

From Revival Flows Discipleship

Annual Conference 2016  
**Arkansas**  
Hot Springs, June 19-22

BANK OF THE OZARKS

*arena*

“Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world”

# worship

OPENING WORSHIP | SUNDAY AT 7:30 PM

CELEBRATION & HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE  
REVEREND DR. JAN DAVIS

Unite with fellow Arkansas United Methodists in a celebration of and awakening to God's work in our state.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE | MONDAY AT 1:30 PM

SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION  
REVEREND BONDA MOYER

A time to remember and honor the lives of clergy and spouses of clergy who have died within the past twelve months.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION | TUESDAY AT 7:30 PM

EVENING WORSHIP | ORDINATION & COMMISSIONING SERVICE  
BISHOP GARY MUELLER

We gather as a conference to ordain and commission those who have completed the steps to obtain this honor and privilege. A reception to celebrate these new connections will follow.

CLOSING WORSHIP | WEDNESDAY AT 10:45 AM

CELEBRATION OF APPOINTMENTS & HOLY COMMUNION  
REVEREND DR. EMANUEL CLEAVER II

As we prepare to disperse, we recognize God's work during Annual Conference and seek inspiration for serving our own communities.





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, 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*From Revival Flows Discipleship* is the theme for this year's 2016 Arkansas Annual Conference June 19-22 at the Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs.

Spiritual revival is at the heart of who we are as Jesus' disciples. It energizes, directs, and enables us to be fully alive in Christ. We can long for it to be a reality in our lives, but can never cause it to occur—because it is the work of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to get serious about it through reading Scripture, praying, and opening ourselves so the Holy Spirit can go to work in us.

But it is important to be clear about something. Spiritual revival is not the end. Rather, it is the beginning of deeper discipleship in which we love Jesus more as Savior and Lord, seek to follow him more faithfully as we live the 'Jesus life,' and make more disciples who truly are equipped to bring transformation to lives, communities, and the world.

Once again, the Conference Session Planning Team has planned this year's Annual Conference so the focus is far more on what happens after Conference is over than what happens while Conference is in session. Our mission is to plan Annual Conference so it inspires and equips Arkansas United Methodists to return to their local mission fields to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are so transformed they transform the world.

Three exceptional United Methodist pastors will serve as featured preachers:

- The Reverend Dr. Jan Davis, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Rowlett, Texas, will preach the June 19 opening worship service.
- The Reverend Samuel Yun, minister of young adults at Los Altos United Methodist Church in California will preach during two afternoon teaching sessions of the Conference.
- The Reverend Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III, senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, will preach the closing worship service June 22.

Please join me in praying that the Spiritual Revival the Holy Spirit is unleashing will lead us to discipleship that honors and glories God in all we do.

Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller  
Resident Bishop

# A Prayer for Annual Conference

We give you thanks, O God, for the Spiritual Revival that is already taking place.

Let your Holy Spirit flow within and through us during this time of Holy Conferencing.

May the moments we experience, and the people we encounter, move us into deeper relationship for the work of Christ in this world.

Revival has come; revival is coming; revival will come again!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Written by Andrew Kjorlaug and Heath Williams

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# General Information

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

### Lodging

See page 6 for a complete listing of hotels near the Bank of the Ozarks Convention Center.

**Annual Conference Childcare** - Parents **MUST** pre-register for childcare to ensure adequate staff.

First United Methodist Church of Hot Springs and Camp Tanako will be hosting child care for the 2016 Arkansas Annual Conference, June 19-22. Age-appropriate activities for children ranging from 8 months to 12 years of age (separated into age-appropriate groups) including curriculum-enriched, hands-on, creative activities, arts & crafts projects, active games, and more.

- All childcare is available at no cost to you, during Annual Conference, if you register your child(ren) by May 31, 2016. After May 31, all late registrants will pay \$10 per hour per child.
- Children **MUST** be registered no later than June 17 to receive care (no walk-ins, please), so that adequate workers are scheduled and supplies are purchased for the well-being and safety of the children. Please remember, those who register after May 31, will pay by the hour.
- All childcare for children ages 8 mos. - 5 years will be held at First United Methodist Church (Hot Springs) in the Christian Life Center: 218 Pratt Street
- Completed Kindergarten - 6th grade will check in each day at the First Methodist Christian Life Center and on Monday - Wednesday, then will ride in the church vans out to Camp Tanako for a fun filled day of camp activities! Sunday and week-night child care for K-6th grade will be available at FUMC Hot Springs in the Christian Life Center (218 Pratt Street).

**IMPORTANT: ALL ELEMENTARY children MUST register online with BOTH First Methodist Hot Springs and ALSO directly with Camp Tanako.**

For questions regarding child care at FUMC Hot Springs, please contact Michelle Wilkins, Children's Minister @ First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs: [mwilkins@fumchs.com](mailto:mwilkins@fumchs.com) or (501) 318-3977.

For questions regarding Day Camp @ Camp Tanako, contact any of the staff at Camp Tanako, or Kim Carter, Camp Director @ 501-262-2600

To register for FUMC Hot Springs childcare:  
<https://fumckidz.wufoo.com/forms/arkansas-annual-conference-childcare/>

To register for Camp Tanako Day Camp:  
<https://registration.campbrain.com/Portal/Login.aspx?H=CampTanako&G=978>

**\*\*\*Both of these links are on our AC 2016 webpage.**

### Childcare/Nursery Hours

- Sunday, June 19, 7 pm until 30 minutes after the close of worship
- Monday, June 20, 8 am - 5:30 pm; 7 pm until 30 minutes after the close of worship
- Tuesday, June 21, 8 am - 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, June 22, 8 am - 1:00 pm

### Food Service

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

### Multimedia Presentations

If you intend to use electronic media in your report or presentation to the conference, contact Mark Epperson, [mepperson@arumc.org](mailto:mepperson@arumc.org) or (501) 324-8030, to discuss your needs. This will allow for pre-testing or formatting of the presentation. **No files or documents will be accepted after May 31.**

### Registration Packet Materials

If you would like to send 1200 copies of materials to be included in the registration packets, they should be shipped **no later than June 10** to: 800 Daisy Bates Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202.

\*\*\*Note on the box or label "**Annual Conference Materials-Group/Committee Name**" Questions may be directed to Melissa Sanders, [msanders@arumc.org](mailto:msanders@arumc.org).

### Special Offerings

Three special offerings will be received:

- 200,000 Reasons, Childhood Hunger Initiative, adopted at 2014 Annual Conference, to help reduce childhood hunger in Arkansas.
- Conference Youth & Children's Ministries-3/4 of funds received will go directly to children or youth for scholarships; 1/4 of funds received will go towards expenses for volunteers for each of these ministries
- Retired Clergy to pay their expenses to attend Annual Conference

## DURING YOUR STAY:

### Convention Center Phone Numbers

Manager on duty & After Hours Contact-LeeAnn Shewbart (501) 321-2835

### Evening or Emergency Contacts

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

### Conference Office

(501) 324-8000

### 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 are:

- Monday & Tuesday: 7 am - 7 pm
- Wednesday: 7 am - 1 pm

### 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 Daily Digest**

*Arkansas United Methodist* editor Amy Forbus, assisted by the Rev. Eric Van Meter, will provide the Daily Digest on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The Digests will also be available on the conference website. The Digest may be useful as you prepare your report for your local congregation.

### **Health Fair**

A health fair with free cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure screenings will be held from 8:00 am to 11:30 am and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Monday and Tuesday in the Arena Concourse. The fair is provided courtesy of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

### **Display Area**

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

### **Nursing Mothers**

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

### **WORSHIP**

#### **Sunday, 7:30 pm, Bank of the Ozarks Arena**

Rev. Jan Davis, Opening Worship

#### **Monday, 1:30 pm, Bank of the Ozarks Arena**

Rev. Bonda Moyer, Celebration of Life Service. In memory of clergy and spouses of clergy who have died during the past twelve months.

#### **Monday, 2:45 pm**

Rev. Samuel Yun, Teaching

#### **Tuesday, 1:30 pm**

Rev. Samuel Yun, Teaching

#### **Tuesday, 7:30 pm**

#### **Service of Ordination and Commissioning**

Clergy and diaconal ministers of the conference are invited to gather at 7 pm for the Clergy Processional, wearing appropriate robes and stoles.

A reception for newly ordained deacons and elders and newly commissioned clergy will be held in Hall D immediately following the service.

Service rehearsal is 5:15 pm Tuesday, June 21.

#### **Wednesday, 11 am, Bank of the Ozarks Arena**

Rev. Emanuel Cleaver, Closing Worship

### **Pack Shack Party sponsored by the Hot Springs area churches**

Help pack meals for hungry kids. On Monday, June 20 when the afternoon session of Annual Conference adjourns (about 6 pm) join us at the Christian Life Center at First UMC, Hot Springs for a Pack Shack Party. There will be pizza and drinks provided by area Hot Springs congregations. Please complete this pre-registration. For more information, please contact Monica Lawrence at 501-623-5588 or oaklawncsec@sbcglobal.net.

### **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.

#### **2016 Journal**

Information about how to order a print copy of the *Journal* will be shared through the Email Network, Conference website, Facebook page and in the *Arkansas United Methodist*. Watch for more information.

#### **2016 Annual Conference DVDs**

A set of DVDs of the Annual Conference worship services, and retiree videos will be available from a third-party provider. Information about how to order DVDs will be shared through the Email Network, Conference website, Facebook page and in the *Arkansas United Methodist*. Watch for more information.

## 2016 Annual Conference Hotels

### Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa (0.29 Miles)

400 Convention Blvd.  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
501-624-9200 or 800-Embassy  
Suites, Complimentary breakfast, Manager's  
Reception, Sp. Indc., Pool, Fitness Center, Free  
Parking, Concierge, Daily  
Code: United Methodist Church  
Single: \$152.00 + tax  
Double: \$162.00 + tax  
Triple: \$172.00 + tax  
Quad: \$182.00 + tax

### The Hotel Hot Springs (0.3 Miles)

305 Malvern Ave.  
Hot Springs, AR 71901-5445  
877-623-6697  
Newly Renovated and Remodeled Guest Rooms,  
Hot Breakfast included with stay, Refrigerator &  
Microwave in all Rooms, New Restaurant and  
Lounge, , Shuttle Service to Popular attractions  
within City Limits, Complimentary WiFi  
Code: United Methodist Group  
Single Occupancy: \$100 + tax  
Double Occupancy: \$102 + tax  
Triple Occupancy: \$112 + tax  
Quad Occupancy: \$122 + tax

### The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa (0.7 Miles)

239 Central Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
(800) 643-1502 or (501) 609-2533  
Thermal Mineral Water Bathhouse, Full Service  
Beauty Salon, Full Service Dining Facilities,  
Starbuck's, Two Swimming Pools and Hot Tub  
Costs: \$99.00 – 119.00  
Code: United Methodist Church 2016 Conference

### Courtvard 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 \$143.00 + tax  
Queen \$141.00 + tax

### 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  
King: \$109.99 + tax  
Double: \$109.99 + tax

### Country Inn and Suites (5 miles)

4307 Central Ave., Hot Springs, AR 71913  
(501) 525-2225  
Indoor pool/hot tub, Refrigerator & Microwave in  
each room, Free Hot Breakfast, Free WiFi,  
Jacuzzi and Executive Suites available  
Cost: Call for pricing

### Holiday Inn Express (5 miles)

206 Mehta Court  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
(501) 463-5600  
Free Express Start Breakfast Bar, 24 Hour  
Business Center, Free Wi-Fi, Free Parking  
Costs: Range from \$109.99 - \$159.99

### The Springs Hotel & Spa (0.79 Miles)

135 Central Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
(501) 624-5521 or (800) 251-1962  
Historic Hotel, Private Balcony, Family Suites  
available, Wi-fi, Outdoor Pool, Spa, Boutique,  
Restaurant, Free Parking  
Cost: Call for rates

### Dav's Inn (1.67 Miles)

2204 Central Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
(501) 624-5551  
Free Continental Breakfast, Free Parking, Outdoor  
Pool, Pets Allowed  
King: \$59.95 + tax (subject to change)  
Double: \$69.95 + tax (subject to change)

### 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, coffee  
maker, refrigerator and microwave in every room,  
free wifi, outdoor pool, fitness center and business  
center  
Costs: \$160.00 standard king or double

### Staybridge Suites (7 Miles)

103 Lookout Circle  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
(501) 525-6500  
Free Hot and Cold Breakfast Buffet, Evening  
Socials, All rooms with Fully Equipped  
Kitchenettes, Free Wi-fi, Free Parking, 24 hour  
fitness center  
Studio Queen Suite: \$124.99 + Tax  
One Bedroom King/Queen: \$144.99 + Tax  
One Bedroom/Two Double : \$164.99 + Tax  
Two Bedroom Suites: \$184.99 + Tax

### Baymont Inn & Suites (6.86 Miles)

5321 Central Ave.  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
(501) 520-5522  
Complimentary Hot Breakfast, Fitness Center and  
Business Center, Free Wireless Internet, Outdoor  
Swimming Pool, 37" Flat Screen TV's and Micro-  
fridge in each room, Free Parking  
\$119.99 + tax for double  
\$124.00 + tax for King (with sleeper sofa)

### 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, Walking distance to  
restaurants, recently remodeled, pets welcome.  
\$116.99+ tax for single or double



## Restaurants in Hot Springs

(Unless noted, the restaurant is open 7 days a week. All have websites to get directions and menus)

1. Angels Italian Restaurant
2. Fat Jacks
3. The Porterhouse
4. The Rib Cage Barbecue-closed Monday
5. Belle Arti Restorante
6. Hawg's Pizza – closed Tuesday
7. Sam's Pizza – closed Monday
8. Jay's – closed Monday
9. KJ's Grill – Closed Monday
10. Bleu Monkey Grill
11. Fisherman's Wharf
12. McClard's Bar-B-Q – Closed Monday
13. Rod's Pizza Cellar –Closed Monday
14. Back Porch Grill – Closed Sunday
15. Brick House Grill
16. Stubby's BBQ
17. Cajun Boilers
18. Ohio Club
19. Luna Bella – Closed Sunday and Tuesday
20. Johnas Restaurant – Closed Sunday
21. Mr. Whiskers – Closed Monday
22. Smokin in Style BBQ – Closed Monday
23. Central Park Fusion Cuisine – Closed Monday
24. Via Roma Italian Restaurant- Closed Monday
25. Colorado Grill – Closed Monday
26. Phil's Restaurant
27. J&S Italian Grill – Closed Sunday
28. Café 1217 – Closed Saturday @4:00/Closed Sunday
29. Trejo's Mexican
30. Taco Mama – Closed Sunday
31. Jose's Mexican Grill – Closed Sunday
32. Salsa Mexican & Cantina
33. Rolando's Latino Cuisine

### Familiar Restaurants:

Longhorn Steakhouse  
La Hacienda Mexican  
Jim's Razorback Pizza  
Outback Steakhouse  
Ruby Tuesday  
Applebee's  
Dixie Café  
Red Lobster

Colton's Steakhouse  
On the Border  
Chili's  
Purple Cow  
Olive Garden  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Chili's

# SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL GATHERINGS & MEALS

Most events require advance reservations or ticket purchase.  
Contact information for reservations are provided below.

## Sunday, June 19

- 5:30 pm **AR Black Methodists for Church Renewal Dr. Negail Riley Dinner \$30**  
Haven UMC, 107 Burroughs, Hot Springs  
Contact: Deborah Bell, dbell@bcdinc.org
- 6:00 pm **Candler Alumni Dinner \$20**  
Grand Avenue UMC, 841 Quapaw Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Jessica Durand, (870) 403-2177

## Monday, June 20

- 6:30 am **Confessing Movement of Arkansas \$15**  
Union Baptist Church, 217 Gulpha St., Hot Springs (behind Convention Center)  
Contact: Karen Millar, karenmillar@hotmail.com
- 11:30 am **Retiree Luncheon Free for RC/SS  
\$20 for all others**  
Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center  
Contact: Mona Williams, (501) 324-8028
- 11:30 am **Children's Ministers' Luncheon Self-pay**  
Cafe 1217, 1217 Malvern Ave., #B, Hot Springs  
Contact: Karen Swales, (479) 751-1994, karen.swales@arumc.org
- 11:45 am **United Methodist Women \$20**  
First UMC, 1100 Central Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Martha Altom, (501) 915-0817
- 6:00 pm **Hendrix College Alumni and Friends Gathering Appetizers provided**  
Location: TBA, RSVP to rsvp@hendrix.edu
- 6:00 pm **Duke Divinity School Alumni and Friends Gathering Self-pay**  
Rod's Pizza Cellar, 3350 Central Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Todd-Paul Taulbee, (501) 786-3184, toddpaul.taulbee@arumc.org
- 6:00 pm **Open Arms Reconciling Methodists Self-pay**  
Porterhouse Restaurant, Speakeasy Room, 707 Central Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Harold Hughes, (501) 612-0902, rainbowharold@yahoo.com
- 6:30 pm **Memphis Theological School Self-pay**  
Hunan Place, 4737 Central Ave., Ste. 104, Hot Springs  
Contact: Bryan Diffee, bryan.diffee@arumc.org

## Tuesday, June 21

- 6:30 am **Board of Church & Society \$15**  
Grand Avenue UMC, 841 Quapaw Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Melissa Thomas, Melissa.Thomas@baptist-health.org
- 7:00 am **SMU Perkins School of Theology Alumni Breakfast Self-pay**  
Embassy Suites, Salon C  
Contact: Michelle J. Morris, michelle.morris@arumc.org or (870) 635-1519
- 11:30 am **Clergywomen's Luncheon \$18**  
Visitors Chapel AME Church, 319 Church St., Hot Springs  
Contact: DeeDee Autry, deede.e.autry@arumc.org
- 11:30 am **CFA Luncheon Free for CFA**  
The Arlington Room, Room 206, Hot Springs Convention Center  
Contact: Todd Burris, tburris@arumc.org
- 11:30 am **United Methodist Men \$20**  
Rooms 102-103, Hot Springs Convention Center  
Contact: Mackey Yokem, myokem@arumc.org
- 11:45 am **Boston University School of Theology Alumni & Friends Self-pay**  
Brick House Grill, 801 Central Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Jaclyn Jones, jkjones@bu.edu or (617) 353-8972

## Annual Conference 2016 featured speakers



The Rev. Dr. Jan Davis, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Rowlett, Texas, will preach in the June 19 opening worship service. A leader in the North Texas Conference, she currently chairs the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and co-chairs the Clergy Effectiveness Task Force. She is North Texas' first elected clergy delegate to the 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon.

The Rev. Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III, senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, will preach the closing worship service June 22. A graduate of Philander Smith College, Cleaver has served as a pastor in the Missouri Conference for 16 years.



The Rev. Bonda Moyer, pastor of Augusta/Bald Knob United Methodist Churches, will preach the Celebration of Life service on Monday, June 20. Bonda received her B. A. at Hendrix College and her Masters of Theology at Perkins School of Theology.

The Rev. Samuel Yun serves as minister of young adults at Los Altos United Methodist Church in Los Altos, California, and is also appointed to plant a new multi-ethnic faith community in the Oakland area called EM-BRACE, with the hope of reaching the unchurched and dis-churched in the Bay area. He will preach during two afternoon teaching sessions of the Conference. He was a featured speaker at the recent Youth 2015 quadrennial gathering in Orlando.



**There are many opportunities to worship during Annual Conference. For more details on worship services, see the inside front cover of this Journal.**

## AGENDA

The mission of the 2016 Arkansas Annual Conference is to inspire and equip Arkansas United Methodists to return to their local mission fields to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are so transformed they transform the world.

### Sunday, June 19, 2016

12:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Registration Open, Bank of the Ozarks Arena Lobby
1:00 pm	Informal Gathering & Fellowship
3:30 pm	Lay Session Ms. Karon Mann, Conference Lay Leader
4:00 pm	Clergy Session, Hall D Bishop Gary Mueller
5:30 pm	Dinner Break
6:00 pm	Seminarian Orientation, Room 203 Board of Ordained Ministry
7:30 pm	Opening Worship The Reverend Jan Davis, preaching

### Monday, June 20, 2016

8:00 am	Late Registration, Bank of the Ozarks Arena Lobby Informal Gathering & Fellowship
8:15 am	Connectional Ministries, Rev. Mackey Yokem Statistical Report, Todd Burris Episcopal Address, Bishop Gary Mueller Ordering of the Conference, Conference Secretary Aubrietta Jones
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Business Session
11:00 am	Recognition of Retirees
11:30 am	Lunch Break
1:30 pm	Celebration of Life service Rev. Bonda Moyer, preaching
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Order of the Day Teaching by Rev. Samuel Yun
3:45 pm	Business Session
6:00 pm	Dinner Break/Free Time

### Tuesday, June 21, 2016

8:00 am	Late Registration Informal Gathering & Fellowship Gathering Music & Prayer
8:15 am	Laity Address, Karon Mann
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Business Session
11:45 am	Lunch Break
1:30 pm	Order of the Day Teaching by Rev. Samuel Yun
2:30 pm	Business Session
3:15 pm	Break
5:15 pm	Dinner Break
7:30 pm	Ordination Service Bishop Gary Mueller, preaching  Reception for Newly Ordained Deacons, Elders, and Provisional Members, Hall D *Sponsored by Hendrix College

### Wednesday, June 22, 2016

8:00 am	Informal Gathering & Fellowship Gathering Music & Prayer
8:20 am	Youth Address, Lauren Lovelady Business Session
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Order of the Day Closing Worship & Reading of Appointments Rev. Emanuel Cleaver, District Superintendents
12:30 pm	The Sending Forth

\*\*\*Immediately following the Sending Forth, the Board of Ordained Ministry will meet in Hall D to elect officers.

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

# RULES OF ORDER

(At the opening of the Annual Conference, the Conference Secretary will move the adoption of these rules of order.)

## Bar of the Conference

The Bar of the Conference shall be the seating area identified by the Conference Secretary. Members desiring to have voice and vote must be seated within the bar. Voting members of the Arkansas Conference must be wearing a nametag.

## Agenda

The agenda for the Arkansas Annual Conference will be the agenda printed in this publication, with the provision that it may be adjusted as the need arises.

## Official Roll

The official record of those attending this session of the Annual Conference will be drawn from registration information, including names and address.

## Making Motions/Obtaining the Floor

Those desiring the floor of the Conference shall be:

- Seated within the Bar of the Conference
- Obtain a copy of the necessary form, provided at the secretary tables.
- After completing the form, return a copy to the *Journal* Editor.
- Walk to the microphone and wait until recognized by the Bishop.
- When recognized, state name, local church or area of responsibility.
- Make motion and wait for the Bishop to recognize that your motion has been seconded.
- Briefly explain the rationale for your motion.
- Follow the Bishop's directions during discussion/debate.
- Make sure the *Journal* Editor receives a written copy of changes/amendments to your motion. At the end of the day you may proofread the notes of the Minutes Editor to confirm that your motion has been accurately recorded.

## Debate

Debate on each motion or resolution shall be limited to three two-minute speeches for the motion or resolution and three two-minute speeches against the same (excluding persons rising for points of order, amendments, or final summations.)

**Resolutions/Petitions Procedure** set by our Standing Rules (from 6.c, p. 335 of *2014 Journal*)

### • Resolution Footnotes

All resolutions, sponsored or non-sponsored, shall contain footnotes that clarify the source of any facts, quotes, or generalizations made within the proposed resolution.

These footnotes shall include enough information to allow the conference some level of confidence that the content of the proposed resolution is accurate and reliable.

These footnotes shall also include enough information to allow the content of the proposed resolution to be checked for accuracy. All resolutions not printed in the Pre-Conference Journal must be accompanied by a rationale.

### • Pre-Conference Resolutions

Non-sponsored resolutions or petitions, as well as those sponsored by any regular board, standing committee or task

force of the Conference, may be included in the Pre-Conference Journal with the approval of the Executive Team.

Non-sponsored resolutions must be signed by at least ten voting members of the Annual Conference before they may be considered by the Executive Team for publication in the Pre-Conference Journal.

### • Floor Resolutions

Any resolution or petition not printed in the *Pre-Conference Journal* must be signed by at least 10 voting members of the Annual Conference, and distributed in writing to the delegates and lay on the table for 24 hours before being debated and acted upon. Such items for general distribution shall be prepared and distributed by the sponsoring person or agency at their own expense.

### • Concurrence/Non-concurrence

All resolutions that call for a change in the structure or standing rules must be submitted to a review by the Committee on Review and Research, which will recommend concurrence or non-concurrence.

All resolutions that have financial implications must be submitted for review by the Council on Finance and Administration, which will recommend concurrence or non-concurrence.

All resolutions that have Social Principles implications must be submitted for review by the Board of Church and Society, which will recommend concurrence or non-concurrence.

## Consent Calendar

Reports and other items for which no changes are anticipated are placed in the *Pre-Conference Journal* Consent Calendar. These items may be removed from the Consent Calendar (only for the purpose of amendment/alteration) by a petition signed by five voting members of the Conference and given to the Conference Secretary before 8:00 am on the first day of Annual Conference business. Items or reports removed from the Consent Calendar will be worked into the Conference agenda on the last day of business.

## Handouts

All items for general distribution shall be prepared and distributed by the sponsoring individual or agency at their own expense.

## Journal

All materials (reports, budgets, addresses, etc.) for publication in the Conference *Journal* shall be in the *Journal* Editor's hands no later than the close of the Annual Conference session. All items not meeting the deadline will be excluded unless specific permission for delay is granted by the Annual Conference. The *Journal* Editor is authorized to edit all reports for publication in the *Journal*. Only the Episcopal and the Conference Lay Leader Addresses will be printed in the *Journal* unless clear instruction to do otherwise is given to the *Journal* Editor.

## Robert's Rules of Order

The Annual Conference sessions shall be governed by the Standing Rules (printed in the *Pre-Conference Journal*); otherwise, Roberts Rules of Order; all of which shall comply with the *2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

### Voice and Vote

Your name tag indicates your voice and vote status at Plenary Sessions. Please wear your name tag in a visible location during these sessions. Annual Conference Members with both voice (meaning they can speak in Plenary Sessions) and vote (meaning they can make and amend motions and vote on motions) are as follows:

	Recommendations & Conference Business	Elections for clergy delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s)	Elections for lay delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s)	Constitutional Amendments	Matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy	Voice without Vote
<b>Clergy Members in full connection (¶602.a)</b>	•	•		•	•	
<b>Provisional Clergy Members in full connection (¶602.b)</b>	•					
<b>Provisional Clergy Members</b> who have completed all of the education requirements (¶602.b errata)	•	•				
<b>Associate Clergy Members (¶602.c errata)</b>	•	•			†	
<b>Affiliate Clergy Members (¶602.c errata)</b>	•					
<b>Full- and Part-time Local Pastors</b> under appointment to a pastoral charge (¶602.d)	•				†	
<b>Local Pastors</b> 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 (¶602.d errata)	•	•				
<b>Elders or Ordained Clergy from other denominations</b> serving under appointment within the Annual Conference (¶346.2)	•					
<b>Lay Members:</b> Elected Members representing congregations, Members by Virtue of Office, At-large Members as designated by districts, Youth Members (¶602.4)	•		•	•	‡	
<b>Official Representatives from other Denominations (¶602.9)</b>						•
<b>Missionaries</b> regularly assigned by the GMGM in nations other than the US & Certified Lay Missionaries from nations other than the US serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference (¶602.9)						•
<b>Conference Chancellor</b> if not otherwise a voting member (¶602.10)						•
<b>Ordained Clergy or Provisional Members</b> from other Annual Conference and Other Methodist Denominations (¶346.1)						•
<b>Retired Local Pastors (¶320.5)</b>						•
<b>Alternate Lay Members</b>						•
<b>Visitors, Guests and Friends</b>						•

† 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 (¶602.6)

## Bishop's Mission Plan—"Next Steps"

When the Arkansas Annual Conference began the Imagine Ministry journey, you were reacting to a projected future characterized by financial unsustainability, decreasing membership and more and more churches focused primarily on survival instead of faithfulness. Thankfully, Phase One was short-lived as Imagine Ministry quickly moved into its next two phases.

**Phase Two** involved the Annual Conference adopting a mission, vision, and core measures (since revised in response to feedback from local congregations) that articulate the future you believe God envisions for Arkansan United Methodists.

### **Vision:**

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

### **Mission:**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to transform the world with excellence and passion.

Core Measures used to evaluate the deep change necessary to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world:

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.

**Phase Three** began when significant changes in Annual Conference structure, alignment, staffing and budgets were implemented in order to re-direct resources toward fostering greater vitality in local congregations. This work is now underway, and will continue to unfold in the next several years under the leadership of the Extended Cabinet and the Executive Director of Mission and Ministry.

Since being assigned as your bishop, I have spent a great deal of time observing, asking questions, learning, consulting, reflecting and praying in order to answer the question, "What's next?" It is now clear to me that we are ready for Phase Four of our journey together: embarking passionately and intentionally on a trajectory that focuses fully on the only place that actually can do what God is calling us to do: the local church.

### **Our Trajectory for the coming years:**

*Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.*

I believe the churches, laity and pastors of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas need to embrace the 10 "Next Steps" in order for us to move ahead on this trajectory God has charted for us. However, there are two important things to remember about these next steps. First, they have been shaped by the previous phases of the Imagine Ministry journey. Second, we will only be able to see the fruit of these next steps as we fully utilize the resources provided through the Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence in Leadership, the Center for Technology, and the Network for Discipleship and Mission.

### **Next Steps for the Arkansas Annual Conference**

1. **Experience Spiritual Revival** The churches, laity and pastors of the Annual Conference must experience spiritual revival. We need to experience in deeper ways how Jesus' love is so unconditional he accepts us just the way we are, so transforming he is unwilling to leave us the way we are and so powerful he gives us what we absolutely need but can never get on our own – reconciliation with God, healing and a new way of living that is eternal in every sense of the word. This revival is foundational for everything we do, because we can only passionately share Jesus' love that brings healing, hope, justice and transformation in lives, communities and the world when we first have been transformed ourselves.
2. **Tell the Story** The Annual Conference will tell Phase Four of the Imagine Ministry story as it communicates how the 10 "Next Steps" are bearing fruit in local congregations. The Annual Conference will communicate intentionally, consistently and in a variety of ways the story of how local congregations are becoming vital in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

### **Next Steps for District Superintendents**

3. **Broaden Disciple-Making through District Mission Plans** District Superintendents will become skilled in developing District Mission Plans that align with the Bishop's Mission Plan. This is a major new role for District Superintendents. Often it will involve working with existing churches to reach out in mission to their community in new ways. Sometimes it will mean finding new ways to reach new people. But the goal is always the same: to create and develop vital congregations who are ready and willing to make new disciples in new mission fields.
4. **Make Mission-Field Appointments** The Cabinet will become proficient in making mission-field appointments. This may be one of our most challenging undertakings, because we have spent so much energy over the years trying to keep churches and pastors content rather than focusing primarily on the people outside our doors in the mission field surrounding every congregation. The Appointive Cabinet will need to work harder, smarter and more prayerfully to match the right pastor with the right gifts in the right mission field at the right time, instead of paying primary attention to salary, tenure and age.

### **Next Steps for Congregations**

5. **Look Like the Neighborhood** More congregations will increasingly begin to look like their neighborhoods. A church's neighborhood is the heart and soul of its mission field. A church that looks like its neighborhood has taken the time to develop relationships with the people there, reach out in ways that make a real difference in their lives and begin being in ministry with - and not just to - them.

6. **Grow By "1"** More churches will continue to grow every year by at least one new adult profession of faith, at least one more person in worship, at least one additional small group and at least one more ministry that reaches into the mission field. Only 310 of our 683 churches had a profession of faith in 2012. Sadly, this statistic indicates a lack of vitality and readiness to face the mission field of too many churches in the Annual Conference. Every single church—regardless of its size—can be vital and reach its mission field with excellence and passion.

### **Next Step for Laity**

7. **Unleash Lay Leadership** Laity will be coached and mentored so they increasingly demonstrate passion, boldness and excellence in faith sharing, servant ministry, stewardship and using their spiritual gifts. Disciples make other disciples. Increasing the number of new disciples who are equipped to contribute to the vitality of their congregations so they can make disciples who make disciples will enable churches to reach their mission fields with excellence and passion.

### **Next Step for Pastors**

8. **Grow Excellent and Passionate Clergy** Pastors will be coached and mentored so they increasingly demonstrate passion, boldness and excellence as spiritual leaders through personal discipleship, preaching, evangelism, mission-field engagement, stewardship and equipping laity for ministry. Our clergy leaders must demonstrate these basic competencies if they are going to lead vital churches that successfully engage the mission field.

Launch Team: Bishop, Board of Ordained Ministry, the Center for Technology and the Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence in Leadership.

### **Next Step for the Arkansas Context**

9. **Create Vital African-American Congregations** The Arkansas Annual Conference will create vital, self-sustaining and growing African-American churches. There are nearly 450,000 African-Americans in Arkansas, and only a handful of vital, self-sustaining and growing African-American United Methodist congregations. Strong churches must be developed in order to reach the mission field for which God has given us responsibility. This is not just an issue for African-Americans; it is vitally important for the entire Arkansas Annual Conference.

### **Next Step for a Changing Culture**

10. **Reach the "Nones"** The churches of the Arkansas Annual Conference will connect with the previously churched, de-churched and never churched, especially the "nones." Twenty percent of adults in America—including more than one-third of those under 30—identify themselves as religiously unaffiliated. Many of these "nones" consider themselves spiritual in some way, but reject traditional congregational life. Laity are in positions to build relationships and share Jesus' love through local churches. Clergy need to be committed to training, nurturing and supporting laity in this work.

### **Taking the Next Steps**

These next steps will take time, involve ongoing adaptive learning and send us on some unexpected detours, because there is never an easy shortcut to deep and lasting change. The rigors of this journey over the next several years, however, are worth it because it is Jesus himself who is inviting us to join him.

How will we move from theory to these 10 "Next Steps" becoming realities that move us along God's trajectory for our future? First, the Extended Cabinet and I have convened Launch Teams to begin the work of each initiative. These Launch Teams will be responsible for the creation, development, implementation, review and re-calibration of the team's plans, including involving more people in their work. Second, Launch Teams will be accountable to the Extended Cabinet. Third, the Center for Technology will provide regular updates concerning the progress of the 10 "Next Steps" and seek appropriate feedback.

### **What You Can Do**

You can play an essential role in these 10 next steps as you join in fervent, sustained and corporate prayer; focus more on the future than the past; challenge your local church to reach out into your mission field; share your joy at being part of Jesus' mission; and long for our church to become a Spirit-led movement again!



**The Center for Vitality**  
Submitted by Rev. Dede Roberts,  
Director of the Center for Vitality

The Center for Vitality exists to provide resources for pastors, laity and congregations to experience spiritual revival and become vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities, and the world. The work of the Center for Vitality focuses on addressing Next Steps 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Bishop's Ministry Plan.

The Center for Vitality was created in 2015 to replace the Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence in Leadership. Our work helps align congregational development and lay and clergy leadership development with the Conference Trajectory and core mission of the United Methodist Church. Through innovation and creative collaboration, the Center for Vitality is making progress in fulfilling our purpose in providing resources for congregations and their clergy and lay leaders to move toward greater vitality.

The Center for Vitality along with the Center for Technology led in the development and distribution of resources for the Bishop's "Getting Serious about Spiritual Revival" initiative during the first quarter of 2016. The initiative began January 1 with forty days of prayer followed by a three week sermon emphasis on the unconditional, transformational and invitational love of God on the three Sundays prior to the beginning of Lent. Materials were also produced for a Lenten Study, "ReLent," that proved to be inspirational and transformative to congregations who used the materials. These resources were offered to the Annual Conference as a gift which could be used to open hearts and lives to the power of the Holy Spirit to bring revival in our churches and among our leaders.

The Center has also begun resourcing Next Step 6: Grow By One with two different programs. The "Ministry Toolbox" is now available online, [www.vitality.arumc.org](http://www.vitality.arumc.org). The toolbox is meant to be crowd sourced and provides helpful books, articles, videos and ideas for laity and clergy leaders to help their congregations grow in worship attendance, professions of faith, outreach ministries and small group ministries. In addition, in April the Center for Vitality hosted the Grow By One Summit. This was the first all-conference event in over 5 years. Nearly 400 pastors and laity attended to learn about faith sharing, preparing for guests, reaching into the mission field, and creating discipleship pathways, so that congregations grow in those 4 key areas of vitality: worship attendance, professions of faith, outreach and discipleship small groups. We were pleased to partner with the Office of Mission Field Engagement to provide scholarships for Ethnic Local Churches to attend.

