

*"The Best of All
GOOD
is with us"*
- John Wesley



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

A Prayer for Annual Conference

Eternal God,

As we gather for this sacred conference,
we do so as Christ's disciples.

May our words speak,
our actions bear witness,
and our thoughts ever remain
on the most important Truth of all:

You are with us.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, redeem and
empower us to carry out your mission in the world.

In Christ's name. Amen.



GARY E. MUELLER
RESIDENT BISHOP

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ARKANSAS AREA
800 DAISY BATES DRIVE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72202-3770
(501) 324-8019

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

March 15, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's always important to remember what truly matters. It's even more important to remember what matters most in challenging times. This is why we have chosen our theme "The Best of All, God is With Us" for this year's theme for Annual Conference to be held May 29 – June 1, 2019.

I believe that the Arkansas Annual Conference is a very special group of people. We have deep and long-standing relationships with each other. We have clarity about our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. And we know that God shines through in the most miraculous ways when we are struggling the most. It is for these reasons that I am looking forward to an inspiring Annual Conference in which God is going to do amazing things.

Three outstanding speakers will lead us in worship and learning.

- **Reverend Linda Harker**, Senior pastor at McFarlin United Methodist Church in Norman, Oklahoma, will serve as preacher for the Ordination service on Friday evening.
- **Reverend Dr. Greg Jones**, Dean of Duke Divinity School, will lead learning sessions on Thursday.
- **Reverend Rodney Steele**, Southwest District Superintendent, will preach the Celebration of Life Service on Thursday as we give thanks to God for those who have entered the Church Triumphant.

I look forward to learning, growing and sharing with each of you. See you in Hot Springs!

Grace and peace,

CouRSe is the new online Congregation Resourcing System of the Arkansas Conference. Currently free and open to anyone, **CouRSe** provides online courses on everything from discipleship to missions to specialized ministries so that we can reach the people of the 21st century where they are and make disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities, and the world!

course

- Sign Up:**
1. Go to arumc.myabsorb.com
 2. Click "Sign Up" on the right-hand side of the login page.
 3. Fill in all the information on the registration page.
 4. Click "Sign Up" at the bottom of the page.
 5. From your dashboard you can choose catalog to see what courses are available.
 6. Choose a course and click enroll!

AC2019 Mobile Guidebook

Step 1



Get the Guidebook app at:

Android: tinyurl.com/arumc2019-playstore

iDevices: tinyurl.com/arumc2019-itunes

Step 2



Search for *Arkansas Annual Conference* in the Guidebook App, *Click Get* and then *Click Download*

Step 3 - Enjoy!

Table of Contents

General Information

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Before You Arrive..... | 4 |
| Childcare..... | 4 |
| Food Service..... | 4 |
| Multimedia Presentations..... | 4 |
| Registration Packet Materials..... | 4 |
| Special Offerings..... | 4 |
| During Your Stay..... | 4 |
| The Conference Digest..... | 5 |
| Nursing Mothers Space..... | 5 |
| Health Fair..... | 5 |
| Vendor Area..... | 5 |
| Worship..... | 5 |
| When You Return Home..... | 5 |
| Lodging..... | 6 |
| Special Gatherings..... | 9 |

Conference Organization

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Rules of Order/Session Rules..... | 11 |
| Voting Rights Chart..... | Inside Back Cover |
| Agenda..... | 15 |

Action Reports & Budgets

| | |
|---|----|
| Council on Finance and Administration Report..... | A* |
| Board of Ordained Ministry Policy..... | 16 |
| Committee on Episcopacy..... | 23 |
| Board of Pension & Health Benefits | B* |
| Equitable Compensation, Commission on..... | 24 |
| Board of Trustees..... | 26 |
| Future Facilities Task Force..... | 28 |
| Resolution to the 2018 Annual Conference..... | 28 |
| Proposed Amendments to the Standing Rules..... | C* |

Consent Calendar Reports

| | |
|--|----|
| 200,000 Reasons..... | 30 |
| Archives and History, Commission on..... | 31 |
| Board of Discipleship..... | 36 |
| Camp & Retreat Ministries, Conference..... | 37 |
| Children’s Ministries, Council on..... | 39 |
| Church & Society, Board of..... | 40 |
| Clergy Recruitment, Developer of..... | 41 |

Consent Calendar Reports (Continued)

| | |
|---|----|
| Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee..... | 42 |
| Global Ministries, Board of..... | 43 |
| Global Ministries, Secretary of..... | 44 |
| Higher Education & Campus Ministry, Board of..... | 45 |
| Laity, Board of..... | 46 |
| Lay Servant Ministries..... | 47 |
| Mission Personnel Coordinator..... | 50 |
| Religion & Race, Commission on..... | 53 |
| Status & Role of Women, Commission on..... | 54 |
| United Methodist Men..... | 55 |
| United Methodist Women..... | 56 |
| Vitality, Center for..... | 57 |
| Youth Ministry, Council on..... | 58 |
| Youth & Young Adult Ministries..... | 60 |

Institution Reports

| | |
|---|-----|
| Africa University..... | 61 |
| Boston School of Theology..... | 62 |
| Camp Tanako..... | 64 |
| Candler School of Theology, Emory University..... | 65 |
| Drew University Theological School..... | 66 |
| Gammon Theological Seminary..... | 67 |
| Hendrix College..... | 68 |
| Lydia Patterson Institute..... | 72 |
| Memphis Theological Seminary..... | 73 |
| Methodist Family Health..... | 75 |
| Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare..... | 78 |
| Methodist Village Senior Living..... | 79 |
| Mount Eagle Christian Retreat Center, Inc..... | 82 |
| Ozark Mission Project..... | 83 |
| Perkins School of Theology..... | 85 |
| Philander Smith College..... | 88 |
| Saint Paul School of Theology..... | 93 |
| Southern Methodist University..... | 95 |
| United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas..... | 100 |
| United Theological Seminary..... | 102 |
| Wesley Theological Seminary..... | 104 |

*Appendices A, B and C appear after the Wesley Theological Seminary report.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Appendix A ... Council on Finance & Administration | 107 |
| Appendix B ... Board of Pension & Health Benefits | 119 |
| Appendix C ... 2018 Standing Rules With Amendments | 127 |

General Information

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

Lodging

See page 6 for a complete listing of hotels near the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Annual Conference Childcare - Parents MUST pre-register for childcare to ensure adequate staff. Please check our Annual Conference website and new ac2019 app for details on childcare opportunities: <https://arumc.org/ac2019/> and click on the Childcare link for forms and information. **The registration deadline is May 20. No exceptions will be made due to Child Safe regulations.**

Food Service

Groups and individuals desiring to arrange special/group meals during the conference are to contact Melissa Sanders, msanders@arumc.org, to have your event added to the schedule. She will give you the convention center's food service manager's contact information.

Multimedia Presentations

If you intend to use electronic media in your report or presentation to the conference, contact Jacob Turner, 501-324-8000 or jacob.turner@arumc.org to discuss your needs. This will allow for pre-testing or formatting of the presentation. **No files or documents will be accepted after April 30.**

Registration Packet Materials

If you would like to send 1400 copies of materials to be included in the registration packets, they should be received no later than **May 17** to: 800 Daisy Bates Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202.

***Note on the box or label "Annual Conference Materials Group/Committee Name"
Questions may be directed to Yvonne Armstrong, yvonne.armstrong@arumc.org.

Special Offerings

Two special offerings will be received:

- Retired Clergy to pay their expenses to attend Annual Conference,
- 200,000 Reasons, Childhood Hunger Initiative, adopted at 2014 Annual Conference, to help reduce childhood hunger in Arkansas.

DURING YOUR STAY:

Convention Center Phone Numbers

Manager on duty & After Hours Contact: Jennifer Kitchens
(501) 520-9812

Evening or Emergency Contacts

- Emergency (Fire, Police or Medical) 911
- National Park Medical Center (501) 321-1000 (closest)
- CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs Hospital (501) 552-3000
- Melissa Sanders, Registrar (501) 993-3503 mobile
- Rodney Steele, Host DS (501) 472-9832 mobile

Called Meeting Space

A meeting room is available for called meetings of Conference Boards and Committees. The room is located off the main hallway in the Convention Center.

Concessions

Concessions will be open during these hours:

- Wednesday: 4 pm - 8 pm
- Thursday & Friday: 7 am - 7 pm
- Saturday: 7 am - 1 pm

Announcement Requests

ALL Announcement Requests May 29-June 1 should be sent to the following email address:

announcementsAC2019@arumc.org

No paper or verbal information will be received. Be aware, due to time constraints, not all announcements can be made, but we will do our best to make sure that imperative information is shared.

Photocopy Service

No copying service will be available through the conference staff. Small numbers of copies may be possible using your hotel business service.

The Conference Digest

Caleb Hennington will provide daily recaps on the conference website (arumc.org) and on the AC2019 app. A printed version of the entire Annual Conference Digest will be available on Saturday. The Digest may be useful as you prepare your report for your local congregation.

Nursing Mothers Space

We will have space available for any nursing mothers to have some private time with their babies. There will be signs & a map to guide you.

Health Fair

A health fair with free cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure screenings will be held from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Thursday and 8:00am to 3:00 pm Friday in the Arena Concourse. The fair is provided courtesy of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

Vendor Area

You will find a number of providers of resources and services to assist local church ministry. The Display Area will be in the Arena Concourse.

WORSHIP:

Bank of the Ozarks Arena

Daily, 8:00 am, Thursday - Saturday, Morning Worship

Wednesday, 3:30 pm, Opening Worship

Bishop Gary Mueller, preaching.

Thursday, 11:00 am, Retiree Service

Thursday, 1:15 pm, Memorial Service

Rev. Rodney Steele, preaching

Friday, 7:30 pm Ordination Service

Rev. Linda Harker, preaching

Clergy and diaconal ministers of the conference are invited to gather at 7 pm for the Clergy Processional, wearing appropriate robes and stoles. Please indicate this on your registration form as well. A reception for newly ordained deacons and elders and newly commissioned clergy will be held in Hall D immediately following the service.

Service rehearsal is 5:15 pm Friday, May 31.

Saturday, 10:30 am, Sending Forth

WHEN YOU RETURN HOME:

Evaluation

If you have provided an email address, you will receive an evaluation form to be completed online. If you do not have email, call (501) 324-8035 and an evaluation form will be mailed to you to complete and return.

2019 Annual Conference Hotels

{SOLD OUT} Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa (0.29 Miles)

400 Convention Blvd.

Hot Springs, AR 71901

501-321-4430 or 501-321-4407

Suites, Complimentary Breakfast, Manager's Reception, Spa, Indoor Pool, Fitness Center, Free Parking

Code: UMC (UM Annual Conference)

Single: \$164 + tax

Double: \$174 + tax

Triple: \$184 + tax

Quad: \$194 + tax

Hotel Hot Springs (0.3 miles)

305 Malvern Ave.

Hot Springs, AR 71907

877-623-6697

Under New Management! Newly Renovated and Remodeled Guest Rooms, Refrigerator & Microwave in all Rooms, Complimentary Breakfast available 6 am to 9 am, New Restaurant and Lounge, Shuttle Service to Popular attractions within City Limits, Complimentary WIFI. Code United Methodist of AR

Single Occupancy : \$124 + tax

Double Occupancy: \$134 + tax

Triple Occupancy: \$144 + tax

Quad Occupancy: \$154 + tax

Executive Parlor : \$200 + tax

Code: UMC19

The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa (0.7 Miles)

239 Central Avenue

Hot Springs, AR 71901

(800) 643-1502 or (501) 609-2533

Thermal Mineral Water Bathhouse, Full Service Beauty Salon, Full Service Dining Facilities, Starbuck's, Two Swimming Pools and Hot Tub

Costs: \$105 – \$250 + tax

Code: United Methodist Church 2017 Conference

Courtyard by Marriott (4 miles)

200 Marriott Court

Hot Springs, AR 71913

501-651-4366

Complimentary on-site parking, Free High Speed Internet, Fitness Center, Pool, Microwave Oven, Mini Fridge, Free Shuttle Service

King or 2 Queen : \$109 + tax

Block Code: Room block listed as Arkansas Conference United Methodist

Comfort Inn & Suites (3.28 Miles)

3627 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-623-1700

Newly Remodeled, Complimentary Full Breakfast, Wireless Internet, Indoor Heated Pool, New Texas Roadhouse Grill on site.

Inn: \$94 + tax

Suites: \$104 + tax

Holiday Inn Express (5 miles)

206 Mehta Court
Hot Springs, AR 71913
(501) 463-5600

Free Express Start Breakfast Bar, Heated Indoor Pool, 24 Hour Gym, 24 Hour Business Center, Free Wi-Fi, Free Parking

Costs: \$129 + tax

Ask for UM Conference 2019 rates

Hampton Inn (5 Miles)

151 Temperance Hill Road
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-525-7000

Newly renovated, Complimentary Hot Breakfast, 24 Hour Coffee and Tea, Ironing Board, Coffeemaker, Refrigerator and Microwave in every room, Free W-fi, Outdoor Pool, Fitness Center and Business Center

Double (1-2 people): \$124 +tax

King (1-2 people): \$124+ tax

Staybridge Suites (7 Miles)

103 Lookout Circle
Hot Springs, AR 71913
(501) 525-6500

Free Hot and Cold Breakfast Buffet, Evening Socials, All rooms with Fully Equipped Kitchenettes, Free Wi-Fi, Free Parking, 24 hour Fitness Center

Studio Queen Suite: \$159.99 + Tax

Ask about 15% discount for 3 nights

Best Western Winners Circle Inn (2.01 Miles)

2520 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, AR 71901
501-624-2531 or (800) 643-8722

Complimentary Hot Breakfast, Fitness Center, Outdoor Pool, Wi-Fi, Dishnetwork, Walking Distance to Restaurants, Recently Remodeled, Pets Welcome.

\$107 + tax for single or double

LaQuinta Inn & Suites (4.9 Miles)

4253 Central Ave.

Hot Springs, AR 71913

(501) 520-6400

Non-Smoking Facility, Free High Speed Internet Access, Free Breakfast, Business Center, Indoor Pool and Fitness Center, Free Parking

King: \$134 + Tax

Double : \$134 + Tax

The Waters (0.6 Miles)

340 Central Ave.

Hot Springs, AR 71913

(501) 321-0001

Free Wi-Fi, Non-Smoking Facility, Restaurant, Mini-Market, Gift Shop, Business Center, Senior, AARP or AAA 10% discount

King: \$125 + Tax

Double : \$125 + Tax

Large King: \$175+ Tax (city view)

Mention Methodist Conference

Special Events & Meals 2019

Wednesday, May 29

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| 5:00 p.m. | AR Black Methodists for Church Renewal Dr. Negail Riley Dinner Haven UMC, 107 Burroughs, Hot Springs Contact: Deborah Bell, dbell@bcdinc.org | \$30.00 |
| 5:00 p.m. | Children's Ministers BBQ Home of Melinda Shunk (address will be emailed upon registration) Contact: Melinda Shunk, (515) 707-5537, melinda.shunk@arumc.org | no charge |
| 5:00 – 5:30 | Fellowship of Associate Members & Local Pastors Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center Contact: Glen Harris (479) 957-7700, or email glenharris@windstream.net | no meal |
| 5:00 p.m. | Arkansas Uniting Methodists Ballroom, The Hotel Hot Springs, 305 Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs Contact: Patti Butler (479) 886-0848 or email patti.butler@arumc.org | \$25.00 |
| 5:30 p.m. | Lay Servant Ministries BBQ Fellowship Meal Grand Avenue UMC, 841 Quapaw Ave., Hot Springs Contact: Jimmie Boyd, jimmie.boyd@arumc.org | \$15.00 |

Thursday, May 30

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|------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 6:30 a.m. | Confessing Movement of Arkansas Union Missionary Baptist Church, 217 Gulpha St., Hot Springs (behind Convention center) Contact: Karen Millar, karenmillar@hotmail.com | \$15.00 |
| 7:00 a.m. | Open Arms Reconciling Methodist Phils Restaurant, 2900 Central Avenue, Hot Springs Contact: Harold Hughes (501) 612-0902, harold.hughes@arumc.org | self-pay |
| 11:30 a.m. | Retiree Luncheon Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center Contact: Mona Williams (501) 324-8028 | free for RC/SS \$20 for others |
| 12:00 p.m. | UMW First UMC, 1100 Central Ave., Hot Springs, AR Contact: Maybelline Strong (501) 993-7420, maybellinestrong@att.net | \$20.00 |
| 12:00pm | UMM Brickhouse Grill, 801 Central Ave, Host Springs, AR Contact Clay McClastain to RSVP Contact: Clay McCastlain (501) 908-4105, jclaymccastlain@gmail.com | Self Pay |
| 5:30 p.m. | Candler Alumni Dinner Purple Cow, 1490 Higdon Ferry Road, Hot Springs Contact: Jessica Durand, (870) 403-2177 | Self Pay |
| 6:00 p.m. | SMU Perkins School of Theology Alumni Rolando's Nuevo Latino Restaurante, 210 Central Avenue, Hot Springs Contact: Daniel Thueson, Daniel.thueson@arumc.org or (479) 459-6189 | Self-pay |
| 6:30 p.m. | Saint Paul School of Theology Alumni Dinner Brick House Grill, 801 Central Ave., Hot Springs, AR 71901 Contact: Melissa Pearce, Director of Alumni, Melissa.pearce@spst.edu | Self Pay |

Thursday, May 30 (continued)

6:30 p.m. **Duke Divinity School Alumni and Friends** self-pay
Taco Mama, 1209 Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs, AR
Contact: Sara Bayles, sara.bayles@arumc.org

Friday, May 31

11:30 a.m. **Arkansas Conference Clergy Women's Luncheon** \$20.00
Visitors Chapel AME Church, 319 Church Street, Hot Springs
Contact: Katie Pearce, (501) 354-4077, katie.pearce@arumc.org

12:00 p.m. **Board of Church and Society** \$10.00
Agenda: Potential 2020 General Conference Delegates
Grand Avenue UMC, 841 Quapaw Avenue, Hot Springs
Contact: Jay Clark, JClark@phumc.com

12:00 p.m. **CFA Luncheon**
Oaklawn Room, Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa
Contact: Todd Burris, tburris@arumc.org

12:00 **Asbury Seminary & Friends Alumni Luncheon** self-pay
First Wok Chinese Super Buffet, 4510 Central Ave., Hot Springs
Contact: Daniel Kirkpatrick, (501) 690-8488 or
Daniel.kirkpatrick@arumc.org

Proposed Arkansas Annual Conference Session Rules for 2019

Chapter One

General Provisions

Section I. The Arkansas Conference Mission

Par. 701. Mission The Mission of the Arkansas Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to transform the world with excellence and passion.

Par. 702. Vision Congregations and surrounding communities transformed by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate love of God and neighbor, holy living, and justice.

Par. 703. Core Measures

1. We will be enriched by our Wesleyan heritage of scriptural holiness so that we are connected by our mission of making disciples instead of being connected by our apportionments, appointments and benefits.
2. We will establish the mission field as the primary focus of our attention and resources instead of directing the majority of our attention and resources to mere maintenance of congregations and clergy.
3. We will equip laity and clergy to transform individuals, communities and the world instead of trying to satisfy personal preferences of current members and ensure congregational preservation.
4. We will address the unique context of each mission field instead of depending on standardized programs and structures.

Par. 704. Arkansas Conference Trajectory Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

Chapter Two

Business of the Annual Conference

Section I. Business of the Annual Conference Session

Par. 801. The following will be adopted at the opening Business Session of each Annual Conference by majority vote:

1. Arkansas Annual Conference Session Rules;
2. The Bar of the Conference;
3. The Annual Conference Session Agenda;
4. The Consent Calendar; and

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| 5. Any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Secretary. | 1 |
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| Par. 802. Consideration of Conference Matters | 3 |
| | 4 |
| 1. Rules of Order for the Business Session. <i>Roberts Rules of Order</i> shall be the procedural authority for the business session of the Annual Conference when not in conflict with Arkansas Conference Session Rules or <i>The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church</i> . | 5 |
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| 2. Rules of Order for Motions, Legislation and Reports | 10 |
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| a. Debate shall be limited to four (4) two-minute speeches for the motion, legislation or report and four (4) two-minute speeches against. This excludes persons inquiring about points of order or asking questions of clarification. | 12 |
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| b. The presenter of the motion, legislation or report may offer a one minute concluding remark at the end of debate, before the matter is put to a vote. | 15 |
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| c. The presentation of the motion, legislation or report by a Conference Agency shall not be considered a speech in favor. | 18 |
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| 3. Rules of Order for Petitions and Resolutions | 21 |
| | 22 |
| a. Debate on each resolution or petition shall be limited to four (4) two-minute speeches for the motion or resolution and four (4) two-minute speeches against. This excludes persons inquiring about points of order or asking questions of clarification. | 23 |
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| b. The presentation of the petition or resolution may last four (4) minutes and shall be considered a speech in favor. | 28 |
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| c. The presenter of the petition or resolution may offer a one minute concluding remark at the end of debate, before the matter is put to a vote. | 31 |
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| d. A timer shall be used to measure debate at the discretion of the Chair. | 34 |
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| e. Amendments and substitutions to petitions and resolutions will not be considered by the Annual Conference. | 36 |
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| f. During debate of petitions and resolutions, other incidental and subsidiary motions will not be considered, with the exceptions of motions to suspend the rules, inquiries about points of order, and questions for clarification. | 39 |
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| 4. All motions made on the floor of Annual Conference shall be legibly written on forms supplied by the Conference Secretary and shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary and Presiding Officer before any action or vote can be taken by the Conference. | 43 |
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| 5. Points of Order may be raised by any member of the annual conference, who must first cite the Standing or Session Rule, <i>The Book of Discipline</i> , or Robert's Rules of Order involved and then state the point as briefly and concisely as possible. | 48 |
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| Par. 803. Motions Involving Expenditures | 53 |
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Any proposal submitted to the Annual Conference which involves the expenditure of funds not included in the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) report shall be referred for advice and recommendation to the Council on Finance and Administration. The CF&A will study the proposal and report back to the Annual Conference regarding the source of funding, the impact on the Conference budget, and CF&A's concurrence or non-concurrence. No new request for unbudgeted expenditures shall be considered on the last day of a Conference Session, unless it is a special session called to address financial matters.

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Section II. Annual Conference Tellers

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Par. 804. Tellers Tellers shall be selected in a manner to be determined by the Conference Secretary.

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Section III. Election year Elections of General and Jurisdictional Delegations

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Par.805 Election of General and Jurisdictional Delegations

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1. Lay members may nominate (including self-nomination) only those candidates for election as lay delegates who meet the qualifications established by the General Conference and printed in the Discipline, and who indicate their willingness to serve if elected by signing a Conference-provided nomination form. At the discretion of the Conference Lay Leader, all nominees for election as lay delegates may be introduced at the Lay Orientation Session of the Annual Conference. Nothing in this procedure shall keep any eligible person from being named on any ballot.
2. Clergy may nominate (including self-nomination) only those candidates for election as clergy delegates who meet the qualifications established by the General Conference and printed in the Discipline, and who indicate their willingness to serve if elected by signing a Conference-provided nomination form. The Annual Conference shall furnish a list of clergy eligible to serve as delegates. Nothing in this procedure shall keep any eligible person from being named on any ballot.
3. Lay and clergy delegates to the general and jurisdictional conferences shall be elected according to stipulations of ¶ 34 Article 3, ¶ 35 Article 4 and ¶36 Article 5 in the 2016 Book of Discipline.
4. Voting directions and electronic keypad instructions shall be furnished to the conference by the conference secretary at the time of voting. No vote shall be valid unless cast on the ballot or electronic keypad designated by the presiding bishop.
5. Voters will use their assigned electronic keypads to vote the prescribed number of nominees per ballot. Keypads are specific to one user and may not be shared unless a lay member of the annual conference removes him/herself from the voting process and hands the keypad to the designated/elected alternate. If a lay member of the annual conference leaves the plenary and there is no elected alternate lay member available, the keypad must be turned in.
6. A candidate is elected when she or he receives 50%+1 of the vote. (¶ 34, as amended, which states, "Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority

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- of the ballots cast.”) 1
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7. The Conference Secretary will announce the results of each ballot and publish them 3
electronically and/or through appropriate communication channels. The election of a 4
delegate becomes final immediately if the candidate is present and does not decline 5
or if he/she is absent but has consented to be a candidate. A person who is absent 6
and has not consented to his/her candidacy as a delegate shall not be elected. 7
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8. After a delegate is elected by 50%+1 of the vote, the elected delegate’s name will 9
be removed from the subsequent ballots and the process will be repeated for other 10
available delegate positions. 11
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9. During the sessions of the Annual Conference there shall be no demonstrations, 13
electioneering, placards, or campaigning on the floor of the Conference concerning 14
delegate elections. 15
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See page 127 for complete 2018 Standing Rules with 2019 Proposed Amendments. 18
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ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

10:00 am – 8:00 pm Registration Open, Bank of the Ozarks Arena Lobby

1:15 pm Lay Session
Ms. Karon Mann,
Conference Lay Leader

1:15 pm Clergy Session, Hall D
Bishop Gary Mueller

3:30 pm Opening Worship with
Episcopal Address
Bishop Gary Mueller

5:00 pm Dinner Break

7:00 pm Business Session

Thursday, May 30, 2019

7:30 am Late Registration, Bank of the Ozarks Arena Lobby
Informal Gathering & Fellowship

8:00 am Worship

8:15 am Order of the Day: Laity Address
Karon Mann

8:45 am Business Session

9:15 am Break

9:30 am Teaching
Reverend Dr. Greg Jones

10:45 am Break

11:00 am Retirees Recognition

11:45 am Lunch Break

1:15 pm Celebration of Life Service,
Reverend Rodney Steele,
preaching

2:00 pm Break

2:15 pm Update on A Way Forward
Bishop Gary Mueller

2:45 pm Business Session

4:30 pm Break

4:45 pm Business Session

6:00 pm Dinner Break/Free Time

Friday, May 31, 2019

7:30 am Late Registration
Informal Gathering & Fellowship

8:00 am Worship

8:15 am Youth Address
John Mark Mathis

8:45 am Business Session

9:30 am Break

9:45 am Teaching
Reverend Dr. Greg Jones

11:00 am Business Session

11:45 am Lunch Break

1:30 pm Business Session

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm Business Session

5:00 pm Dinner Break

7:30 pm Ordination Service
Reverend Linda Harker, preaching

*Reception for Newly Ordained
Deacons, Elders, and Commissioned
Provisional Members, Hall D*

Saturday, June 1, 2019

8:00 am Worship

8:15 am Business Session

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Closing Worship and Reading of
Appointments
District Superintendents

12:00 pm The Sending Forth

***Unless noted otherwise, all events will be held in the Bank of the Ozarks Arena.

ACTION REPORTS AND BUDGETS

Council on Finance and Administration See Appendix A on page 107

Board of Ordained Ministry Policy

2018 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE POLICY STATEMENT

3/15/2018

SECTION I: BOARD OPERATION

- A. The Arkansas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry hereafter referred to as the Board or the BOM, is governed by the current Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church ¶635.
- B. All communication to the BOM should be sent to BOM Office, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202 or bom@arumc.org
- C. Board officers are Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Registrar, and Assistant Executive Registrar. The Executive Committee consists of the Board Officers and Chair of the Order of Elders, Chair of the Order of Deacons, Chair of the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors, Chair of the Conference Relations Committee, Chair of Ministerial Assessment, Chair of Vocation and Discernment, and a Cabinet representative. The Chairperson shall appoint other officers and sub-committees as needed.
- D. The Board shall meet at least once in the fall and twice in the spring, and as convened by the Chairperson.
- E. The district committees on ordained ministry (dCOM) are amenable to the annual conference through the BOM and follow ¶666. District administrative staff may serve as administrators of the dCOM and may attend meetings of the dCOM in an administrative capacity. The files of the dCOM shall be stored in the district office, separate from the supervisory files. District administrative staff, as custodians of records, shall not serve as members of dCOM or BOM.
- F. The Board has the right to ask for a new Ministerial Assessment package at any time and shall ask for a new assessment if more than six years has past and the candidate continues.
- G. The Board shall review its policy statement annually, revising it as needed and presenting it to the Annual Conference for approval. ¶ 303--Purpose of ordination and ¶304--Qualifications for ordination

SECTION II: CANDIDACY, ¶ 310

- A. The Inquiring Candidate first contacts the pastor of the local church or other authorized ministry setting, to share the ministry call.
- B. Candidates shall utilize the Arkansas Conference Checklist which outlines the complete candidacy process found at <http://arumc.org/forms/>
- C. Candidates must attend Orientation to Ministry ¶ 312
- D. Candidates are encouraged to pursue undergraduate education and to pursue seminary education in one of the United Methodist seminaries.

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SECTION III. THE DECLARED CANDIDATE, ¶ 310.2

- A. When approved by the Charge conference, the candidate shall send \$50 for the Ministerial assessment packet to District Superintendent’s Office.
- B. If the dCOM approves by three-fourths majority written ballot, the dCOM registrar sends Form AR020 to the Office of Ordained Ministry and a copy to the candidate. The certified candidate shall complete the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Approval Report on UMCARES.
- C. Persons appointed as local pastors are clergy members of the Annual Conference (¶ 315). They are no longer listed as certified candidates (¶ 602.1), except the first year they are certified. See further the Local Pastor ¶ 315-320 and below.

SECTION IV: THE LOCAL PASTOR ¶ 315-320

- A. Upon completion of the candidacy process, and receiving dCOM approval as a certified candidate, the District Superintendent shall recommend the candidate for Local Pastor License School. Candidate shall register, attend, and successfully complete Local Pastor Licensing School in order to be eligible for an appointment. Once appointed, the Bishop shall issue a license. The candidate shall register the license at the county courthouse where appointed
- B. Local Pastors shall enroll in the Basic Five-Year Course of Study (COS) and successfully complete per ¶ 318.
- C. Appointed Retired Local Pastors shall follow all the guidelines of a non-retired appointed Local Pastor, such as continue COS, meet annually with the dCOM, complete UM History, Polity and Doctrine, and be assigned a mentor as per ¶ 348.
- D. Course of Study registrations shall be approved and signed by the Conference Local Pastor Registrar and must be postmarked no less than 14 days prior to the registration deadline printed on the registration form.
- E. The local pastor may enroll as a student in a seminary program to meet educational requirements. Local Pastors who wish to attend and graduate from seminary in lieu of the Course of Study must have the approval of the BOM prior to enrolling in seminary. When enrolled in seminary, the local pastor is eligible to apply for financial aid from MEF funds. See Financial Aid Section.
- F. Local pastors shall be assigned a clergy mentor by the district superintendent until all educational requirements have been completed. ¶ 348 - it is the responsibility of the pastor to contact the assigned mentor. The mentor shall submit annually a Mentor’s Discernment Report (AR080), filed with the dCOM Registrar prior to the local pastor’s annual dCOM interview.
- G. Local pastors shall meet annually with the dCOM to evaluate educational progress and ministerial performance, and action is taken on renewal of the License for Pastoral Ministry. The local pastor shall submit annually a school transcript (from college, seminary, or COS), filed with the dCOM Registrar prior to the local pastor’s annual dCOM interview.
- H. Upon completing the Five-Year Basic Course of Study, and beginning in 2011, completing courses in UM History, Polity and Doctrine, the local pastor may be eligible to apply for Associate Membership. See ¶ 322.
- I. The local pastor who chooses to continue in the local pastor relationship following completion of COS, and beginning in 2011, shall complete courses in UM History, Polity and Doctrine within two years. Local pastors not continuing to Advanced COS or seminary shall submit a plan for continuing education to the District Superintendent and dCOM annually.

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- J. Local Pastor Transfers from Another Conferences to Arkansas Conference: Local Pastors in good standing do not transfer from Conference to Conference but surrender their license in one Conference and reapply to the Arkansas Conference. Prior to interview with the dCOM for license, the minister shall complete the Arkansas Cabinet Vetting Process and requirements for dCOM interview. The minister shall continue Course of Study per ¶318 and complete UM History, Polity and Doctrine within two years of COS completion.

SECTION V: ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP, ¶ 321-322

- A. Applicants shall meet the requirements outlined in ¶ 322.
- B. The applicant for associate membership shall consult the District Superintendent, complete Form 105, Application for Clergy Relationship to the Annual Conference, and submit the completed form to the District Superintendent and the BOM Office by October 1.
- C. The dCOM shall interview the applicant as a candidate for associate membership, considering educational and documentary requirements, pastoral experience and effectiveness, and form a recommendation to the Conference Board. The dCOM shall send to the BOM Office by November 1, the applicant's Form 105, the District Superintendent's letter of recommendation, and the Action Report. These documents are also filed with the District Registrar.
- D. The Conference Registrar shall inform the applicant by December 1 about the written assignments to be prepared in advance of the BOM interview, the deadline for those assignments, and the date and time for appearing before the BOM (normally a BOM Meeting in late February or early March).
- E. The BOM shall interview the applicant. If favorably approved, the recommendation is presented to the Clergy Session of the annual conference.
- F. Associate members desiring to change relationship to an ordination track as a provisional elder or deacon must first obtain approval from the BOM before taking other steps in the application process.

SECTION VI: PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP ¶ 324

- A. Applicants must complete all educational requirements prior to election to provisional membership. In addition the following 4 courses must be completed.
- a course in basic pastoral care
 - a course in Wesleyan theology beyond UM, History, Polity and Doctrine
 - a course in preaching for those anticipating ordination as an elder or a course in worship beyond the required course for those anticipating ordination as a deacon
 - a course in church administration/leadership
- B. Seminarians seeking ordination who have matriculated after the fall of 2010 must complete these four courses. All seminary courses required by the Discipline and conference rules require a "C" or better grade.
- C. Beginning January 2011, no one entering a seminary degree program seeking ordination shall enroll in Distance Learning courses except for those offered by the 13 United Methodist seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary. Beginning in January 2011, no more than 2/3 of the degree requirements may be completed through distance learning for all UM seminaries and Asbury. Persons enrolled in other seminaries prior to January 2011 may complete no more than 1/3 of the degree through Distance Learning courses.
- D. Associate members and local pastors may apply for provisional membership outlined

- in ¶ 324.6. They must complete the additional four courses. 1
- E. Applications for provisional membership require the completion of Form 105, Application for Clergy Relationship, and the preliminary answers to Questions ¶ 324.9.a-p by the candidate sent to both the District Superintendent and BOM Office by July 15. 2
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- F. Following a meeting with the dCOM, their recommendation, reported on Form AR020, District Committee Action Report Form, is sent to the BOM Office. The original Action Report and the District Superintendent’s letter of recommendation are placed in the candidate’s file. The completed dCOM file is delivered by the District office to the BOM Office by November 1. 5
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- G. The Conference Registrar corresponds with the candidate by December 1, regarding required written work and assignments to be prepared and submitted by January 31 to the BOM Office. 10
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- H. The BOM interviews the candidate. Out-of-state seminary students may receive up to 50% of actual cost of transportation when attending Board interviews. If approved, the recommendation for provisional membership is presented to the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference. 13
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- I. Provisional members shall demonstrate effective ministry for a minimum of two consecutive conference years in the same appointment. All provisional residents shall participate in the conference Residency in Ministry (RIM) program. Their service will be evaluated by the BOM and the DS. Arrangements for supervision and residency will be made for provisional members serving outside the Arkansas conference. During the second year of the RIM program, the provisional member may apply for ordination and membership in full connection. 18
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- J. To make application for Full Connection, the Provisional member shall complete Form 105, Application for Clergy Relationship, and sends the form to the BOM Office by October 1. The Cabinet shall provide a recommendation letter concerning a provisional member’s application for Full Connection to the BOM Office by November 1. 25
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SECTION VII: TRANSFERS ¶ 346-347 30 31

- A. All ministers requesting Conference to Conference transfer (¶ 347.1) shall complete the Arkansas Conference Cabinet Vetting Process. 32
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- B. All ministers requesting to serve while retaining other faith credentials (¶ 346.2 and 347.3) or requesting to serve a UM church and start the process of transferring as a UM pastor (¶ 347.3.b and (¶ 347.2) shall complete the Arkansas Conference Cabinet Vetting Process and the dCOM interview requirements. 34
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- C. All ministers approved with other faith credentials shall complete the Arkansas License School before being appointed. Exceptions may be granted for other Methodist denominations with a written request to the Executive BOM from the DS. 39
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- D. Those appointed while retaining other faith credentials are required to complete/continue Course of Study unless they have completed a MDiv from an Accredited Theological Seminary with coursework equivalent to COS. 42
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- E. Those appointed while retaining other faith credentials are required to take UM History, Polity and Doctrine *within 2 years of the conference year of appointment* unless those classes were completed through their MDiv from an Accredited Theological Seminary. 46
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- F. Those appointed while retaining other faith credentials are required to meet annually with the dCOM to evaluate educational progress and ministerial performance. 49
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- G. Ministers seeking transfer into United Methodist ministry from another denomination shall not join a local United Methodist church. 51
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- H. Ministers whose credentials have been approved shall serve under appointment for a minimum of two years before applying for transfer into provisional membership if eligible 53
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- I. Ministers seeking transfer into provisional memberships shall apply to the dCOM using SECTION VI: PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP ¶ 324 and shall participate in the Residency in Ministry program before becoming eligible to apply for full connection.

