

Pre-Conference Journal  
The 148<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
New Mexico Annual Conference  
of  
The United Methodist Church



Bishop Robert Schnase, Presiding  
Wednesday, June 14 – Friday, June 16, 2023  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

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**New Mexico Annual Conference 2023**  
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
*(Subject to Change)*

**Wednesday, June 14**

3:00	Opening Worship <i>Child care available for children 5 and under during worship</i>	St. Paul's UMC 225 W. Griggs
5:00	Party on the Plaza <i>Food trucks, splashpad and water games, live music!</i>	LC Downtown Plaza 100 N. Main St.
6:30	Ordination Rehearsal	St. Paul's UMC

**Thursday, June 15 – All activities at Las Cruces Convention Center unless otherwise noted**

7:00	Blueprint for Wellness Room Open	
7:00	Delegate Check-in <i>Child Care available at UUMC for children 11 and under – must be pre-registered</i>	
8:30	Clergy/Laity Sessions	
10:00	Opening Business	
11:00	Memorial Service	
11:30	Retiree Luncheon	
1:30	Business Session 2	
3:00	Break	
3:30	Business Session 3	
5:00	Dismiss	
5:30	Dinner on your own	
7:00	Service of Ordination and Commissioning <i>Child care available for children 5 and under during worship</i>	St. Paul's
9:00	Reception	St. Paul's

**Friday, June 16 – All activities at Las Cruces Convention Center**

7:00	Breakfast Meetings Extension Ministers Small Church Order of Deacons <i>Child Care available at UUMC for children 11 and under – must be pre-registered</i>	
8:00	Business Session 4	
10:00	Break	
10:30	Closing Worship/Fixing Appointments	
12:00	Adjourn	

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

*Rev. Dr. Eduardo (Eddie) Rivera, Provost*

As a former District Superintendent and now Provost of the NMAC, I have done my share of traveling across the boundaries of our conference and beyond. A very important component of traveling is knowing your destination, thus, when I travel, I make sure my GPS is working properly and I have the right address of my final destination. It would be foolish to start a trip without knowing your actual destination and the route needed to get to where you are going.

When God called Abraham, God said to him: “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1). What Abraham didn’t hear was the exact destination. Abraham’s response to God’s Call was surprising: he followed God’s instructions and started a journey without knowing his final destination.

In the weeks and months ahead, we, as the New Mexico Conference may feel like Abraham who did not know exactly where the land he could call home again was going to be. The disaffiliation of a number of our churches have created questions of future sustainability and questions on how we are going to continue in ministry as a conference. Some in our conference would like to know what is going to be our final destination. While those questions are important, I invite you to walk through this season with the same attitude Abraham started his journey into the unknown: an attitude of Faith.

From Hebrews 11:1 we learned that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (KJ21). As we began this journey together, we do this guided by hope and not by fears. We do so based on the evidence of God’s sustainability. Faith compels us to believe in what we cannot see, therefore, as we start this journey, not knowing where it will take us, know that God will walk alongside us each and every step of the way. just as God promised Abraham, that He would guide his steps to the right land, God will also guide us in this new journey and into the place where His will is fully accomplished.

# A QUICK GUIDE TO PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Parliamentary Procedure is a set of rules for conduct at meetings. Its purpose is to make it easier for people to work together effectively and to help groups accomplish their purposes. Parliamentary procedure provides for democratic rule, protection of rights and a fair hearing for everyone.

Although the ultimate decision on an issue rests with a majority, all members have such basic rights as the right to be heard and the right to oppose. The rights of all members-majority and minority-should be the concern of every member, for a person may be in a majority on one question, but in minority on the next.

Members get their say by making motions. A motion is a proposal that the assembly takes a stand or takes action on some issue. Members can present motions, second motions, debate motions and vote on motions. There are four general types of motions. They are:

- Main motions Main motions introduce subjects to the assembly for its consideration. They cannot be made when another motion is before the assembly. They yield to privileged, subsidiary and incidental motions.
- Subsidiary motions Subsidiary motions change or affect how the main motion is handled. They are voted on before the main motion.
- Privileged motions Privileged motions are most urgent. They concern special or important matters not related to pending business such as a motion to adjourn.
- Incidental motions Incidental motions are questions of procedure that arise out of other motions. They must be considered before the other motion.

To present a motion:

1. Obtain the floor
  - a. Wait until the last speaker is finished
  - b. Rise and address the chair
  - c. Give your name and church
2. Make your motion
  - a. Speak clearly and concisely
  - b. State your motion affirmatively (“I move that we...”, instead of “I move that we do not...”)
  - c. Avoid personalities and stay on the subject
3. Wait for a second
  - a. The chair will call for a second
  - b. If there is no second, your motion will not be considered
4. Chair restates your motion
  - a. The chair must say, “It is moved and seconded that we...”
  - b. After this happens, debate or voting can occur
  - c. Your motion is now “assembly property” and you can’t change it without consent of the members
5. Expand on your motion
  - a. The mover is allowed to speak first
  - b. Direct all comments to the chair
  - c. Keep to the time limit for speaking
  - d. You may speak again after all other speakers are finished.
6. Putting the question
  - a. The chair will ask “Are you ready for the question?”
  - b. If there is no more discussion, or if a motion to stop debate is adopted, a vote is taken

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AT A GLANCE

	To do this:	You say this:	may interrupt speaker	second required	debatable	amendable	vote needed	may be reconsidered
Main motion	Introduce new business	"I move that..."		x	x	x	majority	x
subsidiary motions	Temporarily suspend consideration of an issue	"I move to table the motion"		x			majority	
	Limit or extend the limits of debate	"I move that debate be limited (or extended) to ..."		x		x	majority	x
	Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..."		x	x	x	majority	x
	Give closer study of something	"I move to refer the matter to committee"		x	x	x	majority	x*
	Postpone debate to a specific time	"I move to postpone this matter until..."		x	x	x	majority	x
	End debate and amendments	"I move the previous question"		x			2/3	x
Privileged motion	Adjourn the meeting	"I move that we adjourn"		x			majority	
	Call an intermission	"I move that we recess for..."		x		x	majority	
	Complain about noise, heat, etc.	"I rise to a question of privilege"	x					
Incidental motions	Protest breach of rules or conduct	"I rise to a point of order"	x				chair rules	
	Suspend rules temporarily	"I move to suspend the rules so that..."		x			2/3	
	Vote on a ruling of the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision"	x	x	x		majority	x
	Request information	"Point of information"	x					
Others	Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move that we take from the table..."		x			majority	
	Reconsider previous action	"I move to reconsider the vote on..."		x	x**		majority	

\* unless committee has already taken up the subject

\*\* unless the motion to be reconsidered is not debatable

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT

*Rev. Craig Cockrell, District Superintendent*

1 The Spring of 2023 seems to be bringing many changes to the Albuquerque District, including new life  
2 and new Spirit at work. While a few congregations are still sorting out their futures, many are  
3 experiencing what I am choosing to identify as a return to community. I believe that a number of people  
4 are finally coming out of the isolation that the pandemic necessitated and they are looking for places to  
5 connect. Some of them were former church goers and some are people and families who have just felt  
6 alone too long. They walk into churches and get an immediate “read” on the welcome and joy that they  
7 sense. They are looking for places to feel part of something bigger but not necessarily looking for  
8 commitment right away. They don’t want to be a part of a place that feels conflicted, depleted, or  
9 desperate. They are looking for happy. That may sound trite, but with all of the tension in the world  
10 today people truly want a place that lifts them.

11  
12 The Albuquerque district is the most eclectic UMC district in most any direction. We have a variety of  
13 theological expressions as well as ministries. Yet, one of the defining characteristics of the district has  
14 been that our churches have been very “siloed”. By that I mean that we haven’t been very cooperative.  
15 We have each kept our heads down and have done the work we are called to do as individual  
16 congregations. I am seeing that change.

17  
18 Last year, I wrote in celebration of our learned ability to be in mission – remotely. I was proud that we  
19 managed to keep the connection amidst a pandemic. But this year, I have seen more and more  
20 coordinated attempts to be in mission together. Also, there have been more opportunities for churches  
21 to gather for study and worship with one another. Pastors are meeting and visioning working in ways  
22 that help one another grow their churches. Even as a few churches are leaving the denomination, those  
23 who choose to remain faithful are pulling together. Through all the change we have and will experience,  
24 the Albuquerque district remains strong. With time and renewed focus, we can be an example of what  
25 any district can become. This is very exciting to me.

26  
27 One of the changes this year is my retirement. I have so enjoyed the opportunity to visit from church to  
28 church, to meet with pastors and lay leadership, and to simply sit and worship with you. I will miss the  
29 sense of having no **ONE** church, but being welcomed into each and every church of the district. The next  
30 District Superintendent will have much more geography to cover as he or she supervises the northern  
31 parts of the Clovis district. I welcome those congregations into that supervision and I know that you will  
32 miss Ernie Vineyard as much as I will, but that your new DS will find her or his way into your hearts.  
33 Bless you all!

