

BANK OF THE OZARKS

*arena*

**"Vital Disciples create vital congregations who make disciples of Jesus Christ who have a vital impact on their mission field."**



Arkansas  
Annual Conference 2017  
Hot Springs - June 18-21

# Annual Conference Prayer

**Living God, breathe your Holy Spirit into us,  
that your life may become our life.**

**Fill these days of conferencing with all that we need  
to become vital disciples.**

**We surrender this time to you and embrace  
the bold hope that your church can transform lives,  
communities, and the world.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the one who lived,  
the one who died,  
and the one who rose,  
all to enable us to experience the fullness of life in You.**

**Amen.**

**Written by  
Brittany Richardson-Watson,  
Casey Weatherford,  
and Kathleen McMurray**



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 14, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*VITAL!* is the theme for this year's 2017 Arkansas Annual Conference, set for June 18-21 at the Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs.

Spiritual revival is at the heart of who we are as Jesus' disciples but it is important to be clear about something. Spiritual revival is not the end. Rather, it is the beginning of vital 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 disciples who truly are equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

We are planning our 2017 Annual Conference so it inspires and equips Arkansas United Methodists to return to their local congregations to create vital disciples of Jesus Christ who have a vital impact on their mission field. The focus will be more on what happens after Conference is over than what happens while Conference is in session.

We will be blessed by outstanding United Methodist pastors and laity who will speak during the conference.

- **Bishop Jonathan Holston**, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference, will serve as guest preacher for the opening worship service set for Sunday, June 18.
- **Kay Kotan**, a layperson from Missouri, credentialed coach, church consultant speaker and author will be a featured speaker Monday afternoon, June 19, to teach more United Methodists about sharing their faith with others.
- **The Reverend Dr. Kevin Watson**, an ordained elder and assistant professor of Wesleyan and Methodist studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, will help attendees learn how to use Wesleyan small groups to grow deeper in discipleship on Tuesday morning, June 20.
- **The Reverend Dr. Clif Christopher**, a retired elder in the Arkansas Conference, will talk about the power of personal stewardship for disciples of Jesus Christ, Tuesday afternoon of June 20.
- **Reverend J.J. Whitney** and **Mary Lewis Dassinger** will present a vital message Monday, June 19, on the 200,000 Reasons Initiative and how every single church – regardless of its size – can participate.

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

Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller

# WORSHIP + TEACHING

## SUNDAY WORSHIP 7:30 PM CELEBRATION OF LIFE IN MINISTRY SERVICE

PREACHER: BISHOP JONATHAN HOLSTON  
MUSIC: HOT SPRINGS AREA CHOIR, DIRECTED BY TIMOTHY TUCKER

Unite with fellow Arkansas United Methodists in a Celebration of Life, Recognition of Local Pastors, and a Service of Commissioning.

## TUESDAY WORSHIP 7:30 PM SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

PREACHER: BISHOP GARY MUELLER  
MUSIC: THE WEATHERFOLK & FRIENDS

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

## TEACHING



REV. DR.  
KEVIN M. WATSON  
Accountable Discipleship



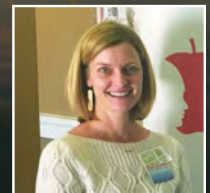
KAY KOTAN  
Faith Sharing



REV. DR.  
CLIF CHRISTOPHER  
Stewardship



REV. J.J. WHITNEY &  
MARY LEWIS DASSINGER  
200K Reasons



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# General Information

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

### Lodging

See page 7 for a complete listing of hotels near the Hot Springs Convention Center.

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

Please check our Annual Conference website for details on childcare opportunities. [ac2017.arumc.org](http://ac2017.arumc.org)

### 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 9 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 Vicki Davis, [vicki.davis@arumc.org](mailto:vicki.davis@arumc.org).

### Special Offerings

Two special offerings will be received:

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

## DURING YOUR STAY:

Convention Center Phone Numbers

Manager on duty & After Hours Contact: 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. Michelle Morris, 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.

### Vendor Area

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

### Nursing Mothers Space

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

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Opening Worship

### 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 20.

## 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.

## 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;
- Follow the Bishop's directions during discussion/debate;
- Make sure the *Journal* Editor receives a written copy of changes or 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.

### Debates, Motions and Resolutions/Petitions Procedures are set forth by the Session Rules

(see proposed session rules below this summary of matters addressed in our Standing Rules)

### Submission of Petitions and Resolutions: See Chapter II, Section VI of the Standing Rules recorded in the 2016 *Journal*

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

### Consent Calendar

Reports and other items for which no changes are anticipated are placed in the *Pre-Conference Journal* Consent Calendar. 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 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*.

### Robert's Rules of Order

The Annual Conference sessions shall be governed by the Session Rules (adopted at the beginning of each Annual Conference Session,) and the Standing Rules (printed in the "*Journal*" of the previous Conference Session; otherwise, Roberts Rules of Order; all of which shall comply with the 2016 *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.)

## Arkansas Annual Conference Session Rules

### 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**

new request for unbudgeted expenditures shall be considered on the last day of a Conference Session, unless it is a special session called to address financial matters.

**Section II. 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.

**Section III. Annual Conference Tellers**

**Par. 108. Tellers** Tellers shall be selected in a manner to be determined 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 Conference Agency shall not be considered a speech in favor.
  - c. A timer shall be used to measure debate at the discretion of the Chair.
3. Rules of Order for Petitions and Resolutions
  - a. Debate on each resolution or petition shall be limited to four (4) two-minute speeches for the motion or resolution and four (4) two-minute speeches against. This excludes persons inquiring about points of order or asking questions of clarification.
  - b. The presentation of the petition or resolution may last five (5) minutes and shall be considered a speech in favor.
  - c. A timer shall be used to measure debate at the discretion of the Chair.
  - d. Amendments and substitutions to petitions and resolutions will not be considered by the Annual Conference.
  - e. During debate of petitions and resolutions, other incidental and subsidiary motions will not be considered, with the exceptions of motions to suspend the rules, inquiries about points of order, and questions for clarification.
4. All motions made on the floor of Annual Conference shall be legibly written on forms supplied by the Conference Secretary and shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary and Presiding Officer before any action or vote can be taken by the Conference.

**Par. 107. Motions Involving Expenditures**

Any proposal submitted to the Annual Conference which involves the expenditure of funds not included in the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) report shall be referred for advice and recommendation to the Council on Finance and Administration. The CF&A will study the proposal and report back to the Annual Conference regarding the source of funding, the impact on the Conference budget, and CF&A's concurrence or non-concurrence. No



## 2017 Annual Conference Hotels

**Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa** (0.29 Miles) 400 Convention Blvd. Hot Springs, AR 71901 501-321-4430 or 501-321-4407 Suites, Complimentary breakfast, Manager's Reception, Spa, Indoor Pool, Fitness Center, Free Parking Code: UNT (UM Annual Conference) Single: \$152 + tax Double: \$162 + tax Triple: \$172 + tax Quad: \$182 + 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, Refrigerator & Microwave in all Rooms, Complimentary Breakfast available 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., New Restaurant and Lounge, Shuttle Service to Popular attractions within City Limits, Complimentary WiFi Code: United Methodist of AR Single Occupancy: \$119 + tax Double Occupancy: \$129 + tax Triple Occupancy: \$139 + tax Quad Occupancy: \$149 + tax Executive Parlor: \$200 + 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: \$102 – \$122 + tax Code: umc.2017

**Courtyard by Marriott** (4 miles) 200 Marriott Court Hot Springs, AR 71913 501-651-4366 Complimentary on-site parking, Free High Speed Internet, Fitness Center, Pool, Microwave oven, mini fridge, Free Shuttle Service King \$143 + tax Queen \$141 + 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

**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: \$139.99 + tax

**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: \$150 - \$170 + tax 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: \$134.99 + Tax One Bedroom King/Queen: \$154.99 + Tax One Bedroom/Two Double: \$154.99 + Tax Two Bedroom Suites: \$179.99 + 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 \$90.39 - \$106.39 + tax

**Best Western Winners Circle Inn** (2.01 Miles) 2520 Central Avenue Hot Springs, AR 71901 501-624-2531 or (800) 643-8722 Complimentary Hot Breakfast, Fitness Center, Outdoor Pool, Wi-Fi, Dish Network, Walking distance to restaurants, recently remodeled, pets welcome. \$107.99+ tax for single or double

**LaQuinta Inn & Suites** (4.9 Miles) 4253 Central Ave. Hot Springs, AR 71913 (501) 520-6400 Non-Smoking Facility, Free High Speed Internet Access, Free Breakfast, Business Center, Indoor Pool and Fitness Center, Free Parking King: \$107.10 + Tax Double: \$107.10 + Tax Suites: \$120.60 + Tax

**The Waters** (0.6 Miles) 340 Central Ave. Hot Springs, AR 71913 (501) 321-0001 Free Wi-Fi, Non-Smoking Facility, Restaurant, Mini-Market, Gift Shop, Business Center, Senior, AARP or AAA 10% discount Prepaid Online Reservation @ ChoiceHotels.com (non-refundable/changeable): \$148 + tax King: \$185 + Tax Double: \$185 + Tax Large King: \$255 + Tax

# Restaurants in Hot Springs

1. \*Angels Italian Restaurant
2. \*Angels in the Park Italian Restaurant – Closed Monday
3. \*Fat Jacks (Long Walk)
4. \*The Porterhouse
5. \*Steinhaus Keller – German – closed Monday and lunch
6. \*Belle Arti Restaurant
7. \*Brick House Grill
8. \*Ohio Club
9. \*Central Park Fusion Cuisine – closed Monday – (Long walk)
10. \*Fat Jack's Oyster Sports Bar and Grill
11. \*Superior Bathhouse Brewery
12. \*Bubbalu's
13. \*Maxine's
14. \*Copper Penny Pub
15. \*Picante's Mexican Grill
16. \*Vina Morita LaTerraza
17. Sam's Pizza – closed Monday
18. Bleu Monkey Grill
19. Fisherman's Wharf
20. McClard's Bar-B-Q – Closed Monday
21. Rod's Pizza Cellar – Closed Monday
22. Back Porch Grill – Closed Sunday
23. Stubby's BBQ
24. Cajun Boilers
25. Luna Bella – Closed Sunday and Tuesday
26. Johnas Restaurant – Closed Sunday
27. Mr. Whiskers – Closed Monday
28. Smokin in Style BBQ – Closed Monday
29. Via Roma Italian Restaurant- Closed Monday
30. Phil's Restaurant
31. J&S Italian Grill – Closed Sunday
32. Café 1217 – 11:00-8:00pm/Closed Sunday
33. Trejo's Mexican (two locations)
34. Taco Mama – Closed Sunday
35. Jose's Mexican Grill – Closed Sunday
36. Salsa Mexican & Cantina
37. Rolando's Latino Cuisine
38. Don Juan Authentic Mexican Restaurant (3 locations)
39. The Rib Cage Barbecue-closed Monday
40. Hawg's Pizza – Closed Tuesday
41. Colorado Grill – Closed Monday



## Familiar Restaurants:

Longhorn Steakhouse  
 Colton's Steakhouse  
 Dixie Cafe  
 La Hacienda - Mexican  
 On the Border  
 Red Lobster  
 Chili's  
 Outback Steakhouse  
 Purple Cow  
 Olive Garden  
 McAlister's Deli  
 Buffalo Wild Wings  
 Newks

Unless noted, the restaurant is open 7 days a week. All have websites for directions and menus.

\* Indicates within walking distance of convention center.

This is a only a partial listing of all the restaurants in Hot Springs!

# SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL GATHERINGS & MEALS

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

## Sunday, June 18

- 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
- 5:30 pm Fellowship of Associate Members & Local Pastors no meal  
Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center  
Contact: Glen Harris (479) 398-4864 or email glenharris@windstream.net
- 6:00 pm Candler Alumni Dinner \$20  
TBA  
Contact: Jessica Durand, (870) 403-2177

## Monday, June 19

- 6:30 am Confessing Movement of Arkansas \$15  
Union Baptist Church, 217 Gulpha St., Hot Springs (behind Convention Center)  
Contact: Karen Millar, (501) 268-4859, karenmillar@hotmail.com
- 11:30 am Retiree Luncheon Free for RC/SS  
Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center \$20 for all others  
Contact: Mona Williams, (501) 324-8028
- 12:00 pm Children's Ministers' Luncheon Self-pay  
Cafe 1217, 1217 Malvern Ave., #B, Hot Springs  
Contact: Pamela Snider, (501) 240-3535, pamelasnyder@arumc.org
- 12:00 pm United Methodist Women \$20  
First UMC, 1100 Central Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Martha Altom, (501) 915-0817
- 6:00 pm Open Arms Reconciling Methodists Self-pay  
TBA  
Contact: Harold Hughes, (501) 612-0902, rainbowharold@yahoo.com
- 6:30 pm Duke Divinity School Alumni and Friends Gathering Self-pay  
Taco Mama, 1209 Malvern Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Todd-Paul Taulbee, (501) 786-3184, dukerev@gmail.com
- 6:30 pm Memphis Theological School Self-pay  
World Buffet, 1200 Albert Pike Road, Hot Springs  
Contact: Bryan Diffee, bryan.diffee@arumc.org
- 6:30 pm SMU Perkins School of Theology Alumni Self-pay  
30 Santistaban Way, Hot Springs Village  
(meet under the awning @ Embassy Suites @ 6:15 pm)  
Contact: Michelle J. Morris, michelle.morris@arumc.org or (870) 635-1519
- 6:30 pm New Church Starts Dinner  
TBA  
For invitation, contact Maxine Allen, (501) 539-0280, mallen@arumc.org

## Tuesday, June 20

- 12:00 pm Board of Church & Society Cost: Donation to 200K Reasons  
Grand Avenue UMC, 841 Quapaw Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Jay Clark, jclark@phumc.com
- 12:00 pm CFA Luncheon Free for CFA  
Oaklawn Room, Embassy Suites Hotel  
Contact: Todd Burris, tburris@arumc.org
- 12:00 pm Wesley Foundation Luncheon  
Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center  
Contact: Jill Jagmin, friendsofwesley@centraltolife.com
- 12:00 pm Asbury Seminary & Friends Alumni Luncheon Self-pay  
New China Chinese Buffet Restaurant, 4510 Central Ave., Hot Springs  
Contact: Daniel Kirkpatrick, (501) 690-8488
- 12:00 pm Clergywomen's Luncheon \$22  
Visitors Chapel AME Church, 319 Church St., Hot Springs  
Contact: DeeDee Autry, deede.autry@arumc.org

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Vital!

#### Sunday, June 18, 2017

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
3:30 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 Bishop Jonathan Holston, preaching

#### Monday, June 19, 2017

7:30 am	Late Registration, Bank of the Ozarks Arena Lobby Informal Gathering & Fellowship
8:00 am	Worship
8:15 am	Episcopal Address, Bishop Gary Mueller Ordering of the Conference, Conference Secretary Aubrietta Jones
9:15 am	Business Session
10:15 am	Break
11:00 am	Celebration of Retirees
11:45 am	Lunch Break
1:15 pm	Special music The Arkansans
1:30 pm	Order of the Day Vital! Session #1 Faith Sharing, led by Kay Kotan
2:45 pm	Business Session
3:30 pm	Break
3:50 pm	Order of the Day Vital! Session #2 200,000 Reasons led by J. J. Whitney
5:05 pm	Business Session
6:15 pm	Dinner Break/Free Time

#### Tuesday, June 20, 2017

7:30 am	Late Registration Informal Gathering & Fellowship
8:00 am	Worship
8:15 am	Order of the Day: Laity Address Karon Mann
9:45 am	Break
10:05 am	Order of the Day Vital! Session #3 Accountable Discipleship, led by Kevin Watson
11:20 am	Business Session
12:00 am	Lunch Break
1:30 pm	Business Session
1:50 pm	Order of the Day Vital! Session #4 Personal Stewardship led by Clif Christopher
3:05 pm	Break
3:25 pm	Business Session
5:30 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 21, 2017

8:00 am	Worship
8:15 am	Youth Address, Lexie Burseson
8:35 am	Business Session
10:15 am	Break
10:30 am	Order of the Day Closing Worship & Reading of Appointments District Superintendents
12:00 pm	The Sending Forth

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

### 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"

### 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 churchd, de-churchd and never churchd, 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



The Center for Vitality (CFV) continues to fulfill our purpose of providing resources for pastors, laity and congregations to experience spiritual revival and be vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. We lead the annual conference to take Next Steps 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Bishop's Mission Plan. Our work is focused on spiritual revival, churches looking like their neighborhoods, congregations growing by one in four key areas of vitality, unleashing lay leadership, and growing excellent and passionate clergy.

Since the last gathering of the Arkansas Annual Conference, the Center for Vitality (CFV) has offered resources to congregations, clergy, and lay leaders through a variety of equipping, consulting, and training initiatives to help congregations take the next steps as vital congregations making disciples of Jesus Christ.

### EXPERIENCE SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

**Spiritual revival** is at the heart of everything the CFV offers, and it is the first Next Step of the Bishop's Mission Plan. The Arkansas Conference's working definition of spiritual revival is "a gift from the Holy Spirit that begins by prayerfully and passionately seeking God, results in deeper discipleship, binds Christians together into a movement, is the foundation of vitality and compels us to be part of Jesus' work in the world." All resources and services offered by the CFV are aimed at creating a pathway for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of United Methodist disciples and congregations. After all, vitality is an outcome of revival. This is why the Center for Vitality was a leader in creating the tools for the 2016-17 REVIVAL emphasis. Congregations across Arkansas reported "glory sightings" and fresh enthusiasm after praying for revival, studying *Relent*, and focusing worship on the work of the Holy Spirit. As the bishop continues to call us to seek spiritual revival, expect the Center for Vitality to offer resources that are centered in prayer, call for deepening discipleship, depend on disciples working together, and challenge both individuals and congregations to be in ministry in Jesus' name.

### LOOK LIKE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**"More congregations will increasingly look like their neighborhoods."** This is Step #5 of the Bishop's Mission Plan, and the CFV is committed to resourcing congregations to get beyond the church walls, bridge the gap between the church and the community, and be in ministry with our neighbors. Here are some of the ways the CFV is helping congregations take the next step toward looking like their neighborhoods.

- Developed and tested "Crossroads Conversation," a discovery and discernment process for any size congregation in any context to assess their potential to reach their neighborhood. The Center Staff and Circuit Elders are trained and ready to facilitate these conversations with your congregation. Contact your District Superintendent for more information.
- Hosted 110 clergy and laity from 18 congregations in Arkansas at the Leadership Institute of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. This was made possible through a generous grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.
- Trained and deployed clergy and lay coaches across the conference to work alongside clergy, lay leaders, and congregations who are reaching out into the mission field and doing ministry in new ways.
- Resourced congregational leaders seeking to engage their mission fields and grow in fruitfulness through the Vital Congregations Process by offering training for setting strategic goals, hosting fruitful Bridge Events, creating effective hospitality and guest follow-up ministries, and living with "growing pains" of successful ministries.
- Co-hosted the Open to Your Neighbor workshop with St. Andrew UMC, helping leaders learn about community partnerships, assessing community assets, and imagining nontraditional ways to connect with underserved populations. This work began with the Grow By One Summit in April 2016.

### GROW BY "1"

The Bishop's Mission Plan Next Step #6 calls for all churches to **grow by one** in four critical areas of vitality: worship attendance, professions of faith, new outreach ministries, and small groups that form disciples. The Grow By One Summit in April 2016 successfully launched our work to inspire, resource, equip, and challenge Arkansas churches to grow. We have continued to press on and take the next steps:

- Initiated an Advisory Team for developing a system of resourcing congregations in Arkansas that have an average worship attendance between 50 and 150 to grow by at least one in the four critical areas of vitality.
- Provided coaching for congregations that attended the Grow By One Summit and committed to a new ministry in at least one of the four areas of emphasis.
- Hosted 20 lay and clergy leaders at the Change the World Conference at Ginghamburg United Methodist Church to learn about growing through multiplication and ways churches with 50-150 in attendance can offer transformational ministries.



#### UNLEASH LAY LEADERSHIP

The Arkansas Conference is leading the denomination in a commitment to **unleash lay leadership**. Next Step #7 of the Bishop's Mission Plan says, "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." Cathy Hall, Lay Program Coordinator, is finishing her first year on the CFV staff. She has initiated Leadership Unleashed, a process aimed at connecting passionate laity with one another for sharing ideas, engaging in mutual learning and support, and challenging one another to attempt bold experiments with new ways of making disciples. Unleashing lay leadership is exciting, creative, adaptive work, and the CFV is committed to leading this innovative work. In addition to Leadership Unleashed, the Center has intentionally addressed lay leadership in these ways:

- Networked with Congregational Developers across the connection and key Arkansas Conference lay and clergy leaders to learn fresh approaches and new ideas for resourcing vital congregations.
- Collaborated with the bishop and conference leaders to provide follow-up resources for the 2017-2019 VITAL! Initiative, so that vital disciples can continue to create vital disciple-making congregations.

#### GROW EXCELLENT AND PASSIONATE CLERGY

The CFV is also deeply invested in the growth of **excellent and passionate clergy**, Bishop's Mission Plan Next Step #8. We are engaged in forming clergy leaders beginning with cultivating a culture of call, helping to shape the education and ordination process, and providing for lifelong learning. The Center for Vitality is committed to equipping clergy to be spiritual leaders in vital congregations. Some of our recent work in this area has included:

- Organized and led the Residency in Ministry retreat and residency process, trained candidacy and residency mentors, and assisted with curriculum for the Orientation for Ministry in collaboration with the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Provided coaching for clergy who wished to challenge themselves and grow their leadership capacity.
- Assisted Hendrix College with the Hendrix Youth Institute aimed at identifying a new generation of clergy and lay leaders for United Methodist congregations.
- Sponsored a group of young leaders discerning a call to ministry to attend the Young Preachers Festival, a collaborative effort of Discipleship Ministries and the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. This was accomplished through a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.
- Organized the Pastors In Transition Workshop for clergy entering a new appointment.

#### CENTER FOR VITALITY NEXT STEPS

In the 2017-2018 conference year, the Center for Vitality will focus on four strategic goals and concentrate attention on the 300+ congregations in Arkansas that have an average worship attendance between 50 and 150. While several of the initiatives named above will continue, these goals will leverage our resources and focus our work toward specific outcomes. We are leading the conference to take the next steps, and we look forward to the journey with your congregation! Our goals include:

- Develop a "Grow by One" strategy for churches averaging under 25 and between 26 and 150 in worship
- Design discipling processes that can be adapted by congregations
- Collaborate with the Board of Ordained Ministry to generate a fruitful clergy profile to guide the formulation of a process for intentionally developing fruitful clergy
- Collaborate with the Conference Board of Laity to generate a fruitful laity profile to guide the formulation of a process for unleashing lay leadership

Please contact the Center for Vitality or visit us at [vitality.arumc.org](http://vitality.arumc.org) for more information about resources for your congregation. Our staff is here to minister to and bless you in your ministry as you seek to make disciples who make disciples.

Dede Roberts, Director  
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501-707-7222

DISCOVER MORE RESOURCES AT:  
**vitality.arumc.org**





# vitaldisciples.org

Resources for a year-long journey toward vital discipleship beginning Fall '17



## Accountable Discipleship

Experience God's grace in community! Learn how to use Wesleyan small groups to grow deeper as vital, accountable disciples.

- Small Group Leader Tools
- Companion Resources
- Promotional Tools & Sermon Starters
- Annual Conference Teaching by Kevin Watson



## Faith Sharing

Sharing your story creates a doorway to invite others into relationship with Jesus Christ. Equip vital disciples to share their faith with others.

