

the
2015 AWFUMC
BROCHURE OF REPORTS



The Great Commission

nurturing
disciples

**Alabama-West Florida
Annual Conference**

Southeastern Jurisdiction

From the Office of Communications

All 2015 Annual Conference information can be found on the Alabama-West Florida Conference website at www.awfumc.org/ac2015.

From the JOURNAL Editor

The conference provides each clergy and lay member of the AWF Conference with a copy of the *Brochure of Reports*. If for some reason the lay member cannot attend annual conference, please make sure alternate lay member has a copy of the *Brochure of Reports* **prior** to annual conference. **PLEASE BRING OR DOWNLOAD YOUR BROCHURE OF REPORTS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

From the Conference Secretary

Members of annual conference are encouraged to become familiar with all conference standing rules included in this *Brochure of Reports*. Standing Rule 15 requires that all names, addresses, reports, resolutions, and/or other materials to be included in The Journal of the Alabama-West Florida Conference shall be in the hands of the conference secretary no later than ten working days after the close of annual conference. Other standing rules of particular interest to members are the rules in the section entitled *Administrative Procedures of the Annual Conference*. If you are a lay member of annual conference being replaced by an alternate lay member, you must contact your district office immediately to have the alternate's new status documented. Otherwise, the alternate lay member who has replaced you will not be able to vote on matters coming before the annual conference. If you have questions, please contact the conference secretary, Neil Epler, at (334) 272-8622.

Clergy Directory

The Clergy Directory is compiled from the information in the conference database. **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CLERGY IS TAKEN FROM THIS SOURCE.** **Please make sure that your district office has your correct contact information no later than the end of June.**

Ordination and Commissioning Services

The Service of Ordination and Commissioning will be held Monday, June 1, 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Montgomery. Reception to follow. The special offering will be the Ministerial Education Fund.

Childcare

Childcare will be available at opening, memorial, ordination/commissioning, and closing services **only** and must be reserved online.



Alabama West Florida
Annual Conference 2015 | The Great Commission

nurturing disciples

Annual Conference 2015 is Sunday, May 31 - Wednesday, June 3, 2015. This year's theme is, "*The Great Commission: Nurturing Disciples.*" We are most appreciative to Dr. Tim Thompson and his staff at **Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL**, for hosting us as well as the Dr. R. Lawson Bryan and his staff at **First United Methodist Church, Montgomery** for hosting the **ordination and**

commissioning services. This year we welcome Bishop Mike Lowry, resident bishop of the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church/Fort Worth Episcopal Area, preaching the Opening Worship and Ordination/Commissioning Services; Rev. Jorge Acevedo, Lead Pastor at Grace Church, a multi-site, United Methodist congregation in Southwest Florida, leading the Bible study; Robert McMichael, Worship Leader at Mt. Bethel/St. Philip United Methodist Church in Marietta, GA, and Jarvis Wilson, Minister of Music at the Israel Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, as guest musicians; and Rev. A. Spencer Turnipseed, Senior Pastor, Point Washington UMC (AWFC), preaching at the Memorial Service.

All 2015 Annual Conference information can be found at www.awfumc.org/ac2015.

For this year's **missional offering**, we are proud to continue the denomination-wide "**Imagine No Malaria**" initiative. United Methodists all over are working to end deaths due to malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, someone in Africa dies every 60 seconds because of malaria, but this doesn't have to be. Malaria is entirely preventable and treatable, and through our efforts, is beatable. "Imagine No Malaria" is a comprehensive effort to end malaria through prevention, education, treatment, and communication. This is possible because of the network of over 300 United Methodist clinics, hospitals and other health centers already present in Africa. Our conference's goal is to save 100,000 lives. For more information, visit www.awfumc.org/malaria or contact your district office

Lunch will be served Monday, June 1 and Tuesday, June 2 during annual conference. In compliance with the AWF Standing Rules, the annual conference provides lunch to the following categories at no charge: *Active and Retired Elders in Full Connection, Deacons in Full Connection, Provisional Members, Associate Members; Clergy being admitted as provisional members; Transferred members from other conferences; Local Pastors under Full Time or Part Time Appointment to a Pastoral Charge; Others scheduled to receive a pastoral appointment; Conference and District Lay Members; Local Church Lay Members to Annual Conference elected at Charge Conference; Surviving Spouses; Spouses of Retired Members in Full Connection; Clergy from other conferences serving within our conference; Diaconal Ministers.* The AWF Annual Conference **does not** provide lunch to the following: *Active Clergy Spouse; Alternate Local Church Lay Member to Annual Conference elected at Charge Conference unless Primary Lay Member is not attending; Spouse or Family Members of Lay Member/Alternate Lay Member; Vendors.* The charge is \$7.50 per lunch and must be prepaid. Groups gathering for a breakfast or lunch meeting handle their own reservations.

The **Laity Banquet** will be held Tuesday evening, June 2 beginning at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is not an Annual Conference provided meal. The cost is \$12 per person and must be prepaid. Guest speaker is Drexel Gilbert, owner of Dynamic Impact – Motivational Programs, Image Consulting and Life Coaching.

Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church is offering **nursery** care for children through 5 years of age only for Opening, Memorial, and Sending Forth/Closing services. First United Methodist Church, Montgomery will provide nursery care for children up to 5 years of age during the Ordination/Commissioning Service. There is no charge for nursery care. Child care can be reserved online on our Annual Conference 2015 page.

We will be collecting UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) **Relief kits** again this year. They will be delivered to the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, and given to those most in need after a disaster. Because of the emphasis on Imagine No Malaria, we are not assigning any specific kit to any district. For more information visit <http://www.awfumc.org/reliefkits> or contact your district office.

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2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKING AGENDA

The Alabama-West Florida Conference
May 31 – June 3, 2015
Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church
Montgomery, Alabama
“The Great Commission: Nurturing Disciples”

Sunday Afternoon, May 31

- 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Set Up – Atrium
 Cokesbury – By The Sea
 Experiential Prayer Room Set Up
- 2:00 p.m. Registration Opens
 Refreshments hosted by Blue Lake – Atrium
 Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM) Snack Bar – Servery
 Bishop and Appointive Cabinet Meeting – Parlor
 Board of Church and Society Meeting – Room 3101
- 3:00 p.m. Tellers Orientation – Wesley Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Assistant Secretaries Orientation/Set-Up – Wesley Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Committee on Petitions and Resolutions – Room 7201
 Mass Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
- 4:15 p.m. Board of Laity Meeting – Room 7203
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship of Local and Associate Pastors Meeting – Room 7207/09
- 5:00 p.m. Bishop’s Dinner – Room 6102
 Memorial Luncheon Set Up – Room 8114
- 5:30 p.m. Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting – Room 6111
 Mass Choir Meal – Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Conference Registration Closes for the Day
- 6:30 p.m. Mass Choir gathers - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. **OPENING WORSHIP CELEBRATION** – Sanctuary
 Greetings from Host Pastor: Dr. Tim Thompson
 Sermon: Bishop Mike Lowry, resident bishop
 Central Texas Conference/ Fort Worth Episcopal Area
 Music: Mass Choir
Conference Mission Offering: “Imagine No Malaria”

8:30 p.m. Rehearsal for Ordination and Commissioning Service - Chapel
Orientation for Pages – Fellowship Hall

Monday Morning, June 1

6:30 a.m. Health Screening (closes at 8:30 a.m.) – Cokesbury Room

7:00 a.m. Conference Registration Opens (closes at 2:00 p.m.) – Atrium
Experiential Prayer Room (closes at 5:00 p.m.) – Room 4100
Asbury Foundation Breakfast – Room 7102

8:30 a.m. Clergy Executive Session – Fellowship Hall
Laity Session – Wesley Hall

9:45 a.m. Break – Preparation for Worship
(Families of deceased clergy and clergy spouses gather in Chapel; members of annual conference are invited to come by to greet them prior to the memorial service. AWFC Cabinet will gather in Parlor)

10:15 a.m. **ORDER OF THE DAY**
Memorial Service and Holy Communion – Sanctuary
Liturgist: Rev. Pam Avery
Sermon: Rev. A. Spencer Turnipseed, Jr.
Senior Pastor, Point Washington UMC

12:00 p.m. General Lunch – Fellowship Hall
Bishop and Cabinet – Parlor
Asbury Club – Room 8110 (N. Gym)
Candler Club – Room 6111
Christian Educators Fellowship – Room 6107
Memorial Luncheon – Room 8114
Wesley Heirs – Room 6102

Monday Afternoon, June 1

1:30 p.m. **CONFERENCE BUSINESS SESSION** – Wesley Hall
Gathering Music - Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson
Hymn: *And Are We Yet Alive?* UMH #553
Opening Prayer
Welcome from the Host District Superintendent – Rev. John Brooks

Opening Business and Organization of the Conference – Wesley Hall
Setting the “bar” of the Conference
Election of secretarial staff
Approval of the 2014 Conference Journal
Adoption of the 2015 Conference Agenda
Presentation of the 2015 Consent Agenda
Committee on Resolutions and Petitions (to lie on the table overnight)

Committee on Standing Rules (to lie on the table overnight)
Committee on Nominations

Board of Ordained Ministry – Libba Stinson
Recognition of Commissioning and Ordination classes
Recognition of First-Time Licensed Local Pastors
Recognition of Clergy in Extension Ministries and Appointments
Beyond the Local Church

Retirees gather in Parlor

3:15 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Recognition of Retiring Clergy - Wesley Hall
Reception for Retiring Clergy – Atrium

Council on Finance and Administration Meeting - Parlor

*****NO MONDAY EVENING DINNER AT HOST CHURCH*****

Monday Evening, June 1

7:00 p.m.

Service of Ordination and Commissioning

First United Methodist Church, Montgomery
Sermon: Bishop Mike Lowry, resident bishop
Central Texas Conference
Music: First United Methodist Church, Montgomery
Special Offering: Ministerial Education Fund
Reception – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday Morning, June 2

6:30 a.m.

Health Screening (closes at 8:30 a.m.) – Cokesbury Room

7:00 a.m.

Conference Registration Opens (closes at Noon) – Atrium
Experiential Prayer Room (closes at 5pm) – Room 4100
COSROW Breakfast – Room 6111
Deacon Breakfast – Room 6102

8:00 a.m.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS SESSION – Wesley Hall
Gathering Music: Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson
Opening Prayer

Report of the Journal Committee – Fred Zeigler

Action on Standing Rules – Robin Wilson
Action on Resolutions and Petitions – Kathy Knight

Bible Study – Wesley Hall
Rev. Jorge Acevedo, Lead Pastor, Grace Church, Southwest FL

Break – Hosted by the United Methodist Children’s Home

Celebration of Ministries - Neil McDavid

Bible Study – Wesley Hall

Rev. Jorge Acevedo, Lead Pastor, Grace Church, Southwest FL

11:30 a.m. Clergy (active and retired) Spouses Gathering – Room 7202/7204
 12:00 Noon General Lunch – Fellowship Hall
 Bishop and Cabinet – Parlor
 Duke Club - Room 6102
 Spiritual Formation Luncheon – Room 7207/7209
 Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21) Luncheon
 Room 7208

Tuesday Afternoon, June 2

1:30 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Gathering Music: Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson

Conference Celebration of Selma to Montgomery 50th Anniversary

Conference Board of Laity

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry – Rob Couch

Francis Asbury Award

Gen. Charles C. Krulak, President

Birmingham-Southern College

Special Awards and Recognitions

Denman Evangelism Award – Division of Evangelism

Alice Lee Award – COSROW

Local Church Heritage Award – Archives and History

Break – Hosted by a Montgomery-Prattville District

Gathering Music: Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson

Blue Lake Trustees – Jim Carpenter

Committee on Episcopacy – Paulette Thompson

Conference Announcements and Recess

5:00 p.m.

Laity Banquet – Fellowship Hall

Guest speaker – Drexel Gilbert

7:00 p.m.

Night Session (if applicable) (no meal will be provided)

Upper Room Prayer Line - Room 3129 (ending 9:00 p.m.)

Wednesday Morning, June 3**No conference registration**

7:00 a.m. Experiential Prayer Room (closes at 10:30 am) – Room 4100
 Educational Opportunities Breakfast – Room 6102

8:30 a.m. **CONFERENCE BUSINESS SESSION** – Wesley Hall
 Gathering Music: Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson
 Opening Prayer

Report of the Journal Committee – Fred Zeigler

Action Item:

Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits – Bob McKibben

Task Force on the Work of the Districts – Shirley Woodie

Representative, Historic Black College

Action Item:

Commission on Equitable Compensation – Matt Mobley

Council on Finance and Administration – Beebe Frederick

Action Item: 2016 Conference Budget

Statistician's Report – Frank Dunnwind

Break - Hosted by a Montgomery-Prattville District

Report of the Cabinet – Wesley Hall – Cory Smith
 Change in Charge Lines
 Property Resolutions

Closing Business of the Conference

Where shall the 2016 session be held?

Courtesies and Appreciation – Wesley Wachob

11:00 a.m. **ORDER OF THE DAY**

Sending Forth Service

Fixing of the 2015 - 2016 Appointments - Wesley Hall

Gathering Music: Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson

Opening Prayer

Noon Adjournment *Sine Die*

*****NO WEDNESDAY LUNCH AT HOST CHURCH*****

1:00 p.m. Newly elected General/Jurisdictional Conference Delegation
 Meeting (light lunch served)

OPENING WORSHIP ORDINATION/COMMISSIONING



J. Michael (Mike) Lowry was born in Aurora, Illinois. He graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana with an A.B. degree; received a Master of Theology (M.Div.) from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Evangelism and Church Growth. Mike was elected to the Episcopacy in July of 2008 and assigned to the Fort Worth Episcopal Area, The Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

He has held numerous offices including Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair of the Board of Global Ministries' Committee on Church Extension, and Chair of the Council on Church Revitalization and Church Extension. While serving as the Executive Director for New Church Development and Transformation, he led a successful conference capital campaign to fund new church starts. He was awarded the B'nai B'rith Award in Social Ethics by Perkins School of Theology. Churches under his leadership have received the Habitat for Humanity Award (2004), the President's Award from Huston-Tillotson University (2004), and the Churchmanship Award from the San Antonio Community of Churches (2003). Asbury UMC was awarded the Moore Award in Evangelism three times while he was serving as senior pastor. He was first elected to serve as a delegate to General Conference in 1996, where he served on the Church and Society Legislative Committee. In 2004, he served on the Committee on Conferences Legislative Committee; and in 2008 on the Committee on Faith and Order Legislative Committee.

Bishop Lowry serves the larger connection of The United Methodist Church as a member of the Texas Methodist Foundation Board, the United Methodist Publishing House Board of Directors, the Perkins School of Theology Executive Board, Trustee for Southwestern University and Texas Wesleyan University, the Methodist Children's Home and Harris Methodist Hospital Board among others. He is a regular contributor in The Abingdon Preaching Manual and Circuit Rider, and his Generous Living sermon was published in Best Stewardship Sermons of 2005. He has taught classes at Local Pastors' Licensing School, mentored candidates for ordained ministry and been the spiritual director for 24 Emmaus Walks/Chrysalis Flights.

Mike and his wife Jolynn married in 1976. They are the parents of son Nathan living in the Boston area and daughter Sarah and son-in-law Steven Meek living in Washington D.C.

BIBLE STUDY



Jorge Acevedo is the Lead Pastor at Grace Church, a multi-site, United Methodist congregation in Southwest Florida (Cape Coral, Fort Myers Shores and North Fort Myers). This church has grown in its weekend attendance from 400 to over 2600 in the past fifteen years. Grace Church is recognized as having one of the largest and most effective recovery ministries in America with over 700 people involved in weekly recovery ministries. In 2003, Grace Church planted a second campus in East Lee County by adopting a declining United Methodist Church. Today this campus has more than 375 people in attendance.

Jorge is a 1984 graduate of Asbury College where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in Bible. He is also a graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity Degree. Jorge was ordained as a Deacon in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church in May, 1986, and an Elder in May 1990. He was the 2001 recipient of the Denman Evangelism Award from the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church given to a pastor for excellence in evangelism. In 2007 Jorge was named the Distinguished Alumni of the Year at Asbury Theological Seminary. In 2009, the Foundation for Evangelism named Jorge the 2009 Distinguished Evangelist of the United Methodist Church. He was a 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference and a 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 delegate to the General Conference. Jorge serves on the Southeastern Jurisdiction and Florida Conference Episcopal Committees. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Mission Society. Jorge has been very involved in the Walk to Emmaus in Kentucky, Florida and the Bahamas.

Jorge co-authored *The Heart of Youth Ministry* with Hule Goddard, which was published by Bristol Books in January of 1989. He has also written for the United Methodist Publishing House, *Circuit Rider* magazine, *Good News* magazine and *Our Faith Today*. He was also one of three featured pastors on the “Keeping the Passion for Ministry Alive” edition of the Willow Creek Association “Defining Moments” CD with Bill Hybels.

Born in Puerto Rico, Jorge at the age of four months, moved with his family to the United States where he was raised. Jorge was married in November, 1981, to Cheryl Montgomery. Their oldest son, Daniel is married to Courtney who gave them two beautiful grandchildren, Mia and Levi. They also have a younger son, Nathan.

LAITY BANQUET



Owner, and principal consultant of Dynamic Impact, **Drexel Gilbert**, spent most of her adult life in the public eye. She entered the world of television news broadcasting while still a teenaged college student. She spent the next 25-plus years interacting with people from all walks of life as a reporter, anchor, newsroom manager and public speaker.

Whether interviewing the First Lady of the United States, anchoring wall-to-wall hurricane coverage, or entertaining a crowded auditorium as guest speaker, Drexel has learned the value of consistently presenting a poised, confident, approachable and genuine image. She believes in living a positive lifestyle, even in difficult times. Her high-energy corporate, motivational and faith-based workshops deliver practical methods for attaining success and fulfillment in a way that connects with the participants.

Drexel believes we should all have the opportunity to make a “Dynamic Impact” on the world around us. Her life-time of experiences will help you find, and put forth, your best inner and outer qualities.

MEMORIAL SERVICE



A. Spencer Turnipseed, Jr. was born October 20, 1948 in Montgomery, AL and was the son and grandson of a Methodist minister. He was raised in both Alabama and the state of New York. Spencer graduated high school in 1967 from Niagara Falls High School, Niagara Falls, NY, graduated Duke University in 1971 with a B.A. degree with History major and graduated Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC in 1975 with M.Div. degree.

Spencer has served as youth pastor in Arlington, VA, 1973-75, was ordained Deacon in the Virginia Conference, 1973, was an associate pastor, Chestnut Memorial UMC, Newport News, VA 1975-77, and became an ordained Elder in the Virginia Conference, 1976. Spencer served in the Virginia Conference before transferring to Alabama-West Florida in 1979 where he was appointed to serve Mulder Memorial. Other appointments include Hurtsboro, Newton, Florida, Grace (Auburn), Luverne, Perry Hill, Conference Secretary/Journal Editor while serving as the pastor at Oak Grove/Shady Grove, Aldersgate (Montgomery) and currently is serving as Senior Pastor at Point Washington.

Spencer has two sons, Drew and Talmadge.

GUESTS MUSICIANS



Robert Henry McMichael, III, is a fifth generation Atlantan. A product of the Atlanta Public Schools, Robert is a 1999 graduate of Morehouse College and a 2009 graduate of Gammon Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Robert has distinguished himself as a writer, lecturer, vocalist, and organist. He has served in numerous capacities in churches throughout the Atlanta area. He currently serves the Mt. Bethel/St. Philip United Methodist Church in Marietta as Worship Leader.

Robert believes that it is his calling to “Spread the Liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and song.” It is this calling that has sparked Robert to begin writing his first publication *With My Whole Heart: Worship as a Lifestyle*. Robert believes that worship should be more than a once a week event, rather; it should be the lifeline upon which Christians thrive.

Robert is an active member of several community and civic organizations: the NAACP, the Boys and Girls Club of America, the American Guild of Organists, the Hampton University Choir Director’s/Organist Guild, and the National Academy of Religion. Robert enjoys water sports, reading, writing, and especially cooking. He is the son of former US Marshal Robert and Kathy McMichael. Robert has adopted as his life’s theme, “Love, The More Excellent Way!”



Jarvis R. Wilson was born in Atlanta on July 14, 1961. He is the youngest of three children born to the late Clarence and Gladys Wilson.

A true lover of gospel music, Jarvis began playing the organ in church at age 10. Currently, he serves as Minister of Music at the Israel Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta. Jarvis’ other activities include Director of the Madison Association Youth Choir, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Gospel Choir, the Blend of Men and the QLS Seniors Chorus.

BAYPINES DISTRICT

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name Frank Dunnewind

Address 7343 Old Mitylene Road, Montgomery AL 36117

Phone Numbers: Home: Cell: 334-488-0667

E-mail frank@awfumc.org

Spouse Catherine (Pat) **Child** Charles Scott

Child Michelle Lynn

Education (Highest Degree) BS Business Administration

Occupation Conference Treasurer/Benefits Officer

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership Andalusia First UMC

Dates of Present Church Membership September 1998

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership Bethlehem UMC, 1987-1998

Local Church Leadership and Dates Local Church Treasurer

District Leadership and Dates

Conference Leadership and Dates Ex-officio member 1998 to present: Extended Cabinet: CORE Team: Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Trustees: Commission on Equitable Compensation and Various administrative committees and task forces.

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates 2012 General Conference Delegate: Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Council on Finance and Administration, 2013-16; General Council on Finance and Administration's Official Forms and Records Committee, 2008 - 2012; General Board of Pension and Health Benefits Sustainability Advisory Group, 2009; United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators - President, 1997-1999; SEJ United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators - President, 1995-1995.

Community Service

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate I believe the UM faces several significant issues, including General Church costs, clergy benefits, BOD incongruities and scriptural theology. I believe I was the only AWF delegate at the 2012 GC that spoke to finance and benefits issues on the floor of the GC.

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name Dawn Wiggins Hare

Address P. O. Box 833 Monroeville, Alabama 36461

Phone Numbers: Home: 251.575.3835

Cell: 251.564.4227

E-mail dawnhare@frontiernet.net

Spouse Nicholas Hare, Jr. Child Nicholas S. Hare, III

Child Eli J. Hare

Education (Highest Degree) Juris Doctorate

Occupation General Secretary, GCSRW, The UMC

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership First United Methodist Church, Monroeville, AL

Dates of Present Church Membership 1988 to present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

FUMC, Brewton, AL-affiliate 1976-1988

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Past Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

Past Lay Leader

Past Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee

District Leadership and Dates

Past Member of Bay Pines Core Team

Past Member of District Committee on Ministry

Conference Leadership and Dates

Lay Delegate to General Conference 2012, 2008, and reserve delegate to SEJ 2004

Past member of Board of Ordained Ministry. Past chair of Policy Task Force on Clergy Misconduct.

Past Annual Conference Worship Leader. COSROW speaker/trainer/worship leader.

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

General Secretary of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Member of the Connectional Table, Member of the General Secretaries' Table, Member of General Council on Financial Administration. Chair of the Committee on Investigation for SEJ. Past member of the GBOPHB

Community Service

Past Actor and Director of community production of "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Past Community and Children's Theatre director and teacher

Past Member of Community Chorus (Alto)

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I love The United Methodist Church and our ministries that reach around the world. I will be prepared to work to seek consensus in a spirit of Christian conferencing to move the church forward to assure that we are staying focused on our goal of making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. We must stay united to do all the good we can in all the places we can.

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name Jason Johnston
 Address 8283 Edgewood Drive, Daphne, AL 36526
 Phone Numbers: Home: n/a
 Cell: 251-654-1297
 E-mail jcj04@yahoo.com
 Spouse Amanda Child Owen (6)
 Child Jack (3)
 Education (Highest Degree) Juris Doctorate
 Occupation Contract Specialist for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Attorney by trade

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership Daphne United Methodist, Daphne, AL

Dates of Present Church Membership January 28, 2007 to Present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership Trinity United Methodist, Homewood, AL (June 3, 2001 to January 27, 2007)
 Christ United Methodist, Mobile, AL (1981 to June 2, 2001)

Local Church Leadership and Dates Lay Delegate to Annual Conference (May 2014 to Present)
 Staff Parrish Relations Committee (January 2010 to January 2013)
 Youth volunteer (September 1997 to May 2001 and October 2006 to Present)

District Leadership and Dates N/A

Conference Leadership and Dates N/A

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates N/A

Community Service

President, Board of Directors, Edgewood Property Owners Association (January 2011 to January 2012)
 Member, Board of Directors, Edgewood Property Owners Association (January 2009 to January 2011)

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I grew up in the Methodist Church and have been active since as far back as I can remember. I have been incredibly active in the Youth programs at both Christ UMC, as a student and volunteer, and Daphne UMC, as a volunteer. There is no greater joy than to watch a young person grow up before your eyes and fall in love with Jesus Christ. As we shepherd the future direction of the Methodist Church, it must be through prayer, deliberative discussion and following the Book of Discipline. Through prayer and carefully listening, I pledge to work with others as we discern God's guidance for our church.



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name Patrick Grant Shubird

Address 29278 Canterbury Road, Daphne, AL, 36526

Phone Numbers: Home: 251-625-2032

Cell: 251-454-7988

E-mail pshubird@yahoo.com

Spouse Monika Child Katherine McCluskey

Child David Shubird

Education (Highest Degree) Masters Degree (Computer Science)

Occupation Director of Information Technology, U.S. District Court,
Mobile, Alabama

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership_ Spanish Fort UMC, Spanish Fort, AL

Dates of Present Church Membership 2002 - present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership Woodland UMC, Pike Road, AL
1991 - 2001

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Church Council member - 2005 to present; Sunday School teacher - 2003 to present; ChristCare small group leader - 2003 to present; ChristCare Equipper - 2005 to present; Mission Committee chair - 2007 to 2011; Study Team chair - 2011 to present; UMVIM mission team leader (Costa Rica) - 2004 to present

District Leadership and Dates

Baypines District Mission chairperson, 2013 to present;
Baypines District Asst. Disaster Response Coordinator, 2013 to present;
Certified Lay Speaker, 2010 to present

Conference Leadership and Dates

AWF Conference Board of Laity member, 2012 to present;
UMVIM trainer, 2010 to present;
Community Lay Director, Servant Heart Emmaus Community, 2012

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

Certified UMCOR ERT trainer, 2013 to present;
Participant, SEJ Disaster Academy, 2012 to present

Community Service

Volunteer - 15 Place (homeless feeding ministry), McKemie Place (women's shelter), State Veteran's Home, Cathedral Place (low-income senior housing project), Habitat for Humanity, Women's Care Medical Center, Tent City (homeless ministry)

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I believe that I would make a good delegate because I am deeply connected and committed to the church - in my local church, in my District and in the Conference. I am very traditional in my philosophy of the church. While I believe we should strive to maintain our connection, we should also stay firmly grounded in the things that make us unique as Methodists - Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience.

DEMOPOLIS DISTRICT

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name Steve Furr, M.D.

Address 214 Plantation Trace Jackson, AL 36545

Phone Numbers: Home: 251-246-5266 **Cell:** 251-769-1363

E-mail furr@southnet.net

Spouse Lisa **Child** None

Education (Highest Degree) Doctor of Medicine

Occupation Family Physician

Present Local United Methodist Church McCanns UMC

Dates of Present Membership 2006- present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

First United United Methodist Church Jackson Alabama 1984-2006
Sage Avenue United Methodist Church Mobile Alabama 10 years

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Lay Leader 2010-2015; Finance Committee 2007-2015; Administrative Board Chair 2013-2015; Board of Trustees 2007-2009, 2000-2003; Chairperson, Pastor-Parish Committee 1998-1999; Chairperson Stewardship Committee 1997; Pres. United Methodist Men 1996; Missions Committee 1993; Certified Lay Speaker 2004-present

District Leadership and Dates Denman Evangelism Award 1998

Conference Leadership and Dates

Conference Lay Leader 2008-2016; Conference Board of the Laity 2005-2016; Committee on Nominations 2008-2016; CORE Team 2008-2016; Episcopacy Committee 2000-2016; Church and Society 2003-2012; Delegate to Annual Conference 1998-2015; United Methodists Men's Council 2008-2016; Conference Committee On Lay Servant Ministries 2008-2016; Chairperson, Blue Lake Assembly Grounds Board of Trustees 2004-2007; Annual Conference Session Planning Committee 2008-2016; University of South Alabama Wesley Foundation trustee 2002-2005; Board of Global Ministries 1996-2002;

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012; President, Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders 2012-2016; Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders Member 2008-2016; Southeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee 2000-2016; World Methodist Council 2011-2016; General Board of Church and Society 2004-2012; General Board of Ministries 2000-2004; General Conference Messaging Team 2015-2016

Community Service

Chairman, University of South Alabama Board Of Trustees; Blue Lake Emmaus Community Board 1994-1997 (Walk #7); Past President, Medical Association of the State of Alabama; Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners; Alabama State Committee of Public Health; Volunteer Faculty, University of South Alabama College of Medicine; University of South Alabama Foundation Trustee; Past President, Alabama Medical Directors Association; Past President, Alabama Academy of Family Physicians; Past Chairperson, Alabama Board of Medical Scholarship Awards; Past Chairperson, American Medical Directors Certification Program Board Of Directors; University of South Alabama Children & Women's Hospital Development Council 2011-2013; 50th Anniversary Alumni Annual Fund Leadership Council 2011-2013

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I have been in training for the past four years in case you should call my name and ask me to serve once again as your delegate. I am physically, mentally and spiritually in the best shape of my life. To survive the rigors of General and Jurisdictional Conference one must be at their peak spiritually, mentally and physically. The opportunities that you have given me to serve has placed me in position to know key people and contacts throughout our worldwide church and that will allow me to serve you more effectively. I have always considered representing you a sacred honor. I go not because it's easy or enjoyable. I go because I know that if this church that our Lord loves is to continue to grow and honor Him the voice of the laity, the people in the pew who go out into the world to make a difference, must be heard clearly and that voice must not be silenced. So many opportunities lay ahead of us to continue to shape the world in which we live in a way that honors our Lord Jesus. We must make sure that our church is focused on changing the world and not just be content with being a part of the world. We must be ever mindful as we gather at these large conferences that the true work of the church goes on in each of our local churches and our most important focus must be to do everything we can to support and strengthen our individual churches so that they can go out into the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

DOTHAN DISTRICT

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name Tyrone Johnson

Address 104 Pleasant Valley Drive, Midland City, AL 36350

Phone Numbers: Home: 334-793-7527
Cell: 334-701-6885

E-mail tyronejohnson11@gmail.com

Spouse Marcia **Child** Janelle
Child Kimberly Johnson Thomas

Education (Highest Degree) High School

Occupation Retired Field Service Technician

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership Harvest United Methodist Church

Dates of Present Church Membership 9/24/2006 - present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership Dothan Community Church 2001 - 2006; First Missionary Baptist Church 1996 - 2000;
New Southern Rock Baptist Church childhood - 1995.

Local Church Leadership and Dates Trustee 2013 - 2014; Small Group Leader 2012 - 2014

District Leadership and Dates None

Conference Leadership and Dates Alabama-West Florida Conference Lay Representative 2013 and 2014

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates None

Community Service Helping Hands Ministry, Juvenile Conference Committee, Spirit of Service Days, Education Foundation, Wiregrass
Habitat for Humanity, Unitary Status Committee (Dothan City School), UMC Disaster Relief Team

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate I believe that the church should actively promote
outreach to the un-churched, especially at the local level. I am a committed Christian. I am willing to serve wherever the church needs me.



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name Frank Moore

Address PO Box 482, Daleville, AL 36322-0482

Phone Numbers: Home: 334-598-2103

Cell: 334-618-2104

E-mail frank@jfmoore.org

Spouse Rita Child Michelle Campbell, James Moore

Child Courtney Meredith

Education (Highest Degree) Masters of Science - Foundations of Education

Occupation Retired - Former City Superintendent of Education

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership_ Daleville First United Methodist Church

Dates of Present Church Membership 1972 - current

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

Sheffield First United Methodist Church: 1962 -1972

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: 2010, Alternate Lay Delegate: 2009 & 2011, Church Treasurer & Finance Committee: 2005 - current, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: 2008 - 2010, Committee on Lay Leadership: 2010 - 2013, Church Building Committee Chair: 1980 & 2014-current

District Leadership and Dates

Dothan District President United Methodist Men: 2011-2014, Dothan District Core Team: 2012-current, District Nominating Committee: 2013-current, Certified Lay Speaker: 2010-current.

Conference Leadership and Dates

Conference Board of Laity: 2013-current, Conference President United Methodist Men: 2014-current, Conference Core Team 2014-current.

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

SEJ United Methodist Men Association of Conference Presidents: 2014-current

Community Service

Past International President of The International Association of Lions Clubs: 2001 - 2002, Member of Board of Directors of HOBY Youth Leadership: 2002 - 2008, Chairperson of City of Daleville Planning and Zoning Commission: 1996 - current, Exec Committee Army Aviation Museum Foundation: 1997 - current.

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

My faith is grounded in the love and grace of God, experienced through Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit; given to us through God's Grace, because God wishes us to have it, not because of what we have done. I believe my strengths are found in the ability to work with and among a diverse group of people, having effective communication skills, while maintaining the core values and doctrine of our faith and the United Methodist Church. I will work faithfully and prayerfully if called.



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name **Robert L. Powell**

Address **110 Wentworth Drive, Dothan, AL 36305**

Phone Numbers: Home: **334-699-5772**

Cell: **334-718-2193**

E-mail **robertelene104@wowway.com**

Spouse **Elene** Child **Robert, Jr.**

Child **Charles**

Education (Highest Degree) **Associate Degree - Accounting**

Occupation **Development Associate**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership_ **First UMC, Dothan, AL**

Dates of Present Church Membership **July 23, 1989**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

Lafayette Street UMC, Dothan, AL Palm Sunday 1942

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Lay Leader 1992, President UMM 2014-15, Admin. Board 1990-2014, Sunday School Teacher, Nominating Committee 1995, Annual Conference Delegate

District Leadership and Dates

District Lay Leader 1990-1996, Dist. Pres UMM 1986-1988, Chr. District Supt. Committee 2004-2008, Council of Ministry 1990-2004, Organized Pastor Appreciation Banquet, Chr Lay Speaking Committee

Conference Leadership and Dates

Pres. UMM 1988-1992, Core Team 1992-96, Delegate to Juris Conference 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, Delegate to General Conference 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, Assoc. Conference Lay Leader 2008-2014

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

Pres. Juris. UMM 1992-1996, Juris. Administrative Council 1992-1996, National President UMM 1992-6, General Commission of UMM 1996-2004, Pres. United Methodist Men Foundation 2000-2008, General Board of Discipleship 1992-1996

Community Service

Jail and Prison ministry, Society of St. Andrew

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. I came to Christ through a Lay Witness Revival. I believe in the United Methodist Church and what it stands for. I believe in prayer. I believe in the Discipline of the United Methodist Church and I believe it is time for all who belong to abide by it. I pray that our church will come together as one. I believe that it is time for those who disobey the Discipline to leave and go their own way.

MARIANNA/PANAMA CITY DISTRICT

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name Antonius G. Barnes

Address 1208 Sutherland Plaza, Lynn Haven, FL 32444-5380

Phone Numbers: Home: 850-265-6657

Cell: 850-625-7898

E-mail antonius.barnes@comcast.net

Spouse Kathy Child Garrett

Child Kaitlyn

Education (Highest Degree) Specialist in Education (Ed.S.)

Occupation School Administrator

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership_Lynn Haven UMC

Dates of Present Church Membership 1992-Present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

NA

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Annual Delegate to Annual Conference (1994-2012)
Administrative Board, Long Range Planning Committee

District Leadership and Dates

Past District Lay Leader of the Marianna - Panama City District

Conference Leadership and Dates

Bishop's Task Force on Conference Resource Center Relocation, Conference Board of Laity, Past Treasurer, Conference Connecting Our Resources & Empowerment (CORE) Team Member

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

2008 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Lay Delegate
2008 United Methodist Church General Conference, Lay Delegate

Community Service

19 years experience as Lynn Haven City Commissioner. Served a term as Mayor Pro-Tempore

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I believe that the United Methodist Church is facing some challenging times in an unstable society. We need leaders who will stand firm to help spread the Gospel in an effort to uplift the Kingdom of God. My leadership skills and abilities are available to guide our church into being the church God wants us to be. I stand ready to serve under the guidance of Holy Conferencing, to uphold biblical teaching, and to help make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name: Pat Luna
Address: 110 Eve Circle; Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
Cell Phone #: 334-202-9440
E-mail: patluna@charter.net
Education: MA, MS, Ed.S., Ph.D ABD
Occupation: President, Compass Consultants - I lead capital campaigns for churches

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership: Point Washington UMC
Dates of Present Church Membership: 2010-Present
Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership: Whitfield UMC (1992-2010), Northport FUMC (1964-1992), Dad was in the Air Force so we joined UMCs wherever we were stationed

Local Church Leadership and Dates:

Board of Discipleship, Chair (2002-06), Stewardship, Chair (Numerous), Capital Campaign, Chair-Whitfield 2000 & Point Washington 2010, Finance (Numerous), UMW, Emmaus (1985-present), Sunday School Teacher (Numerous), Disciple Bible Study (1999-2002), Prayer Team (Numerous), Oil Spill Prayer Vigil Chair (2010), Church Council or Administrative Board (Numerous)

District Leadership and Dates:

I have taught and assisted with Super Sunday numerous times, Huntingdon College Midnight Breakfast (Founder & Chair - 2001-2006), assisted with District events numerous times.

Conference Leadership and Dates:

CORE Team (2002-10), Board of Discipleship, Chair (2002-10), Blue Lake Board and Development Chair (2014-present), UMCOR, Disaster Response Team (2012-present), 5-day Academy for Spiritual Formation, Retreat Leader (Numerous), Emmaus, Lay Director and Team Member (Numerous), Covenant Community (1999-2002), Chrysalis Chair (1995-2002), Reorganization Task Force (2000), United Methodist Foundation Committee (2015)

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates:

General Conference, First Reserve Delegate (2012), Jurisdictional Conference, Delegate (2012), Jurisdiction, Nomination Committee (2012), General Board of Church and Society (2012-16), General Board of Discipleship Older Adult Committee (2012-16), Study of Ministry Commission (2008-12), Academy for Spiritual Formation, Retreat Leader (2006-present), Upper Room, Author, GBOD Team -Taught stewardship to the UMC laity and clergy in Mozambique (2001 & 2002)

Community Service:

Chair and program writer for Epiphany Ministry (a ministry for juvenile offenders), Kairos Prison Ministry (Numerous leadership positions), Mission trips, Board member, leader and/or fundraiser for numerous organizations including Cancer Society, Heart Association, Juvenile Diabetes Association, March of Dimes, Special Olympics, Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Salvation Army, and Toys for Tots

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate:

1. As a cradle Methodist, I want to keep our church together. As an experienced delegate, I pray I can be helpful in keeping us the UNITED Methodist Church. 2. As one that deals with church stewardship and finances daily, I believe my voice and experience can be helpful as we work through the many issues of finance and apportionments. 3. I have helped write several resolutions on the rights of older adults and against human trafficking. I would like to help these resolutions pass.

MOBILE DISTRICT

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name: **Deborah S. Bell (Debbie)**

Address: **9640 Sky Vista Drive S. Semmes, Al. 36575**

Phone: Home: **251-649-4772** Cell: **251-232-6898**

E-mail: **mawbel36575@yahoo.com**

Spouse: **Richard F. Bell (Ricky)** Children: **none**

Education: (Highest Degree): **Mobile County Public School, Completed Grade 12; Ongoing College endeavor, currently absent from Adult Degree Program University South Alabama, current completion status: Sophomore/Junior @ 1-semester**

Occupation: **Retired, Kimberly-Clark Corporation 1977-2003**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership: **Christ United Methodist Church**

Dates of Present Church Membership: **1998 - current**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership: **Hubbard Memorial United Methodist Church, childhood - 1997**

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Sunday Connection Class facilitator, 2012-2015; Grounds Team, 2004-current; Christ United Methodist Women Unit President, 2010-2012; Kitchen Ministry Leader (and staff), 2011-2013; Women's softball team Coach, 2008-2014; ChristUMC Administrative Board member, 2010-2012**

District Leadership and Dates: **Mobile District United Methodist Women Mission Team, President 2013-current; Mobile District Core Team, 2013-current;**

Conference Leadership and Dates: **Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission Team, 2013-current; Dumas Wesley Community Center Board member, ex-officio, 2013-current; United Methodist Inner City Mission Council member, ex-officio, 2013-current**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates: **N/A**

Community Service: **Assisting Christ United Methodist Women serve McKemie Place homeless women's shelter at ChristUMC; assisting with ChristUMC Open Charity Car Show**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, who created man and woman in His own image and likeness, He created them. My lifetime heritage in the United Methodist Church has continued this creation story from my early Christian life and current pursuit for that image and likeness to reflect God's grace; from me to others, through Jesus Christ, my Savior. With God's help, I will be a good delegate because I will listen to the resolutions and petitions and place them before the Church, and before Him in prayer, for discernment. Thank you for your consideration,**

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name: **Clara J. Ester**

Address: **517 Highland Woods Dr. E.**

Phone Numbers: Home: **(251) 342-9658** Cell: **(251) 509-2572**

E-mail: **cester20@att.net**

Child: **Reginald T. Ester**

Education (Highest Degree): **B.S. Elementary Education**

Occupation: **Retired as Executive Director of Dumas Wesley Community Center where I served 37 years.**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership: **Toulminville Warren Street UMC**

Dates of Present Church Membership: **1975 - Present**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership: **Centenary UMC - Memphis, TN (Birth-1975)**

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Spiritual Growth Coordinator for United Methodist Women (2010-present); Member of the Good Samaritans; Member of the Mass Choir**

District Leadership and Dates: **District Lay Leader (2012-present); Bd of Mission & Church Extension (2012-present); Bd of Building & Church Location (2012-present); District CORE Team (2012-present); District Nominations Committee (2012-present); Circles of Transformation**

Conference Leadership and Dates: **Board of Laity (2012-present); United Methodist Women Executive Committee (2008-present); Episcopacy Committee (2012-present); Diaconal Committee on Investigation (2004-present)**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates: **National Bd of Deaconess & Home Missioners (2012-present); Representative for UMW National Program Advisory Committee (2012-present); Elected to Jurisdictional Conference (2012); Served on National Committee United Methodist Women 150 Legacy Fund; Commissioned Deaconess (1986)**

Community Service: **Vice-President People United to Advance the Dream (Founding Member); Mobile Habitat for Humanity (Founding Member)**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **I believe in social justice for the poor and those that are oppressed. I believe in the teachings of my Lord and Savior to “love one another.” My philosophy is to treat all God’s children as we want to be treated. My family has been a member of the Methodist connection even before my beginning. I love our social principles and the connectional relationships that we have around the world. I am proud to be with a denomination that supports and encourages the role of laity. I would love to have the opportunity to participate in the policy making decisions of our church. I believe there is room at the table for all God’s children. If we respect and value one another the doors will open wider and the sky will be our limit.**



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name Robert I. (Tripp) Gulledge, III

Address 154 Roberts Street

Phone Numbers: Home: 251-478-0122

Cell: 251-366-3018

E-mail the.trippster.gulledge@gmail.com

Spouse n/a

Child n/a

Child n/a

Education (Highest Degree) High School Graduate

Occupation Student

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership Government Street UMC

Dates of Present Church Membership June 2002 - present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

Fairhope UMC - 1996 until 2002

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Acolyte - 2004 through 2011 Confirmation Class Peer Mentor - 2011

Sound Operator - 2011 to present

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster 2013-14 Assistant Scoutmaster October 2014 - present.

District Leadership and Dates

January 2015 - elected by the Mobile District Laity Caucus as a candidate for General Conference delegate.

2008, 2009 Youth Delegate to Annual Conference

2012, 2013 District At-Large Delegate to Annual Conference

Conference Leadership and Dates

Scouting Address address at the Laity Banquet (2013)

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

N/A

Community Service

Mathematics Tutoring (2014-2015); McKemie Place - meals, clothing drive; Conservation projects; Eagle Scout Service Project; Water Tables for various road races; Student volunteer for Elementary School(s) events; Angel Tree Toy Drive; Nursing Home visits/caroling. Youth Mission week at Taylor Park/Inner City

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

My goal, if elected, will be to advance God's Kingdom. The present challenges faced by our United Methodist Church are daunting; I must keep the scripture in my mind throughout the process of writing, debating, amending, and voting on legislation. I am an experienced delegate to Annual Conference. I am adept in parliamentary procedure as the result of my experiences in Student Government & Model UN. I am comfortable speaking in front of large groups. The legislative process excites me.

MONTGOMERY-OPELIKA DISTRICT**DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET**

Name: **Melissa Mikul**

Address: **699 Mt Ida Rd, Luverne, AL 36049**

Phone Numbers: Home:
Cell: **334-429-0969**

E-mail: **melissa.mikul@gmail.com**

Spouse: **none** Child: **none**

Education (Highest Degree): **Master's Degree**

Occupation: **Physician Assistant**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership: **Luverne United Methodist Church**

Dates of Present Church Membership: **2012-present**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership:
First United Methodist Church of Muscle Shoals 1999-2012

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Worship Committee Member 2014-present**
Wonderful Wednesday Children's Ministry Volunteer
VBS Group Leader
Choir Member 2011-present
Lay Delegate 2015

District Leadership and Dates

Conference Leadership and Dates

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

Community Service: **Troy-Pike Habitat for Humanity Board President 2012-present**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate:

I believe in God the Creator and Healer, who loves the world unconditionally and provided the world with an unfathomable grace through his son, Jesus. I strive to mirror that love and grace to others through my daily interaction with my patients, through worship, and through service in my church and in the world. I care deeply about the future of the United Methodist Church, and I have been blessed with the opportunity to expand my territory in service through the lay delegate position. I would be honored to represent young lay people in the Montgomery-Opelika District and the Alabama - West Florida Conference at General Conference 2016.

