conference Lay Leader** **Emilie Kroen, Lay Servant Coordinator**

In conjunction with the Pacific Northwest and Alaska conferences, the OR-ID Board of Lay Ministry began the year by co-hosting a virtual laity session as part of the online annual conference in June 2021. A video featuring the lay leaders of the three conferences of the Greater Northwest Area brought inspiration and a message of hope in a time of pandemic challenges. We gave witness to the extraordinary creativity of our congregations, who remain connected with one another, serving their communities. In addition, elections were held for the positions of conference lay leader and associate conference lay leader.

All our meetings this year were held on Zoom. We welcomed a new district lay leader in the Cascadia District. We continue to encourage lay members to be active leaders and to remind the annual conference leadership of the importance of laity in planning and decision-making in all aspects of ministry.

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this equipping and empowering system, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.

During this past year, the OR-ID Lay Servant Ministries team has provided six courses offered on Zoom, allowing 68 students to take courses without leaving home. Since January 2021, when our collaboration with the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, and Mountain Sky Annual Conferences began, laity in our episcopal area have had the opportunity to take 23 different Lay Servant Ministry Courses sessions, including two Basic Courses in Spanish. New course offerings will be announced in the GNW Area newsletter and on the United Methodist OR-ID Laity Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UMCLaity/>).

Currently, only one district has a director of Lay Servant Ministries. For the ongoing success of this program, it is critical for each district to fill this position. We are also always seeking instructors for our Lay Servant Ministries courses. If you are interested in teaching these courses (or taking courses), please [contact Emilie Kroen](#), Conference Lay Servant Ministries Coordinator.

The collaborative work of the GNW Area lay and clergy leaders was evident in the New Year while planning the successful and well-attended "Local Church Leadership Training for Laity in the GNW" event in February 2022. During the first hour, in a video featuring diverse lay leaders from across the GNW Area, participants received words of encouragement along with training on decision-making processes. During the second hour, participants separated into breakout rooms to focus the conversation on administrative teams and tasks. A Spanish-language cohort was available during this second hour.

The spirit of cooperation of laity in the GNW Area continues even as this report is being prepared. Once again, there is to be a joint laity session of the three conferences in June 2022 when we meet once again by Zoom. Our connection is strong!

Ministry Leadership Team **Laurie Day, Director of Connectional Ministries**

The Ministry Leadership Team is charged with the responsibility of providing ongoing oversight for the mission and ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference within the Greater Northwest Area's vision and strategies, which previously ranged from fighting COVID-19 to dismantling racism to disaster and climate justice and the future of The United Methodist Church.

This year, the strategic priority has narrowed to one main area: Creating beloved community and dismantling racism through intentional anti-racist work. This priority will guide the shifting of our ministries and organization to become more inclusive, innovative and grounded in sustainable relationships. It is the work and responsibility of all our programmatic, organizational and administrative ministry areas.

The Ministry Leadership Team continues to affirm the BIPOC leadership support fund within the Oregon-Idaho Conference, initially funded for the 2020- 2021 appointment year and extended for the 2021-2022 appointment year. This provides financial support for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) ministry leadership and established a strategic funding work group to coordinate financial support and assure complete funding for these two appointment years while working to create more sustainable and long-term funding solutions. Overall funding for this leadership support comes from a variety of grants, conference askings, conference entities, fundraising, and the Opportunity Fund.

At the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference Session in June 2021, Action Request #19 called upon the Ministry Leadership Team to work with BIPOC leaders and members of the conference to develop an action plan for a Racial Justice Strategy. The Ministry Leadership Team assigned members Ria Galo, Keren Rodriguez and Leroy Barber to work with other BIPOC leaders in the development of this strategy. The 2022 Annual Conference Session will receive a report and initial recommendations of this work.

Peace with Justice Coordinator

There is no report this year; the position is currently unfilled.

Commission on Religion and Race **Rev. June Fothergill, coordinator**

The Oregon Idaho Commission on Religion and Race has been meeting monthly this year. We have a small fund to provide grants to local churches for their work in ethnic ministries. We awarded two churches these grants this year: Lents Tongan Fellowship for musical gear for a young adult ministry and worship, and Aloha UMC for a sound system to be used in outreach ministry to the Hispanic community. If your church is working with a racial ethnic community in ministry and needs some extra funds for a project, you can check out the application online at <https://gnw-reg.brtaapp.com/CORRGrantApplication>.

CORR is also working together to understand the realities of racism in our community and churches and finding ways to address it. We also are monitoring and seeking to learn about the various efforts to dismantle racism that are happening in our conference. We met with the Board of Ordained Ministry and learned about their work to recruit, train, and retain racial ethnic leadership for our churches. We participate and seek to promote classes and learning opportunities for churches and laity to learn more about dismantling racism and changing patterns of white supremacy and privilege. Check out the Oregon-Idaho Conference [website under missions](#) for our page with some resources.

We would like to hear from local churches what they need to grow in becoming safe and thriving communities for all people. One of our visions would be that each local church be ready to receive and thrive with a cross-racial or cross-cultural appointment. If you have something you think could help your local church in this regard, please let us know.

164 Pre-Conference Reports

The church I currently serve had an African-American associate pastor for several years in the 1980's. A few years later one of their youth suggested that the church become a racism-free zone. At the same time, the community has a history of not welcoming African-American persons, and bullying and racial slurs still happen in our schools. This history helps to shape the church today. CORR invites churches to ask themselves about the racial/ethnic history and current reality of their churches and their community. How does this impact us as a local church? What would it mean for your church to become involved in dismantling racism? If you or your church would like to talk with CORR about what would help you in this effort, [please contact us](#).

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

In this second year of COVID, mission at home has been more important than ever. Churches have reached out to serve congregants, friends and neighbors locally and regionally. You have reached out to partners around the world through your donations and prayers. You have also learned how to stay connected and grow relationships via Zoom and [Virtual Missions](#).

The Oregon-Idaho Conference sponsored two Virtual Missions to Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya. This new way to be in mission has become integral in bringing everyone to the table, offering mission to those who might not have been able to serve previously, along with a way to stay connected and build relationship.

One way we can all celebrate connectionally the work of UMVIM is to [register your team/church mission activities](#). Churches that I am aware have participated in mission between April 2021 and April 2022 include:

- Hermiston UMC: food bank, food service, Conference Disaster Kit Storage Center
- Oak Grove UMC: disaster kit assembly
- Newburg UMC: disaster kit assembly
- Rainier UMC: disaster kit assembly, Conference Disaster Kit Storage Center
- Tualatin UMC: disaster kit assembly
- Joseph UMC: border (asylum seekers) kit assembly
- Christ UMC: Habitat for Humanity construction
- Trinity UMC, Salem: Conference Disaster Kit Storage Center

I celebrate the work these churches have done, but I know there are so many more. Please reach out and let us all celebrate the work you do in mission.

Now that restrictions are being relaxed, you might want to consider traveling outside of your community, reaching out nationally or internationally. Whether within our conference, out into our episcopal area or beyond, there are many opportunities. If you're ready to get started, contact me at UMVIM@umoi.org.

United Women in Faith (formerly known as United Methodist Women) Chris Mitchell, Conference President

United Methodist Women has taken on a new name: **United Women in Faith**. We remain the official women's organization of the United Methodist Church. Our legal name is still United Methodist Women, and our Purpose has not changed. Our new name is a part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth. We have a newly created website (www.uwfaith.org) that is designed for easier navigation with new and updated information.

165 Pre-Conference Reports

We continue to focus on our quadrennial justice campaign issues of “Just Energy for All” and “The School to Prison Pipeline.” Our women are encouraged to become involved in educating themselves about these issues by participating in webinars, legislative events, online studies, and Mission u. We work toward systemic changes by becoming politically active. National Action Alerts provide opportunities for us to intelligently contact our legislators.

Our Conference United Women in Faith remain committed in our work toward implementation of the Charter for Racial Justice and eliminating racism. There are book study groups who gather regularly to read and discuss books centered around racial justice issues. Many of these books are from our United Women in Faith Reading Program. We are collaborating with Camp and Retreat Ministries, and the Committee on Native American Ministries to educate our local churches on the importance of Land Acknowledgements as a beginning step in the journey of active repentance and healing toward our Native brothers and sisters. Programming for our District meetings has included speakers who raised our awareness about issues of racial injustice. One of our Mission u studies presented last summer was “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School.” This study called us to challenge the unjust policies and practices in our school systems that push children of color out of school.