- Curriculum & Video Teachings by Kay Kotan & The Center for Vitality
- Promotional Tools
- Annual Conference Teaching by Kay Kotan



## 200,000 Reasons

Vital discipleship means putting your Christian faith into action. 200,000 children in Arkansas, one of every 4 kids, struggles with food insecurity. Fight childhood hunger through feeding ministries, public witness and education.

- Devotional & Teaching
- Feed, Provide, & Garden Toolkits
- Advocacy & Witness
- Annual Conference Teaching by J.J. Whitney



## Stewardship

Vital disciples practice a life of generosity. Discover the power of personal stewardship to shape your soul and to invest in building the kingdom of God.

- Month by Month Reason to encourage a spirit of Generosity
- Local Church Resources
- Annual Conference Teaching by Clif Christopher

# Reports & Budgets

## 2017 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.

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 2018 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 Tithing 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)	\$102,127,709.00
64. Total Income from connectional/institutional sources outside the local church	\$509,810.00
Total Revenue	\$102,637,519.00
10% Budget Maximum	\$10,263,752.00
85% Spending Rate	\$8,724,153.00

You will see that our budget cap for 2018 was \$10,263,752 based on a tithe of 2015 revenue figures. We have accomplished this with our 2017 budget recommendation of \$10,129,810.00. 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.

#### I. Budget

\*\*\*See Page 20 for 2018 Budget.

#### A. In Accordance with ¶615.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline

General Apportionment Fund	Apportioned Amount	Percentage of Total
World Service	\$ 1,389,382.00	51.45%
Ministerial Education	\$ 469,269.00	17.37%
Black College	\$ 187,187.00	6.93%
Africa University Fund	\$ 41,892.00	1.55%
Episcopal Fund	\$ 411,453.00	15.23%
General Administration	\$ 164,978.00	6.11%
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 36,700.00	1.36%
<b>Total General Apportionments</b>	<b>\$ 2,700,861.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### B. Approved Solicitations

1. Board of Trustees of Mount Eagle Christian Center
2. Board of Trustees of Camp Tanako, Inc.
3. Camp Aldersgate, Inc.
4. United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas
5. The Wesley Foundations to raise additional funds through the “Friends of Wesley” program (under the guidelines already approved by the Conference Board of Higher Education)
6. Methodist Family Health – Additionally, the second and third Sundays in December be designated for the receiving the Methodist Family Health Annual Christmas Offering
7. 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
16. Lydia Patterson Institute

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

#### D. Special Days (with offerings)

1. Peace with Justice – Second Sunday after Pentecost
2. Native American Ministries Sunday – Second Sunday after Easter
3. Human Relations Day – During Epiphany on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King’s birthday
4. 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. Conference Tithe

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

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

<b>III. Tithe Instructions</b>	1	5. Retiring pastors	70
<b>Line A</b> —Total Gross Income for previous month (including designated giving and all other funds)	2	6. Persons on disability leave	71
Enter the total amount of ALL revenue for the previous month.	3	7. Seminarian from place of residence to parsonage at first appointment	72
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.)	4	8. Any other person recommended by the Board of Ordained ministry	73
	5	9. Only one moving expense paid per pastor per year	74
	6	<b>B.</b> The following amounts shall be paid:	75
	7	1. \$1,000 per pastor	76
	8	2. \$1.00 per mile, measured from parsonage to parsonage	77
<b>Line B</b> —Exclude income for Capital Campaigns (this does not include income for lines of credit (LOC) or mortgage payments)	9	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.	78
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.	10	4. Monies shall be paid by the Conference Treasurer upon presentation of a voucher of mileage signed by the sending District Superintendent	79
	11	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.	80
<b>Line C</b> —Exclude income for Memorials and Endowments	12	6. \$1,000 additional moving expenses for seminarians receiving their first appointment in the annual conference.	81
Gifts received to fund memorials and endowments should be excluded here. Income from endowment earnings should not be excluded.	13	7. On recommendation from the Cabinet, the Council on Finance and Administration may disburse funds for pastors transitioning out of the ministry.	82
	14		83
<b>Line D</b> —Exclude income from sale of church-owned real estate (not used for operating expenses)	15		84
Income from the sale of church owned property (such as a parsonage) to be used for future capital expenses should be excluded here.	16		85
	17		86
<b>Line E</b> —Exclude income from Tuition-Based Services (preschool, daycare, etc.)	18		87
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.	19		88
	20		89
<b>Line F</b> —Exclude Direct Costs of Fund-Raising	21		90
Direct Costs of Fundraising 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 fundraising dinner and 3) a consulting fee to direct a fundraising activity.	22		91
	23		92
	24		93
<b>Line G</b> —Exclude income for Pass-Through/Outreach Ministries	25		94
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.	26		95
	27		96
	28		97
	29		98
	30		99
	31		100
	32		101
	33		102
	34		103
	35		104
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	61		130
	62		131
	63		132
	64		133
	65		134
	66		135
	67		136
	68		137
	69		138
<b>IV. District Superintendents</b>		<b>VI. Other Recommendations</b>	
A. Salary will be no more than \$124,340.		A. No honorariums will be paid to persons living within the bounds of the Arkansas Annual Conference.	
B. This figure shall include salary, utilities and appurtenances, and other professional reimbursable expenses.		B. Travel expenses will be reimbursed based on the Arkansas Annual Conference reimbursement policy.	
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 Superintendents vouchered travel expense fund of \$90,000 for room, board and travel expense.		C. When any Conference staff personnel travels at the request of a Conference agency for other than normal representative or liaisons purposes, the expenses of such travel shall be borne by the requesting agency.	
		D. Reimbursement for Conference Travel shall be:	
		1. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all volunteers	
		2. 100% of the IRS Standard Mileage Rate for all conference employees	
		E. Retired and disabled ministers may be paid \$80 per diem for days they attend Annual Conference with a maximum of \$320.00 per household.	
		F. The Conference may direct the Conference Treasurer to withhold dispersal of funds to any agency, institution, or organization until the 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 organization and that audit has been found satisfactory by the Audit Committee of the Council on Finance and Administration.	
		G. ¶ 815.4 of the 2016 <i>Book of Discipline</i> 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 *2016 Book of Discipline*.

O. The following is to be adopted as the guide for the care and investment of all Conference Funds: (¶ 613.5 the *2016 Book of Discipline*).

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 *Discipline* of the UMC.
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

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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 tithe shall be close of business on January 15, 2018.

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

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

E. All benevolent, connectional, and pension funds shall be sent to the Center for Administrative Services, P.O. Box 5072, Pine Bluff, AR 61611, except for the following, which shall be sent as designated:

UM Children's Home Christmas offering and special gifts to the UM Children's Home, P.O. Box 4848, Little Rock, AR 72214.

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

**Supplemental Budget Reports**

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

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	2018 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE BUDGET	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	2018 Recommendation	Pass Thru	Spending Plan
1	<b>Fund #1 Clergy and Retiree Benefits (Pension and Health Benefits Committee)</b>						
2	Pension & Benefits						
3	Conference Staff Pension (clergy only)	\$ 245,805.60	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	Y	\$ 127,500.00
4	Retiree Health Care	\$ 702,401.19	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	Y	\$ 680,000.00
5	Disability Health Care	\$ 17,672.84	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	Y	\$ 21,250.00
6	Methodist Health EAP			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	Y	\$ 12,750.00
7	Administration	\$ 156,293.90	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	Y	\$ 148,750.00
8	<b>Subtotal Clergy and Retiree Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 1,122,173.53</b>	<b>\$ 1,270,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,255,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,165,000.00</b>		<b>\$ 990,250.00</b>
9							
10	<b>Fund #2 General Apportionments (Determined by General Conference)</b>						
11	World Service	\$ 1,193,797.97	\$ 1,313,189.00	\$ 1,356,262.00	\$ 1,389,382.00	Y	\$ 1,180,974.70
12	Ministerial Education	\$ 416,978.08	\$ 450,844.00	\$ 458,079.00	\$ 469,269.00	Y	\$ 398,878.65
13	Black College	\$ 179,846.00	\$ 179,846.00	\$ 182,723.00	\$ 187,187.00	Y	\$ 159,108.95
14	Africa University Fund	\$ 36,655.53	\$ 40,260.00	\$ 40,893.00	\$ 41,892.00	Y	\$ 35,608.20
15	Episcopal Fund	\$ 384,768.08	\$ 423,321.00	\$ 401,641.00	\$ 411,453.00	Y	\$ 349,735.05
16	General Administration	\$ 144,258.47	\$ 158,547.00	\$ 161,044.00	\$ 164,978.00	Y	\$ 140,231.30
17	Interdenominational Cooperation	\$ 32,162.52	\$ 35,276.00	\$ 35,825.00	\$ 36,700.00	Y	\$ 31,195.00
18	<b>Subtotal General Apportionments</b>	<b>\$ 2,388,466.65</b>	<b>\$ 2,601,283.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,636,467.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,700,861.00</b>		<b>\$ 2,295,731.85</b>
19							
20	<b>Fund #3 Jurisdictional Apportionments (Determined by Jurisdictional Conference)</b>						
21	Jurisdictional Administration	\$ 22,496.44	\$ 24,745.00	\$ 28,157.00	\$ 28,157.00	Y	\$ 23,933.45
22	Reserves			\$ 4,902.00	\$ 4,902.00	Y	\$ 4,166.70
23	Lydia Patterson Institute	\$ 48,035.63	\$ 52,833.00	\$ 53,650.00	\$ 53,650.00	Y	\$ 45,602.50
24	Mount Sequoyah	\$ 5,790.13	\$ 12,634.00	\$ 9,417.00			
25	<b>Subtotal Jurisdictional Apportionments</b>	<b>\$ 76,322.20</b>	<b>\$ 90,212.00</b>	<b>\$ 96,126.00</b>	<b>\$ 86,709.00</b>		<b>\$ 73,702.65</b>
26							
27	<b>Fund #4 Conference Administration (CFA)</b>						
28	District Superintendents	\$ 620,863.04	\$ 621,700.00	\$ 621,700.00	\$ 621,700.00	N	\$ 621,700.00
29	DS Travel	\$ 91,502.26	\$ 97,500.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	N	\$ 90,000.00
30	Finance and Management (See Page 21)	\$ 486,938.47	\$ 517,182.00	\$ 469,511.00	\$ 405,695.00	N	\$ 405,695.00
31	Episcopal Housing	\$ 21,840.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	N	\$ 21,000.00
32	Episcopal Office	\$ 25,279.04	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	N	\$ 25,000.00
33	Episcopal Discretionary	\$ 11,030.55	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	N	\$ 13,000.00
34	Board of Ordained Ministry Administration	\$ 137,225.69	\$ 134,980.00	\$ 134,980.00	\$ 134,980.00	N	\$ 134,980.00
35	Pastors Moving Expense	\$ 77,971.20	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 78,000.00	N	\$ 78,000.00
36	Administrative Boards (See Page 21)	\$ 202,953.54	\$ 202,600.00	\$ 220,550.00	\$ 209,050.00	N	\$ 209,050.00
37	Stabilization	\$ 6,871.21	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 257,411.00	\$ 239,764.00		
38	<b>Subtotal Conference Administration</b>	<b>\$ 1,682,475.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,919,962.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,152.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,838,189.00</b>		<b>\$ 1,598,425.00</b>
39							
40	<b>Fund #5 Resourcing Local Congregations (Extended Cabinet)</b>						
41	Conference Ministries Office (See Page 22)	\$ 462,530.26	\$ 501,074.00	\$ 478,724.00	\$ 550,043.00	N	\$ 550,043.00
42	Equitable Compensation	\$ 74,700.00	\$ 83,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	N	\$ 85,000.00
43	Conference Center for Vitality (See Page 23)	\$ 367,125.90	\$ 462,052.00	\$ 445,542.00	\$ 440,998.00	N	\$ 440,998.00
44	Conference Center for Technology (See Page 24)	\$ 648,338.03	\$ 667,216.00	\$ 641,841.00	\$ 643,607.00	N	\$ 643,607.00
45	General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegate Exp	\$ 29,478.14	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	N	\$ 10,000.00
46	Connectional Ministries (See Pages 25-27)	\$ 1,430,833.54	\$ 1,730,519.00	\$ 1,525,164.00	\$ 1,727,307.00	N	\$ 1,727,307.00
47	Stabilization			\$ 490,066.00	\$ 518,543.00		
48	<b>Subtotal Resourcing Local Congregations</b>	<b>\$ 3,013,005.87</b>	<b>\$ 3,451,361.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,673,837.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,975,498.00</b>		<b>\$ 3,456,955.00</b>
49							
50	<b>Fund #6 Institutional Ministries (Extended Cabinet)</b>						
51	Camp Aldersgate	\$ 103,643.78	\$ 114,000.00	\$ 87,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	Y	\$ 63,750.00
52	Hendrix College Student Scholarships (note 1)	\$ 261,833.44	\$ 288,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 139,317.00	Y	\$ 118,419.45
53	Philander Smith College (note 1)	\$ 274,479.58	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 149,317.00	Y	\$ 126,919.45
54	<b>Subtotal Institutional Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 639,956.80</b>	<b>\$ 722,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 547,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 363,634.00</b>		<b>\$ 309,088.90</b>
55							
56	<b>Total Conference Budget</b>	<b>\$ 8,922,400.05</b>	<b>\$ 10,054,818.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,148,582.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,129,891.00</b>		<b>\$ 8,724,153.40</b>
57	10% Budget Cap				\$ 10,263,751.90		\$ 8,724,189.00
58	Expected Income (85% payout)						85%
59	Over/Under Expected Income				-\$ 133,860.90		-\$ 35.60

(note 1) \$76,686.00 is moved to the Board of Higher Education budget, matching Wesley Foundation grants.

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<b>OFFICE OF FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION (Page 20 Line 30)</b>		<b>2016 Actual</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Recommended</b>
1	<b>INCOME:</b>				
2	<b>Arkansas Conference Apportionment</b>	<b>486,938.47</b>	<b>517,182.00</b>	<b>469,511.00</b>	<b>405,695.00</b>
3	Conference Benefits	230,000.00	230,000.00	230,000.00	200,000.00
4	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>716,938.47</b>	<b>747,182.00</b>	<b>699,511.00</b>	<b>605,695.00</b>
5					
6	<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>				
7	Travel	8,677.26	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
8	Rent	62,250.00	76,500.00	76,500.00	76,500.00
9	Supplies	10,210.35	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
10	Printing	1,512.11	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
11	Benevolence Interpretation Printing	741.66	500.00	500.00	500.00
12	Postage	7,297.50	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
13	Document Management System	-	-	-	-
14	Telephone	7,753.81	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
15	Software & Maintenance	13,694.63	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00
16	Health insurance		-	-	-
17	Lay pension program (9% of salaries)	58,062.60	62,099.00	43,283.00	36,543.00
18	Payroll charges	5,921.85	5,100.00	5,250.00	5,250.00
19	Miscellaneous	2,916.66	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
20	Continuing Education	2,094.98	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
21	<b>Subtotal disbursements</b>	<b>181,133.41</b>	<b>196,991.00</b>	<b>171,033.00</b>	<b>164,293.00</b>
22					
23	<b>SALARIES: (includes insurance)</b>				
24	Receptionist	33,712.50	43,680.00	10,000.00	4,000.00
25	Administrative Assistant	44,612.46	53,600.00	54,404.00	-
26	Financial Coordinator	67,049.04	67,049.00	68,054.00	58,000.00
27	Benefits Officer	84,118.08	84,118.00	85,380.00	85,380.00
28	Benefits Assistant	60,078.96	60,079.00	60,980.00	60,980.00
29	Financial Controller	94,393.92	94,394.00	95,810.00	85,380.00
30	Conference Treasurer	114,575.04	114,575.00	116,294.00	116,294.00
31					
32	<b>Subtotal salaries &amp; extra help</b>	<b>498,540.00</b>	<b>517,495.00</b>	<b>490,922.00</b>	<b>410,034.00</b>
33					
34	FICA (7.65% of salary)	37,265.06	39,588.00	37,556.00	31,368.00
35					
36	<b>Total Finance &amp; Management</b>	<b>716,938.47</b>	<b>754,074.00</b>	<b>699,511.00</b>	<b>605,695.00</b>

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES AND BOARDS (Page 20 Line 36)</b>		<b>2016 Actual</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Recommendation</b>
1	Archives and History	30,097.42	31,000.00	31,000.00	31,100.00
2	Planning Meeting Travel	0.00	600.00	600.00	1,550.00
3	Historical Society	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,650.00	2,300.00
4	United Methodist Museum	18,300.00	18,300.00	10,300.00	16,600.00
5	Conference Trustees	4,083.70	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
6	Council Finance & Administration	4,645.33	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
7	Property and Liability Insurance	37,603.00	33,000.00	35,000.00	38,000.00
8	Unfunded Boards, Agencies, Commissions	1,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
9	Financial Audit	19,000.00	21,000.00	17,000.00	19,500.00
10	Conference Secretary	0.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00
11	Conference Journal	0.00	5,500.00	15,000.00	0.00
12	Pre-Conference Report	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
13	Annual Conference	84,186.07	60,000.00	75,000.00	80,000.00
14	AC Voting Equipment	0.00	0.00		0.00
15	Conference Legal Resource Fund	200.00	2,500.00	10,000.00	2,000.00
16	<b>Total Administrative Committees and Boards</b>	<b>203,815.52</b>	<b>202,600.00</b>	<b>220,550.00</b>	<b>209,050.00</b>

<b>CONFERENCE MINISTRIES</b>		<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>(Page 20 Line 41)</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Recommend</b>
1	<b>Income</b>				
2	Conference Ministries Apportionment	507,142.72	501,074.00	533,128.00	550,043.00
3	Miscellaneous Receipts	1,515.75			
4	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>508,658.47</b>	<b>501,074.00</b>	<b>533,128.00</b>	<b>550,043.00</b>
5					
6	<b>EXPENSES</b>				
7	<b>SALARIES</b>				
8	Conference Director of Ministries Total		144,340.00	144,340.00	144,340.00
9	Salary	111,240.00	112,340.00	124,340.00	124,340.00
10	Insurance		12,000.00		
11	Housing	33,000.06	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
12	Professional Expenses		-		
13	Assistant Center Director Total		94,700.00	104,926.00	104,926.00
14	Salary	81,700.08	69,700.00	91,926.00	91,926.00
15	Insurance		12,000.00		
16	Housing	13,000.08	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
17	Professional Expenses				
18	Administrative Assistant	53,200.08	53,200.00	53,998.00	60,000.00
19	Receptionist	44,612.46	53,600.00	54,404.00	35,000.00
20	Youth\Young Adult\Camping Coord.	68,074.08	68,074.00	69,095.00	69,095.00
21	Youth & Young Adult Coordinator				
22	Children's Ministries Coordinator	13,200.00	15,840.00	16,076.00	20,000.00
23	VIM Coordinator	16,074.00	16,074.00	16,315.00	34,212.00
24	Wesley Scholar	-	16,074.00	-	-
25	Travel	18,804.88	20,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
26					
27	<b>OFFICE EXPENSE</b>				
28	Continuing Education	3,779.03	15,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
29	Telephone	3,857.36	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
30	Staff Pensions	18,114.18	14,553.00	11,079.00	14,769.00
31	Payroll Taxes	11,420.49	11,719.00	11,895.00	16,701.00
32	Health Insurance				
33	Postage	1,296.30	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
34	Supplies	7,904.33	10,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
35	Equipment & Furnishings	6,461.35	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
36	Miscellaneous	2,919.71	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
37	Conflict Resolution Team Training	-	10,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
38	<b>Total</b>	<b>508,658.47</b>	<b>554,674.00</b>	<b>533,128.00</b>	<b>550,043.00</b>



	<b>CENTER FOR VITALITY</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>(Page 20 Line 43)</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Recommend</b>
1	Apportionment Revenue	334,065.11	462,052.00	445,542.00	440,998.00
2	CIC Endowment Interest	47,423.28	40,000.00	40,000.00	47,000.00
3	Miscellaneous Receipts	1,910.01			
4	<b>Total</b>	<b>381,488.39</b>	<b>502,052.00</b>	<b>485,542.00</b>	<b>487,998.00</b>
5					
6	<b>EXPENSES</b>				
7	Center Director Total	139,340.04	139,340.00	139,340.00	139,340.00
8	Salary	112,340.04	112,340.00	124,340.00	124,340.00
9	Insurance		12,000.00	-	-
10	Housing	27,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
11	Asst Center Director Clergy Total	106,999.92	95,967.00	108,380.00	110,248.00
12	Salary	79,999.92	69,967.00	93,380.00	95,248.00
13	Insurance		12,000.00	-	-
14	Housing	27,000.00	14,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
15	Asst Center Director Laity Total	43,268.68	106,245.00	79,322.00	80,910.00
16	Salary	36,599.96	78,000.00	68,000.00	69,360.00
17	Insurance		12,000.00		
18	FICA	2,588.72	6,885.00	5,202.00	5,307.00
19	Pension	4,080.00	9,360.00	6,120.00	6,243.00
20	Office Expenses	23,204.90	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
21	Travel for Center	20,874.01	24,000.00	25,000.00	30,000.00
22	<b>Resourcing Vital Congregations</b>				
23	Congregational Guides Training and Tr	22,500.00	27,000.00	20,000.00	5,000.00
24	Circuit Elders Travel & Training	14,126.39	27,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
25	Ministry Tool Box			5,000.00	5,000.00
26	Vital Congregations Initiative			20,000.00	20,000.00
27	Mission Insite Software	9,439.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
28	<b>Leadership Formation</b>				
29	Academy for Spiritual Formation			3,000.00	3,000.00
30	Pastors in Transition Workshops			3,500.00	3,500.00
31	Clergy Recruitment and Formation			3,500.00	3,500.00
32	Coach Approach Skill Training			5,000.00	5,000.00
33	Unleashing Lay Leadership			10,000.00	20,000.00
34	Equipping Clergy			10,000.00	10,000.00
35	Crisis Response Team			3,000.00	2,000.00
36	Interim Pastor Training	3,645.46	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
37	<b>Total</b>	<b>383,398.40</b>	<b>440,052.00</b>	<b>485,542.00</b>	<b>487,998.00</b>

<b>CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY</b>		<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>(Page 20 Line 44)</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Recommend</b>
1	Apportionment Income		667,216.00	641,841.00	643,607.00
2	Newspaper Paid Subscriptions	2,848.15	7,500.00	7,500.00	5,000.00
3	Newspaper Paid Advertising	22,330.04	13,500.00	25,000.00	20,000.00
4	Miscellaneous Receipts	167.65			
5	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>25,345.84</b>	<b>688,216.00</b>	<b>674,341.00</b>	<b>668,607.00</b>
6					
7	<b>Department Expenses</b>				
8	Director of Technology	105,177.12	105,177.00	106,754.00	106,574.00
9	App Dev/Tier II Specialist	72,228.96	72,229.00	73,312.00	73,312.00
10	Training and Marketing Storyteller	72,168.96	72,169.00	73,252.00	73,252.00
11	Communications - Technology Specialist	72,564.96	72,565.00	73,654.00	73,654.00
12	Newspaper Editor	59,518.08	59,518.00	60,411.00	60,411.00
13	Tier I/Help-desk Specialist	52,507.92	52,508.00	53,296.00	53,296.00
14	MissionConnect	15,237.40	15,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
15	Mission Connect Support Salary	2,700.00			2,700.00
16	Network Expenses		0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Payroll Tax Expense				
18	Phone\Communications\Internet	6,364.92	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
19	Hardware\Computer Related Supplies	13,685.40	12,500.00	20,000.00	15,000.00
20	Software Licensing/Maintenance	17,647.91	17,500.00	16,000.00	18,000.00
21	Contracting/Programming Services		10,000.00	0.00	0.00
22	Conference Website	16,720.52	12,500.00	5,000.00	15,000.00
23	Local Church Resources	9,365.57	25,000.00	19,000.00	10,000.00
24	Training and Seminars				
25	Travel Expense/Meals/Mileage	24,293.78	10,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
26	Professional Fees / Dues	3,891.18	500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
27	Rent				
28	Office Expense	3,537.99	2,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
29	Other Fees and Services	591.14	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
30	Pension	52,099.92	52,103.00	39,662.00	39,645.00
31	FICA	32,785.09	24,447.00	28,000.00	24,763.00
32	<b>Newspaper Expenses</b>				
33	Printing & Distribution	16,179.09	60,000.00	20,000.00	17,000.00
34	Postage	24,000.00	3,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
35	Supplies	11.44	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
36	Miscellaneous	200.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
37	Digital Edition	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
38					
39	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>673,477.35</b>	<b>688,216.00</b>	<b>674,341.00</b>	<b>668,607.00</b>