Another key area of ministry for the Center for Vitality is Next Step 8: to coach and mentor clergy so they increasingly demonstrate passion, boldness and excellence as spiritual leaders through personal discipleship, preaching, evangelism, mission field engagement, stewardship and equipping laity for ministry. Twenty-six circuit elders and members of the conference staff have been trained in the "Coach Approach of Leadership" by Rev. Chris Holmes of the Holmes Coaching group. These colleagues are available to provide coaching to clergy and congregations who desire to be more effective in ministry. Their names are on the Center for Vitality website for those who wish to begin a coaching relationship. In addition, the Center is piloting two REVgroups: one for large membership church pastors and the other for Clergywomen. REVgroups are communities of practice which take advantage of peer learning and reflection to focus on adaptive learning and skill building for ministry. Other REVgroups will begin in 2017.

The Center for Vitality is leading the denomination in asking questions and initiating processes that will lead to Un-leashing Lay Leadership, Next Step 7. In addition to developing the Tool Box and working with conference lay leaders on the role and ministry of the Lay Leader, the Center for Vitality will be recruiting and training Lay Guides for congregations. These guides will have expertise in areas of leadership needed local churches including finance, staffing, hospitality ministries, making community connections, strategic planning and church structure. They will be available to assist churches who are ready to enter a Vital Congregation Process of learning and discovery, planning, action and reflection. The Lay Guides will begin serving in the spring of 2017. In addition, the Center for Vitality is developing models for growing disciples from conversion to maturity. This emphasis will launch in the fall of 2017.

The most exciting initiative of the Center for Vitality in 2016 addresses Next Step 5: Looking Like the Neighborhood. It is called, "Conversation at the Crossroads" or P213 process. P213 in the Book of Discipline encourages all local churches "...to study their congregation's potential." The Center staff, district superintendents and all Circuit Elders have been trained to facilitate these life changing conversations with congregations. Conversations can lead to visioning/goal setting, relaunch or a legacy conversation. Contact your District Superintendent if you are interested in hosting a Conversation at the Crossroads in your church.

In addition to the initiatives listed above, the Center for Vitality also works with the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas to develop fruitful and faithful leaders for United Methodist churches in Arkansas. In the past year, through the generosity of the Foundation, clergy and laity have participated in training events like the Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection, the Young Preachers' Festival, FUSION (a worship conference with Discipleship Ministries), REVitUP, The Horizon's Academy of Faith and Money, and the World Methodist Conference Global Gathering for Clergywomen. We are grateful for the UMFA and their commitment to United Methodist churches in Arkansas.

We continue to lead in many other areas of work across the state. This includes:

- Training Circuit Elders who have direct contact with local churches is a priority;
- Developing a Crisis Response Care Team to offer healing to congregations experiencing disruption due to clergy misconduct or other breaches of trust;
- Assisting the Bishop and Cabinet in the work of making mission field appointments;
- Connecting congregations and leaders with trained coaches and spiritual directors;
- Providing training for clergy in transitions: moving to new appointments, receiving a first appointment;
- Collaborating with the Board of Ordained Ministry to provide the Residency in Ministry (RIM) process and Orientation to Ministry events for discerning call.

Please allow us to assist you in being a vital congregation of disciples making disciples! The Center for Vitality can be accessed at [www.vitality.arumc.org](http://www.vitality.arumc.org). Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford and I look forward to working with you.

# 2016 Council on Finance & Administration Report

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

The trajectory of the Arkansas Annual Conference is to create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ – who then make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. The Extended Cabinet and Council on Finance and Administration are committed to making strategic financial decisions that create budget alignment to support the Bishop's Mission Plan, principles of the Imagine Ministry process, and our vision, mission and core measures. The following four priorities have guided the Extended Cabinet and Council on Finance and Administration in making these strategic stewardship decisions in order to shape the 2017 Arkansas Conference Budget:

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

### Revenue-Based Budgeting

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

62. Total Income for annual budget (as of 1/31/2016).....	\$102,473,639
64. Total Income from connectional/institutional sources outside the local church.....	\$598,525
Total Revenue.....	\$103,072,164
10% Budget Maximum.....	\$10,307,216
85% Spending Rate.....	\$8,761,134

You will see that our budget cap for 2017 was \$10,307,216 based on a tithe of 2015 revenue figures. We have accomplished this with our 2017 budget recommendation of \$10,175,445. Furthermore, to ensure expenses do not exceed actual revenues, CFA has established a projected spending rate of 85%. This is based primarily on historical payout calculations. Other factors, including transition recommendations from other conferences were also taken into consideration.

### Revenue Based Funding Plan – Tithe Initiative

#### I. Budget

A. Other Ministries: We recommend that the Annual Conference accept in full the requests below and they be apportioned to the local churches.

**See Page 19 for 2016 Budget.**

B. In Accordance with ¶1615.4 of the 2012 Book of Discipline

General Apportionment Fund	Apportioned Amount	Percentage of Total
World Service	1,313,189.00	50.49%
Ministerial Education	450,844.00	17.33%
Black College	179,846.00	6.91%
Africa University Fund	40,260.00	1.55%
Episcopal Fund	423,321.00	16.27%
General Administration	158,547.00	6.09%
Interdenominational Cooperation	35,276.00	1.36%
<b>Total General Apportionments</b>	<b>2,601,283.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### C. 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. Catch the Vision
8. Hendrix College
9. Philander Smith College
10. U.M. Historical Society
11. Mount Sequoyah
12. Volunteers in Mission
13. That the district camps (Shoal Creek, Bear Creek, Wayland Springs) be allowed to raise funds in any district in which the district has given its permission
14. Methodist Village Nursing Home of Arkansas
15. Imagine No Malaria

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

#### E. 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. One Great Hour of Sharing – Fourth Sunday in Lent
5. World Communion Sunday – First Sunday in October
6. United Methodist Student Day – Sunday after Thanksgiving
7. Golden Cross Sunday – First Sunday in May
8. Hunger Awareness Sunday - Last Sunday in June

#### II. Tithe Form

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

## 2016 Pre-Conference Journal of the Arkansas Conference

<p>III. Tithe Instructions</p> <p><b>Line A</b>—Total Gross Income for previous month (including designated giving and all other funds)</p> <p>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.)</p> <p><b>Line B</b>—Exclude income for Capital Campaigns (this does not include income for lines of credit (LOC) or mortgage payments)</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Line C</b>—Exclude income for Memorials and Endowments</p> <p>Gifts received to fund memorials and endowments should be excluded here. Income from endowment earnings should not be excluded.</p> <p><b>Line D</b>—Exclude income from sale of church-owned real estate (not used for operating expenses)</p> <p>Income from the sale of church owned property (such as a parsonage) to be used for future capital expenses should be excluded here.</p> <p><b>Line E</b>—Exclude income from Tuition-Based Services (preschool, daycare, etc.)</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Line F</b>—Exclude Direct Costs of Fund-Raising</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Line G</b>—Exclude income for Pass-Through/Outreach Ministries</p> <p>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.</p> <p>IV. District Superintendents</p> <p>A. Salary will be no more than <b>\$124,340. (Includes \$12,000 for health insurance)</b></p> <p>B. This figure shall include salary, utilities and appurtenances, and other professional reimbursable expenses.</p> <p>1. We recommend that business travel by the District Superintendents shall be reimbursed at the maximum IRS allowable rate. This will be funded by the District</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p>31</p> <p>32</p> <p>33</p> <p>34</p> <p>35</p> <p>36</p> <p>37</p> <p>38</p> <p>39</p> <p>40</p> <p>41</p> <p>42</p> <p>43</p> <p>44</p> <p>45</p> <p>46</p> <p>47</p> <p>48</p> <p>49</p> <p>50</p> <p>51</p> <p>52</p> <p>53</p> <p>54</p> <p>55</p> <p>56</p> <p>57</p> <p>58</p> <p>59</p> <p>60</p> <p>61</p> <p>62</p> <p>63</p> <p>64</p> <p>65</p> <p>66</p> <p>67</p> <p>68</p> <p>69</p>	<p>Superintendents vouchered travel expense fund of \$97,500 for room, board and travel expense.</p> <p>V. Pastor's Moving Expense - Pastor's Moving Expense (intended to pay for housing relocation) - conditions of eligibility are as follows:</p> <p>A. The following persons shall be eligible</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full Time Pastors</li> <li>2. Student local pastors after first appointment</li> <li>3. District Superintendents</li> <li>4. Persons in conference connectional positions</li> <li>5. Retiring pastors</li> <li>6. Persons on disability leave</li> <li>7. Seminarian from place of residence to parsonage at first appointment</li> <li>8. Any other person recommended by the Board of Ordained ministry</li> <li>9. Only one moving expense paid per pastor per year</li> </ol> <p>B. The following amounts shall be paid:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$1,000 per pastor</li> <li>2. \$1.00 per mile, measured from parsonage to parsonage</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. Monies shall be paid by the Conference Treasurer upon presentation of a voucher of mileage signed by the sending District Superintendent</li> <li>5. The sending District Superintendent 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 District Superintendent 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.</li> <li>6. \$1,000 additional moving expenses for Seminararians receiving their first appointment in the annual conference.</li> <li>7. On recommendation from the Cabinet, the Council on Finance and Administration may disburse funds for pastors transitioning out of the ministry.</li> </ol> <p>VI. Other Recommendations</p> <p>A. No honorariums will be paid to persons living within the bounds of the Arkansas Annual Conference</p> <p>B. Travel expenses will be reimbursed based on the Arkansas Annual Conference reimbursement policy.</p> <p>C. When any Conference staff personnel travels at the request of a Conference agency for other than normal representative or liaisoning purposes, the expenses of such travel shall be borne by the requesting agency.</p> <p>D. Reimbursement for Conference Travel shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all volunteers</li> <li>2. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all conference employees</li> </ol> <p>E. Retired and disabled ministers may be paid \$40 per diem for days they attend Annual Conference with a maximum of \$160.00 per household.</p> <p>F. The Conference may direct the Conference Treasurer to withhold dispersal of funds to any agency, institution, or organization until the Council on Finance and Administration has received the most recent audit of a Public Accountant or Certified Public Accountant from the agency or institution or</p>	<p>70</p> <p>71</p> <p>72</p> <p>73</p> <p>74</p> <p>75</p> <p>76</p> <p>77</p> <p>78</p> <p>79</p> <p>80</p> <p>81</p> <p>82</p> <p>83</p> <p>84</p> <p>85</p> <p>86</p> <p>87</p> <p>88</p> <p>89</p> <p>90</p> <p>91</p> <p>92</p> <p>93</p> <p>94</p> <p>95</p> <p>96</p> <p>97</p> <p>98</p> <p>99</p> <p>100</p> <p>101</p> <p>102</p> <p>103</p> <p>104</p> <p>105</p> <p>106</p> <p>107</p> <p>108</p> <p>109</p> <p>110</p> <p>111</p> <p>112</p> <p>113</p> <p>114</p> <p>115</p> <p>116</p> <p>117</p> <p>118</p> <p>119</p> <p>120</p> <p>121</p> <p>122</p> <p>123</p> <p>124</p> <p>125</p> <p>126</p> <p>127</p> <p>128</p> <p>129</p> <p>130</p> <p>131</p> <p>132</p> <p>133</p> <p>134</p> <p>135</p> <p>136</p> <p>137</p> <p>138</p>
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organization and that audit has been found satisfactory by the Audit Committee of the Council on Finance and Administration.

G. ¶1815.4 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline* states that an annual conference may only make direct gifts to historically black colleges after the Black College Fund apportionment is paid in full. Therefore the conference shall pay the Black College Fund at 100%. Any shortfall in the black college fund will be funded from the Philander Smith apportionment line.

H. The Stabilization Fund is used by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to cover annual funding shortfalls in receipts to pay compensation for District Superintendents, employees of the Office of Finance and Management, and employees of the Conference Director of Ministries office. Any balances in the Stabilization Fund shall be transferred to the Conference Reserve Fund at year-end.

I. The Conference Reserve Fund is not a budgeted item. This is used to maintain operating cash flow for the conference.

J. If the Conference Reserve Fund exceeds 10% of the Annual Conference Budget excluding Pension & Benefits, then The Council on Finance and Administration's Executive Committee shall have the authority to disburse those funds with first priority given to paying the Conference's General and Jurisdictional Apportionments.

K. All interest earnings on Conference monies shall be credited to the Conference Reserve Fund.

L. The Conference acknowledges the need for maintaining monies to be used as needed for the stabilization of the accounts of New Church Development Fund, General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Expense Fund, District Superintendents Funds, and the Equitable Compensation Support Fund.

M. That balances remaining in the Conference Benevolence Fund and the Conference Administration Fund at year-end shall be transferred to the conference reserve fund.

N. The Conference provides fidelity bonding insurance in compliance with ¶ 618 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline*.

O. The following is to be adopted as the guide for the care and investment of all Conference Funds: (¶1613.5 the 2012 *Book of Discipline*).

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.
2. The objective of the investment of Conference monies is to provide:
  - a) Preservation of capital.
  - b) Liquidity – to meet anticipated and unanticipated future needs.
  - c) Maximization of income – while simultaneously insuring preservation of capital and liquidity.
  - d) Compliance with the Social Principles and the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.
3. To accomplish this objective:
  - a) Funds should be deposited in AR institutions in good standing.
  - b) Securities:
    - (1) Direct obligation of United States Government Treasury Bills and Notes
    - (2) FDIC insured Certificate of Deposits, Time Deposits, interest-bearing accounts
4. Funds should be deposited on a short-term basis, generally 60 or 90 days, but up to six months when all objectives can be satisfied.
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 Conference Council on Finance and Administration. While income desirable the primary emphasis is to be on the maintenance of adequate funds and the avoidance of speculative investments

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

P. The Conference gives the Conference Council on Finance and Administration the authority to fund extraordinary needs relating to the life and ministry of the Arkansas Conference. These needs shall be funded from available unrestricted funds. This authority shall not be used to replace or circumvent normal funding procedures of the Arkansas Conference.

Q. When the Annual Conference adopts a program or ministry that is not within the existing Conference structure, the Conference shall specify lines of amenability and accountability so as to provide for budgeting, evaluation and audit.

VII. Administrative Concerns:

A. All funding requests shall be presented to the appropriate board or agency of the Conference for recommendation before presentation to the Council on Finance and Administration. All persons authorized to vouch for funds shall be identified by agencies and approved by the Extended Cabinet prior to the dispensing of funds.

B. The final time for receiving conference apportionments shall be close of business on Wednesday after the first Sunday in January.

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

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

E. All benevolent and connectional funds shall be sent to the Office of Finance and Management, P.O. Box 55588, Little Rock, AR 72215, except for the following, which shall be sent as designated:

1. UM Children's Home Christmas offering and special gifts to the UM Children's Home, P.O. Box 4848, Little Rock, AR 72214.
2. All pension payments shall be sent according to the instructions from the Committee on Pension and Benefits to Mona Williams, PO Box 55971, Little Rock AR 72215.

**Bill Wisener – President**  
**Brittany Watson– Vice-President**  
**Ann Ferris – Secretary**

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2017 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE BUDGET		2015 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	2017 % Change	2017 Spending Plan
<b>Fund #1 Clergy and Retiree Benefits (Pension and Health Benefits Committee)</b>							
Pension & Benefits		\$ 5,010,995.90					
Conference Staff Pension (clergy only)		\$ 166,978.56	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	33.33%	\$ 170,000.00
Retiree Health Care		\$ 686,910.27	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	0.00%	\$ 680,000.00
Disability Health Care		\$ 218,435.01	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	-45.83%	\$ 55,250.00
Methodist Health EAP					\$ 15,000.00	100.00%	\$ 12,750.00
Reserve Funding			\$ 225,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	-12.50%	\$ 148,750.00
<b>Subtotal Clergy and Retiree Benefits</b>		<b>\$ 6,083,319.74</b>	<b>\$ 3,322,104.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,270,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,255,000.00</b>	<b>-1.18%</b>	<b>\$ 1,066,750.00</b>
<b>Fund #2 General Apportionments (Determined by General Conference)</b>							
World Service		\$ 1,085,996.52	\$ 1,307,787.00	\$ 1,313,189.00	\$ 1,361,709.00	3.69%	\$ 1,157,452.65
Ministerial Education		\$ 390,456.10	\$ 448,978.00	\$ 450,844.00	\$ 467,496.00	3.69%	\$ 397,371.60
Black College		\$ 179,102.00	\$ 179,102.00	\$ 179,846.00	\$ 186,480.00	3.69%	\$ 158,508.00
Africa University Fund		\$ 33,392.37	\$ 40,076.00	\$ 40,260.00	\$ 41,733.00	3.66%	\$ 35,473.05
Episcopal Fund		\$ 325,841.49	\$ 392,234.00	\$ 423,321.00	\$ 409,898.00	-3.17%	\$ 348,413.30
General Administration		\$ 131,017.20	\$ 157,857.00	\$ 158,547.00	\$ 164,354.00	3.66%	\$ 139,700.90
Interdenominational Cooperation		\$ 29,138.60	\$ 35,130.00	\$ 35,276.00	\$ 36,562.00	3.65%	\$ 31,077.70
<b>Subtotal General Apportionments</b>		<b>\$ 2,174,944.28</b>	<b>\$ 2,561,164.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,601,283.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,668,232.00</b>	<b>2.57%</b>	<b>\$ 2,267,997.20</b>
<b>Fund #3 Jurisdictional Apportionments (Determined by Jurisdictional Conference)</b>							
Jurisdictional Administration		\$ 20,313.96	\$ 24,745.00	\$ 24,745.00	\$ 28,157.00	13.79%	\$ 23,933.45
Lydia Patterson Institute		\$ 43,380.16	\$ 52,833.00	\$ 52,833.00	\$ 53,650.00	1.55%	\$ 45,602.50
Mount Sequoyah		\$ 10,375.66	\$ 12,634.00	\$ 12,634.00	\$ 9,417.00	-25.46%	\$ 8,004.45
SMU Campus Ministry		\$ 1,334.63	\$ 1,627.00	\$ -			
<b>Subtotal Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>		<b>\$ 75,404.41</b>	<b>\$ 91,839.00</b>	<b>\$ 90,212.00</b>	<b>\$ 91,224.00</b>	<b>1.12%</b>	<b>\$ 77,540.40</b>
<b>Fund #4 Conference Administration (CFA)</b>							
District Superintendents		\$ 560,792.51	\$ 561,700.00	\$ 621,700.00	\$ 621,700.00	0.00%	\$ 621,700.00
DS Travel		\$ 92,065.56	\$ 97,500.00	\$ 97,500.00	\$ 95,000.00	-2.56%	\$ 95,000.00
DS Health Insurance		\$ 91,164.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -			\$ -
Finance and Management (See Page 20)		\$ 508,256.51	\$ 518,793.00	\$ 517,182.00	\$ 469,511.00	-9.22%	\$ 469,511.00
Episcopal Residence		\$ 41,970.02	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	0.00%	\$ 24,000.00
Episcopal Office		\$ 25,777.24	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	0.00%	\$ 25,000.00
Episcopal Discretionary		\$ 13,519.78	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	0.00%	\$ 12,000.00
Board of Ordained Ministry Administration		\$ 134,882.64	\$ 129,080.00	\$ 134,980.00	\$ 134,980.00	0.00%	\$ 134,980.00
Pastors Moving Expense		\$ 72,237.78	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	-5.88%	\$ 80,000.00
Administrative Boards (See Page 20)		\$ 226,355.27	\$ 216,500.00	\$ 202,600.00	\$ 220,550.00	8.86%	\$ 220,550.00
Stabilization		\$ 2,345.77	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 257,411.00	28.71%	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Subtotal Conference Administration</b>		<b>\$ 1,769,367.08</b>	<b>\$ 1,967,073.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,919,962.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,152.00</b>	<b>1.05%</b>	<b>\$ 1,687,741.00</b>
<b>Fund #5 Resourcing Local Congregations (Extended Cabinet)</b>							
Conference Ministries Office (See Page 21)		\$ 496,446.38	\$ 503,641.00	\$ 501,074.00	\$ 478,724.00	-4.46%	\$ 478,724.00
Equitable Compensation		\$ 170,000.00	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 83,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	2.41%	\$ 85,000.00
Conference Center for Vitality (See Page 22)		\$ 336,237.95	\$ 475,334.00	\$ 462,052.00	\$ 445,542.00	-3.57%	\$ 445,542.00
Conference Center for Technology (See Page 23)		\$ 636,760.77	\$ 686,252.00	\$ 667,216.00	\$ 641,841.00	-3.80%	\$ 641,841.00
General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Ex		\$ 5,903.19	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	0.00%	\$ 7,500.00
Connectional Ministries (See Pages 24-25)		\$ 1,268,123.75	\$ 1,508,346.00	\$ 1,730,519.00	\$ 1,525,164.00	-11.87%	\$ 1,525,164.00
Stabilization					\$ 490,066.00		\$ 12,500.00
<b>Subtotal Resourcing Local Congregations</b>		<b>\$ 2,913,472.04</b>	<b>\$ 3,351,073.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,451,361.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,673,837.00</b>	<b>6.45%</b>	<b>\$ 3,183,771.00</b>
<b>Fund #6 Institutional Ministries (Extended Cabinet)</b>							
Camp Aldersgate		\$ 93,295.48	\$ 114,000.00	\$ 114,000.00	\$ 87,000.00	-23.68%	\$ 73,950.00
Ozark Mission Project							\$ -
Hendrix College Student Scholarships		\$ 235,690.72	\$ 288,000.00	\$ 288,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	-21.88%	\$ 191,250.00
Philander Smith College		\$ 231,433.96	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	-26.56%	\$ 199,750.00
<b>Subtotal Institutional Ministries</b>		<b>\$ 560,420.16</b>	<b>\$ 722,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 722,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 547,000.00</b>	<b>-24.24%</b>	<b>\$ 464,950.00</b>
<b>Total Conference Budget</b>		<b>\$ 13,576,927.71</b>	<b>\$ 12,015,253.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,054,818.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,175,445.00</b>	<b>1.20%</b>	<b>\$ 8,761,249.60</b>
10% Budget Cap					\$ 10,307,216.00		\$ 8,761,134.00
Expected Income (85% payout)							
Over/Under Expected Income					-\$ 131,771.00		\$ 115.60

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<b>OFFICE OF FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION (Page 19 Line 31)</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Request</b>
1	<b>INCOME:</b>				
2	<b>Arkansas Conference Apportionment</b>	<b>508,256.00</b>	<b>518,793.00</b>	<b>517,182.00</b>	<b>516,782.00</b>
3	Conference Benefits	227,000.00	227,000.00	230,000.00	230,000.00
4	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>735,256.00</b>	<b>745,793.00</b>	<b>747,182.00</b>	<b>746,782.00</b>
5					
6	<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>				
7	Travel	11,782.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
8	Rent	59,250.00	62,500.00	76,500.00	76,500.00
9	Supplies	8,988.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	9,000.00
10	Printing	1,183.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
11	Benevolence Interpretation Printing	492.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	500.00
12	Postage	6,859.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	7,000.00
13	Document Management System		3,500.00	3,500.00	-
14	Telephone	4,827.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
15	Software & Maintenance	12,366.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	12,500.00
16	Health insurance	91,912.00	103,000.00	-	-
17	Lay pension program (9% of salaries)	52,979.00	49,023.00	62,099.00	62,099.00
18	Payroll charges	5,080.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,100.00
19	Miscellaneous	1,980.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
20	Continuing Education	2,971.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
21	<b>Subtotal disbursements</b>	<b>260,669.00</b>	<b>266,023.00</b>	<b>190,099.00</b>	<b>189,699.00</b>
22					
23	<b>SALARIES: (includes insurance)</b>				
24	Administrative Assistant / Receptionist	31,680.00	31,680.00	43,680.00	43,680.00
25	Local Church Liaison	41,600.00	41,600.00	53,600.00	53,600.00
26	Office Manager & Statistician	55,049.00	55,049.00	67,049.00	67,049.00
27	Benefits Officer	72,118.00	72,118.00	84,118.00	84,118.00
28	Benefits Assistant	48,079.00	48,079.00	60,079.00	60,079.00
29	Assistant Treasurer	85,394.00	82,394.00	94,394.00	94,394.00
30	Conference Treasurer	107,575.00	102,575.00	114,575.00	114,575.00
31	Salary Increase Pool (All Conference Staff)		15,023.00		
32					
33	<b>Subtotal salaries &amp; extra help</b>	<b>441,495.00</b>	<b>448,518.00</b>	<b>517,495.00</b>	<b>517,495.00</b>
34					
35	FICA (7.65% of salary)	33,092.00	31,252.00	39,588.00	39,588.00
36					
37	<b>Total Finance &amp; Management</b>	<b>735,256.00</b>	<b>745,793.00</b>	<b>747,182.00</b>	<b>746,782.00</b>

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES AND BOARDS (Page 19 Line 37)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Request</b>
Archives and History	31,036.00	31,000.00	31,000.00	31,000.00
Planning Meeting Travel			600.00	600.00
Historical Society	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,650.00
United Methodist Museum	17,747.00	18,300.00	18,300.00	20,300.00
Conference Trustees	1,613.00	2,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Council Finance & Administration	3,074.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Property and Liability Insurance	34,182.00	33,000.00	33,000.00	35,000.00
Unfunded Boards, Agencies, Commissions	1,672.00	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Financial Audit	17,000.00	20,500.00	21,000.00	17,000.00
Conference Secretary				
Honorarium		0.00	0.00	
Expenses	1,717.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00
Conference Journal	14,299.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	15,000.00
Pre-Conference Report	-1,080.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	0.00
Conference Statistical Reporting		0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual Conference	75,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	75,000.00
AC Voting Equipment	25,209.00	25,000.00	0.00	
Conference Legal Resource Fund	686.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Administrative Committees and Boards</b>	<b>226,355.00</b>	<b>216,500.00</b>	<b>202,600.00</b>	<b>230,550.00</b>

CONFERENCE MINISTRIES (Page 19 Line 42)		2015	2015	2016	2017
		Actual	Budget	Budget	Request
1	<b>Income</b>				
2	Conference Ministries Apportionment	496,446.00	503,641.00	501,074.00	478,500.00
3	Miscellaneous Receipts	-			
4	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>496,446.00</b>	<b>503,641.00</b>	<b>501,074.00</b>	<b>478,500.00</b>
5					
6	<b>EXPENSES</b>				
7	<b>SALARIES</b>				
8	Conference Director of Ministries Total	135,340.00	132,340.00	144,340.00	144,340.00
9	Salary	115,340.00	112,340.00	112,340.00	124,340.00
10	Insurance			12,000.00	
11	Housing	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
12	Professional Expenses		-	-	
13	Assistant Center Director Total	85,700.00	82,700.00	94,700.00	94,700.00
14	Salary	72,700.00	69,700.00	69,700.00	81,700.00
15	Insurance			12,000.00	
16	Housing	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
17	Professional Expenses				
18	Administrative Assistant	41,200.00	41,200.00	53,200.00	53,200.00
19	Youth\Young Adult\Camping Coord.	68,074.00	40,000.00	68,074.00	68,074.00
20	Youth & Young Adult Coordinator		16,074.00		
21	Children's Ministries Coordinator	15,840.00	15,840.00	15,840.00	15,840.00
22	VIM Coordinator	15,820.00	16,074.00	16,074.00	16,074.00
23	Wesley Scholar	8,037.00	16,074.00	16,074.00	-
24	Ethnic Ministries Coordinator				
25	Contingency Pool/Salary Increase				
26	Congregational Development				
27	<b>TRAVEL</b>	28,412.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	30,000.00
28					
29	<b>OFFICE EXPENSE</b>				
30	Continuing Education	13,975.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
31	Telephone	4,723.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
32	Staff Pensions	15,298.00	6,675.00	14,553.00	14,553.00
33	Payroll Taxes	10,745.00	10,164.00	11,719.00	11,719.00
34	Health Insurance	36,783.00	60,000.00		
35	Postage	1,478.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
36	Supplies	9,312.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	1,000.00
37	Equipment & Furnishings	3,291.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
38	Miscellaneous	1,021.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
39	Conflict Resolution Team Training	1,397.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	2,000.00
40					
41	<b>Total</b>	<b>496,446.00</b>	<b>503,641.00</b>	<b>501,074.00</b>	<b>478,500.00</b>

<b>CENTER FOR VITALITY (Page 19 Line 44)</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Request</b>
1	Apportionment Revenue	336,238.00	475,334.00	462,052.00	462,960.00
2	CIC Endowment Interest	44,085.00	35,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
3	<b>Total</b>	<b>380,323.00</b>	<b>510,334.00</b>	<b>502,052.00</b>	<b>502,960.00</b>
4					
5	<b>EXPENSES</b>				
6	Center Director Total	127,340.00	127,340.00	139,340.00	139,340.00
7	Salary	112,340.00	112,340.00	112,340.00	124,340.00
8	Insurance			12,000.00	-
9	Housing	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
10	Asst Center Director Clergy Total	90,009.00	83,967.00	95,967.00	109,400.00
11	Salary	75,509.00	69,967.00	69,967.00	94,400.00
12	Insurance			12,000.00	-
13	Housing	14,500.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	15,000.00
14	Asst Center Director Laity Total		93,327.00	106,245.00	95,720.00
15	Salary	-	78,000.00	78,000.00	80,000.00
16	Insurance			12,000.00	
17	FICA	-	5,967.00	6,885.00	6,120.00
18	Pension	-	9,360.00	9,360.00	9,600.00
19	Office Expenses	6,634.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
20	Travel for Center	29,819.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	25,000.00
21	Health Insurance	27,666.00	60,000.00	-	
22	<b>Resourcing Vital Congregations</b>				
23	Congregational Guides Training and Travel	24,944.00	25,000.00	27,000.00	20,000.00
24	Circuit Elders Travel & Training	10,931.00	25,000.00	27,000.00	30,000.00
25	Ministry Tool Box				5,000.00
26	Fital Congregations Initiative				20,000.00
27	Mission Insite Software	9,634.00	11,200.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
28	<b>Leadership Formation</b>				
29	Academy for Spiritual Formation				3,000.00
30	Pastors in Transition Workshops				3,500.00
31	Clergy Recruitment and Formation				3,500.00
32	Coach Approach Skill Training				5,000.00
33	Unleashing Lay Leadership				10,000.00
34	Equipping Clergy				10,000.00
35	Crisis Response Team				3,000.00
36	Interim Pastor Training	2,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
37	Provisional Elder Retreat	-	4,000.00	4,000.00	
38	Courage to Lead	1,214.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
39	Clergy Leadership Development	2,826.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
40	Small Church Academy Training	5,464.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	
41	Small Church Academy				
42	Laity Development	4,685.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
43	Conflict Resolution Team Training		-	-	
44	Preaching Posts				
45	Congregation Vitality	30,100.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	
46	Training/Retreats	1,755.00	2,000.00	12,000.00	
47	Resources	4,802.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
48	<b>Total</b>	<b>380,223.00</b>	<b>510,334.00</b>	<b>502,052.00</b>	<b>502,960.00</b>



<b>CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY (Page 19 Line 45)</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Request</b>
1	Apportionment Income	636,761.00	686,252.00	667,216.00	660,076.00
2	Newspaper Paid Subscriptions	4,173.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
3	Newspaper Paid Advertising	29,090.00	13,500.00	13,500.00	25,000.00
4	Salary Increase Pool		11,824.00		
5	Miscellaneous Receipts	4,032.00			
6	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>674,056.00</b>	<b>719,076.00</b>	<b>688,216.00</b>	<b>692,576.00</b>
7					
8	<b>Department Expenses</b>				
9	Director of Technology	93,177.00	93,177.00	93,177.00	105,177.00
10	Insurance	20,880.00	20,000.00	12,000.00	
11	Pension	11,181.00	11,182.00	12,622.00	12,622.00
12	App Dev/Tier II Specialist	60,229.00	60,229.00	60,229.00	72,229.00
13	Insurance	20,880.00	20,000.00	12,000.00	
14	Pension	7,228.00	7,228.00	8,668.00	8,668.00
15	Comm Tech Specialist	60,565.00	60,565.00	60,565.00	72,565.00
16	Insurance	20,880.00	20,000.00	12,000.00	
17	Pension	7,268.00	7,268.00	8,708.00	8,708.00
18	Training and Marketing Storyteller	65,169.00	60,169.00	60,169.00	72,169.00
19	Insurance	12,180.00	20,000.00	12,000.00	
20	Pension	7,820.00	7,221.00	8,661.00	8,661.00
21	Newspaper Editor	47,518.00	47,518.00	47,518.00	59,518.00
22	Insurance	11,870.00	20,000.00	12,000.00	
23	Pension	5,702.00	5,703.00	7,143.00	7,143.00
24	Tier I/Help-desk Specialist	40,508.00	40,508.00	40,508.00	52,508.00
25	Insurance	10,068.00	11,500.00	12,000.00	
26	Pension	4,861.00	4,861.00	6,301.00	6,301.00
27	MissionConnect	19,292.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	20,000.00
28	Mission Connect Support Salary				
29	Network Expenses	2,130.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00
30	Payroll Tax Expense				
31	Phone\Communications\Internet	4,866.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
32	Hardware\Computer Related Supplies	18,206.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	20,000.00
33	Software Licensing/Maintenance	15,342.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	16,000.00
34	Contracting/Programming Services		10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
35	Conference Website	3,319.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	10,000.00
36	Local Church Resources	8,649.00	10,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
37	Training and Seminars				
38	Travel Expense/Meals/Mileage	19,396.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	25,000.00
39	Professional Fees / Dues	2,601.00	500.00	500.00	3,000.00
40	Rent				
41	Office Expense	3,845.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	4,000.00
42	Other Fees and Services	680.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
43	FICA	27,552.00	24,447.00	24,447.00	29,307.00
44	<b>Newspaper Expenses</b>				
45	Printing & Distribution	16,022.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	20,000.00
46	Postage	24,115.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	25,000.00
47	Supplies		1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
48	Miscellaneous	57.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
49	Digital Edition		1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
50					
51	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>674,056.00</b>	<b>719,076.00</b>	<b>688,216.00</b>	<b>692,576.00</b>

2016 Pre-Conference Journal of the Arkansas Conference

<b>CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES</b> (Page 19 Line 47)		<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
1	<b>Connectional Ministries</b>						
2	Travel Pool (for unbudgeted connectional committees)	281.00	2,000.00	10,900.00	10,900.00	0.00%	11,000.00
3	Launch Teams	8,790.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00%	-
4	Committee on Episcopacy	-	1,000.00	-	-		-
5	Committee on Nominations	-	1,500.00	-	-		-
6	Congregational Development and Expansion	135,000.00	135,000.00	225,000.00	225,000.00	0.00%	197,000.00
7	Missional Local Church Compensation Support			87,000.00	60,000.00	-31.03%	55,000.00
8	Disaster Preparedness & Response	2,614.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00%	3,600.00
9	Volunteers In Mission	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
10	Leadership Development	13,860.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00%	15,000.00
11	Hunger Initiative - 200,000 Reasons			4,000.00	29,000.00	625.00%	29,000.00
12	<b>Total Connectional Ministries</b>	<b>161,545.00</b>	<b>179,100.00</b>	<b>366,500.00</b>	<b>364,500.00</b>	<b>-0.55%</b>	<b>311,600.00</b>
13							
14	<b>Age Level Ministries</b>						
15	Conference Age Level Ministries						
16	Council on Children Ministries	4,678.00	4,750.00	6,350.00	7,350.00	15.75%	7,350.00
17	Council on Youth Ministries	29,050.00	29,050.00	41,550.00	44,500.00	7.10%	44,500.00
18	Council on Young Adult Ministries	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00%	3,000.00
19	Youth and Young Adults	11,200.00	11,200.00	11,200.00	17,200.00	53.57%	17,200.00
20	A Day with the Bishop				3,000.00		3,000.00
21	<b>Total Age Level Ministries</b>	<b>47,428.00</b>	<b>47,500.00</b>	<b>62,100.00</b>	<b>75,050.00</b>	<b>20.85%</b>	<b>75,050.00</b>
22							
23	<b>Board of Church &amp; Society</b>	<b>90.00</b>	<b>2,490.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500.00</b>		<b>500.00</b>
24							
25	<b>Discipleship</b>						
26	Committee on Education	-	1,648.00				
27	Committee on Evangelism	631.00	2,822.00	2,822.00			
28	Committee on Worship		2,900.00	2,900.00			
29	Committee on Stewardship		100.00	100.00			
30	Spiritual Formation			1,000.00			
31	<b>Total Discipleship</b>	<b>631.00</b>	<b>7,470.00</b>	<b>6,822.00</b>	<b>6,822.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>
32							
33	<b>Ethnic Ministries</b>						
34	Committee on Hispanic Ministries						
35	Comm on Native American Ministries						
36	Comm on Ethnic Local Church Concerns						
37	Committee on Religion & Race				3,000.00		-
38	<b>Total Ethnic Ministries</b>	<b>49,821.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>53,000.00</b>	<b>6.00%</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>
39							
40	<b>Global Ministries</b>						
41	BOGM Operating Expense	1,681.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
42	Advocate for Poor	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%	500.00
43	<b>Ark School Christian Mission -Mission U</b>	<b>13,600.00</b>	<b>13,600.00</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>
44	a. Scholarships	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00%	1,400.00
45	Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns		-				
46	a. Interfaith Conference	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00%	8,000.00
47	<b>Church &amp; Community Workers</b>						
48	SE Ch&Comm. Wkr	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,570.00	20,157.00	3.00%	20,157.00
49	Ch&Comm. Wkr -LR	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,570.00	20,157.00	3.00%	20,157.00
50	a. Lay Missioner (Salary)						
51	<b>Committee on Volunteers in Mission</b>	<b>679.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>800.00</b>
52	a. Project Money	1,223.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00%	1,500.00
53	b. Mission Hosting	1,000.00	1,000.00	800.00	800.00	0.00%	800.00
54	Committee on Missionary Personnel	26.00	250.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%	100.00
55	Conf Sec Global Ministrie		500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%	500.00
56	Missionary Itineration	983.00	1,479.00	1,400.00	1,200.00	-14.29%	1,200.00
57	District Seed Money for Mission *						
58	Justice for our Neighbor Program	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%	500.00
59	Justice for our Neighbor Worker (Salary)	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00%	-
60	Micah Mission Award		100.00	-	-		-