Assembly 2022 (a quadrennial gathering of United Women in Faith from around the United States and the world) will be in Orlando, Florida, May 20-22, 2022. The theme is TURN IT UP! There are about 35 women registered from our conference, either virtually or in person.

Our Mission u will be virtual this summer and is scheduled for July 14-16 and July 29-31. There will be no registration fee. The theme is “Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy,” based on Luke 13. This study will explore what would be possible if we tended to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did. Everyone is invited to participate.

Our Conference Annual Meeting will be in Boise on October 22. We are excited to have our national United Women in Faith President, ‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, as our keynote speaker.

In 2021, the United Women in Faith of our Conference exceeded their pledge to Mission, sending over \$94,500 to the national organization to support the work of our national and international mission projects. That’s in addition to the many projects that our local units support in their own communities. We awarded our Zimmerman Trust Grant of \$4,000 to our United Women in Faith international Regional Missionaries for leadership development. I stand in awe and thankfulness at the generosity of the local United Women in Faith units in our Conference. Together we are making a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth throughout the world.

Boards & Agencies Related to Finance and Administration

Archives and History

Nancie Peacocke Fadeley, chair

No report this year.

Committee on the Episcopacy

Cheryl Bittle, chair

The Oregon-Idaho Committee on the Episcopacy had begun discussion of the upcoming retirement of Bishop Stanovsky, but the announcement later in the year about postponement of retirement plans and continuation of the Bishop’s service halted discussions. The Committee also realized that the cancellation of the proposed 2022 General Conference leaves the evolution of a Greater Northwest Episcopal Area Overview on hold at present or until later in 2022. No communication was received from the Western Jurisdiction COE during the year.

The committee will meet prior to annual conference via Zoom to discuss next steps so a foundation for the future can be met. As the Conference Nominations Committee is reviewing composition of AC committees, additions to or deletions from the committee will be integrated as future work is decided.

Commission on Equitable Compensation **Daryl Blanksma, chair**

The Commission on Equitable Compensation is recommending an 8% increase in minimum base compensation for 2023. Compensation from the local church includes cash salary, a utilities allowance, and a home for the pastor's use. We recognize an increase of this size may be a burden for some of our churches, but it is necessary for our clergy families to keep up with recent increases in the cost of living.

If an adequate parsonage **is** provided for the use of the pastor, we recommend the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference fix the *minimum* base compensation for 2023 at the following rates:

1. Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: **\$47,390**
2. Provisional Member: **\$45,020**
3. Local Pastor: **\$42,770**

If an adequate parsonage **is not** available for the use of the pastor, we recommend the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference fix the *minimum* base compensation for 2023, at the following rates:

1. Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: **\$65,439**
2. Provisional Member: **\$62,168**
3. Local Pastor: **\$59,060**

Clergy should determine how much of their compensation is to be allocated toward housing/utility costs. This figure should be set at a level which reflects their true housing/utility related costs as allowed by IRS rules. Be sure to seek qualified assistance in making decisions that will affect tax liabilities.

The Commission on Equitable Compensations recommends the following housing guidelines relating to compensation:

1. For the purposes of housing policy, every parsonage will be considered as meeting the minimum compensation package. This is true whether the clergy are working full-time or part-time.
2. Churches and pastors may apply to the Commission for an exemption to the higher "non-parsonage" compensation rate under certain conditions. For example, a pastor already has a house in the area, or adequate housing is easily available in the local community for a lesser rate. If the Commission does not grant an exemption and a parsonage is not provided, the church **must** pay the higher compensation rate.

The Commission also recommends, but cannot require, that a reimbursement for travel and professional expenses be set at no less than **\$3,600** annually. This reimbursement is not part of the pastor's compensation and should be included as part of the administrative budget of the church, not part of salary. For IRS purposes, churches should be sure they have adopted an Accountable Reimbursement Policy which is available from their district office.

Finally, the Commission is committed to using its resources to work with the Cabinet to support BIPOC clergy serving in our Annual Conference. We also desire a meeting with members of various stakeholder groups which play a role in determining clergy costs in our conference; such as the Board of Pensions, the Cabinet, Conference Finance & Administration, Equitable Compensation, and others, to have an in-depth discussion of how to better support clergy salaries with our limited resources.

Council on Finance and Administration **Paul Cosgrove, Chair**

As we move from pandemic Covid to endemic Covid, and approach the end of what will effectively be an eight year "quadrennium," there is much uncertainty in our lives, and in the life of our United Methodist Church. And yet the mission and ministries of our Oregon-Idaho churches continue amid the uncertainty!

Looking back

- Our apportioned budget for 2021 was a little over \$3.0 million, which was an 11.6% decrease from 2020. But payment of apportionments by our local churches totaled less than \$2.4 million, with the difference covered by Conference managers holding down spending to match actual revenue.
- The underpayment of apportionments in 2021 continues a multi-year trend. Since 2017, the gap between the apportioned budget and actual payment of apportionments has never been less than \$570,000, and at the most, was over \$920,000.
- In 2021, 89 of our 162 churches paid 100% or more of their apportionments. But 33 churches paid less than 50% of their apportionments. A few paid nothing at all.
- With an apportioned budget in 2022 that is likely to be significantly higher than actual 2022 apportioned revenue, we have again asked Conference managers for expenditure restraint.

Looking forward to 2023

- Our current Treasurer and Chief Benefits Officer, Dan Wilson-Fey, is retiring on June 30, 2022, so we will start 2023 with a new Treasurer, nominated by CF&A, but approved by a vote of the Annual Conference this June. Dan and his small but very hardworking staff are the ones who have been keeping us on track during these challenging years.
- The 2023 budget you will be voting on is still being developed as this report is being written, but it will likely include further significant reductions in expenditures, and some judicious use of reserves for one-time-only expenditures. But it also will result in a significant reduction in the amount of the budget apportioned to each local church.
- CF&A will be working with District Superintendents and local churches, with a goal of achieving 100% of our churches paying 100% of these lower apportionments in 2023.

**2022 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 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 funds.
3. 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.
4. The following organizations are given permission to solicit funds among the churches of the Conference without quota:
 - Alaska Pacific University
 - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
 - Faith Foundation Northwest (formerly Northwest United Methodist Foundation)
 - Oregon-Idaho Camp and Retreat Ministries
 - Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Minister's Retirement Fund
 - Pacific School of Religion
 - Partnership with Liberia Annual Conference
 - Rust College
 - United Methodist Campus Ministries of the Conference
 - Willamette University and Claremont School of Theology
 - Willamette View Foundation
 - Willson House, Salem

Board of Ordained Ministry
Julia Nielsen, Chair
Teri Watanabe, Chair-Elect

As our church and neighbors, local and global, strive for new ways of being community, it is more important than ever that the Board of Ordained Ministry actively recruit, nurture, prepare and credential people for ordained, licensed, and certified ministry. Our world continues to need called and courageous church leadership grounded in our Creator, providing mutual aid alongside Jesus to the most vulnerable, and wading into the future empowered by the Spirit's wisdom.

This year, our 2022 candidacy class includes five persons recommended as Elders in Full Connection and one person recommended for Associate Membership.

In 2019, the Board committed to expand our internal work around cultural adaptiveness, eliminating implicit bias, and anti-racism to better support clergy across the spectrum and our local faith communities. This work has been continued intentionally since then, integrating antiracism praxis throughout all of our processes (including listening deeply to areas of concern from BIPOC candidates throughout the candidacy pipeline for the last decade, correcting our educational equivalencies to reflect the racial, theological, and educational diversity of our recruited clergy, and clarifying our psychological assessment process and guidelines to support diverse applicants).

We have also engaged an expert consultant to help us redesign our Provisional, Full Membership, and District Committee processes to be more inclusive of all people, including non-UM trained, BIPOC, ESOL, deaf/hard of hearing, and other marginalized candidates seeking membership in our conference. This work - which has already commenced - will result in a completely transformed pipeline for candidates that we hope will create more accessibility in general. Our stated goal is to have at least five Black, ordained UM clergy people in membership in the Conference by 2026. If our processes work for Black candidates seeking ordination, it's our belief that we will have made significant cultural shifts as a BOM. It's a bold goal given the context, but we are working (as trained by the IV Team) to work from outcomes.

