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Abundant Health
Marshall Wattman-Turner, Coordinator

The Abundant Health initiative in Oregon and Idaho, embodies our 2019 Annual Conference Theme: *Love Like This -- Heart, Strength, Being, and Mind.* The work of Abundant Health is carried out at many levels: personally, locally, regionally and globally.

Abundant Health is the mission priority of United Methodist Global Ministries for 2017 – 2020. The global goal is to reach at least one million children with health-promoting measures by 2020. Essential financial support for this life-saving initiative comes from individual donors and local United Methodist Churches. [UM Advance # 3021770 Abundant Health](https://www.umoi.org/abundanthealth).

As of this writing, 41 UMC's in Oregon and Idaho have already been identified as abundant health congregations. Many more wonderful examples of holistic, health-promoting ministries abound in our Annual Conference. An expansive list of Abundant Health (AH) churches and their ministries can be found at [https://www.umoi.org/abundanthealth](https://www.umoi.org/abundanthealth).

Some of these are highlighted below as examples of the many health-related ministries already occurring across OR-ID. We also hope to encourage each congregation to consider ways to enhance life-giving connections and grow more abundantly.

**Cheryl Juntunen**, AH Team Member, Rupert UMC, Sage District, ID:
For 25 years the *Open Hearts Food Pantry* at Rupert UMC has been helping to feed its neighbors. Now, in partnership with the Idaho Food Bank, they typically provide food for 150 households or 500 people per month in a town of approximately 5,800 people. Other community partners further enhance their ministry with additional health-related classes, services, and assessments. Cheryl is a former public health nurse and retired Director of a Southern Idaho Public Health District. She leads her local AH team as they explore ways to enhance and expand their ministries. One of their early efforts was a program on fall prevention for older adults.

**Dr. Ken Orwick**, AH Team Member, Lebanon UMC:
Lebanon UMC members help staff and donate to their local food pantry; supply backpack buddies; and participate in a community-wide Thanksgiving meal that serves 200+ people. They also sponsor *Laundry Love* monthly, which provides funds to wash and dry clothing at a local laundromat, where volunteers read to children. Pastor Dave Childress leads Death Café discussions on mortality with church and community members. And Dr. Orwick and Pastor Childress are planning a weekly walking group. Besides serving as Church Lay Leader, Dr. Orwick, a retired physician, also volunteers as an ombudsman for long-term care facilities and represents his church on the steering committee of the community health initiative [Live Longer Lebanon](https://www.umoi.org/abundanthealth).

**Karen Scranage**, AH Team Member, Spirit of the Valley UMC, Halsey/Harrisburg:
For the past eight years, Spirit of the Valley has championed annual community-wide Church World Service CROP Walks to raise funds to help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. In 2018, $5,400 was raised in their small, rural community. In addition, support for Shoes That Grow provides a life-changing resource for kids challenged by poverty around the world. It is amazing the difference that a solid, sustainable pair of shoes can make for a child’s health, education, and confidence. And, a Spirit Movers group opens their regular Tai Chi practice with prayer and has recently tapped in to Better Bones and Balance, a fall prevention program from their local university extension service.

**Rebecca Warren**, AH Team Member and President, OR-ID United Methodist Women:
Rebecca provides a direct link between UMW and Abundant Health in Oregon and Idaho. One of the UMW’s mission priorities is maternal and child health, which aligns directly with Abundant Health’s...
global focus. To affirm Living Abundantly in Body, Mind, and Spirit, OR-ID United Methodist Women have logged enough miles exercising to circle the globe; they’ve read more than 200 books in the UMW Reading Program; and they will study the book Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship at their Mission U this summer.

Emilie Kroen - AH Team Leader and OR-ID Conference Associate Lay Leader, Tualatin UMC: Along with several other health-related ministries, Tualatin UMC’s Community Garden displays God’s grandeur in all its glory. They grow more than 3,000 lbs of produce each year for Tualatin Schoolhouse Pantry, which TUMC co-founded several years ago. The Community Garden also provides 28 raised garden beds for neighbors to grow their own produce. In addition, seeds, education, and support for gardeners are offered.

Marshall Wattman-Turner - OR-ID AH Coordinator and Lead Pastor Beaverton First UMC: Beaverton First has begun hosting mental health trainings for church and community members, including an eight-session series, Boost Your Brain and Memory; Adult Mental Health First Aid; and training church staff and volunteers to respond to people experiencing mental illness. The congregation is also partnering with the Oregon Food Bank to offer a monthly Free Food Market, utilized by more people representing a wide range of languages and cultures.

In his role as Abundant Health Coordinator, Marshall actively cultivates connections with leaders and groups in local UMC’s, clergy colloquies, and Annual Conference ministries such as Camps & Retreats, the Board of Pensions, and the Board of Ordained Ministry. Through this work, Marshall has been impressed by leaders from a wide variety of local health departments, healthcare providers, and community health organizations that are eager to collaborate in various health-promoting programs to address issues such as nutrition, mental health, chronic pain and illness, and fall prevention.

Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries
David Armstrong, Chair

We had another great year in CRM, and once again Sawtooth Camp leads the news!

2018 marked the 70th! Year of camping at Sawtooth, and was celebrated by over 100 people in June, along with honoring Dave Hargreaves’ 46 years of service to the camp. It’s amazing how far they’ve come so far up in the mountains.

Robert Poe did a terrific job as director last summer, but found his school-year job commitments just didn’t leave time to do justice to his duties at Sawtooth, so he resigned at the end of the summer. After an extensive search Todd hired Larry Haley as the new director. Larry comes from a tech background and is a long term Idaho resident with a passion for camping and outdoor ministry. Welcome Larry and Kay to the CRM community!

Todd Bartlett continues with his development of both camp and office staff, along with training for himself to gain certification. Eric Conklin, our Associate for Donor and Volunteer Relations, moved on to a similar position at L’Arche in Portland, and Tanner Morton has joined us as Communications Assistant to help Todd spread the news of our camping ministry. Welcome Tanner!

Todd participated in a very moving ceremony at Annual Conference to honor and commemorate our return of the Wallowa Lake Camp land to the Nez Perce tribe. We’re thankful for the support of CRM in both the Annual Conference and the tribe.

There has also been much news at the sites. We’re happy to announce that Camp Latgawa has gained American Camping Association accreditation, which has been a goal for some time now. The ACA standards are rigorous, so thanks to Sam Grainger for all his hard work on this.

As for new/refurbished facilities, we have a new walk-in refrigerator and upgraded pantry at Collins, the old bathhouse at Suttle Lake has been converted to beautiful meeting space for smaller groups and all...
the windows in Pioneer Lodge have been replaced, the shower houses at Sawtooth have been extensively remodeled, and the roof of Bunch Lodge at Magruder has been replaced. This is just a partial list; we have many more projects in the pipeline!

Finally, at our March CRM board meeting we discussed our response to the developments at General Conference 2019. While we’ve long practiced inclusivity and welcoming for all of God’s children, we felt it was important to establish the following Policy of Inclusivity:

The Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church considers all people to be children of God and is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based on race, age, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, sexual orientation, genetics, gender identity or expression. The Board is fully devoted to inclusiveness in order to provide quality environments of Christian hospitality and learning to campers, guests and staff while complying with all Federal, Oregon, and Idaho state laws.

May it be ever so. Blessings and see you at camp!

**Christian Unity and Inter-religious Relationships**  
**Barbara Nixon, Coordinator**

There has been no formal activity connected to this ministry team in our conference during the past year. There has, however, been a bit of dreaming about what might be possible. Mike Holloman, in Idaho, would like to team with me to see if we can, at the very least, create some kind of network of information about interfaith work that is happening around our conference in a variety of ways. Tim Overton-Harris is the conference staff member who is connected to this kind of work. Mike and I will be talking with Tim as we plan for ways we might communicate about up-coming inter-religious opportunities as well as what good work and ideas are already in play. In my retirement this June, I hope to have more time to devote to this work on behalf of our conference. You may share your interest or ideas with me, Mike Holloman or Tim Overton-Harris. We welcome your input.

**Communications**  
**Greg Nelson, Director of Communications**

Communications can be a bridge. A bridge to information, values, and ideas. This bridging is one aspect of the communication activity of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. Greg Nelson, Director of Communications, and Kristen Caldwell, Communications Associate, work with conference staff and committees, Greater Northwest area partners, local churches, the wider church connection, and the secular press to build bridges and share information with, and about, the church.

The story of the church over the last year has been dominated by the anticipation and aftermath of the February Special Called Session of the General Conference. Sharing both details and perspectives of this event are key communication items as local church members become keenly aware of the global connection of the church. The local mission and programs to make disciples and build the kin-dom of God must also be kept as part of the narrative for the church.

Our conference website holds a growing number of stories that respond to both of these needs – stories of the global church, and the conference reaction to its actions; and stories of ministry in communities – responding to those in need, and connection with people one-on-one.

The Communications Team oversees the website, annual conference session technology, public relations and crisis communications, weekly *UM Connector*, serves on the Ministry Leadership Team and program directors group, and provides communication support for conference groups and committees.
The Greater Northwest Area website (greaternw.org) is managed cooperatively by the directors of communication from the Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho Conferences. The Western Jurisdiction website is managed cooperatively by the Western Jurisdiction communicators.

The conference website (umoi.org) is a resource to churches and church leaders and a connection point for information about our conference and churches. Website traffic increased over 30% above the previous year with 65,000 visits and 192,000 page views in the past year. Social media continues to be a growing area of connection. Facebook “likes” have increased by 18% over the last year. Follow the conference Facebook page to get up-to-date news, announcements, and inspiration.

Over 600,000 emails have been sent to local churches and conference leaders in the last year. Using email as a primary communication method has greatly reduced costs and increased the number of people reached with news, resources, updates, and invitations. It is critical that clergy and conference leaders keep the conference up-to-date about email addresses. Updates should be sent to district offices.

