

#LiveWithLight

John 1:5



Arkansas Annual Conference
June 2-4, 2021 · Hot Springs, Arkansas

Pre-Conference Journal



#LiveWithLight

———— John 1:5 ————

God of Light, shine upon us
during these days of holy
conferencing.

Pour out your Holy Spirit to light
our path and guide our way.

May all that we do reflect the
image of Christ, so that your
church will be a light shining in
the darkness of the world.

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

April 15, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The past year has been filled with uncertainty in so many aspects of our lives. Through it all, however, the people called United Methodists in Arkansas have been magnificent in all the ways you have cared for people, innovated and faithfully proclaimed the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am honored to serve with you in ministry.

Two years ago, we met in person for Annual Conference in Hot Springs. Last year, we met online. For this year's Annual Conference, June 2-4, we will offer a hybrid event that allows those who feel comfortable gathering together to do so and those who feel the need to stay at home the opportunity to be part of everything that transpires through Zoom - including voting, asking questions and speaking to legislation. Not surprisingly, we will structure the agenda to take into account both those at home and those meeting in person by having longer lunch breaks, no evening gatherings, and adjourning Friday afternoon no later than 6 p.m.

Annual Conference will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 2. The Service of Ordination and Commissioning will be held later that afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in the Convention Center. There will be two teaching sessions. The first, led by Rev. Dr. Michael Beck of Fresh Expressions US, will address the future of the church. The other, led by Rev. Dr. Erin Beasley and Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson, will help us take the next steps in our ongoing journey of Dismantling the Sin of Racism and Building God's Reconciliation. Rev. Edna Morgan will preach the Celebration of Life Service.

Our theme for this year's conference, *#LiveWithLight*, is a powerful reminder from John 1:5 that the light of Christ is more powerful than all the pain, suffering and evil in the world. Please join me in praying that this year's Arkansas Annual Conference will profoundly demonstrate how true this is to a world that so needs Jesus' love.

Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller
Bishop

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General Information

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

Lodging

See page 7 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 ac2020 app for details on childcare opportunities: [https:// arumc.org/ac2021/](https://arumc.org/ac2021/) and click on the Childcare link for forms and information. **The registration deadline is May 24. No exceptions will be made due to Child Safe regulations.**

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.**

Special Offerings

Two special offerings will be received:

- Arkansas Disaster Relief
- 200,000 More Reasons, Childhood Hunger Initiative

DURING YOUR STAY:

Convention Center Phone Numbers

Manager on duty & After Hours Contact: Pauline Howard, 501-520-9811

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
- Ann Ferris, Host DS (479) 216-4499

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: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Thursday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Announcement Requests

ALL Announcement Requests June 2-4 should be sent to the following email address:
announcementsAC2021@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/news). This information 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.

Vendors and Special Events

With the health and safety of the Annual Conference 2021 attendees being our priority, the Annual Conference planning committee has recommended there be no in person special events or vendors at Annual Conference 2021.

This decision is based solely upon the safety precautions for COVID-19 provided by the CDC and the Arkansas Department of Health.

WORSHIP:

Bank of the Ozarks Arena

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

Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Opening Worship with Ordination Service
Service rehearsal is 9:30 am, Wednesday, June 2.

Thursday, 10:15 a.m., Retiree Service

Thursday, 1:30 p.m., Celebration of Life Service

Friday, 5:00 pm, 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.

Hotel Information

Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa (0.29 Miles)

SOLD OUT

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: UMA (UM Annual Conference) Single: \$157 + tax
Double: \$167 + tax
Triple: \$177 + tax
Quad: \$187 + tax

Hotel Hot Springs (0.3 miles)

305 Malvern Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71907
877-623-6697
Renovated and Remodeled Guest Rooms, Refrigerator & Microwave in all Rooms, Complimentary Breakfast available 6:30 am to 9:30 am, The Inside Track and Lounge, Shuttle Service to Popular attractions within City Limits, Complimentary WIFI.
Single Occupancy: \$127 + tax
Double Occupancy: \$137 + tax
Triple Occupancy: \$147 + tax
Quad Occupancy: \$157 + tax
Code: UMC2021

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, Starbuck's, Two Swimming Pools and Hot Tub
Single Occupancy: \$99 + tax
Double Occupancy: \$99 + tax
Mineral Water Room: \$149 + tax
Junior Suite: \$169 + tax
Parlor 1 Bedroom Suite: \$269 + tax
Code: Church

Holiday Inn Express (5 miles)

206 Mehta Court
Hot Springs, AR 71913
(501) 463-5600
Hot/Cold Breakfast Buffet, Heated Indoor Pool, 24 Hour Gym, Free Wi-Fi, Outdoor patio with fire pit, Free Parking
Single or Double: \$115 - \$135.00 + 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, Movie Theater Room, Outdoor patio with fire pit, Indoor Heated Pool, Free Guest Laundry Studio Suite: \$92.00 - \$112.00 + Tax One Bedroom Suite: \$129.00 - \$139.00 + Tax Code: 2020 United Methodist Conference

Double Tree by Hilton (5.9 Miles)

4813 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-525-1391
Mini Refrigerator, Microwave, Iron & Ironing Board, Hair Dryer, Safe, Free Parking, Free WiFi
King Standard: \$169.00 + tax
Double Queen Standard \$149.00 + tax

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: ACM

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, Texas
Roadhouse Grill on site.

Kings: \$94 +tax

Suites: \$104 + tax

Mention United Methodist Church Conference

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 Wi-Fi, Outdoor Pool, Fitness
Center and Business Center

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

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

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, Dish Network, Walking
Distance to Restaurants, Recently Remodeled,
Pets Welcome.

\$107 + tax for single or double

Voting Rights

Who Can Vote When

Your name tag indicates your voting status at Plenary Sessions. Please wear your name tag in a visible location during these sessions. All lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference have the right to speak on all matters before the Conference.

Voting privileges are as follows:

	Recommendations & Conference Business	Elections for Clergy Delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conferences	Elections for Lay Delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conferences	Constitutional Amendments	Matters of Ordination, Character and Conference Relations of Clergy
Clergy Members in full connection (§1602.1 a)	●	●		●	●
Provisional Clergy Members who have completed all educational requirements (§1602.1 b)	●	●			
Associate Clergy Members (§1602.1 c errata)	●	●			*
Affiliate Clergy Members (§1602.1 c errata)	●				
Full- and Part-time Local Pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge who have not completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree (§1602.1 d)*	●				*
Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election (§1602.1 d errata)	●	●			*
Elders or Ordained Clergy from other denominations serving under appointment within the Annual Conference (§1346.2)	●				
Lay Members: Elected Members representing congregations, Members by Virtue of Office, At-large Members as elected by districts (§132), Youth Members (§1602.4)	●		●	●	▽
Alternate Lay Members , when seated in place of lay member (§1602.7)**	●		●	●	
Missionaries regularly assigned by the GBGM in nations other than the US & Certified Lay Missionaries from nations other than the US serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference (§1602.9)	○				
Conference Chancellor if not otherwise a voting member (§1602.10)	○				
Ordained Clergy or Provisional Members from other Annual Conference and Other Methodist Denominations (§1346.1)	○				
Retired Local Pastors (§1320.5)	○				
Visitors , with majority approval of Annual Conference Members	○				

● Voting Privilege

○ Voice without Vote

* If also a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they may vote at Clergy Session

▽ If also a lay member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and/or Committee on Investigation (§1602.6)

* No Local pastor shall be eligible as a lay member or alternate (§251.2)

** Please remember that only alternate members elected by their charge conference may be seated at annual conference (§251.2)



Revised March 2020

2021 Arkansas Annual Conference Session Rules

Hybrid Session Rules

Opening Motions

The following will be adopted at the opening Business Session of the 2021 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, as printed in the pre-conference journal

Hybrid Participation of Annual Conference Members in the 2021 Annual Conference

1. Due to ongoing safety concerns associated with the Covid-19 global pandemic, the 2021 Arkansas Annual Conference will allow both in-person and virtual participation by its members. Members not meeting in person may participate by remote communication via an online Zoom platform consistent with Arkansas Act 253 of 2021 allowing for remote meetings.
2. For all purposes, this hybrid meeting is deemed to be the equivalent of an in-person meeting.
3. Members of the Annual Conference, with the right to vote, will include:
 - a. clergy members in full connection;
 - b. provisional, associate and affiliate clergy members;
 - c. full and part-time local pastors under appointment;
 - d. elders or ordained clergy from other denominations serving under appointment within the Arkansas Conference;
 - e. laity who are members of Annual Conference by charge conference vote, by virtue of Discipline or Conference Standing Rules, youth members and those designated to serve as lay-clergy equalization at-large members;
 - f. alternate lay members when seated in place of the lay member.
4. Arkansas Conference staff who are providing technical support for members attending virtually may be present during the meeting: Amy Ezelle, Jacob Turner, Day Davis, Caleb Hennington, Christina Choh, Palmer Lee, Sara Andrews and Danielle Atkisson.
5. For members attending in person the bar of the conference shall be the floor and second level of the Bank of the Ozarks Arena. For those attending virtually the bar shall be all members who log in through the Zoom login information provided by the Arkansas Conference office.
6. Current Arkansas Department of Health and Convention Center covid guidelines will be followed. Specific guidelines distributed to members at the beginning of the annual conference session shall be followed by all members attending in-person.
7. Members of the Annual Conference attending virtually are responsible for ensuring that all necessary technology on the member's side of the meeting is in proper working order prior to the meeting. Those present virtually will be counted by electronic log-in and are deemed to be present for the meeting for purposes of meeting a quorum.
8. All votes taken shall be conducted in accordance with The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church and 2021 Arkansas Conference Session Rules. Poll logs will be maintained for all votes made virtually.
9. The meeting will be conducted in a manner such that all participants, whether meeting in-person or virtually, are afforded a reasonable opportunity to simultaneously hear discussion. All participants, whether participating in-person or virtually, will have the right

and afforded the opportunity to speak and address those in attendance. All those who have the right to vote, whether participating in-person or virtually, will be able to vote on all matters submitted during the meeting.

10. To facilitate virtual participation, the online Q&A feature will serve as the equivalent of a floor mic in the bar of the conference. The Q&A feature may not be used for personal comments or unauthorized speeches. Q&A submissions will not be considered for recognition unless they are properly formatted and clearly identified as a motion, amendment, point of order, speech for or against, or other parliamentary procedure properly before the body.
11. To maintain an open meeting, the Annual Conference meeting will be livestreamed and recorded for playback.

Consideration of Conference Matters

1. Roberts Rules of Order, 12th Edition shall be the procedural authority for the business session of the Annual Conference when not in conflict with Arkansas Conference Session Rules, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church or the Arkansas Conference Standing Rules.
2. Rules of Order for Motions, Legislation and Reports
 - 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. A timer shall be used to measure debate at the discretion of the Chair.
 - 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.
 - c. The presentation of the motion, legislation or report by a Conference Agency shall not be considered a speech in favor.
3. Rules of Order for Petitions and Resolutions
 - 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. A timer shall be used to measure debate at the discretion of the Chair.
 - b. The presentation of the petition or resolution may last four (4) minutes and shall be considered a speech in favor.
 - 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.
 - d. Amendments and substitutions to petitions and resolutions will not be considered by the Annual Conference.
 - e. 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.
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.
5. All motions made virtually shall be written into the Q&A feature and read by the Conference Secretary or Presiding Officer before any action or vote can be taken by the members of the conference.
6. Points of Order may be raised by any member of the annual conference, who must first cite the Standing or Session Rule, The Book of Discipline, or Robert's Rules of Order 12th Edition involved and then state the point as briefly and concisely as possible.

Motions Involving Expenditures

1. 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 the conference.

Annual Conference Facilitators

1. In-person Tellers shall be selected in a manner to be determined by the Conference Secretary.
2. Chat room monitors, vote counters and other facilitators needed to monitor and facilitate virtual participation for the conference will be selected by the conference secretary and the names will be made available to the members of the Annual Conference.

Annual Conference Agenda

June 2-4, 2021

Wednesday, June 2, 2021*

8 a.m. Registration Opens
 9:30 a.m. Ordination Rehearsal
 10:30 a.m. Break
 11 a.m. Business Session: Opening Prayer, Call to Order, Voting Instructions, Session Rules
 12 p.m. Lunch
 1:30 p.m. Business Session: AC Prayer, Organization, Greetings from Host City Churches, Presentation of Consent Calendar, Monitoring Report
 2 p.m. Episcopal Address
 2:30 p.m. Committee on the Episcopacy Dismantling the Sin of Racism & Building God's Reconciliation
 3 p.m. Laity Address, Youth Address
 3:45 p.m. Break
 4:30 p.m. Opening Worship with Ordination
 6:15 p.m. Adjourn for the Evening

Thursday, June 3, 2021*

8 a.m. Worship: Prayer for Annual Conference
 8:15 a.m. Business Session: "Painting the Landscape", Standing Rules, Delegation Report, CFC, Connectional Ministries, Tithe, Board of Trustees
 9:45 a.m. Break
 10:15 a.m. Retirement Service
 11:15 a.m. Business Session: AC Prayer, Petitions and Resolutions
 12 p.m. Lunch
 1:30 p.m. Celebration of Life Service
 2:30 p.m. Break
 3 p.m. Order of the Day: Rev. Dr. Michael Beck
 4 p.m. Prayer
 4:15 p.m. Business Session: AC Prayer, UMM/UMW, BOM, Native American Ministries,

DisAbilities, CF&A, MFA, Ethnic Ministries, Religion and Race, Board of Global Ministries
 Adjourn for the Evening,

Friday, June 4, 2021*

8 a.m. Worship: Prayer for Annual Conference
 8:15 a.m. Business Session: Denman and One Matter Awards, Disaster Relief, Culture of Call, Equitable Compensation, Nominations, Final CF&A Report, 25th Anniversary Deacon Video
 9:45 a.m. Break
 10:15 a.m. Business Session: AC Prayer, Board of Pensions, COSROW
 10:45 a.m. Order of the Day: Rev. Dr. Erin Beasley and Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson
 11:45 a.m. Having the Conversation: Troy Conrad
 12 p.m. Lunch
 1:30 p.m. Business Session: AC Prayer, Mt. Eagle, Camp Tanako, LPI, Hendrix, Philander, Methodist Le Bonheur, Methodist Family Health, Perkins
 2:45 p.m. Break
 3:15 p.m. Business Session: AC Prayer, Dean of the Cabinet, Consent Calendar, Monitoring Report #2, Thank Yous
 5 p.m. Setting of Appointments
 5:45 p.m. Service of Sending Forth
 Final Adjournment

***Agenda is subject to change**

Action Reports and Budgets

Council on Finance and Administration

Tithe Revenues

The Arkansas Annual Conference prepares its spending plan based on projected revenues of a 10% tithe of the aggregate income of our local congregations as reported on lines 62 and 64 of Table III. This enables local churches to use 90% of their collections for their local church ministries.

62. Total Income for annual spending plan (as of 1/31/2021) \$91,181,400

64. Total Income from connectional/institutional sources outside the local church \$295,872

Total Revenue \$91,477,272

10.0% Spending Plan Maximum \$9,147,727

Spending Plan Overview

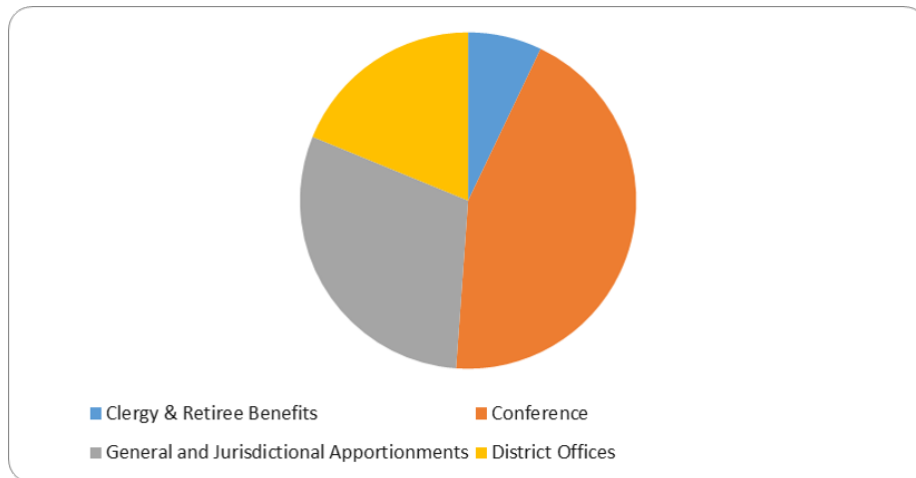
The budget, or spending plan, cap for the year 2020-2021 is **\$9,147,727** based on 2020 revenue figures. The Arkansas Annual Conference's total spending plan for the 2021-2022 year is **\$8,226,968** which is **89.9%** of the maximum spending plan.

The following priorities have guided the Cabinet and CFA in making strategic stewardship decisions in order to shape the 2021-2022 Arkansas Conference Spending Plan:

1. We will continue to ensure the financial stability of the Arkansas Conference by strictly adhering to the principles and promises of the Arkansas Tithe Initiative.
2. We will craft a conference spending plan that can be adapted to a rapidly changing landscape.
3. We will support districts, district superintendents, district administrators and district strategy teams as the primary means for connection and missional strategy development and implementation.
4. We will empower local congregations through resources, training and programs that enable new and existing congregations to become more vital in making disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities and the world (eg. Transition Seminar; cohorts; consultation; workshops; etc.).
5. We will offer ministries that connect together congregations to transform lives, communities and the world (eg. 200,000 Reasons; disaster response; campus ministry; children and youth, etc.).
6. We will provide services and carry out tasks for which the annual conference is uniquely responsible (eg. district superintendents and district offices; communication; Culture of Call; Board of Ordained Ministry, Board of Trustees; Board of Pensions; administrative services; Annual Conference Session, etc.).
7. We will make building healthy relationships a priority.

The spending plan includes apportionments to the general and jurisdictional conferences which total **\$2,475,983** or **30%** of the spending plan. The District Superintendents and district office spending plans total **\$1,551,449** or **19%** of the spending plan. The clergy and retiree benefits spending plan totals **\$585,065** or **7%** of the spending plan. The remaining **\$3,614,471** or **44%** is allocated to conference administration, and resourcing local congregations.

2021 - 2022 Spending Plan



I. Spending Plan

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget	Pass Thru	% of Total	% Change
Fund #1 Clergy and Retiree Benefits (Pension and Health Benefits Committee)							
Pension & Benefits							
Administration	34,525.00	110,000.00	82,500.00	82,500.00	N	1%	0%
Conference Staff Pension (clergy only)	48,636.00	60,000.00	21,000.00	21,315.00	N	0%	1%
Disability Health Care	25,380.00	25,000.00	18,750.00	18,750.00	N	0%	0%
Methodist Health EAP	14,472.00	15,000.00	-	-	N	0%	0%
Retiree Health Care	717,994.00	750,000.00	562,500.00	462,500.00	N	6%	-18%
Virgin Pulse	169,148.00	80,000.00	-	-	N	0%	0%
Subtotal Clergy and Retiree Benefits	1,010,155.00	1,040,000.00	684,750.00	585,065.00		7%	-15%
Fund #2 General Apportionments (Determined by General Conference)							
Africa University Fund	33,493.00	41,938.00	38,499.00	38,499.00	Y	0%	0%
Black College	149,659.00	187,396.00	171,242.00	171,242.00	Y	2%	0%
Episcopal Fund	328,962.00	411,911.00	475,060.00	475,060.00	Y	6%	0%
General Administration	131,902.00	165,162.00	145,698.00	145,698.00	Y	2%	0%
Interdenominational Cooperation	29,342.00	36,741.00	5,122.00	5,122.00	Y	0%	0%
Ministerial Education	281,390.00	352,344.00	277,913.00	277,913.00	Y	3%	0%
Ministerial Scholarships	93,497.00	117,448.00	92,637.00	92,637.00	Y	1%	0%
World Service	1,110,830.00	1,390,931.00	1,183,103.00	1,183,103.00	Y	14%	0%
Subtotal General Apportionments	2,159,075.00	2,703,871.00	2,389,274.00	2,389,274.00		29%	0%
Fund #3 Jurisdictional Apportionments (Determined by Jurisdictional Conference)							
Jurisdictional Administration	22,487.00	28,157.00	28,157.00	28,157.00	Y	0%	0%
Lydia Patterson Institute	42,846.00	53,650.00	53,650.00	53,650.00	Y	1%	0%
Reserves	3,915.00	4,902.00	4,902.00	4,902.00	Y	0%	0%
Subtotal Jurisdictional Apportionments	69,248.00	86,709.00	86,709.00	86,709.00		1%	0%
Fund #4 Districts							
District Superintendents	624,782.00	621,700.00	621,700.00	631,026.00	N	8%	2%
DS Travel	53,019.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	N	1%	0%
DS Pension	87,038.00	90,000.00	90,000.00	91,350.00	N	1%	1%
Central District Office**	188,870.00	217,336.00	198,379.00	193,155.00	N	2%	-3%
Northeast District Office**	192,190.00	210,482.00	132,553.00	126,811.00	N	2%	-4%
Northwest District Office**	198,952.00	210,600.00	195,592.00	168,977.00	N	2%	-14%
Southeast District Office**	176,062.00	181,162.00	112,358.00	113,163.00	N	1%	1%
Southwest District Office**	141,460.00	144,781.00	129,750.00	135,708.00	N	2%	5%
Subtotal District Apportionments	1,662,373.00	1,766,061.00	1,570,332.00	1,550,190.00		19%	-1%
Fund #5 Conference Administration (CFA)							
Administrative Committees and Boards*	114,962.00	159,500.00	159,500.00	158,000.00	N	2%	-1%
Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	93,246.00	134,980.00	134,980.00	134,980.00	N	2%	0%
Center for Administrative Services*	633,028.00	621,412.00	618,112.00	612,007.00	N	7%	-1%
Episcopal Discretionary	5,414.00	13,000.00	11,500.00	11,500.00	N	0%	0%
Episcopal Housing	21,211.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	N	0%	0%
Episcopal Office	24,326.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	N	0%	0%
Pastors Moving Expense	46,620.00	75,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	N	1%	0%
Stabilization	66,632.00	275,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	N	1%	0%
Subtotal Conference Administration	1,005,439.00	1,324,892.00	1,140,092.00	1,132,487.00		14%	-1%
Fund #6 Resourcing Local Congregations (Cabinet)							
Center for Communications*	464,888.00	446,973.00	426,080.00	444,892.00	N	5%	4%
Center for Multiplying Disciples*	420,272.00	607,239.00	135,000.00	100,000.00	N	1%	-26%
Conference Ministries Office*	461,406.00	511,360.00	458,056.00	463,761.00	N	6%	1%
Connectional Ministries*	1,348,004.00	1,482,483.00	1,353,131.00	1,286,831.00	N	16%	-5%
Equitable Compensation	61,769.00	85,000.00	76,500.00	76,500.00	N	1%	0%

General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Exp	14,690.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	N	0%	0%
Stabilization	-	483,101.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	N	1%	0%
Subtotal Resourcing Local Congregations	2,771,029.00	3,626,156.00	2,558,767.00	2,481,984.00		30%	-3%
Total Conference Budget	8,677,319.00	10,547,689.00	8,429,924.00	8,225,709.00		100%	-2%

* See detailed budget on following pages.

** Districts budgeted for the period Jan-Dec 2019 and Jan-Jun 2020. Budgets above for those timeframes are estimated based on those budgets and for informational purposes only.

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

General Apportionment Fund	Apportioned Amount	Percentage of Total
Africa University Fund	\$ 38,499	1.61%
Black College	\$ 171,242	7.17%
Episcopal Fund	\$ 475,060	19.88%
General Administration	\$ 145,698	6.10%
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 5,122	0.21%
Ministerial Education	\$ 277,913	11.63%
Ministerial Scholarships	\$ 92,637	3.88%
World Service	\$ 1,183,103	49.52%
Total General Apportionments	\$ 2,389,274	100.00%

General apportionments are paid as a percentage of the tithes received by the Arkansas Annual Conference. Funds received in excess of the anticipated collection rate will be distributed to GCFA on the existing pro rata basis.

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
15. Project Transformation Arkansas

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

II. Conference and District Tithe

Effective July 1, 2021, the tithe calculation will be reduced from 10.5% to 10.0%.

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. Less Paycheck Protection Program loans

I. Adjusted gross income = Line A minus B,C,D,E,F,G,H

J. Conference Monthly ministry tithe = Line I 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.

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.