Additionally, we continue to make a strong commitment to full access to candidates (from first DCOM "touch" through BOM interviews) and to BOM members who use English as a second or more language by providing simultaneous interpretation services at all events, as well as all BOM documents available translated in both English and Spanish. It is our hope in 2022 to create Korean-language resources, as well.

We have pledged to continue this work for the foreseeable future, alongside our four District Committees on Ordained Ministry.

Our other major projects throughout the year were: entirely redesigning our roles and nominations processes, coming to clarity on clergy mentoring across the Conference, integrating formation experiences from licensed through ordained clergy, clarifying our processes related to Deacons and the Cabinet's needs, creating relational cohesion with the Board of Lay Ministry, DCOM's, Bishop/Cabinet, moving through pandemic, and providing deepening clergy wellness support. We are also designing extensive annual DCOM member trainings and ongoing support structures and celebrate a new inventive collaboration with the Board of Lay Ministry as we navigate support, education, and care for our Certified Lay Ministers across the region.

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 creativity, inclusivity, and excellence in ministry.

Faith Foundation Northwest **Tom Wilson, Executive Director**

Greetings from Cashmere, Washington, where the sun is shining, and the orchards are blooming! Our team has had a very busy year since my last report to the Annual Conference in 2021.

Remote work has become our “new normal” during the COVID-19 pandemic, but make no mistake, we are itching to get together again! We’ve rejoiced whenever lower rates of community transmission have made in-person meetings possible, and we’ve also given thanks for the technology that allows us to connect from a distance when that’s the safer option. We will continue to meet people where they are by making **online and in-person services available** as case rates allow.

In September 2021, our organization changed its name to **Faith Foundation Northwest** because we recognize that **our future is both diverse and inclusive**:

- Diverse because denominational politics are creating complexity around what it means to be a United Methodist, while cultural shifts are driving new expressions of what it means to be a church. We look forward to the ongoing discovery of the many ways to express faithfulness.
- Inclusive because, no matter how the faith communities in our area choose to identify themselves, we will continue to serve alongside *all of them*.

While our name has changed, our mission hasn’t. You can think of it like a new coat of paint: it’s briefly inconvenient, and then afterwards it looks beautiful and more welcoming. It preserves the useful life of the structure, but it doesn’t change what’s inside. We will continue to serve the Greater Northwest Area with the best service and attention we can offer.

Our Board of Directors continues to be deeply engaged in the work of the Foundation, and I could not be more thankful. We welcomed William Gibson to the board in March of 2022. We’d like to thank Rev. Dan Wilson-Fey and Rev. Peter Perry, both of whom are rolling off our Board of Directors as they retire, for their years of service with our organization.

We closed 2021 with a historic high of over \$90 million in assets under management for the benefit of churches, camps, and agencies in our episcopal area! As I write this report in mid-March of 2022, despite recent deposits in excess of \$3 million, our assets under management have decreased to \$87.6 million due to a market correction driven by several factors, including geopolitical uncertainty. As long-term investors, our strategy stays the same through both bear and bull markets, and this spring is no exception. Whether the markets are up or down by the time we meet in June, I’m confident in saying that **the Foundation’s financial position is stronger than it’s ever been**. It’s an honor to steward long-term monies that benefit faith communities.

What follows is a summary of the services we offer. Many are provided free of charge. If any of these services could benefit your church, I hope you’ll give us a call at (800) 488-4179 or send an email to staff@faith.foundation. We exist to support your ministry, and are always ready to serve!

SERVICES OFFERED BY FAITH FOUNDATION NORTHWEST

Financial Management: our faith guides our decisions and leads us to **socially responsible and ethically sound funds** that reflect the values of our team and the ministries we work with. In partnership with Westpath, we manage endowments, long-term investments, and reserve funds on behalf of churches, camps, conferences, and agencies. The average amount that each portfolio has earned annually, net of fees, over the past 3 years is as follows.

- Diversified Conservative: **8.86%**
- Diversified Moderate: **9.66%**
- Diversified Aggressive: **11.63%**
- Social Values Plus Conservative: **9.40%**
- Social Values Plus Moderate: **11.11%**
- Social Values Plus Aggressive: **11.68%**

These figures are as of February 28th, 2022. Please visit <http://www.faith.foundation/investments> for the most up-to-date return data.

170 Pre-Conference Reports

We also steward short- to medium-term funds and rainy-day funds in our Stable Value Portfolio, which is designed for liquidity rather than long-term growth. Its annual returns, net of fees, over the past three years were 2.75% in 2019, 1.93% in 2020, and 0.65% in 2021.

Loans: We **help churches fulfill their missions** by offering low-hassle loans for capital improvements and new construction. Our interest rates are set at the WSJ Prime rate plus 0.5%, and there are no origination fees. Interest paid on church loans **goes back into our faith community**, supporting churches that have invested rainy day funds in our Stable Value Portfolio.

Endowment Consultation: We **share and inspire stories of generosity** and are committed to the **lasting legacy** of our clients and their congregations. Our staff brings 50+ years of combined experience to the table when we assist with endowment policies, procedures, and promotion. *We do this free of charge.*

Stock Gift Program: We accept, liquidate, and pass-through gifts of stock on behalf of faith communities, **making tax-wise giving accessible** for all donors. *We do this free of charge.*

Planned Giving Education: We help guide people of faith in preparing a plan to provide for the ministries they love. We teach workshops, create materials, and work one-on-one with major donors upon request. *We do this free of charge.*

Conference Board of Pensions Jeremy Hajdu-Paulen, 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.

Update on the BIPOC Benefit Support Fund (BBSF)

Dismantling racism is a strategic priority of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. The Board of Pensions is leveraging its resources to address systemic injustice by providing financial support for the health, retirement, and disability benefits of appointed and assigned leaders serving BIPOC ministry settings within the Annual Conference. The Board has formally established the BIPOC Benefit Support Fund (BBSF) and adopted a policy for administering the fund, which includes convening an annual task force comprised of at least 50% BIPOC participants to review requests for grants and to allocate funds. The BBSF is funded by allocating to the BBSF 10% of the annual earnings on the Health Insurance Reserve and Pensions Reserve funds invested at Wespath. In the current 2021-22 appointment year, \$117,000 has been granted to eight ministry settings. As this is a new initiative of the Board of Pensions, we will have more to share in the future about the impact of this fund.

Health Insurance

Health insurance benefits continue to be provided through the Wespath HealthFlex Exchange. Claims paid in 2021 were 95% of premiums paid (compared to 76% in 2020, 118% in 2019, and 113% in 2018). The increased loss ratio over the previous year most likely indicates a higher utilization of health benefits in 2021 following underutilization during the first year of the COVID19 pandemic.

In 2023, the Annual Conference's HealthFlex overall rate for medical coverage will increase 3.1%. The overall increase for dental coverage will be 2.3%. There will be no increase in the rate for vision coverage. (Changes to a participant's specific rates depends on the medical or dental plan chosen.)

To lessen the impact to ministry settings, the CBOP has approved holding the blended rate billed to ministry settings in 2023 at \$1,200 per month. The blended rate has not changed for four years. If ministry settings were charged a blended rate that included all of the cumulative rate increases of the last four years, the blended rate would be approximately \$400 per month higher. This is another way the Board seeks to leverage its resources to assist ministry settings in their mission.

171 Pre-Conference Reports

To mitigate the impact on participants, the CBOP has approved increasing the premium credit for 2023 by 3%. The balance of the cost to the CBOP of the increased HealthFlex premium rate will be covered by CBOP health insurance reserves.

Health Reimbursement Account Benefit for Retired Clergy

The Board of Pensions is in its tenth year of providing a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) stipend benefit for qualified retired clergy. The CBOP reviews the HRA stipend every two years and has approved a 3% increase for 2023 and 2024.

Participation: Retiree must be a member of the Oregon-Idaho Conference or a lay employee of the OR-ID Annual 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 (the Oregon-Idaho, Alaska and PNW conferences) effective September 1, 2012.
3. For Conference lay employees, years of service in which the lay employee participates in the employer-sponsored pension plan.

Retirement Prior to Age 65/Medicare Eligibility:

Clergy retiring who are not yet eligible for Medicare, may opt to remain on the HealthFlex “active” pre-65 insurance plan and pay the total cost of the premium until they reach the age of 65, and then apply for the retiree HRA stipend once they reach Medicare-eligibility.