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	CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES (Page 20 Line 46)	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	2018 Request	% Change	2018 Recommend
1	<b>Connectional Ministries</b>						
2	Travel Pool (for unbudgeted connectional committees)	1,448.17	10,900.00	11,000.00	10,000.00	-9.09%	5,000.00
3	Congregational Development and Expansion	222,462.53	225,000.00	197,000.00	225,000.00	14.21%	225,000.00
4	Missional Local Church Compensation Support	59,426.85	87,000.00	55,000.00	49,500.00	-10.00%	49,500.00
5	Disaster Preparedness & Response	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00%	3,600.00
6	Volunteers In Mission	665.29	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
7	Leadership Development	7,009.52	20,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00%	12,500.00
8	Hunger Initiative - 200,000 Reasons	1,413.59	4,000.00	29,000.00	29,000.00	0.00%	29,000.00
9	Conference Ministry Focus (Vital)				7,500.00		7,500.00
10	<b>Total Connectional Ministries</b>	<b>296,025.95</b>	<b>366,500.00</b>	<b>311,600.00</b>	<b>340,600.00</b>	<b>9.31%</b>	<b>333,100.00</b>
11							
12	<b>Age Level Ministries</b>						
13	Conference Age Level Ministries						
14	Council on Children Ministries	5,869.77	6,350.00	7,350.00	14,000.00	90.48%	13,500.00
15	A Day with the Bishop			3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00%	3,000.00
16	Council on Youth Ministries	41,550.00	41,550.00	44,500.00	44,500.00	0.00%	44,500.00
17	Council on Young Adult Ministries	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	12,500.00	316.67%	7,000.00
18	Youth Coordinator	11,200.00	11,200.00	17,200.00	17,200.00	0.00%	17,200.00
19	<b>Total Age Level Ministries</b>	<b>61,619.77</b>	<b>62,100.00</b>	<b>75,050.00</b>	<b>91,200.00</b>	<b>21.52%</b>	<b>85,200.00</b>
20							
21	<b>Board of Church &amp; Society</b>		-	<b>500.00</b>			
22							
23	<b>Discipleship</b>						
24	Committee on Education						
25	Committee on Evangelism	789.40	2,822.00				
26	Committee on Worship	1,750.00	2,900.00				
27	Committee on Stewardship	-	100.00				
28	Spiritual Formation	-	1,000.00				
29	<b>Total Discipleship</b>	<b>2,539.40</b>	<b>6,822.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	-		-
30							
31	<b>Ethnic Ministries</b>						
32	Committee on Hispanic Ministries						
33	Comm on Native American Ministries	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	-		
34	Comm on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	46,069.58	44,100.00	44,100.00	56,000.00	26.98%	
35	Committee on Religion & Race	1,430.42	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,000.00	-11.76%	-
36	<b>Total Ethnic Ministries</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>59,000.00</b>	<b>18.00%</b>	<b>37,500.00</b>
37							
38	<b>Global Ministries</b>						
39	BOGM Operating Expense	1,356.83	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	
40	Advocate for Poor	500.00	500.00	500.00	-		
41	<b>Ark School Christian Mission -Mission U</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>	<b>14,200.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
42	a. Scholarships	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	0.00%	
43	Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns						
44	a. Interfaith Conference	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	10,000.00	25.00%	
45	<b>Church &amp; Community Workers</b>						
46	Church and Community Worker Southeast Dist	19,570.00	19,570.00	20,157.00	20,359.00	1.00%	
47	Church and Community Worker Central Dist	19,570.00	19,570.00	20,157.00	20,359.00	1.00%	
48	a. Lay Missioner (Salary)						
49	<b>Committee on Volunteers in Mission</b>	<b>252.64</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
50	a. Project Money	661.88	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00%	
51	b. Mission Hosting	-	800.00	800.00	800.00	0.00%	
52	Committee on Missionary Personnel	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%	
53	Conf Sec Global Ministrie	790.06	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%	
54	Missionary Itineration	526.32	1,400.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00%	
55	District Seed Money for Mission *						
56	Justice for our Neighbor Program	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%	
57	Justice for our Neighbor Worker (Salary)	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-		
58	Micah Mission Award		-	-	-		
59	Parish & Comm Dev Admin		-	-	-		
60	<b>Total Global Ministries</b>	<b>77,327.73</b>	<b>79,840.00</b>	<b>70,814.00</b>	<b>72,718.00</b>	<b>2.69%</b>	<b>53,111.00</b>
61							

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62	<b>Higher Education &amp; Campus Ministries</b>						
63	Training and Mentoring Potential Campus Ministers	10,000.00	10,000.00				
64	Training and Resourcing Current Campus Ministers	4,372.44	5,000.00				
65	Other Campus Ministries	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00%	10,000.00
66	Board Training and Development	7,900.00	10,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00%	25,000.00
67	Campus Ministry - Philander Smith College						76,673.00
68	Campus Ministry - Hendrix College						76,673.00
69	Wesley Foundation - ASU	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
70	Wesley Foundation - ATU	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
71	Wesley Foundation - HSU	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
72	Wesley Foundation - SAU	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
73	Wesley Foundation - U of A	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
74	Wesley Foundation - UALR	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
75	Wesley Foundation - UAM	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
76	Wesley Foundation - UAPB	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
77	Wesley Foundation - UCA	76,672.92	76,673.00	76,673.00	76,673.00	0.00%	76,673.00
78	Wesley Foundation Directors Pension				60,000.00		60,000.00
79	Board of Higher Ed Operations	3,429.50	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00%	2,000.00
80	Maintenance Grant Wesley Foundations (matching)	46,472.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00%	45,000.00
81	Campus Ministry Grant Funding			52,943.00	52,943.00	0.00%	52,943.00
82	<b>Total Higher Education &amp; Campus</b>	<b>757,857.78</b>	<b>772,057.00</b>	<b>825,000.00</b>	<b>885,000.00</b>	<b>7.27%</b>	<b>1,038,346.00</b>
83							
84	<b>Board of Laity</b>						
85	Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders						
86	Dues and Annual Meeting Fee		300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00%	300.00
87	Annual Meeting Travel/Lodging/Meals		1,500.00	1,400.00	1,100.00	-21.43%	1,100.00
88	Annual Meeting Travel/Lodging/Meals (Assoc)	1,047.16		1,400.00	1,100.00		1,100.00
89	Annual Conference						
90	Laity Event Speaker or Other Costs		750.00				
91	Lay Leader Annual Conference Expense	639.62	900.00	800.00	800.00	0.00%	800.00
92	Lay Leader Annual Conference Expense (Assoc)			800.00	800.00	0.00%	800.00
93	Board of Laity						
94	Board of Laity Member Travel		800.00	300.00	200.00	-33.33%	200.00
95	Training and Equipping Classes to ARUMC Laity		750.00	200.00	100.00	-50.00%	100.00
96	<b>Subtotal Lay Leader</b>	<b>1,686.78</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>4,400.00</b>	<b>-15.38%</b>	<b>4,400.00</b>
97							
98	<b>Director of Lay Servant Ministries</b>						
99	Annual Dues	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00%	200.00
100	ACDLSM Convocation Expenses - Director & Asst	1,866.21	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,000.00	-9.09%	2,000.00
101	Mileage and Meals/LSM travel and Meetings	309.42	900.00	900.00	900.00	0.00%	900.00
102	ACDLSM Annual Conference Expense	868.93	900.00	900.00	900.00	0.00%	900.00
103	<b>Subtotal Lay Servant Ministries</b>	<b>3,244.56</b>	<b>4,200.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>
104	<b>Total Board of Laity</b>	<b>4,931.34</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>8,400.00</b>	<b>-8.70%</b>	<b>8,400.00</b>
105							
106	<b>Outdoor Ministries</b>						
107	<b>Institutional Support</b>						
108	Mount Eagle	57,000.00	57,000.00	57,000.00	57,000.00	0.00%	57,000.00
109	Camp Tanako	61,500.00	61,500.00	61,500.00	72,000.00	17.07%	61,500.00
110	Shoal Creek	-	3,450.00	3,450.00	-		-
111	Wayland Springs	-	3,450.00	3,450.00	-		-
112	Bear Creek	-	3,450.00	3,450.00	-		-
113	<b>Programming</b>						
114	Outdoor Ministries Programming Grants	29,945.50	37,650.00	37,650.00	34,500.00	-8.37%	34,500.00
115	Programming and Marketing for Camping and Retreat	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	18,150.00	21.00%	18,150.00
116	<b>Total Outdoor Ministries</b>	<b>163,445.50</b>	<b>181,500.00</b>	<b>181,500.00</b>	<b>181,650.00</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>171,150.00</b>
117							
118	<b>Committee on Status &amp; Role of Women</b>	2,713.63	2,500.00		3,500.00		500.00
119							
120	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416,461.10</b>	<b>1,730,519.00</b>	<b>1,525,164.00</b>	<b>1,642,068.00</b>	<b>7.67%</b>	<b>1,727,307.00</b>

**Board of Ordained Ministry**

**2017 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE POLICY STATEMENT  
3/9/17**

**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 subcommittees 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 by the district superintendent 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 ¶ 322.
- 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 and assignments to be prepared and submitted by January 31 to the BOM Office.
- H. The BOM interviews the candidate. Out-of-state seminary students may receive up to 50% of actual cost of transportation when attending Board interviews. If approved, the recommendation for provisional membership is presented to the Clergy Session of the Annual Conference.
- I. Provisional members shall demonstrate effective ministry for a minimum of two consecutive conference years in the same appointment. All provisional residents shall participate in the conference Residency in Ministry (RIM) program. Their service will be evaluated by the BOM and the DS. Arrangements for supervision and residency will be made for provisional 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. ¶ 347.1 and other Methodist denominations, ¶ 347.2.
- B. Ministers seeking to serve and/or transfer into United Methodist ministry shall complete the Ministerial Assessment Packet re-

- quired 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).
- C. 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 ¶ 347.2,3.
- D. Ministers whose credentials have been approved shall serve under appointment for a minimum of two years before applying for transfer into provisional membership.
- E. Ministers seeking transfer into conference membership shall complete the United Methodist courses UM History, Polity, and Doctrine before being received into provisional membership.
- F. Applying for Transfer as a Provisional Member (¶ 347.2 and 347.3):
  - The minister seeking transfer into provisional membership shall apply to the dCOM, using Form 105, requesting a recommendation for provisional membership.
  - 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.
  - The transferring minister’s completed dCOM file is delivered to the Office of Ordained Ministry by November 1.
  - The BOM shall interview the minister applying using the written assignments including the Disciplinary Questions (¶ 324.9) and the Autobiographical/Call Statement (¶ 324.13). The BOM will determine if the minister shall be recommended for provisional membership or as a local pastor.
  - 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.
- D. Students will not receive funds to repeat a failed, dropped or incomplete course.
- E. Applicants will sign a promissory note. Loans will be forgiven for service at the rate of one year of full time service for two semesters of aid. In other words, a student who borrows from the fund for six semesters would complete the service obligation by three years of full time service under Episcopal appointment.
- F. For the 2017-2018 academic year, the following policy will be followed for disbursing funds.
- G. Eligibility:
- Certified Candidate for ordination
  - Approved by the BOM
  - Attending a University Senate approved seminary
  - Is not a recipient of a full scholarship grant from the United Methodist Foundation.
- H. Applications can be downloaded from [www.arumc.org](http://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.
- I. Reimbursement for UM History, Polity, and Doctrine courses will be paid at 40% of the tuition cost.
- J. Persons who have completed the basic course of study may wish to become provisional members by the alternate route (see ¶ 324.6). They must complete the 32 hours of graduate theological studies. Up to 40% of tuition will be provided per seminary financial aid.
- K. Deacon candidates on the professional certification route toward ordination (see ¶ 324.5) will also receive up to 40% of tuition per seminary financial aid.
- 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.
- SECTION IX: CONTINUING EDUCATION ¶ 350**
- A. All clergy under full-time appointment must complete at least one (1) continuing education unit (ten hours of instruction) per year. These CEU's may be fulfilled by CEUs, CMEs, CCEs, or other approved programs. Persons in resident provisional status or those enrolled in Course of Study are exempt from this requirement.
- B. Clergy shall report CEUs to their District Superintendent at charge conference.
- 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, <http://www.gbhem.org/continued.html>.)
- F. Professional Certification Studies: Applications may be made for up to \$200/year as funds are available to help pay for specialized certification courses. This amount shall include only projected expenses for tuition, books, fees, room, and board. Travel cannot be included as a projected expense.
- G. Applications for granting continuing education credit for an event or reimbursement for continuing education shall be sent to the Chair of Continuing Education, BOM Office.
- H. Sabbatical Leave: All Issues concerning Sabbatical leave will follow the guidelines of ¶351, with the addition of those requesting Sabbatical will include their plan with start and end dates.
- SECTION X: CHANGES OF CONFERENCE RELATIONSHIP ¶ 352-362**
- A. The Conference Relations Committee (CRC) shall consist of at least 3 persons to hear requests as listed in 635.1 (d)
- 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.
- C. Request for change of relationship to Voluntary Leave of Absence – Personal/Family (¶ 353) must be made at least ninety (90) days prior to Annual Conference 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.
- 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.
- 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)
- F. Request for change of relationship to Honorable Location (¶ 353 and ¶ 358) shall be made at least ninety (90) days prior to Annual Conference stating that the person intends to discontinue service in the itinerant ministry. The CRC shall meet with the person requesting Honorable Location to offer guidance and counsel as appropriate during this transition. The BOM Secretary shall record in the BOM minutes the specific reasons for the request. A copy of the written request shall be placed in the person's file. While on Honorable Location, the person shall report annually to the CRC including a report of any ministerial functions performed.
- G. Request for change of relationship to Medical Leave (¶ 356)
1. The Conference Benefits Officer will provide the person requesting a change in Conference relationship to Medical Leave with the appropriate application packet.
  2. The Conference Benefits Officer will notify the Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave for a reasonable and appropriate investigation and recommendation to the Cabinet, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the BOM.
- H. Withdrawal (¶ 360.2)
1. All ordained persons withdrawing from annual conference relationship shall meet with the CRC. The CRC shall report to the BOM for a recommendation to the Clergy Executive Session at its next meeting.
  2. The BOM Secretary shall record in the BOM minutes the report of the CRC and the recommendation of the BOM. A copy of the written report, recommendation and documentation of the person's reasons for withdrawal shall be placed in the person's file. Additional statements shall be recorded from the Cabinet and the person who has

withdrawn/exited.

I. Readmission to Conference Relationship (¶ 364, 365, 366, 367 and 368)

1. All requests for readmission to Conference Membership with the Arkansas Annual Conference shall be made in writing and presented to the BOM at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the beginning of the session of the Annual Conference unless stated otherwise by the *Book of Discipline*.
2. The BOM shall review all files and statements kept by the BOM Office and Registrars.
3. All persons requesting readmission to Conference Membership are required to complete the "Assessment Packet" in Section III A. The cost of the evaluation shall be borne by the person seeking readmission.
4. All persons requesting readmission to Conference Membership are required to meet the criteria 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 366-368) shall serve under appointment as a Local Pastor – demonstrating effective ministry for a minimum of two consecutive Conference years in the same appointment.
6. Former Deacons requesting readmission to Conference Membership shall serve under appointment in an appropriate ministry setting - demonstrating effective ministry for a minimum of two consecutive Conference years in the same appointment.
7. During the second year of demonstrating effective ministry in the same appointment, if the applicant has met all Disciplinary and Conference requirements, the former Conference member may apply for Conference Membership and/or credentials previously held.

**SECTION XI: CLERGY COVENANT FUND**

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

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

**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 have slowed and some positive trends are emerging.

Alignment of resources towards the Conference trajectory of "Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world" has required hard work and soul searching. Through the constant monitoring of metrics, outcomes and a focus upon making disciples of Jesus Christ, Bishop Mueller constantly moves us closer to a more unified alignment of our resources to our purpose.

With an emphasis upon the mission field versus focusing upon ourselves, with constant movement towards alignment of resources with our mission and Conference trajectory, Bishop Mueller worked with the Conference CFA to move from an apportionment formula to an apportionment tithe. Reasserting the spiritual dimensions of stewardship into our conversations and plans regarding funding, apportionments will be based upon a tithe of local church finances. What is received from the local churches through the tithe will be the basis of the Conference budget. This is a big step of faith and spirit for all of us.

Sensing that the Holy Spirit has been working with and through all the changes that have taken place within mission field appointments, alignment of resources and the stewardship of the tithe, Bishop Mueller has lifted up spiritual revival as the biggest change that we need to fulfill our purpose, mission and trajectory. Spiritual revival has been the emphasis of our district and Charge Conferences, of district-wide meetings, of resources for local churches (especially for Lent) and every aspect of our ministries. If the increase of youth and Confirmation rallies and the high number of enrollment of our Grow by One Summit are any indication, then Spiritual Revival has begun.

We also know that we have just begun, four years is not enough. It will take years more of dedicated work in the same direction before the full affects of our changes and Spiritual Revival are realized. Therefore, we are asking the South Central Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy to reassign Bishop Gary Mueller to the Arkansas Conference.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Karon Mann, Chair**

**Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

**The Board:**

¶ 639.1-7 The board is charged with the interest and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy, and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the Conference Center, institutions, organizations, and agencies within the Annual Conference except otherwise provided by the general board now known as Wespath. The conference board also provides financial assistance to retired clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses who are now responsible for their own healthcare.

The board works closely with Wespath Benefits and Investments administrator of the largest denominational pension fund in the world. Wespath reflects the Wesleyan heritage, and the notion of being on the right path in all three areas of operation for participants, institutional investors and for the UMC. The board is made up of no less than 12 members and in accordance with ¶ 605.3 elected to a term of 8 years. The board elects its chairperson.

**Conference Sponsored Wellcare Benefits:**

The board approved using \$30,000 in Healthcare Reserves to fund the Virgin Pulse Fitness Program in 2017. Participation will be reviewed when the board meets in May and a recommendation will be made at conference to end or continue the Plan for 2018. Conference staff, active clergy and their spouses are eligible to participate. You can still join the Virgin Pulse program where getting active & fit means getting great stuff! And ours isn't your typical stuff, you know. Ours



is motivation, feedback, gadgets, tracking, challenges, prizes, more energy, feeling better, looking great... and rewards.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

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

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

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

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

So what do you say, ready to join?

Please use this URL - [join.virginpulse.com/wespath](http://join.virginpulse.com/wespath)

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

Questions should be directed to the Conference Center Benefits Office.

\*You must be 18 years of age.

**Employee Assistance Program:**

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits partnered with The Board of Ordained Ministry to bring clergy families the Methodist Healthcare Employee Assistance Program. Since January 1, 2012, this program has provided free, confidential short-term counseling to all active, retired clergy and clergy households. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends continuing the program. 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 staff members and clergy families; whether full time, part time, retired or disabled as well as members of your household are eligible to participate. Surviving spouses are also eligible for this benefit. 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 Plans:**

The Pre-1982 Pension Plan was replaced by the Ministerial Pension Plan effective January 1, 1982. Vested participants and their spouses receive lifetime benefits from the pre-82 plan. **The 2018 monthly Past Service Rate (pre-1982) known as the PSA is \$577.00.**

The 2004 General Conference voted to end the MPP as of December 31, 2006. The replacement pension plan was the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) which began January 1, 2007.

- 1 The plan is made up of 2 components: 70
- 2
- 3 1. A Defined Benefit which provides monthly income at 71
- 4 retirement based upon years of credited service to 72
- 5 the Church and a surviving spouse benefit payment 73
- 6 of 70% for her/his lifetime. Clergy may also designate 74
- 7 a disabled child as a secondary contingent annuitant. 75
- 8 After the death of you and your spouse, your disabled 76
- 9 child will receive a reduced benefit. As with spousal 77
- 10 coverage, your initial benefits will be reduced to pay for 78
- 11 this extra benefit. 79
- 12 2. And a Defined Contribution that provides a retirement 80
- 13 account balance which was established and funded by 81
- 14 the annual conference. 82

83 All eligible full-time clergy who are under Episcopal appointment in 84 the conference shall enroll in the Clergy Retirement Security Program 85 (CRSP). Full-time clergy may make written request to waive out of the 86 pension program CRSP. Effective January 1, 2014 clergy serving less 87 than full-time are not eligible to participate in CRSP. We encourage 88 the churches they serve to provide a retirement benefit by making 89 contributions to the United Methodist Personal Pension Plan (UMPIP) 90 on their behalf. Pension Plan enrollment is the responsibility of the 91 participant and must be done no later than 30 days from the eligibility 92 date. Information for enrollment must be provided to Conference 93 Benefits Officer, Mona Williams, at the Conference Office of Finance 94 and Administration. 95

96 Clergy pension is calculated on "Plan" compensation. Plan 97 compensation as defined by Wespath includes a parsonage equivalent 98 (25% of compensation) or housing allowance. The benefit multiplier for 99 2017 is 14% and is broken down in the following manner:

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

101 **The CRSP-DC benefit is 2%** non-matching contribution and 1% matching 102 of eligible Plan compensation.

103 **The premium for the Comprehensive Protection Death and Disability 104 Plan is 3%** of eligible Plan compensation up to 200% of the DAC for 105 clergy appointed full-time.

106 **Participants must contribute a minimum of 1% of eligible Plan 107 compensation to their Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) in order to 108 receive the full employer CRSP-DC contribution.** 109

**Retired Clergy:**

110 Retired Clergy, their spouses and surviving spouses were removed 111 from the Conference Healthcare Plan on Dec. 31st, 2014.

112 The Plan was replaced with a Healthcare Reimbursement 113 Arrangement. The Retiree & Medicare eligible disabled clergy HRA is 114 owned and funded by the Arkansas Conference and is managed by 115 the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Any unused funds remain 116 with the Conference. Surviving spouses who are not yet eligible for 117 Medicare may be eligible for a taxable Healthcare premium stipend. 118 See guidelines below. 119

**2017 Retiree Health Care Premium Stipend Allocation:**

120 In order to be eligible for a conference healthcare premium stipend 121 Provisional Elders, Associate Members, Elders in Full Connection and 122 Full-time Local Pastors retiring from the Arkansas Conference must 123 have served full-time in the denomination for a minimum of 10 years. 124 Only conference responsible\* full-time appointment years are eligible 125 and must have been served in the former North Arkansas Conference, 126 former Little Rock Conference or the Arkansas Conference. If you are 127 retired and not currently receiving a conference healthcare premium 128 stipend you are not eligible to receive the stipend. 129

130 The stipend will be a fixed dollar amount based on eligible active 131 years of service and the maximum healthcare premium stipend. 132 Additional years of service above 40 have no effect on the healthcare 133 premium stipend. The maximum healthcare stipend is \$200 for clergy 134 and \$150 for spouses. Clergy who work or serve an appointment after 135 retirement will not receive additional years of service or an additional 136 benefit of any kind. Here is the HRA benefit calculation guide (**scheduled 137 for review on May 2, 2017**)- 138

- The first ten years of service will accrue at 2% of the maximum premium gift:  
 Clergy: 2% of \$200 = \$4.00  
 Spouse: 2% of \$150 = \$3.00
- The next 20 years of service will accrue at:  
 Clergy: 3.5% of = \$7.00  
 Spouse: 3.5% of = \$5.25
- The remaining ten years of service will accrue at:  
 Clergy: 1% of = \$2.00  
 Spouse: 1% of = \$1.50

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

Effective January 1, 2016 the board instituted a minimum healthcare stipend benefit of \$50 per month who meet all other requirements. Clergy who are married at the time of retirement will receive a supplemental spousal gift. If clergy divorce while in retirement the spouse receiving a stipend at retirement will continue to receive it. Should the clergy remarry, the new spouse is not eligible for a stipend. If the spouse at retirement outlives the clergy participant, they will receive a stipend as a surviving spouse. **As of July 1, 2016 a surviving spouse who remarries will not be penalized and will continue to receive a healthcare stipend benefit.**

Effective January 1, 2016 when a clergy dies while under an Active conference responsible appointment leaving behind a spouse (who is not eligible for Medicare) the conference will provide a health care 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 health care premium stipend will be based on clergy years of active eligible service.