SECTION VIII: FINANCIAL AID

- A. Local Pastor Licensing School: The cost to Arkansas students attending the Arkansas Local Pastor License School (LPLS) is currently \$350. Some funds may be available for students attending other schools outside of our conference boundaries. Approval for these funds must come from the Dean of the Arkansas Conference Local Pastor License School prior to class participation.
- B. Course of Study: Financial Assistance, based on need and the availability of funds, will be 50% of tuition, normal fees, room and board for full- or part-time students in the basic Course of Study; 100% reimbursement of tuition for courses taken in the Arkansas Extension Course of Study School available for part-time local pastors and 50% reimbursement of tuition for those who successfully complete correspondence courses (not to exceed 4 courses). The Board does not pay for repeated courses.
- C. Seminary Financial Aid: Through the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) apportionment, the BOM may provide loans to certified candidates who are attending University senate approved seminaries. The Arkansas Annual Conference retains one fourth of the monies paid for the MEF apportionment for this fund. This is the only source of funds for service loans, and disbursements cannot exceed income in any fiscal year. Funds will be budgeted equally for the fall and spring semesters. The loan amount is determined after the application deadline. Loans will not exceed 40% of tuition per semester unless there is a surplus in the fall semester. The seminarian registrar shall have the discretion to disburse any surplus funds at an equal percentage for all semester applicants. Students attending United Methodist seminaries can receive a maximum of \$10,000 per year in loans. Students at other University Senate approved seminaries can receive a maximum of \$7,000 per year in loans.
- D. Students will not receive funds to repeat a failed, dropped, or incomplete course.
- E. Applicants will sign a promissory note. Loans will be forgiven for service at the rate of one year of full time service for two semesters of aid. In other words, a student who borrows from the fund for six semesters would complete the service obligation by three years of full time service under Episcopal appointment.
- F. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the following policy will be followed for disbursing funds.
- G. Eligibility:
- Certified Candidate for ordination
 - Approved by the BOM
 - Attending a University Senate approved seminary
 - Is not a recipient of a full scholarship grant from the United Methodist Foundation.
- H. Applications can be downloaded from www.arumc.org or obtained from a District Superintendent. Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by September 15 for the fall semester, January 15 for the spring/winter (including January term) semester and July 15 for the summer semester. Applications are not complete without an official transcript from the student's seminary. Incomplete applications will not be processed. The Secretary of the BOM will process all applications.
- I. Reimbursement for UM History, Polity, and Doctrine courses will be paid at 40% of the tuition cost in the year the course was taken.
- J. Persons who have completed the basic course of study may wish to become provisional members by the alternate route (see ¶ 324.6). They must complete the 32 hours

- of graduate theological studies. Up to 40% of tuition will be provided per seminary financial aid. 1
- K. Deacon candidates on the professional certification route toward ordination (see ¶ 2 324.5) will also receive up to 40% of tuition per seminary financial aid. 3
- L. Arkansas United Methodist Foundation Seminary Scholarship – Certified candidates 4 for Elders orders are eligible to apply online for this scholarship provided through 5 The Arkansas United Methodist Foundation. Scholarship applicants must have been 6 accepted by a United Methodist Seminary as a full-time student. Applications are due 7 March 1. An interview-selection team of the BOM shall make the determination of the 8 awarding of this scholarship. Two years of service in the conference per year of scholar- 9 ship received is expected. 10

SECTION IX: CONTINUING EDUCATION ¶ 350 11

- A. All clergy under full-time appointment must complete at least one (1) continuing 12 education unit (ten hours of instruction) per year. These CEU's may be fulfilled by CEUs, 13 CMEs, CCEs, or other approved programs. Persons in resident provisional status or 14 those enrolled in Course of Study are exempt from this requirement. 15
- B. Clergy shall report CEUs to their District Superintendent at charge conference and to 16 the BOM through the BOM Office. 17
- C. All clergy under full-time appointment with charge conference compensation, as 18 reported in Box 13 of the Compensation form, of less than \$58,920 may receive reim- 19 bursement from the BOM of up to \$200 annually as funds are available. This amount 20 shall include only projected expenses for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Travel 21 cannot be included as a projected expense. 22
- D. Financial aid is not available for Minister's Week at any seminary. 23
- E. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Guidelines for granting Continu- 24 ing Education Units (CEUs) from The Society for the Advancement of Continuing Edu- 25 cation for Ministry (SACEM) shall be used by groups seeking to have events certified by 26 the Conference Continuing Education Chairperson. (See GBHEM's website, [http://www. 27 gbhem.org/continued.html](http://www.gbhem.org/continued.html).) 28
- F. Professional Certification Studies: Applications may be made for up to \$200/year as 29 funds are available to help pay for specialized certification courses. This amount shall 30 include only projected expenses for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Travel can- 31 not be included as a projected expense. 32
- G. Applications for granting continuing education credit for an event or reimbursement 33 for continuing education shall be sent to the Chair of Continuing Education, BOM 34 Office. 35
- H. Sabbatical Leave: All Issues concerning Sabbatical leave will follow the guidelines of ¶ 36 351, with the addition of those requesting Sabbatical will include their plan with start 37 and end dates. 38

SECTION X: CHANGES OF CONFERENCE RELATIONSHIP ¶ 353-362 39

- A. The Conference Relations Committee (CRC) shall consist of at least 3 persons to hear 40 requests as listed in 635.1 (d) 41
- B. All requests for a change in Conference relationship shall be made in writing to the 42 BOM and will be reviewed by the CRC which shall report its recommendations to the 43 BOM. 44
- C. Request for change of relationship to Voluntary Leave of Absence – Personal/Family (¶ 45 353) must be made at least ninety (90) days prior to Annual Conference and document 46 specific reasons for the request. The BOM Secretary shall record in the BOM minutes 47

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| the specific reasons for the request. A copy of the written request shall be placed in the person's file. | 1 |
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| D. All clergy on Leave of Absence for a total of five or more years are required to meet with the CRC annually to review the circumstances that requires remaining on Leave of Absence. | 3 |
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| E. While on Voluntary Leave of Absence - Personal/Family, the person shall report annually her/his progress toward resolution/alleviation of the stated reasons for requesting Leave of Absence-Personal/Family. When an end to Leave of Absence- Personal/Family is requested, it shall be by written request at least six (6) months prior to Annual Conference. The CRC shall review the circumstances surrounding the granting of Leave of Absence – Personal/Family for the purpose of determining whether those circumstances have been alleviated or resolved. | 5 |
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| F. Deacons may be granted Voluntary Leave of Absence – Transitional Leave for up to 12 months with the approval of the Bishop and the Board's Executive Committee. The deacon shall provide, in writing, quarterly substantiation of the effort to obtain such an appointable position to the Bishop and the Board's Executive Committee. (¶ 353) | 14 |
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| G. Request for change of relationship to Honorable Location (¶ 353 and ¶ 358) shall be made at least ninety (90) days prior to Annual Conference stating that the person intends to discontinue service in the itinerant ministry. The CRC shall meet with the person requesting Honorable Location to offer guidance and counsel as appropriate during this transition. The BOM Secretary shall record in the BOM minutes the specific reasons for the request. A copy of the written request shall be placed in the person's file. While on Honorable Location, the person shall report annually to the CRC including a report of any ministerial functions performed. | 18 |
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| H. Request for change of relationship to Medical Leave (¶ 356) | 27 |
| a. The Conference Benefits Officer will provide the person requesting a change in Conference relationship to Medical Leave with the appropriate application packet. | 28 |
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| b. The Conference Benefits Officer will notify the Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave for a reasonable and appropriate investigation and recommendation to the Cabinet, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the BOM. | 31 |
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| I. Withdrawal (¶ 360.2) | 36 |
| 1) All ordained persons withdrawing from annual conference relationship shall meet with the CRC. The CRC shall report to the BOM for a recommendation to the Clergy Executive Session at its next meeting. | 37 |
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| 2) The BOM Secretary shall record in the BOM minutes the report of the CRC and the recommendation of the BOM. A copy of the written report, recommendation and documentation of the person's reasons for withdrawal shall be placed in the person's file. Additional statements shall be recorded from the Cabinet and the person who has withdrawn/exited. | 40 |
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| J. Readmission to Conference Relationship (¶ 364, 365, 366, 367 and 368) | 45 |
| 1) All requests for readmission to Conference Membership with the Arkansas Annual Conference shall be made in writing and presented to the BOM at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the beginning of the session of the Annual Conference unless stated otherwise by the Book of Discipline. | 46 |
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| 2) The BOM shall review all files and statements kept by the BOM Office and Registrars. | 50 |
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| 3) All persons requesting readmission to Conference Membership are required to complete the "Assessment Packet" in Section III A. The cost of the evaluation shall be borne by the person seeking readmission. | 53 |
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- 4) All persons requesting readmission to Conference Membership are required to meet the requirements as outlined in the Book of Discipline appropriate to the reason for the person’s original withdrawal, location, leaving or discontinuance. 1
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- 5) Associate Members or clergy members in full connection requesting readmission to Conference Membership (§ 366-368) shall serve under appointment as a Local Pastor – demonstrating effective ministry for a minimum of two consecutive Conference years in the same appointment. 4
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- 6) Former Deacons requesting readmission to Conference Membership shall serve under appointment in an appropriate ministry setting - demonstrating effective ministry for a minimum of two consecutive Conference years in the same appointment. 8
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- 7) During the second year of demonstrating effective ministry in the same appointment, if the applicant has met all Disciplinary and Conference requirements, the former Conference member may apply for Conference Membership and/or credentials previously held. 13
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SECTION XI: CLERGY COVENANT FUND 17 18

- A. The Clergy Covenant Fund provides financial assistance to clergy persons and their families. A gift of \$1,500 will be given to the surviving spouse of a clergy person who dies while serving under appointment. Financial assistance of up to \$750 is available to clergy and/or their family for financial needs which arise from personal or family crisis. The District Superintendent shall make a request for these funds to the Chair of the BOM; the BOM Executive Committee shall consider all requests for approval. 19
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- B. Funds will be provided by means of an offering received during the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference. Clergy will also be given an opportunity each November to make a special Thanksgiving contribution to the Fund. Memorials and special gifts may be made to the Fund at any time. Gifts may be sent any time to: United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, Clergy Covenant Fund, 5300 Evergreen, and Little Rock, AR 72205. 26
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Respectfully Submitted, 33

Pamela Jean Estes, Chair 34
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Nancy Meredith, Secretary 36
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Committee on Episcopacy Report 38 39 40

The Arkansas Conference Committee on Episcopacy is grateful for Bishop Mueller’s leadership in our Annual Conference. His passion for spiritual revival and emphasis on vital congregations, equipping disciples and partnering with laity is leading our conference trajectory in “keeping the main thing the main thing” (quoting Bishop Mueller). But this past year he has provided the strong leadership we needed, and shared his pastoral skills with us, as we prepared for and experienced the 2019 Special Called Session of General Conference. We are thankful for the Bishop’s communication with the Arkansas Conference through his daily devotionals, and the letters and videos he shares when we need them. 41
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Those who serve on the Committee on Episcopacy agree to: 50
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- support Bishop Mueller in his work, 52
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- be available to him for counsel, 54
- assist in determining the episcopal needs of the area, and keep the bishop advised of 55

- conditions within the area as they affect relationships, and
engage in annual consultation with the bishop.

We are honored to work with him, and express our deep appreciation for his work. Thank you, Bishop, for your service in the Arkansas Annual Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karon Mann, Chair

Board of Pension & Health Benefits

See Appendix B on page 119

Commission on Equitable Compensation

For 71 years, the Conference has provided financial support to churches allowing them to provide pastoral salaries suitable for their mission fields.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) of the Arkansas Annual Conference does this in four areas: recommending Minimum Compensation for all clergy under full-time appointment and providing Key Charge, Minimum Base Compensation, and emergency Salary Arrearage funding to churches identified by the Cabinet.

The mission of the CEC is to enable charges/churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ by providing appropriate compensation for effective pastoral leadership.

I. Minimum Full-Time Compensation

The CEC recommends that the 2020 Minimum Compensation Payment Schedule for full-time pastors under appointment remain as printed below. The guidelines remain unchanged. The payment schedule will increase for the first year since 2016.

| Full Connection | Provisional/Associate Member | Local Pastor |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| \$48,330 | \$47,280 | \$46,230 |

Appointed pastors serving a charge that provides a group health insurance plan shall be subject to the following minimum compensation support:

| Full Connection | Provisional/Associate Member | Local Pastor |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| \$36,330 | \$35,280 | \$34,230 |

A parsonage or housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage shall be provided in addition to the figures listed above.

II. Key Charge/Church Program for Base Compensation Support

The Key Charge/Church program provides Base Compensation Support to pastors who are appointed to charges/churches targeted for significant growth by the Conference or are in transition and require short-term support for effective pastoral leadership for various other reasons. Key Charges/Churches are related to the CEC by a covenant agreement. The covenant is negotiated by the chair of the Commission, the district superintendent, and representatives of the charge/church. The persons or their successors, shall be the trustees of the covenant, having verified it with their signatures.

The covenant shall include:

1. The initial amount of the Base Compensation Support needed,

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2. The duration of the covenant (normally five (5) years or less), and
3. The signatures of the persons negotiating the covenant.

The nature of the covenant is such that the amount of compensation support given shall decrease proportionately each year, while the compensation paid by the charge/church increases by at least the same amount, thus keeping the compensation at least stable over the covenant period. After the covenant has expired, no further compensation support will be granted to the charge/church. Under the Key Charge/Church arrangement, there shall be no required minimum or maximum levels of support by the charge/church. The only limitation will be the amount of funding budgeted for this program.

Each church receiving compensation shall report to the Commission each year at the consultation date with their district superintendent. The report form is available from the district superintendent and the Arkansas Annual Conference website at arumc.org.

III. Minimum Base Compensation Support

The Minimum Base Compensation program is intended to assist in providing compensation for capable, effective pastoral leadership to charges/churches which function in areas of extreme economic limitation and which are unable to provide a viable level of pastoral support. Where charges/churches are in need of additional compensation in order to meet the Minimum Compensation Base Support, this support is available to Elders in Full Connection, Provisional/Associate Members (not to be confused with associate pastors), and Full-Time Local Pastors who are not retired. The Minimum Base Compensation is set annually by the Bishop, Cabinet, and Annual Conference for Elders, Provisional/Associate Members, and Full-Time Local Pastors. (Minimum Full-Time Compensation has appeared previously in this report.)

Charges/churches receiving Minimum Compensation Support are related to the CEC by a covenant agreement negotiated by the chair of the Commission, the district superintendent, and representatives of the charge/church. The signors or their successors shall be the trustees of the covenant, having verified it with their signatures.

It is understood that:

1. A parsonage or housing allowance in lieu of the parsonage shall be provided in addition to the set compensation.
2. Associate pastors (not to be confused with Associate Members of the Annual Conference) are not eligible for Minimum Compensation aid.
3. Retired pastors are not eligible for Minimum Compensation aid. See Paragraph 357.6 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.
4. Each charge/church receiving Minimum Compensation Support shall provide to the Commission the amount(s) received from the Arkansas Conference for the past five (5) years. We further require that each local church describe how they will reduce this support through the local church's ministry plan. Each church receiving compensation shall report to the Commission each year at the consultation date with their district superintendent. The report form is available from the district superintendent and the Arkansas Annual Conference website at arumc.org.

IV. Emergency Salary Arrearage Support

Every clergy under appointment shall receive the full compensation set at Charge Conference. (See Paragraph 624 of the 2016 Discipline.) If a church is financially unable to provide the full compensation in a timely manner, the Annual Conference through the CEC may provide emergency funding to ensure the clergy is provided the compensation the church promised at the Charge Conference. The Arkansas Annual Conference Salary Arrearage Policy is found in Paragraph 103 of the *Policy & Guidelines* section of this Journal.

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V. Equitable Compensation Covenant

When Equitable Compensation support has been granted to a charge/church, an acknowledgement of the conditions and amount of that funding shall be executed by the district superintendent, pastor, and leaders of the charge/church before any payment of funds shall be made. This acknowledgement shall be made on a form provided by the commission. No funds shall be disbursed until the agreement is signed and returned to the district superintendent. These forms are available from the district superintendent and the conference website at arumc.org.

The charge/church receiving financial support shall submit an annual report. The report form is available from the district superintendent and the conference website at arumc.org. Included in this report is the explanation of how these funds have aided the local charge/church. This report shall be returned at the scheduled annual assessment interview with the district superintendent.

VI. Additional Priorities

1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall maintain adequate reserves to fund needs, which may emerge.
2. Each charge/church receiving equitable compensation in any of the above categories is expected to pay its conference tithe in full. If the charge/church is unable to accomplish this, they shall submit a written plan of action approved by their district superintendent, detailing the steps to be taken in order to achieve this goal. Notification of the plan will then be forwarded to the CEC.
3. All CEC funding is for pastoral support only. Using funds for any other purpose, such as program costs or other compensation violates the agreement.
4. Equitable Compensation funds are paid directly to the church/charge by the fifteenth (15th) of each month. The compensation shall be paid to the pastor as a supplement to funds budgeted by the charge/church. The calendar year of support is the same as the appointment year: from July 1 through June 30.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Paul L. Strang, Chair

Board of Trustees

The following churches and church properties have been closed and/or abandoned as United Methodist congregations and on on the Conference Board of Trustees' list for disposal or repurposing.

Central District

- Vacant Lot, parcel 001-10639-000, Saline County.
- Providence, 10273 Hwy 31 N, Austin, AR 72007, Lonoke County. Sold 2/1/2019
- Galloway, 7 Griffin Road, Little Rock, AR, Pulaski County. (under contract)
- Aaron Cemetery, Pulaski County.
- Graham Chapel, 464 Highway 64 E, Conway, AR 72032-9417, Faulkner County

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| • Ebenezer, (vacant lot) 1266 Hamilton Street, Conway, AR, 72032, Faulkner County | 1 2 3 |
| Northeast District | 4 |
| • Vacant Lot, parcel 030-00093-000, Randolph County. | 5 6 |
| • Beech Grove, 9201 Hwy 141 N, Beech Grove, AR 72412, Greene County. Tupelo, 415 Pine St. | 7 8 9 |
| • Tupelo, AR 72161, Jackson County. | 10 11 |
| • Wiseman, CR 5, Wiseman AR 72587 | 12 13 |
| Northwest District | 14 |
| • Tuck's Chapel, 12445 W. Tucks Chapel Road, Rogers, AR 72756, parcel 18-04693-000, Benton County. | 15 16 17 18 |
| • Springtown, 11980 Readings Road, Springtown, AR 72734, parcel 17-00006-000, Benton County. sold | 19 20 21 |
| • Square Rock, 1229 Square Rock Rd, Waldron AR 72958 | 22 23 |
| • Barling, 308 Church St, Barling AR | 24 25 |
| • Milltown, 6621 Arkansas Hwy 252, Greenwood AR 72936 | 26 27 28 |
| • Lavaca, 302 W. Columbus, Lavaca AR 72941 | 29 30 31 |
| Southeast District | 32 |
| • Widener, 102 Madison, Widener, AR 72394, St. Francis County. | 33 34 |
| • Colt, 347 Old Military Road E, Colt, AR 72326, parcels 0802-00216-0000 and 0800-00012-0000, St. Francis County. Sale pending. | 35 36 37 |
| • Lodges Corner, 1090 Highway 276, Stuttgart AR 72160 Sold | 38 39 40 |
| • Vanndale, 59 CR 362, Wynne AR 72396 (sale pending) | 41 42 43 |
| • Lydesdale, 2820 Columbia 61, Magnolia AR 71753 | 44 45 |
| Southwest District | 46 |
| • Carthage, 381 W Kelly Ave, Car- thage AR 71725 Sold | 47 48 49 50 |
| • De Ann, 400 Highway 195, Hope AR 71801 Sold | 51 52 53 |
| • Gum Springs Mountain Pine, 208 Gum Springs Rd, Mountain Pine Ar 71956 Sold | 54 55 |

- Wakefield, 489 Wakefield Road, Nashville, AR 71852, parcel 00103444001E, Howard County.
- Carthage, 714 W. Pine Bluff St., Carthage, AR 71725, parcel 741-00247-000, Dallas County.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Tony Griffin, President

Future Facilities Task Force

At the 2017 Arkansas Annual Conference, a motion was approved to create a task force to study the current and future facility needs of the Arkansas Conference Office and to report the findings of the task force to the 2018 session of the Annual Conference. We began our work in September of 2018 by conducting a SWOT analysis of the current Conference Office facilities. A survey was sent to all conference staff and lay leadership to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the current facility. Additionally, members of the task force conducted interviews with individuals of the conference staff and key lay leaders. Other task force members conducted site visits to the Central Texas and North Texas Conference facilities, while others completed phone interviews with other annual conferences.

In 2018, we requested more time for our work to be completed before moving forward with a resolution for the next steps. Given the current uncertainties we face as a denomination it is our recommendation that this matter no longer be pursued and the task force be dissolved. The conference may revisit this path if desired after the 2020 General Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Lewis Dassinger, Co-Chair
Rev. Todd Vick, Co-Chair

Resolution to the 2019 Annual Conference

Concerning the suspension of the use of the motto: “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

WHEREAS, during the actions taken by the Special Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church in February 2019 that left language concerning incompatibility of homosexuality with “Christian teachings” in our *Book of Discipline*, that tightened restrictions on the ordination of gay clergy and that maintained prohibitions of clergy performing same-sex weddings; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ members of the United Methodist Church are beloved children of God with whom we seek fellowship; and

WHEREAS, the action of the General Conference does not reflect the hopes and dreams as demonstrated by the majority vote of General Conference delegates from the United States; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken to perpetuate exclusion have caused great harm to our denomination; and

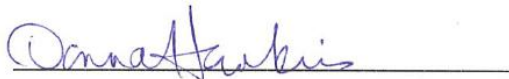
WHEREAS, the motto of the United Methodist Church, “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” is incompatible with the beliefs of some Methodists as demonstrated by the continued exclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings from equal participation in our denomination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as a demonstration of our lamentation for the harm caused by the actions during the Special Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church, that all Arkansas Methodist Churches immediately suspend use of the motto until such time as, being guided by the Holy Spirit, we comport our expressed beliefs so all God’s children are indeed welcomed in equality through our doors, in our pulpits and at our altars.

Signatures in support:



Rev. David C. Freeman, Sr. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



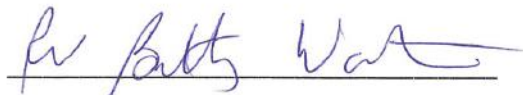
Rev. Donna Hankins, Assoc. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



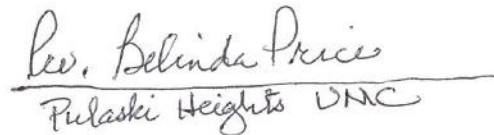
Rev. Haley Jones, Assoc. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



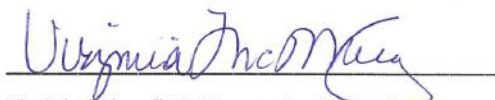
Rev. Patsy S. Snyder
Pulaski Heights UMC



Rev. Brittany Watson, Assoc. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



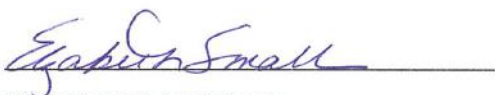
Rev. Belinda Price
Pulaski Heights UMC



Virginia "Ginny" McMurray, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



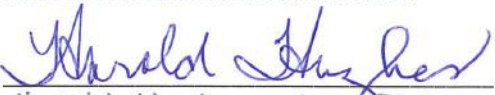
Jim Wohlleb, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



Elizabeth Small, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



Elizabeth Pearce Bynum, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock



Harold Hughes, Lay Delegate
Quapaw United Methodist Church, Little Rock



Brent Skason, Sr Pastor
Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock

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CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS



200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger

Mission: 100% of Arkansas United Methodist churches will participate in an initiative to significantly reduce childhood hunger through feeding ministries, public witness, and education for long-term stability.

At the end of 2018, 78% of Arkansas United Methodist Churches have reported being involved throughout or at some point in the last 5 years in ministry or supportive of a ministry serving food insecure children and their families. This is up from 61% at the end of 2017. The goal is 100% by the end of the 6-year initiative.

When this initiative began in 2014, there were an estimated 200,000 children under the age of 18 who lived in food insecure households. In 2018, this number had fallen to 163,800 through the efforts of statewide partnerships including Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, regional food banks, food pantries, and other ministries that the ARUMC provides. Such ministries include Cooking Matters classes, school pantries, afterschool snacks, summer meals, community meals, mobile food pantries, blessing boxes, weekend backpacks of food, and community gardens.

Through financial gifts to the 200K Reasons Initiative from the Paysinger Endowment and Palmer Endowment at the United Methodist Foundation, UMWs, clergy, lay and congregations, \$155,000 of competitive grant awards has been made throughout the initiative. An additional \$25,000 from Wal-Mart in 2016 is being used to offer Cooking Matters classes around the state.

Even with this progress and commitment from the ARUMC and local congregations, some realities stay the same: 1 in 4 children in Arkansas face food insecurity; no community is without the food insecure; poverty is the main cause; obesity is linked to food insecurity; and children who go to school hungry cannot thrive academically.

The ARUMC is uniquely positioned to make a real difference in the lives of the food insecure around the state. With at least 1 Methodist church or organization in every county, our ministries can make access to food, meals, nutrition education and resources more available to those in need. Further, our expertise involves building relationships, making connections and offering a community to which to belong. Ministries that offer food can create these type of opportunities for disciple-making and community building.

Thus, the 200K Reasons staff will continue to invite and resource churches around the state to participate in ministries to serve hungry children. To get started or to expand local ministries to food insecure children and their families, ask "Where do children live, learn and play?" Look for partnerships with other congregations and community organizations such as a local food pantry, a ministerial alliance, or the Boys & Girls Clubs. Be willing to go where God is working and calling you to serve. Develop ministries that work within your context and maximize

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resources. Listen to the needs of those you serve and move from informing them how you will help them to standing alongside and empowering the ones you are inviting to be in community with through 200,000 Reasons.

Mary Lewis Dassinger

Project Coordinator

Commission on Archives and History

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states that “in each annual conference there shall be a conference commission on archives and history.... It shall be the duty of the commission to collect, preserve, and make accessible the historically significant records of the annual conference and its agencies...; to encourage and assist the local churches in preserving their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their heritage; to provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records of all abandoned or discontinued churches in the bounds of the annual conference and its antecedents; to maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository and to see that all items that obviously will have value for future history are properly preserved therein; to provide for the ownership of real property and to receive gifts and requests; to nominate to the General Commission on Archives and History buildings, locations, or structures within the annual conference for designation as historic sites or heritage landmarks; to maintain contact with officially designated historic sites and heritage landmarks in their bounds; to assist the bishop or the appropriate conference committee in planning for...historical observances at annual conference sessions; to establish retention and disposition schedules for annual conference and local church records under standards and guidelines developed by the General Commission...; to cooperate with and report, when requested, to the general and jurisdictional commissions on archives and history; and to engage with other Wesleyan, Methodist, or Evangelical United Brethren-related denominations in lifting up our joint heritage...” (P641, 2016 edition). To accomplish these tasks, the Arkansas Conference Commission coordinates and oversees its three entities: (1) The Arkansas United Methodist Church Archives / Winfred D. Polk Methodist Archives; (2) The United Methodist Historical Society of Arkansas; and (3) The United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference.

As a ministry of the United Methodist Church, the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History holds the vision that “vital disciples create vital congregations who make disciples of Jesus Christ who have a vital impact on their mission field” (cover, 2017 *Journal of the Arkansas Annual Conference of the UMC*). Its purpose is to collect and tell stories of the unfolding relationship between God and His creation. It assembles and shares written records, memorabilia, and digital documentation of clergy, lay persons, churches, and programs of the Conference. It focuses on stories of historical interest, but also collects stories about present-day issues and preserves them for future generations. As the General Commission on Archives and History states: “Our understanding of our past helps us envision the future.” For, since the time of cavemen around a campfire, stories have brought us together and have helped us discover who and whose we are. Sharing stories has inspired mankind to see things in different ways and to try doing things in new ways. Stories have encouraged us to persevere through hardships and disappointments, and they have revitalized us when we were burned out. Stories in the Old Testament sustained the Israelites in exile, and vivid parables by the greatest of teachers, Jesus, help us remember what is important in our lives. Today, more than ever, we need stories of faith and of God-moments to “help bring people to some kind of

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'felt' experience which plummets them into the love of God" (Rev. Fred Day, General Secretary, General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church).

Listed below are ways the Conference can measure the progress of its Commission on Archives and History, supported by apportioned funds:

❖ ***Provide quality facilities with trained and enthusiastic personnel***

Open to the public on Thursday all day and by appointment, the Arkansas UMC Archives, located in the library at Hendrix College in Conway, are available without charge to anyone wishing to do research on topics related to the United Methodist Church and its predecessor organizations. Additionally, the archivists work independently and together from their own home computers and cell phones to assist researchers throughout the week and when preparing displays for annual conference or other events. Archivists Marcia Crossman and Carole Teague have prior experience as employees within the Arkansas Conference and are well-versed in the terminology and organizational connections of the United Methodist Church. The best way to contact the archivists is by e-mail at arkmethodist@hendrix.edu or by calling the archivists at their personal cell phone numbers listed in the current *Journal of the Arkansas Annual Conference of the UMC*.

Open for visits on Sunday morning and Wednesday morning, or by appointment, the UM Museum of the Arkansas Conference is located in First United Methodist Church, Little Rock. The curator, Shakeelah Rahmaam, uses the contemporary museum software PastPerfect to catalog items for the collection, and she works with museum committee members to plan special exhibits. From April through October 2018, the museum hosted an exhibit of memorabilia from Dr. Pearle McCain, an Arkansas native who served as a Methodist missionary to China and later to Japan. This exhibit was appropriately entitled "Faith in Action." Beginning in December 2018, the museum staff and volunteers, with research assistance from the archivists, presented a print and digital exhibit on Methodism's founder John Wesley and his brother Charles Wesley. Hopefully, confirmation classes, as well as other groups and individuals, will visit this exhibit.

❖ ***Serve the research needs of churches and individuals***

In 2018 the archivists assisted 74 individuals or churches with their requests for information to plan programs; to prepare church anniversary celebrations; to provide photographs of pastors and churches; to write obituaries, family histories, and articles; to assist church personnel in district and conference offices; and to answer personal questions about churches, parsonages, pastors, and people of faith. This year requests have come from across the country, from California to New Jersey, as well as Arkansas churches, the conference treasurer, district superintendents, Methodist Family Health, the UM Foundation office, and writers at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. The archivists respond to e-mails, phone calls, and personal visits to the archives, often working with a single researcher for several weeks. In addition, the archivists maintain a website, www.arkansasumcarchives.com, which makes available numerous resources to anyone anywhere with internet access, and it includes links with instructions for a historian developing local church archives. At the UM Museum this year 159 visitors signed the guest book. These guests, individuals and groups of visitors, enjoyed free, guided tours of the permanent collection and two special exhibits, as well as opening-day receptions for each exhibit. Recently, personnel distributed a newsletter for the museum, and they hope to develop lesson plans around exhibits for different age groups.

❖ ***Provide access 24/7 through a user-friendly website and a Facebook page***

An attractive and easy-to-use resource, the website, www.arkansasumcarchives.com, reaches out 24/7 to all readers with internet access. It helps us share the good news of our people and our churches, past and present, anytime and anywhere. Maintained by the archivists, it contains information from the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History, the Archives, the Museum, and the Historical Society. To date, our archivists have scanned and posted issues of the *Arkansas Methodist* newspaper from 1884-1944. The website also contains nine full-text books on the history of Arkansas Methodism and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and it offers journals from six conferences related to the Arkansas Conference and its predecessors, dating as far back as the 1850's. The site offers links to print and video resources on the Wesley family, the United Methodist Church and its antecedents, the archives of other United Methodist Annual Conferences, the General Commission on Archives and History, and the award-winning video entitled "Francis Asbury: The Flame Spirit," released in 2017. In addition to the website, museum personnel maintain an online presence using a Facebook page. It announces special exhibits and other information pertaining to the museum. Sometimes the curator posts photos of items in the museum and writes a short article on each posting. This Facebook page allows patrons to interact and leave their own comments about topics related to the museum.

❖ ***Utilize modern technology to facilitate delivery of information in a timely and professional manner***

In addition to a website and a Facebook page, this ministry utilizes computer and scanner equipment, CDs, TV monitor, improved lighting capabilities, and other modern methods to efficiently deliver professional-looking documents and displays. With funding from a successful grant proposal to the United Methodist Foundation, the museum recently purchased and installed professional-quality tract lighting in two of the galleries. These high-efficiency lights are adjustable and provide perfect white light to illuminate various displays. Phase II of the project includes the purchase and installation of computer projection and display panels to provide multi-media exhibitions. Also using modern technology, the archivists photograph text and pictures with their iPhone or iPad, e-mail the requested information quickly and free to patrons, and incur no "shipping" costs to the archives. The archivists have compiled several CDs that patrons may purchase through the website at a nominal cost. One CD includes out-of-print books on Arkansas Methodist history. For another CD the archivists collected and compiled histories and photographs of clergywomen in Arkansas United Methodism to celebrate 60 years of ordaining women as elders in the UMC. These CDs are useful resources for those who cannot visit the archives.

❖ ***Engage in a major digitalization project***

A significant measure of progress is the digitization of the *Arkansas Methodist* newspapers from 1884 to the present, an ongoing project that must be accomplished before the crumbling paper issues completely disintegrate. Using the state-of-the-art BookEye scanner, which was generously purchased through the Wilfred D. Polk Charitable Trust several years ago, issues of the *Arkansas Methodist* newspaper are now available from 1884 through 1944, as well as current issues, to anyone anywhere with internet access. This year Ms. Teague scanned every page between 1937 and 1944, or 15,300 pages of newsprint. Additionally, she took time to date each picture in the newspapers and to photograph it with her iPhone. Then using the Minolta color copier, she made a superior copy of each photograph on acid-free paper and placed it in the vertical files. Our archival files now contain many more photographs of pastors who have served Arkansas through the years. Also, this year a Hendrix student transferred the entries of a cumbersome, old computer file to a Microsoft Excel file and linked it to the web-

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site for the archives. Now anyone with internet service can access the index of the *Arkansas Methodist* newspaper.

❖ **Educate and inform the public**

All three entities under the Commission work together to bring educational events and publications to the public. As the “Friends” group for Archives and History, the Historical Society will host a luncheon on April 27, 2019. For the program a panel of retired United Methodist ministers will share stories, both amusing and touching, about their years of ministry in Arkansas. Although extenuating circumstances prevented the Historical Society from having its annual luncheon in 2018, it held two special public events in 2017 to remember 200 years of Methodism in Arkansas. At the annual spring luncheon and program on April 8, 2017, the speaker, Josh Williams, Curator of Historic Washington State Park, gave a preview of the special event planned for the fall. Then on a beautiful October 14, 2017, over 140 faithful United Methodists gathered at the site of the first Methodist building—Henry’s Chapel on Mound Prairie near present-day Hope, AR—to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Methodism in Arkansas. In an old-fashioned camp meeting, with lots of singing and powerful preaching, Bishop Gary Mueller gave a sermon and led a meaningful worship service, which included a Celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Bishop Mueller challenged the congregation to be the Methodist movement to grow vital disciples for Jesus Christ rather than to simply make members of a particular church. After the service the attendees bussed back to Historic Washington State Park to view historical displays prepared by the archivists; to eat a delicious, free, hamburger lunch; and to take guided tours of the nearby historic Washington United Methodist Church. The event was financed through successful grants (at no cost to the Commission or the Arkansas Conference) and graciously hosted by the Washington UMC, under the leadership of Rev. Keenan Williams, the church’s pastor and the chairman of the Arkansas UM Historical Society.

Another outreach of the UM Historical Society has been its newsletter, *Occasional Papers*, published once or twice a year on some aspect of Arkansas Methodist history and distributed to 200 members across the state. However, with the untimely death of its capable editor, Virginia White of Benton, in November 2017, the newsletter has suspended publication until someone else steps forward to edit the newsletter and continue to share the history of Arkansas Methodism in this format.

To educate the public, museum personnel and volunteers give free, guided tours and, from time to time, offer special tours and receptions, centered on a particular topic or targeted to a particular group of people in the community. Special exhibits in 2018 included an exhibit of memorabilia from Methodist missionary and Arkansas native, Pearle McCain, and a print and digital presentation on John and Charles Wesley.

At Annual Conference in May 2019, volunteers, representing the archives, the museum, and the historical society, plan to be at the Commission on Archives and History booth to share information through displays and handouts, to answer questions about this ministry, and to take Historical Society memberships from interested conference attendees. Memberships are only \$10 per person annually and proceeds help support the ministries of the archives and the museum. Additionally, CDs will be available for purchase, with proceeds going to benefit the work of the archives. Helpful for historians, seminary students, and clergy, one CD contains out-of-print books on Methodism and the other CD, “Called to Be Bold, Stepping Out in Faith,” has stories and photographs from eighty-one Arkansas women who share the unique challenges of their Calls to Ministry.