34

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### EL PASO DISTRICT

*Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, District Superintendent*

35 This year has proven to be challenging *and* rewarding as we share in ministry, clergy and laity, intent on  
36 being faithful to the call to make disciples of Jesus Christ and as we continue to focus on our district  
37 vision statement: “We believe that everyone in the geographic span of the El Paso District will find a  
38 place to BELONG, to BELIEVE, and to BE USEFUL”. We continue to live into this vision and extend  
39 outward to our communities and neighborhoods. I like how Rev. Kim Kinsey and Western Hills UMC in El  
40 Paso have added another “be” statement: BE LOVE. Let us endeavor to BE LOVE in all our mission field.



## Administrative Reports

1 Throughout this year, we have settled into a new reality of what it means to be a post-covid church. We  
2 have been creative, we have been willing to see church differently, we have been steadfast to serve our  
3 neighbors, and we have been faithful to continue the mission in hopes of being a part of transformation.  
4 Yet, we remain challenged by our current circumstances: worship averages are declining, and finances  
5 are stretched. I want you to know that this is a continuing challenge in all the churches I visit, and the  
6 pastors who so diligently serve. You are not alone. Last year I wrote: Through many challenges, the life  
7 of the church has indeed continued to share hospitality, to live-out generosity, to be compassionate to  
8 our neighbors' needs, faithful in prayer and study, passionate in worship, and diligent in facing a new  
9 future with courage and trust. My prayer for all of us is that we will continue to be filled with the  
10 knowledge of Christ, and that Christ Jesus will grant us complete and total trust in his protecting love  
11 and strengthening power. I am confident that the El Paso District will remain steadfast and full of trust  
12 and hope as we meet the continued changes, as well as the joys, of sharing in ministry.

13  
14 As I reflect on a personal goal for our district, to nurture the spiritual lives of clergy and laity, I am  
15 grateful for the assistance of our lay leader-in-training, Terry Allen, as we shared together in leading an  
16 Advent Study incorporating *visio divina* and *lectio divina* coupling classical pieces of art around the  
17 nativity and their scriptural context. It was a joy to share together with folks throughout the district via  
18 Zoom. On the Friday before Ash Wednesday, a spiritual retreat was offered in preparation for the  
19 season of Lent, *Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God: The Practice of Centering Prayer* by J. David  
20 Muyskens. Terry and I will continue to offer spiritual retreats and classes as we nurture our souls and  
21 spirits and grow in communion with God and Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit in and among us.

22  
23 It is with heavy heart that we must say farewell to four beloved churches of our district who have  
24 determined discontinuance/closure: First United Methodist Church of Van Horn, First United Methodist  
25 Church of Sanderson, El Alfarero United Methodist Church, and Anthony United Methodist Church.  
26 Additionally, we have three churches in the district who have completed their discernment process and  
27 have voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church: Pecos United Methodist Church, First  
28 United Methodist Church of Crane, TX, and Balmorhea United Methodist Church. These congregations  
29 have served faithfully, have taught us to live and love deeply as disciples of Christ, have provided  
30 meaningful and inspiring worship, and have been an example of what it means to be in full communion  
31 with God. We are grateful for their presence among us as we now bid them a heartfelt, "Well done,  
32 good and faithful servants of God" and as we ever-more remain sisters and brothers united through the  
33 love of Jesus Christ.

34  
35 It is with an exceedingly joyful heart that I thank our district lay leader, Kathy Jewell, for ALL that she has  
36 given us in these past six years of service. I am beyond grateful for her leadership of laity, her love of  
37 clergy and all churches, her faithful and unwavering service, and for her willingness to share of her many  
38 gifts, abilities, and strengths. Kathy, you have blessed us all in tremendous, inspiring, and lavish ways!  
39 You will always remain our "favorite"!!

40  
41 My husband, Doug, and I continue to hold you in our thoughts and prayers and extend our deepest  
42 gratitude for the honor of serving the El Paso District of the New Mexico Conference! Thank you for  
43 sharing with us as we continue the mission to which we are all called...to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
44 for the transformation of the world.

45  
46 Respectfully Submitted,  
47 Pamela Rowley

## Administrative Reports

### COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

*David Maldonado, Chair*

1 Our Conference rules state that “The Commission on Archives and History shall be the official custodian  
2 of the archives of the Conference...” We are charged with maintaining not just a collection of old  
3 records, but also the Ministry of Memory.

4  
5 There are four ways that we, and by extension the NM Conference as well, can fail in this task. We can  
6 Fail to Collect; Fail to Protect; Fail to Retrieve and/or Fail to Speak the Truth.

7  
8 Our Conference rules specify that:

9  
10 Administrative officers of the NMAC and each of the Boards, Commissions, Committees and other  
11 agencies shall see that Conference-related activities are adequately recorded and the records  
12 preserved and deposited with the Archivist, except for active files of each agency. Each agency  
13 shall designate a person to act as liaison with the Archivist. No archival materials shall be  
14 destroyed without the approval of the Archivist.

15  
16 In the past 20 years we note that most of the agencies and commissions have failed to designate anyone  
17 to act as a liaison with the Archivist, and that those records have not been turned over to the archives.  
18 That is a failure to collect, and we hope that these agencies and committees will do better in the future.

19  
20 Just for the record, our rules also say that “The Presiding Bishop, the Conference Director of Mission &  
21 Administration, or the Chair of the Commission on Archives and History may request any conference-  
22 related agency to deposit in the Archives such records as may relate to the history of the Annual  
23 Conference.” We are telling you right now to do that, and perhaps the Bishop will be willing to do so as  
24 well.

25  
26 Right now we are also concerned with the need to collect certain records from those churches that have  
27 disaffiliated from our Conference. Therefore, we offer the Conference a guide to the “Records to Be  
28 Acquired and Retained at the NM Conference Archives Following the Disaffiliation of Any Church within  
29 The NM Conference” which has been approved by the Commission on Archives and History, and we ask  
30 ask that it be adopted by the NM Conference as part of this report. With regard to those churches and  
31 pastors who have recently completed the disaffiliation process, as this report notes:

32  
33 ...though we may follow different paths in the future, we will continue to share a common history,  
34 and so we promise to continue to tell the story of the many individuals and churches who have  
35 shared that common history. Likewise the Historical Society plans to solicit and publish stories  
36 from our common past with no regard for whether or not either churches or individuals named  
37 within them have since remained within the UMC.

38  
39 We want to recognize and thank Bob Sawyer who has served as the Conference Historian for the past 20  
40 years, ever since 2003. We are forever grateful for his service on the Commission of Archives and History  
41 and for his amazing ability to find and add information to our understanding of the people and places  
42 that have made up our History.

43  
44 We also want to recognize and thank Will Steinsiek, who has served as the Archivist for the past 17  
45 years, and likewise has not only helped to collect and preserve our history, but has also shared it as well  
46 through 30 volumes of the Historical Journal that have been published by our NM Conference Historical

## Administrative Reports

1 Society. This past year Will Steinsiek stepped down from his role as an Archivist, in order to concentrate  
2 on researching and writing the Story of Methodism in the NM Conference. We eagerly look forward to  
3 seeing this in print and thereafter available to future researchers. In anticipation of this, and in  
4 recognition now of all that he has already done, the Commission voted to name him as the new  
5 Conference Historian, so that he may continue to be a part of the Commission on Archives and History  
6 and this Ministry of Memory as well. By the time of this report, it is hoped that there will also be a new  
7 Archivist hard at work in the Archives.

8  
9 As is our custom, the Commission also selected two new Living Archives at our meeting this past  
10 February. They are \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (To be named at Annual Conference.)

### 11 12 **Records to Be Acquired and Retained at the NM Conference Archives** 13 **Following the Disaffiliation of Any Church within The NM Conference**

14  
15 This statement recognizes and follows the **Guidelines for Retaining the Records of Closed United**  
16 **Methodist Churches 2017 Edition**. We offer this statement to help clarify the differences and exigent  
17 circumstances regarding those churches that are leaving the UMC, rather than ceasing to exist as a  
18 functional church.

19  
20 First, as noted in guidelines referenced above, the primary focus of those Guidelines for Retaining the  
21 Records of Closed United Methodist Churches assumed that such a church was to be permanently  
22 closed. Therefore, the assumption was that there would be no need for any legal records or indeed any  
23 records regarding the work of the trustees or financial records to remain in the custody of any successor  
24 organization. That however will clearly not be the case for churches that are choosing now to disaffiliate  
25 from the UMC.