Line H—Exclude funds received from the Paycheck Protection Program loan

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.	1
C. When any Conference staff personnel travels at the request of a Conference agency for other than normal representative or liaisons purposes, the expenses of such travel shall be borne by the requesting agency.	2
D. Reimbursement for Conference Travel shall be:	3
1. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all volunteers	4
2. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all Conference employees	5
E. Retired and disabled ministers may be paid \$80 per diem for days they attend Annual Conference with a maximum of \$240.00 per household.	6
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.	7
G. The undesignated net assets is not a budgeted item. This is used to maintain operating cash flow for the conference.	8
H. If the undesignated net assets exceeds 10% of the Arkansas Annual Conference Spending Plan 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.	9
I. All interest earnings on Conference monies shall be credited to the undesignated net assets.	10
J. 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.	11
K. The balances remaining in the Conference Benevolence Fund and the Conference Administration Fund at year-end shall be transferred to the undesignated net assets.	12
L. The Conference provides fidelity bonding insurance in compliance with ¶ 618 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.	13
M. 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).	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
2. The objective of the investment of Conference monies is to provide:	16
a. Preservation of capital.	17
b. Liquidity – to meet anticipated and unanticipated future needs.	18
c. Maximization of income – while simultaneously insuring preservation of capital and liquidity.	19
d. Compliance with the Social Principles and the Discipline of the UMC.	20
3. To accomplish this objective:	21
d. Funds should be deposited in AR institutions in good standing.	22
e. Securities:	23
1. Direct obligation of United States Government Treasury Bills and Notes	24
2. FDIC insured Certificate of Deposits, Time Deposits, interest-bearing accounts	25
4. Funds should be deposited on a short-term basis, up to one-year when all objectives can be satisfied.	26
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	27

1 is to be on the maintenance of adequate funds and the avoidance of speculative invest-
2 ments

3 6. This policy may be amended to meet changing conditions and to fulfill the needs of the
4 Arkansas Annual Conference

5 N. The Conference gives the CFA the authority to fund extraordinary needs relating to the life
6 and ministry of the Arkansas Conference. These needs shall be funded from available un-
7 restricted funds. This authority shall not be used to replace or circumvent normal funding
8 procedures of the Arkansas Conference.

9 O. When the Arkansas Annual Conference adopts a program or ministry that is not within the
10 existing Conference structure, the Conference shall specify lines of amenability and ac-
11 countability so as to provide for budgeting, evaluation and audit.

12
13 VII. Administrative Concerns:

14 A. All funding requests shall be presented to the appropriate board or agency of the Con-
15 ference for recommendation before presentation to the CFA. All persons authorized to
16 vouch for funds shall be identified by agencies and approved by the Cabinet prior to the
17 dispensing of funds.

18 B. The final time for receiving Conference tithe shall be close of business on June 30th.

19 C. Each charge shall declare all ministerial support. The report shall include remuneration
20 for compensation travel, utility expense, insurance, Social Security, and all additional
21 compensation paid to the pastor or on behalf of the pastor.

22 D. When any agency's total budgeted funds have been expended; no further expenditures
23 will be authorized without C.F. & A. approval.

24 E. All benevolent, connectional, and pension funds shall be sent to the Center for Admin-
25 istrative Services, P.O. Box 55588, Little Rock, AR 72215, except for the following, which
26 shall be sent as designated:

- 27 1. UM Children's Home Christmas offering and special gifts to the UM Children's Home,
28 P.O. Box 56050, Little Rock, AR 72215.

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30 Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson – President

31 Betty Gene Mann and Charles Donaldson – Co-Vice-Presidents

32 Rev. Ann Farris– Secretary
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Supplemental Reports

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
Administrative Committees and Boards				
AC Voting Equipment	-	-	-	-
Annual Conference	47,077.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	80,000.00
Conference Legal Resource Fund	-	4,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
Conference Secretary	-	5,000.00	5,000.00	1,000.00
Conference Trustees	4,566.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Council Finance & Administration	732.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	1,500.00
Financial Audit	20,500.00	19,500.00	19,500.00	20,500.00
Property and Liability Insurance	41,910.00	38,000.00	38,000.00	42,000.00
Unfunded Boards, Agencies, Commissions	177.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Administrative Committees and Boards	114,962.00	159,500.00	159,500.00	158,000.00

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
Center for Administrative Services				
Conference Benefits Income	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits	624,604.00	631,240.00	631,240.00	625,672.00
Travel	9,963.00	13,300.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Office administrative expense	52,173.00	31,500.00	31,500.00	30,000.00
Computer software and hardware	56,628.00	48,300.00	48,300.00	50,000.00
Continuing education	1,700.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Mission Connect	17,835.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	17,835.00
Other	-	2,072.00	2,072.00	-
Rent	70,125.00	76,500.00	76,500.00	76,500.00
Total Expenses	833,028.00	821,412.00	818,112.00	812,007.00
Total Center for Administrative Services	633,028.00	621,412.00	618,112.00	612,007.00

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
Center for Communications				
Advertising and Subscriptions Income	7,425.00	20,000.00	13,500.00	10,000.00
Administrative				
Salaries and benefits	382,489.00	380,473.00	353,080.00	377,392.00
Travel	28,740.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	25,000.00
Office administrative expense	21,724.00	21,000.00	16,000.00	20,000.00
Continuing education and dues	3,784.00	15,500.00	15,500.00	5,000.00
Furniture and equipment	11,360.00	10,000.00	-	5,000.00
Total Administrative	448,097.00	446,973.00	404,580.00	432,392.00
Programming				
Advertising	5,674.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Digital AUM and other communications	11,856.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00
Conference website and software	6,686.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	6,500.00
CouRSe, net of funds from Foundation	-	-	5,000.00	-
Total Programming	24,216.00	20,000.00	35,000.00	22,500.00
Total Expenses	472,313.00	466,973.00	439,580.00	454,892.00
Total Center for Communications	464,888.00	446,973.00	426,080.00	444,892.00

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
Center for Multiplying Disciples				
CIC Endowment Interest Income	38,140.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
Administration				
Salaries and benefits	315,234.00	344,635.00	-	-
Office administrative expense	42,695.00	12,000.00	-	-
Travel	23,941.00	20,000.00	-	-
Total Administration	381,870.00	376,635.00	-	-
New Places for New People	37,693.00	131,604.00	135,000.00	100,000.00
Revitalization	23,078.00	106,000.00	-	-
Discipleship Training and Resources	15,771.00	33,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
Total Expenses	458,412.00	647,239.00	175,000.00	140,000.00
Total Center for Multiplying Disciples	420,272.00	607,239.00	135,000.00	100,000.00

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
Conference Ministries Office				
Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits	440,180.00	467,360.00	430,056.00	437,761.00
Travel	7,951.00	18,000.00	12,000.00	10,000.00
Office administrative expense	11,528.00	20,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Conflict resolution training	1,337.00	1,000.00	-	-
Continuing education	410.00	5,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Conference Ministries Office	461,406.00	511,360.00	458,056.00	463,761.00

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
Connectional Ministries				
Balance carried forward for Ethnic Ministries (to offset budget)				(25,000.00)
Administrative				
Travel	2,028.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Administrative expenses	1,697.00	2,500.00	500.00	500.00
Total Administrative	3,725.00	5,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Programming				
Committees	673.00	7,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Disaster Preparedness & Response	2,326.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Volunteers in Mission	3,055.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
Leadership Development	-	5,000.00	-	-
200,000 More Reasons (Delta Project)	12,484.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Culture of Call	14,513.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00
Commission on Archives and History				
Archives	27,161.00	32,235.00	27,041.00	27,041.00
Historical Society	50.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Commission on Archives and History	370.00	1,745.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
United Methodist Museum	15,782.00	15,765.00	11,550.00	11,550.00
Total Commission on Archives and History	43,363.00	51,745.00	40,591.00	40,591.00

Age Level Ministries				
Council on children's ministries	14,897.00	19,540.00	19,540.00	19,540.00
Council on youth ministries	16,342.00	44,500.00	44,500.00	44,500.00
Council on young adult ministries	3,263.00	4,000.00	-	-
Youth worker network	11,488.00	17,200.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total Age Level Ministries	45,990.00	85,240.00	79,040.00	79,040.00

	2019-2020 Actual	2019-2020 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Budget
Connectional Ministries (continued)				
Ethnic Ministries				
Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee	33,024.00	37,500.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Developer of Ethnic Ministries Programs	-	-	15,000.00	15,000.00
Ethnic and Language Initiatives	-	-	50,000.00	50,000.00
Ethnic Ministries First Year Launch Grant	-	-	-	25,000.00
Total Ethnic Ministries	33,024.00	37,500.00	115,000.00	140,000.00
Global Ministries				
Arkansas interfaith conference	-	10,000.00	-	-
Church & community workers	-	13,500.00	-	-
SE Coordinator - 200,000 More Reasons	-	-	15,000.00	15,000.00
Canvas Community ministry	-	-	15,000.00	15,000.00
Committee on volunteers in mission	-	3,100.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Mission U	17,000.00	15,600.00	15,600.00	14,500.00
Mission Personnel Initiative	944.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
General	1,604.00	4,052.00	4,400.00	2,800.00
Total Global Ministries	19,548.00	49,252.00	56,000.00	53,300.00
Higher Education & Campus Ministries				
Other campus ministries	4,500.00	10,000.00	-	-
Board training and development	10,200.00	25,000.00	-	-
Campus ministry - Philander Smith College	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Campus ministry - Hendrix College	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - ASU	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - ATU	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - HSU/OBU	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - SAU	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - U of A	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - UALR	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - UAM	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - UAPB	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation - UCA	76,673.00	76,673.00	75,000.00	70,000.00
Wesley foundation directors pension	63,494.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	50,000.00
Board of higher ed operations	7,117.00	4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Maintenance grant Wesley foundations	47,932.00	45,000.00	-	-
Campus ministry grant funding	56,500.00	52,943.00	-	-
Total Higher Education & Campus Ministries	1,033,146.00	1,040,346.00	887,000.00	822,000.00
Board of Laity				
Association of annual conference lay leaders	1,297.00	4,050.00	3,100.00	3,000.00
Board of Laity	-	2,250.00	1,900.00	1,900.00
Lay servant ministries	1,059.00	2,000.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Total Board of Laity	2,356.00	8,300.00	7,400.00	7,300.00

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Outdoor Ministries				
Mount Eagle	57,000.00	57,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Camp Tanako	61,500.00	61,500.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Programming grants	10,000.00	25,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Confirmation camp	3,381.00	-	4,000.00	4,000.00
Programming and marketing for camping and	1,920.00	8,000.00	-	-
Total Outdoor Ministries	133,801.00	151,500.00	119,000.00	119,000.00
Committee on Status and Role of Women	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Connectional Ministries	1,348,004.00	1,482,483.00	1,353,131.00	1,286,831.00

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY
2020 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE POLICY STATEMENT
3/15/2021

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 Ministry Checklist which outlines the complete candidacy process found at <https://arumc.org/our-resources/forms-and-documents/>
- 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.

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 submits Form AR020 to the Board of Ordained Ministry Office 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.
- J. Local Pastor Transfers from Another Conference 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 AR105, 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 AR105, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- G. The Conference Registrar corresponds with the candidate by December 1, regarding required written work, reference letters and assignments to be prepared and submitted by January 31 to the BOM Office.
- 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.
- 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 mem-

bers 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.

- J. To make application for Full Connection, the Provisional member shall complete Form AR105, Application for Clergy Relationship, and submit 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.

SECTION VII: TRANSFERS ¶ 346-347

- A. All ministers requesting Conference to Conference transfer (¶ 347.1) shall complete the Arkansas Conference Cabinet Vetting Process.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- F. Those appointed while retaining other faith credentials are required to meet annually with the dCOM to evaluate educational progress and ministerial performance.
- G. Ministers seeking transfer into United Methodist ministry from another denomination shall not join a local United Methodist church.
- 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
- 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 summer, fall and spring semesters. The loan amount is determined after the application deadline. Loans will not exceed 50% of tuition per semester unless there is a surplus in the budget year. The seminarian registrar shall have the discretion to disburse any surplus funds at an equal percentage for all semester applicants not to exceed loan limits. Students attending United Methodist seminaries can receive a maximum of \$10,000 per budget year in loans. Students at other University Senate approved seminaries can receive a maximum of \$7,000 per budget 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. Loans to candidates discontinued by dCom initiated action shall be forgiven.
- F. Beginning with 2020-2021 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 ~~Methodist Foundation of Arkansas~~ **Methodist Foundation for Arkansas**
- H. Applications can be downloaded from <https://arumc.org/our-resources/forms-and-documents/> 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 50% 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 50% of tuition will be provided per seminary financial aid.
- K. Deacon candidates on the professional certification route toward ordination (see ¶ 324.5) will also receive up to 50% of tuition per seminary financial aid.

SECTION IX: CONTINUING EDUCATION ¶ 350

- A. All clergy under full-time appointment must complete at least one (1) continuing education unit (ten hours of instruction) per year. These CEU's may be fulfilled by CEUs, CMEs, CCEs, or other approved programs. Persons in resident provisional status or those enrolled in Course of Study are exempt from this requirement.
- B. Clergy shall report CEUs to their District Superintendent at charge conference and to the BOM through the BOM Office.
- C. All clergy under full-time appointment with charge conference compensation, as reported in Box 13 of the Pastor's Compensation form, of less than \$58,920 may receive reimbursement from the BOM of up to \$200 annually as funds are available. This amount shall include only projected expenses for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Travel cannot be included as a projected expense.
- D. Financial aid is not available for Minister's Week at any seminary.
- E. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Guidelines for granting Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from The Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education for

Ministry (SACEM) shall be used by groups seeking to have events certified by the Conference Continuing Education Chairperson. (See GBHEM's website, <http://www.gbhem.org/continued.html>.)

- F. Professional Certification Studies: Applications may be made for up to \$200/year as funds are available to help pay for specialized certification courses. This amount shall include only projected expenses for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Travel cannot be included as a projected expense.
- G. Applications for granting continuing education credit for an event or reimbursement for continuing education shall be sent to the Chair of Continuing Education, BOM Office.
- H. Sabbatical Leave: All Issues concerning Sabbatical leave will follow the guidelines of ¶ 351, with the addition of those requesting Sabbatical will include their plan with start and end dates.

SECTION X: CHANGES OF CONFERENCE RELATIONSHIP ¶ 353-362

- A. The Conference Relations Committee (CRC) shall consist of at least 3 persons to hear requests as listed in 635.1 (d)
- B. Request for change of relationship to Voluntary Leave of Absence – Personal/Family (¶ 353) must be made at least ninety (90) days prior to Annual Conference by completing Form AR030 documenting specific reasons for the request. A copy of the Form shall be placed in the person's file.
- C. Maternity/Paternity leave requests follow ¶ 355.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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)
- G. Request for change of relationship to Medical Leave (¶ 356)
 - a. The Conference Benefits Officer will provide the person requesting a change in Conference relationship to Medical Leave with the appropriate application packet.
 - 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.
- H. Withdrawal (¶ 360.2)
 - 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.
 - 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.
- I. Readmission to Conference Relationship (¶ 364, 365, 366, 367 and 368)

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.
2. The BOM shall review all files and statements kept by the BOM Office and Registrars.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

SECTION XI: CLERGY COVENANT FUND

- 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.
- 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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Jean Estes, Chair
Nancy Meredith, Secretary

Board of Pension and Health Benefits

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits

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 **\$170,000** in healthcare reserves to fund the Virgin Pulse Fitness Program for the **2021-2022 year**. Participation will be reviewed annually. Conference FT staff, active clergy appointed to a FT church or conference responsible appointment **and their spouses** are eligible to participate. **Beginning January 1, 2021 retired clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses that retired from a full-time appointment meeting the same requirements shown for active clergy may be eligible to participate in the VP Plan.** 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, for the phone App select Wespath.

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 **& 4 additional visits for 2022 fiscal year**. The benefit is not guaranteed and will be reviewed annually. **The cost will be paid with Insurance Reserves for 2021-2022.** 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 **10** 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 2022 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 Wespath

includes a parsonage equivalent (25% of compensation) or housing allowance. **The benefit multiplier for 2021/2022 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.

2022 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 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 the **2022 fiscal year is \$208.08** for clergy and **\$156.06** 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. **The board approves a 1.5% COLA for those currently receiving the HRA effective 7/1/2021.** 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

- 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.

The minimum healthcare stipend benefit is **\$52.02** 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. For 2021-2022 it is **\$1040.40** 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 **\$1040.40** 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. There are no grants at this time.
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 **2021-2022** the conference has budgeted from the tithe **\$585,065**. That Total is broken down as:
 - Healthcare premium stipends for disabled clergy on approved medical leave shall be **\$18,750**.
 - Healthcare premium stipends for retirees & spouses shall be **\$462,500**.

- To provide for clergy under special conference responsible appointments shall be **\$21,315.**
- Administration **\$82,500.**

- 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.
- ¶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 2020 default total was \$46,726.72.** According to our Conference Treasurer, for **2020** the following churches were in default by greater than \$500 on the direct billed Clergy Retirement Security Program & the CPP premiums by the following amounts:

Name of Church/Charge	2020 Debt as of 3/31/2021
Central District-	
N/A	
Northeast District-	
Bethesda Campground	\$1,319.73
Joiner	\$2,010.42
Lepanto	\$546.06
Manila	\$875.40
Osceola	\$2,916.68
Corning	\$7,443.37
Northwest District-	
Atkins	\$1,721.20
Decatur	\$1,940.40
Gravette	\$2,587.20
Ozark	\$4,146.29
Southeast District-	
Lakeside-PB	\$645.31
Southwest District-	
Bingen	\$952.16
Lockesburg	\$595.00
Malvern	\$3,005.49
Pleasant Hill-Tex	\$5,637.49
Rondo	\$10,384.50
Total	\$46,726.72

- Notice of claims request for pension credit shall be made in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer, POB 3611 Little Rock, AR 72203-3611.
- 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.

9. Copies of individual service records are held at Wespeth, 1901 Chestnut Ave, Glenview, IL 60025-1604. Requests for service record copies may be obtained from the Conference Benefits Office.

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.

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.

11. Please notify the Conference Center Benefits Office when:

- a. You are eligible to enroll in pensions programs;
- b. Information relative to pension matters is needed;
- c. You have questions about participating in Social Security;
- d. You have questions about healthcare;
- e. A change in marital status, mailing address or income occurs;
- f. You have a question about past service or annuity credit or to request a change in service records;
- g. There are health issues that may lead to disability;
- h. Death in the immediate family occurs;
- i. A change of beneficiary is desired;
- j. Request for retirement is made to the bishop, cabinet, and board of ordained ministry;

2021-2022 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:

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

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;

1 WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Cler-
2 gypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminat-
3 ed, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

4 WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as
5 an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are
6 or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;
7

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

9 THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received
10 from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Dis-
11 cipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespath during the period 1/1/2021-12/31/2021
12 and 1/1/2022-12/31/2022, by each active, retired, terminated, or clergyperson receiving disability
13 benefits who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is desig-
14 nated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and
15

16 THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance des-
17 ignation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or
18 funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath and from a com-
19 mercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath
20 plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson
21 rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyper-
22 son of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general
23 agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of
24 the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related
25 to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or
26 accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated,
27 or a disabled Clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her
28 gross compensation.

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

40 **The 2022 Funding Plan is in process. When approved by Wespath it will be available on the**
41 **ARUMC website.**
42

43 Submitted by: Mona Williams, Conference Benefits Officer
44 Stark Ligon, Board of Pension & Health Benefits Chairperson
45 Todd Burris, Treasure & Director of Administrative Services Date:
46 **4/14/2021**
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Equitable Compensation Commission

For 74 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.

In the current spring of 2021, the Conference supported five charges through the Key Charge program. No charges are currently assisted through Minimum Base Compensation Support. 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 2022 Minimum Compensation Payment Schedule for full-time pastors under appointment remain as printed below. The payment schedule and guidelines remain the same as they were for 2021.

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 appointive cabinet, 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,
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 by April 15 to the Appointive Cabinet for review and the Commission on Equitable Compensation for continuing approval. 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. Upon recommendation by the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the minimum base compensation is set annually by the 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 appointive cabinet, 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.
5. Each church receiving compensation shall report by April 15 to the Appointive Cabinet for review and the Commission on Equitable Compensation for continuing approval. 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.

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 appointive cabinet, 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. Each church receiving compensation shall report by April 15 to the Appointive Cabinet for review and the Commission on Equitable Compensation for continuing approval.

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. Typically the calendar year of support is from July 1 through June 30, but the initial request and approval process may take place at any time during the year.

Respectfully Submitted Rev. Paul L. Strang, Chair

Board of Trustees

Principles Regarding Local Church Requests for Disaffiliation Proposed by the Arkansas Conference Board of Trustees for Ratification by the Arkansas Annual Conference

In response to actions taken by the 2019 called General Conference, it is possible that local churches will seek to leave The United Methodist Church through the process of Disaffiliation. The Arkansas Annual Conference hereby clarifies the principles governing its review process of any such request. We believe these to be fair to all.

As of this date, ¶2553 of the Book of Discipline governs procedures by which a local church can be granted permission to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and depart with its property and other assets. We are aware that ¶2553 may be revised by future General Conferences and that other proposals may supersede these Disciplinary paragraphs in the future.

Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline requires approval of the annual conference for a church to disaffiliate. While other approvals may be necessary as well, the following sets out the basic steps and requirements established by the Arkansas Conference Board of Trustees for the annual conference to approve disaffiliation:

1. When a request to disaffiliate is first received by a district superintendent, the request shall be forwarded to the Bishop, members of the appointive cabinet and the conference chancellor for review to determine if the request is based on at least one of the limited requirements found in ¶2553.1, namely:
 - a. "...reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference..." or
 - b. "...the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow."

The review will determine if the reasons of conscience are related to specific changes in the Book of Discipline as identified in ¶2553.1. Similarly, "actions or inactions of the annual conference" must also clearly relate to the specific changes in the Book of Discipline as identified in ¶2553.1.

2. If it is determined that the request for disaffiliation is not founded on at least one of these requirements the request will not be considered further, and written notice of the decision with explanation shall be given to the church pastor and Trustees Chair by the District Superintendent.
3. If the request for disaffiliation is found to be based on ¶2553.1 criteria, the pastor and appropriate church leadership team shall be instructed to lead a process of discernment open to all members of the local church over a period no less than three months. Approval of the discernment process must be made by the Appointive Cabinet upon recommendation by the church's District Superintendent. As part of the discernment process the church seeking disaffiliation must:
 - a. distribute and review information from the Center for Administrative Services concerning tithe, unfunded pension liability, and other costs related to standard terms as defined in Step 6 below.
 - b. hold at least three "listening sessions," advertised and open to all members of the local church to solicit their input, with at least the first being facilitated by the District Superintendent or designee. Attendance shall be taken at each session. Findings of the sessions are to be prepared in a report including the attendance roll.
 - c. prepare a statement articulating its theological and missional foundations in seeking to disaffiliate for reasons of conscience related to "human sexuality."
4. Upon completion of the discernment process, the two written reports will be delivered to the church's District Superintendent. Upon certification by the superintendent that the process of discernment has been completed and that a majority of the local church professing members are in favor of the request for disaffiliation, the DS shall authorize a church conference following the provisions of ¶246.8, ¶248 and ¶2553.3.
5. If disaffiliation is affirmed by a two-thirds majority of the professing members of the local church present at the duly called church conference (¶2553.3) the process may move forward. An official written attendance report shall be included with the minutes. If the two-thirds majority is not reached, this process leading to disaffiliation ends.
6. The Conference Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the cabinet, annual conference treasurer, annual conference benefits officer, director of connectional ministries, and conference chancellor, will work with designated church leaders to prepare a Disaffiliation Agreement between the Arkansas Conference and the local church trustees in accordance with all provisions of ¶2553.4. The Disaffiliation Agreement shall contain at least:
 - a. All provisions of ¶2553 including:
 - i. A clear effective date of disaffiliation,
 - ii. A recognition of the validity and applicability of ¶2501 (the Trust Clause,) notwithstanding the release of property therefrom,
 - iii. Acknowledgement that the local church shall pay any unpaid conference tithe for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, as well as an additional 12 months of conference tithe,
 - iv. Acknowledgement that the disaffiliating local church shall have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property,
 - v. Agreement that all costs for transfer of title or other legal work shall be borne by the disaffiliating local church,
 - vi. A stipulation that the local church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, (¶2553.4.g)
 - vii. A statement that the local church shall either satisfy all other debts, loans, and liabilities, or assign and transfer them to its new entity, prior to disaffiliation,

(¶2553.4.e)

viii. Agreement that all payment shall occur prior to the effective date of departure, and (¶2553.4.f)

ix. Acknowledgement that all transfers of property shall be made prior to the effective date of departure.

b. Additionally, the following standard terms will be applied:

i. Repayment of district, annual conference or general church grants made in the past ten years, excluding benevolence grants,

ii. Remaining salary support for the current appointive year (if applicable), and

iii. Payment for the value of real property, personal property, and mineral and other rights as may be negotiated by the Conference Trustees.

7. Upon acceptance of the disaffiliation agreement by the local church, the Conference Trustees will request a vote of approval for disaffiliation at the next Annual Conference. A simple majority of Annual Conference members present and voting shall ratify the motion for disaffiliation, contingent upon all provisions of the agreement being fulfilled before release of claim can occur (¶2529.1(b)(3); see JCD 1379).

8. Upon an affirmative vote of approval by the annual conference, the Arkansas Conference shall release any claims that it may have under ¶2501 and other paragraphs of The Book of Discipline, or under the agreement, provided that:

a. The disaffiliating local church has reimbursed the annual conference for all funds due under the agreement,

b. There are no other outstanding liabilities or claims against The United Methodist Church as a result of the disaffiliation, and

c. All other provisions of the agreement have been fulfilled.