Connect to the conference via these online links:
- Conference Website: www.umoi.org
- Episcopal Area Website: www.greaternw.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/UMOrId
- Twitter: @UMOI

Congregational Development Team (CDT)
Duane Anders, chair

2018 brought with it the launch of The Greater Northwest Area Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team), with the final team member of Dr. Leroy Barber added in February 2018 to the staff of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. The directors of the GNW Innovation Vitality Team are:
- Rev. Dr. William D. Gibson, Director of Innovation for a New Church; Team Leader
- Rev. Dr. Leroy Barber, Director of Innovation for an Engaged Church
- Ms. Kristina Gonzalez, Director of Innovation for an Inclusive Church

The IV Team focuses on the practices of Inclusion, Innovation, and Multiplication in an effort to cultivate new places, new people, and new leadership among our existing and new congregations. In an effort to shift from the traditional programmatic approach to congregational development, the IV Team and the CDT equip innovative clergy and local churches to better understand their context, use proven innovation practices, and focus on community engagement. We see four primary areas of resourcing in supporting this work. These areas include the following:
- Intercultural Competency — becoming more culturally competent in order to effectively communicate and engage cross-culturally, on a personal and church level.
- Faith-Based Community Organizing — learning how to listen to neighbors and build relationships and partnerships which improve the community.
- Asset-based Community Development — this is less about doing things for people and more about partnering with what is already happening in the community.
- Intentional Multiplication — with a strong foundation in Wesleyan disciple-making we seek to develop leaders who develop leaders and create new places for new people that create new places for new people

The following lists represent the current “ongoing” and new projects launching this 2018/2019 appointment season. These projects are utilizing a variety of models, which include: Multi-site/Expansion/Cohort strategy, Intentional Multi-Ethnic strategy, Hybrid Repurposing/Restart strategy, Church-Within-a-Church strategy, House Church strategy, and other creative directions, as approved. Please continue to keep these projects/emerging new churches, along with the planters and their teams, in your prayers during this upcoming new season. We are “creating new places for new people” to discover how Jesus calls us forth into a life of learning, transforming, responding, and growing in God’s grace.
The following list represents new projects that are currently “ongoing” in the Oregon-Idaho Conference, which have not yet chartered as official United Methodist churches. Some may be focused on new faith community development or new ministry development.

**Ongoing Oregon-Idaho Projects Receiving CDT Support:**
- Las Naciones (Hillsboro, OR) — planter: Jorge Rodriguez Vasquez
- Sellwood Faith Community (Portland, OR) — planters: Eilidh & Jeff Lowery
- Las Naciones (Salem, OR), launching out of Open Door Churches — current planter: Arturo Fernandez
- The Rockwood Center, Multisite/Repurposing (Gresham, OR) — planter: Steve Lewis
- Missional Wisdom Hub PDX (Portland, OR) — planter: Eric Conklin
- CrossPoint, New Start (Boise, ID) — planter: Dana Hicks
- Southeast Portland Parish (Portland, OR) — planter/pastor: Eilidh Lowery
- Sunnyside New Start (Portland, OR) — planter/pastor: Sunia Gibbs (2019 restart)
- Great Spirit UMC (Portland, OR) — planter: Allen Buck
- Storydwelling New Start/Multisite/Ecumenical (Bend, OR) — planter: Erika Spaet
- Bold New Season/Wesley New Start/Multisite (Eugene, OR) — planter/innovator: Josh Clark
- Twin Falls UMC Vitality Project (Twin Falls, OR) — planter/innovator: Buddy Gharrig

**Ongoing Oregon-Idaho New Church Starts NOT Receiving CDT Support:**
- Lents Tongan Fellowship
- Ministerio Metodista Amistad Y Fe

**Projects Ended in 2018:**
- SpiritSpace@ZaccesHouse (Portland, OR) — planter: Beth Estock (ended spring 2018)
- Woodlawn MIC/aCross Culture (Portland, OR) — planter: Jon Umbdenstock (ended 12/18)

**New Projects for 2019 launch:**
- Rose City Park new project (Columbia District) — TBA
- Parkrose UMC (Columbia District) — Regina and Andru Morgan
- Tabor Heights UMC (Columbia District) — Nicholle Ortiz and Forrest Nameniuk
- New Meadows (Sage District) — Jon Umbdenstock

This year also saw the launch of five Ordinary Revivals, 10 summer Interns, and six year-long interns. This summer seven church planters of color are deployed in the above projects.

This is just a taste of the work of the Innovation Team. We are thankful for their work.

**Board of Global Ministries/Outreach**

**Jim Frisbie, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**

2019 is the 200th anniversary of mission outreach in the Methodist/United Methodist tradition. It all began in 1819 when an African-American local preacher began an outreach to the Wyandot tribe in Ohio. By the end of that year a mission board was established in New York and Global Ministries was on its way to becoming a worldwide emphasis of our church. This beginning was truly a harbinger of the mission theme of “from everywhere to everywhere!”

This year is also the 150th anniversary of the mission work of Methodist/United Methodist women and the 250th anniversary of John Wesley’s outreach to America. We have much to celebrate, but even more to build upon as we explore new venues and methods of mission.

**Mission Bicentennial**

Our Global Ministries Team is planning a Mission Bicentennial Roadshow for this fall to celebrate 200 years of mission and ministry and offer creative ways for congregations and individuals to engage and expand what we do. There will be more information on these events available at Annual Conference. Visit our display in the Ministry Marketplace to learn more.
Itineration
We continue to see a steady stream of itinerating missionaries visiting churches and church groups. Roz Collins is our Itineration Coordinator and a valuable link with the work of United Methodist Women.

Global Health Initiative
In June 2018 the Oregon-Idaho Conference moved to participate in the United Methodist Church Abundant Health Initiative by establishing an Abundant Health Coordinator role. Rev. Marshall Wattman-Turner was appointed to that role and has been promoting this essential program. His full report is included under a separate heading in these Pre-Conference Reports. We are delighted to have Marshall bringing his depth and expertise to this program.

Disaster Response
Dan Moseler, our Disaster Response Coordinator, is completing his term in this role and will be handing off leadership in this area of our work to Larry Johnson. They have been working together to expand the work of disaster preparedness, Early Response Team training and emergency response in our Annual Conference and beyond. Larry has personally participated in ERT teams both in the US and overseas. We are also working closely with the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference and the Alaska Conference in our Disaster Preparedness and response ministry.

Through an UMCOR grant our three Greater Northwest Conferences have purchased three shower trailers to support disaster relief and recovery. A grant for $100,000 was awarded and the trailers were purchased and delivered in December of 2017.

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 UMC 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 being explored by a number of other congregations.

UMVIM
Louise Kienzle is our United Methodist Volunteers In Mission Coordinator, and continues to lead training events in our conference and personally lead teams to Kenya. We continue to expand the breadth and depth of this program through training events, scholarships, and coordination. If you are interested in being a part of an UMVIM trip, or are already planning one, please talk with Louise or see our display in the Ministry Marketplace.

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.

Holy Land Task Force
Dee Poujade, Chair
The Holy Land Task Force was created at Annual Conference 2013. Current Task Force members are Dee Poujade, chair, Rev. Alex Awad, Rev. Michael Hart, Rev. Janine DeLaunay, Liz Jacob, Karen McAlister, Jan Nelson, and Claudia Roberts. Rev. Lowell Greathouse serves as advisor; Greg Nelson is a consultant.

Since its inception, the membership of the Task Force has changed and, at present, it could use a few more members who would like to work on this issue. The time commitment is relatively modest – four or five meetings a year (in person at the Conference Office in Portland or via Zoom/conference call from wherever!), sharing information on what is happening in the Holy Land with members of your congregation and District, and advocating for justice in whatever manner you can. Those interested can contact Dee Poujade or talk to any Task Force member (on the conference website, use the People Locator, or see About Us/Conference Leadership).
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. This legislation included a provision that letters be written to legislators expressing the Conference’s opposition to so-called “Anti-BDS” Legislation.
- 2018 - Child Incarceration and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 2018 - Human Rights and the Incarcerated Children
- 2018 - Aligning Investments with Values Regarding Palestine and Israel (renewed/revised)
- 2018 - Supporting Middle East Peace Efforts

Pending legislation for AC 2019 includes a General Conference resolution to amend the Book of Discipline to include governments who follow socially responsible practices in the list of entities that the church invests in.

Rev. Alex Awad, a retired UMC missionary who served the Bethlehem Bible College for 30 years was a speaker at Annual Conference 2018. Also in 2018, the Task Force co-sponsored a Palestinian benefit dinner at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland. We continue to sell olivewood items from Bethlehem at various events, both as a fundraiser and an educational tool. Recent sales have included the Ministry Marketplace at Annual Conference and holiday bazaars at Coburg, Fremont, and Portland First UMC.

The Task Force coordinated and led an educational tour of the Holy Land in 2015, and is planning another such tour for October, 2020. Anyone interested in participating in this tour can contact Dee Poujade (information above) to be put on a list to receive additional information.

The Task Force continues to provide educational resources and speakers to local churches and other venues as requested. *The Kairos Document* is recommended as a “primer” for those wishing to learn more about this issue.

Task Force members are 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.

Up to date information and resources links can be found on the [Task Force’s web page](#). 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.

**Board of Lay Ministry**

**Jan Nelson, Conference Lay Leader**

**Emilie Kroen, Associate Lay Leader, Lay Servant Coordinator**

Conference and district lay leaders have represented the laity in decision-making bodies across the conference. We participate in the conference Ministry Leadership Team and on district leadership teams and various other bodies. We are always interested in input from other laity on the priorities for our shared work.

The Board of Lay Ministry also works to identify and equip leaders for district and conference work. Our Lay Servant coordinators are continually looking for ways to bring training to people who are
geographically scattered and have very busy schedules. We hoped that we could use the internet more, but are finding that some people are unable to access the needed technology. This is a work in progress, and we would appreciate suggestions from anyone who has a creative idea. We are also looking for suggestions as to what kinds of training are needed.

We encourage everyone to share the exciting things you are doing in ministry with your neighbors. In addition to district newsletters, you can share on our Facebook group “OR-ID Laity Group.” You can also like our page “United Methodist OR-ID Laity” to get information about things of interest to all laity.

Ministry Leadership Team
Submitted by the members of the MLT

The Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) is charged with the responsibility of providing on-going oversight for the mission and ministry of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference within the Greater Northwest Area’s vision and strategies.

During the past year, the MLT has established a clear approach for considering, reviewing, and overseeing the funds that we have responsibility for. This process includes a newly established and defined set of guidelines, an application form, and a grant tracking process.

The MLT is now using these tools as a way to consider how to allocate and oversee funds and make decisions.