Clergy Couples:

For clergy couples in which both clergypersons qualify for the subsidy, the years of service of the spouse with the highest level will be used to determine the couple subsidy regardless of who was officially listed as the participant at the time of retirement unless calculating the subsidy for each individual clergy person as singles results in the greater benefit.

Spouses:

1. The spouse will receive 50% of the subsidy that the retiree receives.
2. Following the death of an eligible retired clergy member, a surviving spouse – married at the time of death – may receive an annual HRA stipend when that spouse is, or becomes, Medicare-eligible. The surviving spouse stipend shall be the same as the retired eligible spouse would receive.
3. At the time of retirement the HRA status chosen is permanent. If one’s marital status changes the HRA can be reduced, but not expanded, based on the status of the clergyperson when the HRA was started.
4. A surviving spouse does not receive a benefit if the clergy member or lay participant never began to receive the retiree HRA benefit.

General

1. A stipend begins at the time of application for an HRA; the stipend is not retroactive to the time of retirement.
2. Allocations of any further retiree HRA stipends to a clergy member will end if that clergy member ceases to hold clergy membership in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.
3. Those retiring after January 1, 2021, must enroll in a Medicare Advantage or Supplemental medical plan through ViaBenefits in order to be eligible to receive the retiree HRA stipend.

172 Pre-Conference Reports

2023 HRA Benefit for Retired Clergy	Single	 Couple
Retirees with more than 20 years of pre-82:	\$2,364	\$4,728
Retirees who retired before January 1, 2011:		
At least 5 but fewer than 10 years of service	\$676	\$1,352
At least 10 but fewer than 20 years of service	\$1,350	\$2,700
At least 20 but fewer than 30 years of service	\$1,688	\$3,376
30 or more years of service	\$2,026	\$4,052
Retirees who retired after December 31, 2010:		
At least 10 but fewer than 20 years of service	\$1,014	\$1,520
At least 20 but fewer than 30 years of service	\$1,350	\$2,026
30 or more years of service	\$2,026	\$3,039

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

HEALTH BENEFITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION:

The CBOP presents the following health benefits recommendations to the 2022 Annual Conference Session for consideration and action:

1. The Conference Board of Pensions, in consultation with the Council on Finance and Administration, is authorized to adjust the Conference Budget for Health Insurance Premiums and the monthly billed amount between sessions of the Annual Conference, if necessary, due to the receipt of new premium rate information from Wespath.
2. The Conference Board of Pensions is authorized to adopt new eligibility policies as required by Wespath for the HealthFlex Program. These policies may include procedures for the cancellation of coverage due to various circumstances. The effective date of these policies will be determined as required by Wespath.
3. The Conference Treasurer is authorized to bill \$1,200 per month to local churches and 100% of the premiums to other participants' ministry settings to support a premium credit toward health insurance benefits. Participants will pay any difference between the premium credit amount and the total premium for the plan and benefit options they select. The Conference Board of Pensions may approve use of the blended rate for non-local church settings if such change is mutually agreed upon by the ministry setting and the Conference Benefits Officer.
4. The CDHP C2000P2 with vision exam coverage and no dental coverage will be the default plan. The annual Premium Credit for active HealthFlex Exchange participants in 2023 will be as follows:
Single Participant: \$10,632
Participant + Spouse: \$19,644
Participant + Family: \$27,432
5. The retiree health insurance plan is a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) stipend based on the number of years of service in the Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest and Alaska Conferences per the eligibility policy and table above.
6. No premium subsidy or stipend will be granted to participants retiring prior to the age of their Medicare eligibility. They shall be responsible for the full payment of their health insurance premium. Upon reaching the age for Medicare eligibility, and enrolling in the Medicare program, the clergy member shall be eligible for conference subsidy or stipend based on the then current schedule as approved by the annual conference.
7. The conference shall pay 100 percent of the medical insurance premium payment at the default level of benefits, for those persons eligible for benefits under the CPP Disability program. After one year the conference will pay the premium for the participant only.

173 Pre-Conference Reports

Pension and Welfare Plans

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

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

Retirements

The Board of Pensions recognizes the following persons who are retiring at this session of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, or who have retired since the 2021 Annual Conference session. Because an in-person Annual Conference session will not be held this year, these retirees will be recognized and celebrated at the 2023 Annual Conference session (along with those from 2020 and 2021).

Retirees

Sandra Daniels (honorable location to honorable location retired)
June Fothergill
Jim Hardenbrook (Minister of Other Denomination)
Margaret Lofsvold
Michelle McKinnon-Young (member of Holston Annual Conference)
Thomas Myers
Donna Pritchard
Joyce Sluss
David Thompson
Daniel Wilson-Fey
Steven Wolff

The following clergy are on Medical Leave with Benefits

Katherine Raines
Christina Thompson

PENSION AND WELFARE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Pension and Welfare Plans

1. Effective January 1, 2023, the Pre-82 (MRPF) past service rate for ordained clergy and local pastors shall be \$699 per service year, with 70 percent continuing payment to the surviving spouse, and that Addendum A of the Clergy Retirement Security Program be so amended.
2. Concerning the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP): The Conference Treasurer will bill each local church for CRSP at the rate of 13 percent of the pastor's compensation (including cash salary plus utilities and housing allowance [25% of cash salary if parsonage is provided]) for eligible clergy. Cash salary includes deductions from payroll and any contributions toward social security. Local churches served by retired clergy are exempt from this billing.
3. The Conference Treasurer will bill each local church (with a pastor appointed three-quarter time or full time) at a rate of 3.0 percent of the pastor's plan compensation for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) for eligible clergy.
4. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference meeting on June 23, 2022, approves the Addendum: Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

5. The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference meeting on June 23, 2022 approves the 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, as submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions and approved by Wespath.

**Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan Summary**

The *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to Wespath for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath. You may request the full contents of the 2023 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the conference benefits office.

**BOARD OF PENSIONS INFORMATIONAL DATA
Denominational Average Salary (DAC) Conference Average Salary (CAC)**

Denominational Average Salary (DAC)	Conference Average Salary (CAC)
DAC	CAC
2019 - \$71,361	2019 - \$59,699
2020 - \$72,648	2020 - \$61,400
2021 - \$74,199	2021 - \$63,034
2022 - \$75,570	2022 - \$65,026
2023 - \$76,221	2023 - \$64,757

Past Service Rate For Local Church Pastors

2019 - \$631.00
2020 - \$647.00
2021 - \$664.00
2022 - \$681.00
2023 - \$699.00

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 Wespeth, during the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, 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 Wespeth and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth 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.

Conference Rules Committee **Rev. Steve Mitchell, Chair**

This past year has been a quiet year for your Rules Committee. No issues have been raised with the Committee.

Our Annual Conference Rules are up-to-date as of now, but we'll see what may be needed after the next General Conference session is held. The Committee will be ready to propose changes, adjustments, and additional rules as needed.

We also stand ready to be of assistance whenever issues around Conference Rules arise. Let us know of conflicts, needed revisions, and needs for new rules. We'll do our best to meet the needs that arise.

Safe Sanctuaries Team **Lydia Henry, Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator**

“Safe Sanctuaries is an overt expression in making congregations safe places where children, youth, and elders may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith.” <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/equipping-leaders/safe-sanctuaries>

In 2021, the Safe Sanctuaries Team further explored new approaches to congregational training that began in 2020. We continued to work with the District Administrators to coordinate information and efforts to support local ministry settings. We offered assistance for individual churches who were using COVID closures to support their churches' and ministries' efforts to become compliant with the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference standards for abuse risk reduction and prevention. It was uplifting to see the number of churches and ministries who were proactive in planning for the time when their churches and ministries would be meeting in person.

We utilized the ability of zoom conferencing to expand our training opportunities and held an online training on July 18, 2021. In addition, we recorded this training which is available through the District Administrators. The website (<https://www.umi.org/abuseprevention>) was updated to announce upcoming trainings and set up an online sign-up sheet so we can notify people of upcoming training.

We understand the commitment we make to uphold John Wesley's guideline to “First, do no harm. Do all the good you can. Stay in love with God.”