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CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES (Page 19 Line 47)		2015	2015	2016	2017	%	2017
		Actual	Budget	Budget	Request	Change	Recommended
61	Parish & Comm Dev Admin		100.00	-	-		-
62	<b>Total Global Ministries</b>	<b>77,292.00</b>	<b>80,129.00</b>	<b>79,840.00</b>	<b>80,814.00</b>	<b>1.22%</b>	<b>70,814.00</b>
63							
64	<b>Higher Education &amp; Campus Ministries</b>						
65	Beginning New Campus Ministries	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			
66	Board Training and Development	6,162.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			
67	Training and Mentoring Potential Campus Ministers	9,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			
68	Training and Resourcing Current Campus Ministers	2,809.00	5,000.00	5,000.00			
69	Wesley Foundation - ASU	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
70	Wesley Foundation - ATU	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
71	Wesley Foundation - HSU	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
72	Wesley Foundation - SAU	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
73	Wesley Foundation - U of A	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
74	Wesley Foundation - UALR	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
75	Wesley Foundation - UAM	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
76	Wesley Foundation - UAPB	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
77	Wesley Foundation - UCA	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00			
78	Board of Higher Ed Operations	4,197.00	2,000.00	2,000.00			
79	Maintenance Grant Wesley Foundations (matching)	43,251.00	45,000.00	45,000.00			
80	Campus Ministry Grant Funding		-				
81	<b>Total Higher Education &amp; Campus</b>	<b>765,476.00</b>	<b>772,057.00</b>	<b>772,057.00</b>	<b>847,057.00</b>	<b>9.71%</b>	<b>825,000.00</b>
82							
83	<b>Board of Laity</b>						
84	Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders						
85	Dues and Annual Meeting Fee	490.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00%	300.00
86	Annual Meeting Travel/Lodging/Meals	1,138.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,400.00	-6.67%	1,400.00
87	Annual Meeting Travel/Lodging/Meals (Assoc)				1,400.00		1,400.00
88	Annual Conference						
89	Laity Event Speaker or Other Costs	-	1,000.00	750.00			
90	Lay Leader Annual Conference Expense	549.00	900.00	900.00	800.00	-11.11%	800.00
91	Lay Leader Annual Conference Expense (Assoc)				800.00		800.00
92	Board of Laity						
93	Board of Laity Member Travel	179.00	800.00	800.00	300.00	-62.50%	300.00
94	Training and Equiping Classes to ARUMC Laity			750.00	200.00	-73.33%	200.00
95	<b>Subtotal Lay Leader</b>	<b>2,356.00</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>4.00%</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>
96							
97	<b>Director of Lay Servant Ministries</b>						
98	Annual Dues	200.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	0.00%	200.00
99	ACDLSM Convocation Expenses - Director	1,140.00	1,500.00	1,100.00	1,000.00	-9.09%	1,000.00
100	ACDLSM Convocation Expenses - 2 Dist. Dir. (1/2)			1,100.00	1,000.00	-9.09%	1,000.00
101	Mileage and Meals/LSM travel and Meetings	727.00	750.00	300.00	300.00	0.00%	300.00
102	Mileage and Meals/LSM Meetings with each DS			400.00	400.00	0.00%	400.00
103	Mileage and Meals/Conference-wide Classes		250.00	200.00	200.00	0.00%	200.00
104	ACDLSM Annual Conference Expense	689.00	900.00	900.00	900.00	0.00%	900.00
105	<b>Subtotal Lay Servant Ministries</b>	<b>2,756.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>4,200.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>-4.76%</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>
106	<b>Total Board of Laity</b>	<b>5,112.00</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>
107							
108	<b>Outdoor Ministries</b>						
109	<b>Institutional Support</b>						
110	Mount Eagle	57,000.00	57,000.00	57,000.00	57,000.00	0.00%	57,000.00
111	Camp Tanako	55,000.00	55,000.00	61,500.00	63,500.00	3.25%	61,500.00
112	Shoal Creek			3,450.00	16,000.00	363.77%	3,450.00
113	Wayland Springs			3,450.00	35,000.00	914.49%	3,450.00
114	Bear Creek		-	3,450.00	10,000.00	189.86%	3,450.00
115	<b>Programming</b>						
116	Outdoor Ministries Programming Grants	47,325.00	47,800.00	37,650.00	37,650.00	0.00%	37,650.00
117	Programming and Marketing for Camping and Retreat			15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00%	15,000.00
118	<b>Total Outdoor Ministries</b>	<b>159,325.00</b>	<b>159,800.00</b>	<b>181,500.00</b>	<b>234,150.00</b>	<b>29.01%</b>	<b>181,500.00</b>
119							
120	<b>Committee on Status &amp; Role of Women</b>	1,404.00	1,800.00	2,500.00			
121	<b>Connectional Allowance</b>	-	200,000.00	200,000.00			
122							
123	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,268,124.00</b>	<b>1,508,346.00</b>	<b>1,730,519.00</b>	<b>1,671,093.00</b>	<b>-3.43%</b>	<b>1,525,164.00</b>

# Board of Ordained Ministry

## BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY 2016 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE POLICY STATEMENT 3/9/16

### 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 shall review its policy statement annually, revising it as needed and presenting it to the Annual Conference for approval.

### SECTION II: CANDIDACY, ¶ 310

- A. The Inquiring Candidate first contacts the pastor of the local church or other authorized ministry setting, to share the ministry call.
- B. Candidates shall utilize the Arkansas Conference Checklist which outlines the complete candidacy process found at <http://arumc.org/forms/>.
- C. Candidates 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 sends Form AR020 to the Office of Ordained Ministry and a copy to the candidate. The certified candidate shall complete the District Committee on Ordained Ministry Approval Report on UMCARES.
- C. Persons appointed as local pastors are clergy members of the Annual Conference (¶ 315). They are no longer listed as certified candidates (¶ 602.1). 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.
- B. Local Pastors shall enroll in the Basic Five-Year Course of Study

- (COS) and successfully complete per ¶318.
  - C. 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.
  - D. 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.
  - E. Local pastors shall be assigned a clergy mentor until all educational requirements have been completed. The mentor submits annually a Mentor's Discernment Report (AR080), filed with the dCOM Registrar prior to the local pastor's annual dCOM interview.
  - F. The local pastor 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.
  - G. 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 ¶ 222.
  - H. 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.
  - I. Local Pastor Transfers: Prior to interview with the dCOM for transfer, the minister shall submit answers to the Wesley's Historic questions (¶ 310.1.d). After examination of credentials and evaluation of educational records by GBHEM, the BOM may recommend that the transferring minister be received as a local pastor (¶ 347). A minister seeking admittance in the United Methodist Church as a local pastor transferring from another denomination shall serve a minimum of two years as a local pastor under the credentials from another denomination prior to applying for transfer into conference membership. The minister shall complete the assessment package and Local Pastor License School prior to appointment. The minister shall complete UM History, Polity and Doctrine within two years of appointment.
- ### SECTION V: ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP, ¶ 321-322
- A. Applicants shall meet the requirements outlined in ¶ 322.
  - B. The applicant for associate membership shall consult the District Superintendent, complete Form 105, Application for Clergy Relationship to the Annual Conference, and submit the completed form to the District Superintendent and the BOM Office by October 1.
  - C. The dCOM shall interview the applicant as a candidate for associate membership, considering educational and documentary requirements, pastoral experience and effectiveness, and form a recommendation to the Conference Board. The dCOM shall send to the BOM Office by November 1, the applicant's Form 105, the District Superintendent's letter of recommendation, and the Action Report. These documents are also filed with the District Registrar.
  - D. The Conference Registrar shall inform the applicant by December 1 about the written assignments to be prepared in advance of the BOM interview, the deadline for those assignments, and the date and time for appearing before the BOM (normally a BOM Meeting in late February or early March).
  - E. The BOM shall interview the applicant. If favorably approved, the recommendation is presented to the Clergy Session of the annual conference.
  - F. Associate members desiring to change relationship to an ordination track as a provisional elder or deacon must first obtain approval

from the BOM before taking other steps in the application process.

SECTION VI: PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP ¶ 324

- A. Applicants must complete all educational requirements prior to election to provisional membership. In addition the following 4 courses must be completed.
  - a course in basic pastoral care;
  - a course in Wesleyan theology beyond UM, History, Polity and Doctrine;
  - a course in preaching for those anticipating ordination as an elder or a course in worship beyond the required course for those anticipating ordination as a deacon;
  - a course in church administration/leadership.
- B. Seminarians seeking ordination who have matriculated after the fall of 2010 must complete these four courses. All seminary courses required by the Discipline and conference rules require a "C" or better grade.
- C. Beginning January 2011, no one entering a seminary degree program seeking ordination shall enroll in Distance Learning courses except for those offered by the 13 United Methodist seminaries and Asbury Theological Seminary. Beginning in January 2011, no more than 2/3 of the degree requirements may be completed through distance learning for all UM seminaries and Asbury. Persons enrolled in other seminaries prior to January 2011 may complete no more than 1/3 of the degree through Distance Learning courses.
- D. Associate members and local pastors may apply for provisional membership outlined in ¶ 324.6. They must complete the additional four courses.
- 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 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 members serving outside the Arkansas conference. During the second year of the RIM program, the provisional member may apply for ordination and membership in full connection.
- J. To make application for Full Connection, the Provisional member shall complete Form 105, Application for Clergy Relationship, and sends the form to the BOM Office by October 1. The Cabinet shall provide a recommendation letter concerning a provisional member's application for Full Connection to the BOM Office by November 1.

SECTION VII: TRANSFERS ¶ 347

- A. All ministers with approved credentials shall complete the Arkansas License School Arkansas before being appointed except United Methodists from other annual conference. ¶ 347.2 and 347.3
- B. Ministers seeking to serve and/or transfer into United Methodist

- ministry shall complete the Ministerial Assessment Packet required of UM candidates - Candidacy Mentor's Request for the Psychological Assessment Packet (Form AR055); Personal Data Inventory (Form AR051); Psychological Assessment Release (Form AR052); Background Check Release (Form AR053); Medical Report (Form AR054). Ministers seeking transfer into United Methodist ministry from another denomination shall not join a local United Methodist church, but shall arrange to have the BOM evaluate their credentials and educational record to determine if they are eligible for transfer into provisional membership with recognition of orders, or should be received as a local pastor.
- C. Ministers whose credentials have been approved shall serve under appointment for a minimum of two years before applying for transfer into provisional membership.
- D. Ministers seeking transfer into conference membership shall complete the United Methodist courses UM History, Polity, and Doctrine before being received into provisional membership.
- E. Applying for Transfer as a Provisional Member:
  - 1) The minister seeking transfer into provisional membership shall apply to the dCOM, using Form 105, requesting a recommendation for provisional membership.
  - 2) The dCOM shall interview the minister and act on the request for recommendation. When the dCOM has approved the recommendation toward provisional membership, the applicant's Form 105, the dCOM Action Report (AR020), and a letter of recommendation from the District Superintendent are placed in the recommended person's dCOM file.
  - 3) The transferring minister's completed dCOM file is delivered to the Office of Ordained Ministry by November 1.
  - 4) The BOM shall interview the minister applying using the written assignments including the Disciplinary Questions (¶ 310.1.d) and the Autobiographical/Call Statement (¶ 324.2.a). The BOM will determine if the minister shall be recommended for provisional membership or as a local pastor.
  - 5) Ministers received by transfer into provisional membership shall participate in the Residency in Ministry program before becoming eligible to apply for full connection.

SECTION VIII: FINANCIAL AID

- A. Local Pastor's Licensing School: The cost to Arkansas students attending the Arkansas Local Pastor License School (LPLS) is currently \$350. Some funds may be available for students attending other schools outside of our conference boundaries. Approval for these funds must come from the Dean of the Arkansas Conference Local Pastor License School prior to class participation.
- B. Course of Study: Financial Assistance, based on need and the availability of funds, will be 50% of tuition, normal fees, room and board for full- or part-time students in the basic Course of Study; 100% reimbursement of tuition for courses taken in the Arkansas Extension Course of Study School available for part-time local pastors and 50% reimbursement of tuition for those who successfully complete correspondence courses (not to exceed 4 courses). The Board does not pay for repeated courses.
- C. Seminary Financial Aid: Through the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) apportionment, the BOM may provide loans to certified candidates who are attending University senate approved seminaries. The Arkansas Annual Conference retains one fourth of the monies paid for the MEF apportionment for this fund. This is the only source of funds for service loans, and disbursements cannot exceed income in any fiscal year. Funds will be budgeted equally for the fall and spring semesters. The loan amount is determined after the application deadline. Loans will not exceed 40% of tuition per semester unless there is a surplus in the fall semester. The seminary registrar shall have the discretion to disburse any surplus funds at an equal percentage for all semester applicants. Students attending United Methodist seminaries can receive a maximum of \$10,000 per year in loans. Students at other University Senate approved

seminaries can receive a maximum of \$7,000 per year in loans.	1	penses for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Travel cannot be	70
D. Students will not receive funds to repeat a failed, dropped or incomplete course.	2	included as a projected expense.	71
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.	3	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.	72
F. For the 2016-2017 academic year, the following policy will be followed for disbursing funds.	4		73
G. Eligibility:	5	H. Sabbatical Leave: All issues concerning Sabbatical leave will follow the guidelines of ¶352, with the addition of those requesting Sabbatical will include their plan with start and end dates.	74
• Certified Candidate for ordination;	6		75
• Approved by the BOM;	7		76
• Attending a University Senate approved seminary; and	8		77
• Is not a recipient of a full scholarship grant from the United Methodist Foundation.	9		78
H. Applications can be downloaded from www.arumc.org or obtained from a District Superintendent. Applications and all supporting documentation must be received by September 15 for the fall semester, February 1 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.	10	SECTION X: CHANGES OF CONFERENCE RELATIONSHIP 353-362	79
I. Reimbursement for UM History, Polity, and Doctrine courses will be paid at 40% of the tuition cost.	11	A. The Conference Relations Committee (CRC) shall consist of at least 3 persons to hear requests as listed in 635.1 (d)	80
J. Persons who have completed the basic course of study may wish to become provisional members by the alternate route (see ¶ 324.6). Prior to enrollment, they must receive BOM approval. They must complete the 32 hours of graduate theological studies. Up to 40% of tuition, not to exceed \$10,000 annually, will be provided.	12	B. All requests for a change in Conference relationship shall be made in writing to the BOM and will be reviewed by the CRC which shall report its recommendations to the BOM.	81
K. Deacon candidates on the professional certification route toward ordination (see ¶ 324.5) will also receive up to 40% of tuition not to exceed \$10,000 annually.	13	C. Request for change of relationship to Voluntary Leave of Absence – Personal/Family (¶ 353 and 354) must be made at least ninety (90) days prior to Annual Conference and document specific reasons for the request. The BOM Secretary shall record in the BOM minutes the specific reasons for the request. A copy of the written request shall be placed in the person's file.	82
L. Arkansas United Methodist Foundation Seminary Scholarship – Certified candidates for Elders orders is eligible to apply online for this scholarship provided through The Arkansas United Methodist Foundation. Scholarship applicants must have been accepted by a United Methodist Seminary as a full-time student. Applications are due March 1. An interview-selection team of the BOM shall make the determination of the awarding of this scholarship. Two years of service in the conference per year of scholarship received is expected.	14		83
	15		84
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	21		90
	22	D. 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.	91
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	30		99
	31	E. 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 his/her effort to obtain such an appointable position to the Bishop and the Board's Executive Committee. (¶ 353 and 354)	100
	32		101
	33		102
	34		103
	35		104
	36		105
	37	F. Request for change of relationship to Honorable Location (¶ 353 and 35) shall be made at least ninety (90) days prior to Annual Conference stating that the person intends to discontinue service in the itinerant ministry. The CRC shall meet with the person requesting Honorable Location to offer guidance and counsel as appropriate during this transition. The BOM Secretary shall record in the BOM minutes the specific reasons for the request. A copy of the written request shall be placed in the person's file. While on Honorable Location, the person shall report annually to the CRC including a report of any ministerial functions performed.	106
	38		107
	39		108
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	44		113
	45		114
	46		115
	47	G. Request for change of relationship to Medical Leave (¶ 357)	116
	48	a. The Conference Benefits Officer will provide the person requesting a change in Conference relationship to Medical Leave with the appropriate application packet.	117
	49		118
	50		119
	51	H. 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.	120
	52		121
	53		122
	54		123
	55	I. Withdrawal (¶ 361)	124
	56	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.	125
	57		126
	58		127
	59		128
	60	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.	129
	61		130
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	65		134
	66	J. Readmission to Conference Relationship (¶ 365, 366, 367, 368 and 369)	135
	67		136
	68	1) All requests for readmission to Conference Membership with the Ar-	137
	69		138
SECTION IX: CONTINUING EDUCATION ¶ 351			
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.			
C. All clergy under full-time appointment with charge conference compensation of less than \$50,000 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, <a href="http://www.gbhem.org/continued.html">http://www.gbhem.org/continued.html</a> .)			
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 ex-			

kansas 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 (Paragraph 365-369) 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, Little Rock, AR 72205.

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

## Committee on Episcopacy

With this report and with the South Central Jurisdictional Conference meeting in July, we wrap up our first quadrennial with Bishop Gary Mueller. He was asked to work with our Imagine Ministry plans and trajectory as a starting point to move us forward in the fulfillment of those plans and dreams as he felt led by God. He has done exactly that.

- The bishop has established a process to guide the Cabinet and himself to make mission field appointments. This process gathers data from church and non-church resources, receives input from pastors and congregational leaders, develops strategic plans for churches and districts and involves lots of prayer and worship for spiritual discernment, before pairing pastors and congregations to specific mission fields to make disciples of Jesus Christ. One of the results of this process is an historic appointment of a female pastor to Arkansas' largest United Methodist congregation. Another result is an improvement in the metrics for vital congregations; some negative trends

1 have slowed and some positive trends are emerging. 70  
 2 - Alignment of resources towards the Conference trajectory of "Cre- 71  
 3 ating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make 72  
 4 disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world" 73  
 5 required hard work and soul searching. Through the constant monitor- 74  
 6 ing of metrics, outcomes and a focus upon making disciples of Jesus 75  
 7 Christ, Bishop Mueller constantly moves us closer to a more unified 76  
 8 alignment of our resources to our purpose. 77  
 9 - With an emphasis upon the mission field versus focusing upon 78  
 10 ourselves, with constant movement towards alignment of resources 79  
 11 with our mission and Conference trajectory, Bishop Mueller worked with 80  
 12 the Conference CFA to move from an apportionment formula to an ap- 81  
 13 portionment tithe. Reasserting the spiritual dimensions of stewardship 82  
 14 into our conversations and plans regarding funding, apportionments will 83  
 15 be based upon a tithe of local church finances. What is received from 84  
 16 the local churches through the tithe will be the basis of the Conference 85  
 17 budget. This is a big step of faith and spirit for all of us. 86  
 18 - Sensing that the Holy Spirit has been working with and through all 87  
 19 the changes that have taken place within mission field appointments, 88  
 20 alignment of resources and the stewardship of the tithe, Bishop Mueller 89  
 21 has lifted up spiritual revival as the biggest change that we need to 90  
 22 fulfill our purpose, mission and trajectory. Spiritual revival has been 91  
 23 the emphasis of our district and Charge Conferences, of district-wide 92  
 24 meetings, of resources for local churches (especially for Lent) and ev- 93  
 25 ery aspect of our ministries. If the increase of youth and Confirmation 94  
 26 rallies and the high number of enrollment of our Grow by One Summit 95  
 27 are any indication, then Spiritual Revival has begun. 96  
 28 We also know that we have just begun, four years is not enough. It 97  
 29 will take years more of dedicated work in the same direction before the 98  
 30 full affects of our changes and Spiritual Revival are realized. Therefore, 99  
 31 we are asking the South Central Jurisdictional Committee on the Epis- 100  
 32 copacy to reassign Bishop Gary Mueller to the Arkansas Conference. 101

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Rev. Rodney G. Steele,**  
**Chair**

## Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits

1. The Arkansas Conference Employer Health Insurance Plan 110  
 terminated December 31, 2015. CoreSource will process eligible claims 111  
 through June 2016. Make sure any claims incurred prior to January 1, 112  
 2016 are submitted to them prior to June 15, 2016. 113  
 Medical & Vision Claims are mailed to: 114  
 CoreSource, Inc. Little Rock 115  
 Post Office Box 8215 116  
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72221-8215 117  
 1-888-604-9397 or 501-221-9905 118  
 119  
 Dental Claims are mailed to: 120  
 Delta Dental of Arkansas 121  
 Post Office Box 15965 122  
 NLR, Arkansas 72231 123  
 1-800-462-5410 (Providers call) Members call CoreSource 124  
 125

2. Effective January 1, 2016, ALL Clergy are responsible for enrolling 126  
 and paying for family healthcare coverage. The Board of Pension and 127  
 Health Benefits recommend that on January 1, 2016 charges with full- 128  
 time appointments increase the taxable compensation of the clergy 129  
 positions by a minimum of \$12,000. The adjustment should ease any 130  
 financial burden on the church and clergy. 131  
 a. Because clergy will have their own healthcare in place effective 132  
 January 1, 2016, clergy who request Medical Leave and apply for CPP 133  
 Disability benefits will continue to be responsible for healthcare costs. 134  
 When eligible for Medicare, you must enroll in Medicare Parts A & B at 135  
 your own cost. The Arkansas Board of Pension and Health Benefits will 136  
 provide a healthcare premium stipend based on qualified years of service 137  
 138

when you become eligible for Medicare.

**FOR NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES, PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE WWW.ARUMC.ORG** or you may contact our representative: Mona Williams, CBO-HIPAA Compliance Department-Arkansas United Methodist Conference Employee Group Plan, P.O. Box 3611, Little Rock, AR. 72203 mwilliams@arumc.org.

**2015 Conference Healthcare Plan Costs:**

Drug claims	\$1,083,524
Delta dental claims	92,961
Medical & Vision claims	\$2,711,676
Total paid claims	\$3,888,161
Administrative cost	244,464
Plan Cost	\$4,123,512
Rebates & Subsidy	- 114,026
Total Plan Cost	\$4,009,486

\*Total Plan Cost was reduced by Caremark & MedTrak rebates of \$114,026.

**Virgin Pulse Conference Sponsored Walking Program:**

The board has approved using Healthcare Reserves to continue to provide funding for the Virgin Pulse Walking Program in 2017. However because of low participation and because most Marketplace healthcare include a fitness component, the board will terminate Virgin Pulse on December 31, 2017.

As an active member of the Arkansas Conference, you can still join the Virgin Healthmiles 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**

Clip on your GoZone activity tracker each morning. Get active throughout the day and watch the steps stack up. Plug your GoZone into your computer to upload your steps (we recommend once per week). Keep track of all your activity on LifeZone- Your personal HealthMiles 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? Contact the Conference Center Benefits Office.

\*You must be 18 years of age and actively appointed.

**PENSION BENEFITS:**

The Arkansas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is also charged with the work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance and pensioning of the clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the UMC, its institutions, organizations, and agencies within the Annual Conference, except as otherwise provided for by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. They continue to accept responsibility for providing financial assistance to retired clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses who are now responsible for their own healthcare. The stipend is based on clergy eligible years of service. Participants who are Medicare eligible will receive the stipend through an HRA. The board works closely with the General Board of Pension of The UMC which provides excellent counsel, interpretation and guidance in our pension program.

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. Pension Plan enrollment is the responsibility of the participant and must be done no later than 30 days from the eligibility date. Enrollment forms must be sent to Conference Benefits Officer, Mona Williams, at the Conference Office of Finance and Administration, P.O. Box 3611 Little Rock, AR 72203-3611.

Effective January 1, 2014 clergy serving less than full-time are not eligible to participate in the mandated pension program CRSP. We encourage these churches to provide a pension contribution to the United Methodist Personal Pension Plan (UMPIP) for less than full-time clergy.

**Retired Clergy:**  
Retired Clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses were removed from the Conference Healthcare Plan on Dec. 31st, 2014. Surviving spouses yet eligible for Medicare may be eligible for a Healthcare premium stipend. See guidelines below.

**2016 Retiree Healthcare Premium Stipend Allocation:**

In order to be eligible for a conference healthcare premium stipend 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 the former North Arkansas Conference, former Little Rock Conference or the Arkansas Conference. If you are retired and not currently receiving a conference Healthcare premium stipend you are not eligible to receive the stipend.

The stipend will be a fixed dollar amount based on the maximum healthcare premium stipend. Eligible years of service will determine the amount of the stipend. Additional years of service above 40 have no effect on the healthcare premium stipend.

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

• The first ten years of service will accrue at 2% of the maximum premium gift or MPG per year:

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

**Minimum Healthcare Stipend Added:**

The maximum healthcare stipend is \$200 for clergy and \$150 for spouses. Effective January 1, 2016 the board will institute a minimum healthcare stipend benefit of \$50 per month.

Clergy who are married at the time of retirement will be given a supplemental spousal gift. If clergy remarry while in retirement the spousal supplement does not transfer to the new spouse. If the spouse outlives the participant, the spouse supplement will continue. As of July 1, 2016 a surviving spouse who remarries will not be penalized.

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

**Clergy on Medical Leave receiving CPP Disability Benefits:**

• Clergy currently appointed to Medical Leave receiving CPP Disability benefits and who is Eligible for Medicare should enroll in Medicare B and purchase a Medicare Supplement and Drug Plan. Having met these guidelines you would be eligible to receive a Healthcare Premium Stipend using the guidelines above through the HRA. Approved Medical Leave is a Conference responsible appointment.

**Methodist Healthcare 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. The cost is minimal and the benefits are great. Beginning January 1, 2017 the program will be funded through apportionments. The benefit is not guaranteed and will be reviewed annually. The Methodist Healthcare EAP has been a leader in the Memphis community for over 25 years. We are pleased to offer this service to our clergy and their households. EAP can help with many of life's challenges such as family issues, marital concerns, alcohol and drug abuse, anxiety, depression, major life events, grief,



work concerns and managing the stress of everyday life. The program offers 6 counseling sessions to you and members of your household, free of charge. In most cases, short-term counseling is all the help you'll need. However, if a referral outside the EAP is necessary, the EAP counselor will seek the best resources for your situation. Counseling outside the EAP will require use of insurance or self-pay. Use of the EAP and issues discussed in all sessions are held in strict confidence. Rest assured that your private health information remains confidential and can only be released outside the EAP with your written consent or when required by law such as in life threatening situations or child/elder abuse. All Arkansas Conference clergy; whether full time, part time, retired or disabled as well as members of your household are eligible to participate. People who live within 50 miles of the two EAP offices in Memphis will use that resource. For all others, there are affiliate counselors throughout Arkansas to serve you and your family. For more information about the Methodist Healthcare EAP, please visit their website at [www.methodisteapcanhelp.org](http://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. Look for more information from the Methodist Healthcare EAP throughout the year via a monthly newsletter.

**Clergy Retirement and Pension Plans:**

1. The 2017 Past Service Rate (pre-1982) known as the PSA is \$577.00.
2. Surviving spouses eligible for spousal pension benefits will receive benefits at 75% of the formula benefit rate for pre-1982 service.
3. The 2004 General Conference voted to end the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) as of December 31, 2006. The current pension plan Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) began January 1, 2007 and is made up of 2 components, a defined benefit and a defined contribution. Effective July 1, 2016 the board will reduce the DB multiplier by 1%. The calculations for clergy pension benefits are:
  - a. The monthly CRSP- DB benefit is 9% (July 1, 2016 forward reduce to 8%) of eligible "Plan" compensation. The CRSP-DC benefit is 2% non-matching contribution and 1% matching of eligible "Plan" compensation. "Plan" compensation as defined by the GBOP includes parsonage equivalent or housing allowance
4. The contributions for the death and disability plan CPP (D&D) premiums for eligible full-time appointed clergy are 3% of eligible plan compensation up to 200% of the DAC.
5. Participants must contribute a minimum of 1% of eligible "Plan" compensation including parsonage equivalent or housing allowance to their Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) in order to receive the full employer CRSP-DC contribution.
6. Beginning January 1, 2016 active clergy pension and welfare benefit costs are paid 100% by the appointive church through conference direct bill. The Ministerial Support apportionment line will provide funds for the Clergy EAP program, retiree/surviving spouse healthcare premium stipends, conference responsible extension ministry benefits and healthcare premium stipends for clergy on approved Medical Leave.
7. Allowance grants and local expenses of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits are paid by the GBOP or the Conference Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and meet 2012 *Book of Discipline* guidelines. The board has approved a living grant for Rev. Lloyd Smith effective 7/1/2009 in the amount of \$359.00.
8. 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.
9. Attention is called to ¶1506.5 in the 2012 *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) in 2017 the churches shall pay a total of \$1,255,000 as apportioned for 2017. That total is broken down as:
  - Healthcare premium stipends for disabled clergy on approved medical leave shall be \$65,000.00.
  - Healthcare premium stipends for retirees & spouses shall be

10. We remind all pastors and local churches of ¶639.4 in the 2012 *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.
11. ¶639.4 of the 2012 *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. According to our Conference Treasurer, for 2015 the following churches were in default for the direct billed clergy retirement & CPP premiums by the following amounts:
 

Canvas-Community	\$8,064.00	
Grace-Conway	\$2,700.02	
Hunter-LR	\$6,243.76	
Parkview-Benton	\$1,578.86	
Trinity-LR	\$2,781.00	
Griffin Memorial	\$8,250.12	
Saint Paul-Jonesboro	\$1,516.49	
Trumann	\$ 194.84	
Living Waters	\$1,990.05	
Ozark	\$ 391.93	
Woodlands	\$4,386.40	
Ellis Chapel	\$ 797.22	
McElroy	\$ 398.49	
Redfield	\$2,398.36	
Wesley-Pine Bluff	\$1,064.09	
Mineral Springs	\$2,158.02	
Total	\$ 44,913.65	
13. Notice of claims for pension credit shall be made in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer, P.O. Box 3611, Little Rock, AR 72203-3611.
14. 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 ¶1506.3 (2), 2012 *Book of Discipline*, be enforced.
15. Copies of individual service records may be obtained from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 1901 Chestnut Ave, Glenview, IL 60025-1604 toll-free 800-851-2201.
16. 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.
17. Please notify the Conference Center Benefit Office when:

- a. A death in the immediate family occurs;
- b. A change in mailing address or income occurs;
- c. A change of beneficiary is desired;
- d. Information relative to pension matters is needed;
- e. To enroll in pensions programs;
- f. Request for retirement is made to the bishop, cabinet, and board of ordained ministry;
- g. You have a question of annuity credit for past service.
- h. You have questions about healthcare.

**2016 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;

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of

utilities in such year. Each Clergyperson or former Clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as housing allowance exclusion.

**Submitted, Rev. Dennis Spence, Chairperson**  
**Todd Burris, Treasurer**  
**Mona Williams, Benefits Officer**  
**Date: 4/05/2016**

## Equitable Compensation Commission

For 69 years financial support has been extended to churches in order to provide salary for God's servants.

The Equitable Compensation Commission of the Arkansas Annual Conference has the opportunity to extend the love of Jesus by working in this very important arm of the church. The additional responsibility of setting minimum compensation salary for Elders, Provisional Elders, and Local pastors enables local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ by providing appropriate compensation for effective pastoral leadership.

Our Bishop has challenged us to "communicate intentionally, consistently and in a variety of ways the story of how local congregations are becoming vital in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world." One sure way of this happening in our conference is in the support of those churches that have been identified as Key Charge and Minimum Base Charges/Churches.

It is the mission of the Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) to enable charge/churches in making disciples of Jesus Christ by providing appropriate compensation for effective pastoral leadership. The CEC is requesting \$90,000 for the 2017 budget.

**MINIMUM COMPENSATION SUPPORT:**

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends that the 2016 Minimum Compensation Payment Schedule be set as printed below. This includes a 2% cost of living increase for the year. The guidelines, having been established and proven to be effective, will remain the same as printed in this report.

Full Connection	Provisional/Associate Member	Local Pastor
\$46,920	\$45,900	\$44,880

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
\$34,920	\$33,900	\$32,880

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

2. Associate Pastors (not to be confused with Associate Members of the Conference) are not eligible for Minimum Compensation Aid.

3. Retired Pastors are not eligible for Minimum Compensation Aid. See Paragraph 358.6, *2012 Book of Discipline*.

4. Each charge/church receiving Minimum Base Compensation Support shall provide the amount(s) received from the Arkansas Conference for the past five (5) years. We further require that each local church describe how they will reduce this support through the local church's ministry plan. Each church receiving compensation shall report to the commission each year at the consultation date with their district superintendent. The report form is available from the district superintendent and the Arkansas Conference website at arumc.org.

**I. 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 Commission on Equitable Compensation by a covenant agreement. The covenant is negotiated by the Chair of the Commission, the district superintendent, and representatives of the charge/church. The persons, or their successors, shall be the trustees of the covenant, having verified it with their signatures.

The covenant shall include:

1. The initial amount of the Base Compensation Support needed,
2. The duration of the covenant (normally 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.

**II. MINIMUM BASE COMPENSATION SUPPORT:**

The minimum base compensation program is intended to assist in providing compensation for capable, effective pastoral leadership to charge/churches which function in areas of extreme economic limitation and which are unable to provide a viable level of pastoral support. Where charge/churches are in need of additional compensation in order to meet the Minimum Compensation Base Support, this support is available to Full Connection Elders, Provisional/Associate (not to be confused with associate pastors), and Full Time Local Pastors. The minimum base compensation is set annually by the Bishop, Cabinet and Annual Conference for Elders, Provisional/Associate Members and Full Time Local Pastors. Minimum Base Compensation Support for Charges/Churches are related to the Commission on Equitable Compensation by a covenant agreement. The covenant is negotiated by the Chair of the Commission, the district superintendent, and representatives of the charge/church. The persons, or their successors, shall be the trustees of the covenant, having verified it with their signatures.

It is understood that:

1. A parsonage or a housing allowance shall be provided in addition to the set salary.
2. Associate Pastors (not to be confused with Associate Members) are not eligible for minimum compensation aid.
3. Retired Pastors are not eligible for minimum compensation aid Paragraph 358.6, *2012 Book of Discipline*.
4. Each church receiving minimum base compensation support shall report annually the amount(s) received from the conference for the past five (5) years. We further require that each local church describes how it will reduce this support through the local church's ministry plan.

**III. EQUITABLE COMPENSATION COVENANT:**

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

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

**IV. 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 apportionments 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 Commission on Equitable Compensation.
- 3.) All Commission on Equitable Compensation funding relates to pastoral support only. Using funds for any other purpose, such as program cost or other compensation violates the agreement.
- 4.) Equitable Compensation funds are paid directly to the church/charge by the fifteenth (15th) of each month. The compensation shall be paid to the pastor as a supplement to funds budgeted by the charge/church. The calendar year of support is from July 1 through June 30.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**Rev. David A. Moore, Chairman**

## Standing Rules of the Arkansas Annual Conference

### Rationale for Proposed Changes in Standing Rules, Structure and Conference Session Rules

The current Standing Rules and Structure comprise nearly 108 pages. The proposed changes reduce this to 13 pages, and provides clarity about the appropriate role of Standing Rules, Structure and Session Rules of Order, simplicity, consistency and greater transparency.

The Standing Rules of the Arkansas Conference function as the foundational definition of mission, ministry, organization and administration. The proposed changes offer clearer focus to these functions, as well as greater simplicity. Two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting is recommended for any proposed future changes since they would involve the most basic matters related to the Arkansas Annual Conference.