Since January 1, 2018, the MLT has made the following funding decisions/allocations. The funds involved have come from one of the following resources: (1) the Opportunity Fund, which represents residual apportionment funds that are available to the MLT to fulfill mission and ministry opportunities within the Oregon-Idaho AC, (2) Faith and Mission funds that represent funds from previously unspent ministry resources and related investment earnings, or (3) specially designated funds that the MLT has oversight responsibility for:

- $39,000 for Las Naciones Hispanic Ministry in Hillsboro
- $2,500 for leaders to attend the Western Jurisdictional Immigration Event in Los Angeles
- $283,850 to be used by the Congregational Leadership Development Team (CDT)
- $44,715 from the Igniting Ministry Fund to be used by Open Door Churches for communications work
- $48,000 for the Abundant Health Initiative
- $15,000 for work with Ecumenical Youth Collective
- $43,000 for Black Ministry and the Beloved Community
- $84,000 for the Amistad y Fe Hispanic Ministry in Wilder, Idaho
- up to $210,000 over three years to support the development of Affordable Housing in the Portland Metro Area
- up to $10,000 for the Affordable Housing Summit in Portland
- $54,000 from Koinonia Funds for use by our six campus ministry programs and set aside $200,000 for the Koinonia Campus Ministry Designated Fund.

In addition, the 2019 Collins Foundation grant in the amount of $155,000 is to be spent in the following three areas: (1) Inclusion and LGBTQ+ Advocacy ($69,750), (2) Innovation, Multiplication, and Inclusion—Increasing Cultural, Ethnic Diversity ($62,250), and (3) Sustaining an Innovative, Inclusive, Multiplying, Vital Church (Stewardship) ($23,000).

The MLT will continue to respond to strategic ministry and fund opportunities that can serve the mission and vision of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.
Mission and Ministry Report
Lowell Greathouse, Mission and Ministry Coordinator

Think for a moment about what has transpired since the last Annual Conference session. During this time, we continue to struggle, as a society, with issues related to racism, immigration, and inclusion. We continue to witness increasing incivility and alienation within our communities…and on social media. And…recently, as a church, we held a Special Session of General Conference in order to determine our future direction.

The context of June 2019 is not the same as it was in 2018, and yet our essential tasks and challenges remain the same:

- How do we live our lives individually and collectively, so that what we do in terms of worship, mission, and ministry is pleasing to God?
- How do we use our assets to leverage what we can offer to others through the resources we steward?
- How do we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

In order to address these challenges as an annual conference, not only have we been active at a local church level, maintaining food banks, sending UMVIM teams to various parts of the world, and opening our doors to people in need within our community, but we have also come together connectionally in a variety of ways that make a difference in the world.

Here are a few highlights that reflect our connectional contributions:

- Within the Greater NW Area, we have engaged in collaborations to further our work within the Native American community…returning a portion of land from Wallowa Lake Camp to the Nez Perce Tribe; worked collectively to further the ministry of the Innovation Vitality (IV) Team; held trainings, under the leadership of Dr. Frank Rogers (from the Claremont School of Theology), to train lay and clergy leaders in the ways of Radical Compassion; met as a GNW Area Cabinet and looked for common strategies in our work together; sent joint area Emergency Response Teams to serve in disaster areas; and participated in two GNW Area Stakeholder/Vitality Summits to see how we can use our collective financial assets in a more effective manner. Our work, as an area, has continued to advance, leveraging our resources to greater advantage.

- We have worked at being the church, as we deal with difficult subjects, by holding Table Talks throughout the region. Last spring we held Table Talks 1.0 and had over a thousand people participate in those gatherings, which focused on conversations related to human sexuality, while maintaining the three covenant principles of…(1) staying curious, (2) being kind, and (3) listening to others with the same passion with which you’d want to be heard. We held Table Talks 2.0 at annual conference last June. And we are now in the midst of Table Talks 3.0, which are being held in approximately 30 locations scattered throughout the GNW Area. Finally, we will hold Table Talks 4.0 conversations at annual conference in June. Our goal for these conversations is not just to create ways to converse on a difficult subject, but also to learn how to do so by being the kind of church we seek to be.

- We have continued our work with Abundant Health (Rev. Marshall Wattman-Turner serves as our AH Coordinator), Immigration (Natalia Olivares serves as our student intern), LGBTQ+ Advocacy (Rev. Brett Webb-Mitchell serves as our LGBTQ+ Advocacy Coordinator), and Stewardship education (Cesie Delve Scheuermann serves as our consultant).

- The work of the Holy Land Task Force continues, and we have hosted a global event called “Listening with Open Hearts” to build relationships with partners who are interested in the full-inclusion conversation, held an Affordable Housing summit and funded this work in the Portland Metro area, convened a joint Hispanic Ministry/Immigration Summit, participated in Greater NW Area Transition Retreats for clergy experiencing a change in appointment, and supported training related to community organizing through the Transformational Leadership Initiative.

- Our various community partnerships have deepened during the past year, as our work with The Collins Foundation continues to make a difference on several fronts. And we are involved in
important program partnerships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC, the Western Methodist Justice Movement, the Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC), the National Hispanic/Latino Ministry Plan, and various local churches.

During the past year, I was fortunate to be a part of a UM Volunteers in Mission Team that went to Kenya in July, and participated in the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto in November. At the end of June, I will retire after over 30 years of service in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. I am excited by the opportunities that are still ahead of us as an annual conference, as new staff leadership comes on the scene…There is so much to do as a church in these challenging times. It has been a blessing for me to serve the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)
Eva Johnson, Co-Chair of CONAM

Greetings to all. This year our committee has continued supporting several projects such as Huckleberry Family Camp at Magruder. The dream behind this camp was to provide a positive experience for Native families with the United Methodist church. Funds were used from the Carol Youngbird Holt scholarship for an elder to attend an Indian Child Welfare conference. Two members of our committee attended a board meeting of the Native American International Caucus, which brings together members of all the CONAM’s in the United States. CONAM has continually supported Wilshire Native American Fellowship church, which is now called Great Spirit.

Our new projects continue to support Native work and communities. We funded a summer internship for a young adult at Wallowa Lake; she was from the Shoshone/Bannock Nation. Two committee members attended the first Northwest CONAM regional meeting. Our goal is to build support for Native Ministries in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and Nevada. CONAM’s feel isolated because of the distance between us. An example: Great Spirit is the only Native church in our conference.

CONAM and the Open Door Churches in the Salem area supported students at the Chemawa Indian School with their Red Shawl Project, which is to increase the awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) across the United States. There were several shawl sewing days held at the campus and church women showed up with their sewing machines. It was a memorable moment. Students also plan to hold two workshops - What do heathy relationships look like and Self-defense. It has always been a goal to connect with Chemawa and I believe this is a first step.

Another exciting new endeavor is exploring Native Ministry Fellowship in the Salem area. We have had two meetings to plan the steps we need to do. This summer committee members will be attending Native events in the area to talk with people about Native Fellowship with the Methodist church. Keep us in your prayers as we move ahead with this dream.

Board of Church and Society and Peace with Justice Report
Donna Boe, Chair
Claudia Roberts, Peace with Justice Coordinator

This has been an important year for the church and a busy one for the Oregon-Idaho Conference Board of Church and Society.

At the request of the General Board of Church and Society, who has been in an eight-year process to revise and update the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, we organized an event held before Annual Conference in Boise in June 2018. The purpose of the event was to have a broad spectrum of United Methodists from our conference review a draft of the proposed changes in the Social Principles and provide feedback to the Board of Church and Society. The compilation of all the responses from
the conferences who chose to participate will aid them in clarifying the information in the document before it is submitted to the 2020 General Conference for approval. In addition, we provided news stories to conference media letting members from around the conference know that they could review the document online and submit their comments. The format for the Social Principles will be changed considerably to more of a narrative format that includes scriptural support for the principles and provides a culturally broad view on what it means to be a United Methodist.

In early Spring, we received a Peace with Justice grant application from Rev Richenda Fairhurst in Ashland. She was asking for funds to help provide a three-day workshop for faith leaders entitled “Engaging the Climate Crisis: A Pastoral Response.” The event brought together an ecumenical group of church laity and pastors who heard well-known speakers who presented both the data of climate change and information on how to support climate justice from a faith perspective. The grant was for $1500 and helped meet the estimated $8000 cost of presenting the workshop. We want to thank Pastor Richenda for addressing this serious concern.

Both Donna Boe and I (Claudia) were invited to attend training held in Los Angles provided by the Western Jurisdiction Task Force on Immigration and Refugees. Three other members of our conference also attended. There were excellent speakers, workshops and panels of immigrants who told us their stories. We also participated in direct action with a local advocacy group supporting the people with Temporary Permanent Status (TPS) who have been under attack by President Trump.

I have continued to participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days held in Washington D.C. every year to stay current on social justice issues in our country and internationally. In 2018 the focus was on Immigration and Refugees. We had panel discussions, workshops, powerful worship with great preaching throughout the weekend and then went to Capitol Hill to meet with our senators and representatives to urge for more humane treatment and more civil processing of people migrating to our country instead of the dehumanizing criminalized treatment currently being given.

There was also a conference on Immigration held at Christ UMC in Portland in November 2018. It was hosted by the Hispanic Ministry Council/Conference Immigration and Refugee Task Force. Manuel Padilla from the National Plan led us in dialogue and visioning about the situation in OR-ID regarding Hispanic issues and immigration. Peace with Justice funds were also spent to provide tuition grants for people attending the Idaho Conference on Refugees in February 2019.

If anyone would like to become more involved in the conference justice work or is interested in a Peace with Justice grant, please contact us via the conference website (look for Claudia Roberts or Donna Boe in the People Locator) or the laity directory in the conference Journal. Our work is grounded on Jesus’ teachings to love God and love our neighbors. We also follow John Wesley’s teaching that “there is no holiness without social holiness.”

Commission on Religion and Race
Kalina Malua Katoa, Chair

Commission on Religion and Race supports and encourages vital conversation across cultures.