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

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

**Other Important Information:**

1. Surviving spouses eligible for spousal pension benefits will receive benefits at 75% of the formula benefit rate for pre-1982 service.
2. Allowance grants and local expenses of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits are paid by Wespath or the Conference Treasurer must meet *2016 Book of Discipline* guidelines and are subject to the approval by the Arkansas Conference. The board has approved a living grant for Rev. Lloyd Smith effective 7/1/2009 in the amount of \$359.00.
3. The institution, board or organization paying the salary of a minister on special appointment without annuity claim on the conference shall make provision for the pension of such person.
4. Attention is called to ¶ 1506.5 in the *2016 Book of Discipline*, regarding eligibility to participate in CRSP and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). In order to provide adequately for the active pension program (current and past funding), death & disability benefits, retiree health care support and well care in **2018** the conference has budgeted **\$1,020,000**. That total is broken down as:
  - Healthcare premium stipends for disabled clergy on approved medical leave shall be **\$5,000**.
  - Healthcare premium stipends for retirees & spouses shall be **\$800,000**.
  - Methodist Healthcare Employee Assistance Program apportionment shall be **\$15,000**.
  - To provide for clergy under special conference responsible appointments shall be **\$200,000**.
5. We remind all pastors and local churches of ¶ 639.4 in the *2016*

*Book of Discipline*, which sets forth the requirement that payments on the pension and benefit program of the conference be in exact proportion to payments made on the salary or salaries, including housing of the ordained minister or clergy serving it. ¶ 638.4d requires the local church treasurer and/or pastor to adjust the cash salary and payment to be in the same proportion as the amount paid to the pension and benefit program of the conference. ¶ 639.4d adds that it shall not be permissible for a pastor to receive a bonus or other supplementary compensation tending to defeat proportional payment. 6. ¶ 639.4 of the **2016 Book of Discipline** requires the Conference Board to keep a permanent record of defaults by churches of the conference in paying clergy pension and benefits. The board is further required to render annually to each church that is in default a statement of the amounts in default for that and preceding years. According to our Conference Treasurer, for **2016** the following churches were in default for the direct billed Clergy Retirement Security Program & the CPP premiums by the following amounts:

Name of Church/Charge	Debt on 12/31/16	Debt on 03/31/16
<b>Central District:</b>		
Canvas-Community	\$ 16,151.40	\$ 16,151.40
Carlisle First	3,128.97	3,128.97
Grace-Conway	24,214.98	24,214.98
Hunter-LR	10,443.76	4,200.00
Primrose	10,586.82	10,586.82
the Journey	1,268.73	0.00
<b>Northeast District:</b>		
Christ United	574.61	0.00
Manila	2,931.30	2,931.30
Tuckerman	3,612.32	0.00
<b>Northwest District:</b>		
Woodlands	4,386.40	4,386.40
<b>Southeast District:</b>		
Ellis Chapel	3,586.04	3,586.04
McElroy	673.14	0.00
Redfield	4,442.62	4,442.62
St. James-PB	15,715.80	15,715.80
St. Luke- PB	1,974.00	0.00
Stuttgart	184.92	0.00
Wesley-PB	2,272.08	2,272.08
Wynne	5,578.62	5,578.62
<b>Southwest District:</b>		
Camden First	196.02	0.00
El Dorado First	1,374.46	0.00
Mineral Springs	958.02	558.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,255.01</b>	<b>\$ 97,753.05</b>

7. Notice of claims request for pension credit shall be made in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer, POB 3611 Little Rock, AR 72203-3611.
8. In determining years of service, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall carefully examine and consider those years listed in the conference Journal prior to accepting them as valid years; and any years in question shall be subject to validation by the applicant and by approval of the Board of Pensions. We recommend that approval of pension credit outlined in ¶ 1506.2-5 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, be enforced.
9. Copies of individual service records are held at Wespath, 1901 Chestnut Ave, Glenview, IL 60025-1604. Requests for service record copies may be obtained from the Conference Benefits Office.
10. A Retired Minister's Day is recommended to be the Third Sunday of May each year. The purpose of this day is to recognize the service

of the retired servants and their families, and to involve the local churches in the recognition of the needs, both present and future.

If a retired minister does not reside within the bounds of a charge, but a member of a retired minister’s family does, they shall be invited to participate in the service (or observance); otherwise, recognition of these servants, and their service, should be observed appropriately. “Appropriately” should be determined by the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee of each local church. This committee shall have the responsibility of locating these people and relate the service of these persons to the local church and our Annual Conference. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will be responsible for providing promotional ideas and some materials (i.e., total years of service, percentage of retired ministers serving churches while in their retired status, etc.) when requested.

11. Please notify the Conference Center Benefits Office when:

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

**2017 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 Wespith during the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, by each active, retired, terminated, or clergyperson receiving disability benefits who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespith and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespith plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a

Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

**Submitted by: Mona Williams, Conference Benefits Officer  
Stark Ligon, Board of Pension & Health Benefits Chairperson  
Todd Burris, Treasure & Director of Administrative Services  
Date: 4/10/2017**

**Equitable Compensation Commission**

For 70 years, the Conference has provided financial support to churches allowing them to provide pastoral salaries suitable for their mission fields.

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

In the Spring of 2017, the Conference supported seven charges through the Key Charge program and another two charges through Minimum Base Compensation Support:

The mission of the CEC is to enable charges/churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ by providing appropriate compensation for effective pastoral leadership. To fulfill this mission, the CEC is requesting \$85,000 for the 2018 budget.

**I. Minimum Full-Time Compensation**

The CEC recommends that the 2017 Minimum Compensation Payment Schedule for full-time pastors under appointment remain as printed below. The payment schedule and guidelines remain the same as they were for 2016.

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

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

**II. Key Charge/Church Program for Base Compensation Support**

The Key Charge/Church program provides Base Compensation Support to pastors who are appointed to charges/churches targeted for significant growth by the Conference or are in transition and require short-term support for effective pastoral leadership for various other reasons. Key Charges/Churches are related to the CEC by a covenant

agreement. The covenant is negotiated by the chair of the Commission, the district superintendent, and representatives of the charge/church. The persons or their successors, shall be the trustees of the covenant, having verified it with their signatures.

The covenant shall include:

1. The initial amount of the Base Compensation Support needed,
2. The duration of the covenant (normally five (5) years or less), and
3. The signatures of the persons negotiating the covenant.

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

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

### III. Minimum Base Compensation Support

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

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

It is understood that:

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

### IV. Emergency Salary Arrearage Support

Every clergy under appointment shall receive the full compensation set at Charge Conference. (See ¶ 624 of the *2016 Discipline*.) If a church is financially unable to provide the full compensation in a timely manner, the Annual Conference through the CEC may provide emergency funding to ensure the clergy is provided the compensation

the church promised at the Charge Conference. The Arkansas Annual Conference Salary Arrearage Policy is found in ¶ 103 of the Policy & Guidelines section of this Journal.

### V. Equitable Compensation Covenant

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

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

### VI. Additional Priorities

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

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**Rev. Paul L. Strang, Chair**

## 2016 General Conference Proposed Amendments The United Methodist Church

### Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the *2012 Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of women's and girls' equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶16, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

**AND**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II**

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509 Yes, 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the *2012 Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 4, *Article IV*, amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “all persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition”. After “because of race, color, national origin,” delete “status,” and add “ability”. At the end of the paragraph, add “nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 would read:

The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

**AND**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III**

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 767 Yes, 22 No (Calendar Item 111, DCA pp. 2105). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the *2012 Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*, (*2016 Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*) amend by addition as follows:

After the first sentence, add, “Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

**AND**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV**

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 621

1 Yes, 15 No (Calendar Item 468, DCA p. 2217). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

3 In the *2012 Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article II*, amend by addition, as follows:

5 To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.”

9 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 would read:

11 The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

**AND**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V**

21 On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes, 79 No (Calendar Item 446, DCA p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

27 In the *2012 Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, *Article VI*, amend by addition, as follows:

29 After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

33 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 would read:

35 The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

37 The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.

43 The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference.

51 These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

**Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments  
The United Methodist Church  
Voted General Conference May 2016**

(New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.

1. (¶ 4) Adding “gender” (meaning male and female) to the Constitution affirms and protects The United Methodist Church’s commitment to gender equity throughout our

worldwide connection. “Gender” is the disciplinary term for fair treatment of women and men (e.g., ¶ 16). The addition of the proposed final clause allows gender-specific groups like United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.

2. (¶ 34) The provision in ¶ 13. *Article I. 2, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences,”* is unduly vague. The addition of this one sentence to paragraph 34 of *The Book of Discipline* helps clarify that General Conference delegates shall be elected by the body of annual conference instead of simply being appointed by the bishop. Bishops appointing delegates without delegates being properly elected has been a practice in some central conferences.
3. (¶ 46) As is the case for the jurisdictions, episcopal elections in the central conferences should be held in the regular sessions of those conferences, except when unexpected vacancies occur because of the death or early retirement of one or more bishops.
4. (¶ 50) Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work, referencing ¶ 50 of the Constitution. This legislation follows Judicial Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from General Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide oversight of its members.

**Board of Trustees**

As of March 15, 2017, the Conference Board of Trustees met once at the Conference offices on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, and transacted business via e-mail on several other occasions. Officers were elected at the August 16th meeting: Janet Marshall, Vice President, Susan Dunn, Secretary, and Todd Burris, Treasurer. The committee also voted to approve the sale of the episcopal residence located at 13 River Ridge Road, Little Rock, Arkansas. The property was sold on October 20, 2016, yielding net proceeds of \$370,174.07.

Mr. Todd Burris attended General Council of Finance and Administration Quadrennial Training in Jacksonville, Florida on behalf of the Trustees from October 30, 2016, to November 2, 2016.

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

Central District

- Vacant Lot, parcel 001-10639-000, Saline County.
- Providence, 10273 Hwy 31 N, Austin, AR 72007, Lonoke County.
- Galloway, 7 Griffin Road, Little Rock, AR, Pulaski County.
- Aaron Cemetery, Pulaski County.
- 

Northeast District

- Vacant Lot, parcel 030-00093-000, Randolph County.
- Beech Grove, 9201 Hwy 141 N, Beech Grove, AR 72412, Greene County.
- Tupelo, 415 Pine St., Tupelo, AR 72161, Jackson County.

Northwest District

- Tuck’s Chapel, 12445 W. Tucks Chapel Road, Rogers, AR 72756, parcel 18-04693-000, Benton County.
- Springtown, 11980 Readings Road, Springtown, AR 72734, parcel 17-00006-000, Benton County. Sale pending.

Southeast District

- Widener, 102 Madison, Widener, AR 72394, St. Francis County.
- Colt, 347 Old Military Road E, Colt, AR 72326, parcels 0802-00216-0000 and 0800-00012-0000, St. Francis County. Sale pending.
- Wakefield, 489 Wakefield Road, Nashville, AR 71852, parcel 001-03444-001E, Howard County.
- Carthage, 714 W. Pine Bluff St., Carthage, AR 71725, parcel 741-00247-000, Dallas County.

**Board of Trustees’ policy on the sale of closed or abandoned 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.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Tony Griffin, Chair**

## Annual Reports

### 200,000 Reasons - Childhood Hunger Initiative

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

- At the end of 2016, almost 40% of Arkansas United Methodist churches report being involved in a ministry that serves hungry children. The goal is 100%.
  - A “Hunger Initiative Ministry Profile” database is developed listing all Arkansas UMC congregations. The profiles are updated with specific ministries based on reporting through emails, phone calls, grant awards, and surveys.
  - The 2016 Paysinger Hunger Summit held in October featured seven workshops to educate United Methodists in effective ministries to the hungry such as Cooking Matters, Out-of-School Meals, and SNAP Enrollment Assistance.
  - To encourage every AR Methodist congregation to participate in this common mission to reduce childhood hunger in Arkansas, the 200,000 Reasons Initiative team:
    - o Seeks to have reports of mission strategy on year-end forms.
    - o Encourages participation through district and statewide events.
    - o Has offered an annual competitive grant process. As of October 2016, 46 ministries around the state were granted a total of \$81,000.
    - o Will develop resources as part of the VITAL! ministry plan and will lead a plenary at Annual Conference.
    - o Will continue to offer a comprehensive website with access to resources for developing and implementing a ministry to hungry children.
- In 2016, Feeding America reported that the number of children under age 18 living in food insecure households in Arkansas is down from 201,820 to 185,660. The Arkansas Conference is a part of this statewide effort. In 2017, the 200,000 Reasons team:
  - Needs local churches to report how many children are being served specifically through UMC ministries.
  - Will spend time inviting and resourcing churches around the state to participate in ministerial alliances to serve hungry children in targeted underserved areas.
  - Will coordinate with Ingathering to benefit hungry children.
  - Will continue to resource United Methodist congregations to meet the needs of hungry children in their communities through partnerships with non-profits such as the AR Food Bank and AR Hunger Relief Alliance.
- In 2017, the 200,000 Reasons team wants to encourage more UM congregations to offer ministries to hungry children that offer long term stability and transform lives, an aspect related to the trajectory of the Arkansas Conference.
  - Ministries that help hungry children get by one more day, week or month are absolutely necessary. These backpack and other food distribution ministries are vital to the hungry but they may not help the families move out of

- food insecurity.
- Such ministries as Cooking Matters, SNAP Enrollment Assistance, Friends & Neighbors Network (an alternative to the traditional food pantry), hot meal ministries and out-of school meals that engage members in a relationship with hungry children provide a sense of community and support. The 200,000 Reasons team hopes more United Methodists in Arkansas will:
  - o Engage hungry children in their mission field, with the hope of making their churches look like their neighborhood.
  - o Develop strategies and messaging that encourage different levels of engagement, understanding that many churches start with meeting immediate needs and can move toward deeper, relational ministries.
  - o Share stories of transformed lives, transformational ministries and transformed congregations.

**Rev. J. J. Whitney**  
**Mary Lewis Dassinger**

### Commission on Archives and History

The purpose of the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History is to promote and care for the historical interests of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas, as outlined in *The Book of Discipline*. The 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. It also helps us maintain transparency and accountability across denominational agencies.

To make vital congregations in Arkansas, all three of the agencies under the umbrella of the Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History—the UM Archives, the UM Museum, and the UM Historical Society—strive to recognize, record, and share stories of faith and grace. These agencies focus on stories of historical interest, but they also collect stories about present-day issues and preserve them for future generations. As the General Commission on Archives and History states: “Our understanding of our past helps us envision the future.”

In other words, Archives and History is the Ministry of Memory—telling stories about people of faith and grace but also recognizing and collecting new stories so that all of us may re-tell them. Rev. Fred Day, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, reminds 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 campfire, 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 UM Archives of the Arkansas Conference, located in the library at Hendrix College, 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. The UM Museum of Arkansas, located in First United Methodist Church, Little Rock, is open for walk-in visits each Wednesday and at other times by appointment. The Arkansas Conference is one of the few conferences that maintains a museum to preserve and display objects relating to our Methodist history. Recently, the museum board has been working with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Public History Program to find graduate students who may intern at the museum and assist the curator with special projects and exhibits. These interns may add a vital component to our connection with the local university and help expand our outreach into the community. After the unexpected resignation of the museum curator in November, 2016, the museum board, with the oversight and approval of the Commission, advertised the open position, interviewed candidates, and selected one of these graduate students as curator in February, 2017. Using her skills and training, she plans to catalog and describe the articles in the museum collection on the Past Perfect database. To help her to become more familiar with the history of Methodism, an expert on Methodist history, especially in Arkansas, has volunteered to be a resource person for her as she gets oriented to her new position. Although our two archivists and our curator are compensated for part-time work by apportioned funds, these important ministries need additional funding and more volunteer support to continue the work.

\*Serve the research needs of churches and individuals

In 2016, the Archives assisted 137 individuals and churches with their requests for information to plan programs; to prepare church anniversary celebrations; to write obituaries and family histories; to assist church personnel in district and conference offices and in other conference archives; and to answer personal questions about churches, parsonages, pastors, and people of faith. To help researchers, the archivists responded to e-mails, phone calls, and personal visits to the archives, often working with a single researcher for several weeks. In addition, the archivists maintain a website, [www.arkansasumcarchives.com](http://www.arkansasumcarchives.com), which makes available numerous resources to anyone with internet access, and it includes links with instructions for a historian developing a local church archives. Throughout the year individuals, Sunday school classes, confirmation classes, and other groups of visitors toured the UM Museum to enjoy special exhibits as well as the permanent collection. At the museum a graduate student intern from the UALR public history program researched and designed a special display on Pearle McCain, Arkansas native and Methodist missionary who served in China and Japan for many years. For another exhibit, the museum staff invited art photographers to submit images of historic United Methodist church buildings in Arkansas. In addition to a printed photograph, each entrant submitted a short church history along with a digital copy of the photograph to be archived in the permanent collection of the museum. Winning photographs in the competition were showcased in an exhibit at the Museum in fall, 2016.

\*Provide access 24/7 through user-friendly Websites and a Facebook page

An attractive and easy-to-use resource, the website, [www.arkansasumcarchives.com](http://www.arkansasumcarchives.com), reaches out 24/7 to all readers with internet access and in 2016 recorded 15,794 visits. Maintained by the archivists, 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 1884-1921, several documents and books on the history of the Methodist church in Arkansas and on the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and more than 170 journals related to the Arkansas Conference and its predecessor conferences. In addition, the site offers links to print and video resources on the Wesley family, the United Methodist Church, the archives of other United Methodist Annual Conferences, the General Commission on Archives and History, and the recently released, award-winning video entitled "Francis Asbury: The Flame Spirit." The Museum has an online presence with both a Facebook page and a website. On Facebook the curator frequently posts photos of items in the museum and writes a short article on each posting. 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. 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. Outsourcing the scanning of the newspapers was very slow and very costly. However, this project has gained momentum since the purchase 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. To date, the archivists have scanned these newspapers through 1921. 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 distributed 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, 2016, the program, entitled "Historical Reflections on Arkansas Methodism," consisted of a panel of Arkansas ministers who discussed changes in attitudes and practices they have witnessed in our churches over the years of their ministries. At the annual meeting in spring 2017, the program will preview the celebration marking the 200th anniversary of Arkansas Methodism, slated for fall 2017, at the Mound Prairie/Henry's Chapel site near old Washington. It is hoped that such activities may help bring about revival in the Historical Society and in our churches. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities, and the world. From time to time the museum offers special tours and receptions, centered on a particular topic or group of people in the church. For example, the museum has sponsored a reception which recognized African-Americans in our church's history. Also, the museum hosted a very successful loan exhibition, "Methodism on the American Frontier," featuring folk art paintings by Rev. John S. Polk, depicting old Methodist church structures. In 2016, the Museum,



in cooperation with the Arkansas Women Photographers, hosted a competition and photographic exhibition of historic UM churches in Arkansas. Also to raise awareness of the museum, the organization joined several professional associations: (1) American Association for State and Local History, and (2) the Arkansas Museum Association. At the Arkansas Annual Conference each June, the Archives and the Museum have displays and handouts available as well as volunteers to answer questions about these ministries. Additionally, we offer, at a nominal charge, a CD which contains the texts of several out-of-print books on Arkansas Methodism and a CD celebrating the 60th anniversary of full-clergy rights for women in the United Methodist Church. On this latest CD, "Called to Be Bold, Stepping Out in Faith," eighty-one women across Arkansas shared their stories and photographs about their Calls to Ministry and the unique challenges they faced.

\*Create an experience, not merely provide information

A visit to the museum is an ideal way to experience the past...see the hard, wooden pews (no cushions); touch the communion chalice used by faithful brothers and sisters of another era; and see photographs of faithful souls your pastor or your parents talked about when you were a child. In a similar way, we hope pages posted on the web from old *Arkansas Methodist* newspapers will help readers live a little in the lives of Arkansans of a hundred years ago and generate feelings that "plummet them into the love of God." These newspapers were the CNN and the internet of another era, as they gave people information on local, state, and national news, especially for rural Arkansans. But these were also the Facebook and Twitter of that time, revealing the lifestyle of pastors and their congregations and showing how our Methodist brethren grappled with the issues of their day--temperance, prohibition, politics, etc. Even ads for products such as miracle medicinal cures give us a glimpse into the lives of our brothers and sisters in an era before antibiotics and modern medicine. But there are also stories in these pages about the ministry of women who saved nickels and dimes from their egg and garden produce sales to send missionaries to rural areas of our state and around the world. There are stories for children about "Father Wesley," articles for young people who dreamed of attending Galloway or Hendrix College, and lengthy obituaries, often weeks after a death, with inspiring language we could only hope someone might say about us when our time comes. Also, to help people experience their history, the museum board plans to do more temporary exhibits. For example, in 2016 a photography competition, which involved a group of professional photographers, captured images of historic Methodist churches in Arkansas. We hope changing exhibits will keep people coming back to the museum as well as generate interest for first-time visitors.

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

Progress may also be measured in the mutual goodwill and the joy of sharing that collaboration on creative projects fosters among all participants. This year several pastors and laity have given us old Conference Journals, historical books, photographs, and other materials related to the Methodist church in Arkansas. Similarly, pastors and laity have enjoyed sharing treasured memorabilia with the Museum. In addition, volunteers interviewed present-day saints and recorded oral histories which may inspire future generations. Clergy women across Arkansas shared their stories for the CD marking the 60th anniversary of full-clergy rights for women in the United Methodist Church. Reaching beyond the state and the conference, the Arkansas Commission on Archives and History has worked with Commission personnel in other conferences and 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. Our extensive online resources have drawn the attention of several other UM Archives, including the California-Pacific UM Conference Archives and the Missouri UM Conference Archives. While helping our archives with their website, Bob Crossman began networking with John D. Finley, the archivist at the Missouri UM archives located at Central Methodist

University, in Fayette, MO. Finley wrote: "I am impressed with your web site. You are far ahead of us in terms of getting things digitized and available. I will continue to send these year by year." He was referring to the PDF files of the Missouri Methodist Episcopal Church which included the Arkansas District. To date we have received and made available on our website the handwritten journals for 1849-1853. Previously, we did not know that these records existed.

In all their work, our archivists, curator, and volunteers take seriously their responsibility to decide what materials are history-making and worthy to belong in the collections to tell the Story. They continue to collect documents, memorabilia, and photographs for long-term storage and quality preservation, especially materials about present-day clergy and ministries, local churches, and closed churches within our conference. 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. As we move into the future the "Ministry of Memory" helps us learn from our past as we anticipate our priorities for the future. Like our very own souls, the work of Archives and History will always be a work in progress.