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❖ **Create an experience, not merely provide information**

A visit to the museum is an ideal way to experience the past...observe the hard, wooden pews (no cushions); see vestments the pastors wore; touch the communion chalice used by faithful brothers and sisters of another era; and see photographs of faithful souls your pastor or your parents talked about when you were a child. Also, to help people experience their history; the museum board has presented several special exhibits and is planning more temporary exhibits in the future. For example, seeing objects used by missionary Pearle McCain gives us a peek into her daily life, far from family and friends. In a similar way, pages posted on the web from old *Arkansas Methodist* newspapers may help readers live a little in the lives of Arkansans of a hundred years ago and generate feelings that “plummet them into the love of God.” These newspapers were the CNN and the internet of another era, as they gave people information on local, state, and national news, especially for rural Arkansans. These papers were also the Facebook and Twitter of that time, revealing the lifestyle of pastors and their congregations and showing how our Methodist brethren grappled with the issues of their day—politics, prohibition, Indian affairs, race relations, women’s rights, etc. Even ads for products such as miracle medicinal cures give us a glimpse into the lives of our brothers and sisters in an era before antibiotics and modern medicine. But there are also stories in these pages about the ministry of women who saved nickels and dimes from their egg and garden produce sales to send missionaries to rural areas of our state and across the world. There are stories for children about “Father Wesley,” articles for young people who dreamed of attending Galloway or Hendrix College, and lengthy obituaries with inspiring language we could only hope someone might write about us when our time comes.

❖ **Generate goodwill and spread the joy that comes from sharing the Story**

Progress may also be measured in the mutual goodwill and the joy of sharing that collaboration on creative projects fosters among all participants. The following examples illustrate goodwill and sharing that has occurred at the archives and the museum this year. Several pastors and laity proudly gave the archives old Conference Journals, historical books, photographs, and other materials related to the Methodist church in Arkansas. Others have kindly donated treasured items to the museum from closed churches or from their attics. After the successful Pearle McCain exhibit at the museum, Dr. McCain’s family members were so pleased with the exhibit that they donated additional items that will enhance future displays. When a former pastor’s grandson in California requested information about a particular church, the administrator for that district offered to take a photograph of the church cornerstone and send it to him. A requester from Texas actually had more information on his subject than our archives had, so he allowed us to add his information to our files. After an archivist in Missouri noticed our website with Journals from antecedent conferences, he offered to send us digital copies of journals related to our conference that we were not aware even existed. Just as the popular proverb states: “It takes a village to raise a child,” so it takes the collaboration of many people to record and to tell the Story, and therein lies the joy of sharing the Story.

Reaching beyond this conference, the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History works with Commission personnel in other conferences, in the Jurisdiction, and with the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church as they mutually seek ways to continue this unique ministry of memory and to help bring about a spiritual revival in the United Methodist Church. The Arkansas Conference Commission chairman and the archivists have taken advantage of the resources and training opportunities offered by the staff of the General Commission, located at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. They read *Methodist History* journals, current Methodist news articles, and documents sent from the

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General Secretary of the General Commission and his office. They attend conferences of the UMC, as well as training sessions and General Commission meetings led by the General Secretary and other members of the General Commission on Archives and History. Participation in these activities helps the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History become more effective in its ministry.

In all their work, our archivists, curator, and volunteers take seriously their responsibility to decide what materials are history making and worthy to belong in the collections to tell the Story. They continue to collect documents, memorabilia, and photographs for long-term storage and quality preservation, especially materials about present-day clergy, ministries, local churches, and closed churches within our conference. Recent purchases, such as professional-quality lighting in museum galleries, the PastPerfect software, a Minolta color copier, and the BookEye book scanner, help us meet our goals and those of the Conference. They help extend our glimpse into the lives of the people of faith of our day and of those who came before us. In all we do, we seek to be good stewards of apportioned funds and other gifts and to maximize their usefulness. As we move into the future the ministry of memory helps us learn from our past as we anticipate our priorities for the future. Like our very own souls, the work of Archives and History will always be a work in progress.

Therefore, with hearts open to the Holy Spirit, we move ahead with our Mission: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to transform the world with excellence and passion." "Come, Holy Spirit, come."

- Information on Arkansas UMC Archives / Winfred D. Polk Methodist Archives (arkmethodist@hendrix.edu) from

Marcia Crossman, Archivist

Carole Teague, Archivist

- Information on UM Museum of the Arkansas Conference (ummac.LR@gmail.com) from

Norman DePaul (Paul) Brown, Museum Board Chairman, 2018

- Information on the UM Historical Society of Arkansas from

Rev. Keenan Williams, Historical Society Chairman, 2017 / 2018

Helen Giessen Guenter, Chairman

Board of Discipleship

The Board of Discipleship in this past year has spent some time discerning our purpose and how best to support the work of the Center for Vitality. Many efforts have been made to give local congregations the tools needs to identify and implement intentional discipleship processes that will aid in creating a culture of disciples making disciples who make disciples.

With this in mind, the BOD has spent time defining our purpose. We feel that as a board we are are to work at "demystifying" discipleship and to embrace it as a lifestyle, a way of life for people who love Jesus and love others in Jesus' name. We believe that in doing so, we as United Methodist, will name, claim and live out our faith with that identity. It is our goal to offer tools for people to fall in love with a disciple's way of life and make the journey that will equip us to live out our faith in Jesus Christ.

We value that every congregation is gifted for ministry and mission. That discipleship is about relationship, and building those relationships is crucial. Discipleship is not a program that is implemented, but it requires consistent work over time. In this process, discipleship should be freeing and not overwhelming as it grows organically both in the individual and the corporate context.

All of our mission fields are diverse and complex. By offering tools of varying sorts, what is needed can be identified for its purpose. Making disciples is a journey with unpredictable outcomes and results and can become overwhelming with a sense of “requirements” of being a disciple. This is where seeing our discipleship, as a way of life becomes an important factor in our seeing vital congregations making disciples who make disciples.

It is our plan to unfold for the 2019 Annual Conference “Discipleship365”. By identifying and embracing various platforms where people are telling stories, we can begin to see the evidence of discipleship as a way of life. In the next year it is the desire of the Board of Discipleship to create a buzz of telling those stories of both lay and clergy, people of every age, big and small...the untold stories of discipleship being lived as a lifestyle. We want to empower local churches to tell those stories, facilitate the connection of people as we fulfill the trajectory of our Annual Conference, to build and restore the connection as United Methodist as we seek to live out the mission of the church in making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Dee Dee Autry, Chair

Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries

This has been a year of restructuring the Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry in line with decisions made last year. In this restructure we have focused on our purpose statement and organizational systems.

1. Arkansas Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry Purpose Statement - The purpose statement of Camp and Retreat Ministries in the Arkansas Conference shall be: The mission of the ARUMC Camp and Retreat Ministry is to enhance the trajectory of the Arkansas Conference through resourcing local churches in their disciple-making ministry by providing unique opportunities for the children, youth, and adults of local churches to seek God in places set apart from normal routines and the demands of the world. By bringing people together in new communities with opportunities for mission, service, intentional ethnic diversity, the practice of genuine discipleship through experiential faith formation, prayer, worship and spiritual renewal, Camp and Retreat Ministries help participants return to their congregations and communities with a renewed commitment to be a part of Jesus’ inclusive work in the world

2. Camp and Retreat Center Governance a. All camps or retreat centers will be governed strictly by their individual boards. Each camp board will be responsible for its own operation and programming. b. Relationship Statements between the Arkansas Conference and partner camps and retreat centers will be created to guide the relationship and will be reviewed every quadrennium or when either party desires to review the agreement. c. As extension ministries of the Arkansas Conference, Camps and Retreat Centers with relationship statements will be given representation with voice on the Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry Committee and other conference structures as may be determined.

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3. Camp Relationships a. To minimize liability issues, the Arkansas Conference will only form relationship statements with camps and retreat centers that are *ACA accredited. b. Camp Tanako is currently accredited and the Mt. Eagle will soon be accredited. The Arkansas Conference will renew relationship statements with each board of directors. c. Bear Creek and Shoal Creek camps are not currently seeking accreditation. If the camps are not accredited by December 31, 2018 the Arkansas Conference will not renew relationship statements and will end support and funding of these camps effective January 1, 2019. d. The Arkansas Conference is willing to explore renewing relationship statements with Bear Creek and Shoal Creek if they become accredited by 2018 Arkansas Conference Journal 285 I ANNUAL REPORTS ACA, with the understanding that the process of accomplishing accreditation and maintaining the standards of the ACA is the sole responsibility of the boards of each camp or their designee.

4. Conference Structure a. The Conference Director of Program and Marketing for Camp and Retreat Ministries staff position will be eliminated effective July 1, 2018. Programming and marketing will become the responsibility of individual camps or the entities that use the camps. b. The Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry Committee will be restructured effective July 1, 2018 to provide proper communication and alignment between Arkansas Conference entities and camps/retreat centers with relationship statements with the conference. It will initially consist of the following positions, with authority to add persons if required. i. Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries Coordinator ii. Director of Connectional Ministries iii. Conference Director of Children’s Ministries or representative iv. Conference Director of Youth Ministries or representative v. Conference Council on Youth Ministries President or designee vi. Conference Young Adult Ministries Chair vii. Conference Coordinator of Adult, Singles, Family and Older Adult Ministries, viii. Center for Vitality Representative ix. Board of Higher Education Representative x. Camp Tanako Director xi. Mount Eagle Retreat Center Director xii. **Bear Creek Camp Representative xiii. **Shoal Creek Camp Representative c. The Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry Committee will be responsible for budget requests and funding allocations. d. Partner camps and retreats will be encouraged to create ex-officio (voice w/o vote) posi-

5. Camp Tanako, Mount Eagle, and Shoal Creek are all ACA accredited at this time and are in full compliance with the Arkansas Conference. Bear Creek is working with ACA representatives to come under accreditation by the end of 2019, which is the deadline.

*ACA (American Camp Association) accreditation focuses primarily on the health, safety, and risk management aspects of a camp’s operation. ACA collaborates with experts of national organizations serving children and youth to assure that current practices of the camp reflect the most up to date research and litigation-based standards in camp operation.

** Unless accredited, positions will end December 31, 2018. A motion was made and passed to extend the deadline to December 31, 2019. See Minutes section of 2018 Journal.

Submitted by

Ben Crismon, Chair

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Conference Council on Children's Ministries

The Conference Council on Children's Ministries (CCCM) continues to maintain its focus to connecting/network people involved with children's ministry throughout the state of Arkansas and to equip those people for ministry in their local congregations. We exist to provide quality training, nurture, support, and resources for children's ministers, both paid and unpaid. We continue to sponsor social media pages and see broad geographical access to our sites, as leaders have learned to count on us for valuable and accurate information regarding their ministry needs.

You will notice some rebranding of the logos and changes to the role expectations of the Children's Council representatives. The Conference Communication team was asked to refresh our logo for children's ministry as well as our email signature and website layout. The Communication team went above and beyond expectations. They also created a new promotional brochure for clergy and children's ministers to explain how the Children's Council and the Children's Coordinator can help your church's ministry to children.

Children's Council representatives are now tasked with creating small group opportunities within their districts for those that work with children. We request that church leadership encourage your children's ministers to attend these small group opportunities within your district so that they may receive teaching techniques and create Covenant Groups as a way to give each other the pastoral care needed to sustain quality ministry. Our hope is to create an environment of encouragement so that they do not find themselves burned out and deserting their call to minister to children.

The Children's Ministry Council and coordinator are here to equip children's ministers and the children they serve. We have two formal ways to equip children's ministers. We hold a two-day conference every January called Beyond providing valuable training and connections for volunteers and staff working with children. Beyond 2019 brought us the most attendees to date. We had a grand total number of 70 registrations from all over the state of Arkansas and one from Oklahoma!

We also plan and hold District mini-worships throughout the year that focus on various training opportunities like recruiting volunteers, classroom management, VBS support and how to pick curriculum that teaches Methodist theology. Children's Council representatives will hold approximately six small group opportunities a year.

For children, Quest was held for the first time this September of 2018 for 3rd-6th graders. We had an outpouring of smaller churches make up a grand total of 150 children and adults. We felt that was a successful base for a first-time event that wasn't well known to church leadership. Quest was created to give children the opportunity to connect with other Arkansas UMC children, as well as learn about God's love and the call to be disciples. This one-day event provides lively worship, communion, educational small groups, service projects and of course FUN! Quest 2019 will be held September 28, 2019, and will feature Michelle Moore and her Culture of Call team teaching student lesson rotations written by Sean Dunbar and Tammy Felder.

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Wonderfully Made is the new human sexuality curriculum endorsed by the United Methodist Church. Created by God has stopped publication. March 7 & 8, 2019 we held a train the trainer's workshop on the new curriculum and certification in order to provide trainers for churches in each district. Look at the Conference website under Children's Ministry to find a Wonderfully Made educator who can schedule to come to your church for the fall semester.

Our 2019 focus for our children's council will be as follows: Worship for all! When we say all, we want to make worship including accessibility for all ages, behaviors, abilities, and education. We hope to educate clergy and children's ministers on ways they can prepare a worship service that all feel comfortable and are able to take part in the worship. We know that by helping church leadership create worship for all that it directly correlates to furthering the outreach and growth of the church body. We will continue to work to build relationships and collaboration between churches and districts. Two examples of that would be District-sponsored Bible Boot Camps and Confirmation Retreats at camp Tanako.

This year your **District Coordinators** council are as follows:

- *Central District:* Tammy Felder, Little Rock, and Kayla Tullos, Maumelle
- *Southeast District:* Christie Park; Whitehall
- *Southwest District:* Michelle Wilkins, Hot Springs; Peaches Smith, Hot Springs
- *Northeast District:* Katie McLean, Batesville; Tiffany Jones, Beebe
- *Northwest District:* Sally Ware, Fort Smith; Sadie Stratton, Bentonville. Rachel Hogue, Russellville

Specialty Representatives:

- Karen Swales -*Safe Sanctuaries and Curriculum*
- Sadie Stratton - *Wonderfully Made Trainer*

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Shunk

Conference Coordinator of Children's Ministries

Board of Church and Society

In October, the Board of Church and Society chairs from across the connection attended an event at Drew Seminary and discussed ways we could help each other be more informed, and also hear from the directors from GBCS about their ongoing work. We also crafted a statement opposing the gambling proposal on the November 2018 ballot.

In January, the Arkansas Annual Conference sent two young clergy to the Young Clergy Summit in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the GBCS. Rev. Lauren DeLano from FUMC Conway and Rev. Jennie Williams from Highland Valley UMC attended. The goals of this meeting are:

- Connect young clergy with the ministry of Church and Society.
- Provide a forum to share knowledge and experience.
- Create bridges for future ministry collaboration.
- Build relationships with other young clergy from across the United

Methodist connection.

Rev. Steve Copley continues to serve as our Peace with Justice Coordinator:

The General Board of Church and Society website states about the need for peace with justice with the following statement. They write, "in a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction, people of faith have a clear call to build peace with justice. As your Arkansas Conference Coordinator of Peace with Justice, we have developed encouraged local congregations to take the Peace with Justice offering during the year. We have given three grants this year to work that we believe furthers the ideals of peace with justice. They are: a) Hiroshima Day event in Little Rock; b) Latino Crime Victims Assistance Center; and, c) Freedom School of Central Arkansas. – Rev. Steve Copley

Lastly, in the wake of the called session of the General Conference, and as your chair of our Board of Church and Society, I lift up the fact that we are a hurting denomination in the midst of a hurting society. We must reach out in love beyond ourselves and continue to have conversations with those who do not believe the same as we do. Continue to pray for the LGBTQIA community in the midst of the pain caused by our actions. We pray for the Holy Spirit to engulf us as resurrection people- that we may clearly see the paths to truly be the body of Christ to the world. Only this will help us to continue to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Continued thanks for those of you who feel a call to work for justice and mercy. Your help in your local church and community is appreciated very much. Continue to speak out when you see injustice. You may be the only voice, but your voice matters. Please join us for the Church and Society lunch. The lunch will be on Friday May 31, during the lunch break from conference business at Grand Avenue UMC (841 Quapaw Ave.). The cost is \$10 and a reservation can be made through your registration for Annual Conference.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Jay Clark, Chair

Developer of Clergy Recruitment

In its first year, the work of the new position of Developer of Clergy Recruitment has been both productive and encouraging. I've worked to establish both short term and long term goals to both create a culture of calling in the ARUMC and to increase the number of clergy in the ARUMC.

A few accomplishments so far:

- The creation of a database of over 100 names of elementary to young adult age of those who might be exploring a calling to ministry of some type.
- Establishing a more intentional relationship between the ARUMC and current seminarians.
- Website for all information related to exploring a calling to ministry created.
- Continued collaboration with the Culture of Call Task Force created in 2017.
- Seminary visit scheduled to both check in and encourage current students from the ARUMC and to recruit students looking for a conference to serve in upon graduation.
- Working to create curriculum and online resources for children, youth and adults to discuss calling and vocation in the local church.

- Establishing a more permanent relationship with the Hendrix Youth Institute program in order to build relationships with youth exploring a calling to ministry early.

I continue to be encouraged and excited about the possibilities for the ARUMC members as we renew a commitment to help our congregation members find how God's calling them and to walk to the journey with those who answer a call to full time ordained or lay ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Moore,

Developer of Clergy Recruitment

Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee

The Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns shall collaborate with the existing structures of the annual Conference in order to implement, evaluate, and update the Annual Conference of its comprehensive plan as it relates to ethnic issues. The Committee will consult with and assist other conference entities in training and implementation of matters related to ethnic local churches. The committee shall maintain the connectional relations mandated by ¶632 and ¶ 654. Additionally, this committee shall be charged with implementing all General Conference emphases related to:

- National Hispanic Plan
- Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century
- National Korean Ministry Plan
- Native American Ministries (¶654)
- Other ethnic programs emanating from the General Conference.

The Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee works in three (3) areas to support local congregations in their efforts *to make disciples* by providing funding in the following areas:

- Leadership Development (both lay and clergy)
- Mission Field Outreach
- Internship Program (undergraduate students only)

We are fully aware that the majority of the ethnic churches in Arkansas are small, and have fewer resources outside of the annual conference; therefore, our goal is to assist them by providing these needed resources. The majority of these congregations are served by less-than-full-time non-ordained clergy. While bi-vocational clergy have long histories in our churches the lack of formal training creates contexts wherein both lay and clergy are in need of valuable context-based interactions and training. The goal of this committee is in line strategically with the Arkansas Conference as we always seek to empower our congregations to be self-sufficient.

Our newest initiative, the ELC Internship Program, is a faith discernment and gifts development cohort by which college students have opportunity to partner with an elder and serve in an ethnic church setting. This service is a means to try on ministry in the church and has development cohort by which college students have opportunity to partner with an elder

in the area of the church agreed upon by the local church, supervising elder, and the intern. The interns serve for a full year. We are looking forward to sharing our results with each of you following the completion of this first cohort.

The Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns will continue to be reflective, committed, and passionate in its effort to address/meet the concerns of the Ethnic Local Church, the strategic initiatives of The United Methodist Church in Arkansas, and responsive to the Bishop Mission’s initiative in fulfilling the greater mission of spreading the good news of the gospel, making disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples throughout the world.

Grace and peace,

Ronnie L. Miller-Yow, Chair

Arkansas Conference Board of Global Ministries

The conference board of global ministries shall interpret the programs, plans and policies of the GBGM and promote the emphases on global ministries within the context of the annual conference (Book of Discipline 633.2). We are to connect the local church through mission opportunities and through mission initiatives

The Board of Global Ministries of the Arkansas Conference has determined that our mandate fits well under priorities listed as Next Steps in the Bishop’s Mission Plan. These priorities guide us as we intentionally vision, plan and implement our work guided by these priorities.

The Committee’s mandate is to connect with local churches through mission initiatives such as global health, disaster response, and missionary personnel opportunities for young adults. The list below explains some of the ways we are called to action:

The Advance for Christ and His Church (the Advance) is a ministry of Second Mile giving to support mission projects and Mission Personnel within the United States and other countries.

Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns – engages in promoting understanding, cooperation and peace through ecumenical and interfaith relationship.

Advocate for the Poor and Justice for our Neighbor –resources the local church in opportunities and means to give voice and visibility to all who may not be heard or seen.

Volunteers in Mission – hands on opportunities for local churches to engage in helping our neighbors during times of disaster and everyday need.

Mission Personnel - the Arkansas Conference currently has one (1) Church and Community Worker assigned to work with Inter-faith and Inter-religious Concerns, Advocate for the Poor and Justice for Our Neighbor. BOGM is currently working to assess mission personnel opportunities in the Southeast District. Each local church can support mission personnel within our state and in other places by participating in a **“Covenant Relationship”**.

Disaster Response- coordinates and works with UMCOR to respond within our borders and beyond to assist with events and outreach needs. UMCOR is often the first in and last to leave. Each local church is encouraged to support the six special UMC Sundays, one of which is UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour of Sharing).

Parish and Community Development – the general responsibility of PCD is to assist in research, planning, and implementation of programs connecting parish and community to local

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and national plans for PCD.

United Methodist Women -Global Ministries has a long history of cooperative ministry support and engagement with and through United Methodist Women and is a co-sponsor for **Mission u**. Our school of mission ranks among the best in the Country. Mission u provides an excellent learning experience for laity, clergy, children and youth.

Brenda Norwood Henson, Chairperson

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

The Conference Secretary of Global Ministries shall work with the chairperson of the Conference Board of Global Ministries to the objectives and scope of work of the General Board of Global Ministries. A major responsibility of Global Ministries is to connect the various parts of the church as United Methodists engage in global mission. As a biblically rooted and historically informed organization, Global Ministries facilitates engagement in God's mission.

There were no missionaries that itinerated to the Arkansas Conference in 2018. I have been informed that our conference will have missionaries itinerating the last quarter of 2019.

I am excited to report that David and Elizabeth McCormick along with their two children have joined the Mission Advocate team and are serving the South Central Jurisdiction. They had been living and serving in Mozambique since 2016. They are now residing in North Little Rock, AR and we are fortunate and blessed to have them in our conference.

The Mission Ambassadors Summit was held in Atlanta, Georgia December 3-5, 2018. The purpose was to strengthen the connectional network of mission resources, general church agencies, missionaries, laity and clergy representatives for annual conferences and jurisdictions. In addition, the event highlighted Global Ministries' bicentennial celebration of mission. The event was well represented by the Arkansas Conference. The Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries, Jim Polk, Conference Board of Global Ministries Chair Brenda Norwood, two District Secretaries, Mission Personnel Coordinator, South Central Jurisdiction Mission Advocates and I were in attendance. We engaged in workshops of our choosing. Each jurisdiction had a breakout session and several global ministry staff persons made brief appearances and explained their role and purpose. There was fellowship, praise and worship during our time there. It was a great time of strategy and educating those new to position on their role and responsibilities. There was a follow-up meeting that was very productive.

The SCJ have had several conference calls planning our fall Secretary Global Ministries Gathering. It will be held in Cornrow, Texas September 30th through October 3rd, 2019.

I look forward to the missionaries that are to itinerate the fourth quarter of the year, visiting local churches and telling their mission story.

We believe that the church, as the faithful community of Christ, moves in hope toward our United Methodist goal of making disciples for the transformation of the world. We look forward to this intention to the fulfillment, which is God's mission.

Marleene Calvin

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

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Higher Education and Campus Ministry

As I prepared to write this report I reread and reviewed the reports from each of the United Methodist campus ministries in Arkansas. As I read the Charge Conference reports as well as director's annual reports and metrics report, I was excited to see the large number of students as well as the variety of ways we are involved in campus ministry through Wesley Foundations at ASU, ATU, HSUOBU, SAU, UA, UALR, UAM, UAPB and UCA. We are also in ministry at Hendrix College and Philander Smith College through the chaplain's offices on these two United Methodist college campuses. We continue a United Methodist ministry to students at Lyon College as well as UA Fort Smith. Through the Bread of Life mobile food pantry, stocked and staffed by the ASU Wesley Foundation, we have begun making contact with students at ASU Newport, ASU Marked Tree, ASU Jonesboro, as well as Black River Technical College and BRTC Paragould. Campus ministry at community colleges is an important mission field we want to address further. It will require building partnerships with local churches with a heart for these students. All of us on the Board and all of our campus ministers would love to visit with you about these opportunities.

We are deeply grateful for the financial support the Arkansas Conference provides. Your support is a key part of being able to have a campus minister at each of these locations. Lately some Annual Conferences around the country have looked at campus ministry as a place to trim their Conference budgets. We are grateful for the vision of the Arkansas Conference to continue funding campus ministries at current levels. Campuses are unique and critically important mission fields. Students arrive on campus at a variety of places on their journeys of faith. Some students arrive as wellformed disciples who have been blessed to have had strong discipleship experiences through youth groups, Bible study and mission trips. Other students come with a curiosity about having a deeper walk of faith as they are making significant decisions about vocation and their faith and values as adults. While some students are curious, others are deeply skeptical. This skepticism may come from the need to question and claim my faith as my own or it may be rooted in hurts, which stem from negative experiences with Christians or in judgmental churches. Our United Methodist campus ministries offer an experience in the Wesleyan way of faith.

Because students have such a variety of needs and because campuses have unique cultures, no two United Methodist campus ministries in Arkansas are alike. However, at each campus there are opportunities for worship, mission and service, learning, fellowship and outreach. These are the components necessary for students to become disciples and to grow as disciples. Another important experience for students is to be involved as student leaders in campus ministry.

These leadership positions are important as students are exploring their vocational direction. A very important part of campus ministry is helping students discover their gifts and how they can use them in career as well as living as a disciple of Jesus.

We are pleased to have been able to sponsor seven interns on six campuses (ASU, SAU, UA, UALR, UAPB, Philander Smith College) during the current academic year. These interns were funded with a 50/50 matching grant from the Conference. We are grateful to donors like you who helped the local campuses fund their half of the stipend for the intern. Once again the Conference has funded \$45,000 for matching grants for maintenance on the Wesley Foundation buildings. These were also awarded as matching grants. Your generosity at local campus ministries allowed us to do a total

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of \$90,000 worth of work on the facilities. This year we particularly focused our work on security and safety upgrades. The money you share helped us fund leadership grants, including a coach for the campus ministry directors.

This allows us to stay aware of changes in and new understandings of ministry on campus.

Each week several hundred students gather in United Methodist campus ministries across our state. The directors and student leaders are ready. We need students to know we are here. Please encourage students from your local church or community to find us. Even better, let us know they are coming to campus. On the Conference website at www.arumc.org there is a campus ministry page. On this page you may share names and contact information of students attending these colleges. If you let us know they are coming, we will be in contact with them. You have nurtured many of these college students throughout their lives. We want to continue to be in ministry with them.

Thanks for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Roy P. Smith, Chairperson

2019 Board of Laity Report

The Arkansas Conference Board of Laity is made up of the Conference Lay Leader, the district Lay Leaders and the Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries. The board's most important work includes fostering an awareness of the role of the laity within the local congregations, promoting and developing programs to cultivate an adequate understanding of the theological and biblical basis for lay life and work, and providing support and direction for the ministry of the laity on the local, district and annual conference level.

The Board of Laity's primary focus this year is in coordinating our work with the Center for Vitality, and being liaisons and communicators about the exciting opportunities in the Arkansas Conference. Your District Lay Leaders work hard to promote resources for local congregations, as those congregations work to fulfill the Bishop's Mission Plan and the mission and vision of the Arkansas Conference. We believe a key factor in this resourcing is in equipping and strengthening lay leadership in the Arkansas Conference. The Center for Vitality's Leadership Unleashed program provides an arena for laity to share in meaningful discussion around congregations growing by one in worship, small groups, missional outreach, and professions of faith. The Board of Laity works with the Center as they have designed strategic leader development to increase the capacity pool of laity, and utilize these leaders to impact the greater community and the world.

The Lay Servant Ministry program is active across the conference and provides classes that equip laity to live out their call and become deeper disciples of Jesus Christ. If you have not enrolled in a Lay Servant Ministry class because you are concerned you might be asked to fill a pulpit, don't worry! A Certified Lay Servant is never obligated to preach, but is a person committed to using their spiritual gifts in their local church, their district, or the conference. There are a variety of classes offered that can help you fulfill your call to lay ministry.

It is a privilege to serve as Arkansas Conference Lay Leader, and even more of a privilege to work with the wonderful laity in the Arkansas Annual Conference!

Karon Mann,
Arkansas Conference Lay Leader

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Lay Servant Ministries

Please go to our arumc.org website , and select “Our Ministries” and then select Lay Servant Ministries, to access all Arkansas Conference Lay Servant Ministries information and downloadable forms. All District Director information is also listed there.

- The 2016 General Conference changed the way we have been doing things and removed one of our old time positions as Lay Servants – **Local Lay Servant is no longer a position we support as a result.** Their rationale (supported and introduced by the National Lay Servant program or ACDLSM and Discipleship Ministries) was that all Laity are Local Lay Servants and since we want to raise awareness of the training and dedication of those who choose to further their education in the Lay Servant Ministries Program, it is only fitting that we ask all Lay Servants to become Certified Lay Servants through regular advanced training.
- We have “Retired” the term “Local” Lay Servant : You must take a “Basic” and an Advanced course to be in LSM Program, and become a “Certified Lay Servant”.

Discipleship Ministries along with the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries Education Committee (of which I was asked to be a part of in 2017) is tasked with continuing to develop and print new materials all year long. As a result of this, we continue to have many new training materials coming out every year (it usually takes up to three years to bring a new course to printing).

The term “Lay Speaker” has been used for many years, and usually was thought of as “Pulpit Supply”. It has been said that there are a lot of United Methodists that will not take the training because they do not want to be in the Pulpit. General Conference made changes that will assist in getting those people into our training classes that want to be trained to serve in the many other functions of the church that do not involve preaching.

We now have the “Certified Lay Servant” (will be able to serve the local church and the rest of the Conference in whatever capacity available for them, including filling in for a Pastor). This position is usually not for extended assignments by the D.S. (must have taken the “Basic” course, take at least one Advanced Course every three years, and file the Annual Report of the Lay Servant / Speaker **every year** with the charge conference).

The Certified Lay Servant category, requires at least 10 hours of classroom time every three years or specific pre-approved (by District and Conference LSM Committees) alternate courses of equivalent service/training that may be used to stay in the program. Also you must file the Annual Report of the Lay Servant / Speaker every year with the charge conference.

If a person delays coming to class for three consecutive years, even if using an Alternate Class, (see 2019 list) then they will be dropped from the program and will have to take the “Basic- Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry course” and then another Advanced class to be Certified again, if they return at a later date.

The Lay Speaker position, requires more initial training.

*We now have the “**Certified Lay Speaker**” position which is meant to be “Pulpit Supply” and for a possible longer term assignment (will be able to serve the local church and also the extended church in whatever capacity that is available for them, including filling in for local Pastors and other Pastors in the connection, week to week, as well as extended assignments by the District Superintendent). Must have taken “Basic” and five (5) specific advanced cours-

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es as required by the 2016 General Conference Legislation. Those course Categories are: Intro-
duction to Lay Servant Ministry: Basic Course, Worship, Prayer, Spiritual Gifts, Preaching, UM
Heritage and also UM Polity, and requires at least 10 hours in each of these classes. You must
also take another “advanced” class at least every three years, submit to a review of your Ser-
vice with the District Director of LSM, and be “ approved” every three years by the District and
Conference Lay Servant Committees. Also you must file the Annual Report of the Lay Servant/
Speaker every year with the charge conference.

The Lay Servant /Lay Speaker will be recommended (Signature on form) by the Pastor of the
local church where their membership is held and by a vote of the local charge conference, D.S.
witness/ Signature on the Annual Lay Servant Report Charge Conference Form and by the Dis-
trict Lay Servant Ministry Director/Committee. **Completing this form is required each year
to stay in the LSM Program, but does not give you status as a Lay Servant unless you
have completed the training classes. Please do not fill out this Charge Conference form
if you have not attended classes in three years and do not intend to attend a class. Call
your District LSM Director for info on how to return to the program.**

*****Upon requesting to enter the new Lay Speaker Track** (fill out the application and sub-
mit to the District Director); persons applying to become a **“ Lay Speaker”** will be examined
(records/past service listed on application) by the District Committee on Lay Servant Minis-
tries(DCLSM) or equivalent structure and be recommended to the Conference Committee on
Lay Servant Ministries (CCLSM) or equivalent structure for “Approval”. The “Lay Speaker” must
apply for Re-Approval” (fill out application for Renewal) and be approved by the District Com-
mittee on Lay Servant Ministries) every three years. They also must receive the endorsement
of the local church charge conference every year by the Annual Lay Servant Report form.

**List of 2018 “ Approved” Alternate Service/Training for Certified Lay Servants (must
meet LSM requirements) at least 10 hour classes that confirm our LSM theme of “Lead-
ing, Caring and Communicating”**.

1. All LSM Classes (including Online Classes) must be conducted and/or pre-approved
through the **District Director** in order to get credit, but at this time on-line classes do not
change requirement for a sit-down District class at least once each three years.

2. Be-A-Disciple and other online courses, to be considered on a case – by – case basis for
2019 (please contact your District or Conference Director before taking these to be able to get
LSM approval for the course). These courses must conform to Discipleship Ministries/Confer-
ence LSM Program requirements, which is 10 hours or more in Leading, Caring, Communicat-
ing. **(You must still attend one classroom type class once every 3 years regardless of how
many Alternate classes taken to remain in the LSM Program.)**

**We do not give credit for attending Annual Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, Gen-
eral Conference or anything that does not consist of 10 hour class type training.**

**Mission U , Stephen Ministry, Disciple 1,2 or 3, or other events that are not listed in our
Discipleship Ministries LSM Catalog, will only be considered if we pre-receive the Sylla-
bus and it meets our requirements.**

3. Certified Lay Minister is not a part of our program at this time and has to be initiated by the
Cabinet and Board of Ministry.

4. The ACDLSM Organization is in “discovery” stage of adopting Prison ministries as part of

LSM – future details will be announced.

- Anyone may come to our classes without committing to be a part of Lay Servant Ministries, will not have to fill out a Lay Servant Report, and will not be entered in our records unless desired. (We think you will want to be a part of our program once you come to a class though!)

Under the 2012/2016 General Conference Legislation, the Lay Servant Ministries Program is a Laity driven, Laity led program and the **District and Conference Directors “shall” be Laity.** We continue to look for competent Laity that will become Instructors/ Facilitators for our classes as well as Directors/Co-Directors of the LSM Program and we will continue to “partner” with our Clergy to strengthen the program. We certainly need the “buy-in of our Bishop, D.S.’s and our Clergy if we are to succeed. We would also invite Certified Lay Servants to become Co-Directors in each District for Continuity of the program.

2018 saw the Lay Servant Ministry Program continuing to grow all across the Conference. Some Districts enrolled more Lay Servants than others , but we all are dedicated to make our church stronger by our service.. We held even more classes across the Connection than we did in 2017, and will continue to do so in 2018. Check your District Offices/District Directors for class information and also the arumc.org Calendar.

2019 begins the sixth year that we have recognized the new position of “Lay Speaker”. We now have 13 Certified Lay Speakers in the Arkansas Conference who have applied and completed the process for the Lay Speaker status.

Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville scheduled LSM classes for 2018. Be -A – Disciple also has online classes.

The Annual Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries (ACDLSM) met in January 2019, and our soon to be Arkansas Conference Director of LSM, Carole Blanks, attended the meeting in Nashville.

We also have the South Central Jurisdictional program for Lay Servant Ministries (SCJLSM) which is trying to spread the influence and organizational abilities of the Lay Servant Ministry across the South Central region.

We in the Lay Servant Ministry Program of Arkansas are still committed to being the Servants that God called us to be. Not just in our local churches, but wherever God calls us. We are positioned to fulfill Bishop Mueller’s and the Arkansas Conference Mission of “making Disciples, who make disciples for the transformation of the world”.

The following is the result of our 2018 ongoing efforts to hold classes and enlist Laity into our Lay Servant Ministry:

- Southeast District: 7 classes, 51 Laity attended classes
- Northeast District: 4 classes, 14 Laity attended classes
- Central District: 12 classes, 81 Laity attended classes
- Southwest District: 2 classes, 8 Laity attended classes
- Northwest District: 7 classes, 58 Laity attended classes

We welcome all Churches to hold LSM classes for us – contact your District Director/District

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Office for details. Come join us wherever you are in your walk in life and help us “ Unleash the Laity”.

Final Note: As of January 1, 2016, I “retired” as the Southeast District Director of LSM position and now, as of May 29, 2019, I have ended my time as the Arkansas Conference Director of the Lay Servant Ministry Program. I have enjoyed the past 8 years as the Director. Carole Blanks, Central District Lay Servant Ministry Director, has been nominated to become the new Arkansas Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry. Karen Anderson – Northwest District Director of Lay Servant Ministry has been nominated to be the new Associate Director of the Arkansas Conference Lay Servant Ministry Program.

Rev. Nan Nelson (formerly a Certified Lay Servant-now retired Clergy) is the Southeast District Lay Servant Ministry Director as “interim” District Director until a dedicated Certified Lay Servant steps forward and accepts the position. I appreciate Nan for helping us out in the meantime very much. Nan has been a great Director of LSM in S.E. District., and will hopefully continue until a Laity steps up. John Blanks is beginning as the Central DDLSM and Karen Anderson is continuing as the N.W. DDLSM, Karla Hefty Fleming is the S.W. DDLSM and LaDonna Busby is the N.E. DDLSM, as well as N.E. District Office Administrator.

Please support each of our Directors in their endeavor to provide leadership in the Arkansas Conference. Please come join us in service to our Lord and Saviour.

We will hold our 2nd Annual LSM Fellowship Meal this year at Grand Avenue UMC. Come enjoy a good meal and great fellowship.