Our endeavors these past few years were focused on teaching Inter-Cultural Competency workshops in both the Boise and Portland metropolitan areas. Last Annual Conference, the workshop we offered was attended by less than half of the thirty-plus people who had registered for the class. The intention of this workshop was to train and enable leaders to conduct small group discussions using Respectful Communication Guidelines skills with Mutual Invitation. This process gives each person in the group the leading role to invite the next person to speak. The person invited has three choices; they can speak, ask to pass for now to speak later, or ask to pass and not speak at all. Although this communication process is simple to learn, it proved to have its own little challenge to practice. But many found that a little patience and kindness made a great difference in the practice. The purpose of this communication process is to give each person in the group a time to share and to be heard. Those who attended the workshop found these communication guidelines to be an effective tool to practice in their local churches.
Commission on Religion and Race supports vital conversations and developing authentic relationships where lives, churches, and communities are transformed.

I was greatly inspired by the works of my local church (Woodburn UMC) to make a difference in developing and nurturing a good relationship with the Hispanic community housed in the church. It is an opportunity for our majority Caucasian congregation to practice open door, open mind, and open heart ministry for the Hispanic community. It was awkward on the first Sunday but each Sunday after that, the people of the church were open to making provisions and changes to welcome the Hispanic Community to the church. We planned to have our worship services and spend fellowship time together. Some of the women and youth from both congregations worked together to make coffee and provide baked goodies for refreshment in two fellowship times at 10 am and at 11:30 am. We all look forward for fellowship time at the lounge as it provides us a time to be together and pass the peace of Christ with one another. The once single table of refreshments has doubled with added treats that reflects the now more diverse church community in Woodburn UMC. When our church community changes, the congregation did not hesitate to appropriate changes to welcome all.

Commission on Religion and Race supports Institutional Equity, building systems, policies and processes that level the playing field for all.

In this difficult time when our global church is making decisions and policies which alienate our brothers and sisters of the LGBTQIA community, let us be mindful and prayerfully lift up those who are hurt and not heard. Many of our hearts are greatly troubled with this issue, and we hope that we’re working toward a future where we don’t hesitate to embrace those marginalized in our society as Christ readily called those marginalized in his time to be His disciples.

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

This year we celebrate the bicentennial of Methodist mission, marking the 1819 founding of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To prepare, several of us from Oregon-Idaho attended a historic meeting of the United Methodist Global Ministries connectional network in Atlanta, Georgia, in December. The objectives of the 2018 Mission Ambassadors Summit were to strengthen the connectional network, share resources and highlight the upcoming bicentennial celebration. I came away with a better sense of mission in our conference and beyond, connections to build support mission, a way to look at the bigger picture and following God’s call to walk beside and learn. “With openness and gratitude, we await the leading of the Spirit in ways not yet seen as God continues to work God’s purposes out in our own day in a new way.”

Our churches participate and plan many mission trips—spiritual journeys. How does your journey become an UMVIM trip? Have a trained leader, serve with an UMVIM project or partner, register your team, comply with Safe Sanctuary policies, secure UMVIM insurance, include spiritual formation throughout your journey.

Registered Oregon-Idaho UMVIM teams serving both nationally and internationally since May, 2018 have included:

- A team from multiple churches in Oregon to Kenya in July, 2018
- A team from Corvallis First UMC working with Special Olympics Oregon in July, 2018
- A team from Ashland UMC to the Okanogan in August, 2018
- A team from Lake Oswego UMC to Kenya in February, 2019
- A team from Portland First UMC to Costa Rica in March, 2019

A team needs a leader. In March, a PNW/OR-ID Team Leader training was offered in Bellevue, WA, with seven leaders trained. Oregon-Idaho partnered with other conferences in the Western Jurisdiction to help lead classes at the Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy in Scottsdale, AZ in March. Are you considering leading an UMVIM team? Or, perhaps you just want learn more about serving on an UMVIM team? Maybe you attended a leader training a few years ago but need a refresher. I welcome any invitations to lead a training in your church. If you have questions, feel led to learn more about UMVIM, or become a trained team leader, contact me at UMVIM@umoi.org.
You can find conference UMVIM policies, guidelines and forms on the conference website at www.umoi.org/UMVIM. All teams and team leaders are encouraged to take advantage of these resources as well as reaching out to your conference coordinator for further assistance.

The Oregon-Idaho ERT program, coordinated by Larry Johnson, currently has 47 certified volunteers capable of responding to provide help after a disaster. In March, 3 volunteers recertified at the Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy mentioned above. We are continuing to look at providing training opportunities that would help to grow these numbers. In the conference, Becky Platt is our certified ERT trainer. A second trainer will be added in May of this year.

Deployments in the past year have included:

- 4 ERT volunteers to the disaster recovery efforts after Hurricane Florence moved through Beaufort, North Carolina. They were a part of two Western Jurisdiction teams sent to the area in November of 2018.
- 1 ERT volunteer on a PNW ERT/rebuild team in Omak, Washington following flooding in the area.
- 1 specially trained chainsaw ERT joined with the PNW conference and traveled to Omak to remove dead trees burned in the wild fires that ran through the area in 2014 and 2015. This cleared a home site so rebuilding could begin.
- 1 ERT volunteer traveled in May of this year to the Island of Saipan on a team organized through the Cal-Pac Conference. This multi-conference team was a part of the FEMA VALOR program providing recovery after super typhoon YUTU moved across the area in October of 2018. Teams from the area will continue to provide help through at least the summer of 2019.

“A path forward is found, not through providing resources to the poor, but instead by walking with them in humble relationships.” from *When Helping Hurts* by S. Corbett & B. Fikkert

**United Methodist Women**

**Rebecca (Becky) Lowe Warren, President**

2019 marks the 150th birthday of United Methodist Women (UMW). At every conference- and district-wide event this year (and many local ones) we are celebrating this remarkable history while prayerfully discerning the future of UMW’s inclusive fellowship and vibrant mission work.

Each of the four districts continues to emphasize the following justice issue priorities in their respective mission projects and programs: Sage District, Child & Maternal Health; Cascadia District, Criminalization of Communities of Color; Columbia District, Economic Inequality; and Crater Lake, Climate Justice.

Mission u, UMW’s missional school, will convene in four different sites in 2019: Boise First UMC, Boise, ID - July 12-13; Lake Oswego UMC, Lake Oswego, OR - July 19-20; Roseburg UMC, Roseburg, OR - August 2-3; and Burley UMC, Burley, ID - Aug. 9-10. The spiritual growth study is “Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship”; the social issue study is “What About Our Money? A Faith Response”; and the geographical study is “Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission.”

At present the Charter for Racial Justice Committee is receiving nominations for the Charter for Racial Justice Award that honors individuals or groups who fulfill the goals of the Charter in a significant way. The Committee also awards Isobel F. Zimmerman Grant Funds for programs that nurture leadership development of Native Americans or African Americans or that support a Foreign Mission Project of United Methodist Women. The Dr. Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship (GBC) provides financial assistance to women of the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Annual Conference whose purpose is to obtain a graduate degree for use in a church-related vocation. Recipients will be announced at Annual Conference.
United Methodist Women enjoy representation on the Abundant Health Initiative Task Force. In 2018 Oregon-Idaho UMW members took the “active living” component of abundant health seriously and logged 26,000 miles through various forms of exercise. In the first quarter of 2019 members exercised their minds by collectively reading 200+ books on the UMW Reading Program (the goal was 150 in honor of our birthday!) Our spirits will be nourished through worship and study at Mission u as well as at the Annual Meeting in October when Karen Wood, Chaplain at Willamette University, will reveal how our lives are awash with spiritual practices and how we can live into our Purpose-full phrase, “Becoming whole persons through Jesus Christ.”

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

**Commission on Archives and History**

Nancy Fadeley, Chair

Shirley Manning Knepp, Oregon Archivist

The room housing the Oregon part of the Commission on Archives and History of the Oregon-Idaho Conference is filling up with boxes from closed churches. The ones being worked on now are Salem Jason Lee, Metzger, Ontario First, Clatskanie plus some Conference Office material including tapes of the Annual Conference sessions from 1980-1996.

Shirley discovered a scrapbook from 1914 that has newspaper clippings about the closure of the Old Taylor Street Church in Portland. The conference locked the doors and closed the church but many of the parishioners wanted it to stay open. They held Sunday church services in the street in front of the church. The sad thing is that the clippings were incomplete and did not really tell what the outcome was. This would be a great research project.

The December 8, 2019 issue of the Salem Statesman Journal highlighted the group of clergy and laity in Salem, mostly from Salem First Methodist Church, who stood up for the Japanese Church in Salem after Pearl Harbor. It happened on December 7, 1941, the night Pearl Harbor was bombed. This group included Glen Olds, who was a student at Willamette and assistant pastor and youth minister at Salem First. This group of concerned persons went to the Japanese Church and faced a mob that came to seek revenge against the Japanese Methodist Church and its members. The protectors were able to turn back the angry mob and persuaded then to leave. The Salem newspaper at the time never reported this incident. The people involved talked and wrote about what happened that night.

We have had several inquiries for information on ministers that served the conference in the latter 1800’s. One such person was I. Driver, who is mentioned in the 1862 Blain diary. New material was found about him recently. He had spoken out against a member of the Annual Conference and was being disciplined. We have the papers where it tells that he was going to be stripped of his credentials if he did not apologize. The family member doing the research had not known about this part of I. Driver’s life.

- Research was done for the 150th Anniversary of Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church.
- Received Alice Knotts book, Joseph Knotts Missionary in Peru Minister in Oregon. It is about her grandfather’s life as a missionary and as a minister.
- Material from the Archive was displayed at the 150th anniversary celebration of the United Methodist Women at the Spiritual Growth retreat for the Columbia and Cascadia districts at the Collins Retreat Center on March 22-23. The material was also used at the Christ UMC unit meeting.

There is a question of what will happen to the Oregon part of the Conference Archives when Claremont Theological school moves into the MICAH building. We will wait for those changes.

There is no report from the Idaho archives.
The Commission on Equitable Compensation is charged by The Book of Discipline with recommending to the Annual Conference standards for pastoral support.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that for 2020 the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference fix the minimum base compensation, including the use of a parsonage, at the following rates:

- Elder in Full Connection/Associate Member: $40,563
- Provisional Member: $38,629
- Local Pastor: $36,487

This recommendation represents a 3% increase over what was approved for 2019.