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

- Information on Arkansas UMC Archives / Winfred D. Polk Methodist Archives (arkmethodist@hendrix.edu) from Marcia Crossman, Archivist
- Information on UM Museum of the Arkansas Conference (ummac.LR@gmail.com) from Rev. Dr. Candace Barron, Museum Board Chairman
- Information on the UM Historical Society of Arkansas from Joe M. Guenter, Historical Society Chairman

**Helen Giessen Guenter**  
**Chairperson**

**Board of Discipleship**

Your Board of Discipleship is working to build relationships within our Board, within our Conference and beyond so that we are as effective as possible. With representatives on the Board who are entrusted with the areas of Education, Stewardship, Spiritual Direction, Evangelism, Small Member Churches, and Worship, it is an understatement when I say we have a very broad area of responsibility. With most of our members being new to the Board, we chose this year to focus on Stewardship. Our plan is to learn to work together, one step at a time, and attempt additional areas for ministry planning next year.

We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to be involved with the stewardship component of this year's focus on creating Vital Disciples. Having Reverend Cliff Christopher as a plenary speaker and getting to collaborate with him is a plus for Discipleship. Continued opportunities for personal and group studies in Stewardship will be provided by your Board. We believe that Christian Stewardship is the management of all of life with Jesus at the center.

Your Board of Discipleship welcomes your interest and ideas and we covet your prayers as we serve.

**Grace to you,**  
**David Orr, Chair**

**Camp Tanako**

Camp Tanako is a camping and retreat ministry that has been a part of the United Methodist tradition in Arkansas since 1948. Camp Tanako serves persons of all ages from across Arkansas in traditional, programmed summer camps for children and youth, hosts retreat guest groups for all ages, such as Walk to Emmaus and ARUMC central district's annual Bible Boot camp. Our mission is to welcome children, youth, and adults to a place set apart where they can experience God through

nature and community and respond to the call of the Holy Spirit. Camp Tanako offers unique opportunities for individuals to experience the means of grace in ways that are rarely available in our culture.

Last year, Camp Tanako had ten weeks of overnight summer programmed camps with 526s campers (up 17% from 2015). Overnight campers came from all areas of the state of Arkansas as well as Texas and Louisiana. Tanako Day Camp, which began in 2013, served 614 campers in the first through sixth grades this past summer (up 29% over 2015). Camp Tanako’s summer programmed camps served 1240 campers from 79 ARUMC congregations and 32 “other” congregations, with 10 campers citing that they had no church affiliation. Guest groups from across the state were hosted for weekend retreats that included 892 participants in 2016.

Apportioned funds received in 2016 were used to make disciples of Jesus Christ in several ways. The support of the ARUMC’s apportioned funds allow Camp Tanako to provide various experiences that are unique to outdoor ministry settings. UMC.org discusses The Wesleyan Means of Grace in these words,

“Our vital work is a spiritual adventure based in John Wesley’s means of grace. John Wesley taught that God’s grace is unearned and that we were not to be idle waiting to experience grace but we are to engage in the means of grace. The means of grace are ways God works invisibly in disciples, hastening, strengthening; and confirming faith so that God’s grace pervades in and through disciples.”

This so perfectly captures the experiences available through outdoor ministries at Camp Tanako. Whether participants are here for a week during the summer or for weekend programming throughout the year, they come together as a diverse group from various ethnic, socioeconomic, and at different points in their journey to become more like Christ. A portion of those who come to Camp Tanako may be new to a faith journey with no experiences. Camp Tanako utilizes all of our resources, including the apportioned funds from the ARUMC to make disciples for the transformation of the world with excellence and passion.

**Kim Carter**  
Camp Director

**Conference Commission on Religion and Race**



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

This year some members of our conference have been to Milwaukee, WI to attend the Native American Comprehensive Plan’s training on Discipleship in the Native American tradition and how we might be able to at least start a discussion of how we can start a church with a Native/Indigenous focus. The team of three, Rev. George Odell, Rev. Angie Gage and Mr. Billy Britt, were truly enlightened by our brothers and sisters in Christ how they have ministered in a culture that has not always respected who they are as a people of God/Creator. We recommend that our conference starts an NAMAT (Native American Minister Action Team) as part of the Ethnic and Language Concerns

Committee. 70

There are several great resources that General Commission has made available to all conferences and churches. There are DVDs called Vital Conversations where members of the greater community called the United Methodist Church challenge us to grow in our faith and in our ministry to persons who are not like us. If you would like to obtain a copy of them, please contact me or your district representative and we will assist you in attaining copies of the DVD. There is also a new book that is available for download from www.gcorr.org, Learning from Strangers. I encourage you to obtain a copy of these for your church’s use and for your personal use as a leader in the church. 71-79

Relationships matter more than numbers; if we seek the relationships the numbers will take care of themselves. It is about the revival of our state, county, cities and towns where Christ is offered to all who seek Him. 80-84

**Rev. George Odell**  
Chair, Arkansas CORR 85-87

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

The Arkansas Conference Commission on the 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.” 88-94

AR-COSROW sent two representatives to the Quadrennial Annual Conference Networking and Training event sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in Nashville, Tennessee. Rev. Sara Bayles and Rev. Natasha Murray-Norman attended this event and met with other conference commissioners throughout the connection. During the training event, members of conference COSROWS were made aware of the importance of passing Amendment 4 which includes inclusive language of gender equality for persons in the Church. During this event, time was also set aside to create strategic plans of action for each jurisdiction and conference represented. 95-104

AR-COSROW continues to offer support for the Clergywomen’s luncheon held during annual conference as well as monitoring for fairness in participation and diversity during Annual Conference. 105-108

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Natasha Murray-Norman** 109-111

**Conference Council on Camp and Retreat Ministries**

Many of our camps are in the full swing of preparing for the summer camping season. Be sure to see each camp’s individual report to find out what they’re doing and how your church can get involved! 112-116

From a conference level, confirmation camps have been running successfully for over a full year now with additional camps being added for the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018. In addition the Camp and Retreat Ministries committee will continue to work to develop ideas for programs to be offered through the ARUMC. 117-121

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. 122-133

Great things are happening and great things are yet to come in the world of Camp and Retreat Ministries! 134-135

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Michelle Moore**  
Director of Program and Marketing 136-138

**Conference Council on Children’s Ministries**

The Conference Council on Children’s Ministries (CCCM) has continued to maintain its focus in 2016 to connect/network people involved with children’s ministry throughout the state of Arkansas and to equip those people for ministry in their local congregations. As the year came to an end, the Council began to expand and evolve with a new vision closely matched to the Bishop’s trajectory of community involvement. In order to help our leaders take their churches out into the communities, a new goal to develop a statewide infrastructure that reaches all children’s leaders in our state, no matter church size, paid or unpaid was defined. We agree to exist to offer quality training, nurture, support and resources in providing leaders with Christian Education knowledge based on current trends and sound United Methodist theology in order to make disciples of children.

In this endeavor, the Council continues to sponsor three social media sites and one web page targeted to children’s leadership. We continue to see broad geographical access to our sites, as leaders have learned to count on us for valuable and accurate information regarding their ministry calling.

The following statistics are from February 14, 2017.

Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/kidzarumc/>  
Average daily viewers 1,621, up from 334 last year, and average monthly viewers 38,240, up from 19,836 last year.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kidzarumc>  
Total number of people reached this week - 3,726. Total people engaged this week - 440

Webpage: <https://www.kidz.arumc.org>  
Here CM leaders will find current trends, training opportunities, program ideas, UMC policies and guidelines for Safe Sanctuary, Created by God instructors, hot topics, VBS information, seasonal Family Faith Formation, classifieds, missions, curriculum and general assistance. If we do not know the answers, we find the answers.

Facebook for Destination Mission: <https://www.facebook.com/Destination.Mission>

Destination Mission is entering its eighth year of operation and is an outreach of The Council (CCCM). This program, developed for 3rd - 6th graders, is coordinated by Denni Palmer (Fayetteville) and includes one mission trip during Spring Break and one or two mission trips during the summer. During this time span, hundreds of children have been touched by the hands-on mission field away from their local church home.

Our annual Beyond Leadership Conference for children’s pastors, directors and laity was held in January of 2016 at Camp Tanako in Hot Springs. Tanya Eustace, Discipleship Ministries, was our Keynote and teacher. The Beyond conference is igniting a new spirit in our leaders. Many leaders did not realize this type training was within their reach, geographically or financially. Beyond has been offered across the state beginning in January 2014 and continues to this day at a low cost compared to other regional and national trainings. We have maintained an average annual attendance of 49 leaders out of an identified 126 leaders as of Nov. 2016. The local churches touched annually depends on which area of the state the event is hosted. We have been hosted in Hot Springs and Fayetteville. Our hope is to look to other districts for hosting in the future.

As our energy grows, so do our committed children’s leaders. In order to better serve local churches in our large geographical districts, our District Coordinator number began to increase in the fall of 2016. Central District: Tammy Felder, Little Rock, Jessica Butler, Bauxite, Sean Dunbar, Little Rock; Southeast District: Jennifer Fox, Pine Bluff; Southwest District: Jeremy Carter, Magnolia, Michelle Wilkins, Hot Springs, and Rev. Dan Read, Magnolia (as of July 2017); Northeast District: Katie McClean, Batesville and Tiffany Jones, Beebe; Northwest District: Sally Ware, Fort Smith and Shelly Coggin, Rogers. This expansion will continue until we feel our geographical reach has been met.

Also now serving on our CCCM team as specific representatives of specialty ministry areas. Created by God: Karen Anderson, Rogers, Liz Wright, Little Rock; Destination Mission: Denni Palmer, Fayetteville;

Sports Ministries: Sean Dunbar, Little Rock; Special Needs Ministries: Sadie Wolfhardt, Bentonville; Safe Sanctuaries: Karen Swales, Springdale.

In 2016, the following service or financial assistance was awarded by CCCM as follows:

- Beyond 2016 Leadership Conference awarded 7 full scholarships and gave away thousands of dollars of VBS and recycled curriculum to local church attendees.
- Vacation Bible School Mini-grants - Eleven \$250 grants were awarded to local churches to purchase necessary materials for VBS in the local church. Faith stories from the leaders of these programs: <http://kidz.arumc.org/vbs/vbs/-2016-faith-stories/>
- One ARUMC Camping Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to ARUMC Camping Ministries to assist with tuition for campers.
- Methodist Family Health was awarded \$1500 for ten student scholarships for summer camp attendance.
- A Day with the Bishop was supported by CCCM staff to aid in the smooth transition of children into youth ministry. This year was the first year the event became a transitional event for upper elementary children moving into youth vs a Confirmation event. A new Confirmation Camp was created to provide a more comprehensive confirmation focus. The CCCM team worked with Michelle Moore, Conference Youth Ministries Coordinator to plan and lead the day long event in Little Rock.

In closing, I am very honored to have been chosen in late August 2016 to serve as your new Conference Children’s Ministry Coordinator. Since that time, I felt it important to travel the state to meet each of our District Coordinators in person at their local church. They met me with warmth and enthusiasm and I look forward to serving alongside them in the years to come.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Pamela Snider, Conference Children’s Coordinator**

**Board of Church and Society**

Over the past year, your Board of Church & Society has been assessing who we are and if there are areas of Church & Society where we can focus our attention to make a difference. We have been in communication with other boards across the connection and with the General Board of Church & Society in Washington D.C. to look at possibilities of sharing petitions and resolutions of a national and world-wide nature across annual conferences.

Many faithful Arkansas United Methodists work tirelessly across the state in areas of justice and mercy. Thank you to those of you who hear the call to feed the sick, clothe the naked, visit those in prison, and build relationships with those considered to be “the least of these” in our society. Thank you for your work on abolishing the death penalty in Arkansas, on removing the ability to sentence juveniles to life in prison without parole, and on issues related to drug and alcohol abuse, civil and human rights, suicide prevention, systemic racism, immigration, making sure our children have food, interfaith dialogue - and maybe most importantly, for having open and honest conversations with someone you disagree with, building relationships and tearing down walls.

We appreciate the Arkansas Conference sending clergy to the Young Clergy Forum sponsored by the General Board of Church & Society each year. We are also grateful for the work Rev. Steve Copley does as our Peace with Justice Coordinator. The Peace with Justice Covenant Congregation Program aims to make shalom — a word of greeting or farewell meaning peace — visible and active in people’s lives and communities. The General Conference assigned The General Board of Church & Society to put this program into action and called on the denomination to “strengthen its capacity to act as a public advocate” in communities and nations throughout the world.

This year, we depart from our Church & Society breakfast and

offer a Church & Society “hunger lunch” in its place. The hunger lunch will be on Tuesday, June 20, during the lunch break from conference business at Grand Avenue UMC ( 841 Quapaw Ave.). There is no charge for this meal, however we do ask that you make a reservation on your Annual Conference registration and make a donation at the lunch to 200,000 Reasons (an initiative of the Arkansas Annual Conference to reduce child hunger in Arkansas).

**Peace be with you,  
Rev. Jay Clark, Chair**

### Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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**

### Conference Board of Global Ministries

The Board of Global Ministries is responsible for maintaining the connectional relationship and providing for global ministry responsibilities related to the objectives and scope of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Under the umbrella of this mandate, the Committee seeks to interpret, communicate, inform and connect local churches through the following ministry areas and partnership:

- Volunteers in Mission
- Justice for Our Neighbor
- Advocates for the Poor
- Disaster Response and United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Mission Personnel
- Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
- Parish and Community Development
- United Methodist Women

The work of Global Ministries is grounded in the theology of mission, “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. We are called to be in mission with people around the world and next door. Presently, Global Ministries has missionaries from more than 60 different countries – engaged in healing ministries, teaching, training, advocacy and spreading the gospel. In Arkansas we have three active Church and Community Workers and one Lay Missioner in ministry. We encourage local churches to host an itinerating missionary and provide partnership support. *In giving we also receive.*

**Brenda Norwood  
Chairperson**

### Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

The Conference Secretary of Global Ministries shall work with and through the Conference Board of Global Ministries to relate the work of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church to local congregations within the Conference. One aspect of being a vital congregation is to be engaged in support of mission personnel. We are called to be inspired, informed, and educated about the essential work of missionaries, therefore the global mission and ministry of the Arkansas Conference. The Conference Secretary Global Ministries also relates to the district secretaries of Global Ministries.

Missionary itineration is essential to connecting the local church with the face, name and work of the missionary. As missionaries itinerate, they tell their story by talking about the places where they live, the people with whom they live and serve, and what they are called to do. They share the work that God has called them to do.

District secretary job descriptions have been developed to better assist them in performing their responsibilities.

The Arkansas Conference welcomed Dr. Pierre Diamba Many and his wife Pauline. Dr. Many is currently serving as coordinator of health and medical services of the Central Congo Episcopal Area in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A gynecologist and surgeon, he has been in medical mission since 1984. His wife Pauline, is a nurse and secondary school English teacher. They visited several local churches in our conference.

The Secretary of Global Ministries South Central Jurisdiction meeting was held in New Orleans last October. There we discussed ways to better assist missionaries that itinerate to our conference and shared itineration experiences.

I am excited about missionaries that will be itinerating to our conference in the future and getting our district secretaries more involved in the process.

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

### Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

It is always a challenge to write a brief report about a ministry in our Conference as dynamic as United Methodist Campus Ministry is.

A brief, accurate report is:

- United Methodist Campus Ministries are alive and well
- United Methodist Campus Ministries are making life changing transformations for students across our state.
- We are deeply grateful to the Annual Conference for its

financial support of these ministries.

- Without the support of the Annual Conference, local United Methodist churches, dedicated campus ministry staff and boards along with generous friends of campus ministry, these life transforming ministries could not happen.

If you would like more details about campus ministries, keep reading.

United Methodist Campus Ministries in Arkansas are occurring at Wesley Foundations on nine college campuses, ASU, ATU, HSU/OBU, SAU, UA, UALR, UAM, UAPB and UCA. There are also active ministries on the campuses of Arkansas' two United Methodist Colleges, Hendrix College and Philander Smith College. There are also United Methodist ministries on the campus of UA Fort Smith (The Bridge) and Lyon College.

Campus ministry operates in the midst of the unique mission field that is a college campus. Students arrive at campuses in a wide variety of places on their journeys of faith. Some arrive with well-formed Christian identity and experience while others arrive having been turned off by faith and others have no concept of what the Gospel is about. A large group of students arrive with serious interest in life, faith, and vocation. There are many rich opportunities for engaging students. Each week on campuses there are worship services, small group study opportunities service opportunities and fellowship meals and gatherings. Through these experiences students engage faith and discipleship as they grow in a supportive Christian environment. Campus ministries also provide opportunities for students to gain experience in leadership. This is often an important ingredient in vocational discernment.

The support of the Annual Conference and local churches and individuals is critical to campus ministry. For the past two years (and again this year) the Annual Conference provided a \$45,000 grant for maintenance matching grants. These funds have allowed \$180,000 of maintenance work to be done on our nine Wesley Foundations. Each dollar of the Conference grant is matched by a dollar from local donors to the Wesley Foundations.

In January, we worked with Ozark Mission Project to co-sponsor their Winter Mission. This year over 60 college students spent the first week in January in Baton Rouge, helping repair damaged homes. This experience has been an excellent place for students across the state to meet and come to know each other. These connections have strengthened our individual ministries across the state.

In July 2016, we began sponsoring a coaching group for our campus ministers. Reverend DeeDee Autry is the coach for the group. This group is providing a support network for our campus ministers. It is also enhancing our ministry across the state through sharing ideas as well as our hopes and dreams for our future together making a difference on campuses. Our shared vision is stronger as a result.

In the fall of 2017 we will begin student intern positions on several of our campuses. At this point we have at least 4 fulltime interns. These interns will be recent graduates and leaders in our campus ministries. These interns will provide additional leadership to the ministers. This will also be a time of vocational discernment as interns discover calls to ordained or professional ministry as well as what it means to be a lay leader in ministry. The new money included in our 2017 budget is allowing us to create these internships. They will also be funded as dollar-to-dollar matching grants.

There are so many things going on in United Methodist Campus Ministry, that I could write for pages. We hope this gives you a taste of what is happening. We encourage you to contact the ministries in your area to learn more and find ways to be involved.

There are lots of ways to describe, measure and count ministry. One of the best ways to see the outcome of ministry is through testimony. May I close with a brief excerpt of an email sent to me by Reverend Kavan Dodson, director of the Wesley Foundation at UAM.

"I cannot begin to account all the ways that the Wesley has helped

me during my time here at UAM. When I came to UAM I was not a Christian, and then I became involved with the Wesley Foundation. In the spring of 2014 I was introduced to the Wesley Foundation and by the end of that semester I had professed my faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior. During my time with the Wesley my faith has only grown stronger and they have shown me what it means to not only claim Christianity, but to live in my faith and to exemplify what it means to truly be a Christian. During my time with the Wesley I have learned what a church family is supposed to be, and have found a place where I am accepted no matter my flaws. This is a place that I can come to no matter the day I am having and feel loved and wanted..."

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.

The Board of Laity's primary role continues 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. We believe a key factor in this resourcing is in equipping and strengthening lay leadership in the Arkansas Conference. This past year we elected an Associate Lay Leader and an Associate Director of Lay Servant Ministries, both of whom were added to the Board of Laity membership. These two associate positions 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.

This past February, the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders met with the Directors of Lay Servant Ministries at their convocation in Nashville, Tennessee. Kathy Conley, our Associate Conference Lay Leader, and I joined Jim Boyd at this meeting and came away with a wonderful perspective on how Lay Servant classes can equip laity to live out their call and become deeper disciples of Jesus Christ. I pray that more and more laity in our conference choose to participate in Lay Servant Ministry classes. These classes equip us to become better disciples, and show us opportunities to use our spiritual gifts for God's Kingdom. I am convinced that some stay away from Lay Servant Ministry classes because they are concerned they might be asked to fill a pulpit, when that is not their calling. A Certified Lay Servant is never obligated to preach, but is a person committed to using their spiritual gifts in their local church, their district, or the conference.

Consider signing up for the next preaching class that Lay Servant Ministries offers! I promise it will strengthen your witness and better enable you to tell your faith story. Isn't this what all Christians are called to do?

I am blessed to serve as Arkansas Conference Lay Leader!

Karon Mann  
Arkansas Conference Lay Leader

### Lay Servant Ministries Report

Please go to our [arumc.org](http://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 listed there as well.

The 2016 General Conference once again, changed the way we have been doing things and removed one of our old-time positions as Lay Servants. Local Lay Servant is no longer a position we support as a result. Their rationale, as supported and introduced by the National Lay Servant program or ACDLSM and Discipleship Ministries, was that all laity are Local Lay Servants. Since we want to raise awareness of the training and dedication of those who choose to further their education

in the Lay Servant Ministries Program, it is only fitting that we ask all current Lay Servants to become Certified Lay Servants through regular advanced training. Discipleship Ministries along with the National Lay Servant Education Committee (of which I was asked to be a part of this year and I accepted) is tasked with continuing to develop and print new materials all year long. As a result of this, we will have many new training materials coming out over the next several years. In the past it has taken up to three years to bring a new course to printing.

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

- We now have the Certified Lay Servant, which will be able to serve the local church and the rest of the Conference in whatever capacity needed, including filling in for their pastor. This position is usually not for extended assignments by the D.S. Requirements for this position include having taken the Basic Course, take at least one Advanced Course every three years, and file the Annual Report of the Lay Servant/Speaker every year with the charge conference.
- We also now have the Certified Lay Speaker position, which will be able to serve the local church and also the extended church in whatever capacity needed, including filling in for local Pastors and other Pastors in the connection, week to week, as well as extended assignments by the District Superintendent. Certified Lay Speakers must have taken Basic Course and five Advanced classes 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 and be reviewed and approved every three years by the District and Conference Lay Servant Committees.
- The new position of Lay Speaker, which is a new track inside the Lay Servant Ministries Program, requires the Basic and 5 specific Advanced Courses as required by 2016 General Conference Legislation. Required courses are The Basic Course and Advanced courses on Worship, Prayer, Spiritual Gifts, Preaching, and UM Heritage and Polity.

Each of these positions require at least 10 hours of classroom time every three years or specific approved by District and Conference LSM Committees. This includes 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, then they will be dropped from the program and will have to take the Basic Course and then another Advanced class to be certified again. The District Lay Servant Ministry Committee will recommend by the Pastor of the local church where their membership is held and by a vote of the local charge conference, along the D.S.'s signature on the Annual Lay Servant Report Charge Conference Form, and the Lay Servant/Lay Speaker Committee. Completing this form is required each year to stay in the LSM Program, but does not give you status as a Lay Servant unless you have completed the training classes. Please do not fill out this form if you have not attended classes in three years. Call your District LSM Director for information on how to return to the program.

To enter the new Lay Speaker Track, apply with District LSM Director. Persons applying to become a Lay Speaker will be examined 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

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.

2017 Approved Alternate Service/Training for Certified Lay Servants

- All LSM Classes must be conducted and/or approved through the District Director in order to get credit.
- Be-A-Disciple and other online courses, to be considered on a case-by-case basis for 2017. 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 )
- You must apply to your District Director or Conference Director for any classes taken outside the normal classroom type classes in order to get the proper credit.

Please note that anyone may come to our classes without committing to be a part of Lay Servant Ministries. They 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!

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

Under the 2012 General Conference Legislation, the Lay Servant Ministries Program is a laity-driven, laity-led program. The District and Conference Directors shall be laity. We continue to look for competent laity to 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.

2016 was another banner year for the Lay Servant Ministry Program. We held even more classes across the Connection than we did in 2015, and will continue to do so in 2017. We hope to have classes scheduled in each District. Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville has scheduled LSM classes for 2017 as well as Mt. Eagle Retreat Center in Shirley, Arkansas. Check your District Offices for class information and the [arumc.org/Calendar](http://arumc.org/Calendar).