26  
27 The Book of Discipline states that “all deeds, records, and other official legal papers including the  
28 contents of the cornerstone” shall be removed and placed within the Conference Archives. The  
29 intention of this was to preserve both the historical record and also any documents that might be  
30 needed by the Conference Trustees, *as well as* any documents regarding contractual obligations of the  
31 former church, since those would become the obligation of the Conference instead. As noted within the  
32 2017 document “A concise way to phrase this is the Archives needs to keep any records which would  
33 have a legal, ethical or financial impact on the Conference.” Again, in most cases this will not be the  
34 case. However, any outstanding lawsuits perhaps involving both the church and the Conference, for  
35 instance, might require the collection and retention of additional records having to do with this  
36 situation.

37  
38 In general, however, the 2017 document makes a clear distinction between the need to collect some  
39 records for “Short Term Retention” and others for “Permanent retention.” It is in this that we find a  
40 better guide for how to approach the task of acquiring and retaining the more important records of any  
41 church which has disaffiliated from the UMC. As noted within this section of the document,

42  
43 A smaller set of records is recommended for permanent retention. The following table summarizes  
44 those records. Certain local church records are foundational and need to be kept. The most obvious are  
45 those that reflect our religious tradition and ministry. These are:

46  
47 **Baptism records**  
48 **Membership records**  
49 **Marriage records**

## Administrative Reports

### 1       **Death records (usually in the form of cemetery burial records)**

2  
3       The above reflect the basic records of ministry and the purpose of the church. These need to be kept as  
4       a faithful remembrance on the part of the church. The fact that they also have use outside the life of the  
5       church (e.g. genealogy), may be significant, but are secondary.

6  
7       It is therefore our recommendation that this list form the basic list of records to be collected from any  
8       church which has disaffiliated within 2 months of the effective separation date.

9       In all cases the original membership books and records are preferred. Churches are therefore advised to  
10      copy those records for their own use. However, it is *the information within those records* which is truly  
11      necessary for the Conference archival records.

12  
13      We hope that all churches who are involved in the process of disaffiliation will ensure that anyone who  
14      wishes to transfer their membership to another church will be able to do so. Having these records in the  
15      archives will help ensure that we are also able to process such a request as well.

16  
17      These record books, and any other records collected, whether physical or digital, shall be permanently  
18      retained within the NM Conference Archives, and openly available for any researcher desiring access to  
19      them.

20  
21      The Commission on Archives & History hereby reaffirms that even though we may follow different paths  
22      in the future, we will continue to share a common history, and so we promise to continue to tell the  
23      story of the many individuals and churches who have shared that common history. Likewise, the  
24      Historical Society plans to solicit and publish stories from our common past with no regard for whether  
25      or not either churches or individuals named within them have since remained within the UMC.

26  
27      At this moment in history, we are reminded that we have been down this path before. Both the  
28      Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South were active in our Conference  
29      area and successful in bringing many to Christ during those formative years of our Conference prior to  
30      their union in 1939. History seems to confirm that, even though we may go our separate ways right now,  
31      the path ahead may ultimately bring us back together again.

---

## ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Rev. Dr. Kelly Jackson Brooks, Chair

32      Serving as the Endowment Committee Chair continues to be a joy as I find myself part of a team of  
33      people who are able to be catalysts for ministry within the NMAC!

34  
35      The Endowment Committee awards grants in the fall and spring every year, as funds allow. Keep your  
36      eyes open for announcements for grant requests in the NMAC Constant Contact and feel free to contact  
37      me anytime with questions or comments.

38  
39      Grace & Peace,

40      Rev. Dr. Kelly Jackson Brooks

41      Endowment Grant Committee Chair

42      [Kellyannettebrooks@gmail.com/505.550.9536](mailto:Kellyannettebrooks@gmail.com/505.550.9536)

## Administrative Reports

1 In 2022, the following programs were funded and celebrated:  
2

3 Morning Star UMC/Lighthouse Ministries and Interact Church; My Friend's Place; High Desert UMC  
4 Feeding Ministry; First UMC Melrose Food Bank; Wilson Middle School afterschool programming; First  
5 UMC Portales afterschool children's program; Casa Grace, LLC; Grace UMC Jeans & Jammin'; Pathways  
6 Academy; First Deming Children & Elderly Program; St. Paul's ABQ Fresh Connection Programming;  
7 Peralta UMC Recovery Ministry; ENMU Wesley Foundation Student Feeding Program; Justice For Our  
8 Neighbor Immigration Program; LifeHouse Recovery Ministry; A Peaceful Habitation; Chrysalis  
9 Consulting Center; Saint John's Garden Project; Casa Grace, LLC Refugee and Hospitality Programming;  
10 UNM Wesley Foundation; St. Mark's UMC Messy Church; Mountainside UMC Messy Church; and Asbury  
11 UMC Evening Point!  
12

### 13 **New Mexico Annual Conference Endowment Distribution Committee** 14 **Bishop's Award, Vitality Award, Pippin Award, Thaxton Award, and Senior Ministry Award** 15 **General Grant Guidelines** 16

17 **Purpose:** To encourage innovation, vigor, devotion, and effectiveness in making disciples for Jesus Christ  
18 for the transformation of the world.  
19

20 **Eligibility:** Organizations whose purpose is consistent with the stated purpose of the funds and whose  
21 work is formed by or have been originated as a part of the New Mexico Annual Conference.

- 22 • **Bishop's Award:** Funds are awarded for ministries within or by **local churches only** and are to be  
23 used for **new** programming that focuses on *"Making Disciples for Jesus Christ."*
- 24 • **Vitality Award:** Funds are awarded to ministries/missions that encourage development of vitality  
25 in vision in support of important ministries that would not otherwise be funded.
- 26 • **Pippin Award:** Funds are to be used in service to underserved constituencies, marginalized  
27 communities, or individuals and populations in crisis or with pressing human needs. Priority will  
28 be given to ministries/missions that address the root causes of poverty, injustice, and human  
29 need.
- 30 • **Thaxton Award:** Funds are to be used for the basic human needs of children and elderly persons  
31 living in the State of New Mexico. Funds are to be utilized to materially improve the lives, living  
32 conditions, and well-being of the elderly poor and/or impoverished children. Funds may be used  
33 for housing, food, clothing, and health care programs, with long-term solution programs given  
34 priority over programs only providing temporary solutions.
- 35 • **Senior Ministry Award:** Funds are awarded to missions/ministries to provide educational,  
36 recreational, and spiritual programming for older adults (55+).  
37

38 **Application:** Applicants are required to complete the application form and note clearly the specific Award  
39 to which you are applying (Bishops, Vitality, Pippin, Thaxton, Senior Ministry). All applications and  
40 supporting documentation are to be emailed in PDF format to Rev. Dr. Kelly Jackson Brooks, Endowment  
41 Committee Chair at [Kellyannettebrooks@gmail.com](mailto:Kellyannettebrooks@gmail.com).  
42

#### 43 **Additional Information:**

- 44 • The length of each award is for one year. A ministry/mission may apply for additional funds up to  
45 three years, with an exception given for a fourth year at the discretion of the Endowment  
46 Committee. Please note, the entirety of the organization/church is subject to the 3-year limit  
47 regardless of multi-programming within the organization/church.
- 48 • Each application must include a specific detailed budget for the project being proposed. The  
49 detailed budget should (1) include a breakdown of costs associated with the amount requested,

## Administrative Reports

- 1 (2) indicate how estimated costs were calculated, and (3) provide a justification or rationale for  
 2 the proposed costs. If the project is receiving funds from other sources, please also provide an  
 3 overall budget and a listing of other funding sources.
- 4 • Grantee Reports are required no later than one year after receipt of funds – A Grantee Report  
 5 from the prior year is required before additional funds will be granted.
  - 6 • Preference is given to organizations who (1) are requesting “seed money” to enable the initiation  
 7 of new missions/ministries or (2) are proposing to work with other faith-based and community  
 8 organizations to strengthen and support the ministry/mission.
  - 9 • Awards are restricted funds to be applied only to the specific mission/ministry for which they  
 10 were requested.
  - 11 • Funds may not be used for salary support or to carry out propaganda or otherwise attempt to  
 12 influence legislation, participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any  
 13 candidate for public office.

### COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

*Rev. Dr. Randall Partin, Chair*

*Rev. John Nash, Vice Chair*

*Hannah Mader, Secretary*

*Griselda Sandoval, Treasurer/Statistician*

14 **Note: The 2024 Budget and Spending Plan will be available separately.**

15

16 **Our Shared Financial Ministry**

17

18 *I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ*  
 19 *Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as*  
 20 *the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual*  
 21 *gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that*  
 22 *you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the*  
 23 *fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:4-9, NRSV)*

24

25 With a spirit of deep and abiding gratitude, your Council on Finance and Administration would like to  
 26 express our thankfulness for the faithful way that so many of our churches have supported our shared  
 27 ministry in this past year.