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

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

Compensation from the local church includes cash salary, utilities allowance, and a home for the pastor’s use. We encourage churches and clergy to allocate compensation in ways that will assist clergy and their families to retain as great a portion of their income as is legally possible. Moving money out of cash salary and into a utilities allowance or a housing allowance could lower the amount clergy pay in taxes. 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. If an adequate parsonage is not available for the use of the pastor, then a housing allowance shall be paid in addition to the above minimum compensation as part of the total compensation package. A two-tier formula will be applied with a housing allowance set at $13,568 for most areas of the Annual Conference and $15,829 for areas with unusually high housing costs. This represents a 3% increase over 2019.

2. 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.

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

4. Churches and pastors may apply to the Commission for an exemption to housing allowance recommendations 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, the church must pay the housing portion of the ministerial compensation package.

The Commission also recommends, but cannot require, that a reimbursement for travel and professional expenses be set at no less than $3,500 annually. This is the same amount as last year. 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 Account Reimbursement Policy which is available from their district office.

The Commission has requested that the Council on Finance and Administration budget $20,000 for the Equitable Compensation Fund for 2020, and $1,000 for the administrative costs of the Commission.
The Special General Conference of 2019 has left us wondering what the future of our conference looks like, given that we are passionate about making sure that we are a totally inclusive church going forward. As we await further action plans from our Western Jurisdiction and our Bishop, the best thing we can do is make sure that our everyday missions and ministries continue to happen at all levels. CF&A has the job of making sure that the way we spend our Conference resources is closely aligned with the priorities set by our area Cabinet and our Ministry Leadership Team. We do this by attempting to understand the plans behind budget requests coming to us, and being intentional in our decision making.

CF&A would like to thank our Conference employees who make up our Office of Stewardship and Finance under Dan Wilson-Fey’s supervision. This is a small, dedicated group of hardworking people who handle a myriad of finance and accounting challenges and help keep us on track.

**Looking back on calendar 2018**
Several factors contributed to our financial year in 2018 . . .

- The total apportioned budget decreased by 8.7% from the previous year
- 115 of our 181+ churches paid 100% or more of their Shared Ministries (apportionments)
- Our apportionment receipts increased from 81% to 83%
- The stewardship of our budget stakeholders, who came in under the spending plan
- There was no investment income in 2018 due to negative returns

We continued to emphasize our connectedness to our Worldwide Church ministries by paying our General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference apportionments at 100%, even though as a Conference we received only 83% of the total apportioned to our local churches.

An annual professional audit of the 2018 books is underway and any significant results will be reported at our Annual Conference.

**Quick peek at the first quarter of calendar 2019**
The 2019 apportioned budget approved by our last Annual Conference is $3,400,264, which was a small decrease from 2018. CF&A is estimating that Shared Ministry (apportionment) receipts will be short of the budget by $612,048, leaving us with a spending plan of $2,788,216.

First quarter 2019 Shared Ministry receipts are up just slightly from 2018’s first quarter results. Our expenses for the first quarter are staying within our planned levels.

**Looking forward to calendar 2020**
In late November, CF&A began to work on its budget plan for 2020. We started by trying to first articulate and understand our Conference priorities. Then all budget stakeholders were asked to submit written budget requests and narrative reasoning. Due to their stewardship, we were able to propose an apportioned budget basically the same as 2019.

CF&A is recommending an overall 2020 budget of $7,912,426. After subtracting direct billed health and pension benefits, and applying reserves where appropriate, we have an apportioned budget of $3,404,452. This is about $4,000 more than last year. Over an 8-year period, our apportioned budget has been trending downward. Our 2020 recommendation is about 14.7% less than what it was in 2012, even without considering inflation’s effect on salaries and other costs during that period.

It is still possible that some modifications will be made before the final budget proposal is presented at Annual Conference in June.
ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Council on Finance and Administration shall implement a spending plan based upon anticipated receipts and projected expenses.

2. The first 200 miles to the Annual Conference session will be exempted from mileage reimbursement. 14 cents per mile reimbursement for > 200 miles round trip.

3. Lay Members entitled to reimbursement under Conference Rule 1.030 will be reimbursed for housing and meals while attending the session; the maximum amount of reimbursement is set at $474.41 for 2019.

4. The Oregon-Idaho Conference Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to borrow up to $500,000 on an open line of credit to cover essential and authorized expenditures during intervals dictated by cash flow needs. Interest on such borrowed funds will be paid from the “Contingency” reserve fund.

5. The General Fund reserve (balance) provides working capital (cash flow) for the operation of the Conference, emergencies, and for unexpected needs that arise from time to time. The annual net operating results in the budget funds not otherwise designated will provide the basis for the General Fund reserve. CF&A is authorized to hold a minimum of 4 months of average monthly budget in this account.

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

Northwest United Methodist Foundation
Tom Wilson, Executive Director

Greetings! I look forward to connecting in Eugene this June. Here is a summary of what’s been going on at the Foundation since the last time we gathered as an Annual Conference.

We’ve trained our two new Associate Directors, Julia Frisbie and Rev. David Nieda. Both bring long histories of service to the church and multiple skills and talents to the job. Their responsibilities are to work with me in providing resources directly to you. With Julia and David on board, our capacity to respond to your needs has increased dramatically. From July 2018 to May 2019, we’ve given 36 presentations and workshops in local churches across the Episcopal Area!

We’ve also developed more resources for your church, which are available on our new website. Visit nwumf.org/resources for updated brochures. See nwumf.org/news to find the articles you may have seen in our conference newsletter. Our latest audited financial statements are available at nwumf.org/audits. Our prayer is that, when your church needs planned giving and endowment support, it will be easier than ever for you to reach us, and what we provide will be better than ever.
Pre-Conference Reports

Our partnership with Wespath continues to work well. Just like UMCOR allows us to do more in the mission field than any of our churches could do alone, Wespath allows us to pool our money and have a bigger positive impact in the global financial markets. In the aftermath of General Conference 2019, the UMC faces an uncertain future. Because we are an independent entity, we intend to continue partnering with all the churches we serve today and more. So far, our relationship with Wespath has supported this goal, and we remain pleased with both their financial and social returns.

The stock market continues to be volatile. In late 2018, we experienced the correction that many expected after 2017’s bull market. But in early 2019, our investments earned back the value lost in 2018 and more. What does this mean for long-term investors like you? Because you plan to ride out the highs and lows, you can remain confident and focused on the long term. Our advice is: don’t look! The funds that you hold with the Foundation are broadly diversified. Wespath hires world-class managers with a variety of specialties to carry out multiple strategies in almost every sector (barring our ethical exclusions, of course). This is diversification upon diversification. It’s our best protection against ongoing volatility.

For those invested in our Stable Value Fund, you are probably aware of the gradual increases in return that it has earned over the last couple of years. As of mid-April the annualized return has exceeded 3%. This is an excellent return on a very liquid, high credit quality, portfolio.

The Foundation’s assets under management have continued to grow. In 2018, we had over $10 million in new deposits. It’s our privilege to offer you a faith-based approach to investing that is broadly diversified and gets great returns. Thank you for your trust in us. It’s a gift that we never take for granted.

Board of Ordained Ministry

Wendy Joy Woodworth, Chair

The Board of Ordained Ministry appreciates that we are entrusted with the charge to recruit, nurture, prepare and credential people for ordained, licensed, and certified ministry. We take this work seriously and live it out with faithfulness and integrity, guided by the presence of God’s Spirit and the ministry of Jesus.

Our 2019 candidacy class includes four people recommended for commissioning as provisional members, one person recommended for ordination as an Elder, and one person recommended for ordination as a Deacon. I have been particularly moved by this class of candidates who move into this relationship with the United Methodist Church during such a troubled and uncertain time in our denomination.

We continue to support commissioned candidates in the process. Additionally, there are many candidates working with their District Committees on Ordained Ministry as they explore their calls and navigate the early steps of our ordination process. Although the future of ordained ministry looks very different than it once did, God continues to call extraordinarily gifted persons into ministry in our conference.

After General Conference 2019, the Board of Ordained Ministry revised a statement that they approved following General Conference 2016. This statement makes clear how we will continue to work with our candidates for ministry.

Statement by the OR-ID Board of Ordained Ministry

Our Resistance to Discriminatory Restrictions from General Conference

We, the Oregon-Idaho Board of Ordained Ministry, believe that in light of the decisions of the 2019 General Conference this is a crucial time to declare how we operate in our work with those called by God into ordained ministry.

Because we have been a Reconciling Conference since 1996, because we have seen the gifts and graces for ministry in LGBTQ persons and have seen these same gifts too often denied, and because we hope to help lead change in our denomination’s policy regarding LGBTQIA persons in ordained ministry, we welcome all candidates as children of God as they discern God’s call and claim upon them for ordained ministry.
We commit to inquire of our candidates for commissioning or ordination based on their gifts for Christ’s ministry as delineated in ¶335 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. We will continue to base their examination on their understanding of our Triune God and God’s call rather than on sexual or gender identity of candidates for ministry.

We hold ourselves, our clergy and candidates to the highest standards of faithful and holy living, and for fitness, readiness, and effectiveness in ministry. We commit to participate fully in the ministerial covenant with our colleagues of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Faithfully,
OR-ID Board of Ordained Ministry, April of 2019

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

**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. In 2018, the CBOP finalized its separate incorporation to ensure that the CBOP remains adequately funded and its assets protected to meet its obligations to active and retired clergy well into the future. The ByLaws of the newly incorporated Board of Pensions of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Inc. can be found at the Annual Conference website.

**Health Insurance**
Health insurance benefits continue to be provided through the Wespath HealthFlex Exchange. Claims paid in 2018 were 113% of premiums paid (compared to 126% in 2017). While this is an improvement, our claims experience is an ongoing concern of the CBOP. The overall premium increase for the annual conference will be 7.8% in 2020. The premium increase will be shared between participants and ministry settings. The blended rate charged to ministry settings has not been increased for two years. In 2020, it will increase by 7.8% ($101) to $1,395 per month. The balance of the cost to the annual conference of the increased HealthFlex premium will be paid for out of CBOP insurance reserve funds and increased charges to participants for the benefit they receive.

**Health Reimbursement Account Benefit for Retired Clergy**
The Board of Pensions is in its seventh year of providing a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) benefit for retired clergy. The retiree HRA stipend was increased for 2019. It is the CBOP’s policy to review the HRA stipend amount every two years. The CBOP will review the HRA stipend for 2021 at its October 2019 meeting.

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

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

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

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

Spouses:
1. The spouse will receive 50% of the subsidy that the retiree receives.
2. Surviving spouses receive the same subsidy as the retiree.