2016 also began the third 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 7 are:

- Susan Jett - N.E. LSM District Director and Assistant Conference LSM Director
- John Harding - formerly N.E. District –now Southwest District
- Nancy Scott - Southwest District
- Permelia Huffman – Southeast District
- Matt Fox - Northwest District
- Regena Mason - Northwest District
- Ken Beard - Northwest District

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

We have re-organized the South Central Jurisdictional program for Lay Servant Ministries (SCJLSM) after a successful meeting at Mt. Sequoyah last year. We met in Fort Worth, TX this past 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 2016 ongoing efforts to hold classes and enlist laity into our Lay Servant Ministry :

- Southeast District: 2 events, 6 classes, 21 laity attended classes
- Northwest District: 11 classes held, 122 participants
- Central District: 8 events, 12 classes held, and 61 laity attended classes
- Southwest District: 1 events, 2 classes held, and 15 laity attended classes
- Northwest District: 11 events, 24 classes, and 87 laity attended classes ( Mt. Sequoyah and several large churches contributed to these numbers in the N.W. District and we are truly grateful for them.)

We welcome all Churches to hold LSM classes. Contact your District Director for details. Come join us wherever you are in your walk in life and help us “ Unleash the Laity.”

Final Note : As of January 1, 2017, I have retired as the Director of the Southeast District Lay Servant Ministry Program. I have enjoyed the past 20 years as their director but it is time to move on and let someone else use their skills to take the Southeast District LSM program to new heights. Rev. Nan Nelson (formerly a Certified Lay Servant now clergy) has taken over the program as Interim District Director until a dedicated Certified Lay Servant steps forward and accepts the position. I appreciate Nan for helping us out in the meantime very much. Susan Kramer is the NW DDLSM, as well as serving an assignment as a Lay Speaker to a charge, Carole Blanks is the Central DDLSM, Karla Hefty is the SW DDLSM and Susan Jett is the Ne DDLSM as well as Assistant Conference DDLSM, and serving a charge as Lay Speaker Pulpit Supply. Please support each of them in their endeavor to provide leadership in the Arkansas Conference. Come join us in service to our Lord and Savior.

**Jimmie Boyd**

**Director Arkansas Conference Lay Servant Ministries**  
**Director Southeast District Lay Servant Ministries**

### Arkansas Conference Coordinator of Mission Personnel

The Coordinator of Mission Personnel reports a total of 6 missionary personnel from the Arkansas Conference, 2 missionaries from other annual conferences but connected to Arkansas, and 26 retired missionaries. Since last year, 1 person has retired. Current Arkansas missionaries are:

**Banks-Shackelford, Evelyn.** Evelyn has been a United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) commissioned CCW (Church and Community Worker) since 1987. She serves five churches in the Arkansas Delta communities around Marianna. Evelyn’s responsibilities include overseeing a ministry feeding the hungry by operating an area food bank which disburses food to local food pantries and churches, supplying children with backpacks of food on the weekends and coordinating a community garden. Her missionary support code is 982939.

**Copley, Rev. Stephen.** An ordained elder and a GBGM commissioned CCW, Rev. Copley is the Executive Director of both the Arkansas Interfaith Conference and the Arkansas Interfaith Alliance, and the Arkansas Conference Advocates for the Poor. His ministries include issues of concern to the interfaith community, poverty, the environment and immigration. His missionary support code is 982019.

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

**Larson, Cathy.** Cathy has served as a Lay Missioner for the SW District at Open Door Ministry in Jones Mill since November 1992. Open Door provides hot meals every Saturday as well as many other services for children and families.

**Mount, Deaconess Kandi.** Kandi is appointed to Mercy Health Systems in Rogers in the capacity of Chaplain. Kandi works to meet the needs of

her patients, build relationships, and embed spiritual care in all she does. **Soard, Elizabeth.** Commissioned as a United Methodist missionary with GBGM, Elizabeth is assigned to the Mara region of Tanzania as a church planter and discipleship trainer, along with her husband, Eric. Living in Tarime, she feels especially called “to the people of Africa, to help develop programs for women and children, to be an example that women can be strong and respected as equals to men.” Elizabeth is a member of Salem UMC in Conway, and her father is Rev. William Buchanan, Jr. You can follow Elizabeth & Eric’s ministry through their blog: [ingodslife.blogspot.com](http://ingodslife.blogspot.com). Her missionary support code is 3021467.

Active missionaries with connections to and/or supported by the Arkansas conference are:

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

**Soard, Eric.** A commissioned United Methodist missionary with GBGM since 2010, and a commissioned Deacon since 2016, Eric is currently assigned to the Mara region of Tanzania as a church planter and discipleship trainer, along with his wife, Elizabeth. Eric was born in Arkansas but is now a member of the Memphis Annual Conference with membership at Medina First UMC. His missionary support 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 the Arkansas Conference Coordinator of Mission Personnel.

**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 2167 people came in 2016 to relax, renew and be refreshed for ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ. 1823 United Methodist users, 114 UM groups and 34 other groups and 711 other users. Our mission is to provide Christian hospitality and opportunities for holy listening for all. The year round programs here are focused on adults, youth, and families.

In 2016 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, conference events, quilting groups, scrapbooking, Emmaus Leadership Retreat, family reunions, personnel retreats, pastoral retreat and many mission teams from many states and many different countries. 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. 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 2016. Whether you were here on a retreat or just came to help with a project, provided financial support, you have been a vital part of the ministry of Mount Eagle. This is a list of some projects: repair and paint decks, make new signage throughout, pressure washed decks, cut and split firewood, mulch tree limbs, mulch paths, built raised vegetable beds for our garden, picked and ate the produces from that garden, and many other numerous projects. Your willingness to serve has been greatly appreciated.

Partnerships are a very important part of the ministry of Mount Eagle. Thanks to the NOMADS organization and our Arkansas NOMADS, a group of retired United Methodists with RVs, for providing invaluable service and skilled labor. We received a grant from the NOMADS organization

to purchase building materials for their 3 week Spring project. That project was the building of our new Hermitage Cabin that we are building overlooking the pond by the Allen Bruner Campground. Upon completion, the foundation, water lines, and septic system will be all the paid contract labor provided to complete this project. Volunteers from many churches came to help out and give of their time and talents to complete the project. The project is scheduled for completion March 31, 2017.

We received a grant in 2016 from the Conference Camping and Retreat Ministry and those funds were used for two purposes. Part of it went to help with the cost of the Hermitage cabin and the rest went to fund a retreat for Serenity Ridge, our Celebrate Recovery weekend for men in recovery from different addictions. There were 40 men participating or in a support role for those attending. Men from Clinton, Hot Springs Village, Donaldson, and Sheridan, AR. were a part of this retreat. Men from Clinton UMC and Holiday Hill UMC were part of this amazing weekend. Plans are already being made for the same retreat for 2017, anticipating 60 men this year.

In 2016 we hosted a retreat for The CALL of several neighboring counties. This is a Christian foster parent organization that works with the Arkansas DCFS office to provide care for children are placed in foster care in the state of Arkansas. 8 families from Cleburne County The CALL have attended this retreat over the last two years. Van Buren and Stone County have been unable to attend but through new partnerships, several families are planning to attend the 2017 retreat. This is a great opportunity for Mount Eagle to partner in ministry together with these great folks of The CALL as they minister to the children in DCFS in Arkansas

New to Mount Eagle in 2017 will be the addition of the Hermitage Cabin. This is a small secluded cabin that sits in a very serene location overlooking a small pond where deer, turkey, wood ducks, and other animals come to water. The view of the valley will be amazing. It is designed for 1-2 people to disconnect from the stresses of life and reconnect with God. It has a kitchen, small dining table, recliner chairs, full bathroom, bedroom with queen bed, and a 160 square foot screened in back deck with rocking chairs. Take advantage of this and get your time away scheduled for the new cabin.

We are thankful for the blessing of 2016 and look with anticipation for new opportunities in 2017. New programming for 2017 will be our Women’s Retreat called “Sweet Life Café” to be held October 6-8. We are looking forward to having our Silent Centering Prayer Retreat May 7-10 and Oct. 22-25. Pastor Golf Retreat is April 30 – May 1, The CALL in August, and through a joint effort of Clinton UMC, Holiday Hills UMC, Mount Eagle, and the Church of Christ Clinton, we will again host Serenity House Celebrate Recovery Retreat for men with plans to minister to 60 men this year.

We look forward to partnering in 2017 with our greatest partner, the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Mike “Sarge” Leonard, Director**

### 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 2017 Arkansas Conference Mission u will be July 26-29 at University of the Ozarks in Clarksville. The studies this year will be Living As A Covenant Community,

Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church, and Climate Justice. Arkansas Conference Mission u was highlighted in an article in the March issue of response magazine, the official magazine of United Methodist Women.

- 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 11 at St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock.
- The Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women have pledged \$215,000 to United Methodist Women for national and international mission work in 2017.
- 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 would love to have a unit in every church in the conference.

**Submitted by Martha Altom, President**

### Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministry

Our Conference Council on Youth Ministry has had a very successful year. Our events have encouraged our youth to develop stronger relationships with each other and with Christ through the leadership, fellowship, and service opportunities these events have provided.

This year, our media task force has utilized social media to increase attendance and excitement for our events, as well as provide highlights for people who did not attend. A large part of Veritas was livestreamed, and all of our events were documented and shared on Instagram and Facebook. Our media task force displays many leadership skills as they communicate with the other task forces to meet their needs as well as problem solve any issues at our events.

The Youth Service Fund, or YSF, continues to help churches and organizations locally and globally. This year it raised \$6,150. Grants were made to our Mitto task force, Asbury UMC, Hope UMC, Greenbrier FUMC, Methodist Family Health, and Ozark Mission Project.

Over the past several years, our junior high event, Refuge has been held at Shepherd of the Ozarks and has swelled in attendance. Last year, we decided to host the same event with the same talent, speaker, and location on two weekends back to back. We had nearly all spots filled both weekends. Refuge was a huge success!

Shortly after Refuge, CCYM put on Mitto, hosted at St. James in Little Rock. Mitto gave smaller youth groups an opportunity to have a weekend of mission and learn about service so they can take it back to their local communities and churches. In the past, Mitto has struggled in attendance but this year we are brought the numbers up and had a successful and powerful weekend.

After Mitto, CCYM hosted its largest event, Veritas. It was held at



the John Q. Hammons Convention Center in Rogers. This event had over 1,300 attendees. It was a huge success. This year's theme was "Move" encouraging youth to remove negativity from their lives, learn to move with God, and eventually move out of their comfort zones and into the world. Our task force discovered our speaker, Samuel Yuen at last year's Annual Conference, where we also discovered Hannah Foust. Hannah lead a workshop on Saturday afternoon and ended the event with a convicting call to action for the youth of the Arkansas Conference.

As we move into summer, CCYM still has big plans. Choir Tour lead a series of amazing worship services throughout the state, after spending months rehearsing. Now, Assembly is coming up. This year it will be July 24-28 at Hendrix College. Assembly is an event for 7-12 graders and provides a great opportunity to be in fellowship with youth from across the state, create new friendships, and grow closer to God in worship and small groups.

In closing, CCYM had an amazing year filled with blessings that have been amazing to watch. God is surely providing for the United Methodist youth of Arkansas. As 2017 President, I am filled with gratitude to God and this Conference for its focus on young people and the opportunities given to them. I'd like to thank every CCYM youth and adult for making this year possible and answering their call to serve Christ.

**Lexie Bursleson, President**

## Council on Youth & Young Adult Ministries

### Youth Ministries

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

First, we are working on EQUIP 2017 which will be held at Pulaski Heights UMC on August 26. Our keynote speaker will be Rod Hocott who will be entering his 50th year in ministry in 2018. He will be sharing his experience and advice about longevity in ministry and avoiding burnout.

Second, our team will be launching The Mentor Network. This will be a system to pair youth workers with one another to provide short term mentorships for youth workers who are new to youth ministry, looking to work through a particular issue, or just needs a sounding board for new ideas.

Finally, the ARUMC Youth Ministries area works to continually provide support for local churches whether they are looking for a youth worker, need to train volunteers, need resources, etc.

### Young Adult Ministries

The Young Adult Ministries area is in the process of beginning a new season of ministry. The Young Adult Council has begun meeting again and will be working to define the best way for the Young Adult Ministries to move forward within the conference.

The Young Adult Ministries, along with support from the UMFA, the Board of Higher Education, the Board of Discipleship, and MFSA will be sending 20 young adults to Washington DC to participate in the Global Board of Church and Society UM Seminar program in May 2017. They will spend the first 2 days of their trip learning about poverty, hunger and homelessness in the state of Arkansas and on a national level. They will learn about advocacy as a form of working for social justice. On the 3rd day they will use the skills learned in the seminar to visit with Arkansas congressmen and their staffs about these issues. The skills being taught in this seminar will be able to be used in a variety of settings once the young adults return to their local campuses and local churches. The trip will help them develop leadership skills, both specifically for social justice issues in their communities and more general skills that can be applied in any situation. In addition, the 200K Reasons Initiative will be involved in providing a liaison before, during and after the trip to help the young adults find ways to implement ideas and tools they learn in the seminar back in their local church and/

or school. We look forward to offering similar opportunities for young adults in the future.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Moore**

**Youth and Young Adult Coordinator**

## Institution Reports



### Africa University

Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt gratitude, the faithfulness and generosity of the Arkansas Conference in helping Africa University to realize its mission. We thank the congregations of the Arkansas Conference for investing 91.05 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016.

Overall, the AUF achieved a high level of support within The United Methodist Church in 2016. Last year, the participation of local churches in connectional giving enabled 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States to invest 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF. In the Arkansas Conference, giving to the AUF increased by almost seven percent in 2016.

The ongoing support of the Arkansas Conference is of vital and very meaningful to Africa University. Through Africa University, United Methodist congregations help young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. Students are equipped and they respond to the call to transform the world. Thanks to your generosity, the disciple-making mission of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the university's 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Great things are on the horizon for Africa University in the next quarter century. Your Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by:

- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 26 African countries. Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represented more than half of the student body.
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

As part of the observance of the 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members, congregations and districts of the Arkansas Conference to take time out in 2017 to celebrate their journey with Africa University. After all, this ministry draws its mandate, energy and capacity to transform from The United Methodist Church. Regardless of the challenges that arise, Arkansas United Methodists have been steadfast in their support for Africa University. United Methodists sustain this ministry together — praying, loving and sharing our blessings — and there is no other way that we could do it!

Please encourage your congregation to invest 100 percent of its

asking to the AUF and other general church funds. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University's honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special "AU@25" event or an Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University's ministry and invite attendees to each give \$25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary. Let these celebrations affirm and re-energize the longstanding partnership between the Arkansas Conference and Africa University.

Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to faith, hope, and transformation in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who lead and serve in the Arkansas Conference.

**James H. Salley**

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement**



**Boston University School of Theology**

**Boston School of Theology**

Dear Colleagues in the Arkansas Conference:

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) travels with you in the vital journey of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. We celebrate our students, alumni, and church partners, who join hands in serving God and building toward transformed communities.

**BREAKING NEWS:**

- **Congregations:** We welcomed Jonathan Calvillo as a new faculty member in sociology of religion, leading us toward better understanding of congregations and faith identity. See also our website of congregational resources: <http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-2/congregational-research-and-development/>.
- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin program in Transformational Leadership is soaring with deeply committed student cohorts who are widely ecumenical, culturally diverse, and increasingly global. The blended model includes intensives, online courses, and close work with faculty mentors.
- **Scholarships:** We multiplied funding for student scholarships and housing, including the Vincent Machozi Scholarship for African students who seek to cultivate ministries of compassion, justice, & peace in their homelands.
- **Religion and Arts Initiative:** The Initiative sponsored a hymn-writing contest this year, complementing the photography contest last year and STH's rotating art exhibits. The current exhibit focuses on ecological healing: "Sense of Place" by women printmakers from Ecuador and Maine.

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

- **Congregational courses:** Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning together.
- **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** Internships, workshops, and projects that foster justice and reconciliation.
- **Travel seminars:** Courses engaging local communities on Arizona-Mexican border and in Cuba, Germany, and Indonesia.
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan denominations, while building strong programs with the Episcopal Church and

United Church of Christ.

- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring The Journal of Interreligious Studies. The focus is on enriching theological education and developing religious leaders who are faithful and wise.

**TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

- **Campus action:** Work with Boston University to improve accessibility and sustainability: to provide full access for all persons (a work in progress) and to live sustainably with the planet.
- **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

**RENEWED COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:** Celebrating differences while joining together for action.

- **Standing with Standing Rock:** Several BUSTH students and alumni joined indigenous peoples at the Oceti Sakowin Camp in North Dakota to protest the pipeline on sacred Sioux land.
- **Deep conversations:** Faculty, students and administrators have led deep conversations on issues that divide, but with respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

**OTHER NOTABLE HEADLINES:**

- Our own Associate Dean Pamela Lightsey was featured in Boston University's 2016 Annual Report for her pursuit of justice, empowerment, and change.
- Our graduating senior, Rev. Mariama White-Hammond (AME) led the Boston Women's March, and some 75 STH faculty and students marched, calling for social and ecological justice as we build new futures in the United States.
- Students of all theological and social orientations are asking and then acting: "What can I do to make this world better?" "How can I witness to my Christian faith?"

As BUSTH looks back on 2016, it celebrates transformational leaders who have loved God and cared mightily for God's world. Their living legacy gives us hope and courage for the future.

**Blessings and gratitude,  
Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean**



**EMORY**

**CANDLER  
SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY**

**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 thoughtful, principled, and courageous Christian leaders dedicated to 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 offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a 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. 475 students are enrolled, with 51 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 83 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 2016-2017, we awarded nearly \$5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. Plus, our comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

In fall of 2016, Candler welcomed to the faculty Larry Goodpaster as Bishop-in-Residence, and Kendall Soulen as Professor of Systematic Theology. Also this fall, three Candler alumni began their terms as newly elected bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction: David Graves 90T in Alabama-West Florida, R. Lawson Bryan 75T 85T in South Georgia, and Sue Haupt-Johnson 95T in North Georgia.

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



**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 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. 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. 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



**Hendrix College**

The place God calls you is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

-Frederick Buechner

The vision of Hendrix College founder, Reverend Isham Burrow, in providing quality higher education for students as they discern where God is calling them to work and serve in the world continues to be a vital part of our ongoing mission. Throughout the history of Methodism, more than 1,200 Methodist colleges were established. Today, 119 United Methodist institutions of higher education remain in the United States, and Hendrix College is proud to be one of them. Recognized widely as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the country, we are grateful for the support of the Arkansas Annual Conference and its continued relationship with Hendrix. We remain committed to educating the "whole person," enabling our students to lead lives of fulfillment, joy, and service to the church and beyond. We aim to create a space where future lay and clergy leaders may enjoy academic freedom among a diverse student body as well as deepen discipleship through our religious life programs. And, we are privileged to share the journey with students as they discover their gifts and uncover their passions to best serve God's world.

I have enjoyed the finest barbeque that Arkansas has to offer as I continue the tour through Arkansas United Methodist Churches that began in 2014. Thank you for allowing me to share with you what I love about Hendrix and to catch a glimpse of the gracious hospitality of Arkansas United Methodists.

**Ministry / Seminary Exploration**

- Since 2004, 46 Hendrix graduates have enrolled in seminary with 60% of these students attending UM seminaries.
- Eleven recent alumni are currently in seminary.
- In the next two years, we anticipate nine students will enroll in seminary. These are students from the next two year's graduating classes.
- In the next four years, we anticipate fifteen students will enroll in seminary.
- Approximately twelve 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 second year this summer with 25 youth from the South Central 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 Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas. 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.

**Religious Life**

- The UMYF Leadership Scholarship Program is completing its 22nd year. Currently 33 students participate who will eventually join over 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 22 years.
- More than 150 students participate in weekly programming enhanced by funding from the Miller Center including weekly worship and communion, small groups for discipleship, Thursday fellowship dinners, and Bonhoeffer House, an intentional Christian community that lives in one of the residence halls on campus.
- This year, 45 Students applied for 3 planned Miller Center Service Trips to Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas, Washington, DC, and Birmingham, AL.

**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, 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 2017, Hendrix will continue to host the Jr. & Sr. High Assemblies for the Conference Youth.

**Continuing Education / Lectures**

- This year on campus, the College hosted Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament Studies of Vanderbilt Divinity School for the annual John and Marjem Gill Preaching Workshop.

**Funding Received from Outside sources for religious life and ministry support**

- An endowed gift from the John Workman family for a summer internship in churches, non-profits, or journalism.
- An endowed gift from the Wilder family to establish an internship in churches and non-profit agencies.
- Grants from the Lilly Foundation (listed above) for United Methodist youth who are discerning a call to ministry and clergy who are 5-10

years out of seminary.

- A gift from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas to 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.

**Financial Aid/Enrollment**

- For the 2016 calendar year, the College received \$272,707.00 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 \$4.6 million in financial assistance to United Methodist students.
- Of the \$4.6 million dollars, the College annually provides more

than \$144,000 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 financially for the Office of the Chaplain for religious life programming.
  - The College sponsored a UMYF Prospective Student Day for the seventh consecutive year.
  - For the past few years, Hendrix has enrolled an average of 670 Arkansas students each year. The number of students from Arkansas has increased over the past few years.
  - In the fall of 2014, the College launched the Arkansas Advantage Scholarship, which guarantees to meet all of the demonstrated financial need of qualified Arkansas Students.

Hendrix College remains committed to ensuring that all qualified students have access to a Hendrix education, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. The amount of money needed to fund scholarships and financial aid for our students continues to increase each year. This year, Hendrix is providing more than \$38 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 College deeply appreciates its relationship with the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church and the opportunity to fulfill Rev. Burrow's vision to bring together intellectual curiosity, spiritual formation, and vocational discernment. 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.

Sincerely,

**William Tsutsui**  
**President and Professor of History**



**Lydia Patterson Institute**

Every year, Lydia Patterson institute (LPI) becomes a stronger ministry of the United Methodist Church with its eternal mission of changing lives and serving as a catalyst from despair to optimism through knowledge and faith. At least 400 lives are being touched daily. Students are prepared for a life of higher education, and many are brought to Jesus Christ with a promise to Christian service.

Three years ago, LPI added a middle school to its already highly successful high school program. With the addition of the 7th and 8th grades came the integration of the latest state-of-the-art technology available for the classroom. The 9th and 10th grades were upgraded last year, and the 11th and 12th grades were completed this school year. This makes our school the only one in the El Paso area totally technologically operated with Smartboards and E-Pads in every classroom and ebooks in every subject.

The mission of Lydia Patterson is to form bilingual leaders for both church and society, and to provide them with the tools to break the cycle of poverty and make a better life for themselves and their families. This past school year, we graduated 83 seniors. All are in college today. On

graduation night, we announced a total of \$1.6 million in scholarships from United Methodist colleges and universities alone. Our connection with other United Methodist institutions merits mention as to the success of our ministry.

Our job is to help students and their families move forward towards a higher socio-economic level. The challenges are plentiful, but we meet them with faith and optimism. Economic conditions across the border hinder the economic abilities of our parents. This year, the price of gasoline was doubled, and the Mexican peso is in a constant state of devaluation. The effect of the downturn is a need for more scholarships to support our students.

Lydia Patterson Institute, your mission on the U. S. –Mexico border is a promise of hope to those fearing the uncertainties of border issues and the threats of deportation. At a time where politicians and government officials talk about building fences or higher walls, Lydia Patterson is building taller bridges between the two countries to bring families to more equitable means of living, and preparing its students to serve both sides of the border with dignity and integrity in a bi-national setting. We strive to form the bilingual leaders of tomorrow and our next generation of disciples for the transformation of a world of peace and harmony on our U. S. – Mexico borders and beyond.