This proposal is now submitted by the Arkansas Conference Board of Trustees for ratification by the Arkansas Annual Conference.

Reverend Tony Griffin

President, Arkansas Conference Board of Trustees

Camp Tanako

Camp Tanako, located in Hot Springs, is a camp and retreat ministry of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Tanako provides a sacred place, set apart from the world. 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 with their families and local congregations... things like love, forgiveness, prayer, worship, grace, and thanksgiving.

During our 10 weeks of summer programming, campers are guided by young adult leaders who serve as mentors and foster community among their peers. 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. We want them to go home empowered to be the love of Jesus Christ to their neighbors.

In 2020, Camp Tanako made the difficult decision to suspend summer camps. We still feel we made the correct call. We have been able to try new things, as many ministries have in this past

1 year. We hosted “Zoom Camp” for our Senior High campers, with The Hunger Games as our
2 theme. Our numbers were small, but fellowship was had and life lessons learned! We focused
3 most of our energy on reconnecting with campers of years past and marketing to new audienc-
4 es. We are very hopeful for a safe reopening of Summer Camps in 2021 and seeing the relation-
5 ships made over the last year blossom.
6

7 Although known for our Summer Camps, Tanako is open year-round for retreats, conferences,
8 reunions, and weddings. Our “second season” is a great opportunity to experience Christ in
9 Nature and just be, two things we all need. We are excited about growing this aspect of our
10 ministry.
11

12 Tanako was blessed to host the NOMADS- Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service,
13 again! They provide volunteer labor for United Methodist organizations and have helped to off-
14 sets the cost of maintenance to the grounds.
15

16 In 2021 we will have four board members roll off: Ken Pearson, Courtney Heyl, Rob Walker, and
17 Michelle Mann. We want to thank them for their service.
18

19 The Board of Trustees would like to recommend the following nominations to the conference
20 for approval: Hammett Evans, Kristen Qandah, Meaghan Arnold, Christy Park, David Kassos, and
21 one TBD.
22

23 Camp Tanako’s Board of Trustees and leadership want to thank the many churches and individ-
24 uals that support this extension ministry of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist
25 Church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. To learn more information on
26 our programs and to support our mission, visit Tanako.org and follow us on Facebook and Insta-
27 gram.
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29 Until we meet again,
30 Kayla Hardage
31 Executive Director
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Proposed Arkansas Conference Standing Rules

Submitted to the 2021 Arkansas Annual Conference for Approval

By the Arkansas Conference Cabinet

~~Section I. The Arkansas Conference Mission~~

~~Par. 101. Mission~~

The mission of the Arkansas Conference is to make 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. Trajectory~~

The Arkansas Conference Trajectory is to create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities and the world.

~~Par. 104. 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.

~~Section II. Standing Rules~~

~~Par. 105. Establishment of Standing Rules~~

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 of Standing Rules~~

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 or Suspension of Standing Rules~~

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to change or suspend 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.

Par. 109-108. Procedural Authority

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.

Par. 110 109. Definitions

1. *The Discipline*: unless otherwise noted, refers to the current *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.
2. *Annual Conference or Conference*: unless otherwise noted, refers to the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
3. *Conference Agency*: any council, board, commission, committee, task force, or other structural grouping established by the Standing Rules of the Conference or mandated by The Discipline.
4. *Ex-officio member*: unless otherwise noted, all ex-officio members shall have vote.
5. *Resolution*: A non-legislative proposal for the Annual Conference to address or take action regarding a particular issue.
6. *Petition*: Proposed changes to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* or *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church* that are forwarded to the General Conference for action.
7. *Annual Conference Session*: Any regular or special session of the Annual Conference comprised of clergy and lay members as mandated by *The Book of Discipline*, Standing Rules or Structure.

~~Section III. Mandated Disciplinary Changes to the Conference Standing Rules and Structure~~

Par. 111 110. Mandated Changes

The Committee on Review and Research shall work with the Conference Secretary, Journal Editor and Assistant to the Bishop to ensure that changes mandated by General Conference will be reflected in the Conference Standing Rules, Structure and Journal.

Chapter Two

ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

~~Section I. Conference Structure (¶ 610, The Book of Discipline)~~

Par. 201. Conference Structure

The structure of the Annual Conference shall be flexible, responsive and inclusive of age, gender and diverse ethnicity.

Par. 202. Changes to Structure

A 60% supermajority of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to change the Conference Structure.

~~Section II. Officers~~

203. Officers of the Conference

The Officers of the Conference shall be the following, and are governed by the provisions of the

current Book of Discipline. In the 2016 Book of Discipline they are:

1. Bishop ¶¶414-416

2. Conference Secretary ¶603.7

3. Conference Treasurer ¶619

4. Conference Statistician ¶603.7

5. Conference Chancellor ¶603.8

6. Conference Lay Leader ¶607

- a. The Conference Lay Leader shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee upon consultation with the bishop and Board of Laity and elected by the Annual Conference. Terms of office shall begin at the adjournment of the annual conference at which they are elected and shall be for a period of four years with a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms, with a minimum of four years before reelection.

Par. 203. Bishop ¶¶ 414-416

1. **Purpose.** The Bishop shall carry out those duties assigned by *The Book of Discipline*.
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, 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.

1 **3. Process.** The Conference Statistician is responsible to the Annual Conference through the
2 Council on Finance and Administration.

3
4 **Par. 207. Conference Chancellor ¶603.8**

- 5 **1. Purpose.** The Conference Chancellor and Associate Chancellor(s) shall serve as the legal
6 advisor(s) to the Bishop and the Annual Conference.
7 **2. Structure.** The Conference Chancellor shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by
8 the Annual Conference. Upon the recommendation of the Bishop, Associate Chancellor(s)
9 may be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference according to *The*
10 *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.
11

12 **Par. 208. Conference Lay Leader ¶607**

- 13
14 **1. Purpose.** The Conference Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leader(s) are the elected leaders
15 of conference laity and shall be members of the Annual Conference. The Lay Leader will
16 have responsibility for fostering awareness of the role of the laity in achieving the mission
17 of the Church and for enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and deci-
18 sion-making processes of the Annual Conference, district, and local church.
19 **2. Structure.** The Conference Lay Leader shall be a member of the Annual Conference, the
20 Conference Nominating Committee, the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, and the
21 Annual Conference Planning Committee; and may be designated by the Bishop to any
22 Conference agency.
23 **3. Process.** The Conference Lay Leader shall be the chairperson of the Conference Board
24 of Laity and shall relate to the organized lay groups in the Conference, support their work
25 and help them coordinate their activities. The Conference Lay Leader shall be nominated
26 by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference and may
27 serve no more than two consecutive quadrennia.

28 **Section III. Lay Members**

29
30 **Par. 209 204. Lay Members of the Annual Conference ¶¶602.4 – 602.10**

31
32 The lay membership of the Arkansas Annual Conference shall be governed by the provisions of
33 the current Book of Discipline. In the 2021-22 Conference year relevant paragraphs are 32, 33,
34 602.1(e) and 602.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

35
36 In addition to the disciplinary provisions, there shall be added to the lay membership an additional
37 one youth between the ages of twelve and seventeen currently serving on the District or Con-
38 ference Council on Youth Ministry and one young adult between the ages of eighteen and thirty
39 from each district to be selected by the District Leadership Team or District Nominating Commit-
40 tee in consultation with the District Superintendent.

41 The lay membership of the Annual Conference shall consist of a lay member elected by each
42 charge, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, the Conference president of United Methodist Women,
43 the Conference president of United Methodist Men, the Conference Lay Leader and Associate
44 Lay Leader, District Lay Leaders, the Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, the presi-
45 dent or equivalent officer of the Conference young adult organization, the president of the Con-
46 ference youth organization, the chair of the Annual Conference college student organization, one
47 student from each Wesley Foundation, one student from Hendrix College Campus Ministry, one
48 student from Philander Smith College Campus Ministry, two young persons between the ages
49 of twelve and seventeen (one of whom shall be currently serving on the District or Conference
50

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 (Par.33).

When at any time a lay member is excused by the Annual Conference from further attendance during the session, the **duly elected** 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. **The lay member or alternate, whoever was last seated in the annual conference, shall be seated in a special session of the annual conference when convened (Par.602.5)**

Section IV. Clergy Members

Par. 210 205. Clergy Members of the Annual Conference ¶¶ 602.1 – 602.3

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 clergy members** shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences.
3. **Associate clergy members** shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at the clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶ 635.1).
4. **Affiliate clergy members** shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.
5. **Full-time and part-time local pastors** shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to the General and jurisdictional conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at the clergy session on matters of ordination, character,

and conference relations of clergy (§ 635.1). Local pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences.

Section V: Lay-Clergy Equalization

Par. 241. 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 laypersons 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
5. Upon their selection, the District Superintendent shall notify these persons in writing of their delegate status at least 30 days prior to the Conference
6. 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.

206. Equalizing Lay and Clergy Membership

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the following formula will be used in the Arkansas Conference to nominate and elect persons for the purpose of lay equalization (Par.32, 602.1(b):

1. When additional lay members are required to equalize representation, the total number

needed will be divided among the districts in proportion to the ratio of lay membership of each district.

2. Persons previously elected by the annual conference or district conference to the following positions shall be given vote and subtracted from the total lay members needed to elect within the district in which they reside:
 - a. Lay members of the Cabinet and lay officers of the conference
 - b. Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference during the quadrennium for which they are elected.
 - c. Lay chairpersons of conference boards, committees and agencies
 - d. Officers of the Conference Boards of Laity, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and Conference Council on Youth Ministries
 - e. Elected laypersons to General and Jurisdictional Conference boards and agencies
 - f. District presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and District Councils on Youth Ministry
3. If additional lay members are still needed, The Conference Secretary will notify each District Superintendent of the number of at-large members their district nominations committee is to nominate. With attention given to racial and gender diversity, as well as adequate representation of youth, young adults and small-membership congregations, district nominating committees will present a slate of at-large lay members for election at a District Conference. Nominations from the floor will be allowed.
4. Upon their election, the District Superintendent shall notify these persons in writing of their membership status.
5. The names and addresses of lay members of the Annual Conference elected by the Charge Conferences 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. Names and addresses of lay members elected at the District Conference shall be sent to the Conference Secretary within one week of election.

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. 212 207. 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. 213 208. 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. 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. 214 209. 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~~ on the day before the opening Business Session.

Par. 215 210. 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 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 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.~~
5. The Conference ~~Structure~~ **Standing Rules** shall be reprinted each year in the Journal, incorporating any changes made during the preceding Annual Conference.
6. The Conference Secretary shall distribute an electronic copy of the Journal 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.

Par. 216 211. 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.

Par. 217 212. Conference Expense Fund

Registration fees and non-designated offerings taken at the Annual Conference shall be adminis-

tered by the Conference Treasurer to defray expenses of the session.

Par. 218-213. Payment of Annual Conference Expenses

Expenses of the Annual Conference session shall be paid by funds received from:

1. Registration fees, which shall be set by the Conference Session Planning Committee;
2. Offerings, other than special designated offerings; and
3. If necessary, the Conference Administration Fund.

Par. 219-214. 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.

Par. 220-215. Student Local Pastors and Seminary Students

No registration fee shall be required for student local pastors or seminary students.

Par. 221-216. 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.

Par. 222-217. 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 sessions of the Arkansas Conference until superseded by action of the Annual Conference.

218. Virtual and Hybrid Annual Conference Meetings

1. When the Bishop, Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader and a majority of District Superintendents are in agreement that circumstances call for a meeting of the Annual Conference to be held in whole or in part by virtual conferencing, the Bishop may call for such a meeting of the Annual Conference to be held as allowed by Arkansas Act 253 of 2021. Virtual presence in such a duly called meeting shall be deemed equivalent to presence in person.
2. The Director of Administrative Services shall recommend the method of remote balloting or voting to be used, which shall be clearly specified in the call for the virtual or hybrid meeting issued by the bishop.
4. Virtual and Hybrid Annual Conference meetings must be organized and conducted such that all members have reasonable opportunity and ability to participate in the meeting, can simultaneously hear discussion and can, as recognized by the chair, speak and address all those meeting as well as vote on matters submitted at the meeting.
5. This provision for remote voting includes all matters that may properly come before the Annual Conference. Further, voting eligibility and voting margins designated in the Book of Discipline or Session Rules of the Conference will be followed.

6. These provisions may also be used for District Conferences, Lay and Clergy Sessions, and any Special Called Session of Annual Conference.

Chapter Three

STRUCTURE OF THE ARKANSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

~~Section I. The Arkansas Conference Mission~~

~~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.

~~Par. 302. Vision~~ Congregations and surrounding communities transformed by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate love of God and neighbor, holy living, and justice.

~~Par. 303. 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. 304. Arkansas Conference Trajectory~~ Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities and the world.

~~Section II. Structure~~

~~Par. 305 301. Establishment~~ The Arkansas Annual Conference establishes the following Structure under the authority of *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, 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

~~Par. 306 302. Purpose~~ The Structure prescribes the ministries, organization and procedures the Annual Conference will use in carrying out its mission, vision, core measures and trajectory.

~~Par. 307 303. 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.

Chapter Four Three

NOMINATION AND ELECTION TO CONFERENCE AGENCIES AND OFFICES

~~Section I. Nomination to Conference Agencies~~

1. Purpose

- a. Except as otherwise indicated by *The Book of Discipline* 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 Leader, Associate Lay Leader, the Conference Secretary, and the Conference Statistician.

2. Structure

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

3. Process

- a. 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, (§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) Attention shall also be given to geographical representation.

1 **Par. 402 302. Board, Agency and Committee Service**

- 2
- 3 1. Elective membership on any specific board, agency, or committee of the Annual Con-
- 4 ference may not exceed two consecutive quadrennia, excepting ex-officio membership,
- 5 unless otherwise prescribed by *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.
- 6 After eight consecutive years on any specific board, agency, or committee of the Annual
- 7 Conference, no person may return to the same body until the passage of four years, ex-
- 8 cepting ex-officio membership. Membership begins upon election, with the date noted in
- 9 the *Conference Journal*.
- 10 2. No person shall be elected by the Annual Conference to serve on more than one Council,
- 11 Board, Committee, Commission, Agency, etc. at any one time. This does not affect ex-offi-
- 12 cio positions. The following are exempt from this rule: Conference Nominating Committee,
- 13 Episcopacy Committee, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Committee on Review
- 14 and Research, Joint Committee on Incapacity, Board of Ordained Ministry and Administra-
- 15 tive Review Committee.
- 16 3. In the nomination and election of the membership of councils, boards, and agencies of
- 17 the Annual Conference, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen,
- 18 youth (§256.3), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships,
- 19 persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for gen-
- 20 eral church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership of such agencies,
- 21 except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen,
- 22 and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches.” (§610.5) Special
- 23 attention shall also be given to geographical representation.
- 24 4. Members of general agencies shall serve as ex-officio members of the corresponding
- 25 Annual Conference agency or its equivalent structure. If this results in a person being a
- 26 member of more than one Annual Conference agency in violation of either Annual Con-
- 27 ference policy or another provision of *The Book of Discipline*, the person shall choose the
- 28 Annual Conference agency on which to serve.
- 29 5. No member or employee of any Conference agency and no employee, trustee, or director
- 30 of any agency or institution participating in the funds of any Conference budget shall be
- 31 eligible for voting membership on the Council on Finance and Administration. (§611.2)
- 32 6. Agencies of the Annual Conference are to keep records of member attendance and
- 33 participation and report to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may
- 34 recommend to the Annual Conference that new board/committee members be elected to
- 35 replace those whose lack of participation inhibits the effectiveness of the board/commit-
- 36 tee.
- 37 7. Unless provided for elsewhere, a vacancy between sessions of the Annual Conference
- 38 shall be filled by the Cabinet on nomination of the Nominating Committee.

39 **Par. 403 303. Task Force Service**

- 40
- 41 1. Boards, committees, commissions, and other agencies are encouraged to develop task
- 42 force groups to address emerging missional opportunities. Each board, committee, com-
- 43 mission and other agencies will invite to these task forces persons who will bring passion,
- 44 experience, and expertise to the work
- 45
- 46 2. Membership on Task Forces shall be inclusive of ethnic minorities and persons from small
- 47 membership churches. A balance of laymen, laywomen, and clergy shall be the norm.
- 48 3. The norm for Task Force membership shall be a broad base of participation from through-
- 49 out the Conference.
- 50 4. 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 Cabinet on nomination of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership.

Chapter Five **Four**

CONFERENCE AGENCIES AND OFFICES

The Arkansas Annual Conference establishes the following Structure under the authority of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 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. The Structure prescribes the ministries, organization and procedures the Annual Conference will use in carrying out its mission, vision, core measures and trajectory. ¶1610

~~Section I. Establishment of Conference Agencies~~

~~Par. 501~~ **401. 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 upon consultation with the bishop and Board of Laity and elected by the Annual Conference. Terms of office shall begin at the adjournment of the annual conference at which they are elected and shall be for a period of four years with a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms, with a minimum of four years before reelection. 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

- 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.
- 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.

8. Board of Global Ministries ¶¶ 633, 642

- 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.
- 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 (or 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.

9. Conference Secretary of Global Ministries ¶ 633.3

- 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.

10. Conference Board of Church and Society ¶¶ 629, 653

- 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.
- 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 Social 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.

11. Conference Commission on Religion and Race ¶ 643

- 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.
- 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. Conference Committee on the Status and Role of Women ¶ 644	1
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.	2 3 4 5
13. Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns ¶¶ 632, 654	6
a. The membership shall include:	7
1) Chairperson to be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference.	8 9
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.	10 11 12 13 14 15
3) Representatives without vote:	16
a) A representative of the Conference Staff;	17
b) One representative from the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (chairperson or designee) to act as liaison; and	18 19
c) Liaison(s) to other bodies as needed to accomplish the Committee's work.	20
14. United Methodist Women ¶ 647	21
15. United Methodist Men ¶ 648	22
16. Conference Council on Youth Ministries ¶ 649	23
17. Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶ 650	24
18. Conference Council on Adult, Singles, Family, and Older Adult Ministries ¶ 651	25
19. Council on Finance and Administration ¶ 612	26
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 more layperson 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 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.	27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
20. Conference Treasurer ¶ 619	38
21. Conference Statistician ¶ 603.7	39
22. Conference Secretary ¶ 603.7	40
23. Conference Chancellor ¶ 603.8	41
24. Conference Board of Trustees ¶ 2512	42
25. Board of Pension and Health Benefits ¶ 639	43
26. Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641	44
27. Commission on Communications ¶ 646	45
28. Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶ 625	46
29. Joint Committee on Incapacity ¶ 652	47
30. Administrative Review Committee ¶ 636	48
31. Committee on Investigation ¶ 2703.2a	49
32. Committee on Investigation for Deacons ¶ 2703.2b	50

33. Cabinet ¶ 424

- a. **Purpose.** The purpose of the 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 Cabinet to present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration with a listing of ministry priorities and rationale for budget requests.
- b. **Structure.** The membership of the Cabinet shall be determined by the presiding bishop to address the missional needs of the Annual Conference.

34. Committee on Disability Concerns ¶ 653

~~Section II. Additional Conference Agencies and Offices~~

~~Par. 502~~ 402. 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

- a. **Purpose:** The Conference Council on Children's Ministries is responsible for resourcing and providing ongoing training for local church children's ministry leaders, for offering district and conference level discipleship opportunities for children, and for promoting and advocating for children's ministries throughout the conference.
- b. **Structure:** The Conference Council on Children's Ministries shall be composed of the following position, with authority to add persons if required.
 - 1) Conference Coordinator
 - 2) Three representatives of each district, organized in 3-year classes (w vote)
 - 3) Safe Sanctuary Coordinator (w/o vote)
 - 4) Wonderfully Made Trainer (w/o vote)
 - 5) New Children's Minister Mentor (w/o vote)
 - 6) Child Care Ministry Advocate (w/o vote)

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. The Committee will provide proper communication and alignment between Arkansas Conference entities and camps/retreat centers with relationship statements with the conference.
- b. **Structure:** The committee 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 1
- 4) Conference Director of Youth Ministries or representative 2
- 5) Conference Council on Youth Ministries President or designee 3
- 6) Conference Young Adult Ministries Chair 4
- 7) Conference Coordinator of Adult, Singles, Family and Older Adult Ministries 5
- 8) Center for Vitality Representative 6
- 9) Board of Higher Education Representative 7
- 10) Camp Tanako Director 8
- 11) Mount Eagle Retreat Center Director 9
- 12) Bear Creek Camp Representative 10
- 13) Shoal Creek Camp Representative 11

4. Conference Session Planning Committee 12

a. **Purpose:** The Conference Session Planning Committee shall: 13

- 1) Develop and approve the Annual Conference agenda, in consultation with the Bishop; 14
- 2) Set Annual Conference registration fees; 15
- 3) Recommend a balanced budget for the upcoming Annual Conference session to the Council on Finance and Administration; 16
- 4) Advise the Bishop on setting dates for the Annual Conference session; 17
- 5) Advise the Bishop on the selection of the Conference preacher; 18
- 6) Research and advise the Annual Conference on the selection of future meeting sites; 19
- 7) Advise and approve plans of the worship committee for the Annual Conference session; 20
- 8) Maintain a checklist of local host responsibilities; 21
- 9) Review and approve an evaluation process; 22
- 10) Review evaluations of the previous session prior to planning the next session. 23

b. **Structure:** Membership of the Conference Session Planning Committee shall be: 24

- 1) Bishop, who shall serve as chairperson; 25
- 2) Conference Lay Leader, who shall serve as vice-chairperson; 26
- 3) Conference Secretary, who shall serve as secretary; 27
- 4) Worship Coordinator (Board of Discipleship); 28
- 5) Director of Connectional Ministries; 29
- 6) Conference Treasurer; 30
- 7) Coordinator of Spiritual Growth, Conference United Methodist Women; 31
- 8) Host District Superintendent; 32
- 9) Two representatives of the host committee for the forthcoming session, selected by the host District Superintendent. 33
- 10) Four lay persons from the Board of Laity, selected by the conference Lay Leader in consultation with the Bishop; 34
- 11) Two ethnic minority persons; and 35
- 12) Any other persons named by the Bishop. 36

5. Committee on Review and Research 37

a. **Purpose:** The Committee on Review and Research shall: 1) Ensure changes in the Conference Standing Rules and Structure that are mandated by the General Conference and are published in each subsequent edition of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*; 2) Review all resolutions presented to the Annual Conference that 38

call for changes in the Standing Rules or Structure and report to the Conference; and
3) Propose changes in Standing Rules and Structure that will enable the Annual Conference to more faithfully carry out its mission, vision, core measures and trajectory.

b. Structure: The Committee on Review and Research shall include a chairperson, one representative from each district, and three at-large members. The chairperson and members shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference.

c. Process: The Committee will work with the Conference Secretary, Journal Editor, and Assistant to the Bishop to ensure that changes mandated by the General Conference are reflected in the Conference Standing Rules and Structure, and are published in each subsequent edition of the Journal. The Committee will review all resolutions, petitions, and legislation presented to the Annual Conference that calls for changes in the Standing Rules or Structure and reports to the Conference.

403. Participation by Telephone Conference or Virtual Platform

At the discretion of the agency chair or president, conference agency meetings may be held by means of a telephone conference or virtual platform through which all persons participating in the meeting have reasonable opportunity and ability to participate in the meeting, can simultaneously hear discussion and can, as recognized by the chair, speak and address all those meeting as well as vote on matters submitted at the meeting.

Chapter Six Five

DISTRICTS

~~Par. 601~~ 501. District Conference (§658-659)

1. **Purpose:** The District Conference sets the district's annual budget, elects officers, and implements the Arkansas Conference trajectory within its geographic bounds through the members, clergy, congregations, ministries, and leaders of the district.
2. **Structure:** In addition to the Administrative Structure, the District includes mission and ministry committees, councils, and organizations, such as those for youth, Lay Servants, and UMW.

~~Par. 602~~ 502. District Leadership Team §660.7, §661, §669

1. **Purpose:** The DLT serves as the district conference's administrative executive committee, with the duties and responsibilities of the District Superintendency Committee as well as nominations and finances. The DLT will administer the district budget and personnel policies.
2. **Structure:**
 - a. 8 elected members with representation (§669.1) by laywomen, laymen, and clergy
 - b. 2 members appointed by the CMS/DS
 - c. District Lay Leader §660
 - d. Chief Mission Strategist
 - e. Advisory members may be added as needed (§669.2), including district treasurer or financial steward

~~Par. 603~~ 503. District Committee on Ordained Ministry (§666)

1. **Purpose:** The DCOM is amenable to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. It is re-

sponsible for candidacy, the examination of candidates seeking ministerial office and the ongoing credentialing for licensed local pastors.