<b>Shared Ministry or Tithe Model Contributions and Income History</b>							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
% Tithe Paid	86.30%	91.50%	92.40%	91.20%	75.50%	91.00%	99.80%
Money Contributed	1,811,137	1,847,264	1,737,971	1,758,157	1,492,387	1,669,853	1,721,047
Reported Line 52 Operational Income	27,020,790	27,704,154	27,436,438	26,971,889	25,358,224	25,871,505	24,694,094
% of income contributed	6.70%	6.50%	6.30%	6.50%	5.90%	6.50%	7.00%

## Administrative Reports

1 We finished 2022 with 99.8% of our anticipated tithe being paid—***the highest percentage payout since***  
 2 ***we moved to our tithe model in 2015.*** Even in the midst of economic and denominational uncertainty,  
 3 our congregations and communities have remained faithful in giving and in tithing, and for that we are  
 4 so very grateful.

5  
 6 Another measure of generous contributions (above and beyond the tithe) is also worth mentioning:  
 7 ***Second Mile Giving increased in 2022 to its highest level in years:*** our congregations gave \$1.42 million  
 8 above and beyond giving for Shared Ministries (for things like disaster relief, including Fire Relief here in  
 9 New Mexico, for Heifer Project, for Sacramento Camp, and for Justice For our Neighbors, to name just a  
 10 handful). These gifts reflect the deep generosity of our people for all kinds of kingdom work in our area  
 11 and around the world, to God be the glory!

### Second Mile Giving History

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total Contribution</b>	1,390,984	1,496,026	1,311,420	1,298,635	1,271,363	1,143,173	1,420,052

### 2022 SECOND MILE GIVING

(Remitted through the Conference Treasurer)

#### Advance Projects

AIDS Orphans, Kenya	270	
Appropations General	460	
COVID-19 Response Fund	1,200	
Disaster Response, International	92,965	
Disaster Response, USA	58,345	
Disaster Response, Undesignated	900	
Forbes, Belinda	2,500	
Global Migration	995	
Haiti Response	100	
Heifer Project International	449	
Maua Hospital, Kenya	450	
Mulungwishi Theological Seminary	1,000	
Mulungwishi Area Clean Water Projects	1,106	
National Justice for Our Neighbors	13,833	
Refugee Response, Church World Service	750	
Segura, Desiree L.	2,500	
<b>Total</b>		<b>177,823</b>

#### Conference Advance Specials

Afghan Refugee Assistance	250	
NM Fires Relief Fund	43,933	
<b>Total</b>		<b>44,183</b>

#### Conference Special Offerings

Four Corners NA Ministry	150	
McCurdy Ministries	988	
McMurry University	315	
Methodist Children's Home	6,706	
Providence Place	731	
Retired Ministers' Day Offering	6,290	
Sacramento Methodist Assembly	2,820	
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,000</b>

## Administrative Reports

### General Church Special Sunday Offerings

Human Relations Day	1,730	
One Great Hour of Sharing	7,843	
Native American Ministries Sunday	2,389	
Peace with Justice Sunday	680	
World Communion Sunday	960	
United Methodist Student Day	175	
Total		13,777

### Other Offerings

Imagine No Malaria	240	
Wesley Foundation	609	
Total		849

### TOTAL REMITTED THROUGH CONF TREASURER

		254,632
Albuquerque District	119,158	
Clovis District	53,998	
El Paso District	54,940	
Other	26,536	

### TOTAL SECOND MILE GIVING REMITTED DIRECTLY

		1,165,420
Albuquerque District	477,343	
Clovis District	555,793	
El Paso District	132,284	

### GRAND TOTAL OF ALL SECOND MILE GIVING

**1,420,052**

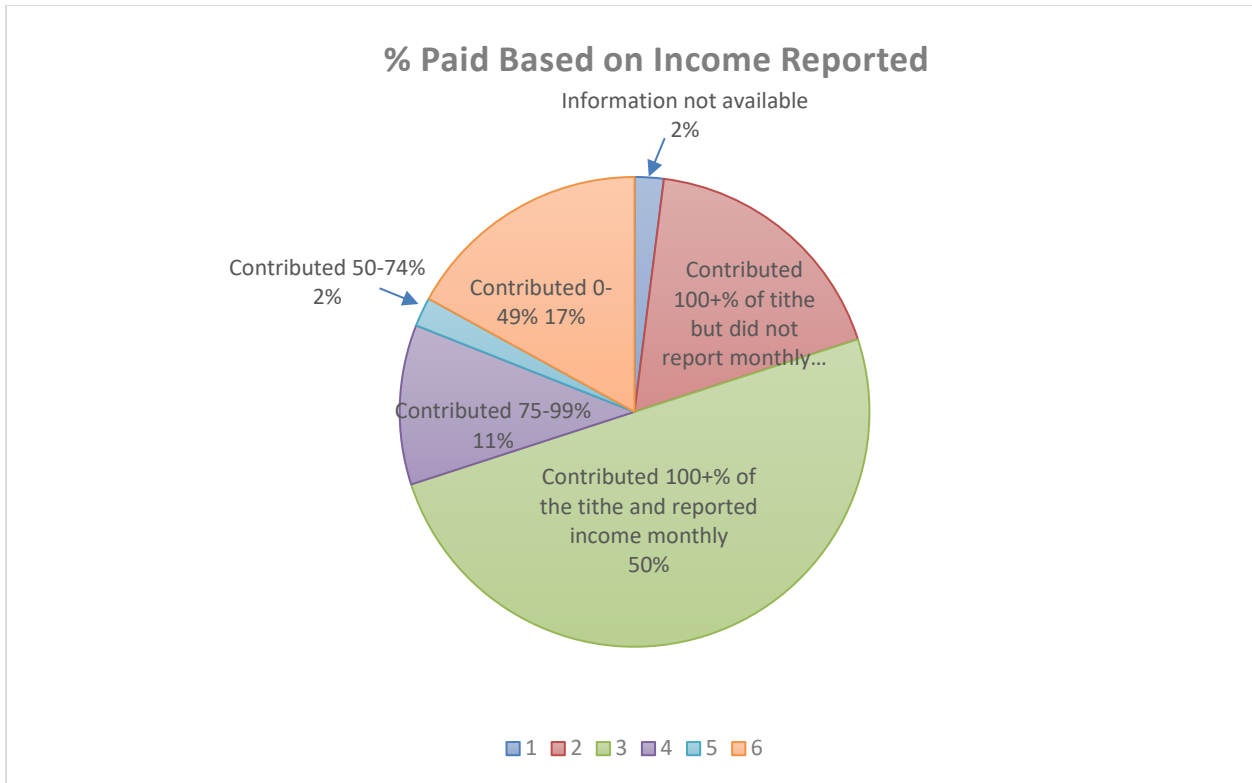
1 These giving indicators reflect both a certain degree of financial health and well-being in our churches  
 2 and in our Annual Conference as a whole, particularly as we are entirely dependent upon the faithful  
 3 giving of our congregations for these purposes and programs and ministries.  
 4

5 We are all aware, however, of the looming stresses of disaffiliation and the impact on our Shared  
 6 Ministry by individual congregations exiting The United Methodist Church and the New Mexico Annual  
 7 Conference.  
 8

9 Even without these anticipated losses, however, some concerning indicators should give us pause.  
 10 Namely, while overall giving *increased* in 2022, the number of congregations faithfully paying out their  
 11 tithe decreased from 2021. In 2022, 90 of our congregations paid 100% of their tithe on a monthly  
 12 basis, a decrease from the 100 congregations that did the same the previous year. Presumably, those  
 13 congregations falling short of a full payout fell into the increased number of churches that paid *some* of  
 14 the tithe (17 paid between 50%-99% of their tithe in 2022). Lastly, in 2022, 22 of our churches paid 0%-  
 15 49% of their tithe, a slight decrease from the previous year.



## Administrative Reports



1 More worrisome, however, is the apparent trend of a decline in overall operating income across all of  
 2 our churches (from which the Conference tithe is derived). In 2022, the overall reported operating  
 3 income decreased from the previous year by 4.22%. In fact, this was the second-largest year-over-year  
 4 decrease in aggregate operating income in our churches in recent memory. Four of the past six years  
 5 have seen reported decreases in operating income for our congregations. In other words, we have been  
 6 more likely to see decreasing resources in the local church offering plate, which translates to fewer  
 7 resources available for our Shared Ministry at the Conference or wider Church level, a trend we should  
 8 undoubtedly pay attention to.