“As a local ministry, we recognize that staying in love with God requires providing safe sanctuary for all. It is especially important as we recognize the needs of persons who may face higher risk of violence committed by others.” (Safe Sanctuaries policy, Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, pg.1)

Statistician's Report **Rick Beadnell, Conference Statistician**

Our annual church reports record what went on in each of our congregations during 2021. These statistics help local churches and our conference evaluate the effectiveness of our ministries and missions. They are also part of the apportionment calculations. The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) collects these numbers from all the Annual Conferences and compiles the data for the General Boards and Agencies.

Thanks to the 98% of OR-ID churches who submitted their annual statistics for 2021 in time for this report. The numbers reported below will change only slightly by the time we hold Annual Conference, mainly due to the difficulty in determining numbers for churches that closed during 2021, or are currently in that process. Our second full year of the pandemic had a large impact on programs, participation, and

177 Pre-Conference Reports

finances at our churches. It also made it difficult for most churches to arrive at statistics about membership and participation levels.

Attendance and Participation Statistics Compared to 2020

- Total professing membership fell from 21,184 to 20,195 a 4 % decrease
- 93% of our members were reported as white ethnicity, unchanged from 2020
- Average attendance at weekly worship services decreased by 23% to 7,033
- Number of persons who worship online decreased by 19%
- Constituent counts decreased by 7% to 17,046
- Average weekly attendance in Sunday School (all ages) decreased by 33%
- Number of participants in Vacation Bible School decreased by 2%
- Number of persons served by community outreach programs decreased by 12%

Assets, Debts, and Apportionments Compared to 2020

- Market value of church-owned land, building, and vehicles increased by 3%
- Market value of financial and other liquid assets increased by 5%
- Debt secured by church assets increased to \$4.1M, a 20% increase
- Other debt decreased by 64% to \$275K
- Apportioned budget decreased by 11%
- Apportionment receipts increased to 78.4% of dollars apportioned (from 73.2%)

Church Receipts Compared to 2020

- Number of giving units decreased by 11%, to 9,105
- Total income for annual budget/spending plan decreased by 2% to \$22,481,376
- Amount received for capital campaigns increased by 24%
- Amount received from interest and dividends increased by 35%
- Amount received for memorials and bequests increased by 55%
- Total church income decreased by less than 1% to \$29M

Church Expenses Compared to 2020

- Number of part-time church employees fell 11% to 472
- Number of full-time church employees fell 15% to 95
- Total amount spent for local church program expenses increased 6% to \$777K
- Total amount spent for other local church operating expenses increased 1% to \$5.5M
- Total church spending increased by only a fraction of 1%

The overall numbers show many local churches continuing to support their programs and operations even though giving units have declined.

To see all the statistics for 2021 – for individual churches as well as totals by District & the entire Annual Conference – look online at your 2022 Annual Conference Journal – which will be published in August.

Board of Trustees **Dave Straub, Chair**

Closed Churches Under the Care of Annual Conference

Sunnyside – continues to be leased by The Groves Church PDX

Dundee – negotiating sale to Newberg UMC

Paul – administratively closed February 10, 2021 by Sage District Committee on Church Building and Relocation. Legal issues continue to hamper transfer and disposition of property.

Shelly – sale to be completed on or before July 31, 2022

Portland Pioneer – currently leasing space to long-term tenant. Potential sales negotiations in process.

Filer – congregation voted to close April 19, 2021. Sale expected to be finalized shortly after April 20, 2022

Richfield – congregation voted to close October, 2021

Wilder – congregation wishes to close. Loss of funding and small membership.

Coburg – congregation voted to close November, 2021, Crater Lake District Society for Ministry, Location and Building acting as property manager.

Veneta Parsonage – being rented to Eugene Area Innovator. Crater Lake District Society for Ministry, Location and Building acting as property manager.

Conference Center – ongoing conversations around potential sale to Portland First

Churches Closed and No Longer Under the Care of Annual Conference

Veneta Church – congregation voted to close September 1, 2021. Sold

United Methodist Ministers Retirement Fund **John I. Watts, Board President**

On April 10, 1909, at the direction of the Oregon Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, six leaders – half lay and half clergy – petitioned Oregon Secretary of State F.W. Benson to incorporate “an irreducible fund, the income of which shall be applied annually to the support and maintenance of the Conference Claimants.”

The fund began with \$3,500. In the 113 years since, it has grown to over \$2.5 million. Many things have changed, including the way clergy pensions are funded, but this fund remains true to its mission. It is now called the “United Methodist Ministers’ Retirement Fund” (UMMRF). Each year earnings are distributed equally among retired clergy of our Conference, their surviving spouse or their surviving dependent children.

UMMRF assets are now invested with Wespath, formerly known as the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church. This frees our Board from investment decisions and allows us to focus our work on making sure the fund continues to benefit those for whom it is intended.

Our current practice is to distribute 5% of the average year-end fund balance over the previous three years. In 2021, this was \$111,606, resulting in a payment of \$405.84 to each of our 275 eligible recipients.

Donations to keep this fund going and growing are gratefully received. Some have included a legacy gift to UMMRF in their wills. Memorial gifts honor those who have served in our connection. There is a memorial page in the Conference Journal listing gifts of \$500 or more with the names of those so honored.

Donations can be sent to the Conference Treasurer, designated UMMRF. They are tax deductible. Thank you.

Districts, General Agencies, Educational Institutions

Cascadia District Wendy Woodworth, District Superintendent

Cascadia District did not just make it through another year, Cascadia District thrived!

We all know the challenges of the past year and in the midst of them, ministry continued to happen throughout the district. Churches expanded efforts related to food ministries, opened their buildings for childcare and pre-schools, partnered with community organizations to address houselessness, engaged in worship and studies related to becoming anti-racists, and spiritually cared for one another.

I am seeing more of our churches work in partnership with each other, and we are creating visions of places we can engage in intentional connectional ministries. One example of a growing connectional ministry is the supportive relationship between John Day UMC and Bend UMC as part of the Central Oregon Connectional Ministry Exploration. The Tillamook County Methodist Coop is growing strong as it prepares for a transition in leadership. I look forward to seeing where the next areas of connectional ministry develop.

As I am getting to know the congregations and laity better during this second year, I am continually inspired by the faithfulness and vision of our laity. I am pleased to begin working with our new District Lay Leader, Dawn Chastler. As we talked about the role of the lay leader, she said, “So can I encourage the development of lay leadership and the need to take our ministries into our communities?” That was music to my ears and I enthusiastically said “Yes!” As Dawn shares her thoughts on this theme, you will hear her use the term, “Shared Ministries,” which relates to the connectional ministries I speak of and the need to engage our communities.

Another way Cascadia District thrived this year – our apportionments!! You all rocked it by paying apportionments at 92.37% -- an 11% increase over 2020! 34 churches paid 100% with 11 of those being an improvement from the prior year and a total of 17 churches improved their giving from 2020. Your faithfulness in stewardship extended beyond apportionments as you have supported your local church ministries and responded to special appeals and needs in your communities.

Cascadia District has also thrived in clergy wellness. I am hearing our clergy be more intentional about balancing the demands of ministry with taking their days off, scheduling vacation and making plans to schedule their four-week renewal leave (eligible once every four years). I am grateful for the support and encouragement of the laity for clergy wellness. We are all realizing that both clergy and laity are better able to live out their calls to ministry and service when we care for our minds, bodies, and spirits. We are better equipped to be fully present with one another and to be attentive to God’s presence, the guidance of the Spirit and the call to embody the ways of Jesus in our lives.

I am also thrilled that the Cascadia District Extension Society has granted each local congregation \$500 dollars for “Reboot Your Ministry.” As we engage ministry in new ways this year, rekindle ministries and begin new ones, reach out to those who have faded away and re-introduce ourselves to our communities, each church is being given \$500 to support these efforts. So throw a block party, spruce up your nursery, create a media/communications blast, or create an event with a group who is not present on Sunday morning.

I am excited to see what this next year brings us as we live out the call to be God’s grace, mercy, justice and love in our local churches and communities.

Columbia District
Tim Overton-Harris, District Superintendent
Brandon Rhodes, District Administrator
Cynthia MacLeod, Lay Leader

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”
”Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?”
He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” John 20:17 (CEB)

“Same song, second verse, a little bit louder, a little bit worse.”

It feels like we’ve been running around in circles or more like living out “Ground Hog Day,” only things aren’t just repeating, they are shifting, some for the better and some not. I have been feeling like Peter in this verse from John. And the people and congregations of Columbia District are feeling this way too. It seems like God and Christ are keeping us amid turmoil and strife asking us repeatedly, “Do you love me?” and putting sheep before us to be fed.