Peace,

Jimmie Boyd,

Director of Arkansas Conference Lay Servant Ministries

Arkansas Conference Mission Personnel Coordinator

In 2018 churches (and individuals) in the Arkansas Conference contributed **756 gifts that total \$481,126.00 through The Advance for Christ and His Church.** This includes two “**Covenant Relationships**” between Elizabeth and Eric Soard (Tanzania) and Newport First United Methodist Church. There are 18 other churches in Arkansas providing some missionary support through The Advance. Currently there’s one church and community worker, Rev. Stephen Copley (Little Rock), and there are two Global Mission Fellows, short-term missionaries Bailey Martin (Southeast Asia) and Sarah Walker (Spain). Also, serving in Kenya are two individual volunteers with Arkansas connections, Jim Monroe and Sue Owen.

According to Conference records, there are 640 Individual churches (430 charges) in the Arkansas Annual Conference, yet, we have only one church who has established Covenant Relationships with Eric and Elizabeth Soard. Missionaries receive about 1/3 of their support through the World Service Fund and 2/3 of their funding comes from endowments and The Advance.

There are 18 other missionaries receiving some support from other churches. We affirm the churches who are engaged in supporting missionaries, and it is hoped that more of our churches will join in support of this mission imperative.

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Support for missionaries and projects enables success and sustainability for the mission initiatives of The United Methodist Church. It is a critical component of our understanding of how we respond to global mission. The challenge in the Arkansas Conference is raising awareness of the need and increasing our support.

Paula C. Watson

Arkansas Mission Personnel Coordinator

*Please see attached list of names: Active, Retired & Relational mission personnel

United Methodist Missionary Personnel

(Commissioned by General Board of Global Ministries)

With Current or Former Residence in Arkansas AR Conference Active Missionaries either from Arkansas or With an Arkansas Connection* *(Place of Mission Assignment)*

CCW (Church & Community Workers) (Place of Mission Assignment)

Copley, Steve, 5009 Candlewick Lane, North Little Rock, AR 72116; **Missionary Support Code: 982019.** scopley438@aol.com; arjfon@aol.com; scopley@umcmmission.org *(Little Rock, AR - Arkansas Interfaith Conference; Arkansas Interfaith Alliance; Advocate for the Poor.*

International Missionaries

1. Soard, Elizabeth, Box 499, Tarime, Mara Region, Tanzania, Elizabeth.soard@gmail.com. **Missionary Support Code: 3021467.** (Tanzania - Church Planter & Discipleship Trainer).
2. Soard, Eric*, Box 499, Tarime, Mara Region, Tanzania, soard.eric@gmail.com, **Missionary Support Code: 3021468.** (Tanzania – Church Planter & Discipleship Trainer).

U.S. Missionaries

1. Fink, Elizabeth (US-2), efink@umcmmission.org. Missionary Support Code: 3021833. *(Branches - Urban & Social Justice Ministry; Florida Annual Conference)*
2. Feezor, Amber (GMF US-2) 1218 Kearny Street, NE, Washington DC 20017: Missionary Support Code: 3022063, amber.feezor@gmail.com, (479) 747-8402 (US-2: United Methodist GBCS)
3. Morgan, Dwaine*, 2560 Belshire Drive, Conover, NC 28613. Missionary Support Code: 98292. dmorgan@umcmmission.org *(North Carolina – Mission Response Center).*

Retired or Former Missionaries

Either from Arkansas or with an Arkansas Connection*

(Known Place of Mission Assignment)

1. Aist, Rodney *(Italy)** - Via Porro Lambertenghi, 28, 20159 Milano, Italy
2. Breshears, Russell *(Peru)* - 2415 Fair Park Blvd., Little Rock, AR 72204-5145
3. Caldwell, Colleen, Retired Deaconess; 13912 Fern Valley Ln., Little Rock, AR 72211,
4. Cook, Bruce *(Georgia)** - 4329 Valley Trail Drive, Atlanta, GA 30339

5. Crisco, Teresa (*10-10-10: Raphah Project*) - 11110 Beverly Hills Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211 1
6. Duncan, Hall F. (*Zaire*)* - 709 Doe Trail, Edmond, OK 73083 2
7. Grover, Kaite (*US-2: Calico Rock, AR*) * - ATS-SPO 380, 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390 3
8. Guthrie, Jon (*Zaire*) - 209 Katherine Drive, Conway, AR 72032-8891 4
9. Harrison, Shana (*Chile*) - Address unknown, sdchile2003@yahoo.com 5
10. Hightower, Deaconess Iris (*Arkansas*) - 7811 Euper Lane, #96K, Fort Smith, AR 72903 6
11. Jensen, David & Lidia (*Bolivia*)* - c/o C.R. Jensen, 78 McDougall Drive, Lincoln, ND 58504 7
12. Johnson, Robin M., (*10-10-10: Raphah Project, AR*) * - 405 E. Church Str., Royce City, TX 75189 8
13. Larson, Cathy, Lay Missioner; Magnet Cove UMC Church, 22292 Hwy. 51, Malvern, AR 72104 9
14. Lizcano, Ramiro (*Betel UMC*) - 1520 W. Huntsville Ave., Springdale, AR 72764 10
15. Major, James & Lillie (*Chile*) - 8700 Riley Drive, Apt. 509, Little Rock, AR 72205 11
16. Martin, Marjorie Mann (*Japan*)* - 1315 N. Viking Drive, Independence, MO 64056 12
17. Matthews, Ed & Pat (*Zaire*) - 50 Wingate, Little Rock, AR 72205-2556 13
18. Mays, Governor (*South Central Jurisdiction*) - P.O. Box 609, Lake Village, AR 71653 14
19. McCauley, Delos & Hazel (*Nepal, Kenya*) - 1405 Silver Fox Lane, Pine Bluff, AR 71603 15
20. McQuiston, James (*Sierra Leone*)* - Spring River Christian Village, 201 S. Northpark Ln., Rm. 238, Joplin, MO 64801 16
21. Mount, Deaconess Kandi (*Rogers, AR*) - 5 Forfar Cir., Bella Vista, AR 72715, 17
479-586-2912, hjmklm@sbcglobal.net 18
22. Purdom, Sara (*US-2: Houston, TX*) - 146 Charles Thomas, Searcy, AR 72143 19
23. Purviance, Ruth (*Brazil*)* - 8608 N. Chatnam Circle, Kansas City, MO 64154-2569 20
24. Rhodes, Willie, Jr. (*10-10-10: HeARTwork*) - 1416 S. Fillmore St., Little Rock, AR 72204 21
25. Shackelford, Evelyn. Church & Community Wkr. Marianna-Larger Parish 22
26. Singleton-Snyder, Betsy (*10-10-10: HeARTwork*) - 50 Robinwood Drive, Little Rock, AR 72227-2226 23
27. Solomon, Allyne, (*CCW, Lower Delta Parish Community Outreach Ministry*), allynesolomon@yahoo.com 24
28. Stephens, Johnny A. (*CCW, St. James-Wesley Foundation*) * - 3620 Crystal Springs Lane, Hermitage, TN 37076 25
29. Tribble, Ray C. (*U.S.A.*) * - 3470 Chiswick Court, #43-1E, Silver Spring, MD 20906 26
30. Vault, Harold (*U.S.A.*) - P.O. Box 467, Cotton Plant, AR 72036 27
31. Waddell, Donald Wayne (*Chile*) - 751 Plymouth Road, Claremont, CA 91711-4249 28
32. Waldmann-Bohn, Sonja (*Germany*)* - 120 Mary Ave., Missoula, MT 59801 29
33. Whitfield, William & Jimmye (*Tanzania & East Africa*) - 1810 Cortland St., Fayetteville, AR 72703 30
34. Harris -Winton, Euba (*U.S.A.*) -2003 North 9th St, Fort Smith, AR 72902 31
35. Wilson, Don (*Hunter UMC*) - 600 Yale Ave., Dayton, OH 45402 32
36. Wimberley, Millie Diane (*Bolivia*) - PO Box 219, Bay, AR 72411, mdw17069@gmail.com 33
37. Woods, Lauren (*US-2: Hamburg*) - 202 S. Main St, Hamburg, AR 71646, lwoods06@gmail.com 34
38. Wright, Jackie (*Mrs. Tommy Huskey*) (*Brazil*) - Address unknown 35

***Missionaries not currently from Arkansas, but with an Arkansas connection**

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Commission on Religion and Race

The Conference Commission on Religion and Race will continue to support the mission model that has been and will be the accepted model for our General Commission. GCORR's mission is building the capacity of The United Methodist Church to be contextually relevant and to reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our conference committee upholds the mission and mandates and will be a resource to help our conference committees, organizations and churches become a place where all will be welcomed as they seek where their place is in the kingdom of God. We monitor how diverse our committees at the district and conference levels reflect the culture around them and we will challenge those groups to become as culturally diverse as they can be.

Our mission is now more well defined at the conference level and we are compliant for the most part with what the 2016 Book of Discipline now requires us to do. Our committee is grateful for this conference in helping us face the future of being what God has called us to be. Facing the Future workshop was held this past year and we had ethnic pastors from our conference attend. We pray that the information and networking that took place at this event sponsored by GCORR was helpful in their present ministries. At present, all of these pastors are serving in cross racial appointments as directed by the Bishop. We have 56 ethnic pastors of which 28 of them are serving in cross cultural/cross racial appointments as directed by our Bishop and cabinet. We have 41 ethnic churches in our state. We also have 4 Caucasian pastors serving ethnic churches. We appreciate those churches who have received these pastors as the spiritual leaders of their congregations. We as a committee will continue to work on those areas that are not in compliance with the mandates that GCORR has asked all conference Commissions on Religion and Race to follow.

There are several great resources that General Commission has made available to all conference committees and churches. There are DVDs called Vital Conversations where members of the greater community called the United Methodist Church challenge us to grow in our faith and in our ministry to persons who are not like us. Most of the resources are available at the GCORR website or you can order them from the also. There is also a new book that is available for download from www.gcorr.org, Learning from Strangers. I encourage you to obtain a copy of these for your church's use and for your personal use as a leader in the church. We are here to be a resource to help our conference be a place where transformation happens.

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Relationships matter more than numbers, if we seek the relationships the numbers will take care of themselves. It is about revival of our state, county, cities and towns where Christ is offered to all who seek Him.

Rev. George E. Odell, Chairperson

Members: Rev. Latoya Shepherd(NW); Ms. Bettye Johnson(C)

Rev. Donna Harvey(NE); Rev. Chester Jones(SW); Mr. Ab Pevey(SE)

Committee on the Status and Role of Women

It is a joy to share an update on the vital and vibrant work that the Arkansas Conference Committee on the Status and Role of Women has continued to do in the past year of ministry. The Arkansas Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women continues to support and further the mission of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, which “advocates for full participation of women in the total life of the United Methodist Church through training, education, research and monitoring.” We have continued to advocate for and encourage all women in the life of the church, both clergy and laity, to be faithful and passionate leaders in their congregations and ministry contexts. COSROW continues to offer support for women in all aspects of the life of the church.

As part of our ministry in 2018 COSROW cosponsored the “Boundaries in Ministry” training that was required for all pastors under appointment in the Arkansas Annual Conference. This training was a joint effort with the BOM, Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, Association of Local Pastors, General Commission on Race and Religion, and Bishop’s Office. Arkansas welcomed Becky Posey Williams, Senior Director of Sexual Ethics at the General Commission on Status and Role of Women, to lead this training over three days across our Conference. We celebrate the great participation and commitment to continuing education on appropriate boundaries. Additionally, COSROW sent 4 individuals to the “Do No Harm” event by the General Commission to train on advocacy, response, and sexual misconduct policy. We continue to do this vital ministry and provide resources as needed. We support and encourage participation of all clergywomen in the Clergywomen’s luncheon and quarterly professional development gatherings through the Arkansas United Methodist Clergywomen connection. During Annual Conference, COSROW monitors for fairness in participation and diversity and is glad to provide this important work as a part of our ministry.

Rev. Sara Bayles Charlton, Chair, COSROW



United Methodist Men

The mission of United Methodist Men is to help men grow in Christ so that others may know Christ. That simple but profound statement is what compelled me in late December to accept the position of Arkansas Conference President of United Methodist Men, and I am excited about the possibilities.

In March 2019 I attended both the National Association of Conference Presidents (NACP) annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee and a UMM- sponsored discipleship training workshop in Dallas, Texas called, "Get In the Game." At both, I met men from across our connection who are involved with men's ministries and who have promised to help if asked. They emphasized that I should never try to do this by myself, and I will be using that help.

In the meantime, much of my initial effort here in the Arkansas Conference has been to work to assemble a strong UMM Executive Committee, ideally consisting of a District President from each district and 1-5 at-large members. While that work is continuing, the goals of the committee are already clear:

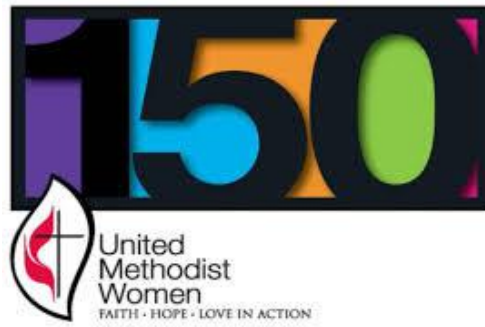
- To form and lead a conference UMM Leadership Team to assist with setting goals and strategies for men's ministry throughout the Arkansas Conference.
- To develop and facilitate an effective UMM leadership structure at both the conference and district levels of the Arkansas Conference.
- To expand the number of chartered UMM Units in the Arkansas Conference.
- To design and offer leadership development opportunities for facilitators of local church men's ministries.
- To promote and strengthen the specific ministries supported by the General Commission on UMM (GCUMM), including support of Scouting and advocacy against gender-based violence.

I hope to soon establish a contact person in each district who can help me identify what groups are active in each district and what they are doing (training, service, fund raising, etc).

That is my mission for the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Men and I need your help and prayer as we can begin working on these goals.

Clay McCastlain,
Arkansas Conference President,
United Methodist Men

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United Methodist Women

This year the Arkansas Conference of United Methodist Women will be celebrating, with our Sisterhood of Grace around the world, the 150th Anniversary of women organizing themselves for mission with women, children and youth. On March 23, a Spiritual Growth Day Apart was held at Camp Aldersgate to remember the legacy of the women who met in Boston, MA, on March 23, 1869. We will continue with plans through the year to celebrate this anniversary in our districts and local churches. As we remember the legacy left to us, we also ponder what legacy we will leave. The Legacy Fund is an opportunity to put faith, hope and love into action. The Legacy Fund is an endowment to ensure the work of United Methodist Women continues for the next 150 years!

Eight United Methodist Women from Arkansas attended the Leadership Development Days sponsored by the National Organization in Tempe, AZ. Participants were reminded of the four Social Action Campaigns in which United Methodist Women are involved: 1) Just Energy for All 2) Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline 3) A Living Wage for All and 4) End Maternal Mortality.

The Arkansas Conference Mission u will be held July 17-20 at the University of the Ozarks, in Clarksville. The studies this year will be: Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship; Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission; and the last year for What About Our Money? A Faith Response.

The United Methodist Women 16th Annual Meeting will be held November 2 at Pulaski Heights UMC, in Little Rock.

Local United Methodist Women units continue to be involved in many local community mission projects as well as supporting national and international mission needs.

The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women continue to foster spiritual growth, develop leaders and advocate for justice on behalf of women, children and youth. They also work to support programs and activities that promote our purpose: United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Cathy Blackwood,

President

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Center for Vitality

The purpose of the Center for Vitality is to ***“provide resources for pastors, laity and congregations to experience spiritual revival and be increasingly vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.”*** Our focus is on developing spiritual leaders, both lay and clergy, equipping them to lead in disciple making ministries and delivering tools to congregations so that they can engage their mission fields.

Since the last gathering of Annual Conference the Center for Vitality (CFV) has offered resources through a variety of equipping, consulting and training initiatives. Some of these have been offered in local churches, district gatherings and in one-on-one coaching conversations.

In August the CFV hosted the **Growing Disciples Summit** at St. James UMC in Little Rock. Over 400 lay and clergy leaders gathered to learn about Intentional Discipleship Systems and how to create and implement a system in their church. Over 40 churches requested to be part of an ongoing training process called, **The XX (The Twenty)**. Rev. Dr. Michelle Morris, Lead Trainer for the CFV, is currently coaching these churches as they create their systems and prepare to share their work with sister congregations across the conference. We know that “if you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples. But if you make disciples, you will always get the church.” (From *Building a Discipleship Culture* by Mike Breen) Additional resources can be found www.vitaldisciples.org.

In September, the CFV accompanied nearly 100 Arkansas clergy and laity to the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection for Leadership Institute. The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas has been supporting this effort since 2009! Following the event, every church’s team has received further training in strategic planning and implementation of new programs and ministries. Some of these include enhanced hospitality ministries, new worship experiences, new small groups for Mom-with-young-children, persons in recovery, and middle school youth. The CFV staff led these follow up equipping events.

Beginning in September, the Center launched an exciting experiment aimed at unleashing lay leadership. Six churches were nominated by Bishop Mueller to participate in an 8 month process of spiritual growth and equipping that includes 4 online video conference calls, 4 overnight retreats and 8 months of accountable discipleship conversations. Each church was asked to identify 2 lay persons who would join the pastor in this journey. **The Community of Practice** will conclude in May, and we will continue to gather information for the next year about how the experience impacted lay leaders in those congregations. However, we already know that the spiritual lives of laity and clergy are strengthened by being in a community where accountability to one another is expected and practiced. Laity in the community are expressing a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to being in ministry in their mission fields. And the partnerships being developed between clergy and laity are providing a rich seedbed for ministries to begin and bear fruit. The Center plans to continue and expand the experiment this coming year. If you are interested, please contact **Cathy Hall**, cathy.hall@arumc.org for information and an application.

This coming year we are excited to announce the inauguration of the **Congregation Resourc-**

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ing System (CouRSe). CouRSe gives us the capacity to deliver mission-critical content all across the state so that our vital congregations have the resources they need to make disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities, and the world.

At the end of 2018, the Arkansas Conference contracted with Absorb to host this online learning management system, our CouRSe. The first test course, Boundaries, was built around the training clergy and church staff received in healthy boundaries in ministry last fall. It was sent to the small test audience of those who had been unable to attend the live training. **Our first major course, Orientation to Annual Conference, is set to release at the beginning of May, and members of the Annual Conference will be invited to take it.** At Annual Conference we will kick off our initial wide-interest offerings. Through this system, we will be able to offer training on basic roles in the UMC (i.e. SPRC, Finance, Trustee committee members); centralize tracking of continuing education; empower people across the state through training in discipleship, communications, evangelism, etc.; double the impact of summits by providing follow-up content; and tracking effectiveness through timed surveys following courses. CouRSe should open up the possibilities of education all across the state. Rev. Dr. Michelle Morris will be administering CouRSe. She would be interested in receiving ideas for courses and instructors. You can reach Dr. Morris at michelle.morris@arumc.org.

It has been a joy to serve as the Director of the Center for Vitality for the past 6 years. Our efforts to “Grow By 1” and develop Intentional Discipleship Systems have been nationally recognized and copied by other conferences and organizations. The Community of Practice is an innovative model of unleashing spiritually grounded lay leaders and is attracting attention across the connection. The new CouRSe is one of only 3 in the connection. And our continuing commitment to build healthy leadership teams of clergy and lay partners is bearing fruit for our future. I am grateful to have served with gifted innovators like Cathy Hall, Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford, and Rev. Dr. Michelle Morris who have shared the vision with me of resourcing ***vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples equipped to transform lives communities and the world.***

Rev. Dede Roberts, Director

Rev. Dr. Michelle Morris, Assistant Director and Lead Equipper

Cathy Hall, Lay Program Coordinator



Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministry

This past year, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries has had tremendous success in our goal to provide opportunities for United Methodist youth in the state of Arkansas to strengthen their faith in Christ by leading, fellowshiping, and serving. In July of 2019, our council, composed of over sixty youth and adults, planned out what it was we wanted to see happen

through CCYM in the upcoming year. At this retreat, we gave our expectations of each other for the year, and also shared our goals for what we wanted to see CCYM become in the future.

Back in 2013-2014, the council voted to add a media task force to CCYM, in order to reach the people of this generation more effectively. Since then, the media task force has been so effective for our ministry to the state. Media task force attends every event, captures some of the powerful moments, and reaches youth through social media. Media always helps our events run smoothly and effectively.

The Youth Service Fund, or YSF, continues to help local churches, as well as the nation by providing grants to those in need. This year, YSF gave out \$7800 in grants, for organizations and youth groups, such as Ozark Mission Project, West Memphis UMC, Arkadelphia FUMC, Highland Valley, FUMC and Sardis UMC, to update their youth rooms or to attend mission trips.

In November, Refuge, an event for junior high youth, occurred at Shepherd of the Ozarks in Harriet. Over 600 youth and adults met in a weekend of fellowship, as a way to disconnect from the busy fall schedule. Both weekends were so powerful for the young youth and creating a great start in their spiritual journeys. At the end of the event, some youth spoke about their stories so the youth could see how God was working in the lives of others in many different ways. Mitto was voted on by the council to be discontinued, and the logistics of the event have been passed down to each of the district councils of youth ministry.

CCYM's largest event, Veritas, took place in the Rogers Embassy convention center in February. This year's theme was "360: completely transformed", encouraging the more than 1400 youth and adults to really learn about how they can grow in their faith life and for some, completely transform into modern disciples. Our very own Bishop Mueller participated in the event and also led the serving of communion on the final worship on Sunday Morning. Veritas had a very successful year, and the holy spirit was definitely present through our speakers and talent.

As we approach the summer, CCYM events are still in full swing. The summer kicked off with Choir Tour, where almost 50 youth from around the state rehearse throughout the school year and meet for one week in June to bring worship services to the community. To conclude the year, Jr High and Sr High assembly will take place in July at the University of the Ozarks. Assembly will be JHA July 22-24, and SHA July 24-27. The event centers around fellowship and small groups while creating a safe environment of growth.

In closing, the 2018-2019 year was truly something amazing to be a part of. We continue to keep our focus on the goal of the United Methodist Church and put our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This year has had such an impact on me, as I have been able to grow in leadership, listening, and my faith. Watching the youth at these events always amazes me. When the youth are the leaders of the church of today, it is incredible what can happen. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as President this past year. I want to thank all of the CCYM youth and adults for the dedication of their time and showing such a heart for this ministry, and for making it an incredible year that I will never forget.

John Mark Mathis,

ACCYM President & Senior at Greenbrier FUMC

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Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Youth Ministries

The goal of the ARUMC Youth Ministry area is to provide a network of resources, support, and education in order to create stronger youth ministries within the local church. Currently, the ARUMC Youth Ministry Resource Team is working on a few programs and events to help further this goal.

- First, we are working on EQUIP 2019 which will be held on September 14. This year EQUIP will feature author, Rev. Matt Rawle and several workshops designed to give practical information to all those who work with youth.
- Second, we are hosting 4 Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings in 2019 in partnership with Amy Shores, Director of Pastoral Care at Methodist Family Health. These trainings will be March 9, April 4, September 26, and October 5.
- Third, The Mentor Network continues to be available as a free resource to any youth worker in the ARUMC. This system pairs youth workers with one another to provide short-term mentorships for youth workers who are new to youth ministry, looking to work through a particular issue, or just needing a sounding board for new ideas.
- Finally, the ARUMC Youth Ministries area works to continually provide support for local churches whether they are looking for a youth worker, need to train volunteers, need resources, etc.

Young Adult Ministries

- The Young Adult Ministries area is in the process of beginning a new season of ministry. The Young Adult Council has begun meeting again and will be working to define the best way for the Young Adult Ministries to move forward within the conference. We hope this will continue to provide leadership and discernment training for young adults in the ARUMC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Moore

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator

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INSTITUTION REPORTS



Africa University

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of local congregations of The United Methodist Church. Thank you to the leaders and members of the Arkansas Conference for prioritizing Africa University with the contribution of 85.38 percent of your asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018.

Through its investment in the Africa University Fund, the Arkansas Conference continues to affirm the university's core mission of nurturing leaders who help people to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health. Thank you for your steadfast commitment and generosity.

Institutional Update:

- In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.
- Throughout 2018, Africa University weathered the challenges of operating in Zimbabwe's depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment in Zimbabwe with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption. Key enhancements in 2018 included the refurbishment of three residence halls for women students and the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university's operations.
- 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 help to shape the solutions.
- Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU's insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitos—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

The students, faculty, administrators and trustees of Africa University thank the members of the Arkansas Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain this ministry. Thank you, Arkansas United Methodists, for all that you have sown into Africa Uni-

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versity over the past 27 years. As Africa University and the Arkansas Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God’s unending grace for the increase.

Submitted by:

James H. Salley,

Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Africa University Development Office

jsalley@gbhem.org



BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

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.

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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

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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.

Blessings and gratitude,



Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean



Camp Tanako

Camp Tanako is a camp and retreat ministry of the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Tanako provides a sacred place, set apart from the world. Persons of all ages are welcome to come rest, play, and experience God in new and often profound ways. While campers are at Tanako, they get to practice the concepts that they have learned in their families and local congregations....things like love, forgiveness, prayer, worship, and thanksgiving.

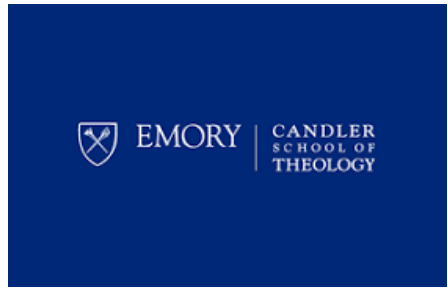
Campers are guided by young adult leaders who serve as mentors and foster community among their campers. Tanako is a place where life-long relationships are made. In this diverse community, campers recognize themselves and others as uniquely created in the image of God through affirmations of gifts and experiences that help them grow into the places God is leading them. Our goal is for campers to go home wanting to make a difference by serving others and working to recreate the community they experienced at camp, and to go home empowered to be the love of Jesus Christ to their neighbors.

In 2018, Camp Tanako received 1200 registrations for our overnight and day camp programs. Campers in both programs came together in community to practice living in Christian community while learning that God's love and creation are Beyond Belief. Campers came from 99 local churches across the ARUMC, 12 non-UMC congregations, and many campers listed no church affiliation. Camp Tanako hosted approximately 720 persons for retreat experiences for children, youth and adults in 2018. Retreat guest groups included, Noahs of Ark Walk to Emmaus, United Methodist Family Health, Western District AME Sunday School Convention, Confirmation Camp, Southwest District Bible Boot Camp , and many youth retreats.

Camp Tanako's board of trustees and leadership want to thank the many churches and individuals that support this extension ministry of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Kim Carter,

Camp Director



Candler School of Theology

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.

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

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

Jan Love,

Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

DREW

DREW UNIVERSITY / MADISON NJ

Drew University Theological School

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

Javier A. Viera,

Vice Provost - Dean of the Theological School

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Gammon Theological Seminary

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

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

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

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

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

Grace and Peace,

Ken J. Walden, Ph.D.,

President-Dean

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HENDRIX COLLEGE

Hendrix College

"In religious and vocational programs combined service learning Hendrix continues to develop clergy and lay leaders for faithful service inside the church and beyond...by helping students find meaningful vocations connected to who they are and how they want to serve in the world."

*Hendrix College Statement on Church Relatedness,
adopted by the faculty and board of trustees in Spring 2017*

More than one hundred and thirty years ago, Methodists in Arkansas had a vision for a quality institution of higher education that would both challenge the minds of college students and instill the virtues of faith. Hendrix College's reputation continues to be recognized nationally for innovation and excellence, and for producing well rounded students who make a difference in the church and in the world. In recognition of our heritage as an Arkansas institution, the College financially supports students through the Arkansas Advantage Scholarship. Hendrix has also formed strategic partnerships with several schools and organizations, including KIPP Delta & KIPP Blytheville, Little Rock Central High, Mount St. Mary Academy, Little Rock Catholic High for Boys, Episcopal Collegiate School, Pulaski Academy, Arkansas Commitment, and League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), to better reflect the diversity of the state. Hendrix College is proud of its roots in Methodism and continues to strengthen that relationship by providing a robust religious life program, resources for students discerning a call to ordained or professional ministry, and service opportunities for students to engage the world as they continue to be nurtured in faith.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with laity and clergy in many churches across the annual conference while feasting on some fine Arkansas barbecue. Over the past five years, the Hendrix BBQ Tour has visited United Methodist Churches in 26 counties. What a warm welcome I have received in meeting many of you, and I look forward to more events in the future with more counties to visit and more smoked meat to sample.

Ministry Exploration

In 2018, the **Center for Calling and Christian Leadership** became a new program through the Office of the Chaplain and the Miller Center made possible through a grant awarded from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. Through identifying gifts or pastoral and lay leadership from age 12 through early career, the Center will be a place that provides programming to identify, enlist, and recruit youth and young adults that deepens a sense of God's purpose in their lives. From the theological understanding that all Christians are called to ministry at their baptisms, the Center will commit to helping young leaders identify which role of ministry best fits their sense of personal identity, their passions for making disciples and creating social change, and their natural proclivities and growing edges. Through shadowing,

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worship leadership, orientation to ministry, spiritual formation, peer support, internships, and service learning, the staff of the Center will mentor young persons from the beginnings of that call until brought to completion in leadership in the church.

Center Programming includes:

- Young Methodist Leaders Launch, for youth ages 12-13 years of age
Hendrix Youth Institute, for high school juniors and seniors (supported by the Lilly Endowment)
- Peer Ministry Exploration Group for college students across the state
- Seminary Visits & UM Ministry Exploration events for college students
- Intentional Internships in churches and connectional ministries
- The Institute for Clergy and Civic Engagement for clergy 5-10 years out of seminary (supported by the Lilly Endowment)

2018 Ministry Exploration Programming:

- Since 2004, 55 Hendrix graduates have enrolled in seminary with 70% of these students attending UM seminaries.
- Seven recent Hendrix alumni are currently in seminary.
- In the next two years, we anticipate an additional 10 Hendrix graduates will enroll in seminary.
- Ten students who are discerning ministry meet each week in the Hendrix Exploring Ministry Together (EMT), a program through the Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics and Calling
- Through the Center’s emphasis on seminary visits, 15 Arkansas college students went on seminary visits to Boston University, Garrett-Evangelical, and Perkins School of Theology.
- On the Arkansas Exploring Ministry mission trip, eight college students went to Epworth by the Sea for volunteer work and vocational exploration.
- With funding from the Center, 10 students from Hendrix and UCA attended a Ministry Exploration retreat with an Orientation to Ministry event in November 2018.

Memorandum of Understanding with Perkins School of Theology

On March 1, 2018, Hendrix College signed a MOU with Perkins School of Theology that deepened the natural relationship between Hendrix as a church-related college and a United Methodist seminary. The MOU asks both institutions to make yearly visits, develop visiting faculty opportunities, and provide a list of Hendrix prospective students in the summer prior to graduation. Perkins also agreed that Hendrix students would receive priority in the application process as well as advance standing in terms of coursework requirements.

Religious Life

- The UMYF Leadership Scholarship Program is completing its 24th year. Currently 35 students participate who will eventually join over 165 alumni from the program.
- More than 425 UM churches in all five districts have had Hendrix students as-

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- sist with worship services in the past 24 years. 1
- More than 150 students participate in weekly programming enhanced by 2
funding from the Miller Center including weekly worship and communion, small 3
groups for discipleship, Monday and Thursday fellowship dinners, and Bonhoeffer 4
House, an intentional Christian community that lives in one of the residence 5
halls on campus. 6
- This year, 40 students applied for two planned Miller Center Service Trips to 7
Rwanda and New York City. 8

Church Relations

- United Methodist groups that the College hosts for no rental fee include the 11
Arkansas Conference Course of Study, Arkansas United Methodist Conference 12
Historical Society, Board of Higher Education & Ministry, and local UM church staff 13
meetings. 14
- The College also dedicates a display case in the Student Life and Technology 15
Building to Methodist artifacts to remind the students, faculty, and staff of 16
the historic connection. 17
- In 2018, Hendrix hosted the Jr. and Sr. High Assemblies for the Conference 18
Youth and the Order of Elders annual retreat. 19

Continuing Education

- This year on campus, the College hosted the Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie, profes- 22
sor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, for the John and Marjem Gill 23
Preaching Workshop. Next year, we will host Dr. Gregory Ellison, Associate Pro- 24
fessor of Pastoral Care and Counseling and founder of the Fearless Dialogues 25
Project. He will teach a course on “Pastor as Prophet.” 26

Funding Received from Outside Sources for Religious Life and Ministry Support

- An endowed gift from the John Workman family for a summer internship 29
in churches, nonprofits, or journalism. 30
- An endowed gift from the Wilder family to establish an internship in churches 31
and non-profit agencies. 32
- Grants from the Lilly Endowment (listed above) for United Methodist 33
youth who are discerning a call to ministry and clergy who are 5-10 34
years out of seminary. 35
- A gift from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas to create the Center 36
for Calling and Christian Leadership. 37

Financial Aid/Enrollment

- For the 2018 calendar year, the College received \$167,318.84 from the Arkansas 42
Conference of the United Methodist Church, with 100% of the church appor- 43
tionment going toward student scholarships. 44
- Annually, the College provides more than \$4.6 million in financial assis- 45
tance to United Methodist students. 46
- Of the \$4.6 million, the College annually provides more than \$250,000 directly 47
to three specific groups of Methodist students: 1) UMYF Leadership Scholars, 2) 48
UM clergy dependents at a one-half tuition discount, and 3) UM students who 49
are candidates for ordained ministry. 50

- Annually, the College provides financially for the Office of the Chaplain for religious life programming.
- The College sponsored a UMYF Prospective Student Day for the eighth consecutive year.
- For the past few years, Hendrix has enrolled an average of 670 Arkansas students each year. The number of students from Arkansas has increased over the past few years.
- In the fall of 2014, the College launched the Arkansas Advantage Scholarship, which guarantees to meet all of the demonstrated financial need of qualified Arkansas students.

Hendrix College remains committed to ensuring that all qualified students have access to a Hendrix education, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. The amount of money needed to fund scholarships and financial aid for our students continues to increase each year. This year, Hendrix is providing more than \$37.2 million in student scholarships and financial aid. Our budget for student financial assistance has doubled in the past four years in response to the growing need of students and their families for assistance with financing a college education.

The relationship between Methodists and higher education is rooted in the historical teachings of John Wesley. Hendrix College cherishes its relationship with the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church and the opportunity to fulfill Wesley's vision to bring together intellectual curiosity, spiritual formation, knowledge, and vital piety.

Our shared history has shaped many of the values that we celebrate as an institution today, including the ideals in our Statement of Purpose and our Statement on Diversity, which affirm our belief that "participating in a dynamically inclusive community provides a framework for successful leadership and engaged citizenship in the 21st century."

We are grateful for the many ways in which the United Methodist Churches of Arkansas support Hendrix. Your apportionment gifts go directly to students to provide financial assistance that ensures access to our strong academic programs, the Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics, and Calling, a wide range of religious life and spiritual formation opportunities, and the UMYF Leadership Scholars Program. Thank you for your continued support of Hendrix.



William M. Tsutsui,
President and Professor of History

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Lydia Patterson Institute

As the only institution related to the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, it is my great honor to render this report to members of your conference. Lydia Patterson Institute prides itself in being the only institution of the United Methodist Church that sits right between three states bordering two countries and serving predominately Hispanics.

In 1913, when Lydia Patterson opened its doors to immigrants looking for a safe place for their families who settled in South El Paso, Mrs. Patterson would not know that more than 100 years later, La Lydia would still be serving in a like manner, but to a much larger degree. Today, students are sheltered from violence, drug wars, and economic distress with the most effective weapon, a superior education. Every year, hundreds of young men and women are led to higher education to change their lives and transform the world.

Lydia Patterson sits amidst the challenges of our times including immigration, walls and fences, and related border issues. Throughout the past century, Lydia Patterson has been that bridge which unites the two countries and brings hope to those in need. No walls or bridges have ever existed for La Lydia nor will they ever. As the church struggles with critical issues, Lydia Patterson remains that bridge among the denomination that honors the name of United Methodist Church.

This year has been one more year of dealing with the aforementioned challenges, but its mission moves forward and is stronger than ever. Students are getting an excellent education with the latest state-of-the-art technology, thanks to those of you who have supported and shared your resources in our Capital Campaign. Classrooms have been renovated with the latest computer and science labs. With the new changes, La Lydia has moved up to a level of competition with any other school and beyond. Students compete in Robotics, Chemistry Olympiad, Rotary Interact, Ethics Debate, STEAM, Chess, Mini Lyons Tech and many other academic activities. As a result, their academic scores are higher than ever. We have pride in that our students are well prepared and are all moving on to higher education.

Education is the means for achieving professionalism, but core values complete the whole body for spiritual and socio-economic success. Through our Student Lay Ministry Program, students are serving churches throughout the jurisdiction and beyond. Many are following their call to ordained ministry. This is Lydia Patterson Institute's mission—to prepare bilingual leaders for our society and form Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As I write, we are preparing to celebrate the designation of Lydia Patterson Institute as a Historical Site by the General Commission on Archives and History. This is a very deserving honor for over 100 years of service. Thank you for being a part of this God-given ministry.

Socorro da Anda, President

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Memphis Theological Seminary

For nearly four decades, Memphis Theological Seminary has been a leading institution in the Mid-South for producing graduates who are commissioned as elders or deacons in The United Methodist Church. MTS also has the largest Master of Arts in Youth Ministry program in the country. The majority of the students enrolled in that program are UMC. United Methodist students continue to be the largest denomination represented at our school and approximately 50% of our full-time faculty are from a Pan-Methodist tradition.