Year	Total Operational Income	% Change	Actual Expenses	% Change
2016	27,020,790		1,985,043	
2017	27,704,154	2.53%	1,981,339	-0.19%
2018	27,436,438	-0.97%	2,066,362	4.29%
2019	26,971,889	-1.69%	2,083,127	0.81%
2020	25,358,224	-5.98%	2,028,354	-2.63%
2021	25,781,505	1.67%	2,086,632	2.87%
2022	24,694,094	-4.22%	2,153,163	3.19%

9 As shown in the table above, however, we have also seen increases in actual expenditures at the Annual  
 10 Conference level (driven largely by salaries, but also impacted by inflationary pressures and increasing  
 11 costs in a number of areas) in four out of the past six years. While your CF&A continues to monitor all of  
 12 these factors, the reality is that our Stabilization Funds and other reserves cannot sustain decreasing  
 13 income and increasing expenditures indefinitely—and this is before a number of our sister  
 14 congregations exit and are no longer contributing to our shared ministries.

## Administrative Reports

1 While we are grateful, therefore, of the strengths of the past year, we face an uncertain future that will  
2 require some difficult and/or creative decisions about our shared financial ministries, and as can be seen  
3 in Report #2 (our proposed Budget and Spending Plan for 2024), your CF&A has begun to consider some  
4 of that work looking ahead. Just as we expect and assume that our local congregations practice wise  
5 stewardship of resources and plan well financially, we are trying our best at the Annual Conference level  
6 to do the same in this season as well.

### 7 8 **Stabilization Fund of the New Mexico Conference** 9

10 “The Conference Stabilization Fund is to be used for the advance payment of salaries and expenses for  
11 the District Superintendents, Campus Ministers and other conference connection personnel, as well as  
12 for budgeted items that are approved by the Annual Conference.” (NMAC Structure, Policies, and Rules  
13 ¶12310)

14  
15 The Stabilization Fund is used for necessary expenditures during months that Shared Ministries  
16 payments from local churches are slow in coming to the Conference Treasurer. It is also an important  
17 tool for managing the funding of programs and missions of the New Mexico Annual Conference, and will  
18 become critical during this time of the unknowns of disaffiliation as it relates to conference income.

19  
20 Historically, funds for the stabilization account came from the following sources: unspent money from  
21 the former Contingency Fund in the annual conference budget; unspent money from the program  
22 budgets of the annual conference; the accrued interest and earnings from invested conference funds;  
23 and, prior to 2014, the Shared Ministries line item in the annual conference budget.

24  
25 The CF&A has continued our efforts to align the expenses of the Annual Conference with the income we  
26 can realistically expect to receive. In the past decade the Annual Conference approved budget has  
27 decreased by 37% (\$3,730,307 compared to the 2023 budget of \$2,345,545). In the last five years the  
28 spending plan has also decreased 5% (\$2,249,467 in 2017, the second year we had a separate spending  
29 plan, compared to \$2,128,738 in 2023). As outlined in this report, we will see substantial recommended  
30 decreases in the 2024 proposed budget and spending plan.

31 The good news is that because the diligent work of the CF&A around budgeting and, most importantly,  
32 your faithfulness, the amount needed from the Stabilization Fund to cover shortfalls in Shared Ministry  
33 revenue has declined. In the five years prior to implementation of the tithe model, annual expenditures  
34 from the Stabilization Fund were approximately \$160,000. In the four years following implementation  
35 (through 2019) Fund spending declined to an annual average of \$138,600. While we did have to use  
36 more during COVID years, last year was in line with the prior average with total expenditures of  
37 \$138,992.64.

38  
39 With a large number of unknowns facing the conference and the budget and spending plan in 2024, and  
40 especially in 2025, we expect that we will have to make even larger use of the stabilization fund moving  
41 forward. We have projected usage of \$417,180 in the 2024 spending plan. We won't know how realistic  
42 that number is until we move into that budget year. The good news is that the balance of the  
43 stabilization fund will allow us to do that. The bad news is that we will not be able to sustain those  
44 expenditures for very many years.

## Administrative Reports

1 Overall, the stabilization fund has a healthy balance because of the diligence that has been done over  
2 the past few years in changing our income and expenditure calculations, the trust we have seen from  
3 the local church in how we are expending the dollars we receive and the faithfulness expressed by the  
4 local church in submitting their tithes to the conference. The next few years will bring many unknowns  
5 but we are in a strong financial position that we believe will help us weather the storm for the next few  
6 years as many of the questions we have begin to be answered.

7

Administrative Reports

Stabilization Fund Activity  
12/31/2022

TMF Beginning Balance 1/1/2022			1,145,538.42
Income:			
	Transfers		
	Capital Gains	46,530.19	
	Interest Income	17.71	
	Change in Market Value	- 211,971.07	
	Total Income		-165,423.17
Expenditures:			
	Disbursements	138,992.64	
	Expenses		
	Total Expenditures		138,992.64
Ending Balance 12/31/2022			<b>841,122.61</b>
NMAC Beginning Balance 1/1/2022			-150,052.73
Income:			
	TMF Stabilization Fund	151,283.38	
	Interest Earned	62.29	
	Total Income		151,345.67
Expenditures:			
	Disbursements	363,655.56	
	Expenses		
	Total Expenditures		363,655.56
Ending Balance 12/31/2022			<b>-362,362.62</b>
US BANK - Money Market Beginning Balance 1/1/2022			623,480.92
Income:			
	Interest Earned	62.29	
	Total Income		62.29
Expenditures:			
	Expenses		
	Total Expenditures		
Ending Balance 12/31/2022			<b>623,543.21</b>

TMF Stabilization Fund	841,122.61
NMAC Stabilization Fund	-
US BANK Money Market	362,362.62
	623,543.21

**Total Stabilization Funds**

**1,102,303.20**

## Administrative Reports

<b>TMF FUNDS-GENERAL CONFERENCE 2023</b>		<b>12/31/2022</b>
<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Fund Use / Designation</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
Stabilization Fund	Stabilization Fund (see stabilization fund report)	\$841,122.61
Senior Ministries Endowment	Senior Ministry Grant through Endowment Distribution Committee	\$313,323.41
Congregational Transformation	Congregational Vitality and Renewal	\$80,129.31
Whitfield Seminary Scholarship	Assistance for Course of Study-Katanga Methodist University Theological School in DRC	\$37,825.28
Conference Endowment	Annual Distribution support Stabilization Fund and Bishop's and Vitality awards and grants through Endowment Distribution Committee	\$3,799,937.23
NMAC Trustees	Trustee's Fund	\$1,226,265.10
Conference Building Reserve	Funds held for major Conference Office Expenses	\$20,830.64
Board of Trustees	Offset housing allowance for Conference Provost	\$106,222.54
Thaxton Endowment Fund	Endowment Distribution Committee awards grants from these funds for provision of basic human needs and care-children, families, & elderly in NM	\$1,297,559.41
Thaxton Endowment Earnings	See Thaxton Endowment Fund	\$84,167.23
Pippin Endowment	Mission work in NMAC, includes training of Navajo Ministers	\$572,806.28
Lackey Scholarship Fund	Assistance for children of clergy attending UM college/university	\$51,164.94
Campus Ministries	Provide funding assistance for Campus Ministries	\$55,513.08
Pace Endowment	Salary Support for New Church Planters	\$542,852.09
New Church Fund	General New Church Development Fund	\$285,742.47
New Church Distribution	Un-restricted New Church Development from Sale of Closed Churches	\$609,886.92
New Church Restricted	Restricted (Bricks-and-Mortar) funds for New Church Development from Sale of Closed Churches	\$319,952.51
NMAC Archives and History	Financing via income projects not in conference budget	\$7,800.21
Sivley Special Account-CBGM	Project grants fulfilling UMCOR priorities within NMAC- originally from the T.J. Sivley Charitable Lead Trust	\$14.18
Volunteers In Mission	Volunteers-in-Mission programs in the NMAC	\$11,955.54
Pruett Earnings Fund	See Pruett Loan Fund	\$58,354.29
Pruett Loan Fund	Loans to ministerial students made on an emergency basis	\$41,413.67
Native American Ministerial Ed	Scholarship fund for Ministerial Education for Native Americans (first priority)	\$177,016.33
Native American Ministerial Earn	See Conference Journal	\$77,730.19
		<b>\$10,619,585.46</b>

Administrative Reports

**REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITY**

1/1/2021 TO 12/31/2021

Beginning Cash Balance 01/01/21		\$199,645.07
<u>Income:</u>		
NMAC	\$11,340.00	
First UMC, Van Horn	\$2,202.72	
Vehicles Trade-In	\$27,000.00	
Bank interest earned	\$11.78	
	TOTAL INCOME	\$40,554.50
<u>Disbursements:</u>		
Dealership Payment	\$104,735.76	
Bank service charges/supplies/adjustments	\$10,598.64	
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$115,334.40
Cash Balance in Fund 12/31/2021		\$124,865.17
<p>\$50,000 of cash balance is guarantee money held for UMDF and is unavailable for distribution</p>		
<u>Notes Outstanding:</u>		
	Loan Amount	Balance
NMAC-6/1/2021	\$77,735.76	\$66,395.76
First UMC, Van Horn-6/14/2014	\$31,000.00	\$10,442.08
Total loan amount	\$108,735.76	
	TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$76,837.84
	TOTAL VALUE OF FUND	\$201,703.01

**BOARD OF LAITY**

*Sid Strebeck, NMC Lay Leader, Chair*

**The mission of the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Laity is to develop and provide training that empowers the laity of the church in becoming disciples for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, while emphasizing connectional relationships throughout the NM Conference.**

2022 WAS DEFINITELY A CHALLENGING YEAR IN THE United Methodist Church and, realistically, in all churches worldwide...but, now the GOOD NEWS:

2022 was an amazing year of ministry for the laity in the NM Annual Conference. Especially when the world is attacking Christians from every angle. "ONE ON ONE" ministry by lay people is always the most effective form of ministry. Through our Lay Servant Ministries, we have enabled more Laity to engage in effective "SERVANT" ministries throughout our Conference and all over the world.