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name: **Lucas Tribble**

Address: **8607 Fallow Field Rd., Montgomery, AL 36116**

Phone Numbers: Home: **334-271-6084**
 Cell: **334-303-1644**

E-mail: **LST0006@auburn.edu**

Spouse: **Single**
 Child: **N/A**

Education (Highest Degree): **Junior, Auburn University, Industrial & Systems Engineering**

Occupation: **Student & Youth Director**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership_: **Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery, AL**

Dates of Present Church Membership: **1993-present**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership: **N/A**

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Youth Director at Mount Zion UMC, Smiths Station (2014-present); Aldersgate Church Council (2010-2012); Usher & Communion Server (2009-2014); 2012 Jimmy Hitchcock Memorial Award Winner**

District Leadership and Dates: **Young Adult Representative (2014-present)**

Conference Leadership and Dates: **Young Adult Delegate to Annual Conference (2014-present); Led Opening Prayer at a Session of Annual Conference (2014)**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates: **N/A**

Community Service: **Mission trips: Jamaica (twice); Red Bird Mission Work Camp, North GA/East TN; Washington, DC; Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM); directed University-wide Service Day w/thousands volunteers at hundreds of jobsites.**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **Service is of the utmost importance to me. If we could only learn one thing from the many teachings of Christ, I believe that it would be that we should show people Christ's love by serving them. That is the main reason that I would love to serve this District and Annual Conference. Even though I am young, I am very educated and think that I would serve as a good voice for young people, which I believe to be critical, especially since young people are the future of our church.**



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name **Matthew (Matt) York**

Address **852 Choctaw Avenue, Auburn, Alabama 36830**

Phone Numbers: Home: **334-826-7053**

Cell:

E-mail **mattyork@charter.net**

Spouse: none

Child: none

Education (Highest Degree) **Ed.S in Educational Administration, AU**

Occupation **Social Studies Teacher at Auburn High School**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership_ **Opelika First UMC**

Dates of Present Church Membership **2003-present (12 years)**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership: **Auburn UMC (1995-2003) and Jacksonville First UMC (1988-1995, North Alabama Conference)**

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Board of Stewards (2010-2012 and 2014-present), Church Lay Leader, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Lay Leadership (2014-present)**

District Leadership and Dates: **n/a**

Conference Leadership and Dates: **n/a**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates: **n/a**

Community Service: **As sponsor of the AHS Key Club, we worked with our local Kiwanis Club on various community service projects (Pancake Day, Dean RIF program), as well as club fundraising efforts to support the state Key Club service project of Children's Hospital in Birmingham. I have also worked with ARM on projects throughout Calhoun and Lee counties.**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **As the son of a Methodist Minister and a life-long Methodist, I am aware of the need for strong leadership in the church that continues to be rooted in the Word of God and schooled in the Book of Discipline. As a lay and youth delegate to the North Alabama Annual Conference for several years, I have seen the process involved in electing delegates to both General and Jurisdictional Conference and the tremendous responsibility involved in serving as a delegate. I am now ready to carry on that servant attitude in the AWF Annual Conference.**

MONTGOMERY-PRATTVILLE DISTRICT

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name: **Susan Hunt**

Address: **675 Ponce de Leon Ave., Montgomery, AL 36106**

Phone Numbers: Home:**334-239-9887**

Cell:**334-300-8104**

E-mail: **susan@awfumc.org**

Spouse: none

Child: none

Education (Highest Degree): **Auburn University - Bachelor of Industrial Engineering**

Occupation: **Director of Mission and Advocacy**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership: **Montgomery First UMC**

Dates of Present Church Membership: **Since 2009**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership: **UM Church of the Servant, Oklahoma City (2000 to 2008)**

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Volunteer Director, "Joy for Johnny" ministry since 2010; Sunday school teacher; Currently serving on the work area on Church and Society**

District Leadership and Dates: **Conference staff representative to Demopolis and Montgomery-Prattville Districts**

Conference Leadership and Dates: **Conference Director of Mission and Advocacy; Conference CORE Team, UMYM team leader trainer; Board Member, AWF Development Fund; ex-officio on several Conference agency boards (Nellie Burge Community Center, Alabama Rural Ministries, and others)**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates: **United Methodist Deaconess (Commissioned 2004), SEJ Deaconess/Home Missioner Fellowship President; Alternate Delegate 2012 General Conference; Delegate 2012 Jurisdictional Conference; SEJ Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries Association secretary/treasurer**

Community Service: **Founded "Joy for Johnny" at Montgomery FUMC - a respite ministry for families with children with special needs.**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **I am a life-long United Methodist and love the UMC. The older I get and the more I learn, the more I appreciate and believe in the Apostle's Creed and Wesleyan theology. Mission is my passion, and I believe this should be our top priority and concern as a Church - being externally focused and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our responsibility as Christians is to reach out to those who need to know the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ. I seek to honor God with my life and all that I do, and would do the same as a delegate if chosen.**

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name: **Matt Langford**

Address: **407 Overlook Rd. Greenville, AL**

Phone Numbers: Home:**334-382-9753**

Cell:**334-437-3931**

E-mail: **fumcyouth@camelliacom.com**

Spouse: none

Child: none

Education (Highest Degree): **Associate in Science**

Occupation: **Youth Director**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership: **Greenville FUMC**

Dates of Present Church Membership: **lifelong**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Youth Representative to Church Council (2012-2012), VBS volunteer (2007-Present), Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic, Youth Director (2013-Present),**

District Leadership and Dates: **CORE Team member (2014-Present)**

Conference Leadership and Dates: **2014 Harry Denman Award recipient**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

Community Service: **Church worship leader (2010-2014), Worship Band member, Key Club member (2010-2012), Child Advocacy volunteer, Relay for Life team captain, Butler County Ministerial Association member**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **.I love being a member of the United Methodist Church because it has always inspired me to grow in my faith and love of Jesus Christ and his Word. I have a unique perspective and interest in the future of our denomination because I am a college student who wants to spend the rest of my faith life in a church like ours that expresses a deep commitment to Jesus Christ and service to others. I was honored to represent all young people last year at Annual Conference as the Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient, and my heart is set on serving Christ by bringing others to know Him more. If elected I would be honored to help lead the church into God's vision of a bright future.**

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name: **Paulette Thompson**

Address: **1916 South Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104**

Phone Numbers: **Home: 334-264-6164**

E-mail: **p.thompson1916@gmail.com**

Spouse: **George Thompson** Children: **Elizabeth & Adrienne**

Education (Highest Degree): **Ph.D**

Occupation: **Retired, AL. Dept Mental Health, Dir. Planning & Staff Development**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership **First United Methodist Church of Montgomery**

Dates of Present Church Membership: **1982-present**

Previous Church and Dates of Membership: **Christ Episcopal, Church Tuscaloosa, Al. 1978-82**

Local Church Leadership and Dates: **Lay Leader 2012-14; Core Values Committee 2012-13; Long Range Planning Committee 2014, 2000, co-chair 1996; Administrative Board Chair; Finance Committee Chair, 2004; Stewardship Campaign Chair 2008; Board of Trustees V-Chair 1998-2000; Staff Parish Committee 2007-2009; Disciple Bible Study leader 1992-2003; Small group and covenant group leader 2004-2014; Vision 2000 co-chair 1994-96; Staff Parish Committee 2007-09**

District Leadership and Dates: **Chair Committee on Superintendence 2004-06, member 2003-07; Lay Academy/Super Sunday Planning Committee 1994, 2006, 2009; presenter 2007, 2009, 2011 Core Team 2004-08**

Conference Leadership and Dates: **Episcopacy Committee Chair 2012-present; Board of Trustees Chair 2008-12; Board of Directors Academy for Congregational Leadership 2012-2014; Board of Directors Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation 2008-present; Secretary Board of Ordained Ministry 2000-2008 Core Team 2010-11; Consecrated Conference Spiritual Director 2011-present.**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates: **Jurisdictional Lay Delegate 2012 General Conference Alternate Lay Delegate 2012; 2012 General Conference Spiritual Director**

Community Service: **Chair: Montgomery County Dept. of Human Resources 2013-present Founding Board member and past president Hospice of Montgomery; Board of Director Birmingham-Southern College 1996-2014; Board of Directors Montgomery Junior League**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **I believe in the mystery of the Holy Trinity lived out in Wesleyan theology. I believe in the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and therefore applaud and support the spiritual formation movement in our churches and in our Conference. I believe that Christian transformation of the world begins with the transformation of individuals as disciples of Christ.**

PENSACOLA DISTRICT

DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET



Name **Peggy Lou Akerman**

Address **4315 Rosborough Place, Pensacola, Florida 32514-8211**

Phone Numbers: Home: **850-484-3946**

Cell: **850-232-8591**

E-mail **pakerman@aol.com**

Spouse **David**

Child **David Alan & Daniel Augustus Akerman**

Child **Rebeca Lee Anderson**

Education (Highest Degree) **Ed.D.**

Occupation **educator/Certified Lay Minister**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership **_ Cokesbury United Methodist Church**

Dates of Present Church Membership **1988 - present**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership **First Presbyterian - 1946 - 1969; First UMC - Iowa, 1969 - 1971; First UMC - VA - 1976 - 1981; Israel - 1981 - 1983**

Local Church Leadership and Dates **Church Council: 2012 - present, Lay Leader - Summit Park Campus: 2011 - present, Worship Coordinator - Summit Park Campus: 2001 - present, Congregational Care Coordinator: 2012 - present, Upper Room Prayer Line Coordinator: 2011 - present, Laity Leadership committee: 2013 - present**

District Leadership and Dates **Lay Servant District Committee - 2012 - present**

Conference Leadership and Dates **Taught 5 Lay Servant Courses: 2011 - present, will teach Pastoral Care in Feb. 2015 in Pensacola, Fl.**

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

Community Service: **Conduct Sunday Services at The Haven & The Veranda Senior Citizen Homes, Grief Counseling, Manna Food Bank Drive Volunteer. Previous: Boy/Girl Scout Leader, Vacation Bible School, Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Program**

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate: **I believe I have been granted salvation through Christ Jesus whose love is seen through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I believe we are set free of our sins through the authority of the written Word and the grace of God is sufficient for me. Finally, I believe that I am not worthy of God's forgiveness of my sins, and it is only through Jesus' life, death and resurrection that I am free to live a life dedicated to pleasing God which is also why I would make a good delegate.**



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name **Brenda Alford**

Address 508 Itchy Acres Lane, Bonifay, FL 32425

Phone Numbers: Home: 850-547-3408

Cell: 850-849-0125

E-mail **alfordb3@yahoo.com**

Spouse Child **Will Alford**

Child **Nan Alford Rogers**

Education (Highest Degree) **Master's Degree in Mathematics**

Occupation **Retired High School and College Instructor**

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership **Bonifay First United Methodist Church**

Dates of Present Church Membership **1958-Present**

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

None

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Past Chair of Finance Comm, of Administrative Board, of Stewardship Campaigns, of Natural Church Development, have taught Sunday School for 40 years, Belonging Chair, 2009-2012, Outreach Chair, 2013 to present, Current member of Finance Comm, Leadership Team, Prayer Chain. Certified Lay Servant.

District Leadership and Dates

Member of District Trustees Committee, Chairman of District Mission Committee, Member of District Mission Committee

Conference Leadership and Dates

Member of Conference Equitable Compensation Commission from 2011 till now. Secretary of ECC from 2012 till now. Lay Delegate 2008 - 2011.

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

Community Service

Past President and member of Bonifay Junior Women's Club, Past member of Holmes County Thrift Store Board. Currently member of the Chipola College Foundation Board in Marianna, FL.

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I believe that all of life needs to be lived and all of scripture needs to be read through the lens of the the Greatest Commandment and the second Greatest Commandment, to love God with all our being and to love our neighbor as ourself. I would make a good delegate because of the knowledge about Methodism and its issues, that I have acquired over the years, because I am a good listener, articulate, work well in a team, and because I strongly believe in the unity of the church.



DELEGATE PROFILE SHEET

Name **Gene Floore**

Address 115 Indian Bayou Drive, Destin, FL 32541

Phone Numbers: Home: 850-650-9310

Cell:

E-mail **GeneFloore@cox.net**

Spouse Sharon Floore Child 3 cats and an African Gray parrot

Child

Education (Highest Degree) BS - Systems Science

Occupation President and CEO of St. Joe Beach Development, LLC

Present Local United Methodist Church Membership Destin UMC

Dates of Present Church Membership 1999-present

Previous Church(es) and Dates of Membership

Local Church Leadership and Dates

Church Council Chair 2004-05, Permanent Endowment Com. Chair 2006-present, Building Com. Chair 2006- present, DLC Steering Com. 2007-09, Finance Com. 2004-05, Trustees Com. 2004-05, Staff- Parish Com. Chair 2012, Stewardship Com. 2002-04, Lay Delegate to A.C. 2004-07, Lay Ldrshp. Com. 2003-04

District Leadership and Dates

Pensacola LITE Day Session Leader 2003 & 2004, Church Locations & Building Com. Member 2008-present, Church Locations & Building Com. Chair 2014-present

Conference Leadership and Dates

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation Board of Directors 2006-present, Methodist Foundation Executive Board 2008-present, Asbury Seminary Foundation Board of Trustees 2008-present, Blue Lake Walk to Emmaus #195

Jurisdictional and General Church Leadership and Dates

Elected delegate to Jurisdictional Conference 2008, elected alternate delegate to General Conference 2008, elected alternate delegate to Jurisdictional and General Conference 2012

Community Service

Destin Little League Brd. of Directors, Tallahassee & Destin, FL Chamber of Commerce Brd. of Directors, Economic Develop. Council Brd. of Directors, National Intramural & Recreational Sports Asso., Mission Love Seeds - Assisting Hurricane Katrina Victims, Indian Bayou Subdivision Brd. of Directors & Treasurer

Beliefs, philosophies and reasons why I would make a good delegate

I believe the teachings of Jesus Christ through scripture should be the foundation of the Methodist Church. All decisions and policies created at Gen. Conf. should be based on strong Biblical principles that change lives through the message instead of modifying the message to accommodate a changing society.

THE STANDING RULES with committee revisions

[All paragraph references are to the *2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* except as otherwise noted, and these numbers are printed in **bold**. Committee changes include strikethroughs and bold font]

INTRODUCTION

The Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church shall be organized and structured according to the mandates of the latest edition of *The Book of Discipline*, and shall act in all respects in harmony with the policy of The United Methodist Church. In keeping with those standards, this conference commits itself to the elimination of discrimination on the basis of race and gender (see ¶ **604.1**). The following Standing Rules are adopted by the Alabama-West Florida Conference for its own governance and to fit its specific setting for mission and ministry. The Alabama-West Florida Conference shall follow *Roberts Rules of Order* except where superseded by explicit rules in *The Book of Discipline* or in these Standing Rules.

1. These Standing Rules shall be implemented, applied or amended as follows:
 - A. These rules shall be effective at the end of the annual conference at which they are passed. All rules remain in effect until they are rescinded or amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting on the next day after the proposed amendment has been presented in writing.
 - B. Any proposed changes in the Standing Rules should be received in writing by the chairperson of the Committee on Standing Rules no later than February 1.
 - C. Any of these rules, except Standing Rule (SR) 1D, may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at annual conference.
 - D. A change in the number of districts may not be made later than the first business session **of the annual conference**.

OFFICERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2. The conference secretary and the *Journal* editor (nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations, see SR 5B) and the treasurer/statistician and the conference registrar (nominated by the Council on Finance and Administration) shall be elected at the first session of the annual conference following the general conference, with tenure of office to begin on December ~~first~~ **1**, following their election, and to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. (¶ **603.7 and ¶619**)

COMMITTEES RELATING TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

3. There shall be a Committee on Standing Rules, composed of the conference secretary, the director of Connectional Ministries (see SR 5A), the conference treasurer, the *Journal* editor and five at-large members including the chairperson. This committee shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations (see SR 5B), shall include both lay and clergy, and shall be elected by the annual conference. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
4. There shall be a Committee on Resolutions and Petitions, composed of four

clergy and four lay persons, nominated by the Committee on Nominations, which shall consider all petitions addressed to the general, jurisdictional, and annual conferences. After consideration, the committee shall submit the petitions, with its written recommendation and the rationale for each recommendation, to the annual conference for action. Resolutions shall be submitted to the committee by February 15, except in cases where it can be demonstrated by the author of a late petition that the situation which gave rise to making the petition was not apparent until after the deadline for petitions. The committee shall provide copies of all resolutions submitted by February 15 to all voting members present at the conference session. The maker of the **late** resolution shall supply these copies of his/her resolution if submitted after February 15. No resolution will be received on the last day of the session.

5. A. The leadership, missional and administrative structures of the Alabama-West Florida Conference shall come together at a “common table” or organization known as the “Connecting Our Resources and Empowerment” Team or CORE Team. The means of electing and appointing representatives connected to the CORE Team, which includes boards, committees, councils, commissions and divisions of the Leadership Team, the Mission Team, and the Administrative Team, are spelled out in these Standing Rules (also see SR 24 and following).

B. There shall be a Committee on Nominations, composed of: the resident bishop, who shall be the chairperson; the conference lay leader; the conference secretary, who shall be the secretary of this committee; the director of connectional ministries; the conference treasurer; the conference presidents of United Methodist Men (UMM) and of United Methodist Women (UMW); a United Methodist youth; the eight district lay leaders; the eight district superintendents; the Conference Resource Center program staff; and three at-large members chosen by the bishop with attention given to the need for inclusive representation. This committee shall nominate persons quadrennially to the CORE Team, conference boards, commissions, committees, councils, etc., as listed in these Standing Rules and as needed by other conference institutions (per the bishop’s discretion). Nominations shall be consistent with the most recent *Book of Discipline*, with attention given to inclusiveness, diversity and expertise. The committee shall submit its nominations as early as possible in the annual conference session. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

6. There shall be a Committee on Courtesies and Introductions, composed of three lay and two clergy members, which shall be responsible for presentation of visitors to the conference, and for a report in the closing session expressing appreciation to persons and groups who have rendered special services in the program.

7. There shall be a Committee on the *Journal*, appointed quadrennially by the bishop, composed of two members, who shall examine the minutes of daily sessions for accuracy and report the findings to the conference.

8. The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) shall handle expenses of the conference session. There shall be a Conference Administration Fund, the amount to be fixed annually by the Council on Finance and Administration, with assessments for the fund to be allocated annually to individual pastoral charges on the apportioned formula basis. When the Annual Conference makes available lodging for the annual conference session, CFA will establish reasonable fees.

When the Annual Conference makes available meals for the annual conference session, CFA will establish reasonable fees. Conference meals for which there is no charge, shall be funded by the Annual Conference Administration Fund. Instructions shall be provided in advance by the conference registrar. The following persons are eligible for this:

- A. The presiding bishop and spouse, all clergy members in full connection and all provisional members;
- B. All clergy being admitted as provisional members and all transferred members from other conferences;
- C. All associate members and local pastors serving pastoral charges;
- D. Local and supply pastors scheduled to receive pastoral appointments;
- E. Spouses and surviving spouses of clergy who receive GBOPHB annuities;
- F. Clergy from other conferences serving within our conference;
- G. Lay members of the conference as specified in SR 14 or duly elected reserve lay members, provided the principal lay members are not in attendance;
- H. Diaconal ministers;
- I. Up to two youth pages selected from each district (lodging expenses to be paid by their district); and
- J. At large lay members, distinguished guests, and those specified in SR 14B.

9. The Annual Conference Session Planning Committee:

- A. There shall be an Annual Conference Session Planning Committee, composed of the presiding bishop who shall serve as chairperson, the host district superintendent, the conference secretary, the *Journal* editor who shall serve as secretary of the committee, the conference registrar, the conference treasurer, the chairperson of the Conference Division of Worship, the director of connectional ministries, the conference lay leader, the host district lay leader, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the chairperson of the Conference Board of Advocacy and Racial Ethnic Ministries, United Methodist youth, and a United Methodist young adult.
- B. The Annual Conference Session Planning Committee shall arrange tentatively the program of the annual conference session, and shall submit the program to the opening session for possible amendment and adoption as its agenda. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be included in the program.
- C. A period of recognition of retiring clergy shall be held during the conference session, with a suitable program arranged by the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- D. A memorial service commemorating each clergyperson or "surviving spouse" or diaconal minister who died since the last annual conference shall be arranged by the Commission on Archives and History. The Commission shall also provide a memoir of the deceased for publication in the *Journal*.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

10. The rules of order of the preceding general conference shall govern parliamentary procedure in this conference in all matters not covered by the standing rules. In order to be recognized to address the conference, each person must identify him/herself as to name and the capacity in which he/she is entitled to speak to the session.

11. Reports and resolutions:

A. All reports and resolutions shall be consistent with the *Guidelines for Reports*; and shall be placed on the conference agenda by the conference secretary in the order designated by the Annual Conference Session Planning Committee.

Proposed resolutions and changes to the conference standing rules shall lie on the conference secretary's desk for at least one business session before being acted upon by the conference.

B. By a two-thirds vote of those present and voting an agenda item may be taken up out of order for consideration.

C. All amendments to reports of boards and agencies as printed in the *Brochure of Reports* and all motions arising from the floor of the conference shall be made in writing to the conference secretary.

D. At the annual conference session, no materials (handouts, etc.) shall be placed on the pews or seats when the conference is in recess, unless a prior majority vote approves an exception to this rule.

12. In order to expedite the business of the conference, the Consent Agenda Committee, composed of the secretary of the annual conference, the chairperson of the Committee on Standing Rules, the director of connectional ministries, and the *Journal* editor, in consultation with agencies or individuals presenting reports, recommendations or resolutions, may present in the *Brochure of Reports* a written list of items which shall be known as the Consent Agenda. Items on the Consent Agenda shall be considered as adopted by consent of the annual conference. An individual item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a written request signed by twelve lay and/or clergy members of the annual conference and presented to the conference secretary prior to the first business session. When a matter has been removed from the Consent Agenda, it shall be placed into the regular agenda at an appropriate time.

13. Election of General and Jurisdictional delegations:

A. Delegates to the general and jurisdictional conferences shall be elected according to stipulations in ¶ 502.4 and ¶ 515 respectively of the *Book of Discipline*. In compliance with the 2012 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 35, all eligible clergy shall be listed on the ballot for General and Jurisdictional Elections. They shall serve in all sessions of these conferences held during the quadrennium. In addition to those delegates funded by the general and jurisdictional conferences, the Alabama-West Florida Conference shall pay the expenses of only one more alternate delegate, lay and clergy, to the general and jurisdictional conferences at the rate paid to the delegates.

B. In the election of delegates, the presiding bishop shall appoint four teams of tellers (two clergy teams and two lay teams), each team consisting of one representative from each district, one of whom shall serve as head teller.

C. In the election of these delegates, the ballots shall be furnished to the conference by the conference secretary at the time of voting. No vote shall be valid unless cast on the ballot designated by the presiding bishop.

D. One year prior to an electing annual conference, the Board of Laity shall make plans and policies regarding the lay elections, and give guidance to laity regarding the process of caucusing, nominating and electing the lay delegation. Following the opening session of the electing annual conference, the laity, in their orientation

session, will give opportunity for any persons seeking election (whose name has not been put in nomination in advance) to provide a single printed profile sheet for distribution.

E. A general code of ethical standards will be demonstrated by every candidate, lay and clergy. Every individual's right to exercise his/her voting or political expression should be consistent with the *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church*.

F. Endorsements of candidates will be made only by individuals and/or local churches, or the district electing caucus.

14. Annual Conference lay members:

A. Lay members to the annual conference shall be elected yearly in the charge conferences. One youth member to the annual conference (age 12-17) (expenses to be paid by their district) and one young adult member (age 18-30) shall be selected from each district. The conference secretary (if lay), the conference lay leader, the director of conference lay ~~speaking~~ **servant** ministries, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, ~~a member of the conference~~ United Methodist youth, the conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), ~~the president or equivalent officer of the conference-~~ ~~young adult organization~~ **a United Methodist young adult**, active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, district lay leaders, and diaconal ministers, shall be lay members to the annual conference. (For churches with more than one clergy person under appointment, see ¶ 32 of the *Book of Discipline*.)

B. In compliance with the disciplinary requirement (¶ 32) to keep lay representation in the annual conference session equal to that of clergy, the conference secretary shall ascertain whether the upcoming session will be in balance with respect to lay and clergy membership as of January 1 each year. If additional lay members are needed, the conference secretary shall add them using the following guidelines:

(1) The first eight shall be the district presidents of United Methodist Women. In the event that fewer than eight are needed, the secretary shall make the determination on the basis of the last reported church membership totals of the districts, moving from the largest downward in scale.

(2) The second eight shall be the district presidents of the United Methodist Men. In the event that fewer than eight are needed, the secretary shall make the determination on the basis of the last reported church membership totals of the districts, moving from the largest downward in scale.

(3) Next, the secretary shall name an additional youth and young adult from each district. In the event that fewer than sixteen are needed, the secretary shall make the determination on the basis of the last reported church membership totals of the districts, moving from the largest downward in scale.

(3 4) Next the secretary shall name full-time lay workers on the professional staff of the Conference Resource Center.

(4 5) Next the secretary shall name the lay members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

(5 6) Next the secretary shall name lay members of the general and jurisdictional

delegations (including alternates) in the order of their election.

(6 7) Next the secretary shall name lay persons who are chairpersons of CORE Team boards, commissions, councils, etc., in the order listed in the CORE organizational document, and the at-large members of the CORE Team.

(7 8) Next the secretary shall name lay members of the Council on Finance and Administration.

(8 9) The remainder shall be at-large members divided among the eight districts and selected by each district. In the event that there is a remainder of less than eight, the secretary shall make the determination on the basis of the last reported church membership totals of the districts, moving from the largest downward in scale.

(9 10) If a person is selected by the above process who is already a member of annual conference as the delegate from his/her church/charge, he or she may serve in the new capacity and thus empower the church's alternate delegate to ~~go~~ **attend** as the voting representative of the charge. The district superintendent and district lay leader of each district may assist in this process in conjunction with their district's orientation session in preparation for the annual conference.

15. *The Conference Journal and Brochure of Reports:*

The publication and distribution of *The Annual Conference Journal* and the *Brochure of Reports* shall be supervised by the Editorial Committee, chaired by the *Journal* editor and composed of the conference secretary, the Director of Ministerial Services, the treasurer/statistician, and the director of Connectional Ministries. The *Journal* editor shall be responsible for preparation of the *Brochure of Reports* and its distribution **either in printed or electronic form** to all eligible persons. Materials and reports to be included in the *Brochure of Reports* shall be in the hands of the *Journal* editor NO LATER THAN the last Monday in February. The *Brochure of Reports* shall contain an order blank for the *Journal*. The Council on Finance and Administration shall determine the cost of each *Journal* including mailing. All names, addresses, reports, resolutions, and/or other materials to be included in the *Journal* of the Alabama-West Florida Conference shall be in the hands of the conference secretary no later than ten working days after the close of annual conference.

16. Board Memberships and Trusteeships:

A. With the exception of the Board of Ordained Ministry, no person may serve on more than one quadrennial agency of this conference at the same time. Except as provided by the *Book of Discipline*, one's term on a quadrennial agency shall not exceed eight years within any twelve consecutive years. Elected membership on non-quadrennial agencies is limited to no more than eight of any twelve consecutive years, with the exception of the Board of Laity. For the sake of administrative and program continuity, this standing rule shall not apply where existing constitutions require the retiring chair to continue to serve for a period not to exceed two years. The quadrennial agencies are: the Conference Board of Global Ministries, the Board of Discipleship, the Board of Church and Society, the Board of Congregational Development, the Town and Country Commission, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, the Board of Advocacy and Ethnic Ministries, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Council on Finance and Administration, and the at-large members on the CORE Team.

B. Persons may be enlisted to assist boards and agencies for specific task force responsibilities.

C. No person shall serve on more than one board of trustees or board of directors of institutions or agencies related to this annual conference at the same time. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to mean that persons may not serve concurrently on boards of trustees or directors and as members of quadrennial boards and agencies or ex-officio trustees or directors, where disciplinary provisions apply.

D. Persons who fail to attend and participate in the meetings and programs expected of their elected position for one year without legitimate excuse shall be replaced. The person chosen by the Committee on Nominations to fill the unexpired term may also be elected to serve an additional quadrennium.

E. No person shall serve more than nine consecutive years (three terms) as a trustee of any agency or institution related to this annual conference, nor shall this person be eligible for election again to that board for three years.

17. Organizational stipulations for boards and agencies:

A. All conference program boards, commissions, divisions, and committees, except as provided by the *Book of Discipline*, shall begin their tenure immediately upon election at annual conference.

B. Every year the Conference Committee on Nominations shall complete its work four weeks before the date set for the regular conference session, in order to inform nominees of their selection and anticipated confirmation.

18. There shall be eight districts in this annual conference.

19. A district conference shall be held annually in each district of this annual conference, with its program year starting in January. The voting membership of the district conference shall be consistent with the directives of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, (§ 658-659).

20. Each district shall have a District Committee on Nominations composed of the district superintendent as chairperson, and with a membership of three clergy and four lay persons, elected annually. No member may serve for more than three consecutive years with the exception of the district superintendent. The District Committee on Nominations may submit to the district conference the names of one clergy and one lay person for election for each district work area and age-level ministry, and such other persons as are needed for membership to the District Council on Ministries or District CORE Team. Persons to be nominated shall be consulted by their district superintendent prior to the submission of their names. The District Committee on Nominations may fill vacancies with replacements to take office immediately. Such persons shall be confirmed at the next meeting of the district conference (§ 659.1).

21. Neither a district superintendent nor a paid staff person of the annual conference shall serve as an elected member on a quadrennial board, commission, or committee, except as specifically provided by the *Book of Discipline*. Vacancies occurring by appointment of members of boards, divisions, commissions and committees to the district superintendency shall be filled by the conference session when such appointments are made.

22. In the allocation of askings on the formula basis, the financial strength of the church shall NOT include monies expended for the following items:

- A. Principal and interest on capital indebtedness.
- B. Buildings and capital improvements.
- C. General Advance Specials and World Service Special Gifts.
- D. Conference Advance Specials.
- E. Remittances by United Methodist Women to the conference treasurer.
- F. Remittances to any authorized conference capital fund campaign.
- G. Remittances to the Birmingham-Southern College Scholarship Fund and/or capital gifts.
- H. Remittances to Huntingdon College Scholarship Fund and/or capital gifts.
- I. Children's Home White Christmas Offering and Homes for the Aging/Fountain of Love offering.
- J. Special Day Offerings of the General Church: (One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.)
- K. All apportioned funds from the gGeneral eChurch, the conference and the districts.
- L. Benevolences paid directly by the local church.
- M. Direct billing for pension and health benefits.

23. The treasurer of the annual conference shall make the final settlement regarding apportionments, and disburse all funds to the annual conference boards, commissions and committees or treasurers after the close of the fiscal year, following the guidelines of zero-based budgeting.

BOARDS AND AGENCIES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

24. There shall be a Conference CORE Team, as outlined in the "Plan of Organization for the Alabama-West Florida Conference." Policies or procedures for the CORE Team shall be guided by the most current *Book of Discipline*. The "Plan of Organization for the Alabama-West Florida Conference" shall be available on the conference website. Other offices, program boards, commissions, etc., as required by the *Discipline* but not a part of the CORE Team, are also authorized. Also see SR 5.

25. There shall be a Golden Cross fund and offering to aid medical needs of conference members/pastors. The chair of Golden Cross shall be nominated by, and shall report to, the CORE Team Division of Missions.

26. There shall be a Conference Policies and Personnel Committee appointed by the Bishop and approved by the CORE Team. The Committee shall establish uniform and equitable policies and procedures in the employment of Conference Resource Center personnel. It shall be the goal of our annual conference that all conference and district offices maintain reasonably consistent and inclusive policies regarding personnel, as is appropriate to each locale.

27. There shall be a Board of Ordained Ministry as provided by the *Book of Discipline* (§ 635).

28. There shall be a Board of Laity, as described in the *Book of Discipline* (§ 631), which shall be composed of the conference lay leader, the district lay leaders, the conference president of United Methodist Women (UMW), an additional officer of UMW, the conference president of United Methodist Men (UMM), the conference scouting coordinator, the conference director of Lay **Speaking Servant** Ministries

(LSM), an additional officer of LSM, a United Methodist youth , and a United Methodist young adults, and the first elected lay delegate to general conference. Additionally, the following shall serve ex-officio: the presiding bishop, one cabinet representative, and the director of connectional ministries.

29. The conference lay leader shall be nominated by the Conference Board of Laity and elected by the annual conference at the time of quadrennial reorganization. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The conference lay leader may serve no more than two succeeding quadrennia as the conference lay leader. All other officers within the Board of Laity shall be elected by the board. Vacancies in the office of conference lay leader shall be filled by nomination from the board in the interim, and confirmed at the following annual conference.

30. There shall be an Academy for Congregational Excellence, Inc. as authorized by the CORE Team, composed of officers and board members specified in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Academy for Congregational Excellence.

31. There shall be a Commission on Equitable Compensation as provided by the *Book of Discipline*

(¶ 625), composed of twelve members, six lay and six clergy, at least one clergy and one lay being from churches with fewer than 200 members. In addition, one superintendent named by the cabinet and a staff person from the fiscal office shall be members.

32. There shall be a Commission on Archives and History as provided by the *Book of Discipline* (¶ 641). Eight members shall be elected by the annual conference at the beginning of each quadrennium for a term of four years. Ex-officio members with vote shall include a representative from Huntingdon College, the conference historian (unless receiving compensation), the president of the AWFC Historical Society, the resident bishop, and the conference secretary. The Archivist shall be an ex-officio member without vote. A chairperson, vice-chairperson, and recording secretary/financial secretary, shall be elected by the commission.

33. There shall be a Board of Pension and Health Benefits as provided by the *Book of Discipline* (¶ 639), composed of eighteen members elected to 8-year terms, arranged in four-year classes to include representatives of both lay and clergy of both sexes. The Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave shall be constituted as provided by the *Book of Discipline* (¶ 652), with efforts made to be inclusive.

34. There shall be an Assembly Grounds Board of Trustees, constituted as authorized by a Corporation Charter from the State of Alabama, record of which can be found on page 112 of the *1958 Journal* of our Annual Conference, and all amendments thereto. The current Articles of Incorporation and bylaws shall be available on the conference website.

35. There shall be a Council on Finance and Administration as provided by the *Book of Discipline* (¶ 611), composed of eight lay, five clergy members, and the ex-officio members as specified in ¶ 612. Unless the following are otherwise reimbursed, the CFA shall pay from the Conference administrative budget the reasonable and relevant expenses (as set or approved by CFA) of: the conference secretary's office; expenses of the Council on Finance and Administration; all expenses of printing, honoraria, and incidental expenses connected with annual conference sessions; expenses of cabinet meetings; expenses of all conference

agencies and special committees not participating in the conference benevolence budget; room and board at annual conference of agencies and special committees meeting with the Council on Finance and Administration for the purpose of making budget requests; honoraria of the conference secretary and assistant secretaries for annual conference, the registrar and assistants, the *Journal* editor; all expenses incurred by the Journal Editor in preparing/printing the *Brochure of Reports* and the conference Journal.

36. There shall be an Episcopal Residence Committee as provided by the *Book of Discipline* (§ 638), composed of the chairperson of the Committee on Episcopacy, the president of the Annual Conference Board of Trustees, the president of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and two at-large representatives selected by the bishop. Efforts shall be made to keep membership inclusive, and at least two members of this committee shall be women.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following reports indicated by agency name and beginning page number are a part of the CONSENT AGENDA. They will be considered as having passed by consent of the annual conference unless they are removed from the CONSENT AGENDA on Monday, June 1, at the afternoon session. PLEASE READ THE REPORTS CAREFULLY PRIOR TO THE ABOVE DATE. (See Standing Rule Number 12.)

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PETITIONS

Suggested Title: License for Pastoral Ministry

Discipline ¶ 315.2c and 315.5

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 315.2c and 315.5

315.2c The studies for the license as a local pastor as prescribed and supervised by the ~~Division of Ordained Ministry~~ Conference Board of Ordained Ministry or one-third of their work for a Master of Divinity degree at a school of theology listed by the ~~University Senate~~ approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

315.5 Licensed or ordained clergy from other denominations who have training equivalent to the studies for license as a local pastor prescribed by the ~~Division of Ordained Ministry~~ Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, but do not meet the educational requirements for provisional membership in the annual conference.
Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to prescribe and supervise the studies for those seeking to be licensed for pastoral ministry in the respective annual conferences. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: Categories for Local Pastor

Discipline ¶ 318.1c (i), 318.1c (ii), 318.1c (iii), 318.2d (ii), 318.2d (iii), 318.3, 318.4

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 318.1c (i), 318.1c (ii), 318.1c (iii), 318.2d (i), 318.2d (ii), 318.2d (iii), 318.3, 318.4

318.1 (c) who, unless they have completed Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall ~~(i) complete four courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) shall~~ (i) have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the ~~General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Conference Board of Ordained Ministry~~ or (iii) (ii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the ~~University Senate Conference Board of Ordained Ministry~~; (d) who, when they have completed the Course of Study, are involved in continuing education (¶ 351); (e) who shall not be enrolled as a full-time student in any school.

318.2d shall ~~(i) complete two courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Conference Board of Ordained Ministry~~ or (iii) (ii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the ~~University Senate Conference Board of Ordained Ministry~~.

Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to prescribe and supervise the studies for those seeking to be licensed for pastoral ministry in the respective annual conferences. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: Requirements for Election as Associate Members

Discipline ¶ 322.4

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 322.4

322.4 complete a minimum of sixty semester hours toward the Bachelor of Arts or an equivalent degree in a college or university listed by the University Senate approved by the Conference Board of Ministry.

Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to make a determination of whether to approve undergraduate coursework for those seeking election as Associate Members. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training and credentialing of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership

Discipline ¶ 324

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 324

324. Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership – A person shall be eligible for election to provisional membership in the annual conference by vote of the clergy session on recommendation of its Board of Ministry after meeting the following qualifications.

1. Candidacy Requirement: Each candidate shall have been a certified candidate for provisional membership for at least one year and no more than twelve years.
2. Service Requirements: Each candidate shall have demonstrated his or her gifts

for ministries of service and leadership to the satisfaction of the district committee on ordained ministry as a condition for provisional membership.

3. ~~Undergraduate~~ Educational Requirements: A candidate for provisional membership shall have completed a bachelor's degree from a college or university recognized by the ~~University Senate~~ Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Exceptions to the undergraduate degree requirements may be made ~~by the~~ Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. ~~in some instances, for missional purposes, for persons who have a minimum of sixty semester hours of Bachelor of Arts credit and~~

~~(a) have been prevented from pursuit of the normal course of baccalaureate education,~~

~~(b) are members of a group whose cultural practices and training enhance insight and skills for effective ministry not available through conventional formal education, or~~

~~(c) have graduated with a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a college not recognized by the University Senate and have completed one half of the studies of the Master of Divinity or equivalent first professional degree in a school of theology listed by the University Senate.~~

4. ~~Graduate Requirements~~ Educational Recommendations

a) Candidates for deacon or elder ~~shall~~ are recommended to have completed one-half of the basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith. These courses may be included within or in addition to a seminary degree. These basic graduate theological studies ~~must~~ are recommended to include courses in Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/liturgy; and United Methodist doctrine, polity and history.

b) a candidate for ordination as an elder ~~shall~~ are recommended to have completed one half of the studies toward a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent, including one half of the basic graduate theological studies from a seminary ~~listed by the University Senate~~ approved by the Conference Board of Ministry.

c) a candidate for ordination as a deacon ~~shall~~ are recommended to have:

1) completed one half of the studies of a master's degree from a United Methodist seminary ~~or one listed by the University Senate~~ one approved by the Conference Board of Ministry, or

2) received a master's degree in the area of the specialized ministry in which the candidate will serve

3) completed one half of the basic graduate theological studies, in a context which will provide formation as a United Methodist deacon in full connection within a cohesive program ~~developed by the seminary and approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, documented by a record of completion from that school.~~ approved by the Conference Board of Ministry.

5. ~~In some instances a candidate who is pursuing ordination to serve as a deacon in full connection may fulfill the academic requirements through the following professional certification alternate route:~~

- a) shall have reached thirty-five years of age at the time to become a certified candidate;
 - b) completed a bachelor's degree, received professional certification or license in the area of ministry in which the candidate will serve, have completed a minimum of eight semester hours of graduate credit or equivalent quarter hours in the area of specialization, and have been recommended by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry;
 - e) have completed one-half of the basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith. These courses may be included within or in addition to a seminary degree. These basic graduate theological studies must include courses in Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/liturgy; and United Methodist doctrine, polity and history, in a context which will provide a cohesive program developed by the seminary and approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, documented by a record of completion from that school.
6. Local pastors may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership when they have:
- a) reached forty years of age;
 - b) satisfied all requirements of Sections 1-3 and 7-14 of this paragraph.
 - c) completed the five-year Course of Study for ordained ministry, of which no more than one-half may be taken by correspondence or Internet; up to one-half of Course of Study may be online courses; and
 - d) an Advance Course of Study consisting of thirty-two semester hours of graduate theological study offered by a seminary recognized by the University Senate or its equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Conference Board of Ordained Ministry that shall include United Methodist history, doctrine and polity.
7. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall require an official transcript of credits from each school before recognizing any of the applicant's educational claims. ~~In~~ cases of doubt, the board may submit a transcript to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
8. Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry are encouraged to be in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to determine the requirements for election to provisional membership in the respective annual conferences. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training and credentialing of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: Service of Provisional Members

Discipline Paragraph: ¶326

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition

Amend ¶ 326

326 Service of Provisional Members – All persons who are provisional members shall be appointed by a bishop (¶ 425) and serve as a provisional member of the annual conference ~~for a minimum of two years following the completion of education requirements for full connection until they complete residency requirements of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and apply for full connection.~~

Rationale:

The petition would allow for provisional members to apply for full connection upon completion of requirements prescribed by the Conference Board of Ministry with no minimum service requirement.

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Suggested Title: Requirements for Ordination as a Deacon and Admission to Full Connection

Discipline ¶ 330 Requirements for Ordination as Deacon and Admission to Full Connection

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 330.1, 330.3 and 330.4

330.1 They shall have served under episcopal appointment in a ministry area of service. ~~for at least two full annual conference years.~~ Upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the annual conference may equate less than fulltime or nonsalaried service as meeting this qualification. Such equivalence is to be determined in light of the years of service involved, the quality of that service, the maturity of the applicant, and other relevant factors determined by the board. Supervision is to be: (a) by the district superintendent, and (b) by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The applicant's service must be evaluated by the Board of Ordained Ministry as effective according to written guidelines developed by the board and adopted by the clergy members in full connection. Laypersons directly involved in the applicant's servant ministry ~~shall~~ may be involved by the board in the annual evaluation.

330.3 They shall have met the following educational requirements: (a) graduation with a Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree from a college or university ~~listed by the University Senate or its equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~ approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. ~~In unusual circumstances, exceptions to this requirement may be granted by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.;~~ (b) graduation with a Master of Divinity degree or a master's degree from a graduate theological school recognized by the University Senate, or a master's degree in an area of specialized ministry; ~~(c) or are candidates over the age of 35 with professional certification or license in their area of ministry including a minimum of eight semester hours of graduate academic credit. Educational requirements in every case shall include the basic-graduate theological studies of the Christian faith, as out lined in ¶324.4(a).~~

Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to determine the requirements for ordination as a deacon and for election to full connection in the respective annual conferences. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training and credentialing of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: Deacons and Provisional Deacons Appointed Beyond the Local Church

Discipline ¶ 331.4d

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 331.4(d)

~~(d) If requested, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Division of Ordained Ministry, in order to assist the Board of Ordained Ministry and cabinets, will provide guidelines for validating the appropriateness of appointment settings beyond the local church, will be available for consultation with bishops, cabinets, and Boards of Ordained Ministry to assist in validating the appropriateness of appointment settings beyond the local church.~~

Rationale:

The petition allows for the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, bishops, and cabinets to be able to consult with The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Division of Ordained Ministry should the appropriateness of a ministry setting beyond the local church need to be validated.

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Suggested Title: Requirements for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as an Elder

Discipline ¶ 335

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 335

Provisional members who are candidates for full connection and ordination as elders have been provisional members for at least two years may be admitted into membership in full connection in an annual conference and approved for elder's ordination by two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference, upon recommendation by two-thirds vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, after they have qualified as follows. They shall have: (1) served full-time under episcopal appointment for at least two full annual conference years following the completion of the educational requirements specified in (3) (b) below. Years of service in any ministry setting requiring the regular proclamation of the word, the administration of the sacraments, and the short or long-term ordering of the life of the community of faith may count toward fulfillment of this requirement. Such ministry settings may include campus ministry, college and university chaplaincy, overseas/mission work and other ministries so recognized by the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry, an annual conference may equate less than full-time to the requirement of full-time service.

Such equivalence is to be determined in light of the years of service involved, the quality of that service, the maturity of the applicant, and other relevant factors. Supervision is to be (a) personally assumed or delegated by the district superintendent, and (b) assumed by a mentor assigned by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Their service shall be evaluated by the Board of Ordained Ministry as effective according to written guidelines developed by the board and adopted by the clergy members in full connection. In rare cases, the The Board of Ordained Ministry may, by a two-thirds vote, approve years of service in an autonomous Methodist church as meeting this requirement if adequate supervision has been provided; (2) been previously elected as provisional members; (3) met the following educational requirements (a) graduation with a Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree from a college or university listed by the University Senate, or demonstrated competency equivalence through a process designed in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; (b) graduation with a Master of Divinity degree from a school of theology listed by the University Senate, or its equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; or (c) met the education requirements of ¶324.6 for local pastors, (d) educational requirements in every case shall include a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours in each of the fields of United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity, provided that a candidate may meet the requirements by undertaking an independent study program provided and administered by the General Board of

~~Higher Education and Ministry (see ¶1421.3d);~~ as specified by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, (4) satisfied the board regarding physical, mental, and emotional health; (5) prepared and preached at least one written sermon on a biblical passage specified by the Board of Ordained Ministry; (6) presented a detailed plan and outline for teaching a Bible study; (7) presented a project that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church's mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World"; (8) responded to a written or oral doctrinal examination administered by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The candidate should demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly in both oral and written form.

Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to determine the requirements for ordination as an elder and for election to full connection in the respective annual conferences. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training and credentialing of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: The Itinerant System

Discipline ¶ 338.4

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 338.4

Associate members, provisional members, or full members may be appointed to attend any school, college, or theological seminary ~~listed by the University Senate~~ approved by the Conference Board of Ministry, or participate in a program of clinical pastoral education in a setting accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education or another accrediting agency approved by ~~GBHEM~~ the Conference Board of Ministry.

Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to approve

appointments to attend any school, college, or theological seminary or any program of clinical pastoral education. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: Transfers

Discipline ¶ 347.1

General Church Budget Implications: None

Context of Petition

Amend ¶ 347.1

1. From Other Annual Conferences – Ordained clergy or provisional members from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church may be received by transfer into provisional or full membership with the consent of the bishops involved. ~~Consultation with the chairperson or executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be held prior to the transfer.~~ Recommendation by the executive committee of the Board of Ministry and approval of the clergy session shall take place prior to the transfer.

Rationale:

The petition requires approval of the request to transfer a clergyperson from another annual conference into provisional or full membership by the Executive Committee of the Conference Board of Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference, keeping in line with ¶ 33 Article II of the 2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church which states, “The annual conference is the basic body in the church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote...on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy.”

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Suggested Title: Working with Ordained, Licensed, Consecrated, and Commissioned Personnel

Discipline ¶ 416.5

General Church Budget Implications: None

Context of Petition: Add the following to ¶ 416.5

5. To transfer, upon the request of the receiving bishop, with the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Conference Board of Ministry and an affirmative vote of the clergy session, clergy member(s) of one annual conference to another, provided said member(s) agree to said transfer.

Rationale:

The petition requires approval of the request to transfer a clergyperson from another annual conference into provisional or full membership by the Executive Committee of the Conference Board of Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference, keeping in line with ¶ 33 Article II of the 2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church which states, “The annual conference is the basic body in the church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote...on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy.”

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Suggested Title: Working with Ordained, Licensed, Consecrated, and Commissioned Personnel

Discipline ¶ 416.6

General Church Budget Implications: None

Context of Petition: Delete the following to ¶ 416.6

6. To appoint associate members, provisional members, or full members to attend any school, college, or theological seminary ~~listed by the University Senate approved by the Conference Board of Ministry~~, or to participate in a program of clinical pastoral education in a setting accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education or another accrediting agency ~~approved by GBHEM~~. Such appointments are not to be considered as extension ministry appointments.

Rationale:

The petition would allow for the Conference Board of Ministry to approve appointments to attend any school, college, or theological seminary or any program of clinical pastoral education. The change would allow for a contextual approach to ministry, providing each annual conference with flexibility as it relates to the training of their clergy.

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Suggested Title: Powers and Duties

Discipline ¶ 543.8

General Church Budget Implications: None

Context of Petition:

Amend ¶ 543.8

A central conference shall fix the boundaries of the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within its bounds, proposals for changes first have been submitted to the annual conferences concerned as prescribed in the Discipline. No annual conference shall be organized with fewer than ~~thirty-five~~ seventy-five clergy members except as an enabling act for the quadrennium, which shall not reduce the number below ~~twenty-five~~ fifty. Nor shall an annual conference be continued with fewer than ~~twenty-five~~ sixty members except as provided by an enabling act for the quadrennium.

Rationale:

The petition change will allow for a more just representation from the respective annual conferences in the distribution of General Conference delegates without requiring a constitutional amendment to the Book of Discipline. With the creation of provisional conferences, there is an overrepresentation of these conferences that

are guaranteed two General Conference delegates and an equal underrepresentation of larger conferences.

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Co-sponsored by:

Lawson Bryan, Alan Gantzhorn, Karl Stegall, Sara Shaver, Brandon Dasinger, Geoffrey Lentz, Emily Kincaid, Jenny Zeigler Medley, Nathan Attwood, Doug Pennington, Dan Morris, Wesley H. Wachob Sr., Rev. Bob Bailey, Rev. Bobby Ellisor, Ed Glaize, Tim Thompson, Paul Wolfe, Dave Barkalow, Darren M. McClellan, Olivia Poole, Ashley Davis, David Saliba, Jason Borders, Steve Reneau, Cory Smith

Suggested title: Language regarding racial and ethnic diversity

Discipline paragraphs: Discipline ¶249.7., ¶529., ¶533., ¶533.3., ¶610.5., ¶631.3., ¶632.3., ¶637., ¶649.2., ¶649.3.k., ¶650.2., ¶667.2., ¶669.1., ¶705.3.d., ¶705.4.b., ¶705.4.e., ¶805.3.b., ¶824.4., ¶1113.8., ¶1313.1.e., ¶1330.8., ¶1405.4., ¶1405.27., ¶1407.d., ¶1414.2., ¶1421.2.f., ¶1421.3.h., ¶1602.c., ¶1606., ¶1703.4., ¶1807.b., ¶2008.2., ¶2008.7., ¶2008.17., ¶2008.18., ¶2103.1., ¶2103.7., ¶2544.9.

General Church Budget Implications: No.

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶249.7

¶249.7 Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of women, men, youth, young adults, persons over sixty-five years of age, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons minorities.

Amend ¶529.

¶529. *Agencies*—The jurisdictional conference shall have the authority to appoint or elect such agencies as the General Conference may direct or as it deems necessary for its work. Insofar as possible, the membership on councils, boards, and agencies of the jurisdictional conference shall include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen in keeping with the policies for general Church agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry and the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth, young adults, older adults, single adults, persons with disabilities, person from churches of small membership, and racial and ethnic persons minorities.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶533.

¶533. *Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization Convocation*—

There shall be a jurisdictional youth ministry organization for the purpose of

networking youth throughout the region, supporting youth ministries in the annual conferences, and supporting youth workers in their ministry. There may be a jurisdictional youth ministry organization convocation to be held at least once every other year in each jurisdiction (not in the same year as the Global Young People's Convocation). Among the membership of the convocation there shall be four voting representatives from each conference: the conference coordinator of youth ministries or designate; the conference council on youth ministry chairperson or designate; two youth at large, to be elected as shall be determined by the conference council on youth ministry. It is recommended that at least two members from each annual conference be racial ~~and~~ or ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities. Each youth shall be a baptized or professing member of The United Methodist Church. Other persons may be added by jurisdictions according to their respective operational guidelines, provided that the above categories are cared for and the recommended fifty-fifty representation of racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities is observed. The expenses of the jurisdictional youth ministry organization convocation shall be borne by the participating annual conferences.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶533.3.

¶533.3. To promote the establishment and awareness of the needs, concerns, issues, and so forth, of racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities through caucuses, camps, consultations, and so forth.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶610.5.

¶610.5. In the nomination and election of the membership on councils, boards, and agencies of the annual conference, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (¶ 256.2.), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities, in keeping with policies for general Church agencies.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶631.3.

¶631.3. The following membership of the board is recommended: the conference lay leader, associate conference lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, the conference scouting coordinator, and the presidents and two representatives elected by each of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Young Adults, and the conference council on youth ministries; and in addition, the district lay leaders, two laymen, two laywomen, and two youth elected by the annual conference upon nomination of the conference nominating committee, a district superintendent designated by the cabinet, the director of the conference council on ministries, and the presiding bishop. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of people with disabilities and racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities. All members shall be professing members of local churches.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶632.3.

¶622.3. The membership of this committee shall be nominated and elected by established procedures of the annual conference. The annual conference shall determine the number and composition of the membership of the committee. It is recommended that the committee be constituted so that the majority of the membership be representative of racial and ethnic people, reflecting the racial and ethnic constituencies and local churches of the annual conference (¶ 705.3). Care should be taken, where feasible, to ensure balance of membership with clergy and laity, men and women, youth and young adults.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶637

¶637. *Conference Committee on Episcopacy*—1. There shall be a conference committee on episcopacy elected quadrennially by the annual conference at the session following the General Conference. The committee's membership shall number at least seven, but no more than seventeen. One-fifth of the committee's membership shall be appointed by the bishop. In addition to the lay and clergy members of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy, who shall be ex officio members with vote, it is recommended that the committee consist of the following: one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergypersons, provided that one layperson shall be the conference lay leader. All lay members shall be professing members of local churches. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities, youth (¶ 256.3), young adults, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶649.2.

¶649.2. *Membership*—No more than one-third of the membership of the council shall be adults, one of whom may be the conference lay leader or his or her representative. It is recommended that the council be composed of 50 percent racial and ethnic minority group members. (It is suggested that members at large may be added toward achieving fifty-fifty ethnic minority and white majority membership in a manner to be determined by the conference council on youth ministry.) ~~Where ethnic or language conferences overlap nonethnic conferences, provision shall be made for the inclusion of members of the ethnic or language conferences and vice-versa. Provision shall be made for the inclusion of ethnic minorities and non-native language speakers.~~ Those serving on the conference council on youth ministry or equivalent structure shall be baptized or professing members of The United Methodist Church.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶649.3.k.

¶ 649.3.k. To establish a project review committee as an advisory committee with regard to the use of the Youth Service Fund receipts for projects. It is recommended that the committee be composed of at least 50 percent racial and ethnic ~~group persons~~ minorities.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶650.2.

¶650.2. *Membership*—The membership of the council shall be young adults (as defined by annual conference). It is recommended there be one young adult elected by each district of the conference selected by the district council on ministries. There may also be members at large nominated by the conference nominating committee. It is strongly recommended that the membership of the council include racial and ethnic persons minorities, as well as persons of both genders to ensure inclusiveness.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶667.2.

¶667.2. The membership of the board shall include the district lay leader, associate district lay leader(s), district director of Lay Servant Ministries, and may include the district superintendent, district president of United Methodist Women, district president of United Methodist Men, district president of United Methodist Youth, district president of United Methodist young Adults, and, where organized, the district president of the Older Adult Council, and others as deemed necessary. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of women, men, youth, young adults, and older adults; people with disabilities; and racial and ethnic group persons minorities.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶669.1.

¶669.1. *Membership*—this committee shall be composed of eleven members, including the district lay leader, and two persons appointed by the district superintendent. It is recommended that the remaining members of the committee consist of two laywomen, two laymen, two clergy, and two at-large members, all of whom should be selected with special attention to the representation of racial and ethnic persons minorities, youth (¶ 256.3), young adults, older adults, and people with disabilities. At least three of the eleven persons shall be clergy, and seven shall be laypersons. All laypersons shall be professing members of a local church.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶705.3.d.

¶705.3.d. It is recommended that the membership of each of the general agencies seeks to be inclusive based on gender, ~~racial and ethnic persons~~ race, ethnicity, age, persons with disabilities, and size of church. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic persons minorities (Asian American, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that a jurisdiction's membership on each general agency be at least 30 percent racial and ethnic persons minorities and incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as provided in ¶¶ 1105, 1311). The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶ 705.4.b.