2. **Structure:** Members nominated annually by the CMS/DS in consultation with the BOM chair or executive committee and approved by the annual conference ¶666.1

Par. 604 504. District Board of Church Location and Building (¶2518-2524)

1. **Purpose:** The DBCLB serves as the District Board of Trustees. The DBCLB is responsible for reviewing building projects and purchases, and it partners with the DST to explore the repurposing, closing and realignment of churches.
2. **Structure:**
 - a. 6-9 members are nominated and elected annually with one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy ¶2518.2, ¶2519
 - b. Chief Mission Strategist

Par. 605 505. District Strategy Team (¶661)

1. **Purpose:** The DST will partner with the Chief Mission Strategist/ District Superintendent (CMS/DS)) to develop and implement an overall strategy with conference trajectory-aligned priorities for the mission fields of the district to create vital disciple-making congregations.
2. **Structure:**
 - a. District Lay Leader ¶660
 - b. Chair of DLT/District Superintendency ¶669
 - c. Chair of DBCLB/Trustees ¶2518-2524
 - d. 3 elected members
 - e. 6 members appointed by the CMS/DS
 - f. Chief Mission Strategist

506. District Lay Leader (¶660.2)

The District Lay Leader, and one or more associate district lay leaders if so desired, will be nominated by the District Leadership Team and elected at the District Conference. Terms of office shall begin at the adjournment of the district conference at which they are elected and shall be for a period of four years with a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms, with a minimum of four years before reelection.

Resolutions and Petitions to the 2021 Annual Conference

Project Transformation Arkansas Relationship to Arkansas Annual Conference

WHEREAS, the mission of Project Transformation Arkansas is to transform communities by engaging children, college-aged young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships; and Project Transformation was established in 1998 in North Texas as a United Methodist based organization with Wesleyan values; and operates in 9 Annual Conferences throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Project Transformation Arkansas will provide two key services in keeping with the trajectory of the Arkansas Annual Conference: (i) Leadership development and ministry exploration opportunities for college-age young adults through summer and one-year service internships; and (ii) community-oriented after-school and summer day camp programming for children and youth housed primarily within United Methodist churches and

WHEREAS, Project Transformation Arkansas was organized and incorporated as a non-profit entity by individual members of The United Methodist Church who are committed to performing the ministry set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and

WHEREAS, Arkansas Annual Conference local churches, Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Conference Young Clergy Network, and the Conference Board on Higher Education and Campus Ministry have already been involved and support this ministry as an important innovative ministry that fosters young adults as church leaders and strengthens local church collaboration and

WHEREAS, Project Transformation Arkansas shall relate to the structure of the Arkansas Conference through 200,000 More Reasons or other appropriate body as designated by the Arkansas Annual Conference and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Project Transformation Arkansas consists of 6-15 directors, at least 2/3rds coming from UM churches, including one member of the Arkansas Conference Connectional Ministries team designated by the Director of Connectional Ministries, and with the remaining Directors nominated by the Project Transformation Arkansas Board of Directors and

WHEREAS, Project Transformation Arkansas will provide the following: (i) the mission statement; (ii) copies of regular operational and financial reports; and (iii) copies of the by-laws, including any amendments and articles of incorporation; and (iv) an annual ministry report, and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Annual Conference will provide the following: (i) encouragement and support, including but not limited to administrative support to the extent deemed appropriate and feasible by the Conference; (ii) faith to our Wesleyan values and Methodist roots; and (iii) an opportunity for Project Transformation Arkansas to report on the ministry in the pre-Conference Journal of the Annual Conference or in another format designated by said body and

WHEREAS, The Arkansas Conference Council on Finance and Administration has approved Project Transformation to have the right to solicit funds and volunteer support from the local churches of the Conference.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Arkansas Annual Conference formally recognizes Proj-

ect Transformation Arkansas as a ministry partner of the Arkansas Annual Conference and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Arkansas Annual Conference formally recognizes Project Transformation Arkansas as a Conference Miscellaneous Benevolence and

SO THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Project Transformation Arkansas be recognized as an integral entity in the Arkansas Annual Conference that promotes the importance of relationship driven ministries that foster young adults as church leaders while strengthening the local church as collaborators and partners in community transformation and discipleship.

Submitted by Rev. Samantha Meadors, Deacon in Full Connection, Community Coordinator-200K More Reasons, St. James UMC Pine Bluff.

Rev. Chase Green

Rev. Jana Green

Rev. Corey Read

Rev. Dan Read

Dennis Ellzey

Sarah Ellzey

Rev. Dane Wommack

Rev. Chase Burns

Rev. Paul Atkins

Rev. Andrew Kjorlaug

Rev. Jacob Lynn

Rev. Katye Chambers

Rev. James Kjorlaug

Rev. Doug Phillips

Rev. Jonathon Bevil

Rev. Natasha Murray

Rev. Mark Norman

Amanda Cofer

Michelle Moore

Rev. Daniel Thueson

Petition to Clarify Deadlines in Paragraph 507

We move that the Arkansas Annual Conference affirm the following petition and submit it for consideration by the postponed 2020 General Conference being held in 2022.

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Petitions to General Conference Deadline Clarification

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number, if applicable: ¶507

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶507 as follows:

¶ 507. Petitions to General Conference—

5. Petitions must be postmarked by a national postal service no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference. In the event the regular session of the General Conference is postponed or cannot be held as scheduled, the 230 day deadline shall be applied to the newly scheduled opening session of the General Conference.

6. If petitions are transmitted by a means other than a national postal service, they must be in the hands of the petitions secretary no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference. Exceptions to the time limitations shall be granted for petitions originating from an annual conference session held between 230 and 45 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference, and for other petitions at the discretion of the Committee on Reference. In the event the regular session of the General Conference is postponed or cannot be held as scheduled, the deadlines in this paragraph shall be applied to the newly scheduled opening session of the General Conference.

7. Petitions adopted and properly submitted by annual conferences, jurisdictional and central conferences, the Division on Ministries With Young People, or general agencies or councils of the Church, and petitions properly submitted by individual members (either clergy or lay) of The United Methodist Church and local church groups, provided that they have been received by the petitions secretary or secretary of the General Conference no later than 230 days before the opening of General Conference, shall be printed in the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate. In the event the regular session of the General Conference is postponed or cannot be held as scheduled, the 230 day deadline shall be applied to the newly scheduled opening session of the General Conference. Petitions received within the new deadline shall also be printed in the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Polk, Clergy Member, Arkansas Conference

Kathy Conley, Lay Member, Conference Lay Leader

Ulysses Washington, Clergy Member, Arkansas Conference

Jeff Jackson, Clergy Member, Arkansas Conference

Edna Morgan, Clergy Member, Arkansas Conference

Karen Millar, Lay Member, Searcy FUMC

Todd Burris, Lay Member, Conway FUMC

Brian Swain, Lay Member, Central-Fayetteville UMC

Glenn Wortham, Lay Member, Village UMC

Ann Ferris, Clergy Member, Arkansas Conference

**A Resolution Regarding Decisions about Potential Separation, Departure, or Realignment as
an Annual Conference**

Whereas, a primary focus of the postponed General Conference, whenever convened, will be to discuss and approve the “Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation” (the Protocol) or a similar plan, which will provide options for either remaining United Methodist or departing from the denomination; and

Whereas, any proposals for separation, coming from General Conference and/or coming before the Annual Conference, will lead to critical decisions at every level of the church, including annual conferences, local congregations, and individuals; and

Whereas, a thorough understanding by the voting members to the Arkansas Annual Conference is critical before any decision is made about departing or remaining in the United Methodist Church;

Therefore, be it resolved, in the event that a plan of separation is adopted by the General Conference, or if a proposal for separation is presented to Annual Conference, the Conference Leadership Table, in conjunction with District Strategy Teams, shall schedule a series of meetings, in-person and online, in each district to share and discuss the options, with perspectives shared from various groups, including WCA/Confessing Movement, UMCNext/Uniting Methodists, and Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), and that the Annual Conference will not hold a vote on or related to a full conference separation, departure, or affiliation for at least nine months after such a proposal is declared to be appropriately before the Annual Conference.

Signed in alphabetical order and representing various constituencies:

Maxine Allen, Brandon Bates, Jay Clark, Amy Forbus, Lynn Kilbourne, Susan Ledbetter, Kathleen McMurray, Regina Norwood, Michael Roberts, Bud Reeves, J.J. Whitney, Mackey Yokem

Consent Calendar Reports

200,000 More 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 last year's Annual Meeting, 200,000 Reasons announced an expansion to the strategies that the Arkansas Conference would use to alleviate childhood hunger. We also revealed a change in our name. As 200,000 MORE Reasons, we are inviting local congregations to do more for children and families who live with food insecurity around strategies that seek to provide stability and long-term solutions. We are encouraging ministries around childhood literacy and mental and emotional health to promote a healthy, stable family.

In August of 2020, a powerful three-part online seminar series was offered to lay and clergy to learn about poverty in Arkansas, including families who are asset-limited, income-constrained and employed. This category has a high number of food insecure children in Arkansas. Dr. Jay Barth presented relevant poverty statistics and strategies for addressing related issues. We also spent time discussing literacy as a poverty alleviation strategy and Ministry WITH our neighbors as a deeper way to connect and empower those we seek to help.

Unfortunately, the covid pandemic prevented most churches from offering literacy ministries and others that support a healthy, stable family. We hope that in Summer 2021 these types of ministries can resume or begin! Spring 2021 grants have been offered for both summer feeding and literacy programs. The plan is to pilot a summer literacy ministry with Altheimer United Methodist Church in partnership with their local library. The program will offer four weeks of summer reading assistance with volunteers and offer at least one meal per day. As of March 2021, we are looking for two more churches willing to host similar reading ministries.

Another program soon to be implemented by 200,000 More Reasons staff is Project Transformation. The organization's national board approved a branch in Arkansas to be hosted in Pine Bluff. The program is gearing up for its first summer in 2022 with community-oriented summer day camp programming for under-resourced children and youth including one-on-one reading components and academic enrichment activities.

In February of this year, we initiated a book donation campaign called Giving Books for Love. Our goal is to have local congregations distribute 35,000 books to children for their personal libraries. There are 35,000 third graders in Arkansas. Compared to middle- and upper-income children who possess on average 13 books per household, low-income children own only one book for every 300 children.

Staff for 200,000 Reasons began working in March 2021 with lay and clergy representatives to establish resources and ministry models around mental and emotional health that promote a healthy, stable family. We hope to report more progress on these two strategies at the June 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas also made available to us \$20,000 for churches who wanted to offer access to WiFi to virtual learners in their communities. Trinity United Methodist Church in Fayetteville took advantage of this opportunity, hosting virtual access to their communi-

ty in their parking lot. 1

Ingathering 2020 was implemented differently because of the pandemic. Each district designed 2
their own Ingathering projects, which included collecting food, money, books and/or disaster 3
relief supplies. Total gifts to related Advance and Conference accounts from Oct-Dec totaled 4
\$126,248 including \$59,877 for UMCOR and AR Disaster relief and \$1,493 for a VIM/ARDR Stor- 5
age Facility. Over \$45,868 was given toward feeding ministries, community food pantries, and 6
regional food banks. Other highlights from each district include: 2,528 books donated by the 7
Central District; 168 people volunteering 3,043 hours in the Northwest District; an estimated 8
53,055 meals donated in the Northeast District; 5,000 pounds of snack food items for back- 9
packs and blessing boxes in the Southeast District; and the Southwest District donating \$10,116 10
(cash and in-kind) for Disaster Relief kits. Though we were apart, we came together to make a 11
huge impact across the state. 12

Work in 2020 by local congregations who continued feeding ministries has made major impacts 13
on communities and families who have suffered from food insecurity because of the pandemic. 14

Pre-pandemic reports from Feeding America estimated that 162,270 children in Arkansas lived 15
in food insecurity. However, since March 2020, data suggests that Arkansas is back to where we 16
started in 2014 with more than 200,000 children (1 in 4) who do not know from where their next 17
meal will come. Seniors are at an even higher rate. 200,000 More Reasons worked to support 18
our local congregations to provide more meals. 19

With support from the Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and a Henry Luce Foundation grant 20
from Perkins Theological Seminary, 200,000 More Reasons distributed \$52,500 in emergency 21
food and PPE grants. Many church food pantries were able to remain open; meet budget re- 22
quirements from increased demand and higher food costs; find new ways of distributing food 23
and meals safely; and offer PPE and cleaning supplies to clients. 24

Through the Delta Project led by Rev. Sam Meadors and with \$96,000 awarded from the Meth- 25
odist Foundation of Arkansas, 200,000 Reasons partnered with the Arkansas Food Bank to host 26
mobile distributions throughout the Delta. In addition to the city of Eudora, the churches involved 27
were: First United Methodist Churches at Crossett, McGehee, Monticello, and Stuttgart; Wesley 28
United Methodist Church, McGehee; Marvell United Methodist Church's Open Door Food Pantry; 29
Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, Rison; and, Saint James United Methodist Church, Pine 30
Bluff. 34 total distributions provided 6,480 boxes offering 250,356 pounds of food and 53,666 31
pounds of fresh produce. 32

Additionally, through a partnership with the Ozark Mission Project, several Pulaski County church 33
food pantries, including Oak Forest United Methodist Church and the Panther Pantry at Philander 34
Smith College, received food purchased by money from the Cares Act to distribute at the year's 35
end. 36

We, united in a common mission to fight childhood hunger are making a difference. Yet, there is 37
more work to be done. In 2021, we the church must strike harder at the root causes of poverty 38
and food insecurity. 39

Respectfully Submitted, 40
Mary Lewis Dassinger 41
200,000 More Reasons Project Coordinator 42

Board of Church and Society

Board of Church & Society continues to assess who we are and if there are areas of Church & Society where we can narrow our focus and concentrate on. We have been in communication with other boards across the connection and with the General Board of Church & Society in Washington D.C. to look at possibilities of sharing petitions and resolutions of a national and worldwide nature across annual conferences.

Many faithful Arkansas United Methodists work tirelessly across the state in areas of justice and mercy. Thank you to those of you who hear the call to feed the sick, clothe the naked, visit those in prison, and build relationships with those considered to be “the least of these” in our society. Thank you for your work on abolishing the death penalty in Arkansas, on removing the ability to sentence juveniles to life in prison without parole, and on issues related to drug and alcohol abuse, civil and human rights, suicide prevention, systemic racism, immigration, making sure our children have food, interfaith dialogue - and maybe most importantly, for having open and honest conversations with someone you disagree with, building relationships and tearing down walls. We continue to pray for the United Methodist Church and for civil dialogue between our brothers and sisters in Christ around the topic of human sexuality. One arm of the Arkansas Board of Church and Society is around advocacy. If you are interested in learning more about our advocacy group, please contact Rev. Roy Beth Kelley at roybeth.kelley@arumc.org.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Jay Clark

Chair, Arkansas Board of Church & Society

jclark@phumc.com

Board of Global Ministries

“Forward in Mission”

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” ... Micah 6:8

2020 proved to be a year unlike any other we have seen or could have imagined. COVID-19 and the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer have forever changed our lives and generated global responses on a magnitude seldom witnessed.

In times of tremendous social upheaval, natural disasters, and widespread economic uncertainty, we often feel overwhelmed, and ask the question, “What can we do?” The answer is, “Mobilize the Church”. The Church can address human suffering and the spiritual needs of people.

The General Board of Global Ministries (GBOGM) is the worldwide mission, relief, and development agency of The United Methodist Church, working with partners and churches in more than 115 countries to equip and transform people and places for God’s mission. Global Ministries connects the church in mission through the sending of missionaries, evangelism and church revitalization, disaster response and recovery led by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and global health (umcmmissions.org).

It is the responsibility of the Conference Board of Global Ministries to interpret and connect local churches to this work. The ministry and mission of the Arkansas Conference Board focuses on Four Mission Goals listed in the vision statement of GBOGM and as articulated in the Bishop’s Initiative for the Arkansas Conference Goals:

- Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Strengthen, develop, and renew Christian congregations and communities.

- Alleviate human suffering.
- Seek justice, freedom, and peace.

The Conference Board of Global Ministries will model two ministry starts to demonstrate the way in which we can engage and enable ministry in Arkansas. Implementation of these two ministry areas will focus as follows:

1. Youth/Young Adult Leadership Development - Principled Leaders

- b. Placement of Global Mission Fellow to work with 3 or more ethnic/small membership churches in the Central District in the development of Christian principled young leaders.
- c. GMF will organize, meet, dialogue, resource and assist youth/young adults to develop ministries by and for youth/young adults.
- d. The GMF will work in concert with participating and supporting churches. The work of the GMF will include cooperation and connection to DCYM and ACCYM.

2. 200,000 More Reasons

- c. The Arkansas Initiative 200,000 More Reasons has expanded its scope beyond a feeding ministry to address one of the “root causes” for food insecurity – “literacy”. Global ministries through its financial support undergirded the work of a person to connect the local church to the work and ministry of literacy access in the Southeast part of the state.
- d. Global Ministries will initiate support of the addition of a Church and Community Worker to focus on a statewide effort to encourage local churches to connect and engage in health ministries with 200,000 More Reasons. A Church & Community Worker will be a significant response from the Arkansas Conference to the Board of Global Ministries initiative of “Abundant Health”.

We are engaged in mission!

Brenda Norwood Henson, Chairperson

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Despite our lives sitting squarely in the midst of a pandemic I am pleased to report that United Methodist campus ministry in Arkansas is vital and alive. The pandemic has offered numerous additional challenges to our ministries; however, our campus ministers and their leadership teams have found a way. Through a combination of resilience, creativity, imagination, and commitment to ministry to and with college students meaningful ministry has happened. On behalf of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, I want to thank you for your continued support of United Methodist campus ministry. The financial support of the Annual Conference allows our 11 campus ministries (9 Wesley Foundations and 2 Chaplain’s offices on our United Methodist College campuses) to receive funding. Each of these 11 ministries receives a \$75,000 ministry grant each year from the Conference. This financial support is a critical part of the funding of each of these ministries. Limitations caused by the pandemic have made additional fundraising more challenging than usual, which made Conference support even more important than ever.

I am grateful to the United Methodist Campus Ministers in Arkansas serving on these campuses:

Arkansas State University	Dennis Elzey
Arkansas Tech University	John Palmer
Henderson State University/Ouachita Baptist University	Jessica Durand
Southern Arkansas University	Corey Tyson Read
University of Arkansas	Daniel Rupp
University of Arkansas Little Rock	Jana Green

University of Arkansas Monticello
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
University of Central Arkansas
Hendrix College
Philander Smith College

Kavan Dodson
Natasha Murray
Blake Langston
Ellen Alston
Ronnie Miller-Yow

Michael Mings leads the ministry at University of Arkansas Fort Smith. We also have a United Methodist presence on the campus at Lyon College and the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton, which are led by United Methodist churches in those communities.

The mission of United Methodist campus ministries aligns with the mission of the Conference. In our campus ministries we seek to make disciples and to grow as disciples equipped and sent to transform the world. Students arrive at our campus ministries representing a wide spectrum of what disciples are like. Some students are deeply committed and formed as people of faith. Some are full of questions and suspicious while others are seeking to discern who they are and what they want to be about as they move fully into adulthood. This makes campus ministry challenging, and it also makes it very important as a place where young adults can make transformative decisions about life and faith.

Amid the disruptions and ever changing conditions over the past year I am so pleased our ministries have been able to continue to offer experiences of worship, study, and outreach. During the past year campuses have varied widely in what was allowed in terms of gathering students. In the midst of these challenges virtual formats have been used along with small groups which could gather more safely and appropriately. Some campuses have had COVID surges that have made it impossible to gather students together at all. Yet through it all our ministries have persevered.

It appears we are beginning to see hopeful signs regarding the pandemic as the number of cases drop and the number of persons vaccinated is rising. This has been a difficult season, and we have persevered. Thank you for your prayer and support. As whatever our new sense of “normal” begins to return, I hope you will find ways to reach out and support further this important ministry of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Roy Smith

Chairperson, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Board of Laity Report

This year of very unusual opportunities has been met with boldness by the great laity of the Arkansas Annual Conference. As your Lay Leader, I have been encouraged by the “people in the pews” that live their daily lives knowing that God is still in control no matter what is going on in the world. They realize that there are still mission opportunities around every corner . . . That there are still people who need food and clothing. . . That there are still people that need an ear to hear them, a voice to speak for them and a soft, virtual shoulder to comfort them. Children still need stories read to them and a person of faith to show by their life what Jesus is like. There are still needs all around us and I am proud to say our laity never stop looking for that need and acting on the need.

The Board of Laity is the link to valuable resources for the laity. We are constantly looking for those resources congregations may need to help with their ministries. We take Matthew 25:

18-20 very seriously and believe that “going into the world to work with the Holy Spirit making disciples of Jesus” is key to bringing the love of God to everyone. Missions, speaking up for justice for all people, spiritual growth through Bible study and prayer, and accountable fellowship in small group settings solidifies our faith and our faithfulness.

We are continuing to strengthen our Lay Servant ministries in order to offer education opportunities throughout the year. We want the pulpits that laity serve to reflect not only our desire to serve but also our desire to bring the message of a grace-filled, loving God to our churches. Throughout the year, we have prayed for our congregations strength during this time of virtual worship and dealing with the pandemic. We have shared ideas for keeping them strong and involved. We have addressed the sin of racism and talked about ways to open our eyes to seeing where we fail to look at situations like Jesus would. We have discussed how to change the tone of these horrifying circumstances.

Developing strong lay members is key to growing strong churches that are spiritually grounded and can best serve our God. We are hoping to continue looking for those people who are seeking to participate in activities outside of their local church and step up to serve the Annual Conference. Mentoring new people will keep our leadership fresh with new ideas and energy. The role of the laity is a call to ministry just as the role of clergy. Understanding the importance of every person’s role in the kingdom of God is imperative in leading and living as God has intended. God’s church includes us all. Fully living into that truth will not only strengthen us as Christ’s church but will continue to guide us through this season of our lives as the United Methodist Church.

I am humbly honored to serve as the Lay Leader of the Arkansas Annual Conference.

Kathy Conley

Commission on Archives and History

The purpose of the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History is to promote and care for the historical interests of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas, as outlined in The Book of Discipline. The Arkansas Conference Commission coordinates and oversees its three parts: (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. Below are some of the ways in which these groups have worked to create vital congregations and make disciples of Jesus Christ during the past year.

Archives: During the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, the archivists continued to assist individuals and groups doing research and planning celebrations for local churches. The archivists worked virtually and in person, closely following appropriate guidelines for safety from the virus. They filled at least 45 personal requests for information, some of which took several days to complete. At the recommendation of conference Connectional Ministries, the archivists began a new project. They began researching and writing clergy/spouse obituaries for publication in the conference Journal. Although this project takes a great deal of their time, the archivists feel this is a very important ministry to the families of those who have faithfully served God and the Church for many years. In addition to preparing the Journal memoirs, the archivists contacted these families personally, recognized the service of their loved ones, and offered sincere thanks and prayers on behalf of the Church.

Also, the archivists began a major reorganization project in the archives. After attending an

1 archives conference and following up with General Commission and Jurisdictional person-
2 nel concerning best practices, they weeded unnecessary materials, stored archival records in
3 acid-free boxes (purchased), labeled the boxes, and cataloged items for easier access in the
4 collection. When the bishop's secretary began a similar project, the archivists directed her to
5 General Commission guidelines and personnel who could advise about discarding and pre-
6 serving records from that office. Reorganizing these collections will ensure better preservation
7 of important records, easier access for research, and better use of space after duplicates and
8 unnecessary materials are removed.

9 Presently, the archivists are experiencing problems with two of their machines: the computer
10 and the large scanner. The computer is Apple and Windows cobbled together, making it very
11 difficult to size photographs and text of Journal memoirs for publication. If the parallels on the
12 present computer cannot be removed, the computer will need to be replaced. Also, the special
13 book scanner, used to put old Arkansas Methodist newspapers and out-of-print books on the
14 public website, is producing blurry scans of archived records used by researchers. Although
15 there is no maintenance contract on this expensive machine, the scanner must be repaired.
16 The archivists are getting estimates, but additional funds may be needed for these two large
17 expenses.

18
19 Measures of the progress of the ministry these conference funds support are the number
20 of persons with research requests and the number of bereaved clergy families this ministry
21 reached. In times of sadness and isolation, such as experienced in 2020, people often reflect
22 on their religious background to find stability and peace. At times like these, the Church must
23 be present to reach out with God's love and grace.

24
25 **Historical Society:** The historical society offered a place of service for those interested in the
26 Ministry of Memory. In fall of 2020 the General Commission on Archives and History sponsored
27 a 12-week online Local Church Historian School open to anyone interested in church history.
28 About half dozen persons across the Arkansas Conference registered for the School, and most
29 of these registrants are working toward completion of the course assignments and certification.
30 The event was a comprehensive learning experience and involved nearly 800 Methodists in
31 the U.S. and 35 members internationally. Also, the historical society in Arkansas is reorganiz-
32 ing after several difficult years of illness and deaths among its officers. The new officers, with
33 generous help from conference office personnel, conducted an online membership drive at the
34 end of 2020 and acquired over 70 paid memberships by January 2021. Information collected
35 during the membership drive should facilitate planning and advertising history-related events
36 and encourage members to be involved in the activities of the historical society, the archives,
37 and the museum. The new leadership team is discussing an annual meeting, either virtual or in
38 person, later in the year.