It has been an eventful and exciting year at the Seminary. In August 2018, Rev. Dr. Susan Parker became the Interim President. Dr. Parker, who is ordained in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, served in two elected offices for the state of Alabama, Stated Auditor and Public Service Commissioner. She also worked as the Vice President for Advancement for Athens State University. Dr. Parker replaced Dr. Jay Earheart-Brown, who left the Seminary in July to become the lead pastor at Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Bartlett, Tennessee.

Thanks to a generous donation by Mrs. Barbara Hamilton and her late husband, Dr. Ralph Hamilton, MTS is in the process of expanding and renovating the existing chapel. Her gift to the Seminary is also helping endow the Methodist House of Studies Chair. The Seminary family is very grateful to the Hamiltons and all the other supporters who have made this possible.

With the help of a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment's Thriving in Ministry program, the Center for Faith and Imagination at MTS was launched in August 2018, and will offer a variety of resources and opportunities to help faith leaders live and lead with vitality and imagination. Martha Lyle Ford and Billy Vaughan are co-directors of the Center, with Martha Park serving as Program Coordinator. At the end of April, CFI will hold its first leader training for leaders of both Formation for Ministry groups within the seminary and Faith Formation groups outside the seminary. By the fall of 2019, CFI's first five Faith Formation groups will begin meeting across the Mid-South

Wesleyan Studies continues to be a strength of the Seminary. Dr. Michael Turner, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Wesleyan Studies, teaches the required classes in UMC history, doctrine, and polity each academic year. Dr. Turner, along with his colleagues Dr. Lee Ramsey, Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield, and Rev. Billy Vaughan also offer a number of electives in the field of Wesleyan Studies. Students that take a minimum of five courses in Wesleyan studies electives have the opportunity to earn the *Certificate in Wesleyan Studies*.

One of the most dynamic programs at MTS is our Methodist House of Studies. It serves as a

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community within a community for students from Methodist backgrounds. Recent student gatherings have focused on topics that include General Conference 2019, rural ministry, and hospital chaplaincy. We also co-sponsored a lecture from the well-known UMC Civil Rights leader, Rev. James Lawson.

The MHOS has also been active in providing continuing education events for clergy and lay people. Recently, we led a workshop for local pastor in the Metro District of the Memphis Annual Conference. Dr. Turner regularly leads workshops on Wesleyan theology and heritage at congregations in the greater Memphis area. In partnership with the Turner Center for Church Leadership and the Center for Faith and Imagination, the Methodist House of Studies recently hosted three retreats called *At Table: United Methodists Seeking a Way Forward*. The goal of these retreats was to prepare United Methodist pastors and lay people for difficult conversations around human sexuality and the work of the Commission on a Way Forward in anticipation of the 2019 General Conference. At these retreats, we provided models for conversations that engage in difference without resorting to argument. Participants practiced engaging in these conversation models with the guidance of trained facilitators. As part of the work of these retreats, Dr. Turner gave presentations on the various ways that our Wesleyan theological heritage can serve as a guide to these types of conversation.

Looking toward the next academic year, the MHOS plans to offer retreats focusing on creating a shared vision among young people for the future of Methodism in the Mid-South, navigating conversations about divisive topics in church settings, and finding tools for spiritual and ecclesial renewal in our shared Wesleyan heritage

We are grateful for the support of the Arkansas Annual Conference and for the many fine students who have attended MTS from Arkansas over the years. We appreciate the confidence the Conference places in MTS for preparation of United Methodist women and men for Christian ministry, and we welcome your ongoing involvement and prayers for the Seminary. For ongoing information about the Methodist House of Studies, we invite you to visit us at www.MethodistHouse.org

Submitted by:

Michael K. Turner, Director of Methodist House of Studies

mturner@memphisseminary.edu

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Methodist Family Health

Since 1899, Methodist Family Health has helped rebuild the lives of Arkansas children who are abandoned, abused, neglected and dealing with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues. As we celebrate our 120th year of giving the best possible care to those who may need our help, we look to our future where the state’s children and families can find peace, stability and hope in their homes and communities.

The Methodist Family Health story begins in 1897 when the honorable George Thornburgh began a campaign to build a new home for the Methodist Orphanage. The Little Rock Conference appointed a committee that same year, which Thornburgh lead, to provide short-term care for orphaned children and help them find homes. Thornburgh also acted as superintendent of the home, tirelessly working for the orphanage and its children for the next 14 years.

In 1899, the Arkansas Methodist Orphanage was incorporated, officially as The Arkansas Methodist Orphanage of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in a two-story framed house on three lots at 15th and Commerce Streets in downtown Little Rock. The house, which was formerly the Women’s Industrial Home, was donated by Mrs. L.W. Tabor to serve as the orphanage. In 1902, the orphanage opens, and the first child in the home was Jessie Miller, who was brought in February of that year by Pastor F.E. Taylor of the McCrory Circuit of the White River Conference.

Eight years later, the second location of the Arkansas Methodist Orphanage opened at 16th and Elm Streets in Little Rock. Its mission was to seek homeless orphans, find loving homes for them and make it possible for families to adopt a child who would be a blessing to their home. George Thornburgh almost single-handedly raised more than \$20,000 (more than half a million dollars at today’s purchasing power) for the construction of the home, which was financially supported by church conference claims, Christmas offerings, memorials and the generous support of Little Rock’s church women. This home employed a full-time matron as well as a physician, and anywhere from 30 to 60 kids were in residence of the home at a time.

By 1925, the Arkansas Methodist Orphanage had placed 440 children in permanent homes, and in 1949, the home moved to an 84-acre area at 20th, 28th, Hayes (now University Avenue) and Fillmore Streets in what was then the westernmost edge of Little Rock. In 1952, the name changed to the Methodist Children’s Home, which is still in operation today and is the oldest campus within Methodist Family Health. In the years that followed, St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock held worship services in our chapel and established themselves as a church before moving to their permanent location in west Little Rock.

In 1970, Methodist Family Health established our first group home outside of Little Rock. The Magale Youth Home in Magnolia was followed by other group homes in our continuum of

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care, spanning from Arkadelphia, Fort Smith, Marked Tree and Searcy. As we moved into the last decade of the 20th century, Methodist Family Health became a certified Teaching-Family Sponsor site, more group homes were established in Batesville, Searcy, Fayetteville and Springdale; we became accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and we celebrated our 100th anniversary in 1999.

Today, Methodist Family Health serves thousands of children and families throughout Arkansas. We offer 24-hour, confidential, no-charge assessments for children and adolescents in crisis, accepting Medicaid and most private insurance. Methodist Family Health also is the only behavioral health care system in Arkansas to utilize the Teaching-Family Model, a highly-structured treatment approach proven to be effective with troubled children. The model uses positive, non-punitive interactions to encourage behavior change and achieve positive outcomes. Our complete breadth of services includes:

- **Methodist Behavioral Hospital** - a 60-bed hospital in Maumelle, which offers in-patient acute (short-term) care to children ages 3 to 17 and sub-acute (longer-term) care for children ages 6 to 11. If a child is a danger to himself, someone else or both, admission to the behavioral hospital can stabilize behavior so he can return home or to a less-restrictive environment.
- **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Centers** - for children ages 6-17, residential treatment centers offer 24-hour therapeutic, planned, group living in a learning environment. Treatment plans include individualized psychotherapeutic intervention for each child in a less restrictive environment allowing for normalization of a child's surroundings.
- **Therapeutic Group Homes** – provide a family-like setting in the child's community by teaching-parents who are both foster parents and trained treatment professionals. Children ages 12 to 18 in our group homes receive necessary emotional and behavioral treatment so they can develop trusting relationships
- **Emergency Shelter** – the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) can utilize the emergency shelter at Methodist Family Health in Little Rock for temporary placement of children ages 6 to 12. Staffed 24-hours a day by trained behavioral instructors, the emergency shelter is a safe and structured home for children in danger of abuse, neglect, abandonment and exploitation. Children in the emergency shelter attend public school and participate in group home activities such as creating menus for the week, grocery shopping, preparing meals, tidying their rooms, etc.
- **Day Treatment Programs** - according to the Arkansas Department of Education, school-based day treatment is the most intensive, nonresidential program that can be provided over an extended period. It permits students and families access to community-based mental health services in conjunction with and integrated into a student's educational program. Methodist Family Health's Day Treatment Programs bring together at one site, and in a coordinated manner, a broad range of services designed to strengthen individual and family functioning, and prevent students from requiring more restrictive services.
- **Outpatient, School- and Community-Based Counseling Clinics** – provides convenient, comprehensive assessment and treatment services for behavioral, emotional,

learning and adjustment issues. Includes holistic, trauma-informed, team approach to treatment, incorporates client and family participation, which is vital to the best outcome of treatment process, and resources include individual, family and group counseling; registered play therapists; grief and trauma specialists; psychologic testing including Autism Spectrum Disorders; medication consultation and management, board-certified psychiatrists and child psychiatrists; case management; behavior management planning and techniques; parent support and education; school-based counseling; and access to other outpatient, inpatient and residential treatment programs within Methodist Family Health.

- **Arkansas Centers for Addictions Research, Education and Services (Arkansas CARES)** – the only program Methodist Family Health offers to adults, Arkansas CARES is available to mothers of children up to 12 years old. Arkansas CARES is a prevention and treatment program for pregnant women and mothers who have a dual diagnosis of substance abuse and a mental health issue, and it provides an intensive, inpatient, three-month program to help mothers overcome addictions, become better parents and learn life skills. Those enrolled in the program can keep their children with them while they go through treatment.
- **Kaleidoscope Grief Center** - losing a loved one has a profound and lasting impact. The Kaleidoscope Grief Center serves grieving children, teens and their families and promotes healing through education, therapeutic and recreational services, support programs and counseling.

None of the services, resources and care we have provided throughout our 120 years of service were possible without the support of the United Methodists in Arkansas. Your prayers, service and financial contributions made it possible then and make it possible now for us to help children and families know peace and stability. As Methodist Family Health receives no apportioned funds from the Arkansas Conference, the support of United Methodist congregations and individuals within our state is crucial to our mission. The Arkansas Conference has designated Methodist Family Health as a “supported organization” of the conference and allows us to tell the story of Methodist Family Health and collect a special offering in churches each December, which helps us continue our mission throughout the year.

Here are some ways churches, small groups and individuals can make a positive difference in the lives of children and families in our communities:

- **Pray** for the children, families, staff, volunteers and leaders of Methodist Family Health.
- **Give** funds via text at 501-254-6048, online at MethodistFamily.org, over the phone at 501-906-4209 or through the mail at P.O. Box 56050, Little Rock, Arkansas 72215
- **Contribute** to Methodist Family Health through the annual Christmas Appeal and special offerings in December or by making an annual contribution.
- **Invite** Methodist Family Health to speak to your congregation, small group, Sunday School or church gathering. To arrange for a guest to visit your church, contact Denise Luft, church relations coordinator, at 501-960-4209 or dluft@methodistfamily.org.

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- **Participate** in our fundraising events, such as Southern Silks in May and Bright Night in August. Cathey Henry at chenry@methodistfamily.org or 501-906-4201 has details on both.
- **Volunteer** to help Methodist Family Health meet the needs of our clients throughout the state. For specific ways to help, contact Jamie Griffith at jgriffith@methodistfamily.org or call 501-906-4209.

Methodist Family Health is proud of our heritage of caring for Arkansas’s children and families and carrying on the tradition of service the United Methodists of Arkansas began in 1899. Our hope is that United Methodists across the state consider Methodist Family Health a valuable resource, partner in our ministry and consider us an extension of your church’s outreach to children and families right here in Arkansas.

Andy Altom

President & CEO

Methodist Family Health



At Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH), our mission is to collaborate with patients and their families to be the leader in providing high quality, cost-effective patient and family-centered care. Services are provided in a manner which supports the health ministries and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church to benefit the communities we serve.

MLH continues to make an impact on the health of the Mid-South, both inside and outside of hospital walls. Leading MLH in that effort is our President and Chief Executive Officer Michael Ugwueke, who is driving the organization to new heights, clinically, financially, and faithfully. As part of that work in 2018, Michael appointed Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley to be the new Senior Vice President of Faith and Health, which oversees all of our clinical chaplaincy work, Volunteer Services, the Employee Assistance Program and Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network, the Clergy Coaching Network, Clinical Pastoral Education, the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health, the Humanitarian Fund, United Methodist Annual Conference connections, and many other initiatives and projects. That body of work is already growing, as Dr. Mosley announced early in 2019 that the Faith and Health Division will be renamed the Office of Mission Integration, and Dr. Mosley will assume the title of Chief Mission Integration Officer. These new emphases for the division and its leadership represent an exciting innovation in all facets of MLH’s work, its clinical excellence, its community engagement, and its faith-based foundations. Mission Integration will offer guidance and direction for the integration of MLH’s mission, vision, values and guiding behaviors, especially from the perspective of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. Additionally, Mission Integration will ensure that the relationship with the United Methodist Church, and relevant social, ethical, and pastoral teachings, are understood and integrated appropriately and consistently across the entire system.

Last year, MLH celebrated its Centennial, having first opened its doors to patients in 1918. We recognized the Centennial in many ways, including with our first ever “MLH Sunday”! In honor of the 100 years since the United Methodist Church started a healthcare organization in Memphis, we joined congregations all throughout the area to worship, pray, and give thanks together, remembering all that God is doing through MLH. We are continuing that practice with MLH Sunday 2019, which we want to celebrate with you on Sunday, June 23, 2019, coinciding with our system’s birthday. We will also be visiting and speaking to congregations on other dates throughout the year. Additionally, our associates also connect with the UMC through connectional boards and agencies, campus ministry work at the UT Health Science Center, and through free health screenings that we offer throughout the year to conferences, congregations, and community events.

We also have pursued several grants to expand our work in the community, partnering with the Urban Child Institute, the Christian Community Foundation, CIGNA, the Tennessee Department of Health, and others. As a result, MLH launched “My Sister’s Keeper” in 2018 as a way of expanding the capacity of identified and designated black women leaders and increasing knowledge of accessible health services that positively impact health outcomes for black women in the Mid-South region.

MLH also established a partnership with BookNook Learning in 2018 in order to provide literacy education to 800 at-risk and underserved students in Shelby County, leveraging existing partnerships with local faith communities to implement the literacy program. One of the founding partner congregational sites for that program is Longstreet UMC in south Memphis, also a partner site for Project Transformation Tennessee. Further, understanding the important role of faith leaders in spiritual, mental, and physical health of our communities, MLH recently launched its first community-based Clinical Pastoral Education program for 13 pastors serving congregations in our most low-income communities.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of the three annual conferences who birthed us and continue to be vital partners. The healing ministry of Christ continues to be at our center.

Michael Ugwueke,

President and Chief Executive Officer



METHODIST VILLAGE
SENIOR LIVING

Methodist Village Senior Living

I. Our Mission

- a. Respect for age is central to the Bible’s teaching. Concern for aging persons is the cornerstone on which Methodist Village Senior Living has built its ministry. In accord with Christian teaching and in the tradition of Methodism, Method-

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| ist Village Senior Living recognizes the contribution that people of age have made to family and community. It holds in high esteem the wisdom and experience they bring to the present and does not forsake them in time of old age. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| II. Our Vision | 6 |
| a. To value excellence in ministry | 7 |
| b. To operate with compassion and concern for the beneficiaries of our services | 8 |
| c. To lead the way in providing services for the elderly | 9 |
| d. To improve and enhance the quality of life for older adults in Arkansas | 10 |
| III. Board of Directors | 11 |
| e. Officers | 12 |
| I. President: Phillip Bryant | 13 |
| II. Vice President: Charles Wohlford | 14 |
| III. Secretary: Ben Shipley | 15 |
| IV. Treasurer: George Moschner | 16 |
| f. Board of Directors | 17 |
| I. Bryant, Phillip | 18 |
| I. 8416 Mile Tree Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72903-4322 | 19 |
| II. Callaway, Dr. Michael | 20 |
| 6215 Euper Lane, Fort Smith, AR. 72903 | 21 |
| III. Coburn, Rev. Stephen | 22 |
| II. 3200 N Malinda Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703-4051 | 23 |
| IV. Cravens, Lori | 24 |
| III. 3507 S O St, Fort Smith, AR 72903-2922 | 25 |
| V. Susan Devero | 26 |
| IV. 7000 Chad Colley Blvd., Fort Smith, AR 72916 | 27 |
| VI. Dooly, Bryant | 28 |
| V. 1825 Hillcrest, Salina, KS 67401 | 29 |
| VII. Dunn, Anne | 30 |
| VI. 1600 Rannoch Trace, Fort Smith AR 72908 | 31 |
| VIII. Edwards, Bill | 32 |
| VII. 8913 Canterbury Cove, Fort Smith, AR 72903 | 33 |
| IX. Gaines, Sue | 34 |
| VIII. 1709 Valley View, Van Buren, AR 72956 | 35 |
| X. Kareus, Dr. John | 36 |
| IX. 7001 Ellsworth Road, Fort Smith, AR 72903 | 37 |
| XI. Moschner, George | 38 |
| X. 3201 Leighs Hollow Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72903 | 39 |
| XII. Prewitt, Dr. Taylor President | 40 |
| XI. 8311 Mile Tree, Fort Smith, AR 72903 | 41 |
| XIII. Shipley, Ben Secretary | 42 |
| XII. 3216 Cliff Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72903-5915 | 43 |
| XIV. Sudbrink, Rev. Janice | 44 |
| XIII. 3712 Pebble Court, Fort Smith, AR 72903 | 45 |
| XV. Tinsley, Dovie | 46 |
| XIV. 3117 South 95th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903 | 47 |
| XVI. Wohlford, Charles | 48 |
| XV. 64 Haven Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72901 | 49 |
| IV. Administrative staff | 50 |
| xvii. Chief Executive Officer, Melissa Curry | 51 |
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| xviii. | Care Center Administrator, Deanna Fears | 1 |
| xix. | Care Center, Director of Nursing, Millie Meyers, RN | 2 |
| xx. | Independent Living Manager, Pam Blocker | 3 |
| xxi. | Assisted Living/Alzheimer's Special Care Administrator, Candace Cox | 4 |
| xxii. | Assisted Living/Alzheimer's Special Care Director of Care, Mary Ann Harvell | 5 |
| xxiii. | Business Development Director, Carol Smith | 6 |
| V. | Goals and Accomplishments, 2018-2019 | 7 |
| xxiv. | Methodist Village Senior Living held ground-breaking ceremonies for its new 45-bed Assisted Living building on November 17, 2017. Opening April 2019, this facility will include 26 beds for assisted living and 19 for memory care. | 8 |
| xxv. | Methodist Village has a 501 (c) (3) charitable contribution account for the purpose of providing funds for this repositioning project. | 9 |
| xxvi. | The skilled care center continues to be recognized for excellent care. The daily census averages 130, which is approximately 95% capacity. | 10 |
| xxvii. | The skilled care center was one of three senior care facilities in Arkansas to be awarded a bonus for reducing hospital re-admissions within 30 days. | 11 |
| xxviii. | Utilization of the rehabilitation unit, which was remodeled in 2016 averages 25 to 30. | 12 |
| xxix. | Rev. Max Goins, a retired Methodist minister, has served as the facility chaplain since 2015. | 13 |
| xxx. | The care center continues to partner with two local Hospice providers as well as a Therapy provider to offer expanded services to its clients. | 14 |
| xxxi. | Methodist Village Senior Living continues to provide Medicare Part A and B therapy to its residents. | 15 |
| xxxii. | Methodist Village continues to provide low rent housing for senior adults through Methodist Village. | 16 |
| xxxiii. | Methodist Village Senior Living serves as a clinical rotation site for Arkansas Tech University as well as clinical site for Certified Nursing Assistant training classes. | 17 |
| xxxiv. | Methodist Village Senior Living started a Candy Striper program in November of 2018 and currently has 15 volunteers. | 18 |
| xxxv. | Bible Study opportunities for both residents and staff members are available on a weekly basis. | 19 |
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Methodist Village Senior Living

7425 Euper Lane

Fort Smith, AR 72903

www.methodistvillage.com



Mount Eagle Retreat Center

Greetings from Mount Eagle, a retreat center of the Arkansas Annual Conference located near Shirley, AR. It is here that approximately 1828 people came in 2018 to relax, renew, and be refreshed for ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. 1036 United Methodist users, 92 United Methodist groups, 31 other faith groups, 404 users, and 20 other non-profit groups, and 355 other users. Our mission is to provide Christian hospitality and opportunities for holy listening for all. The year-round programs here are focused on adults, youth, and families.

In 2018 we provided sacred space and time for reflection, quiet time with God, study, contemplation, fellowship, planning, hikes along the trails in the gorgeous Ozark Mountains, exploration of the beauty of the forest as it blooms in Spring, and fun activities as a group or family. A variety of groups: local church leadership retreats, Sunday school classes, youth groups, men's and women's groups, confirmation classes, Local Pastor Licensing School, conference events, quilting groups, scrapbooking, Emmaus Leadership Retreat, Kairos Training Retreats, family reunions, personnel retreats, pastoral retreat, women's retreats, and nature groups studying the great Ozark outdoors that God has created here on the mountain and along the river. People worshipped, walked the meditation trail and labyrinth, hiked to Bear Cave, Sunrise Point, Turkey Cave, visited Boat Chapel, and walked to the Little Red River, shared meals and fellowshiped together. Some just took that time to be alone with God and allow his voice to resonate in their whole being. Mission teams from Arkansas and Mississippi, NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service) from Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Iowa, and Louisiana volunteered their time and talents to provide service to Mount Eagle in 2018. Sozo Men's Recovery helped out cutting and splitting wood for all the fireplaces and fire pits. Many volunteers from area churches have also assisted us in 2018.

Thanks go out to all those that have provided service, whether financial or missional, to Mount Eagle in 2018. You have been a vital part of the ministry of Mount Eagle. If your church, or youth group are looking for projects, call us. We would love to talk with you about the possibilities of partnering for 2019. Everyone that contributes is providing valuable service and skills we might not ever have if not for your generosity of time and talents. In 2018 a total of 2,309 total hours were volunteered.

We received grants in 2018 from the Conference Camping and Retreat Ministry. Those were used for programming funds for our Men's Recovery Retreat and our retreat for The Call for foster parents of Cleburne, Stone, and Van Buren Counties of Arkansas.

40 men participated in the Men's Recovery Retreat and were blessed. They enjoyed fellowship, small group studies, guest speakers, exploring Mount Eagle, and great food. Men were here from Clinton, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, and Denard, AR as a part of this retreat. We also

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could not have done it without the help and loving support of Clinton First UMC and Holiday Hills UMC. Plans are already being made for the same retreat for 2019 and anticipating 60 men this year.

We enjoyed the opportunity to serve the people of The Call of Arkansas. The Call is a Christian foster parent organization that works with the Arkansas DCFS office to provide care for children who are placed in foster care in the state of Arkansas. The Call uses this time away to refresh and renew and to fellowship and support one another. They use some of this time in classes for continuing education credits needed each year. There is also time alone and together in individual prayer and corporate prayer, and time outside in God's amazing creation.

A recent change to Beal Lodge is the installation of DSL internet services through Artelco. We are hopeful that we can get it to Kaetzel Lodge soon.

We are thankful for the blessings of 2018 and look with anticipation for new opportunities in 2019. We will once again have our Pastor's Golf Retreat May 5-7 where we play at Tannunbaum and Mountain Ranch Golf Courses. Our annual fishing retreat date is still to be determined. Plans are also moving forward to have another Grief Support Training Retreat in the fall of 2019. Check out our website for events and dates at www.mounteagle.org.

We look forward to 2019 with our greatest partner, the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. "SEE YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN"

Respectfully submitted,

Mike "Sarge" Leonard

Executive Director



Ozark Mission Project

This year Ozark Mission Project (OMP) celebrates the 33rd year of its multifaceted purpose:

- **To enhance the daily lives of our neighbors and inspire hope** by attending to not only their physical needs such as house painting, wheelchair ramp construction, or yard work, but also by establishing a relationship with them through talking, praying, and sharing a noon meal and devotional with them. This benefits not only the Neigh-

bor, but the campers as well. This is where their young hearts become open to individuals and cultures that previously may have been unknown to them. God's presence is powerful in these moments and are what the campers want most to share when they return to camp and are asked, "Where did you see God today?"

- **To develop leadership skills** – OMP is proud of its heritage of training young adults to become leaders. This year we have hired 17 college-aged students who will lead our 13 camps along with the volunteer camp directors. The students put in incredibly long hours of preliminary training, then hit the ground running the week before camp starts. We feel that it is extremely important for the campers to see these leaders as role models for life, therefore emphasizing the importance of the behavior and the modeling of Christian values by the college staff. We are very proud of the fact that many of the Arkansas United Methodist clergy have roots in OMP, having received their call to ministry while or soon after working on college staff.
- **To establish lasting friendships and memories** – Nothing creates memories like working side by side with one's peers under extreme weather conditions or worshipping our God after a long day of work and fun. Friendships are established through OMP and often carried for life. A bond is created that is unlike any other.

Middle School and Senior High Camps – In 2018 OMP hosted 12 summer camps around the state of Arkansas. The areas served were Benton, Fayetteville, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Magnolia, Marianna, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Rogers, Texarkana, and West Memphis. This year we have added El Dorado and Malvern to the list.

OMP 101 – We are thrilled with the success of our program for elementary students who have completed the 4th and 5th grades. This is a day camp, held for 3 days at St. Paul UMC in Little Rock. At camp, they experience hands-on mission education to learn to be a good neighbor through a mission theme and concluding with worship each day. Their excitement begins to build for when they are old enough to participate in the middle school OMP summer camp experience. We now host 2 sessions of OMP 101 immediately following the conclusion of our regular middle school and senior high camp seasons.

College Winter Break Mission Trip – OMP has been partnering with Arkansas United Methodist Wesley Foundations and other colleges for several years to organize and carry out a mission trip during the students' winter break. This year's trip was to Port Arthur, TX, to help rebuild homes which had been destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. The students and other volunteers mainly hung sheet rock, installed doors, and laid new flooring in the homes.

OMP 2018 Statistics – We are proud to report that our 2018 numbers from all of our ministries combined were as follows:

- 889 Campers
- 140 Volunteers
- 580 Projects
- 267 Neighbors Served
- 27,666 Volunteer Hours

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We are always looking for church partners and volunteers for cooking, construction, music, worship, design, programming, and prayer teams. If you are interested in becoming a part of OMP, please visit our website at www.ozarkmissionproject.org or call 501-664-3232.

Bailey Faulkner,

Ozark Mission Project Executive Director



SMU PERKINS
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Perkins School of Theology

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Arkansas Annual Conference:

- Eight (8) students affiliated with the Arkansas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins, including: five Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students, one Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) student, one Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) student, and one Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) student.
- Two (2) Perkins Scholars from the Arkansas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins School of Theology.
- One (1) Perkins student has been placed as an intern within the Arkansas Annual Conference this year.
- Eligible 2018-2019 students from the Arkansas Annual Conference received a PACE grant up to the amount of \$8,000 with qualifying full-time students receiving an additional \$3,000 in need-based aid.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2018-19 academic year totals 318 students, including 33 enrolled in the Ph.D. program. Fall 2018 statistics reflect the following: 59% of our entire student population are United Methodist and more than 41 percent are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 45 percent male and 55 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Dallas.

Enrollment at Perkins for the Fall 2018 totaled 298 students, including 33 students enrolled in the Ph.D. program and with an additional 28 students enrolling in Spring 2019. Fall 2018 statistics reflect the following: 59.5 percent of our entire student population are United Methodist and more than 41 percent are ethnic minority students. Degree programs are comprised of 51 percent male and 49 percent female students.

In the midst of his third year as Dean and Professor of New Testament at Perkins School of Theology, Dr. Craig C. Hill, a number of his early initiatives are bearing fruit, including deeper and more fruitful relationships with feeder colleges, new co-curricular initiatives, revamped D.Min. and Houston-Galveston Programs, additional staffing in critical areas, and additional financial aid. Enrollment, giving, impact, and overall momentum continue to surge under his leadership with deep appreciation for those who make up and support the school.

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2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Fall 2018 admissions increased by 14.1 percent over the previous year with an incoming class of 89 students (including D.Min. but excluding Ph.D. students). Six new international students enrolled. An additional 28 students were added for the Spring 2019 semester. Over half of the entering class have average undergraduate GPA's above a 3.2.
- Perkins School of Theology is the recipient of a five-year, \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., for an initiative designed to strengthen congregational ministry with youth. Co-directors of the grant are the Rev. Bart Patton, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Education, and Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, Associate Dean, Office of External Programs.
- Perkins received a \$931,000 estate gift specifically designated for the upkeep and maintenance of Perkins Chapel which allows us to move ahead with the planned phase 2 remodeling. That gift underscores the importance of making estate plans, so that causes which are important during life can also be supported after death.
- The Office of Enrollment Management welcomed a number of new staff in 2018. Stephen Bagby is the new Director of Recruitment and Admission. He succeeds Herbert Coleman, who was appointed to a newly created position of Director of Retention and Student Success. Yazmin Elaine Strauss joined as Recruitment and Admissions Associate. Caleb Palmer and John Lowery serve as new Ministry Discernment Associates. Finally, the office added Jean Nixon in the new position of Financial Literacy Coordinator.
- The highly successful *Perkins Scholars* scholarship program, which each year adds to the financial aid of 10 outstanding M.Div. students, continues to attract excellent scholars. A total goal of \$630,000 in funding will provide for 10 additional scholarships for fall 2019. Next fall there will be a total of 30 Perkins Scholars in the student body. Combined with additional financial aid, this program provides nearly full scholarships for these highly skilled servant leaders.
- The Fall 2018 Convocation, drew clergy, laity and prospective students to the SMU campus Nov. 12-13, to explore worship through the lenses of social justice and reconciliation with internationally acclaimed author, theologian and pastor Brian McLaren and Chicago-based preacher, liturgist and activist Sandra Maria Van Opstal.
- The revised Perkins Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program, under the direction of program director Dr. James Lee welcomed a new cohort of 14 students in 2018.
- Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University has announced the appointment of [Hugo Magallanes](#) as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, effective June 2019. Currently, Magallanes serves as director of Perkins' Houston-Galveston Extension Program and is Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures. In his new role, he will manage the curriculum of academic programs, support faculty development and provide for academic advising to students.
- Judy Woodruff, anchor and managing editor of PBS NewsHour was the featured guest for the 2019 Bolin Family Public Life Personal Faith Scholarship Luncheon. Woodruff

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was interviewed by Peggy Wehmeyer, former religion correspondent for ABC World News Tonight, on the topic of personal faith in the public square.

- In an effort to deepen relationships between Perkins and undergraduate college and universities, new partnerships in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been launched in 2018. Formal agreements have been signed with historically United Methodist institutions including Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas; Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas; Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas; and Wylie College in Marshall, Texas. These are in addition to those previously noted: Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana; Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas; McMurry University in Abilene, Texas; Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas; and Presbyterian-related Austin College in Sherman, Texas. These MOUs establish a preferred pathway for graduates of the institutions interested in pursuing ministerial vocations at the graduate level, granting preferred consideration and early acceptance to Perkins School of Theology for students pursuing ministerial vocations. The agreement also states that the undergraduate institutions and Perkins will encourage new opportunities for future cooperation.
- The Perkins School of Theology Global Theological Education Program has launched a major program to create and distribute teaching and learning resources for Seminaries, Course of Study Schools, and other United Methodist educational institutions world-wide. We are drawing on resource scholars from Asia, Africa, and Latin America to create video-based class modules that can be incorporated into a variety of educational programs; from seminary and COSS courses to Sunday Schools and other training events. Our goal is to make the best of UM scholarship from around the globe available for a global church. With generous funding from the Woodworth Estates, In-Trust Foundation, and The Grimes Center, and Southern Methodist University we are working in cooperation with the GBHEM, the Endowment fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences, and members of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities to create an ongoing program to insure that United Methodists and others world-wide have access to the resources they need to offer a quality theological education.
- Anthony Elia has been named J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian and Director of Bridwell Library effective June 1. He succeeds retiring Director Robert Schaafsma, who served in that role since April 2007.
- Rev. Dr. William J. Abraham, Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies was the recipient of the 2018 SMU Faculty Career Achievement Award for his extensive work and dedication to Perkins and Southern Methodist University.
- Rev. Andrew Keck has been named Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Assistant to the Dean. In the newly created position, Keck will work closely with Dean Craig C. Hill to provide leadership and management for school-wide projects and priorities.
- Marcell Silva Steuernagel, an internationally acclaimed musician and scholar, is the new director of the Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M) Degree Program. Steuernagel succeeds Dr. C. Michael Hawn, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Church Music, who retired as director of the Master of Sacred Music Program in 2017.

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- In 2017, SMU launched a three-year current-use giving campaign called *Pony Power*, with a goal of raising \$150 million over three years for the University in current-use giving. The University’s goal for 2018-19 is \$45 million. Perkins’ goal for this fiscal year, which ends May 31, 2019, is \$2.5 million. Perkins donors are asked to consider making a three-year pledge to a current-use project at Perkins. The areas of greatest need are 1.) the SMU Fund for Perkins, which is used by Dean Hill at his discretion, and 2.) Perkins student financial aid.

Perkins School of Theology is committed to those *called to serve* so that they might be *empowered to lead*. We thank our many colleagues, friends and alumni/ae across the connection for generous their support, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

Grace and peace,

Craig C. Hill

Dean and Professor of New Testament



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students of Philander Smith College (PSC), I greet each of you as you gather for the 2019 Arkansas Annual Conference. I also wish to offer my sincerest appreciation for your consistent support in our quest “*to graduate academically accomplished students, grounded as advocates for social justice, determined to change the world for the better.*”

Introduction

At a time when the national narrative around Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) projects skepticism, imperilment and possibly extinction, Philander Smith College continues to show steady growth, faithful leadership, and a progressive outlook in moving the institution forward. To provide a frame for inspiration and motivation to encase the 2018-2019 Academic Year, the PSC Leadership Team adopted a mindful approach toward being ***Student-Centered and Mission-Focused*** in all our guided pathways.

Over the past four years of the ***Philander Forward Era***, we have been determined to dream wildly, set an ambitious agenda, and work to devise strategies in which to execute upon our vision. We have done so by being transparent, accountable, proximate, strategic, data-driven and action-oriented. As we look ahead into Year 5 of the ***Philander Forward Administration***, I am reminded of the need for us to continue to dream big and share our bold aspirations for Dear PSC. From advancing the HBCU Competitiveness Agenda to building and sustaining a strong senior leadership team at the College, there is an unquestionable need for us to plant

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intentional seeds that will inevitably grow to unveil the future.

Despite the negative rhetoric that swirls and makes waves, HBCUs unequivocally make America strong and positively impact the communities and the regions in which they serve. As we give preeminent attention to being **Student-Centered and Mission-Focused**, we seek to continually prove the notion of HBCU Competitiveness, which asserts that our institution is doing critical work in providing the best education to the next generation of leaders who are expected to make meaningful contributions to our society. With each scholarship dollar raised and each enrollment exception granted, I am assured that our mission is more important today than ever before.

While each day has not been easy, I am persistently encouraged by our community's deep belief in the declaration that "**With God, all things are possible!**"

As I continually draw inspiration from the demonstrated commitment of our village of supporters - including our Board of Trustees, the United Methodist Church, alumni, students, faculty and staff, and donors – I count it all joy to be appointed for service in this season of moving **Philander Forward!**

Priorities for United Methodist Conference Funding

Financial support from the United Methodist Church continues to positively impact the College's activities and programs offered through the Office of Religious Life and Campus Culture (ORLCC). The ORLCC offers a wide variety of programs and services to engage the entire PSC Community of Scholars, including students, faculty and staff. 2018 marked the third year of the College's Campus Culture Transformation Initiative (CCTI). In year three of this Initiative, the College continued to address toxic cultural elements, improving customer service, and advancing the College Community's full integration of the Seven Timeless Human Values (**Respect for Self; Respect for Others; Respect for Philander Smith College; Leadership; Scholarship; Spirituality; Service**). The Campus Culture Transformation Initiative also supports professional development, scholarships, and special programs focused on faith and justice.

Continuing its long-standing tradition, the Office of Religious Life and Campus Culture hosted the Annual Religious Emphasis Week (REW) as the College's week-long spiritual revival. This year's REW, themed **The Micah Mandate**, focused on justice, kindness and humility. Activities during the 2019 REW included a gospel concert, a special Christian Ministerial Alliance Social Justice Luncheon, the Annual Clergy Empowerment Luncheon, and a variety of special workshops to stimulate thinking on faith and justice. The week-long celebration concluded with its signature event, the **12th Annual Living Legends Banquet**. The 2019 Living Legends Banquet, which welcomed a sold-out audience, honored nine (9) outstanding individuals for their work and service in impacting the Greater Little Rock and Philander Smith College Communities.