The Structure of the Annual Conference is comprised of those components mandated by *The Book of Discipline* and those that are allowable. Much of the current Structure is merely a re-statement of what is contained in *The Book of Discipline*. The proposed changes in Structure remove much of this language and replace it with appropriate references to *The Discipline*, provide editorial authority to the Conference Secretary to reflect changes mandated in any future *Book of Discipline* and calls for a super-majority of 60 percent (60%) to amend the Structure.

A significant proposed change in The Standing Rules would enable the Annual Conference to adopt Session Rules by majority vote during each opening business session of a regular or called session of Annual Conference. The Annual Conference Session Planning Committee will propose these Conference Session Rules each year and they will be published in *The Pre-Conference Journal*. This will enable each Annual Conference session to determine how to best carry out its work with greater flexibility and nimbleness.

### Chapter One GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Section I The Arkansas Conference Mission

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

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

**Par. 103. Core Measures**

1. We will be enriched by our Wesleyan heritage of scriptural holiness so that we are connected by our mission of making disciples instead of being connected by our apportionments, appointments and benefits.

2. We will establish the mission field as the primary focus of our attention and resources instead of directing the majority of our attention and resources to mere maintenance of congregations and clergy.

3. We will equip laity and clergy to transform individuals, communities

and the world instead of trying to satisfy personal preferences of current members and ensure congregational preservation.

4. We will address the unique context of each mission field instead of depending on standardized programs and structures.

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

**Section II Standing Rules**

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

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

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

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

**Par. 109. 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. 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. 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. Flexibility** 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% super majority of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to change

the Conference Structure.

**Section II. Officers**

**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, Extended Cabinet and other Conference agencies.

**Par. 204. Conference Secretary ¶ 603.7**

1. **Purpose.** The Conference Secretary shall carry out those duties described in various paragraphs of *The Book of Discipline* and those assigned by the Annual Conference and shall be responsible for annual review of the Arkansas Conference Rules of Order and for recommending them for adoption at the beginning of each Annual Conference.

2. **Structure.** The Annual Conference shall elect a Conference Secretary every quadrennium.

3. **Process.** The Conference Secretary is responsible to the Annual Conference through the Conference Planning Committee.

**Par. 205. Conference Treasurer ¶ 619**

1. **Purpose.** The Conference Treasurer shall carry out those duties described in various paragraphs of the *Book of Discipline* and those assigned by the Annual Conference.

2. **Structure.** The Conference Treasurer shall be nominated by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and elected by the Annual Conference according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

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

**Par. 206. Conference Statistician ¶ 603.7**

1. **Purpose.** The Conference Statistician shall carry out those duties described in the Book of Discipline and those assigned by the Annual Conference. The Statistician shall make all statistical data and information available to the Annual Conference.

2. **Structure.** The Conference Statistician shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference every quadrennium according to The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

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

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

1. **Purpose.** The Conference Chancellor and Associate Chancellor(s) shall serve as the legal advisor(s) to the Bishop and the Annual Conference.

2. **Structure.** The Conference Chancellor shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference. Upon the recommendation of the Bishop, Associate Chancellor(s) may be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

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

1. **Purpose.** The Conference Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leader(s) are the elected leaders of conference laity and shall be members of the Annual Conference. The Lay Leader will have responsibility for fostering awareness of the role of the laity in achieving the mission of the Church and for enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making processes of the Annual Conference, district, and local church.

2. **Structure.** The Lay Leader shall be a member of the Annual Conference, the Conference Nominating Committee, the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, and the Annual Conference Planning Committee; and may be designated by the Bishop to any Conference agency.

3. **Process.** The Conference Lay Leader shall be the chairperson of the Conference Board of Laity, and shall relate to the organized lay groups in the Conference, support their work and help them coordinate their activities. The Conference Lay Leader shall be nominated by

the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference, and may serve no more than two consecutive quadrennial.

**Section III. Lay Members ¶¶602.4 – 602.10**

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

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

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

**Section IV. Clergy Members ¶¶ 602.1 – 602.3**

**Par. 210. Clergy Members of the Annual Conference** The clergy membership of the Annual Conference shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection (¶1333), provisional members (¶1327), associate members, affiliate members (¶344.4, 586.4), and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge (¶1317).

1. Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the Annual Conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and Conference relations of clergy.

2. Provisional, associate and affiliate clergy members, and full-time and part-time local pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of lay or clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and matters of ordination, character, and Conference relations of clergy, except when associate members and local pastors are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶1634.1).

**Section V. Lay-Clergy Equalization**

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

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

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

2. Lay Delegates and Alternate Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference

3. Lay chairpersons of Conference Boards, Committees, and Commissions as elected by the Annual Conference. When the following positions are held by laity: Conference treasurer, Conference statistician, Conference secretary, and Conference ministry staff.

4. When additional lay members are required to equalize representation an equal number of "at-large" delegates from each district shall be elected. The Conference Secretary will notify each District Superintendent of the number of at-large members they are to select giving consideration to the following persons:

- a. Congregations underrepresented by virtue of size or circumstance
- b. Elected chairpersons of Conference boards and agencies not included above
- c. Officers of the Conference Board of Laity
- d. Conference officers of UM Women, UM Men, and Conference Council on Youth Ministries residing within the bounds of a district
- e. Elected lay persons to General and Jurisdictional Conference boards and agencies
- f. District presidents of UM Women, UM Men, and District Councils on Youth Ministry
- g. Lay members of Conference boards and agencies
- h. Additional youth from each district

Upon their selection, the District Superintendent shall notify these persons in writing of their delegate status at least 60 days prior to the Annual Conference.

5. The names and addresses of lay members of the Annual Conference elected by the Charge Conferences, as well as any district lay members selected by the district, shall be compiled by the District Superintendents and sent to the Conference Secretary at least 60 days prior to the opening day of the Annual Conference session.

**Section VI. Business of the Annual Conference: Conference Procedure**

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

**Par. 212. Pre-Conference Journal.** There shall be a *Pre-Conference Journal*, which shall contain reports of all program agencies of the Conference, proposed legislation, resolutions and petitions, and information about the Annual Conference session. This *Pre-Conference Journal* shall be provided to each member of the Arkansas Conference at least 30 days before the annual session. The Conference Secretary shall be the editor of this publication. The pre-conference reports submitted for inclusion in the *Pre-Conference Journal* shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary no later than 60 days prior to the beginning of Annual Conference. Any agency making a report not included in the *Pre-Conference Journal* that proposes changes in policy or has financial implications shall provide the Conference Treasurer and chair of CF&A with the report no later than 10 days prior to the opening Business Session of Annual Conference.

**Par. 213. Resolutions and Petitions**

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

the Conference Session Planning Committee to be included in the *Pre-Conference Journal*. 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. Journal of the Annual Conference**

1. There shall be a *Journal*, which contains a record of the Annual Conference proceedings.
2. All content for the *Journal* shall be provided to the Conference Secretary no later than the close of the Annual Conference session. All material to be published in the *Journal* that does not meet this deadline may be excluded unless specific permission for delay is granted by the Conference Secretary. The Conference Secretary, Dean of the Cabinet, and Conference Treasurer shall be authorized to edit all reports for printing in the *Journal*.
3. Addresses delivered to the Conference, except for the Episcopal Address, Laity Address and Youth Address, shall not be printed in the *Conference Journal*.
4. All legislation and reports not printed in the *Pre-Conference Journal* shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary and Presiding Officer no later than 3:00 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. All items for general distribution shall be prepared by the sponsoring person or agency at their own expense and must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary no later than 3:00 p.m. prior to the next day's Business Session.
6. The Conference Structure shall be reprinted each year in the *Journal*, incorporating any changes made during the preceding Annual Conference.
7. 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. 215. 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. 216. Conference Expense Fund** Registration fees and non-designated offerings taken at the Annual Conference shall be administered by the Conference Treasurer to defray expenses of the session.

**Par. 217. 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. 218. 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. 219. Students, Local Pastors and Seminary Students** No registration fee shall be required for students, local pastors or seminary students.

**Par. 220. 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. 221. 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.

# Structure of the Arkansas Annual Conference

## Chapter One GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 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. Core Measures**

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

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

### Section II. Structure

**Par. 105. 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. ¶1610

**Par. 106. 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. 107. 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 Two NOMINATION AND ELECTION TO CONFERENCE AGENCIES AND OFFICES

### Section I. Nomination to Conference Agencies

**Par. 201. Conference Nominating Committee**

1. **Purpose.** 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.** 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.

**Par. 202. Board, Agency and Committee Service**

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

2. No person shall be elected by the Annual Conference to serve on more than one Council, Board, Committee, Commission, Agency, etc. at any one time. This does not affect ex-officio positions. The following are exempt from this rule: Conference Nominating Committee, Episcopacy Committee, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Committee on Review and Research, Joint Committee on Incapacity, Board of Ordained Ministry and Administrative Review Committee.

3. In the nomination and election of the membership of councils, boards, and agencies of the Annual Conference, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (§1256.3), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches." (§1610.5) Special attention shall also be given to geographical representation.

4. Members of general agencies shall serve as ex-officio members of

the corresponding Annual Conference agency or its equivalent structure. If this results in a person being a member of more than one Annual Conference agency in violation of either Annual Conference policy or another provision of the *Book of Discipline*, the person shall choose the Annual Conference agency on which to serve.

5. "No member or employee of any Conference agency and no employee, trustee, or director of any agency or institution participating in the funds of any Conference budget shall be eligible for voting membership on the Council on Finance and Administration." (§1611.2)

6. Agencies of the Annual Conference are to keep records of member attendance and participation and report to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may recommend to the Annual Conference that new board/committee members be elected to replace those whose lack of participation inhibits the effectiveness of the board/committee.

7. Unless provided for elsewhere, a vacancy between sessions of the Annual Conference shall be filed by the Extended Cabinet on nomination of the Nominating Committee.

**Par. 203. Task Force Service**

1. Membership on Task Forces shall be inclusive of ethnic minorities and persons from small membership churches. A balance of laymen, laywomen, and clergy shall be the norm.

2. The norm for Task Force membership shall be a broad base of participation from throughout the Conference.

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

**Par. 204. 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. 205. Procedure for Filling Vacancies** Unless provided for elsewhere, a vacancy between sessions of the Annual Conference shall be filled by the Extended Cabinet on nomination of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership.

**Chapter Three  
CONFERENCE AGENCIES AND OFFICES**

**Section I. Establishment of Conference Agencies**

**Par. 301. 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  
Conference Associate Lay Leader ¶ 607.9

a. **Purpose.** The Conference Associate Lay Leader shall assist the Conference Lay Leader in fostering awareness of the role of the laity in achieving the mission of the Church and for enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making processes of the Annual Conference, district, and local church.

b. **Structure.** The Conference Associate Lay Leader shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. The Conference Associate Lay Leader shall be a member of the Annual Conference, the Conference Nominating Committee, the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, and the Annual Conference Planning Committee; and may be designated by the Bishop to any Conference agency.

3. Board of Ordained Ministry ¶ 635

4. Committee on Episcopacy ¶ 637

5. Episcopal Residence Committee ¶ 638	1	Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference.	70
	2	In addition, there shall be a representative from the United Methodist	71
	3	Women and the Board of Laity.	72
	4		73
6. Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry ¶ 634	5	12. Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns ¶¶ 632, 654	74
a. Membership of the Board of Higher Education and Campus	6	a. The membership shall include:	75
Ministry shall include a chairperson and two representatives from each	7	1) Chairperson to be nominated by the Conference	76
district nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected	8	Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference;	77
by the Annual Conference. In addition, there shall be one representative	9	2) One representative from each district appointed by the	78
from each Wesley Foundation, one representative from the campus	10	District Superintendent.	79
ministry at Hendrix College named by the President of Hendrix College,	11	Race, gender, and age shall be taken into consideration, with special	80
and one representative of the campus ministry at Philander Smith College	12	attention to ensure that the committee represents the racial make-up of	81
named by the President of Philander Smith College. The campus minister	13	ethnic groups within the Arkansas Conference (Asian Americans, African	82
from each campus and the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries	14	Americans, Hispanic Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans).	83
shall be ex-officio members without vote. In addition, any member of	15	At no time shall ethnic persons make up less than 51% of the persons	84
the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from the Annual	16	represented on the committee.	85
Conference shall be a member of the Conference board.	17	Representatives without vote:	86
b. Wesley Foundation Boards: Membership will be appointed by	18	3) A representative of the Conference Staff;	87
each local board and presented to each Annual Conference for approval.	19	4) One representative from Conference Commission on	88
A majority of members of Wesley Foundation Boards shall be active	20	Religion and Race (chairperson or designee) to act as	89
members of a United Methodist Church in Arkansas.	21	liaison; and	90
	22	5) Liaison(s) to other bodies as needed to accomplish the	91
	23	Committee's work.	92
7. Board of Global Ministries ¶¶ 633, 642	24	13. United Methodist Women ¶ 647	93
a. The membership of the Conference Board of Global Ministries	25		94
shall include a Chairperson, the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries	26	14. United Methodist Men ¶ 648	95
and the District Secretaries of Global Ministries who shall be nominated	27		96
by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual	28	15. Conference Council on Youth Ministries ¶ 649	97
Conference, the Mission Coordinator of Education and Interpretation of	29		98
the Conference United Methodist Women.	30	16. Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries ¶ 650	99
b. The Board shall designate a coordinator (or coordinators)	31		100
for Volunteer In Mission opportunities, a coordinator (or coordinators)	32	17. Conference Council on Adult, Singles, Family, and Older Adult	101
of missionary personnel, a coordinator (or coordinators) for disaster	33	Ministries ¶ 651	102
response, a coordinator (or coordinators) for ecumenical and	34		103
interreligious concerns, and a coordinator (of coordinators) of Parish	35	18. Council on Finance and Administration ¶ 612	104
and Community Development. In addition, any member of the General	36	The Council members will be nominated by the Conference Nominating	105
Board of Global Ministries from the Annual Conference shall be an ex-	37	Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. The Council shall be	106
officio member of the Conference board.	38	composed of twenty-one (21) members. The Conference Coordinator of	107
	39	Stewardship shall be an ex-officio member. There will be at least one more	108
8. Conference Secretary of Global Ministries ¶ 633.3	40	lay person than clergy included on the Council. Members will be elected to	109
The Secretary of Global Ministries shall be nominated by the Conference	41	four-year terms of office. Those whose terms have expired will be eligible	110
Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual Conference and will	42	to be elected to one additional four-year term. Churches of fewer than	111
be a member of the Board of Global Ministries.	43	200 members shall be represented on the council. Ex-officio members	112
	44	of the Council (without vote) shall be (1) the Conference Treasurer, (2)	113
9. Conference Board of Church and Society ¶¶ 629, 653	45	any member of the General Council on Finance and Administration who	114
a. The membership of the Conference Board of Church and Society	46	resides in Arkansas, (3) the presiding Bishop (4) a Cabinet representative	115
shall consist of a chairperson, one representative from each district, the	47	and (5) the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Council will elect	116
United Methodist Women Mission Coordinator for Social Action, and one	48	from its voting membership a president, vice president, and secretary.	117
at-large member nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee	49		118
and elected by the Annual Conference. The membership shall include	50	19. Conference Treasurer ¶ 619	119
persons with disabilities. The board will be half clergy and half laity.	51		120
The Board will elect a secretary from its members.	52	20. Conference Statistician ¶ 603.7	121
b. The members of the Board shall organize themselves into	53		122
committees to work on the various issues of concern to the Board	54	21. Conference Secretary ¶ 603.7	123
as outlined in the Social Principles, including local, state, national,	55		124
and international issues. The Board shall include a coordinator (or	56	22. Conference Chancellor ¶ 603.8	125
coordinators) of Peace with Justice Ministries. In addition, the Board	57		126
shall include a coordinator (or coordinators) of disability concerns.	58	23. Conference Board of Trustees ¶ 2512	127
	59		128
10. Conference Commission on Religion and Race ¶ 643	60	24. Board of Pension and Health Benefits ¶ 639	129
a. Membership shall include a chairperson and one member from	61		130
each district to be represented by racial and ethnic minority persons.	62	25. Commission on Archives and History ¶ 641	131
Selection of commission members shall ensure adequate representation	63		132
of women, youth, young adults, older adults, and people with disabilities.	64	26. Commission on Communications ¶ 646	133
b. Members of the General Commission on Religion and Race	65		134
residing in the Annual Conference shall be ex-officio members of	66	27. Commission on Equitable Compensation ¶ 625	135
the Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race with vote.	67		136
The commission chairperson and members shall be nominated by	68	28. Joint Committee on Incapacity ¶ 652	137
the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual	69		138
Conference.		29. Administrative Review Committee ¶ 636	
11. Conference Commission on Status and Role of Women ¶ 644			
a. Membership will include one representative from each district,			
and a chairperson, who shall be a woman, to be nominated by the			



30. Cabinet ¶ 424	1	1) Bishop, who shall serve as chairperson;	70
	2	2) Conference Lay Leader, who shall serve as vice-chairperson;	71
31. Extended Cabinet ¶ 424	3	3) Conference Secretary, who shall serve as secretary;	72
a. <b>Purpose.</b> The purpose of the Extended Cabinet shall be to act	4	4) Worship Coordinator (Board of Discipleship);	73
as the central team that develops and implements ministry and mission	5	5) Director of Connectional Ministries;	74
strategies of the Arkansas Annual Conference. It also shall serve as the	6	6) Conference Treasurer;	75
body to which all financial requests for ministry resources are submitted.	7	7) Coordinator of Spiritual Growth, Conference United	76
The Director of Connectional Ministries will have primary responsibility	8	Methodist Women;	77
to receive requests. It will be the responsibility of the Extended Cabinet	9	8) Host District Superintendent;	78
to present a budget to the Council on Finance and Administration with	10	9) Two representatives of the host committee for the forth-	79
a listing of ministry priorities and rationale for budget requests.	11	coming session, selected by the host District Superintendent;	80
b. <b>Structure.</b> The membership of the Extended Cabinet shall	12	10) Four lay persons from the Board of Laity, selected by	81
be determined by the presiding bishop to address the missional needs	13	the conference lay leader in consultation with the Bishop;	82
of the Annual Conference.	14	11) Two ethnic minority persons; and	83
	15	12) Any other persons named by the Bishop.	84
<b>Section II. Additional Conference Agencies and Offices</b>	16		85
	17	<b>4. Committee on Review and Research</b>	86
<b>Par. 302. Additional agencies, committees, and offices ¶ 610.2</b>	18	a. <b>Purpose.</b> The Committee on Review and Research shall: 1)	87
(The following includes additional agencies and officers, any rules that	19	Ensure changes in the Conference Standing Rules and Structure that are	88
impact the agency or officer and the name given by The Arkansas	20	mandated by the General Conference and are published in each subsequent	89
Annual Conference.)	21	edition of <i>The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church</i> ; 2) Review	90
	22	all resolutions presented to the Annual Conference that call for changes	91
	23	in the Standing Rules or Structure and report to the Conference; and 3)	92
	24	Propose changes in Standing Rules and Structure that will enable the	93
	25	Annual Conference to more faithfully carry out its mission, vision, core	94
	26	measures and trajectory.	95
	27	b. <b>Structure.</b> The Committee on Review and Research shall	96
	28	include a chairperson, one representative from each district, and three	97
	29	at-large members. The chairperson and members shall be nominated	98
	30	by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the Annual	99
	31	Conference.	100
	32	c. <b>Process.</b> The Committee will work with the Conference	101
	33	Secretary, Journal Editor, and Assistant to the Bishop to ensure that	102
	34	changes mandated by the General Conference are reflected in the	103
	35	Conference Standing Rules and Structure, and are published in each	104
	36	subsequent edition of the Journal. The Committee will review all	105
	37	resolutions, petitions, and legislation presented to the Annual Conference	106
	38	that call for changes in the Standing Rules or Structure and report to the	107
	39	Conference.	108
	40		109
	41	<b>Chapter Four</b>	110
	42	<b>DISTRICTS</b>	111
	43		112
	44	<b>Section I. District Structure</b>	113
	45		114
	46	<b>Par. 401. District Agencies and Officers</b> (The following includes	115
	47	required agencies and officers, any rules that impact the agency or officer	116
	48	and the name given by The Arkansas Annual Conference to that agency	117
	49	if it differs from the name listed in <i>The Book of Discipline</i> .)	118
	50		119
	51	1. District Leadership Team ¶ 661	120
	52		121
	53	2. District Conference ¶¶ 658 – 659	122
	54		123
	55	3. District Nominating Committee (Non-disciplinary)	124
	56	a. <b>Purpose.</b> The District Nominating Committee shall nominate	125
	57	persons to fill all of the offices within the District except those given by the	126
	58	Discipline to the District Superintendent for nomination or appointment,	127
	59	and to nominate persons from the Districts to serve on Annual Conference	128
	60	agencies.	129
	61	b. <b>Structure.</b> The District Nominating Committee shall include the	130
	62	District Superintendent (who shall be the chairperson) and nine members	131
	63	elected by the District Conference (four clergy and five lay) with names	132
	64	of persons placed in nomination from the floor of the District Conference.	133
	65	The Committee shall be divided into three, three-year classes, with a	134
	66	class of persons elected annually to a three-year term. No more than	135
	67	one person from a local church may serve on the committee. No elected	136
	68	member may serve two consecutive terms.	137
	69	4. District Lay Leader ¶ 660	138
		5. District Board of Trustees ¶ 2518	139

- 6. District Board of Church Location and Building ¶ 2519
- 7. District Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries ¶ 668
- 8. Committee on District Superintendency ¶ 669
- 9. District Committee on Ordained Ministry ¶ 666

# Proposed Arkansas Annual Conference Session Rules for 2016

## Chapter One General Provisions

### 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. Core Measures**

1. We will be enriched by our Wesleyan heritage of scriptural holiness so that we are connected by our mission of making disciples instead of being connected by our apportionments, appointments and benefits.

2. We will establish the mission field as the primary focus of our attention and resources instead of directing the majority of our attention and resources to mere maintenance of congregations and clergy.

3. We will equip laity and clergy to transform individuals, communities and the world instead of trying to satisfy personal preferences of current members and ensure congregational preservation.

4. We will address the unique context of each mission field instead of depending on standardized programs and structures.

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

## Chapter Two Business of the Annual Conference

### Section I. Business of the Annual Conference Session

**Par. 105.** The following will be adopted at the opening Business Session of each Annual Conference by majority vote:

- 1. Arkansas Annual Conference Session Rules;
- 2. The Bar of the Conference;
- 3. The Annual Conference Session Agenda;
- 4. The Consent Calendar; and
- 5. Any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Secretary.

**Par. 106. Consideration of Conference Matters**

1. Rules of Order for the Business Session. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the procedural authority for the business session of the Annual Conference when not in conflict with Arkansas Conference Session Rules or The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

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.

b. The presentation of the motion, legislation or report by a

1 Conference Agency shall not be considered a speech in favor. 70

2 c. A timer shall be used to measure debate at the discretion of 71

3 the Chair. 72

4 3. Rules of Order for Petitions and Resolutions 73

5 a. Debate on each resolution or petition shall be limited to 74

6 four (4) two-minute speeches for the motion or resolution and 75

7 four (4) two-minute speeches against. This excludes persons 76

8 inquiring about points of order or asking questions 77

9 of clarification. 78

10 b. The presentation of the petition or resolution may last five 79

11 (5) minutes and shall be considered a speech in favor. 80

12 c. A timer shall be used to measure debate at the discretion of 81

13 the Chair. 82

14 d. Amendments and substitutions to petitions and resolutions 83

15 will not be considered by the Annual Conference. 84

16 4. All motions made on the floor of Annual Conference shall be legibly 85

17 written on forms supplied by the Conference Secretary and shall be in 86

18 the hands of the Conference Secretary and Presiding Officer before any 87

19 action or vote can be taken by the Conference. 88

20 **Par. 107. Motions Involving Expenditures** Any proposal submitted 89

21 to the Annual Conference which involves the expenditure of funds not 90

22 included in the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) report shall 91

23 be referred for advice and recommendation to the Council on Finance 92

24 and Administration. The CF&A will study the proposal and report back 93

25 to the Annual Conference regarding the source of funding, the impact 94

26 on the Conference budget, and CF&A's concurrence or non-concurrence. 95

27 No new request for unbudgeted expenditures shall be considered on the 96

28 last day of a Conference Session, unless it is a special session called to 97

29 address financial matters. 98

### Section III. Annual Conference Tellers

30 **Par. 108. Tellers** Tellers shall be selected in a manner to be determined 101

31 by the Conference Secretary. 102

## Policies

### Copyright Guidelines for Churches

32 **Disclaimer:** The information provided in these guidelines is for 103

33 information purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice. In the 104

34 development of the guidelines, certain assumptions have been made 105

35 about underlying practices and uses of intellectual property. Any change 106

36 in those assumptions could affect the application of a particular guideline 107

37 or recommended best practice. Therefore, while the information provided 108

38 may assist a local church, it is not a substitute either for legal advice by 109

39 an attorney with knowledge of copyright law or the written approval of 110

40 specific copyright holders. If there is any doubt as to whether a specific 111

41 use or practice violates copyright laws, the local church should seek the 112

42 written advice of a lawyer or specific written approval of the particular 113

43 use by the copyright holder or licensing agent. Further, the local church 114

44 should maintain a copyright file that contains all written advice obtained 115

45 from an attorney(s), all licenses/permissions for use of works, and records 116

46 of any payments made to licensors or owners of copyrighted works. 117

47 **Overview of United States Copyright Law:** 118

48 Copyright protection extends to "original works of authorship fixed in 119

49 any tangible medium of expression, now known or later developed, from 120

50 which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, 121

51 either directly or with the aid of a machine or device." 17 U.S.C. § 102(a). 122

52 A copyright does not require registration. A copyright in a work arises 123

53 from the moment an original work of authorship is fixed in the tangible 124

54 medium (e.g., when pencil touches paper). Section 102 further provides 125

55 that "[w]orks of authorship include the following categories: 126

- 56 (1) literary works; 127
- 57 (2) musical works, including any accompanying words; 128
- 58 (3) dramatic works, including any accompanying music; 129
- 59 (4) pantomimes and choreographic works; 130
- 60 (5) pictorial, graphic and sculptural works; 131
- 61 (6) motion pictures and other audiovisual works; 132
- 62 (7) sound recordings; and 133
- 63 (8) architectural works." 134

Copyright protection may extend to compilations and derivative works that are lawfully created. 17 U.S.C. § 106. The owner of a copyright “has the exclusive rights to do and to authorize any of the following:

- (1) to reproduce the copyrighted work in copies or phonorecords;
- (2) to prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted work;
- (3) to distribute copies or phonorecords of the copyrighted work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending;

(4) in the case of literary, musical, dramatic, and choreographic works, pantomimes, and motion pictures and other audiovisual works, to perform the copyrighted work publicly;

(5) in the case of literary, musical, dramatic, and choreographic works, pantomimes, and pictorial, graphic, or sculptural works, including the individual images of a motion picture or other audiovisual work, to display the copyrighted work publicly; and

(6) in the case of sound recordings, to perform the copyrighted work publicly by means of a digital audio transmission.”

Infringement occurs when you violate one or more of the exclusive rights of a copyright owner. Infringement is a serious matter that may result in a claim of copyright infringement against the person who violates the exclusive rights, as well as against the local church. Remedies for infringement include actual damages, profits of the infringer, or, alternatively, statutory damages. 17 U.S.C. § 504. With certain caveats or exceptions, a copyright owner may elect statutory damages instead of actual damages or profits of the infringer (which is especially applicable in cases where there is no actual damage or profit from the infringement) in a range of not less than \$750 to no more than \$30,000 per work “as the court considers just.” 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(1). Statutory damages may be increased to no more than \$150,000 per work if the infringer’s conduct was willful. 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).

When in doubt about whether a work is copyrighted or whether a particular use would constitute infringement, the church should always seek appropriate advice.

Licenses:

One means to comply with federal law and avoid a claim for copyright infringement is to obtain a license from the owner, or from a representative of the owner, of the work you want to use. This is the best practice and is strongly recommended. Although there are a variety of representatives of copyright owners, well-known licensing companies include, but are not limited to, CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc.), CVLI (Christian Video Licensing International), ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, WorshipCast, OneLicense, Christian Copyright Solutions, and LicenSing. There are basic licenses that fit most churches’ use of copyrighted materials, and there are a number of supplemental licenses for particular uses such as rehearsal licensing, live streaming, podcasts, videos, and use of video clips. For musical works, it is important to remember that you will need a license to both the musical composition (the notes on page) and the lyrics. You also should confirm that the songs or videos are within the catalog of works covered by each license. If they are not, then the church should obtain written permission from the copyright holder. Churches should consult with licensing companies concerning the scope of use covered by various licenses and concerning particular practices and uses of copyrighted materials to avoid inadvertent copyright infringement.

Pricing for licenses varies by work. For example, the cost of a license from OneLicense is based upon average weekly attendance of the church. One-time use, weekly use, and annual licenses are available. Reporting usage of a song to the licensing company is required in accordance with the requirements of the license. It is important to keep good records of the use of the works in order to be accurate in your licensing payments and minimize any claims by the copyright holder or its representatives that you have not paid sufficient amounts.

Written Permission:

Written permission from a copyright holder gives a local church protection. This is particularly helpful when the intended use of copyrighted material is not clearly within the scope of a license. As indicated above, any written permission obtained from a copyright holder should be maintained in a copyright folder by the church.

Public Domain:

Intellectual property that is in the public domain is not subject to copyright infringement. Public domain status is usually indicated on the face of sheet music or on a CD jacket. A church should not assume that

intellectual property is in the public domain simply because copyright information is not on the face of the work. In addition, the fact that one version of a work is in the public domain does not mean that a new copyrighted arrangement of the work can be used without a license or written permission from the copyright holder.

Fair Use:

Although rarely available in a church setting, the fair use exception found in 17 U.S.C. § 107 may be available when a church, including a Sunday school class, uses a copyrighted work or a part thereof for teaching or comment, including in a documentary. The teaching exception in 17 U.S.C. § 110(2) may also be helpful to Sunday school classes. In the educational context, the U.S. Copyright Office has published an advisory circular containing guidelines for fair uses of copyrighted works in educational settings. It is available at <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ21.pdf>. A group cannot use the fair use doctrine to edit or redact copyrighted materials to remove portions to which it objects even if it sells the edited version with the original version. Fair use is a factual determination that includes, but is not limited to, the following factors:

- (1) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- (2) the nature of the copyrighted work;
- (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

It is important to recognize that a work is not freely available for copying simply because it is out of print. The same factors for fair use apply to determine whether such work may be copied and the amount of the portion copied.

Religious Worship Service Exemption:

17 U.S.C. § 110(3) provides a limited exemption for the “performance of a nondramatic literary or musical work or of a dramatico-musical work of a religious nature, or display of a work, in the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly.” This exception does not extend to broadcasting (by radio or television), webcasting, live-streaming, podcasting, or recording of the parts of worship services that include copyrighted works, all of which require a license or the written permission of the copyright holder. For this reason, some churches limit their broadcasts of worship services to those parts of the service that do not contain copyrighted works.

Hymnals:

Hymnals are also copyrighted, and there are limitations on how the copyrighted information may be used, even if your church has purchased the hymnals. Hymns that are listed in the hymnal as being in the public domain may be reproduced without permission. Lyrics from copyrighted hymns may be reproduced in the worship bulletin as long as the church has published hymnals for the congregation and as long as the reprinting is done in accordance with the requirements of the copyright in the hymnal. One typical requirement is to properly note the copyright information in the bulletin. Consult the hymnal and any related license for proper use of the copyrighted songs in a hymnal.

Worship:

A. Music performed by choir

A choir may only use legal copies of copyrighted music. The music may not be copied to make additional copies for practice or teaching by staff or members of the choir. One exception is that musicians are allowed to make copies of pages of music to avoid page turning.

If a publisher lists a copyrighted work as “out of print,” the publisher should be contacted for permission to make copies and to possibly negotiate a reduced fee.

If a choir director or musician desires to create a different arrangement of copyrighted music, written permission should be obtained from the copyright holder.

B. Music performed by organist

The requirements in Part A of this section apply. One possible exception is that an organist or other musician may make copies of a legally purchased work to avoid having to turn pages during a performance.

C. Music performed by guest performers or musicians

The requirements in Parts A and B of this section apply.

D. Lyrics projected on screen during worship

Section 110(3) of the Copyright Act permits the display of a literary or musical work in the course of services at a place of worship or other

religious assembly. This display does not include the right to record (via cell phone, video, or otherwise) the projection of the literary or musical work.

Best Practice: Obtain a license that permits such use or obtain written permission from the copyright holder.

E. Lyrics printed in bulletin

See the discussion above regarding the use of songs that appear in hymnals purchased by the church. Lyrics that appear in hymnals or other works legally purchased may be used in accordance with the requirements and conditions set out in the works. Typically, a specified copyright reference is required. If other lyrics are used in a bulletin, they may only be printed with written permission of the copyright holder or a license.

F. Live streaming of worship music

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. The same is true for podcasting. Otherwise, these uses constitute copyright infringement. Christian Copyright Solutions offers a WORSHIPcase license that applies to every song that is licensed by ASCAP, BMI or SESAC. CCLI also offers a streaming/podcasting license.

G. Recording of music in worship for later video broadcast

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement.

H. Recording of performances in worship on CDs or DVDs

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement. There may be additional restrictions if the CDs or DVDs are sold to raise funds, unless the proceeds are used solely for the church's ministry. The church should contact its license provider for guidance.

I. Recording children's choir performances and uploading the recordings to Facebook, You Tube, or similar social media

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement. If the person making this recording is not an employee or staff member of the church, then any infringement is arguably the individual liability of the person making the recording and not the church, although there may be an argument that the person was acting on behalf of the church. To avoid any liability, the church should not make use of unauthorized recordings and should communicate to the church membership that the church is not authorizing the recordings.

J. Use of copyrighted art, graphics, or written works in bulletin

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement.

K. Use of video clips

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. Otherwise, the use constitutes copyright infringement. CCLI has a specific license known as ScreenVue for this use.

L. Pastor's use of copyrighted material in sermon

Reading a copyrighted poem, an excerpt from a copyrighted book, or a copyrighted quotation as a part of a sermon in a worship space for a worshiping congregation may be permitted under the religious service exemption. However, it appears to be clear that printing or recording a sermon that contains such copyrighted materials is a violation of the copyright laws unless the use meets the fair use exception discussed above.

Best Practice: Obtain a license that permits such use or obtain written permission from the copyright holder.

Sunday School:

A. Use of music

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement. Simply playing legally purchased CDs or other recordings in a Sunday school class is likely authorized by the copyright permissions provided in the CD case, but the church should comply with any limitations or conditions set forth in the case.

B. Use of videos

The requirements of Part A of this section apply. However, if a video is labeled "For In-Home Viewing" or some similar warning, public showing of the video, even in Sunday school classes, is not permitted. Carefully read the copyright information on the video case or at the beginning of the video to ascertain the permitted uses.

C. Use of articles or pictures as teaching aids

There should be no copyright infringement if the articles or pictures used

are legally purchased and are not reproduced. 70

Youth Activities: 71

A. Use of music 72

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is 73

required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement. 74

Simply playing legally purchased CDs or other recordings in a Youth 75

Activity is likely authorized by the copyright permissions provided in the 76

CD case, but the church should comply with any limitations or conditions 77

set forth in the case. 78

B. Use of videos 79

The requirements of Part A of this section apply. However, if a video is 80

labeled "For In-Home Viewing" or some similar warning, public showing 81

of the video, even at a youth activity, is not permitted. Carefully read the 82

copyright information on the video case or at the beginning of the video 83

to ascertain the permitted uses. 84

C. Syncing songs to youth videos 85

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is 86

required. Permission to synchronize copyrighted music is difficult to secure. 87

Copyrighted music may have already been licensed for this use or may be 88

available for license on the internet, and that option should be explored. 89

Open Sound Resource and Magna Tune may be helpful resources for this 90

purpose. Syncing of songs to videos is common on You Tube and Vimeo 91

(see, e.g., <http://ultimateclassicrock.com/peanuts-classic-rock/>), but 92

youth groups should exercise caution and seek permission before using 93

a copyrighted work. 94

D. Use of copyrighted works in social media 94

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. 95

Choir: 96

A. Photocopying of copyrighted work 97

This is prohibited without written permission by the copyright holder. 98

As noted above in Worship, Part A, however, there is a procedure for 99

obtaining permission for reproducing copies of copyrighted works that 100

are "out of print." 101

B. Performing music outside of worship services, including recitals and 102

concerts 103

Either a license or written permission from the copyright holder is 104

required. However, limited permission may already be granted in the 105

copyright information on the face of legally purchased copies of the 106

music. In such cases, the terms of the pre-approval should be followed, 107

which will likely include printing or displaying the appropriate copyright 108

information concerning the work. 109

C. Recording choir performances 109

Either a license or written permission from the copyright holder is 110

required. Otherwise, the recording constitutes copyright infringement. 111

D. Making CDs or DVDs of performances 112

Either a license or written permission from the copyright holder is 113

required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement. 114

E. Making rehearsal tape 115

Either a license or written permission from the copyright holder is 116

required. Otherwise, this practice constitutes copyright infringement. 117

However, some choral works come with optional rehearsal recordings that 118

can be used as provided in the copyright provisions. However, additional 119

copies cannot be made. 120

Other Issues: 121

A. Movie Nights 122

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is 123

required, regardless of whether there is a charge for viewing the movie. 124

In addition to the licensing companies noted above in the section on 125

Licenses, a license to show a motion picture can be obtained from the 126

Motion Picture Licensing Corporation ([www.mplc.com](http://www.mplc.com)). 127

B. Dinner Theaters 127

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is 128

required, regardless of whether there is a charge for the dinner theater. 129

C. Church websites 130

Any use of copyrighted material on a church website requires either 131

written permission from the copyright holder or a license. 132

D. Conferences/Seminars/Retreats 133

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is 134

required. The copyright provisions of legally purchased works may provide 135

a limited performance right. 136

E. Funerals 137

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is 138

required. The copyright provisions of legally purchased works may provide a limited performance right.