39 One measure of the progress of the ministry these funds support is the renewed interest in the
40 historical society and in signing up for the Local Church Historian School. There are people in
41 Arkansas who want to learn about their Methodist heritage and share it.

42
43 **Museum:** At the museum the curator and committee have had an unusual two years. The mu-
44 seum was closed from October 2019 until February 2020 for repairs to water-damaged walls in
45 the galleries and office area. In February 2020, the museum reopened with an exhibit entitled
46 "Hymnals: Praise, Worship, and Grace through Song." But in March 2020, the museum closed
47 again, this time because of COVID-19, and it remains closed to visitors a year later.

48 In the meantime, the museum committee sought ways to reach out to patrons and explore new
49 uses of technology. During the pandemic the curator wrote a proposal for a CARES Act Grant
50 through the Arkansas Humanities Council. It was approved for over \$5,000. These grant funds

purchased software to create online tours and equipment to record oral histories. They also provided masks and hand sanitizers for patrons and staff when the museum is reopened. Using the new software, the curator prepared an online tour of the hymnal exhibit and the collection of bishop photographs housed in the museum. The museum committee is planning an oral history project entitled “Recording the Leaders of our Faith.” One of the first interviews will be with Bishop Gary Mueller, the episcopal leader of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas since 2012.

One measure of the progress of the ministry these funds support is the many ways technology has supported interest in the museum during the months it has been closed to the public. Whether on Facebook or on the website, some museum exhibits were still available to visitors interested in church history.

Lastly, the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History values its close relationship with the General Commission on Archives and History, located at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. Since its beginning in Arkansas, representatives from the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History have participated in training opportunities led by the General Commission, and numerous times the person in the position of General Secretary addressed the UM Historical Society in Arkansas. Many of us remember Alfred T. Day, who visited Arkansas in 2014, as well as predecessors, including Charles Yrigoyen and Robert J. Williams, who came earlier. We are delighted that this connection continues with the selection of Dr. Ashley Boggan Dreff as the new General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Dreff grew up in the Arkansas Conference, and both of her parents are UM clergy members of this conference.

As she began her tenure as General Secretary, Dr. Dreff explained why knowing our history is important to the people called Methodists: “History is not a thing of the past. History is now. It’s happening all around us. Archives are not fortresses where our sacred memories reside in genteel quiescence. Instead, they exist as vitally accessible tools to help us respond better to each other, to current events, and to current tragedies... The job of a historian is, in part, to ensure that our current and future actions do not repeat the mistakes of our past. The way to do this is to use the past to envision and enact a more equitable future, one that calls out, acknowledges, and seeks to remedy past injustices... We have to be willing to critically examine our histories, to shine the light of truth upon them, and to acknowledge our participation in various forms of injustice if we are to ever overcome them... Methodism is a complex tradition with multiple histories, multiple theologies, multiple heroes and heroines. None of them are perfect, but we, as Wesleyans, must strive for Christian perfection. This means that we must acknowledge our historical sins, confront our current institutional sins, and seek to eradicate them in order to fully embody Christ.” (Dreff, Ashley Boggan. “History is Not a Thing of the Past. History is Now.” General Commission on Archives and History, UMC, 26 Feb. 2021, 9:00 p.m., <http://www.gcuh.org>)

Therefore, with hearts open to the Holy Spirit, we seek to “Live With Light” and move ahead on our trajectory: Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities, and the world.

- Information on Arkansas UMC Archives / Winfred D. Polk Methodist Archives (arkmethodist@hendrix.edu) from Carole Teague and Ellen Bruce, Archivists
 - Information on the UM Historical Society of Arkansas from Rev. Bonda Deere Moyer, Chairman, UM Historical Society
 - Information on UM Museum of the Arkansas Conference (ummac.LR@gmail.com) from Sha-keelah Rahmaan, Curator, and Rev. Michael Blanchard, Chairman, UM Museum Committee
 - REPORT prepared by Helen Giessen Guenter, Chairman (guenter@uamont.edu)
- Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History

Commission on Religion and Race

The word ensure means that an organization or committee is developed to make certain that goals or objectives occur. It is the responsibility of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race to make sure(ensure) that the goals of the General Commission are carried out and implemented in our conference. The 2016 Book of Discipline states that our mission is to make sure that this annual conference in race and religion issues, will ensure that there will be vital conversations in our conference that move us toward racial and institutional equity along with growing towards being more competent in our intercultural knowledge and competency. This has been and will be our mission until at which time the directives change from the General Commission.

2020 was a hard year for all of us with the killings of God's precious loved ones based on who they are racially, a global pandemic and political and social unrest. We have had to take a hard look at ourselves as the Body of Christ and we are in deep pain. In the confession of our sins, we must look forward to healing the pain of racism which mars the whole church because we are not practicing true equality as the Lord bids us to do. "To love our neighbor as ourselves" is not just a nice set of words they are action words. So, through the leadership of the conference and churches in our conference we will do our best to move forward. There have been multiple studies done at the conference level, districts have hosted studies on the issue. Multiple churches have done studies and have been creative in asking neighboring ethnic churches to join with a predominately white church. Some have done sermon series and had a response session after. Thank you for being creative and helping us become more aware of the issues that are around us.

For the first time in years our committee was used as a means of helping congregations navigate some issues that had arisen. The situations were resolved and now all parties have a better understanding of how to be sensitive to issues of race and cultural appropriation. Part of our mission as the Commission on Religion and Race is to be an action team that educates the body of Christ here in Arkansas. Part of our spiritual growth is looking at areas of our person that may need to be updated and transformed. We are graciously given monies through the tithe initiative and we as a committee would like to assist in the purchasing of programs that are available from the General Commission on Religion and Race, there are some free materials. There are also newer materials that do have a nominal fee as they are published material. Please email your district representative to start the process for scholarships to start this journey to move forward and not become stale.

Winfield UMC – Raising White Kids in a Racially Unjust America – 7; The Color of Compromise – 5.

Eureka Springs – White Fragility and Caste – 100 plus (online)

FUMC, Rogers – White Fragility

FUMC, Bella Vista – White Fragility – 8

UM Clergywomen – The Color of Compromise

FUMC, Conway; St. Paul UMC, Maumelle – How to be an Antiracist – 24

FUMC Charleston – White Fragility – 4; sermon on racial bias with after service conversations

Highland Valley UMC – Be the Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Reconciliation – 12; Be the Bridge for White Bridge-Builders – 10. 1
2

FUMC, Bentonville – White Fragility – 15. 3
4

Arkansas Conference, Cabinet – 3 studies 5
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NW/NE/Central/SE/SW districts have done studies with clergy participants. 7
8

Methodist Foundation for Arkansas – I’m Black, I’m Christian, I’m United Methodist - 112 9
10

Submitted by George Odell 11
12

Chairperson, Commission on Religion and Race 13
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Committee on Episcopacy Report 15

The Arkansas Conference Committee on Episcopacy is grateful for Bishop Mueller’s leadership in our Annual Conference. As I write this, we have endured a full year of the COVID 19 crisis, and we thank Bishop Mueller for his strong leadership in the Arkansas Annual Conference. His formation of the ARUMC Relaunch Team and strict following of CDC guidelines puts the personal safety of clergy and laity first, and makes the United Methodist Church in Arkansas a leader and example of best practices during the pandemic. 16
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We are also thankful for the Bishop’s communication with the Arkansas Conference through his encouraging daily devotionals, and the letters and videos he shares when we need them. 22
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Those who serve on the Committee on Episcopacy agree to: 25
26

- support Bishop Mueller in his work, 27
- be available to him for counsel, 28
- assist in determining the episcopal needs of the area, and keep the bishop advised of conditions within the area as they affect relationships, and 29
30
- engage in annual consultation with the bishop. 31

We are honored to work with him, and we express our deep appreciation for his work. Thank you, Bishop, for your service in the Arkansas Annual Conference. 32
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34

Respectfully Submitted, 35
36

Karon Mann, Chair 37

Arkansas Conference Committee on Episcopacy 38
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Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns 40

The Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns (ELC) shall collaborate with the Arkansas Annual Conference's existing structure to implement, evaluate, and update its comprehensive plan related to ethnic issues. 41
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The Committee will consult with and assist other conference entities in training and implementing matters related to ethnic local churches. The committee shall maintain the connectional relations mandated by ¶632 and ¶ 654. Additionally, this committee shall implement all General Conference emphases related to: 45
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48

- National Hispanic Plan 49
- Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century 50

- National Korean Ministry Plan
- Native American Ministries (¶654)
- Other ethnic programs emanating from the General Conference.

We accomplish these things as we equip local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ by covenanting to become Acts 2 disciple-making congregations: Spirit-led, Spirit-filled, and fruit-producing.

In addition, the Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns approved several requests for funding in the areas of **Internships, Leadership Development, and Misson Field Engagement.**

As a part of the Conference Culture of Call, 12 college interns were placed in ethnic churches to strengthen the ministries in varying contexts. These internships provided first-hand ministry opportunities.

Leadership Development has always been a focal point for ELC. Six clergy and laity had the privilege to receive professional development grants. In addition, ELC has administered grants for the following.

- (1) ELC provided support to persons to attend the Gathering of Black Pastors of the United Methodist Church;
- (2) ELC provided grants to persons to attend the annual gathering of Black Methodists for Church Renewal;
- (3) ELC provided a grant to the Arkansas Chapter of Black Methodists for Church Renewal for Youth Engagement;
- (4) ELC provided support for the Bishop's Taskforce on the Ethnic Church to provide a consultant for the work; and
- (5) ELC provided a significant grant to Mission U to support scholarships for Ethnic participants.

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 Arkansas Annual Conference's strategic initiatives regarding ethnic congregations are responsive to the UMC's trajectory in spreading the good news of the Gospel and making disciples of Jesus Christ thought out the world.

In closing, thanks be to God for the Arkansas Annual Conference and the support provided for this work. This budgeted line item provides meaningful support to ethnic congregations. In addition, special thanks to the committee who take time to serve God by hearing the dreams and visions of ethnic congregations and discerning how to best use the funds entrusted to this committee to increase the effectiveness of ethnic congregations.

May God forever strengthen us in this task!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Ronnie Miller Yow, Chair
Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns

Council on Camp and Retreat Ministries

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 as disciples of Jesus Christ.
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.
3. We applaud our Camping and Retreat Centers for their ministry in this difficult year. Many had to cease their programming or alter it significantly. Each camp diligently worked to maintain a safe environment, and find creative ways to reach their mission.
4. The Camping and Retreat Ministry Committee worked to serve our centers, and awarded three \$5,000 ministry grants to Camp Tanako, Mount Eagle, and Shoal Creek, as they seek new ways to make Disciples of Jesus Christ and fulfill the Bishop's Ministry plan.

Coordinator, Ben Crismon

Council on Children's Ministry

Due to the 2020 pandemic, we had to pivot our common ministry goals. Summer brought us virtually collaborating across the state to create a virtual Vacation Bible School experience for churches of all sizes. We learned that UMC housing most of our Early Childhood Education centers was a vital part of our ministry to children and their families in communities. We added Kris Mickna to our Children's Council. She has been the voice to represent the needs of ECE directors within the UMC churches. Quest was canceled and rescheduled at Pulaski Heights for September 2021. Our Fall was spent creating opportunities for Children's Ministers and volunteers to be connectional with porch visits and church pick-up faith formation kits. We also created writing groups to develop safe family faith formation ideas for Advent and Christmas. Free downloads for anyone found on our Conference website.

January 22, 2021, we hosted the very first virtual Beyond Conference. The focus of the Beyond training was Dismantling Racism Micah 6:8 Justice, Mercy, Humility. Dr. Y. Joy Harris, the co-author of the book the ABC's of Diversity, was our keynote speaker during our two half-day sessions. We were able to have six breakout sessions from professions outside the state and our

conference. As with anything that you try for the first time, you don't know the success rate or, in this case, attended. The virtual attendance for Beyond 2021 was 124 registrations, with 95 in attendance at any given time. The virtual aspect of the conference allowed us to extend invites to many outside our ARUMC conference. Fourteen different states were attending for a total of 46 of the 124 attendees. In 2020, we had 90 Beyond attendees, with six from out of state.

Spring 2021, our council will be helping others in Children's Ministry programs safely for children and their families. A new class rotation schedule has been introduced. We will lose one active council member. We thank Tammy Felder, who has served as the Central District Rep. We will welcome several new members to the council. Please see those new members below.

2021-2022 COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES with Rotation

Coordinator: Melinda Shunk

Advisors to committee with no small group or vote:

Safe Sanctuary: Karen Swales

Wonderfully Made Trainer: Sadie Stratton

New Children's Minister Mentor: Pam Lentz

Child Care Ministry Advocate: Kris Mickna

District Council Representatives:

Central:

Tammy Felder (2018-2021)

Kayla Tullos (2019-2022)

Jessica Butler (2020-2023)

Crystal Taylor, At Large in training. (2021-2024)

Northeast:

(2018-2021)

Tiffany Jones (2019-2022)

Katie McLean (2020-2023)

Christie Crawford, At Large in training. (2021-2024)

Northwest:

(2018-2021)

Sadie Stratton (2019-2022)

Page Phillips (2020-2023)

Ashley Mc Neal, At Large in training. (2021-2024)

Southeast:

(2018-2021)

Christie Park (2019-2022)

Carissa Tarkington (2020-2023)

At Large in training. (2021-2024)

Southwest:

(2018-2021)

Michelle Wilkins (2019-2022)

Peaches Smith (2020-2023)

At Large in training. (2021-2024)

Council on Youth Ministries

Phoebe Sanders ACCYM Chair, senior from Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church

Like most things in our world, the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries (ACCYM) has been completely affected by the pandemic. In early April 2020, we had our first Zoom meeting as a group to conduct elections for this school year. The other executive members and I of ACCYM were joyous to become more involved in an organization that we love and has provided so much for us, for many of us since sixth grade.

However, things have been quite different than we expected. Choir tour and Assembly 2020 were canceled, and our annual Planning Retreat was held over Zoom. Even though we knew Refuge was cancelled for November, ACCYM was still excited to be in fellowship with one another and meet each other.

In our mid-September meeting, Amy Shores, director of Pastoral Care at Methodist Family Health, spoke to the group on leadership and taking care of one's self, which inspired us to be creative and appreciative of what we do still have. In our late January meeting, I spoke to the group on how being remote has given me the opportunity to rethink the purpose of ACCYM. This body is more than merely planning events and being on the stage; we are the hands and feet of God in the world— not only for the future of the Church, but right now.

The Veritas Task Force has been preparing mini worship services to distribute via ACCYM's social media pages during the season of Lent, with each Task Force member preparing a devotional and pre-recorded music sessions with the band Army of Light.

In our upcoming meeting in April, elections for executive positions for next year will be held, and Samantha Meadors, Community Coordinator of the Delta Project and 200k More Reasons, will join us via Zoom to share with the group the establishment of Project

Transformation in Arkansas for Summer 2022. A non-profit dedicated to engaging communities through education and fellowship with children and young-adults, Project Transformation is an extremely exciting opportunity for Arkansas youth to serve through building relationships in communities throughout the state. We are also planning to conduct a safe, in-person Assembly this July, or to provide a virtual option if that will not be possible.

Even though events have not happened as usual so far, ACCYM is still full of vitality and leadership, as evidenced by testimonials from our own youth:

"ACCYM has changed so much in the past year. About a year ago we had our last in-person event, Veritas, before the pandemic forced us to change our route. Since then I have joined several Zoom meetings and discussed the future of ACCYM. It was devastating to hear time after time that events were going to be cancelled as the pandemic got worse. Although it has been different and heartbreaking sometimes, I feel a new sense of community in ACCYM. We have been able to come together and support each other while times have been difficult, and we have been able to work together to plan for the future and how we are going to adjust. These limitations have been setbacks, but we are now able to realize that a building does not define the Conference as a whole and we can still work together while being apart." – Kara Price, ACCYM Vice Chair, junior from Beebe First United Methodist Church

"It's been a crazy year, but we've still been able to come together and do our best to foster re-

1 lationships within the Conference.” – Grace Jones, Youth Service Fund Task Force, sophomore
2 from Beebe First United Methodist Church

3
4 “This year as a CCYMer has been different than any others. We are used to reuniting with all of
5 our friends every few months and being able to see the fruits of our hard work through watch-
6 ing our events play out. Even though we haven’t been able to witness the execution of our
7 events, we have witnessed so much more. Throughout this year on CCYM, we have been test-
8 ed and pushed to many new lengths. The passion we have for serving Jesus and connecting
9 others has risen above the circumstances and truly shown throughout this trial. I am proud of
10 the CCYM community this year because no matter what, we have grown from the circumstanc-
11 es and have come back to the true purpose of the ACCYM. I am continually impressed with
12 the individuals who have stepped up and given their all to this ministry this year and who have
13 acted in faith to continue to work hard to create communities and transform lives.” – Marleigh
14 Hayes, Senior High Assembly Chair, senior from Sequoyah United Methodist Church

15 Council on Young Adult Ministries

16
17 While the last year has proved challenging, it has also revealed to us the possibilities that await
18 us as we seek to connect people across the state through zoom calls and other online gather-
19 ing options. The priority of the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries is to help young
20 adults, ages 18-35, to feel connected to other young adults across the Arkansas Conference.
21 Thus, we are seeking to create a database that gathers information on young adults in the con-
22 ference and can help us to make steps to move towards connecting young adults from all five
23 districts, especially those young adults who are beyond college age. While college students
24 often have Methodist campus ministries to help anchor them, we would like to make sure that
25 post-college young adults continue to enjoy and benefit from the connectionalism Methodism
26 offers. And we want to invite them to engage in discipleship, fellowship, service, and the explo-
27 ration of social justice together. This may begin with a young adult book club or racial justice
28 study in the coming months that can be done over zoom, or we may discover other ways young
29 adults in Arkansas Methodism desire to be together.

30
31 We would love your help, if you’re a young adult attending annual conference this year, or
32 you know young adults at your local church! The first step is to fill out the “Young Adult In-
33 formation Form” that will help us to create this database or pass this form on to the young
34 adults in your local church. The form can be found here: [https://arumc.wufoo.com/forms/ar-](https://arumc.wufoo.com/forms/arumc-young-adult-information-form/)
35 [umc-young-adult-information-form/](https://arumc.wufoo.com/forms/arumc-young-adult-information-form/). After we begin receiving information and creating the da-
36 tabase, the Council on Young Adult Ministries will reach out to begin connecting young adults
37 across Arkansas in ways that are faithful to their desires for growing in their faith.

38
39 Respectfully Submitted,
40 Reverend Lauren DeLano

41 Developer of Clergy Recruitment

42
43 The world of Culture of Call and Development of Clergy Recruitment has been busy and pro-
44 ductive this year despite the challenges of the pandemic!

- 45 • We’ve had virtual visits with students from 7 seminaries in the fall of 2020 and look forward
46 to continuing conversations with many of them.
- 47 • We continue to increase the communication and connection between the DCOMs, cabinet
48 and students from the ARUMC currently enrolled in seminary through birthday cards, en-
49 couragement during finals, and intentional connection from DCOMs to their districts’ current
50 seminarians.

- Longer term goals include continued work to create a Culture of Calling in the conference by starting with building a culture of calling in every local church. We are working to both educate clergy and lay members about the importance of creating a culture in which calling is talked about regularly with members of all ages. In addition, we are continuing to create and offer resources that will help provide studies, liturgies and small group curriculum for discussing calling with children, youth and adults.

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.

Michelle Moore
Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, ARUMC

Lay Servant Ministries Report

Lay Servant Ministries is a strong and viable lay leadership development program available within the United Methodist connection. Through this equipping and empowering system, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples. These laity are in your church, in viable ministry, on committees, dedicated and always serving. Lay Servant Ministries can be a tool for filtering your call to ministry. Some join to become a Lay Speaker, only to find they have a deeper calling to full time ministry. Others come to classes, and through discussions and questions and answers, find a passion for particular ministries. Others are encouraged in the work they currently do and will do for the Kingdom. In all instances, our Lay Servants/Lay Speakers find connection, fellowship, love and grace among the learning, communicating, and leading of our trainings.

In 2020, LSM, as well as all ministries, was "forced" to be more creative in holding trainings. Thanks to our Online Basic Course experiences from 2019, we were able to switch to online learning fairly easily. In May, we held 4 courses, with 31 Lay Servants, over a Friday afternoon/Saturday morning period. During the fall semester, we allowed our leaders to schedule according to their schedules and held 7 courses, with 45 Lay Servants, of 4-6 sessions to equal the 10 hour course requirement. This spring, we are holding 11 courses with class sessions beginning on or after March 1. As I write this, 3 of those have reached full capacity.

Our laity are hungry for connection. They do need the courses to continue, but most want to stay in touch. We are also offering more than the "regular". We have a course on "Biblical Interpretation-A Roadmap" (What sources do you use for Bible study or sermon preparation?). We also have one called "Opening Ourselves to Grace". This studies Wesley's thoughts on the means of Grace. We also are doing "Start Here". This is a course on how to teach adults. What do you do with full-grown people and their personalities?

The most interesting thing about the courses, as they are happening during the pandemic, is they are being led by leaders statewide and the courses are diverse, as far as districts are concerned. This does make for very interesting conversation.

We will be working hard on beginning our Lay Minister training this Summer/Fall. We will begin training through Zoom and move to in-person, as it is possible.

To find out about trainings, email carole.blanks@arumc.org with your name and district to be added to our newsletter/training notifications. Or go to <https://arumc.org/our-ministries/lay-ser>

1 vant-ministries/ The district directors are listed at the top of the page, with the upcoming train-
2 ings below. Links to registration forms/sites will also be there. We are also using the events
3 section of our facebook page AR Lay Servant Ministries or @ARUMCLSM will find us.
4

5 Carole Blanks, Director
6

7 **Nominating Committee**

8 In light of the postponement of the 2020 General Conference until 2022, the terms of all cur-
9 rent committees have been extended until the Annual Conference following the next General
10 Conference. This is keeping with the precedent that was set last year.
11

12 We will fill positions that are vacant due to resignations or moves. The best way to help us
13 nominate people for vacant positions is to fill out a profile sheet and encourage others to do the
14 same. Profile sheets are on arumc.org under the forms and documents tab. All clergy and laity
15 are encouraged to fill out a report. We also ask that pastors, district superintendents, and lay
16 leaders encourage laity in their congregations and districts to complete a profile sheet online.
17 The leadership report will be in Annual Conference packets. Thank you to everyone who is
18 serving on a conference committee, especially those who are serving lengthened terms.
19

20 Respectfully submitted,
21 Rev. Katie Goss Pearce, Chairperson
22

23 **Secretary of Global Ministries**

24 The Conference Secretary of Global Ministries shall work with the chairperson of the Confer-
25 ence Board of Global Ministries to the objectives and scope of work of the General Board of
26 Global Ministries. A major responsibility of Global Ministries is to connect the various parts of
27 the church as United Methodists engage in global ministries. As a biblically rooted and histori-
28 cally informed organization, Global Ministries facilitates engagement in God's mission.
29

30 Due to COVID-19 in 2020, all in-person meetings were cancelled. The General Board informed
31 us that there would be no missionaries itinerating and no Visas issued. The General Board
32 staff along with David and Elizabeth McCormick, South Central Jurisdiction Mission Advocates,
33 created virtual itinerations. There were 25 virtual itinerations via zoom in 2020. The informa-
34 tion via email was shared with the Arkansas Conference Global Ministry Secretaries and was
35 informed to share with churches in their district. This gave me along with others an opportunity
36 to see and hear the stories from missionaries from around the world that we would otherwise
37 not get to witness. Virtual itinerations are still ongoing in 2021.
38

39 The South Central Jurisdiction Secretary Global Ministry meetings have also been via zoom.
40 We share what is going on in our conferences and how we can remain connected. Included in
41 those meetings is Global Board Ministry staff to keep us updated and provide necessary infor-
42 mation we need to continue our work in the midst of the pandemic.
43

44 Karen Distefano, SCJ UMVIM and Disaster Response Director, presented a virtual itineration
45 visit with the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference on October 9, 2020. It was a three day
46 event. We heard the mission stories from pastors serving Tulsa Indian UMC, Ponca Indian UMC
47 and two high school youth who shared their stories as well. The Oklahoma Indian Missionary
48 Conference (OIMC) Superintendent, Rev. David Wilson, gave the history and life of the OIMC.
49 This was very educational and informative. There was sharing of mission projects and how the
50 coped during the pandemic.

The South Central Jurisdiction Fall Gathering was held via zoom on October 20-23, 2020 with a New Orleans theme since we were unable to travel as previously planned. Roland Fernandes, the new General Secretary Global Ministries, was introduced and shared strategies and future of Global Ministries. Jack Amick reported on UMCOR on Immigration, Eric Angel on Missionary Service/Itineration Update, Dana Lyles on Community Development, and Conference Global Ministry Secretaries reported during that two day period. On the third day we celebrated the outgoing Global Ministry Secretaries and the work they had done during their tenure.