1. Philander Smith College Campus Culture Transformative Initiative (CCTI)

Launched in 2016, the Philander Smith College Campus Culture Initiative seeks to address the College's culture by addressing the attitudes, decisions, practices, behaviors and standards of alumni, faculty, staff, administrators and students that, taken together, constitute the learning, living and working environment of Philander Smith College. The CCTI focuses on the following:

- Modeling Christ-Like Values and Principles

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- The Evolution of the Philander Man and the Philander Woman 1
- Creating a Servant Leadership and Discipleship Model 2
- The Urbanization of Spirituality in a 21st Century Liberal Arts Environment 3
- Developing a PSC Ambassadors Program 4

In 2018, the College continued its commitment to advancing the CCTI through intentional programs designed to address the College’s most urgent needs as it relates to the day-to-day community culture. During both the 2018 Fall Semester and 2019 Spring Semester Faculty and Staff Institutes, customer service training was a priority. Through this training, both faculty and staff engaged in intentional dialogue and reflective activities to identify challenges and address current needs as it relates to improving customer service at the College. Using the Seven Timeless Human Values and the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church as our guides, the College aspires to create a customer service culture that is professional, inviting, and reflective of the experience we desire for all who engage with members of the PSC Community of Scholars. 5

2. Scholarships for Students 6

Through this funding, PSC strives to create a diverse pool of scholarship opportunities that will not only be awarded to students based on academic merit and need, but also on “potential” for civic and community leadership and engagement, as well as the potential of one’s interest in entering the Christian Ministry. In the 2018-2019 Academic Year, the number of Christian Scholars enrolled in the S.T.A.R.T. Summer Bridge Program increased significantly, serving as a dedicated pipeline to engage students who are interested in further developing their spiritual gifts and expanding individual understanding of one’s vocation as ministry. 7

3. Ongoing Support of Religious Life Activities 8

- The Office of Religious Life 9
 - Salaries & Benefits 10
 - Weekly Chapel Services 11
 - Student Participation in United Methodist Church Conferences 12
 - Religious Emphasis Week Activities 13
 - Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 14
- Health Services / Community Outreach 15
 - Community Health Fairs 16
 - Domestic Violence Seminars 17
- Other 18
 - Dollars-for-Scholars Program 19
 - In-Kind Facility Usage 20
 - *Bless the Mic* Lecture Series 21
 - Baccalaureate Service 22

Philander FORWARD >>>Key Institutional Successes: 23

January 1, 2019 marked the commencement of the fifth year of my tenure as President and CEO of Philander Smith College. In the first four years, we have achieved several notable milestones, including a dramatic increase and stabilization of the College’s enrollment, expansion of the College’s academic offerings, the launching of several new initiatives and partnerships, and strengthening the College’s long-term financial stability. While there is still much work ahead, I am confident that the seeds we’ve planted thus far will yield a fruitful 24

harvest for generations to come. For more than 141 years, Philander Smith College has been home to opportunity, to access, and to achieving dreams. Today's Philander Smith is not very different from its early days as Walden Seminary. Philander Smith continues to believe in the students we serve, the communities the students represent, and the hopes and dreams of a generation recently freed from bondage.

This report represents our continued efforts in ***Moving Philander Forward***. We continue to dream big and reach new heights in realizing our bold vision. I am pleased to share the following "Points of Pride" related to our ***Forward Movement*** beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018:

- As the College continues its **commitment to spiritual development and meeting the spiritual needs of our students**, we are pleased to report new funding from the United Methodist Church to support an intern in the Office of Religious Life. This intern will engage in wide-ranging projects, including targeted programming and support for student ministry activities and campus-wide programs to increase opportunities for both formal and informal worship experiences.
- The **4th Annual President's Scholarship Gala** was a tremendous success. Through these efforts, the College raised more than \$550,000 in financial support that will be dedicated to student scholarships. This year's Gala also included the introduction of a Silent Auction as part of the evening's fundraising efforts.
- The Office of Religious Life and Campus Culture hosted the **Annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week** in the 2018 Fall Semester. During the week-long awareness program, the PSC Community of Scholars collected more than 100 Thanksgiving Baskets to support local families in the City of Little Rock during the Thanksgiving Holiday. In addition, more than 10,000 meals were packed through the **Pack Shack Program** to address food insecurity throughout the world.
- The **24th Annual Elijah Pitts Memorial Golf Tournament**, hosted at the Country Club of Arkansas in Maumelle, AR, served as host to 21 teams and raised more than \$30,000 in support for the College. Notable guests included Arkansas Razorbacks Head Men's Basketball Coach Mike Anderson and Former Razorback/NBA Veteran Lee Mayberry. A host of PSC faculty, staff, alumni and community supporters also joined to make the Tournament a successful event.
- Focusing on our goal of returning Philander Smith College to **national prominence and international acclaim**, we are pleased to report that PSC Scholars Peter Joseph and Michael Smith were selected for international study abroad in Peru and India, respectively. Also, PSC Scholar Klaudette Spencer was selected for a coveted internship in the United States Senate Congressional Internship Program. Working in U.S. Senator Kamala Harris' Washington, D.C. Office, Klaudette will engage in the experience of a lifetime while garnering new attention and support for Philander Smith College.
- The College expanded its 'South Campus' footprint, as six additional units were added to **Panther Village at South Campus** to accommodate the recent enrollment growth. Serving as primary housing for students enrolled in the College's McKinley Newton Honors Academy, Panther Village at South Campus provides a much-needed temporary solution to the College's housing shortage. Plans for a new, 250-bed residential facility on the Main Campus are currently being reviewed by the Board of Trustees.
- Philander Smith College is pleased to share news of a formal **Memorandum**

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| of Understanding between the College and the William H. Bowen School of Law to admit PSC graduates who meet the School's LSAT and grade-point-average requirements. Students admitted to the School will also be eligible for scholarship funds through a new program established to support under-served populations. | 1 |
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| • Through a dedicated grant under the Project Success Initiative launched by Great Lakes, PSC established an Emergency Aid Program to respond to the financial needs for students related to eligible emergency situations. In the first year of the Program, PSC awarded more than \$80,000, which covered emergencies related to risks for homelessness, food insecurity, vehicle repairs, utility payments, clothing, and transportation needs. | 5 |
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| • The College's Paid Internship Program , which was designed and implemented by the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Manage (SAEM) and is funded through a dedicated grant sponsored under the Project Success Initiative through Great Lakes, continues to have wide-ranging impacts. In the 2018 Fall Semester, the College recorded a total of seventeen (17) paid internships, resulting in more than \$57,000 earned by students through the Program. Internships opportunities included placements in health and wellness fields, education, social services, banking and finance, as well as emerging careers in Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering (STEM). | 12 |
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| • The National Park Service awarded Philander Smith College a historic preservation grant in the amount of \$304,258 in support of the College's efforts to restore the James Monroe Cox Administration Building. Funds will be used to continue with Phase II of the Cox Building's Renovation Project, which will include restoration of the upper level of the Building. | 21 |
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| • Philander Smith College's Social Justice Institute hosted the inaugural Justice-Con Social Justice Conference in June 2018. JusticeCon 2018, which served as host to over 150 students, faculty, staff, and community members, was a key activity in implementing the <i>Think Justice 2.0: A Global Perspective</i> Blueprint approved by the SJ Steering Committee. | 27 |
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| • The Philander Smith College Workforce Innovation and Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (WISE-P3) Initiative was awarded its continuation grant from the State of Arkansas in the amount of \$474,384. The grant will allow the College to continue its impact on training individuals to address workforce shortages throughout the State of Arkansas. | 32 |
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| • The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services awarded Philander Smith College a \$250,000 grant to support scholarships for students in the Nursing Program . This partnership will provide funding to enhance the recruitment efforts for prospective students as we seek to address critical shortages in Nursing as well as Allied and Public Health professions in Central Arkansas and beyond. | 38 |
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| • The College was pleased to launch the inaugural edition of the Dr. Joycelyn Elders Distinguished Lecture Series in 2018. The inaugural speaker, Dr. James Hildreth, is President and CEO of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as a nationally renowned researcher. The Elders Lecture Series will focus on topics to address minority health issues and challenges related to equitable healthcare access for minority populations. | 43 |
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| • The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas committed to providing a Capacity Building Grant in support of the College's fundraising efforts. Through this partnership, the College's staff in the Office of Institutional Advancement will participate in a series of training and learning events to advance the College's ability to develop and executive a strategic planned giving campaign. | 50 |
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Conclusion

In reflecting on the College’s journey over the past four years, I consider us blessed beyond measure. Our work has been guided by a true spirit of collaboration, a sense of patient and deliberate planning, and a deep belief in the future of Philander Smith College. While there is still much ahead for us to tackle, a review of our progress thus far reveals the fruits of our collective labor. In January 2015, we vowed to **Move Philander Forward**. Four years later, we confidently embrace each success and every challenge we’ve experienced – knowing that each has shaped our present day reality.

The United Methodist Church’s continued support is inextricably linked to the strength of the College and to its success. The successes articulated throughout this document are a direct result of our collective faith and our commitment to the belief that there are still many generations to be served at Philander Smith College. In the heights of divisiveness and discord in our country and the world, Philander Smith College stands more committed than ever to promote an inclusive and aggressive agenda that embraces a Community of Scholars where all persons are valued. We remained committed to returning Philander Smith College to its rightful place as a local community leader, a regional center for social justice, and an internationally-acclaimed center of excellence for higher education. Our collective efforts and dedication to this wonderful ministry will certainly provide all that we need to reach our goals. It is my hope that you, too, will join me in celebrating our progress and renewing ourselves to a vision and mission that will set Philander Smith on a course for a brighter and more purposeful future. Together, we are **Philander Forward**.

Submitted by:
Roderick L. Smothers, Sr., Ph.D.
President and CEO



Saint Paul School of Theology

Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with campuses in Kansas and Oklahoma. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the seminary enrolled 99 students in master and doctoral degree programs.

Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2018-2019 academic year moving its Kansas staff and faculty offices to the Kansas Campus where classes are held. This move was the final step in the process of renovating classrooms with larger spaces as well as bringing Kansas faculty, staff, and students together. A new Common Room equipped with refrigerator, microwave, and snacks was added to give students a place to gather for community meals, student forums, and study. Enhanced technology upgrades were made on both campuses with

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the launch of the new FLEX schedule and FOCUS week. We received a \$5,000 grant from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation to support our technology program for students. In an ever-increasing digital world, Saint Paul is constantly working to reach beyond its walls.

A new Doctor of Ministry (DMin) focus, Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled Times, was announced with courses beginning Fall 2019. The new DMin focus is offered in partnership with Church of the Resurrection, Gamaliel Network, and the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity. Students can take a mixture of online and hybrid (blended online and on-campus) courses to complete the required curriculum.

This year marks the celebration of over 10 years in Oklahoma. Since 2008, Saint Paul has prepared Oklahoma- area leaders for ministries that meet the needs of today's churches and society. In collaboration with Oklahoma City University, students enjoy access to all the resources of a vibrant university, as well as the hospitality and support of a close-knit seminary community.

For Fall 2019, The Oklahoma Foundation, in partnership with Saint Paul School of Theology, is offering a three- year scholarship to educate future church leaders. An Oklahoma Foundation Fellow will receive 3 years of full- tuition and fees (covering 79 credit hours toward the Master of Divinity degree). Foundation Fellows will learn multiple ministry skills in areas such as worship, pastoral care, evangelism, and discipleship.

Saint Paul's faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. Dr. Elaine Robinson, Professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology, worked along with co-editor Amos Nascimento to solicit chapters from United Methodist scholars around the globe who could present an indigenous account of the history of Methodism in their own context. These authors include: Fulgence Nyengele (Congo), Julio Vilanculos (Mozambique), Ulrike Schuler (Western Europe), Sergei Nikolaev (Russia), and Luther Oconer (Philippines). The manuscript is now finished and in the process of being published by GBHEM's Foundry Books under the title, *Global United Methodism: Telling the Stories, Living the Realities*.

Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology and Director of Contextual Education, wrote the lead article in the recently published book, *Schleiermacher and Sustainability: A Theology for Ecological Living*. As part of the Columbia Series in Reformed Theology, each chapter deals with a particular locus in Schleiermacher's systematic theology, focusing on its implications for sustainable living. Saint Paul's 2018-2019 Lecture Series boasted several exciting key note speakers from across the United States to speak on a myriad of topics such as "10 Steps on the Path of Moral Leadership" and "Speaking of Jesus: Early Methodist Principles for Bearing Witness to the Christian Story in a Multi-Religious World". In October, Dr. Luke Bretherton of Duke University was the speaker for the Wayne E. Drake Peace Lecture. In February, the Foundation for Evangelism sponsored Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson of Claremont School of Theology to present this year's Wallace Chappell Lecture. In March, Rev. Dr. David Gushee of Mercer University was the keynote speaker for the Slater-Wilson Lectureship on Spiritual and Intellectual Life.

For 2018, Saint Paul received a grant from Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita, KS that allowed 20 people to experience KLC programs. Several faculty, staff, and alumni were able to practice KLC's approach to leadership. Those participants have reported being enriched and inspired by the program. For 2019, Saint Paul received 40 slots for community leaders to attend KLC programs.

Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 299 students in Leawood, KS; Hays, KS; Oklahoma City, OK; Columbia, MO; and Springfield, MO. Saint Paul launched a part-time, accelerated COS satellite program in Columbia, MO this year. Comprised of 9 courses in practi-

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cal theology, this COS option is designed specifically for part-time local pastors or certified lay ministers entering ministry following completion of the Missouri Conference Licensing School. Like any other COS Satellite, the Columbia satellite is a pilot and collaborative program of Saint Paul Course of Study Regional School in collaboration with the Missouri Conference. Since September 2018, COS has offered two courses and enrolled and registered 23 students in the satellite program.

Saint Paul School of Theology is pleased to report that the Higher Learning Commission has changed the seminary's status from "Accredited - Probation" to "Accredited". For 60 years, Saint Paul has supplied excellence in theological education and our previous challenges have inspired us to strive beyond excellence. We are excited about our future and furthering the mission of Saint Paul.

President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

Kansas Campus
13720 Roe Avenue, Building C
Leawood, KS 66224

Oklahoma Campus
2501 North Blackwelder
Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

www.spst.edu Facebook: www.facebook.com/spst.edu Twitter: www.twitter.com/spst

Instagram: www.instagram.com/saintpaulks_ok/

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/school/saint-paul-school-of-theology



Southern Methodist University

In 1911, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded Southern Methodist University as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning committed to the enduring values of academic freedom and open inquiry. In continuing partnership with The United Methodist Church, SMU welcomes students of all faiths and serves as a powerful catalyst for addressing the world's most urgent challenges in new and innovative ways. Now entering our second century, we are committed to shaping world changers – for today and tomorrow.

SMU Update

Students, Faculty and Staff

Fall 2018 enrollment, totaling 11,649, included 6,479 undergraduates and 5,170 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 28 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,596 (approximately 14 percent of total enrollment) represented 83 foreign countries. Our impressive Class of 2022 was chosen from a pool of nearly 14,000 applicants, and it's the most academically qualified in our history. With 1,530 students, the class's average

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ACT score is 30.4, representing the top 6 percent of all students who take the test. The average SAT score is 1363, an increase from last year. SMU employs 2,830 faculty and staff, including 2,394 full time and 436 part time/adjunct.

Rankings

For the third consecutive year, SMU was ranked in the top 20 percent of best national universities by *U.S. News and World Report* and in the top 10 percent of U.S. universities by *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*. In the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* listings, released September 2018, SMU is ranked No. 59 among the nation's top universities – representing a two-point rise from No. 61 in 2017. SMU saw key improvements in the peer assessment score, the rating of academic reputation by college admission deans, provosts and presidents, as well as in the high school counselor assessment score. In addition, SMU ranked No. 31 for best national universities for veterans. Several individual schools and academic programs also earned elevated national rankings.

- Dedman School of Law is ranked No. 50 among 194 accredited law schools, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. In addition, the law school is ranked 18th in the U.S. for Employment Rate 10 months after graduation.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked SMU's Simmons School of Education among the 100 best graduate education schools and Lyle School of Engineering among the 100 best undergraduate and graduate engineering programs.
- For the second year in a row, SMU Guildhall has been ranked first in the world for graduate game design and development, topping The Princeton Review's 2018 annual list of the 25 best graduate game design programs
- *The Hollywood Reporter* ranked SMU Meadows among the top 25 schools internationally for an M.F.A. in acting.

SMU placed in *Forbes'* 2018 Best Value Colleges ranking of only 300 schools nationwide that are worth the investment, based on net price, net debt, school quality, alumni earnings, timely graduation and population of Pell Grant recipients.

Funding

In FY 2018, SMU received \$26.6 million in external funding for research in the U.S. and world-wide, representing a 21 percent increase over the previous year. Current research subjects cover a wide spectrum of disciplines, including the search for dark matter, drone communications, antimicrobial resistance, data analytics, broadening the math teacher pipeline, improving algebra instruction, understanding the impact of genetic diversity on the health of marsh ecosystems, immigration, cancer treatments, recognizing joy in the face of depression, and exploring the connection between brain function and asthma. Regarding private fundraising, we finished FY 2018 strong, as well. In total, we raised \$111 million for capital priorities and current operations.

2018 Highlights

Significant Gifts and Grants

Perkins School of Theology Received \$1 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment

In December, SMU received a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to Perkins School of Theology to fund a new initiative designed to help ministries rethink and reconfigure strategies to strengthen youth participation in their congregations. Entitled "Reboot: The Congregation as Youth Worker," the project will identify a cohort of 18 congregations without paid full-time youth workers within a 300-mile radius of Dallas. The program will help the selected

congregations assess the viability of youth ministries in their communities and introduce the innovative models for engaging youth.

Toyota USA Foundation Granted \$2 Million to Simmons School of Education for STEM Model School

The Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD), Toyota USA Foundation and SMU are collaborating to create an innovative model for STEM education for kindergarten through eighth-grade students in West Dallas. Toyota USA Foundation granted \$2 million to the Simmons School of Education and Human Development to develop a business-aligned curriculum, provide professional development for teachers, and coordinate with nonprofits implementing supportive community programming. The school will begin a phased opening with kindergarten to first grade and the addition of grades seven and eight in fall 2020.

Rich and Mary Templeton Gave \$5 Million to Establish Templeton Endowed Research Excellence Fund

Longtime SMU supporters Rich and Mary Templeton committed \$5 million for research at SMU's Lyle School of Engineering. Their generous gift provides a major boost to the University's externally sponsored research, which is critical to the University's global academic influence. Designed to provide the flexibility necessary to respond to the Lyle School's most pressing and important research needs, the Templeton Endowed Research Excellence Fund includes \$4 million for an endowment and \$1 million for operations. It covers a range of project essentials, including postdoctoral researchers, doctoral and graduate student stipends, equipment and supplies.

Center for Business Law and Leadership Named for Robert B. Rowling through \$4 Million Gift Consortium A \$4 million gift consortium created the Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law and Leadership in SMU's Dedman School of Law. The center will train the next generation of prominent legal and business leaders, and also influence national conversations surrounding business and corporate law. At the request of the anonymous lead donor of \$3 million, the new center is named in honor of Dallas businessman Robert B. Rowling, owner and chairman of TRT Holdings, Inc., which owns Omni Hotels and Resorts and Gold's Gym International. The Dedman Foundation is also providing support.

Hoblitzelle Foundation Committed \$1.25 Million to the Owen Arts Center Renovation

A \$34 million project to renovate and modernize existing spaces will add new space for the Division of Art, Art History and Creative Computation. The Hoblitzelle Foundation gift supports these capital enhancements, as well as the creation of welcoming reception areas, accessible entrances, updated classrooms and enhanced studio spaces to attract talented artists and their audiences.

NSF Granted \$1 Million to Discover New Algebra Solutions

SMU math researcher Candace Walkington has received a three-year \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop and test strategies to increase student engagement in algebra problem-solving. The grant also funds further development of ASSISTments, a powerful online tool that ties algebra skills to everyday interests. An associate professor at the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Walkington says her research will identify ways to enhance student interest in algebra and in STEM careers.

NIH Granted \$2.6 Million to Fund Collaborative Study of Cognitive Impairment in Older

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Asthma Patients

SMU psychologist Thomas Ritz and UT Southwestern Medical Center psychiatrist Sherwood Brown will lead a \$2.6 million study funded over four years by the National Institutes of Health to explore the apparent connection between asthma and diminished cognitive function in middle-to-late-age adults. The Dallas Asthma Brain and Cognition Study will build on the work Ritz and Brown have accomplished with a core group of researchers over a period of eight years as it explores relationships between inflammatory lung disease and brain function in older adults.

Program Highlights

“Sea Monsters Unearthed” Opened at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

In November, “Sea Monsters Unearthed” opened at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. This groundbreaking exhibition brought together an international team of researchers with more than 100 undergraduate SMU students representing diverse majors, including Myria Perez ’18, who is now working at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas. A longtime member of the SMU family, Louis Jacobs, professor *emeritus* of earth sciences in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, spearheaded this remarkable 13-year study of fossils off the west coast of Africa that had never been “unearthed.”

The Meadows School of the Arts Announced the Formation of SMU DataArts

In August, SMU announced the merger of the Meadows School’s National Center for Arts Research with DataArts, a respected Philadelphia-based data-analytics resource for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. The formation of SMU DataArts represents yet another major investment in big data and research with impact. SMU DataArts’ mission is to empower arts and cultural leaders with data insights to make better decisions, such as how to optimize tight marketing and management budgets. Thanks to the support of major national funders, such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, SMU DataArts offers these valuable tools at no cost to organizations in exchange for their data input.

SMU Team Shares \$3 Million XPRIZE for Development of Mobile App to Increase Adult Literacy

In 2018, SMU was named one of five finalists among 109 teams contending for the \$7 million Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE, sponsored by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. After a year of field testing, we learned in February 2019 that the SMU team tied for the Grand Prize – winning \$1.5 million – and also received an additional \$1 million Achievement Award for the most effective adult literacy app for English language learners. SMU’s Simmons School of Education and Human Development joined forces with SMU’s Guildhall and Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT) to form People ForWords, a dedicated app production team. Currently available on Android devices at no cost, the goal of the project is to transform the lives of low-literate adults nationwide.

Holly Jeffcoat Appointed Dean of SMU Libraries

Following an international search, Holly Jeffcoat assumed the role of dean of SMU Libraries on August 1, 2018. Jeffcoat, a proven leader in leveraging technology in instruction and library services, came to SMU from the University of Connecticut. As associate dean of UConn Library, Jeffcoat led core library operations that include access services, administration, marketing, development, facilities, finance, human resources, information technology and strategic planning. Prior to UConn, Jeffcoat held positions at the University of New Mexico College

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of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, as well as at the UNM Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center and the Charles Darwin Research Station in Galápagos, Ecuador. Jefcoat has published and presented on translational science support, use of virtual reality in education collection development and numerous scholarly communication topics.

Nazi Hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Receive 2018 Triumph of the Spirit Award

In November, world-renowned Nazi hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld visited SMU and were honored by the Embrey Human Rights Program in SMU Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences with the 2018 Triumph of the Spirit Award. As dedicated docents of the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance, they received the award for their tireless efforts to educate our world about the history of the Holocaust, as well as for advancing human rights to fight prejudice, hatred and indifference. At the ages of 79 and 82, Beate and Serge Klarsfeld have earned prestigious international awards for their activism, such as the French Legion of Honor and German Federal Order of Merit, but they paid the price – with beatings, prison time and attempts on their lives. They describe their experiences in the memoir *Hunting the Truth: Memoirs of Beate and Serge Klarsfeld*, published in English in March 2018. While on campus, they met with human rights students in a special seminar class.

Empowering Cultural Intelligence (CIQ) as a Core Value

SMU is leading the way for other universities nationwide in the realm of cultural intelligence. CIQ is a revolutionary approach in higher education to ensure that every member of the SMU community is equipped with the skills and the knowledge to manage and communicate effectively in complex cultural contexts. “If you are going to be a world changer, you need to know how to talk to the world,” says Maria Dixon Hall, senior advisor to the Provost for Campus Cultural Initiatives and associate professor of Corporate Communication and Public Affairs. Changing the world requires being able to learn, teach, mentor, collaborate, and work with people of a myriad of cultural identities, including race, ethnicity, political ideology, gender, sexual orientation and religion. The goal of CIQ is for SMU community members to move beyond appreciating diversity to being able to effectively and authentically communicate respectfully with anyone, anywhere.

SMU is a grateful member of the Methodist family, and we request your continued prayers and support as we endeavor to make a meaningful difference in the lives of all those we serve.

Warm regards,

R. Gerald Turner,

President

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United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas experienced significant changes during 2018. From the loss of President and CEO Jim Argue and the search to fill his leadership position to completing the move into a new facility, 2018 was a time of transition. Our staff and board of directors continue to fulfill our mission of creating and administering permanent charitable endowments to strengthen and expand the United Methodist ministry in Arkansas.

New Headquarters Named for James B. Argue, Jr.

The Board of Directors of The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas voted to name the new headquarters building in honor of the President who served the organization for more than 35 years. The James B. Argue, Jr. Stewardship Center was formally dedicated in early 2019.



The 10,000-square-foot building on Wellington Village Road in Little Rock houses offices for the Foundation staff and is also the home of the Lusk Training Center, named for John and Becki Lusk of El Dorado who made a \$1 million gift to fund the portion of the building that will be used for clergy and lay development and to enhance ministries in Arkansas Methodism.

CEO Search

After an extensive search by the Foundation Board of Directors, Rev. J. Wayne Clark, former Associate Vice President for Development and Dean of the Chapel at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas was named President and CEO. Clark began his new role in January 2019.

Assets Under Management

After a nine-year trend of consistent growth, UMFA assets under management decreased somewhat in 2018 due to the fourth quarter market downturn. At \$153.4 million, UMFA remains the sixth largest UM Foundation in the nation thanks to the generous spirit of Arkansas United Methodists.

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Grants

UMFA continued to make a dramatic impact on the United Methodist Church in Arkansas. Over \$1.1 million in grants were made at the discretion of the Foundation's board to high priority areas including leadership development, human welfare, and Conference institutions.

- We have now provided 36 scholarships to Arkansas students attending a United Methodist seminary. There are four more students currently attending seminaries, and we hope to approve four more scholarship recipients this spring.
- We made the final installment on our \$200,000 grant in support of the new student center at Philander Smith College.
- We made the final installment on our \$150,000 grant to Hendrix College to underwrite their new Welcome Center.
- A major contribution, \$21,000, has been made to provide certification and training for Youth Pastors and Directors of Youth in partnership with Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.
- UMFA's grant of \$83,000 enabled 100 clergy and lay leaders from the ARUMC to attend the Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.
- Through the UMC's Dollars for Scholars program, the Foundation provided fifty, \$1,000 scholarships to United Methodist students attending United Methodist colleges and universities.
- The Center for Calling and Christian Leadership continues to develop as it challenges and prepares young people for future leadership in the church. A significant grant of \$137,500 will bring talented and gifted lay and clergy leaders to our congregations.

Endowments Created by Local Churches and Individuals

An endowment is an investment fund where the principal amount invested remains intact, and the earned income is used according to the instructions created by the local church or donor. The income can be designated for a specific purpose or undesignated.

- A church in east Arkansas had a donor leave a gift to the church. The church has created an endowment fund at the Foundation. The income from the endowment will generate funds in perpetuity to the church providing yearly support for their children's ministry programs.
- The Foundation sends another church who has an endowment fund under management, a check every year to benefit their food pantry. Ensuring the church will always be able to help those in need in their local community.
- Another church receives interest from an endowment that allows them to award yearly college scholarships.
- A wife created an endowment with the Foundation upon the death of her husband to benefit their local church's mission ministry. The endowment will continue to grow, she plans to make additional contributions to the fund, and upon her death, a portion of the estate will also go into the endowment.

UMFA Events & Activities of 2018

- *February 15:* UMFA hosted our Investment Forum which featured presentations from our investment experts at Wespath Investment Management, the Foundation's investment manager and the UMC agency responsible for \$21 billion in UMC pension assets.
- *February 21-23:* UMFA hosted a visit to Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas to explore ways we can support their capital campaign. LPI is an educational institution of the South-Central Jurisdiction of the UMC.
- *May 18:* UMFA Board Meeting
- *September 19:* UMFA hosted the United Methodist Lawyers Conference, the annual presentation of legal education topics relevant to United Methodist attorneys.
- *November 16:* UMFA Board Meeting and 33rd Annual Bishops' Club Luncheon; Pleasant Valley Country Club, Little Rock.

I am very proud and honored to work with The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, which has deep roots in Arkansas helping Methodism expand in its ministries across the state for five decades. Being in partnership with the Annual Conference to provide leadership opportunities to people of all ages, both clergy and laity, has been a cornerstone of UMFA. I am beginning to hear the exciting ministries happening in the local church provided by estate gifts which are managed by UMFA. These funds are helping the local church make disciples for Jesus Christ. I am excited about the future of UMFA and Arkansas Methodism as we continue to transform lives.

Rev. J. Wayne Clark,

President and CEO



United Theological Seminary

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

- 292 Masters Students
- 167 Doctoral Students
- Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States²

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

Online degrees:

- 98% of master's students have taken one or more course online while studying at United.
- United students live in 39 different states.
- Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.

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| Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE): | 1 |
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| • New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education. | 3 |
| • Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers. | 4 |
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| Doctor of Ministry Degree: | 7 |
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| • Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community. | 9 |
| | 10 |
| • Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers. | 11 |
| | 12 |
| • 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 | 13 |
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| Practical education designed to resource the Church: | 17 |
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| • The majority of United faculty have pastored churches. | 19 |
| • 91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom. | 20 |
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| A focus on Church Renewal: | 23 |
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| • 165 Course of Study students ⁴ | 25 |
| • 42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders) ^{iv} | 26 |
| | 27 |
| • Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision | 28 |
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| Academic AND Spiritual Growth: | 31 |
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| • 95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth. ⁵ | 33 |
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| Diverse Christian Views: | 36 |
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| • Over 30 different denominations | 38 |
| • 19 international students from 15 different countries | 39 |
| • 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. | 40 |
| | 41 |
| • 47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities | 42 |
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| 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). | 46 |
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| Dr. Kent Millard | 51 |
| | 52 |
| President | 53 |
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| United Theological Seminary | 55 |

Endnotes

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



WESLEY
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wesley Theological Seminary

Fostering wisdom and courage

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

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

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

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

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

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

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

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

Take your ministry to the next level

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

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

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

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

The Lewis Center 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 we've launched a **new podcast – Leading Ideas Talk**. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/. And look for new practical online courses at lewisonlinelearning.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Stay connected

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

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

**Sheila George,
Director of Communications and Marketing**

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Appendix A
Center for Finance & Administration
ARKANSAS CONFERENCE
COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Creating Budget Alignment and Focus in the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church

The trajectory of the Arkansas Annual Conference is to create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ – who then make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. The Cabinet and Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) are committed to making strategic financial decisions that create budget alignment to support the Bishop’s Mission Plan.

The following four priorities have guided the Cabinet and CFA in making these strategic stewardship decisions in order to shape the 2019-2020 Arkansas Conference Budget:

1. Develop local church vitality that leads to more fruitful disciple-making.
2. Resource local congregations and extension ministries that disciple children, youth and young adults (especially the “Nones”) in the mission field.
3. Strengthen support for the Center for Communications, Center for Reaching New People and the Center for Vitality as they carry out their work of revitalizing and reconnecting the Conference.
4. Refocus and reform budget allocations so they clearly support the Conference’s mission, vision and core values, and the Bishop’s Mission Plan.

Revenue-Based Budgeting

In preparation for the Arkansas Conference Tithe Initiative, CFA and the Cabinet have recommended a Conference budget based on the projected revenues of a tithe - 10% - of the aggregate income of our local congregations as reported on lines 62 and 64 of Table III. Churches will no longer receive an apportionment based on prior year statistics but rather will calculate their ministry share based on the plan adopted by Conference.

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| 62. Total Income for annual budget (as of 1/31/2019)..... | \$99,125,867 |
| 64. <u>Total Income from connectional/institutional sources outside the local church</u> | <u>\$360,340</u> |
| Total Revenue..... | \$99,486,207 |
| 10% Budget Maximum..... | \$9,948,621 |

You will see that our budget cap for 2019 was **\$9,948,621** based on a tithe of 2018 revenue figures. We have accomplished this with our 2019-2020 budget recommendation of **\$9,561,000**. Furthermore, to ensure expenses do not exceed actual revenues, CFA has established two stabilization funds. These amounts are based primarily on historical payout calculations.

Effective July 1, 2019, the fiscal year of the Conference will end on June 30. Therefore, the budget being reviewed and approved is for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

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I. Budget

2019-2020 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE BUDGET

| | 2018 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2019 Six Month Budget | 2019-2020 Budget | Pass Thru |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Fund #1 Clergy and Retiree Benefits (Pension and Health Benefits Committee) | | | | | |
| Pension & Benefits | | | | | |
| Administration | \$ 110,944.87 | \$ 95,000.00 | \$ 47,500.00 | \$ 110,000.00 | N |
| Conference Staff Pension (clergy only) | \$ 138,474.98 | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ 150,000.00 | N |
| Disability Health Care | \$ 20,715.68 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | N |
| Methodist Health EAP | \$ 14,472.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | N |
| Retiree Health Care | \$ 730,300.52 | \$ 800,000.00 | \$ 400,000.00 | \$ 750,000.00 | N |
| Virgin Pulse | \$ 75,434.90 | \$ 80,000.00 | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 80,000.00 | N |
| Subtotal Clergy and Retiree Benefits | \$ 1,090,342.95 | \$ 1,165,000.00 | \$ 582,500.00 | \$ 1,130,000.00 | |
| Fund #2 General Apportionments (Determined by General Conference) | | | | | |
| Africa University Fund | \$ 35,766.37 | \$ 41,892.00 | \$ 20,683.50 | \$ 41,938.00 | Y |
| Black College | \$ 187,187.00 | \$ 187,187.00 | \$ 92,420.00 | \$ 187,396.00 | Y |
| Episcopal Fund | \$ 351,339.87 | \$ 411,453.00 | \$ 203,147.00 | \$ 411,911.00 | Y |
| General Administration | \$ 140,875.56 | \$ 164,978.00 | \$ 81,454.50 | \$ 165,162.00 | Y |
| Interdenominational Cooperation | \$ 31,340.22 | \$ 36,700.00 | \$ 18,120.00 | \$ 36,741.00 | Y |
| Ministerial Education | \$ 300,518.55 | \$ 351,969.00 | \$ 173,043.00 | \$ 352,344.00 | Y |
| Ministerial Scholarships | \$ 114,731.00 | \$ 117,300.00 | \$ 58,650.00 | \$ 117,448.00 | Y |
| World Service | \$ 1,186,324.30 | \$ 1,389,382.00 | \$ 685,982.00 | \$ 1,390,931.00 | Y |
| Subtotal General Apportionments | \$ 2,348,082.87 | \$ 2,700,861.00 | \$ 1,333,500.00 | \$ 2,703,871.00 | |
| Fund #3 Jurisdictional Apportionments (Determined by Jurisdictional Conference) | | | | | |
| Jurisdictional Administration | \$ 24,042.01 | \$ 28,157.00 | \$ 14,079.00 | \$ 28,157.00 | Y |
| Lydia Patterson Institute | \$ 45,809.32 | \$ 53,650.00 | \$ 26,825.00 | \$ 53,650.00 | Y |
| Reserves | \$ 4,185.61 | \$ 4,902.00 | \$ 2,451.00 | \$ 4,902.00 | Y |
| Subtotal Jurisdictional Apportionments | \$ 74,036.94 | \$ 86,709.00 | \$ 43,355.00 | \$ 86,709.00 | |
| Fund #4 Conference Administration (CFA) | | | | | |
| Administrative Committees and Boards* | \$ 261,122.39 | \$ 209,050.00 | \$ 117,025.00 | \$ 211,245.00 | N |
| Board of Ordained Ministry Administration | \$ 134,371.81 | \$ 134,980.00 | \$ 67,490.00 | \$ 134,980.00 | N |
| Center for Administrative Services* | \$ 645,319.77 | \$ 626,147.00 | \$ 320,573.00 | \$ 621,412.00 | N |
| District Superintendents | \$ 624,348.72 | \$ 621,700.00 | \$ 310,850.00 | \$ 621,700.00 | N |
| DS Travel | \$ 83,057.31 | \$ 90,000.00 | \$ 45,000.00 | \$ 90,000.00 | N |
| Episcopal Discretionary | \$ 14,814.51 | \$ 13,000.00 | \$ 6,500.00 | \$ 13,000.00 | N |
| Episcopal Housing | \$ 19,989.00 | \$ 21,000.00 | \$ 10,500.00 | \$ 21,000.00 | N |
| Episcopal Office | \$ 1,773.60 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 25,000.00 | N |
| Pastors Moving Expense | \$ 66,977.20 | \$ 78,000.00 | \$ 39,000.00 | \$ 75,000.00 | N |
| Stabilization | \$ 65,336.69 | \$ 275,082.00 | \$ 139,416.00 | \$ 275,000.00 | N |
| Subtotal Conference Administration | \$ 1,917,111.00 | \$ 2,093,959.00 | \$ 1,068,854.00 | \$ 2,088,337.00 | |
| Fund #5 Resourcing Local Congregations (Extended Cabinet) | | | | | |
| Center for Communications* | \$ 430,678.30 | \$ 423,906.00 | \$ 206,436.50 | \$ 446,973.00 | N |
| Center for Vitality and New Church Starts* | \$ 646,950.42 | \$ 722,998.00 | \$ 430,525.00 | \$ 607,239.00 | N |
| Conference Ministries Office* | \$ 494,187.89 | \$ 550,043.00 | \$ 222,128.00 | \$ 460,032.00 | N |
| Connectional Ministries* | \$ 1,411,886.80 | \$ 1,445,307.00 | \$ 722,653.50 | \$ 1,459,738.00 | N |
| Equitable Compensation | \$ 72,672.29 | \$ 85,000.00 | \$ 42,500.00 | \$ 85,000.00 | N |
| General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Exp | \$ 5,968.79 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | N |
| Stabilization | \$ 483,338.00 | \$ 483,338.00 | \$ 244,387.00 | \$ 483,101.00 | N |
| Subtotal Resourcing Local Congregations | \$ 3,545,682.49 | \$ 3,720,592.00 | \$ 1,873,630.00 | \$ 3,552,083.00 | |
| Fund #6 Institutional Ministries (Extended Cabinet) | | | | | |
| Camp Aldersgate | \$ 56,937.75 | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ 37,500.00 | \$ - | Y |
| Hendrix College Student Scholarships (note 1) | \$ 124,067.31 | \$ 139,317.00 | \$ 69,658.50 | \$ - | Y |
| Philander Smith College (note 1) | \$ 103,890.91 | \$ 149,317.00 | \$ 74,658.50 | \$ - | Y |
| Subtotal Institutional Ministries | \$ 284,895.97 | \$ 363,634.00 | \$ 181,817.00 | \$ - | |
| Total Conference Budget | \$ 9,260,152.22 | \$ 10,130,755.00 | \$ 5,083,656.00 | \$ 9,561,000.00 | |

* See detailed budget on following pages.