F. Weddings

Either written permission from the copyright holder or a license is required. The copyright provisions of legally purchased works may provide a limited performance right.

G. Newsletters

Any use of copyrighted material in a newsletter requires either written permission from the copyright holder or a license.

H. Church signs containing copyrighted statements, quotations, or photos

Any use of copyrighted material on church signage requires either written permission from the copyright holder or a license.

I. Artwork

A copyrighted image should not be used without permission from the copyright holder or a license.

J. Telephone recordings

Pre-programmed telephone recordings that include copyrighted work but which are part of the telephone voice-mail system are assumed to be authorized for use by the purchaser. However, it is prudent to read the information provided by the seller of the voice-mail system to confirm that authorization and to ensure that the agreement with the seller includes an indemnification clause to cover any infringement that may occur via the telephone system.

Copying a song to create a ringtone does constitute copyright infringement. However, playing a ring tone in public - i.e. its normal function - has been found to be excepted from copyright infringement and no public performance license is required.

K. Zumba, Exercise Classes, Etc.

A performance license is required, usually from ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, or from an agent for those companies (such as CCS's PERFORMmusic). However, a license may not be required for Zumba original music if the church or an authorized staff person is a part of the Zumba Instructor Network.

We are grateful for the insights and drafting assistance from the Arkansas Annual Conference Copyright Task Force: **Lynne Brown, Harold Evans, Karen Hutchins, Bill Waddell, and Rev. Mackey Yokem**

## Resolutions

[These resolutions and any resolutions distributed at registration are not official resolutions of the Annual Conference until after they have been voted on at the Conference Session.] - From our structure, 6.c., page 467 and 468 of the 2013 Journal

### Resolution Footnotes

All resolutions, sponsored or non-sponsored, shall contain footnotes that clarify the source of any facts, quotes, or generalizations made within the proposed resolution. These footnotes shall include enough information to allow the conference some level of confidence that the content of the proposed resolution is accurate and reliable. These footnotes shall also include enough information to allow the content of the proposed resolution to be checked for accuracy. All resolutions not printed in the Pre-Conference Journal must be accompanied by a rationale.

### Pre-Conference Resolutions

Non-sponsored resolutions or petitions, as well as those sponsored by any regular board or standing committee or task force of the Conference, may be included in the Pre-Conference Journal with the approval of the Executive Team.

### Floor Resolutions

Any resolution or petition not printed in the Pre-Conference Journal must be signed by at least ten voting members of the Annual Conference, and distributed in writing to the delegates and lay on the table for twenty-four hours before being debated and acted upon. Such items for general distribution shall be prepared and distributed by the sponsoring person or agency at their own expense.

### Concurrence/Non-Concurrence

All resolutions that call for a change in the structure or standing rules, must be submitted to a review by the Committee on Review and Research

1 which will recommend concurrence or non-concurrence. 70  
 2 All resolutions that have financial implications must be submitted to a 71  
 3 review by the Council on Finance and Administration which will recommend 72  
 4 concurrence or non-concurrence. 73  
 5 All resolutions that have Social Principles implications must be submitted 74  
 6 to a review by the Board of Church and Society, which will recommend 75  
 7 concurrence or non-concurrence. 76  
 8 77  
 9 78  
 10 79  
 11 80

## Board of Trustees

12 As of the date of this report, the Board of Trustees has met on two 81  
 13 occasions at the Conference Offices in Little Rock and taken action without 82  
 14 a meeting via email on three occasions. 83

15 The Board conducted an annual review of the insurance coverage 84  
 16 for the Conference and met with representatives from United Methodist 85  
 17 Church Insurance, Stephens Insurance, Church Mutual, and Regions 86  
 18 Insurance. The Board was satisfied with continuation of the current 87  
 19 arrangement. 88

20 The Board has also worked with Conference staff as well as engaged 89  
 21 legal counsel (Scott Schallhorn of Mitchell, Williams Selig, Gates & 90  
 22 Woodyard, and auctioneer (Wooley Auctioneers), to refine a clear process 91  
 23 for obtaining all necessary documentation needed to timely dispose of 92  
 24 abandoned or closed church properties. A closing checklist and form Board 93  
 25 resolution are currently in development. 94

26 As the Board and Conference staff have attempted to work through 95  
 27 some of the more complicated transactions, the need for revisions to 96  
 28 the Conference's Policy on the Sale of Closed or Abandoned Properties 97  
 29 became evident. The Board has approved a revised version of the policy, 98  
 30 which is attached with recommended changes interlineated. 99

31 The Board monitored legal action taken against at least two Methodist 100  
 32 church-based daycares related to claims from the Department of Workforce 101  
 33 Services that the churches were liable for unemployment insurance for 102  
 34 employees assigned to the daycare. Litigation involving the First UMC 103  
 35 Child Development Center in Little Rock concluded with a favorable result 104  
 36 for the CDC. This information was shared with other Methodist churches 105  
 37 that operate daycares in Arkansas. 106

38 The Board also has responsibility for reporting churches that have 107  
 39 closed or church properties that have been abandoned. In one instance, 108  
 40 the board has initiated discussions to resolve a known encroachment issue 109  
 41 involving Wakefield UMC in Nashville; work toward reaching a resolution 110  
 42 is ongoing. 111

43 The following list of churches and church properties that have been 112  
 44 abandoned or conveyed since the last Annual Conference is provided: 113

45 114  
 46 Northeast District Closings and Conveyances: 115

- 47 • Powhatan UMC – Church voted in February 2015 to close 116
- 48 effective June 2015; transferred via deed to Arkansas State Parks on 117
- 49 03/04/2016. 118
- 50 • Beech Grove UMC – Closed 11/2015 119
- 51 • Tupelo UMC – Closed 8/25/2016 120
- 52 121

53 Northwest District Closings and Conveyances: 122

- 54 • Tuck's Chapel – Closed 6/30/2015 123
- 55 • Village UMC – Closed 12/31/2014; transferred via deed 124
- 56 September 15, 2015. 125

57 126  
 58 Central District Closings and Conveyances: 127

- 59 • Faith UMC in Little Rock – Board voted via email (5/12/15) to 128
- 60 approve execution of deed clearing up title to reflect the Conference's 129
- 61 predecessors in interest so that Faith UMC could secure a loan. 130
- 62 131

63 Southeast District Closings and Conveyances: 132

- 64 • Scott Memorial to New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church – Sale 133
- 65 pending as of 4/7/16. 134

66 Southwest District Closings and Conveyances: 135

- 67 • Carthage UMC – Closed 6/30/2015 136
- 68 137

69 **Board of Trustees' policy on the sale of closed or abandoned** 138

property

A. Real Property: Once the Annual Conference determines real property of a United Methodist local Church, a District, or an Agency has been closed and abandoned, ownership of said real property shall be deemed to have vested in the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

1. The Board of Trustees may seek the assistance of the District Superintendents and the Members of the leadership of the District in which the property is located to secure and arrange for the showing and sale or gifting of the property;

2. All Contracts by which the real property is to be conveyed (property may be sold or given to an entity) shall, unless waived by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, contain the following terms:

a. A survey of the boundaries and location of any improvements within the boundaries shall be provided by the Grantee (person/entity receiving title) and the costs of the survey paid by the Grantee;

b. A commitment for Owner's Title Insurance shall be provided by the Grantee at Grantee's expense;

c. If the conveyance is to a United Methodist Church, District, or agency appropriate Trust Clauses shall be contained in the instrument of conveyance;

d. Grantee shall accept the real property in its "As Is" condition; and

e. Conveyances from the Board of Trustees or District Board of Trustees shall only be by Fiduciary Deed or Quit Claim Deed.

B. Personal Property: Once the Annual Conference determines personal property of a United Methodist local Church, a District, or an Agency has been abandoned or is no longer of any use to another United Methodist facility, ownership of said personal property shall be deemed to have vested in the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

1. The Board of Trustees may seek the assistance of the District Superintendents and the Members of the leadership of the District in which the property is located to secure and arrange for the storage, inventorying, showing, and disposition of the property;

2. All Contracts by which personal property is transferred to an individual or an entity shall contain language indicating by execution of the Bill of Sale or Contract of Sale the Board of Trustees is acting in a fiduciary capacity and is not offering any warranties of title or of the condition of the personal property and that the personal property is being accepted by the person or entity receiving title in its "As Is" condition.

C. Use of the Proceeds Generated by a Sale of Property: All proceeds generated from the sale of property by the Board of Trustees shall first be used to pay the costs of securing, storing, insuring, and disposition of property deemed abandoned by the Annual Conference. Any remaining funds shall be held in the general fund of the Annual Conference for advancing the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church.

1. United Methodist Churches, organizations, members or agencies may be awarded a grant or loan from said funds by:

a. Submitting to the Annual Conference Treasurer an Application for the grant or loan in which the Applicant states the specific use to which the funds will be put; the objective which is sought to be accomplished with the funds; how the use and objectives assist the Annual Conference and The United Methodist in advancing its mission of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;

b. Obtaining a Recommendation for Approval from the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference; and

c. . . .  
Obtaining the Approval of the grant or loan from the Annual Conference Extended Cabinet and the Bishop.

**For the Board of Trustees  
Amy Dunn Johnson, Chair**

# Consent Calendar Reports

## 200,000 Reasons - Childhood Hunger Initiative

The Extended Cabinet has proposed a three-year extension of the 200K Reasons Initiative through June of 2020. The extension would provide opportunities to increase local church involvement in feeding ministries, education and public witness. It would also allow the task force to plan a statewide resourcing event for local churches to receive information and training about how best to impact childhood hunger in their communities.

### Rationale

Progress has been made in each of the three stated priority areas and, while the volunteer staff have done all they can, there are still many opportunities for growth and action. The initiative is gaining momentum (see below); an extension will allow us to fully achieve the stated goals.

### 2014-2015 Successes

- Provided nearly \$30,000 in grant funds for new and existing ministries, with the priority of assisting efforts in 12 underserved counties. Funds provided by local church gifts to 200K Reasons and from funds provided by UMFA through the Paysinger gift.

- Received \$25,000 from the Walmart Foundation to provide Cooking Matters training and classes in 10 churches in underserved counties.

- In 2015, planned, coordinated or otherwise supported the packing of over 300,000 meals through local church or conference "packing parties." Meals were distributed to Arkansas food pantries or to churches with food pantries.

- Partners with Ozark Mission Project to provide Cooking Matters classes and building six community gardens during their senior high camps in summer of 2016.

- Partners with the Conference Camp and Retreat and Youth and Young Adult ministries to provide a young adult seminar around childhood hunger issues and three educational opportunities at conference camps.

- Supported and resourced new ministries such as the Dover Summer Feeding Program and the Mobile Food Pantry partnership.

- Established/strengthened strategic partnerships with Walmart, the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas Rice Depot, Interfaith Alliance, Arkansas Foodbank, and others.

- Poverty Awareness exercises presented to 1200 youth at Veritas, CCYM Leadership Retreat, MITTO, and local church youth ministries.

- Multiple preaching and call to action presentations to local congregations, missions, UMW, and other groups.

- Established a website with local church resources (www.200KReasons.arumc.org)

- Completed and placed online a statewide directory of faith-based and secular providers of hunger-related services.

- Assisted local churches with funding sources and needed statistical data for grants and donations.

### 200K Reasons Mission Statement

The United Methodists of Arkansas shall have a significant impact in decreasing the number of food insecure children over the next three years with a special emphasis on those counties with the highest rates of food insecurity.

In order to accomplish this mission, we name these specific achievable and measurable goals:

- Every United Methodist church in mission to eliminate childhood hunger in Arkansas

1. Every church will have a "Hunger Initiative Ministry Profile" created through surveys, emails, phone calls and visits.

2. Report mission strategy on year-end forms.

3. Encourage participation through CCYM events and college ministries.

- Decrease the number of food insecure children in Arkansas

1. Gather statistical data to identify the number/percentage of children currently being served by UMCs.

2. Resource new ministries specifically targeting underserved counties by partnering with non-profit agencies and ecumenical communities

- With financial resources provided by the United Methodist

Foundation of Arkansas, resource through conference-wide communication:

1. Contacts for existing and new ministries
2. Webpage for donations, resource guide, next steps, kits, book list, etc.
3. Printed/downloadable resource guide
4. Video of success stories, partners, and ways to get involved
5. Resource Room within the annual conference to host visitors, and receive information and resources, etc.
6. Coordinate with Ingathering 2015 to host a fall "resourcing" event

**Requested by Rev. J. J. Whitney  
and the Extended Cabinet**

**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 outline in The Book of Discipline. The Commission coordinates and oversees its three entities: (1) The Arkansas United Methodist Church Archives / Winfred D. Polk Methodist Archives on the Hendrix College campus in Conway; (2) The United Methodist Historical Society of Arkansas; and (3) The United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference, located in the First United Methodist Church, Little Rock.

Authorized and established by The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, the Commission on Archives and History, supported by Apportioned Funds, "shall promote and care for the historical interests of the United Methodist Church and its antecedents... [It] shall see that such holdings are available for responsible public and scholarly use... [It] promotes collection and dissemination of information and materials concerning the historic witness made individually and collectively by women, racial and ethnic peoples, and other constituencies" whose voices have been muted in the past. The "Ministry of Memory" helps us learn from our past as we anticipate our priorities for the coming years. It also helps us maintain transparency and accountability across denominational agencies.

In other words, Archives and History is in the ministry of telling stories about people of faith, and it is also in the ministry of listening for and collecting new stories so that all of us may re-tell them. Recently, Rev. Fred Day, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, reminded us that our archives and our museum are not mere collections of moldy, dusty old stuff. They are "living things, not coffins, which tell who we are and what we do. They shape the stories we have to tell." Stories, since the time of cave men around a camp fire, have brought us together and have helped us discover who and whose we are. Sharing stories has inspired mankind to see things in different ways and to try doing things in new ways. Stories have encouraged us to persevere through hardships and disappointments, and they have revitalized us when we were burned out. Stories of the Old Testament sustained the Israelites in exile, and vivid parables by the greatest of teachers, Jesus, help us remember what is important in our lives. Today as never before, we need stories of faith and of God-moments to "help bring people to some kind of 'felt' experience which plummets them into the love of God" (Fred Day). Listed below are some of the ways that the Conference can measure the progress of the three areas of ministry these apportioned funds support:

- Provide quality facilities with trained and enthusiastic personnel

Open to the public every Thursday and by appointment, the resources of the Archives in Conway are available without charge to anyone wishing to do research on topics related to the United Methodist Church and its predecessor organizations. Two archivists work independently and together to assist researchers, and both archivists are available by phone, e-mail, or appointment to help persons unable to come into the archives during regular hours. Both archivists have prior experience as employees within the Arkansas Conference and are well-versed in the terminology and organizational connections of the United Methodist Church. Also, we are fortunate to have as our museum curator one who has expertise in this special ministry. The Arkansas Conference is one of the few

conferences that maintains a museum to preserve and display objects relating to our Methodist history. The Museum, located in First United Methodist Church, Little Rock, is open for walk-in visits every Tuesday and at other times by appointment. This past year the museum board investigated internships to assist the curator at the Museum. Recently, an internship was approved by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Public History Program, and two graduate students in the UALR program will intern at the UM Museum. After the museum board interviewed candidates for the internship, the first intern was selected, and he began work at the Museum in February, 2016. The museum board believes that an intern will add a vital component to our connection with the local university and help expand our outreach into the community. Although the museum managed to find some donors to fund this internship in 2016, it needs conference funding to continue this program. Our two archivists and our curator are compensated for part-time work by apportioned funds.

- Serve the research needs of churches and individuals

In 2015, the Archives assisted 87 individuals and churches with their requests for information. To prepare for church celebrations, several researchers sought information on their church's history and a list of pastors appointed to their church through the years. Researchers also requested information on such topics as the history of Hendrix College and of Sloan-Hendrix Academy as well as biographical information about a bishop, a family of Arkansas pastors, and several persons who excelled in social and humanitarian endeavors. An inspiring story about discipleship emerged when personnel at the Lighthouse for the Blind in Little Rock began planning its 75th anniversary celebration and contacted the UM Archives for information about its founder, Rev. Jefferson W. "Buddy" Smith, a blind Methodist minister. According to church records, a Rev. Jeff Smith had been recommended for Admission on Trial into the Traveling Connection in the Camden District of the Little Rock Conference. He had been the Camden District Evangelist and the Conference Evangelist. In 1940, with the help of a few friends and a \$100 donation, Rev. Smith established a small shop where blind citizens could obtain employment. The shop was located near the Arkansas School for the Blind where Rev. Smith had attended school. In 1945 when the Ninth Street shop was dedicated, Helen Keller, the outspoken advocate for people with disabilities, attended the ceremony. By the mid-1960's a 16-month campaign to raise funds for a new building resulted in 50,000 contributions from Arkansans. This building at 69th and Murray Streets was dedicated in March, 1966, and remains the location of the Lighthouse for the Blind in Little Rock. Smith's obituary lists him as the founder and superintendent of the Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind from 1940 until his death in 1973. His son, Rev. Dr. Woodrow "Woody" Smith, who died in December, 2014, was a United Methodist minister in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. His granddaughter, Rev. Pamela Cicioni, also a United Methodist minister, is currently serving in Rogers, Arkansas. Typically, most of the research requests come from within the state of Arkansas. This year, however, there was a question from a New York Times reporter who was writing an obituary and wanting information about the deceased father, who had been a Methodist minister in Arkansas.

At the Museum in 2015 there were approximately 240 visitors, with a five-year total of about 1,000 visitors. A significant activity at the museum in November, 2015, was participation in the Children's Ministry Forum, a three-day event for children's ministry leaders in large United Methodist congregations. This national conference, sponsored by Discipleship Ministries (formerly the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship), the Large Church Initiative, and the United Methodist Publishing House, chose First United Methodist Church in Little Rock as its venue because of the museum and the historical church setting of FUMC, LR. During the summer curriculum planners from the Forum met with the museum curator and Pam Snider, the event coordinator for FUMC, Little Rock. They planned a formal tour for three groups of 25 each at the Museum one afternoon and also had the Museum open during the Forum. There were visitors from far and wide—Colorado, Wyoming, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Washington, Oklahoma, Tennessee, etc. In addition, the curator led a well-received session for the confirmation class at FUMC, Little Rock.

- Provide access 24/7 through a user-friendly Website and a Facebook page

An attractive and easy-to-use resource, the new website, [www.arkansasumcarchives.com](http://www.arkansasumcarchives.com), reaches out 24/7 to all readers with internet access. In 2015 there were 3,722 visits to the website, with 849 visits to the site in December alone. Maintained by the archives, it contains information pertinent to the Conference Commission on Archives and History, the UM Archives, the UM Museum, and the UM Historical Society. To date, our archivists have scanned and posted to this website issues of the Arkansas Methodist newspaper from 1884-1909, several documents and books on the history of the Methodist church in Arkansas and on the Evangelical United Brethren Church; an index to the Little Rock Conference appointments from 1820-1990; and the North Arkansas Conference Journals beginning with 1914. In addition, the site offers links to print and video resources on the Wesley family, the United Methodist Church and its predecessor organizations, the archives of other United Methodist Annual Conferences, and the General Commission on Archives and History. At the Museum, Lori Lemley, a volunteer, designed a website for the Museum, and it is nearing completion. Also, the curator maintains a Facebook page. She regularly posts photos of works in the museum collection and writes a short article on each posting. Each post has been well received by group members. The museum board is working to make the Museum more user-friendly in every way possible, and it is looking at ways to reach out from the Museum to take our story into the community.

- Utilize up-to-date equipment to facilitate delivery of information in a timely and professional manner

Another measure of the progress of this ministry is the creative application of up-to-date computer and scanner equipment for rapid retrieval and delivery of professional-looking copies of documents. For example, using an iPhone or iPad, the archivists present requested material in a digital format and deliver it, via e-mail, quickly and at low cost to the Archives. Last year the Archives purchased a Minolta color copier which is used to scan and reprint documents and pictures in color to make superior copies on acid-free paper for archival preservation.

- Engage in a major digitalization project
- A significant measure of progress is the digitalization of the Arkansas Methodist newspapers from 1884 to the present, an ongoing project which must be accomplished before the crumbling paper issues completely disintegrate. Because outsourcing the scanning was very slow and very costly, this project has gained momentum since the purchase last year of an "Image Access BookEye Profession" 4 VIA book scanner. Now the archivists themselves can scan these fragile, old papers, and the project can move along faster. We are indebted to the Winfred D. Polk Charitable Trust through the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas for the gift of this state-of-the-art scanner. By owning the scanner in the Archives, rather than out-sourcing the newspaper job, the archivists can save the conference around \$40,000 in scanning costs and use the new equipment for additional projects as well.

- Educate and inform the public
- The three agencies under the Commission work together to bring educational events and publications to the public. One outreach of the Historical Society is its newsletter, Occasional Papers, published once or twice a year on some aspect of Arkansas Methodist history and mailed to 200 members across the state. Also, each spring the Historical Society holds a luncheon with an educational program on a topic related to Arkansas Methodism. In spring 2015, Mr. Randy Frazier, a nationally recognized motivational speaker, prepared a program especially for our historical society and focused on spiritual renewal. In an inspiring, educational presentation called "Time and Opportunity," he highlighted significant events in the settlement of Arkansas, the trade routes, and the confluence of roads which followed rivers or paths of easiest movement. Then Mr. Frazier brought us to recognize how many of our accomplishments and achievements occurred just when time crossed opportunity, bringing about a catalyst for change in the lives of the people. Churches and "camp meeting" sites were a part of this process of renewal and spiritual growth across our state and our nation. In closing, the speaker challenged the members "to camp at the crossing of time and opportunity to discover treasures in clay vessels." Such actions can bring about revival in the Historical Society and in our churches.

1 With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can create vital congregations that 70  
 2 make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform 71  
 3 lives, communities, and the world. This year the Historical Society plans 72  
 4 to scan and distribute CDs of Mr. Frazier's presentation and to use it as a 73  
 5 tool for leading congregations to better understand their need for revival 74  
 6 and spiritual growth. 75

7 From time to time the museum offers special tours and receptions, 76  
 8 centered on a particular topic or group of people in the church. For 77  
 9 example, the museum has sponsored a reception which recognized 78  
 10 African-Americans in our church's history. Also, the museum hosted a 79  
 11 very successful loan exhibition, "Methodism on the American Frontier," 80  
 12 featuring folk art paintings by Rev. John S. Polk, depicting old Methodist 81  
 13 church structures. Also to raise awareness of the museum, the museum 82  
 14 organization joined several professional associations: (1) American 83  
 15 Association for State and Local History, and (2) the Arkansas Museum 84  
 16 Association. 85

17 Both the Archives and the Museum had displays at the Arkansas Annual 86  
 18 Conference in June. These display areas were hosted by the archivists, 87  
 19 the curator, and board volunteers who answered questions and distributed 88  
 20 information to conference attendees. Additionally, they offered, at a 89  
 21 nominal charge, CDs which contained the texts of several out-of-print 90  
 22 books on Arkansas Methodism. 91

- Create an experience, not merely provide information 92
- 24 A visit to the museum is an ideal way to experience the past...see the 93  
 25 hard, wooden pews (no cushions); touch the communion chalice used by 94  
 26 faithful brothers and sisters of another era; see photographs of faithful 95  
 27 souls your pastor or your parents talked about when you were a child. 96  
 28 In a similar way, we hope pages posted on the web from old Arkansas 97  
 29 Methodist newspapers will help readers live a little in the lives of Arkansans 98  
 30 of a hundred years ago and generate feelings that "plummet them into 99  
 31 the love of God." These newspapers were the CNN and the internet of 100  
 32 another era, as they gave people information on local, state, and national 101  
 33 news, especially for rural Arkansans. But these were also the Facebook 102  
 34 and Twitter of that time, revealing the lifestyle of pastors and their 103  
 35 congregations and showing how our Methodist brethren grappled with 104  
 36 the issues of their day--temperance, prohibition, politics, etc. Even ads 105  
 37 for products such as miracle medicinal cures give us a glimpse into the 106  
 38 lives of our brothers and sisters in an era before antibiotics and modern 107  
 39 medicine. But there are also stories in these pages about the ministry of 108  
 40 women who saved nickels and dimes from their egg and garden produce 109  
 41 sales to send missionaries to rural areas of our state and around the 110  
 42 world. There are stories for children about "Father Wesley," articles for 111  
 43 young people who dreamed of attending Galloway or Hendrix College, and 112  
 44 lengthy obituaries, often weeks after a death, with inspiring language we 113  
 45 could only hope someone might say about us when our time comes. Also, 114  
 46 to help people experience their history, the museum board plans to do 115  
 47 more temporary exhibits. Two are planned for 2016: (1) a photography 116  
 48 competition with a professional group of photographers to capture images 117  
 49 of Arkansas churches, coordinated by board member and photographer 118  
 50 Bill Burgin; and (2) "Missions with the Needle: Friendship Quilts and 119  
 51 Needlework" by Linda Baker, curator. The curator and board agree that 120  
 52 changing exhibits will keep people coming back to the museum as well 121  
 53 as generate interest for first-time visitors. 122

- Generate goodwill and spread the joy that comes from sharing the 123  
 54 Story 124

56 Progress may also be measured in the mutual goodwill and the 125  
 57 joy of sharing that collaboration on creative projects fosters among 126  
 58 all participants. This year several pastors and laity have given us old 127  
 59 Conference Journals, six vintage maps of Arkansas, two copies of History 128  
 60 of Methodism in Arkansas by Horace Jewell, and other materials related 129  
 61 to the Methodist church in Arkansas. A church in Conway and a pastor 130  
 62 in El Dorado invited the archivists to visit their libraries and take anything 131  
 63 that the Archives could use. Similarly, pastors and laity have enjoyed 132  
 64 sharing treasured mementos with the Museum. In addition, volunteers 133  
 65 have continued to interview present-day saints and to be inspired by the 134  
 66 oral histories they have recorded for future generations. Reaching beyond 135  
 67 the state and the conference, the Arkansas Commission on Archives and 136  
 68 History has worked with Commission personnel in other conferences and 137  
 69 138



in the General Commission as we mutually seek ways to continue the unique Ministry of Memory and to bring about a spiritual revival in the United Methodist Church.

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

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

- Information on the Arkansas UMC Archives / Winfred D. Polk Methodist Archives from Marcia Crossman, Archivist (ArkMethodist@Hendrix.edu)  
Carole Teague, Archivist (ArkMethodist@Hendrix.edu)
- Information on the UM Museum of the Arkansas Conference from Linda Baker, Curator, The United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference (sorryvasari@att.net)  
Rev. Dr. Candace Barron, Museum Board Chairman (Candace.barron@arumc.org)
- Information on the UM Historical Society of Arkansas from Rev. Ron Clark, Historical Society Chairman (ronaldclark1510@comcast.net)

**Helen Giessen Guenter  
Chairperson**

**Conference Commission on Religion and Race**

The Arkansas Conference Commission of Religion and Race instituted a new ministry model in 2014 and has been operating under the model of ministry that has been enacted by the General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church. Through this model we evaluate ministry is using the following lenses:

1. Institutional Equity,
2. Developing intercultural competency,
3. Facilitating Essential and Vital conversations.

As we have progressed we are looking at each conference and district committees and teams to see how they are doing in these three areas. Whether at the general church and conference level, we are seeking to be a positive force for change in our denomination and conference. We have seen over time that holy conferencing with each other in respectful conversation is better than number crunching. Does not Christ call us to be in relationship with him and with each other? Relationships matter!!

Over the past year, we have been monitoring the boards, agencies, committees and commissions and other related groups through an internal monitoring report which is presented back to the committee when we are able to meet. Most committees have responded to our requests to be present at their tables. The members were asked to also be part of the district leadership team or equivalent to help monitor and especially when it came to nominations that persons of ethnic descent are invited to the leadership table. We have appreciated that the district and conference nominating committees are trying to be fair and equitable in their work by bringing all voices to the table.

We have been monitoring Phase 4 of the Bishop's mission plan and will continue to monitor as subsequent parts of that phase take effect over the year(s) ahead. It is our wish that as we progress in making disciples that make disciples that it is done in a way that honors our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ by bringing all of God's people to the table.

**Rev. George Odell  
Chair, Arkansas CORR**

**Conference Council on Camp and Retreat Ministries** 70

Incredible work is being done in the area of Camp and Retreat Ministries of the Arkansas Conference! 71

Our camps are in the full swing of the summer camping season. 72

Each camp has a great schedule of a variety of camps for a variety of age groups. 73

Three initiatives were launched at the beginning of 2016 through the Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries area. These initiatives will provide conference wide programming while using our five camps as the locations at which these programs will take place. Below is a summary of the Camp and Retreat initiatives. 74

Confirmation Camps are perfect for churches of any size. If your church has a long-term confirmation program, Confirmation Camp can serve as your confirmation retreat. If your church has a smaller confirmation class, Confirmation Camp can serve as the bulk of the confirmation experience, with follow-up lessons designed to be done at the local church after the retreat. The curriculum includes 10 lessons, 6 of which will take place at camp and 4 of which will be provided for those churches who wish to use them to complete the confirmation experience after returning to their local churches. The next camp will be October 7-9 at Bear Creek Camp and there will be multiple camps offered in 2017. 75

Senior Retreat is an opportunity for graduating seniors to spend time learning what to expect on their post-high school journey, and how to navigate new challenges and situations. Topics at the retreat will include College Life 101: New Freedoms, Finances, & Time Management, Relationships: Old Friends, New Friends and Family Changes, Continuing the Journey: Faith after High School. Senior Retreat will be offered every year. 76

200K Reasons This series of events involved a retreat for young adults that featured Patty Barker from Arkansas Hunger Alliance as a facilitator who taught the participants how to identify the needs of your local church's or college's mission field, what specific feeding ministry ideas and programs are available, and how to provide education that leads to sustainable food security in your community. Young Adults who attend the Discover 200K Retreat and others in local congregations are invited to attend subsequent day long seminars such as Feeding Ministries on May 7, Community Gardens on June 11, and Cooking Matters Training on September 17. 77

Great things are happening and great things are yet to come in the world of Camp and Retreat Ministries! 78

**Michelle Moore** 79  
**Director of Program and Marketing** 80

**Conference Council on Children's Ministries** 81

The Conference Council on Children's Ministries' (CCCM) two main ministry goals continue to be to connect/network people involved with children's ministry throughout the state and to equip those people for ministry in their local congregations. 82

Through connecting and equipping children's ministry leaders, we are able to provide a wide base of support, accountability and information to more people. The more knowledgeable leaders are about available resources and current educational methods, materials and programs available for children, the more effective they will be in their ability to reach children and families for Jesus Christ. 83

The Council sponsors three social media sites and a web page. People interested in children's ministry worldwide access our boards (subject matter groupings) for unique ideas about VBS, special needs ministry, sacraments, liturgical seasons, United Methodist curriculum and instruction tips. Site statistics indicate that our Arkansas United Methodist online presence is wide in scope and is serving as a vital part of equipping children's ministry leaders in an efficient and economical way. 84

The following are some statistics from three of our sites from February 6, 2016. 85

PINTEREST <http://www.pinterest.com/kidzarumc/> 86

- Average daily viewers – 334 87
- Average monthly viewers - 19, 836 88
- Average daily viewers referred from children's ministry web page – 431 89

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/kidzarumc>

- Total # people reached this week - 5,281
- Total # people "engaged" (meaning clicked on link in post, liked post, shared post, commented on post) this week - 601
- Users from the following cities in past 3 years:

Arkansas - Alma, Arkadelphia, Avoca, Batesville, Bauxite, Beebe, Bella Vista, Benton, Bentonville, Berryville, Bethel Heights, Bismarck, Blytheville, Boone, Bryant, Cabot, Cave Springs, Charleston, Chidester, Conway, Corning, Crossett, Delaware, Des Arc, Dumas, El Dorado, Elm Springs, Farmington, Fayetteville, Floral, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Goshen, Hagarville, Haskell, Hope, Hot Springs, Jacksonville, Johnson, Jonesboro, Joy, Junction City, Lapeer, Lake Hamilton, Leola, Lincoln, Little Rock, Lonoke, Lowell, Magnet Cove, Magnolia, Malvern, Marianna, Maumelle, Mena, Moro, Mountain View, Mountainburg, Murfreesboro, Newark, North Little Rock, Old Arkansas, Ouachita, Paragould, Paris, Pine Bluff, Pottsville, Prairie Creek, Prairie Grove, Rockwell, Rogers, Russellville, Scotland, Searcy, Sheridan, Sherwood, Siloam Springs, Springdale, Star City, Stuttgart, Tontitown, Traskwood, Vilonia, Walnut Ridge, Ward, Watson, Waveland, West Fork, West Memphis, White Hall, Woodlawn.

Other States - Berthoud, CO, Cartersville, VA, Cedar Rapids, IA, Christian Center, MO, Colfax, LA, Dallas, TX, Dalzell, SC, Dyersburg, TN, Florissant, MO, Gladstone, MI, Grant, WI, Greer, SC, Grove, OK, Houston, TX, Iola, TX, Kenai, AK, La Mesa, CA, Lawrence, KS, Longmont, CO, Memphis, TN, Moneysville, MO, Montgomery, TX, Muskogee, OK, Nashville, TN, Newark, DE, Newburgh, NY, Newton, KS, Nikiski, AK, Oklahoma City, OK, Olathe, KS, Oxford, PA, Pasadena, TX, Powhatan, VA, San Diego, CA, University Park, TX

WEB PAGE [kidz.arumc.org](http://kidz.arumc.org) • 47,554 Views in 3 years

A Facebook page for CCCM's Destination: Mission is located at <https://www.facebook.com/Destination.Mission>

Destination: Mission, a four day service, fellowship and spiritual formation experience for children in grades 3-6 that was started in 2008 in the Northwest District, was officially adopted by the CCCM as one of their outreach programs in 2014. This program is coordinated by Denni Palmer (Fayetteville) and includes one mission trip during Spring Break and one or two mission trips during the summer. With hundreds of children and adults participating with Destination: Mission each year, this children's mission experience is touching lives and making disciples that will impact the future. Little Rock, Fayetteville and Siloam Springs are the locations of the 2016 mission trips.

In November, 2015, Arkansas had the honor of hosting the national Children's Ministry Forum; an event co-sponsored by Discipleship Ministries, the Large Church Initiative and Cokesbury. Over 200 children's ministers from throughout the United States joined nationally renowned leaders in children's spirituality, faith formation, worship and Christian education for three days of workshops and worship. Twenty six people from Arkansas were in attendance. Through the generosity of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, half of the Arkansas participants received full-tuition scholarships to attend Forum. Pam Snider from Little Rock First UMC was the ground team leader for this event.

One of the CCCM's five year goals is to conduct an annual state-wide retreat and training for children's ministry leaders. January, 2014's first Beyond conference was held at Camp Tanako with 50 participants. In January 2015, Beyond was held at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville with over 70 children and adults in attendance. In January, 2016, Beyond returned to Camp Tanako as a 3 day retreat/training event for 24 children's ministry leaders. Tanya Eustace from Discipleship Ministries in Nashville served as the event leader. The 2017 Beyond Children's Ministry Leadership Conference is slated for January 26-28 at Mt. Sequoyah.

CCCM continued to offer VBS mini-grants for small membership churches to conduct summer VBS outreach programs. Ten \$200 grants (2/district) were awarded in both 2015 and 2016.

A \$500 contribution to camping ministries was given by CCCM to provide summer camping opportunities for children who may not otherwise be able to afford to attend an Arkansas United Methodist camping program. Also, in both 2015 and 2016, CCCM contributed ten \$150 summer camp scholarships for Methodist Family Health students.