Serving as Arkansas Conference Secretary Global Ministries has been a blessing and I appreciate all the local churches and pastors that opened their sanctuaries and receiving missionaries as they itinerated through our conference. Every mission story told and the sharing of their calling touched us all. It has been a blessing and a pleasure to have served the conference in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,
Marleene Calvin

United Methodist Men

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented in person meetings for many of us. The jurisdictions of the United Methodist Men sponsored several National Days of Prayer. Participation was by Zoom. Several leaders felt this was needed in the times we were experiencing.

National Give Day 2020 for the United Methodist Men raised \$46,506, which was about twice what was raised in 2019. National Give Day 2021 is scheduled for October. The funds raised go to support the General Commission on United Methodist Men. The GCUMM develops resources and supplies them free to United Methodist Men for the mission. The mission of the GCUMM is to coach men to thrive through Jesus Christ.

I continue to try to keep in regular contact with local chartered chapters. If you want to contact me, please email me at clay.mccastlain@arumc.org.

Clay McCastlain
Arkansas Conference President
United Methodist Men

United Methodist Women

The phrase “we’ve never done it that way” took on a whole new meaning for the church and United Methodist Women after March 2020. The only thing we were sure of is that our ministries to women, children and youth were even more vital during 2020. This has reminded us that our Legacy Endowment Fund for United Methodist Women needs to continue funding our action of faith, hope and love into the future. The Legacy Fund is an endowment to ensure the work of United Methodist Women continues for the next 150 years!

This year the Leadership Development Days (LDD) sponsored by the National Organization was held virtually on January 28-30. District Presidents and Treasurers, along with more Conference officers were able to attend virtually. It was a reminder of how we have all adjusted to Zoom and meeting virtually. Participants were also informed of our two Social Action Campaigns for the new quadrennium in which United Methodist Women are involved: 1) Just Energy for All 2) Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

The Arkansas Conference Mission U will be held July 28-31 at Hendrix College in Conway. The studies this year will be: “Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship” · Issue Study— “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools” · Spiritual Growth Study— “Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety.” · Children’s Study – “Responding to Violence” · Youth Study – “Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence.” The United Methodist Women 17th Annual Meeting held Nov. 7, 2020 was held via Zoom. This year’s 18th Annual Meeting will be held at Highland Valley 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. We 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

Youth and Young Adult 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 with Shanterra McBride of marvelousuniversity.com to offer the Building the Table Together program as a part of the ARUMC efforts in dismantling racism. A webinar on diversity and inclusion in the church will be offered on April 15 with follow up invitations to churches who participate in the webinar to participate in a more in depth study and coaching cohort over the summer.

Second, we are working on EQUIP 2021 which will be held on September 11. This year EQUIP will feature author Rev. Dr. Michelle Morris and her book Gospel Discipleship. It will also include several workshops designed to give practical information to all those who work with youth. The plans for now are to offer both an in person and virtual option. We will finalize plans closer to September and as we know more about what safety precautions should be in place.

Third, we continue to offer resources, guidelines and support for youth workers as they continue to find ways to be in ministry with young people and their families during a pandemic.

Fourth, 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 needs 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.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Moore, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, ARUMC

Institution Reports

Africa University

Thank you, Arkansas Conference, for helping to prepare young leaders to be “an aroma that brings life” to a world that is crying out for justice, compassion, healing and wholeness (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). Through your prayers and gifts, you participate with the students, lecturers and staff of Africa University in disciple-making by example.

The university’s students, faculty and staff are grateful for an investment of 79.35 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund in 2020. Having grown its material support for Africa University by almost 10 percent in an extremely challenging year, the Arkansas Conference leads as a source of inspiration and transformation.

The multilayered impact of COVID-19 and the resulting public health crisis have brought about profound and lasting adjustments in how we live, work, serve and connect. For Africa University, these include:

- A shift to online-only teaching and learning from late March through December 2020. As the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degrees, Africa University had the infrastructure and expertise to transition smoothly and break new ground with competency-based student assessment tools.
- Africa University is currently ranked number one in Zimbabwe and 39th among the top 200 universities in Africa, having risen 59 spots in the continental university rankings in 2020.
- Gifts totaling more than \$300,000 from across the United Methodist connection were designated for COVID-19 relief efforts. These second-mile gifts enabled Africa University to care for close to 300 international students who were stranded on its campus between March and July 2020 and assist students whose families were experiencing financial hardship.
- Excellent student retention and modest enrollment growth, with an uptake of online learning by students of more than 99 percent. More than 3,000 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 academic year—16 percent more than the previous year—with 2,395 studying full-time. Fifty-seven percent of full-time students were female, and 24 percent were international.
- **Innovation, outreach and service through:**
 - o The development and distribution of masks and hand sanitizer (of its own design/formulation), that have now been certified for commercial production.
 - o The launch, via a web application, of farm to household delivery of fresh produce, meat, poultry and milk products by the Africa University Dream Farm Trust.
 - o Two student-led initiatives—**Feed a Family** and **Ben Hill UMC Women’s Residence Girl Child Support Program**—provided medical care, food and school fees assistance to vulnerable families in the wider community. Campus-based and home-based students gave up meals, raised additional resources, procured supplies, and organized safe distribution to families.
- **The successful completion of two new buildings**—the Highland Park UMC-funded student union facility and a dormitory for female students. A new solar farm powers the Highland Park women’s dormitory.

Africa University’s online campus is here to stay, thanks to further infrastructure upgrades and the lessons learned in 2020. Africa University is working to grow its pan-African presence and impact

1 through new programs, partnerships, and a blend of in-person and online learning options.

2 The steadfast support of local churches for the Africa University Fund helps the institution to
3 maintain its focus on equipping leaders to serve and transform communities. Thank you, Arkansas
4 Conference, for your prayers, engagement and faithful support for the ministry of Africa University.
5

6 In journeying alongside Africa University in ministry and mission, Arkansas United Methodists are
7 the church in the world—seeding hope and sharing the love of Christ. You affirm that when we are
8 all in it together, God’s grace is indeed sufficient. To God be the glory.

9
10 James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
11 Africa University Development Office

12 **Drew University Theological School**

13
14 As with most other schools in the northeast of the U.S., Drew University evacuated its campus
15 in early spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drew Theological School faculty
16 and staff adapted to this challenge with resilience, compassion, and creativity. The Theological
17 School faculty put their courses all online, led development workshops for faculty across the
18 university, and, in order to accommodate our many international admits who would not be able
19 to enter the United States for fall 2020, designed an asynchronous Master of Divinity program.
20 As a result of this work, the Theological School welcomed 147 new students, its largest entering
21 class in a decade, with an enrollment of 380 for the current academic year. Our chapel team
22 has also led the way in creating online worship experiences that connect the Drew community
23 now across the globe. All degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary
24 courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world
25 issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM
26 degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that
27 develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed
28 and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theolog-
29 ical disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated
30 shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to an-
31 ti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and
32 interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists,
33 teachers, and thought leaders who go all over the world to take their place as the next genera-
34 tion of faith leaders and change agents.

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36 Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean
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Duke Divinity School

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Reconciliation and Theology, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the Center for Reconciliation will become Dean of Duke Divinity School (DDS) July 1, 2021. Dean Gregory L. Jones will leave DDS to become president of Belmont University.

DDS continues to discern fresh strategies to respond faithfully and wisely to the changing church and the world. The disruptions, challenges, and injustices of 2020 occupied enormous attention as the school adapted to different modes of teaching/learning and interacting while also managing financial challenges both to DDS and Duke University.

DDS announced a new hybrid version of its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program that will give students the opportunity to earn the M.Div. degree without relocating to Durham, N.C. The hybrid learning curriculum combines remote coursework with week-long residential intensives, where students connect in-person. The first cohort will begin coursework in fall 2021.

DDS welcomed the largest incoming class in school history with 257 new students from 35 different states and seven countries, including China, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, South Korea and the United States. Our Master of Arts in Christian Practice (28 students) and Doctor of Ministry (52 students) programs received record enrollments. The Master of Theology (13 students), Master of Theological Studies (34 students), and Doctor of Theology (6 students) had strong enrollment. Our new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll 6 students, all of whom are TMC Fellows. Across all degree programs, 31 percent of the incoming class identified as a race/ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 21 percent of all students, Asian students, 5 percent; and American Indian students, 2 percent. 45 percent of students in the incoming class were female, and 55 percent were male. The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree program gained 113 new students. Students from minority groups comprised more than 25 percent of incoming M.Div. students, with black students making up 19 percent. Female students made up 46 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 54 percent. There were 30 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 30 percent affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Nondenominational students made up 16 percent of the new M.Div. students; Baptists, 16 percent; and Anglican-Episcopalian, 9 percent.

2020 also witnessed an expansion of DDS's partnerships, including the Kern Family Foundation partnership with the Office of Wesleyan Engagement to provide accelerated pathways for undergraduate students to pursue the Master of Divinity degree at Duke. DDS welcomed its first cohort of students at Martin Methodist College, taking classes at Duke. The Americas Initiative, a fellowship of organizations, scholars and practitioners convened by the Center for Reconciliation, is working on peacebuilding among Latin American and Latinx communities, particularly those of Indigenous and African descent. The five-year Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration, begun in the fall of 2019 and jointly funded by DDS and the Provost's Office, is working to harness the research and experiential wisdom of Black pastoral leaders nationally through a leadership school and practical theology archiving project.

DDS sought to reckon in deeper and broader ways with systemic racism and injustice, particularly in light of the overlapping pandemics of COVID-19, economic crisis, and mental health challenges, and the school sought opportunities to strengthen its partnership and racial justice work across Duke University. A Story Listening and Gathering project solicited past or present students, faculty, and staff to share stories of how race and racial discrimination affects daily life at

1 DDS with a goal of understanding the experiences of the community and to inform the school's
2 broader anti-racism efforts. A new Race and the Professions Fellowship, in partnership with the
3 Kenan Institute for Ethics, and the Churches Promoting Recovery Project, in partnership with the
4 Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative, provided new opportunities for students to deepen
5 their vocational formation and reimagine community transformation beyond campus.
6

7 DDS hired eight new faculty members in 2020. Peter Casarella is a Professor of Theology and
8 has published widely on medieval Christian Neoplatonism, contemporary theological aesthet-
9 ics, intercultural thought, and the Hispanic/Latino presence in the U.S. Catholic Church.
10

11 Sarah Barton is an Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy and Theological Ethics whose
12 scholarly work is focused in theological ethics, with special attention to theological anthropolo-
13 gy, disability, liturgy, and pastoral care. She has a joint faculty appointment as assistant profes-
14 sor of occupational therapy at Duke University Medical Center.
15

16 Quinton Dixie, Associate Research Professor of Church History and Black Church Studies, spe-
17 cializes in American religious history and has written on a wide range of topics, from the African
18 American Civil Rights Movement to the history of Black Baptists in the U.S.
19

20 Zebulon Highben is Associate Professor of the Practice of Church Music at Duke Divinity School
21 and Director of Chapel Music at Duke University Chapel, and his research interests include
22 hymnody, liturgy, music and exegesis, the musical heritage of the Reformation.
23

24 Alma Tinoco Ruiz is a Lecturer in Homiletics and Evangelism and Director of the Hispanic House
25 of Studies. She a practical theologian whose work centers on the intersection of homiletics,
26 pastoral care, and evangelism and she is a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church.
27

28 Janet Martin Soskice is the William K. Warren Distinguished Research Professor of Catholic The-
29 ology and for the past 30 years was on The Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge.
30 Her work lies at the intersection of Christian theology and philosophy.
31

32 Norbert Wilson is Professor of Food, Economics, and Community, and his research explores
33 food issues such as access, choice, and food waste. He is an ordained vocational deacon in the
34 Episcopal Church USA.
35

36 Wylin D. Wilson is an Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics, and prior to joining the Duke
37 faculty, she was on faculty at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics and was a senior
38 fellow at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School. Her research
39 focuses on religion, gender, and bioethics, including rural bioethics and Black Church studies.
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41 L. Gregory Jones
42 Dean of the Divinity School
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Candler School of Theology at Emory University

Since our founding in 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has educated more than 10,000 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. We continued our work even through this most difficult year, with the coronavirus continuing its march around the world, a reckoning for racial injustice rolling across our nation, and a toxic, divisive political atmosphere challenging our civic life. Perhaps there has been no better year than this to underscore the importance of faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world—the type of leaders we form at Candler.

Though our mission remains unchanged, the pandemic has necessitated many changes in how we undertake that mission: We have shifted classes online, redesigned syllabi to support optimal online learning, developed new ways to worship and experience community together in the virtual sphere, and discerned which new habits and modalities have promise for enriching our work even after the pandemic ends. Through these efforts, we and our students have gained deep experience in being flexible, adaptable, and creative as we respond to the demands of ever-changing contexts—experience that not only serves us well now, but will continue to serve us and our ministries far into the future.

Candler is one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, we enthusiastically welcome students from 44 denominations, with 46% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 483 from 12 countries and 37 states, 44 percent persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. This diversity is a rich blessing, and this year we created a new staff position of assistant director of student life for diversity, equity and inclusion to foster understanding and ensure we are responsive to the needs of our diverse student body.

We offer six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees. Our new Chaplaincy concentration is now among our most popular, and our Teaching Parish program enables students to serve as student pastors in local churches throughout the southeast, learning firsthand about shepherding a congregation; this year, there were 36 participants.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid remains among our top priorities. In 2019-2020, we awarded nearly \$6.6 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, and master of religious leadership students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

The demands of the pandemic did not diminish Candler's robust schedule of events. Candler's Black Church Studies program celebrated its 30th anniversary with a yearlong slate of online lectures and panel discussions, now available at vimeo.com/candler. We also launched The Candler Foundry to make theological education accessible to all, through short and semester-length courses taught by Candler faculty, videos and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one, and Facebook Live panel discussions connecting theology with current issues in the world. View the latest offerings at candlerfoundry.emory.edu.

Candler's 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. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu.

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

Hendrix College

"In religious and vocation programs combined with service learning, Hendrix continues to develop clergy and lay leaders for faithful service inside the church and beyond...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

Vocational discernment, engaged learning, and academic excellence are some of the hallmarks of Hendrix College that have their roots in the Methodist value of uniting faith and knowledge. The College is proud that it continues the vision set out by its founders over 140 years ago. Recognized widely as one of the best small colleges in the country, Hendrix expresses its appreciation to the Arkansas Conference for the support it gives to the programs and mission of this institution. As a United Methodist church-related college, the College embraces the freedom of the academy where students and faculty explore the boundaries of knowledge while setting a context for that exploration in an ethos that values growth of both the mind and the spirit. In this way we fulfill our mission to cultivate whole persons and to prepare our graduates for lives of service, fulfillment, and joy in their communities and in the world.

We are pleased to highlight some of the many ways that Hendrix College changes lives.

Ministry Exploration

In the summer of 2018, the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas generously granted Hendrix College funding for the Center for Calling and Christian Leadership, to focus more specifically on resources and experiences for young people ages 12 and up across the state of Arkansas who are discerning a call to professional ministry in the United Methodist Church. Rooted in the theological understanding that all Christians are called to ministry at their baptisms, the Center is committed to helping young leaders identify the role of ministry which best fits their sense of personal identity, passion for making disciples and creating a more just world, and both gifts and growing edges. Through shadowing, worship leadership, orientation to ministry, spiritual formation, peer support, internships, and service learning, the staff of the Center, directed by Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen (Hendrix '12), mentors young persons from the beginnings of that call into theological education and leadership in the church.

Since September 2018, the Center for Calling and Christian Leadership has engaged in these ways:

- **About 50** different college students (from 8 different colleges or Wesley Foundations across the state) and young adults attended events hosted by the Center: seminary visits, service-learning trips, Exploring Ministry Together (EMT) gatherings and events, UMC Exploration, and as summer interns.

- All of them are considering active lay ministry or professional/ordained ministry. **25** of them are seriously considering, applying to, or attending seminary and/or have started the ordination process.
- About 15-20 of these young adults are connected to our programs on an ongoing basis, attending multiple trips a year and engaging the EMT program.
- We engaged 5 new young adults/college students in our summer internship program in Summer 2020.
- 50 students attended the Fall 2018 Seminary Fair, and another 20 attended a Virtual Ministry Fair online in Fall 2020.
- 24 high school juniors and seniors attended the Hendrix Youth Institute in 2019, and another 10 attended an virtual "Call and Respond" event in July 2020, which was offered since Hendrix Youth Institute 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Since March 2020, The Center has continued to offer weekly Exploring Ministry Together gatherings on Zoom for college student and young adults, attended by 8-12 participants every week. Since then (since when?), about 5 new students have participated. Though the pandemic has limited our ability to travel for service learning trips, seminary visits, and other youth workshops and events, The Center has been able to offer a wide variety of support and programs online and via mail, such as: a month-long virtual ministry opportunities fair with seminaries and organizations; panels on a variety of topics with ministers across the country; virtual 2020 pastoral internships for college students; teaching on calling to confirmands at area churches; and resources and programs aimed at offering spiritual practices and support for students during this challenging season.

2019-2020 Ministry Exploration Programming at Hendrix:

- Since 2004, 60 Hendrix graduates have enrolled in seminary with 75% of these students attending UM seminaries.
- Seven recent Hendrix alumni are currently in seminary.
- Ten students who are discerning ministry meet each week in the Exploring Ministry Together (EMT), a program through the Center for Calling and Christian Leadership.

Religious Life

- The UMYF Leadership Scholarship Program is completing its 26th year. Currently 32 students participate who will eventually join over 185 alumni from the program.
- These scholars form the core community who participate in weekly worship and communion, small groups for discipleship, and opportunities for fellowship and serving.
- More than 425 UM churches in all five districts have had Hendrix students assist with worship services in the past 26 years.

Church Relations

- United Methodist groups that the College hosts for no rental fee include the Arkansas Conference Course of Studies, Arkansas United Methodist Conference Historical Society, Board of Ordained Ministry, Board of Higher Education & Ministry, and local UM church staff meetings.
- The College also dedicates a display case in the Student Life and Technology Building to Methodist artifacts to remind the students, faculty and staff of the historic connection of the college and church.
- In 2021, Hendrix is scheduled to host the Jr. & Sr. High Assemblies for the Conference Youth.

Continuing Education

- This year on campus, the College hosted Rev. Matt Miofsky, Senior Pastor of The Gather-

ing in St. Louis, Missouri, for the Willson Lecture and for the annual John and Marjem Gill Preaching Worship. Over a three week period, he taught an online course on “How Preaching Is Changing,” including the topics: “Creating and Delivering a Conversational Sermon,” “Preaching Hard Topics,” and “Preaching on Camera and Online.”

Funding Received from Outside sources for religious life and ministry support

- An endowed gift from the John Workman family for a summer internship in churches, non-profits, or journalism.
- An endowed gift from the Wilder family to establish an internship in churches and non-profit agencies.
- Grants from the Lilly Endowment (listed above) for United Methodist youth who are discerning a call to ministry and clergy who are 5-10 years out of seminary.
- A gift from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas to create the Center for Calling and Christian Leadership (2018-2021).

Financial Aid/Enrollment

- For the 2019 calendar year, the College received \$82,086.46 from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, with 100% of the church apportionment going toward the Office of the Chaplain and the Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics, and Calling.
- Annually, the College provides more than \$4.9 million in financial assistance to United Methodist students.
- Of the \$4.9 million dollars, the College annually provides more than \$165,000 directly to the three specific groups of Methodist students: 1) UMYF Leadership Scholars, 2) UM clergy dependents at a one-half tuition discount, 3) UM students who are candidates for ordained ministry.
- Over the past five years, Hendrix has enrolled an average of about 700 students from Arkansas each year. The percentage of students from Arkansas has increased from 53% in 2016 to 60% in 2020.

Hendrix College remains committed to ensuring that all qualified students have access to a Hendrix education, regardless of their family’s financial circumstances. College costs across the country have risen dramatically in recent decades, including at Hendrix. But the reality is that few families pay the full published cost of college tuition. Beginning with students entering Hendrix in Fall 2021, a tuition reset - 32% reduction in tuition – will bring the published tuition closer to what families actually pay for the Hendrix experience.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hendrix has continually collaborated with local and state educational, medical, and governmental partners to prioritize the wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff. Fall 2020 semester, instruction was conducted remotely, and Spring 2021 semester has brought the return of classroom and hybrid instruction, with adherence to public health guidelines across the campus community. A new partnership with Conway Regional Health System has provided increased access to testing and other resources, and faculty, staff, and students have adapted above and beyond to help protect and assist each other and our community in countless ways. We are pleased that the number of COVID cases and testing positivity have remained remarkably low throughout spring semester. We look forward to the time in the near future when we will be able to receive and welcome visiting groups and gatherings back on campus and continue to cultivate these valued relationships in person.

The relationship between Methodists and higher education is rooted in the historical teachings of John and Charles Wesley. Hendrix College values its relationship with the Arkansas Con-

ference of The United Methodist Church and the opportunity to fulfill Wesley's vision to bring together intellectual curiosity, spiritual formation, knowledge, and vital piety. My experience as a Hendrix student was shaped by the many relationships formed within the Arkansas Annual Conference, and I am deeply grateful for the ways in which the United Methodist Churches of Arkansas continue to support Hendrix. Your gifts go directly to provide programming for our UMYF Leadership Scholars, service-learning opportunities, ministry internships, and a wide range of religious life and discipleship opportunities. Thank you for your generosity to Hendrix College.



W. Ellis Arnold, III '79
President

Lydia Patterson Institute

It is my honor to submit a report of the only institution of the South Central Jurisdiction to your conference. It is my wish to thank the Bishop and the members of the conference for the committed support to Lydia Patterson in the past year.

The year 2020, has been one unlike any other in my 36 years serving this ministry. We have endured many crises before such as drug wars, violence, peso devaluations, border and immigration issues, and other pandemics but none as terrifying as COVID-19. This time the lives of our students and staff were threatened. This time, we knew not how to attack it.

In early March, we closed our doors in order to keep our students and staff safe. By God's grace and not knowing that He had a hand in what was to come, we had computerized our classrooms about 4 years prior. Going from on-site to on-line was done within 24 hours. We encountered some glitches, like students without internet or computers at home. We moved fast to provide them with tablets and "hot spots" so that no student would be left behind. The plan, of course was to return to the classroom in a few weeks. The few weeks turned into months and months to a year. We did manage to celebrate the Class of 2020 with 69 graduating seniors. Of the 69 seniors, 69 are in college today.

We began the fall semester with a drop in enrollment. Parents were struggling to pay tuition. By then, many were unemployed and had lost loved ones to the pandemic. Our job was to see that our students returned and that we were there to make it possible. We moved swiftly to raising more scholarships. The uncertainty of the situation was alarming and many parents opted to keep their children home.

Teachers and staff are heroes and heroines. They have done an amazing job of keeping the students focused and on course. A few students may be falling behind, but they will receive extra help during the summer to catch up. This administration will seek funds so that these students can attend tuition free and jump back on board.

The past twelve months have been a test to our faith. We, at Lydia Patterson, did not lose faith. While in the middle of the pandemic, we completed a soccer practice field with green grass and colorful pergolas to welcome the students when they return. We remodeled the music room so that the students would have something positive and with optimism to return to. The students,

1 parents, teachers, have all endured such pain, that we moved to bring back hope. We have all
2 lived through horrifying times, but it is our faith that will get us through. While we went to virtual
3 learning, we maintained our weekly devotionals on Zoom. For the past year, the staff has gath-
4 ered to pray every single day.

5
6 We look forward for when the students can return to some type of normalcy. We look forward
7 for the students to enjoy sports again and participate in extracurricular activities. The lay minis-
8 try students anxiously await the time to go out and serve in the local churches. We look forward
9 to a normal graduation when we can celebrate the amazing student body that Lydia Patterson
10 has. We look forward to your visit to our campus, whether it be on a mission trip or simply to
11 experience firsthand the sanctity of this ministry.

12
13 God is good all the time. We have received many good wishes and prayers from our supporters
14 together with financial support for our students. We will survive. My most sincere appreciation
15 to all those kind people that have thought about us while trying to keep their own house safe.
16 My gratitude goes out to all our supporters on behalf of every student at “La Lydia”.

17
18 Respectfully,
19 Socorro de Anda, President

20 **Memphis Theological Seminary**

21
22 For nearly four decades, Memphis Theological Seminary has been a leading institution in the
23 Mid-South for producing graduates who are commissioned as elders or deacons in The United
24 Methodist Church. United Methodist students continue to be the largest denomination repre-
25 sented at our school and a significant number of our full-time faculty are from a Pan-Methodist
26 tradition. We are also on the list of approved seminaries of the University Senate of The United
27 Methodist Church. In addition, our accreditation was recently reaffirmed by SACSCOC for ten
28 years and we remain accredited by ATS through 2025.

29
30 Enrollment remains steady and we continue to develop innovative strategies and solutions to
31 keep theological education within reach for all women and men seeking to live out their call to
32 ministry. This has traditionally included offering a night track, as well as hybrid-online courses, in
33 which students complete 49% of the coursework online and 51% on campus.