1. College ministry funding moved to Connectional Ministries Budget

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A. In Accordance with ¶1615.4 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*

| General Apportionment Fund | Apportioned Amount | Percentage of Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Africa University Fund | \$ 41,938.00 | 1.55% |
| Black College | \$ 187,396.00 | 6.93% |
| Episcopal Fund | \$ 411,911.00 | 15.23% |
| General Administration | \$ 165,162.00 | 6.11% |
| Interdenominational Cooperation | \$ 36,741.00 | 1.36% |
| Ministerial Education | \$ 352,344.00 | 13.03% |
| Ministerial Scholarships | \$ 117,448.00 | 4.34% |
| World Service | \$ 1,390,931.00 | 51.44% |
| Total General Apportionments | \$ 2,703,871.00 | 100.00% |

B. Approved Solicitations –

1. Board of Trustees of Mount Eagle Christian Center
2. Board of Trustees of Camp Tanako, Inc.
3. Camp Aldersgate, Inc.
4. United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas
5. The Wesley Foundations to raise additional funds through the “Friends of Wesley” program (under the guidelines already approved by the Conference Board of Higher Education)
6. Methodist Family Health – Additionally, the second and third Sundays in December be designated for the receiving the Methodist Family Health Annual Christmas Offering
7. Hendrix College
8. Philander Smith College
9. U.M. Historical Society
10. Volunteers in Mission
11. That Shoal Creek and Bear Creek camps be allowed to raise funds in any district in which the district has given its permission
12. Methodist Village Nursing Home of Arkansas
13. Lydia Patterson Institute
14. 200,000 Reasons

C. Advance Specials - We recommend General and Conference Advance Specials to local churches for firsthand relationships with mission projects and involvement in mission.

D. Special Days (with offerings)

1. Peace with Justice – Second Sunday after Pentecost
2. Native American Ministries Sunday – Second Sunday after Easter
3. Human Relations Day – During Epiphany on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King’s birthday
4. UMCOR Sunday – Fourth Sunday in Lent
5. World Communion Sunday – First Sunday in October
6. United Methodist Student Day – Sunday after Thanksgiving

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II. Conference Tithe

All churches shall report the following information to the Center for Administrative Services by the 10th of the month for the prior month either online or by mail.

- A. Total gross income for previous month including designated giving _____
- B. Less income for capital campaigns
- C. Less income for memorials and endowments
- D. Less income from sale of church-owned real estate
- E. Less income from tuition-based services
- F. Less direct costs of fund-raising
- G. Less income designated for pass-through/outreach ministries
- H. Adjusted gross income = Line A minus B,C,D,E,F,G
- I. Monthly ministry tithe = Line H X 10% = \$ _____

III. Tithe Instructions

Line A—Total gross income for previous month (including designated giving and all other funds)

Enter the total amount of ALL revenue for the previous month. Total income includes ALL income received by the church (offerings, pledged giving, unpledged giving, donations, building use fees, income from fundraisers, designated giving, interest from investments, capital campaign income, preschool income, bequests, memorials, etc.)

Line B—Exclude income for capital campaigns (this does not include income for lines of credit (LOC) or mortgage payments)

Capital campaign income is money received from campaigns that are defined as significant, short-term fundraising efforts for a stated project, such as a building, debt retirement, or special project. The campaign usually lasts for a short time, generally less than a year; however, the donations to the campaign may span several years. Stated capital campaigns should not be confused with trustee account donations, building maintenance donations or other donations or capital needs. Income for regular monthly LOC or mortgage payment is not capital campaign income.

Line C—Exclude income for memorials and endowments

Gifts received to fund memorials and endowments should be excluded here. Income from endowment earnings should not be excluded.

Line D—Exclude income from sale of church-owned real estate (not used for operating expenses)

Income from the sale of church owned property (such as a parsonage) to be used for future capital expenses should be excluded here.

Line E—Exclude income from tuition-based services (preschool, daycare, etc.)

Tuition-based services income is any payment made to the church for services provided at the church such as preschool, childcare, elder care, or other similar services. Normally such services are budgeted separately, often by a non-profit organization affiliated with the church.

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Line F—Exclude direct costs of fund-raising

Direct costs of fund-raising are those costs paid to raise funds for the church, but not the income raised. Typical examples include: 1) the discounted purchase price of gift cards for future resale, 2) the cost of food and supplies for a fund-raising dinner and 3) a consulting fee to direct a fund-raising activity.

Line G—Exclude income for pass-through/outreach ministries

Pass-through funds are monies received for projects or events outside the local church. From time to time churches will act as a collection agent for special events, such as disaster relief, community homeless shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens or mission trips. Monies are sometimes given for field missionary support or mission focused activities including materials and supplies for mission trips and mission outposts. Any donations given for outreach ministries or causes should be excluded.

IV. District Superintendents

- A. Salary will be no more than \$124,340 (annually).
- B. This figure shall include salary, utilities and appurtenances, and other professional reimbursable expenses.
 - 1. We recommend that business travel by the District Superintendents (DS) shall be reimbursed at the maximum IRS allowable rate. This will be funded by the DS vouchered travel expense fund of \$90,000 for room, board and travel expense.

V. Pastor’s Moving Expense - Pastor’s Moving Expense (intended to pay for housing relocation) - conditions of eligibility are as follows:

- A. The following persons shall be eligible
 - 1. Full Time Pastors
 - 2. Student local pastors after first appointment
 - 3. District Superintendents
 - 4. Persons in Conference connectional positions
 - 5. Retiring pastors
 - 6. Persons on disability leave
 - 7. Seminarian from place of residence to parsonage at first appointment
 - 8. Any other person recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry or Appointive Cabinet
 - 9. Only one moving expense paid per pastor per year
- B. The following amounts shall be paid:
 - 1. \$1,000 per pastor
 - 2. \$1.00 per mile, measured from parsonage to parsonage
 - 3. Persons moving into or out of the Conference shall measure the mileage from the Conference boundary to the parsonage, except any seminarian returning for first appointment.
 - 4. Monies shall be paid by the Conference Treasurer upon presentation of a voucher of mileage signed by the sending DS.
 - 5. The sending DS shall not submit a voucher for moving expenses unless the parsonage is left clean and meets the approval of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

- Chairperson. Should the DS and the chairperson of the S/PRC determine that the parsonage will require cleaning and/or repair due to abuse and/or negligence on the part of the departing pastoral family the DS may direct that the pastor's moving reimbursement be reduced by the amount required for such cleaning/repair and that this amount be paid to the church. In no case shall the amount paid to the church be greater than the total to which the pastor would otherwise be entitled for moving expense reimbursement.
6. \$1,000 additional moving expenses for seminarians receiving their first appointment in the Arkansas Annual Conference.
 7. On recommendation from the Cabinet, the CFA may disburse funds for pastors transitioning out of the ministry.

VI. Other Recommendations

- A. No honorariums for the Annual Conference will be paid to persons living within the bounds of the Arkansas Annual Conference.
- B. Travel expenses will be reimbursed based on the Arkansas Annual Conference reimbursement policy.
- C. When any Conference staff personnel travels at the request of a Conference agency for other than normal representative or liaisoning purposes, the expenses of such travel shall be borne by the requesting agency.
- D. Reimbursement for Conference Travel shall be:
 1. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all volunteers
 2. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all Conference employees
- E. Retired and disabled ministers may be paid \$80 per diem for days they attend Annual Conference with a maximum of \$320.00 per household.
- F. The Conference may direct the Conference Treasurer to withhold dispersal of funds to any agency, institution, or organization until the CFA has received the most recent audit of a Public Accountant or Certified Public Accountant from the agency or institution or organization and that audit has been found satisfactory by the Audit Committee of the CFA.
- G. ¶815.4 of the *2016 Book of Discipline* states that an Annual Conference may only make direct gifts to historically black colleges after the Black College Fund apportionment is paid in full. Therefore the Conference shall pay the Black College Fund at 100%. Any shortfall in the Black College Fund will be funded from the Philander Smith apportionment line.
- H. The stabilization fund is used by the CFA to cover annual funding shortfalls in receipts to pay compensation for DS and Conference employees. Any balances in the stabilization fund shall be transferred to undesignated net assets at year-end.
- I. The undesignated net assets is not a budgeted item. This is used to maintain operating cash flow for the conference.
- J. If the undesignated net assets exceeds 10% of the Arkansas Annual Conference Budget excluding Pension & Benefits, then the CFA's Executive Committee shall have the authority to disburse those funds with first priority given to paying the Conference's General and Jurisdictional Apportionments.
- K. All interest earnings on Conference monies shall be credited to the undesignated net assets.

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| L. The Conference acknowledges the need for maintaining monies to be used as needed for the stabilization of the accounts of New Church Development Fund, General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Expense Fund, DS Funds, and the Equitable Compensation Support Fund. | 4 |
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| M. That balances remaining in the Conference Benevolence Fund and the Conference Administration Fund at year-end shall be transferred to the undesignated net assets. | 8 |
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| N. The Conference provides fidelity bonding insurance in compliance with ¶ 618 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. | 10 |
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| O. The following is to be adopted as the guide for the care and investment of all Conference Funds: (¶613.5 the 2016 Book of Discipline). | 13 |
| | 14 |
| 1. The Conference Treasurer is charged with the responsibility for managing all Conference Funds. It is the purpose of this investment policy to establish parameters within which the monies of the Conference will be managed. | 15 |
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| 2. The objective of the investment of Conference monies is to provide: | 18 |
| a) Preservation of capital. | 19 |
| b) Liquidity – to meet anticipated and unanticipated future needs. | 20 |
| c) Maximization of income – while simultaneously insuring preservation of capital and liquidity. | 21 |
| | 22 |
| d) Compliance with the Social Principles and the Discipline of the UMC. | 23 |
| | 24 |
| 3. To accomplish this objective: | 25 |
| a) Funds should be deposited in AR institutions in good standing. | 26 |
| b) Securities: | 27 |
| (1) Direct obligation of United States Government Treasury Bills and Notes | 28 |
| (2) FDIC insured Certificate of Deposits, Time Deposits, interest-bearing accounts | 29 |
| | 30 |
| 4. Funds should be deposited on a short-term basis, up to one-year when all objectives can be satisfied. | 31 |
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| 5. This policy is intended to be flexible in its application in order to meet changing economic conditions. Investments made for longer than 90 days may be made after the approval of the Executive Committee of the CFA. While income desirable, the primary emphasis is to be on the maintenance of adequate funds and the avoidance of speculative investments | 34 |
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| 6. This policy may be amended to meet changing conditions and to fulfill the needs of the Arkansas Annual Conference | 39 |
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| P. The Conference gives the CFA the authority to fund extraordinary needs relating to the life and ministry of the Arkansas Conference. These needs shall be funded from available unrestricted funds. This authority shall not be used to replace or circumvent normal funding procedures of the Arkansas Conference. | 41 |
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| Q. When the Arkansas Annual Conference adopts a program or ministry that is not within the existing Conference structure, the Conference shall specify lines of amenability and accountability so as to provide for budgeting, evaluation and audit. | 46 |
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| VII. Administrative Concerns: | 50 |
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| A. All funding requests shall be presented to the appropriate board or agency of the Conference for recommendation before presentation to the CFA. All persons authorized | 52 |
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to vouch for funds shall be identified by agencies and approved by the Cabinet prior to the dispensing of funds.

- B. The final time for receiving Conference tithes shall be close of business on June 30th 2020.
- C. Each charge shall declare all ministerial support. The report shall include remuneration for compensation travel, utility expense, insurance, Social Security, and all additional compensation paid to the pastor or on behalf of the pastor.
- D. When any agency's total budgeted funds have been expended; no further expenditures will be authorized without C.F. & A. approval.
- E. All benevolent, connectional, and pension funds shall be sent to the Center for Administrative Services, P.O. Box 55588, Little Rock, AR 72215, except for the following, which shall be sent as designated:
 - 1. UM Children's Home Christmas offering and special gifts to the UM Children's Home, P.O. Box 56050, Little Rock, AR 72215.

Mr. Bill Wisener – President
Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson
Vice-President Rev. Ann Farris– Secretary

Supplemental Budget Reports

The following budget items are intended to provide a more detailed picture of the overall Conference budget found in section I. of this report. Any of the following items not specifically acted on by the Arkansas Annual Conference may be changed according to rules found in section V.

| | 2018 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2019 Six Month Budget | 2019-2020 Budget |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Center for Administrative Services | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 Conference Benefits Income | \$ 200,000.00 | \$ 200,000.00 | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| 4 | | | | |
| 5 Computer software and hardware | \$ 51,151.45 | \$ 66,500.00 | \$ 33,250.00 | \$ 48,300.00 |
| 6 Continuing education | \$ 275.00 | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| 7 Mission Connect | \$ 16,375.00 | \$ 18,700.00 | \$ 9,350.00 | \$ 16,500.00 |
| 8 Office administrative expense | \$ 32,390.11 | \$ 27,850.00 | \$ 21,425.00 | \$ 31,500.00 |
| 9 Other | \$ 516.41 | \$ 1,813.00 | \$ 906.00 | \$ 2,072.00 |
| 10 Rent | \$ 76,500.00 | \$ 76,500.00 | \$ 38,250.00 | \$ 76,500.00 |
| 11 Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits | \$ 612,375.79 | \$ 626,784.00 | \$ 313,392.00 | \$ 631,240.00 |
| 12 Travel | \$ 13,260.35 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 13,300.00 |
| 13 One time expenses * | \$ 42,475.66 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 14 Total Expenses | \$ 845,319.77 | \$ 826,147.00 | \$ 420,573.00 | \$ 821,412.00 |
| 15 Total Center for Administrative Services | \$ 645,319.77 | \$ 626,147.00 | \$ 320,573.00 | \$ 621,412.00 |

* One time expenses include payments on vehicles, accounting system implementation, payroll system implementation, and re-keying office.

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| | 2018 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2019 Six Month Budget | 2019-2020 Budget |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Conference Ministries Office | | | | |
| Conflict resolution training | \$ - | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Continuing education | \$ 1,276.81 | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Office administrative expense | \$ 21,346.31 | \$ 7,100.00 | \$ 3,550.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits | \$ 446,913.02 | \$ 504,943.00 | \$ 205,828.00 | \$ 416,032.00 |
| Travel | \$ 14,704.88 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 7,750.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| One time expenses * | \$ 9,946.87 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Conference Ministries Office | \$ 494,187.89 | \$ 550,043.00 | \$ 222,128.00 | \$ 460,032.00 |

* One time expenses include payments on vehicles.

| | 2018 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2019 Six Month Budget | 2019-2020 Budget |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Center for Communications | | | | |
| Advertising and Subscriptions Income | \$ 14,095.83 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Administrative | | | | |
| Office administrative expense | \$ 31,970.94 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Salaries and benefits | \$ 294,248.55 | \$ 352,906.00 | \$ 176,453.00 | \$ 400,473.00 |
| Training & Education | \$ 8,731.01 | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 21,500.00 |
| Travel | \$ 20,691.46 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| One time expenses * | \$ 40,718.46 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total Administrative | \$ 396,360.42 | \$ 380,906.00 | \$ 190,453.00 | \$ 451,973.00 |
| Programming | | | | |
| Conference website | \$ 2,361.03 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| Local church resources | \$ 9,510.65 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ - |
| Printing (newspaper and photos), distribution | \$ 23,571.44 | \$ 17,000.00 | \$ 8,500.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Postage | \$ 9,460.70 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 6,983.50 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Supplies | \$ 3,509.89 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ - |
| Total Programming | \$ 48,413.71 | \$ 68,000.00 | \$ 28,483.50 | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 444,774.13 | \$ 448,906.00 | \$ 218,936.50 | \$ 466,973.00 |
| Total Center for Communications | \$ 430,678.30 | \$ 423,906.00 | \$ 206,436.50 | \$ 446,973.00 |

* One time expenses include payments on vehicles, office furniture and computer/camera equipment.

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| | 2018 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2019 Six-Month Budget | 2019-2020 Budget |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Center for Vitality and New Church Starts | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 CIC Endowment Interest Income | \$ 40,880.90 | \$ 47,000.00 | \$ 23,500.00 | \$ 40,000.00 |
| 4 | | | | |
| 5 Administrative | | | | |
| 6 Office administrative expense | \$ 25,517.99 | \$ 23,500.00 | \$ 1,750.00 | \$ 25,000.00 |
| 7 Salaries and benefits | \$ 391,516.23 | \$ 462,919.00 | \$ 233,649.00 | \$ 344,635.00 |
| 8 Travel | \$ 38,646.70 | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 40,000.00 |
| 9 One time expenses * | \$ 9,946.32 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 10 Total Administrative | \$ 465,627.24 | \$ 516,419.00 | \$ 250,399.00 | \$ 409,635.00 |
| 11 Programming | | | | |
| 12 Congregational guides travel & training | \$ 394.76 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| 13 Circuit elders travel & training | \$ 2,729.14 | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 14 Ministry tool box | \$ 2,886.79 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 15 Vital congregations initiative | \$ 14,972.59 | \$ 27,500.00 | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 27,500.00 |
| 16 Mission Insight software | \$ 9,439.00 | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| 17 Academy for Spiritual Formation | \$ 5,676.44 | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 15,000.00 |
| 18 Pastors in transition workshops | \$ 1,117.75 | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 1,750.00 | \$ 3,500.00 |
| 19 Clergy recruitment and formation | \$ 3,924.82 | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 1,750.00 | \$ - |
| 20 Coach approach skill training | \$ 3,651.72 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 21 Unleashing lay leadership | \$ 15,791.21 | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 20,000.00 |
| 22 Equipping clergy | \$ 300.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| 23 Crisis response team | \$ - | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| 24 Interim pastor training | \$ - | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 25 Emerging Ministries | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 26 New faith communities | \$ 161,319.86 | \$ 122,079.00 | \$ 139,126.00 | \$ 131,604.00 |
| 27 Total Programming | \$ 222,204.08 | \$ 253,579.00 | \$ 203,626.00 | \$ 237,604.00 |
| 28 Total Expenses | \$ 687,831.32 | \$ 769,998.00 | \$ 454,025.00 | \$ 647,239.00 |
| 29 Total Center for Vitality and New Church Starts | \$ 646,950.42 | \$ 722,998.00 | \$ 430,525.00 | \$ 607,239.00 |

* One time expenses include payments on vehicles.

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| | 2018 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2019 Six Month Budget | 2019-2020 Budget |
|--|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Connectional Ministries | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 Administrative | | | | |
| 4 Travel | \$ 7,848.78 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 5 Total Administrative | \$ 7,848.78 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 Programming | | | | |
| 8 Committees | \$ 1,938.41 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,500.00 |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 Disaster Preparedness & Response | \$ 11,791.92 | \$ 3,600.00 | \$ 1,800.00 | \$ 3,600.00 |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 Volunteers in Mission | \$ 1,915.79 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 Leadership Development | \$ 4,696.95 | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 6,250.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 Ingathering | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 13,000.00 |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 Hunger Initiative - 200,000 Reasons | \$ 27,205.01 | \$ 29,000.00 | \$ 14,500.00 | \$ 29,000.00 |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 Culture of Call | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 22,000.00 |
| 21 | | | | |
| 22 Age Level Ministries | | | | |
| 23 Council on children's ministries | \$ 20,033.73 | \$ 16,500.00 | \$ 8,250.00 | \$ 19,540.00 |
| 24 Council on youth ministries | \$ 50,245.32 | \$ 44,500.00 | \$ 22,250.00 | \$ 44,500.00 |
| 25 Council on young adult ministries | \$ 1,336.69 | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 3,500.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| 26 Youth worker network | \$ 18,548.13 | \$ 17,200.00 | \$ 8,600.00 | \$ 17,200.00 |
| 27 Total Age Level Ministries | \$ 90,163.87 | \$ 85,200.00 | \$ 42,600.00 | \$ 85,240.00 |
| 28 | | | | |
| 29 Ethnic Ministries | \$ 29,685.85 | \$ 37,500.00 | \$ 18,750.00 | \$ 37,500.00 |
| 30 | | | | |
| 31 Global Ministries | | | | |
| 32 Arkansas interfaith conference | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| 33 Church & community workers | \$ 20,500.00 | \$ 20,359.00 | \$ 10,179.50 | \$ 13,500.00 |
| 34 Marianna Larger Parish Community Work | \$ 20,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| 35 Committee on volunteers in mission | \$ - | \$ 3,100.00 | \$ 1,550.00 | \$ 3,100.00 |
| 36 Mission U | \$ 6,015.00 | \$ 15,600.00 | \$ 7,800.00 | \$ 15,600.00 |
| 37 Mission Personnel Initiative | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,000.00 |
| 38 General | \$ 4,853.23 | \$ 4,052.00 | \$ 2,026.00 | \$ 4,052.00 |
| 39 Total Global Ministries | \$ 61,868.23 | \$ 53,111.00 | \$ 26,555.50 | \$ 49,252.00 |
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| | 2018 Actual | 2018 Budget | 2019 Six Month Budget | 2019-2020 Budget |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 41 Higher Education & Campus Ministries | | | | |
| 42 Other campus ministries | \$ 26,463.46 | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| 43 Board training and development | \$ 3,075.78 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 12,500.00 | \$ 25,000.00 |
| 44 Campus ministry - Philander Smith College | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 45 Campus ministry - Hendrix College | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 46 Wesley foundation - ASU | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 47 Wesley foundation - ATU | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 48 Wesley foundation - HSU/OBU | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 49 Wesley foundation - SAU | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 50 Wesley foundation - U of A | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 51 Wesley foundation - UALR | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 52 Wesley foundation - UAM | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 53 Wesley foundation - UAPB | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 54 Wesley foundation - UCA | \$ 76,672.92 | \$ 76,673.00 | \$ 38,336.50 | \$ 76,673.00 |
| 55 Wesley foundation directors pension | \$ 55,311.26 | \$ 60,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 60,000.00 |
| 56 Board of higher ed operations | \$ 4,295.01 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| 57 Maintenance grant Wesley foundations | \$ 45,312.00 | \$ 45,000.00 | \$ 22,500.00 | \$ 45,000.00 |
| 58 Campus ministry grant funding | \$ 46,637.98 | \$ 52,943.00 | \$ 26,471.50 | \$ 52,943.00 |
| 59 Total Global Ministries | \$ 1,024,497.61 | \$ 1,038,346.00 | \$ 519,173.00 | \$ 1,040,346.00 |
| 60 | | | | |
| 61 Board of Laity | | | | |
| 62 Association of annual conference lay leaders | \$ 1,332.10 | \$ 4,100.00 | \$ 2,050.00 | \$ 4,050.00 |
| 63 Board of Laity | \$ 2,295.59 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 150.00 | \$ 2,250.00 |
| 64 Lay servant ministries | \$ - | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| 65 Total Board of Laity | \$ 3,627.69 | \$ 8,400.00 | \$ 4,200.00 | \$ 8,300.00 |
| 66 | | | | |
| 67 Outdoor Ministries | | | | |
| 68 Mount Eagle | \$ 57,433.50 | \$ 57,000.00 | \$ 28,500.00 | \$ 57,000.00 |
| 69 Camp Tanako | \$ 61,500.00 | \$ 61,500.00 | \$ 30,750.00 | \$ 61,500.00 |
| 70 Programming grants | \$ 21,281.19 | \$ 34,500.00 | \$ 17,250.00 | \$ 25,000.00 |
| 71 Programming and marketing for camping and retreat | \$ 5,542.02 | \$ 18,150.00 | \$ 9,075.00 | \$ 8,000.00 |
| 72 Total Outdoor Ministries | \$ 145,756.71 | \$ 171,150.00 | \$ 85,575.00 | \$ 151,500.00 |
| 73 | | | | |
| 74 Committee on Status and Role of Women | \$ 889.98 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| 75 | | | | |
| 76 Total Connectional Ministries | \$ 1,411,886.80 | \$ 1,445,307.00 | \$ 722,653.50 | \$ 1,459,738.00 |

Appendix B

Board of Pension & Health Benefits

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The Board:

¶639.1-7 The board is charged with the interest and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy, and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the Conference Center, institutions, organizations, and agencies within the Annual Conference except otherwise provided by the general board now known as Wespath. The conference board also provides financial assistance to retired clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses who are now responsible for their own healthcare. The board works closely with Wespath Benefits and Investments administrator of the largest denominational pension fund in the world. Wespath reflects the Wesleyan heritage, and the notion of being on the right path in all three areas of operation for participants, institutional investors and for the UMC. The board is made up of no less than 12 members and in accordance with ¶605.3 elected to a term of 8 years. The board elects its chairperson.

Conference Sponsored Well care Benefits:

The board approved using **\$80,000** in healthcare reserves to fund the Virgin Pulse Fitness Program in **2020**. Participation will be reviewed annually. Conference staff, active FT clergy and their spouses are eligible to participate. You can still join the Virgin Pulse program where getting active & fit means getting great stuff! And ours isn't your typical stuff, you know. Ours is motivation, feedback, gadgets, tracking, challenges, prizes, more energy, feeling better, looking great... and rewards.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

The Buzz tracker is free to newly enrolled participants. If a participant already has a preferred fitness tracking device, the program will sync with many available brands and models, including Fitbit and Apple Watch.

In addition to the benefits of healthier living, participants can earn up to \$275 per calendar quarter, with increasing dollar amounts given as each of four levels of point accrual is completed.

Points toward reward levels can be earned through activity, and also by reporting healthy habits on the mobile app or website.

We'll keep you motivated all year long with challenges, contests, team competitions with your fellow conference members & more!

So what do you say, ready to join?

Download the phone app or use this URL - join.virginpulse.com/wespath

Participants will have to select a plan sponsor. In this case, select Arkansas.

Questions should be directed to the Conference Center Benefits Office.

*You must be 18 years of age.

Employee Assistance Program:

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits partnered with The Board of Ordained Ministry to bring clergy families the Methodist Healthcare Employee Assistance Program. Since January 1, 2012, this program has provided free, confidential short-term counseling to all active, retired clergy and clergy households. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends continuing the program **for 2020**. The benefit is not guaranteed and will be reviewed annually. We are pleased to offer this service to our clergy and their households. EAP can help with many of life's challenges such as family issues, marital concerns, alcohol and drug abuse, anxiety, depression, major life events, grief, work concerns and managing the stress of everyday life. The program offers 6 counseling sessions to you and members of your household, free of charge. In most cases, short-term counseling is all the help you'll need. However, if a referral outside the EAP is necessary, the EAP counselor will seek the best resources for your situation. Counseling outside the EAP will require use of insurance or self-pay. Use of the EAP and issues discussed in all sessions are held in strict confidence. Rest assured that your private health information remains confidential and can only be released outside the EAP with your written consent or when required by law such as in life threatening situations or child/elder abuse. All Arkansas Conference staff members and clergy families; whether full time, part time, retired or disabled as well as members of your household are eligible to participate. Surviving spouses are also eligible for this benefit. For more information about the Methodist Healthcare EAP, please visit their website at www.methodisteapcanhelp.org and review the brochure enclosed in this announcement. To access the program, simply call their toll free number 1-800-880-5658 to schedule an appointment.

Clergy Retirement Plans:

The Pre-1982 Pension Plan was replaced by the Ministerial Pension Plan effective January 1, 1982. Vested participants and their spouses receive lifetime benefits from the pre-82 plan. **The 2020 monthly Past Service Rate (pre-1982) known as the PSR is \$577.00.**

The 2004 General Conference voted to end the MPP as of December 31, 2006. The replacement pension plan was the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) which began January 1, 2007. Less than full-time are ineligible effective 1/1/2013. The plan is made up of 2 components;

1. A Defined Benefit which provides monthly income at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church and a surviving spouse benefit payment of 75% for her/his lifetime. Clergy may also designate a disabled child as a
2. Secondary contingent annuitant. After the death of you and your spouse, your disabled child will receive a reduced benefit. As with spousal coverage, your initial benefits will be reduced to pay for this extra benefit.
3. And a Defined Contribution that provides a retirement account balance which was established and funded by the annual conference.

All eligible full-time clergy who are under Episcopal appointment in the conference shall enroll in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). Full-time clergy may make written request to waive out of the pension program CRSP. Effective January 1, 2014 clergy serving less than full-time are not eligible to participate in CRSP. We encourage the churches they serve to provide a retirement benefit by making contributions to the United Methodist Personal Pension Plan (UMPIP) on their behalf. Pension Plan enrollment is the responsibility of the participant and

must be done no later than 30 days from the eligibility date. Information for enrollment must be provided to Conference Benefits Officer, Mona Williams, at the Conference Office of Finance and Administration.

Clergy pension is calculated on "Plan" compensation. Plan compensation as defined by Westpath includes a parsonage equivalent (25% of compensation) or housing allowance. **The benefit multiplier for 2020 is 14%** and is broken down in the following manner;

The monthly CRSP- DB benefit is 8% of eligible Plan compensation.

The CRSP-DC benefit is 2% non-matching contribution and 1% matching of eligible Plan compensation.

The premium for the Comprehensive Protection Death and Disability Plan is 3% of eligible Plan compensation up to 200% of the DAC for clergy appointed full-time.

Participants must contribute a minimum of 1% of eligible Plan compensation to their Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) in order to receive the full employer CRSP-DC contribution.

Retired Clergy:

Retired Clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses were removed from the Conference Healthcare Plan on Dec. 31st, 2014.

The Plan was replaced with a Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement. The Retiree & Medicare eligible disabled clergy HRA is owned and funded by the Arkansas Conference and is managed by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Any un-used funds remain with the Conference. Surviving spouses who are not yet eligible for Medicare may be eligible for a taxable Healthcare premium stipend. See guidelines below.

2020 Retiree Healthcare Premium Stipend Allocation:

The Arkansas Conference provides a monthly healthcare reimbursement benefit to retired clergy and disabled clergy who are Medicare eligible. The benefit is not guaranteed and is reviewed annually. The benefit is non-taxable when used for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses. In order to be eligible for a conference healthcare premium reimbursement Provisional Elders, Associate Members, Elders in Full Connection and Full-time Local Pastors retiring from the Arkansas Conference must have served full-time in the denomination for a minimum of 10 years. Only conference responsible* full-time appointment years are eligible and must have been served in an North Arkansas Conference. If you are retired and not currently receiving a conference healthcare premium stipend you are not eligible to receive the stipend. If the Plan is terminated, all of the following is null & void.

The stipend is a fixed dollar amount based on eligible active years of service and the maximum healthcare premium stipend. Additional years of service above 40 have no effect on the healthcare premium stipend. The maximum healthcare stipend for **2020** is \$204 for clergy and \$153 for a spouse. Clergy who work or serve an appointment after retirement will not receive additional years of service or an additional benefit of any kind. Here is the base HRA benefit calculation guide -

- The first ten years of service will accrue at 2% of the maximum premium gift:

Clergy: 2% of \$200 = \$4.00 Spouse: 2% of \$150 = \$ 3.00

- The next 20 years of service will accrue at:

Clergy: 3.5% of = \$7.00 Spouse: 3.5% of = \$5.25

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• The remaining ten years of service will accrue at:

Clergy: 1% of = \$2.00 Spouse: 1% of = \$1.50

*Conference responsible appointment years are defined as service in which the Arkansas conference or local church is responsible for contributions to clergy pension plans; Pre-1982, MPP or CRSP.

Effective January 1, 2016 the minimum healthcare stipend benefit is \$50 per month. Clergy who are married at the time of retirement will receive a supplemental spousal gift. The spouse at retirement who outlives the clergy person will receive a stipend as a surviving spouse. If a retired clergy couple divorces, the clergy will receive the clergy benefit and that spouse will receive the spouse portion. Should the clergy remarry, the new spouse is not eligible for a stipend. As of July 1, 2016 a surviving spouse who remarries will continue to receive a healthcare stipend benefit.

Effective January 1, 2016 when a clergy dies while under an Active conference responsible appointment leaving behind a spouse (who is not eligible for Medicare) the conference will provide a healthcare premium stipend equal to \$1000 per month for the first 5 years. This benefit is considered taxable income. After the earlier of year 5, or Medicare eligibility, the healthcare premium stipend will be based on clergy years of eligible service.

Pension earned during active service is vested for clergy members of the AC who surrender credentials after retirement. The HRA benefit is based on years of active conference responsible service and is vested.

Clergy on Medical Leave receiving CPP Disability Benefits:

Approved Medical Leave is an active Conference responsible appointment. Clergy appointed to Medical Leave who are not yet eligible for Medicare will receive a taxable Healthcare Premium Stipend in the amount of \$1000 per month. Those who are eligible for Medicare must enroll in Medicare B, purchase a Medicare Supplement and a Drug Plan. Having met these guidelines you would be eligible to receive a Healthcare Premium Stipend using the years of service guidelines above through the non-taxable HRA.

Other Important Information:

1. Surviving spouses eligible for spousal pension benefits will receive benefits at 75% of the formula benefit rate for pre-1982 service.
2. Allowance grants and local expenses of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits are paid by Wespeth or the Conference Treasurer must meet 2016 Book of Discipline guidelines and are subject to the approval by the Arkansas Conference. The board has approved a living grant for Rev. Lloyd Smith effective 7/1/2009 in the amount of \$359.00 per month.
3. The institution, board or organization paying the salary of a minister on special appointment without annuity claim on the conference shall make provision for the pension of such person.
4. Attention is called to ¶1506.5 in the 2016 Book of Discipline, regarding eligibility to participate in CRSP and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). In order to provide adequately for the active pension program (current and past funding), death & disability benefits, retiree healthcare support and well care in **2020** the conference has budgeted **\$1,130,000**. That Total is broken down as:
 - Healthcare premium stipends for disabled clergy on approved medical leave shall be **\$25,000**.

- Healthcare premium stipends for retirees & spouses shall be **\$750,000.**
 - Methodist Healthcare Employee Assistance Program apportionment shall be **\$15,000.**
 - **Virgin Pulse Fitness Program \$80,000.**
 - To provide for clergy under special conference responsible appointments shall be **\$150,000.**
 - Administration **\$110,000.**
5. We remind all pastors and local churches of ¶639.4 in the 2016 Book of Discipline, which sets forth the requirement that payments on the pension and benefit program of the conference be in exact proportion to payments made on the salary or salaries, including housing of the ordained minister or clergy serving it. ¶638.4d requires the local church treasurer and/or pastor to adjust the cash salary and payment to be in the same proportion as the amount paid to the pension and benefit program of the conference. ¶639.4d adds that it shall not be permissible for a pastor to receive a bonus or other supplementary compensation tending to defeat proportional payment.
6. ¶639.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline requires the Conference Board to keep a permanent record of defaults by churches of the conference in paying clergy pension and benefits. The board is further required to render annually to each church that is in default a statement of the amounts in default for that and preceding years. **The 2018 default total was \$51,448.33.** According to our Conference Treasurer, for **2018** the following churches were in default by greater than \$250 on the direct billed Clergy Retirement Security Program & the CPP premiums by the following amounts:

| Name of Church/Charge | 2018 Debt as pf 2/28/2019 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central District- | |
| Hunter-LR | 8,273.49 |
| Theresa Hoover | 1,012.00 |
| Northeast District- | |
| Batesville 1 st | 1,363.21 |
| Brookland | 3,900.00 |
| Trumann | 11,604.96 |
| Northwest District- | |
| N/A | |
| Southeast District- | |
| Brinkley | 969.95 |
| Deluce | 401.28 |
| Ellis Chapel-Wynne | 8,385.96 |
| Warren 1 st | 9,705.00 |
| Wesley-PB | 2,272.08 |
| Southwest District- | |
| Rondo | 3,560.40 |
| Total | \$51,448.33 |

7. Notice of claims request for pension credit shall be made in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer, POB 3611 Little Rock, AR 72203-3611. 1
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8. In determining years of service, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall carefully examine and consider those years listed in the conference Journal prior to accepting them as valid years; and any years in question shall be subject to validation by the applicant and by approval of the Board of Pensions. We recommend that approval of pension credit outlined in ¶1506.2-5 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, be enforced 3
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9. Copies of individual service records are held at Wespath, 1901 Chestnut Ave, Glenview, IL 60025-1604. Requests for service record copies may be obtained from the Conference Benefits Office. 9
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10. A Retired Minister’s Day is recommended to be the Third Sunday of May each year. The purpose of this day is to recognize the service of the retired servants and their families, and to involve the local churches in the recognition of the needs, both present and future 12
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If a retired minister does not reside within the bounds of a charge, but a member of a retired minister’s family does, they shall be invited to participate in the service (or observance); otherwise, recognition of these servants, and their service, should be observed appropriately. “Appropriately” should be determined by the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee of each local church. This committee shall have the responsibility of locating these people and relate the service of these persons to the local church and our Annual Conference. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will be responsible for providing promotional ideas and some materials (i.e., total years of service, percentage of retired ministers serving churches while in their retired status, etc.) when requested. 16
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11. Please notify the Conference Center Benefits Office when: 27
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 - a. You are eligible to enroll in pensions programs; 29
 - b. Information relative to pension matters is needed; 30
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 - c. You have questions about participating in Social Security; 32
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 - d. You have questions about healthcare; 34
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 - e. A change in marital status, mailing address or income occurs; 36
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 - f. You have a question about past service or annuity credit or to request a change in service records; 38
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 - g. There are health issues that may lead to disability; 41
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 - h. Death in the immediate family occurs; 43
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 - i. A change of beneficiary is desired; 45
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 - j. Request for retirement is made to the bishop, cabinet, and board of ordained ministry; 47
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2019 Housing Allowances for the Arkansas Conference

The Arkansas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference: 51
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WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), 54
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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");

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;

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 1/1/2019-12/31/2019, by each active, retired, terminated, or clergyperson receiving disability benefits who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

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tion worksheet may be requested from the Conference Benefits Office.