1 Created by God is a human sexuality program for older elementary/tween 70  
 2 students and is part of the Conference Children's Ministry area. CCCM is 71  
 3 responsible for officially certifying CBG leaders after they complete their 72  
 4 course of training and related paperwork. During the past three years, 73  
 5 the number of certified leaders for this program has grown from one to 74  
 6 three. They are Liz Wright (Little Rock), John Shirron (Cabot) and Karen 75  
 7 Anderson (Rogers). More information about Created by God may be found 76  
 8 on the [kidz.arumc.org](http://kidz.arumc.org) website. 77

9 To aid in the transition from children's ministry to youth ministry and 78  
 10 to accommodate the varying grade levels in which Confirmation classes are 79  
 11 held throughout the state, the annual "Confirmation Day with the Bishop" 80  
 12 was expanded to include 5th grade students and renamed as "Day with 81  
 13 the Bishop". Several Conference children's leaders worked with Michelle 82  
 14 Moore, Conference Youth Ministries Coordinator, to plan and lead the 83  
 15 day-long event. 84

16 On a personal note, it has been a blessing to serve as your Conference 85  
 17 Children's Ministry Coordinator. In a relatively short amount of time 86  
 18 with a comparatively small budget, Conference children's ministry has 87  
 19 progressed from a grass roots effort in a couple of communities to an 88  
 20 organized connection. We have been able to connect and equip people in 89  
 21 smaller churches with a vast amount of resources, free curriculum, grants, 90  
 22 scholarships and training. We've built strong working relationships with 91  
 23 other United Methodist programs both within the Arkansas and through 92  
 24 our national connections with Discipleship Ministries. Working with our 93  
 25 Conference chancellor and the Conference youth ministry coordinator, 94  
 26 we've been able to clarify and give guidance for some of the very complex 95  
 27 issues surrounding Safe Sanctuaries. My prayer is that the Arkansas 96  
 28 Conference children's ministry continues to connect and equip children's 97  
 29 ministry leaders so they can make disciples of Jesus Christ who make 98  
 30 disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. 99

31 Conference Council on Children's Ministries Contacts: 100  
 32 District Coordinators 101

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115 **Respectfully Submitted,**  
 116 **Karen Swales**

117 **Arkansas Conference Children's Ministry Coordinator**  
 118

119 **Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee**

120 The Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns works in 120  
 121 partnership with the existing structures of the Arkansas Annual Conference 121  
 122 in order to implement, evaluate, and update the Annual Conference of its 122  
 123 comprehensive plan as it relates to ethnic issues. The Committee consults 123  
 124 with and assists other conference entities in training and implementation 124  
 125 of matters related to ethnic local churches. The committee maintains the 125  
 126 connectional relations mandated by ¶632 and ¶ 654. 126

127 Additionally, this committee is charged with implementing all General 127  
 128 Conference emphasis related to: 128

- National Hispanic Plan 129
- Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century 130
- National Korean Ministry Plan 131
- Native American Ministries (¶654) 132
- Other ethnic programs emanating from the General Conference. 133

134 The Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee works in three (3) 134  
 135 areas to support local congregations in their efforts to make disciples by 135  
 136 providing funding in the following areas: 136

- a. Leadership Development (both lay and clergy) 137

- b. Mission Field Outreach
- c. Scholarships (need-based undergraduate students)

We are fully aware that the majority of the ethnic churches in Arkansas are small, and have fewer resources outside of the annual conference; therefore, our goal is to assist them by providing these needed resources. However, the goal of this committee is always to empower our congregations to be self sufficient. Another initiative of the committee is to support innovative cutting-edge methods of ministry in its initial stages of implementation as we realize that sometimes it is not popular to try new things. We encourage local congregations not to be about their failures (if these new things do not produce the expected outcome), but to view these new attempts as learning experiences in attempting to attract new people in different/unexpected ways.

We believe the work of the Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee is in direct alignment with the Bishop's Mission Initiatives #5, #6, #7, #8; with a great percentage of what we do supporting #9.

We have supported other connectional ministries by providing scholarships for youth in collaboration with Mission u and Camp Tanako; as well as assisted in the Path I Ministry Training with the Northwest District, FUMC Dardanelle and Nueva Vida.

Undergraduate scholarship recipients include but are not limited to: Brennen Boose, Jairo Ledesma, Julius Keith, Quintin Sigman, Eyrca Williams, and Breanna White.

Mission Field Grants awards to: Haven United Methodist Church, Saint Andrew United Methodist Church, Theresa Hoover Memorial United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, Dardanelle, Philander Smith College Campus Ministry, White Memorial United Methodist Church, St. Luke United Methodist Church, Hope Korean United Methodist Church, Valley Grove United Methodist Church, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, St. James Lonoke, and Wiley Chapel United Methodist Church.

We provided Leadership Training for individuals at the following conferences: Native American Ministries Caucus, National Korean Plan meeting, Perkins Youth School of Theology, General Black Methodists for Church Renewal, and Youth 2015.

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

In closing, we are very grateful for our conference staff person, the Rev. Maxine Allen. Her gifts and graces are the driving force of our ministry within this committee.

**Grace and peace,  
Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, Chair  
Committee on Ethnic and Language Concerns**

**Conference Board of Global Ministries**

The Conference Committee on Global Ministries is purposed to maintain a connection to the General Board of Global ministries through implementation, communication and interpretation of the global mission of the United Methodist Church. We connect through the Conference to the local church.

We accomplish our mandate through the organized units within the Committee:

- Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
- Conference District Secretaries (5 representatives)
- Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns
- Volunteers in Mission
- Arkansas Conference on Disaster Response
- Missionary Personnel
- Parish & Community Development
- And other areas as determined by the Arkansas Annual Conference.

During 2015, Volunteers in Mission were active within the state and beyond its borders. Often partnering with Disaster Response opportunities to aid persons affected by natural disasters such as

tornadoes and/flooding.  
Also, we were fortunate to have time during the 2015 Annual Conference to acknowledge the work of our local missionary personnel (Church & Community Workers and Lay Missioner) and one international missionary (Elizabeth Soard). Our mission personnel provide a key presence of service and witness on behalf of our mission mandate: "Go therefore and make disciples..." There are several ways to serve in the mission field; Church and Community Workers, Lay Missioners or Deaconess and of course as volunteers.

Another great opportunity for our local churches is the Conference' annual Ingathering. It always takes place on the third Saturday in November before Thanksgiving.

United Methodists in Arkansas share their time, food items, emergency supplies, and money. Approximately 445 volunteers boxed more than 40,000 pounds of Sweet Potatoes and packaged more than 40,000 meals and prepared all, along with emergency supplies to be distributed within the state and for transport to our UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. Ingathering is a great way to be a part of 200,000 reasons and an excellent way to continue to partner with Arkansas Rice Depot and Arkansas Food Bank.

Bishop Mueller started the day with an inspirational message of encouragement and the people came with a mind to work. Thank you Methodists of Arkansas. Your faithfulness in giving and support will continue to bless people in the state of Arkansas, within the United States and around the globe.

**Brenda Norwood  
Chairperson**

**Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**

The Conference Secretary of Global Ministries works with the chairperson of the conference Board of Global Ministries to relate the Arkansas Conference Board of Global Ministries to the objectives and scope of work of the General Board of Global Ministries. The Secretary of Global Ministries also relates to the district secretaries of Global Ministries.

The conference secretary of global ministries is also responsible for scheduling General Board of Global Ministries Missionaries that itinerate into our conference.

The Arkansas Conference welcomed Williams and Gwendolyn Gibson from August 24-27, 2015. William Gibson serving as a mission director of the United Methodist Mission in Senegal and Gwendolyn Gibson serving as an educational specialist with the United Methodist Mission in Senegal were greeted in Pine Bluff at St. James United Methodist Church where Gwendolyn Gibson has family. On August 26th, they visited the conference office and were welcome by Mackey Yokem, Director of Ministry and Missions and Rev. Maxine Allen, Associate Director of Ministries for Mission Field Engagement. The Gibson's were given a tour of the conference office and met conference staff. They were then given a tour of Philander Smith College along with meeting Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr., President, Philander Smith College. They ended their day by visiting McCabe Chapel United Methodist Church in North Little Rock and other local churches were also invited to attend.

Gwendolyn Gibson plans to retire at the end of her iteration and spend time with her children and grandchildren. William Gibson plans to return to Senegal for an additional year. A letter from the Gibson's expressed their appreciation and gratitude for their time spent in Arkansas.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Marleene Calvin  
Secretary Global Ministries**

**Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry**

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry has the privilege to work with United Methodist Campus Ministries in a variety of places and forms.

There are Wesley Foundations with a meeting place and director on the campuses at ASU, ATU, HSU-OBU, SAU, UA, UALR, UAM, UAPB and UCA. The chaplains at Hendrix College and Philander Smith College provide a vibrant ministry on these two United Methodist College campuses. We also have a United Methodist presence on the campuses of Lyon College

and the University of the Ozarks as well as at UA Fort Smith, where the United Methodist campus ministry, The Bridge, is located.

The Board is deeply grateful for the annual financial support provided by the Conference. This core support is critical to all of these ministries. The support of the Conference allows us to place Wesley Foundation director on these campuses as our lead “missionary” in the unique mission field that is a college campus. We are so grateful for the support individual United Methodists and United Methodist Churches provide.

This year the Conference included \$45,000 for maintenance of our Wesley Foundation properties. These funds have been critically important in allowing needed repairs and maintenance to be done. These funds are expended as grants and are expended as a dollar-to-dollar matching grant.

In 2015 we made grants to ASU, ATU, HSU, SAU, UA, UALR, and UCA. In 2016 we have already committed to grant to UAM and are developing a plan for other needs that are present. These grants have helped replace roofs, HVAC units, a leaking gas line and leaking windows. One of the really exciting events for our students in the winter break Ozark Mission Project trip. This year over 75 students worked in mission in Memphis. Students participated from ASU, ATU, HSU, SAU, and UA. This event allows students to be in mission together and build bonds beyond their individual campuses. The results of such a unifying experience can be seen as college students from across the state are connecting with high school students at events like Veritas.

Last summer 36 members of our Board and leaders in campus ministry held an overnight retreat at Mount Eagle. Creighton Alexander, a renowned national leader in campus ministry, led a two day “boot camp” for us.

We are excited about future plans for developing a coaching network for our campus ministers and our Wesley Foundation boards. We look forward to sharing updates of this with you.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Roy P. Smith, Chairperson**

**Arkansas Conference Board of Laity Report**

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

Since last Annual Conference, the Board of Laity has continued to focus on how the conference and districts can best resource local congregations as they work to fulfill the Bishop’s Mission Plan and the mission and vision of the Arkansas Conference, but we have added an emphasis on increasing and expanding lay leadership, starting at the conference level.

We believe a key factor in strengthening laity in the Arkansas Conference is through expanded lay leadership. At this Annual Conference we are seeking to add an Associate Lay Leader position, and an Associate Director of Lay Servant Ministries position, both of which will be added to the Board of Laity membership. These two associate positions will work side by side with the Lay Leader and Director of Lay Servant Ministries, learning and participating in the life of the Arkansas Annual Conference.

Our vision for the future is that an individual serve one term as the associate, followed by one term as Lay Leader or Director of Lay Servant Ministries (but this will not be mandated). This will create continuity of leadership in the conference and increase the number of individuals who have the opportunity to serve. Over time, more leaders engaged at the conference and district levels will improve lay participation in all aspects of our connection.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Arkansas Conference Lay Leader.

**Karon Mann  
Arkansas Conference Lay Leader**

**Lay Servant Ministries Report**

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

The 2012 General Conference changed the way we have been doing things and gave us a new name and position. Change is sometimes met with suspicion and confusion so I would like to share as much information here as I can.

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

\*We now have the Local Lay Servant position instead of Local Lay Speaker (will be able to serve the local church in whatever capacity available for them, including filling in for their Pastor). These must have taken the basic course, taken at least 4 hours of continuing ed every three years, and file the Annual Report of the Lay Servant/ Speaker every year with the charge conference. Possible changes will be made at the 2016 General Conference that will eliminate the Local Lay Servant position – contact your District Office/District Director after General Conference for details.

\*We now have the Certified Lay Servant position instead of the Certified Lay Speaker. They will be able to serve the local church and also the extended church in whatever capacity that is available for them, including filling in for local Pastors and other Pastors in the connection, week to week. Those in this position must have taken basic and one advanced class and take another advanced class at least every three years, and file the Annual Report of the Lay Servant/ Speaker every year with the charge conference.

\*We now have the new position of Lay Speaker which is a new track inside the Lay Servant Ministries Program. We retained the name Lay Speaker for this position. The position requires 1 basic and 5 specific advanced courses as required by General Conference Legislation. Those course categories are: Basic, Worship, Prayer, Spiritual Gifts, Preaching, UM Heritage and also UM Polity.

\*\*Each of these positions, except the Lay Speaker position which requires more, require at least 10 hours of classroom time every three years or specific approved alternate courses of equivalent service/ training that can be used to stay in the program. If a person delays coming to class for three consecutive years, even if using an alternate class, (see 2016 list), they will be dropped from the program and will have to take the basic and then another advanced class to be certified again. The Lay Servant/Lay Speaker will be recommended ( Signature on form) by the Pastor of the local church where their membership is held and by a vote of the local charge conference. ( D.S. witness/ Signature on the Annual Lay Servant Report Charge Conference Form . Completing this form is required each year to stay in the LSM Program, but does not give you status as a Lay Servant unless you have completed the training classes.

\*\*\*Upon requesting to enter the new Lay Speaker Track, apply with District Director. Persons applying to become a Lay Speaker will be examined, records/past service, by the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (DCLSM) or equivalent structure and be recommended to the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (CCLSM) or equivalent structure for approval. The Lay Speaker must apply for re-approval and appear before the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (DCLSM) or equivalent structure at least every three years. They also must receive the endorsement of the local church charge conference every year by the Annual Lay Servant Report form.

List of 2016 approved Alternate Service/Training for Certified Lay Servants (must meet LSM requirements)

1. All LSM Classes must be conducted/approved through the District Director in order to get credit.

2. UMC recognized courses / events : Walk to Emmaus , Mission u , Disciple Bible Studies , Stephen Ministry , Hendrix College Religious

Ed. Programs , Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence programs

3. Be-A-Disciple and other online courses , to be considered on a case –by–case basis for 2016. Please contact your District or Conference Director before taking these to be able to get credit for the course. These courses must conform to general LSM Program requirements. You must still attend one classroom type class once every 3 years regardless of how many Alternate classes taken to remain in the LSM Program.

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

5. You must apply to your District Director or Conference Director for proper credit for any classes taken outside the normal classroom-type classes.

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

Under the 2012 General Conference Legislation, the Lay Servant Ministries Program is a Laity driven, Laity-led program and the District and Conference Directors shall be Laity. We continue to look for competent Laity that will become Instructors/Facilitators for our classes as well as Directors/Co-Directors of the District Programs and we will continue to partner with our clergy to strengthen the program. We certainly need the buy-in of our Bishop, D.S. s and our clergy if we are to succeed.

2015 was another “banner” year for the Lay Servant Ministry Program. We held even more classes across the connection than we did in 2014 , and will continue to do so in 2016. We hope to have classes scheduled in each District and at Mt. Eagle/Mt. Sequoyah for 2016. Check your District Offices for class information and the arumc.org/Lay Servant Ministries webpage/Calendar.

2015 also began the second year that we recognized the new position of Lay Speaker. We have 8 certified Lay Servants who have applied for the Lay Speaker status, and 7 have already completed all classes and requirements, with another just one class away from Lay Speaker status. The 8 are: Liz Curtis – N.W. LSM District Director, Susan Jett - N.E. LSM District Director, John Harding formerly N.E. District –now Southwest District, Nancy Scott - Southwest District, and Permelia Huffman – Southeast District. New for 2016-Matt Fox, Regena Mason and Ken Beard, all from the Northwest District.

Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville hopefully will schedule LSM classes for 2016, as well as Mt. Eagle.

The Annual Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries (ACDLSM) met on February 11-13 in Nashville, Tennessee and I attended new releases of LSM curriculum from Discipleship Ministries , and updates on General Conference Legislation pending.

We have re-organized the South Central Jurisdictional program for Lay Servant Ministries (SCJLSM) after a successful meeting at Mt. Sequoyah last year. We will be meeting in Fort Worth, Texas this summer for continuing education and organizational meetings.

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

The following is the results of our 2015 ongoing efforts to hold classes and enlist Laity into our Lay Servant Ministry:

- \*Southeast District: 2 events, 6 classes, 22 laity attended classes
- \*Northeast District: 24 classes held, 64 participants; Susan Jett – N.E. District Director is a Lay Speaker and is serving Norfork UMC as a Supply Pastor
- \*Central District: 8 events, 12 classes held, and 61 Laity attended classes
- \*Southwest District: 3 events, 3 classes and 14 Laity attended classes
- \*Northwest District: 11 events, 34 classes, and 199 Laity attended classes at Mt. Sequoyah, South Central Jurisdictional meeting and

1 several large churches contributed to these numbers in the N.W. District 70  
2 and we are truly grateful for them. 71

3 We welcome all churches to hold LSM classes for us – contact your 72  
4 District Director for details. 73

5 Come join us wherever you are in your walk in life and help us 74  
6 “Unleash the Laity.” 75

7 **Peace wherever we are ,** 76  
8 **Jimmie Boyd** 77

9 **Director Arkansas Conference Lay Servant Ministries** 78  
10 **Director Southeast District Lay Servant Ministries** 79

11 **Arkansas Conference Coordinator of Mission Personnel** 80  
12 81

13 The Coordinator of Mission Personnel reports a total of 6 active 82  
14 missionary personnel from the Arkansas Conference, 2 active missionaries 83  
15 from other annual conferences but connected to Arkansas, and 27 retired 84  
16 missionary personnel who were either from Arkansas or were connected 85  
17 with Arkansas through their service. Since last year, 1 missionary has been 86  
18 added and one removed from the list of active missionaries keeping the 87  
19 active number at 6. Added to the list is US-2 Amber Feezor. US-2 Elizabeth 88  
20 Fink was removed due to the completion of her 2 year service at Branches, 89  
21 an Urban & Social Justice Ministry in the Florida Annual Conference, where 90  
22 she remains working. 91

23 Arkansas missionaries in active service are: 92  
24 \*Banks-Shackelford, Evelyn. Evelyn has been a United Methodist General 93  
25 Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) commissioned CCW (Church and 94  
26 Community Worker) since 1987. She serves five churches in the Arkansas 95  
27 Delta communities around Marianna. Evelyn’s responsibilities include 96  
28 overseeing a ministry feeding the hungry by operating an area food bank 97  
29 which disburses food to local food pantries and churches, supplying 98  
30 children with backpacks of food on the weekends and coordinating a 99  
31 community garden. Her missionary support code is 982939. 100

32 \*Caldwell, Deaconess Colleen. Dc. Caldwell was consecrated to the office 101  
33 of Deaconess in 2011 and is currently appointed as Project Manager 102  
34 for 200,000 Reasons: Methodists in Arkansas United Against Childhood 103  
35 Hunger. She creates resources for local church involvement and speaks 104  
36 for the project around the state (see 200kreasons.arumc.org). 105

37 Copley, Rev. Stephen. An ordained elder and a GBGM commissioned 106  
38 \*CCW, Rev. Copley is the Executive Director of Interfaith Arkansas. His 107  
39 ministries include issues of concern to the interfaith community, poverty, 108  
40 the environment and immigration. His missionary support code is 982019. 109

41 \*Feezor, Amber. Amber was commissioned by GBGM in the US-2 program 110  
42 in July 2015 to serve a two-year term of service as a Global Mission Fellow 111  
43 with the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) in 112  
44 Washington, D.C. Amber is a member of Dover First UMC. Her missionary 113  
45 support code is 3022063. 114

46 \*Larson, Cathy. Cathy is a Lay Missioner for the SW District at Open Door 115  
47 Ministry in Jones Mill. Open Door serves hot meals and provides many 116  
48 other services for children and families. 117

49 \*Soard, Elizabeth. Commissioned as a United Methodist missionary with 118  
50 GBGM, Elizabeth is assigned to the Mara region of Tanzania as a church 119  
51 planter and discipleship trainer, along with her husband, Eric. Living in 120  
52 Tarime, she feels especially called “to the people of Africa, to help develop 121  
53 programs for women and children, to be an example that women can be 122  
54 strong and respected as equals to men.” Elizabeth is a member of Salem 123  
55 UMC in Conway, and her father is Rev. William Buchanan, Jr. You can 124  
56 follow Elizabeth & Eric’s ministry through their blog: ingodslife.blogspot. 125  
57 com. Her missionary support code is 3021467. 126

58 Active missionaries with connections to and/or supported by the 127  
59 Arkansas conference are: 128

60 \*Morgan, Dwaine. Dwaine is a CCW with GBGM assigned to the Mission 129  
61 Response Center (MRC) in the Western North Carolina Conference. A 130  
62 former chaplain’s assistant in the US Army, Dwaine has served on staff at 131  
63 Stuttgart First UMC. His missionary support code is 982923. 132

64 \*Soard, Eric. A commissioned United Methodist missionary with GBGM 133  
65 since 2010, Eric is currently assigned to the Mara region of Tanzania as 134  
66 a church planter and discipleship trainer, along with his wife, Elizabeth. 135  
67 Eric was born in Arkansas but is now a member of the Memphis Annual 136  
68 Conference with membership at Medina First UMC. His missionary support 137  
69 138

code is 3021468.

Churches and individuals are encouraged to become "co-missionaries" by supporting a missionary commissioned by GBGM (missionaries with a United Methodist Advance missionary support code). This partnership is much more than a financial commitment. It is a dynamic relationship where a church or individual and the missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. Visit [www.umcmision.org](http://www.umcmision.org) to find out more.

If you are interested in missionary work, contact Deaconess Colleen Caldwell, Coordinator of Mission Personnel for the Arkansas Conference, at (501) 529-0604 or [DeaconessColleen@gmail.com](mailto:DeaconessColleen@gmail.com).

**In His Service by His Grace,  
Deaconess Colleen Caldwell  
Coordinator of Mission Personnel**

**Mount Eagle Christian Center, Inc.**

Greetings from Mount Eagle, a retreat center of the Arkansas Annual Conference located near Shirley, AR. It is here that approximately 2305 people came in 2015 to relax, renew and be refreshed for ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ. 1174 United Methodist users, 75 UM groups and 42 other groups. Our mission is to provide Christian hospitality and opportunities for holy listening for all. The year round programs here are focused on adults, youth, and families.

This has been my first year as the new director for Mount Eagle. I would like to thank all those that have made this, my first year, so good. I have met you at churches, here on retreat, as part of a mission team, board members, or just stopping by to look around at the awesome view God has created at this sacred space. My wife, Marietha, and I have been so blessed being a part of the Arkansas United Methodist Conference and we thank you all.

In 2015 we provided sacred space for local church leadership retreats, Sunday school classes, youth groups, men's and women's groups, confirmation classes, Local Pastor Licensing School, Residence in Ministry, Conference Staff Retreat, multiple district events, many conference events, quilting groups, family reunions, and mission groups from Arkansas and Missouri. We have also had youth groups from Mississippi and Missouri. Some of our family reunions have had people fly in from different parts of the world just to make it here for their family reunion. We have Care Caps that provide caps for those that have been diagnosed with cancer. People worshipped, walked the meditation trail, labyrinth, hiked to Bear Cave, Turkey Cave, visited Boat Chapel, walked to the Little Red River, shared meals and fellowshiped together, and did service projects. Some just took that time to be alone with God and allow his voice to resonate in their whole being.

Thanks go out to all those that have provided mission and service to Mount Eagle in 2015. Whether you were here on a retreat or just came to help with a project, you have been a vital part of the ministry here. Thanks to the NOMADS organization and our Arkansas NOMADS, a group of retired United Methodists with RV's, providing invaluable service and skilled labor. They repaired and painted decks, new signage throughout, painted, pressure washed deck, built a new deck at Kaetzel Lodge, cut and split firewood, mulched tree limbs, mulched paths, and many other numerous projects.

Partnerships are a very important part of the ministry of Mount Eagle. Through grants from the Arkansas United Methodist Foundation and the Clinton United Methodist Women's Thrift Store we were able to provide a retreat for "The Call" ministry of Cleburne and Van Buren Counties. They are foster families that are in ministry providing for children less fortunate. Mount Eagle provides a place of much needed rest for the foster parents that attend. We also received a grant from the Clinton UMW Thrift Store to be used to purchase a new 4 X 4, 6 seat Mahindra so that mobility-challenged guests can still see much of Mount Eagle.

We are thankful for the blessing of 2015 and new opportunities in 2016. We will be hosting Re-Firement, to be held in September 20-22 for seniors. We are looking forward to again having our Silent Centering Prayer Retreat to be announced, Youth Workers Marriage Retreat October 21-23, Pastor Golf Retreat May 1-3, and through a joint effort of Clinton UMC and the Church of Christ we will have our first Serenity House Retreat

1 for men with alcohol and drug addictions. Low ropes/challenge course 70  
2 will be available as soon as the inspection is completed. Groups of all ages 71  
3 will build teamwork and leadership skills and each element will challenge 72  
4 them to relate each challenge to their walk with Christ. 73

5 We look forward to partnering in 2016 with our best partner, the 74  
6 Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. 75

7 **Respectfully submitted,** 76  
8 **Mike "Sarge" Leonard, Director** 77

**Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc.**

9  
10  
11 The future is bright: 80  
12 Mount Sequoyah has written commitments to provide facilities and 81  
13 pursue a partnership with UA Wesley ministries through December 31, 82  
14 2019. The goal is to solidify a relationship with college age people and 83  
15 expand that relationship across the jurisdiction, making Mount Sequoyah's 84  
16 facilities a destination for religious training and spiritual formation. 85

17 Mount Sequoyah completed an intensive review of its mission and 86  
18 future potential conducted by United Methodist Elders, Pamela J. Harris and 87  
19 Garrie F. Stevens of Run River Enterprises, a consulting firm. The review 88  
20 process included three-two day work sessions that were well attended 89  
21 by staff and Trustees. As a result Mount Sequoyah has undertaken the 90  
22 task of refocusing its purpose and mission in an effort to identify unique 91  
23 areas in which it can develop training programs to equip clergy and laity 92  
24 with the tools, technology and skills that will be necessary to reach the 93  
25 mission fields twenty or thirty years in the future and required to resolve 94  
26 conflicts likely to be faced by our clergy and within our churches. 95

27 The future is secure: 96

28 Mount Sequoyah is financially secure. In exchange for negotiated 97  
29 price increases, Mount Sequoyah orally committed to provide our largest 98  
30 corporate client training facilities, food service and housing through the 99  
31 year 2017 with full expectation to continue into 2018. The rents are fixed 100  
32 through 2017. 101

33 A \$550,000.00 payment is due from American Tower for a 30-year 102  
34 cell tower site lease. 103

35 Fayetteville Cottage is leased from 1 August through 31 December 104  
36 2019 and 1011 Skyline (former District Superintendent's House) is leased 105  
37 through January 2017 with a verbal commitment to extend through 106  
38 January 2018. 107

39 Three Host Family houses are leased through May 31, 2017. 108

40 A \$100,000.00 increase in events and programming revenue and 109  
41 an increase of \$75,000.00 in contributions are projected for 2016. A 110  
42 Development Officer has been hired. 111

43 Long-term debt is \$275,000.00 and the Line of Credit is currently 112  
44 \$105,000. Cash equivalent assets of \$300,000.00 are invested with the 113  
45 United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. 114

46 Mission accomplished: 115

47 Witnessing through our actions, our words, and our presence, that 116  
48 is what Radical Christian Hospitality is all about. 117

49 Mount Sequoyah extended Radical Christian Hospitality to Christian 118  
50 motorcycle groups attending Fayetteville's Annual Bikes, Blues, and 119  
51 Barbecue Festival. The Faith Riders shared the gospel with 1063 persons 120  
52 and prayed with 90 persons who asked for forgiveness and to receive 121  
53 Christ as their Lord and Savior. 122

54 By extending Radical Christian Hospitality to youth, Mount Sequoyah 123  
55 touched the lives of over 700 youth who participated in swimming lessons, 124  
56 swim teams, tennis lessons and tennis teams, Kanakuk KampOut, youth 125  
57 mission camps, and group events. 126

58 Radical Christian Hospitality cemented a partnership between Mount 127  
59 Sequoyah and UA Wesley Ministries resulting in making our campus a 128  
60 second home to college students from across the South Central Jurisdiction. 129  
61 Our unprecedented family environment attracted over 415 parents, 215 130  
62 from Arkansas, as overnight guests while visiting. 131

63 Radical Christian Hospitality celebrated the marriage of thirty-two 132  
64 couples as they pledged their lives and hearts to each other on our beautiful 133  
65 campus under the Lord's ever-watchful eye. 134

66 Radical Christian Hospitality welcomed 30,052 guests for overnight 135  
67 stays and provided 18,378 delicious meals prepared by our own chef. 136  
68 Included in the numbers were 61 different Church groups, 13 family 137  
69 138

reunions, and 29 groups from regional colleges and universities.

Radical Christian Hospitality coupled with our Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Coordinator, a United Methodist Diaconal Minister, and produced religious education programs and workshops that attracted jurisdiction wide participation and a Lay Servant Academy praised because of its structure and skilled presenters.

Radical Christian Hospitality was the catalyst to reestablish our in house food service. Chef Curt Harcourt received rave reviews from all guests. Some refer to our Dining Hall as "Curt's on the Hill" a take off on a well-known local restaurant, the "Inn at the Mill".

Radical Christian Hospitality resulted in year-end positive cash flow for the past three years and the receipt of over \$710,000.00 in contributions during said period to remodel and upgrade facilities.

Radical Christian Hospitality resulted in groups seeking Mount Sequoyah as a designation of choice resulting in events and programs already booked throughout the years 2017, 2018 and even one event in 2019.

Closing: The future looks bright as Mount Sequoyah plants seeds that, with God's blessings, will in the near future transform the world for Jesus Christ.

**Lamar Pettus, Executive Director**

**Arkansas Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women**

The Arkansas Conference Commission on Status and Role of Women continues to support and further the mission of the General Commission, which "advocates for full participation of women in the total life of the United Methodist Church through training, education, research and monitoring."

Arkansas Conference Commission sent a representative to the "Do No Harm" Conference in October 2015 as part of our commitment to sexual ethics in the Church. Samantha Meadors reported that attending the conference was formative for her in that she gained insight into the importance and impact of sexual ethics in ministry. Rev. Meadors attended workshops related to teaching sexual ethics in youth and young adult settings. She said this about her experience in the educational offerings, "The two most impactful things that came out of the conference for me were developing an understanding for Title IX on college campuses and learning how to open up conversations with students around (the subject of) sexual ethics." Since returning Rev. Meadors has worked with the Board of Higher Education as a sexual ethics policy is developed for campus ministries in Arkansas. (Reverend Samantha Meadors is an ordained Deacon in Arkansas Conference and serves as Director of the Wesley Foundation at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.)

The Commission also offered support for the Clergywomen's luncheon and monitored all sessions of Annual Conference in June 2015.

COSROW will continue to monitor for fairness in participation and diversity during Annual Conference meeting in Hot Springs, June 2016. Additionally the Commission will help to sponsor a luncheon for Arkansas clergywomen attending Global UM Clergywomen Gathering in Houston, August 2016.

**Helen Stegall, Chairperson**

**United Methodist Women**

The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women continue to foster spiritual growth, develop leaders and advocate for justice on behalf of women, children and youth. They strive to demonstrate their faith, hope and love in action.

• The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women support programs and activities that promote our purpose: The organized unit of 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.

• The Arkansas Conference Mission u will be July 27-30 at University of the Ozarks in Clarksville. The studies this year will be The

Bible and Human Sexuality, Climate Justice, and Latin America: Faith and Hope.

• United Methodist Women continues the five-year celebration of the legacy of women organizing themselves for mission with women, children and youth. This legacy was passed on to us from the organizers and every generation that followed them. As our 150th anniversary approaches on March 23, 2019, we ponder the legacy we will leave. The Legacy Fund is an opportunity to put faith, hope and love into action. The Legacy Fund is an endowment to ensure the work of United Methodist Women for the next 150 years.

• The United Methodist Women Annual Meeting will be Saturday, November 12 at Mabelvale United Methodist Church.

• The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women have pledged \$225,000 to United Methodist Women for nation and international mission work in 2016.

• Seven United Methodist Women from Arkansas attended Leadership Development Days sponsored by the National Organization in Tempe, Arizona in November. This event was excellent training in developing leadership skills.

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

• The five districts are involved in establishing communication with each local unit. The United Methodist Women want to have a unit in every church in the conference.

**Submitted by Martha Altom, President**

**Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministry**

This past year, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries has had tremendous success in our goal to provide opportunities for United Methodist youth in the state of Arkansas to strengthen their faith in Christ by leading, fellowshipping, and serving. In July of 2015, our council, composed of over sixty youth and adults, planned out what it was we wanted to see happen through CCYM in the upcoming year. At this retreat, we gave our expectations of each other for the year, and also shared our goals for what we wanted to see CCYM become in the future.

Back in 2013-2014, the council voted to add a media task force to CCYM, in order to reach the people of this generation more effectively. With this being the second year of having the task force in place, all of the kinks have been worked out and the media task force is up and running in full force. Each member of the media task force now gets assigned to one of our events, and they work hand in hand with that particular task force, doing all they can to better the media for the event. During the events, the media task force is responsible for social media, AV, and pictures. This year, the media task force has added "Websisodes" to the website, which contain interviews from some of the featured talent, as well as highlights from the event.

The Youth Service Fund, or YSF, continues to help local churches, as well as the nation by providing grants to those in need. This year, YSF gave out \$9000 in grants, for organizations and youth groups, such as OMP, Bentonville FUMC, Prarie Grove, and many more, to update their youth rooms or to attend mission trips. With the YSF lock-in this past August not raising as much money as the task force had hoped, YSF has decided to introduce a new event to raise money. ACCYM's Got Talent will take place after the Methodist Family Health walk and will serve as a way for YSF to raise money, as well as a way for the youth to showcase their talent.

In November, Refuge, an event for junior high youth, occurred at Shepard of the Ozarks in Clarksville. 380 youth and adults met in a weekend of fellowship, as a way to disconnect from the busy fall schedule. Because of the fact that we are having to turn people away from attending Refuge, the council decide last year that Refuge 2016 will be the first Refuge that will be spilt into two weekends, allowing more youth to attend. Following Refuge was Mitto, an event that allows a group of around 35 youth to learn ways to take mission back to their home church and into the community. The council is still trying to figure out what exactly Mitto will become in the future, and we will continue

to work through that in the coming year.

Following Mitto was CCYM's largest event, Veritas, which took place in the Hot Springs Convention center in March. This year's theme was "Let Love", encouraging the more than 1400 youth and adults to Let Love Find them, Surprise them, and Redesign them. Our very own Bishop Mueller participated in the event, leading a small group breakout session on spiritual revival and also led the serving of communion on the final worship on Sunday Morning. Veritas had a very successful year and the holy spirit was definitely present.

As we approach the summer, CCYM events are still in full swing. The summer kicked off with Choir Tour, where almost 50 youth from around the state rehearse throughout the school year and meet for one week in June to bring worship services to the community. To conclude the year, Jr High and Sr High assembly will take place in July at Hendrix College. With assembly being our longest event, it is a great way for 7th-12th graders to create lasting friendships, as well as strengthen their relationship with Christ through small groups and worship.

In closing, the 2015-2016 year was truly a blessing to be apart of. We continue to keep our focus on the goal of the United Methodist Church and put our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This year has had such an impact on me, as I have been able to grow in my faith while watching the youth of the United Methodist church use their gifts to show others the love of God. When the youth are the leaders of the church of today, it is amazing what can happen. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as President this past year. I want to thank all of the CCYM youth and adults for the dedication of their time and showing such a heart for this ministry, and for making it an incredible year that I will never forget.

Lauren Lovelady, President

## Institution Reports



### Boston University School of Theology

#### Boston School of Theology

Dear Colleagues in the Arkansas Annual Conference:

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (STH) walks with you on the journey of discipleship, seeking to love God and to love our neighbors with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Thank you for your prayers that inspire and support the STH mission to love God, build knowledge, and equip leaders for the church and society.

#### NEWS

- **New faculty:** This year, Boston University welcomed new faculty in ethics, psychology, theologies of spirituality, comparative theology, church renewal, Black church leadership, and mission studies. We welcomed: Nimi Wariboko (Walter G. Muelder Professor of Social Ethics); David Decosimo (Theology); Theodore Hickman-Maynard (Evangelism and Church Renewal); Andrea Hollingsworth (Theology); Barbod Salimi (Psychology and Peace Studies); and Daryl Ireland (Associate Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission).

- **Spiritual life:** STH continued to expand and deepen its spiritual life program, led by Charlene Zuill, Spiritual Life Coordinator and United Methodist elder. Bishop Susan Hassinger, Claire Wolfteich, and many others also offer a rich selection of courses in spirituality and leadership.