Thank you for being a part of this redemptive ministry and for joining us in making it a vital one for the next 100 years. Our appreciation goes out to the Bishop and every United Methodist church in this conference and all those who support us with their dollars and their prayers. We extend a warm invitation to visit our campus, whether in a mission tour, work team, or personal stopover, and experience firsthand the life of one of the greatest ministries of the United Methodist Church.



**Memphis Theological Seminary**

Memphis Theological Seminary is pleased to report that theological education for United Methodist students continues to remain vibrant and forward looking. Beginning in the Fall Semester of 2016, Dr. Michael Turner began his appointment as Associate Professor of Wesleyan Studies. Dr. Turner holds the Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University in Church History with a focus upon nineteenth century American Methodism. He teaches all the required UMC courses for ordination (Elder and Deacon) in Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity in addition to a variety of electives in the field of Wesleyan Studies. He has already made a significant contribution to the Seminary and to United Methodist students in particular, teaching and advising UMC students and extending the reach of the Seminary and of Methodism into area churches, districts, and Annual Conferences through short-term courses and seminars.

The Methodist House of Studies at MTS is giving new focus to Wesleyan studies at the Seminary and within the surrounding Annual Conferences that we serve. Six graduating students in 2016 earned the Certificate in Wesleyan Studies, which requires a minimum of five courses focused upon Wesleyan related history, theology, and practice. The Methodist House provides support for all of our UMC students at MTS by regular gatherings for fellowship and mutual learning. Additionally, the Methodist House has sponsored training for clergy covenant group leaders in the Tennessee and Memphis

Annual Conferences during the past year. Currently we are developing a Continuing Education Certificate in Wesleyan Studies in partnership with the Mississippi Annual Conference. Dr. Lee Ramsey (Memphis Annual Conference), Dr. Michael Turner (Western North Carolina Annual Conference), and Rev. Billy Vaughan (Memphis Annual Conference) serve as the Directors and Associate Directors of the Methodist House of Studies. We are pleased that one of the pastoral leaders from the Arkansas Annual Conference, Rev. Aubrietta Jones, is serving on the Advisory Board of the Methodist House.

Enrollment among United Methodist students at MTS has levelled out and is beginning to increase since 2008. Currently, there are 60 United Methodist Students enrolled at MTS with the majority of those students concentrated in our Masters of Divinity Degree and our Masters of Arts in Youth Ministry. An additional 14 students are enrolled at MTS from the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, with whom we maintain close, supportive relations through the Methodist House of Studies.

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

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. G. Lee Ramsey, Jr.**

**Methodist House of Studies, Director  
Foster Professor of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics**



**Methodist Family Health**

Methodist Family Health is proud to be part of the United Methodist connectional system. Our roots are deep, going back to 1899 when the Methodists of Arkansas established the Methodist Orphanage to address the pressing needs of orphaned children. As society changed and the needs of children evolved, the orphanage became the Methodist Children’s Home, which still operates today within the structure of Methodist Family Health.

Today’s Methodist Family Health is a caring and effective provider of comprehensive behavioral and mental health care services to children, adolescents and families in Arkansas. Methodist Family Health is not only a healthcare organization but a mission that all United Methodists in Arkansas are encouraged to know about, to utilize, to support and to celebrate.

The mission of 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 530 full- and part-time employees and serves thousands of clients daily. Programs and services are located in 21 cities across the state.

Methodist Family Health is staffed by highly trained 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.

Methodist Family Health’s nonprofit organizations currently provide care via a statewide network of therapeutic group homes, a behavioral hospital, residential treatment centers, emergency shelter, day treatment programs and counseling clinics.

- Therapeutic group homes provide a family-like setting in

the community while, at the same time, offering necessary emotional and behavioral treatment. Each home provides care for up to 8 youth, ages 12 to 18. There are separate homes for boys and girls. Homes are located in Fayetteville, Heber Springs, Little Rock, Helena-West Helena, Magnolia, Searcy and Springdale.

- The 60-bed Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle serves children and adolescents ages 3 to 17 who are in need of highly coordinated care.
- Residential Treatment Centers are designed for children and adolescents ages 6 to 17 who are struggling with chronic issues. The goal of the centers, located in Little Rock and Bono, is to stabilize behavior and return the client to a less-restrictive environment. The two RTCs are equipped to care for a total of 65 boys and girls.
- The Emergency Shelter offers a nurturing environment for up to 5 children ages 6 to 18 who are in the custody of the state Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and have nowhere else to go. The shelter is located in Little Rock and can also serve as a temporary placement for DCFS youth who are awaiting a more permanent placement.
- Therapeutic Day Treatment programs are located in Benton and Little Rock. Each of the schools within this program serve up to 60 children, from kindergarten to 12th grade, who are unable to perform in a regular academic setting and are in need of additional educational, behavioral and emotional support to be successful.
- Methodist Counseling Clinic is an outpatient program that offers individual, group and family counseling services, psychological testing, psychiatric assessments, medication management and other therapeutic services. Clinics are located in Alma, Batesville, Cherokee Village, Fayetteville, Heber Springs, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock and Magnolia. School-based counseling services are located in Harrisburg, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Lincoln, Nettleton, Van Buren County, Vilonia and White County.
- Additional specialized programs within the Methodist Family Health Continuum of Care include: Arkansas CARES (Center for Addictions, Research, Education and Service), which offers treatment for women with mental health and substance abuse disorders and their children under age 12; and Kaleidoscope Grief Center, which offers therapy, education and activities for grieving children, teens and their families. Both are located in Little Rock.

All programs use the Teaching-Family Model, a highly structured treatment approach proven to be effective with troubled children. The model uses positive, non-punitive interactions to encourage behavior change and achieve positive outcomes. Methodist Family Health is the only behavioral healthcare system in the state that uses the Teaching-Family Model.

Pastoral care is an important aspect of the care we offer. Methodist Family Health offers Bible studies, spirituality services, devotionals and many special events. Our Bible Fund makes a Bible available to every client who wishes to receive one. We are blessed by the pastoral leadership of Rev. Scott Moore, chaplain, and Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks, director of ministries, and the ongoing support of United Methodist clergy and laity all across the state. We are very grateful that congregations throughout Arkansas continue to be welcoming and nurturing friends to the young clients in our many programs.

Methodist Family Health receives no apportioned funds from the Arkansas Conference, thus the direct support of United Methodist congregations and individuals is crucial. We deeply appreciate the support congregations around the state have shown, through

gifts (both in-kind and monetary), volunteerism, and caring for and nurturing children in our care. We appreciate the Arkansas Conference for designating Methodist Family Health as a "supported organization" of the conference and allowing us to tell the story of Methodist Family Health and collect a special offering in churches each December.

Generous donors made the following activities possible for our children and youth last year:



For those churches, church groups and individuals interested in learning more about how they can partner with us and support our efforts to make a difference in the lives of children and families in Arkansas, consider these opportunities:

- Encourage your church's participation in the annual Christmas Campaign and special offering in December and make an annual contribution.
- Be an Ambassador for Methodist Family Health in your church and community. We need local representatives to make sure parishioners know about Methodist Family Health, our programs, services and special events. For more about the Ambassador program, contact Maggie Beeler at [mbeeler@methodistfamily.org](mailto:mbeeler@methodistfamily.org) or 501.906.4220.
- Invite a representative of Methodist Family Health to speak to your congregation, class or church gathering. Maggie Beeler can help with that also.
- Give to the Rev. Robert Regnier Memorial Camp Fund that allows children in our care to enjoy a summer camp experience and the beauty of Camp Tanako. Support the MFH Bible Fund that makes a Bible available to every child, teen and mother who enters a Methodist Family Health residential program. Contact Carolyn McCone at [cmccone@methodistfamily.org](mailto:cmccone@methodistfamily.org) or 501.906.4202, or give online at [www.methodistfamily.org](http://www.methodistfamily.org).
- Join the Get Up & Give collection drive during Lent and collect necessity, recreational and activity items for our children and youth. Contact Jane Dennis for details at [jdennis@methodistfamily.org](mailto:jdennis@methodistfamily.org) or 501.906.4210.
- Take part in the newest event of 2017: Bright Night, coming up August 4. This exciting new event at Little Rock's Big Rock Fun Park will offer a variety of fun games and activities for youth groups, church groups and the whole family. It will be a celebration of Methodist Family Health and our many amazing supporters. Denise Luft is the contact at [dluft@methodistfamily.org](mailto:dluft@methodistfamily.org) or 501.906.4201.
- To learn more about volunteer opportunities, immediate needs and ways to support Methodist Family Health, ask Jamie Griffith at [jgriffith@methodistfamily.org](mailto:jgriffith@methodistfamily.org) or 501.906.4209.

We are extremely proud to be caring for Arkansas' children and families and carrying on the tradition that Methodists of Arkansas began more than 118 years ago. Our hope is that United Methodists across the state consider Methodist Family Health a valuable resource, partner in ministry and extension of their local church outreach to children and families.

**Andy Altom, President & CEO**  
**Methodist Family Health**



**Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare**

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

With 1,650 licensed beds and 63,655 inpatient discharges in 2016, we provided care for 386,217 emergency department visits. MLH is the second largest private employer in our community, employing nearly 14,000 associates, including 3,500 nurses. Our clinical areas of focus include cardiology, oncology, neurosciences, women’s services, pediatrics, and transplant services. Our work is grounded in our mission. As a faith-based institution, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church challenge us to establish an environment where the community provides potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their humanity and faith. We believe we have a responsibility to innovate, sponsor and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage development of the fullest potential in individuals.

Leading MLH in this mission is our President and Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ugwueke, who assumed his current role in January 2017. Michael takes over for Gary Shorb, who retired from MLH in December 2016. Michael assumed the role of president and chief operating officer of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in May 2014. For the year prior, he served as COO of Methodist. As COO, he provided strategic and operational leadership for the system’s five adult inpatient hospitals and affiliated companies. Ugwueke previously served as senior vice president for Methodist North and South Hospitals. Michael’s leadership of two hospitals allowed a more rapid transfer of best practices and an increase in system-wide standardization. Prior to assuming this role, he served as administrator/CEO of Methodist South Hospital.

MLH celebrates many recent accomplishments, including recognition by Fortune magazine as one of the 100 best companies to work for in the nation. MLH was again recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a “Best Regional Hospital”, while Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital was named a “Best Children’s Hospital.” Also, Le Bonheur Children’s has officially been designated as a Magnet hospital by the American Nursing Credentialing Center. The Magnet designation is a distinction that only 7% of hospitals in the country have earned, and this achievement is a testament to the exceptional care that distinguishes Le Bonheur and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

Our Faith & Health Division continues to provide significant and innovative service and programming. Our Congregational Health Network works with nearly 700 congregations in a covenant relationship to educate, serve, and minister to congregants and their communities, promoting better health outcomes. Our Faith and Health team is addressing disparities of care in many areas. In collaboration with partners like West Cancer Center, Church Health, and others, we are serving the underserved and offering healing and hope to those who need it 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 continue our work with the Emory Center for Ethics Consortium as we pay attention to the vital role of ethics in healthcare decision-making. Also, providing skilled and compassionate spiritual care is still central to our mission. Throughout MLH, our team of chaplains cares for patients, families, and associates, and we also operate a fully accredited Clinical Pastoral Education Center. We continue to provide counseling and care through our Employee Assistance Program, and we connect with students and professionals at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center through the work

1 of the Faith Health Collaborative. 70  
 2 We are deeply appreciative of the support of the Church and 71  
 3 the three annual conferences who birthed us and continue to be vital 72  
 4 partners. The healing ministry of Christ continues to be at our center. 73  
 5 **Michael Ugwueke, President & CEO** 74  
 6 75



**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 the cornerstone 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 94
- To operate with compassion and concern for the beneficiaries of our services 95
- To lead the way in providing services for the elderly 97
- To improve and enhance the quality of life for older adults in Arkansas 98

**III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Officers 100
- President: Taylor Prewitt, MD 101
- Vice President: Phillip Bryant 102
- Secretary: Ben Shipley 103
- Treasurer: George Beattie 104
- Board of Directors 105
- Beattie, George Treasurer 106
- 2906 So. Carthage, Fort Smith, AR 72901 107
- Bryant, Phillip Vice President 108
- 8416 Mile Tree Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72903-4322 109
- Callaway, Dr. Michael 110
- 8115 Dover Circle, Fort Smith, AR. 72903 111
- Coburn, Rev. Stephen 112
- 3200 N Malinda Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703-4051 113
- Cravens, Lori 114
- 3507 S O St, Fort Smith, AR 72903-2922 115
- Dooly, Bryant 116
- 1812 Wheaton Trace, Fort Smith, AR. 72908 117
- Dunn, Anne 118
- 1600 Rannoch Trace, Fort Smith AR 72908 119
- Edwards, Bill 120
- 8913 Canterbury Cove, Fort Smith, AR 72903 121
- Gaines, Sue 122
- 1709 Valley View, Van Buren, AR 72956 123
- Gedosh, JoAnn 124
- 8812 Canterbury Cove, Fort Smith, AR 72903 125
- Prewitt, Dr. Taylor President 126
- 8311 Mile Tree, Fort Smith, AR 72903 127
- Settle, John 128
- 3403 Old Oak Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72903 129
- Shipley, Ben Secretary 131
- 3216 Cliff Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72903-5915 132
- Tinsley, Dovie 133
- 3117 South 95th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903 134
- Wohlford, Charles 135
- 64 Haven Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72901 136
- Leffring, Harvey CEO (non-Board Member) 137
- 811 Euper Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72903 138

**IV. Administrative Staff Members**

- CEO, Harvey Leffring
- Administrator, Carolyn McCall
- Chief Financial Officer, Carl Norris
- Director of Philanthropy, James Kimbrough
- Resident Manager, Rhonda Haynes
- Medical Director, Dr. Bradley Short
- Director of Nursing Services, Margit Krellwitz, MSN, R.N.
- Campus Chaplain, Rev. Max Goins

**IV. Goals & Accomplishments 2015-2016**

- Methodist Village Senior Living, in positioning itself as a Life Plan Community, will have ground-breaking ceremonies for its new 45-bed Assisted Living building in July, 2017. This facility will include 28 beds for assisted living and 17 beds for memory care.
- The skilled nursing facility continues to be recognized as a five-star facility. Average daily census has increased from 119 to an average of 131 residents per day, which is approximately 95% capacity.
- The Chicago office of Plante Moran Living Forward is providing integrated strategic, financial, operational and development advisory services to coordinate the building project.
- 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.
- Rev. Max Goins, a retired Methodist minister, has served as the facility chaplain since 2015.
- The health & rehab facility continues to partner with two local Hospice providers as well as a Therapy provider to offer expanded services to its clients.
- Methodist Health & Rehab continues to provide Medicare Part A and B therapy to its residents.
- Methodist Village continues to provide low rent housing for senior adults through Methodist Village.
- Methodist Health & Rehab serves as a clinical rotation site for University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Nursing Students as well as clinical site for Certified Nursing Assistant training classes.
- Bible Study opportunities for both residents and staff members are available on a weekly basis.
- Both facilities have charitable contribution accounts as follows:
  1. Methodist Village and Methodist Health & Rehab each has one account which is set up for general contributions used for the purchase of needed equipment and general needs of the facility.
  2. Methodist Health & Rehab has four accounts:
    - (a) Endowment Account used for improvements.
    - (b) Bess Collier Memorial Fund is used for purchasing personal needs of its clients such as clothing, hair care, and appliances such as hearing aids, dentures, etc;
    - (c) Gardening Fund established for grounds improvement.
    - (d) Chapel Fund established for the Chapel fund be utilized to build an expanded Chapel and provide office space for our Chaplain. Contributions to this fund are actively invited from friends of Methodist Health & Rehab and Village to further the facilities for ministry at our campus.



**Ozark Mission Project**

Ozark Mission Project (OMP) is committed to a student leadership model, where young adults in college and graduate school lead our summer programs. We believe in this leadership model because it is powerful for campers to see and interact with Christian role models who are close to their own age. Over our 31 years of ministry, we've had many of our college leaders receive a calling to go into full-time ministry because of the experience they had at Ozark Mission Project. Our past and present college leaders have helped transform lives through sharing the love of Jesus with our campers and neighbors.

At OMP campers have the opportunity to do construction, painting, minor repair, yard work or partner with a local nonprofit in their community. We try to help our students understand that camp isn't about the project or for our own glory, but about building relationships with our neighbors through service, while spreading God's love. This past summer, we hosted 41 mission teams, which represented groups from Arkansas and Colorado.

This January, we had 90 college students travel to Baton Rouge to help with flood relief. These students from Wesley Foundations across our state experienced ministry with Revive 225, a ministry of First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge. The group worked at 11 different homes, serving a total of 40 individual neighbors.

Because of the impact missions has made on our middle school, high school and college age volunteers, we decided to launch OMP 101. Through our partnership with St. Paul UMC in Little Rock, this camp will be 3 days for children that have completed the 4th and 5th grade. At our children's camp, we use hands-on mission education to show them that no matter their age, they too can be a part of God's amazing work. Each year's mission theme educates children about new places and people groups, with a focus on how to be a good neighbor.

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus calls us to serve the least of these. Many times the families our campers serve don't have the physical or financial resources to do the projects themselves. Thankfully, because of our volunteer camp directors, college staff and volunteer staff, we are able to visit each neighbor and offer assistance.

If your church partners with us, THANK YOU. We hope to add more partners every year and expand our volunteer teams. We have a place for you at Ozark Mission Project. Some of our volunteer opportunities include cooking, construction, music, worship, design, programing and serving on our prayer teams.

For more information about becoming a host church, volunteering or sending a group to OMP, visit our website at [ozarkmissionproject.org](http://ozarkmissionproject.org) or call 501-664-3232.

**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, including: two Master of Divinity students.



- Qualifying students can receive \$6,000 each in need-based aid.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2016-17 academic year totals 342 students, of which more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than 45 percent are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 51 percent male and 49 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.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Perkins welcomed the appointment of Dr. Craig C. Hill as Dean and Professor of New Testament. Dean Hill most recently served as Executive Director of the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Christian Practice programs at Duke, as well as Research Professor of Theological Pedagogy. Additionally, he served at, among other institutions, Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., Yale Divinity School, the University of Cambridge, England, and at seminaries in Moscow, Russia, and Seoul, South Korea.
- In looking ahead to its exciting and vibrant future, Perkins instituted the first formal market/marketing study undertaken by school in a decade. Working in conjunction with an external consulting group, the study is an effort to gauge feedback from Perkins alumni, students, faculty, staff and other key constituencies on how best to guide the school during its next phase forward. One essential component of that study was the creation of the Perkins Engagement Team, a group of key staff and faculty who meet every other week to generate ideas, formulate strategy and review progress related to Perkins' admissions, recruiting and marketing functions.
- Renowned biblical scholar N.T. Wright was the featured lecturer as Perkins hosted "Simply Wright: N.T. Wright at Perkins | SMU" on Nov. 15-17, 2016. Wright gave three nightly lectures, which were free to the public and drew more than 3,000 attendees, and directed workshops for the 120 conference attendees during the day. To date, videos of the three lectures have garnered more than 35,000 views on the Perkins YouTube channel.
- Dr. Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi, Professor of World Christianities and Mission Studies at Perkins, was appointed to serve as the director for the Doctor of Ministry Program at Perkins. He joined the Perkins faculty in July 2010, having previously served as Professor of World Christianity at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, from 1994-2010.
- Bart Patton, who has nearly 20 years of experience in ministry, joined Perkins as its Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Education. He provides oversight and strategic planning for Perkins' programs for high school youth and their families, young adults, and practitioners who work with these constituencies. Additionally, Patton will be the point person for connecting Perkins and SMU to church and community organizations that work with youth and their families and with young adults.
- Perkins, in conjunction with the Houston Methodist Hospital system, began offering seminars and courses to educate hospital staff and personnel on the role of theology and healing.

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.

**Grace and Peace,**

**Craig C. Hill**

**Dean and Professor of New Testamen**



**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.

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 Officer of Philander Smith College. While this report will focus on the last twelve months specifically, it cannot be done without acknowledging that January 1, 2017 marked the start of my third year as the 14th President of Philander Smith College. In reflecting on my journey, I remain committed to the personal and professional ministry with which God has blessed me. As we move into the 140th Anniversary of our Dear PSC, I know that the mission of this great institution is more important now than ever. Our commitments to taking students from where they are, introducing them to our cultural norms (which include Respect for Self; Respect for Others; Respect for PSC; Leadership; Scholarship; Spirituality; and Service), and sending them out to be dynamic leaders and scholars remain our primary focus.

**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 Transformative Initiative. The College budgeted \$75,000 this past year for the Initiative. The budget included scholarships, programs and seminars. The College continues to use funds from the Conference to implement community health fairs and domestic violence seminars in the Philander Smith College Community.

1. Philander Smith College Campus Culture Transformative Initiative (CCTI): The Philander Smith College Campus Culture Initiative creates a culture of high performance and high expectations with a campus wide persistence of spiritual values, mutual respect, and appreciation of differences. The CCTI facilitates campus-wide assessment of perceptions, morals, values and willingness to change and focuses 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 is committed to providing a broader foundation for its students to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. Through the CCTI, PSC redresses 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 strive to live by. These values are:

- Respect for Self
- Respect for Others
- Respect for PSC
- Scholarship
- Service

- Spirituality
- Leadership.