¶705.4.b. *Jurisdictional Membership*—Each jurisdiction shall elect the number of persons listed in the specific legislation for membership on each of the four general program boards. In the jurisdictional nominating process for membership on those boards, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (¶ 256.3), young adults, older adults, people with disabilities, and persons from small membership churches. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities (Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that at least 30 percent of a jurisdiction’s membership on each general program board be racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities. It is further recommended that the jurisdiction membership on each program board incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as provided in ¶¶ 1105.1, 1311.2; see also ¶¶ 1311.6, 1407). The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶705.4.e.

¶705.4.e. *Additional Membership*—(1) Additional membership shall be elected by each general program board in order to bring into the board persons with special knowledge or background that will aid in the work of the agency, to consider differing theological perspectives, and to perfect the representation of racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities, youth (¶ 710.3), young adults (¶ 710.3), older adults, women and men, people with disabilities, and persons from small-membership churches.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶805.3.b.

¶805.3.b. It is recommended that in selecting the voting members from the jurisdictions and central conferences attention be given to ensuring representation of diverse racial and ethnic groups and young people, and that approximately one-third clergy in full connection, one-third be laymen, and one-third be laywomen.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶824.4.

¶824.4. *World Communion Sunday*—Historically, World Communion Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday of October. Congregations are encouraged to observe World Communion Sunday on this date or another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to assist racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities pursuing various avenues of ministry. In connection with World Communion Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal according to the following directives:

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1113.8.

¶1113.8. Advise the general agencies of the Church in the preparation, publications, and circulation of orders of service and other liturgical materials

bearing the imprint of The United Methodist church, encouraging use of ~~racial- and ethnic~~ racially and ethnically diverse worship resources and incorporation of language that recognizes the several constituencies of the Church. (See ¶ 4.)
Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1313.1.e.

¶1313.1.e. Church growth, including revitalization of existing congregations and faith communities, and congregational development, particularly among racial and ethnic minority congregations and congregations in transitional communities/neighborhoods. Congregational development shall be carried out in cooperation with the General Board of Discipleship through a Joint Committee on Congregational Development composed of equal representation from the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Discipleship, which shall meet at least annually to expedite cooperation between these two boards in the field of congregational development of both new congregations as well as the revitalization of existing congregations, with a priority given to racial and ethnic minority congregations.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1330.8.

¶1330.8. assist conference units in addressing emerging and ongoing global health issues, including comprehensive community-based primary health care, HIV/AIDS, ministries with persons with physically and mentally challenging conditions, environmental health, and particularly the health needs of women, children, youth, all immigrant populations, the communities of color in the United States, and various racial and ethnic communities globally;

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1405.4.

¶1405.4. To ensure that the board's programs and policies address the needs and concerns for ministry with racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities and people with disabilities.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1405.27.

¶1405.27. To provide such services as will create a climate of acceptance and empowerment for women, racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities, and people with disabilities in higher education and professional Church-related ministries, and to be alert to the necessity of advocacy in behalf of these professional ministries in questions of equity and justice.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1407.d.

¶1407.d. *Additional Members—United Methodist*—Additional members are nominated by a committee composed of one person from each jurisdiction elected by the jurisdictional conference. They shall elect up to eleven additional members from the jurisdictions to ensure inclusivity and expertise. It is recommended that

at least four (4) of the additional members be racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities from historically underrepresented groups.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1414.2.

¶1414.2. The senate shall be composed of twenty-seven (27) voting members who, at the time of election, are actively engaged in the work of education through employment in an educational institution and are fitted by training and experience for the technical work of evaluating educational institutions. Election is for the quadrennium, except in cases where conflict of interest arises as a result of change in employment. Nine (9) of these members shall be elected quadrennially by the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church—seven of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships; six (6) by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry—two of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related higher educational institutions, two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs, and two holding positions relevant to Church relationships; four (4) by the General conference—two of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions at the time of their election, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships; four (4) by the senate itself, without limitation other than the general provisions of this paragraph; and four (4) shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops—two of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships. Each of the five electing bodies shall elect at least one woman.

Members elected by the General Conference shall be nominated and elected by the following procedure: Twelve persons shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops, six of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other six holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships. At the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced, additional nominations may be made from the floor but at no other time. From these nominations, the General conference shall elect without discussion, by ballot and by plurality vote, the four persons to serve on the senate, two from each of the two categories of nominees. Should a vacancy occur in the members elected by General Conference in the interim prior to the next General Conference, the Council of Bishops shall appoint a replacement taken from the remaining nominees. The election process shall be repeated at each succeeding General Conference. Care should be taken that women, racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities, and representatives from the United Methodist-related Black colleges and graduate theological seminaries shall be members of the senate. Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

¶1421.2.f. Work with ethnic centers related to the United Methodist seminaries, general church initiatives, and the ethnic caucuses to enlist racial and ethnic

persons minorities as candidates for ordained, licensed, and certified ministry.
Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1421.3.h.

¶1421.3.h. Cooperate with the Office of Loans and Scholarships, the Higher Education Foundation, the World Communion Scholarship Program, and other funding agencies in regard to scholarship assistance for racial and ethnic minority students preparing for ordained ministry.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1602.c.

¶1602.c. *Additional members*—Up to eight additional members may be elected by the board, with consideration given to representation of women and racial and ethnic minority groups not elected by the jurisdictions, and to special knowledge or background in publishing, marketing, graphic arts manufacturing, production of audiovisuals or electronic media, or other business fields. It is recommended that persons elected by each jurisdiction be inclusive of women and ethnic minority groups—Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1606.

¶1606. *Executive Committee*—The board is authorized to perfect its organization from its membership, including the offices of chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The board shall elect from its membership an executive committee of eleven members, including the chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary of the board, who shall serve, respectively, as chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary of the committee. Special attention shall be given to representation of racial and ethnic minority groups and women.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1703.4.

¶1703.4. The commission shall promote collection and dissemination of information and materials concerning the historic witness made individually and collectively by women, racial and ethnic ~~peoples~~ minorities, and other constituencies not covered extensively in traditional historical documentation in the worldwide life of The United Methodist Church and its antecedents.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶1807.b.

¶1807.b. Sixteen members elected by the jurisdictional conferences based on the following formula: North Central—3, North-eastern—3, South Central—4, Southeastern—4, and Western—2. It is recommended that at least one of the persons elected by the jurisdictional conferences be a racial or ethnic ~~person~~ minority.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶2008.2.

¶2008.2. Reviewing, evaluating, and assisting agencies and institutions of the Church as they seek to develop programs and policies to implement the mandate for racial inclusiveness, including equality of compensation for racial and ethnic minority clergy and lay staff at all levels of the Church.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶2008.7.

¶2008.7. Administering the Minority Group Self-Determination Fund. The Minority Group Self-Determination Fund is established by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church for the empowerment of racial and ethnic persons minorities within and outside the Church. The fund is available through grants to congregations comprised of racial and ethnic persons minorities, community agencies, and other groups for the purposes established by the General Commission on Religion and Race on behalf of The United Methodist Church guided by the principle of self-determination. The General Commission shall be responsible for developing guidelines and policies regarding grants, and for evaluation of projects receiving support.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶2008.17.

¶2008.17. Developing leadership among racial and ethnic minority groups for the total ministry in the life of the Church.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶2008.18.

¶2008.18. Facilitating the delivery of program services and information to racial and ethnic minority local churches.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶2103.1.

¶2103.1. In the fulfillment of its mandate, this commission shall have the authority to initiate and utilize such channels, develop such plans and strategies, and assign staff as may be required in the implementation of the following primary needs across The United Methodist Church: leadership enablement, resources and communication, affirmative action and advocacy roles, and interagency coordination.

Such plans and strategies related to these needs shall be directed toward the elimination of sexism in all its manifestations from the total life of The United Methodist Church, including general agencies as well as the various connectional channels and structures that reach the local church. The commission shall work with the respective agencies as needs may determine in achieving and safeguarding representation and participation of women, including racial and ethnic minority groups.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶2103.7.

¶2103.7. The commission shall serve in an advocacy role to ensure openness and receptivity in matters related to women's role in the Church's life, with particular attention to the contributions of clergy and lay professional women, racial and ethnic minority women, and those experiencing changing lifestyles. The commission in its role as advocate shall assist the local church, annual conferences, the councils, boards, commissions, schools of theology, and other related institutions on eradicating the problems of sexual harassment by developing policies and procedures for addressing these problems.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7.

Amend ¶2544.9.

¶2544.9. In metropolitan areas, the building committee shall ensure that adequate steps are taken to obtain the services of minority (~~nonwhite~~) and female skilled persons in the construction in proportion to the racial and ethnic balance in the area. In non-metropolitan areas, the building committee shall ensure that racial and ethnic ~~persons~~ minorities are employed in the construction where available and in relation to the available workforce.

Rationale: to bring consistency to ¶249.7

Signature of Petitioner:

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF
HOPE HULL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TO PETITION THE ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TO UPHOLD OUR CURRENT DENOMINATIONAL
STANDARDS REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY**

Whereas Hope Hull United Methodist Church has throughout its history adhered to the Bible as the Word of God and to the United Methodist Book of Discipline for the maintenance of sound doctrine and proper practice within the connection of the United Methodist Church, and

Whereas our purpose as a congregation is to reach men and women with the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ and to enable their maturation as faithful biblically grounded Christian disciples, and

Whereas the United Methodist Church has maintained throughout its history that the practice of homosexuality is contrary to the Holy Scriptures, the will of God, and the Discipline of our denomination, and

Whereas in recent months words and deeds and actions of bishops and clergy of the United Methodist Church have publically decried, defied, and denied the applicability of our continued opposition to the practice of homosexuality and to any recognition of same-sex unions,

Therefore be it resolved that we, the Administrative Board of Hope Hull United Methodist Church meeting October 6, 2014, call upon the Alabama-West Florida Conference to uphold the currently held position and standards of the United Methodist Church regarding homosexuality, and to contend that they be maintained throughout the Annual Conference. We call upon the Bishop, the Cabinet, and the clergy to hold one another in mutual accountability to maintain the biblical and Disciplinary order of our connection as an Annual Conference.

Be it further resolved that the Bishop and Delegation of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference to the 2016 General Conference work earnestly for the continuation of our current standards and for the appropriate accountability to do so.

Approved this Sixth day of October, 2014.

Mrs. Teresa W. Stanford, Chairperson Administrative Board

Mrs. Rubye B. Coleman, Secretary Administrative Board

Mr. Wallace C. Bush, Jr. Lay Leader Hope Hull UMC

Dr. Charles R. Smith, Jr. Pastor Hope Hull UMC

WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED METHODIST AGENCIES FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

Whereas, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) has published a book of worship aids entitled *Prayerfully Pro-Choice: Resources for Worship* (<http://www.readbag.com/rcrc-pdf-prayerfully>, accessed 2/5/2015), which includes materials written by RCRC staff, board members, and others affiliated with RCRC; and

Whereas, *Prayerfully Pro-Choice* contains no disclaimer that the views and positions expressed in it do not represent the views and positions of RCRC; and

Whereas, former President and CEO of RCRC, Rev. Carlton W. Veazy, in his introductory letter to *Prayerfully Pro-Choice*, endorses the resources contained therein by referring to them as “spiritually powerful writings” to inspire readers in “the important work” that they do; and

Whereas, the affirmation of RCRC that choice, including the choice to have an abortion, is a “God-given right” (*Prayerfully Pro-Choice*, 8) is inconsistent with the affirmations of the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church that,

“Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion,” and that abortion involves “tragic conflicts of life with life” (*2012 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161J); and

Whereas, the affirmation of RCRC regarding the unborn that, “We are certain that this is not a human being, equal in any way to the life of the mother, it is a form of ‘potential life’” (*Prayerfully Pro-Choice*, 11) is inconsistent with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, which affirm, “Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life,” and our affirmation that abortion involves “tragic conflicts of life with life” (*2012 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161J); and

Whereas, the affirmation of RCRC that abortion is “a sacred choice” (*Prayerfully Pro-Choice*, 88) is inconsistent with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church that we are “reluctant to approve abortion” (*2012 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161J); and

Whereas, RCRC’s website promotes a prayer that broadly categorizes the performing of abortions as “holy work” (<http://rcrc.org/prayer-for-providers-of-womens-health-care/>, accessed 01/31/2015), which is also inconsistent with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church that we are “reluctant to approve abortion” (*2012 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161J); and

Whereas, RCRC works for abortion rights in any and all circumstances, while The United Methodist Church teaches that moral discernment, on matters related to abortion, is essential, because the Church “[is] equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child,” “cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control,” and “unconditionally reject[s] [abortion] as a means of gender selection or eugenics” (*2012 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161J).

Whereas, RCRC has consistently lobbied government against any attempt to limit the practice of partial-birth abortions, while The United Methodist Church has since 2000 “oppose[d] the use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call[s] for the end of this practice” with rare exceptions (*2012 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161J);

Whereas, RCRC supported the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which if adopted would have overturned all federal, state, and local laws even mildly restricting abortion, while The United Methodist Church’s General Board of Church and Society withdrew its support of FOCA in 2008, because this RCRC-supported bill was in conflict with The United Methodist Church’s position on abortion (“Living in the Truth: Church and Society, Obama, and Abortion,” Lifewatch, p. 6, http://www.lifewatch.org/pdf/lifewatch_newsletter_03-09.pdf, accessed 2/2/2015; cf. *2012 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161J); and

Whereas, the current President of RCRC, Rev. Harry Knox, has strongly opposed laws that restrict taxpayer funding for elective abortions (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/09/29/reverends-like-us-should-never-oppose-access-to-abortion-or-sex-ed/>, accessed 2/5/2015); and

Whereas, the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women are member organizations of RCRC.

Therefore, we, the members of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, meeting in session on May 31 – June 3, 2015, call upon the 2016 General Conference to withdraw immediately the General Board of Church and Society and the United Methodist Women from membership in the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC); and

Therefore, we, the members of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, meeting in session on May 31 – June 3, 2015, charges its Conference Secretary, because of the fifty-word limit that has been imposed on the printed rationales in the public listings of General Conference petitions, to include with this petition the following rationale: “The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) is a one-sided political lobby that opposes all disapproval or limitation of abortion. RCRC’s advocacy and publications often directly contradict our Social Principles on abortion, but RCRC still uses name of The United Methodist Church and its boards and agencies.”

Sponsored by: Rev. Matt O’Reilly, Rev. Don Woolley, Rev. Lisa Ausley, Rev. Ralph Sigler, Rev. Lawrence M. Anderson, Rev. Walter Albritton, Rev. Dunford C. Cole, Rev. Ronald O. Bearden, Rev. Larry Teasley, Rev. Prentiss Taylor

DISTRICT REPORTS

BAYPINES

This has been a good year in the Baypines District as we have continued to grow in fruitful ministries throughout the District. Each of our five clusters continues to be in prayer and support of one another and seek ways to meet the needs of their particular geographical area in the District.

We are excited to report that for the second year in a row we have shown a 7% increase in our Missional giving. We are seeing an increased awareness, understanding, and support of our Connection.

Our Servant Ministries, under the leadership of Peggy Duck, continues to be active and growing in our District. Many of our Lay Servants provide leadership in the local church, teach various classes, lead various kinds of ministries, and some answer the call to serve as pastor of a local church. We are thankful for all our Lay Servants and the work they do in serving God in the Baypines District.

United Methodist Men and Women continue to be active and vital to our District. So many of our men and women are involved in local, District, and Conference projects. We are thankful for all of these women and men and the great work they do.

Our District continues to be involved in Habitat for Humanity. We have had Habitat builds in the Brewton, Baldwin County, and Covington County. The Methodists of the Baypines District provide leadership, labor, and financial support for all our Habitat builds. We are thankful for the opportunity to help provide a home for those in need.

As of writing this, our District has almost reached our goal of raising \$100,000 for our “No Malaria” campaign. By Annual Conference we will reach our goal 100%!

Our District continues to support and partner with Blue Lake. We helped with funds and labor to put a new roof over the kitchen. We have also helped with funds and labor for their project of replacing single beds in 29 rooms with queen size beds. Again, as of this writing this, we are only four beds away from our goal.

A new pilot project has started in the Brewton area under the leadership of Dr. Ed Glaize. Ed has put together an ecumenical group, representing seven churches, and led them through a study of “Circles of Transformation.” This ministry helps persons brake the cycle of poverty. They recruit persons in the community to help those who are willing to help themselves. This ministry is showing great potential and we are encouraging other transforming groups to be established in our District.

We continue to be very involved with Disaster Training. Pat Shubert has done a wonderful job providing training and certification for many in our District. We

have many trained and certified Disaster Response personnel ready to respond to disasters when needed.

Churches in our District continue to support the Upper Room Prayer line ministry. We not only provide funds but we man the phones as well.

We have formed a Covenant Group in our District that meets monthly for prayer, support and accountability. This has been a great experience for those of us in the group and we are encouraging others throughout the District of establish and participate in a covenant group as well.

We continue to be thankful for the capable leadership and guidance of our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Cory Smith, and we look forward to continuing to work with him, seeking God's guidance and direction, as we discern God's will for the ministry and mission of the Baypines District.

Timothy R. Trent, Chairperson
District Leadership Team

DOTHAN

The Dothan District is very thankful for what the Lord has done in our district in the last year. We experienced God's grace and love in many ways in 2014. One major event was the passing of the torch from District Superintendent Rev. Dan Morris to Rev. Sara Shaver. Under their direction the Dothan District was able to achieve many great things.

The Dothan District Celebration Sunday was held on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Enterprise. This day was used to celebrate God's work in our district. The churches in the district were asked to submit two photos of "Wow" moments in their church in 2013. Also as part of the celebration two workshops were presented. "The Wesleyan Way" was presented for the clergy and the laity workshop was "The 5 Practices of A Fruitful Congregation". In an effort to keep the youth involved, worship and other fun activities were provided at Enterprise First United Methodist Church.

On the evening of February 18, the District Lay Leader, Dan Deloney, conducted a training of the Church Lay Leaders. This event was designed to remind the Church Lay Leaders of their important role in their local churches. Bro. Dan reminded those in attendance that according to Isaiah 43:1-2 we are chosen by God by Name to serve him. Covenant UMC graciously hosted this event.

We held 2 District Gatherings during 2014 which were well attended by our district pastors and laity. Our District Gatherings are primarily to build relationships throughout the district and can be informational, spiritual, training or entertaining. The first gathering was held April 28, 2014 at Grace Park UMC, Ashford, AL. We had a meal followed by an entertaining music program provided by Harvest

Blend, a group of 5 men from Harvest UMC singing southern gospel songs. 2014 Annual Conference information was communicated and the brochure of reports was distributed to all delegates to annual conference. The second district gathering was held on September 29, 2014 at Covenant UMC, Dothan, AL. A meal was served followed by a program given by Charles Maynard, a UM minister, storyteller and an author. Charles entertained us with fun stories to inspire and bless us as he reminded us that Jesus is the master Storyteller.

2014 was a busy and productive year for missions with Dothan District United Methodist Women. They exceeded their goal of Pledge to Missions by over \$3500.00!! The small group of women are dedicated to the women, children and youth in need and many agencies throughout the conference as well as around the world benefitted from it. They hosted a Mission Study in May and November that was well attended by all the units.

Spiritual Day in April was a loving memorial to those UMW ladies that passed away in 2013 with a little history of their service to church and UMW. In September new officers were elected at the Annual Day and honored the 5 Star Units as well as the Mission Today Units. They are looking towards 2015 with anticipation for the new mission studies and more opportunities to help those in need.

United Methodist Men: During 2014, a total of 12 churches were represented in the Dothan District. Activities of the UMM charter groups are varied and include Prayer Ministry, Bible Study, Lectionary Study, support of EMS Ministry, support of Boy Scouts, Blue Lake Methodist Camp improvement projects, local church Youth Program support, church Trustee project support, community outreach, support of the Upper Room Living Prayer Center, and fellowship within UMM. A Pastor Appreciation Banquet recognizing the current and retired clergy of the district was hosted by Ozark First United Methodist Church on February 3rd, and catered by the church's United Methodist Men. Programs on UMM were presented to four men's groups in the district and the District President represented the UMM on the District Core Team. Representatives from many district churches were present at the Annual Men's Advance held at Blue Lake in April. At that meeting, Frank Moore, Dothan District President, was installed as the President of AWF Conference UMM.

Submitted by
Clifford W. Haynes
Dothan District Lay Leader

MARIANNA/PANAMA CITY (MPC)

The Marianna-Panama City is a healthy and hard-working district dedicated to serving the United Methodist Church, the Alabama-West Florida Conference and most especially our Lord Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to the mission of "Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World". It is our desire to

see our district grow in every way.

Happenings this year:

- We bid farewell to Rev. Gary Daniel who had served as our District Superintendent for four years. Gary accepted an appointment to the Brantley UMC in July. Gary and his wife Pam will be greatly missed. He was followed by Rev. Dr. Larry Bryars (Vicki) who was serving as the Lead Pastor at Shalimar UMC.

- The MPC District has been very active in their participation in the “Imagine No Malaria” campaign. The district goal was \$100,000 dollars, which will save 10,000 lives. We have presently reached over 95% of our goal and expect to have reached 100% by the time you receive this report at Annual Conference.

- District Day was held on Sunday January 11, 2015 at Forest Park UMC. The gathering was held to elect new district officers and to fellowship with district churches. Five classes were offered for those in attendance. Dr. Bryars met with the SPR members, District Lay Leader Juddy Stephens met with the Lay Leaders from local churches, Pat Luna led a class in Spiritual Formation, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz taught a class on the Gospel of Mark, and Rev. Sean Peters offered ideas on creative worship.

- The District Day continued into the evening with a Youth Rally held at the Fusion Campus of Lynn Haven UMC. Over 250 youth and youth leaders gathered to praise God and fellowship together. The event was filled with exciting music and preaching. Several in attendance made a profession of faith and many others committed to a deeper walk with Christ. The youth leadership team in the district is planning to conduct training sessions for all youth leaders and to share resources so that each youth program in the district can be strengthened.

- The Lay Servant Ministry of our district is exceptionally strong led by district director Mary Whitehead. This team served the district by filling the pulpits of four churches for several months until a pastor could be assigned. The ministry continues to grow as new persons hear the call of God to attend classes and seek to become certified in this ministry.

- We are proud of our district seminary students who are preparing for ministry in the conference and around the world. This district continues to be a place where people are responding to the call of God to serve. Our District Committee on Ministry wants to stay busy with meeting and guiding those who are answering the call to ministry.

- The Disaster Relief Team feels it is important to stay prepared in the panhandle area for possible storm destruction. This year the major damage has come only from heavy rain. We are grateful that many will come to the aid of our area when it is needed.

- The MPC District United Methodist Women continue to be a bright light in the conference. They are always active. Leadership Training was held in January.

In February they went to Enterprise for Tapestry. In March they had their annual Moss Hill Day Apart. In May a mission study was led by Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lentz in Port St. Joe. The group stands out for raising generous funds for mission efforts throughout the year.

- The United Methodist in the Panama City area has a visible presence in ministering to the many homeless that gather in the warmer climate. Several of our district churches and groups have taken turns feeding the homeless with a hearty breakfast every Saturday morning at First UMC of Panama City. We are continuing to encourage other groups to join in this effort to reach this group for Christ.

Submitted by,
Marianna/Panama City District CORE Team

MOBILE

We give thanks for the graciousness of God and the fruitfulness of his ministry among us. We are humbled, grateful, and filled with joy for the privilege of joining in his work. As long as there are lost and hurting people around us we can never grow weary of doing good, but we are grateful for this opportunity to reflect on God's faithfulness to us. By his grace, this past year has seen tremendous growth in mission and ministry, made possible by the bold obedience of our churches and agencies as they tirelessly serve to advance the cause of Christ throughout the Mobile District of the United Methodist Church.

We celebrate the ministries of our local agencies—the United Methodist Inner City Mission / McKemie Place; the Dumas Wesley Community Center / Sybil H. Smith Family Village; the Babies First Program of the United Methodist Children's Home; and the Metro Jail Ministry. Likewise, we celebrate the growth of our Hispanic ministries, the amazing work of "Raise the Roof," and the ever-inspiring faithfulness of our United Methodist Women's groups. We stand in awe of the work of God done through these organizations and the incredible perseverance of those who lead them. With declining resources and increasing demand for services, they have continued to expand opportunities for others, changing lives, and helping to transform communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

Along with these, we celebrate the work of our University of South Alabama Wesley Foundation. This ministry continues to grow in every way and we are grateful for the leadership there, as well as for the support of the Conference, the Baypines and Mobile Districts, and countless churches and individuals. A highlight of the district's year is the annual USA Wesley Foundation Clergy Cookoff. Congratulations to the winners—Forest Hill UMC!

The Open Doors Resale Store continues to provide critical support for our agencies, the Wesley Foundation, and other district initiatives such as West Wilmer UMC and Hispanic ministries. The Store is the result of visionary leadership, an army of hard-working volunteers, an endless stream of donations, and faithful shoppers. In

the short time since its opening, Open Doors has contributed over \$85,000 to local ministries, with plans to do much more!

The North Mobile Planning Council continues to set the pace for our district in so many ways. Among their many activities, they honor their pastors each year at a gracious banquet, worship together at a monthly “Singspiration,” contribute greatly to help the people of their communities, and raise an incredible amount of support for The United Methodist Children’s Home—over \$16,000 this year! Clearly, the work of God is thriving through their faithfulness to God’s call!

In 2014, we celebrated the work of our previous General Board of Global Ministries “Young Adult Missionaries” as they finished their terms of service. We are grateful that all three have remained in Mobile! We also welcomed our new GBGM “Global Mission Fellows,” part of the first class of a newly revamped program. One of the changes made by the denomination is to have the Fellows live in Christian community together. This has been made possible by the graciousness of Crawford UMC, along with support from a number of other congregations, and a large grant from Lisa and Mac Tichneor of the QuadW Foundation. Our missionaries are giving leadership to a number of efforts across the district, helping us to expand and deepen our impact across the district and beyond.

Our Circles of Transformation program is moving forward in partnership with the Baypines District and with the help of our GBGM Mission Fellows. We have held many planning and community information meetings, and are on schedule for a full launch in the coming months. This program represents a new approach designed to break the cycle of poverty by recognizing persons/families in poverty as the “Circle Leaders” and surrounding them with supportive volunteers from our churches as they work towards reaching their goals. This approach has had amazing success across the country and we are grateful to launch the effort as the “Bay Area Circles of Transformation” with gratitude for the critical help of the Conference.

Looking beyond our district and Conference, the Mobile District is pleased (but not satisfied) with our progress in the Imagine No Malaria Campaign. To date we are at 90% of our goal (\$90,000) and hope to reach 100% in the coming weeks. We are excited to be a part of this global effort to eradicate the scourge of malaria, saving millions of lives and opening new doors for the sharing of the Gospel. Our district’s partnership in the Red Bird Conference of western Kentucky is another expression of our commitment to connectional ministry. We are excited to have Faith Ministries Outreach, New Springs UMC, and Annville UMC as our partners there. We look forward to expressing this partnership in both Kentucky and in the Mobile District, serving God alongside one another in both places.

The QuadW Missional Internship received 16 interns for work in the Mobile District in the summer of 2014. These interns came from around the country and included interns from African countries as well. Beginning in Mobile seven years ago, the program has grown nationally. In the past two years, the program added sites in Montgomery, Pine Bluff (Arkansas), and Kansas City. Through partnerships

with United Methodists around the country and through the support of a large “Young Clergy Initiative” grant, the program has added an additional four sites in 2015: Portland, OR; Little Rock, AR; Reading, PA; and Columbus, OH. Plans are being made for year-long mission experiences for young people as well as for international sites. We remain deeply grateful to the QuadW Foundation of Dallas Texas for their tremendous investment in this program, including the salary of the internship’s director, stipends, and program expenses.

There is far too little space here to give adequate recognition of God’s work through the pastors and laity of our district. We rejoice, though, in another year where God has been worshipped in spirit and in truth in each of our fifty-five churches, where new opportunities for worship have been added to reach new people for Christ, where the lost have been saved and baptized into the life of the church and where our children have been confirmed in the faith; where global mission trips have been taken by churches large and small, where ESL and literacy classes have been offered locally to improve the lives of others, where the hungry have been fed, the cold clothed, and the needs of our neighbors met to the best of our abilities; and where apportionments have been sacrificially paid to further the work of God throughout the Conference and throughout the world. Through the risk-taking obedience of United Methodists across the district, we continue to see his Kingdom expanded. We are reminded every day that God is faithful, and, that with him, nothing is impossible. So, we press on, prayerfully and in his sustaining strength, to live into the vision God has for us, to play our role in his amazing story, and to bring glory to his holy name.

Respectfully submitted,
 Don Woolley, District Missioner
 Doug Pennington, Superintendent

MONTGOMERY-OPELIKA

The Montgomery/Opelika District experienced a good year of growth in grace and ministry in the 2014-2015 Conference year. Some of the highlights are:

- We welcomed 1,032 new members into the churches of our District. Of these, 402 were received as new or restored members by profession of faith.
- We welcomed nine preachers into new appointments within our District. Each of them has done good work in their churches and contributed to the overall ministry of the District.
- Nine persons from the District entered candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry.
- Three persons were commissioned and three were ordained for vocational ministry.

- We created one new full-time appointment as the Campground and Rutledge churches joined to form a charge.
- We contributed \$1,967,250 to Conference and District missional giving, which was an increase from 2013. Sixty-one of our eighty-four churches paid 100% of their missional giving apportionment.
- As of the date of this report, our churches have saved 17,510 lives through Imagine No Malaria, which is 97.3% of our goal of saving 18,000 lives. We are committed to saving at least 18,000 lives by the time Annual Conference meets.
- The Auburn, Troy, and Tuskegee University Wesley Foundations engaged over 400 students in regular worship, discipleship, local ministry, and missions.
- Alabama Rural Ministries grew in its ministries of home repair, child development, community development, and reconciliation in Macon and Sumter Counties.
- A District Leadership Incubator of lay and clergy was begun with nine persons committing to a year of living in covenant while seeking to discern the Lord's preferred future for our District.
- The District Core Team offered classes on *MissionInsite*, local missions, Wesleyan covenant groups, spiritual direction, and lay leadership at its Leadership Academy. Youth and youth leaders from the District also met for fellowship, worship and learning. Approximately 200 persons attended. Meanwhile, a number of churches benefitted from *The Wesleyan Way* and *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, which were taught at last year's Leadership Academy.

These highlights emerged from the life and support of all the churches in our District. Space does not allow us to share the full extent of the good Christ is doing every day in and through the great people of the Montgomery/Opelika District. We give thanks for what has and will be done among us!

Respectfully submitted,
George Mingleдорff, Lay Leader
Robbins Sims, Superintendent

MONTGOMERY-PRATTVILLE

In the Montgomery-Prattville District, we celebrate a productive year where much progress was made in living out our mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." The District CORE Team, then led by District Superintendent Dr. Philip McVay and now District Superintendent Rev. John Brooks, and Lay Leader David Bowen, submit the following as highlights of our District's ministry:

- We continue to support the work of River City Church in their fourth year as a restart. Rev. Tony McCullough and the congregation at River City continue to breathe new life into the downtown area of Montgomery. We continue also to support The Source – A New Community of Faith led by Reverends Elvyn and Bessie Hamilton. The Hamilton's are doing great work in establishing a new African-American congregation in our District.
- Our CORE Team held meetings on January 16, 2014 at Dalraida UMC in Montgomery, on April 3, 2014 at Perry Hill UMC in Montgomery, and on September 25, 2014 at Whitfield Memorial UMC in Montgomery. Our District Conference was held on November 23, 2014 at Trinity UMC in Prattville. The CORE Team appreciates the hospitality shown by all of our host churches.
- The District held a joint Annual Conference Orientation Session on May 18, 2014 with the Montgomery-Opelika District at Saint James UMC in Montgomery. We had an excellent turnout from both districts for this event. Our District continued to support the Children's Home by hosting our annual banquet in conjunction with the Montgomery-Opelika District on October 16, 2014 at Dalraida UMC. Both Saint James and Dalraida did a wonderful job of hosting these events. We appreciate Dr. Robbins Sims, District Superintendent, and George Minglehoff, Lay Leader, of the Montgomery-Opelika District for their willingness to hold joint district events when possible.
- The District held our Local Church Academy in January 2014 and January 2015 at First UMC in Montgomery. We are grateful for Dr. Lawson Bryan and his staff for coordinating these events.
- Our District continued its strong involvement in Lay Servant Ministries this past year. The District held lay servant training on August 1-2, 2014 at Dalraida UMC. Over 50 participants from all districts in the conference took part in the training. The Basic Course was taught by Pat Caylor. Dr. Robbins Sims taught the new Polity course. Rev. Jackie Slaughter taught the Storytelling course and Dr. Chris Perry taught the Preaching course. We appreciate these fine presenters and special thanks to Jason Gregg and Rev. David McVay from Dalraida UMC for hosting this event.
- During 2014, the District had 46 local and certified lay speakers. Lay speakers filled the pulpits of 39 churches a total of 97 times. Lay servants also served throughout the year in nursing homes, schools, prison ministry and in many other ways. We especially appreciate the work of Helen Edwards from our District who serves as the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries and the Southeastern Jurisdiction.
- Our District continued the strong work of its United Methodist Women under the leadership of its president, Cathy Givan. We also saw a concentrated effort for a rejuvenation of United Methodist Men in our District under our new president, Michael Harris.

- In June 2014, we said goodbye to Dr. Philip McVay, who had faithfully served as our District Superintendent since July 1, 2009. On June 8, 2014, we honored Philip and Karen McVay with a reception at First UMC in Montgomery. This was a special time where members of our District could say good bye to the McVay's and express our love and appreciation for them. At this same event, we were delighted to welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. John Brooks, and his wife Reda. We had a special time where the mantle was passed from Philip to John. We are excited about John's appointment to our District and we look forward to a fruitful ministry under his leadership. We are grateful for the District's Committee on District Superintendency and First UMC for hosting this special day.
- Our District again along with the Montgomery-Opelika District held a joint orientation and nomination session on February 8, 2015 at Aldersgate UMC as our districts separately endorsed members from our district for election to General Conference. We are delighted to endorse Susan Hunt from First UMC, Montgomery and Matt Langford from First UMC, Greenville from our District. Susan serves as the Conference Director of Mission and Advocacy and Matt serves as the Youth Director at Greenville. We appreciate Aldersgate hosting this event.
- Sixty-four percent of our District churches paid 100% of their apportionments last year. We continue to work with churches to bring that number up to 100% in the future.
- We had great participation in the Imagine No Malaria campaign. While not all of our churches and pastors participated, we are delighted to report that our District met 100% of its goal for funds raised for this important campaign.

We give thanks for the continued work of our District's Administrative Assistant, Ashley Epler, and for Tori Johnston, who serves as our Communications Director. We share both of these ladies with the Montgomery-Opelika District. We are thankful for their hard work and dedication in moving our District forward.

John Brooks and David Bowen are co-writing this district summary. We continue to model this essential element of laity and clergy working in tandem together. David: I want to personally thank John for his wonderful leadership this past year. There are great things ahead for our District! John: I am grateful to Ashley and David for their support and direction. Thanks to our clergy and laity for their commitment to the connection; you are the reason we are effective district leaders. Thank you for the service you give to the United Methodist Church.

We look forward to the new conference year with new leadership developing and emerging both with our laity and our clergy.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rev. John Brooks, District Superintendent
 David Bowen, Lay Leader

PENSACOLA

This has been a fruitful year for the Pensacola District, despite natural disasters which affected several of our 50 congregations. Here are some of the events which took place in 2014:

- In January, we hosted the Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops, the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy, and the SEJ Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders in Pensacola. It was a tremendous honor to have these leaders with us. District clergy and churches worked together to offer “radical” hospitality to our guests, providing opportunities for them to enjoy the area during their time with us.

- Meltdown, the annual youth retreat in Panama City Beach, was attended by 1153 youth and adults in late January. It was a great time of faith, fun and fellowship. We are grateful to the dedicated team of youth directors and Wesley Foundation students who put this event on each year.

- The District’s “Imagine No Malaria” campaign kicked off on Ash Wednesday and is continuing in our local churches. We are also developing a partnership with some of the churches in the Red Bird Missionary Conference. More locally, we are responding to aftermath of the devastating floods in Gulf Breeze and Pensacola in April 2014 and to the fire at Mt. Carmel UMC in May 2014.

- Our Lay Servant Ministry, United Methodist Women, and United Methodist Men continue to be strong witnesses in our district. We appreciate all the ways they and other laity serve God’s kingdom.

- On July 22nd, the District held a welcoming event to kickoff the new conference year at Gonzalez UMC. Clergy, their families, SPR chairpersons and their spouses, local church lay leaders and their spouses, and members of our Pensacola District CORE Team were in attendance for a time to gather together for food and fellowship and to set the trajectory for the year in ministry together.

- Dr. Jim White served as the interim director of Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries for most of this year. Rev. Robin Noble took over the helm of PUMCM on October 1st. We are thankful for their work and for the work of many churches and individuals who volunteer there.

- Our District Conference was held November 2nd at Navarre UMC. After the worship and business meeting, we had eight breakout sessions on topics such as “Using Social Media in Your Church” and “Becoming a Missional Church.” Concurrent with the District Conference was FUSED, an event for over 400 youth at the Soundside Campus of Gulf Breeze UMC. This was also the site of our Clergy Christmas Party in December.

We are blessed to have Dr. Jeremy Pridgeon serving as our District Superintendent and are thankful for Mrs. Mary Hernandez, the Pensacola District Administrative

Assistant! We look forward to continued opportunities to worship, study, and serve together as we seek to bear witness to the love of Christ here on the Gulf Coast.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Weant, Chairperson
Pensacola District CORE Team

CONFERENCE CORE TEAM/ CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

It is certainly a privilege to serve as the Director of Connectional Ministries for our Alabama-West Florida Conference. In partnership with the Bishop, Cabinet, and conference leadership, I serve as the steward of the vision of the annual conference and serve to lead the process of transformation. I also serve in aligning the resources of the annual conference with its vision and seek to ensure connections among the local, district, annual conference and general church ministries. I am most grateful for the honor of working with our very able and dedicated connectional ministries staff. They include Traci Herndon, Brittney Herndon, Dan Pezet, Susan Hunt, Martha Rovira, Sandy Gutting, Amelia Fletcher, and Fred and Laurel Blackwell. As Director of Connectional Ministries, I also serve as co-chair, along with Dr. Steve Furr, of the Conference Leadership Team, the CORE Team. The CORE Team, consisting of conference ministry leaders, at-large members, and representatives of the cabinet and conference staff, is seeking to nurture disciples who make disciples by serving as a catalyst regarding movement toward generating healthy and fruitful ministries related to the annual conference. We are team oriented and process driven using the SEND model, our conference ministry model, for the fulfillment of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In connectional ministries we serve as the centering point for all the ministries of the conference. We focus our efforts on seeking, engaging, nurturing, and deploying fruitful leaders and congregations who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We live out this mission around four (4) priorities: developing lay and clergy transformational leaders, creating new places for new people, cultivating the most vital, fruitful congregations, and embracing ministry with the poor.

The leader development priority is focused in the Academy for Congregational Excellence (ACE). Through its various ministries, ACE is seeking to develop effective leaders to help ensure fruitful churches, that lead to a transformed world.

Creating new places for new people is the second priority. Through this new church development emphasis we are seeking to extend our United Methodist gospel witness in places within our annual conference to reach out to the many unchurched people. We are seeking church planter leaders and partners, who focus on reaching new people for Christ. Our new church development emphasis

includes a goal of planting a church with African American leadership for each church we plant with Anglo leadership (see Comprehensive Plan of Inclusiveness www.awfumc.org). This emphasis also includes continuing to plant new communities of faith in the growing Hispanic/Latino community.

The third priority of cultivating the most vital, fruitful congregations centers in the Antioch Project, a local church project to help churches engage a new life cycle of growth and outreach (<http://www.awfumc.org/antiochproject>). Nurturing disciples who make disciples is at the heart of the work of each local church. We believe that every church, regardless of its size, can be both invitational and missional. By representing radical hospitality and re-connecting with their communities (their mission field), local churches, as missionaries in their own zip codes, can move toward fulfilling their disciple making mission.

Embracing ministry with the poor is our fourth priority. Circles of Transformation is the center of our efforts to change the lives of individuals and families, ultimately breaking the cycle of poverty and transforming all involved in the Circles of Transformation process. We currently have six Circles of Transformation sites across our conference.

There are many other ministries in which we are engaged as an annual conference. Thanks so much to all the ministry leaders who work diligently and faithfully on behalf of Christ and the church. Through these various ministries, we are continuing to foster our partnership with the Red Bird Missionary Conference and work in disaster recovery related to the April 2014 floods along the Florida/Alabama coast.

Also, we have joined the efforts of our United Methodist Church across the world to eliminate deaths from malaria. Through the Imagine No Malaria Campaign, we have saved 77,000 lives (as of the printing of this brochure) with a goal of saving 100,000. Our hope is that by the conclusion of annual conference this year we will be able to announce the meeting of our goal.

Again, my deep gratitude to our connectional ministries staff, and all who lead our conference boards, agencies, and ministries, as together we seek to faithfully serve Christ and his church.

Jesus gave us a vision for His church which is found in the sixteenth chapter of Matthew's Gospel. In speaking with His disciples, Jesus said to Peter (verse 18, The Message), "You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of Hell will be able to keep it out." This is the church, I believe, we are called to be in this our day and our time. One that is a living organism, a dynamic outreach movement, focused on going where people are, building the body of Christ, starting new faith communities, crossing those diverse, cultural and ethnic barriers, remembering that we are "sent" people who are commissioned to "go" and make disciples. What a great opportunity we have to be the church Jesus envisioned, one so expansive with

the authentic, life-giving, grace-filled, love-centered spirit of God, that nothing, not even the gates of Hell can keep it out.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Neil McDavid

Director of Connectional Ministries and New Church Development

ACADEMY FOR CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE (ACE)

The Academy for Congregational Excellence (ACE) is a ministry arm of the Alabama West Florida Conference that has as its vision: *Effective Leaders, Fruitful Congregations, and a Transformed World*. ACE, as it is known, is affecting the level of leadership across the Conference in many ways by providing environments and opportunities where spiritual leaders can be Discovered, Developed, and Deployed.

This year, we aligned our Becoming a More Effective Leader Course offerings with the Conference year rather than the calendar year. We believe that this will help prevent interruptions in participation due to moves at Annual Conference, and provide the months of June and July for transitions. Thirty-nine persons registered for the Course this year, which meets one Thursday per month from 10-2, with lunch provided. The cost is only \$150 per person for the 10 month Course. We are grateful to Frazer Memorial UMC for providing the space and preparing the meals for each meeting.

Outstanding leadership is provided on a huge variety of topics that were chosen from a survey taken from pastors across the Conference. The leader of each session donates his/her time, and provides priceless insight on each topic. The teachers provide or offer books, handouts, etc. to allow the learning to continue. Discussion around the tables creates community, and participants learn from each other as well. This year, we had pastors bring staff persons with them, some laity, so that they could learn together and take their learning back to the local churches as a team. We hope this practice will become more the norm than the exception.

The Academy for Ministry with Children is also under the ACE umbrella. This is a wonderful ministry that spreads over a 2 year period, and trains people to be more effective leaders in developing ministries with children. Pam Barnhart is the coordinator for this valuable ministry, and info can be found on our new website at www.awface.org. This site is designed to be for leaders, clergy and laity, in terms of links, articles, gift inventories, etc. Please use it, and offer us suggestions about possible links and subjects. Make this YOUR Website.

We will begin a fresh launch of the Body & Soul ministries across the conference in the fall of 2015. This offering will be built around physical, spiritual, and emotional health of the participants. They will have the benefit of a personal

coach/trainer as well as a counselor to lead them through the quarterly sessions. Several districts will host this ministry opportunity that is designed to make the ministry of ACE more “portable”.

In addition, ACE partners with the Missional ministries of the church, such as Catapult, in providing inspiration and information in terms of becoming a more “externally-focused church.” We realize that we have been called as leaders, to “go” and make disciples. Therefore, there is a need to become more intentional and efficient at reaching those who have not yet been reached for Christ. This can be through events, need-meeting ministries, and relational evangelism which are all means of engaging those around us.

ACE wants to serve the Alabama-West Florida Conference by helping develop spiritual leaders in our strategically located local churches all across the Conference. We would like to hear from you concerning needs you have. Rev. Ron Ball, Director of ACE, is available to come to your church or district to provide consultation or speak to your congregations. Other resources will be made available as we move forward. Currently, we are considering preaching classes, special events, how to put together a ministry system for your local church, and connections for leader training for local church team members.

Also, we would appreciate your support through prayer, participation in our offerings, and through giving your time, gifts, and resources. Together, we can and will make a difference.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Ron Ball, Director
Academy for Congregational Excellence

DISASTER RESPONSE and RECOVERY MINISTRY

The direction of the Response & Recovery Ministry for 2014/15 has been three fold: preparedness; response within our Conference to the tornado and flood events and response to our sister conferences in Mississippi and North Alabama; recovery in the Panhandle from severe flooding in April.

The Districts have worked toward preparedness with trainings and by attending regional workshops provided by UMCOR and the Southeastern Jurisdiction of UVMIM. The Alabama-West Florida Conference maintains state level contacts through the Alabama and Florida State VOADs (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) as well as national conversation with NVOAD. Currently, the Alabama West Florida Conference Disaster Recovery Ministry remains in recovery in three districts: Baypines, Pensacola, and Marianna/Panama City.

Report of Recovery Efforts for Panhandle Flooding

Response: After 21 inches of rainfall in a 24-hour period, local churches began the assessment and aid for neighbors and local communities. The open doors of our churches provided meals, information, and headquarters for agencies, volunteers, and community organizations. In the Baypines District, Marlow Church served as the hub of response and in the Pensacola District Gulf Breeze UMC served as a location for multi-level service projects. 2000 UMCOR cleaning buckets were delivered to the impacted areas along the Panhandle. Thousands of volunteers helped families salvage and muck out homes. Strong Conference, District, and local leadership made response to an unexpected disaster a coordinated effort. UMCOR provided expertise and funding early in the response and has maintained a strong connection to our recovery efforts.

Recovery: Three UMCOR recovery grants have made the long term work in Alabama and West Florida possible and is much appreciated. An initial emergency grant was used for relief supplies. Long term grants (18 months) in Baldwin County and for three Florida counties have supplied a staff and construction funds. A full time staff of six: coordinator, construction manager, volunteer manager, and three case workers serve the Florida recovery. A part time staff of coordinator and a volunteer/resources manager worked in Alabama until March 1, 2015. The recovery team presented our model of recovery operations to the Southeastern Jurisdiction Disaster Academy held in Biloxi, Mississippi in February.

A full report of the recovery efforts will be posted on the Conference website.

Goals for 2015

The continuation of training and preparedness is central to our future responses. New leadership and participation in the districts will require team-building and refreshing of plans and strategies. Updating of the conference plan is necessary at this point and will be a primary project this year as the landscape of response and recovery both locally and nationally is ever-changing.

Preparedness and Response to the many natural disasters that occur within our conference and region is an opportunity to serve and love our neighbor. Many thanks go to the hundreds of hours offered as volunteers share the love of Christ and to the Conference leadership who support the goals of this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Fletcher, Coordinator
Disaster Response and Recovery Ministry
Alabama-West Florida Conference

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM)

In many places throughout the United States campus ministry is suffering. Economic pressures and changing priorities have caused many Annual Conferences to close Wesley Foundations, scale back ministry, and shrink away from the vital mission field of the colleges and universities in our country. I'm proud to say that the Alabama-West Florida Conference is not following this national trend, and instead is moving forward with a high level of commitment to advance the cause of Christ in our seven Wesley Foundations and two United Methodist Related Colleges. We recall that the Methodist movement began on a college campus as John and Charles Wesley gathered the Holy Club at Oxford, and believe that the future of Methodism, in many ways, will be ensured by our efforts to reach people for Christ on our college campuses today.

Pending the final approval of the Local Board of the University of West Florida Wesley Foundation and Pensacola State College, our UWF/PSC unit will be full-time beginning July 1st 2015. For decades we've maintained a part-time Wesley Foundation Director ministering to UWF and PSC, and through the years this Wesley Foundation has grown to be one of our strongest units. The BHECM budgeted additional funds in 2015 to support this new full-time endeavor. With the support of the UWF/PSC Board, the Pensacola and Marianna/Panama City Districts, and the support of the churches and people in and around Pensacola, this move to full-time will be successful.

The Tuskegee Wesley Foundation is undergoing transition. We learned in February of 2015 that Rev. Sheila Bates would be appointed to serve in the Campus Ministry division of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. We are grateful for the tremendous work that Rev. Bates has done in her time at Tuskegee, helping it grow to be one of our largest, most active Wesley Foundations. It is no surprise that she was tapped to help resource Wesley Foundations around our connection in her new post. The BHECM is supporting the Tuskegee Wesley Foundation Board in its efforts to identify a new director.

The BHECM is also excited about the ministry of Rev. Woods Lisenby who was appointed to serve as Huntingdon College's chaplain last year. Rev. Lisenby has energized the campus ministries of Huntingdon and made key changes to the campus ministry program that have been very fruitful. His enthusiasm for Christ and President Cam West's steady leadership continues to position Huntingdon as a true College of our Church.

Ministry in our other Wesley Foundations and at Birmingham-Southern College is outstanding. Please take time to read the detailed reports of each Wesley Foundation and both colleges within our report. Highlights include: Auburn

Wesley Foundation's great success in reaching students and their work in the Auburn Wesley Parrish, ASU Wesley Foundation's outstanding campus outreach, the dynamic growing ministry at the University of West Alabama, the growth and energy of our Troy University Wesley Foundation, and the impact of the University of South Alabama Wesley Foundation is having on campus and in the greater Mobile Bay area.

The BHECM is grateful for the policies of the Conference which: provide for the direct bill for Wesley Foundations with an appointed clergy person, and include prior claim amounts to support the salaries of our Wesley Foundation directors.

This stalwart support for Campus Ministry has helped make the Alabama-West Florida Conference one of the leading Conferences in the world when it comes to Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Dr. Rob Couch, Chair

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)

Greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry! In 2014 and 2015, GBHEM staff has been busy with a number of initiatives assigned to the Board by the 2012 General Conference, including the **Young Clergy Initiative** and the **Central Conference Theological Education Fund**. Here are some of the ways GBHEM has been working to resource our church:

- GBHEM continues to train Group Candidacy Mentors, and Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) members, BOM staff, District Committee on Ministry members, and District Superintendents on ministry legislation and best practices for navigating the ordination process with new candidates.
- Work continues on the **Young Clergy Initiative (YCI)**. Forty-six YCI grants were awarded during the second round of applications in August 2014, bringing the total amount awarded to \$5.5 million. The grants support programs geared toward increasing the number of young clergy in the UMC and supporting young clergy already serving the denomination.
- The **Commission on Central Conference Theological Education** continues to distribute the \$5 million fund for theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. So far, the commission has awarded 130 grants to fund training for local pastors, faculty development, provision of e-readers, curriculum development, and libraries at theological schools across 22 countries.
- Africa University** continues to graduate scholars who are changing the face of Africa. The \$50 million Endowment Campaign, a fundraising plan to ensure Africa

University's financial independence, is well underway. Contribute online to Africa University at the new giving website, support-africauniversity.org.