- **Chaplaincy track:** We added a chaplaincy track to the MDiv degree, preparing students for hospitals, prisons, and military settings.

**ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE:** We spent much energy this year in hard conversations on violence, racism, and injustice, seeking to be honest and vigorously open to change, while honoring the dignity of all persons.

- **Power, Privilege and Prophetic Witness** is our theme for 2015-

2017. We engaged the theme in classes, lectures, retreats, and workshops, seeking to stretch our capacities to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

- **Examining the intersection of theology and race.** The opportunities this year included: a brilliant new documentary on North Korea; a dialogical viewing of Selma; dialogues on racism with Thandeka and Andrew Sung Park; a retreat on building race relations; circle worship; a student-led event Missing Voices, Daunting Choices: The Erasure of Black Women in Black American Movements; and events on interfaith understanding.

#### CARING FOR THE CHURCH through leadership and service.

- **Serving the United Methodist Church.** Students served local churches and church bodies as interns, staff, and volunteers. Faculty served with such bodies as: United Methodist Women, World Methodist Council, Ministry Study Commission, Women of Color Scholars and Mentors program, Pan Methodist Commission on Children in Poverty, and boards and agencies of the general church and annual conferences.

- **Empowering young Latino/a leaders.** Young leaders gathered with seasoned mentors to enhance their gifts and service as Christian leaders: Hispanic Youth Leadership Initiative (HYLA) and Raíces Latinas Leadership Institute

- **Facilitating dialogues on church renewal.** We launched a new initiative on Evangelism and Church Renewal.

- **Reflecting on worship.** We contributed to a special issue of Worship Arts Magazine, edited and written by STH faculty, alumni/ae, and students, and published by the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.

#### CARING FOR THE WORLD

- **Offering opportunities for engaged learning.** Opportunities included the Doctor of Ministry program in Transformational Leadership; an urban ministry course; travel seminars to India, the Arizona-Mexico border, Israel-Palestine, Mexico, and Turkey (Ephesus); work with leaders in Ferguson, MO; and a travel seminar for UMC clergywomen to Cuba, co-sponsored by GBHEM and STH.

- **Collaborating with the global church.** Collaborations included sponsorship of the Dictionary of African Christian Biography; events and art exhibits on local and global ecology; and dialogues with global church leaders.

As we at STH seek to be faithful and to partner with you in ministry, we give thanks for your witness. Thank you too for your continuing inspiration and contributions to our shared journey.

Blessings and gratitude,

Blessings and gratitude,  
Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean



CAMP Aldersgate

#### Camp Aldersgate

Here we grow again!

In 2015, The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation awarded Camp Aldersgate with the most impactful grant of the year - a grant of \$1 million to construct an Activity Center. This indoor facility will house a large multi-purpose recreation room, restrooms, and a large deck overlooking the lake. Underneath the building, there will be storage for canoes, fishing equipment and life-jackets, two restrooms and an outdoor shaded classroom. Camp Aldersgate also began raising funds to create a restricted fund for the programs and repairs in this new facility. This grant for our Activity Center completes the first phase of Camp Aldersgate's new Master Plan and is a kick-starter for our future phases.

Camp Aldersgate also continued to serve and provide year-round specialized programs for individuals with special needs. While doing so, we added a variety of exciting programmatic activities and partnerships as well.



One new programmatic partnership was created through the direct efforts of the leadership and volunteers of First United Methodist Church in Arkadelphia. Reverend Jim Polk introduced Camp Aldersgate's staff to the organization, Group Living, Inc. This organization provides services to adults who have disabilities. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Rev. Polk and his vision. Through this new relationship, we were able to host a new, extremely successful, weekend camp session for adults with disabilities in partnership with Group Living, Inc. and First United Methodist Church, Arkadelphia.

Another significant partnership was created in 2015 by way of a grant from the Rotary Club of West Little Rock. Throughout the next three years, the Museum of Discovery will provide year-round STEM activities and presentations to each of the Camp's programs.

We added a new partnership with the iCan Dance program. This group came to a day of our summer camp's "Sports Club" and taught the kids dances and did an activity at one Weekend Camp.

For our summer camping program, our campers published the first edition of the Tribal Tribune through a newly established Media Club. This is a newsletter created by kids and given to all families at the closing ceremonies.

These are just a few jokes from our campers as written in their paper.

Q: What animal can't be trusted?

A: A cheetah.

Q: What vegetable do you not want on a boat?

A: A leek.

Other great items taking place during the summer:

- Really Awesome Games (life-size foosball, 9 square) began as a new core activity.
- Cabin Competitions were held as a newly incorporated activity each Thursday and was a very big hit.
- We incorporated a "Pluck a Duck" activity at canoeing – this activity enhanced our program, and kept the kids engaged throughout canoeing.

Our Seniors Day Out program continues to be strong and had guests and speakers including a Native American Flute Player, Living History Actors from the Museum of History, and a WW2 Fighter Pilot Veteran. These are exciting times for our participants!

In 2015, Camp Aldersgate served more than 1,700 individuals from 115 cities and 55 counties throughout Arkansas, as well as six other states. We employed more than 50 counselors from 30 cities across Arkansas and from three states. More than 900 volunteers contributed well over 33,000 hours of service to the Camp.

On behalf of all of our participants, Board of Directors and staff, I cannot begin to say thank you enough to the United Methodist Women and the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. For your support, love and prayers, we are grateful and blessed.

\*\* Each Spring, Camp Aldersgate begins recruitment of campers (ages 6-18), volunteers (ages 14 and older), and staff counselors (ages 18 and older). Please pass along this information to your church's youth group(s) or in your community.

Sincerely,  
Sarah C. Wacaster,  
Chief Executive Officer



**Candler School of Theology**

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as Christian leaders who

put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler now offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, development practice, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a retooled Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study—and apply what they learn in real time. We've also partnered with the University of Georgia's School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 466 students are enrolled, with 48 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 29. Students represent 44 denominations, with 51 percent coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2015-2016, we awarded nearly \$5.5 million in Candler scholarships, with 92 percent of MDiv students and 84 percent of all students receiving support. And our comprehensive financial literacy program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they serve—well into the future.

At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, Candler says goodbye and Godspeed to a handful of noted faculty as they retire: Barbara Day Miller, Luke Timothy Johnson, Steve Tipton, and Bishop Woodie White. Yet even as these legends take their leave after distinguished careers of scholarship and service, we look forward to welcoming a new crop of scholar-leaders who will join us in the coming months and grow with us in the coming years. We are especially pleased to welcome Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who will join the faculty as bishop-in-residence in the fall of 2016.

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

Jan Love

Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics



**Drew Theological School**

A Cohering Vision: Curriculum, Community, Co-Curricular Initiatives After much collaborative discussion, discernment, and evaluation of the current state of theological education, those of us who lead, teach, and support Drew Theological School have launched on an ambitious course. Nearly 150 years after our founding, we envision a future as bright as the

best eras in our past. I am pleased to share with you here the concrete steps we have taken— and are taking— to bring this future to light.

First, our efforts have been attentive to the history of Drew, in particular its Methodist roots, it's long commitment to the Church and its ministries, and draw from this wellspring for inspiration and direction. Also, we have honored our progress to achieve denominational, ethnic, gender, and racial diversity in our faculty and student body. This rich diversity has become both a hallmark of Drew and an expansion of our wellspring. Forces beyond our campus—notably, that the reasons for pursuing a theological education and expected outcomes are shifting dramatically—further press the need for us to align our vision and its supporting systems with our communal reality.

Given this imperative, we are focused on the three “C’s” of our cohering vision: redesigning our curriculum, strengthening our community of learning, and deepening training through revived co-curricular initiatives. These three aspect of a Drew Theological School education will work together to enable us to to empower creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace, and love of God, neighbor, and the earth—as well as uniquely position us to lead evolving expressions of Christianity.

Designing distinct pathways from curriculum to vocation To remain meaningful and offer the greatest value to our students, each of the six degree paths that we offer must be as distinct as the ministry to which it leads. For example, our Master of Arts in Ministry program, which forms students for the broadest spectrum of theologically-informed advocacy and ministry, or our DMin program, which has become the “new” terminal vocational degree, must be custom rebuilt for current and emerging student needs and outcomes. This also holds true for our Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, PhD, and, most critically, our Master of Divinity programs.

We have achieved our roadmap for curricular change through a period of intentional discernment, which included discussion with consultants, and with colleagues at peer institutions, who led a curricular formation retreats with our faculty; through the discernment and guidance of our faculty, and with the generous financial support of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund. Our next steps include a comprehensive analysis of pedagogical and technological trends in theological education, enrollment, and outcomes. Our redesigned curricular paths will be announced in the fall of 2017, concurrent with the 150th anniversary of the founding of Drew Theological School and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Student experiences rooted in community:

Despite the increase in students pursuing their education through evening classes and online enrollment, we remain committed to the on-campus experience of community. This begins with a student-centered educational experience that better attends to the scheduling needs of our students, offers broader course content and availability, and more intentionally integrates vocational or career aspirations with coursework.

The success of these efforts are inextricably linked to scholarship support. Only by removing the financial barriers for students pursuing vocations can we hope to attract and retain the most promising students and free them to learn and grow in community. Related to tuition support is the need for more affordable and modernized housing for those students who choose to live on campus. Together, scholarship support and housing relief will also unburden our students from unsustainable debt.

Fostering innovation in ministry and the work of spirit-filled justice To round out changes in our curriculum and on-campus learning experiences, we are also reviving co-curricular initiatives. The existing Center for Lifelong Learning will be recast as the new Center for Innovation and Leadership in Ministry and serve students, alumni, and others seeking to find creative and courageous approaches to revitalizing ministry. Here, programming will train pastoral leaders, in particular, for service in rapidly changing church environments, as well as position them to lead fearlessly and prophetically.

Our second co-curricular center will be an expansion of the current Communities of Shalom. This initiative will focus on action, advocacy, and social justice work in both pastoral and lay environments. Projects

will range from student interns supporting the work of A Future with Hope in our home state of New Jersey, advancing social justice in non-profit settings across the country and around the world, initiatives which seek to transform and end systemic poverty, expansion of our Partnership for Religion and Education in Prisons (PREP) program, and teaching residencies at Drew for prophetic leaders.

Success so far through our One and All Campaign:

As the 14th dean of Drew Theological School, I am deeply committed to continuing our long and distinguished legacy. To this end, our vision is innovative, forward-looking, and grounded in the practical needs of our students—we hope, too, that it is an inspiration to the various constituencies we serve. I fully subscribe to the inimitable words of Antonio Machado, that “we make the road by walking.” The road to this bright future we envision will be made by the dedication, determination, and generosity of those who love Drew and believe in its future.

Our vision is coming to light, in part, because of the generosity of our many alumni-donors and friends. Our One and All fundraising campaign has raised more than \$12 million to date for the Theological School and has seed-funded many of our burgeoning efforts.

Also, I encourage our alumni to embrace your power of influence to help grow philanthropic support for Drew Theological School. Many of our largest gifts have come from the influence of alumni, particularly pastors who serve in our church communities.

Yes, the needs ahead are many, yet our hope is high for a bright future for Drew Theological School. The road is made by walking. Let's walk it together.

**The Reverend Dr. Javier A. Viera**  
**Dean of the Theological School**  
**Professor of Pastoral Theology**



**Gammon Theological Seminary**

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

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

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religious Education, the Master of Arts in Church Music, the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in Pastoral Counseling, and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.). There are also a number of dual degree programs offered in cooperation with seminaries and schools in the Atlanta Theological Association. Admission is open to qualified men and women of the United Methodist Church.

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

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. There are several significant ways that we have lived out our mission and furthered our vision:

1) Strengthened and Diversified the Board

Added eight new members from various industries and professions, including a former Vice President for the Coca Cola, a former Executive Vice President for United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, a former Vice President for Grants and Sponsored Research at Grambling State University, et. al. These individuals, along with Gammon's current Board members, bring a wealth of gifts and talents that will enable Gammon to re-position itself to weather the formidable storms occurring in theological education.

2) Strategic Realignment of Resources

After significant negotiation and numerous rounds of discussion, the Gammon Board approved the strategic realignment of the institution's resources by selling a significant piece of property to the Friendship Baptist Church of Atlanta. The proceeds from the transaction, nearing \$4.5million, have enabled Gammon to significantly increase its endowment.

3) Reaffirmation by SACSCOC

At the December 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the ITC's reaccreditation was fully reaffirmed without any further recommendations or sanctions. This is joyous news for Gammon and the ITC, and this announcement follows 4 years of warning and probation status for the ITC. ITC's successful reaffirmation by SACS was due in large part to a substantial gift from Gammon in the amount of \$500,000 to help shore up the ITC's finances.

4) Implementation of the Pathways Program

Over the course of the summer, Gammon began the implementation phase of the Gammon Pathways Program by welcoming five Pathways Scholars to campus. These scholars included students from Wiley College, Rust College, and Paine College. The students spent 6 weeks of the summer serving in internships in the following churches and agencies in Atlanta: Central UMC, Warren Memorial UMC, Impact UMC, and BMCR.

5) Ebony Exploration

This past October, Gammon welcomed 65 undergraduate seniors and pre-seminary students from Bethune-Cookman University, Claflin University, Paine College, Rust College, Wiley College, Alcorn State University, the North Georgia Black Church Development Office, and the Baltimore-Washington Conference for its first ever Ebony Exploration. This was an innovative event for young African Americans (ages 18-35) to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry and to explore their gifts and graces for service in the United Methodist Church. Gammon, as the epicenter of black leadership for this denomination, is reasserting its historic role in producing principled and called leaders for the church and society.

Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

**Dr. Albert Mosley  
President-Dean**



"Unite the pair so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety."— Charles Wesley, 1763

More than one hundred and thirty years ago, the people called Methodists in Arkansas had a vision for a quality institution of higher education that would both challenge the minds of college students and instill the virtues of faith. Hendrix College's reputation continues to be recognized nationally for innovation and excellence, and for producing well-rounded students who make a difference in the church and in the world. In recognition of our heritage as an Arkansas institution, the College financially supports students through the Arkansas Advantage Scholarship, and has formed strategic partnerships with KIPP Delta, Little Rock Central High, Mount St. Mary, and Catholic High schools to increase diversity enrollment. Hendrix College is proud of its roots in Methodism and continues to strengthen that relationship by providing a robust religious life program, resources for students discerning a call to ordained or professional ministry, and service opportunities for students to engage the world as they continue to be nurtured in faith.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with laity and clergy in churches across the annual conference while feasting on some fine barbeque in Arkansas. Since 2014, I have visited FUMC, Fort Smith, FUMC, Hot Springs, FUMC, Russellville, FUMC, Pine Bluff, Central UMC in Fayetteville, FUMC, Monticello, Pulaski Heights UMC, FUMC, Little Rock, FUMC Bryant, FUMC, Lonoke, and recently, FUMC, Magnolia. What a warm welcome I have received in meeting many of you, and I look forward to the tours in the future with more counties to visit and more barbeque to sample.

**Ministry / Seminary Exploration**

- Since 2004, 45 Hendrix graduates have enrolled in seminary with 60% of these students attending UM seminaries.
- Ten recent alumni are currently in seminary.
- In the next two years, we anticipate five students will enroll in seminary. These are students from next two year's graduating classes.
- In the next four years, we anticipate fifteen students will enroll in seminary.
- Approximately ten students who are discerning ministry meet each week in Exploring Ministry Together (EMT), a program through the Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics and Calling
- The Miller Center provides travel funds to visit a seminary. Approximately twelve students take advantage of this program each year.

Through generous grants from the Eli Lilly Foundation and because of the college's commitment to young adults discerning vocation, Hendrix has been awarded two grants to foster young people in ministry. The "Hendrix Youth Institute" will have its inaugural week this summer with 25 youth from the Southcentral Jurisdiction attending a week of religious study, shadowing local clergy, engaging in worship, small group bible study, service work, and ending with a mission trip to Guatemala. The "Institute for Clergy and Civic Engagement" hosts 8 clergy who are Hendrix College alumni, 5 -10 years out of seminary, to engage with church leaders across the United States who are meeting the needs of the mission field and are public theologians in their communities. We are excited that Hendrix can be a part of a minister's journey, from the formation of that call until its completion in a local church.

**UMYF Scholars / Religious Life / Mission Trips**

- The UMYF Leadership Scholarship Program is completing its 21st year. Currently 30 students participate in the program and there are more than 160 alumni from the program.
- More than 425 UM churches in all five districts have had Hendrix students assist with worship services in the past 21 years.
- More than 150 students participate in weekly programming enhanced by funding from the Miller Center including chapel, communion,

Bible studies, a youth group-style program called "Fellowship," or Tuesday Talks, a discussion of vocation and calling conducted by a faculty or staff member.

- This year, almost 80 Students applied for 4 planned Miller Center Mission Trips to Hollywood, CA, San Antonio, TX, Red Bird Mission in KY, and Pignon, Haiti

**Use of Hendrix Space/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, Arkansas United Methodist Clergywomen, 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.

- In 2016, Hendrix will host the Jr./Sr. High Assembly for the Conference Youth.

**Continuing Education / Lectures**

- This year on campus, the College hosted the following speakers/preachers: Willson Lecturer: Dr. Carol Newsome, Professor of Old Testament studies at Candler School of Theology and Dr. Tom Long, Professor Emeritus of Homiletics at Candler School of Theology who taught the annual John and Marjem Gill Preaching Workshop.

**Funding Received from Outside sources for religious life and ministry support**

- An endowed gift for the John Workman family for a summer internship in churches, non-profits, or journalism.

- An endowed gift for the Michael and Betsey Cartwright family to establish an internship in churches and non-profits.

- Grants from the Lilly Foundation (listed above) for United Methodist youth who are discerning a call to ministry and alumni clergy who are 5-10 years out of seminary.

- A gift from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas to support students in discerning a call into ordained ministry. UMFA's gift is used to reimburse students for travel costs to visit a United Methodist seminary, have a retreat for ministry discernment, and a service trip. These funds, managed by Hendrix College, will be made available to Hendrix students, Philander Smith students and all Wesley Foundations. In the fall of 2015, Hendrix and Philander Smith students attended a joint retreat at Mount Eagle that focused on discerning gifts for ministry and leadership in the church.

**Financial Aid/Enrollment**

- For the 2015 calendar year, the College received \$235, 690 from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, with 100% of the church apportionment going toward student scholarships.

- Annually, the College provides more than \$4.8 million in financial assistance to United Methodist students.

- Of the \$4.8 million dollars, the College annually provides more than \$150,000 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.

- Annually, the College provides funding for two full-time ordained chaplains and programming at a cost of over \$300,000.

- The College sponsored a UMYF Prospective Student Day for the fifth consecutive year.

- For the past few years, Hendrix has enrolled an average of 650 Arkansas students each year. The number of students from Arkansas has increased over the past few years.

- In the fall of 2014, the College launched the Arkansas Advantage Scholarship, which will guarantee to meet all financial need of qualified Arkansas Students.

Hendrix College remains committed to ensuring that all qualified students have access to a Hendrix education, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. The amount of money needed to fund scholarships and financial aid for our students continues to increase each year. This year, Hendrix is providing more than \$34 million in student scholarships and financial aid. Our budget for student financial assistance has doubled in the past four years in response to the growing

need of students and their families for assistance with financing a college education.

The relationship between Methodists and higher education is rooted in the historical teachings of John Wesley. Hendrix College cherishes its relationship with the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church and the opportunity to fulfill Wesley's vision to bring together intellectual curiosity, spiritual formation, knowledge, and vital piety. We are grateful for the many ways in which the United Methodist Churches of Arkansas support Hendrix, including your apportionment gifts that go directly to students to provide financial assistance that ensures access to our strong academic program, the Miller Center, a wide range of religious life and spiritual formation opportunities, and the UMYF Leadership Scholars Program. Thank you for your continued support of Hendrix.

**William Tsutsui  
President and Professor of History**



**Iliff School of Theology**

Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

The Iliff School of Theology's commitment to the Wesleyan ethos of providing hopeful, intellectually alive, and spiritually grounded theological education for each and every student over the course of their lifetime continues. Iliff's identity is focused on educating leaders for three primary publics: the world, the church, and the academy. At Iliff, we refuse to choose between being a training home only for ministerial candidates, a center only for activists and scholar-activists, or a school only for academics. We believe all three are inseparable and enhance one another as we deliberately situate ourselves in the world and critically operate out of the world's complexities.

As such, we recognize that the world's religious landscape is changing and there is much at stake. Iliff recently completed its strategic plan, revised its curriculum, transformed its library, and initiated new relationships with other institutions. In collaboration with the people of Africa, we've started a discussion with Africa University (AU) to foster an educational alliance that will benefit Iliff and AU students. We've also begun work with Wiley College to strengthen the presence of minority students in seminaries.

Iliff's enrollment continues to be strong with 365 students joining us this academic year, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist – all actively engaged in a host of ministry contexts. Their interest continues to be strong in Iliff's online and hybrid classes. A concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities continues with many MDIV students participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Iliff's numerous events for area clergy and supporters remains part of our foundation. Via forums on social justice, food justice, the role of faith in politics, world events, and more, campus speakers included Rev. Gerald Durley, nationally-known civil rights leader and this year's Jameson Jones Preacher, Heather Jarvis, student debt reduction advocate, and more. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary's Center for Faith and Service when we were named as one of the nation's "Seminaries That Change the World" and our Master's of Theology Program was ranked seventh in the nation by OnlineColleges.net.

We continue to look forward with a courageous theological imagination. We are sincerely grateful for your support.

**Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe  
President and Chief Executive Officer**



**Lydia Patterson Institute**

Bishop and Members of the Conference:

It is with great respect and gratitude that I bring you a report from your institution on the US-Mexico border, Lydia Patterson Institute.

The past few years have been a time of change and preparation for the next 100 years. Since the celebration of Lydia Patterson's Centennial Celebration, the Board of Trustees, teachers and staff, students and parents and our committed supporters have been busy at work assuring that the next 100 years of "La Lydia" be even greater than the first. We commit to see Lydia Patterson continue to be a model ministry of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

We began with the kick-off of a capital campaign for the renovation of its facilities and the development of programs to meet the needs of the 21st Century. Phase I of the plan has been completed, and 14 classrooms have been renovated and equipped with the latest state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology. We have added a middle school with a unique program (ELPILearn) developed by our own staff and consultants in the field. The ELPILearn is designed to prepare the students to compete in a changing world of technology, math and science. It provides a sophisticated method of teaching English resulting in students learning twice as fast. The ELPILearn was carried forward to the 9th and 10th grades this year, and in the final phase, it will be introduced in the 11th and 12th grades next year.

Lydia Patterson is about touching lives. It takes students of very limited resources and with very little hope for a good education and provide them with the tools just described to become well prepared for a better life. Lydia Patterson is about serving. Students are prepared to serve their communities, the church, and their neighbor. Students in the Lay Ministry Program are serving in internships throughout the country. Many have chosen to go to seminary and others are already serving as local pastors.

Challenges never cease to exist at LPI. Just as we bounced back from a slight drop in enrollment due to crime and violence across the border and changes in the student visa regulations, we are now faced with the daily devaluation of the Mexican peso. Parents struggle to meet tuition, and we depend on the generosity of our Methodist community to provide financial assistance through scholarship giving so students can remain in school.

I wish to offer a word of appreciation for your apportionments paid for the daily operations of the school. Your support of our capital funds campaign will enable us to continue our service to those less fortunate and to the church in general for another century. Students travel for 2-3 hours from their homes to walk over the international bridge and walk to the school every day. If we manage to send 98% of these students to college, I believe the return on our investment is pretty high.

At Lydia Patterson we are doing what the church has asked. We are forming bilingual, bicultural leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are changing 435 lives daily, all for the glory of God. Thank you for being a part of this redemptive ministry.

**Respectfully,  
Socorro de Anda, President**



**Memphis Theological Seminary**

Memphis Theological Seminary (MTS) highly values our longstanding partnership with the United Methodist Church. At MTS, we are committed to foster a vital Methodist ethos where persons and congregations are formed by the Wesleyan tradition through theological education, support of local Methodist clergy, laity, and congregations, and maintaining healthy connections with five surrounding Annual Conferences in the Mid-South (Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and North Alabama). Both in and out of the classroom, we assist our Methodist constituents to seek the fullness of the Christian gospel through "lives devoted to scholarship, piety, and justice," as the Seminary's mission statement holds. Or, in the words of Charles Wesley's hymn coined for the opening of the Kingswood School, to "Unite the pair so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety."

We are pleased to report to the Arkansas Annual Conference that academic year 2015-2016 has been a notable one for our work with United Methodists.

Our Methodist House of Studies provides a strong "community within a community" for all students who identify with the Wesleyan tradition. In May of 2015 upon graduation, we awarded our first Certificate in Wesleyan Studies to those students who had completed five or more courses that focus upon Methodist history, theology, and practice of ministry. UMC students who attend MTS find in our course offerings and interaction with Methodist faculty a firm foundation within the rich Wesleyan tradition. Under the leadership of Dr. Lee Ramsey and Rev. Billy Vaughan (ordained elders in the Memphis Annual Conference) The House of Studies actively cultivates relationships with the surrounding Annual Conferences and develops the the House of Studies as a bridge to the local churches, pastors, laity, and judicatories that we serve.

We are excited about the recent hiring of Dr. Michael Turner, who will begin serving as Associate Professor of Wesleyan Studies on August 1, 2016. Dr. Turner holds the Ph.D. in Church History from Vanderbilt University, is a scholar of 19th century American Methodism, a dynamic classroom instructor, and a committed leader within the United Methodist Church.

Enrollment remains strong among UM students who comprise 25% of our student body (total enrollment 250) within three separate degree programs: Masters of Divinity, Masters of Arts in Youth Ministry, and the Doctor of Ministry degrees. This year the Association of Theological Schools approved MTS to initiate a Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry degree. This will be a 42 credit hour general degree in theological education tailored to the interests of laypersons who seek solid theological and practical training for Christian ministry. It begins Fall 2016.

Of particular importance to all of our UMC candidates for ordination, in early 2016, the University Senate of the United Methodist Church approved Memphis Theological for listing for the preparation of candidates for ordination in The United Methodist Church. This endorsement of the University Senate undergirds our commitment to provide the best of theological education to all United Methodist Students who seek preparation for ministry at Memphis Theological Seminary.

**Submitted with gratitude,  
Dr. Jay Earheart-Brown, President,  
Dr. G. Lee Ramsey, Jr., Foster Professor of Pastoral Theology  
and Homiletics, Interim Director,**



**Methodist Family Health**

Methodist Family Health is a caring and effective provider of behavioral and mental health care services that all United Methodists in Arkansas are encouraged to know about, to utilize, to support and to celebrate. We are proud to be part of the United Methodist Connection! Established in 1899 as the Methodist Orphanage and later known widely as the Methodist Children's Home, today's Methodist Family Health provides comprehensive behavioral and mental health care services to children, adolescents and families in Arkansas.

The mission at Methodist Family Health is to give the best possible care to those who may need our help and to treat the whole person: behaviorally, emotionally and spiritually. Methodist Family Health currently has more than 600 full- and part-time employees and serves more than 2,400 clients daily. Programs and services are located in 20 cities across the state.

Methodist Family Health is staffed by highly skilled individuals who function within a Continuum of Care that offers levels of care ranging from the most restrictive (acute psychiatric hospital care) to the least restrictive (outpatient counseling), while also providing all levels of intermediate care. We believe in a team approach to treatment that includes both client and family participation.

The Continuum of Care at Methodist Family Health includes:

- **Methodist Behavioral Hospital** — a 60-bed hospital that is home to Acute (short-term) and Sub-Acute (long-term) inpatient programs for children and adolescents ages 3-17. The goal is to stabilize behavior and return the client to a less-restrictive environment. (Maumelle)
- **Residential Treatment Centers** – care for children and adolescents who are struggling with chronic issues. Again, the goal is to stabilize behavior and return the client to a less-restrictive environment. (Little Rock and Bono)
- **Therapeutic Group Homes** – a family-like setting of care led by Teaching Parents who offer emotional and behavioral guidance and support. (Eight homes located in Fayetteville, Heber Springs, Helena-West Helena, Little Rock, Magnolia (2), Searcy and Springdale.)
- **Emergency Shelter** – a nurturing environment for children who are in the custody of DCFS and have nowhere else to go. The shelter can also serve as a temporary placement for DCFS youth who are awaiting a more permanent placement. (Little Rock)
- **Therapeutic Day Treatment Programs** – specialized schools (K-12) that serve children and youth who can no longer function in a regular academic setting. The educational, behavioral, emotional and social needs of students are addressed. (Little Rock and Benton)
- **Outpatient Counseling Clinics** – an array of counseling services are offered, including individual, family and group therapy, psychological testing, behavior management, medication management, parent support and education. (Nine locations: Alma, Batesville, Cherokee Village, Fayetteville, Heber Springs, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock and Magnolia.)
- **School-based Counseling** – outpatient mental health services offered to students in local school settings. (Eight locations: Harrisburg School District, Jonesboro School District, Lincoln Consolidated School District, Nettleton Public Schools, Van Buren County schools, Vilonia School District and White County Central School District, as well as Success Achievement Academy in Jonesboro.)
- **Arkansas CARES (Centers for Addictions Research, Education and Services)** – focuses on breaking the cycle of maternal addiction; includes a residential substance abuse treatment center, mental health services for mothers and their young children, and early intervention services. Outpatient substance abuse counseling services also provided. (Little Rock)
- **Kaleidoscope Grief Center** – grieving children, teens and

1 their families receive help dealing with loss and bereavement through 70  
 2 education, therapeutic and recreational services, grief support programs, 71  
 3 an annual grief camp and traditional counseling. (Little Rock) 72  
 4 All programs use the Teaching-Family Model, a highly structured 73  
 5 treatment approach proven to be effective with troubled children. The 74  
 6 model uses positive, non-punitive interactions to encourage behavior 75  
 7 change and achieve positive outcomes. Methodist Family Health is the 76  
 8 only behavioral healthcare system in the state that uses the Teaching- 77  
 9 Family Model. 78  
 10 Pastoral care is an important aspect of the care we offer. Methodist 79  
 11 Family Health offers Bible studies, spirituality services, devotionals 80  
 12 and many special events. Our Bible Fund makes a Bible available to 81  
 13 every client who wishes to receive one. We are blessed by the pastoral 82  
 14 leadership of Rev. Scott Moore, chaplain, and Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks, 83  
 15 director of ministries, and the ongoing support of United Methodist clergy 84  
 16 and laity all across the state. We are very grateful that congregations 85  
 17 throughout Arkansas continue to be welcoming and nurturing friends 86  
 18 to the young clients in our many programs. 87  
 19 Methodist Family Health receives no apportioned funds from the 88  
 20 Arkansas Conference, thus the support of United Methodist congregations 89  
 21 and individuals is crucial. We deeply appreciate the support congregations 90  
 22 around the state have shown, through gifts (both in-kind and monetary), 91  
 23 volunteerism, and caring for and nurturing children in our care. We 92  
 24 appreciate the Arkansas Conference for designating Methodist Family 93  
 25 Health as a "supported organization" of the conference and allowing us 94  
 26 to tell the story of Methodist Family Health and collect a special offering 95  
 27 in churches each December. 96  
 28 For those churches, church groups and individuals interested in 97  
 29 learning more about how they can partner with us and support our efforts 98  
 30 to make a difference in the lives of children and families in Arkansas, 99  
 31 consider these opportunities: 100  
 32 • Encourage your church's participation in the annual Christmas 101  
 33 Campaign and special offering in December and make an annual 102  
 34 contribution. 103  
 35 • Be an ambassador for Methodist Family Health in your church 104  
 36 and community. We need local representatives to make sure parishioners 105  
 37 know about Methodist Family Health, our programs, services and special 106  
 38 events. For more about the Ambassador program, contact Maggie Beeler 107  
 39 at mbeeler@methodistfamily.org or 501.906.4220. 108  
 40 • Invite a representative of Methodist Family Health to speak to 109  
 41 your congregation, class or church gathering. Maggie Beeler can help 110  
 42 with that, also. 111  
 43 • Give to the Rev. Regnier Memorial Camp Fund that allows 112  
 44 children in our care to enjoy a summer camp experience and the 113  
 45 beauty of Camp Tanako. Support the MFH Bible Fund that makes a 114  
 46 Bible available to every child, teen and mother who enters a Methodist 115  
 47 Family Health residential program. Contact Carolyn McCone at 116  
 48 cmccone@methodistfamily.org or 501.906.4202, or give online at www. 117  
 49 methodistfamily.org. 118  
 50 • Join the Get Up & Give collection drive during Lent and collect 119  
 51 necessity, recreational and activity items for our children and youth. 120  
 52 Contact Jane Dennis for details at jdennis@methodistfamily.org or 121  
 53 501.906.4210. 122  
 54 • Take part in the annual Walk for Children and Families over the 123  
 55 Arkansas River at the Big Dam Bridge. The 10th annual Walk is coming 124  
 56 up on Aug. 5. This is a favorite of church youth groups! Denise Luft is 125  
 57 the contact at dlufft@methodistfamily.org or 501.906.4201. 126  
 58 • To learn more about volunteer opportunities, immediate 127  
 59 needs and ways to support Methodist Family Health, ask Jamie Griffith 128  
 60 at jgriffith@methodistfamily.org or 501.906.4209. 129  
 61 We are extremely proud to be caring for Arkansas' children and 130  
 62 families and carrying on the tradition that Methodists of Arkansas began 131  
 63 more than 117 years ago. Our hope is that United Methodists across 132  
 64 the state consider Methodist Family Health a valuable resource, partner 133  
 65 in ministry and extension of their local church outreach to children and 134  
 66 families. 135  
 67 **Andy Altom, President & CEO** 136  
 68 **Methodist Family Health** 137  
 69 138



**Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare**

In 2015 and 2016 we have been facing challenges and celebrating our successes. Through the Power of One Team, we pursued our vision of providing excellent care to patients and their families throughout our community. We also finished the year with the strongest financial position in our history. A particularly unique highlight of 2015 was our joining the Mayo Clinic Healthcare Network. Through this formal affiliation, MLH will have access to the most current information provided by Mayo Clinic physicians. We at MLH are working together toward our goal to be one of the best healthcare systems in the country.

Our commitment to a mission of service is in our DNA. We take pride in our faith-based relationship. During 2015 we provided passionate patient-and-family-centered care to tens of thousands of people in the Mid-South and beyond. Our 12,000 plus Associates and over 2,000 physicians provided outstanding care to:

- Nearly 65,000 In-Patients
- Over 41,000 In-Patient and Out-Patient Surgical Patients
- 259 Transplant Patients
- Nearly 370,000 Emergency Room Patients
- Over 43,000 Home Health Visits
- Almost 1,4 Million Clinic Visits
- Almost 6,000 Births

To continue to provide our excellent level of care we are expanding our facilities. Our Board of Directors has approved a 440,000 square foot addition to the Methodist University Hospital facility which will include a new 700 space parking garage for patients, family members and visitors. This expansion will create room to upgrade services, as well as provide state-of-the-art medical technology. We were blessed to receive a 40 million dollar anonymous donation that will allow for the expansion and relocation of our Transplant Program as a part of this growth. Additionally, we are expanding the facilities at our main Le Bonheur Hospital facility. These additions are projected to cost over 330 million dollars and represent a defining commitment to the medical center of Memphis.

Our Associates are vital to our organization. We feel honored that our Associates voted MLH – for the third year in a row – as a “Top Workplace” by the Commercial Appeal. MLH received the Commercial Appeal’s New Ideas Award for Innovative Thinking. U.S. News & World Reports magazine has again named Methodist Memphis Hospitals the Best Hospital in Memphis. Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, part of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, was named to U.S. News & World Report’s 2015-2016 Best Children’s Hospital in seven clinical areas: Cardiology, Neonatology, Nephrology, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pulmonology and Urology.

Our Faith & Health Division continues to provide significant and innovative service and programming through our Center of Excellence in Faith & Health. Please note some highlights in the following areas:

- Our Congregational Health Network works alongside more than 600 congregations in a covenant relationship to educate, serve and minister to congregants and their communities to promote better health outcomes.
- Our Faith and Health team is addressing disparities of care in many areas. Joined in a collaborative effort both with our partners West Cancer Center, Church Health Center and others we are serving the underserved and offering healing and hope to those who need it the most. We have made particular strides in the fight against cancer and in addressing the health and community needs of citizens who live in the 38109 zip code.
- We are now a member of the Emory Center for Ethics Consortium and the members of our team are developing a more robust program for our team and the region as we pay attention to the vital relationship of ethics in faith and health decision-making.

• Providing compassionate, caring and helpful spiritual care to our patients is still a part of our core mission. Throughout MLH more than thirty chaplains are there for patients, families and Associates. This past year we reopened our Clinical Pastoral Education program and this past fall we passed our recent accreditation visit with flying colors.