## Administrative Reports

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We have the most dedicated Laity in the entire General Church and I'm honored to be your leader. The New Mexico Conference Board of Laity(NMCBOL) is organized as an effective ministry to help engage, equip and empower all laity. Each person on the NMCBOL is serving on a team to accomplish more connection throughout the conference. In structuring classes, accountability and visioning for the future, the NMCBOL is passionate about serving all laity in a connectional and one to one manner.

Conference Lay Leader

|  
Conference Director of Lay Servant/CLM Ministries

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District Lay Servant Team	CLM Accountability Team	CLM Registrar	Lay Servant Data Recorder	UMM/UWiF Representatives	CLM CE

The NMCBOL has also engaged a Steering Team to review all of the training materials for the CLM Training Program. This review recommended several changes in the structure of the program, that the NMCBOL voted to endorse. The CLM Training program continues to evolve and grow, as the needs of the laity change in the Conference. Yet, it remains a recognized Training Program, of the highest standard and quality. Certification and Recertification is voted on from the NMCBOL Interview teams each year.

A huge thankyou goes out to all three of the District Lay Servant Coordinators for their efforts in organizing classes every month. This task is supported by Roselie Johnston, Conference Ministry/Program Coordinator, who gets all of the registration in place each month.

Regardless of the curves we're thrown, let's all commit to making 2023 an even better year as the laity continue to touch people one person at a time. If every lay person in our conference touches just one life this year, our entire world will be transformed in a very short time....isn't that what the early church did?

---

### BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

*Rev. J. Bradley Bennett, Chair*

Psalm 30: 11–12

*You changed my mourning into dancing.  
You took off my funeral clothes and dressed me up in joy  
so that my whole being might sing praises to you and never stop.  
Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.*

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I struggle to write this report, more than in past years, because of this long moment of mourning that all of our clergy and laity are enduring and through which we are greatly suffering. This moment is "a hard pill to swallow." Grief floods our souls as some clergy who have been with us choose to no longer remain in our conference connection. Healing takes time and I pray you will be patient and merciful and caring with one another during this moment of corporate grieving in our part of the body of Christ Jesus. Please join me in praying that people who leave us will find a new "sheepfold" even as the clergy who remain will discover new ways of connecting and relating. One of my constant prayers is that God's

## Administrative Reports

1 sacred Spirit is conceiving for us new pathways in the United Methodist Church and showing us how to  
2 move forward towards hope for the future.

3  
4 With this hope in mind, as we gather for annual conference this year, I invite you to sing with the  
5 composer of Psalm 30 and become aware that God is changing our mourning into dancing with joy.  
6 During our conference session we will celebrate a few of Jesus' recent "dancing moves" through people  
7 who God's Spirit is calling and equipping and sending to the work of humble service, certification,  
8 licensure, provisional residency, and ordination through the Board of Ordained Ministries. In other parts  
9 of our pre-conference agenda, promotions, worship celebrations, and sessions, you can see the names  
10 and faces and voices of these amazingly ordinary people who are answering God's call to work in all  
11 these ways and means. Give God praise! God is up to something new in our lives together!

12 ~ Brad

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### BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

*Rev. Joe Whitley, Chair*

*Randy Worley, Insurance Committee chair*

*Linn Reece, Pension Committee chair*

*Anna Marshall, Conference Benefits Officer*

#### Report #1 – Administrative Report

##### 1. ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits administers a Memorial Account with Wespath Benefits and Investments (formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits). *Individuals who wish to participate and contribute to an Endowment should contact the Conference Benefits Officer.* Endowment accounts are in honor and memory of the following persons: Bishop & Mrs. Alsie Carleton, Dr. George Ditterline, Dr. C. Edward Ditterline, Dr. M.L. Sims, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sivley, Laura Violet Robertson, Robert E. Robinson and R.I Bledsoe, Rev. Aubrey Walley, and Rev. Dr. Lloyd Hughes. No new endowments were received in 2022.

The Annie Lee Kornegay Fund, established for the purpose of providing emergency support to surviving spouses, is invested with the Texas Methodist Foundation. A permanent Memorial Fund has also been established with the Texas Methodist Foundation. No contributions were made to these funds in 2022. Past contributions have been received in memory of: Bob Harrison, Lillie Ditterline, Ralph Stanfield, Madge McGrew, Mabel Morgan, Joe Scrimshire, and T.J. and Mary Ray Sivley, John Klassen, Levi Louderback, V.B. Irby, Mary Hembree, and Joseph Goodart.

##### 2. SPECIAL BOPHB GRANTS FOR 2022

Grants awarded in the amount of:

Wellness Grants \$70,350.85

Medical Grants \$25,213.70

##### 3. RETIRED CLERGY, SURVIVING SPOUSES, DEPENDENT CHILDREN, INCAPACITY

A complete list of clergy and surviving spouses will be included in the 2023 Journal.

##### 4. AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

The following reports are available upon request to the conference office:

- a) Adoption agreements for pension and benefit plans.



## Administrative Reports

1 b) 2022 Distribution to Annuitants  
2

3 c) List of Investments (2016 Discipline ¶1508.7). The New Mexico Conference Board of Pension  
4 and Health Benefits invest the majority of its funds with Wespath, the investment division of  
5 Wespath Benefits and Investments, Glenview, IL. Additional funds are invested with the  
6 Texas Methodist Foundation, Inc. A list of funds on deposit with these institutions is available  
7 upon request. A list of the institutions' investments may be requested from the institutions.  
8

9 d) Audit - The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits reports assets and liabilities in  
10 the annual audit of conference funds. The 2021 completed audit is available for review.  
11

12 **5. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:** The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits provides for  
13 the following expenses in an administrative line item:  
14

15 a) Conference Benefits Staff-salary, benefits, travel, professional dues  
16

17 b) Office expenses-rent, postage, telephone, supplies, software maintenance  
18

19 c) Retiree expenses to Annual Conference, Annual Conference retiree's luncheon  
20

21 d) Board meeting expenses  
22

23 e) Education and Advocacy-seminars, benefits events, videos, brochures  
24

25 f) Biennial actuarial study of retiree healthcare liability  
26

27 **6. PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET as approved at the February 20, 2023 BOPHB meeting**  
28 ***(details available from the Conference Benefits Office)***  
29

30 **Income: 2024**

31 **Retiree/Disability Support Fund 555,700**

32 **Accounts/Transfers Admin expense 176,600**

33 **HF Income-Actives 1,081,757**

34 **HF Income- Lay/ 82,184**

35 **Dental/Vision/FSA 40,000**

36 **UMLifeOptions Income-Actives 25,058**

37 **UMPIP 295,000**

38 **CRSP/PPP Income- Actives 816,238**

39 **3,072,537**

40 **Expenses: 2024**

41 **UMLifeOptions Retirees 18,000**

42 **Healthcare Incapacity 40,000**

43 **Healthcare Retirees 497,700**

44 **HF- Actives 1,081,757**

45 **HF- Lay/MRA 82,184**

46 **Dental/vision/FSA 40,000**

47 **UMLifeOptions actives 25,058**

48 **UMPIP 295,000**

49 **CRSP/PPP- Actives 816,238**

Administrative Reports

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**Administration/Program**      **176,600**  
**3,072,537**