And when I am feeling this way, I reflect over the last year and see that things have happened that show our love for God and Christ. We have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, offered safe and warm shelter, provided comfort, and we’ve prayed and prayed and prayed. We have loved and continue to love our neighbors.

We have found ways to worship – not singing but using rhythm instruments to join in the songs, developing hybrid options, singing with masks on, using virtual resources to enhance our worship experiences. We have hosted daily online devotions and we’ve held socially distanced trainings and educational events. We have deepened our spirituality through learning new practices and tweaking what we have done in the past. We have loved God and continue to love God.

We have operated food pantries and we’ve made sandwiches. We have provided gift cards, financial assistance for rent and utilities, diapers, gas, and the absolute essentials for life. We have visited the sick and lonely – not in ways we wish we could, but we have found ways. We have continued to advocate for the least and lost and for societal change, for decolonialization, for ending racism, for addressing the immigration crisis, and for dealing with the climate crisis – some even stepping into exploring solar panels on their churches. We have responded to Tonga’s need, to recovery efforts in our Area, and continued all the ways we have supported ministry locally and globally. We have done and are doing the good we can.

We are feeling the burden of the past two plus years – clergy are taking leaves, laity are stepping back from some of their local church involvement, congregations are cutting back on their ministries to better focus their resources, and we wonder if things will return to a semblance of order. Questions fill our hearts and minds: “Can the youth group be revived? Will we see the children in Sunday School and worship again? Will our older folk feel safe coming back? Has our music program survived? Will we be relevant to our community? Will our denomination, will the United Methodist Church, find a way forward? Will this pandemic ever end?”

It is too soon to know the answers. What we do know is the rule of life we live by: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. These are the foundation of our discipleship, our partnering with God and Christ to transform lives and the world. Regardless of what comes, we know how to be faithful and that is who we are and what we do. In and through and despite it all we love God and neighbor.

As Peter said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” It may be the second or third or one millionth verse, only it just might be a little bit louder and a little bit better. Thank you, the beloved of God, for your faithfulness. You, we, are good and faithful servants. I thank God for you and ask God to give you strength and comfort that you might find peace.

Crater Lake District
John Tucker, District Superintendent
Ria Galo, Lay Leader

The people of the Crater Lake District have continued to show great resilience during the past year. Churches have been impacted by COVID. Clergy have had to learn how to do their job in different ways. I have been very impressed with the work that congregations and pastors have done maintaining relationships, engaging with community, and seeking new ways to be church. We still have the same challenges before us; we are not diverse enough and we still struggle with how to govern ourselves in efficient ways that encourage risk taking, but many churches are trying new things and committing themselves to the work of anti-racism.

I am extremely grateful to District Lay Leader, Ria Galo, who is working to get to know the churches. Ria serves the district well on many conference committees by virtue of her position. Ria has also been a great conversation partner in new things the district is doing. I am also grateful to the Crater Lake Extension Society, chaired by Lynn Egli, for their forward thinking and risk-taking approach. Rather than hold tight to funds they are funding the Eugene Area Innovator position that we created to work in the areas of networking, community engagement, and congregational coaching. We are pleased to have hired Naphtali Renshaw to this role. It is unique in our Annual Conference and shows a different way of approaching challenges.

I would also like to let people know about Coburg. For many years the Coburg church met its members' spiritual needs and its community's physical and relational needs. That congregation, realizing that it had reached the end of its life cycle, chose to close so the conference could consider starting something new in its space. Thanks to teamwork from the Conference Trustees, the District Extension Society, the Innovation and Vitality Team, the Congregational Development Team, the Coburg UMC congregation, Eugene Area Innovator Naphtali Renshaw, Bishop Stanovsky, and my cabinet colleagues, we were able to transition from a congregation to a new faith community in one year's time. I am excited to have Brandon Rhodes placed as the new start leader at Coburg.

I am excited about the future in Crater Lake. I would like to thank my District Administrator, Sheri Konowitz, for bringing her gifts and talents to the position and for being a partner that helps make new things happen and by being a voice that challenges our usual ways of thinking.

Sage District
Karen Hernandez, District Superintendent
Sharon Bryan, District Lay Leader

In the Sage District, we are seeking to love our neighbors well for who they are, as they are. Sometimes that means doing the work that is directly related to dismantling racism—work to which we have been called by Bishop Elaine, the Council of Bishops, and Jesus. Other times, we must learn to love ourselves and our own cultural particularities as steps towards seeing the image of God in our neighbors. We have long opened our hearts, minds, and doors for our broader communities to join us in our traditional ministries like worship, education, and meals. Now more and more of us are getting outside the doors of our churches to meet our neighbors, to seek or deepen relationships, to enter into partnerships, and to experience God all over the neighborhood. All of these are acts of discipleship.

With both COVID and Zoom as ongoing parts of daily life, we are more closely connected. Prior to the pandemic, geography was a significant barrier to Sage District gatherings. Our pastors are now invited to gather twice monthly for fellowship. Training and Christian education opportunities are widely available. Our monthly online Holy Communion service regularly includes participants from beyond the district and beyond the Oregon-Idaho conference! We are equipped to resource those who struggle with or cannot access the necessary technology (sometimes due to their location) to participate in these offerings.

182 Pre-Conference Reports

On the whole, we are also tired. The sheer volume of work, the intensity of political divisions, the pace of the world and frequency of necessary change, the learning that these changes require of us, and commitment to so much good work has left many of us (at all levels of leadership) exhausted—a reality that is not unique to the Sage District, to be sure. In response to so much weariness, we are learning to offer more grace to one another and to ourselves. We are getting more intentional about Sabbath and seeking to be generous with our understanding and compassion.

We are drastically different than we were just two years ago. We have had many appointment changes, welcomed pastors from other conferences and other denominations, marked the faithful completion of some local churches, and said farewell to other congregations that have departed from our Methodist tradition. But not everything has changed: God remains steadfast, as does our commitment to loving and serving Jesus.

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Greg Bergquist, General Secretary

GBHEM seeks to promote innovative and experiential opportunities for transformative learning, higher education, and ministry formation worldwide. The agency works with key partners, churches, and institutions in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Eurasia, Latin American and the Caribbean, and North America to offer connective, contextual, and collaborative programs to support the Church, the Academy, and the world. Among its various activities, GBHEM is responsible for two initiatives approved by General Conference: The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD) – which includes the Grants and Scholarships Program (GRASP) – and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF). The agency also maintains Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD Hubs) in various locations around the world, has helped create and support the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU), and works with regional education associations on five continents. GBHEM is currently partnering with general agencies and other organizations to support important projects on COVID-19 vaccine equity, mindfulness and wellbeing, net-zero emissions, human rights, and the promotion of a culture of generosity throughout the United Methodist worldwide connection.

In 1972, The United Methodist Church reaffirmed its support of the 11 historically black colleges and universities related to the denomination by creating the Black College Fund and this year we celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Support for the Black College Fund supports the education of world-changing leaders by investing in the hopes and dreams of students from around the world. Continued support for the Black College Fund renews the vision for the next generation of transformational leaders.

We celebrate GBHEM awarding more than 2,250 students a total of \$4,084,979 in scholarships in 2021. These future leaders range from first-year freshmen to doctorate level students across the denomination. We are grateful for the support received in recognizing United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday, which helps fund a portion of our scholarships. The remaining funds for these awards come from gifts, annuities, and endowments GBHEM has invested and administered for decades.

Worldwide Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (WIDEA) is a strategic focus area for GBHEM to align its work with the mission and ministry of congregations and constituents around the world. This renewed commitment includes advanced staff development in intercultural competency, active listening, and a deeper understanding of and appreciation for difference so relevant programs and services may be developed, offered, and implemented more equitably and effectively.

GBHEM remains committed to building and sustaining collaborative cross-conference networks that foster collegiality and guide credentialing for ordained and licensed ministry. We have partnered with conference leaders to clarify the role of those in ministry while assisting in the interpretation and application of relevant paragraphs within *The Book of Discipline*. We have supported the work of recruiting, guiding, and credentialing candidates and clergy through the development of Passage - a comprehensive registry resource - as well as a virtual onboarding module for new district and conference board members.