2020 HRA Benefit for Retired Clergy

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<th>Single</th>
<th>Couple</th>
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<th>Retirees who retired before January 1, 2011:</th>
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<td>30 or more years of service</td>
<td>$1,910</td>
<td>$2,865</td>
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Note: Years of service apply to years of service in the Oregon-Idaho, Pacific Northwest 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 2019 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 $1,395 per month to local churches and 100% of the premiums to other participants’ ministry settings to support the defined contribution toward health insurance benefits. Participants will pay any difference between the defined contribution 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 Treasurer.
4. The CDHP C2000P2 with vision exam coverage and no dental coverage will be the default plan. The annual Defined Contribution for active HealthFlex Exchange participants in 2020 will be as follows:

   - Single Participant: $9,722
   - Participant + Spouse: $17,984
   - Participant + Family: $25,113

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. The following Health Insurance policies will be continued:

   a. No premium subsidy or stipend will be granted to participants retiring prior to the age of their Medicare eligibility. They shall be responsible for the full payment of their health insurance premium. Those who are eligible to retire under the forty-year rule (¶357.2c) will be granted an exception to receive the retired subsidy or stipend for their medical expenses. 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.

   b. 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.

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 still 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.

The CBOP continues to be fully funded for these plans.

Recognitions

The Board of Pensions recognizes the following persons who are members of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference:

For retirement at the 2019 Annual Conference Session

   - David Beckett
   - Janet Burkhart
   - Roger Carlson
   - Katherine Conolly
   - Dexter Danielson
   - Janine DeLaunay
   - Lowell Greathouse
   - Gloria Marple (Deaconess)
   - Patricia Meyers
   - Barbara Nixon
   - Linda Quanstrom
   - Thomas Truby

The following clergy are on Medical Leave with Benefits

   - Margaret Lofsvold
   - Katherine Raines
   - Catherine Davis
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, 2020, the Pre-82 (MRPF) past service rate for ordained clergy and local pastors shall be $647 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 in Eugene, Oregon, June 12-15, 2019, 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 in Eugene, Oregon, June 12-15, 2019 approves the 2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, as submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions and approved by Wespath.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the 2019 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference move that Article X (Amendments), Section 10.2 of the bylaws of the Board of Pensions of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is amended to add “Article III, Section 3.2: Election of Directors.”

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

2020 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. This summary document is only a portion of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan. As such, it might not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the benefit obligations of the conference. You may request the full contents of the 2020 comprehensive benefit funding plan from the conference benefits office.
Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”); and

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:
THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespath, during the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, to each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson 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

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

<table>
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<th>Denominational Average Salary (DAC)</th>
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<td>2015 - $66,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 - $72,648</td>
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Past Service Rate For Local Church Pastors
2015 - $570.00
2016 - $585.00
2017 - $600.00
2018 - $615.00
2019 - $631.00
2020 - $647.00

Conference Rules Committee
Steve Mitchell, Chair

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

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

Safe Sanctuaries Team
Lydia Henry, Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator

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

The Safe Sanctuaries Team meets throughout the year with the District Administrative Assistants. The team offers assistance for the districts’ work in supporting churches’ efforts to become compliant with the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference standards for abuse risk reduction and prevention. The Safe Sanctuaries Team and the District Offices work together to identify and develop ways to make information easy to access and report.

In 2018, the Safe Sanctuaries reporting form, “Safe Sanctuary Annual Policy Review,” was streamlined and made available online. As a result of this change, several churches reached out to their Administrative Assistants asking general questions or requesting training information for their congregations. These requests were forwarded to the Safe Sanctuaries team for follow-up.

Other activities by the Safe Sanctuaries Team include:
- The Abuse Prevention and Safe Sanctuaries section of the Oregon-Idaho Conference website was updated. Resources were updated and expanded.
- The website now has guidelines in Spanish, Korean, Tongan, and Samoan.
- The new email address for the Safe Sanctuaries Team is preventabuse@umoi.com.
- The team continues to explore alternative ways to provide training to meet local and area needs.
- The team is researching options for online training.
The Safe Sanctuaries Team keeps our missional statement always in the forefront of our activities: “God cares for all. God suffers when children, youth, and vulnerable adults suffer. The United Methodist church was founded by John Wesley who taught: First, do no harm. Do all the good you can. Stay in love with God . . . [we] recognize that staying in love with God requires safe sanctuary for the vulnerable and support for survivors of sexual violence.”


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

Statistician’s Report
Ted Wimer, Conference Statistician

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

Thanks to assistance from our Treasurer’s office, the District Superintendents and Administrative Assistants and local church clergy and treasurers, 98% of local churches have submitted their data for 2018. Using that data we observe the following: The total Professing Membership in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference was 22,884; a 4% decrease from 2017. During this period there was a 6% increase in the number of Constituents to 20,044 people. (The number of members and the number of constituents have been converging for several years.) Worship attendance decreased to 10,897; less than half the professing membership. Online Worship attendance decreased by 21% to 740. The number of persons participating in Christian Formation groups decreased overall during 2018. Sunday School attendance remained steady at 2,604. The number of persons enrolled in Confirmation Preparation classes increased by 7%. The number of Persons Served by Community Outreach is up by 4%, to 345,790 persons. The number of Persons Engaged in Community Mission held steady at 11,027. (Indicating our overall emphasis on Local Church vitality through community outreach continues to expand.) The number of UMVIM Teams sent decreased from 16 to 13; and the number of Persons Sent Out as team members decreased from 146 to 93. Giving to General Advance Specials dropped by half while giving to UMCOR Sunday increased by 7%. Direct giving to UMC Causes increased by 24%. Direct giving to Non-UMC Benevolent/charities decreased by 32% in 2018.

For 2018 the membership in the UMW decreased slightly to 2,537, while the amount they paid for local church and community work increased by 12% to $221,921. The UMM membership dropped to 446 while the amount paid for local church and community work decreased by 25%.

The total Number of Households giving to the local church decreased by 3% to 11,841 and the amount received through Pledges decreased by 9%. The amount received from Non-Pledging Givers increased by 5%. The amount received from Interest and Dividends increased 57%. Overall the amount received for Annual Budget/Spending plan decreased by 2%, even though the amount received from Sale of Church Assets for local Budget increased by 24%. The amount spent by the local church for Operating Expenses increased by 3%. The amount spent on Capital Improvements increased by 46%. Funds from Capital Campaigns decreased by 48%. The funds from Other Sources including sale of buildings decreased 49%. The Market Value of Church Property (buildings, land & equipment) decreased by 3%. Debt secured by Church Physical Assets remained steady; but Other Debt increased by 12%. Income from Memorials/Endowments increased by 46% in 2018. (Several churches depended on this income to help fund their operations).

The longer term overall numbers continue to exhibit an interesting trend. Many local churches continue to support their operations even though their membership has declined. Some have downsized, but not all. One conclusion is fewer people are feeling called to do more. If these loyalties are generational, then this may indicate future downturns in several areas.
To see all the statistics for 2018 – for individual churches as well as totals by District and the entire Annual Conference – look in your 2019 Annual Conference Journal, which will be published online in August.

**Board of Trustees**

**Larry McClure, president**

**Transfer of Surplus Property to Nez Perce Tribe**

In a memorable ceremony on August 1, 2018, a parcel of land adjacent to the stream feeding Wallowa Lake was returned to the Nez Perce Tribe. The transfer to Tribal Council members was led by Bishop Elaine J.W. Stanovsky during the annual cultural camp for Nez Perce youth the tribe holds at the site. Hand-made gifts were exchanged as part of the ceremonies. Larry McClure represented the Board of Trustees.

**Church Properties Held in Trust by the Oregon-Idaho Conference**

Transitions of ownership for local United Methodist properties continue with your Conference Trustees assuming responsibility for churches whose congregations made difficult decisions to close after many years of service.

The 2019 Annual Conference is slated to vote on closures at:

**Hope UMC** (Drain). Congregation has voted to sell the church and parsonage. The District Committee on Building and Location, Cabinet and Trustees have approved that plan.

**Englewood** (Salem). Church and parsonage will be transferred to Open Door Churches, a cooperative parish of Salem-Keizer United Methodist churches, for their decision-making on next steps. The former congregation voted to close December 28, 2018. In the interim, several users have continued.

**Covenant UMC** (Reedsport). Church is now on the market. The parsonage has been sold. The congregation ceased operations November 11, 2018.

**Sweet UMC, Union UMC, Lakeview UMC**

**Properties Previously Closed and Now Cared for by the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**

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

**Dundee** Now on the market, the church campus is leased to By His Grace Fellowship, an independent church. A separate vacant parcel several blocks away was sold and is now under development for 12 new homes.

**Jason Lee** (**Salem**) The new start Las Naciones United Methodist fellowship meets weekly in the building, under the leadership of the Rev. Arturo Fernandez. Another faith group is also using the facilities and a food pantry continues. The former parsonage is leased to Libby’s Loft (Oxford House) providing a home for adults recovering from addictions.

**Lents** (**Portland**) The Lents Tongan Fellowship is meeting there and has made significant and impressive improvements in the church building as well as the adjacent parsonage, which will be a rental under the Fellowship’s management.

**Ontario First** Church was sold to another faith community after this closure was ratified by the 2018 Annual Conference.

**Sunnyside Community House** (**Portland**) accommodates various non-profit community organizations and ministry partners. A new management framework is being studied. A partnership with the Innovation and Vitality Team will result in new ministry there July 1 with assignment of a pastor.

**Weston** Church is now on market. The parsonage was sold after closure was ratified by the 2018 Annual Conference.

**Woodlawn** (**Portland**) Several renters continue, Albina Head Start being the longest-term user; the facility is now on the market.

**Property Management**

The growing number of closed properties is becoming a burden at the Conference Treasurer’s Office, so a property management contract is being discussed to handle the myriad details related to ongoing
maintenance, rental agreements and other issues before a property is sold. Semi-retired commercial real estate broker Connelly Woody, a member of Lake Oswego UMC, is handling issues related to title transfers, real estate listings and sales on an as-needed basis.

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

Word to the wise: always organize and maintain church records since these will go someday to the Conference Archives in Salem. All churches need to develop a habit of recycling unused equipment, materials, and long-stored stuff to minimize hazards.