MLH is committed to our mission to provide affordable, high-quality healthcare for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. We are proud to provide care to more un-insured and under-insured than any other healthcare system in the Mid-South. We are also exceptionally proud of our MLH Employee Assistance Program which serves pastors and their families in the Memphis, Mississippi, and Arkansas annual conferences.

We ask for your continued support and prayers as we journey together in improving the health and well-being in the Mid-South. Thank you for the privilege of being your healthcare system.

**Michael Ugwueke, President & COO**  
**Gary S. Shorb, CEO**



**Methodist Village & Nursing Home & Rehab of Fort Smith**

**I. OUR MISSION**

Respect for age is central to the Bible’s greatest teaching. Concern for aging persons is found in the most important episodes on which Methodist Village and Methodist Health & Rehab has built its ministry. In accord with Christian teaching and in the tradition of Methodism, Methodist Village and Methodist Health & Rehab, 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.

**II. OUR VISION**

- To value excellence in its ministry
- To operate with compassion and concern for the beneficiaries of our services
- To lead the way in providing services for the elderly
- To improve and enhance the quality of life for older adults in Arkansas

**III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

President: Dr. Taylor Prewitt  
Vice President: Larry Nelson  
Secretary: Kay Oliver-Love  
Treasurer: George Beattie

**IV. Administrative Staff Members**

Chief Executive Officer, Harvey Leffring hleffring@mnhinc.com  
Administrator, Debbie Satterfield dsatterfield@mnh.com  
Resident Manager, Rhonda Haynes village@mnhinc.com  
Medical Director, Dr. Bradley Short  
Director of Nursing Services, Margit Krellwitz, MSN, RN  
Chaplain, Rev. Max Goins

**IV. Goals & Accomplishments 2015-2016**

Methodist Village has determined to reposition itself as a Life Plan Community (formerly known as Continuing Care Retirement Community [CCRC]), offering the full range of senior living services: independent living, assisted living, secure memory care, and skilled care with full rehabilitation services.

The Board has retained the services of Harvey Leffring, formerly CEO of Peace Village in suburban Chicago, to guide and implement this plan. He began work on campus in October, 2015.

Jennifer Tyler of Tyler Associates in Dallas, Texas, has begun a donor survey in preparation for launching a capital campaign. Tyler Associates has extensive experience in raising funds for Methodist and senior living projects.

The Chicago office of Plante Moran Living Forward will provide

integrated strategic, financial, operational and development advisory services to coordinate the building project.

Rev. Max Goins has replaced the late Rev. J. M. Rogers as Chaplain.

Methodist Village has a 501 [c] 3 charitable contribution account for the purpose of providing funds for this repositioning project. The facility continues to maintain a benevolence fund for residents' special needs.

Board activity is carried out through the following board committees:

**Facilities Committee:** Responsible for the buildings, grounds and equipment. The committee makes recommendations to the Board for any recognized needs that involve financial expenditures and serves as a resource to the administration for routine maintenance and repair jobs.

**CCRC Project Committee:** This committee works with the CEO in planning to reposition the present facility into a Life Plan Community.

**Development Committee:** This committee works with the development consulting firm in identifying and assisting potential donors—private, corporate, and foundations—to take advantage of opportunities to help fund the repositioning project.

**Staff, Policies and Insurance Committee:** This committee is responsible for the review of policies and procedures relative to personnel, facility operation, admissions, insurance and contracts.

**Finance Committee:** This committee is responsible for the status and currency of the budgetary matters of the facilities. This committee reviews budgets, investments, cost of services, facility rates and income.

**Nominating Committee:** This committee identifies and nominates prospective members of the board.

**Chaplain Committee:** This committee advises the board regarding spiritual concerns and ministry to the facility's Christian and moral purposes. The committee also prepares and sends the annual report to the United Methodist Conference in March and communicates Board vacancies/nominations to the Conference.

**Advocacy/QA committee:** This committee advises the board of any and all customer, regulator and/or staff reported concerns. It makes suggestions to management to help resolve issues. It also stays abreast of Quality Assurance issues in the facility and keeps the board informed. It also reviews state and federal regulations for the currency of facility compliance. The committee is responsible for the review and update of articles of incorporation and by-laws of the facilities for their compliance with agency or governmental regulations. It is also a resource for the administrator for questions and investigations in regard to compliance of the facility with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.

**Emergency Preparedness:** This Committee is responsible for review of facility emergency and disaster policies and procedures. It also works with staff to formulate policies and procedures for emergency preparedness.



**Mount Sequoyah Center**

The future is bright:

Mount Sequoyah has written commitments to provide facilities and pursue a partnership with UA Wesley ministries through December 31, 2019. The goal is to solidify a relationship with college age people and expand that relationship across the jurisdiction, making Mount Sequoyah's facilities a destination for religious training and spiritual formation.

Mount Sequoyah completed an intensive review of its mission

and future potential conducted by United Methodist Elders, Pamela J. Harris and Garrie F. Stevens of Run River Enterprises, a consulting firm. The review process included three-two day work sessions that were well attended by staff and Trustees. As a result Mount Sequoyah has undertaken the task of refocusing its purpose and mission in an effort to identify unique areas in which it can develop training programs to equip clergy and laity with the tools, technology and skills that will be necessary to reach the mission fields twenty or thirty years in the future and required to resolve conflicts likely to be faced by our clergy and within our churches.

The future is secure:

Mount Sequoyah is financially secure. In exchange for negotiated price increases, Mount Sequoyah orally committed to provide our largest corporate client training facilities, food service and housing through the year 2017 with full expectation to continue into 2018. The rents are fixed through 2017.

A \$550,000.00 payment is due from American Tower for a 30-year cell tower site lease.

Fayetteville Cottage is leased from 1 August through 31 December 2019 and 1011 Skyline (former District Superintendent's House) is leased through January 2017 with a verbal commitment to extend through January 2018.

Three Host Family houses are leased through May 31, 2017.

A \$100,000.00 increase in events and programming revenue and an increase of \$75,000.00 in contributions are projected for 2016. A Development Officer has been hired.

Long-term debt is \$275,000.00 and the Line of Credit is currently \$105,000. Cash equivalent assets of \$300,000.00 are invested with the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.

Mission accomplished:

Witnessing through our actions, our words, and our presence, that is what Radical Christian Hospitality is all about.

Mount Sequoyah extended Radical Christian Hospitality to Christian motorcycle groups attending Fayetteville's Annual Bikes, Blues, and Barbecue Festival. The Faith Riders shared the gospel with 1063 persons and prayed with 90 persons who asked for forgiveness and to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

By extending Radical Christian Hospitality to youth, Mount Sequoyah touched the lives of over 700 youth who participated in swimming lessons, swim teams, tennis lessons and tennis teams, Kanakuk KampOut, youth mission camps, and group events.

Radical Christian Hospitality cemented a partnership between Mount Sequoyah and UA Wesley Ministries resulting in making our campus a second home to college students from across the South Central Jurisdiction. Our unprecedented family environment attracted over 415 parents, 215 from Arkansas, as overnight guests while visiting.

Radical Christian Hospitality celebrated the marriage of thirty-two couples as they pledged their lives and hearts to each other on our beautiful campus under the Lord's ever-watchful eye.

Radical Christian Hospitality welcomed 30,052 guests for overnight stays and provided 18,378 delicious meals prepared by our own chef. Included in the numbers were 61 different Church groups, 13 family reunions, and 29 groups from regional colleges and universities.

Radical Christian Hospitality coupled with our Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Coordinator, a United Methodist Diaconal Minister, and produced religious education programs and workshops that attracted jurisdiction wide participation and a Lay Servant Academy praised because of its structure and skilled presenters.

Radical Christian Hospitality was the catalyst to reestablish our in house food service. Chef Curt Harcourt received rave reviews from all guests. Some refer to our Dining Hall as "Curt's on the Hill" a take off on a well-known local restaurant, the "Inn at the Mill".

Radical Christian Hospitality resulted in year-end positive cash flow for the past three years and the receipt of over \$710,000.00 in contributions during said period to remodel and upgrade facilities.

Radical Christian Hospitality resulted in groups seeking Mount Sequoyah as a designation of choice resulting in events and programs already booked throughout the years 2017, 2018 and even one event



in 2019.

Closing: The future looks bright as Mount Sequoyah plants seeds that, with God's blessings, will in the near future transform the world for Jesus Christ.

**Lamar Pettus  
Executive Director**



**Ozark Mission Project**

This marks the 30th year that Ozark Mission Project has sponsored mission opportunities in Arkansas. This summer we have twelve camps, eleven being hosted by the following churches: FUMC West Memphis, Lakewood UMC, FUMC Little Rock, FUMC Hot Springs, FUMC Pine Bluff, FUMC Camden, FUMC Mt. View, Cornerstone- Jonesboro, FUMC Heber Springs, Central UMC- Rogers and Cabot UMC. Pulaski Heights UMC is hosting our college staff training for the third year.

OMP has made it possible for thousands of youth and adults to serve and grow as Christian Disciples, but it has provided an opportunity for college age young adults to grow as Christian leaders through their experience as OMP Summer Staff. Many of these former college staff members now serve as Pastors, Youth Directors, and Missionaries in Arkansas and as far away as Iraq.

In January of 2016, OMP co-sponsored with several Wesley Foundation chapters a college mission trip to Memphis, Tennessee. Over seventy students made the trip and helped with construction projects.

The mission of Ozark Mission Project is Transforming Lives through Worship, Fellowship, and Hands-on-Mission. To that end every Ozark Mission Project experience not only gives participants an opportunity to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ, but also provides daily worship, sharing, and recreational activities for youth and adults to grow in their relationship with Christ. Our long relationship in communities all across our state has created a visible long term impact.

Over the past year Ozark Mission Project has welcomed Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson, Steven Baker, Kirby Martens, Donna Smith, Dr. Zack Shearer and BK Simmons to its Board of Directors. We have also hired Michael McMurray, a 2016 graduate of Hendrix College, as our Recruiting and Logistics Director. He will be in charge of recruiting new churches and volunteers to participate in OMP.

Since March 2013, I have served as Executive Director of OMP. In June of 2015, OMP moved into the Mission Building at St. Paul UMC in Little Rock. Since moving into the office OMP has weekly volunteer opportunities. During this past year, I have enjoyed traveling the state speaking to churches, youth groups, United Methodist Women groups and being a part of mission programs. If your church would like for Michael or me to come speak, or is interested in becoming a "camp" location, please email me at [director@ozarkmissionproject.org](mailto:director@ozarkmissionproject.org). Thank you to the 41 church that sent youth to camp this summer! We appreciate your support of Ozark Mission Project.

**Bailey Faulkner  
Ozark Mission Project, Executive Director**



**Perkins School of Theology**

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Arkansas Annual Conference.

- Two students affiliated with the Arkansas Conference are enrolled at Perkins – both Master of Divinity students.
- Qualifying students receive \$6,000 each in need-based aid.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2015-16 academic year totals 365 students, of which more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than 40 percent are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 53 percent male and 47 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program has 32 students.

Please note the following faculty additions:

- Dr. O. Wesley Allen Jr. (Ph.D., Emory) joined the Perkins faculty as the Lois Craddock Perkins Chair in Homiletics in August 2015.
- Dr. Evelyn L. Parker (Ph.D., Northwestern), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Perkins, was appointed to the Susanna Wesley Centennial Chair in Practical Theology at Perkins.
- Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison (Ph.D., University of St. Andrew's) joined Perkins as the school's Associate Dean for External Programs.
- Dr. Tom Spann was named director of the Perkins Intern Program, succeeding Dr. Bill Bryan, who was named to the newly created position of Associate Dean of Student Affairs.
- Dr. Paul Barton (Ph.D., Southern Methodist University) was named director of the Mexican American and Hispanic-Latino/a Church Ministries Program.

Highland Park United Methodist Church provided a \$1.5 million gift to Southern Methodist University that endowed the Umphrey Lee Professorship in Methodist History at Perkins as well as support the HPUMC Future Church Leaders Program.

The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions at Perkins was awarded a \$500,000 grant by The Henry Luce Foundation's Theology program. The three-year grant will significantly expand the Center's work in promoting an understanding of the different religious expressions within the Latino/a communities in the United States and in Latin America.

Perkins unveiled a new degree option, the Master of Theology (Th.M.), which began enrolling students in the Fall 2015 semester. The Th.M. degree is a second master's and requires 24 term hours within one of four divisions of study: The Biblical Witness, The Heritage and Context of Christianity, The Interpretation of the Christian Witness and The Theology and Practice of Ministry.

Additionally, Perkins revealed that it will begin offering a Spanish-language Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree beginning in fall 2017. The degree, the first of its kind among the 13 United Methodist-related schools of theology, will be a nonresidential program designed for experienced full-time pastors or church/academic leaders.

Perkins also announced the creation of a first-of-its-kind degree, the Doctor of Pastoral Music, which will begin enrolling students in 2016. Areas of focused study will include liturgy, congregational song, worship leadership, performance skills and the theological basis of church music.

Perkins thanks our many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for generous support in many ways, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

I will retire as Dean of Perkins School of Theology on May 31, 2016. It has been my privilege to serve in this capacity since 2002. In our mission to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry, the students who have passed through the halls of this school and into the world of ministry are the focus of our work. I am honored to have been a part of their journey.

**Grace and Peace,  
William B. Lawrence  
Dean and Professor of American Church History**



THINK JUSTICE

**Philander Smith College**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Philander Smith College (PSC), I greet each of you as you gather for the

Arkansas Annual Conference. Furthermore, we thank you for all you've done to aid us in our quest "to graduate academically accomplished students grounded as advocates for social justice determined to change the world for the better."

**Introduction**

I am pleased to submit this report to the Arkansas United Methodist Annual Conference as an accounting of my stewardship as President and Chief Executive Office of Philander Smith College. While this report will focus on the last twelve months specifically, it cannot be done without acknowledging that, on January 1, 2016, I celebrated my one- year anniversary as President of Philander Smith College. As previously expressed, I am honored and grateful for the wonderful opportunity to serve in this distinguished capacity and to carry out the Ministry with which God has blessed me. The Philander Smith College Mission is a special one; and in a world where the demand for diverse, highly educated citizens with ethical standards, Christian values, courageous leadership and strong character are emphasized, the PSC experience is and will continue to be validated.

**Priorities for United Methodist Conference Funding**

The funds received by Philander Smith College were used to support the Office of Religious Life and Weekly Chapel Services. Philander Smith College is moving forward with a Campus Culture Transformation Initiative. The College budgeted \$75,000 this past year for the Program. The Budget included scholarships, programs and seminars. The College continues to use funds from the Conference to educate the Philander Community in areas of community health fairs and domestic violence seminars.

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

The Philander Smith College Campus Culture Initiative endeavors to create a culture of high performance and high expectations with a campus wide persistence of spiritual values, mutual respect, and appreciation of differences. The Campus Culture Transformation Initiative will develop a PSC culture-transformation model that will facilitate a campus wide assessment of perceptions, morals, values and willingness to change. The CCTI will ultimately lead to the development of programs that focus on the following:

- Modeling Christ-Like Values and Principles
- The Evolution of the Philander Man and the Philander Woman
- Creating a Servant Leadership and Discipleship Model
- The Urbanization of Spirituality in a 21st Century Liberal Arts Environment
- Developing a PSC Ambassadors Program

PSC must develop a broader foundation for its students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Through the CCTI, PSC will endeavor to redress the imbalances in our society caused by a growing individualism, mistrust, failure to collaborate, fear of differences, and the absence of spiritual connections. Philander Smith College has adopted Seven Timeless Human Values which the students, faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees will strive to live by. These values are: Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for PSC, Scholarship, Service, Spirituality and Leadership.

2. Scholarships for Students

Creating a diverse pool of scholarship funding that will not only be awarded to students based on academic merit and need, but also on "potential" for civic and community leadership and engagement, and entry into the Christian Ministry.

3. Ongoing Support of Religious Life Activities

- The Office of Religious Life
  - o Salaries & Benefits
  - o Weekly Chapel Services
  - o Sending Students to United Methodist Church Conferences
  - o Religious Emphasis Week
- Health Services/Community Outreach
  - o Intramural Sports
  - o Community Health Fairs
  - o Domestic Violence Seminars
- Other

- o "Dollar for Scholars" Program
  - o In-Kind Facility Usage
  - o Bless the Mic Lecture Series
  - o Baccalaureate Services
- Through the works of the Office of Religious Life, Philander Smith College exposes students, faculty, staff and the community to the teachings and unconditional love of Jesus Christ and the United Methodist Church. Weekly Chapel Services, community outreach (Hunger for the Homeless), and sending students on seminary visits are just a few experiences our students are provided which strengthen their spiritual awareness. Currently, there are ten (10) Philander Smith College graduates who are African American Clergy.
- Seventy-five (75) percent of students attending Philander Smith College are PELL Grant eligible. The average gross family income is less than \$25,000. Philander Smith College gives students an opportunity. The strong religious emphasis and the nurturing care the students receive from the College build relationships which help the students to grow spiritually. Some students come to Philander without ever having attended church. Philander provides that opportunity for young adults to experience Jesus Christ for the first time. Philander welcomes students into a family and helps to build a foundation that young adults need.
- Philander FORWARD >>> Institutional Successes:**
- More than a catchphrase or buzzword, Philander Forward represents a movement. It is the embodiment of the Colleges' powerful mission statement, and it is the personification of the qualities and attributes that we hope to find in all Philander Men and Women the purveyors of the Philander brand. No matter how it is referenced -- as a construct, a concept, a catchphrase or a movement, the evidence is astoundingly clear -- We are moving Philander Forward, and I am pleased to share the following examples of how our Forward Movement has come to life during the period of March 1, 2015 – March 1, 2016:
- The College successfully underwent its Accreditation Review from the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.
  - The Enrollment Management Team successfully shifted the downward enrollment trend, thus yielding a 5% increase in Fall 2015 new student enrollment and one of the largest freshmen classes in the last 5 years.
  - The Division of Fiscal Affairs facilitated a clean financial audit with no major findings.
  - Ten students from the College's five major divisions are being interviewed currently for paid summer internships with prestigious businesses in Arkansas. The businesses are: Entergy, Nucor, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation, and MISO Energy. These companies are also represented on the PSC Business Advisory Board.
  - PSC students Jasmine Dehart, Li Jiang, and Sabrina Hardy received a Travel Scholarship to visit NC State Program Graduate School.
  - Philander Smith College Student, Gaston Seneza, was named an Apple HBCU Scholar. The Scholarship includes up to \$25,000; a summer internship in Cupertino, California; participation in a year-round program to prepare for post-graduation careers and pairing with an Apple mentor.
  - PSC Student, Brighton Mlambo, a senior in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting, has landed an internship position with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Mr. Mlambo will be working under the guidance of the Director who has received a \$20 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation.
  - The College held its first Assessment Day in response to a HLC/NCA Recommendation.
  - Through the efforts Dr. Samar Swaid and PSC and UALR Students, PSC is offering Basic Skills Computer Workshops for Senior Citizens.
  - The College was awarded a \$50,000 College to Career Pathway Planning Grant from UNCF.
  - The College received a \$20,000 gift from Dr. Charlie Nelms to support professional development for faculty and staff.
  - The College was awarded an \$85,000 Planning Grant from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to support its Workforce

Innovation and Strategic Economic Public/Private/Partnerships (WISE P3) Initiative.

- Through our fundraising efforts, the College successfully secured a \$30,000 commitment from the Darraugh Foundation to support student scholarships.

- Through ongoing relationships with Arkansas Legislators, the College secured \$45,000 in GIF Funding to support scholarships and academic excellence.

- Through our fundraising efforts, the College secured a \$50,000 commitment from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to establish the Ozell Sutton Endowed Scholarship.

- The College received \$10,000 from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry – Black College Fund to support special enrollment projects.

**Conclusion**

One of the final recommendations from the HLC/NCA Accreditation Team, as well as the UMC-University Senate Team, was to do a better job at telling the Philander Story. This is a challenge and recommendation that I have taken very seriously, as I concur; there are absolutely amazing things happening at Philander Smith College every day. The successes and accomplishments outlined in my report, are evidence of what a focused and determined community can accomplish. Philander Forward has become the thrust for the entire community of scholars – from the current freshman class to our senior most faculty, from Academic Affairs to Fiscal Affairs, and to the Board of Trustees. I am proud to report that we are moving Philander Forward. We have one year behind us, and the best is yet to come!

**Roderick Smothers, Sr., Ph.D.  
President**



**South Central Jurisdiction**

The time for the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference is near. The thirteenth session of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference since unification in 1939 will be in Wichita, Kansas, July 13-16. Business sessions are at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and worship services at First United Methodist Church.

There are three bishops to be elected. Fifty-two bishops have been elected since 1944. The opening worship on Wednesday evening, July 12, will be a memorial service and Holy Communion.

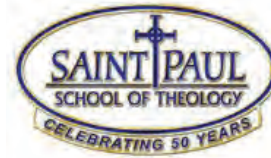
There will be 216 voting delegates to this Conference. That is fifty fewer than 2012. Election of a bishop requires sixty-percent of valid ballots cast to be elected. That would be 130, if all delegates vote on a ballot. Any elder in good standing in The United Methodist Church is eligible for election.

The Conference will hear reports from the institutions and agencies of the Jurisdiction, including Southern Methodist University, Lydia Patterson Institute and Mount Sequoyah Retreat Center. Trustees for these groups will also be elected.

The Mission Council, with a representative from each of the Annual Conferences, will report, and will nominate Rev. Brian Bakeman as the new Executive Director of the Mission Council. Dr. David Severe, after eleven years in that position, is retiring after this conference.

The public is welcome to come and observe the conference. Registration will be open in March, and the link to it will be on the Jurisdiction website at [www.scjumc.org](http://www.scjumc.org).

**Dr. David Severe  
Executive Director**



**Saint Paul School of Theology**

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church that educates leaders to make disciples for Jesus Christ, renew the Church, and transform the world. We are one institution with two campuses, in Oklahoma and Kansas.

This past academic year, Saint Paul enrolled 199 students from 14 annual conferences and 6 countries on both campuses. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 222 students in four Midwest locations.

The Saint Paul Board of Trustees named Dr. Nancy Howell, Saint Paul Professor of Theology and Philosophy, as the Acting President this spring. Her term began March 2 as Rev. H. Sharon Howell retired. Dr. Nancy Howell brings multiple years of experience serving in administration.

Saint Paul and Kansas Wesleyan University signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a 3+3 theological studies undergraduate-graduate program. The agreement is thought to be the first of its kind to be established between a United Methodist-based university and a United Methodist seminary. Under this arrangement, Kansas Wesleyan students condense the four-year course of study for the Christian Ministry major into three years, followed by the completion of the three-year Master of Divinity degree at Saint Paul. The 3+3 program with Kansas Wesleyan will begin Fall 2016. 3+3 collaborations with other undergraduate institutions are currently in discussion.

Dr. Young-Ho Chun is serving as the Director of Asian Studies for Saint Paul. He is currently recruiting the 4th Korean Doctor of Ministry track of students. The model of theological education designed for this highly successful and unique program is currently being considered by other global communities.

Saint Paul will offer two fully online courses starting fall 2016 and two in the spring semester of 2017. We will continue to offer popular hybrid courses as well as video link every course between our two locations.

Two new components in the MDiv program are practicums taught by ministry practitioners and off-campus spiritual formation retreats. Practicum offerings include such real-life skill areas as budgets and finance, funerals and ministry with children. Spiritual formation retreats deepen students' spirituality for a lifetime of ministry.

The Fellows program equips candidates called to full-time ministry with academic formation and real-life pastoral experience. The award covers tuition, books and fees for three years. Each Fellow will receive a pastoral mentor and a student appointment with a stipend to cover living expenses.

The Oklahoma Campus had its second recognition dinner celebrating eight years of seminary excellence in Oklahoma. The Celebrate Saint Paul dinner has become an annual event including the Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. Leadership Award

The trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Paul thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

**Heather Snodgrass  
Director of Communications**



**Southern Methodist University**

Over the past five years, Southern Methodist University has celebrated the centennial of its founding in 1911 by the Methodist

Episcopal Church, South, and its opening in 1915. Highlights of recent developments follow:

- In fall 2015 SMU's total enrollment of 11,643 included 6,411 undergraduates and 5,232 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 26 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,652 (14 percent of total enrollment) represented 92 foreign countries, with the largest numbers from China, India and Saudi Arabia.

- SMU ranks among the nation's top universities. In the 2016 U.S. News & World Report listings, SMU ranks 61st among 270 of the "best national universities." Several individual schools and academic programs also earned national rankings.

- SMU received \$26 million in external funding during 2014-15 for research in the U.S. and worldwide. Current research subjects include water quality, natural hazards, cyber security and treatments for cancer and other diseases.

- SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign reached its \$1 billion goal ahead of schedule in Sept. 2015. It provided funds for 607 student scholarships; 62 endowed faculty positions, making a total of 114; 66 academic programs, including major endowment support for two schools; and 18 capital projects, including new and renovated facilities.

- The Meadows Museum at SMU celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015 with exhibitions never before seen in the U.S. The museum houses one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain.

SMU treasures its Methodist heritage, and we ask for your continued prayers and support.

**R. Gerald Turner**  
President



**The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas**

**United Methodist Foundation**

Grants awarded at the discretion of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas in 2015 totaled almost \$1.1 million. The programs and institutions funded by those grants operate every day to enhance the ministries of the Arkansas Conference. Add to that \$3.7 million in grants directed by donors to their specified United Methodist causes, and the Foundation has contributed \$4.8 million in total impact upon Conference and local church ministries.

Here are some of the grants approved by the United Methodist Foundation's Grants Administration Committee in 2015:

- A \$40,000 grant funded the purchase of a vehicle to begin a **Mobile Food Pantry** ministry serving students at ASU Beebe, ASU Marked Tree, and ASU Newport, along with supplementing a backpack food program for elementary and middle school students in Harrisburg. **Ozark Mission Project** – a ministry that transforms lives through worship, fellowship and hands-on mission – received a \$50,000 challenge grant to expand its staff to include a Recruitment Officer.

- **Hendrix College** in Conway will receive a \$150,000 grant over the next three years as a part of a capital campaign to build the new Mary Ann and David Dawkins Welcome Center on its campus. This commitment enables the Foundation to name the center's Conference Room in memory of Richard and Gertrude Butler. A \$200,000 grant helped finance construction of a new **University of Arkansas Wesley Foundation Center** adjacent to the U of A Fayetteville campus.

- **Camp Aldersgate** in Little Rock received \$50,000 to set up a fund to maintain its Activity Center where campers can play indoors during rainy or hot weather and enjoy both arts and recreation. **Camp Tanako** in Hot Springs received a \$20,000 grant to install a high ropes challenge course. A \$60,000 grant helped refurbish camping facilities at **Shoal Creek, Bear Creek** and **Waylon Springs** through the Outdoor Ministries Committee of the Arkansas Conference.

- Many of the grants centered on lay and clergy leadership development. Thirty college students including recent high school

graduates attended the **Young Preachers Festival** at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Leawood, Kansas. A total of 100 lay members and clergy from churches throughout the state attended the **Leadership Institute** at COR. Ten children's ministers from local churches in Arkansas attended **Rock On!**, the national Children's Ministry Forum at First UMC, Little Rock.

- A second group of United Methodist pastors from the Arkansas Conference are participating in the **Preaching Excellence Program**, a partnership with Perkins School of Theology to promote the relevance and effectiveness of narrative preaching and storytelling thanks to a grant. Grants will send a group of clergy to attend the **Academy of Faith and Money** and send worship teams to the **FUSION Conference** in 2016. Clergywomen of the Arkansas United Methodist Conference will attend the **UM Clergywomen Global Gathering** in Houston in August thanks to a UMFA grant.

**Stewardship Commitment**

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas was blessed with the creation of numerous permanent charitable funds to support United Methodist ministry in Arkansas in 2015. These endowments were created by generous and faithful church members, and will provide support for the work of the Church forever.

The Foundation continues to be a good steward of the assets our donors and clients have entrusted to us. We have an experienced and skilled Financial Administration Committee overseeing these activities, and we engage highly qualified experts at Wespath Investment Management, a subsidiary of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, to guide our investment activities.

Due to market declines, the assets of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas fell slightly to \$131 million in calendar year 2015. Despite a sometimes difficult investment environment, UMFA has not turned from its long-term focus – our mantra is that we are investors, not traders.

**Accounting Conversion**

To better serve our donors and grantees, UMFA converted to new Trust Processor software at the close of 2015. For those with UMFA accounts, newly designed statements made possible through Trust Processor are a significant upgrade. Our able staff worked throughout the year to meet the challenges of the conversion. The previous system, FunderWare, will now be used for historical purposes only.

**Foundation Communications**

Want to know more about the Foundation? Visit the all-new **www.umfa.org** website to get all the latest Foundation information and stories about how the Foundation is helping United Methodists and United Methodist institutions in our state.

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas continues to conduct Provide and Protect seminars on estate planning, provides training on developing local church endowment funds, and visits local churches regarding UMFA investment management services. More than **14,500** United Methodists throughout the state receive the **News You Can Use** e-newsletter and more that 14,000 receive the **Legacies** printed newsletter.

**National Stature**

The UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country. Founded in 1963, the Foundation is responsible for over 750 funds that support United Methodist ministries, many of which are placed with us for investment management by United Methodist local churches and institutions throughout the state.

As we work side-by-side with United Methodist individuals and institutions in Arkansas, we are proud to be a partner in realizing our shared goal of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**James B. Argue, Jr.**  
President and CEO



**United Theological Seminary**

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio continues to educate a significant number of pastors and local church leaders for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

United has always focused on developing faithful, fruitful, inspired and inspiring pastors and local church leaders. 83% of the 2015 graduates of United are now serving in local congregations. 53% of the 2015 graduates from all other seminaries affiliated with the Association of Theological Seminaries are serving in local congregations.

Furthermore, 44% of the current 449 students at United are African American which makes United one of the most racially diverse seminaries in the United States. An average of 12% of the student body at most seminaries in the United States are African American. 43% of the students at United are female compared to an average of 33% at other United States seminaries.

United is one of the most racially and gender diverse seminaries in the United States and produces a higher percentage of local church pastors than most other seminaries in the United States..

United is also in the process of leadership transition. In November, 2015 President Wendy Deichmann resigned as President and, after a well deserved sabbatical, will return to serving as a Professor of History and Theology. Under President Deichmann, United was listed as one of the 12 fastest growing seminaries in the United States largely because of the growing Doctor of Ministry program and our on-line degree programs. 44% of United's students are in the Master of Divinity program, 41% are in the Doctor of Ministry program and 15% are in other degree or certificate programs.

In January, 2016 The United Board of Trustees selected Dr. Kent Millard, former pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, as Interim President while they search for a new President.

St. Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy these words of advice: "I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands." Second Timothy 1:6

United Theological Seminary along with the other 12 United Methodist Seminaries in the United States is committed to helping persons "rekindle the gift of God that is within" to provide educated, inspired and inspiring spiritual leaders for the United Methodist Church throughout the world.

**Dr. Kent Millard**  
Interim President



**Wesley Theological Seminary**  
Called. Answered. Sent.

Wesley Theological Seminary has been equipping and sending forth prophetic preachers, teachers, and leaders into diverse ministries throughout the church and around the world. Near and far, our alumni point to God's love even as they join the Spirit in making disciples and shaping healthy communities.

- With more than 410 master's-level students preparing for leadership in the church and the world, Wesley remains one of the largest and most diverse theological schools in North America.
- The Lewis Center for Church Leadership informs more

1 than 17,000 pastors and lay leaders on trends and ideas through its  
2 e-newsletter. The center has influenced more than 5,600 church leaders  
3 through leadership assessments, sexual ethics trainings, and fundraising  
4 trainings.

- The new Institute for Community Engagement is forwarding  
5 Wesley's mission of raising prophetic leaders in the public square through  
6 classes, partnerships, conferences, and resources.

**Wesley Students Are Answering God's Call**

7 Wesley provides more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships  
8 to our students thanks to the consistent support of alumni, congregations  
9 and friends of the seminary. The Ministerial Education Fund and  
10 conference partners help us equip a broad range of students to serve  
11 the church as pastors and leaders. These include:

- Two Master of Divinity students who are exploring ordination in the  
12 UMC that have created outreach opportunities for people who ordinarily  
13 would not consider going into a church. Zach Spoerl and Matt Wilke,  
14 working with three United Methodist Churches and Wesley, have started  
15 Pub Theology in downtown D.C., drawing spiritual-but-not-religious young  
16 adults into Christian community.

- Master of Theological Studies student Jane Adams is working with  
17 denominations and congregations on issues of poverty and hunger in  
18 the U.S. As an intern at the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood  
19 Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, she  
20 provides tools for building on charitable activities such as food pantries  
21 and backpack ministries. As a member of a local United Methodist  
22 congregation, she's putting her knowledge to work in her local church  
23 and neighborhood, too.

24 Christian leadership must innovate for greater faithfulness and be  
25 able to engage the full diversity of people within our society even while  
26 holding true to the foundations of our faith and tradition. The people  
27 named above – as well as so many more of our students – exemplify  
28 these aims. Read more about our students at [wesleyseminary.edu/stories](http://wesleyseminary.edu/stories).

**Mourning the Loss of a Christian Leader**

29 The Rev. Clementa Pinckney was a Doctor of Ministry student at  
30 Wesley in the Leadership Excellence track. He was working on a research  
31 project on the combined role of pastor and statesman, when his life  
32 was taken along with eight others at Mother Emanuel AME Church in  
33 Charleston, S.C. Rev. Pinckney exemplified the spiritually powerful and  
34 prophetic leadership that is at the core of our mission.

35 To ensure Pinckney's legacy continues, Wesley has established  
36 scholarships in his name for Doctor of Ministry candidates seeking to  
37 empower their congregations, engage their communities, and influence  
38 public discourse. Additionally, Wesley has developed a Doctor of Ministry  
39 track exploring the intersection between public life and church leadership.  
40 This degree focus amplifies Wesley's mission and location and, we  
41 hope, will raise up leaders to continue Pinckney's legacy. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/>

42 Seeking Connection We are on this journey of faith together. As you  
43 follow Jesus Christ, we pray and trust the Spirit will equip you to  
44 mentor future leaders and to help others identify God's call to ministry  
45 on their lives. Let us know about someone you feel has the potential  
46 for Christian leadership by emailing [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu).  
47 And may God's transformative, creative Spirit lead all of us, as the  
48 body of Christ, to new and faithful ways of sharing God's grace and love  
49 with all God's people, for the redemption of the world. Learn more at  
50 [wesleyseminary.edu](http://wesleyseminary.edu).

**The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson**  
President

# Provide and Protect

## Contact Janet Marshall to Schedule a Seminar for Your Local Church

Making important life and death decisions is part of being a faithful Christian disciple, and the United Methodist Foundation partners with local churches to help their congregations learn more about planning for end-of-life.

Provide and Protect seminars can be a valuable resource as members of your congregation deal with family issues, healthcare concerns, current and future finances, estate planning, and charitable giving.

A local attorney and UMFA staff member deliver the two-hour presentations to explain the tools needed to create a plan and provide resources needed to complete those plans. Each participant receives the book, *Provide and Protect* by Charles Schulz.

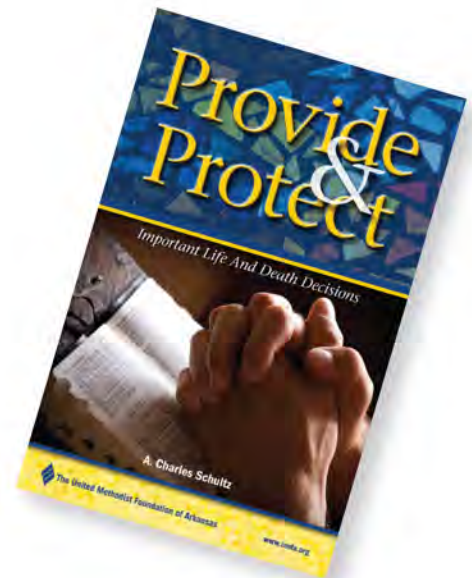
It is important to have a plan, and UMFA can help. To set up a free seminar at your local church, email Janet at [jmarshall@umfa.org](mailto:jmarshall@umfa.org) or give her a call today.



Janet Marshall  
UMFA Vice President of Development

*“UMFA has been a great partner for Central. We work together on a Provide and Protect seminar each year, and the events have been well attended. Many people don’t have a plan. This is an excellent way to help our members with their Christian stewardship.”*

— Bryan Swain  
Administrator  
Central UMC in Fayetteville



**The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas**

5300 Evergreen Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205  
501-664-8632 • Toll free 877-712-1107 • Fax 501-664-6792 • [www.umfa.org](http://www.umfa.org)



# United Methodists of Arkansas: Stay Connected!

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## arumc.org

Official website of the Arkansas Conference, the place to find news, a calendar of events, and resources like the Bishop's Mission Plan.



## Facebook

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