34
35 The ongoing pandemic has caused some dramatic changes to campus operations and class
36 delivery models in the 2020-21 academic year, as all MTS classes were moved online and MTS
37 staff began working from home. The University Senate of The UMC, as well as our accrediting
38 bodies SACS and ATS, approved MTS to offer fully online courses. MTS was also the recipient
39 of CARES Act funding that allowed us to purchase laptops and hotspots for student use, as well
40 as offer direct payments to our students to offset the costs incurred by the transition to online
41 learning.

42
43 We expect to offer some on-campus courses in the Fall of 2021 with proper precautions such as
44 social distancing, masking, and regular sanitation. Though, we will continue to supplant on-cam-
45 pus courses with additional online contact hours and we will offer some completely synchro-
46 nous and asynchronous online classes at least through the duration of the pandemic.

47 **Important Happenings at the Seminary**

48
49
50 Rev. Dr. Jody Hill assumed the office of the President in January of 2020. We also welcomed

two new full-time faculty members in the 2020-21 Academic Year: Dr. Tricia Vesely, Visiting Assistant Professor in Hebrew Bible and Christian Ethics; and Dr. Christy Woodbury-Moore, Assistant Professor Spiritual Formation and Director of Supervised Ministry.

In addition to our Master of Divinity degree, MTS introduced two new Master of Arts in Christian Ministry concentrations in Chaplaincy Studies and Methodist Ministry this past academic year. Those concentrations are ideal for UMC students pursuing ordination as a deacon or through the Advanced Course of Study. We are also recruiting students for new Doctorate of Ministry cohorts in Womanist Preaching, Preaching as Leadership, Forming and Growing Churches, and Faith and Health to begin in summer of 2021.

MTS is also offering a series of free virtual classes to local churches and lay people called Sunday Morning Seminary. The program was designed to provide a series of free educational tools and experiences for lay people and local congregations. As part of Sunday Morning Seminary, several of our Methodist faculty have offered classes. For example, Dr. Michael Turner offered a month-long online class on Slavery, Religion, and the Civil War.

Wesleyan Studies at the Seminary

Memphis Theological Seminary is pleased to report that theological education for United Methodist students continues to remain vibrant and forward-looking. Dr. Michael Turner teaches the required classes in UMC history, doctrine, and polity each academic year. This academic year, MTS was also able to offer those ordination requirement classes to students enrolled at the Center for Youth Ministry Training at Austin Presbyterian Seminary.

Students also have the opportunity to earn a Certificate in Wesleyan Studies by completing at least five classes in Wesleyan/Methodist Studies. We are offering a new elective on “Accountability and Addiction: Wesley and Twelve Step Recovery” this summer.

The Seminary completed the endowment of the Hamilton and Varnell Chair in Wesleyan Studies in November of 2019. This endowment was made possible by generous lead gifts from Mrs. Barbara Hamilton and the late Dr. Ralph Hamilton, as well as the late Mrs. Jeanne Varnell and the late Mr. Henry Varnell. The endowment ensures the future of Wesleyan Theological formation at MTS. The Hamilton and Varnell Chair in Wesleyan Studies is held by Dr. Michael Turner, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and the Director of the Methodist House of Studies. The endowment also continues to support the Methodist House of Studies at MTS. The MHOS serves as a community within a community for students from Methodist backgrounds. Recent student gatherings have focused on topics that include the upcoming General Conference, rural ministry, women in ministry, bivocational ministry, and hospital chaplaincy. We also host Board of Ordained Ministry preparatory events for our students. Beginning late this Spring, the MHOS website will also begin hosting a blog featuring reflections from students, alumni, and others in ministry about the future of the Methodist tradition.

The MHOS also provides continuing education events for clergy and lay people. Just prior to the pandemic shut-down, the MHOS partnered with the Turner Center for Church Leadership at St. Luke’s UMC to offer a one-day workshop titled “Christian Conversation in a Polarized Culture: Human Sexuality and the Future of The United Methodist Church.” The goal of this workshop was to prepare United Methodist pastors and lay people for difficult conversations around human sexuality in anticipation of the 2022 General Conference. Over 150 people from 23 local congregations attended.

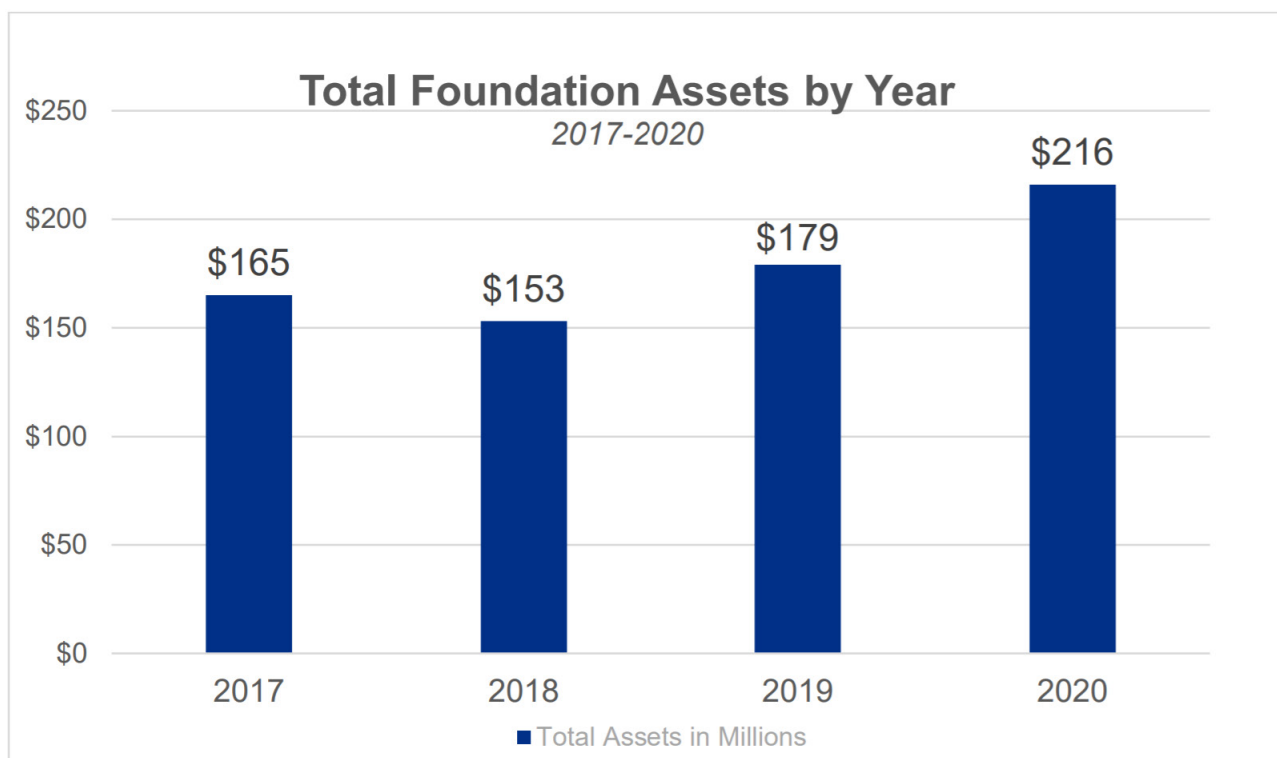
We are grateful for the support of the Arkansas Annual Conference and for the many fine students who have attended MTS from Arkansas over the years. We appreciate the confidence that the Conference places in MTS for preparation of United Methodist women and men for Christian ministry, and we welcome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

Submitted by:
Memphis Theological Seminary
Michael K. Turner, Director of Methodist House of Studies
mturner@memphisseminary.edu

Methodist Foundation for Arkansas

The year 2020 was undoubtedly one for the history books. The pandemic, along with unrest around the world, has been a challenge. Churches, schools, and businesses have had to learn how to do their daily activities in new and different ways. For some, this has added more opportunities to do their work, and for others, it has been catastrophic. I pray that you have been well, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Even amid these trials, I have seen the hand of God working in remarkable ways. The Foundation has had many blessings, even in these challenging months.

I am happy to share some highlights of our year.



Assets

At the end of 2020, The Foundation's assets were \$216 million, an all-time high. The Foundation's managed accounts, established by Arkansas Methodist churches or church members, generate money in perpetuity, returning earnings to church ministries year after year. Over \$4.5 million was distributed in early January 2021 to Arkansas churches and Methodist-related char-

ities from these accounts. These funds directly support children and youth ministries, scholarships, music programs, mission work, and building maintenance.

Church Account Review Meetings

One of the 2020 Foundation goals was to have a meeting with every church that has an account with us. The purpose was to thank the church for allowing the Foundation to invest their money and partner in their ministries, along with sharing their account summary. With the pandemic, we managed some in-person meetings, but also conducted many meetings through a virtual platform.

Communications

The Foundation completed updating all of our communications to reflect the new organization name and logo. In light of the Foundation’s name change and a new marketing strategy, we produced new printed informational materials, including a general booklet that shares our mission and services, along with brochures highlighting our seminary scholarship program and individual giving options.

We hired Pixel Perfect Creative, a web design and development company in Little Rock, to redesign the Foundation’s website. The new website will be unveiled in 2021.

COVID-19 Response

Due to COVID-19, the Foundation has increased its outreach to clients. In addition to regular content, we published video messages to our clients and on our Facebook page. The staff made phone calls, wrote emails and handwritten notes to many of our donors and church leaders. The response to this outreach has been overwhelmingly positive and allowed the Foundation to update our client records with relevant information from the conversations.

Good Stewards

2020 is also the year we created the Good Stewards program. Members of the Good Stewards have named their local church, The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, or another Methodist entity in a planned gift (like a will or trust), as a beneficiary in a charitable gift annuity, a donor-advised fund, or a family fund.

Grants

The Foundation’s board of directors grant committee approved 90 grants in 2020, for a total of \$1.6 million. The COVID-19 pandemic allowed the Foundation to assist people in new ways. We funded a \$51,903 grant to the Arkansas Conference for emergency supplies for every United Methodist Church in Arkansas and an additional \$25,590 to provide communication equipment to churches with website development and live-streaming capability.

Several other institutions received help navigating the pandemic’s uncharted waters, including Camp Aldersgate, Philander Smith College, Arkansas Children’s Hospital and Camp Tanako. The largest single grant was to the Arkansas Conference for “All the Reasons,” promoting literacy as a means to alleviating poverty-related hunger.

The committee also awarded individual grants to:

- Arkansas Annual Conference “Culture of Call”
- Arkansas Annual Conference “Volunteers in Mission” storage facility
- Dollars for Scholars
- Methodist Family Health

- Ozark Mission Project
- Perkins School for Laity
- World Central Kitchen
- World Services for the Blind

In Conversation Together

To help us stay connected, we created In Conversation Together. This free opportunity is a monthly one-hour program designed to connect our supporters with well-known philanthropists, religious leaders, popular motivational speakers, and others as they share their work, stories, and visions with us. In Conversation Together gathers online the third Thursday of each month via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Visit the Foundation's website to see our upcoming In Conversation speakers.

New Accounts

New accounts were opened benefiting local church ministries by First UMC, Benton; First UMC, Bentonville; First UMC, Fort Smith; First UMC, Malvern; and Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock. Philander Smith College created a new scholarship account, and four individuals opened new charitable gift annuities (CGA) that will benefit their local churches. CGAs provide the donor with guaranteed fixed income, a tax deduction, and a future gift to a Methodist entity.

Summer Intern

The Foundation employed our second summer intern, Rachel Shepherd. Rachel, from Ft. Smith and a graduate of Hendrix College, helped our staff with several projects including writing letters and copy for brochures, along with calls to check in on our friends during the pandemic. Rachel is enrolled at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. Upon graduation, she plans to return to the Arkansas Conference.

Rev. J. Wayne Clark, President & CEO

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

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 a tremendous 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. 2020 was of course an immensely difficult year for the entire global community because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthcare systems like MLH faced challenges never before seen, and the resilience, compassion, and heroism displayed by our MLH associates was truly inspiring. In 2020, MLH cared for over 4,000 COVID inpatients, delivered over 5,000 babies, and performed 240 solid organ transplants. MLH embraced innovation and adaptation to provide constant care for our community, performing nearly 40,000 patient visits by telehealth and virtual connections and transitioning 2,000 associates to work from home and other remote locations. MLH worked tirelessly to ensure that associates had needed personal protective equipment through supply chain work and even by engineering over 3,000 face shields in-house and re-processing over 10,000 N95 facemasks. In the midst of all this, MLH also achieved the prestigious ISO 9001 certification, the gold standard for quality and safety processes, the only hospital system in Tennessee or Mississippi to do so.

The faith-based mission of MLH continues to be the foundation of all that we do. Leading us in that mission is Dr. Albert Mosley, Senior Vice President and Chief Mission Integration Officer for MLH. Dr. Mosley leads the Mission Integration Division, which includes all of our clinical chaplaincy services, volunteer services, the Employee Assistance Program and Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network, the MLH Foundation, Clinical Pastoral Education, the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health Equity, the Humanitarian Fund, United Methodist annual conference connections, the Office of Community Outreach, the Congregational Health Network, and many other initiatives and projects. Mission Integration offers 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 ensures 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.

In 2020, Mission Integration programs and associates bravely faced the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting and working to make sure that our communities still had access to needed care and resources. Our chaplains offered spiritual care for patients, families, and associates and also set up a spiritual care hotline for the community to access. Programs like My Sister's Keeper and BookNook continued virtually to maintain vital connections. Mission Integration led the effort to establish a health center at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, the first of its kind on that campus. The Congregational Health Network (CHN) and Office of Community Outreach helped distribute hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant monies to assist families in need with rent, mortgage, and utility payments. Early in 2021, the CHN has also connected thousands of eligible community members to COVID-19 vaccines. Equally important were our partnerships with local churches, who hand-made and delivered more than 10,000 face coverings to help associates, visitors, and community members prevent the spread of the virus in the spring of 2020. Our Foundation raised thousands of dollars for a dedicated COVID relief fund, and the Humanitarian Fund distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to associates and their families in need of assistance. Our Family Care Centered facilitated Zoom calls so that patients could stay connected with loved ones.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of the three annual conferences who founded our system 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

This year we celebrate the great heritage of serving our elders and providing the highest level of care to our community for 60 years. MVSL opened its doors on March 19, 1961, as Methodist Nursing Home with a skilled care unit that had 33 beds. The skilled care unit has now grown to 145 beds. In 1974, apartments were built to provide affordable independent living. In 2019, we expanded our mission to encompass assisted living and memory care with the opening of a 45 room Assisted Living/Alzheimer's Special Care Unit which has now grown to 71 beds.

Respect for age is central to the Bible's teaching. Concern for aging persons is the cornerstone on which MVSL has built its ministry. MVSL 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.

MVSL's campus is the only complete continuum of care "Life Plan Community" in the River Valley. MVSL offers comprehensive total patient care through independent, assisted, long term, memory care, and in-patient/out-patient rehabilitation. These services allow for a community that enables seniors to live on one campus throughout their life, as their needs change. The on-site Multi Treatment Center provides residents and staff with access to a General Practitioner, Dentist, Optometrist, Podiatrist and Audiologist without leaving our campus.

Current census across the MVSL campus is around 200 residents – teachers, coaches, veterans, business owners, professors, housewives, lawyers, engineers, musicians and so many more. These individuals have given their time and talents to our current generations, and we are so thankful to be able to provide them with quality in areas that may challenge them, such as ADL's (activities of daily living). In addition, residents receive delicious meals, have access to rehabilitation, and can participate in a variety of activities such as Bible study, games, outings, etc. MVSL has a team of 225 hardworking employees.

The year 2020 was certainly difficult for everyone, each of us being affected in various ways. Some have suffered immense loss and heartache, and others disruption, inconvenience and uncertainty. Although guidelines and restrictions have caused us to shift the way we operate, MVSL has continued our mission of caring for our elders. We would like to thank you for the ongoing confidence and support you have given to MVSL to improve the wellbeing of the community we serve.

A couple of milestones in 2020 were that we were fortunate to receive a \$10,000 grant from Fort Smith First United Methodist Church to help offset expenses of our emergency day care. The day care was established on our campus to provide childcare to our staff so they could work when COVID-19 restrictions caused schools and day cares to close. We were also awarded Best of the Best Business in Fort Smith for our Retirement and Nursing Home and runner-up for our Assisted Living/Alzheimer's Special Care Unit.

For more information on Methodist Village Senior Living, visit www.methodistvillage.com.

Charles Wohlford
President

Ozark Mission Project

This year Ozark Mission Project (OMP) celebrates the 35th year of its multifaceted purpose:

- **To enhance the daily lives of our neighbors and inspire hope** – In the past year OMP was able to serve our neighbors by contributing to their mental and physical needs. In the summer of 2020, we helped our neighbor Katherine who was no longer able to participate in activities she once was able to do before the pandemic. Katherine had led a very active life style prior to March 2020 but once the pandemic began, she could not even leave her house to get groceries. Through our program, “OMP Connect,” she was able to talk with 4th through 12th graders who visited with her virtually in this difficult time. Through grant funding OMP has been able to provide over \$10,000 of food to food pantries in central Arkansas. OMP has also provided hand sanitizer to all four regions of our state and distribute over 150,000 facemasks to local nonprofits through grant funding. Through OMP’s “Pop Up Ministry,” we have been able to complete one home repair project a month.
- **To establish lasting friendships and memories** – In February we launched “Novels with Neighbors,” a program designed for students in 3rd to 8th grade to practice their literacy skills. Students were paired with a senior in their community known as their “neighbor.” Students and their neighbor were each given a book on the student’s reading level that they read together each Sunday afternoon, which helped develop reading skills while getting to serve their community.

Middle School and Senior High Camps – In 2021, OMP will be pivoting to day camps due to the COVID-19 pandemic. OMP will have the opportunity to serve for 3 weeks in areas across Arkansas, including: central Arkansas, northwest Arkansas, Paragould, and Hot Springs.

OMP 101 – Also in 2021, OMP will continue our program for elementary students who have completed the 4th and 5th grades. This is day camp, held for three days at St. Paul United Methodist Church, allows students to 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.

College Winter Mission Trip– To say that our work has looked different in the past year is an understatement. That is why OMP decided to launch a campaign that will continue to transform the lives of our neighbors and promote the love of Christ. For our college winter mission trip, OMP promoted an organization called Be the Match, which is an organization that helps match patients with life threatening blood condition to donors on the national registry list. We hope to inspire many people to register for the list.

OMP 2020 Statistics – We are proud to report that while our year looked very different, OMP still connected with our community through various mission opportunities:

189 Campers

112 Volunteers

26 Projects

32 Neighbors Served

7,524 Volunteer Hours

OMP is always in search of 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

Philander Smith College

Introduction

The Holy Text in the Book of Ecclesiastes provides important instruction for our earthly experience: **“For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)**. The year 2020 unfolded itself as the ‘season of pandemics.’ From the ongoing public health crisis introduced by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to the social and racial unrest witnessed across our nation, this season has interrupted our lives unlike anything we could have ever imagined. This ‘season of pandemics’ has hit minority communities particularly hard, with African Americans disproportionately over-represented in the COVID-19 mortality data, as well as the statistics on law enforcement brutality and unjustified police shootings. Like the students we serve, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have also been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Not surprisingly, our students have leaned on us harder during these difficult times. As a result, HBCUs across the nation have chartered new territories, supporting students and their families each step of the way as we plan for recovery and restore confidence in our nation’s public health. In the face of these tough circumstances, I am pleased to report that Philander Smith College is still moving forward. Our path has not been without challenge; yet, we continue to be a firsthand witness of the Power of God’s Grace in this season. The generous support we have received from the United Methodist Church through the Black College Fund, as well as the emergency COVID-19 support we have received from the Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and local parishioners, has help to anchor Dear PSC during these most difficult times.

In the face of many disruptive impacts that have resulted from COVID-19 and our nation’s grappling with the long, storied history of racism and inequity in America, the College’s forward movement has maintained momentum. Among our recent successes, we closed 2019 with a strong end-of-year financial appeal as we prepared to launch the **Road to \$1 Million Capital Campaign**. We also significantly increased the College’s grant writing activity in 2020 with more than \$10 million dollars in grant submissions and nearly **\$7 million dollars awarded**. The College also received a very generous **\$250,000 contribution from the Methodist Foundation of Arkansas** to support the Dr. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health. In Academic Affairs, PSC’s Division of Business Administration secured its program accreditation renewal from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), while the Division of Education secured authorization for its programs through the Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP). Our student-athletes have continued to achieve new heights of success with the Lady Panthers Women’s Basketball Team securing the **2019-2020 Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) Championship Title for Women’s Basketball** and the **Men’s Cross-Country Team securing the 2020 Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) Championship Title**, upsetting Xavier University of Louisiana (the twelve-time defending champions).

The College has also continued its commitment to providing opportunities for spiritual development for our students and the greater Central Arkansas Community. Most recently, the Lilly Endowment, Inc. announced Philander Smith College as the recipient of a \$1 million dollar grant to strengthen ministries in Black and small churches across Central Arkansas. As the principal lead for this initiative, Philander Smith College will develop and enhance programs to help local

pastors navigate the challenges and realities of leadership and congregational ministry in the 21st century. Additionally, through the continued support of the Lilly Endowment, the College was awarded a \$271,590 sustainability grant to continue implementing the Annual Youth Theological Institute, which engages high school students in theological exploration. In the Summer of 2020, the Fifth Annual Youth Theological Institute was hosted virtually and included twenty-three local participants. These accomplishments are just a few of our continued commitment to **Move Philander Forward** and return PSC to an institution of national prominence and international acclaim.

Our Continued Focus on Spirituality and Spiritual Development

Since its founding, Philander Smith College has had deeply rooted spiritual development as a key component of the collegiate experience. Through the Office of Religious Life and Campus Culture (ORLCC), the Philander Smith Community of Scholars engages in both faith and intellect through passionate worship, pastoral care, spiritual reflection, religious dialogue, and mission and service. The ORLCC leads, directs, and implements a wide range of programmatic activities for the College's students, faculty and staff, as well as local community members. With the introduction of Virtual Chapel in 2020, the ORLCC has expanded its weekly audience reach with notable participation from PSC alumni and others seeking spiritual engagement. In addition to activities focused on spiritual development, the ORLCC seeks to transform the culture of Philander Smith College by addressing the attitudes, decisions, policies, 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 Campus Culture Transformation Initiative also supports professional development, scholarships, and special programs focused on faith and justice.

The College's annual spiritual revival through Religious Emphasis Week adopted the theme "The In Between Time" (inspired by James 1:17-27) for 2021. Featuring an all-star lineup of preachers and speakers, this year's events included a special series of daily worship services, a family friendly comedy show, a gospel concert, as well as the Annual Living Legends Banquet. While COVID-19 guidance and restrictions required us to shift to the virtual environment for this year's activities, we remain excited about the opportunity to worship and share God's Word with believers across the world.

In service to ministry as one's vocation, the College has continued to identify students who have expressed the desire to pursue the ministry full-time. Specifically, through the Christian Scholars Track of the S.T.A.R.T. Summer Bridge Program, we award scholarships to students based on academic merit and need, as well as "potential" for civic and community leadership and engagement. This Track also seeks to identify students who have expressed interest in entering the Christian Ministry. The Christian Scholars Track in the College's S.T.A.R.T. Summer Bridge Program, which specifically focuses on faith development and church-related duties, continues to be one of the most popular tracks in the Program. Students who select the Christian Scholars Track have demonstrated a commitment to faith development, developing their spiritual gifts, and expanding individual understanding of one's vocation as ministry.

Philander Forward Highlights 2020

The following highlights provide a reflective view of major milestones at the College over the past year:

- The Office of Institutional Advancement provided critical leadership in establishing and launching the **Emergency Aid Fundraising Initiative**, which has allowed the College to real-

1 ize more than \$300,000 in support to assist students in the wake of the current public health
2 crisis.

- 3
4 • In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Office of Academic Affairs worked with the
5 McKinley Newton Honors Academy to launch the **Panther Pantry at Your Door Program** to
6 address issues of food insecurity for students who were displaced from the residential facil-
7 ities. Through this Program, students are provided a \$50 gift card to local grocers so that
8 they can purchase food and other essential items needed during this time.
- 9
10 • In the 2020 Fall Semester, **more than 300 students achieved academic honors** for their
11 performance in the classroom. Sixty-seven students were recognized as 4.0 Scholars; 60
12 students were recognized for earning President's List Honors; 89 students were recognized
13 for making the Dean's List; and 85 students were recognized for making the Honor's List.
14 These students have all achieve a term grade point average of at least 3.000 on the 4.000
15 grade point scale.
- 16
17 • The Office of Computer Information and Technology Services, in collaboration with the Of-
18 fice of Institutional Advancement, developed and **launched a new PSC website**. Key chang-
19 es include full compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), easier navigation
20 for end-users, and a modern layout and virtual experience to engage prospective students,
21 current students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other stakeholders.
- 22
23 • With the goal of improving the student experience, the College **completed phase I of reno-**
24 **ventions in the Residential Life Center**. The Residential Life Center typically houses first-year
25 students and is the College's largest facility. In response to increased demand for residential
26 assignments, the Residential Life Center has been operating using a triple-occupancy model
27 since the 2016 Fall Semester.
- 28
29 • As we moved to the online/remote environment, the reality of a digital divide became very
30 apparent as many students expressed challenges with access to both hardware and soft-
31 ware needed to be successful in their academic studies. To support the shift in learning
32 modality, the College purchased more than 300 laptops to **respond to students with tech-**
33 **nology access issues**. The devices were shipped to students across the nation so that they
34 could continue active engagement in the digital learning environment.
- 35
36 • As the College seeks to strengthen its liberal arts infrastructure, we are pleased to report
37 our securing **\$859,000 in grant support from the Windgate Foundation** for the College to
38 establish a Visual and Performing Arts Program.
- 39
40 • The Office of Institutional Advancement completed 2020 with a **very successful End-of-Year**
41 **Campaign**, which garnered \$69,000 in support – a 29% increase over the previous year.
- 42
43 • Through funding provided by the National Parks Service, the College successfully **complet-**
44 **ed renovations to the second floor of the Cox Administration Building**. These renovations
45 improved classroom space in the building and addressed much needed repairs to restore
46 use of practice rooms for the Philander Smith Collegiate Choir.