<b>CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION &amp; HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT</b>			
	<b>Unpaid prior years of clergy's pension and health insurance and Shared Ministries (RDS) as of December 31, 2022</b>	<b>Billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health insurance and current year RDS. (Current year, as of December 31, 2022)</b>	
Church	Amount Due	Amount Due	<b>Total Amounts Due</b>
Albuq, Covenant UMC	82,898.52	9,066.00	<b>91,964.52</b>
Albuq, El Buen Samaritano	9,548.57	16,498.74	<b>26,047.31</b>
Gallup, First UMC	79,583.76	18,413.64	<b>97,997.40</b>
Las Vegas, First UMC	1853.20	926.16	<b>2,779.36</b>
Window Rock UMC	1,229.26	214.68	<b>1,443.94</b>
Capitan UMC	0	117.81	<b>117.81</b>
Fort Sumner, First UMC	2,354.52	2,504.52	<b>4,859.04</b>
High Rolls, Community UMC	0	180.99	<b>180.99</b>
Jal, First UMC	222.55	918.96	<b>1,141.51</b>
San Jon, UMC	0	865.98	<b>865.98</b>
El Paso, St. Mark's UMC	0	5,474.42	<b>5,474.42</b>
El Paso, Tobin Park UMC	0	104.37	<b>104.37</b>
La Mesa UMC	559.68	808.92	<b>1,368.60</b>
Las Cruces, El Calvario UMC	0	11,521.32	<b>11,521.32</b>
Mesquite, Del Valle UMC	3,866.45	442.32	<b>4,308.77</b>
Sierra Blanca, First UMC	1,133.56	339.48	<b>1,473.04</b>
Van Horn, First UMC	0	466.56	<b>466.56</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>183,250.07</b>	<b>68,864.87</b>	<b>252,114.94</b>

4

## Administrative Reports

### 1 **Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

#### 2 **Report #2 – Insurance, Pension, Health and Retiree Benefits**

3

#### 4 **I. Method of Funding and Funding Plans**

5 The **2016 Book of Discipline ¶ 1506.6** requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and  
6 implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding  
7 plan shall be submitted annually to the Wespath Benefits and Investments for review and favorable  
8 written opinion from the Wespath Benefits and Investments. Upon receipt of a favorable opinion, copies  
9 of the full 2023 comprehensive benefit funding plan report will be available upon request from the  
10 Benefits Office.

11

#### 12 Pre-1982 Plan

13 Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known  
14 as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension for their years of ministry with The United  
15 Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982.  
16 The **2024** Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the New Mexico Annual Conference will be  
17 \$743.00. This is a 2.0% increase, as opposed to a 2.5% increase that was approved for 2023.  
18 Based on the requested actuarial valuations from Wespath Benefits and Investments as of  
19 **September 2022 for 2024 preliminary results**, the portion of the Pre-82 liability attributable to  
20 the New Mexico Conference and funded status is, as of 1/1/2024, as follows:

21

<i>2024 Estimated Actuarial Valuation</i>	
<i>Past Service Rate</i>	<i>743.00</i>
<i>Assets in the Plan</i>	<i>11,508,265</i>
<i>Funding Plan Liability</i>	<i>-10,636,704</i>
<i>Funded status</i>	<i>871,561</i>
<i>Funded Ratio</i>	<i>108%</i>

22

23 The funded ratio is recalculated each year based on economic and demographic changes. These  
24 changes create the possibility that Pre-82 contributions may be required at a future date.

25

26 The contingent annuitant percentage shall remain at the 100% level.

27

28 The NMBOPHB bills local churches directly for CRSP DB and deposits collected amounts in a  
29 designated account held at TMF. The Board may also choose to redirect pre-82 surplus when the  
30 over funding ratio exceeds 120%. The Board recognizes that any redirection of pre-82 surplus  
31 increases the probability of required contributions to the plan in the future. For this reason, any  
32 decisions for redirection will be made on a year-by-year basis.

33

34 The New Mexico Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will continue to monitor its  
35 funding plans and study options that reflect its desired long-term strategy and focus. Reasonably  
36 restricting PSR increases is part of the overall funding strategy to protect the plan and  
37 conference from possible unfunded liabilities.

## Administrative Reports

### 1 **II. Grant Information for Active and Retired Clergy**

#### 2 3 BOPHB Medical Support Fund:

4  
5 The New Mexico Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB) provides clergy (active and  
6 retired) of the New Mexico Annual Conference, as well as their spouses, surviving spouses or  
7 surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children) the opportunity to apply for  
8 grant assistance.  
9

10 This policy has been adopted with the purpose of providing grants to active and retired clergy to  
11 assist with the payment of unexpected health related expenses incurred by clergy member or  
12 his/her dependent family member, which are not covered under current health plans. Items  
13 that have been covered with the Medical Support Fund grants are hearing aids, dental expenses,  
14 and travel expenses for medical care, prescription costs, necessary medical supplies, and vision  
15 care.  
16

17 Applications may be requested from the BOPHB or the Conference Benefits Officer. The  
18 application must be completed by the participant or a person authorized to act on the  
19 participant's behalf. Applicants must submit any additional information sought by the reviewing  
20 committee in order for the grant to be approved.  
21

22 The grant amount is maximum \$5,000 per family, per year, whether active or retired. Each  
23 request will be reviewed on an individual basis. An applicant may apply several times during the  
24 year, but any grants awarded will not total in excess of \$5,000. All applications are confidential  
25 and only seen by members of the BOPHB sub-committee.  
26

#### 27 BOPHB Wellness Support Fund

28  
29 The BOPHB provides a grant opportunity for clergy, clergy spouses, and their dependent  
30 children to proactively improve their spiritual, mental and physical health. After any insurance  
31 or other financial help is taken into consideration, any retired clergy or clergy under full-time  
32 appointment may apply to the BOPHB for this grant. Items that may be considered include, but  
33 are not limited to, spiritual direction; coaching; help with weight loss; and physical fitness  
34 training, facilities, and equipment.  
35

36 Requests will be reviewed by the BOPHB sub-committee and all requests will remain  
37 confidential. If approved, the sub-committee will decide what percentage of the request will be  
38 funded. Disbursements may be made on a one time or repeating basis, depending on the  
39 nature of the request. Approved gym memberships will be paid on a quarterly basis once  
40 receipts are received.  
41

42 Only a limited number of grants are available each year. The submission of a completed  
43 application does not guarantee awarding of a grant. Three BOPHB members, elected by the  
44 BOPHB, shall constitute the Wellness Fund Review Committee. All grant requests will be strictly  
45 confidential. The grant amount is a maximum of \$5,000 per year per clergy member.  
46 Applications may be found on the conference website.

## Administrative Reports

### III. Insurance Plans for Active Clergy:

- a) The Annual Conference shall adopt a funding method for paying medical insurance premiums for active full-time appointed clergy.
- (i) As voted by the 2004 Annual Conference, we use the actual cost funding method.
  - (ii) Every church/charge with full time appointed Clergy under the age of 65 must offer health insurance to full time clergy under appointment.
  - (iii) Every church/charge shall pay at least the billed medical insurance defined contribution amount (premium credit) for participating clergy. If approved by the church, clergy may enroll other eligible family members, and the church will be required to pay the premium credit for participant +1 or participant + family premium.

The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits introduced HealthFlex Exchange for all participants that began January 1, 2017. It also provides a platform where participants “shop” for a health plan, while giving plan sponsors (the church) more predictability over health care costs.

This gives HealthFlex participants greater flexibility in choosing the level of coverage that fits their preferences and budget.

For **2024**, regardless of plan chosen by the participant, churches will pay the defined contribution (premium credit) as follows at the proposed rates. A comparison with the 2023 premium credit indicates a proposed increase of 5.7%:

	<u>2023 Premium Credit</u>	<u>2024 Premium Credit</u>
<b>Single rate:</b>	\$9,828 (\$819/month)	\$10,404 (\$867/month)
<b>Participant +1 rate:</b>	\$18,672 (\$1,556/month)	\$19,764 (\$1,647/month)
<b>Participant +family rate:</b>	\$25,536 (\$2,128/month)	\$27,048 (\$2,254/month)

- The projected average increase to HealthFlex plans for 2024 is 5.3% with the range for the different plans at 0.6% to 7.9%.
- Dental and Vision premiums remain steady across all tiers for 2023. Premiums are now rounded up or down to be whole dollars, however, overall there is a 0% change in premiums.
- Details on all plans are available through the Conference Benefits Office or Wespath Benefits Access site.

### IV. Direct Billing

*Every salary paying unit will be billed directly every month from the conference benefits office. Payments shall be due by the 20th of each month.*

- a) Every church/charge shall pay the premium costs of *UMLifeOptions* (UMLO) for its eligible appointed clergy and their spouses.