- More than 680 college students, campus ministers, and chaplains attended **Imagine What's NEXT** last fall, an event which focused on helping students plan how they can be active in God's dreams for their communities and the world.
- For the 2014-2015 academic year, GBHEM's Office of **Loans and Scholarships** awarded 2,293 recipients a total of over \$5 million. Explore all scholarship opportunities within the UMC using the scholarship portal at scholarship.umc.org.
- Registration is open now for **Exploration 2015**, a three-day event where young adults ages 18-26 ages come to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. This year's event will be held in Orlando, FL, November 6-8. Read more or register at gbhem.org/exploration and follow @explorecalling on Twitter for updates.
- Technology enables us to make our training resources more readily available to the church. The **UMC Cyber Campus** provides free video training sessions and lectures, as well as an online listing of continuing education courses, at umccybercampus.com.
- GBHEM and Discipleship Ministries continue to expand the **E-Reader Project**, a simple, sustainable, and cost-effective way for theology schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia to access current textbooks. Through financial support from annual conferences, local churches, universities, and individual donors like you, we're making theological education available to more people in more places than even before. Learn more or donate at umcereader.org.

Birmingham-Southern College

As annual conference opens, General Charles Krulak will say goodbye to Birmingham-Southern College as he retires after four brilliant years as president.

“Speaking on behalf of the entire college community, we are deeply and eternally grateful for General Krulak’s transformational leadership. After four years of service as president, the General will certainly ‘graduate with the highest honors.’ His positive and lasting impact on this College is profound; his contributions here will be remembered, respected and honored. General Krulak has brought enormous energy to the Hilltop and inspired us all with his commitment to the students and the institution’s mission. He has made a permanent mark here at Birmingham-Southern.”

~Bruce Rogers, BSC Board Chair

Since Krulak took the helm at BSC in 2011, the college has:

- Grown its endowment, reduced its debt, and operated under balanced budgets for three years running

- Refocused on its historical strength of experiential education, launching the rise3 initiative, which gives every student opportunities for collaborative research, internships, and service-learning
- Reinforced ties with the Methodist church
- Completed its 10 year reaccreditation review and embarked on a strategic planning process
- Received more than \$40 million in gifts and pledges
- Been annually honored as one of 40 schools included in the 2013 edition of 40 Colleges that Change Lives and kept the student at the center of the institution

Krulak has also been honored for his service to the local community, including receiving the inaugural Vulcan Newcomer Award. He and his wife, Zandi, will remain active in the Birmingham community after his retirement. Krulak will also continue to support the college.

The college has announced the **Campaign for Excellence** which offers BSC alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, and other supporters the opportunity to salute Krulak, who announced late in 2014 that he will step down as president of the college June 1, 2015. The campaign has set a goal of raising \$9.85 million that will fund scholarships, support programs and faculty, and go toward other college initiatives.

The College continues to honor the tradition of academics and faith informing each other. In Religious Life small groups, worship, student engagement with the UMC, speakers and loafing programs, and service to the community. The familiar and beloved quote -- *The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.*” Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* -- is often shared across the campus. It reflects the many ways academics, service, and spiritual growth intersect for students, faculty, and staff.

As a Hess Fellow at the General Board of Church and Society, Lindsay Sheets ('15) joined her faith and call to medicine by working with the department of Women's and Children's Advocacy and Organizing “to contribute to the ongoing initiative of HIV/AIDS.” Her work is reflected in *Season for Change* a four-week downloadable Advent study on HIV/AIDS that was used across the church, and is available at www.umc-gbcs.org.

Maggie Ward ('16) coordinated BSC's Veto the 'Squito campaign to support North Alabama Conference's “*Imagine No Malaria*” project. The BSC team of UMC scholarship recipients showed two films – *A Killer in the Dark* and *Mary and Martha* - with discussion, personalized donor cards to honor and memorialize family, friends or classmates, sold tee shirts and engaged UMC youth groups at basketball games in education about malaria. The campaign “purchased” 522 nets.

Students continue to serve the community in great number and with great appreciation for our neighbors. Volunteers are often found at McCoy Adult Day Care, Urban Kids, and West End Community Garden. Volunteers and interns

serve at East Lake UMC's P.E.E.R. program, Family Promise, First Light Women's Shelter, and tutoring programs in various places of the city. Canterbury's Stop Hunger Now meal packing event and Glen Addie's Community Table were special places to connect to the church and community, and serve Christ in the world.

Depending on the weather, students serve hot coffee or cold water every Thursday morning at Church of the Reconciler. Depending on the season, students can be found composting, turning soil or harvesting at West End Community Garden.

Alternative Spring Break took students and staff to New Orleans to continue the efforts there to rebuild homes and communities. Chaplain Jack Hinnen and Bunting Center's Emily Thornton met with the group for weeks exploring 'volun-tourism' and concepts of selfless service, packing their own tools and joining in the build.

Dr. Larry Brasher, emeritus professor of Religion, serves the conference by teaching in local churches, advising and inspiring students, promoting United Methodist graduate programs and seminaries, and nurturing the discernment process for ministry students. Dr. Brasher, retired after 15 years, continues to teach one class each semester and encourage students to connect faith and environmental studies. He delivered the address at Baccalaureate in May.

The wisdom, laughter, and expectation of Bishop Robert C. Morgan continues to be felt on campus, and as you look across the conference floor at the faces of young clergy you will see so many he nurtured in theology, church history, New Testament, and vocational discernment.

We encourage you to visit www.bsc.edu for more student stories, academic accolades, community programs and projects, and information about your college. To ask a question or recommend a student, see Rev. Jack Hinnen, Chaplain, Laura Sisson, Director of Church Relations, or any Blue Team member!

Submitted by,
Laura B. Sisson
Director of Church Relations

Huntingdon College

Huntingdon College opened academic year 2014-2015 celebrating its designation by The Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the "20 Fastest Growing Private Four-Year Colleges in the Nation" since 2002, and, specifically, the "Fastest Growing Private Four-Year College in the Deep South!" The College's enrollment grew from a 595 students in Fall, 2002, to 1160 students in Fall, 2014, an increase of 95 per cent in 12 years!!

To mark this milestone, Huntingdon will formally dedicate its 10 acre Cloverdale Campus -- immediately adjacent to the main campus -- on November 9, 2015. Formerly the site of the old Cloverdale Junior High School and purchased in

the early 2000's with gifts from Trustees and other friends of the College, the Cloverdale Campus features new and renovated facilities housing Charles Lee Field, W. James Samford, Jr. Stadium, the Dr. Laurie Jean Weil Center for Teacher Education and Human Performance, the Will and Kelly Wilson Community and Athletic Center, the Leo J. Drum, Jr. Theater, the Huntingdon Intercollegiate Wrestling Center, the Samaritan Counseling Center, the Alabama Independent School Association, and Pro-Impact Physical Therapy and Sports Performance. Over the last year, the College has also initiated major renovations to Jackson Home -- which houses the College's Religion Department and the Phyllis Gunter Snyder Center for Campus Ministries -- and Sybil Smith Hall. The renovations to Sybil Smith Hall, home of the College's Music Department and Band and Choral programs, are being funded primarily by the Sybil Smith Trust of Mobile in memory of longtime United Methodist philanthropist Sybil Smith Leberz, and by other friends of the arts in the Montgomery area.

The College's Religion Department, with seven faculty committed to the Church's ministry of teaching and spiritual formation, is celebrating the upcoming matriculation of six members of the Huntingdon Class of 2015 into theological studies at Asbury Theological Seminary, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and The Divinity School of Duke University. Five of these six students received full tuition merit scholarships. Five are committed to parish ministry, and one is exploring a vocation in law and social justice within the context of the Church's ministry.

As President of the College and an elder of the Church, I consider the identification, recruitment and nurture of outstanding young men and women into the Church's ministry to be among my highest vocational priorities. Each academic year, I sponsor an "Asbury Luncheon," a "Candler Luncheon," and a "Duke Luncheon" in my office. At each of these luncheons, a school representative sits with me and with faculty and students to talk about call to ministry and about the opportunities for vocational preparation at his/her school respectively. Over the years, I have seen many students move from an interest in ministry to a serious commitment to explore ministry through visits to the various theological schools and ongoing conversation with their faculty and with Huntingdon's Religion faculty around issues of ministerial call. Nothing we do at Huntingdon is more important! I am grateful to Chaplain Woods Lisenby for joining this effort in his first year of service as Chaplain of the College, particularly through his leadership of on-site visits to each of these schools during fall semester.

For many years, United Methodist laypeople throughout Alabama and Northwest Florida have talked about the importance of Huntingdon's ministry in "the old days" through the annual summer Senior High Assembly held on the Huntingdon campus. Many clergy and lay leaders were shaped spiritually for lives of service in the United Methodist Church through their participation in the mid-20th Century in this program. Now, with coordinated sponsorship through the Chaplain's Office, the Religion Department, the Office of College and Alumni Relations, and the President's Office, a senior high assembly for the 21st Century will be offered June

11-12, 2015, as the Huntingdon Leadership Academy! Pastors and youth pastors in the Alabama - West Florida and North Alabama Conferences are invited to participate in the identification and building of future church leaders by sponsoring up to four rising high school juniors and seniors to participate in the Academy. The nominal cost of \$50 per participant covers meals, overnight lodging on campus, class sessions and recreational activities.

Who should attend the Huntingdon Leadership Academy? Students who have the gifts and graces for ministry of any sort -- whether as deacons or elders, missionaries, music ministers, children's or youth pastors, worship leaders, or lay leaders -- will all find an atmosphere of hospitality to advance their discernment of God's call for who they should be and what they should do with their lives. Huntingdon Religion faculty, Huntingdon College Chaplain Woods Lisenby, and United Methodist pastors will serve as the Academy's faculty. Topics for presentation and discussion will include: "Priesthood and Prophets," "The Ones We Follow," "All Are Called," "Serve for a Living," "Christian Leaders in a Secular Age," "The Communion of Saints," "Gospels in the 21st Century," and "Belief in Action." The Academy's worship team will be led by Chaplain Lisenby. For more information about the Huntingdon Leadership Academy, contact Chaplain Woods Lisenby at 334/833-4474 or woods.lisenby@hawks.huntingdon.edu, and visit the Academy's website at www.huntingdon.edu/huntingdon-leadership-academy.

As I complete my 38th year of ordained ministry under episcopal appointment, and 12 years of appointment as President of Huntingdon College, I continue to thank God for calling me into the Church's leadership and more specifically now into the ministry of Christian higher education. The mission of a United Methodist college is most properly directed toward the fulfillment of one of the denomination's four areas of focus, namely, "Developing Principled Christian Leaders." At Huntingdon, we remain committed to offering the half-tuition Cross and Flame Grant to all United Methodist students, renewable through graduation, as a partner with local congregations in this ministry focus. All apportionment offerings received by Huntingdon from the Alabama - West Florida and North Alabama Conferences are used to help fund this scholarship program.

As we affirm in our denominational focus statement on leadership development, so we embrace as the heart of the mission of Huntingdon College: "The church needs leaders rooted in Christ, who have a vision for changing the world. Today's young people have fearless hearts, vibrant ideas and a passion for ministry. Their talents should be nurtured to shape the church's path into the future. The church must recruit young people -- including women and people of color the world over -- for ministry, equip them to be effective leaders and be open to where they want to lead us. We also must strengthen lay members, who are ministering at every level of the church." Amen and Amen!

(The Reverend) J. Cameron West, President, Huntingdon College
camwest@hawks.huntingdon.edu
www.huntingdon.edu

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS

The Wesley Foundation at Alabama State University

Campus ministry is my true passion. As a campus minister I am able to give voice to the social challenges that often go unaddressed in many religious communities. During my time as Campus Minister of the Wesley Foundation at Alabama State University, I have had the opportunity to provide theological and spiritual guidance to students who otherwise might not engage in a religious institutional setting.

This past year marked several milestones within our society that were significant to the Civil Rights Movement in our country such as the 50th Anniversary of the March on Selma (Bloody Sunday), 50th Anniversary of the Birmingham Church Bombing and the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Summer Events in Mississippi. This year we will celebrate one of the most monumental accomplishments in American history, the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. In order to truly embrace our past, we must solicit the involvement of our young adults, who at the prime of their lives would have been the same age as many of the diverse activist who willingly gave up their lives and sacrificed their youth for the sake of others. The Wesley Foundation at ASU had an opportunity in the past year to commemorate several milestones in our history through discipleship and service. In September, a group of students participated in our Freedom Ride to Mississippi Service Retreat where we were hosted by Lynch Street CME, which orchestrated several events and activities for us to attend. During this time, our students were able to attend a Civil Rights leadership panel discussion on race and religion, help to refurbish a newly renovated youth community center and fellowshipped with the students of the Jacksonville State University's Wesley Foundation. This was truly a wonderful opportunity to connect our students with their past while pursuing a brighter future, given the present political upheaval located in many communities in our nation. Another significant milestone in last year's past events was our student's involvement with St. Paul UMC. Over the past three years, our students have participated in several services with this ministry assisting in worship and engaging in fellowship. It was an honor to worship in a space that provided spiritual refuge for the Alabama State University family for over 100 years. Our students were delighted to share in a part of history that is so significant to the ASU and Montgomery legacy.

It is truly a blessing to see the partnerships that come out of living the "Dream" this year in Montgomery, Alabama. As a result, several of our students participated in internships in local churches within our conference that exposed them to cultures and worship traditions other than their own. This was truly a wonderful way to link our students with the world around them so that they are able to see God's activity in the world as we continue to evolve and transform our society.

In closing, as our organization continues to provide innovative activities and programs in addition to weekly bible study and worship services, it is our desire to keep ministry meaningful and relevant in the lives of our young adults through

worship, discipleship, service and fellowship. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving and worshipping with you in the near future.

Progressive Love,
Min. Charity C. Starr, Director
Wesley Foundation at Alabama State University

Auburn Wesley Foundation

Our students do amazing ministry in outreach, worship, discipleship, missions/ service and fellowship. Committed to Christ and using a student-led model, Auburn Wesley council and leadership plan and implement a very extensive program and mission outreach. With a student council of six people, a leadership team of 30 people and 14-16 discipleship leaders, students step up and live their faith. Thank you, Alabama West Florida, for your support and care our ministry.

Program Ministry (weekly)

- Worship At Wesley – Sunday 8pm
- 13/14 Discipleship Groups
- Prayer Breakfast –Tuesday 8 am
- Worship at Eagles Nest- Tuesday 8pm (Fall Semester)
- Study @ The Nest- Tuesday 6:30- 10pm (Spring Semester)
- Graduate Student Lunch & Devotion -Wednesday Noon
- Wednesday Night Dinner- 7pm
- 6 Bible Studies –Wednesday 8pm
- Freshman Community- Thursday 6:30 pm
- Intramural Sports
- Worship Bands (2 or 3 groups)
- Men's /Women's Waffle House

Regular Events (not weekly)

- Retreats (Women's, Men's, Fall Break, Winter, Conference, and Freshmen)
- Game Day 5th Quarter
- Social Events (4 or 5 per semester)
- Holy Week
- Seminars- (topics vary)

Mission / Service

Local

- Super Mission Saturdays- Home Repair with ARM
- Tutoring- Our House
- Monthly Food Bank w/ Loachapoka UMC
- Gleaning
- Work Week Service Fundraisers

National

- Christmas Mission (Widow's Harvest- Chattanooga TN)

- Spring Break Mission TBA
- Youth Caravan Summer 2015

International

- Tanzania UMVIM May 2015

Auburn Wesley Parish

Directed by Rev. John Weaver

- Churches Involved
 - Armstrong UMC
 - Gold Hill UMC
 - Loachapoka UMC
 - Pepperell UMC
- Leadership: 5-6 student pastors with Rev. Weaver

Thank you for your support.

Grace and Peace,
David Goolsby

Troy University Wesley Foundation

The vision of the Troy University Wesley Foundation is to fully experience God's love and to reflect God's love to all creation.

The mission of the Troy University Wesley Foundation is to fully express God's love by providing a safe community for all students. The mission assists to introduce or maintain Christianity as a priority for undergraduate and graduate students.

Program Ministry

The Troy Wesley Foundation helps students to experience God's love in community with each other throughout the week. For the last decade, Thursday night dinner has been a signature weekly event at the Troy Wesley. Through this fellowship dinner, we share the love of Christ with students and staff. Local churches or other groups make meals for students to enjoy. This dinner is offered to all students and staff on campus free of charge and is often the way new students become active at the Troy Wesley. We believe that in this space students, some of whom are not Christians, are able to see the living Christ. One way they experience this is through student led devotion and prayer time each week. As they become more active in the Wesley, they are able to experience the love of Christ through Bible studies, worship services, and more. They are able to live out Christ's mission to their local community through local and international missions. In the often lonely years of college, students are able to be part of an amazing community that is centered in love and mission of Jesus Christ.

We have also started a Bible Study & Worship on Wednesday nights where we serve the sacrament of Holy Communion. In the fall we go through a book of the

Bible in a verse by verse study. In the spring our conversations are more topical. This semester we will be talking about Jesus vs Religion, The UM understanding of the Holy Spirit, How to pray when we doubt that God will answer, and Being a Christian while living with depression and anxiety to name a few. We also have local people scheduled to come in and share their testimonies. We are blessed to have a student led worship band that leads us in worship every week. We have grown numerically but more importantly, our students are growing spiritually. They are asking hard questions and studying to find those answers.

Our student leaders facilitate small groups and prayer groups. We have 5 of those groups currently running.

Missions

The Troy Wesley students are very involved in serving others through **mission work** on campus and far from home. We keep our eyes opened for ways to serve our local area.

Stewardship

Students continually found ways in the last year to work together to best utilize their God-given gifts. Students planned fellowship and outreach events, completed service projects, cooked meals, provided worship music, led small groups, made relationships, and fundraised to support the Troy Wesley. We parked cars at football games. Our ninth annual golf tournament took place in the spring at the Troy Country Club. Our board of directors got really involved in fundraising in the last year as well. They are now excited to be holding their “Taste of Heaven” fundraiser each fall. “Taste of Heaven” brings in the best cooks from the neighboring churches as they compete for the best recipe. This is not only a fundraiser but a way that local churches have been able to fellowship together and rally around the Wesley. As they give, people are asked to pray for the Wesley Foundation that we are continuing to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

What our students are saying

“The Wesley is a family of non-judgment that wants the same thing for me that I want for them – to help grow their relationship with the Lord.”

“The Wesley has offered me a time to have my questions answered or simply hear from other people about Christ. I feel as if I’m getting to a stage in my life where I want to learn more than just the simple bible stories and the Wesley is offering me that opportunity.”

“The Wesley has strengthened my faith mostly by holding me accountable. In college it is very easy to be led astray by involvement in different organizations and with different people. The Wesley has provided me with a place to go to regroup myself and remember the ultimate goal of why I’m in school.”

“The Wesley means so much to me. It has provided me with a place I really like coming to and where I feel at home and where I get a chance to serve.”

“The Wesley has strengthened my faith by giving me a place where I can not only attend and be poured into by others but I can also contribute and pour into others. The Wesley provides me with an opportunity to help and lead.”

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the students and staff of Troy University. Our presence on campus positively impacts the lives of many young people as we strive to reflect God’s love to all creation. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our ministry at Troy University.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Brown
Director, Troy University Wesley Foundation

Troy University Wesley Foundation Board of Directors

Board Officers (June 2014-May 2015)

Name	Position	Years in this position
Jerrid Olmstead	Chair	2
John Dew	Co-Chair	2
Tammy Powell	Secretary	2

Class 2016 (Board members whose terms expire June 2016)

John Dew, Amber Carnathan

Class 2017 (Board members whose terms expire June 2017)

Jerrid Olmstead, April Johnson

Class 2018 (Board members whose terms expire June 2018)

Mike Tatum., Cathy Watson

Class 2019 (Board members whose terms expire June 2019)

Bart Wallace, Tammy Powell, Melissa Mikul

Ex-Officio Members of the Board

Rev. Steve Winton, Rev. Ed Shirley, Rev. Danny Arnold

At-Large, students, any additional board members

Paige Bartlett, Faith Mote

Tuskegee University Wesley Foundation

The Tuskegee Wesley Foundation is grateful for a blessed year of Collegiate Ministry. As the Wesley cultivates campus and community partnerships, we pray our faithful service will consistently grow and nurture Tuskegee students in their faith. Wesley’s programming is geared toward leadership formation through Worship, Mission, Evangelism, Fellowship and Discipleship. Wesley strives to faithfully impact students on and off Tuskegee’s campus. The Tuskegee Wesley Foundation is looking forward to another fruitful year of Ministry. We thank you for your love, prayers and continued support of TU Wesley.

Weekly

- Tuesday Night topical Bible Study (The Wes)
- Thursday Night Exegetical Biblical Study (Thirsty Thursday)
- Fellowship Meal
- Prayer Meeting
- Heavenly Heels – Life Group
- FreshStart Life Group
- Safe Haven (mentoring youth of the Howard Rd Housing Authority)
- BloodBrothers Accountability Group
- Sisterhood Accountability Group

Regular Events

- Revive! Worship @thewes
- Off Campus Social Events
- Leadership Conferences
- Fellowship Retreats
- Summer Programming
- Final/Midterm Exam Bags

Mission/Community Service

- Spring Break Mission
- Alabama Rural Ministry
- Magnolia Nursing Home
- Community Market – East Alabama Food Bank
- Green-fork Park clean up
- City of Tuskegee clean up

2015 Program Launch

- Financial Literacy Class
- Graduating Senior Life Group
- Fall Retreat

To me the Wesley Foundation means we continue John Wesley's ministry through discipleship and being on fire for God. Wesley encourages, educates, and empowers students to serve on our campuses and within the community at-large. It is a sacred place where we are fed and fueled for the rest of the week. It is a wonderful place for spiritual growth, development, and inspiration. I believe the Wesley gives us a great opportunity to stay connected to a body of believers and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

~ Mr. Norris W. Watkins, II - Graduating Senior Mechanical Engineering

Grace & Peace-

Sheila Bates

Director/Campus Minister

Tuskegee University Wesley Foundation

Tuskegee University Wesley Foundation Board of Directors

Board Officers

Mr. Justin Farris, President
 Atty. Jerry Daniel, Vice President
 Rev. Lori Shelton-Puckett, Secretary
 Mr. Charlie Craig, Treasurer

Class of 2016:

Atty. Jerry Daniel
 Mr. Justin Farris
 Mr. Zach Beasley

Class of 2017:

Rev. Frederick Outlaw
 Rev. Lori Shelton-Puckett
 Mr. Roland Vaughn
 Dr. Deloris Alexander

Class of 2018

Dr. Wylin Wilson
 Mr. Charlie Craig
 Ms. Angela Harris

Ex-Officio Members:

Resident Bishop Paul Leeland
 Rev. Dr. William R. Sims
 Rev. David Goolsby
 Rev. John Weaver
 Rev. Dr. Rob Couch

Honoary Members

Mr. Lee Thomas
 Mr. James Arrington

Student Members

Marcus Phelps
 Marlekah Hudspeth
 Omar Waller
 Jakaela Davis

University of South Alabama Wesley Foundation

The University of South Alabama Wesley Foundation offers refuge to college students, but we also equip those students to go out and serve. We are helping to shape the next leaders of our church. The South Wesley exists to connect college students to the abundant life found in Jesus Christ. We do this by helping students GROW their faith in Christ, CONNECT with other students in Christian fellowship, and SERVE their neighbors in response to the love of Christ.

Grow

Wesley helps students grow their faith through Bible studies, worship services and small groups. Our weekly flagship event is our Tuesday Night Bible Study. At this event we connect with God through a variety of things like scripture, prayer, discussion, sermons, conversations and reflective exercises. We spent the entire previous semester discussing The Beatitudes. We also offer students accountability and encouragement groups. These are groups that get together regularly to keep each other accountable to growing in their faith and serving Christ. On Thursdays, Wesley also has a time of Worship and Prayer. This is a time (in addition to Sunday mornings) where students can worship God together. This is a still new thing for us, so we are excited to see what God continues to do through it.

Connect

If students are to remain or become Christians in college, then fellowship is vital! Some of the fellowship events we do are: tailgating, game nights, weekly dinners, etc. Intramural teams (The Wesley Whistle Pigs) are also a lot of fun and a chance for our students to be Christlike examples on campus. We also actively engage other students on campus through outreach. Our normal outreach involves setting up every month or so on campus for Wesley students to do things like pass out free drinks, pencils, and cookies, etc. These are the kinds of things that brighten the day of other students and sometimes start meaningful conversations about life and faith. We have a great asset for outreach and ministry in our building (for which we are very thankful). While fully utilizing it, we work hard on ways to do genuine and creative ministry outside of our building as well.

Serve

We believe in loving our neighbors. We strive for students to be in mission wherever they are. We want mission to be who we are, not just something we do every now and then. We offer opportunities for students to get out of their normal comfort zones and experience God in different contexts. We do this through opportunities on the local, regional and international levels. Throughout year we will be working at UM (and other) agencies to love out neighbors here in Mobile. This Summer we will be assisting United Methodist Missionaries with their work in Costa Rica.

C.I.T.Y.

Finally, I should mention our C.I.T.Y. Program (Collegiate Internship in Theology and Youth Ministry). This is where we identify, equip, mentor, and place students who want to explore a potential call to ministry by serving in local churches as youth minister. This is the first year of the program and we currently have 4 students serving in 4 churches. I meet with this group for an hour twice a week to discuss practical advice and encourage them to grow spiritually through the process. It is proving to be an incredible experience! Churches are happy to have a competent youth leader (that they most likely would not have otherwise) and students are doing ministry and having their lives changes by the experience). It is such a blessing to all who are involved!

Board of Directors

USA Wesley has a healthy board that meets every other month. Along with normal board responsibilities, our board organizes two big fundraisers a year. One fundraiser is to help us with programming, the other with the mortgage on our building. We are very thankful to both, the Mobile and Bay Pines District Superintendents for their help with these fundraisers. We are incredibly blessed to have some great leadership on our board. I have board members checking in with the me and the ministry every week. My board is very helpful whenever needs arise. This board has worked very hard to reduce the amount of debt we have on our building, and to keep our finances in a healthy place. I am thankful to the board for their commitment to keeping this Wesley foundation financially healthy.

Finally, I want to mention that there is a new endowment set up through the UM Foundation that awards a Wesley leader a scholarship each year. This amazing opportunity was set up through our current board president, Jody Dunn and his family. This is very exciting for Wesley and we look forward to awarding a scholarship this summer. USA Wesley is thankful to the Conference and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for its continued support and investment in the church's future!

Peace,
Johnny Peters
Director / Campus Minister
South Wesley

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Officers

Cris Smith (President), Jade Davis (Treasurer), Scott Tindle (Nominations), Brent Cumbest (Finance), Joe Long (Personnel), and Nathan Pope (Property)

Class of 2016: Brent Cumbest, Amy Browning, Cris Smith, Elisa Kennedy, David Turner, Nathan Pope, and Todd McGehee

Class of 2017: Trip Sullivan, Kimberly Ingram, Jenni Hendrix, Scott Tindle, Brennan Peacock, Zach Brining, Paula Duke, Joe Long, and Scott Weldon

Class of 2018: Hanes Swingle, Michael Brown, Missy Smith, Kristen O'Keefe, Len Hurston, Steven Roberts, Jade Davis, Kim Feagin, Destiny Dunn, and Howard Munn.

University of West Alabama Wesley Foundation

The University of West Alabama Wesley Foundation is the United Methodist College Campus Ministry located just off the UWA Campus in Livingston, Alabama.

Our 2014-15 theme verse continues to come from 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up just as you are doing." This ministry is definitely encouraging as we live together, pray together, and share God's Word with each other daily. We are a 10-room residence facility along with the many activities offered to all students on the UWA Campus.

The UWA Wesley Foundation is an active, ongoing fellowship for all and all feel welcome at the Wesley 7 days a week.

Our signature event is "Mondays At the Wesley," that provides dinner and student-led Bible study and fellowship each and every Monday night during the school year at the Wesley Foundation. Approximately 30-35 students come each week for this main event. A local church or group from the Demopolis UMC District or Livingston Community has provided our meals each week, therefore, this event touches the lives of our students as well as helping the surrounding area see and feel all that God is doing at the Wesley. We have participated in one Campus

Activity each month along with one Local Mission monthly. Our local missions have been Food Drives for the Sumter County DHR, “Coloring With Kids” in local schools, participating in the Sumter County Relay for Life and winning “Best Campus Team” award! We also collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and pennies for the Boys and Girls Club.

On Campus, we once again participated in the Homecoming Parade and received 2nd place Float Award, hosted a Campus Scavenger Hunt, hosted tables at the “Get On Board Day” and “Fall Preview Day,” and attended one campus activity together each month. We also helped freshmen move into their dorms on “Move-In Day.”

The Wesley began a new Student Food Pantry in August, 2014 in hopes to help those students going through difficult financial times. This food pantry has provided over 50 meals thus far and I believe will increase in awareness in 2015. Many lives are impacted through the ministries of the UWA Wesley Foundation ... through giving the “gift of time” in our “Coloring With Kids” local mission, to every hand that receives a flyer and invitation to join us at our weekly “Mondays At the Wesley,” to anyone who encouraged our participation in the Homecoming Parade, to the many volunteers who bring dinner each week to the Monday night students and Wesley residents, to the hungry souls fed through the Food Drives, and prayerfully, all students who come to experience the presence of God in and through the Wesley.

We thank the Alabama/West Florida Conference and churches within for your continued support of God’s mission and ministry at the UWA Wesley Foundation.

Teresa Seevers
UWA Wesley Foundation Director

UWA WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS

Robert Upchurch, President

Elizabeth Stone, Vice-President

Teresa Partridge, Secretary

Wanda Rew, Treasurer

Class of 2015: Violet Reed, Ketia Shumaker, Teresa Partridge

Class of 2016: Amy Christiansen, Robert Upchurch, Elizabeth Stone

Class of 2017: Gretchen Sudduth, Clete Beard, Clay Elliott

Class of 2018: Wanda Rew, Kent Partridge, Becky Holland

University of West Florida and Pensacola State College

Highlights of this year:

1. There is a sense of excitement and joy as we make disciples and share in the love of Christ.
2. We hired Britany Toner as our Assistant Director.
3. We are now sending college students out in twos to serve in local churches as

youth workers. We call them Wesley Mentors.

4. There is much discussion of bringing the Wesley Director position to full time.
5. We are partnering with the District Board of Missions as we discern the possibility of building a Wesley facility at UWF.

Basic structure: We meet every Monday night at 5:30 for a Bible based discussion. Thursday nights we meet at 9:00 for a more topical discussion. Each night our band plays and we worship, fellowship, and study what God is doing in our world. We do several mission projects such as Habitat for Humanity, and SIFAT. We participate in Connect which is our big campus ministry gathering for our conference. Our Wesley provides most of the leadership for the district youth events Fused and Meltdown.

What you can do to help:

1. Please pray for our students, the two colleges they attend and for the leadership of Wesley.
2. If you know of students that will be attending UWF or PSC please let them know about us and let us know about them.
3. As we move this Wesley Foundation towards a full time director position please consider making us a part of your financial giving.
4. Invite us to come speak or play music at your church.

Nominations Report:

Class of 2015: Mina Porter, Hugo Garnier

Class of 2016: Jenny Ziegler Medley, Brandon Dasinger, Laura Weant, Myron Smith, Jeremy Smith, Ashley Myers

Class of 2017: Sandra Thompson, Clint Jernigan, Patrick McBride, Jim Hurd, Beth Herndon

Class of 2018: Ruth Ann Stalnaker, Nancy Hammond, Ryan Walsh, Wesley Anderson, Lance Whorton, Levi, Gardner

Rev. Stuart Worth, **Campus Minister**

Britany Toner, **Assistant Director, UWF/PSC Wesley Foundation**

Conference Board of Laity

All of the Southeastern Conference Lay Leaders agreed that we would embrace the idea of collaboratively putting our energy toward a common theme in the Southeastern Jurisdiction to rally behind and work as a jurisdiction on. Leading into the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference that focus will be on children in poverty. The steering committee came up with the following plan that we would like to implement in each of our conferences. We would like to gather stories from the existing work of our churches and conferences where we are providing ministry for children who are in difficult situations. These stories will be gathered, ordered and then published in as many places as possible. We believe that the SEJ website and each of the conference websites will be a great starting place for these stories. If you have a story you would like to share about how your church or you made

a difference in the life of a child in poverty please let me know as we share this throughout our jurisdiction.

Visit <http://www.awfumc.org/boardoflaity> (the board of laity page on the conference website) where you will find several resources useful to you. A document that discusses the role of the lay member to annual conference is available as a resource. On that same page you can find links to contact your conference lay leader and the district lay leaders as well as the leadership of Lay Servant Ministries, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men as well as the conference scouting coordinator. We have also included resources to be used to on Laity Sunday which is the third Sunday in October.

Another invaluable website is the General Board of Discipleship laity webpages (www.gbod.org/laity) where you will find numerous training resources for both lay servant ministers, conference lay leaders and the church lay leaders as well as Laity Sunday materials.

Over the next year there will be a great deal of focus over the upcoming 2016 General Conference as well as the 2016 Jurisdictional Conferences where bishops are elected. United Methodist News Service is the best resource to stay up-to-date on news throughout our church connection. Visit <https://umns.umc.org> to sign up for daily emails which will keep you up-to-date on the latest information about our great church.

If our church is to survive and thrive it will be due to the work and service of our lay members empowered by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Equip yourself wisely to be used as a powerful instrument of our Lord.

Steve Furr, M.D.
Conference Lay Leader

Lay Servant Ministries

Each of us is gifted by the Holy Spirit to be a servant in God's kingdom. Lay Servant Ministries helps us discover our gifts through educational opportunities, that will enhance us to build our skills, and enable us to be effective leaders in our church. Through Lay Servant Ministries, we can become better disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Lay Servant Ministries provides training for laity to equip them to be leaders in mission and ministry in the local church and beyond.

A Lay Servant is ...

- An active, supportive (professing) member of a United Methodist church;
- Eager to serve the church, community, and the world;
- We are well-informed on Scripture and on the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church;

- We are committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communication; and
- We are willing to improve our skills by training for service.

We are still undergoing a change in our structure, mainly our name and requirements. The General Conference of 2012 voted to change the name of Lay Speaking Ministries to Lay Servant Ministries. We were able to retain an office of Lay Speaking within our structure. Therefore we will be making some changes to our name.

God calls every one of us to proclaim the presence and power of God through all that we say and do. How is God calling you to serve? With so many ways of training, Lay Speaking Ministries, offers you a valuable education in multiple ministry areas.

Lay Servant Ministry is more than just speaking!

Our ministry goes beyond filling in for the pastor or speaking in public. Lay Servant Ministries offer many options for serving in roles other than the traditional pulpit supply. We are trained to teach, serve, lead, and participate, in many caring, and loving ministries.

Communication is an integral parts of Lay Servant Ministries . With so many avenues of training, our Lay Servant Ministries offers valuable education opportunity for equipping United Methodists for all facets of lay ministry. During the last year our District Directors of Lay Servants Ministries were busy and successful, training new and experienced lay servants , working with our clergy and leaders of our Conference.

We have a total of 673 Certified and Local Church Lay Servants in our Conference. In 2014 we had the privilege of filling in 835 times for our clergy.

Our Lay Servants spoke in 106 different churches in our Conference and we also provided lay servants for nursing homes, and prison ministries.

We held nine Lay Servant Training classes, including the Lay Servant Academy at Blue Lake in March of 2014 in seven of the eight districts in our Conference. 36 different courses were offered including basic and advance courses in Spanish.

The Conference Committee of Lay Servants would like to thank Bishop Paul Leeland, our District Superintendents and all our Clergy, we are grateful for all the support we receive from you, thank you for believing in us and we appreciate the opportunity to serve with you in the ministry of God through Lay Servants.

Below are members of the Conference Committee on Lay Servants:

District Directors:

Baypines - Peggy Duck

Demopolis - Frank Stegall

Dothan - Carolyn Myers

Marianna/Panama City - Mary Whitehead

Mobile - John Sellers

Montgomery-Opelika - Pat Caylor and Elizabeth Whatley

Montgomery-Prattville - David Bowen

Pensacola - Bruce Knecht

At-Large Members: Beverly Maddox, Edna Williams, Dr. Steve Furr, Glen McIntyre, Paul Smith, Candi McKim, Gloria Murphy, Michael Arnold, Rev. Steve Kopp, and Judy Reiter

Thank all of you for what you are doing for the Lord, our Conference and for the Lay Servant Ministries.

*God does not always call the equipped.... But he does equip the called..
God is good.....all the time. All the time.....God is good!!*

In His Service,
Helen Edwards
Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries
Alabama-West Florida Conference

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The United Methodist Men of the Alabama-West Florida Conference have worked diligently in 2014 to implement our mission of supporting spiritual growth among men, and helping men to mature as disciples as they encourage spiritual formation in others.

At our yearly Advance in April of 2014, our theme was “Wesley’s Three Graces.” We heard three speakers: Walt Merrell, district attorney of Covington County who charged us to be the men that God challenges us to be through His prevenient grace; Greg Litton, a former major league baseball player who told us of justifying grace in his life; and our Bishop, Paul Leeland, who directed us upon a journey of sanctifying grace. Additionally, recognitions and awards were presented to Chuck Christian, Bishop Paul Leeland, and John Croft for their service in promoting men’s ministry throughout the AWF Conference.

Our support of Blue Lake Assembly, our conference campground, continued as we completed the replacement of the aging bunk beds in two of the three campgrounds. A special thank you is extended to Harold Burnham and to all the men who assisted in the construction of the bunk beds and to the churches and organizations who contributed to the project. The Blue Lake Methodist Camp continues to be one of the well-supported projects of UMM.

Our Upper Room Living Prayer ministry continues to be a central piece in our spiritual development and mission work. In previous years, we have been the top conference in giving to the Upper Room Prayer Center. This year, Dennis Brisolaro accepted the position of Conference Prayer Advocate and we have provided \$3,215 to the Upper Room Prayer Center. In addition to supporting this vital ministry with our gifts, we have tried to establish new prayer groups to answer the prayer line. Chuck Christian accepted a new leadership position in the UMM Cabinet as EMS

Advocate with the responsibility of encouraging support and contributions to the UMM Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life program.

Activities of the UMM charter groups are varied and include Prayer Ministry, Bible Study, Lectionary Study, support of EMS Ministry, support of Boy Scouts, Blue Lake Methodist Camp improvement projects, local church Youth Program support, church Trustee project support, community outreach, district Pastor Appreciation Banquets, support of the Upper Room Living Prayer Center, and fellowship outings and dinners with UMM.

We rejoice in the work of our local units and their pastors to strengthen and renew the men's ministries programs in the local church. Through their efforts, activities in local churches have grown, new men have been invited to share in discipleship, and new charter units have been added to the conference.

Our goal is to empower the ministry of Jesus Christ through men within the congregations of the United Methodist Church. We can accomplish our goal if we accept the power of our Lord to transform and grow as spiritual leaders; envelop and make evident growth in our relationship with the Lord and each other.

Frank Moore, President
Alabama-West Florida Conference UMM

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The Alabama-West Florida conference of United Methodist Women is a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and 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.

Our year began in January with the newly elected officers traveling to Lake Junaluska for Leadership Development Training.

In February we kicked off our first event: Tapestry Retreat. This year the Demopolis District hosted the annual event. Approximately 200 people gathered at Demopolis First United Methodist Church for a time of worship and friendship renewals. The theme for this retreat was Tapestry: Weaving Life's Thread's Through Unity. The keynote speaker was The Rev. Connie Shelton, Director of

Communications and Connections for the Mississippi Annual Conference. This retreat continues to be our best-attended event.

On March 21-23, Bishop Violet Fischer led the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, which was held at Blue Lake Methodist Assembly Grounds. In 2000 Bishop Fischer was elected to the Episcopacy by delegates of the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Her appointment was in the New York West area where she served from 2000-2008. As she led this retreat, much information was offered for reflection.

On April 24th approximately 80 women from this conference traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in our Assembly Gathering. This event is held every 4 years and is a time of celebration for United Methodist Women. The theme in 2014 was “Make It Happen” and our attendance to the event surely helped to “MAKE IT HAPPEN!”

On July 11 and 12 our Mission u Event was held at First United Methodist in Dothan, Alabama. Approximately 190 people attended this event. The Rev. Wesley Wachob led the Spiritual Growth Study “How is it With Your Soul?” Ruth Ann Powers led the Geographic study: “The Roma of Europe” and Debbie Bracewell led the Social Action Issue study “The Church and People with Disabilities. Also offered was a “Hands On” class to learn how to put words into action relating to the Disabilities Study and was led by Harry Hodges. This event will again be hosted by Dothan First United Methodist Church on July 31- August 1, 2015.

On October 24th we met at Blue Lake for Leadership Training as well as a workshop kicking off our Legacy Celebration. United Methodist Women will be celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2019. Margie Miller, Conference Education & Interpretation Coordinator and Yvette Richards, National President of United Methodist Women led a workshop detailing the Legacy Campaign. Immediately following this workshop newly elected district officers were in Leadership Development Training with their respective conference officers. On Saturday the Alabama-West Florida Conference of United Methodist Women planted a Legacy Tree on the grounds of Blue Lake as a tribute to the Legacy Campaign. On Saturday morning our Annual Day Celebration was kicked off with the Parade of Banners, led by Conference President, Betty Helms and Rev. Jeremy Pridgeon, Pensacola District Superintendent (filling in for Bishop Leeland), district superintendents, spouses and district UMW presidents. Our keynote speaker was Yvette Richards, National President of United Methodist Women. Yvette encouraged us to be women of faith, hope and love in action as we continue our ministry to women, children and youth. Yvette installed the 2015-2016 newly elected conference officers: Lynn Hamric, president; Charlotte Hobson, secretary; Laurel Akin, Communications Coordinator; Shirley Hodges, Education and Interpretation Coordinator; Zan Jones, Social Action Coordinator and Betty Helms, Nominations Committee Class of 2015-2016. The Nell Chance Special Mission Recognition Award was given to Mary Presley, from the Mobile District. Mary was honored for her many years of her untiring and loyal service to United Methodist Women.

The Special Mission Recognition Award which is given each year to the district with the most attendance to their district events was won by Marianna/Panama City District. The Many Colors – One Spirit Banner which is awarded each year to the district with the best attendance to conference events was a tie win by Dothan and Pensacola Districts.

The United Methodist Women of the Alabama-West Florida Conference continue to legacy of being generous givers to our ministry. In 2014 our total mission giving was \$225,760. This was given in support of National and International Mission Programs, UMCOR, Call to Prayer and Self-Denial just to name a few. As United Methodist Women, we continue our journey with excitement and commitment as we live out our PURPOSE. Remember! DON'T LOOK BACK - WE ARE NOT GOING THAT WAY!

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Helms, 2011-2014 President
Conference United Methodist Women (UMW)



Alabama-West Florida
Annual Conference 2015 | The Great Commission
**nurturing
disciples**

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REPORTS

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION and HEALTH BENEFITS

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits offers quality health-care, disability, pension, retirement, financial planning, long-term care and death benefit coverage to the clergy and churches of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

With the continued uncertainty in the health-care environment the Board continues to give careful attention to our resources as we look toward the future. Our greatest resource is confidence in God's abundance and goodness.

Your Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall be prudent in long-term planning, and we shall be optimistic in our management of the Board's important benefits programs. We are committed to the goal of sustainable churches, a sustainable Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, and a sustainable United Methodist Church.

Report 1 – Health Insurance

The Board works hard to provide excellent health care coverage to our clergy and lay participants through a partially self-funded insurance plan, administered by Blue Cross – Blue Shield of Alabama. Montgomery lay member Mike Horsley serves as chairperson of the Insurance Sub-Committee of the Board. The cost of this health insurance plan is covered by participant premium equivalents, church direct billing, and apportionments. While contributions to the Clergy Retired Benefit Stabilization Fund are presently suspended, it remains a part of our funding plan to guarantee the financial strength of our Health Insurance Plan and to help offset the unfunded liability for retiree benefits. The Board's health insurance reserve investment fund's market value as of December 31, 2014 was \$6.12 million. The Board also maintains an Operating Reserve Fund at the United Methodist Foundation with a balance of \$500,000.

In order for the plan to remain viable and available to all, participation by eligible clergy must be mandatory. The only exemption being when the clergy person can provide satisfactory evidence that he/she is covered by a spouse's group plan or that he/she is covered by a military or government retirement health plan. Clergy who are 65 years of age or older, not in retirement status and serving a 75% or full time appointment will remain on the active insurance plan with premium equivalents being direct billed to the church. No premium reduction is applied. Spouses of clergy not in retirement status and serving a 75% or full time appointment will remain on the active plan.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits seeks to increase the insurance reserves each year in its efforts both to maintain fiscal strength and stability in our insurance program and to offset the unfunded liability associated with providing post-

retirement medical benefits to current and future retirees. The board established a target of \$5,356,432 for 2015 and will recalculate the target annually. The Conference unfunded liability for retiree health benefits was estimated in 2013 to be approximately \$26,000,000. The 2013 study results are included in Report 2.

The Group Health Benefits Plan is not a form of entitlement. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits reserve the right to amend the active and retired plan of benefits and the eligibility needed to qualify. With the approval of the Annual Conference the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits may eliminate either or both of these plans.

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) health benefit provisions amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the Internal Revenue Code and the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans to provide a temporary continuation of group health coverage that otherwise might be terminated. The law generally applies to all group health plans maintained by private-sector employers with 20 or more employees, or by state or local governments. The law does not apply to plans sponsored by the Federal Government or by churches and certain church-related organizations.

With the advent of the Affordable Care Act and the health insurance policies available under this act, participants leaving the conference health insurance plan have multiple options for continuing their health insurance coverage, often at lower cost. While providing COBRA coverage was optional in the past, Board of Pension and Health Benefits believes that it is no longer necessary and not in keeping with our commitment to faithful stewardship of Annual Conference funds.

Conference health care coverage is available for lay employees of local churches, and the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits encourages every church with lay employees to consider adding this important benefit. For information on premiums and enrollment requirements, please contact the Conference Fiscal Office.

2014 HEALTH INSURANCE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Beginning Balance	\$ 814,576.00
Receipts:	
Apportionments	\$1,100,004.00
Premiums	\$4,957,484.06
Clergy	\$3,326,344.09
Lay	\$1,529,074.88
Retired	\$ 102,065.09
Reinsurance	\$ 42,514.95
Miscellaneous receipts	<u>\$ 3.47</u>
Total Receipts	\$6,100,006.48
Total Available	\$6,914,583.12
Expenditures	
Claims:	
Clergy	
Prescription Drugs	\$ 908,117.15
Other Claims	\$2,298,345.74
Total Clergy	\$3,206,462.89
Retired (MEDSUPP)	
Claims	\$ 710,657.06
Total Retired	\$ 710,657.06
Lay	
Prescription Drugs	\$ 287,964.10
Other Claims	\$1,465,950.15
Total Lay	<u>\$1,753,914.25</u>
Total 2014 Claims and Admin	\$5,671,034.20
Reinsurance Premium Paid	\$ 336,668.20
Dental Premium Paid	\$ 293,404.90
Premium Refunds	\$ 4,260.00
ACA Fees	\$ 50,662.50
Fund Operations	\$ 47,861.16
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,406.00
Total Transfers and Expenditures	<u>\$6,406,296.94</u>
Net Available over Expenses	\$ 508,286.18

Report 2 – Report of Actuarial Valuation of Post-retirement Medical Benefits of Employees and Retirees

In response to the direction of the 2000 General Conference, every two years the Alabama-West Florida Conference retains an outside consulting firm to calculate the liabilities associated with providing post-retirement medical benefits to current and future retirees in accordance with the terms of its existing plans and contribution arrangement. The report in Exhibit 1 was prepared by AON Hewitt Consulting, based on conditions existing as of January 1, 2013.

The full report presents actuarial liabilities for the plan, as well as the applicable expense and liability amounts that would exist in the conference-reported plan financial information in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards Nos. 106 and 132.

In addition, cash flow information is presented which projects the future claims and participant contributions for the current group of active and retired participants, along with the resulting employer costs. Cash flows, liabilities, and the net periodic post-retirement benefit costs have been calculated based on conditions existing as of the January 1, 2013 measurement date.

Please contact the Fiscal Office at 888-873-3127 if you would like to review the report in its entirety. In this report (Exhibit 1), we summarize the information provided through the valuation. Currently there is no formal funding plan established, although the Board of Pension and Health Benefits seeks to use any revenues over expenditures in the health insurance program to build up reserves and to underwrite this liability. We fund the annual retiree health costs through apportionments and individual monthly premium equivalents.

Exhibit 1 - Summary of Results

Financial Information

The following table summarizes the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 106 (FAS 106) results of the programs. The Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost is the expense the Plan Sponsor must record in their financial statements for the fiscal year.

	Fiscal Year Ending			
	12/31/2013	12/31/2012	12/31/2011	12/31/2010
(1) Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost	\$3,510,793	\$3,426,178	\$4,337,111	\$4,211,219
(2) Accumulated Postretirement Benefit Obligation	\$19,691,805	\$18,850,846	\$23,348,353	\$21,954,406
(3) Expected Postretirement Benefit Obligation	\$26,532,244	\$25,970,062	\$30,413,281	\$29,271,889
(4) Succeeding Year Cash Flow Projection	\$593,413	\$546,925	\$633,551	\$578,140
(5) Fair Value of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
(a) Irrevocable Trust	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
(b) Allocated for Benefits	\$4,065,668	\$3,358.09	\$2,898,967	\$2,739,000
(c) Recognized Under FAS 106	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
(6) (Accrued)/Prepaid Benefit Cost				
(a) Beginning of Year	(\$17,151,094)	(\$14,271,841)	(\$10,568,281)	(\$6,935,202)
(b) Net Employer Contribution in Year	N/A	\$546,925	\$633,551	\$578,140
(c) (Financial Statement Expense)	(\$3,510,793)	(\$3,426,178)	\$4,337,111	\$4,211,218
(d) End of Year	N/A	(\$17,151,094)	(\$14,271,841)	(\$10,568,281)
(7) Charge/(Credit) to Unrestricted Net Assets	N/A	\$2,540,711	\$4,579,005	\$12,780,072
(8) Discount Rate	4.50%	4.50%	6.10%	6.10%
(9) Health Care Trend Rate				
(a) Initial	8.50%	8.50%	9.50%	10.50%
(b) Ultimate	5.00%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
(c) Year Ultimate Trend Attained	2023	2023	2017	2017
(10) Expected Return on Assets	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%

Valuation Data

The following data table summarizes the covered plan population included in this valuation and the last valuation that data was collected

	1/1/2013	1/1/2011
(1) Number of Participants and Dependents		
(a) Active Employees		
(i) Clergy	294	339
(ii) Lay	N/A	N/A
(iii) Total	294	339
(b) Retirees		
(i) Clergy	240	230
(ii) Lay	N/A	N/A
(iii) Total	240	230
(c) Dependent Spouses	66	74
(d) Total	600	643

Source of Data

- (1) Data was collected as of January 1, 2013 and is supplied to us by the Employer and a third party administrator
- (2) Although we believe these to be accurate and complete, the data and financial information have not been audited by us.