2. Scholarships for Students: Through this funding, PSC strives to create 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
  - (a) Salaries & Benefits
  - (b) Weekly Chapel Services
  - (c) Sending Students to United Methodist Church Conferences
  - (d) Religious Emphasis Week
- Health Services/ Community Outreach
  - (a) Intramural Sports
  - (b) Community Health Fairs
  - (c) Domestic Violence Seminars
- Other
  - (a) Dollars for Scholars Program
  - (b) In-Kind Facility Usage
  - (c) Bless the Mic Lecture Series

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 and Homelessness Awareness), 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 never 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:**

Key Institutional Successes: The second year of my tenure as President of Philander Smith College has allowed us to focus broadly on what it will take to move Philander Forward. In accordance with our collective agreement to dream big for PSC, we set ambitious goals and achieve some amazing, even historic, milestones for the College. We have done so in the midst of unrelenting pressures and continual assaults against American higher education, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), in particular. However, we are assured that God has placed us together for this appointed season and time under Heaven to do all the good we can through His power and might. We are moving Philander Forward, and I am pleased to share the following examples of how our Forward Movement continued to evolve during the period of January 1, 2016 – January 1, 2017:

- We successfully planned and implemented the first two Campus Culture Transformation Trainings for Faculty and Staff in partnership with the Auburn Theological Seminary.
- The College hosted a successful Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in November 2016, which included the PSC Community packing over 5,000 meals through the Pack Shack Program and providing 148 food baskets to local families during the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- We accompanied a delegation of male students to the Arkansas Summit on the African American Male in October 2016, which engaged Black male students from Shorter College, University of Central

1	Arkansas, University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff, Arkansas Baptist College,	70
2	and Philander Smith College.	71
3	• We established the Office of Sponsored Programs and	72
4	Undergraduate Research (S.P.U.R.), and appointed dedicated personnel	73
5	to address PSC’s efforts in these areas.	74
6	• The College hosted a successful Alumni Connection Event in	75
7	the Dallas/Fort Worth Area in October 2016, which included a special	76
8	performance by the Philander Smith Collegiate Choir at St. Andrews	77
9	United Methodist Church and Hamilton Park United Methodist Church.	78
10	• The 2nd Annual President’s Scholarship Gala was a tremendous	79
11	success. Through these efforts, we raised \$320,000 that will be	80
12	earmarked for student scholarships.	81
13	• PSC received final approval and authorization from the Higher	82
14	Learning Commission to officially launch our Online Criminal Justice	83
15	Degree Program in partnership with Savant Learning Systems.	84
16	• We strengthened the Division of Education by taking action on	85
17	several key items, which included:	86
18	1. filled key personnel vacancies	87
19	2. implemented a specialized program to support student success	88
20	on the PRAXIS I Examination	89
21	3. increased the number of majors from four to twenty-one.	90
22	• The College secured nearly \$30,000 in grant funding from the Roy	91
23	and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust.	92
24	• Philander is proud to have two students named Lina H. McCord	93
25	Summer Interns for 2017. PSC Sophomore Russell Williams, III and PSC	94
26	Junior Tiaara Anderson are among the eight student cohort for the 2017	95
27	Summer Intern Program.	96
28	• Over thirty student-athletes were recognized at the Athletic	97
29	Academic Recognition Ceremony for achieving a grade point average of	98
30	3.0 or higher during the Fall 2016 Semester. Each student-athlete was	99
31	recognized during a special ceremony held during the halftime of the	100
32	January 23, 2017 Panther Basketball Games.	101
33	• Under the direction of Dr. Deidra A. Coleman, students RaQuedra	102
34	Lee, a sophomore Biology major at PSC, and Craig Steele, Jr., a junior	103
35	Mathematics major at PSC, had poster presentations accepted and will be	104
36	presented at the 2017 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia.	105
37	• Under the direction of Dr. Jocelyn Moore and Dr. Deidra A.	106
38	Coleman, freshman Biology and Mathematics major Dustin Ford had	107
39	poster presentations accepted at several national conferences.	108
40	Dustin presented at the 2016 North Carolina at Greensboro Regional	109
41	Mathematic and Statistic Conference, the 2017 Joint Mathematics	110
42	Meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Eighth Annual Undergraduate	111
43	Research Conference at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics held	112
44	at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis in	113
45	Knoxville, Tennessee.	114
46	• PSC launched a new philander.edu website that offers an enhanced	115
47	virtual experience for Philander Smith College.	116
48	• Hosted the 2nd Annual Legislative Reception with more than 25	117
49	Arkansas Legislators in attendance.	118
50	• Homecoming 2016 was one of the most successful PSC	119
51	Homecomings in recent years! With a record number of alumni visiting	120
52	throughout the week, game wins for both our Women’s and Men’s Teams,	121
53	and over \$50,000 in fundraising activity (as compared to approximately	122
54	\$27,000 in 2015), the week-long celebration was well received by current	123
55	students and alumni.	124
56	• In our efforts to increase fundraising and friend-raising, we hosted	125
57	a Donor Appreciation Reception at the home of Kaki Hockersmith in	126
58	November 2016 with several key donors in attendance.	127
59	• Through our efforts in establishing Panther Village at South	128
60	Campus, we successfully transitioned 56 students from the La Quinta	129
61	Inn and Conference Center before the close of the Fall 2016 Semester.	130
62	• In working through a partnership with the Little Rock Police	131
63	Department to provide a safer and more secure community around the	132
64	campus perimeter, Philander Smith College is now the owner of one	133
65	security vehicle that was graciously donated to us by the Little Rock	134
66	Police Department.	135
67	• The College officially launched the first courses offered through	136
68		137
69		138

our WISE-P3 Initiative on the main campus in Fall 2016.

- In the spirit of celebration and appreciation, for the first year in several years, we were able to issue a special Christmas gift to all faculty and staff. In addition, we issued special stipends to employees with 15 or more years of service.

- The Men's and Women's Basketball Teams dedicated one of our home basketball games to the Nehemiah House. Through these efforts, we collected and donated 11 bags of paper products for use by its residents.

- We implemented a formal mid-year budget review process to strengthen our accountability and responsibility in financial management.

- We received and accepted an invitation to speak at the annual Bishop's Club Luncheon and established membership.

- We witnessed the culmination of our 10-Year Long-Range Plan process, which received Board of Trustees Approval at the February 2017 Board Meeting.

- The College successfully hosted the Beta Class of the S.T.A.R.T. Summer Bridge Program in summer 2016. In its second year, the Program almost doubled in size with over 135 students participating (compared to 75 in the first year), with notable growth and the strongest success with students participating in the Christian Scholars Track.

- We are nearing the completion our work in Re-Imagining the Social Justice Institute at Philander Smith College. Using the mantra Social Justice 2.0, the re-imagined work is deeply rooted in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

The educational mission of the UMC continues to be one of the most amazing aspects of the Church's Doctrine to learn and understand. My journey as a new President who leads a UMC Affiliated College has taken on new meaning. Over the last two years, I have learned at least four unique aspects of UMC Education and its commitment to HBCUs.

Fact 1 – It was during the 1866 Council of Bishops Meeting, one year after the passage of the Freedman's Act of 1865, that the Bishops passed legislation that promoted the establishment of institutions to educate newly freed slaves and their children.

Fact 2 – The passage of the Freedman's Aid Act resulted in the proliferation of 12 educational institutions to serve freedmen and their children. This ultimately led to the establishment of 12 Historically Black Colleges of the United Methodist Church (Then the Methodist Church). Although there are only 11 remaining HBCUs affiliated with the UMC, this still represents the largest number of institutions of their type affiliated with any large organized church body.

Fact 3 – The Accreditation Process established by the United Methodist Church (The University Senate) served as the foundation for all regional accreditation agencies in the United States.

Fact 4 – The United Methodist Church is the only church body with a fund specifically designated to assist its HBCUs. This fund is titled —The Black College Fund which provides unrestricted support for the 11 UMC HBCUs. What amazing knowledge and information. The meeting also reaffirmed a number of salient issues facing the UMC today as it prepares for the upcoming General Conference.

There is truly a symbiotic relationship between the United Methodist Churches and Church-Related United Methodist Colleges and Universities. I have been honored, during my tenure as President, to experience the interconnectedness in a number of ways.

In this third year of leadership, I am pleased to report that Philander Smith College is, without doubt, Moving Forward. As an institution of higher education, our greatest assets are our students, faculty, staff and, ultimately, our alumni. The engine that will propel our journey FORWARD will be our imagination, innovation, ingenuity, creativity, and hard work, coupled with an entrepreneurial spirit, all hallmarks of PSC's 140 year history.

The path FORWARD calls for us to recruit and support the strongest student population possible. We will also need to make sure that we have, and adequately undergird, a world-class faculty. However, these elements alone will not ensure that our overall goals are achieved. Our desire to move FORWARD has led to the formulation of a comprehensive

1 long-range strategic plan. This plan details precisely how we will achieve 70  
 2 the heightened greatness to which we aspire. Additionally, it displays 71  
 3 the roadmap that will ensure that we are moving with intention toward 72  
 4 achieving our goals. 73

Roderick Smothers, Sr., Ph.D. 74  
 President 75



### Saint Paul School of Theology

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with two campuses, in Kansas and Oklahoma.

This past 2015-2016 academic year, Saint Paul enrolled 168 students from 15 annual conferences and 5 countries on both campuses. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 194 students in three midwest locations. Course of Study will expand course offerings to Hays, Kansas beginning Fall 2017.

Rev. Neil B. Blair became president of the seminary July 2016. Blair is a 1980 Master of Divinity graduate of Saint Paul and an ordained elder. He most recently served as the Executive Director for Institutional Advancement for the UM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Saint Paul School of Theology and Oklahoma City University partnered to offer a 3+3 accelerated degree program. Under this arrangement, OCU students will complete 3 years of undergraduate studies in the pre-seminary track and begin their 4th year as an MDiv student at Saint Paul School of Theology. Students prepare for ordination/entry into ministry in six years instead of the usual seven, while earning both B.A. and M.Div. degrees. The accelerated program saves students time and money.

Saint Paul and The Academy for Spiritual Formation have partnered to offer a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in Prophetic Witness and Service with an emphasis in Spiritual Formation. This is the first time a seminary has worked with The Academy for Spiritual Formation, a ministry of The Upper Room, to co-develop an advanced degree.

Saint Paul is also partnering with the Academy to host a 5-Day spiritual formation retreat with the theme "Draw the Circle Wide". The summer retreat includes community and individual reflection about how spiritual disciplines help develop our listening and global language of love. Dr. Amy Oden, Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality, is a lead organizer.

Rev. Casey Sigmon served as a visiting professor in a year-long professorship as part of the Vanderbilt program in Theology and Practice. Sigmon co-taught a preaching class with Dr. Mike Graves this fall and a course entitled, "Preaching in the Digital Age" based on her dissertation research this spring.

Saint Paul now offers a Certificate in Theological Formation. The certificate is 24 credit hours of courses all taught by Saint Paul faculty. Classes may be completed entirely online or through a combination of online and on-campus offerings.

Dr. Angela Sims' work in oral history preserves the memory of elder African Americans in her recently published book, Lynched: The Power of Memory in a Culture of Terror. Collaborative faculty books include Transforming Community: The Wesleyan Way to Missional Congregations by Saint Paul professor Dr. Hal Knight and Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr. and Coming Full Circle: Constructing Native Christian Theology by Saint Paul professor Dr. Elaine Robinson and Rev. Steven Charleston.

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

Heather Snodgrass 136  
 Director of Communications 137



**Southern Methodist University**

More than 100 years ago the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had the foresight to understand what a great institution of higher education could mean for the ambitious young city of Dallas. Southern Methodist University continues to mark exciting developments as students and faculty pursue opportunities that provide a platform for making global impact. Recent highlights include:

In fall 2016 SMU's total enrollment of 11,739 included 6,521 undergraduates and 5,218 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 26 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,719 (more than 14 percent of total enrollment) represented 124 foreign countries.

SMU ranks among the nation's top universities. In the 2017 U.S. News & World Report listings, SMU ranks 56th among 310 of the "best national universities." Several individual schools and academic programs also earned national rankings.

SMU received \$26 million in external funding during 2015-16 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.

In January, SMU received a \$2 million gift from SMU Trustee emeritus and longtime benefactor Cary M. Maguire to endow the directorship of SMU's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility. The Maguire Center supports ethics-related education and activities for students and faculty, as well as outreach to community, private and public institutions. Also in January, SMU received a \$2.5 million gift from AT&T to endow the AT&T Center for Virtualization to fund its research to support the fast, reliable cloud-based telecommunications necessary for global connectivity. Announced in October, a \$1.7 million grant from the Texas Instruments (TI) Foundation will help fund the STEM Teacher Academy at SMU's Simmons School of Education and Human Development to help Dallas ISD teachers develop methods for engaging students in science.

In July, Craig C. Hill became the new dean at SMU's Perkins School of Theology, after the former Dean William B. Lawrence retired in May. Hill came to SMU from Duke University, where he had served as executive director of the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Christian Practice programs and as research professor of theological pedagogy. Also in July, Maria Dixon Hall, associate professor of organizational communication and director of corporate communication and public affairs, was named as the provost's senior advisor for campus cultural intelligence initiatives. Hall leads the initiative to cultivate a campus culture that equips faculty, staff and students to engage with today's culturally complex world.

Frederick R. Chang, director of SMU's Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security in the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and inducted into the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas.

Sabri Ates, associate professor in SMU's Clements Department of History in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and Zachary Wallmark, assistant professor and chair of music history at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, received fellowship grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities – the only two recipients in North Texas from the current funding cycle.

In fall, SMU opened its new Dr. Bob Smith Health Center, which provides comprehensive medical care to students. The two-story building houses medical and counseling programs, a full-service pharmacy and SMU's health education program. Students returning to campus also celebrated a transformed Fondren Library, which includes new common spaces, study zones and a Starbucks.

SMU hosted inspirational speakers at its 2016 Commencement ceremonies. In May, Richard Templeton, SMU Board of Trustee member, and Texas Instruments CEO, with his wife, Mary Templeton, philanthropist and community volunteer, shared lessons learned from a swimming accident two and a half years ago that left Mrs. Templeton paralyzed. Mr. Templeton touted resiliency as a critical personal characteristic, and Mrs. Templeton challenged the graduates to jump into opportunities to make a difference as they begin their next life phase. In December, retired Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown, who gained national attention for his handling of a gunman's July 2016 ambush of five police officers, told the graduates, "you may be the next greatest generation of heroes in this country."

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**

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas has a history of supporting events that enhance Conference ministries, from sponsorship of the Vernon and Eva Lee Paysinger Hunger Summit to leadership development scholarships for the Young Preachers Festival.

In addition to making grants to existing events, UMFA has begun to initiate its own events that add value to Arkansas Conference ministries. Rev. Mackey Yokem joined the UMFA staff as Grants Administrator to oversee and monitor Foundation grants and help coordinate sponsored events. New UMFA sponsored events include:

- Deciphering Discernment – A small group of clergy and lay leaders met last October to discuss how the Arkansas Conference can identify, recruit, and nurture new pastors through a coordinated effort so that UMFA can utilize its resources to aid that process in a wise and effective manner.
- Lydia Patterson Institute Tour – UMFA hosted a visit to Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas, in February to explore ways to support the LPI capital campaign. The Institute is an educational organization of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.
- Clergy Pre-retirement Seminar – Arkansas pastors approaching the completion of their active ministry met April 3-4 to hear Dr. Keith Lawrence, author of *Your Retirement Quest: 10 Secrets for Creating and Living a Fulfilling Retirement* and representatives from WesPath who shared information on clergy retirement benefits and offered private consultation on retirement accounts.
- NAUMF Communications Conference – The UMFA will host communicators from United Methodist Foundations across the country in Little Rock on Sept. 14-15 to hear experts on public relations topics and share information on successful communications programs.
- A Conversation with Young Pastors – Rev. Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Leawood, Kansas, will hold a dialogue with young pastors from the Arkansas Conference in November.

Continuing events led by UMFA include:

- Local Church Endowment Seminar – "Grow Your Endowment 101" was a UMFA-led meeting that helped local church leaders begin and enhance their endowment funds. The seminar was held April 27 in Little Rock.
- The UMFA Lawyers Conference – Little Rock attorney Bill Waddell leads a group of United Methodist attorneys who will gather for professional development that helps them provide guidance to their local congregations on legal matters on Sept. 21.
- Bishops' Club Luncheon – Keynote speaker for the Bishops' Club

Luncheon, Nov. 17, will be Rev. Adam Hamilton. In addition to being senior pastor at COR, he is an author and nationally acclaimed speaker.

In addition, UMFA continues to fund Conference participation in key regional and national events like:

- Academy of Faith and Money – Last April eight clergy members attended the four-day event to enhance skills in managing church finances, raising capital funds, and leading church stewardship campaigns.
- UM Clergywomen Global Gathering – Clergywomen of the Arkansas United Methodist Conference attended the UM Clergywomen Global Gathering in Houston last August.
- COR Leadership Institute – For the fifth year, UMFA will provide funds for more than 100 clergy and lay members to attend the COR Leadership Institute to help jump-start local church ministries. This year's event is Sept. 27-29.

These events represent a small portion of the grants made by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. A total of \$5.6 million in grants made during 2016 enhanced the ministries of the Arkansas Conference. Of this, \$4.6 million was directed by donors to their specified United Methodist causes, and almost \$1 million in discretionary grants was awarded by the UMFA Board.

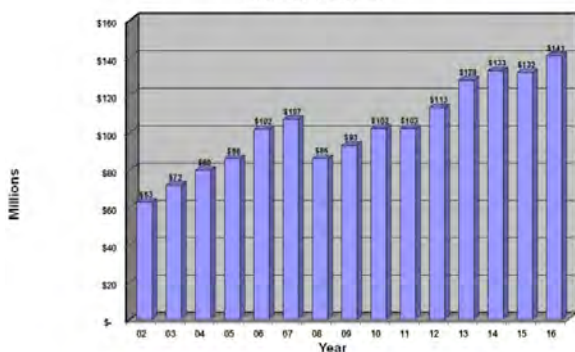
**UMFA DISCRETIONARY GRANTS - 2016**  
Discretionary Grants totaled \$992,787 through 12-31-16



The Foundation continues to conduct Provide and Protect seminars on estate planning, provide training on developing local church endowment funds, and visit local churches regarding investment management services. More than 15,000 United Methodists throughout the state receive the News You Can Use or GiftLaw e-newsletter and more than 16,000 receive the Legacies newsletter.

The assets entrusted to the Foundation by donors and clients are under the direction of the UMFA Board Financial Administration Committee. Experts at Wespath Investment Management, formerly named the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, have been engaged for the past five years to help guide investment activities. The year 2016 ended with more than \$141 million in assets, up 6.4 percent from the past year, making us the nation's sixth largest United Methodist foundation.

**United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas  
Growth in Total Assets**



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas is pleased to partner with individuals and institutions that have entrusted us with their funds and their faith in the future. Together we are enhancing United Methodist ministries in the Arkansas Conference through the enduring power of endowments.

**James B. Argue, Jr.**  
**President and CEO**



**United Theological Seminary**

**Where Dreams Take Flight**

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, was founded in 1871 by Milton Wright, a Bishop in The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and father of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. The Wright brothers had a passionate dream of developing the first successful "flying machine." They experienced great difficulties, hardships and setbacks in achieving their dream. Through their determination and commitment, however, their dream eventually was fulfilled, and they were the first human beings to achieve sustained flight.

God often plants a vision or dream in someone's heart to become a full-time servant of Jesus Christ. In St. Peter's sermon on Pentecost, Peter quotes the prophet Joel who said, "God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17). When God pours out the Spirit on someone and calls them into ministry, United seeks to partner with that person in helping them to grow spiritually and intellectually in achieving their God-given call and dream.

In the fall of 2016, 418 students enrolled at United to answer God's call and vision for their lives.<sup>1</sup> Our prayer is that God will use United to prepare these students to become faithful, fruitful and effective pastors and church leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. According to a recent survey, 86% of our graduates are either currently serving in local congregations or are retired from serving in local congregations.<sup>2</sup> United alumni/ae are making an impact.

On January 1, 2017, United celebrated the beginning of a new partnership in ministry with Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). United has become an extension site for the Course of Study School of Ohio located at MTSO, providing a convenient hybrid program for part-time pastors pursuing a local pastor's license. Through United's Course of Study, pastors experience a Friday-Saturday weekend on campus and finish coursework online over the weeks that follow. Courses are offered four times per year.

If you feel God calling you to serve in any form of Christian ministry, we encourage you to go online to [united.edu](http://united.edu) to discover the option that fits your ministry and calling. May God bless you as you respond to God's dream for your life to serve in either the ordained, commissioned or lay ministry.

<sup>1</sup> Fall 2016 headcount of masters' and doctoral students enrolled in courses.

<sup>2</sup> According to the 2014 United alumni/ae survey.

**Grace and Peace,**  
**Dr. Kent Millard**  
**President, United Theological Seminary**



### wesley theological seminary

At Wesley Theological Seminary, we are building on 135 years of faithful preparation of church- and world-changing leaders by continuing to innovate and grow. We are excited to partner with you in the ministry to which God has called you now – and wherever you may be called in the future. Keep reading for good news that you can use...

#### So you can grow as a leader (and share with others)

Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to be the internationally respected go-to resource for actionable best practices for clergy and laity. The center's free Leading Ideas e-newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 17,000 people. Sign up for Leading Ideas at <https://www.churchleadership.com/category/leading-ideas/>.

The new Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy offers 11 online courses covering a variety of topics including Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. Laypeople can earn a certification in Wesleyan Studies by completing six of the courses online, or can choose to take courses individually for personal education and enrichment. More information about the Wesley Lay Academy and the certification in Wesleyan Studies can be found at <http://www.beadisciple.com/wesley/>.

Two new certificate programs allow individuals to take specialized classes without pursuing an entire degree. The Certificate in Faith and Public Life explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. The African American Church Studies certificate is a non-degree option for local church leaders who want to enrich their ministry in African American communities. For more information, contact [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu) or visit [www.wesleyseminary.edu](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu).

#### So your congregation can live more fully in God's mission

Wesley has received a grant of \$1.5 million from the Lilly Endowment to help congregations design innovative ministries that support and enrich the religious lives of young adults. Through this grant, 20 local congregations will be selected to work with Wesley as an innovation hub that brings together church leaders, young adults, experts and practitioners for conversation, education, and exchange of ideas. The ultimate goal will be to help each congregation launch new partnerships with young adults, ages 23 to 29. Congregational applications will be open July 1 - October 31, 2017. For more information, contact the Rev. Beth Ludlum at [bludlum@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:bludlum@wesleyseminary.edu).

The Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown continues to help the church turn itself inside out. The Institute at Wesley now offers an innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program from Heal the Sick, an initiative to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. Some scholarships are available for this program. Please contact Tom Pruski at [tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu) for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The newest component of the Institute for Community Engagement is Wesley's Center for Public Theology. Under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, this center is equipping pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Center is also providing events, workshops, and resources to help faith leaders lead faithful, prophetic, open dialogue in their communities. To see upcoming opportunities, visit <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

The Luce Center for Arts and Religion remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center invites the

public to artist talks with each new exhibit and has regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit [luceartsandreligion.org](http://luceartsandreligion.org).

#### If you're a current or future seminarian

Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years. This format is designed to be more accessible to those with busy ministry, work, and/or family commitments throughout the region.

The new African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the unique opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master's degree students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy.

Wesley continues to offer our 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.

Talk to someone at (202) 885-8659 or [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu) about how Wesley's degree programs equip people to lead others to loving God and neighbor.

#### If you're a pastor, alumnus, or just want to keep up on the news...

Wesley's Doctor of Ministry program continues to offer the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks in theological education. We are excited to announce the launch of our third track based in Cambridge, England: Holiness, Effective Ministry and Engagement with the World, beginning in January 2018. Other 2018 tracks include Art and Theology, Church Leadership Excellence and Soul Care for Pastors, Chaplains and Clinicians. Find out more or apply now at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/>.

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership moves to an exciting new phase in its 14-year history with the transition of leadership from founding director, the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems Jr., to new director, Wesley faculty member, the Rev. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Weems will continue to be part of the Lewis Center as part-time Senior Consultant, continuing his ground-breaking work in denominational conference resourcing. Meet Dr. Powe and Dr. Weems in a video discussion at <https://www.churchleadership.com/news/lewis-center-announces-a-new-director/>. Please save the date – September 28-29, 2017 – and join Wesley in celebrating the outstanding academic contribution of founding director the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems, Jr. More information to come about this celebration at [www.churchleadership.com](http://www.churchleadership.com).

Wesley faculty members continually develop resources to advance theological scholarship and help Christians grow. This year we have celebrated new books by Drs. F. Douglas Powe Jr., Eileen Guenther, Shively Smith, Ryan Danker, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, and Joseph Bush. In the past year, we have welcomed a new Professor of Preaching, the Rev. Dr. Veronica Miles, and a new Chapel Elder and Visiting Professor of Worship, the Rev. Gina Campbell, and we are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Rick Elgandy as Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Public Theology.

#### Stay in Touch

Ready to join in our mission? Wesley provides more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships to our students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary. Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/>

We invite you to stay in touch through the year and learn more of the latest developments at Wesley by signing up for our monthly electronic newsletter, eCalling, at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling). Thank you for journeying with us through this update! We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God's dream together. Blessings to you on a fruitful and faithful annual conference. We thank you for your service and hold you in prayer as you continue in ministry, wherever that may be.

**The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson**  
President

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**Guest Preacher:**

Sunday, June 18, 7 pm

**Bishop Jonathan Holston**  
South Carolina Conference

**Featured Speakers:**

**Plenary:**

**Faith Sharing**

Monday, June 19, 1:30 pm



**Kay Kotan**

Coach, Church Consultant;  
Speaker & Author

**Plenary:**

**Accountable**

**Discipleship**

Tuesday, June 20, 10:05 am



**Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson**

Asst. Prof. of Wesleyan &  
Methodist studies at  
Candler School of Theology,  
Emory University

**Plenary:**

**Stewardship**

Tuesday, June 20, 1:50 pm



**Rev. Dr. Clif Christopher**

President & Founder of  
Horizons Stewardship

**Plenary:**

**200,000 Reasons**

Monday, June 19, 3:50 pm



**Rev. J.J. Whitney**

Chaplain, Hendrix College

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