The 2020 Funding Plan is in process. When approved by Wespith it will be available on the ARUMC website.

Submitted by: Mona Williams, Conference Benefits Officer

Stark Ligon, Board of Pension & Health Benefits Chairperson

Todd Burris, Treasurer & Director of Administrative Services

Date: 4/01/2018

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Appendix C

2018 Standing Rules with 2019 Proposed Changes

Chapter One

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section I. The Arkansas Conference Mission

Par. 101. Mission Making disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to transform the world with excellence and passion.

Par. 102. Vision Congregations and surrounding communities transformed by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate love of God and neighbor, holy living, and justice.

Par. 103. Core Measures

1. We will be enriched by our Wesleyan heritage of scriptural holiness so that we are connected by our mission of making disciples instead of being connected by our apportionments, appointments and benefits.
2. We will establish the mission field as the primary focus of our attention and resources instead of directing the majority of our attention and resources to mere maintenance of congregations and clergy.
3. We will equip laity and clergy to transform individuals, communities and the world instead of trying to satisfy personal preferences of current members and ensure congregational preservation.
4. We will address the unique context of each mission field instead of depending on standardized programs and structures.

Par. 104. Arkansas Conference Trajectory Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

Section II. Standing Rules

Par. 105. Establishment The Arkansas Annual Conference establishes the Standing Rules under the authority of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* ¶ 610, which permits the Annual Conference to structure its own administrative procedures and ministries in order to accomplish its purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Par. 106. Purpose The Standing Rules prescribe the administrative procedures the Annual Conference will utilize to carry out its mission, vision, core measures and trajectory.

Par. 107. Changes to Standing Rules A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to change the Standing Rules.

Par. 108. Suspension of Standing Rules A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to suspend the Standing Rules.

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| Par. 109. Procedural Authority | 1 |
| <i>Roberts Rules of Order shall be the procedural authority for the Annual Conference when not in conflict with the current Book of Discipline or Arkansas Annual Conference Session Rules.</i> | 2 |
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| Par. 110. Definitions | 5 |
| 1. <i>The Discipline</i> : unless otherwise noted, refers to the current <i>Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church</i> . | 6 |
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| 2. <i>Annual Conference or Conference</i> : unless otherwise noted, refers to the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. | 9 |
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| 3. <i>Conference Agency</i> : any council, board, commission, committee, task force, or other structural grouping established by the Standing Rules of the Conference or mandated by <i>The Discipline</i> . | 12 |
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| 4. <i>Ex-officio member</i> : unless otherwise noted, all ex-officio members shall have vote. | 16 |
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| 5. <i>Resolution</i> : A non-legislative proposal for the Annual Conference to address or take action regarding a particular issue. | 19 |
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| 6. <i>Petition</i> : Proposed changes to <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> or <i>The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church</i> that are forwarded to the General Conference for action. | 22 |
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| 7. <i>Annual Conference Session</i> : Any regular or special session of the Annual Conference comprised of clergy and lay members as mandated by <i>The Book of Discipline</i> , Standing Rules or Structure. | 26 |
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| Section III. Mandated Disciplinary Changes to the Conference Standing Rules and Structure | 33 |
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| Par. 111. Mandated Changes | 36 |
| The Committee on Review and Research shall work with the Conference Secretary, <i>Journal</i> Editor and Assistant to the Bishop to ensure that changes mandated by General Conference will be reflected in the Conference Standing Rules, Structure and <i>Journal</i> . | 37 |
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| Chapter Two | 42 |
| ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 43 |
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| Section I. Conference Structure (¶ 610, The Book of Discipline) | 46 |
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| Par. 201. Flexibility | 48 |
| The structure of the Annual Conference shall be flexible, responsive and inclusive of age, gender and diverse ethnicity. | 49 |
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| Par. 202. Changes to Structure | 51 |
| A 60% supermajority of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to change the Conference Structure. | 52 |
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| Section II. Officers | 55 |

1. **Purpose.** The Bishop shall carry out those duties assigned by *The Book of Discipline*.
Par. 203. Bishop ¶¶ 414-416
2. **Structure.** The South Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy will assign the Bishop at its quadrennial meeting.
3. **Process.** The Bishop carries out General and Residential duties as a member of the Council of Bishops and the South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops by working with the South Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy, the Annual Conference Committee on Episcopacy, the Cabinet, Centers, ~~Extended Cabinet~~ and other Conference agencies.
- Par. 204. Conference Secretary ¶ 603.7**
1. **Purpose.** The Conference Secretary shall carry out those duties described in various paragraphs of *The Book of Discipline* and those assigned by the Annual Conference and shall be responsible for annual review of the Arkansas Conference Rules of Order and for recommending them for adoption at the beginning of each Annual Conference.
2. **Structure.** The Annual Conference shall elect a Conference Secretary every quadrennium.
3. **Process.** The Conference Secretary is responsible to the Annual Conference through the Conference Planning Committee.
- Par. 205. Conference Treasurer ¶ 619**
1. **Purpose.** The Conference Treasurer shall carry out those duties described in various paragraphs of *The Book of Discipline* and those assigned by the Annual Conference.
2. **Structure.** The Conference Treasurer shall be nominated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and elected by the Annual Conference according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.
3. **Process.** The Conference Treasurer is responsible to the Annual Conference through the Council on Finance and Administration.
- Par. 206. Conference Statistician ¶ 603.7**
1. **Purpose.** The Conference Statistician shall carry out those duties described in *The Book of Discipline* and those assigned by the Annual Conference. The Statistician shall make all statistical data and information available to the Annual Conference.
2. **Structure.** The Conference Statistician shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference every quadrennium according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.
3. **Process.** The Conference Statistician is responsible to the Annual Conference through the Council on Finance and Administration.
- Par. 207. Conference Chancellor ¶ 603.**
1. **Purpose.** The Conference Chancellor and Associate Chancellor(s) shall serve as the legal advisor(s) to the Bishop and the Annual Conference.
2. **Structure.** The Conference Chancellor shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference. Upon the recommendation of the Bishop, Associate Chancellor(s) may be nominated by the Bishop and elect

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ed by the Annual Conference according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

Par. 208. Conference Lay Leader ¶ 607

1. **Purpose.** The Conference Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leader(s) are the elected leaders of conference laity and shall be members of the Annual Conference. The Lay Leader will have responsibility for fostering awareness of the role of the laity in achieving the mission of the Church and for enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making processes of the Annual Conference, district, and local church.
2. **Structure.** The Conference Lay Leader shall be a member of the Annual Conference, the Conference Nominating Committee, the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, and the Annual Conference Planning Committee; and may be designated by the Bishop to any Conference agency.
3. **Process.** The Conference Lay Leader shall be the chairperson of the Conference Board of Laity, and shall relate to the organized lay groups in the Conference, support their work and help them coordinate their activities. The Conference Lay Leader shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference, and may serve no more than two consecutive quadrennia.

Section III. Lay Members ¶¶ 602.4 – 602.10

Par. 209. Lay Members of the Annual Conference The lay membership of the Annual Conference shall consist of a lay member elected by each charge, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, the Conference president of United Methodist Women, the Conference president of United Methodist Men, the Conference Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leader, District Lay Leaders, the Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, the president or equivalent officer of the Conference young adult organization, the president of the Conference youth organization, the chair of the Annual Conference college student organization, one student from each Wesley Foundation, one student from Hendrix College Campus Ministry, one student from Philander Smith College Campus Ministry, two young persons between the ages of twelve and seventeen (one of whom shall be currently serving on the District or Conference Council on Youth Ministry) and two young persons between the ages of eighteen and thirty from each district to be selected by the District Leadership team or District Nominating Committee in consultation with the District Superintendent. Each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment (including deacons in full connection for whom this is their primary appointment) shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment.

Lay members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full Conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers, except those who are lay members of the board of ordained ministry. Lay members shall serve on all committees except those on ministerial relations and for the trial of clergy.

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When at any time a lay member is excused by the Annual Conference from further attendance during the session, the alternate lay member, if present, shall be seated. The lay member or the alternate shall be the lay member of the Annual Conference, and it shall be the duty of the lay member to report to the local church on actions of the Annual Conference.

Section IV. Clergy Members ¶¶ 602.1 – 602.3

Par. 210. Clergy Members of the Annual Conference The clergy membership of the Annual Conference shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection (¶333), provisional members (¶327), associate members, affiliate members (¶344.4, 586.4), and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge (¶317).

1. Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the Annual Conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and Conference relations of clergy.
2. Provisional, associate and affiliate clergy members, and full-time and part-time local pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of lay or clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and matters of ordination, character, and Conference relations of clergy, **with the following exceptions:**
 - **Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences. (¶602.1.b)**
 - Associate members and local pastors who are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶634.1).
 - **Local pastors who have completed all of their educational requirements and who have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences. (¶602.1.d)**

Section V. Lay-Clergy Equalization

Par. 211. Equalizing Lay and Clergy Membership If the lay membership should number fewer than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference according to the following priorities:

1. The Annual Conference clergy membership shall include campus ministers, chaplains and Wesley Foundation directors. In districts where United Methodist laypersons serve as campus ministers/ directors of Wesley Foundations, they shall be added as at-large lay members to the Annual Conference. In districts

where United Methodist clergy serve as chaplains, campus ministers, and directors of Wesley Foundations, the laypersons elected as their balancing counterparts shall be elected from either the campus ministry board of directors or a student from that ministry/foundation. In making sure that such inclusion is adhered to, special consideration shall be given to the inclusion of United Methodist young adults who are active participants in campus ministry.

2. Lay Delegates and Alternate Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference
3. Lay chairpersons of Conference Boards, Committees, and Commissions as elected by the Annual Conference. When the following positions are held by laity: Conference treasurer, Conference statistician, Conference secretary, and Conference ministry staff.
4. When additional lay members are required to equalize representation an equal number of "at-large" delegates from each district shall be elected. The Conference Secretary will notify each District Superintendent of the number of at-large members they are to select giving consideration to the following persons:
 - a. Congregations underrepresented by virtue of size or circumstance
 - b. Elected chairpersons of Conference boards and agencies not included above
 - c. Officers of the Conference Board of Laity
 - d. Conference officers of UM Women, UM Men, and Conference Council on Youth Ministries residing within the bounds of a district
 - e. Elected lay persons to General and Jurisdictional Conference boards and agencies
 - f. District presidents of UM Women, UM Men, and District Councils on Youth Ministry
 - g. Lay members of Conference boards and agencies
 - h. Additional youth from each district

Upon their selection, the District Superintendent shall notify these persons in writing of their delegate status at least ~~60~~ 30 days prior to the Conference.
5. The names and addresses of lay members of the Annual Conference elected by the Charge Conferences, as well as any district lay members selected by the district, shall be compiled by the District Superintendents and sent to the Conference Secretary at least 60 days prior to the opening day of the Annual Conference session.

Section VI. Business of the Annual Conference: Conference Procedure

The following Conference procedures shall be observed to expedite the business of the Annual Conference:

Par. 212. Pre-Conference Journal There shall be a *Pre-Conference Journal*, which shall contain reports of all program agencies of the Conference, proposed legislation,

resolutions and petitions, and information about the Annual Conference session. This Pre-Conference Journal shall be provided to each member of the Arkansas Conference at least 30 days before the annual session. The Conference Secretary shall be the editor of this publication. Pre-conference reports submitted for inclusion in the *Pre-Conference Journal* shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary by a deadline to be determined and widely publicized by the Conference Secretary. Any agency making a report not included in the Pre-Conference Journal that proposes changes in policy or has financial implications shall provide the Conference Treasurer and chair of CF&A with the report no later than 10 days prior to the opening Business Session of Annual Conference.

Par. 213. Resolutions and Petitions

1. Resolutions or petitions not offered by a Conference agency must be signed by at least ten lay and/or clergy members of the upcoming Arkansas Annual Conference Session. These signatures must be obtained before the proposed resolution or petition may be submitted to the Conference Secretary. **All petitions and resolutions not printed in the Pre-Conference Journal must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to the opening Business Session. Those proposing the petition or resolution shall provide at their own expense copies for all lay and clergy members. Petitions and resolutions must be included in the Pre-Conference Journal to be considered by the Annual Conference Session.**

Any petitions and resolutions must lay on the table for a minimum of 24 hours prior to consideration.

2. *Footnotes.* Resolutions and petitions shall contain footnotes that clarify the source of any facts, quotes, or generalizations made within the proposed resolution or petition. These footnotes must be included with the proposed resolution or petition before it may be submitted to the Conference Secretary. These footnotes shall include enough information to allow the Conference some level of confidence that the content of the proposed resolution or petition is accurate and reliable. These footnotes shall also include enough information to allow the content of the proposed resolution or petition to be checked for accuracy.

Par. 214. Items for Distribution. All items for general distribution shall be prepared by the sponsoring person or agency at their own expense and must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary no later than 3:00 p.m. prior to the next day's Business Session.

Par. 215. Journal of the Annual Conference

1. There shall be a *Journal*, which contains a record of the Annual Conference proceedings.
2. All content for the Journal shall be provided to the Conference Secretary no later than the close of the Annual Conference session. All material to be published in the Journal that does not meet this deadline may be excluded unless specific permission for delay is granted by the Conference Secretary. The Conference Secretary, Dean of the Cabinet, and Conference Treasurer shall be authorized to edit all reports for printing in the Journal .
3. Addresses delivered to the Conference, except for the Episcopal Address, Laity Address and Youth Address, shall not be printed in the Conference Journal .
4. All **legislation and** reports not printed in the Pre-Conference Journal shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary and Presiding Officer no later than 3:00

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| p.m. the day before the opening Business Session. The agency, at their own expense, also will provide enough copies for the members of the Annual Conference Session to the Conference Secretary no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day before the opening Business Session. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. The Conference Structure shall be reprinted each year in the <i>Journal</i> , incorporating any changes made during the preceding Annual Conference. | 6 7 8 |
| 6. The Conference Secretary shall distribute an electronic copy of the <i>Journal</i> to active and retired clergy, seminarians, all probationary members, lay members of the Annual Conference, and chairpersons of Conference board, committees, and agencies. Printed copies may be obtained upon request. | 9 10 11 12 13 |
| Par. 216. Election of Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences At the Annual Conference session preceding the year of delegate election, the Conference may adopt rules governing the election of delegates. | 14 15 16 17 |
| Par. 217. Conference Expense Fund Registration fees and non-designated offerings taken at the Annual Conference shall be administered by the Conference Treasurer to defray expenses of the session. | 18 19 20 |
| Par. 218. Payment of Annual Conference Expenses Expenses of the Annual Conference session shall be paid by funds received from: | 21 22 23 |
| 1. Registration fees, which shall be set by the Conference Session Planning Committee; | 24 25 |
| 2. Offerings, other than special designated offerings; and | 26 27 |
| 3. If necessary, the Conference Administration Fund. | 28 29 |
| Par. 219. Retired Clergy, Spouses, and Surviving Spouses No registration fee shall be required for retired clergy, their spouses or surviving spouses. The expense of retired clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses shall be paid in keeping with the guidelines of the Council on Finance and Administration when proper vouchers are presented. | 30 31 32 33 34 35 |
| Par. 220 Student Local Pastors and Seminary Students No registration fee shall be required for student local pastors or seminary students. | 36 37 38 |
| Par. 221 Location of the Annual Conference Session Location of Annual Conference sessions will be selected by the Annual Conference Planning Committee and reported to the Annual Conference on a schedule sufficient to secure adequate facilities for meetings and lodging. | 39 40 41 42 43 |
| Par. 222. Annual Conference Session Rules The Annual Conference Session will adopt the Arkansas Conference Session Rules during each opening Business Session of Annual Conference. Session rules will be proposed by the Annual Conference Session Planning Committee and adopted at the opening Business Session of each Annual Conference by a majority vote. Session rules shall remain in effect during all session of the Arkansas Conference until superseded by action of the Annual Conference. | 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 |

**Structure of the Arkansas Annual Conference
Chapter One**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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| Section I. The Arkansas Conference Mission | 1 |
| Par. 301. Mission The Mission of the Arkansas Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to transform the world with excellence and passion. | 2 3 4 |
| Par. 302. Vision Congregations and surrounding communities transformed by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate love of God and neighbor, holy living, and justice. | 5 6 7 |
| Par. 303. Core Measures | 8 |
| 1. We will be enriched by our Wesleyan heritage of scriptural holiness so that we are connected by our mission of making disciples instead of being connected by our apportionments, appointments and benefits. | 9 10 11 12 |
| 2. We will establish the mission field as the primary focus of our attention and resources instead of directing the majority of our attention and resources to mere maintenance of congregations and clergy. | 13 14 15 16 |
| 3. We will equip laity and clergy to transform individuals, communities and the world instead of trying to satisfy personal preferences of current members and ensure congregational preservation. | 17 18 19 20 |
| 4. We will address the unique context of each mission field instead of depending on standardized programs and structures. | 21 22 23 |
| Par. 304. Arkansas Conference Trajectory Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. | 24 25 26 27 |
| Section II. Structure | 28 |
| Par.305. Establishment The Arkansas Annual Conference establishes the following Structure under the authority of <i>The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church</i> , which permits the Annual Conference to structure its own ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ. ¶610 | 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 |
| Par. 306. Purpose The Structure prescribes the ministries, organization and procedures the Annual Conference will use in carrying out its mission, vision, core measures and trajectory. | 36 37 38 39 |
| Par. 307. Task Force Boards, committees, commissions, and other agencies are encouraged to develop task forces to address emerging missional opportunities. Each board, committee, commission and other agencies will invite to these task forces persons who will bring passion, experience, and expertise to the work. | 40 41 42 43 44 |
| Chapter Two | |
| NOMINATION AND ELECTION TO CONFERENCE AGENCIES AND OFFICES | |
| Section I. Nomination to Conference Agencies | 45 46 47 48 |
| Par. 401. Conference Nominating Committee | 49 |
| 1. Purpose. Except as otherwise indicated by <i>The Book of Discipline</i> or the Standing Rules of the Arkansas Conference, the Conference Nominating Committee shall identify and nominate all members and chairpersons of the Annual Conference boards, teams, commissions and committees, the Conference Lay | 50 51 52 53 54 55 |

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| Leader, Associate Lay Leader, the Conference Secretary, and the Conference Statistician. | 1 |
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| 2. Structure. | 4 |
| a. Composition Membership shall include one clergy and one lay member from each district and two cabinet representatives. The following shall serve as ex-officio members with vote: The Bishop (or representative), Conference Lay Leader, Associate Lay Leader, President of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and the Chairperson (or representative) of the Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns. The Director of Connectional Ministries shall serve as ex-officio without vote. The Committee shall reflect racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. They shall be elected by the Conference for terms of four years. | 5 |
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| b. Nominations for Committee Membership. Nominations shall be received from each District Nominating Committee. Nominations for membership on the Conference Nominating Committee shall be received from the District Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. Additional nominations may come from the floor. Elected members may serve a maximum of four consecutive years as long as they continue to live within the bounds of the district. If an elected district member moves out of the district mid-year, they will continue serving on this committee until their successor is elected at the next Conference session. Persons completing their elected term are ineligible to serve on the Nominating Committee until the passage of at least four years. | 16 |
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| c. Filling Vacancies on the Committee. Any vacancy occurring between sessions of the Annual Conference shall be filled for the remainder of the term at the succeeding session of the Annual Conference in the same manner as described above. If a member representing a district is unable or unwilling to attend meetings, the District Superintendent may name a substitute to ensure that the district is represented. | 28 |
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| d. Officers. The committee shall organize, by electing from within its membership, a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. | 35 |
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| 3. Process. All nominees shall be consulted regarding their nomination. The right to nominate from the floor of the Annual Conference session shall not be abridged. "In the nomination and election of the membership of councils, boards, and agencies of the Annual Conference, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth, (§256.3), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches." (§1610.5) Attention shall also be given to geographical representation. | 39 |
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Par. 402. Board, Agency and Committee Service

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| 1. Elective membership on any specific board, agency, or committee of the Annual Conference may not exceed two consecutive quadrennia, excepting ex-officio | 53 |
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membership, unless otherwise prescribed by *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. After eight consecutive years on any specific board, agency, or committee of the Annual Conference, no person may return to the same body until the passage of four years, excepting ex-officio membership. Membership begins upon election, with the date noted in the *Conference Journal*.

2. No person shall be elected by the Annual Conference to serve on more than one Council, Board, Committee, Commission, Agency, etc. at any one time. This does not affect ex-officio positions. The following are exempt from this rule: Conference Nominating Committee, Episcopacy Committee, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Committee on Review and Research, Joint Committee on Incapacity, Board of Ordained Ministry and Administrative Review Committee.
3. In the nomination and election of the membership of councils, boards, and agencies of the Annual Conference, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (§1256.3), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches.” (§1610.5) Special attention shall also be given to geographical representation.
4. Members of general agencies shall serve as ex-officio members of the corresponding Annual Conference agency or its equivalent structure. If this results in a person being a member of more than one Annual Conference agency in violation of either Annual Conference policy or another provision of *The Book of Discipline*, the person shall choose the Annual Conference agency on which to serve.
5. “No member or employee of any Conference agency and no employee, trustee, or director of any agency or institution participating in the funds of any Conference budget shall be eligible for voting membership on the Council on Finance and Administration.” (§1611.2)
6. Agencies of the Annual Conference are to keep records of member attendance and participation and report to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may recommend to the Annual Conference that new board/committee members be elected to replace those whose lack of participation inhibits the effectiveness of the board/committee.
7. Unless provided for elsewhere, a vacancy between sessions of the Annual Conference shall be filled by the **Extended** Cabinet on nomination of the Nominating Committee.

Par. 403. Task Force Service

1. Membership on Task Forces shall be inclusive of ethnic minorities and persons from small membership churches. A balance of laymen, laywomen, and clergy shall be the norm.
2. The norm for Task Force membership shall be a broad base of participation from throughout the Conference.

3. Persons are limited to membership on one Conference task force at a given time. It is recommended that persons will not immediately begin service on a new task force after completion of their service.

Par. 404. Removal from Agency Membership Since lack of members' participation inhibits the effectiveness of Conference Agencies, Agencies will keep records of member attendance and participation and report to the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership. The Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership may recommend to the Annual Conference that new board/committee member(s) be elected to replace those whose lack of participation inhibits the effectiveness of the board/committee.

Par. 405. Procedure for Filling Vacancies Unless provided for elsewhere, a vacancy between sessions of the Annual Conference shall be filled by the **Extended** Cabinet on nomination of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership.

Chapter Three

CONFERENCE AGENCIES AND OFFICES

Section I. Establishment of Conference Agencies

Par. 501. Required by The Book of Discipline ¶¶607.9-654 (The following includes required agencies and officers, any rules that impact the agency or officer and the name given by The Arkansas Annual Conference to that agency if it differs from the name listed in *The Book of Discipline*.)

1. Board of Discipleship ¶¶ 630, 645
2. Board of Laity ¶ 631
3. Conference Associate Lay Leader ¶ 607.9
 - a. **Purpose.** The Conference Associate Lay Leader shall assist the Conference Lay Leader in fostering awareness of the role of the laity in achieving the mission of the Church and for enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making processes of the Annual Conference, district, and local church.
 - b. **Structure.** The Conference Associate Lay Leader shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. The Conference Associate Lay Leader shall be a member of the Annual Conference, the Conference Nominating Committee, the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, and the Annual Conference Planning Committee; and may be designated by the Bishop to any Conference agency.
4. Board of Ordained Ministry ¶ 635
5. Committee on Episcopacy ¶ 637
6. Episcopal Residence Committee ¶ 638
7. Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶ 634

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| a. | Membership of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry shall include a chairperson and two representatives from each district nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. In addition, there shall be one representative from each Wesley Foundation, one representative from the campus ministry at Hendrix College named by the President of Hendrix College, and one representative of the campus ministry at Philander Smith College named by the President of Philander Smith College. The campus minister from each campus and the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries shall be ex-officio members without vote. In addition, any member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from the Annual Conference shall be a member of the Conference board. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 |
| b. | Wesley Foundation Boards: Membership will be appointed by each local board and presented to each Annual Conference for approval. A majority of members of Wesley Foundation Boards shall be active members of a United Methodist Church in Arkansas. | 14 15 16 17 18 |
| 8. | Board of Global Ministries ¶¶ 633, 642 | 19 |
| a. | The membership of the Conference Board of Global Ministries shall include a Chairperson, the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries and the District Secretaries of Global Ministries who shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference, the Mission Coordinator of Education and Interpretation of the Conference United Methodist Women. | 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 |
| b. | The Board shall designate a coordinator (or coordinators) for Volunteer In Mission opportunities, a coordinator (or coordinators) of missionary personnel, a coordinator (or coordinators) for disaster response, a coordinator (or coordinators) for ecumenical and interreligious concerns, and a coordinator (of coordinators) of Parish and Community Development. In addition, any member of the General Board of Global Ministries from the Annual Conference shall be an ex-officio member of the Conference board. | 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 |
| 9. | Conference Secretary of Global Ministries ¶ 633.3 | 37 |
| a. | The Secretary of Global Ministries shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference and will be a member of the Board of Global Ministries. | 38 39 40 41 42 |
| 10. | Conference Board of Church and Society ¶¶ 629, 653 | 43 |
| a. | The membership of the Conference Board of Church and Society shall consist of a chairperson, one representative from each district, the United Methodist Women Mission Coordinator for Social Action, and one at-large member nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. The membership shall include persons with disabilities. The board will be half clergy and half laity. The Board shall elect a secretary from its members. | 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 |
| b. | The members of the Board shall organize themselves into committees to work on the various issues of concern to the Board as outlined in the So- | 53 54 55 |

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| | cial Principles, including local, state, national, and international issues. The Board shall include a coordinator (or coordinators) of Peace with Justice Ministries. In addition, the Board shall include a coordinator (or coordinators) of disability concerns. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. | Conference Commission on Religion and Race ¶ 643 | 6 |
| a. | Membership shall include a chairperson and one member from each district to be represented by racial and ethnic minority persons. Selection of commission members shall ensure adequate representation of women, youth, young adults, older adults, and people with disabilities. | 7 8 9 10 11 |
| b. | Members of the General Commission on Religion and Race residing in the Annual Conference shall be ex-officio members of the Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race with vote. The commission chairperson and members shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. | 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 |
| 12. | Conference Commission on Status and Role of Women ¶ 644 | 19 |
| a. | Membership will include one representative from each district, and a chairperson, who shall be a woman, to be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. In addition, there shall be a representative from the United Methodist Women and the Board of Laity. | 20 21 22 23 24 25 |
| 13. | Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns ¶¶ 632, 654 | 26 |
| a. | The membership shall include: | 27 |
| 1) | Chairperson to be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference; | 28 29 30 31 |
| 2) | One representative from each district appointed by the District Superintendent. Race, gender, and age shall be taken into consideration, with special attention to ensure that the committee represents the racial makeup of ethnic groups within the Arkansas Conference (Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans). At no time shall ethnic persons make up less than 51% of the persons represented on the committee. Representatives without vote: | 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 |
| 3) | A representative of the Conference Staff; | 41 42 |
| 4) | One representative from Conference Commission on Religion and Race (chairperson or designee) to act as liaison; and | 43 44 45 |
| 5) | Liaison(s) to other bodies as needed to accomplish the Committee's work. | 46 47 48 |
| 14. | United Methodist Women ¶ 647 | 49 |
| 15. | United Methodist Men ¶ 648 | 50 51 |
| 16. | Conference Council on Youth Ministries ¶ 649 | 52 53 |
| 17. | Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶ 650 | 54 55 |

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| 18. Conference Council on Adult, Singles, Family, and Older Adult Ministries ¶ 651 | 1 |
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| 19. Council on Finance and Administration ¶ 612 | 3 |
| a. The Council members will be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. The Council shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members. The Conference Coordinator of Stewardship shall be an ex-officio member. There will be at least one more lay person than clergy included on the Council. Members will be elected to four-year terms of office. Those whose terms have expired will be eligible to be elected to one additional four-year term. Churches of fewer than 200 members shall be represented on the council. Ex-officio members of the Council (without vote) shall be (1) the Conference Treasurer, (2) any member of the General Council on Finance and Administration who resides in Arkansas, (3) the presiding Bishop (4) a Cabinet representative and (5) the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Council will elect from its voting membership a president, vice president, and secretary. | 4 |
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| 20. Conference Treasurer ¶ 619 | 19 |
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| 21. Conference Statistician ¶ 603.7 | 21 |
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| 22. Conference Secretary ¶ 603.7 | 23 |
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| 23. Conference Chancellor ¶ 603.8 | 25 |
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| 24. Conference Board of Trustees ¶ 2512 | 27 |
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| 25. Board of Pension and Health Benefits ¶ 639 | 29 |
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| 26. Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641 | 31 |
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| 27. Commission on Communications ¶ 646 | 33 |
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| 28. Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶ 625 | 35 |
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| 29. Joint Committee on Incapacity ¶ 652 | 37 |
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| 30. Administrative Review Committee ¶ 636 | 39 |
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| 31. Committee on Investigation ¶ 2703.2a | 41 |
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| 32. Committee on Investigation for Diaconal Ministers ¶ 2703.2b | 43 |
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| 33. Extended Cabinet ¶ 424 | 45 |
| a. Purpose. The purpose of the Extended Cabinet shall be to act as the central team that develops and implements ministry and mission strategies of the Arkansas Annual Conference. It also shall serve as the body to which all financial requests for ministry resources are submitted. The Director of Connectional Ministries will have primary responsibility to receive requests. It will be the responsibility of the Extended Cabinet to present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration with a listing of ministry priorities and rationale for budget requests. | 46 |
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| b. Structure. The membership of the Extended Cabinet shall be determined by the presiding bishop to address the missional needs of | 54 |
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the Annual Conference.

34. **Committee on Disability Concerns ¶ 653**

Section II. Additional Conference Agencies and Offices

Par. 502. Additional agencies, committees, and offices ¶ 610.2 (The following includes additional agencies and officers, any rules that impact the agency or officer and the name given by The Arkansas Annual Conference.)

1. Leadership Table

- a. **Purpose.** The Leadership Table shall resource and facilitate ministry networks to strengthen local church ministries.
- b. **Structure.** The Leadership Table shall be composed of the chairs or designated representatives of the Conference boards and agencies and the coordinators of ministries within those entities under the guidance of the Director of Connectional Ministries.

2. Conference Council on Children’s Ministries

3. Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries

- a. **Purpose.** The Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries is responsible for providing experiences in outdoor settings that enable persons of all ages to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to grow in their faith. The Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry Committee will be responsible for budget requests and funding allocations.
- b. **Structure.** The Committee will provide proper communication and alignment between Arkansas Conference entities and camps/retreat centers with relationship statements with the conference. It will consist of the following positions, with authority to add persons if required.

- 1) Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries Coordinator
- 2) Director of Connectional Ministries
- 3) Conference Director of Children’s Ministries or representative
- 4) Conference Director of Youth Ministries or representative
- 5) Conference Council on Youth Ministries President or designee
- 6) Conference Young Adult Ministries Chair
- 7) Conference Coordinator of Adult, Singles, Family and Older Adult Ministries
- 8) Center for Vitality Representative
- 9) Board of Higher Education Representative
- 10) Camp Tanako Director
- 11) Mount Eagle Retreat Center Director
- 12) **Bear Creek Camp Representative

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13)**Shoal Creek Camp Representative

*** Unless accredited, positions will end December 31, 2019*

4. Conference Session Planning Committee

a. **Purpose.** The Conference Session Planning Committee shall:

- 1) Develop and approve the Annual Conference agenda, in consultation with the Bishop;
- 2) Set Annual Conference registration fees;
- 3) Recommend a balanced budget for the upcoming Annual Conference session to the Council on Finance and Administration;
- 4) Advise the Bishop on setting dates for the Annual Conference session;
- 5) Advise the Bishop on the selection of the Conference preacher;
- 6) Research and advise the Annual Conference on selection of future meeting sites;
- 7) Advise and approve plans of the worship committee for the Annual Conference session;
- 8) Maintain a checklist of local host responsibilities;
- 9) Review and approve an evaluation process; and
- 10) Review evaluations of the previous session prior to planning the next session.

a. **Structure.** Membership of the Conference Session Planning Committee shall be:

- 1) Bishop, who shall serve as chairperson;
- 2) Conference Lay Leader, who shall serve as vice-chairperson;
- 3) Conference Secretary, who shall serve as secretary;
- 4) Worship Coordinator (Board of Discipleship);
- 5) Director of Connectional Ministries;
- 6) Conference Treasurer;
- 7) Coordinator of Spiritual Growth, Conference United Methodist Women;
- 8) Host District Superintendent;
- 9) Two representatives of the host committee for the forthcoming session, selected by the host District Superintendent.
- 10) Four lay persons from the Board of Laity, selected by the conference Lay Leader in consultation with the Bishop;

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- 11) Two ethnic minority persons; and 1
 - 12) Any other persons named by the Bishop. 2
5. Committee on Review and Research 3
- a. **Purpose.** The Committee on Review and Research shall: 1) Ensure 4
changes in the Conference Standing Rules and Structure that are man- 5
dated by the General Conference and are published in each subse- 6
quent edition of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*; 7
2) Review all resolutions presented to the Annual Conference that call 8
for changes in the Standing Rules or Structure and report to the Confer- 9
ence; and 3) Propose changes in Standing Rules and Structure that will 10
enable the Annual Conference to more faithfully carry out its mission, 11
vision, core measures and trajectory. 12
 - b. **Structure.** The Committee on Review and Research shall include a 13
chairperson, one representative from each district, and three at-large 14
members. The chairperson and members shall be nominated by the 15
Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Confer- 16
ence. 17
 - c. **Process.** The Committee will work with the Conference Secretary, Journal 18
Editor, and Assistant to the Bishop to ensure that changes mandated by 19
the General Conference are reflected in the Conference Standing Rules 20
and Structure, and are published in each subsequent edition of the Jour- 21
nal. The Committee will review all resolutions, petitions, and legislation 22
presented to the Annual Conference that call for changes in the Standing 23
Rules or Structure and report to the Conference. 24

Chapter Four 31

DISTRICTS 32

Section I. District Structure 33

Par. 601. District Agencies and Officers (The following includes required agencies 34
and officers, any rules that impact the agency or officer and the name given by The Ar- 35
kansas Annual Conference to that agency if it differs from the name listed in *The Book 36
of Discipline*.) 37

- 1. District Leadership Team ¶ 661 38
- 2. District Conference ¶¶ 658 – 659 39
- 3. District Nominating Committee (Non-disciplinary) 40

 - a. **Purpose.** The District Nominating Committee shall nominate persons 41
to fill all of the offices within the District except those given by *The 42
Book of Discipline* to the District Superintendent for nomination or 43
appointment, and to nominate persons from the Districts to serve on 44
Annual Conference agencies. 45

- 4. **Structure.** The District Nominating Committee shall include the District 46

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| Superintendent (who shall be the chairperson) and nine members elected by the District Conference (four clergy and five lay) with names of persons placed in nomination from the floor of the District Conference. The Committee shall be divided into three, three-year classes, with a class of persons elected annually to a three-year term. No more than one person from a local church may serve on the committee. No elected member may serve two consecutive terms. | 1 |
| District Lay Leader ¶ 660 | 2 |
| 5. District Board of Trustees ¶ 2518 | 3 |
| 6. District Board of Church Location and Building ¶ 2519 | 4 |
| 7. District Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries ¶ 668 | 5 |
| 8. Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669 | 6 |
| 9. District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶ 666 | 7 |

See also page 11 for Proposed Standing Rules for 2019

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Worship

Morning Services

Daily at 8:00 a.m.

These powerful services feature both new and familiar songs and a devotional that helps us place our primary focus on God.

Music: The Weatherfolk & Friends

Opening Worship

Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

“GOD is with US”

Come celebrate the power of US as we praise God for the gift of community.

Preacher: Bishop Gary Mueller

Retiree Service

Thursday at 11:00 a.m.

A time to give thanks for our retiring clergy and those who completed license to preach school.

Memorial Service

Thursday at 1:15 p.m.

This will be a meaningful time of sharing memories and gratitude for the saints who passed away in the last year.

Preacher: Rev. Rodney Steele

Ordination Service

Friday at 7:30 p.m.

An opportunity to celebrate God's call on our lives, as we witness the commissioning and ordination of clergy.

Preacher: Rev. Linda Harker, McFarlin Memorial UMC

Sending Forth Service

Saturday at 10:30 a.m.