183 Pre-Conference Reports

Hundreds of years before amazon.com, John Wesley stuffed the saddlebags of circuit riders with books of theology and biblical interpretation—selling them to fund the movement while spreading it literally. GBHEM continues this innovative spirit by leveraging social enterprise opportunities and creative partnerships as a way of reducing its reliance on apportionments while continuing to focus on delivering the very best services, products, and programs to United Methodist constituents around the world.

The same spirit of service and leadership that first inspired John Wesley lives on in each of us. Today, GBHEM looks confidently to the future, taking bold and creative action, remaining good stewards, and continuing to support The United Methodist Church in innovative and meaningful ways.

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

Since 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has lived into our mission, educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. This year, as we leaned into this critical work and continued to adapt to a world changed by the coronavirus pandemic, we imagined new possibilities for students who are called by God to pursue serious theological study and preparation for ministry. For some, opening avenues to graduate theological education requires moving financial obstacles, and for others, geography or family responsibilities may be the barriers. Candler is committed to assisting students in removing these barriers and opening new pathways to ministry.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from 43 denominations, with 45% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 466 from 16 countries and 38 states, 45% persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of 28 among MDivs. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our students and our larger community and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that reaches across difference, works to resolve injustice, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our DMin is 90% online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while earning their degrees. Its high 87% completion rate illustrates both the quality of our students and Candler's commitment to their success. This year, we increased online offerings in other degrees as well. Now students can complete the Master of Religion and Public Life completely online; the Master of Religious Leadership with concentrations in Youth Ministry, Justice, Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, or Wesleyan Leadership and Heritage in a hybrid format; and MDiv students can complete core classes online. Plus, our new Remote Teaching Parish (RTP) program allows MDiv students who have jobs in ecclesial settings far from our Atlanta campus to take core classes online and complete their contextual education requirements at their place of ministry, participating in mentor-led online groups with other RTP students.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority. In 2020-2021, we awarded more than \$6.8 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98.5% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

Hundreds of laity and theology students alike have joined in classes and events offered through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to all. Through short and semester-length courses taught by Candler faculty, videos and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one, and online panel discussions, those who want to delve more deeply into theology and the Bible have the chance to do just that. View the latest offerings at candlerfoundry.emory.edu.

184 Pre-Conference Reports

Associate Dean of Methodist Studies the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder will retire from Candler at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. We are grateful to God for her energetic and skillful leadership in this vital area as she strengthened the connection between our students and conferences throughout the UMC, mentoring them as they discerned their call and navigated the ordination process.

Candler's ability to fulfill our mission to provide the church with the faithful and creative leaders it needs depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu.

Claremont School of Theology **Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President and Professor of Hebrew Bible**

EIGHT challenging years.
THREE primary goals.
ONE resilient school.

Every year as I write this report, I am afforded the opportunity to reflect deeply upon the previous year and to feel a sincere sense of gratitude for the ways so many people have shown up (and continue to show up) for Claremont School of Theology. It is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day business of leading the School, but this project reminds me that we are not alone.

For more than 135 years, CST has existed to prepare students to become agents of transformation, healing, and renovation in the world, and that mission continues in large part because of the support of the people, congregations, and witness of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.

As you well know, the school has struggled financially and has sought to relocate to Salem, Oregon, to keep the mission alive. On January 4, 2022, that avenue to sustainability was closed by the Los Angeles Superior Court, which ruled that CST is required to sell its property to The Claremont Colleges, Inc. Since our litigation with TCC began in 2015, our aim has been to receive a fair, reasonable, and equitable price for the Claremont campus so that we can continue to carry out our mission to serve current and future theological students.

Since that January decision, CST and TCC have engaged in a process of negotiation, but unfortunately, those efforts have not yet borne fruit. Consequently, on March 4, 2022, CST filed an appeal to the January decision. We will follow the appeal process while we consider arbitration, a separate process that is afforded to us by the 1957 agreement with the Colleges. If we decide to go into arbitration, know that the arbiter will not be bound by the previous court decisions; however, their decision, whatever it may be, will be final.

In the meantime, the business of running the school goes on. Seven years ago, CST developed a **strategic plan to support the mission of the school and to honor the work of generations of faithful people**. The plan was based on three goals: *promoting transformative education, engaging local and global communities, and achieving long-term institutional stability*.

TRANSFORMATIVE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

In the last year, under the leadership of alumnus Steve Horswill-Johnston, Executive Vice President for Operations, Communications & Advancement (COO), CST launched a campaign to promote CST's brand of transformative theological education, and it is working. The world hungers for the kind of theologians who come out of CST, and our Admissions team is receiving dozens of new inquiries each week. Incoming students are not concerned with CST's struggles but with CST's renowned, progressive theological education. Further, through the last two years of 100% online education due to the pandemic, our faculty and staff have continued to care holistically for our current students while providing truly transformative and life-giving educational experiences. Knowing firsthand the capacity for rigorous, engaging, and community-building online options, in early March our faculty developed and approved a 100% online MDiv program. While this modality does not satisfy the UMC requirements for ordination,

185 Pre-Conference Reports

it certainly opens the doors for second-career students who cannot quit working and move their family for in-residence education.

ENGAGE LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

In this area, CST is unmatched. We continue to draw students from a wide variety of backgrounds — making CST one of the, if not the, most diverse theological schools in the country. In 2021, we graduated 91 students, 61% of whom identified as people of color. These numbers not only reflect our commitment to ending systemic racism, but also our deeply-felt responsibility to making theological education accessible. The national average for traditionally underrepresented racial/ethnic groups for masters degree-seeking students in humanities is about 15%, while only about 10% of students in doctoral programs are people of color. We are profoundly humbled to walk alongside these students and honored to receive the gifts they bring to CST.

We developed an Anti-Racism Task Force last year with the mission to initiate anti-racist policies across the CST community. The team is composed of staff and faculty members and is working on a multi-pronged approach that would include the strengthening of academic programming; faculty and staff hiring; coaching, mentoring, and support of students, especially students of color; increasing scholarships for African-American students; and continuing the funding of the Coloring Mental Health Collective. With the intention to more clearly signal CST's commitment to equity and justice (with diversity and inclusion), CST's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion's name was changed to the Equity, Diversity, Justice, and Inclusion Committee (EDJI-Com). In the coming year, EDJI-Com hopes to announce initiatives that contribute to the call for personal, interpersonal, and institutional change to dismantle anti-blackness and racism at CST and beyond.

LONG-TERM INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Since the January court decision, CST's leadership continues to seek viable and innovative solutions to the problem of financial sustainability. Since merging with Willamette University is no longer an option, and since we will likely be forced to sell some or all of our Claremont campus, we are developing a number of options for what we are internally calling "Claremont 2.0."

As always, we are committed to the mission and vision of the school, and we want you to know that we have maintained our own accreditation and academic systems. Further, we are committed to remaining in Southern California, the home of our largest number of residential students, all of our business operations, the Office of the President, the Office of Advancement and Communications, the Office of the Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Student Services.

Certainly, we could not do this critical work without the generosity and grace of the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction. I ask you to continue to pray for the School and its leadership; to promote CST in your churches, communities, and among your friends; and to consider becoming a donor to CST's annual fund. Your commitment to the School is the best way to see it thrive. Together, we are CST.

Drew University Theological School Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean

In spring and fall of 2021, Drew Theological School began returning to its Madison, New Jersey, campus for some classes, meetings, and worship. As with many churches, in person events were held in spaces equipped for live-streaming or Zoom participation. The shift to remote learning during COVID-19 pandemic thus significantly expanded our online course offerings and accessible community events. Now, a number of students in Drew's masters programs will progress through their programs in U.S. and global locations far from New Jersey. This year, we welcomed 150 new students, again the largest class in a decade, and have a current enrollment of 376 students.

Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who are taking their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents. Diversity is a hallmark of our student

186 Pre-Conference Reports

body, including theological, vocational, age, and especially racial and national diversity both international--Asian, African, and South American and U.S.--black, white, Latinx, and Asian American--students. Our student body is truly global, with 35% of students from 21 different countries. For the first time in its history, Drew has an African student association, initiated by Drew Theological School students from 14 African countries, that is already contributing richly to the Drew community both on campus and online. We have welcomed new faculty in Latinx ministries and world Christianity. We have also seen an increase in United Methodist students particularly interested in the school's Gospel-inspired traditions of social justice advocacy and widely inclusive ministry. We are proud that many United Methodist Global Fellows have recently chosen to continue their journey in ministry at Drew. Our UMC graduates are serving in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York conferences as well as conferences across the country.