Report 3 - Post-Retirement Medical Benefits for Retirees

Purpose of the Plan: This is a retiree health plan designed to supplement the amounts Medicare pays for some hospital, medical, and surgical services. The Plan is not designed to cover all the expenses that Medicare does not pay. You must be eligible for Medicare and enrolled in Parts A and B of Medicare in order to receive any benefits under the Plan. The Plan is self-insured by the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. This means that the Conference pays for all claims out of its own assets and does not buy an insurance policy to pay benefits under the Plan. Blue Cross is responsible for administering claims under the Plan; Blue Cross does not insure the benefits under the Plan.

Eligibility: Retirees

- All clergy who retire from active service in the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference and are eligible for Medicare have access to the plan for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses.
- Upon reaching age 65 and being Medicare eligible, the spouse will go on the Medicare Supplement Plan at the full Medicare Supplement premium equivalent. Once the clergy participant enters retirement status, appropriate premium equivalent reductions will be applied for both the clergy and spouse as outlined below.
- Annual conference employees who are employed with the conference at the time of their retirement and are at least age 65 at retirement have access to the plan for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses.
- Local church lay employees who have been continuously employed within the Alabama-West Florida Conference for 20 years and are at least age 65, in retirement status, enrolled in the active insurance plan at retirement, have access to the plan for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses. (Premium must be paid by the church on church check).

Premium Equivalent Reductions

- To be eligible for a premium equivalent reduction for themselves and their spouses, clergy and annual conference lay employees must be enrolled in the conference active insurance plan for at least 5 years prior to retirement and have 5 or more years of service in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Years of service for clergy are as recorded by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Years of service for annual conference lay employees are as recorded in their employment records. Retired local church lay employees are not eligible for premium reductions.
- Participants retiring on or before June 30, 2016 with 5 to 28 years of service will receive an 80% premium reduction for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses.
- Participants retiring on or before June 30, 2016 with 29 to 34 years of service will receive a 2.9% premium reduction for each year of service for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses.
- Participants retiring on or before June 30, 2016 with 35 or more years of

service will receive a full premium reduction for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses.

- Participants retiring after June 30, 2016 with 5 to 34 years of service will receive a 2.9% premium reduction for each year of service for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses.
- Clergy members retiring after June 30, 2016 with 35 or more years of service will receive a full premium reduction for themselves and their Medicare eligible spouses.
- With respect to married individuals that are each clergy with appointments in the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, each such clergy must satisfy Medicare and Plan eligibility requirements and premium reductions will be applied to each such clergy and not because of their status as a spouse of a clergy.

Premium Equivalent for Appointed Retired Clergy (under age 65)

Church's Premium Payment: Equal to the premium equivalent for the active plan established annually by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Premium Equivalent for Appointed Retired Clergy (age 65+)

Church's Premium Payment: Equal 80% of the premium equivalent for the Medicare Supplement Plan established annually by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Clergy's Premium Payment: Premium equivalent minus premium reduction.

Clergy Spouse: Premium equivalent minus premium reduction.

Pastors Retiring Prior to Age 65:

Retired pastors who have not reached the age of eligibility for Medicare and have 30 or more years of service as recorded by the General Board of Pension can remain on the active plan with a premium reduction of 2.9% per service year. Their dependents may continue on the active coverage by paying the full premium equivalent established by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. When the clergy member reaches the age 65, he or she will have access to the Medicare Supplement Plan and any appropriate premium reductions. When the spouse reaches the age 65, he or she will have access to the Medicare Supplement plan and any appropriate premium reductions as well. In the case of clergy couples without dependent coverage, individual clergy persons will be eligible in their own rights and premium reductions will be applied as individuals not as spouses of a clergy.

Pastors Retiring Under the Twenty Year Rule:

Retired pastors who have not reached the age of eligibility for Medicare and have 20 or more years of service but less than 30 as recorded by the General Board of Pension can remain on the active plan but must pay the established premium equivalent for themselves and their dependents. When the clergy member reaches the age 65, he or she will have access to the Medicare Supplement Plan and any

appropriate premium reductions. When the spouse reaches the age 65, he or she will have access to the Medicare Supplement plan and any appropriate premium reductions as well

Pastors on Clergy Medical Leave:

Clergy on Clergy Medical Leave and receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan disability benefits must qualify for Social Security Disability, and elect Medicare, on or before the end of their 24th month following the receipt of Comprehensive Protection Plan disability benefits.

Once qualified for Medicare, clergy on Social Security disability have access to the Medicare Supplement Plan and any appropriate premium reductions.

Clergy on Clergy Medical Leave and receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan disability benefits who are not eligible for or choose not to elect Medicare coverage, may continue active coverage by paying the full monthly premium equivalent.

Retiree Benefit Stabilization Fund:

Contributions made by clergy to the Retiree Benefit Stabilization Fund (RBSF) remain in suspension. The RBSF will continue to be maintained for present and future use.

Report 4 – Pension

The Reverend Nancy Watson chairs the Pension sub-committee of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board continues to be delighted by the fine work of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church. With assets exceeding \$20 billion and over 91,000 active and retired participants, the General Board ranks in the top 100 pension plans in the country and is the largest faith-based not-for-profit financial service organization in the world. In addition, the General Board acts as a socially responsible investor and participates actively in shareholder advocacy, proxy voting, portfolio screening, and community investing. The General Board is the largest denominational investor in affordable housing programs for low- and moderate-income families in the nation. To date, they have allocated nearly \$1 billion to affordable housing and community development investments

Many current and future retirees find that their pension benefit is derived from several different plans. While the number and variety of plans make calculating pension benefits confusing, the various plans offer a certain level of security due to the diverse ways in which retiree pensions are funded.

1. The Pre-1982 plan bases the pension payment for a retired person on the number of years served with pension credit prior to 1982 and the Past Service Rate (PSR). The Board of Pension set as its goal to offer a PSR equal to CRSP Defined Benefit increase of 2% in future years. In 2015 the PSR is set at seven hundred thirteen

dollars (\$713) per service year for retired clergy and five hundred dollars (\$500) for surviving spouses. For 2016 the Board proposes a past service rate of seven hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$728) per service year for retired clergy. The total rate for surviving spouses is proposed to be five hundred ten dollars (\$510.) The Annual Conference adjusts the pension benefits of those living in Conference provided retirement homes by a reduction of \$50.00 per month for clergy and \$35.00 per month for surviving spouses.

2. The Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) was the mandatory retirement plan for clergy serving from 1982 through 2006. Under this plan, the Conference Board of Pension contributed 12% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) on behalf of each eligible clergy person under appointment. Benefits at retirement are based upon specific decisions made by the retiring participant.

3. By mandate of the 2004 General Conference, beginning in January 2007, the General Board of Pension replaced the MPP with the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), which has two components – a Core Defined Benefit Plan and a Core Defined Contribution Plan. The Core Defined Benefit Plan determines a pension benefit using the following formula by multiplying 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) in the year of retirement by the number of years of credited service after 2006. The Core Defined Contribution Plan determines the pension benefit from the defined contribution of 3% of the participant's plan compensation. Clergy appointed to less than full time service and Part Time Local Pastors are credited for service in increments of 25%, 50% or 75%. By mandate of the 2012 General Conference benefits under this plan stopped accruing on December 31, 2013. Participants will lose no earned benefit.

4. The 2012 General Conference modified the Clergy Retirement Security Program. The January 2014 plan retains the two components – a Core Defined Benefit Plan and a Core Defined Contribution Plan. The Core Defined Benefit Plan determines a pension benefit using the following formula by multiplying 1% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) in the year of retirement by the number of years of credited service after 2013. The Core Defined Contribution (DC) Plan determines the pension benefit from the defined contribution of 2% of the participant's plan compensation. In addition the conference will match participant's voluntary personal contributions to The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) up to 1% of the participants plan compensation and deposit those matching funds into the participant's CRSP DC account. Clergy appointed at not less than 75% of full time service and Part Time Local Pastors appointed at not less than 75% are required to participate in the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Clergy appointed at less than 75% are not eligible to participate in CRSP, but may, and are encouraged, to participate in the UMPIP.

5. The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is a voluntary defined-contribution plan for personal contributions and rollovers made by clergy and lay employees.

When the recommendation of the Alabama-West Florida Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation is approved and in cooperation with the cabinet, the Conference Board of Pension sets the following appointment salary service standards for 2016:

1. Elders, Provisional Members, Associates Members and Local Pastors at or greater than \$ 36,500 will serve at 100% and are eligible for pension and health insurance benefits, unless appointed by the Bishop and the Cabinet to less than 75%.
2. Elders, Provisional Members, Associates Members and Local Pastors at or greater than \$27,375 but less than \$36,500 will serve at 75% and are eligible for pension and health insurance benefits, unless otherwise appointed by the Bishop and Cabinet to a lower percentage.
3. Elders, Provisional Members, Associates Members and Local Pastors at or greater than \$18,250 but less than \$27,375 will serve at 50%, unless otherwise appointed by the Bishop and Cabinet to a lower percentage, and are not eligible to participate in CRSP or the health insurance plan.
4. Elders, Provisional Members, Associates Members and Local Pastors at or greater than \$9,125 but less than \$18,250 will serve at 25%, unless otherwise appointed by the Bishop and Cabinet to a lower percentage, and are not eligible to participate in CRSP or the health insurance plan.

Retiring pastors may expect their pension benefits to come from multiple plans – Pre-1982 based on years of service with pension credit before January 1, 1982 and the PSR or the Defined Benefit Service Monies (DBSM) whichever provides the greater annuity payment, MPP based on defined contributions from 1982 through 2006, supplemented by PIP and UMPIP contributions, CRSP based on the number of service years between 2007 and 2013 and the DAC in the year of retirement and CRSP based on the number of service years after 2013. Because of the change in plans, it is important for participants to verify that the pre 2014 appointment information, including appointment percentages for less than full time appointments, listed in the *Journal of the Alabama-West Florida Conference* each year is correct. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will assume that the Journal information is correct unless a correction is submitted in writing and verified within the conference year in which the Journal is printed.

The Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund served as a voluntary defined-contribution retirement plan through 2006, funded through employer contributions made on behalf of deacons (prior to 2006), diaconal ministers, and lay employees of local churches. This fund is now part of the UMPIP plan.

Information from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is available online at www.gbophb.org.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends that the apportionment line item for Conference Claimants Fund be set at \$800,000 (11% decrease) for 2016. Since pension liabilities are tied to the Conference Average Compensation and market results of General Board of Pension plan assets, future increases in the Conference Claimants Fund line item may track with these variables and GBOPHB actuarial projections.

We call attention to paragraph 622 of The 2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church relative to the requirement that the apportionment for the pension and benefit programs be paid in proportion to the payment of the pastor's salary by the local church. The Discipline gives the church treasurer the primary responsibility for the application of proportional payment. If the church treasurer fails to do this, the pastor is then required to adjust his/her cash salary.

Report 5 – Central Conference Pension Initiative

The Alabama-West Florida Conference continues its support of the Central Conference Pension Initiative. As of December 31, 2014 churches, districts, and individuals have given over \$486,000. This figure includes gifts and pledges from churches and individuals in the conference. Churches are encouraged to give at a level of \$1 per member per year. Active and retired clergy are encouraged to give to their brothers and sisters in need around the world. The United Methodist Church is experiencing its greatest growth in many of the Central Conferences, where pastors labor under difficult and often dangerous conditions and retire after a lifetime of service with no income. Many are forced to beg for assistance in their retirement and often go without food several days each week. Our effort is part of an initiative across the church to respond to the plight of our retired Central Conference clergy by raising \$20–25 million to establish a sustainable pension program. Many thanks for your gifts and support.

Report 6– Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program

This Supplement One is applicable to the Alabama-West Florida Conference and is effective January 1, 2007. It replaces any previously executed Addendum A (or Attachment 1) and shall be in effect until amended by the Annual Conference in accordance with the provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security and the Comprehensive Protection Plan revised January 1, 2007.

CPP contribution base shall be the active participant's plan contribution for a plan year not to exceed 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation. The CPP contribution rate shall be 3% of the contribution base of each active participant. [CPP Section 4.01(a).]

The CPP church contribution shall be made monthly to the plan by the Annual Conference in accordance with the Plan Document. Such CPP church contributions shall be transferred monthly from the deposit account of the Alabama-West

Florida Conference by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The Annual Conference shall maintain an amount in its deposit account sufficient to provide for the monthly transfer of the church contributions on behalf of its active participants. The Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is hereby authorized, at its discretion, to arrange with The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for active participation in CPP by persons who are eligible under special rules but not automatically included as active participants. [CPP Section 3.03. (a)]

All full and associate members appointed to Sabbatical Leave shall continue to participate in CPP, provided the Conference makes the required contribution based on 3.4% of the DAC. [Disciplinary Paragraph 350; CPP Section 3.02(a).]

All full, associate, and probationary members granted a Leave of Absence may be continued in CPP provided the Conference makes a contribution of 4.4% of the DAC. [Disciplinary Paragraph 352, CPP Section 3.02(a)] The Conference will direct bill the members who choose to continue participation.

All full, associate, and probationary members granted family leave may continue in CPP, provided the Conference makes the required contribution based on 4.4% of the DAC. [Disciplinary Paragraph 353; CPP Section 3.02(a).] The Conference will direct bill the members who choose to continue participation.

The surviving spouse benefit will be 70% of the participant's formula benefit.

Report 7– Alabama West Florida Annual Conference Comprehensive Funding Plan for Plan Year 2015

The 2012 General Conference established a requirement for Annual Conferences to develop a comprehensive funding plan to identify both liabilities and resources. The Conference Board of Pension has both developed the plan and submitted it to the GBOPHB for review. At this time we are waiting for the favorable opinion letter from them. It will be published in the 2015 Journal following annual conference. If you would like to see the complete plan, contact the Fiscal Office at 1-888-873-3127.

Report 8 – Claimants' Memorial Fund

We recommend the continuation of the Claimants' Memorial Fund, such funds being invested by this board with the interest being used for the benefits of the conference claimants. Individuals and groups are invited to make voluntary contributions in any amount as memorials to deceased ministers, members of minister families, or lay persons. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama-West Florida Conference and sent to the conference treasurer, Montgomery, with the name or names of the persons being memorialized. Families of those so memorialized will be notified that a memorial gift was received.

Report 9 – Special Appointment Pension Responsibilities

In keeping with paragraph 1506.3.a, and 4, of the 2012 Discipline, we recommend that those clergy appointed to extension ministries be approved for pension responsibility on this Annual Conference in the following full time appointments: the director of the Assembly Grounds, the director of the Mobile Inner City Mission, the director of each Wesley Foundation, the Chaplain at the United Methodist Children's Home, the Director of the Pensacola Urban Ministry and the Pensacola Hispanic Ministry provided such appointments are made as members of this Annual Conference under paragraph 344.1a(1) and 346.1 of the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. The district superintendents, clergy appointed to the Conference Connectional Ministry, Ministerial Services, and the Fiscal Offices are approved with pension responsibility on this Annual Conference.

We recommend that special appointments to the United Methodist colleges and universities and other general agencies shall be listed as with pension responsibility on the institution or agency.

We recommend that chaplains in the Armed Forces be listed with pension responsibility on the chaplaincy of the military service.

We recommend that clergy under appointment as approved evangelists, area appointments and other special ministries shall be listed with pension responsibility on this Annual Conference only upon payment to the Conference Claimants Fund an amount equal to 14% of the DAC as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

By special arrangement those clergy on leave of absence or probationary members appointed to attend school may qualify for the Comprehensive Protection Plan by a personal payment of 4.4% of the DAC to the Conference Claimants Fund.

We recommend that special appointments to non-Methodist institutions shall be listed without pension responsibility on this Annual Conference.

We recommend that all missionaries shall be listed with pension responsibility on the General Board of Global Ministries.

Report 10 – Depositories

We recommend that the official depository for pension funds shall be the same as that designated by the Conference for other Conference funds as well as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church.

Report 11 – Pensions for Lay Employees

We strongly endorse the UMPIP and the Lay Long Term Disability Plan administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for lay

employees of United Methodist local churches and agencies. In keeping with paragraph 258.2g (12) of the *2012 United Methodist Book of Discipline*, we recommend and urge our churches to use these plans provided by the General Church to provide pension equal to at least 3% of compensation and death and disability coverage for our lay persons who serve our churches.

Churches and agencies should contact the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 1901 Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025, (800) 851-2201 for information on becoming plan sponsors for the UMPIP for lay employees.

Report 12 – Full Time Service as a Requirement for Pension Credit Pre-1982

We call attention to the following provisions relative to full time service, rendered prior to January 1, 1982, as a normal condition for pension credit which appears in paragraph 1506.3 of the 2012 Discipline.

- A. Full-time service of a ministerial member or a lay pastor shall be required as a normal condition for pension credit; provided, however, that such credit may be granted for part time service by a three-fourth vote of those present and voting in the Annual Conference, on recommendation of the conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- B. Full-time service shall mean that full time is devoted to the work of a pastor by one who has not attained the mandatory age of retirement for a Conference member, who is not attending school as a regular student, who is not substantially employed in non-pastoral work; and whose cash support per annum from all church sources is not less than the schedule of equitable compensation adopted by the Annual Conference for those in this person's classification.

It should be noted that service of either a ministerial member or lay pastor is without pension credit if it is not full-time service as defined, except in cases of approved part-time service.

Report 13 – Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Alabama – West Florida Annual Conference

The Alabama – West Florida Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, 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, and disabled clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the 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 or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the year 2016 by each active, retired, or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, 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 active, retired, or disabled clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: It should be noted that the above applies only to the clergyperson and not to the surviving spouse. The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) 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; (2) the amount actually expended by the clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost

of utilities in such year. If you need further information concerning this exclusion, please contact your CPA or the Conference Fiscal Office.

Report 14 – Special Grants

The Conference Board of Pension recommends that the following monthly grant be made for the 2016 Conference year:

Oakley W. Melton, III \$300.00

Report 15 – Homes for Claimants

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits owns 15 living units for persons who retired from the conference prior to 2003. Ms. Beth Gordon is chairperson of the Homes sub-committee of the board. No additional assignments of homes to retirees will take place, and homes are being sold as they are vacated. Home sales proceeds are placed in the Homes for Claimants account for homes operating expenses.

AUBURN	803 Cahaba Street	Rev. & Mrs. Jamie Pickard
DEMOPOLIS	1508 Powe Road	Rented
DOTHAN	913 Clearmont Drive	Mrs. Linda Arledge
JACKSON	432 Golfview Drive	Mrs. Jake B. Brown
MOBILE	3508 Pepper Ridge	Rev. Jean Spikes
	3636 Vista Ridge	Rented
MONTGOMERY	821 Bridleway Court	Rev. Jon C. Couey
	3708 Duquesn	Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Shults
	813 Hatcher Street	Mrs. Carolyn Wilson
OPELIKA	2008 Glenwood Drive	Mrs. Gerald Freeman
PENSACOLA	2003A. N. 15th Ave	Rented
	2003B. N. 15th Ave	Mrs. Glen Greenhill
	3585 Gatewood Drive	Mrs. Warren Lindsey
	2743 Honeywood	Mrs. Thomas Sowell
	6313 Langley Place	Mrs. Driftwood Rucker

Report 16 – Policy for Claimants Home Occupants

Should an occupant of a claimant’s home choose to relocate from a claimant’s home the following policy will apply:

- Documented moving expenses not to exceed \$2,000 will be reimbursed.
- A grant not to exceed \$3000 will be given to offset documented closing costs for the purchase of a home or documented rental deposit for an apartment, town home or assisted living facility.
- The moving expenses and grant will be available to clergy persons or a surviving spouse occupying a claimant home. It is not available to family members when the home is vacated as a result of the death of a clergy person or surviving spouse.

Report 17 – Need-based Housing Grants

By direction of the Annual Conference, the Board began selling vacant homes in 2003. Beginning in 2005, the Board began offering need-based housing grants for retiring clergy.

To qualify an applicant must be:

A clergy person who retires with a minimum of 20 years full-time service with pension credit in the Alabama-West Florida Conference and is receiving his/her pension.

An un-remarried surviving spouse of an active clergy person with a minimum of ten (10) years full-time service in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. He/she must have been married to the qualified clergy person during the years of qualifying service. Exceptions may be considered in the case of death prior to 10 years of service.

The surviving spouse of a retired clergy person who was married to that clergy person at the time of his/her retirement.

Clergy Persons who are placed on Clergy Medical Leave by the Annual Conference.

APPLICATION PERIOD:

Clergy that retire June 1, 2003 or thereafter may apply for a grant any time subsequent to their retirement. Surviving spouses may apply within one year of the date of death of the clergy person. Clergy persons who are placed on Clergy Medical Leave by the Annual Conference may apply within one year of being placed on Clergy Medical Leave or they may apply subsequent to retirement, provided they retire on or after June 1, 2003.

To be considered for a grant, the applicant and spouse's post-retirement earned income from all sources must be equal to or less than 1.25% of the denominational average compensation (DAC) in the year of application.

Applicants must submit a Board of Pension and Health Benefits Financial Statement, along with the most recent 1040 Income Tax Form including all schedules. Applicants must also complete an interview with a Grant Committee appointed by the Board of Pension.

Grants are intended to assist retiring clergy to obtain housing. The money granted to applicants should be used to aid with some form of housing such as down payments, closing costs, rental deposits, etc. Grants are awarded on a one-time basis up to \$3,500, as set forth herein. Grants will be disbursed within 30 day after approval by the Grants Committee.

Grants are not guaranteed but will be awarded based upon the Grant Committee's discretion considering financial need, circumstances, available grant funds and the totality of the overall circumstances.

Amendments

These guidelines may be amended from time to time by simple majority of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Report 18 – Other Retirement Services

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits offers other outstanding services to active and retired clergy, including free financial planning services through EY (Ernst and Young) and Voluntary Supplemental Life Insurance through UNUM. For more information on these services, please contact Frank Dunnewind at the Conference Fiscal Office.

Report 19 –Alabama-West Florida Conference Policy on Medical and Disabling Conditions Leave and CPP Disability Benefits (Approved June 2005)

TERMS:

Medical Leave: A conference relations status of a clergy member who is unable to perform his or her ministerial work because of a physical or emotional impairment, the conference may grant medical leave upon recommendation of the conference boards of ordained ministry and pension.

CPP Disability Benefits: Benefits paid by the Comprehensive Protection Plan to clergy persons who are determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be eligible for these benefits and are on medical leave.

Medical Leave is granted to clergy who are members of the annual conference who are unable to perform their ministerial work because of incapacity due to health matters and disabling conditions. It is not a status that is used to solve appointment problems.

The 2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church References:

Paragraph 357. *Medical Leave Due to Medical and Disabling Conditions that Prevent Performance of Ministerial Duties*—1. When clergy who are members of an annual conference (§ 370) are unable to perform their ministerial duties because of medical and disabling conditions, upon recommendations of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, and by a majority vote of the executive session of clergy members in full connection with the annual conference who are present and voting, they may be granted annual medical leave without losing their relationship to the annual conference; provided, however, that such leave may be granted or renewed upon reasonable and appropriate investigation of the case by the joint committee on clergy medical

leave of the annual conference, or the party responsible for managing clergy medical leaves in accordance with the annual conference's policies, which will report its findings to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions. This relationship may be initiated by the clergy member or cabinet with or without the consent of the clergy member through the Board of Ordained Ministry. When medical leave is given without the clergy member's consent, reasonable accommodation shall be offered whenever possible. When a clergy member is granted medical leave by the annual conference, if the medical evidence has not yet met the standards for the receipt of benefits as set forth in the Comprehensive Protection Plan, section 5.04, the conference board of pensions may authorize payment of the benefits in the amount that would otherwise be payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The payments shall be made by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as a charge to the annual conference granting the medical leave. If payments from the Comprehensive Protection Plan are subsequently approved, the annual conference will be reimbursed for benefits already paid, not to exceed the amount otherwise payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. Each medical leave granted by the annual conference shall be recorded in the conference minutes.

2. When clergy who are members of an annual conference are unable to perform their ministerial duties between sessions of the annual conference on account of medical conditions, with the approval of a majority of the district superintendents, after consultation with the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the executive committee of the conference board of pensions, a medical leave may be granted by the bishop for the remainder of the conference year; provided, however, that such leave may be granted upon reasonable and appropriate investigation of the case including accommodation provisions by the joint committee on clergy medical leave of the annual conference, or the party responsible for managing clergy medical leaves in accordance with the annual conference's policies, which will report its findings to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions. When a clergy member is granted medical leave by the bishop, if the medical evidence has not yet met the standards for receipt of benefits as set forth in the Comprehensive Protection Plan, section 5.04, the conference board of pensions may authorize payment of the benefits in the amount that would otherwise be payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The payments shall be made by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits as a charge to the annual conference granting the medical leave. If payments from the Comprehensive Protection Plan are subsequently approved, the annual conference will be reimbursed for benefits already paid, not to exceed the amount otherwise payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan.

3. When clergy members on medical leave provide medical evidence that they have recovered sufficiently to resume ministerial duties, or are able to return through reasonable accommodation, in consultation with the appointive cabinet, upon recommendation of the joint committee on clergy medical leave or the conference relations committee, and with the approval of the executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they may receive an appointment

from a bishop between sessions of the annual conference, thereby terminating the medical leave. Such appointment shall be reported immediately by the cabinet to the conference board of pensions and to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Such termination of leave, together with the effective date, shall also be recorded in the minutes of the annual conference at its next regular session.

Paragraph 635.2(k): “Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

“The duties of the annual conference board of ordained ministry shall be...

- k) To interview applicants and make recommendation concerning: (1) changes from the effective relation to a leave of absence or retirement; (2) return to the effective relation from other relations; (3) honorable location; (4) readmission of located persons and persons discontinued from probationary membership; (5) sabbatical leave; (6) medical leave; (7) appointment as a student; (8) termination; and (9) changes to or from less than full-time ministry.

“The board shall keep a record of these changes and the reason behind them and place a copy in the permanent records of the annual conference maintained by the secretary of the conference.”

Paragraph 652. “...The annual conference may establish a joint committee on clergy medical leave (JCCML). If the annual conference establishes such a committee, it should be composed of at least two representatives each from the Board of Ordained Ministry and the conference board of pensions, who may be elected by those boards at the beginning of each quadrennium and at other times when vacancies occur, and a district superintendent appointed from time to time by the bishop to represent the cabinet. The joint committee shall be encouraged to include in its composition a person with a disability, preferably someone under appointment. Unless and until other members are elected, the chairperson and registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the chairperson and secretary of the conference board of pensions, or others designated by them, shall be authorized to represent their respective boards. The committee shall organize at the beginning of each quadrennium by the election of a chairperson and a secretary. If the annual conference does not establish a joint committee, the annual conference’s established policy and process for managing clergy medical leave nonetheless should involve the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pension and representation from the cabinet.

The duties of the annual conference, with respect to clergy medical leave, or the joint committee on clergy medical leave, or its equivalent, shall be:

- a) To study issues related to clergy medical leave in the annual conference.
- b) To provide for a continuing personal ministry to any clergy on medical leave of the conference and to aid them in maintaining fellowship with the members of the conference.
- c) To provide advice and support to and, where appropriate advocacy for, clergy on medical leave in (i) applying for and securing disability benefits from

the Comprehensive Protection Plan and government programs, (ii) exploring possible sources of interim financial assistance before disability benefits can be obtained, (iii) establishing rehabilitation and return-to-service programs, and (iv) assessing the need for and providing reasonable accommodations.

d) To make recommendations to the Board of Ordained Ministry, the conference board of pension, and the cabinet on matters related to clergy medical leave, including steps for the prevention of the need for medical leave, the process of granting medical leave, benefits, grants or other assistance, and programs of rehabilitation.

e) To cooperate with and give assistance to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in its administration of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, the Comprehensive Protection Plan and other benefit plans for clergy on medical leave, and to the extent applicable assist with the disability benefits and other benefits provided under those plans.

Going on Medical Leave

1. When an eligible clergyperson requests CPP Incapacity Benefits:
2. Application is requested from Conference Pension and Benefits Officer or General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB).
3. Application is completed:
 - a. Form A, Applicant Information for Long-Term Disability Benefits is completed, signed by the applicant, and mailed to the GBOPHB.
 - b. Form B, Attending Physicians Statement is completed by the applicant and the physician, signed by the Physician and mailed to the GBOPHB
 - c. Form C, Clergy Disability Benefits Application is completed and signed by the applicant including the Authorization to Release Information to the General Board page and mailed to the District Superintendent
4. The District Superintendent signs Form C, acknowledging that the individual is applying for disability benefits and mails it to the Conference Pension and Benefits Officer.
5. The Conference Benefits Officer signs Form C, acknowledging that the individual is applying for disability benefits.
6. The Conference Benefits Officer contacts by phone or email each member of the JCCML to alert them to the fact that the individual is applying for CPP Disability Benefits and signs Form C for the Chair of (JCCML) The Conference Pension and Benefits Officer mails Form C to the GBOPHB.
7. Form F: The District Superintendent must state, in writing, that the Bishop has or will grant the individual clergy medical leave. The District Superintendent must also indicate one of the following:
 - a. The applicant will be granted clergy medical leave ONLY if disability benefits are approved from the CPP and if approved the date incapacity leave will begin,
 - b. The applicant has been or will be granted medical leave and the conference deposit account should be charged for conference disability grant in the amount of:
 - 40% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC)

Greater of 70% of plan compensation or 40% of DAC
 (standard CPP benefit)
 Other (specify amount)

- c. The applicant has been or will be granted medical leave without benefits and the date incapacity leave will begin.

If the conference deposit account is to be charged with CPP benefits (option b), the conference Pension and Benefits officer will coordinate approval with the Executive Committee of the conference board of pension and health benefits.

Form F is signed by the Conference Pension and Benefits Officer and mailed to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

The Conference Pension and Benefits Officer will provide a copy of Form F to the board of ordained ministry Executive Secretary to insure that the board of ordained ministry takes appropriate action. Because of HIPPA privacy regulations, it will be the standard position of the JCCML to recommend to the board of ordained ministry the status recommended by UNUM.

Coming Off Incapacity Leave

Among the reasons a participant will no longer receive CPP disability benefits are the following:

1. If a participant becomes disabled on or prior to the date he/she attains age 60, and is receiving disability benefits in the Conference year in which he/she attains age 65, and the disability continues, then the benefits will terminate on June 30 following the person's 65th birthday anniversary (if the final day of the regular session of such person's conference falls in the month of May or June, or, otherwise, on the last day of the month in which the closing day of such Conference session occurs) Para 5.04 d. (7) CPP Plan Document.
2. If the participant becomes disabled after age 60, and the disability continues, then the benefits will terminate on the earlier to occur of (i) June 30 following the end of a five year period from the date the disability was determined to have begun (if the final day of the regular session of such person's Conference falls in Mayor June, or , otherwise, on the last day of the month following the end of such five-year period in which the closing day of such Conference session occurs); or (ii) June 30 following such person's retirement date (if the final day of the regular session of such person's Conference falls in Mayor June, or, otherwise, on the last day of the month in which the closing day of such Conference session occurs). Para 5.4 d. (8) CPP Plan Document.
3. If the individual provides medical evidence that they have recovered sufficiently to resume ministerial work, or are able to return through reasonable accommodations a request must be submitted to the Bishop and the Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave.

The JCCML, through the Conference Pension and Benefits Officer, may request a referral through the Disability Management Alternatives for the name of a

physician available and competent to provide an Independent Medical Evaluation of the individual's request. Because of HIPPA privacy regulations, the JCCML will request only a recommendation from the physician as to the individual's ability to resume work and will follow the physician's recommendation as to making a recommendation to the board of ordained ministry. Alternately, and at the discretion of the JCCML, the recommendation of UNUM regarding continuation of CPP Disability Benefits may form the recommendation of the JCCML to the board of ordained ministry.

Having received the recommendation from the JCCML, the Board of Ordained Ministry will conduct the interview required in paragraph 635.2 (k)

If an individual receives an appointment between sessions of annual conference, the cabinet must report the appointment immediately to the conference board of pension and the GBOPH. Such termination of medical leave, together with the effective date must also be recorded in the minutes of the annual conference at its next regular session.

Part-Time Appointments

If an individual seeks a part-time appointment in anticipation of coming off incapacity leave the following information is required:

1. The appointment cannot last longer than 12 months.
2. The written recommendation of the individual's doctor. The operative word is recommendation. That is, the doctor believes that it is in the medical best interest of the individual to begin part-time service and is encouraging and cooperating with the return to part-time service.
3. The number of hours that the individual will work.
4. When the appointment will start
5. Will the person serve a church as the only pastor or will the individual serve as an associate of a church?

Approved: Board of Pension and Health Benefits - 01/12/2005

Board of Ministry - 03/01/2005

Report 20 – Death Benefit Program

Since January 1, 1995 the conference has participated in The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits' Basic Protection Plan, now Clergy Supplemental Life. Clergy Supplemental Life is an additional death benefit added to the regular death benefit provided by the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) in which each full-time clergy, with a base compensation and housing equal to 60% or more of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).

2015 Death Benefit for Active Participants

Active Participant CPP death benefit	\$50,000.00
Active Participant Clergy Supplemental	

Life death benefit (under age 70)	\$25,000.00
Active Participant Clergy Supplemental	
Life death benefit (70 or older)	\$16,250.00
<u>2015 Death Benefit for Retired Participants</u>	
For clergy who retired before January 1, 2013	30% of DAC in the year of death
For clergy who retired after January 1, 2013	\$20,000.00
Retired Participant Clergy Supplemental Life Benefit	\$ 5,000.00

For additional information related to other death benefits go to the Alabama-West Florida website at www.awfumc.org.

Submitted by,
 The Reverend Doctor Robert C. McKibben, Chair
 Board of Pension and Health Benefits

CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REPORT 1 – FUND BALANCES

The Board of Trustees of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference holds in trust all properties of the Annual Conference. The real properties held are the following: The Episcopal Residence: 3291 Lancaster Lane, Montgomery and the Annual Conference Office building at 4719 Woodmere Blvd, Montgomery. The Board is the Trustee for the following bequests (cost value as of December 31, 2013):

FUND	COST VALUE	BENEFICARY
1. Norris Allen Fund	\$216,053.07	Board of Ministry
2. Hattie B. Norred Fund	\$ 89,703.64	Board of Trustees
3. C.B. Gilmore Fund	\$156,251.25	Board of Trustees
4. Lowndesboro Trust	\$ 6,953.10	Lowndesboro UMC
5. Mary Lloyd Reynolds	\$ 94,834.96	Board of Missions
6. J.B. Skinner Estate	\$992,224.09	Children’s Home

The Board of Trustees holds these funds in trust, with the revenues being used as directed by the donors.

We call attention to the resolution adopted by the Annual Conference of 1988, which designated the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation as the official depository for discretionary endowment funds owned by the Annual Conference and its related boards and agencies. Local churches are encouraged to use the Foundation for endowment funds in order to insure proper management and fiduciary accountability.

REPORT 2 - SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Report has not changed and can be found in the 2014 Journal, beginning on page 421.

REPORT 3 - DESIGNATION OF UMC OWNED PROPERTY AS CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, OR ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARK

Report has not changed and can be found in the 2014 Journal, beginning on page 421.

REPORT 4 - GENERAL TRUST GUIDELINES

Report has not changed and can be found in the 2014 Journal, beginning on page 421.

REPORT 5 - 15 PASSENGER VANS

Report has not changed and can be found in the 2014 Journal, beginning on page 421.

REPORT 6 - PARSONAGE STANDARDS

The Book of Discipline states, “Housing provisions shall comply with Annual Conference housing policy and parsonage standards.” In order to establish a housing policy and housing standard the Annual Conference recommends three options available for the local church. The Annual Conference does not put one option above the other. The options are co-equal, depending upon the local situation.

The Charge Conference shall review the recommendations of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee regarding provision of adequate housing for the pastor(s) of a local Charge in consultation with the District Superintendent, the Charge shall choose one of these three options.

OPTION ONE

Housing Allowance: Any congregation considering a housing allowance shall consult with the District Superintendent to understand all the positive and negative aspects of housing allowances. Before implementing a housing allowance, a congregation must obtain the District Superintendent’s permission. The congregation must present a tentative draft budget for the first two years and demonstrate the impact of the change on the overall fiscal health of the congregation. If the congregation decides to sell an existing parsonage, the church leadership shall follow the Discipline guidelines for selling the parsonage and using the proceeds of the sale.

Upon recommendation of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and the Board of Trustees with approval by the Finance Committee, the Charge Conference shall provide an annual housing allowance. The housing allowance shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration of the pastor(s).

OPTION TWO

Upon recommendation of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and the Board of Trustees with approval by the Finance Committee, the Charge Conference shall provide a parsonage that furnishes only major appliances, installed floor covering and window dressing.

OPTION THREE

Upon recommendation of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee and the Board of Trustees with approval by the Finance Committee, the Charge Conference shall provide an adequately furnished parsonage, with quality furnishings, that complies with these standards:

REQUIRED MINIMUM STANDARDS

In addition to the Discipline requirements for parsonages the following is required for all parsonages, in the Alabama -West Florida Annual Conference.

- Electrical wiring that meets code and is sufficient to meet today's needs for electricity.
- Climate control - both heating and air conditioning

Rooms:

- Living Room or Great Room
- Dining Room or eating area large enough for at least 8 people
- Kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 baths
- Indoor laundry area
- Shelter for 2 vehicles
- Secure storage area

Equipment:

- Good quality, dependable appliances:
- Stove
- Microwave
- Dishwasher
- Refrigerator with freezer compartment
- Washer and dryer
- Hot water heater of at least 60 gallons
- Wired for basic cable or satellite dish service
- Maintained smoke alarms
- Current fire extinguishers for kitchen and other required areas
- Vacuum, if there are carpets

If no lawn service and pastor is expected to maintain lawn the following are minimum requirements:

- Gas mower
- Trimmer or weed eater

Furnishings:

- Quality window coverings in neutral colors that insure privacy
- Quality floor coverings in neutral colors that is durable and easy to maintain

Maintenance:

- Regular pest control inspection and treatment
- Annual termite inspection and treatment
- Landscaping and maintenance thereof should be representative of the neighborhood.
- Regular schedule for painting both on the outside and inside of the house as needed. Any needed repairs should be done in a timely manner
- Annual carpet cleaning
- Regular maintenance and cleaning of chimneys if one exists

CARE OF THE PROPERTY

1. The pastor and family should care for the parsonage as good stewards for the Lord's property, carefully avoiding undue wear and tear, but at the same time they should "be at home" in the parsonage, knowing that the home and furnishings are to be used with inevitable and expected depreciation.
2. The pastor and family are responsible for the repair or replacement of furnishings when, through negligent use of furnishings, breakage results, but ordinary wear and tear, such as is expected when a house is lived in, is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees/Parsonage Committee.
3. The church shall provide an adequate amount of insurance of the building, furnishings, and equipment and for public liability. The minimum amount of insurance carried on the parsonage should be equal to 80% of the replacement value of the building, furnishings, and equipment. *All clergy families are responsible for insuring all of the family's personal items.*
4. There shall be a plan identifying repairs, replacements or additions that need to be made to the parsonage. All broken and worn-out furniture or equipment should be removed.
5. The Board of Trustees in consultation with the parsonage committee shall keep the parsonage and furnishing in good repair. They shall furnish the clergy family with a list of those church members who can do minor repairs and the names of repair companies with whom the church does business. A list of procedures to follow when repair work is needed should also be given to the clergy family
6. Regular pest control inspection and treatment, annual termite inspection and annual carpet cleaning should be budgeted.
7. The pastor and spouse should be consulted in the selection of furnishings and equipment.
8. If the vacating parsonage family had pets they shall be responsible for having

the house and yard treated for fleas and other parasites before moving. They shall also be responsible for having the carpeting and upholstery cleaned and must vacate the house early in order to allow for this process to occur.

9. Each pastoral charge should place an amount in the budget annually for normal maintenance and repairs to the building, furnishings, and equipment or the replacement of same if necessary.

REPORT 7 - POLICY STATEMENT CONCERNING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BY CLERGY OF THE ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.

Report has not changed and can be found in the 2014 Journal, beginning on page 421.

REPORT 8 SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY and MINIMUM STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION. One mission of The Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference Board of Trustees is to support the work of the local church. At each meeting the members keep in front of them the question, “How will this action help the local church?” Our prayer is that the revised Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards will help the local church accomplish its ministries while ensuring the safety of our children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults. We encourage clergy and laity to read this policy and make it an essential part of the operations of your local church. If you have any questions you may contact any member of the Board of Trustees.

I. THEOLOGICAL BASIS. The theological basis of the Safe Sanctuaries Policy & Minimum Standards (SSPMS) is grounded in the following:

A. Children are important! Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me . . .” (Mark 9.37, all Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version). We ought to offer hospitality and protect children. Jesus said, “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matthew 18.6; Mark 9.42).

B. *The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* state that “. . . children must be protected from economic, physical and sexual exploitation, and abuse.” Id, Paragraph (¶) 162C.

C. Members of the United Methodist Church regularly pledge commitment to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so that each person will be “. . . surrounded by steadfast love, . . . established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal” (Baptismal Covenant II, United Methodist Hymnal, p. 44).

D. Paragraph 2702 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist

Church 2012 names child abuse, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment as chargeable offenses for both clergy and lay members.

II. DEFINITIONS. The following definitions shall be used in establishing, applying, and interpreting the SSPMS:

A. Abuse

1. **Physical abuse** occurs where a person intentionally causes bodily harm to a child, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adult.
2. **Emotional abuse** occurs where a person speaks violently or cruelly to a child, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adult, or otherwise exposes a child, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adult to violence or emotional cruelty.
3. **Neglect** is abuse which occurs where a person endangers the health, safety, or welfare of a child, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adult by failing to act in a reasonable manner.
4. **Sexual abuse** occurs where an adult or another older or more powerful youth has sexual contact with a child, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adult.

B. Personnel

1. **Governing body** refers to the local church leadership approved and elected by the annual Charge Conference of the local church and in compliance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* 2012 (§ 243, 244, and 247). Examples may include Church Council, Administrative Board, Board of Stewards, etc.
2. **Authority figure** is a person who is the primary leader of any youth, children, or at-risk or vulnerable adult activity and such person is required to be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.
3. **Assistant** is a person who gives help to and is directed by an **authority figure** in the course of any **youth, children, or at-risk or vulnerable adult** activity including, but not limited to, volunteers, interns, camp counselors, and Vacation Bible School workers. Such an assistant must be at least twelve (12) years of age. However, in order to count for satisfying requirements of the **two adult rule** (§ II.C.1, below,) such assistant must be an **adult** as herein defined.
4. **Adults** are all persons who have attained the age of majority (19 years in Alabama and 18 years in Florida).
5. **Floater** is an **adult** who acts as an **assistant** to an **authority figure** to monitor covered activities or events (§ II.C.2, below,) in order to comply with the two adult rule (§ II.C.1, below,) when achieving such compliance by use of two non-related adults is unfeasible.
6. **Children** are all persons from infants through the fifth grade or sixth grade, as determined by each local church in order to conform with grade-level practices of its local area schools regarding classifications of elementary schools and middle or junior high schools.
7. **Youth** are all persons in the sixth-grade or seventh-grade through the twelfth-grade, as determined by each local church in order to conform with grade-level practices of its local area schools regarding classifications

of middle or junior high schools and high schools.

8. **At-risk** or **vulnerable adults** are adults with physical, mental, and/or developmental impairment or disability.

C. Activities

1. **Two adult rule** is a core principle regarding the supervision required for **covered activities** and **overnight events**. This rule means that a minimum of **two adults** who are not related to each other should be utilized in all programming with **children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults**. However, when unfeasible to staff at buildings and outdoor areas with two non-related adults, there should be at least an additional adult serving as a **floater** with visual and physical access to all areas where such programming occurs. Visual and physical access means either an open door or door with a window that provides a line of sight enabling the **floater** to see into a room or other building space and to see fully outdoor sites where **covered activities or events** take place.

2. **Covered activities or events** for purposes of this document include all church programming for **children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults**.

3. **Overnight events** are a type of **covered activity or event** which extends through the evening and which may include summer camps, retreats, mission trips, and lock-ins.

a. **Room sharing limits** means that adults staying with young people during **overnight events** must be the same gender as the young people and that such adults must not be alone in a lodging room with a young person at any time and must not share a bed with a young person unless he/she is an immediate family member or guardian of such young person and of the same gender.

b. **Immediate family member or guardian room sharing exception** means that an immediate family member or guardian of a young person who is chaperoning an **overnight event** is permitted to share a room and bed with his/her child no matter the gender as long as no other young people are sharing the room.

4. Transportation

a. **Transportation** is a **covered activity** whenever such transportation is provided in a church-owned or leased vehicle (car, SUV, van, bus, etc.) or when a church staff member is the driver of or present in any vehicle used for such transportation. This provision shall not apply to multi-vehicle caravanning transportation. Two adults are not required to occupy each of the private vehicles in a caravan.

b. Any such transportation provided for a church-sponsored or church-hosted program of day-care, pre-school, or after-school care that is licensed under the laws of Alabama or Florida shall abide by and conform with the respective state laws and regulations, if any, applicable to such a transportation function.

III. **POLICY STATEMENT.** In covenant with all United Methodist congregations and the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, we endeavor as follows:

A. We shall strive to provide for physical safety and spiritual growth of all our children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults.

B. We shall strive to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ so that each person will be “. . . surrounded by steadfast love, . . . established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal” (*Baptismal Covenant II, The United Methodist Hymnal*, p. 44).

C. We shall strive to prevent physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults involved in any ministry sponsored by our Annual Conference or our local congregation.

D. We shall strive to provide and facilitate the use of reasonable care and effort in caring for the children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults involved in any ministry sponsored by our Annual Conference or our local congregation.

E. We shall strive to minister to and act in the best interests of persons who are experiencing abuse or who have been victims of abuse in the past.

F. We shall strive to be aware of and comply with our legal responsibilities regarding the types of abuse addressed in this document.

G. We shall strive to screen all current and future staff, and all volunteers for every program that involves children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults.

H. We shall strive to acknowledge, respond to, and investigate all questions or reports regarding alleged abuse.

I. We shall strive to adhere to biblical church discipline, particularly as recognized in ¶ 2702 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*, which names child abuse, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment as chargeable offenses for clergy and lay members.

J. We shall commit to observe the Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards.

IV. **STANDARDS: THEIR ADOPTION.** Local churches within the Conference may adopt their own Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards, provided such standards equal or exceed in strength of protection for children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults the minimum standards here stated. In the absence of such local church action, the minimum standards that shall be utilized in implementing and applying the Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards

undertaken in the above-stated covenant with other United Methodist congregations and the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church shall be as follows:

A. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION. Implementing the Safe Sanctuaries Policy & Minimum Standards (SSPMS) at a local church shall be the responsibility of the Pastor in Charge, the governing body, and a permanent Safe Sanctuaries Committee (SSC) organized in compliance with the local church's governance process.

B. SAFE SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE. A Safe Sanctuaries Committee (SSC) shall have the responsibility for developing local church safe sanctuaries policies and minimum standards and procedures; communicating with and educating the congregation concerning those policies and procedures; recruiting, screening, and training paid staff and volunteers; conducting site inspections and making recommendations; retaining records; and regularly reviewing conference policies and procedures, applicable state laws, and the insurance policy provisions and insurer requirements. Such periodic training and education on Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards and procedures provided by the Alabama-West Florida Conference shall be attended each quadrennium by the local church Pastor in Charge and SSC chairperson or other SSC designated member. Further, it is recommended that attendance at such conference-wide training include at a minimum designees from the local church who will be personally coordinating and conducting safe sanctuaries training for employees and staff within the local church.

C. MEMBERSHIP OF SAFE SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE. The membership of the Safe Sanctuaries Committee (SSC), in addition to its chairperson, shall include, but not be limited to, the Pastor in Charge, Governing Body chairperson, Lay Delegate to AWF Annual Conference, Lay Leader, Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee chairperson, Board of Trustees chairperson, and may include, if such offices and positions exist, Youth Director, youth leadership team representative, Children's Director, children's leadership team representative, Day Care Director, After School Program Director, and one or two at-large lay members.

D. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING. The following accountability and reporting measures shall be developed and employed:

1. Congregational Accountability. The SSC shall report to the Governing Body of the local church congregation at least annually and at such other interim times as circumstances relating to its responsibilities may require. In addition, the SSC shall regularly inform the Governing Body and the congregation at large concerning its efforts to recruit volunteers. Also the Governing Body and congregation shall regularly be informed and reminded by the SSC of the Safe Sanctuaries Policy and Minimum Standards content, and the Standards, Qualifications, and Screening requirements under the SSPMS that are applicable to employment of paid

staff and to granting permission for service by volunteer workers. The SSC shall periodically announce and publicize that a church member may at any time upon request to the Pastor in Charge or his/her designee review and/or obtain a personal written copy of the complete policy document.

2. Infractions/Incidents Accountability. Actions or conduct concerning any personnel and covered activities as defined in this SSPMS document that are observed by or otherwise brought to the attention of a person (paid staff member; volunteer worker; parent or other relative of a child, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adult; church member, church visitor, or guest; etc.) which is reasonably believed to be an infraction or incident in violation of this SSPMS should be promptly reported to the Pastor in Charge and to the Safe Sanctuaries Committee chairperson, or in the absence of either or both to their designated staff church employee. Resources and instructions for reporting suspected infractions or incidents constituting abuse (whether of child, youth, at-risk or vulnerable adult) proscribed by this policy document should be conspicuously posted in and about the local church buildings and campus.

E. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR SERVING CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND AT-RISK OR VULNERABLE ADULTS FOR VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL.

The qualifications for volunteer service in a local church with duties and responsibilities that include serving children, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adults shall be as follows:

1. Must have demonstrated an active relationship in the local church where service will occur for a minimum of three months prior to being permitted to serve as an authority figure.
2. Must be competent to work effectively in the served activity as an assistant in the judgment of the supervising staff member or supervising authority figure.

F. SCREENING AND BACKGROUND. The local church shall obtain background checks on all persons serving with children, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adults. Such persons shall be subject to the following requirements and actions:

1. Complete an Application/Commitment form.
2. Be interviewed by the director of the ministry or program to be served.
3. Have experience and qualifications necessary for the staff position or volunteer service sought.
4. Attend training by the church or annual conference in maintaining the SSPMS; or in the event of an unforeseen circumstance requiring use of a substitute worker who has not had such training, that substitute worker must be briefed on the SSPMS by the director or other supervisor before beginning work.
5. Consent to initiation by the local church of the following background check(s):
 - a. Multi-state criminal and sexual offender check based on social security number.

- b. Motor vehicle records check (for those who will be transporting children, youth, or at-risk or vulnerable adults). The Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference recommends background checks be run through the Trak-1 Company or other reputable screening company. A background check will be valid for five years unless the individual has been absent for twelve (12) months or longer.
- 6. The process for conducting the above described background checks and for handling the results received shall include the following:
 - a. Authority to initiate requests for criminal/sexual offender and motor vehicle background checks (see ¶ IV.F.6, above,) shall be limited to the Pastor in Charge or to his/her designated senior non-cleric staff employee.
 - b. Upon receipt of background checks documents/data, whether favorable or unfavorable, its confidentiality shall be maintained. For such background check reports concerning a staff member, secure distribution will be made only to the Pastor in Charge, the SSC chairperson, and the Staff-Parrish Relations (Pastor-Parish Relations) Committee chairperson. For such background check reports concerning a volunteer, secure distribution will be made only to the Pastor in Charge and the SSC chairperson. For both categories of persons further actions shall be taken in accordance with provisions in Section G below.