**Conference Facility Insurance**
Changes in underwriting of Oregon-Idaho Insurance policies may make a major impact on rates for 2019 so Trustees are re-examining options for needed coverage for Conference-owned properties. A possible collaboration on insurance with Pacific Northwest Conference is being considered.

**Conference Center**
Planning continues on how to best proceed through complex city rules that affect even minimum upgrades for the near 50-year-old facility. Our Center is adjacent to Portland First UMC and sits on shared-ownership ground. The church lease also grants our use of limited parking spaces across the street.

**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 110 years since, it has grown to over $2 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 was intended.

Our clergy, active and retired, are contacted periodically and invited to make a gift to the UMMRF. We also contact lay members of the annual conference. A gift is one way to honor those who have served. We have received many contributions as memorial gifts. Some have included a legacy gift to UMMRF in their wills. We are very grateful to all who have given and will give, ensuring that the vision of those six leaders back in 1909 will continue long into the future.

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
Tim Overton-Harris, Superintendent

It has been quite a year from micro-grant ideas to Pre-GC2019 Table Talks to charge conferences in clusters to appointments to GC2019 and its aftermath. Through it all you have remained faithful in your partnership with God and Christ and your efforts to transform lives and the world. For this I am grateful.

The BIG thing on everyone’s mind is what happened at GC2019 and what will come in its aftermath. Table Talks 3.0 have been full of questions, reflections, demands for action, and heartfelt pain and anguish. This is true whether you agreed or disagreed with the decision. Much is still up in the air. By the time we gather in Eugene in June we may know more but right now (early April) there are a lot more questions than answers. One thing I am sure of, the church we were before February 2019 will not survive. One thing that gives me great hope and encouragement is that so many people are doing the work of love and justice in their local settings and seeking ways to transform our church into the beloved community which God dreams we can be.

I am very pleased with the responses to the challenge to do something new when given a grant with which to do it. Almost all of you stepped up with some amazing ideas – comfort station for bikers, new websites, street fairs, engaging with other groups to meet the needs of your community – and you have met the challenge. I want to encourage you to work hard at identifying your neighbors and ways to be in meaningful relationships with them. Our future lies in these connections and in our authentic engagement in them.

As we move along the road we are making together into an unknown future we will need to focus our efforts on three primary areas:

- Inclusion: God is calling us into a more diverse world in which we must wrestle with white privilege and figure out how to combat racism, sexism, homophobia, and all the “isms” that exclude people from our midst.
- Innovation: What has worked in the past will need to be critically assessed and where needed put aside in order to create the place and space for something new. We will have to find ways to make ourselves relevant in our world. The era of franchised churches is over. We must listen to the call of God and Christ to assess our gifts and graces and figure out how to leverage them to transform lives and the world.
- Multiplication: And we must equip others for ministry. We must identify people from within and without who have the gifts to lead us in mission and ministry – not just clergy but laity as well. We must develop systems that create and enhance the formation of disciples. Long-time leaders need to invite new leaders to walk along side them and then take a backseat and mentor them as they blossom into their new role.

We are in the middle of a seismic shift. We need to invest everything we have and are to make it out the other side alive. We need to embrace Hunter S. Thompson’s vision: “Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke -- thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming ‘Wow!’” I want the church in general and the UMC in particular to give everything we have and are in our effort to be what the world needs us to be and what God calls us to be. If we must pass away as an institution, I want us to have tried everything and used up all our resources in the effort. If we do, then we can skid into the grave and say “Wow!” If we don’t, then we have failed to live faithfully in partnership with God and Christ. I believe with my entire being that we will not pass away IF we continue to live as God would have us live. “[God’s] already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor; be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously — take God seriously.” (Micah 6:8 The Message)
Columbia District

Erin Martin, District Superintendent
Lydia Henry, District Lay Leader

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8 NRSV

If ever there were a time for courage, this year has been it. The events that unfolded at the Special Called General Conference in February left many of us anguished but resolute. There is no going back. The overwhelming response was a commitment to step toward a future unafraid with a bold witness of full inclusion, no exceptions. I was humbled and inspired by the many statements that local congregations across the Columbia District made following General Conference. Moreover, the Portland area Table Talks 3.0 held in March and April were deeply encouraging to me. Nearly 280 people attended to share their reactions but also their resolve to embody a renewed Wesleyan movement that celebrates and centers the gifts and leadership of the LGBTQ+ community.

Yet, the commitment to courage in the Columbia District began before General Conference. In September at our District Colloquy, we proclaimed 2018-2019 as a year for Brave Space. The Missional Strategy Team outlined a trajectory where we would actively engage in passionate life and faith together through Action Assemblies, Clergy Navigation groups and an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. We held three Action Assemblies in the full. These gatherings were fashioned after a model of faith-based organizing where members gather to worship, do relational 1:1s, hear stories from community partners and commit to collective action. At our three action assemblies in October and November, we heard amazing stories around housing insecurity, immigration and community engagement that continue to prompt us toward more possibilities for impact. Our clergy gathered quarterly in Navigation groups to ground their common life together in worship, deepen friendship and explore more possibilities for collaboration, and at the District level, we highlighted events that promoted the significant work of diversity, equity and inclusion, such as Great Spirit’s Indigenous People’s Day in October, Epworth’s Reconciling Ministries event with Marsha Aizumi in April, and an evening with Amena Brown hosted at Sunnyside in May.

The Columbia District Lay Development Team also planned a year of continued growth for local church laity. In September, the team hosted the first ever Laity Summit at Lake Oswego UMC. What emerged was a strong vision that laity would not just follow God’s prompting, but rather, they would “Lead the Way” toward a renewed Wesleyan movement. This new vision resulted in a “Lead the Way” Launch Party in February and a second Laity Retreat held at Collins Retreat Center on May 4. As the Columbia District laity continues to strengthen its collective voice and witness, we become a greater force for good in the world.

Nobody knows what these next months and years will bring for the United Methodist Church, but in the Columbia District, may we resolve to continue to be brave, banish fear and bear fruit in God’s gracious name in all seasons.

Crater Lake District

John Tucker, District Superintendent

This past year I have continued to visit my churches and do workshops that help me get to know the churches and hopefully build trust. At these workshops we look at the life cycle of churches and plot where each congregation thinks it is on the timeline. These conversations have been incredibly informative, both to the congregations and to me. One church came to the realization that it was time to close. Most churches come to the realization that a new vision is in order. In many of my churches, the lay leadership and clergy know that significant changes need to be made but they fear that their congregations will mutiny if change is attempted. Many churches do not attempt vision quests because they recognize that a new vision will likely cause some people to leave.
Another exercise I do with congregations is to have them list their sacred cows. These can be objects, spaces, staff, a layperson, a habit, or a ritual. It is usually a sacred cow that prevents congregations from attempting change. It is always interesting to see what people put on the list.

The Table Talks we just concluded were also very interesting. I did the lifecycle with those groups as well and we framed the discussion as if General Conference had just put forth a vision and now we are deciding if we wish to participate in that vision or not. Most of those attending do not wish to participate.

Lynn Egli, the district Lay Leader, has developed the Rural Church Engagement project that seeks to establish learning cohorts and built collaboration in our rural churches. This project goes beyond Crater Lake and involves the Greater Northwest Area. I cannot express enough gratitude to Lynn for his energy and his passion for our rural churches.

It has been a difficult year. The district has had clergy (and this superintendent) facing illnesses and other medical issues. Some of our churches have been impacted by flooding. Through it all, our churches have continued to provide shelter, food, and clothing to people who are in great need. We have literally saved lives in Crater Lake. I look forward to a time of renewed visioning and strategy in the coming year.

Sage District
Karen Hernandez, District Superintendent
Terri Bartish, District Administrative Assistant
Carla Anderson, District Lay Leader

The change in my role from a local church pastor to Sage District Superintendent has only increased my love for the churches (which is to say the laity), the clergy, the communities, and the physical beauty of the Sage District. I am blessed to serve all fifty-five congregations that span from La Grande, Oregon to Ashton, Idaho!

Some of those churches will mark the faithful completion of ministry at this annual conference and in the months that follow. Others are seeking revitalization, opening their property and buildings to the community with even more radical hospitality, and starting brand-new ministries. All are faithfully listening to and following God’s call.

One of the exciting, widespread revitalization efforts impacting the Sage District is the Rural Church Engagement Initiative. Together with churches from the Crater Lake, Inland (PNW), and Seven Rivers (PNW) Districts, four Sage congregations (Ashton Community, Gooding, Magic Valley Ministries, and New Meadows) are part of a pilot group that will engage in peer learning and additional training and coaching from experts in small town and rural ministry. Northwest Leadership Institute (offered by Boise 1st UMC) provided an important starting point for the pilot group participants. The Innovation and Vitality Team is a crucial part of this effort, including the Sage District’s Ordinary Revival on March 14 at Kuna UMC, which also focused on rural and small-town ministry. Many thanks to the Sage District Extension Society for its financial support that allowed this Rural Church Engagement Initiative to begin.

For the first time in over a decade, Sage clergy will gather in September for a district-wide time of respite and relationship building at Sawtooth Camp. This is in keeping with other efforts to encourage our clergy to be connected to one another for the sake of wellness and support. Cluster charge conferences with shared worship and individual business meetings provided opportunities for connection in Fall 2018. A shift in colloquies (from location-based to interest-based, with flexible opportunities to include bi-vocational and part-time pastors) allows for still more chances for clergy to be in relationship for the good of all.

It’s not just the clergy who benefit from gathering or who are included. There were many laity present at the cluster charge conferences and again at a series of five Table Talks in Spring 2019. Table Talks 3.0 were held in response to the special session of General Conference and were hosted by our congregations in Blackfoot, Caldwell, Kimberly, La Grande, and Meridian.
While there is much angst and uncertainty in our denomination, the churches, laity, and clergy of the Sage District are continually giving of themselves to love God and neighbor. Thanks be to God!

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

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the unwavering support of local congregations of The United Methodist Church. Thank you to the members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference for prioritizing Africa University and its ministry with an investment of 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018.

In giving so generously and consistently to the Africa University Fund, the Oregon-Idaho Conference continues to affirm the university’s core mission of nurturing leaders who inspire and invite new people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The impact of Oregon-Idaho Conference’s strong support for Africa University is evident in the contributions of graduates who address real-life challenges and help communities to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health.