The faculty is committed to continuing to develop the curriculum in ways that take seriously the wide range of lived experience and calls to ministry of the students that gather in our global classrooms. All degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation.

St. Paul School of Theology **Neil Blair, President**

Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEX-ible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and a contextual curriculum.

As the global pandemic continues to bring challenges to our daily lives, Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2021-2022 academic year, again offering students an option to attend courses via Zoom or on-campus while maintaining safety protocols. Our weekly chapel service continues to be available online, allowing staff and students to come together as one institution where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. Chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel for those who cannot join live.

In September, Saint Paul held the 2021 Harrington Lecture online featuring Dr. Eboo Patel. His lecture, "We Need to Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy," expanded knowledge and built skills, helping people become the kind of leaders our diverse democracy needs. In the Spring Semester, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a forum given by Dr. Amos Yong, Professor of Theology and Mission, and Dean of the School of Mission and Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, on "The Holy Spirit and People of other Faiths: Relational Christian Witness in the 2020s." Later in the semester, the Evangelical Society hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Joy Moore, Professor of Biblical Preaching and Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean at Luther Seminary. And for the first time, on May 13, Saint Paul held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together from both the Kansas and Oklahoma Campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. We honored the 2022 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Dr. Stan Copeland during the ceremony.

As we have happily reported in years past, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced budget. These last years' changes have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability.

187 Pre-Conference Reports

As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students. Our significant investments in technology have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the continuing pandemic.

Our aim has always been to utilize technology as a conduit to bring faculty and students together regardless of whether they are on-campus or joining remotely through Zoom. We took a hard look at the distance learning landscape during the pandemic to see how we could substantially enhance the classroom experience. After significant testing, we opted to replace our distance-learning classroom technology with Neat's offerings, including technology still in development. All our classrooms began upgrades in Fall 2021 with offerings from Neat. Each smaller classroom added a 65" neat.board, a self-contained screen that functions as a full Zoom room, as well as an electronic whiteboard. Anything written or drawn on these boards is transmitted through Zoom to the screens in the classroom and remote Zoom participants. This content can also be saved and emailed to all participants. We implemented neat.bars in other classrooms that connect to our classrooms' existing screens. We are currently implementing neat.bar pros, just released at the end of 2021, in each of our large classrooms. At Saint Paul School of Theology, we have always tried to be pioneers with distance-learning technologies. We are very early in the lifecycle of this stimulating and groundbreaking technology. We are thrilled to partner with Neat and Zoom in revolutionizing the classroom experience.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

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

For the past 150 years, United Theological Seminary has educated men and women for Christian ministry within the historic traditions of the United Brethren, Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist churches. On October 11, 1871, United Theological Seminary, then Union Biblical Seminary, held its first classes in Dayton, Ohio. From a starting class of 11 students, the seminary has grown to 488 students in its most recent academic year,* representing 39 denominations, 11 countries, and 39 states. Today's seminary serves a diverse student body that is 53% African American.**

On October 10, 2021, the seminary celebrated its 150th anniversary and burned the mortgage on its current campus facilities, freeing up \$400,000 annually to support student scholarships.

In 2021, United received a grant of \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative to expand the seminary's Houses of Study, which offer specialized master's tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements and denominations they serve. The seminary has introduced six **Houses of Study**, currently enrolling for 2022-23:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Mosaix, in partnership with Mosaix Global Network and directed by Rev. Chip Freed;
- Hispanic, 100% in Spanish for Spanish-speaking leaders, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa;
- Black United Methodist, directed by Dr. Vance Ross;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Mark Chironna;
- and Global Wesleyan, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover.

Because United believes so passionately in this initiative, the seminary has dedicated additional resources to offer half-tuition scholarships for inaugural students in its Houses of Study programs.

188 Pre-Conference Reports

United also introduced the **Academic Dean's Scholarship**, which provides 50% tuition for the duration of a master's degree program, and the **Presidential Scholarship**, awarding up to \$5,000 per year to new students.

In honor of United's 150th anniversary year, a generous donor gifted \$2 million to help graduating students reduce their educational debt. Each graduate in the 2021-22 academic year will receive up to \$20,000 toward student debt from theological and previous academic studies.

As United looks forward to the next 150 years with gratitude and anticipation, the seminary remains committed to the preparation of faithful and fruitful Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

** Student data represent 2020-2021 headcount enrollment.*

*** Figure represents those who responded.*



Jason Lee Award

Jason Lee's frontiers were geographic and religious. The frontiers of our honorees are electronic, the printing press, the camera. They cover the ethical spiritual spectrum. With them we share our legacy, the spirit of Jason Lee.

Believing that the Christian mission today ranks high among human endeavors for good and, at its best, constitutes divine action in meeting human needs; and

Believing that prompt and skillful presentation through the mass media is essential for optimum impact of the work of Christ, in this fast moving age;

The Jason Lee Award was instituted by the Public Relations Commission (now the Communications Committee) of the Oregon Annual Conference (of which the Oregon-Idaho Conference is the successor), and was given to persons cited for "excellence through work in or use of media that reaches beyond the local church." Although the award was discontinued in 2007, it continues to be recorded here for historical purposes.

Miss Gloria Chandler	1967	Paul Nickell	1988
Miss Ruth Peterson	1966	Kris Tucker	1989
Mr. Watford Reed	1967	Arvin Luchs	1990
Mr. Robert Arnott	1968	Patricia Ann Meyers	1991
The Reverend Ira Gillett	1969	Joe and Barbara Myers	1991
Mr. Jim Sawyer	1970	Ardis Letey	1992
The Reverend George Trobough	1971	First UMC, Nampa, Idaho	1993
Mr. Drury Brown	1971	Thom Larson, Pastor	
Mr. Alden Munson	1972	Rochelle Killeet, Lay Member	
Mrs. Wayne Wagler	1973	Vi McIndoo, Lay Member	
Mr. Earle Jester	1974	Barbara Sawyer	1994
Mayor Dick Eardley	1975	Marvin Fourier	1995
The Rev. Herbert E. Richards	1975	Ann Bateman	1996
Elbert Hawkins	1976	Beverly Walker	1997
The Rev. Earl W. Riddle	1977	Loisfaye Griffith (posthumously)	1998
The Rev. Eric Robinson	1978	Chris Kester, Marcey Balcomb, and	1999
Loisfaye Griffith	1979	Christy Dirren	
The Rev. Asa Mundell	1980	Laura Jaquith Bartlett	2000
The Rev. Myron "Mike" Hall	1981	Gary L. Ross	2001
Lois Marcey Richards	1982	Marvin Jones	2002
Erma Easley	1983	Jim Monroe	2003
The Rev. Judith Smith	1984	Rupert UMC (Idaho)	2004
John Grund	1985	Rose City Park UMC Computer Ministry	2005
Gladys Colburn	1986	Larry McDowell, Jack Ball,	
Linda Woods	1987	& Dick Moser	
Brian Sludder	1987	Rod Fielder	2006

Bishop's Award

In June of 2005, Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata (bishop of the Portland Episcopal Area from 2005–2012) instituted a new honor in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. Titled the Bishop's Award, this recognition is bestowed upon lay persons who demonstrate exemplary service to the Annual Conference.



2005

Marilyn Outslay
Ervin Williams

2009

Paul Cosgrove

2006

Jerry Beeson
(awarded posthumously)
Bonnie McOmber
Gregory Paul Nelson

2010

Gerry and Dottie Edy
Kathy Campbell-Barton

2011

Ted Wimer
Ruth Walton
Cesie Delve Scheuermann

2007

D. Joan Collison
Maribeth Wilson Collins

2012

The Collins Family
Foundation
George Azumano
Vera Kenyon
Gayle Woods
Turella Woods

2008

Tom Wogaman
Jo Japs

Bishop Grant Hagiya (bishop of the Greater Northwest Episcopal area 2012–2016) chose to continue this award. Starting in 2018, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky made the award.

2013

David Hargreaves

2015

Donna and Roger Boe

2018

Yuni Rueda

2014

Rev. Bill Mullette-Bauer

2016

William Haden
Belinda Denicola
Mary Foote

2019

Duane Medicine Crow

No award was presented at the 2020, 2021, or 2022 Annual Conferences due to the COVID-19 pandemic.