G. UNFAVORABLE REPORTS

1. The individual who has been the subject of a background check, the results of which are unfavorable, shall be so informed in writing with a Notice of Unfavorable Background Check form (see Conference website for forms).
2. If an unfavorable report concerns a volunteer applicant, the Pastor in Charge and another church leader (laity or staff) chosen by the Pastor in Charge shall meet with the volunteer applicant to review and discuss the report.
3. If the unfavorable report concerns a staff applicant, the Pastor in Charge and Staff-Parish Committee chairperson shall meet with the staff applicant to review and discuss the report and shall thereafter take such personnel action as shall be deemed appropriate.
4. Review of unfavorable reports containing any history of criminal charges or convictions or of any reported non-criminal conduct nevertheless suggesting potential unfitness for employment or volunteer status may take into consideration the following factors:
 - a. The nature and seriousness of the crime or conduct
 - b. The relationship of the crime or conduct to the purpose and nature of the church job or program for which employment or volunteer status is sought
 - c. The age of the person at the time of the commission of the crime or conduct
 - d. The time elapsed since the person's crime or conduct

5. Any background check reported charge, conviction, or conduct that deals with sexual abuse or child abuse shall bar the person from working as an employee or volunteer with children, youth, and/or at-risk or vulnerable adults.
6. Documentation of the employment or volunteer decision made shall be placed in the person's application or employee personnel file.

H. RECORD RETENTION.

1. Records from the screening process including Application/Commitment interview forms and information from prior employment, references, and background checks shall be maintained in personnel and application files by individual name for each staff member/volunteer.
2. Both paper and electronic media records shall be kept safe and secure.

I. TRAINING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS. The local church, within fourteen (14) days of employment or the beginning of volunteer service, shall provide training regarding safe sanctuaries policy, minimum standards, and procedures to such new workers who will work with children, youth and/or at-risk or vulnerable adults. Additionally, regularly occurring (at least annual) continuing education for safe sanctuaries training is required of all such workers (new and old). Attendance at all training programs shall be documented and retained in personnel files of the attendees. Upon completion of the training, attendees will sign an acknowledgement they have received the training and understand the SSPMS. The training should include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. The definitions and signs of child abuse and reporting of child abuse
2. The church's policy and procedures on child abuse and the reasons for having them (i.e. two adult rule, sign-in and sign-out sheets, procedures to follow if an accident occurs, procedures to follow for reporting an alleged incident of child abuse, information on state child abuse laws)
3. The need to maintain a positive classroom environment, including appropriate discipline and age-level characteristics
4. Appropriate behavior for teachers and leaders of child, youth, and at-risk or vulnerable adult events
5. Definitions of appropriate interpersonal boundaries (ways of touching students, appropriate language, etc.)
6. All forms used by the church for application, background checks, reporting, and teacher files

V. **REPORTING AND CHILD ABUSE INTERVENTION RESOURCES.**

Child abuse reporting requirements and procedures for the states of Alabama and Florida and a list of child abuse intervention resources are provided below.

A. **Reporting abuse or alleged abuse in Alabama.** Alabama's mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting law states that all school teachers and officials, social workers, day care workers or employees, mental health professionals, members of the clergy as defined in Rule 505 of the Alabama

Rules of Evidence, or any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to any child, when the child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, shall be required to report, or cause a report to be made of the same, orally, either by telephone or direct communication immediately, followed by a written report, to a duly constituted authority. When an initial report is made to a law enforcement official, the official subsequently shall inform the Department of Human Resources of the report so that the department can carry out its responsibility to provide protective services when deemed appropriate to the respective child or children.

B. Reporting abuse or alleged abuse in Florida. All cases of suspected abuse must be reported to the Florida Abuse Hotline. Initial reports should NOT be made to the county/local branch of the Florida Department of Children and Families. The Florida Abuse Hotline may be reached at 1-800-96-ABUSE. Reports may be faxed in; however, the preferred option for the Florida Department of Children and Families is for persons to call the Florida Abuse Hotline and talk to a Hotline counselor.

C. Child Abuse Intervention Resources. Below are child abuse intervention reporting resources and contacts for use by the local church.

1. National Child Abuse Hotline 1(800) 4-A-CHILD
2. Florida Child Abuse Hotline 1(800) 96-ABUSE
3. County Department of Human/Children Services
4. Area Child Protective Services; for Alabama, the appropriate county Department of Human Resources (DHR)
5. National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse 1(312) 663-3520
6. Parents Anonymous 1(800) 421-0353
7. Alabama Sex Offender Registry <http://community.dps.state.al.us>
8. Florida Sex Offender Registry www.flsexoffender.net

REPORT 9

CONFERENCE - WIDE INSURANCE PROGRAM (UNITED METHODIST INSURANCE)

In September 2006 the Board of Trustees joined United Methodist Property and Casualty Trust (PACT) by insuring all of the annual conference owned property and operations. In 2007 the Annual Conference adopted, but did not make mandatory, a resolution to establish PACT as the conference-wide insurance carrier for all of the churches and ministries of this annual conference beginning January 1, 2008.

In 2011 the denomination's top financial agency (GCFA) became the single owner of the PACT program. The General Council on Finance and Administration approved a plan to allow the United Methodist Property and Casualty Trust Company to buy out the 12 annual (regional) conferences and two general agencies that then owned the company. The new entity became United Methodist Insurance (UMI)

In 2014 forty-nine churches and agencies were insured by UMI through the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

The Conference began 2014 with a balance of \$284,266.55

We received income of \$83.00.

We ended 2014 with a balance of \$284,349.55

We will continue to offer the UMI coverage to churches in the Alabama-West Florida Conference via the UMI partnership which began January 1, 2010, with the Church Insurance Agency Corporation (CIAC). The Church Insurance Agency Corporation is the Episcopal Church equivalent of UMI, that is, a captive that has provided ministry protection for the Episcopal churches in the US for over 100 years. CIAC will provide UMI the program administration services, including billing and endorsement changes. Their Alabama representative, Mr. William (Bill) Bullock who lives in Spanish Fort, has proven to be of benefit to the local churches of the annual conference. He can be reached at (251) 621-2041 or BBullock@cpg.org.

REPORT 10 - MINIMUM INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Book of Discipline 2012 Par. 2533.2 requires local church trustees to annually review and report on the adequacy of local church property and liability insurance coverage *“to ensure that the church, its properties, and its personnel are properly protected against risks.”* Since 1797, the Book of Discipline has provided that the property and assets of local churches are held in trust for the benefit of the denomination. Inadequate insurance puts local church property and assets at risk; including the denomination's trust interest therein. Therefore, Trustees of the

Alabama-West Florida Conference, representing the denomination’s trust interest, have adopted the following minimum insurance requirements for local churches:

COMMERCIAL PACKAGE POLICY, to include the following minimum limits:

Buildings, Organs & Contents	Insured to Replacement Value, “All Risk” Coverage			
Fine Arts	\$25,000			
Comprehensive General Liability	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$3,000,000
Pastoral Counseling Liability	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$3,000,000
Hired and Non Owned Auto Liability	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$3,000,000
Employee Benefits Liability (EBL)	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$1,000,000
Medical Payments	\$10,000			
Sexual Misconduct Liability	Occurrence	\$1,000,000	Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Crime / Employee Dishonesty	Occurrence	\$25,000		

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS (D&O) POLICY, including the following minimum liability limits:

- Directors’ & Officers \$1,000,000
- Employment Practices Liability (EPL) \$1,000,000
(including Sexual Harassment)

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION POLICY, including supply clergy

- Bodily Injury by Accident Each accident \$1,000,000
- Bodily Injury by Disease Policy limit \$1,000,000

UMBRELLA POLICY (Excess Liability)

An Umbrella policy is suggested but not required

This excess policy must extend over Commercial General Liability, Pastoral Counseling, Employee Benefits Liability, Owned Auto, Hired & Non-Owned Auto and Workers Compensation. A higher per occurrence limit may be appropriate based on specific risk characteristics such as church size and/or scope of operations and ministries.

Per Occurrence Limit \$1,000,000 (minimum) Aggregate \$1,000,000

Submitted by,
 Reverend Jeff Wilson, President
 Conference Board of Trustees

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (CEC)

“It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on

pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference.” (§625.2, 2012 *Discipline*)

The CEC assists congregations which have potential for growth to become capable of financially supporting a full-time pastor, and assure that all full-time appointed pastors in the AWF Conference receive minimum salary. The CEC recommends the **following guidelines** for all churches/charges in our conference that apply for a subsidy grant:

1. Only full-time pastors, certified by the Board of Ordained Ministry (district and conference levels as applicable), approved by the annual conference, and appointed to a church or charge are eligible for CEC a subsidy grant. No associate pastor, part-time local or supply pastor shall be eligible for a subsidy grant. The amount of equitable compensation a pastor may receive is based upon the taxable cash salary prior to any voluntary employee reductions such as a 403(b) plan or written cafeteria plan plus utility exclusions, excluding a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage. Full-time local pastors without a parsonage must receive a housing allowance to bring their total plan compensation up to 60% of the denominational average compensation so that they will be eligible for Comprehensive Protection Plan benefits.

2. No pastor shall receive a subsidy grant from CEC when the pastor receives income from any other church source if that income plus salary from the charge is more than minimum salary. No pastor serving outside the bounds of our conference shall be eligible to receive equitable compensation.

3. For a pastor to receive an equitable compensation subsidy grant, the church/charge must pay at least **80% of minimum salary** for the year in which CEC a subsidy grant is provided, and have paid at least 50% of the previous year’s apportionments. **Direct Bill** health insurance and pension payments shall be **waived** for charges upon **their initial approval** for a CEC subsidy grant, if no outstanding arrearage exists. Each succeeding year of receiving a CEC subsidy grant, churches/charges must make progress toward providing full clergy compensation according to the **following schedule** to qualify for a continued subsidy grant. Percentages listed below apply to the approved minimum salary for the calendar year in which a subsidy grant will be received:

After year 1:	85% of minimum salary and 100% apportionments paid
After year 2:	90% of minimum salary, and 100% apportionments paid
After year 3:	90% of minimum salary, 100% apportionments, and Defined Contribution portion of Direct Bill paid
After year 4:	95% of minimum salary, 100% apportionments, and complete Pension portion of Direct Bill paid

After five years of receiving a CEC subsidy grant, a church/charge may be approved for a **sixth year** of exemption from the **Health Insurance portion of the Direct Bill** if the charge is paying 100% of minimum salary, **100% of**

apportionments and 100% of the pension portion of the Direct Bill.

4. Churches/charges applying for a CEC subsidy grant that are already paying above 80% of minimum salary shall be expected to make appropriate progress toward becoming self-sustaining in accord with the schedule in Paragraph 3. Churches must be willing to participate in a formal congregational development effort offered by

5. The CEC recognizes that occasionally circumstances will demand special consideration. The district superintendent of the applying church/charge should assess such cases and present rationale for a subsidy grant to the CEC. Churches/charges must be willing to participate in a formal congregational development effort offered by the annual conference.

6. District superintendents are required to review all equitable compensation situations in their districts to ascertain the necessity for assistance and, whenever possible, seek to reduce the need for a CEC subsidy grant. The district superintendents shall be responsible for the accurate completion and submission of subsidy grant applications to the CEC. The secretary of the CEC shall not issue a check order for an equitable compensation subsidy grant until all criteria have been met as determined by the CEC.

The CEC recommends a **minimum salary of \$36,500 for all full-time appointed clergy** for 2016.

Equitable Compensation Disbursements for 2014

Eutaw	\$ 7,380
Georgetown-Chunchula	\$ 3,960
St. Matthew/Jackson Chapel	\$ 3,384
Theodore First	\$ 3,600
Thomaston	\$ 3,384
Whistler-West Wilmer	\$ 7,176
Zion Fellowship	\$ 6,768
TOTAL	\$35,652

Arrearage Policy

1. In the event that the local church treasurer becomes aware that the church will be unable to provide to the pastor full payment of a regularly scheduled payroll or housing allowance installment, or to remit to the conference treasurer full payment for regular direct billed benefit payments such as pension and health care, the church treasurer shall immediately notify both verbally (within 24 hours) and in writing (within 3 days) the pastor, the lay leader, and the chairs of S/PPRC, finance, trustees, and the administrative/church council of the impending arrearage. Upon receipt of such notice, the chair of S/PPRC and/or the pastor shall immediately (within 3 days) notify the district superintendent of the impending arrearage. It is the pastor’s responsibility to keep copies of all written notifications, and to provide additional written confirmation to the district superintendent when an arrearage has

taken place. Failure to document salary or benefit arrearages may result in a loss of compensation and/or forfeiture of pension and benefits.

2. Upon receipt of notice of an impending arrearage, the chair of S/PPRC shall immediately (within 24 hours) call a meeting of the pastor, lay leader, and chairs of finance, trustees, and the administrative/church council to discuss the financial situation and seek remedies to prevent an arrearage from occurring.

Such remedies might include:

- a. drawing from invested funds,
- b. an emergency appeal for special giving from the congregation,
- c. emergency grants or loans from the District or Conference.

In accord with the Discipline Paragraph 624, such remedies cannot include a reduction in the pastor's compensation until the beginning of the next conference year.

3. If, after consultation among the lay leader and chairs of S/PPRC, finance, trustees, and the administrative/church council, it becomes apparent that the church may be facing a long term financial crisis, the chair of S/PPRC shall notify in writing the pastor and district superintendent that:

- a. an Equitable Compensation Subsidy Grant necessary to maintain compensation for the remainder of the conference year or,
- b. a change in pastoral compensation may be necessary at the beginning of the following conference year, or
- c. a change in pastoral appointment as deemed necessary by the bishop and cabinet.

4. If the local church becomes delinquent in the pastor's compensation (i.e. more than 30 days delinquent), then the district superintendent shall notify the CEC, which on its own initiative may do any or all of the following, but not limited to:

- a. sending a representative from CEC to meet with the local church and pastor to seek resolution of the issue.
- b. developing a payment plan with the local church/charge so that the pastor receives full payment of compensation by the end of the conference year.

The district superintendent shall be invited to participate in this process.

5. If the local church is already receiving a subsidy grant from the CEC, the commission may also:

- a. determine if all subsidy grant funds allocated to the church were used to pay the pastor's salary,
- b. examine the original subsidy grant application to determine if the amount requested to meet minimum compensation was reduced,
- c. require an outside audit of all church funds in compliance with GCFA Guidelines, (www.gcfa.org)

d. notify the district superintendent in writing of its findings and recommendations.

6. If a local church becomes delinquent in the payment of the pastor's direct billed pension and benefits (i.e., more than 30 days), then the conference treasurer shall notify the conference benefits officer, the district superintendent, and the CEC. On behalf of the conference, the benefits officer and/or district superintendent shall develop a written payment plan with the local church so that the conference receives full payment of pension and benefits by the end of the conference year.

7. Paragraph 2542.1 of the Book of Discipline makes clear that no real property on which a church building or parsonage is located shall be mortgaged to pay for the current or budgeted expenses of a local church (including arrearages), nor shall the principal proceeds of a sale of any such property be so used. This provision shall apply alike to unincorporated and incorporated local churches.

8. In extreme and unresolved circumstances, the local church and/or pastor may petition a session of the annual conference after completing the required financial audit of the church following proper procedures for assistance in payment of the arrearage not to exceed the minimum conference compensation standards. However, it is the responsibility of the local church to provide a minimum compensation for its appointed clergy (Paragraph 624, Discipline).

9. It is the responsibility of the pastor to provide evidence of an arrearage by providing documentation such as: treasurer's reports, charge conference reports of adopted salary and compensation, check stubs, W-2 forms, and a Certification of Payment Form signed by the pastor, S/PPRC chair, trustee chair, treasurer, and administrative/church council chair.

10. The statute of limitations for filing a claim for funds from the annual conference (i.e., notification to the district superintendent of the arrearage) for any salary arrearage is one year from the date of the initial arrearage. Once an appointment ends, the pastor no longer has claim on the local church for compensation funds (Paragraph 342.4, Discipline).

11. While verbal notifications required in Paragraph 1 of this policy provide expedient resolution to the arrearage issue, written notification to all parties must be provided within 3 days to provide a record of such notification.

Reverend Matt Mobley, Chairperson
Commission on Equitable Compensation

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Report No. 1 - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Purpose: To develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

1. The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) shall be organized in accordance with paragraph 610 and 611 of the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* and Standing Rule No. 35 of the *2014 Journal of the Alabama-West Florida Conference*.
2. The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) shall meet prior to Annual Conference and during session as needed. A fall and winter/spring meeting of CFA shall be held. The president of the Council may call other meetings.
3. All persons interested in presenting a request to CFA are invited to do so or to attend any of the Council meetings. All Council meetings shall be open to all interested persons, except when, by majority vote, the council elects to meet in executive session.
4. The Committee on Investments within CFA shall be responsible for reviewing, approving, and supervising all banking relationships of CFA with special attention given to investments including those of conference agencies.
5. The Committee on Audit and Review within CFA shall have responsibility for reviewing audits of all agencies receiving funds from the Annual Conference.
6. The Regions Bank shall be designated to serve as the conference depository to receive funds and keep specified records.

Report No. 2 - CONFERENCE OFFICERS

The Council on Finance and Administration shall be responsible for budgeting and for the work of the conference officers as listed in Standing Rule No.2.

A. Conference Secretary

The conference secretary fulfills the responsibilities prescribed by the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* and the Standing Rules of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

B. Conference Fiscal Officer and the Fiscal Office

1. The responsibilities of the Fiscal Office shall include: Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services; Statistician; Conference Benefits Officer and

Executive Secretary of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and other responsibilities assigned by the Council on Finance and Administration.

2. The Fiscal Officer shall keep records, make reports, and handle all financial transactions of all conference agencies.
3. The Fiscal Office shall prepare reports as required by the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA), and mail copies to persons who may need such reports.
4. All apportioned district and conference funds shall be channeled through Regions Bank and records kept by the Fiscal Office of the Conference.
5. The Fiscal Office shall disburse all checks pertaining to every fund and keep proper files of the copies of the check orders from the secretaries authorizing the issue of such checks. Copies of the checks issued shall be filed after having been charged against the account upon which they have been drawn.
6. The Fiscal Office shall tabulate, church by church, fund by fund, the information given on the remittance blanks for the conference depository.

C. Journal Editor - Conference Journal and Brochure of Reports

1. The Journal Editor shall chair the Editorial Committee (Standing Rule No. 15), and be responsible for the publication and distribution of the Annual *Conference Journal* and the *Brochure of Reports* for the Annual Conference.
2. All boards, commissions, committees and other agencies submitting reports to be included in the Brochure of Reports must have the reports in the hands of the editor no later than the last Monday in February.
3. The Journal Editor shall have authority to edit reports but not to change the meaning of any part of any report.
4. Standing Rule No. 15 shall be followed in distributing the *Brochure of Reports*. It shall be the responsibility of the district superintendents to supply the names and addresses of lay members no later than the last Monday of February. Additional copies shall be made available to the conference registrar.
5. All memoirs (including photographs) must be in the hands of the editor by the closing of the last business session of the annual conference. Responsibility for this material shall reside with the Commission on Archives and History.
6. All material to be included in the Journal (other than those in 5 above) must be in hands of the editor not later than ten (10) working days after the close of the Annual Conference.
7. The Annual *Conference Journal* shall be distributed according to Standing Rule

No. 15. An order blank for the Journal will be provided prior to Annual Conference with the final day to order a Journal to be not later than July 31st.

D. Conference Registrar and Registration Policies

1. The Conference Registrar shall have full responsibility for interpreting the eligibility of those covered under Standing Rule No.8 for entertainment at the Annual Conference Session. This may be appealed to the Council on Finance and Administration.
2. The Conference Registrar shall supervise registration of and assignment of rooms to Annual Conference delegates and handle calls for persons attending sessions.
3. Chairpersons of boards and agencies who are not elected delegates and attend the Annual Conference in order to give reports shall have their expenses paid by their own board or agency.
4. All physical preparation for Annual Conference shall be under the Registrar's supervision in cooperation with the Dais Committee, Worship Committee, and host facility staff.
5. No materials will be allowed on the registration table other than that necessary for registration. Other arrangements should be made to distribute materials through the site manager.
6. Use of dining halls, rooms, or areas shall be determined by the site manager. Fees for dining rooms shall be paid by the group using such rooms.
7. Space and/or rooms to be used for displays shall be assigned by the site manager and no other. Space shall be assigned on a first come basis.
8. Commercial displays will be allowed only in a room assigned and publicized for this purpose, with the exception of Cokesbury, which will continue to have a room assigned only to it.
9. Special needs, such as hymnals, altar furnishings, projectors, etc., shall be arranged through the site manager at least two weeks before conference. Needs arising during Annual Conference, which could not be anticipated, will also be arranged through the site manager.

Report No. 3 - BONDING REQUIREMENTS

Paragraph 618.1 of the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* gives CFA responsibility for the fidelity bonding of the conference treasurer. CFA recommends that the present policy of bonding be continued through the United Methodist Insurance. Paragraph 618.2 of the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* gives CFA the responsibility of requiring all agencies and boards

for which the conference treasurer does not serve as treasurer to have fidelity bonding of there is such amounts as it deems adequate.

In order to avoid the depositing of conference funds in any one bank in excess of the insured limits, CFA shall serve as the clearing house for all agencies in the Annual Conference making deposits in any bank, either savings or checking accounts. Bank accounts shall not be opened by any agency without approval by CFA. No agency shall permit the total amount deposited in anyone bank to exceed insured limits without CFA approval.

Report No. 4 - BUDGETING, FUNDING, and AUDITING PROCEDURES

1. All boards and agencies are required to cooperate with the conference treasurer in the development of detailed financial reports of the income, expenditures, remaining balances, and audits.
2. Program budget requests shall follow the prescribed procedures established by the CORE Team.
3. Agencies may request, or be asked, to meet with CFA to clarify their budget request or report.
4. The Conference Resource Center and all boards and agencies receiving funds from the conference missional giving fund with budget amounts approved by the Annual Conference shall be allowed to draw funds or make expenditures on a monthly basis as needed. Funds available monthly for the program boards will be those approved by the CORE Team from the available pool. Funds available for the Conference Resource Center will be based on the benevolence receipts of the current year. Agencies of the Annual Conference that require monthly support will receive 1/12 of the approved allocation each month. Any expenditure more than the amount approved by the CORE Team in any Conference program board account shall be cleared with the President of CFA and the Director of Connectional Ministries.
5. All expenditures from the Interest on Investments Account shall be approved by a majority vote of CFA.
6. Each Agency, whose records are not kept by the Fiscal Office, is required to bond its treasurer and provide a certificate of insurance to CFA. Such agency shall provide a copy of its audit and other reports to CFA as deemed necessary by CFA. (Paragraphs 618.2 of the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*) Reports to CFA shall be in such detail, and provided at such times, as the Council shall direct.
7. CFA may withhold conference funds from any agency or board that fails or refuses to present proper bonds or audits. Such withholding shall continue until proper requests are met.

8. An audit of the complete financial status of the Annual Conference shall be published in the Conference Journal.

Report No. 5 - ZERO-BASED BUDGETING

The following proposal for “zero-based” budgeting is presented by the Council on Finance and Administration (the original proposal was adopted by the Conference on June 1, 1988):

1. All program area budgets of Annual Conference boards and agencies will begin the year with a zero balance.
2. The annual budgets for program boards and agencies shall be prepared on a “zero-base.” It is intended that all programs, projects and functions, old and new, be analyzed and reevaluated regularly and systematically by the CORE Team. Groups requesting budgeted funds shall be required to justify those requests in detail to explain why money is needed, specifically what it will be used for, the resulting benefits, and what would result if the request were denied.
3. At the end of the fiscal year, the unused balances for each board and agency shall be transferred to a reserve account, which shall be designated the “Mission and Ministry Fund.”
4. The Mission and Ministry Fund shall consist of the following:
 - a. Funds remaining in the CORE Team Missional Giving Fund at the end of | the year;
 - b. Funds which may be budgeted for the Mission and Ministry Fund
 - c. Funds received from terminated activities which remain unused for those activities when transferred by the CORE Team
 - d. Interest earned from sources as may be provided by the Council on Finance and Administration
 - e. Funds from other sources that may be deposited by any board or agency or group within the Annual Conference.
5. Additional use of Mission and Ministry funds by program boards and agencies or for other program purposes of the Annual Conference shall be approved by a majority vote of the CORE Team.

Report No. 6 - FUND RAISING and COLLECTION POLICIES

CFA makes the following recommendations for those causes for which no funds are allocated:

1. That each local church observe World Communion Sunday, Human Relations Day, One Great Hour of Sharing, United Methodist Student Day, Peace with Justice Sunday, Native American Awareness Sunday, and Golden Cross Sunday and that special offerings be received or budgeted for these special days.

2. That our conference continues to give its hearty support to the Advance Special program at both the General and Conference levels. (See complete listing of approved Conference Advance Special programs in the Journal Report of the Board of Global Ministries or the Board of Global Ministries Advance). Individuals can find the General Conference Catalog of Mission Handbooks by visiting <http://www.umcmission.org/Give-to-Mission/The-Advance>.

3. That the Alabama-West Florida Conference fully support the following programs and give sponsoring agencies permission to raise and receive funds, provided that there be no goals or quotas placed on local churches:

A. Blue Lake

- 1) Camps for the underprivileged and special youth
- 2) United Methodist Women's Blue Lake Support
- 3) Blue Lake Partner Program (Assembly Ground Trustees)
- 4) "Camping Sunday" for Blue Lake improvement and volunteer recognition (Assembly Ground Trustees)
- 5) 20in12 Blue Lake Campaign
- 6) "Blue Lake Sunday" to help reduce debt at Blue Lake (Assembly Ground Trustees)

B. Homes for the Aging

- 1) "Fountain of Love Offering," for Homes for the Aging (primarily in February) (The Board of Global Ministries)
- 2) Support for New Homes sponsored by Methodist Homes for the Aging

C. The White Christmas and fifth Sunday church school offerings for the Children's Home

D. Golden Cross Ministries (primarily on Mother's Day) (The Committee on Health and Welfare Ministries)

E. Youth Service Fund (United Methodist Youth)

F. Huntingdon College (Board of Higher Education)

G. Mobile Inner City Mission Endowment Fund (Board of Global Ministries)

H. United Methodist Men's Kingdom Builders Project (Board of Laity)

I. New Church Development Fund (Commission on New Congregational Development)

J. Wesley Foundation

- 1) University of South Alabama Wesley Foundation Capital Fund Campaign
- 2) University of West Alabama Wesley Foundation Capital Fund Campaign

K. Central Conference Pension Initiative (Board of Pension and Health Benefits)

L. Academy for Congregational Excellence

M. 5 on the 5th (Nellie Burge BOD)

Report No. 7 – APPORTIONMENTS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>+/-</u>
District Superintendents Fund	1,000,376	1,011,850	1.14
Episcopal Fund	526,135	552,882	5.08
Conference Claimants Fund	900,000	800,000	-11.11
Health Insurance Fund	1,200,000	1,300,000	8.33
Equitable Compensation Fund	30,000	25,000	-16.67
General Administration Fund	211,746	207,072	-2.21
SEJ Administration Fund	58,380	58,380	-0.00
(1) Conference Administration Fund	673,513	664,900	-1.28
Interdenominational Coop. Fund	47,123	46,073	-2.23
Africa University Fund	53,757	52,582	-2.19
World Service	1,754,239	1,715,103	-2.23
(2) Conference Ministries	1,210,084	1,210,100	0.00
(3) Congregational Development	388,690	388,700	0.00
Ministerial Education Fund	602,250	588,829	-2.23
Board of Pension and Health Benefits	44,000	32,000	-27.27
Blue Lake Operation	186,968	191,650	2.50
Blue Lake Capital Improvement and Debt Retirement	95,397	97,800	2.50
Huntingdon/Birmingham Southern College	620,852	620,850	0.00
Student Aid, Huntingdon College	246,441	246,450	0.00
Capital and Operating Fund (Trustees)	193,800	193,800	0.00
Black College Fund	240,243	234,890	-2.23
Homes for the Aging	62,883	64,450	2.48
Wesley Foundation/Campus Ministry	530,319	530,350	0.00
Academy for Congregational Excellence	75,000	75,000	0.00
TOTAL CONFERENCE BUDGET	<u>10,952,196</u>	<u>10,908,711</u>	-0.40

(1) Includes:

Fiscal Office	255,662	251,100	-1.78
Moving Fund for Retirees	20,000	20,000	0.00
Annual Conference Administration	149,000	144,900	-2.75
Board of Ordained Ministry	52,650	52,650	0.00
Archives and History	72,375	72,400	0.00
Episcopal Office Expense	<u>123,826</u>	<u>123,850</u>	0.00
Sub Total	673,513	664,900	

(2) Includes:

Connectional Ministries/Communications	687,846	674,100	-2.00
Mission and Ministry Fund	<u>522,238</u>	<u>536,000</u>	2.63
Sub Total	1,210,084	1,210,100	

Connectional Ministries/Communications: \$674,100.00

Supports salaries, benefits and expenses for six (6) program staff and two (2) support staff. Also supports general office expenses including telephone, printing, mailing, computer and miscellaneous expenses.

Mission and Ministry Fund: \$522,238

This fund supports eight (8) of the Boards related to the Conference CORE Team. They are Discipleship, Advocacy and Ethnic Ministries, Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Laity, Church and Society, Global Ministries, Town and Country, and Hispanic Ministries. The Mission and Ministry Fund also provides support for agencies related to the annual conference and new and emerging ministries. Those being supported in 2014 are Dumas Wesley Community Center, Mobile Inner City Metro Ministries, Mary Ellen’s Hearth (formerly Nellie Burge Community Center), The Ark (formerly Noah’s Ark), Alabama Rural Ministries, Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries, Milk and Honey CIRCLES of Transformation.

(3) Includes:

Congregational Development Office	148,690	148,700	0.00
New Church Pastors’ Salaries	170,000	170,000	0.00
New Church Development Fund	50,000	50,000	0.00
Church Revitalization Fund	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	0.00
Sub Total	388,690	388,700	

APPORTIONMENTS - SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT					
	2014 Apportioned	2014 Received	2014 %Received	2014 Expended	
World Service Fund	\$ 1,760,976	\$ 1,420,402	80.66%	\$ 1,366,099	
Ministerial Education Fund	\$ 604,570	\$ 500,866	82.85%	\$ 365,316	
Black College Fund	\$ 241,146	\$ 200,472	83.13%	\$ 194,537	
Africa University Fund	\$ 53,964	\$ 45,136	83.64%	\$ 44,743	
Episcopal Fund	\$ 514,202	\$ 458,010	89.07%	\$ 457,605	
General Administration Fund	\$ 212,516	\$ 185,833	87.44%	\$ 185,758	
Interdenominational Coop Fund	\$ 47,259	\$ 35,287	74.67%	\$ 34,778	
TOTALS	\$ 3,434,633	\$ 2,846,006	82.86%	\$ 2,648,836	*Includes
					Late Receipts
SEJ FUNDS					
SEJ Administration	\$ 116,760	\$ 50,735	43.45%	\$ 58,380	
TOTALS	\$ 116,760	\$ 50,735	43.45%	\$ 58,380	
ANNUAL CONFERENCE FUNDS					
Blue Lake Operation Fund	\$ 186,968	\$ 127,697	68.30%	\$ 120,981	
B/L Cap Impr/Debt Retirement Fund	\$ 189,860	\$ 129,673	68.30%	\$ 106,585	
Capital and Operations (Trustees)	\$ 190,000	\$ 159,304	83.84%	\$ 319,781	
Conference Administration Fund	\$ 738,587	\$ 667,545	90.38%	\$ 960,746	
Conference Resource Center	\$ 687,846	\$ 624,005	90.72%	\$ 602,919	
Connection Ministry Prog Pool	\$ 522,238	\$ 348,576	66.75%	\$ 343,459	
Congregational Development Fund	\$ 368,690	\$ 300,310	81.45%	\$ 279,037	
Dist. Superintendent's Fund	\$ 1,000,376	\$ 1,000,380	100.00%	\$ 978,698	
Equitable Compensation Fund	\$ 50,000	\$ 34,149	68.30%	\$ 36,400	
Huntingdon/BSC	\$ 620,852	\$ 424,035	68.30%	\$ 393,697	
Student Aid, Huntingdon	\$ 246,441	\$ 168,317	68.30%	\$ 156,274	
Wesley Foundations	\$ 500,319	\$ 429,890	85.92%	\$ 413,470	
Homes for the Aging	\$ 61,650	\$ 42,106	68.30%	\$ 39,892	
Conference Claimants Fund	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 920,748	92.07%	\$ 908,597	
Health Insurance Fund	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,100,004	100.00%	\$ 6,406,297	
Academy for Congregational Excellence	\$ 50,000	\$ 34,149	68.30%	\$ 54,930	
Bd. of Pension and Health Benefits	\$ 44,000	\$ 30,052	68.30%	\$ 17,527	
TOTALS	\$ 7,557,827	\$ 6,540,941	86.55%	\$ 12,139,290	
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 11,109,220	\$ 9,437,682	75.90%	\$ 14,846,506	

Report No. 8 STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES and LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

1. CFA believes that all apportionments are needed in the amounts apportioned. Furthermore, CFA believes that all churches have the capacity to pay apportionments in full. In 2013, 83.49% of apportioned funds were paid by local churches. In 2014, 85.13% of apportioned funds were paid by local churches. CFA continues to encourage all churches and all United Methodist Christians in the Alabama - West Florida Annual Conference to participate fully in our connectional ministries through generous serving, generous giving, generous living, generous leading, and generous praying. The 2016 Conference budget reflects a .07% decrease in Connectional Missional giving (apportionments.) General Church apportionments have decreased by 38,062 or 1.11%. Jurisdictional apportionments remain the same in 2016. Over-all Annual Conference Connectional Missional giving (apportionments) decreased by .40 % in 2016.

2. By action of the 2001 Annual Conference, thy 50% following schedule shall be used in setting apportionments for new churches:

1st full year	no apportionment
2nd year	25% apportioned
3R year	50% apportioned
4th year	75% apportioned
5th year & following	100% apportioned

3. Apportionments shall be made to all churches using the apportionment formula outlined in CFA Report - Formula and Allocations.

4. Local churches shall provide for the audits of local church records as provided in paragraph 258.4d of the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.

Report No. 9 FORMULA and ALLOCATIONS

1. In 2012 a task force was formed to evaluate the fairness of the current formula for determining conference apportionments. They reviewed formulas used in each of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Annual Conferences. The task force recommend, and the 2013 Annual Conference approved, the continued use of the current apportionment formula.

2. Therefore, the apportionments shall be developed using a formula based on financial strength of the local churches and membership of the local churches. Financial strength will be weighted 75% and professing membership will be weighted 25% in the formula. Apportionments will be determined by local church decimal applied to the amount of each budget item at the conference level.

3. The financial strength of a local church in calculating the decimal formula shall be based on all local expenditures (lines 48-57 of the Local Church Report to the

Annual Conference). This eliminates all apportionments (including direct billing) and special giving from the formula. (Listing: Standing Rule No. 22)

4. The winter/spring meeting of the Council on Finance and Administration shall be the time for receiving requests from all boards and agencies for the ensuing year. All boards and agencies should be advised that they place their allocations in jeopardy when they fail to submit timely budget requests.

5. The local church will enter the Local Church Report information using the “UMC GCFA Statistical Input System” located on Alabama-West Florida Conference Web Site (www.awfumc.org) Contact the District Superintendent’s office for the User Name and Password if they are not known by the church pastor. The pastor and chairperson of the Committee on Finance or the church treasurer shall review the annual local church report as being correct before its final submission. The Fiscal Office will establish a date by which it should be notified if corrections are necessary. If no corrections are identified by that date, the fiscal officer will consider the report accurate. When the new year’s apportionments are run in July/August, there will be only one set of apportionments, which will be the final set. There will not be a “Trial Set” of apportionments.

Report No. 10 - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS’ COMPENSATION

In 2012 a task force was formed to study district superintendents’ compensation. The task force, composed to both clergy and lay members studied many annual conferences’ formulas for District Superintendent’s salary. Their recommendation, approved by CFA and approved at the 2013 Annual Conference, recommend that superintendents’ salaries be based on the average of the highest 25 senior pastor’s salary appointed to a local church from within the conference. The 25 pastors’ salaries in the formula do not include District Superintendents nor do they include clergy conference staff members. From time to time CFA may adjust its District Superintendents salary recommendation. In keeping with this salary formula, CFA recommends that the base salary of the district superintendents be \$114,979, resulting in an increase of .02239%.

The base salary of the district superintendents shall be set at \$114,979 for 2016 with travel expense paid on voucher from a travel pool of \$92,000. The executive committee of CFA shall adjust the rate per mile, as needed, within this limit.

1. District superintendents shall receive no supplementary travel funds from district administration funds.
2. Each district shall place funds in its budget for district parsonage utilities, up to a total of \$4,500, for each calendar budget year. Utilities to be included are electricity; gas, water sewage, and basic television cable or satellite services, telephone, Internet service, and trash collection.

3. The districts which provide district superintendents a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage shall designate the housing amount in the minutes of the District Conference. This designation shall be made in advance of payment of such allowance, either upon appointment or in advance of the calendar year thereafter.
4. Each district shall place in its district administration fund an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for continuing education.

Report No. 11 - MOVING GUIDELINES and EXPENSES

The third Sunday following the adjournment of Annual Conference shall be the last Sunday of pastoral responsibility for each conference year. The official moving day will be Tuesday, June 23, 2015 and may be adjusted according to the needs and concerns worked out in consultation with the clergy persons, the churches and approved by the District Superintendent.

The entire June salary shall be paid to the pastor by the church from which he/she is moving. In effect 50% of the annual salary will be paid January through June; with the remaining 50% paid by the church receiving a new pastor. Health insurance contributions and/or premiums, as well as any UMPIP payments are to be deducted from the pastor's compensation for the full month of June, with the receiving church beginning such payments in July.

Upon retirement, disability, termination, or death of a minister serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference and serving a full time appointments under the provisions of Paragraph 333.1 of the *2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, the conference shall pay up to \$2,500 for documented moving expenses to the first place of retirement, termination, or disability or the first place of dwelling for a surviving spouse. Moving expenses to be reimbursed shall not be incurred prior to retirement or termination notification to the Bishop and will be reimbursed after the move is completed.

Guidelines for clergy under appointment:

1. Following notification of appointment change by the district superintendent, the Chairperson of the PPRC should contact the minister to be appointed to communicate the church's policy in paying moving expenses and to discuss moving plans.
2. The receiving church is responsible for the first \$3,000 of documented moving expenses and is encouraged to pay all documented expenses for the incoming ministerial family.

Report No. 12 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES

1. A charge of \$28.00 per person, per night, will be made for all who use Conference provided housing. (Standing Rule No.8) CFA will be responsible for studying and investigating possible locations and expenses for housing during future sessions of the Annual Conference.

2. The Brochure of Reports will contain an order blank requiring orders to be placed for the Conference Journal at \$25.00 for printed regular bound and \$27.00 for spiral bound, CD copies are \$8.00, including the cost of mailing. (Paid upon order) Deadline for ordering will be July 31st. Orders received after the deadline will incur an additional mailing charge. Order forms will be available in other places as well. (Standing Rule 15)
3. Retired clergy and surviving spouses of clergy may receive one CD copy of the Conference Journal free, provided it is ordered using the order blank.
4. Electronic versions of the Brochure of Reports and the Conference Journal may be substituted for printed copies.

Report No. 13 - INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

SCOPE OF THIS INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

This statement of investment policy reflects the investment policy, objectives, and constraints of the Council on Finance and Administration of the Alabama-West Florida Conference. (CFA)

PURPOSE OF THIS INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Council on Finance and Administration sets forth this statement of investment policy in order to do the following:

1. Define and assign the responsibilities of all involved parties.
2. Establish a clear understanding for all involved parties of the investment goals and objectives for assets.
3. Manage assets according to prudent standards as established in common trust law and in accordance with general guidelines by the General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church.
4. Establish the relevant investment horizon for which assets will be managed.

In general, the purpose of this statement is to outline a philosophy and attitude which will guide the investment management of the assets towards the desired results. It is intended to be sufficiently specific to be meaningful, yet flexible enough to be practical.

DEFINITIONS

1. “The Council on Finance and Administration” is the governing council established to administer the assets as specified by *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* in its most recent edition and applicable actions of the annual conference.
2. “The Council on Finance and Administration” shall be referred to hereinafter as the “Council” in regard to this policy statement.
3. “The Investment Committee” consists of members of the Council, appointed by the Council, to act on behalf of the Council to administer this policy. It shall be referred to hereinafter as the “Committee” in regard to this policy statement.

4. “Investment Manager” shall mean any individuals or organizations employed to manage the investment of all or part of the assets.
5. “Investment Broker” shall mean any individual or organization employed to provide advisory services, including advice on investment objectives and/or asset allocation, manager search, and performance monitoring.
6. “Assets” shall mean all funds and securities for which the Council is responsible.
7. “Securities” shall refer to the marketable investment securities which are defined as acceptable in this statement.
8. “Investment Horizon” shall be the time period over which the investment objectives, as set forth, are expected to be met. The maximum investment horizon for these assets shall be set by the Council.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Committee is responsible for directing and monitoring the investment management of the assets. As such, the committee is authorized to delegate certain responsibilities to professional experts in various fields subject to Council approval. These include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The Investment Broker may assist the Committee in: establishing investment policy, objectives, and guidelines; selecting investment managers; reviewing such managers over time; measuring and evaluating investment performance; and other tasks as deemed appropriate.
2. If an Investment Manager is used, he/she has discretion to purchase, sell, or hold the specific securities that will be used to meet the investment objectives.
3. The Custodian will physically (or through agreement with a sub-custodian) maintain possession of securities administered by the Committee, collect dividend and interest payments, redeem maturing securities, and effect receipt and delivery following purchases and sales. The custodian may also perform regular accounting of all assets owned, purchased, or sold, as well as movements of assets into and out of the investment accounts.
4. Additional specialists such as attorneys, auditors, and others may be employed by the Committee to assist in meeting its responsibilities and obligations to administer assets prudently.

If such experts employed are also deemed to be fiduciaries, they must acknowledge such in writing. All expenses for such experts must be customary and reasonable, and will be borne by the Council as deemed appropriate and necessary.

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility of the Council

The Council is charged by law, The Book of Discipline and the actions of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church with the responsibility for the management of the investment assets. The Council and Committee shall discharge their duties solely in the interest of the annual conference, with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, that a prudent person, acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character with like

aims. The specific responsibilities of the Committee, subject to the approval of the Council, relating to the management of investment assets include:

1. Projecting the investment needs and communicating such needs to the investment brokers/investment managers on a timely basis.
2. Determining the Council's risk tolerance and investment horizon, and communicating these to the appropriate parties.
3. Establishing reasonable and consistent investment objectives, policies, and guidelines which will direct the investment of the assets.
4. Prudently and diligently selecting qualified investment professionals, including investment manager(s), an investment broker, and a custodian.
5. Regularly evaluating the performance of the investment manager(s) to assure adherence to policy guidelines and monitor investment objective progress.
6. Developing and enacting proper control procedures: for example, replacing an investment manager due to a fundamental change in investment management process or failure to comply with established guidelines.
7. The Conference Treasurer shall serve as the contact person for the investment brokers or investment managers.

Responsibility of the Investment Broker

The investment broker's role is that of a non-discretionary advisor to the Committee. Investment advice concerning the management of investment assets will be offered by the investment broker and will be consistent with the investment objectives, policies, guidelines, and constraints as established in this policy statement. Specific responsibilities of the investment broker include the following:

1. Assisting in the development and periodic review of investment policy.
2. Conducting investment manager searches when requested by the Committee.
3. Providing "due diligence" or research on the investment manager(s).
4. Monitoring the performance of the investment manager(s) to provide the Committee with the ability to determine the progress toward the investment objectives.
5. Communicating matters of policy, manager research, and manager performance to the Committee.
6. Reviewing asset investment history, historical capital markets performance, and the contents of this investment policy statement with any newly appointed members of the Committee and Council.
7. Executing orders for the purchase and sale of securities.

Responsibility of the Investment Manager(s)

Each investment manager must acknowledge in writing its acceptance of responsibility as a fiduciary. Each investment manager will have full discretion to make all investment decisions for the assets placed under its jurisdiction, while observing and operating within all policies, guidelines, constraints, and philosophies as outlined in this policy statement. Specific responsibilities of the investment manager(s) include the following:

1. Discretionary investment management including decisions to buy, sell, or hold individual securities, and to alter asset allocation within the guide lines established in this policy statement.

2. Reporting, on a timely basis, quarterly investment performance results.
3. Communicating any major changes to economic outlook, investment strategy, or any other factors which affect implementation of investment process or the investment objective progress of investment management.
4. Informing the Committee regarding any qualitative change to investment management organization: Examples include changes in portfolio management personnel, ownership structure, investment philosophy, etc.
5. Voting proxies, if requested by the Committee, on behalf of the Council, and communicating such voting records to the Committee on a timely basis.

INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

Allowable Assets

1. Cash Equivalents
 - Treasury Bills
 - Treasury Money Market Funds
 - Repurchase Agreements
 - Certificates of Deposit
 - Common Development Fund of the AL-WF United Methodist Development Fund, Inc.
 - Flexible Demand Note offered by The United Methodist Development Fund
2. Fixed Income Securities
 - U.S. Government and Agency Securities
 - Mortgage Backed Bonds
 - Income Fund of the AL-WF United Methodist Foundation, Inc.
 - Fixed Term Notes offered by The United Methodist Development Fund
3. Equity Securities
 - Common Stocks of U.S. Corporations
 - Convertible Notes and Bonds of U.S. Corporations
 - Growth Fund and Growth & Income Fund of the AW-FL United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

4. Restrictions

Investments shall not knowingly be made in securities in which the corporate entity has a significant interest in distilled spirits, wine or other fermented juices, tobacco, gambling, pornography or firearms. Investments shall not knowingly be made in securities of corporate entity in which the core business:

- Manufactures cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, or in a company in which 10% or more of gross revenues are derived from supplying key components to the tobacco industry or the sale and marketing of tobacco related products.
- Produces alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, distilled liquor) or in a company in which 10% or more of gross revenues are derived from supplying key elements for alcohol production or from the sale, distribution or marketing of alcoholic beverages.

- Owns or manages casinos, racetracks, off-track betting parlors; or in a company that derives 10% or more of gross revenues from the production of goods and services related to the gaming or lottery industries.
- Derives 10% or more gross revenues from the production, distribution or sale of products or devices that are interpreted to be pornographic, meet the legal criteria for obscenity or legal definition of “harmful to minors.”
- Derives 10% or more gross revenues from the manufacture, sale or distribution of antipersonnel weapons such as land mines, “assault type” automatic and semiautomatic weapons, firearms, and ammunition provided for commercial and private markets.

Prohibited Assets and Transactions

Prohibited investments and transactions include, but are not limited to the following:

- Commodities and Futures Contracts
- Private Placements
- Options
- Short Selling
- Margin Transactions

Diversification

In order to achieve a prudent level of portfolio diversification, the securities of anyone company or government should not exceed 10% of the total assets under management, and no more than 20% of the total assets should be invested in anyone industry. With the exception of U.S. Government securities, no fixed income issues may exceed 15% of the market value of the fixed income portfolio.

Guidelines for Fixed Income Investments and Cash Equivalents

- Assets may be invested only in investment grade bonds rated A (or equivalent) or better.
- Maximum maturity for any single fixed income security is 10 years.
- Money Market Funds selected shall contain only U.S. Treasury securities.

Investment Policy Review

To assure continued relevance of the guidelines, objectives, financial status and capital markets expectations as established in this statement of investment policy, the Council shall review this policy at least annually.

Report No. 14 - FISCAL YEAR END

1. The Fiscal Office will close the annual financial records on the fifth working day of January.
2. This date will be the last day that apportionment payments can be credited to the prior year asking.

3. Churches sending apportionment payments AFTER December 31 must do one of the following:
- a. Deliver payment to the Fiscal Office in Montgomery AL any time before 10:00 a.m. on the closing date.
 - b. Mail the payment. **Regardless of the postmark date, payments received after 10:00 a.m. on the closing date cannot be credited to the prior year apportionments.**
 - c. Deposit payment in the Annual Conference account on or before 1:00 p.m. on the closing date at a local Regions Bank. **Fax** a copy of the **bank receipt** and a copy of the **remittance breakdown** to the Fiscal Office when the deposit is made. Call the Fiscal Office (1-888-873-3127) to obtain the current deposit account number.
4. The Fiscal Office must know of these deposits on the closing date. Persons without access to a fax machine should call 1-888-873-3127 and report the deposit information. **Please Note:** The bank's business day may end earlier than the time the bank closes. For example, often deposits received after 2:00 p.m. are credited to the next day's business. **CONTACT THE LOCAL BANK TO DETERMINE WHEN A DEPOSIT MUST BE MADE, IN ORDER TO BE CREDITED ON THE CLOSING DATE.**

Submitted by,
Mr. Beebe Frederick, President
Council on Finance and Administration

CONFERENCE AUDIT STATEMENT

The Council on Finance and Administration of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church engaged Warren Averett, LLC to conduct audits of the Council on Finance, Connectional Ministries, Conference Administration, and Episcopal Office Accounts for the Conference Fiscal Year 2014. Warren Averett, LLC issued unmodified opinions on each of the statements of cash receipts, disbursements and transfers of the above referenced funds. The audited financial statements will be published in the 2015 Alabama- West Florida Annual Conference Journal and will be available upon written request to the Conference Fiscal Office, ATTN: Frank Dunnewind, 4719 Woodmere Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36106.

MISSION TEAM REPORTS

Circles of Transformation

The primary goal of Circles of Transformation is to move families toward self-sufficiency and away from instability, isolation and dependence.

The United Methodist Church worldwide has committed to *Ministry with the Poor* as one of four focus areas. Circles of Transformation (COT) is just that – ministry *with* the poor, not *to* the poor or *for* the poor. COT is designed to transform lives through the building of intentional relationships across socioeconomic, cultural and racial lines.

What is Circles of Transformation?

Circles of Transformation is a ministry of reconciliation, a ministry of restoration and healing. It is a transformational approach that partners community volunteers with adults wanting to make the journey out of poverty. A circle of support is created. Participants are matched with two or three community volunteers who provide encouragement, guidance and support. Time and time again, a new-found hope is born in the participants.

Employment is a primary goal of Circles of Transformation. Surprisingly, fewer than 2% of churches across the country focus on jobs as a way to help families in poverty. And yet jobs are the only way to move families toward financial self-sufficiency.

What is happening in our Conference?

The Dothan Circles of Transformation site has been underway since January of 2013, and has served as our Conference pilot site. The Dothan initiative is growing both in strength and numbers.

Other communities engaged in launching COT this year are Brewton, Eufaula, Selma, Mobile and Phenix City.

Does it work?

Participants are getting jobs, getting GED's, working on education and training goals, paying off debt, opening savings accounts, and setting important goals to build a new future story.