Institutional Update:

• Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body.
• Women made up 53 percent of the student population in 2018, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions. Among Africa University’s close to 9,000 alumni, women graduates are emerging as the difference-makers of their generation, whether empowering victims of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo or working alongside rural women to establish and operate community-based telecommunications infrastructure and provide internet connectivity to underserved communities across Africa.
• Throughout 2018, Africa University addressed the challenges of operating in a depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment in Zimbabwe with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption, while also renewing and expanding its infrastructure. Key enhancements in 2018 included the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university’s operations and the refurbishment of three dormitories for women students.
• For the first time in five years, there is new construction on the Africa University campus thanks to a 25th anniversary gift from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. In December 2018, work began on the foundation for a new residence hall. The university subsequently broke ground for the construction of phase two of its Student Union and Cafeteria building. Both projects are progressing well and are expected to be in use by August 2020.
• With conflict, poverty, and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents, and ideas are utilized in the search for lasting solutions.
• Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU’s insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitoes—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

Africa University is deeply grateful to the members of the Oregon-Idaho Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain its ministry. Thank you for all that has been invested in Africa University over the past 27 years and for being part of a shared story of faithfulness, hope, and realized dreams.
Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we live together as disciples in uncertain times!

BREAKING NEWS:

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

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

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

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:

- Campus action: Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and participates actively in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World” for the second consecutive year.
- Internships in global service and peacemaking: We provide internships that support students who engage in ministry with churches and service organizations across the world.
COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.
• Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires; protests on behalf of Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida; protests of white supremacist movements; services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
• Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they’re enrolled—they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.
Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.

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

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

Claremont School of Theology
Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President and Professor of Hebrew Bible

CST values its connection to The United Methodist Church, and we are thankful for your prayers, presence, gifts, and service to our community. Since 1885, CST has existed to prepare students to become agents of transformation and healing in churches, local communities, schools, non-profit institutions, and the world at large. This work continues, in part, by your support.

In 2015, CST developed a five-year strategic plan based on three goals: promoting transformative education, engaging local and global communities, and achieving long-term institutional stability. CST’s groundbreaking approach to theological education is leading the way.

We are still seeing record-breaking enrollment numbers, and advancement numbers remain steady, yet we are running a budget deficit. Many other freestanding seminaries are experiencing this problem, too. One way of ensuring a healthy future is to embed in a like-minded university, so our work with Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, continues as we endeavor toward an affiliation agreement. This agreement will move us another step closer to reaching long-term institutional sustainability.

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

Our 2018-19 Fall enrollment of 431 students was the highest in CST history, demonstrating that the potential move has not deterred students from seeking the transformative education offered by CST. In addition, our M.Div. student enrollment was also our highest in history! And this May we graduated our largest class in history – 106 students who represented thirteen different countries. Further, CST’s student body continues to be one of the most diverse among Methodist-affiliated seminaries:

In a world rife with division, our students, professors, and alumni/ae are agents of healing who model peace with justice. CST is made up of people who are engaging local and global communities on a variety of issues, from environmental justice and immigration reform to confronting Islamophobia and peace-building. We could not do this critical work without you.
Although the last year has had its challenges, 2018 also held some significant achievements for CST that serve to further our three goals. First, in cooperation with librarians from other seminaries, the CST librarians led the development of the world’s first entirely open access library in religious studies, boasting more than 180,000 ebooks and hundreds of thousands of articles. The Open Access Digital Theological Library’s (OADTL) mission is to make all content discoverable to the global community through a single curated search experience, and in just its first semester of use, we have had 12,000 unique users logging in regularly in over 120 countries. The library is free for any user anywhere in the world.

Second, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Chang Jung Christian University (CJCU) on collaboration for a Ph.D. program in Contextual Theology in Taiwan. Our relationship with CJCU began in 2014, and this MOU strengthens the development of our academic and cultural interchanges between students and faculty.

Third, CST created a new position: Vice President for International Relations. This position is designed to lead CST to build relations with alumni/ae, churches, donors, and friends in a global context, particularly in Korea where CST has a critical mass of alumni/ae.

Thank you again for supporting Claremont School of Theology as we continue to provide cutting-edge theological education for the real world…and for the world we want to be real. We invite you to stay connected by visiting us at cst.edu, on Facebook, and/or on Twitter @CST_News, and to sign up for our e-newsletter at https://cst.edu/cst-newsletter.

Drew University Theological School
Javier A. Viera, Vice Provost and Dean

Drew University Theological School continued its multi-year self-transformation by launching its new curriculum for the Master of Divinity in the fall of 2018. This entirely reconceived degree seeks to form graduates that are rooted in the Christian story and traditions, capable of effective and creative leadership, and spiritually and socially resourceful for cultivating the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ in, with and for the church and the world. A new two-year degree, the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry also launched, and offers students the opportunity to prepare for public leadership or a specialized vocation through deep theological and ethical reflection informed by biblical, historical, theological and practical sources. New pathways in the Master of Arts, the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry were also created as part of the curriculum transformation process which seeks to more intentionally focus the school’s service to the church, as well as to the academy and civil society.

Drew welcomed 145 entering students this academic year, its largest entering class in over a decade, with an overall enrollment of 350 for the current academic year. In the coming year a new 5-year strategic plan will be developed, new degree delivery options that increase accessibility and affordability for prospective students, as well as new partnerships with annual conferences, other church bodies, and values-based organizations that share and strengthen Drew’s mission to advance peace, justice, love of God, neighbor, and the earth.

United Theological Seminary
Kent Millard, President

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

- 292 Masters Students
- 167 Doctoral Students
- Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States

Founded nearly 150 years ago by Bishop Milton Wright, father of famed aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright, United has continued that spirit of innovation through:
Online degrees:
- 98% of master’s students have taken one or more course online while studying at United.
- United students live in 39 different states.
- Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.

Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):
- New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.
- Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers.

Doctor of Ministry Degree:
- Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community.
- Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers.
- 3-year program that allows you to complete project as you go, leading to a 78% program graduation rate in 2017 (vs. 54% average among other seminaries)\(^3\)

Practical education designed to resource the Church:
- The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.
- 91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom.

A focus on Church Renewal:
- 165 Course of Study students\(^4\)
- 42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders)\(^4\)
- Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision

Academic AND Spiritual Growth:
- 95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth.\(^5\)

Diverse Christian Views:
- Over 30 different denominations
- 19 international students from 15 different countries
- 96% of students feel their views are respected in the classroom/seminary community and say they have been taught to respect the views of others.
- 47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities

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

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1 Data represents Fall 2018 headcount enrollment, unless otherwise specified.
2 ATS 2017-2018 Annual Data Tables. Data represents Fall 2017 headcount enrollment.
3 ATS 2017-2018 Strategic Information Report for United Theological Seminary. Graduation rates represent the percentage of students who were able to complete their chosen degree within a specified period of time which approximates two times the normal length of the degree.
4 Data represents unduplicated headcount enrollment in the 2017-2018 academic year.
5 United Theological Seminary 2017-2018 Student Satisfaction Survey, in which 30% of students responded.

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Wesley Theological Seminary
David McAllister-Wilson, President

Fostering wisdom and courage
Wesley Theological Seminary, celebrating its 60th year in Washington, DC, has equipped Christian leadership for nearly 150 years. Wesley prepares students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in biblical and theological traditions.
Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

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

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

Take your ministry to the next level

Wesley is a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs in specialized tracks that can include international study. Their 2020 tracks will include Church Leadership Excellence, offered in conjunction with Wesley’s internationally respected Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community, and a track designed for military chaplains. A Certificate in Wesleyan Studies is available online via the Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

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

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

The Luce Center for the Arts and Religion is the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit www.luceartsandreligion.org. The innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes. The African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master’s degree students to gain community leadership and advocacy skills.

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

Stay connected

Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley’s social media, www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary/, on Instagram at wesleyseminary, and on Twitter at WesleyTheoSem or sign up for our electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Gloria Chandler</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Paul Nickell</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<td>Miss Ruth Peterson</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Kris Tucker</td>
<td>1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Watford Reed</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Arvin Luchs</td>
<td>1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Robert Arnott</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Patricia Ann Meyers</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<td>The Reverend Ira Gillett</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Joe and Barbara Myers</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jim Sawyer</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Ardis Letey</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<td>The Reverend George Trobough</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>First UMC, Nampa, Idaho</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<td>Mr. Drury Brown</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Thom Larson, Pastor</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>Mr. Alden Munson</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Rochelle Killett, Lay Member</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>Mrs. Wayne Wagler</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Vi McIndoo, Lay Member</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>Mr. Earle Jester</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Barbara Sawyer</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>Mayor Dick Eardley</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Marvin Fourier</td>
<td>1995</td>
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<td>Elbert Hawkins</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Beverly Walker</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>The Rev. Earl W. Riddle</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Loisfaye Griffith (posthumously)</td>
<td>1998</td>
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<td>The Rev. Eric Robinson</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Chris Kester, Marcey Balcomb, and Christy Dirren</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<td>Loisfaye Griffith</td>
<td>1979</td>
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<td>Lois Marcey Richards</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Marvin Jones</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>Erma Easley</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Jim Monroe</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Grund</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Rose City Park UMC Computer Ministry</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Gladys Colburn</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Larry McDowell, Jack Ball, &amp; Dick Moser</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Linda Woods</td>
<td>1987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Sludder</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Rod Fielder</td>
<td>2006</td>
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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;
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Marilyn Outslay, Ervin Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Jerry Beeson (awarded posthumously) Bonnie McOmber, Gregory Paul Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>D. Joan Collison, Maribeth Wilson Collins</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Tom Wogaman, Jo Japs</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Paul Cosgrove</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Gerry and Dottie Edy, Kathy Campbell-Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Ted Wimer, Ruth Walton, Cesie Delve Scheuermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>The Collins Family Foundation, George Azumano, Vera Kenyon, Gayle Woods, Turella Woods</td>
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</tbody>
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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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>David Hargreaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Rev. Bill Mullette-Bauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Donna and Roger Boe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>William Haden, Belinda Denicola, Mary Foote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Yuni Rueda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Duane Medicine Crow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bishop Stanovsky presents the Bishop’s Award to Duane Medicine Crow, along with a quilted hanging custom-made by Duane's pastor, Wendy Woodworth.