47 48 Conclusion

49 In this season, I have remained confident in the Holy Scripture which directs us to wait on
50 the Lord, and to be of good courage (Psalm 27:14). I am reminded of this Scripture daily as I

work with fellow believers to bring forth this dynamic vision God has placed in us for Philander Smith College. I am reminded of this Scripture as I engage with our students and hear their stories filled with adversity and ambition. This Scripture is not just a daily reminder; it is my daily inspiration to start each day refreshed and renewed in God's Plan. The crisis brought on by COVID-19 may have delayed some of our plans; however, I am reassured of God's Grace through the many ways this season has provided the College a unique opportunity to address several long-standing challenges. Armed with our vision for a new Philander Smith College, as outlined in the 10-Year Long-Range Strategic Plan, we have taken bold steps to enter new arenas in the way we deliver instruction and the way we engage prospective and current students in the Philander Smith Experience. This crisis has required us to rethink how we effectively deliver on our mission in new ways and, in turn, continue to meet the unique needs of our Community of Scholars.

The constant effort it takes to **Move Philander Forward** is a shared journey that involves the efforts of this Administration, our esteemed Board of Trustees, our dedicated faculty and staff, our beloved alumni and supporters, and – most importantly – our committed students. Each day, when I enter the gates of this historic institution, I am inspired to make an even greater impact than the day before. The task is not always easy; but the responsibility is ours to advance an agenda that will reimagine our future and return Philander Smith College to its rightful place as an institution heralding national prominence and international acclaim. I remain totally committed to this responsibility, and I believe that better days are ahead. In all things, we give thanks to God for His guidance and grace, forever remembering that His holy will never leads us astray. It is through unshakable faith, perpetual optimism, and divine inspiration that our journey will be blessed in this season. One day, we will all look back and see the evidence of our labor – realizing that through it all, we did not let up and we kept **Moving 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, online and on-campus, in Kansas and Oklahoma.

This past year, we have all faced new challenges amid these unsettled times. Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2020-2021 academic year offering students an online option for all courses. With many students choosing to attend class solely online, our Student Council created a monthly “Chat & Chew” where students, faculty, and staff come together to eat lunch and talk about life, seminary, and ministry. In addition, Rev. Rod Newman, our Oklahoma Campus Chapel Coordinator, crafts a weekly Community Prayer to provide encouragement and faithfulness as the school seeks to provide spiritual formation in new ways.

Kansas Campus Chapel Coordinator Dr. Casey Sigmon took worship to new technological levels by introducing our weekly online worship service via Zoom, bringing our separate campus chapel services together for one service where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. Along with our featured alumni worship preachers, the community was blessed this fall by the presence of Musician in Residence Hannah Rand, from The Many, who led the music each week for worship. In Spring 2020, Odell Talley, Director of Music for Swope Parkway United and organist for Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist, served as Musician in Residence. For those who cannot join us live, chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. This year, we have added new adjunct professors, including Rev. Dr. Carol Cook-Moore and Rev. Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe both of the OKUMC, Rev. Dr. Robert Turner of Vernon Chapel AME, UMC Deaconess Cindy Johnson of Rio Grande Conference, Rev. Adam Hamilton and Debi Nixon both of Church of the Resurrection, Rev. Chebon Kernell of the UMC Native American Comprehensive Plan, and Rev. Dr. Shannon Fleck of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches.

The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology continue to maintain high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Their many activities and publications over the past year are so numerous that space permits only the sharing of selected highlights.

1. Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology, will publish “Schleiermacher’s Christian Ethics” in the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Schleiermacher, which will appear in 2022 from the Oxford University Press.
2. Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele Professor of Health and Welfare Ministries, continues her service on the Executive Committee of the International Society for Science and Religion, working on several committees advancing the aims of the Society.
3. Rev. Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, will see the publication of his book, *Reading and Interpreting the Bible with Global South Christians: A 21st Century Model for Europe and North America Christendom*, by Wipf and Stock Publishers this summer. He has also written four Commentaries on 2 Corinthians and Ephesians which appeared on WorkingPreacher.org in April.

4. Dr. Hal Knight, Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies, continues his work as a contributing writer in The Missouri Methodist magazine.	1
5. Dr. Kristen E. Kvam, Professor of Theology, serves as co-chair for the American Academy of Religion's Program Unit "Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions." Over the last several months, she has conducted invited presentations to the Great Plains UMC Clergy and its Clergy Excellence in Liminal Time Conversations and the Fall Theological Conference of Central States Synod (ELCA) on October 14, 2020.	2
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6. Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, continues to contribute regularly to WorkingPreacher.org and served as the keynote speaker at the Wesleyan Liturgical Society in Kansas City in March 2020. Her scholarly writing will appear in the Preaching the Manifold Grace, Vol. 2, edited by Ronald J. Allen and published by Wipf and Stock.	9
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This year, we have faced several challenges that turned into opportunities for new recruiting spaces and partnerships to enhance students' seminary experience. With the change from in-person to virtual events, Rev. Shannon Hancock, Director of Admissions and Communications, has expanded her reach to prospective students by participating as a virtual exhibitor at online conferences. Rev. Hancock engages with prospective students via apps such as Whova and HopIn to highlight Saint Paul's unique course delivery system and formative community.	15
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In February, Saint Paul held the 2021 Slater-Willson Lecture online featuring Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre. His lecture, "Why Do They Come?" explored the political, economic, and social causes of our current immigration crisis. Before the lecture, Rev. Dr. De La Torre participated in a student-led forum, entering a conversation centering around the practical aspects of ministry and immigration. Later in April, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a lecture given by Dr. Sammy G. Alfaro, Associate Professor of Theology at Grand Canyon University and Pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Dia (New Day Church), on the "Pastoral Strategies for Ministering Among Latinx Immigrant Communities." And for the first time, on May 22, Saint Paul held a virtual commencement celebration with videos, cap and gown photos, online congratulatory messages from friends and family, and a commencement address by Rev. Chebon Kernell. The class of 2021 had 22 graduates, including 16 Master of Divinity and 1 Doctor of Ministry graduates. Due to the pandemic, for safety concerns, Saint Paul has postponed our 60th Anniversary Celebration. However, we have rescheduled the event for Friday, October 22 and look forward to coming together as a community for a safe, in-person gathering.	23
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For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 255 individual students, 40 of which were new students, with a total registration of 520 classes and offering a total of 51 courses. Due to Covid-19, the school quickly pivoted its course offerings and delivered lessons in both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. In Winter 2019, Saint Paul began a hybrid (online and on-campus) schedule for six courses. Although for 2021, this went fully online, plans to increase the number of hybrid course offerings are in development.	38
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Saint Paul Board of Trustees added three new members to their ranks: Bishop James D. Tindall, Sr., Pastor Emeritus at Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ Kansas City; Ms. Sharon Cleaver, Senior Director of Marketing, Communications, and PR for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City; and Mr. Rogers Strickland, Founder/CEO of Strickland Construction.	45
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Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, Saint Paul created a working group	50

on Native American theology and ministries comprised of Native theologians and church leaders. Their efforts are focused on how the church and academy can work together toward healing generational trauma related to the spread of Christianity and the genocide of Indigenous North Americans.

As we have happily reported in past years, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced budget. The changes made these last years have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability. We continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and emergency assistance to students. Our significant investments in technology have recently allowed our staff, faculty, and students to transition to a fully hybrid educational delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the pandemic.

Our faculty was uniquely adept at managing technology in the classroom before the pandemic, making the transition to all online courses a smooth process. With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission. Our trustees work to continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans in place to guide us into the future. Perhaps most importantly, we have learned much and grown closer as a community due to the pandemic.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking more to answer the call. We are a seminary that offers online and on-campus classes with a flexible schedule to help our students manage pastoral leadership demands in the 21st century. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

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

Southern Methodist University

Since its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Southern Methodist University has served as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning. Our mission is to expand knowledge through research and teaching and serve as a powerful catalyst for the growth and development of Dallas and the broader North Texas region. With continued Methodist representation on its Board of Trustees and welcoming students of all faiths, the University is reaching a higher level of accomplishment and global recognition in our second century of shaping world changers – for today and tomorrow. Consistent with the University's appreciation for its Wesleyan heritage, the University submits voluntarily this report to the Arkansas Annual Conference.

SMU Update

COVID-19

SMU arose as a leader among academic institutions in managing the global pandemic by hosting in-person classes and athletic seasons, avoiding significant furloughs and layoffs, and preventing large outbreaks of COVID-19 on campus. We pivoted in the middle of the 2020 spring semester to fully online instruction, and then to two months of essential-only employees working on campus. Over the summer months, we designed and implemented a strategy to provide a successful fall semester with the flexible education experiences and in-classroom options that our students and families requested, while protecting the health of our community members and the financial strength of the University.

Students, Faculty and Staff

Despite the pandemic, our enrollment for fall 2020 was strong. Remarkably, the Class of 2024 comprises 1,531 students—only 13 students fewer than the previous year—from 43 different countries as well as the United States. Additionally, students of color make up 31% of the first-year class, up from 25% last year. This is the most ethnically and racially diverse first-year class in SMU history, with significant increases in Asian American and Hispanic/Latinx students, and an 11% increase in students who identify as Black or African American.

Rankings

SMU continues to receive high rankings and recognitions among prestigious reviewers, including:

- Top 20% best national universities by U.S. News & World Report (2021) and first among Dallas-area universities.
- Top 11% (No. 88 out of 800) of U.S. universities by The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education (2021).
- One of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review's "The Best 386 Colleges" and among its "2021 Best Colleges: Region by Region" Also, SMU's Guildhall ranked among the top five graduate schools to study game design.
- Top 5% best nationwide colleges and top 3% best Texas colleges by College Factual (2021).
- SMU's Perkins Chapel at No. 16 out of 35 of the nation's most beautiful college churches and chapels by College Rank.
- No. 39 in computer and information sciences and No. 48 in engineering among DIVERSE Issues in Higher Education's annual list of Top 100 Producers of Minority Graduate Students in STEM (2020).

Funding

In FY 2020, SMU received nearly \$30 million in external funding for domestic and global research. Current funding agencies include the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Defense and Toyota USA Foundation. SMU's private fundraising finished FY 2020 very strong with more than \$121.5 million in gifts, making it a record year. We raised \$48 million in current-use funds in FY 2020, surpassing the three-year goal of \$150 million.

Research and Graduate Education

SMU continues moving toward its goal of becoming a tier-one research institution, which will elevate our national rankings and reputation. Leading our academic efforts is our new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Loba, whom we selected after a nationwide search of top candidates. We also launched the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies this fall, increasing our research and Ph.D. offerings.

Perkins School of Theology continues to expand its partnership with Houston Methodist Hospital – site of the Perkins Houston-Galveston Extension Program – in what is thought to be the only seminary located within a U.S. hospital. In spring 2021, a new concentration in health care chaplaincy for students pursuing the M.Div. degree was launched. And beginning June 2021, Perkins will add a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program in Houston, in addition to the existing D.Min. program in Dallas. Since fall 2018, the Houston-Galveston Extension Program, first established in 1995, has been offered in a hybrid format for M.Div. and M.A.M. students, and the first M.Div. graduates will receive their degrees in May 2021.

SMU is making an impact on the world around us. We are grateful for our ongoing work through the Perkins School of Theology in the education and training of all branches of the Wesleyan tradition. We request your continued prayers and support for our University and its mission.

Warm regards,

R. Gerald Turner
President, Southern Methodist University

SMU - Perkins School of Theology

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Arkansas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

- Six (6) students affiliated with the Arkansas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins, including: four Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students and two Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students.
- Two (2) Perkins students were placed as interns within the Arkansas Annual Conference during the 2020-21 academic year, one in the Central District and one in the Southeast District.
- The hybrid Houston-Galveston Extension Program, in its third year of providing a combination of online and residential classes leading to the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 103 students during the 2020-21 academic year or slightly more than half of the 200 students enrolled in these degrees.
- Providing spiritual care to those who are sick or hospitalized demands a variety of specialized skills, especially given today's multicultural environment. To prepare students who feel called in this area, Perkins School of Theology—in partnership with Houston Methodist Hospital—now offers Master of Divinity students (enrolled in both Houston and Dallas) the opportunity to concentrate in Healthcare Chaplaincy.
- Beginning June 2021, Perkins School of Theology will add a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program in Houston, in addition to the existing D. Min. program in Dallas. The doctoral level program integrates scholarly research with the practice of ministry. Courses will be taught at Houston Methodist Hospital. With two international airports, Houston also offers the advantage of easy access by air from many cities in the U.S. Perkins's three-year D. Min. curriculum includes two years of coursework, with students traveling to Houston for two weeks of courses in person in June and January. The remainder of the program, which includes a directed study and the writing of a dissertation, can be completed remotely.
- The Arkansas Annual Conference received a grant made possible by a \$150,000 grant by the Henry Luce Foundation. This was used to support its 200,000 More Reasons program, which disbursed funding to 20 United Methodist feeding ministries to purchase food and PPE supplies for distribution. Those receiving the money included ministries that serve rural or predominantly Hispanic or African American communities.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2020-21 academic year totaled 347 students, including 28 enrolled in the Ph.D. program. Our enrollment size puts Perkins among the "largest" schools (52nd out of 277 schools) within the Association of Theological Schools. Fall 2020 statistics reflect the following: 65% of the entire student population are United Methodist (82% of M.Div. students) with another 23 denominations /traditions represented. 27% are ethnic minority students with an additional 6% comprising international students. The hybrid Houston-Galveston Extension Program, in its third year of providing a combination of online and residential classes leading to the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 103 students during the 2020-21 academic year or slightly

more than half of the 200 students enrolled in these degrees.

2020-21 Highlights

- Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters included both 100% online classes along with courses offered in a Hyflex modality (in-person and online students together within the same classroom experience). Many of the usual rhythms of life at Perkins also moved into virtual spaces, including most meetings and our regular chapel services.
- Perkins School of Theology and Cox School of Business announced the creation of cooperative, sequenced degree programs between the two Southern Methodist University graduate schools. The programs, designed for students interested in either a career in ministry with a strong business focus, or for students interested in a business career with a strong theological focus, include two sequences: the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) or the Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) and the M.B.A.
- Providing spiritual care to those who are sick or hospitalized demands a variety of specialized skills, especially given today's multicultural environment. To prepare students who feel called in this area, Perkins School of Theology—in partnership with Houston Methodist Hospital—now offers Master of Divinity students (enrolled in both Houston and Dallas) the opportunity to concentrate in Healthcare Chaplaincy.
- SMU has received a grant of nearly \$1 million from the Lilly Endowment's nationwide Thriving Congregations Initiative to support Perkins' Testimony as Community Engagement program. The program will work to increase the practice of testimony as community engagement both inside and outside the church. The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison and Bart Patton of Perkins will serve as co-principal investigators on the project.
- A new Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Central Methodist University in Missouri was signed as part of the ongoing initiative to deepen relationships between Perkins and undergraduate colleges, universities and international seminaries.
- Perkins School of Theology announced the 2021 recipients of the Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award: Kirk Franklin, a Grammy-award winning gospel artist and member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship; Nancy Seay, a philanthropist and elder of Highland Park Presbyterian Church (HPPC); and Lisa Tichenor, an active community leader and lay member of Highland Park United Methodist Church (HPUMC). Along with Mary White, the 2020 Seals Award recipient, the three will be honored during the online worship service for Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning on March 19, 2021.
- The Rev. Donald W. Underwood and the Rev. Dr. Sidney G. Hall, III were announced as recipients of the 2020 Perkins Distinguished Alumnus/a Award. The Award recognizes Perkins graduates who have demonstrated effectiveness and integrity in service to the church, continuing support for the goals of Perkins and Southern Methodist University, outstanding service to the community, and exemplary character.
- Retirements: Bishop Whitfield (M. Div. '69) officially retired on August 31 as Perkins's Bishop in Residence and Director of the Center for Religious Leadership. Retirements official on May 31, 2021 include Dr. William Abraham (Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies), Dr. Isabel Docampo (Co-Director of the Intern Program and Director, Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions), Duane Harbin (Assistant Dean for Technology, Planning & Compliance), and Dr. Evelyn Parker (Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology).

The highlights listed above are reflective of the vibrant engagement of Perkins faculty, staff and students during the 2020-21 academic year.

Perkins School of Theology is committed to those called to serve so that they might be em-

1 powered to lead. We thank our many colleagues, friends and alumni/ae in the Arkansas Annual
2 Conference of The United Methodist Church for your generous support, including referrals of
3 prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful
4 leadership in Christian ministry.

5
6 Grace and peace,

7 Craig C. Hill

8 Dean and Professor of New Testament

9 United Theological Seminary

10
11 “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:19

12
13 It appears God is doing some new things at United Theological Seminary, even in the midst of
14 health, racial, and political crises.

15
16 **God is doing a new thing at United financially.** United continues to make progress toward its
17 goal of becoming debt-free by the Seminary’s 150th anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks
18 to the faithfulness and generosity of alumni/ae and donors, less than \$1 million remains of the
19 original \$4 million mortgage debt. After the mortgage is paid in full, the Seminary plans to con-
20 vert those mortgage payments into money for student scholarships.

21
22 **God is doing a new thing in enrollment.** Over the last five years, United’s Doctor of Ministry
23 program has grown by 48%, from 170 students in the 2016-17 academic year to 251 in 2020-21.
24 In Fall 2021, Dr. Elvin Sadler, General Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church,
25 will become the Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies, upon the retirement of Dr. Harold Hudson
26 who has been a vital leader at the Seminary for 17 years.

27
28 **God is doing a new thing with partners in church renewal.** In the 2020-21 academic year, Unit-
29 ed has partnered with Fresh Expressions US and the Mosaix Global Network to introduce two
30 new Houses of Study. These houses oversee specialized tracks in the Doctor of Ministry and
31 Master of Divinity programs. Rev. Dr. Michael Beck is director of the Fresh Expressions House of
32 Studies, and Dr. Harry Li is director of the Mosaix House of Studies.

33
34 In collaboration with the Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, United
35 also introduced Rooted/Enraizados, a certificate program for coaches and mentors of Hispanic/
36 Latino church planters. In 2020-21, the program served students from more than five annual
37 conferences.

38
39 **God is doing a new thing with the establishment of The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Cen-**
40 **ter.** Beginning in 2021, the Innovation Center honors the ministry of Bishop Bruce Ough by
41 providing a hub of learning for church leaders seeking the framework, support, and courage
42 to introduce the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new and creative ways. Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey joins
43 United as the inaugural director of the Innovation Center.

44
45 United’s prayer is that United Methodists will perceive the new things that God is doing in our
46 communities, congregations, and ministries as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for
47 the transformation of the world.

48 Grace and peace,

49 Dr. Kent Millard

50 President

Wesley Theological Seminary

For the world, 2020 was a year like no other. In the midst of a global pandemic, plus resurgent racism, mass unemployment, and politically challenging times in the US, Wesley remained committed to fostering wisdom and courage, preparing graduates to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions for the sake of God's inbreaking kingdom. The mode of educational delivery changed overnight, as we became an all-online seminary on March 15, 2020 and have remained so to keep students, faculty, staff and all members of the Wesley community safe from COVID-19 exposure on campus. This is simply Wesley modelling what we teach our students: to be committed to our God-given mission while being innovative and responsive in the delivery of ministry. Here are some of the ways we are accomplishing that with our many partners in this mission, as we seek to faithfully minister to the world in the future.

Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future ministry

Wesley is pleased to announce new opportunities for UMC congregations to explore, clarify, and pursue thriving in their communities. Through **The Source Collaborative**, Wesley will work with three cohorts of regional congregations in a two-year process of prayer, community engagement, congregational visioning, and coaching, with the goal of following Jesus in mission and ministry. Interested congregations can contact innovation@wesleyseminary.edu for more information. This work, funded by a \$1 million Lilly Endowment, Inc, grant, raises Wesley's role as a leading research and development seminary for the whole church and complements Wesley's other Lilly Endowment-funded projects focused on congregational vitality.

The Religious Workforce Project is an expansive study of the current and future nature of religious work, particularly in local congregations, so as to understand what opportunities and constraints may exist in the future and to adapt resources and training accordingly. Through the **Wesley Innovation Hub**, the seminary has worked with 18 congregations in the greater Washington area to experiment with ministries with young adults outside the church. Together, these projects forge insight into future ministry and local church development, influencing the way students are trained in master's, doctoral, and course of study education, but also informing workshops, podcasts, articles, and training for church leaders working in their communities across the country.

We invite you to discover the latest research and conversations generated by the Wesley community through our new web portal, [#EngageInTheseTimes](https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage), at www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage.

Using research and partnerships to reach and equip the next generation of ministers

Research shows that the primary way people learn about and begin to consider seminary options is through their pastor or an alumnus. Whether you feel called or you know someone who does, **Wesley is ready to work with you** as we make theological education more accessible and relevant to the realities of ministry today—for laity and clergy, for those seeking a degree or certification or continuing education, and for ministry from within or beyond the church.

Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts, and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies, any of which can be focused around specializations in public theology, urban ministry, arts and theology, missional church, children and youth ministry and advocacy, or African American church leadership.

For full-time students, we offer a modern and affordable residential community in the nation's capital. Our **Community Engagement Fellows** program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial, community-based ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their MDiv degree. Our **3+3 Fast Track BA/MDiv program with Shenandoah University** allows students to complete both degrees in six years, entering ministry more quickly and with less debt.

For people with work, ministry, and family commitments, **Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years.** Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2021 at www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3.

Wesley works with each student to make seminary affordable. Thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations, and friends, Wesley provides more than \$2 million annually in scholarships. In addition to our regular merit awards, ranging from 25% to 100% tuition with stipends, Wesley has released special additional scholarships: **full-tuition scholarships** for people recommended by Wesley alumni, campus ministers, or Christian camping or service ministries who feel called to leadership in the church as it is becoming; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students who have worked in a non-ministry setting for at least 10 years; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx/Hispanic leaders for ministries both within and beyond the church.

Take your ministry to the next level

In addition to full master's degrees, Wesley offers graduate certificates for those preparing for specialized ministry! The new **Certificate for Children and Youth Ministry and Advocacy (CYMA)** is designed for people who work with and advocate for children and young people, whether in churches, schools, or non-profit organizations. The **non-residential certificate can be completed in 12 to 15 months** through online coursework and up to two residential sessions. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3. 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/

Wesley is a leader in **Doctor of Ministry programs** in specialized tracks that can include international study. Wesley is pleased to announce three new Doctor of Ministry tracks for 2022: Ministry in a Digital Age, a timely new track exploring the new opportunities and challenges of online ministry; Justice, Compassion, and Witness in a Turbulent World, hosted in Cambridge, England; and a program focused on Latinx ministry. As well, new 2022 cohorts for our popular DMin areas of focus will be offered for Military Chaplains and CPE chaplains, our international mission-focused Global Church Leadership program, and Wesley's premiere DMin program in innovative church administration "Church Leadership Excellence." Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center's **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. Stay on top of their latest developments by subscribing to their podcast or newsletter at www.churchleadership.com. Also look for new practical online courses at www.lewisonlinelearning.org.

The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online **Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Dr. Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The **Center for Public Theology** equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. For more information, visit <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

The **Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion** works with students, religious communities, artists, and scholars exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. By engaging in innovative research, staging challenging exhibitions in our Dadian Gallery, and hosting visiting artists in our on-campus studio, the Luce Center seeks to promote dialogue and foster inspired creativity. For information on upcoming workshops and shows at the Dadian Gallery, visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

Faculty leading the way

Our internationally regarded faculty are the heartbeat of transformative education at Wesley. Our faculty continue to advance theological scholarship with new research, publications, and courses. During this past year, we celebrated the ministries of retiring faculty member Dr. Sondra Wheeler. We also welcomed New Testament professor Dr. Laura C. Sweat Holmes to the Wesley community.

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 @wesleyseminary, and on Twitter @WesTheoSem, or sign up for our electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.

Notes

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For over half a century,
the generosity of faithful
Methodists has allowed for
ministries, grants, and services
to grow across Arkansas.

Thank you for trusting in us.



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