Listen to some of the actual words of participants who are engaged in Circles of Transformation. "Circles is a way to help you actually build a better bridge to the tomorrow that you're looking for." "I feel renewed inside every time I come to Circles of Transformation." "Circles of Transformation is a positive place where people help other people through the obstacles of life." "Circles is...where you meet good people with good and positive hearts."

How can I get involved?

Congregations interested in learning more about this process can call Laurel and Fred Blackwell, Circles of Transformation coordinators for the Conference, at 334.524.3652 or write to them at circles@awfumc.org.

Submitted by,
Fred and Laurel Blackwell, Coordinators
Circles of Transformation

Conference Board of Advocacy and Ethnic Ministry**Division of Hispanic-Latino Ministries**

Greetings in Christ! ¡Saludos en Cristo!

To start off, let me pose these questions: Where is your church? In what county? In what district of the Alabama-West Florida Conference? In what neighborhood? In what part of the State of Alabama or Florida?

As a way of example, let's take Okaloosa County, in the Pensacola District. It has a general population of 183,482, of which 7% is Hispanic-Latino, that is, 13,141. The true reality is that in Okaloosa Co. there are approximately 39,000 Hispanics-Latinos living and working, buying and selling, alongside you, in your same county or location. Why? The number that appears in the official census needs to be tripled to reflect the reality.

In marketing, success happens when something *different* is offered and when you are first to get in the market to offer it! Wouldn't this be a great opportunity for mission and ministry in your same community/county? Your church can offer something *different* for *the different*! Much in the same way as you are structured to offer children's ministry, youth ministry, much in the same way you can hire someone to develop Hispanic-Latino ministries, in your own zip code. Zip Code? This reminds me that our Bishop, Bishop Paul Leeland, wrote a very inspirational and relevant article entitled, "Zip Code Missionaries", and it can be found by visiting <http://www.awfumc.org/newsdetail/482176>. The article includes a spanish version. Quite an eye-opener! I invite you to read it! You'll love it; it is thought-provoking, to say the least.

In our AWF Conference, there are examples of successful and fruitful churches that invested in a Hispanic-Latino pastor to do outreach to make disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world. Just to cite a few examples: Harvest en Español in Dothan, Alabama, mother church Harvest UMC, Misión San Juan, in Clanton, mother church Clanton UMC, Casa de Dios Gateway of Heaven, mother church Richard's Memorial UMC/PUMCM, in Pensacola, FL. Casa de Dios has another extension in Mary Esther UMC, and significant outreach in the Fort Walton area. Check our website www.awfumc.org, for a list of fruitful communities of

faith, and congregations that are true and vivid examples of God in action, of mission in action, in our own zip codes, in this Godly nation.

Success comes when we shift our focus from “me” to our neighbors, when we focus, first, on the people, when we put people’s interests first and foremost, and we leave our interests for last.

Wouldn’t you feel tempted and gung-ho to do something different for the “different”, in your church, in your communities, in your zip codes? Look at your “different” immigrants as your brothers and sisters in Christ, and blessings will start to pour in abundantly into your ministries, into your homes, into your families, in short, into your very own soul!

After all, you were once an immigrant, too!

Submitted by,
Martha Rovira, Coordinator of Hispanic-Latino Ministries
Alabama-West Florida Conference
martha@awfumc.org

Division of Native American Ministries

Aldersgate UMC has been a central institution in this rural Native American community for eighty years, serving as a mission church adjacent to and closely related to the local school. Our church stabilized and maintained its presence after a major split in 2004, but three years ago, the direct billing issue required that we go to a part-time pastor not residing in the community. This is the first time in over thirty years we have been without a full-time pastor, and the lack of a pastoral presence has been obvious in both the church and community. In January of 2015, a new school opened on a different site. The facility is incredible, but we are concerned about the future of the old structure, which adjoins the church property.

On the positive side, the move to part-time clergy allowed us to rebuild our financial situation. We are now fully paying our apportionments and have a more positive cash flow, and we have been blessed by some generous gifts as well. Attendance has increased, and several young families are active again in our ministries. We now have three active Sunday School classes, a youth program led by a vibrant young couple, and a mid-week Bible study, led by laity. Our annual VBS, held in partnership with MarThoma youth leaders, is a huge event that touches over 125 lives across the community. Our pastor is leaving in June, and we are praying for a new pastor who can live in the community and fit our financial situation.

In the fall of 2015 we held our 80th homecoming, with the theme, “Still Faithful After 80 Years!” That summarizes our current situation perfectly!

Despite challenges, our church is faithful and thriving, serving this community and reaching out to support the work of the United Methodist Church.

Submitted by,

George Weaver, Pastor

Dawn Byrd

Prentiss Taylor, Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM)

Dunford Cole, Chair, Conference Board of Advocacy

Conference Board of Church and Society

The Church and Society Conference Board brought to the 2014 Annual Conference session three resolutions, which all passed overwhelmingly, on predatory lending, Medicaid expansion, and prison reform. These resolutions were presented to the Alabama legislature and Governor and have been used by board members and partner organizations to educate legislators on the relationship between faith and these issues.

Our Alabama-West Florida board met with our North Alabama counterparts to begin a conversation about ways that we can work together. We share a state, a legislature and concern about many of the same issues. Our boards discussed focusing on one or two issues with broad support that might mobilize as many United Methodists as possible. We are also looking into beginning similar conversations with the Florida Conference board.

Our partnership with Alabama Arise remains strong. In the fall, many of our board members participated in Arise's annual meeting in which the Arise members drive the agenda for advocacy. Medicaid expansion and predatory lending will be included, and prison reform will be addressed as it becomes a central issue in the legislature.

In recent years, Church and Society has held a prayer breakfast for legislators. In 2014, we offered an event in partnership with North Alabama and Arise for legislative advocacy day. In 2015 we offered both events. Dr. Tim Thompson offered a devotion at the Legislative Prayer Breakfast at Montgomery First on March 12. The Advocacy day breakfast was held at River City Church on April 14.

Church and Society is working on providing more resources for our people to understand the issues in which the Gospel overlaps with issues of public policy. The new conference website has given us a forum to post resources on Faith and Science, and statements on issues of current concern such as predatory lending and prison reform.

Our board also participated in a tour of Draper Prison led by former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb. We were deeply disturbed by the conditions we saw there. Particularly, we were moved by the warden and chaplain's plea for help on raising funds for a new Chapel/Worship Center.

In months to come, we plan to develop a comprehensive effort to help our people provide an adequate venue for the Gospel to be proclaimed at Draper Prison.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Nathan Attwood, chair

Conference Board of Congregational Development

The Board of Congregational Development has a dual responsibility to support new church starts and serve existing churches in our conference with appropriate revitalization support.

The board administers a process for evaluation of candidates recommended by District Superintendents to pastor a new church start. Pastors who may have such an interest should discuss that with their District Superintendent. During 2014, six pastors involved in starting new churches received some salary support from the board. In addition, New Church Grants of \$30,000 for The Source in Montgomery and \$8,000 for the Hispanic ministry at Good News UMC in Santa Rosa Beach were awarded.

Revitalization Grants awarded during 2014 included \$17,000 for Zion Fellowship in Montgomery and \$10,000 for Bellview UMC in Pensacola.

As a further step to strengthen existing congregations, Rev. Daniel Pezet joined the Conference Staff in 2014 as Director of Congregational Vitality. The Office of Congregational Vitality has launched The Antioch Project. This is an initiative that helps churches enter into a new level of fruitful ministry. The Antioch Project consists of three main phases:

- Leading the local congregation through a time of prayer, reflection, and self study
- Sending a team to develop recommendations for the church to fulfill in the future
- Providing coaches to help the church fulfill its recommendations.

District Superintendents may identify local churches as candidates to participate in the Antioch Project based on specific criteria. Individual churches which may have interest in participating in The Antioch Project should contact their District Superintendent.

As a further aid in church revitalization, district offices and individual churches are supported with demographic information for their geographic area. Contact Sandy Gutting at (850) 430-4300 for assistance with this information.

This report is submitted with appreciation for the dedication and contributions by the members and staff who represent this board.

Submitted by,
June Thomason, Chairman

Conference Board of Discipleship

The conference Board of Discipleship was organized by the annual conference to maintain the connectional relationship between the General Board of Discipleship and the conference, district, and local church. The purpose of the Conference Board of Discipleship is to lead and assist congregations and districts in the conference in their efforts to communicate and celebrate the redeeming and reconciling love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ to persons of every age, ethnic background, and social condition; to invite persons to commit their lives to Christ and to his church; and to enable persons to live as Christian disciples in the world. This purpose aligns with the Mission of our denomination and with the Commission from Jesus, himself.

Consequently, our guiding scripture continues to be Matthew 28:19-20, “Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always to the end of the age.” (TEV) Falling under the prevue of our charge are the areas of worship, evangelism, stewardship, spiritual formation, education, and older adults. The following are reports from those areas:

Worship, Evangelism and Stewardship

The areas of Worship, Evangelism and Stewardship work together with a focus year on just one of the three areas. This focus is called “Seed Cast”.

The first year of this planned design was 2013 when the Seed Cast focus was on the area of Evangelism. At that event 67 clergy and lay members of our annual conference participated.

This past year, 2014, the area of Stewardship hosted our seminar, “Seed Cast: Growing a Culture of Generosity” on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at Christ UMC in Mobile, Alabama. This full day event featured Dr. Clayton Smith, the Executive Pastor of Generosity for the Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area. There were 99 participants from across the annual conference, clergy and lay, who were equipped by Dr. Smith with healthy ways to approach stewardship by promoting generosity in our local churches.

Spiritual Formation

Spiritual Formation is “*being shaped and formed in and conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others ... and the world,*” according to Dr. Robert Mulholland. Spiritual formation offerings through the Alabama/West Florida United

Methodist Church Conference provide opportunities for laity and clergy to experience transformative practices.

•**Academy for Spiritual Formation #34** – completed in May 2014; a new 2 year Academy will start summer of 2015; the first year is about the inward journey, how the spirit is formed and conformed within through deepening and broadening self-spiritual practices and disciplines; the second year is about how one might integrate this inward Christ image forming in and to the world. There was a 5-day academy on Celtic Spirituality August 3-9, 2014 at Camp Sumatanga. A new 5-day Academy will be in the spring of 2015 on Praying the Psalms with Roberta Bondi & Lloyd Allen.

•**Companions-in-Christ** – This 28-week program creates experiences of intimacy with God, deepened relationships with Christ in small group communities through sharing, caring for one another, prayer, silence, and spiritual exercises. Laity and Spiritual Directors lead these classes.

•**Prayer Shawl Ministries** – Retreats are offered at Blue Lake with worship and spiritual formation experiences and sharing of the passion of crafting and prayer. There is great fellowship among those who enjoy the Prayer Shawl focus. The attendees, when returning home, increase in communities and/or start new Prayer Shawl ministries in their local congregations.

•**Experiential Prayer Room/Ministries** - This provides a place/space for one to intentionally slow down, turn or return to God's presence and ponder, like Mary, the things of God. The prayer stations provide many different types of prayer helping a person clear the mind, and be present to The Creator in prayer – i.e., breath prayer, Lectio Divina, praying with icons, prayer shawl knitting, centering prayer, meditation on music/hymns, prayer of examen, labyrinth, prayer beads, mandalas, etc. The invitation is not only at Annual Conference but being carried out some in the local congregations.

•**Labyrinth Ministry** – This spiritual formational prayer ministry unites mind, body and spirit in the prayer walk. It is sometimes used in conjunction with the experiential prayer room or held as a separate event in some churches or at retreats for different groups and different ages. The churches that have permanent labyrinths are: Gulf Shores UMC, Dothan FUMC, and Dauphin Way UMC; there is also an outdoor labyrinth at Blue Lake; In 2015 Gulf Breeze UMC~Sound Side campus will complete an outdoor labyrinth in memory of a congregation member. The AWFUMC conference large canvas labyrinth housed at Cokesbury UMC in Pensacola is frequently loaned out while the smaller one, housed in the conference office is being loaned out more as others become aware of it. Both are greatly used at conference churches for day-apart retreats, stewardship campaigns, during Lent and Tapestry to name a few.

•**Spiritual Directors** – 1) attended a 4 day retreat & reunion with guest trainer, psychotherapist, Dr. Trudy Corry Rankin in February. She taught the Spiritual Directors about Sand Play Therapy; 2) Spiritual Directors are leading Companions-in-Christ and other spiritual formation classes in their churches & districts, 3) The AWFUMC conference has 3 trained Spiritual Directors in Contemplative Outreach

Centering Prayer facilitation ~ They are leading Centering Prayer Introduction Workshops and follow up classes in several churches throughout the conference; 4) Spiritual Directors are available for spiritual companionship to the campers and counselors at Camp Blue Lake; 5) We have several Spiritual Directors in the conference giving individual direction with clergy and laity; also we have several who have offered retreats this year for congregations and laity.

Retreats will be available for sustaining Spiritual Directors as well as retreats for sustaining clergy and laity with Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, and Labyrinth to name a few. Some of our Spiritual Directors have been trained to use the Enneagram as a tool when companionship directees.

•**District Super Sundays** – Different districts invited Spiritual Directors to lead a spiritual formation informational session during their annual Super Sunday. The participants were invited to look at all the ministries as mentioned in this report and possibly include some of the spiritually forming ministries in their own churches.

•**Grace Note Day** – September 29, 2014 the AWFUMC District Superintendents and Spiritual Directors were at Blue Lake for worshipful work. The fruits of this work created the Bishop’s vision for Spiritual Formation work done by and with the Spiritual Directors, District Superintendents and the Bishop to help clergy and laity.

AWFUMC BISHOP’S VISION:

- Covenant Groups: 1) clergy; 2) laity
- Group and Individual Spiritual Direction for clergy and laity
- Spiritual Formation classes and experiences at district / church level

The Spiritual Directors are in the process of initial implementation of this vision.

Education

Elementary Winter Retreat – A group of 396 children and chaperones attended Elementary Winter Retreat on February 7-9, 2014 at Blue Lake Camp. The theme was “Follow Me” from Jesus’ calling of the disciples in John 12:26. Our guest speaker and entertainment was Alan Root, a gifted speaker and musicians. Our rotations included the Challenge Course, Crafts and Bible Story at Dogwood, Hayride/Scavenger Hunt and Prayer Stations at Pinewood and Opening Night and closing Worship were held in Vickers Gym at Oakwood. Participants also contributed over \$2400 to the “Imagine No Malaria Lenten” Project.

The AWF Conference Confirmation Retreat was held February 28- March 2, 2014 at Blue Lake. There were 150 adults and youth present to “Know, Grow and Show God’s Love.” Activities centered on committing to Christ through prayers, presence, witness, gifts and service as well as through the sacraments. Bishop Leeland joined the group on Saturday morning as he shared with them and allowed them to ask questions. They also contributed \$450 to the “Imagine No Malaria” Lenten Project.

The 2015 AWF Conference Confirmation Retreat was held February 20-22. The Reverend Samantha Lewis organized the event. (This report for the Brochure of Reports for the Annual Conference was due to the Conference Office for printing prior to the end of the 2015 Confirmation Retreat. Details will be in next year's Brochure of Reports.)

Senior Adult

The Older Adult Task Force, chaired by Barbara Wilder, continues to provide programming for senior adults of the conference. On January 27, 2014 they began a new annual event "One Day" at Blue Lake with 78 participating. On May 8-10, 2014 approximately 85 people participated in the annual Inspirit Retreat. For their second One Day event on January 10, 2015, 86 were in attendance. They will host the Inspirit Older Adult Retreat on May 8-10, 2015 at Blue Lake Assembly with keynote speaker Missy Buchanan.

This report is submitted with grateful appreciation for the work done by the members of the Conference Board of Discipleship and the various committee members who have helped area chairpersons perform their mission.

Barbara Sadler, Chair
Conference Board of Discipleship

Conference Board of Global Ministries

The Conference Board of Global Ministries (CBGM) has five divisions: The Division of Advance Specials, Division of Health and Relief Ministries, Division of Parish and Community Development, Division of Disaster Response Ministries, and Division of UVMIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission). Reports from those who lead some of these divisions are included in this brochure of reports. In 2014, one new area of focus for the Conference Board of Global Ministries has been developing the new partnership between the Alabama-West Florida Conference and the Red Bird Missionary Conference. This partnership is an updated way of understanding mission that goes beyond the traditional hammer and nails projects. This partnership encourages all participants to offer their assets to each other, and the goal is to develop a collaborative partnership which builds strong relationships over the long term and enables us to work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in our communities and conferences of the UMC. Each AWF district is partnered with one to four churches of the Red Bird Missionary conference in which relationships are built, love and encouragement is shared, and ministry can be transformational and meaningful. If your congregation is interested in learning more about this exciting partnership, contact Susan Hunt at susan@awfumc.org or 334-356-8014.

The CBGM is also taking a closer look at the ministries included in the Advance Specials. As stewards of the guidelines (found at www.awfumc.org/advance), we will be looking more closely at how well each ministry follows them and meets our expectations. However, we feel that all of the organizations listed within the

Advance report provide quality ministry and we encourage your support through your time and resources.

The UMVIM Division continues to offer quality training for leaders of mission teams. Well-trained team leaders, and thus their teams, are more effective in ministry in the world for Christ's sake. Whether the team travels far or near, this is invaluable training for the leader to have the most well-prepared and spiritually enriched teams possible. Find more information at www.awfumc.org/umvimtraining. The UMVIM Division is also an excellent resource for planning your next mission trips, as well as offering insurance for travelers.

Mission is why the church exists. We look forward to doing our part of the overall ministry of the United Methodist church as the Conference Board of Global Ministries as we join together to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Jason Thrower, Chair
Conference Board of Global Ministries

Division of Advance Specials

The General Advance is the official program of the United Methodist Church created to give churches the opportunity to go the extra mile in giving. We endeavor to continue to communicate the Biblical call for mission and assist all people through training and leadership development to understand how the United Methodist Church ministers to the needs of the world. The Conference Advance Special program is for projects within the bounds of the annual conference, as recommended by the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and is consistent with the goals of the General Advance. (2012 Book of Discipline ¶656)

The Conference Advance Specials are used to feed the hungry, help women and their children who are in need of shelter, minister to our college students, repair homes for the elderly and poor, minister to our Hispanic-Latino members, provide a safe place for children to study and play, minister to those with special needs, end the cycle of poverty, and for inner-city and at-risk children.

When working on your budget or looking for some second-mile giving opportunities, please consider the ministries listed below, which have been approved for Conference Advance Special Status (CASS) by the Conference Board of Global Ministries (CBGM).

This year, The CBGM has approved two new applications to become Conference Advance Specials. They are Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries and Circles of Transformation. Blue Lakes Extreme Experience Vision Retreat did not reapply.

ADVANCE SPECIALS

0110-19	Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM)
0110-162	Blue Lake Camp Discovery
0110-7	Circles of Transformation
0110-2	Dumas Wesley Community Center
0110-1	Hispanic Ministries
0110-30	Milk & Honey Outreach Ministries
0110-6	Nellie Burge/Mary Ellen's Hearth
0110-133/134	Pensacola State College/Univ of West Florida Wesley Foundation
0109-02	Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries
0110-51	Prodissee Pantry
0110-40	Society of St. Andrew
0110-163	Sunshine Camp
0110-22	Transformational Recovery Mission
0110-135	Troy University Wesley Foundation
0110-132	Tuskegee Wesley Foundation
0110-90	UM Children's Home
0110-3	UM Inner City Mission, Mobile
0110-131	University of South Alabama Wesley Foundation
0110-136	University of West Alabama Wesley Foundation
0110-139	The Wesley Foundation at Alabama State University

Receiving Conference Advance Special status does not guarantee any funding, only the opportunity to open channels for extra-mile giving throughout the bounds of our annual conference. The actual money received will depend completely on donor gifts. Extra-mile giving to any of these Conference Advance Specials should be sent to the Conference Treasurer marked with their Advance number. 100% of every Advance gift is sent directly to the mission or ministry of your choice. Through our Advance giving, we continue to make a positive and enduring impact on the world Christ has called us to serve.

More information, including the guidelines and application, can be found at www.awfumc.org/advance. Or contact Bill Felio at felio@bellsouth.net. Applications are due January 1 each year.

Respectfully submitted,
 Bill Felio, Chairperson
 Conference Board of Global Ministries, Advance Specials Division

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**Commission on Archives and History (COAH)**

The speaker for the 2014 Memorial Service was the Reverend Jackie Slaughter who shared a message of the joy of Resurrection, "Resurrection Love Letters," comforting the families of those clergy and clergy spouses who have passed on to

the Church Triumphant. We are grateful to her and to all who participated in the service making it a truly special remembrance of those who have faithfully served.

A main responsibility and joy for this committee is to serve the Memorial Luncheon for the families of the deceased clergy and spouses. Raleigh Wilkerson and his staff of Blue Moon Catering in Camden, Alabama catered the Memorial Luncheon. We served 129 people. The families enjoyed good food and good fellowship.

The Local Church Heritage Award for 2014 was presented to the Frisco City UMC whose pastor was the Rev. Elaine Hagenbuch. The church sustained a fire but persevered, gathering materials and memories to celebrate 100 years of serving their community. Their oldest member was present along with their pastor to receive the award. Every church has the opportunity to be recognized for this honor, so please consider nominating your church. Plan a special Heritage Sunday, take pictures, tell your stories and submit these for the award. We can all appreciate our heritage as United Methodists.

Our Conference archivist, Sharon Tucker, and her assistant, Mary Ann Pickard, along with student workers continue to receive and file records for our churches. They are available to assist any church with historical records. They are located at Huntingdon College in the library.

We encourage each church to have a church historian who will keep in touch with our Archives Center. Plan to visit Huntingdon College and speak with Sharon—she will be happy to serve and guide you.

Rev. Ed Shirley is now the Conference Historian. Our history is not only our story but also God's story at work in us and through each of our churches. May God be glorified as we preserve and share these stories.

Respectfully submitted,
Reverend Pamela Avery, Chair
Commission on Archives and History

Archivist's Report

The Commission On Archives And History is the agency responsible for management of the Methodist Archives Center. It is the responsibility of the archivist and those working at the Methodist Archives Center to assist them with their meetings, the Memorial Service held at each Alabama-West Florida Conference (AWFC) Annual Session, and the Memorial Luncheon which is given for the immediate family members of those deceased clergy and spouses who were remembered at the Memorial Service. It is also the archivist's responsibility to gather information and write the Memoirs printed in each yearly Journal of the AWFC.

Located in the Houghton Memorial Library on the campus of Huntingdon College

in Montgomery, Alabama, the Methodist Archives Center is a joint function of the college and the conference. In 2014 there were 196 people assisted by the MAC. The type of assists were as follows: 56.46% were general public with Methodist related concerns; 17.69% were AWFC employees; 9.52% were general public with Huntingdon College related concerns; 5.44% were Huntingdon College faculty and staff; 4.76% were Huntingdon College library faculty/staff related concerns; 4.08% were Huntingdon College students; and 2.04% were concerns related to Huntingdon College alumni.

2014 List of Alabama West Florida Conference Accessions

- MC735 – Book, Four Connor Generations In South Carolina
- MC736 – Material collected for Pastor Reference Files
- MC737 – Audio Visuals collected during 2014
- MC738 – Artifacts collected during 2014
- MC740 – AWFC Lay Speaking
- MC741 – Marianna/Panama City United Methodist Women
- MC742 – AWFC UMW
- MC743 – Bibliographic
- MC744 – Board Of Missions
- MC745 – Records of Discontinued Churches
- MC746 – Updated History of the Union United Methodist Church
- MC747 – Pensacola District Records
- MC748 – Local Church Heritage Award
- MC749 – Andalusia District Records
- MC750 – Committee On Native American Ministries
- MC751 – Dothan District Miscellany
- MC752 – Youth Ministries
- MC753 – Board of Pastoral Care
- MC754 – Agencies of the Southeastern Jurisdiction
- MC755 – Christian Social Concerns
- MC756 – Deceased Clergy 2013-2014
- MC757 – Missions/Global Concerns
- MC758 – Peach Tree United Methodist Church
- MC759 – Kynesville United Methodist Church (discontinued)
- MC760 – Marianna-Panama City District Records

2014 List of Huntingdon College Accessions

- HC272 – Audio Visuals 2014
- HC274 – Artifacts
- HC275 – Huntingdon College Photographs
- HC277 – Kathryn Tucker Windham Personal Papers
- HC278 – Senior Capstones
- HC279 – Yearbook-Alumni Association
- HC280 – Newspaper Clippings
- HC281 – Civil Rights Movement @ Huntingdon College
- HC282 – Library Manuals

- HC283 – Records of Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries
- HC284 – Personal Papers of Dr. Frank Thornber Thompson
- HC285 – Senior Capstones

Submitted by,
Sharon Tucker, Archivist
Alabama-West Florida Conference

Historical Society President's Report

The Alabama-West Florida Historical Society is a voluntary membership organization whose mission is to promote Methodist history within the Conference. It is affiliated with the Commission on Archives and History. Anyone who is interested in studying and preserving the heritage of this Conference and local churches are welcomed and encouraged join and participate. If interested in learning about the activities and histories or other areas of the country and our Methodist churches, membership in the national organization is open to all interested parties. Part of that membership is receipt of newsletters and our Annual meetings that help to study and record the history of specific churches and areas.

A request was made of members at the last Annual Meeting for suggestions and invitations to study the history of specific churches. The Executive Board met and chose DeFuniak Springs, Florida, due to the strong tie both the town and the church had with the development of training programs for youth and children leaders of the Methodist church in New York. Greg Reynolds, member from that church, extended the invitation.

Thanks to the help of the youth and church members at DeFuniak Springs United Methodist Church, we were able to learn more about the beginnings of educational programs within the Methodist Church in the 19th Century and how that morphed into the founding of DeFuniak Springs, Florida, and the Methodist Church on the Circle around the lake. The name of this educational organization was carried over from its beginnings around Lake Chautauqua, New York, to Florida where the weather was more agreeable. We learned that the Florida Educational Association sprung from these meetings and a college was built in the town. A railroad track across the Pan Handle had been laid and multiple trains came through, daily, bringing people to attend these meetings. The meetings were housed in tents, initially, and a large hotel. Three surveyors for the railroad had discovered the beauty of the area around the lake and bought land around it to sell to northerners desiring to have winter homes and attend the Chautauqua meetings. Land was provided for the Methodist to build a church and parsonage. Other churches, also, located on the Circle with the Baptist locating two blocks off from the lake. From its small and umbel beginnings, the Florida Chautauqua expanded to include various cultural programs. A depot was expanded and by the end of the Century and the beginning of the twentieth there was a sizeable town built among the palm trees and in warmer surroundings. A large Chautauqua Assembly building housed

the meetings that could accommodate up to 4,000 people. It was large enough to support having the Methodist Annual Conference one year. Sadly, after World War I attendance dropped off and the Assembly programs faded in the early 1920's. They were revived in 1996, but the Assembly Building was unsafe to use and much renovation had to be completed before it was usable again. There are currently 17 Chautauqua Assemblies across the United States. Programs today include history, health, art, and current events plus entertainment from performers that come from across the country. The Assemblies originally lasted up to nine weeks, but those today are four days in length. The Chautauqua Assembly in DeFuniak Springs started on February 10, 1885, and after being disbanded for almost 70 years, it remains today for the general public to enjoy and learn from events and exhibits. A theme is chosen each year and Transportation - From River Travel to Space Travel was the theme for 2015. They hold these meetings every January.

A short business meeting was held during the meeting on January 24, 2015, after a great barbeque lunch provided by the Youth Program of the church. The Youth prepared the meal, served attendees, and entertained with guitar music and songs. They worked to raise money to help pay for a mission trip in the Spring. During the business meeting Dr. Bob Couch was remembered as having been a faithful member of the Historical Society and served on the Executive Board several times. He was elected secretary prior to his passing. Mary Ann Pickard, Financial Secretary, made a motion that we seek volunteers to serve on the Executive Board, then grant them the ability to elect officers for the coming year at the first meeting of the Board. This motion was passed and five members so volunteered to serve. Evaluation Forms were provided and returned to help plan for future meetings.

During Annual Conference, the Historical Society assists the Commission on Archives and History to organize, decorate for the luncheon, and generally guide and serve those the families and spouses of those ministers of the Conference who have passed on since last they met.

Respectfully submitted,
Myrtice Carr, President

Committee on Episcopacy

The Conference Episcopacy Committee continued its collaboration with the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Episcopacy Committee to establish more uniform standards and mechanisms for supporting and assessing the work of our bishops across the jurisdiction. Toward that end SEJ defined eight categories of duties for area Episcopal leadership and a survey instrument for use by the conference committees. The Alabam-West Florida (AWF) Conference Committee on Episcopacy complied with the SEJ recommendations in that all eight categories of duties were discussed with our bishop and the survey instrument was utilized.

These SEJ recommendations are intended to be support systems to the conference committees in their work with their individual bishop. Our Committee benefited

from a long established, healthy working relationship with our bishop. The benefits of working with a bishop who is conscientious are not to be underestimated. The first survey conducted by the committee revealed our process was in need of some improvements including greater availability to all committee members and a mechanism to assure confidentiality in responding. Both of those issues were addressed and with the assistance of AWF Conference office staff an account was established with an online survey service, Survey Monkey, which enabled member responses to be confidential. These debugging processes will serve the committee well as it moves into the last year of this quadrennial and the need for our SEJ Committee on Episcopacy representatives to clearly articulate the accomplishments of the past quadrennial and our leadership needs for the next quadrennial.

Submitted by,
Paulette Thompson, Chair
Conference Committee on Episcopacy

CONFERENCE AGENCY REPORTS

Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly

The mission of Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly is to be the center of Christian hospitality and learning designed to help people affirm and expand their faith in God and service as Christian disciples. In 2014, Blue Lake saw almost 9,000 people use our camp and retreat facility for a total of 27,500 user days. That is a lot of people to come thru the gate at Blue Lake.

I have the great privilege to follow the retirement of Phyllis Murray as the new Executive Director at Blue Lake. My wife, Elaine and I are excited to be in the Alabama/ West Florida area and are blessed to be able to lead the ministry of Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly. My experience as the director of Blue Mountain United Methodist camp in Missouri for 11 years has given me many of the tools I need to run a ministry like Blue Lake. I am blessed to have a staff that love Blue Lake and give their heart and soul to the ministry. I would also like to thank Phyllis for the work she did over the last 5+ years to help make Blue Lake what it is today. We are grateful for all the parents who trust us to help in the spiritual formation of their children. We are also grateful to the many organizations, families, churches and individuals who support Blue Lake with their gifts and attendance. With the help of my Program Director, Eric Hindmon we continue to offer new and exciting programs to reach all the members of the AWF Conference. Besides our summer camp program we also have Family Camp, Marriage Enrichment Retreat, Winter Retreat, our Inner City Camps, Visually Impaired Adults Camp, NOMADS and many other Blue Lake sponsored events along with all the church retreats that we are able to partner with. It excites me to see the love and commitment to Blue Lake.

In His Service,
Steve Lewandowski
Executive Director

Rev. Jim Carpenter
Board President

Methodist Homes Corporation

The Administration on Aging predicts that by the year 2030, almost 72 million people will be over the age of 65 in the United States, up from 40 million in 2010. It is estimated that one-half of those persons will need care in a nursing home at some point. The elders of the next generation are unlikely, however, to be content with the current nursing home system. Methodist Homes is taking steps to transform the current system, and specifically the culture of care for the aging in Alabama, creating communities and nursing homes that provide a true sense of home to our elders. You can be proud of this journey we are on, and here's why.

By and large, today's nursing homes are full of great people who care deeply about what they do, and provide excellent care. But our country developed and passed down to us a system of warehouses for the old and frail – nursing homes – where caring staff are reduced to performing assembly-line work. Although certainly not intended, good people are trapped in a deeply flawed system.

Most of us already know the current system of nursing homes in this country is broken, and that is why we fear it so. Upon admission, elders are stripped at once of privacy and home - much of what we value as human beings is gone in an instant. It is no wonder that many elders slip from a state of well-being, because they become completely disconnected from their humanity - by loss of familiar places, personal possessions and the complete loss of hopes and dreams.

Methodist Homes embraces and advocates a new culture of nursing home transformation that has emerged in recent years. In the words of a pioneer of this effort, we are “replacing the institutional culture and its environmental trappings with surroundings that foster warm, personal relationships; where small groups of elders, supported by self-led teams of employees, determine how to live and build community.” It's about creating “home instead of institution, valuing person over system, and operating by self-determination and shared decision making rather than subordination.”

This transformation is a process, and will require building remodeling and renovation, as well as reallocation of resources and transformation of staff processes, task assignments, and authority. It is said that only about 3% of the nation's 16,000 nursing homes have begun this process. It will not happen overnight, but Methodist Homes is committed to the change, the plans of which are already well underway at Wesley Manor in Dothan.

Together with Wesley Manor, the Epworth House (Selma), Wesley Scott Place (Pensacola), Wesley Gardens (Montgomery), Mathison Retirement Community (Panama City), and Wesley Haven Villa (Pensacola) proudly provide housing, care and comfort to more than 500 elders in the Conference. Of this number, there were 25 individuals who needed financial assistance from the Fountain of Love Fund in 2014, totaling \$265,200. We deeply appreciate that you help us maintain and grow the Fountain of Love Fund by including the Fountain of Love in your missions

giving or by holding a special offering one Sunday each year. By doing this, you can ensure that Methodist Homes elders get the care they need regardless of their financial circumstances.

Thank you for supporting the Methodist Homes in the Conference, as well as the Fountain of Love. I look forward to sharing with you an exciting future in elder care.

Christopher Tomlin
President and CEO

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2018

Mrs. Martha John Allison – Montgomery
Dr. Jerry Dooling – Dothan
Rev. Robert G. Ellisor – Pensacola
Dr. Henry Roberts – Pensacola
Dr. W. Herb Sadler – Gulf Breeze
Ms. Terrye Takacs – Gulf Breeze

The Ark

The Ark has continued our transformation in 2014, and we are eagerly awaiting all the great things God has in store for us in 2015! Executive Director Misty Hicks did a wonderful job of leading the team at The Ark. We had a great year full of changes—not only to our facilities, but also to programming!

Through the partnership with countless people in our community and beyond, we were able to make huge strides in the crucial renovations to our property. Many groups from all over the US have donated materials, and several groups travelled to help with the labor.

In April, Woodlawn UMC sponsored a month-long renovation of the property called Life-Server. Over 300 volunteers worked on projects to improve each of our facilities. Because of their generosity and skilled labor, we were able to complete over \$100,000 worth of work at practically no cost to us! The external improvements attracted the community and led to additional volunteer opportunities.

Our transitional living program continues to grow and improve. On average, we have 18 residents working toward reaching their educational, vocational, and personal goals. We have great successes this year including employment opportunities, special skills training, and even a marriage! Our residents are working hard to improve their situation through God's help and the generosity of our community.

We housed approximately 60 international students that participated the Summer

Work Travel Program in 2014. Emily Austin has come from University of Florida to complete an internship at The Ark, and she is helping make preparations for students to return this spring. These students are particularly vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking, so our facilities provide a safe and affordable environment. We are in the middle of a fundraising campaign to renovate our dorms with upgraded bunks and storage. Once these renovations are complete, we will be able to house approximately 200 students across the spring and summer seasons.

In November, we completed renovations on our coffee shop. The Pour is a craft coffee shop, which offers a wide variety of handcrafted drinks and treats. The Pour has already been a great way for us to reach the community, and is poised to raise a lot of awareness in 2015. We have opportunities to facilitate fundraisers, host events, and advocate for change. People are excited about the new work we are doing, and we have already begun receiving support from the neighborhood.

In January 2015, Katie Winton assumed the position of Executive Director, and Evelyn Willis became Director of Transitional Housing. We are excited about the changes for the coming year, and anticipate the great things God has in store for this ministry.

Please note our updated contact information below and connect with us to stay up to date with all our activities.

The Ark

www.thearkpcb.org

850-234-9345

General Information: info@thearkpcb.org

Executive Director: director@thearkpcb.org

Social Media: [@thearkpcb](https://www.instagram.com/thearkpcb)

The Pour

www.thepourpcb.com

850-234-3084

General Information: thepourpcb@gmail.com

Social Media: [@thepourpcb](https://www.instagram.com/thepourpcb)

Thank you for your continued support.

Katie Winton
Executive Director

United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH) will enter its 125th year of operation in 2015. I believe we will look back on the year 2014 and note that it was a major turning point in the direction of UMCH. In this brief report I will highlight

the vital statistics of our work in 2014 , as well as summarize the programmatic highlights and changes.

- In 2014, UMCH served 65 youth through 8 Group Homes in Alabama and Northwest Florida. UMCH also served 55 children through its therapeutic foster care program in Alabama. In addition, UMCH served 58 children through its Florida Foster Care program.
- With regard to non-residential services, UMCH served 176 families through its Family Preservation Program in Dothan and Andalusia, which represented 674 individuals. This program has a 90 plus % success rate in preventing family dissolution due to child neglect. UMCH also served 20 families through its adoption services program, representing 44 individuals.
- Of the 982 individuals served through our programs, 12 of these were young men and women in our new higher education scholarship program. This past fall, UMCH enrolled 7 young men at the University of Alabama and 5 young women at the University of North Alabama. Our young men are housed at our Tuscaloosa group home and our young women are residents of our Florence group home. 100% of the cost of their higher education is being paid for by the generosity of our United Methodist Churches and their members.
- As of June 2014 UMCH transitioned the Crestview Group Home into the Crestview Teen Center to offer services to foster parents and youth. Through the various programs, UMCH served 11 with mentoring services, and 36 within the other classes offered. By utilizing various mentoring and support programs and classes, our goal is to help youth and families reach their personal, educational, and spiritual goals.
- In July of 2014 The United Methodist Children's Home Volunteer and Mission Team set out to serve the hungry and homeless community in New York City. In partnership with Youth Services Opportunities Projects, 15 UMCH youth and staff members participated in various service projects across the city. Not only did this trip play an intricate role in expanding our youth's world views, but it taught them how to be the hands and feet of Jesus by caring for those less fortunate.
- UMCH is engaged in ongoing dialogue with several children's agencies about how to expand the scope of our work to children and families in metro-Birmingham. Previous planned renovations to the Overton Road group home have been put on hold while these planning discussions take place. We anticipate investing heavily in services for children, youth, and families in metro-Birmingham in the near future, but want to do so in a way that has maximum impact with the resources our churches and private donors have entrusted to us.
- UMCH began the pre-planning phase of strategic planning in September of 2014. The pre-planning phase began with a staff and board study of Jim Collins's book, "Good to Great" in order to create a unified framework for planning in 2015. This

phase outlined 5 key areas of focus in the coming year of planning: 1. Ministries and Services 2. Facilities 3. Funding/Finances 4. Marketing/Branding 5. First Who Then What: Recruiting, Training and Retaining the Right People. In addition, a UMCH clergy advisory board was created to keep clergy in both conferences informed about UMCH's ministry and to receive sustained feedback and counsel regarding the ministry's strategic direction.

The United Methodist Children's Home is a **ministry** of the Alabama/West Florida and North Alabama Conferences of the United Methodist Church to the hurting and forgotten children of Alabama and Northwest Florida. With God's help and the support of our United Methodist churches, we are developing new and creative ways to fulfill the greatest and most ageless mission an organization could hope to have: *"To follow the example of Christ by embracing all God's children.....one child, one family at a time."*

God bless you, churches and believers of this great annual conference, for seeing the great needs of our children and responding so faithfully!



K. Blake Horne, Ph.D.
President/CEO
The United Methodist Children's Home



Alabama-West Florida
Annual Conference 2015 | The Great Commission

nurturing
disciples

United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union

Throughout the years, your Board of Directors has adopted strategies for short and long-term goals that insure the Credit Union's future development and growth. During 2014, we continued to implement those endeavors necessary to maintain growth along with a strong financial picture.

Our achievements include:

- Four \$1,000.00 college scholarships were awarded to members ages 17 – 35 of the Florida, North Georgia, South Georgia and Alabama-West Florida Conferences.
- We continue to fulfill our mission of “Supporting Those Who Support the Light of Christ” through our low-cost/no-cost financial services for our churches.
- We implemented “SPRIG by CO-OP” – a smartphone, tablet and web app that allows members to make deposits, check balances, transfer money between accounts, pay loans and make person-to-person payments from virtually anywhere using the camera on their mobile device(s).
- We continued to have several very successful car loan promotions that helped members reduce their monthly payments on their current loans at other financial institutions and obtain great rates on new vehicle purchases.

In 2015, we are introducing upgrades to our Protection Plus Checking that provide members with greater value and increased security and expanding our VISA Credit Card Program to include the ability for almost all members to obtain a credit card. Lastly, look for our new theme for 2015, “Helping People Afford Life” as a part of all of our communication efforts with you. And, make sure you let other eligible family members and friends know the value of credit union membership too!

Of course, all of this could not have been achieved without our staff, my fellow board members, and other volunteers that helped make 2014 another great year for your Credit union. Most importantly, however, I want to thank you, our members, for continuing to do business with your credit union.

We're Safe. We're Secure. We Are Your Credit Union!

James R. Mitchell
Chairman

United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union's Supervisory Committee

United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union's Supervisory Committee independently evaluates the soundness of the credit union's operations and activities. This committee is responsible for a series of internal and external audits that are performed to insure that the Credit Union complies with generally accepted accounting principles. This committee also makes certain that United Methodist

Connectional FCU's audited financial statements provide a fair and accurate representation of the financial condition of the credit union and is compliant with state and federal regulations.

As a result of the audits held and in conjunction with the annual examination of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), it is the opinion of the Supervisory Committee that the financial condition of United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union continues to remain strong and well managed, with sound policies and programs. The Credit Union is also compliant with the Credit Union's by-laws, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida state laws relating to credit unions, and applicable federal laws and regulations.

The Supervisory Committee would like to commend the staff, management and volunteers of the Credit Union for their efforts in maintaining the soundness and safety of the credit union.

Kelly Brisendine, Chairman

Committee Members:

Clarence Thrower, Maryanne McCurdy, Charles Houston

Treasurer's Report

United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union ended 2014 with a strong financial bottom line and continued controlled growth as can be seen with the accompanying balance sheet and income statement.

2014 Highlights:

- Assets increased slightly from \$26,818,029.55 as of December 31, 2013 to \$27,066,634.11 as of December 31, 2014.
- Loans to members increased slightly from \$17,060,854.66 at year-end 2013 to \$17,099,138.92 at year-end 2014.
- Income on investments increased from \$52,239.10 in 2013 to \$59,469.64 as of year-end 2014.
- Operating expenses decreased from \$1,183,034.14 in 2013 to \$1,167,980.08 in 2014.
- Net income at year-end was \$45,116.63.

We have continued to remain strong and steady through the years and remain a safe haven for all of your financial needs. Our goal is to continue building our net worth in order to maintain the NCUA required ratios and maintain our financial stability. 2015 will find us continuing on the course so as to ensure the financial soundness and success of your credit union for all of our members today and into the future.

Michael McQueen, Treasurer

United Methodist Development Foundation, Inc.

The Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation is your resource for endowment, investment and trustee services within the Alabama-West Florida Conference. All of our financial and advisory services are positioned around the mission of guiding and strengthening the local churches and agencies to better fund the vital ministries they offer within their communities and beyond. Information on our services can be found on our website at www.alwfumf.org.

The Foundation's services of trust accounting and investment management have continued to attract new church and donor partnerships. In 2014, eleven new accounts and excellent investment returns grew our assets under management from \$74.08 million in 2013 to \$78.56 million at the end of 2014. This growth then in turn increases the cash flow of income going back into local ministry opportunities and beyond. Just a few examples of the uses of these funds have been: to provide scholarships to seminary students, to establish a long-term endowment fund of support for the future, to provide for building maintenance, and to supplement travel and other expenses related to mission projects. The investment opportunities within the Foundation are unique and specific to United Methodist goals and values, unlike most retail funds. As a non-profit organization of the Church, we have been able to keep costs low and recommendations objective.

In setting up a framework for planned gifts to be made to the Church, the Foundation's "Endowment Fund Program" provides the documentation and guidelines for planned giving. This service for local churches is creating a climate of financial planning and generosity among our members. As a result, the Foundation is partnering with a company offering extensive estate planning for church members. Philanthrocorp, a Christian based organization, provides step by step guidance in estate planning solutions unique to each family. The church partnering with Philanthrocorp can be confident that their members are receiving care and competent technical guidance. Please call the Foundation office at (334)793-6820 for more information.

To better serve our partners, we have added software upgrades that will allow flexible spending policies and on-line access to account statements. Our client services will continue to be the focus in our growth and expansion. Education and communication will be enhanced with the addition of a new staff position in early 2015.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, we say thank you for the opportunity to serve you. The Board of Directors unanimously endorses and recommends the following board and officers.

Lany Simmons, President
Terri Turner, Executive Director

Officers:

President: Lany Simmons

Vice-President: Aubrey Stabler

Treasurer: Herbert Barr

Executive Director: Terri Turner

CLASS 2015

Herbert Barr, Harold Faulkner, Lany Simmons, Jon Heath, George Mingledorff, Jeff Outlaw, Eric Canada, Earl Jackson, Bill Hill, Beebe Frederick

CLASS 2016

Chris Beam, John Bullard, Jr., Lauren Lynn, Harry Nelson, Mike Norris, Jeff Sessions, Talana Wilkins, Mark Davidson

CLASS 2017

Tommy Boyd, Ross Cotter, Gene Floore, James Hall, Aubrey Stabler, Mike Tucker, Jerry Maygarden, Henry Hooks, Dennis Adams, Olen Kirby, Mac McCorquedale, Jennie Hoppenjan, Stephen Burch, Russ Dunman

Ex-Officio Members:

Resident Bishop, District Superintendents and Conference Lay Leader

United Methodist Development Fund

The United Methodist Development Fund for our Conference provides sources of financing for church and church organizations' building projects, renovation projects and property purchases. Loans are made possible by deposits from local churches, agencies and church members looking for both competitive rates on liquid funds and the opportunity to participate in church building and growth.

Any church or individual can invest in the United Methodist Development Fund accounts. Applications are available through the United Methodist Foundation office or on our web page, www.alwfumf.org. Interest earned on the deposits may be mailed to you as frequently as quarterly or reinvested into the same.

Loans through the Development Fund are only offered on a first mortgage basis or by assigning assets already held through the United Methodist Foundation. The Development Fund does not charge points or closing costs for establishing a loan; however there are certain normal filing requirements. The Development Fund staff works diligently to respond promptly to the needs of the church and works as a consultant to determine the financial impact on the church of the debt amount. For information on **rates and availability of funds** please call Terri Turner at (334) 793-6820.

We are saddened by the loss of long-time board member Leon Hilyer of Troy, who had served as our Board President since 1996. We appreciate the hard work of our Board of Directors and their commitment to providing the services vital to church growth in our Conference. We endorse and recommend the following board and officers.

Henry Hooks, President

Terri H. Turner, Executive Director

President: Henry Hooks

Executive Director: Terri H. Turner

Board of Directors: Henry Hooks, Steve McCarroll, Clay Carnathan

Conference Treasurer: Frank S. Dunnewind

Conference Missions Secretary: Susan Hunt

Conference Lay Leader: Dr. Steve Furr

Resident Bishop: Bishop Paul L. Leeland

U.M. Foundation President: Lany Simmons

Cabinet Representative: Rev. Sara Shaver

CONFERENCE MISSIONS and MINSTRIES

Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM)

The highlight of our year has been the renovation progress with Tuskegee Methodist Church into a community outreach center we call “The Hub”. Check this out! Imagine a space that buzzes with daily ministry and outreach in an area hungry to experience Christ’s love. Imagine families and individuals having resources to repair their homes and discover several housing options. Envision several children safely engaged in the afternoons doing homework, getting tutoring, and beaming with creative expression. See a community garden, green and growing, giving access to healthy food while building relationships. Visualize people with brokenness receiving support with areas in mental health and meeting for Christian counseling and renewal. Imagine upstart, local entrepreneurs launching their dream business and collaborating through shared office equipment and space. Consider their savings on initial overhead costs while also providing rent income to the HUB. The possibilities are endless! Plus, this space will serve as the summer bunkhouse for ARM’s youth camps. These camps host several hundred youth each summer who swarm our community with hearts, hammers, and hands ready to extend Christ’s love to families and children through home repair and Christian Day Camp Ministry. See our face book page and the Tuskegee Album for pictures of the progress. More about that below...

Here are a few other **updates**:

Cycle of Service, our bicycle ride across the state last May raised over \$33,000 for home repair and hosted a total of 10 riders. Part of the fundraising success was due to a large gift from Auburn UMC to help us renovate homes in Tuskegee. Several Methodist Churches between Livingston and Georgia helped out! Livingston UMC, UWA Wesley Foundation, Memorial UMC (Selma), and Tuskegee Methodist to name a few. This ride is slotted for April 24-26, 2015 and will cover 300 miles in 3 days touching 3 states.

Our Summer ministry: We hosted over 400 volunteers between our two camps in Livingston and Tuskegee. This represented 19 youth groups from across the Southeast. Together we laughed, cried, worshipped, and reached out in graceful, Christ-centered love to 19 families through home repair assistance. Sonshine Kids Day Camp continued its ministry with children and both day camps served

approximately 35 kids each. Since each camp is held in a local school, our groups also engaged in community development by painting classrooms and beautifying the spaces.

Fall ministry: Make A Difference Day and our Saturday Serve Days continued to help us complete and open new homes. Our volunteers, who we like to term our “friends”, came from college groups and local churches in the Auburn area. We are grateful to churches like Auburn UMC, Auburn Wesley Foundation, Beulah UMC, Cornerstone Church, Grace UMC, FUMC Opelika, Trinity UMC, and of course Tuskegee Methodist who continue to participate in these service days. And don’t forget “The Shack” where director, Lisa Pierce, accompanied by board members, local pastors, and others lived in shacks to raise funds and awareness about poverty housing. Our efforts generated over \$64,000!

Winter Ministry: Our MLK worship service and that National Day of Service is always a highlight in the winter months. Rev. Robert Spicer from Zion Methodist Fellowship was our worship pastor and delivered the sermon, “Transformed Nonconformists” written by Dr. King. His choir joined with three other choirs helping us all have an incredible night of worship with the Tuskegee Community. The day of serving had approximately 85 “friends” who split into several groups doing home repair, renovation at the Tuskegee Methodist, or a children’s Bible camp. Spring Break groups will start arriving in March and help us move one step closer to completing homes for 3 families. We have also had six other Saturday work days this winter!

This year, we also were blessed to have a young adult missionary through Global Ministries. Rebecca (Becky) Dean came to us in March 2014 and will be with us through July 2015. She spent the first part of her missionary service in Ecuador. Becky has been an incredible blessing bringing lots of energy, compassion, and a never quit attitude. Through her work, she has helped families apply for USDA renovation grants which has given each family access to \$7500 worth of renovation funds. Additionally, she has trained volunteers from Grace UMC and Livingston UMC on how to put these packets together expanding our capability and giving families an extra loving touch. We are very grateful for Becky and her wonderful service!

Behind each family, each child at day camp, and volunteer is a story. The narrative of Jesus’ redemptive love and power over our brokenness and pain continues to weave its way through all we do. Our prayer is that every person is touched by Jesus and that is why we always speak in terms of extending Jesus’ love. We hope you will join us in that lifestyle!

How can you plug in?

1) We can come to you! Our ministry team can come and do workshops that help you connect to low-income, broken, and the “unseen” people in your community. We can also preach a sermon lead a youth or college retreat, or help with your mission event, so just give us a shout.

- 2) We can help you understand the political structures in Alabama that perpetuate poverty-keep your eyes on the Alabama Housing Trust fund and the bill to better regulate pay day lenders.
- 3) Of course, bring a group either in the summer or for a weekend retreat to do home repair. We'll help you plan it out and cover the details.
- 4) Finally, you can help us renovate Tuskegee Church. We have to raise another \$125,000 to get this space suitable to housing our teams, hosting other ministries, and providing incubator space for new businesses. \$60,000 of that is needed before May of this year. Stay tuned for how you, your small group, or church can play a major role!

We thank all of those who have come to Tuskegee and Livingston to serve with us. We are grateful for all of our partner churches, groups, and individuals who give and also challenge and encourage us! Our vision is to eliminate poverty housing in rural Alabama and you all are instrumental in making that happen. See you all at Annual Conference. Come get filled at the snack bar and of course get your new coffee mug! Blessings to you all in your ministries!

Grace and peace,
Lisa Pierce

Dumas Wesley Community Center

Introduction

The Dumas Wesley Community Center (DWCC) is a neighborhood based non-profit organization located in the Crichton community of Mobile, Alabama. DWCC was founded in **1903**, by the Woman's Society of Christian Service (present day United Methodist Women). The agency's original mission was to serve poor women and children who worked in the cotton mills of the Crichton community.

Over the years DWCC evolved to meet the changing needs of the community, becoming a multi-service center offering after school programs, senior services, neighborhood outreach, transportation services and transitional housing for homeless families.

The majority of households served by the Center are headed by single mothers with an average household income of less than **\$12,000** per year. Of those served directly by DWCC, **69%** are low-income and approximately **95%** are minority.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Dumas Wesley Community Center of Mobile, Alabama is to EDUCATE, EMPOWER and ENRICH our local community through collaborative programs of Christian service that: Provide for immediate human needs, Strengthen family life, Develop leadership and encourage personal responsibility.

Neighborhood Outreach

The intent of our Neighborhood Outreach and Advocacy program is to implement

and foster trust and belief in the residents of Crichton, thus serving as a catalyst for the advocacy and betterment of the community. Our major goals are:

- Rehabilitation of family life through education and services that enhance awareness of the needs of self, other family members and neighbors.
- Improve the lives of disadvantaged and underserved area youth, families and senior citizens by ensuring adequate nutrition, healthcare, preventative education, and referrals to area social service agencies and resources.
- A renewal of community interest in the neighborhood as a place of pride, resulting in increased personal self-esteem and security in the home environment.

Youth Programs

The After School Achievement Program (ASAP) provides a safe environment for community youth to participate in age-appropriate activities. Specific programs include:

- Sports - Teens participate in church and city basketball leagues each year.
- “Safe Haven” Daily Recreation - This program gives our community youth a safe place to go after school. We offer two game rooms, outside play and basketball.
- Summer Recreation and Camp – Our summer recreation program offers sports, arts and crafts, a variety of field trips, and a week-long camping experience at Camp Blue Lake.
- Tutoring – Provides weekly tutoring assistance for program participants of all ages.
- Computer lab- Provides weekly supervised access to our computer lab for homework studies, college prep work and games.
- Music Lessons: Provides weekly piano and choir classes for youth.
- Youth Empowered Wednesdays – Led by the Junior League of Mobile, this program offers weekly workshops, speakers, arts and crafts and sports activities led by local volunteers.

Sybil H. Smith Family Village Transitional Housing Program

The Sybil H. Smith Family Village transitional housing program began serving homeless women and their children in July, 1999. To date, the Center has served over 431 women and children from seven Alabama counties, the Mississippi coast area and the Florida panhandle. This unique program provides homeless families with the tools to establish and maintain self-sufficiency. It combines transitional housing of up to 24 months with on-site support services as well as referrals to other community agencies and institutions. 85% of our clients successfully complete the program, become gainfully employed and remain in permanent housing. This percentage is well above the national average (60%) for similar transitional housing programs.

Each resident participating in DWCC’s Transitional Housing Program:

- will be provided the opportunity to learn the life skills necessary to be

come independent and obtain permanent housing for him/herself and her minor children within two years;

- will complete an on-site Life Skills/Employment Readiness Curriculum;
- will be assessed and referred as quickly as possible to all mainstream community resources in accordance with the mandate of Congress that all homeless individuals have access to such resources as expeditiously as possible;
- will be required to be working and/or attending school and/or in a job training program at least 25 hours per week, within three months of entry into the transitional program;
- will be provided with on-site group counseling and substance abuse after care group counseling
- will be required to save at least 30% of his/her income while in transitional living in order to have necessary financial resources to transition into and remain in permanent housing;
- will set specific personal goals regarding her employment, education, health, finances, personal development, and the needs of his/her children, and will meet those goals in a timely manner. A case manager will monitor the setting and attainment of those goals on a weekly basis;
- will learn to become an advocate for herself and her children; and,
- will become an active community participant by becoming a registered voter, joining and participating in local community and neighborhood advocacy groups, and volunteering in his/her church, community and local service agencies.

Senior SAIL Program

The Dumas Wesley Senior Activities for Independent Living (SAIL) Program provides seniors age 60 and over with a hot congregate meal, daily activities and dependable transportation to medical appointments. Available to senior residents living in Crichton and Toulminville.

Transportation: The purpose of the program is to provide seniors with transportation to doctors, hospitals and other health facilities. There is no set fee, but donations are accepted. 81 percent of those served live alone and are dependent upon Dumas Wesley for this much needed service. Transportation is also provided to Dumas Wesley's S.A.I.L. program daily.

Senior Activities for Independent Living (S.A.I.L.): Provides daily activities Monday through Friday for an average of 60 seniors daily. A hot, nutritious meal is served to 25 seniors at the center, and in addition, meals are transported to 35 homebound seniors. Participants enjoy a variety of activities, including games, sing-alongs, nutrition education, speakers, health checks and field trips. Trips to the grocery store are provided one day per week. Information referrals are made on health and wellness issues, Medicare, Social Security, Fair Housing and other social services.

Other Programs

The Joseph Project: A Community Food Pantry

The Joseph Project, named for the Joseph story in Genesis 41, is a partnership between the Ashland Place United Methodist Church and the Dumas Wesley Community Center. Serving an average of 100 individuals each week, the food pantry is open for all in need and completely volunteer-supported and operated.

The Clothing Closet

Dumas Wesley Community Center offers a clothing closet for those in need. Serving an average of 30 individuals each week, the closet is a community-wide program that is completely volunteer-supported and operated.

Monitoring of Home Day Care Feeding Program

Dumas Wesley staffs the monitoring of the feeding program in 64 home daycares in Mobile and Washington Counties. This program plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for local low-income families. Homes must be licensed and approved in order to qualify for meal reimbursements. Dumas Wesley monitors each provider through quarterly on-site visits, in-home trainings and annual workshops.

Wellness Center

In collaboration with the University of South Alabama's College of Nursing, a Wellness Center is now located at Dumas Wesley. Classes, health assessments and referrals to medical services are offered free of charge every Thursday to the families and individuals served by Dumas Wesley.

Assistance to Refugee and Immigrant Populations

Attorney Perry Noble has brought pro bono legal services to Dumas Wesley, serving immigrant and refugee families and individuals. Assistance is provided on by appointment only.

How can you participate in the ministry of Dumas Wesley Community Center?

For over 112 years we have been proudly serving our community. We have a well-established reputation for quality service among our multi-generational client base. We serve hundreds of needy families every year. That is really special to us - our programs meet the whole family's needs. We want to continue to meet these needs for generations to come, but without your support our programs wouldn't be possible! We ask for your continued prayers, monetary support and sharing of your talents and skills through volunteerism. Thank you and God bless!

Yours in Service,
Kate Carver, Executive Director
Dumas Wesley Community Center

Golden Cross

Golden Cross is a special fund of the United Methodist Church. It exists in order to:

- Respond to the most pressing health care needs.
- Allow the local church to give with compassion.
- Adhere to the guidelines set forth by the conference.

The Golden Cross represents Christ's healing presence in a hurting world. As United Methodists, we are active in and support the ministries of Christian care by reaching out to those in need. The Golden Cross offering is retained within the conference where it is received. The conference designates the use of the offering. The contributions you give to the Alabama-West Florida Conference provide the opportunity to make available financial aid for medical delinquent expense charges from a hospital, physician or pharmacy. **Golden Cross receives no funds from apportioned items; the only source of income is from the people of the local church within our Conference. Please send your offering to the AWF Conference Treasurer.**

The First Sunday in May is Golden Cross Sunday. Local churches are encouraged to give on this day – or any day of their choosing – so that the most urgent requests can be fulfilled.

Guidelines used to assist those in need:

- Assistance shall be available for United Methodists of the conference. Payment toward financial assistance shall be made directly to the hospital, physicians, or pharmacy.
- The Director of Golden Cross will provide each applicant with a form that must be filled out in advance of receiving assistance. It is also available on the website of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.
- A copy of the balance with past due, unpaid balances must be provided with the completed application form.
- This information is to be returned to the Director of Golden Cross.
- Assistance will be granted to a person only upon the recommendation of a pastor or District Superintendent who is in a position to know of the need or circumstances. Assistance will be granted for a pastor only on the recommendation of the District Superintendent.

A copy of the past due bills and the completed application form is to be sent to the Golden Cross Director, Julie Terrell, 4570 Sailboat Lane, Pensacola, FL 32514. The amount of assistance granted to any person shall be limited to a total of \$1,200.00 for any combination of hospital, physician, or pharmacy bills. There have been no requests made to the Golden Cross fund for the past year. Local church pastors are encouraged to contact the Golden Cross Director to assist members of their congregations who may need assistance from the Golden Cross fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Terrell

Mary Ellen's Hearth (Nellie Burge)

The Nellie Burge Community Center was formed in 1904 by a group of women from Court Street Methodist Church to serve the needs of underserved women with children. Since that time there have been many programs offered by the Nellie Burge Community Center but it has always served the needs of women with children.

On August 1, 2012 the Nellie Burge Community Center opened Mary Ellen's Hearth, a transitional home for homeless mothers and their children. The primary goal is to foster independence and help the residents to gain the life skills necessary to prevent future chronic homelessness, and do this in a loving Christian setting. The women and their children may live at the center for up to two years as long as they are working on independence. While living at the center they are trained in financial literacy, parenting, life skills, nutrition and adult education. They will find a job and save money so they can live self-sufficiently. Since Mary Ellen's Hearth has been opened, one family has graduated. This mother bought her own house when she left. We have several mothers that have paid off large amounts of debt including over \$10,000 and some that are no longer on any government assistance.

The new program is named after Mary Ellen Bullard. She lived to serve and held every lay position imaginable within the United Methodist Church from Director of Christian Education at the local level to Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council. One of her greatest passions in Montgomery was the Nellie Burge Community Center. The Board of Directors at the Nellie Burge Community Center is proud to honor her legacy by naming our new ministry Mary Ellen's Hearth.

Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge provides hope, help and healing to homeless women and children throughout the River Region. We offer hope by providing life skills training. We offer help by providing transitional housing. We offer healing through Christian love and support. The goal of Mary Ellen's Hearth is for the families we serve to leave us within two years...their dignity and self-respect restored...prepared for a life of independence.

Please visit us on Facebook and at www.maryellenhearth.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Dobbins
Executive Director

NELLIE BURGE COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amelia Barnes, President
Rev. John Blount, Vice President
Theresa Patterson, Secretary
George Mingleorff, Treasurer
Kym Klass

Paul Klein
Scott Key
John Bullard, Jr.
Genie Lindsey
Bonnie Trulove
Guy Davis
Brenda Dennis

Ex Officio

UMC ALWF Conference Representative: Susan Hunt

Immediate Past President: Kim Bullard

Milk and Honey Outreach Ministries

Milk and Honey Outreach Ministries was established in 1992 as a children's Bible study program within a low income, inner city housing project. It soon became apparent that many of the children were having difficulty with reading and faced many other challenges that were not being addressed by the services that were being provided. By 1996, the program was incorporated as a community-based non-profit organization (501C3) and children received after school care, tutoring, mentoring, and nutrition, in addition to Christian education.

This ministry is an expression of God's love in the world and serves to bring God's healing, hope, and help to people in need. Milk and Honey has partnered with and been supported by a number of churches including Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, and the Protestant Navy Chapel as well as a number of community and governmental organizations including the City of Pensacola, United Way of Escambia County, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Community Drug and Alcohol Commission, and the Community Action Program.

By providing services within the neighborhood, by consistent, trusted African American role models and dedicated volunteers, the program has become a valuable part of the lives of needy children. Our current programs include:

After-school program: This program provides services to 35 children 4 times per week, 2-4 hours per day from August to May. Services include academic tutoring, counseling, computer training and a weekly Bible study. Volunteers help with basic reading and math skills as well homework assignments. Nutritious snacks donated by the community are also provided during Bible study. Because of the closure of the neighborhood school in our target area, we have changed the hours of operation of our after-school programs to accommodate an extra hour bus ride experienced by many of our students. Even though the children in our after-school program live in the same neighborhood within walking distance of each other, they currently attend six different elementary schools. Our efforts have been to provide consistent nurturing, support and encouragement to our students and families during these challenging times as well as academic assistance.

Summer Camp Program: The summer camp program operates from June to August, Monday- Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to provide safe, fun, enriching activities in a Christ-centered atmosphere. Many of the children we serve are from low-income single-parent families and providing supervised activities during off-school hours is very important. Children are most at risk to be involved in delinquent activities during the after-school hours and school breaks. Our Summer Camp is an opportunity to make a positive difference in their lives. Weekly, an average of 35 students, ages 6-14, participate in this program that includes a daily meal provided by the Florida Impact. In June 2014, every student enrolled was impacted by the Lexia Reading Core 5 Reading and Comprehension Program. Lexia provides explicit systematic personalized learning on foundational reading skills for students of all abilities and delivers referenced performance data and analysis without interrupting the flow of instruction to administer a test. This research proven, technology based approach accelerates reading skills development, predicts students' progress, and provides data driven actions to further help each student. We also provide computer classes. Also, a large part of the program involves off-site activities and providing safe, reliable transportation is the limiting factor in the number of children served by this program. Activities include swimming, skating, bowling, weekly trips to local library, and field trips to places of local interest such as the University of West Florida Nature Trail, Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola Historical Village, Pelicans Baseball games, and other places of local interest. We also provide ongoing Christian education and partner with local churches to provide Vacation Bible School.

Spring Break: This program was initiated in 2003 in partnership with the Pensacola First United Methodist Church's Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty Task Force. Most of the children served by Milk and Honey Outreach Ministries receive free lunch at school during the academic year and through the Summer Camp (Florida Impact) during the summer vacation. There was a need to provide a nutritious lunch during the week-long Spring Break. Similar to the Summer Camp Program, this is also an opportunity to provide a safe, nurturing place for children when they are out of school. Activities include a spiritual focus each day with scripture, music, crafts, and fellowship. In addition, we have character building workshops to deal with issues of anger management, conflict resolution, drug prevention, etc. and special arts, dance, and sports activities. An average of 35 children, ages 6-14, attend each day.

Girls Embracing a More Excellent Way (GEMS): This program is targeted to African American girls 10-17 years old who are from a single family home and/or from a high crime neighborhood. Milk and Honey recognizes that girls with the above background need a support system to ensure successful entry into adolescence. For many of our girls, there is a family history of teen pregnancy, lack of parental involvement, peer pressure for sexual activity, inadequate positive role models, inadequate communication between children and adults, and large quantities of idle time. A pilot program was conducted in 2000 and 2001, but the program was discontinued due to a lack of funds. The pilot program showed such a need for this program is overwhelming and it was reinstated in 2004. Since then

activities have included a series of Friday night workshops in which informal group sessions are held with the girls to discuss issues that they are facing each week. Through these sessions and one-on-one mentoring with positive role models from the Links, Incorporated. The members of The Links, Incorporated are influential decision makers and opinion leaders. The Links, Incorporated has attracted many distinguished women who are individual achievers and have made a difference in their communities and the world. They are business and civic leaders, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work towards a common vision by engaging like-minded organizations and individuals for partnership. (Our goal is to have 20 girls with 20 mentors by the end of the year). The girls will learn strategies for effective goal setting, support for a commitment to a lifestyle of sexual abstinence until marriage, appropriate methods for interacting with peers and adults, and how to identify their spiritual gifts. An annual conference is held in December to reinforce the mission of GEMS by helping the girls set high goals of self-awareness, embracing a new generation of standards, choosing a more healthy life path, and provides an opportunity for GEMS and other girls programming in the Pensacola and surrounding areas to meet each other and learn valuable information for their future.

Thanksgiving and Christmas: Activities include every family participating in any program offered to the Kid's Club. Program provides for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets with all the ingredients for a traditional holiday feast including turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberries, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, rolls, and dessert. Each meal is delivered to the household with serving utensils, aluminum pans, and table decorations. At Christmas (in partnership with other organizations and individuals) we provide new clothing for parents and other siblings (new undergarments, socks, and t-shirts for each child); new household items (given at the parents' request); dental hygiene items (toothbrushes and toothpaste); and toys (the latest electronics and traditional dolls and trucks). At this time, we also replenish school supplies such as paper, pens and pencils, glue, folders, and organizers for the kids.

Respectfully submitted,
Sonya Culliver
Executive Director

Mission u (formerly Cooperative School of Christian Mission)

Dothan First United Methodist Church was the site for the July 11-12, 2014 Mission u Event sponsored annually by United Methodist Women, Conference Board of Global Ministries and Conference Church and Society. Approximately 190 individuals participated.

Studies this year included The-Roma-of-Europe , led by Ruth Ann Powers; How is It With Your Soul, led by Rev. Wesley Wachob; and The Church and People With Disabilities , led by Debbie Bracewell and Harry Hodges.

A hands on component was implemented this year with Harry Hodges leading in correct way to construct ramps for homes with individuals requiring assistance. Several men and women took advantage of this half-day activity.

Individuals interested in learning about local, national and international issues are strongly encouraged to participate. We live in a global society and it is imperative that we seek to learn as much about issues impacting each of us as possible.

F. Lynn Hamric served as Dean and with the tremendous assistance of the aforementioned individuals as well as those attending made this one of the best Mission events ever.

We have decided to move the Mission u event around the conference in an effort to make it more accessible for some individuals who have limited travel ability. Margie Miller, Dean for the 2015—2016 event will lead us in these exciting mission studies: Spiritual growth: - Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God; Issue study: The Church and People with Disabilities; Geographic: Latin America: People and Faith. We will return to Dothan First United Methodist Church for the 2015 Mission u Event and hope to see each of you there.

Registration information will be available on the United Methodist Women's Web Page, the Conference Web Page and through the Alert.

F. Lynn Hamric, Dean
2013-2014

United Methodist Inner City Mission

The United Methodist Inner City Mission has several ministries to serve the needs of those living in the Oakdale-Maysville Community of Mobile, Alabama. According to the most recent Federal Census, 81.2% of the households in this area have low/moderate incomes which make it the poorest community in Mobile. The Mission provides a full scope of programs to minister to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the community. The staff of the Mission's Community Enrichment Program oversees a day program for senior citizens who are on limited income and often times are living by themselves with no personal means of transportation. Mondays thru Thursday they are transported to the Mission for group activities including devotions, singing, ceramics, and table games. They are also taken shopping and on Wednesdays they are taken to a local church where they worship and fellowship with other senior citizens. The Community Enrichment Program and its Oakdale Community Service Club partners with Raise the Roof through Dauphin Way UMC to identify homes that are in desperate need of new roofs, painting, or repairs. Within this past year, ten homes of Oakdale-Maysville residents have benefited from this ministry. Members of Raise the Roof have been able to use the relationships established through this program to build long term ministries with those who have been served. This past summer older youth who participate in the Mission's programs at Taylor Park participated on the Raise

the Roof work teams. They were able to give back to their community which has supported them through the programs at Taylor Park.

The Mission continues to staff and operate all of the programs at Taylor Park Community Center which is two blocks from the Mission. The Park is located next to Oaklawn Homes which is a 100 unit public housing facility. The Mission has a year around sports program of football, basketball, softball, and baseball for boys and girls ages four to fourteen. The teams are coached by volunteer parents and residents from the community. This past year we had the largest number of children participating in the history of the Park. Through sports the children are taught teamwork, discipline, and how to establish their priorities which are God, family, school, and sports. Volunteers play a vital role in our ministry at Taylor Park. Volunteers are tutoring our children in the After School Tutorial Program, teaching them to play percussion instruments and teaching Praise Dance Teams, arts and crafts, and participating with our children and youth on Sunday Afternoons in the Park. One group of youth painted one of our rooms and another youth group painted murals on the walls of three rooms used for tutoring at the Park. The Mission's Summer Tutorial and Enrichment Programs at Taylor Park continue to provide a safe haven for our children and youth while instilling in them the importance of staying in school and obtaining a good education. In the summer of 2014, 145 children participated in our summer programs. Six of our high school students who grew up through our programs at Taylor Park came back and volunteered for the eight weeks in the summer to assist with the younger children. The Mission took a total of 38 campers to Blue Lake for Camp Discovery. In addition to these 38, six of our high school volunteers went as "junior campers". They did an excellent job. The Mission continues to partner with the Bay Area Food Bank's Kids's Café to provide hot meals and snacks during the After School Tutorial Program and breakfast and lunch during the Summer Tutorial and Enrichment Program.

The Mission also partners with the Drug Education Council and the Junior Achievement Program to present their curriculum to the children and youth at the park. The Mission and Pro Kids, Inc. work together to provide counseling with a licensed clinical child psychologist to help children with behavioral problems that cause them to have difficulties at school and in the community. These services make a tremendous difference in the lives of the children receiving these services. Urban Campers from Government Street Presbyterian Church and some of the participants from Raise the Roof also assist with our summer programs.

The Mission's community garden at Taylor Park is now in its third year of planting and plays an important role in our programs. Bible lessons such as the sower and the seeds and other stories from the Bible are shared with the children. During the summer of 2014, two horticulture students from Auburn University were assigned through the Bay Area Food Bank to assist with our community garden. In addition, two residents from the community have volunteered to oversee the garden.

The Mission continues to provide emergency assistance to families in need of food and medicine, or who needed assistance with utilities and rent due to unforeseen emergencies in order to prevent them from being evicted. We also provide breakfast on Mondays through Thursdays for those in our community who struggle to put food on their table. This is also an opportunity to minister to their spiritual needs.

Through all of these ministries, our mission is to love and love unconditionally those we serve as Jesus loves us. We continue to show this love through our words, actions, and deeds so others can see Christ in us. It is a wonderful thing to witness how God transforms lives when his unconditional love is shared through us with those we serve.

The ministries of the United Methodist Inner City Mission would not be possible if it were not for the support of our brothers and sisters throughout the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Please know how much we appreciate and depend on your gifts and your prayers.

Grace, peace, and prayers,
Rev. Tonny H. Algood, Director

OTHER REPORTS



Africa University

**Changing Africa. Learning here. Living here. Leading here.
Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.**

Africa University notes and celebrates the Alabama-West Florida Conference's increased investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2014. Your support for this shared ministry of our denomination rose from 82.17% in 2013, to 84.10% in 2014. We thank all of the local congregations of the Alabama-West Florida Conference for remaining faithful and generous to Africa University. It is your generosity that keeps Africa University in the forefront of disciple-making, leadership formation, and positive change in Africa.

Student Enrollment: Full-time student enrollment at Africa University held steady in 2014 with 1,478 young men and women from 25 African countries. Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe accounted for the largest proportion of the students. Female students were a record 53.4% of the total enrollment in a context where women consistently lag behind men in access to higher education.

Graduation: In June 2014, 480 young people were awarded degrees from Africa University at the 20th graduation ceremony, bringing to total number of alumni to just under 5,300. Without your support, a college education would have been unattainable for the majority of these students.

Training and Research: Africa University remains a sought-after partner in addressing critical skills and capacity gaps in sub-Saharan Africa. Ongoing partnerships with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), and the World Intellectual Property Organization, (WIPO), support trailblazing academic programs in Public Sector Management and Intellectual Property. A collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden supports a new master's degree program in Human Rights, Peace, and Development. Africa University is currently seeking approval from Zimbabwe's National Council for Higher Education for its first PhD program, which links issues of Peace, Leadership, Governance, and Development, and targets policymakers.

Leadership and Service: Africa University graduates—trained in theology, environmental studies, psychology, education, health sciences, business, and peace, leadership and governance—are answering the call to serve, heal, and uplift communities. They are helping 'the least of these' to experience God's love and care through service as Global Mission Fellows and longer-term missionaries in Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Whether in government, private enterprise, community-based organizations or in the work of the church in the Africa Central Conferences, graduates of Africa University are trendsetters and key decision-makers. They are making a difference.

Strategic Priorities: Following a successful leadership transition in 2014, Africa University is now engaged in a vigorous review of its academic programs and service delivery. This effort is aimed at enhancing our students' potential for life-long success. Professor Munashe Furusa took the helm in July 2014 as the fourth vice chancellor in the university's 23-year history. He was formally installed in March 2015 and has put fiscal accountability, student quality of life, and support for academics, at the top of his agenda.

The steadfast support of local churches in the Alabama-West Florida Conference, and across The United Methodist Church, is vital to moving Africa University to the next level in its evolution. You, the members of the Alabama-West Florida Conference, have given life to a good work, but that work is not yet finished. For every individual who has been touched by the ministry that is Africa University, there are many others—tens of thousands, in fact—who are awaiting the miracle of an answered prayer.

Your 2014 shortfall in the asking to the AUF, \$8,579.36, is more than enough to support a student for a year at Africa University. Sadly, it represents a lost opportunity to equip a young man or woman for meaningful citizenship and service.

As you gather for the 2015 Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, we invite and urge you to set a goal of 100% support for the Africa University Fund and other shared ministries. Your gifts matter. Please remain steadfast in your efforts to invest 100% of your asking in the AUF. Thank you.

May God bless and keep you always in abundance.

Submitted by,

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

Hinton Center

Making Disciples, Serving Our Neighbors, and Sharing God's Love



Hinton Center is a retreat and conference center nestled in the mountains of southwestern North Carolina overlooking breath-taking Lake Chatuge. For over 50 years, Hinton Rural Life Center has provided opportunities for intentional faith development while sharing love for Christ with others through service. Each year, we host individuals and groups for spiritual retreats, group gathering, and service opportunities. We also partner with small and rural congregations in a vitality process, exploring congregational call, encouraging creative missional outreach, and sparking new life.

Together in 2014, we were able to:

- Host over 1400 volunteers who worked on campus, in our garden, and in our community to help those in need
- Deliver over 75 loads of firewood to families who could not otherwise afford to heat their home
- Repair 123 homes, making them warmer, drier, and safer
- Provide financial counseling to 50 families; helping two families secure loans to purchase homes
- Host 7 poverty simulations to help the community understand the challenges associated with those living in generational poverty
- Harvest fresh vegetables from our garden for our guests and donate excess vegetables to Clay County Food Pantry and Matt's Ministry, a weekend meal program for children in our rural community
- Lead 18 small and rural churches through Next Step Vitality Ministry
- Engage in 81 worship services with mission volunteers to reflect upon their service in this rural Appalachian community
- Increase Hinton's presence throughout the Southeastern Jurisdiction, with increased web presence moving from 6,000 website hits in 2010 to 60,909 website hits in 2014
- Increase connections through social media from 358 Facebook friends in 2012 to over 1200 in 2014
- Raise over \$100,000, which is two-thirds of our way to our initial goal of \$150,000 in our Capital Campaign

What can we do together in 2015?

- Foster Relationships
- Empower People
- Build Community

But, we need your help:

- Pray for Hinton
- Support Hinton Financially
- Participate in Hinton's Ministries

Submitted by,

Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb, President/CEO

Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.

On February 10, 2015 Lake Junaluska, the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, the United States, and the world lost a great leader. Rev. Dr. R. Wright Spears died at the age of 102. He served as a pastor to multiple churches in South Carolina and as the President of Columbia College for 26 years, a time during which he helped that institution navigate momentous social changes. Dr. Spears and his wife Mary Blue retired to Lake Junaluska in 1977 where he continued to promote social justice in all forms. Few organizations have in their history a person as influential as Dr. Spears. He had a vision for Lake Junaluska, and spent his years here quietly encouraging us all to more fully live into the Kingdom of God through our mission of Christian hospitality. Arguably the most influential person at Lake Junaluska in the last 50 years, in both formal leadership roles and quiet behind the scenes work, he understood the importance of balancing the budget while offering a great experience to our guests. He urged us to offer great programming, and at the age of 95 was instrumental in launching the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference. Dr. Spears understood that offering Christian hospitality goes beyond simply welcoming our paying customers. At our best, we are what he envisioned us to be: a place that welcomes all and provides transforming and renewing spiritual experiences and a place that pays attention to the bottom line and is operated more like a college than a church camp. We have a long way to go to be the perfect fulfillment of Wright's vision for Lake Junaluska, but we are further along that path today and more inspired to fulfill our mission "to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body" than ever thanks to his influence.

For the third year in a row, we ended the year "in the black." We continue to accomplish this without any Operational Apportionment support from the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and we remain committed to always "live within our means." 2014 was a record breaking year for charitable giving. We received \$1,079,994 from 1,257 individuals. This represents a 34.4% increase in total giving over 2013 and a 2.6% increase in number of donors.

We continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our facilities, grounds, and programs. Plans were approved in 2014 to begin an extensive renovation of The Terrace hotel, a project that will have a significant impact on the quality of the guest rooms and public spaces in that facility and will influence the level of service provided to all of our lodging guests. We completed all of

the projects planned in 2013 including converting the Jones Dining Hall into a year round facility, renovating the children's playground at the Wilson Children's Building, and numerous improvements to the lake front consisting of a new boat storage area along with a boat dock and fishing pier just to the north of the swimming pool and a beautiful meditation garden to the south. We are working diligently to refine and improve our existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with our mission.

As a member of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction we want you to know that "your" asset, Lake Junaluska, is doing very well. You can be very proud of this important organization within the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church. We are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which you have entrusted us and to carry on the legacy of Dr. Wright Spears.

If you haven't already, please pick up a copy of our 2015 program, *Discover Lake Junaluska*. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of our programs, to learn about new projects we are working on, and to familiarize yourself with our calendar of events. We do hope you can come and visit us this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

Submitted by,
Jack Ewing, Executive Director

Schools of Theology

Candler

For 100 years, **Candler School of Theology** at Emory University has prepared *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Here, students are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus. This unique approach ensures that our graduates are ready to serve wherever God leads.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. We are 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 the city of Atlanta offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century world. 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.

During the 2014–2015 academic year, Candler celebrated its Centennial, marking our 100th anniversary with a series of commemorative events highlighting memories of the past and visions for the future. The yearlong celebration began in the fall of 2014 with the dedication of the final phase of our new LEED-certified building and the premiere of *Religion and Reason Joined: Candler at 100*, a new book on our history. The commemoration continued through the spring of 2015 with guest lectures, exhibits, and “Prophetic Voices,” a major academic conference addressing the challenges and opportunities facing theology in the 21st century.

Not only has Candler expanded its physical space this year—we have expanded degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler introduced five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Religious Leadership, the Master of Religion and Public Life, and two dual degrees with social work and development practice.

Candler’s student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 447, with 320 seeking the Master of Divinity, 43 the Master of Theological Studies, 14 the Master of Religious Life, 20 the Master of Theology, 29 the Doctor of Ministry, 10 the Doctor of Theology, and 11 enrolled as Non-Degree students. The student body is 52 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and the median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 42 denominations, with nearly half identifying as United Methodist.

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 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
Candler School of Theology

Duke

The academic year 2014–2015 has been an exciting year as we continue to engage with the church, academy, and society on important ecclesial and cultural issues. The heart of our work remains the preparation of men and women for Christian ministry and leadership within the church. As part of that mission, our initiatives, centers, and programs continue to be a vital resource for us to extend the good news of God’s invitation into all spheres of a complex and hungry world. Far from being an ivory tower, Duke Divinity School is a place where faculty, students, and staff are eager to use the training for ministry in order to serve others and serve as a light to the world.

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA) recognizes that the arts shape the imagination of a community and provide the forms through which many people most directly and compellingly encounter the message of the gospel. On Palm Sunday, Duke Chapel hosted the American premiere of the new *St Luke Passion*, written by the eminent Scottish composer James MacMillan. The work was commissioned by Duke Divinity School in conjunction with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and the City of Birmingham (U.K.) Symphony Orchestra. During the process of composing the piece, MacMillan met several times with a group of theologians and biblical scholars from Duke Divinity School and the University of Cambridge to reflect on the shape and meaning of Luke's narrative. In addition to this stunning choral work, DITA has sponsored lectures by visiting scholars and hosted the first artist-in-residence, Malcolm Guite.

The newest of our initiatives, Theology, Medicine, and Culture, builds on the extraordinary faculty resources offered by four physicians who hold joint faculty appointments in the Medical School and the Divinity School at Duke. Working together with other members of the faculty who share an interest in healthcare and medical ethics, they are developing a range of programs that seek to clarify and strengthen Christian witness and action in the complex world of healthcare. One program, Walking Together, sponsors conferences that address care of the mentally ill in faith communities. Another, Reimagining Medicine, will gather health professionals at a summer conference to consider proposals for the ways in which local communities might draw on Christian perspectives to shape the delivery of medical care.

The Center for Reconciliation (CFR) celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, and this has been a time of transition for the center. Co-founder Chris Rice accepted a role with the Mennonite Central Committee in Korea, and he will retain his connection to Duke as senior fellow for Northeast Asia. In that role he will coordinate the emerging work of the Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia, which will be modeled on the successful development of the Great Lakes Initiative (GLI) in East Africa. Duke has helped to support the GLI for the past seven years, and this year full leadership transitioned to local African leaders. The Divinity School has received a major gift commitment to endow a faculty position that will also serve as director of the CFR, and a search has begun to fill that position. In the coming years we intend to strengthen our emphasis on issues of racial reconciliation in local contexts.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity (LEADD) draws inspiration both from the Christian theological tradition and from the best recent studies and practices of leadership and entrepreneurship. In partnership with the Lake Institute, this year LEADD offered an executive certificate in religious fundraising. LEADD also offers a program for denominational and institutional leaders, Foundations in Christian Leadership. *Faith & Leadership*, the online magazine published by LEADD, continues to reach over 300,000 readers and provide a resource for theological reflection and "traditioned innovation" for all in ministry.

Their continued excellent work was recognized again this year with awards from the Associated Church Press “Best of the Christian Press” contest.

The Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition has been a source of internationally acclaimed research and support for Methodist and Wesleyan studies since 1979. This center offers courses for both Course of Study and Divinity students, provides access to outstanding research resources for students and scholars of the broad Wesleyan tradition, and supports the production of critical editions of the texts of John and Charles Wesley in print and online formats. The center also sponsors the Summer Wesley Seminar, led by professors Randy Maddox and Richard Heitzenrater, which invites application from scholars to spend an intensive residency at the Divinity School to facilitate their study of Wesleyan heritage.

In addition to our major initiatives, Duke Divinity School has a number of other programs that extend the good news of God’s salvation to disparate parts of our society. Our program in prison ministry sends divinity students into prisons in order to take classes alongside people who are incarcerated. The certificate in prison studies provides students with the opportunity to engage specifically with people in prison and the system that imprisons them in the context of theological education and formation for ministry. Thriving Rural Communities, a partnership between Duke Divinity School, The Duke Endowment, and the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of The United Methodist Church, helps divinity students, pastors, laity, districts, and conferences cultivate and strengthen Christian leadership and United Methodist congregations in rural North Carolina. The Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation continues to offer high-school students an opportunity for intensive theological engagement and practice.

Several of our faculty were recognized this year for their scholarship and interdisciplinary expertise. Willie Jennings, associate professor of theology and black church studies, was given the prestigious 2015 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his book, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*. The Grawemeyer Award in Religion, an annual \$100,000 prize that honors and promotes insights into the study of religion, is given jointly by the University of Louisville and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Norman Wirzba, professor of theology and ecology, was named a Henry Luce III Fellow for 2014-15, and he also received a major Sabbatical grant for Researchers from the Louisville Institute. These awards are supporting his current work on two book projects: *From Nature to Creation: Christian Life in a Postnatural Age*, and *Creation, Creatureliness, and Creativity: An Essay on the Human Place in the World*. Jennie Grillo, assistant professor of Old Testament, received a 2014 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise and a W. F. Albright Institute of Archeological Research fellowship to conduct research in Israel. Maria Doerfler, assistant professor of the history of Christianity in late antiquity, was named a visiting research fellow at New York University’s Institute for the study of the Ancient World. Curtis Freeman, research professor of theology and director of the Baptist House of Studies, was appointed the chair the Baptist delegation in a

five-year international dialogue between the Baptist World Alliance and the World Methodist Council. Richard Payne, Esther Colliflower Professor of Medicine and Divinity, was named to the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee of the National Institutes of Health by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. This is a federal advisory committee that supports pain research and promotes collaboration across the government to improve understanding of pain and pain-related treatments.

We continue to welcome students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2014, our total enrollment was 656 students: 462 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 36 in the M.T.S.; 12 in the Th.M.; 45 in the Th.D.; 54 in the D.Min.; 24 in the M.A.C.P.; 15 in the M.A.C.S.; and 3 who are special students. Thirty-nine percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 46 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Fourteen percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopal, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 7 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the remaining 9 percent from other denominations or nondenominational churches.

In addition to the ongoing excellent academic and field education work done by students each year, several students had notable achievements. Two of the top three prizes in the Student Essays in Christian Wisdom competition sponsored by The Living Church magazine were claimed by Divinity School students: Kevin Rose M.Div.'16 won second place and John Zambenini M.Div.'15 won third place. Second-year M.Div. student Jacob Drake was selected to present a paper the Oxford University Byzantine Society international Graduate Conference held in Oxford, England. Michelle Wolfe M.Div.'14 was awarded a fellowship by FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics) to participate in a two-week program in New York, Germany, and Poland for an intensive study of contemporary ethics. Four divinity students, part of a research group in American religious history, were among the winners of grants for research projects using the Religion in North Carolina digital collection. Other students did exemplary work in organizing conferences for ministry to the sexually abused and issues in pastoral care for military veterans.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Richard B. Hays

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Greetings from Garrett-Evangelical!

Early in the calendar year, I met with various constituencies of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, including alums, faculty, staff, trustees, and students regarding their hopes and concerns for the school. As a result, we began the 2014-2015 academic year with the following priorities:

- To prepare and equip our graduates as public theologians,
- To nurture a more diverse community at Garrett-Evangelical so that the entire community develops cultural competency,
- To value and promote inclusivity at Garrett-Evangelical, and
- To construct a sustainable model for theological education.

Public Theology

This year we launched a Public Theology Lecture Series to help the Garrett-Evangelical community understand more about the intersection of theological perspectives and shared values held in the public arena as persons in ministry work with others toward the common good and the wellbeing of all persons and creation. The lecture series included:

- October 15, 2014: Rev. Janet Wolf, Director of Haley Farm and Nonviolent Organizing for the Children’s Defense Fund, lectured on various Children’s Defense Fund programs including restorative justice, mass incarceration, cradle to prison pipeline, and freedom schools.
- December 3, 2014: Dr. Mark Lewis Taylor, Maxwell M. Upton Professor of Theology and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary considered structures of the global orders and everyday living which public theologians may claim to engage and where “the powers and principalities” are always in contestation in “public” life.

In the fall, we will offer a course, “Public Theology in the City,” taught by Dr. David Frenchak, former president of Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE). The class will collaborate with the mayor’s office in Evanston on an anti-violence initiative. Dr. Frenchak will also provide a Public Theology lecture this spring.

Cultural Competency & Inclusivity

As part of the commitment to nurturing a more diverse community, we welcomed a new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Luis R. Rivera, our first Latino Academic Dean. Our current ethnic/racial profile is:

- 20% black; 6% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino; and 54% White; 14% International
- More than 33 religious traditions, four continents, 15 countries and 36 states are represented in the student body
- 232 students are United Methodist with 25 additional students from other Pan-Methodist denominations
- 94 new students began their studies at Garrett-Evangelical this fall, raising total fall enrollment to 365 (FTE of 305)
- The average age of the entering Master of Divinity student is 31

- 52% of the study body is women

Consistent attention to issues of inclusivity, justice, and grace within the seminary setting are critical for preparing future leaders to enter an increasingly diverse world. To respond to these concerns, Garrett-Evangelical will offer a number of Circle of Trust conversations this spring for trustees, faculty, staff, and students. Our goals are: 1) to provide safe space to discuss difficult topics, 2) to reduce any gap between stated values and actual behavior, both personally for participants and institutionally; and 3) to update our 1997 statements of inclusivity.

Sustainable Theological Education

Garrett-Evangelical is beginning work on a Sustainable Theological Education Model for the school. We are guided by a commitment to generational stewardship of our resources and to maintaining a thriving seminary for the future. We will attend to the areas of business, academics programs, and external programs.

Our priority continues to be making seminary education affordable. To this end we award more than \$2.5 million in scholarship aid to students each year and we lead all United Methodist seminaries in the Dollars for Scholars program with 45 recipients. In October, the seminary publicly launched The Final Lap of its \$100 million Forging Our Future campaign, and announced that \$88 million has been received to date. Much has already been accomplished, but more remains to be done (expanding the number of new leadership scholarships from 80 to 100, renovating Sherman apartments, endowing several more faculty positions, continuing to grow the unrestricted endowment), gifts for any of these goals are always welcome.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We are dedicated to serving The United Methodist Church and the church at large. For more information about Garrett-Evangelical and our work, I encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus.

Cordially,
Lallene J. Rector, President

About Us

Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:

- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by largely the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Iliff School of Theology

Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

The Iliff School of Theology's commitment to the Wesleyan tradition of providing intellectually alive and spiritually grounded theological education for our students continues. From Tanzania to Texas, Denver to Delhi, Missouri to Mexico, Iliff students and graduates are holding constructive tension with the human condition as it is and courageously standing with those who seek justice.

This past year saw one of Iliff's largest enrollments since its founding by the United Methodist Church in 1892 - 333 students, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist – all actively engaged in both the classroom and a host of ministry contexts. Some are leading congregations toward revitalization while others are doing ministry by establishing new forms of community.

Interest in online and hybrid classes continues to grow from across the nation in our Journey MDIV Program - one of the first to bring quality theological education online. As a concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities, many MDIV students are also participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

We welcomed participants to our first Spanish-Speaking Local Pastors Licensing School hosted in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Conference and participated in healing events for commemoration of the Sand Creek Massacre. In addition, Iliff students participated in an immersion trip to Africa University and are planning an additional experience this year. We look forward to continuing these vital relationships.

Iliff created numerous events for area clergy and supporters. Via forums on leadership, policing, the role of faith in world events, and more, campus speakers included: Amy Goodman, Garry Kasparov, and the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp, this year's Jameson Jones Preacher. Bridging theological education to new arenas was further cultivated through Iliff's Authentic Engagement™ Program with trainings for civic and non-profit groups. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary's Center for Faith and Service when we were named as one of the nation's "Seminaries That Change the World."

We continue to look to the future with courageous theological imagination. We are grateful for our denominational connection.

Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe
President and Chief Executive Officer
www.iliff.edu
1-877-887-7822

Perkins

Perkins School of Theology celebrates our vital connections with the Alabama West-Florida Annual Conference. We are proud to have two Alabama-West Florida students currently enrolled in our Doctor of Ministry program. We also are pleased to begin offering our Certification in Spiritual Direction Program in a neighboring conference in fall 2015. The North Alabama location will make it easier for interested students from the Alabama West-Florida Conference to pursue certification in spiritual direction without traveling to our Dallas campus.

Total enrollment at Perkins exceeds 400 students, of which approximately two-thirds are United Methodist and more than one-third are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 51% female and 49% male students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program comprises 30 active students, including two Latino Ph.D. students supported through a grant from the Luce Foundation to Perkins' Center for the Study of Latino/Christianity and Religions.

Dr. Jack Levison (Ph.D., Duke, 1985) joined the Perkins faculty as the third appointee to the W.J.A. Power Chair of Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament Interpretation. Dr. John Martin, new director of Development, came to Perkins after serving as president of Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, New York. Following a nationwide search, a senior scholar and teacher eligible for appointment to the Lois Craddock Perkins Chair in Homiletics is expected to join the Perkins faculty in fall 2015.

Perkins restructured its Master of Divinity degree, effective spring 2015, enabling full-time students to complete the program in three years and reducing overall cost of the degree. The M.Div. now requires 73 term hours of academic credit, including the nine-hour internship.

A new "Master of Arts in Ministry" (M.A.M.) degree has replaced the C.M.M. The M.A.M. offers five tracks: two previously-existing tracks in Christian Education and Urban Ministry, and new tracks in Theology and Social Justice, Christian Spirituality, and Evangelism and Mission.

A \$2.5 million gift to SMU will establish the new Susanna Wesley Centennial Chair in Practical Theology at Perkins.

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,
William B. Lawrence
Dean and Professor of American Church History

United Theological Seminary (UTS)

Is God calling you to the ministry of Jesus Christ? Come and check out amazing opportunities for study and spiritual growth in person or online at www.united.edu!

Why United?

- United offers an excellent, accredited M.Div. degree required for ordination in The United Methodist Church.
- United students participate in a community of deep faith and avid learning.
- Degree programs include traditional and/or online classes.
- United specializes in preparing persons for ordination and pastoral ministry.
- Join our graduates' long track record of successful service!
- United's focus on church renewal will prepare you to become an agent of new life and revitalization, Spirit led, a faithful leader in the mission of Jesus Christ!
- At United you can enroll in a hybrid UM Course of Study program.
- United's D.Min. program leads the nation through the faithful ministries of its pastoral graduates.
- United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

What could be more interesting, important or exciting?

In addition to expanding residential offerings in Dayton, Ohio, United continues to extend its service across the U.S. and the world. United's degree programs are accessible anywhere with Internet service in conjunction with periodic intensive weeks of class and community activities in Dayton.

Please let us know if you have questions about how United can best assist you. If you would like to help make it possible for a future pastor to study at United, please let us hear from you. We invite you to call or visit soon! For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu. Thank you for your prayers, partnership, service and support in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Submitted by,
Wendy J. Deichmann, President
www.united.edu

Wesley Heirs

Wesley Heirs is composed of Retired Pastors and Spouses of the annual conference. It is open to all pastors and spouses and is an opportunity for all to have fellowship, fun and inspiration.

Wesley Heirs meets at Blue Lake twice each year, namely, the second Tuesday and Wednesday of the months of March and October. We also have a luncheon meeting on the Monday of Annual Conference following the morning session. We publish two editions of the newsletter each year available by email and for those who do not use email by regular mail. We urge everyone to keep in touch with one another

and offer prayers of concern and fellowship with one another.

At each of our two meetings at Blue Lake, we have a Memorial Service to honor and remember pastors and spouses who have died since our last meeting. We light a candle as we remember each person and have a message of encouragement brought by one of our conference pastors. This year we were blessed by the Rev. Rural Ausley at the Fall meeting and Dr. Lawson Bryan at the Spring meeting. We enjoy a Communion service led by one of our group early each Wednesday morning. We enjoy free time, table games, special programs and good food and refreshments.

Our special project is to help financially with the Sunshine Camp and the Discovery Camp, both of which meet at Blue Lake. The reports from these outreach projects always warms our hearts.

We have a special place for each retiree and spouse and give you a warm welcome to join in this fellowship. If you have experienced the death of your mate, you will be welcomed in this caring fellowship.

Edwin R. Sells, President

JOURNAL/DIRECTORY ORDERS

The Annual Conference *Journal* is the official record of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference. It includes the Brochure of Reports.

The Annual Conference Clergy Directory contains contact information for all clergy and surviving spouses, conference and district offices, ministries related to the annual conference, as well as, the 2015 listing of appointments.

As we confirm more cost-effective methods to print/distribute our Conference *Journal* and Clergy Directory, we will provide an updated link with information and instructions for ordering as soon as it is available.

~Rev. Jackie Slaughter, *Journal Editor*

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The District Superintendents

THE EXTENDED CABINET

The Resident Bishop

The Director of Connectional Ministries

The District Superintendents

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Credit Union www.unitedmethodistcu.com

Dumas Wesley www.dumaswesley.org

Huntingdon College www.huntingdon.edu

Inner City Mission 251.432.1122

Lay Servant Ministries 334.872.1927

Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge www.nellieburge.org

Methodist Homes Corporation www.methodisthomes.org

Milk and Honey www.milkandhoneyoutreach.org

Pensacola UM Community Ministries pumcm.org

The Ark 850.234.6062

UMM www.awfumc.org/ministries/lay_leadership/umm

UMW www.awfumc.org/ministries/lay_leadership/umw

United Methodist Children's Home umch.net

United Methodist Foundation 334.793.6820

Correction To The Previous JOURNAL

Errors are inevitable in any publication. If they are not corrected, it is probable that they will be reprinted in subsequent editions of the Conference JOURNAL.

If you found an error in last year’s Conference JOURNAL, please make a note of it using the form below(*). Said error will be reviewed.

The error is on page(s): _____

IT READS:

IT SHOULD READ:

After noting the correction, please email or mail to:

Alabama-West Florida Conference
ATTN: JOURNAL EDITOR
4719 Woodmere Boulevard
Montgomery, AL 36106
awfcrc@awfumc.org

(If needed please use a separate sheet of paper*

2015 Annual Conference Tellers

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Baypines	Patricia Bruner	Barbara Davis
Demopolis	Alan Gantzhorn	Ken Hundley
Dothan	K. Andrew Gartman	Salli Rogers
Marianna/Panama City	Jack Hankins	Greg Yancey
Mobile	Ray Lane	Jeroy Carroll
Montgomery-Opelika	Ed Shirley	Tom Hollingshead
Montgomery-Prattville	Michael Lawler	Terri Sasser
Pensacola	David Hoppenjan	Louise O'Bannon

TEAM B	Clergy	Lay
Baypines	Kevin Krist	Beth Gordon
Demopolis	Nancy Watson	Billy Dozier
Dothan	Clint McBroom	Kay Wingate
Marianna/Panama City	Larry Teasley	Candace Keller
Mobile	Barry Len Hurston	Pat Woods
Montgomery-Opelika	Grant Parker	Sandra Arnold
Montgomery-Prattville	Joel Wasson	Walt Linch
Pensacola	Laura Weant	Candace McKim

ALTERNATE	Clergy	Lay
Baypines	Mark Lilly	Janet Twitty
Demopolis	David Murray	Jess Burns
Dothan	Jean Smith	Eddy Parker
Marianna/Panama City	David W. Cook	Howard Rinker
Mobile	Jenni Hendrix	Bob Ewbank
Montgomery-Opelika	Dunford Cole	Beth Hughes
Montgomery-Prattville	Steve Kopp	Lora Ward
Pensacola	Levi Gardner	Nancy Shealy

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Invitation to be In Covenant

The Alabama-West Florida Cabinet offers an invitation to the Annual Conference to be in prayer and reflection during this election year:

We who are laity and clergy affirm our calling within the Church and our Annual Conference.

We affirm our differences- race, gender, age, culture, theological perspective, geographical location, etc.- and yet we “are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

We affirm our similarities and differences are gifts to the Church and all are needed to offer the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world. (I Corinthians 12)

We affirm that we will embrace the many differences of our conference by respecting one another’s values and voices.

We covenant to pray for those who are elected to serve the larger church as we join in this, our prayerful work.