## Administrative Reports

- 1 b) Salary paying units will be billed for all health insurance and AFLAC premiums chosen by the  
2 participants. Participants are responsible, through a payroll deduction, for premium  
3 amounts above the church contribution, dental premium and upgraded vision premium,  
4 medical reimbursement amount (MRA), health savings account (HSA), dependent care  
5 allowance (DCA) and AFLAC policies.  
6
- 7 c) Billing for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) to each salary paying unit shall be at 3%  
8 of plan compensation\* for each eligible participant enrolled in the CPP. The conference  
9 elects to cover ¾-time clergy who are full and provisional members (elders and deacons),  
10 associate members and clergy of other Methodist denominations earning at least 25% of  
11 denominational average compensation (DAC) subject to terms of the Plan.  
12
- 13 d) The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is a mandatory plan with Wespath Benefits  
14 and Investment. This is 9% of plan compensation\* for the defined benefit (CRSP DB)  
15 component and 3% of plan compensation\* for the defined contribution (CRSP DC)  
16 component.  
17
- 18 e) UMPIP (United Methodist Personal Investment Plan)  
19 Beginning, January 1, 2020 all active full-time appointed clergy were automatically enrolled  
20 with a 4% minimum contribution in the UMPIP program. The automatic 4% was calculated  
21 from plan compensation\*. If a pastor is already contributing more than 4%, they will  
22 continue with that larger amount. If a pastor does not want to contribute 4% of plan  
23 compensation\*, or they wish to change the contribution amount they are to  
24 contact the Conference Benefit Officer. The amount of the UMPIP contribution can be  
25 revised any time throughout the year. This UMPIP contribution was added to the  
26 Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits statement sent to the churches. (the  
27 church will no longer remit to Wespath directly). The identified monthly amount is a payroll  
28 deduction. *UMPIP for church lay employees will continue to be sent to Wespath directly.*  
29
- 30 ***\* Plan compensation is cash salary plus housing. If the pastor is in a parsonage the  
31 housing is 25% of cash salary. If the pastor is not living in a parsonage the formula is  
32 cash salary plus the housing allowance.***  
33
- 34 ***For example: Pastor A has a cash salary of \$43,000 and lives in a parsonage. Their  
35 plan compensation amount would be \$53,750 (salary plus 25%)  
36 Pastor B has a cash salary of \$43,000 and receives a housing allowance of \$12,000 per  
37 year. Their plan compensation amount would be \$55,000 (salary plus \$12,000).***  
38
- 39 f) Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS) is a proportionate payment billed to the churches on  
40 the monthly statement. Since the 2022 budget, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits have  
41 voted to continue the annual amount of \$450,000, divided by percent decimal among the  
42 churches.  
43

## 44 V. Unpaid Obligations

45

- 46 a) The Conference Benefits Officer shall report annually to the Annual Conference the name of  
47 each pastoral charge with an unpaid obligation to the NMBPOHB, either from unpaid prior  
48 years of Shared Ministries, direct billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health  
49 insurance, or unpaid Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS). (See 2016 Discipline, ¶1639.4).

## Administrative Reports

1 Each church in default receives a cumulative statement of amounts in default indicated on  
2 the monthly invoice sent to churches.

- 3
- 4 b) All payments for unpaid prior years of Shared Ministries, direct billed arrearages for  
5 appointed clergy's pension and health insurance, or unpaid Retiree Disability Support Funds  
6 (RDS) shall be applied to the oldest debt first. Payments shall be made payable to the New  
7 Mexico Annual Conference and sent to the attention of the Conference Benefits Officer.  
8
- 9 c) The Conference Benefits Officer shall report regularly to the Board all unpaid church  
10 obligations. Unpaid insurance premiums, pensions or payments to the Retiree Disability  
11 Support fund shall continue as a debt to the church/charge responsible. Each church in  
12 default shall receive a cumulative statement of amounts in default. In accordance with its  
13 standing rules, the BOPHB has the right to terminate health coverage for clergy, their  
14 spouses, and dependent children in the event unsatisfied arrearages of health benefits  
15 continue.  
16

### 17 **VI. Information Pertaining to Retirees and Those Receiving Disability Payments (CPP Disability)**

- 18
- 19 a) All retirees will be reimbursed up to \$500.00 for Annual Conference expenses. This will  
20 include conference registration, hotel costs, meal costs and/or travel expenses. Requests  
21 for reimbursement shall be made, including receipts, to the Conference Benefits Officer  
22 within sixty (60) days of the last day of Annual Conference.  
23
- 24 b) Retired Ministers' Day and Offering: Each church is encouraged to participate in The Retired  
25 Ministers' Day offering. This fund is used to assist retirees with extraordinary non-medical  
26 expenses. Information regarding the retiree programs may be obtained from the conference  
27 benefits office.  
28
- 29 c) Retiring clergy that are living in a parsonage shall be reimbursed the actual cost of his/her  
30 moving expenses up to \$1,500.00. Receipts need to be sent to the Conference Treasurer  
31 within 30 days following their retirement date.  
32
- 33 d) Rental/ Housing Allowances for Retired Ministers/those receiving disability payments.  
34
- 35 (i) An amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans  
36 authorized under The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (the  
37 "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the Wespeth Benefits and  
38 Investments during the year **2024** by each retired or disabled clergyperson who is or  
39 was a member of the conference, or its predecessors, can be and hereby is designated  
40 as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson.  
41
- 42 (ii) The pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies  
43 will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized  
44 under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespeth Benefits and Investments  
45 and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits  
46 accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that  
47 result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this conference or that a retired or  
48 disabled clergyperson of this conference rendered to any local church, annual  
49 conference of the church, general agency of the church, other institution of the church,

## Administrative Reports

1 former denomination that is now a part of the church, or any other employer that  
2 employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the church, or  
3 its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under,  
4 such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled clergyperson's pension or  
5 disability as part of his or her gross compensation.  
6

7 (iii) NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergyperson's  
8 gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal  
9 Revenue Code Section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the  
10 amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergyperson's employer or  
11 other appropriate body of the church (such as this conference in the foregoing  
12 resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the clergyperson to rent  
13 or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including  
14 furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Rev. Joshua Kouri, Chair*

15  
16  
17 As in years past, the New Mexico Conference Board of Trustees focused on careful administration of  
18 conference assets, preparation for the future, and support for local congregations in their work in  
19 ministry. This year, however, has also included the important work of administering disaffiliation for  
20 congregations wishing to exit the United Methodist Church.  
21

### Administration of Conference Assets

22  
23 Endowment Funds: With oversight of the Pippin and Thaxton endowment funds, the trustees  
24 have two representatives on the Endowment Distribution Committee. Their role is to ensure  
25 that funds are awarded for purposes congruent with the original donors. Distribution of those  
26 funds are explained in the report of the Endowment Committee.

27 Conference Group Insurance: Since 2020 the conference trustees have used Sovereign Insurance  
28 Group as our plan administrator with insurance provided by Church Mutual. We will see a  
29 modest increase in premiums this year, lower than last year's. We have worked hard with  
30 Sovereign to negotiate the best possible insurance for the minimal cost.  
31

32 If you need further information, we encourage you to contact Sovereign at  
33 [www.nmumcinsurance.com](http://www.nmumcinsurance.com) or email [newmexico@sovinsurance.com](mailto:newmexico@sovinsurance.com).

34 We also wish to emphasize that our shared deductible pool is still available to any church  
35 making a claim on the group insurance. Once the claim is filed, simply provide documentation to  
36 Griselda Sandoval, Conference Treasurer, and the conference will reimburse your church for ½  
37 of your deductible.  
38

39 Conference Office Building: One of the important assets of the annual conference is the office  
40 building on Lomas Blvd. in Albuquerque. We continue to strive to see that the building is well-  
41 maintained to keep it useful and welcoming for guests and the conference staff. There were no  
42 major expenses related to the office building this year.  
43

44 Roselie Johnston continues to supervise the maintenance of the building and works with the  
45 trustees when repairs are needed.



## Administrative Reports

### 1 **Preparation & Investment for the Future**

2 Revision of the Safe Sanctuaries Policy: With the help and oversight of Kathy Jewell, a new Safe  
3 Sanctuaries policy has been crafted and implemented for the Annual Conference. Safe  
4 Sanctuaries is a critical policy and we ask that all churches work to make sure they are  
5 compliant. This means adoption of a policy for the local congregation, yearly training and  
6 background checks for all staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults, and  
7 most importantly, maintaining standards and rules over time. The Trustees have purchased a  
8 copy of the new Safe Sanctuaries book for all congregations. It will be distributed at Annual  
9 Conference and we encourage all pastors and lay leaders to read and review.

10  
11 New Mexico Conference Disaffiliation Policy: This year, many congregations – about 40 in all –  
12 have pursued some portion of the Disaffiliation Policy adopted last year. Not all have voted to  
13 disaffiliate, and some haven't voted yet at all. The policy is for all congregations that no longer  
14 wish to remain United Methodist due to ongoing conflict and disagreement related to matters  
15 of human sexuality.

16 While we hope that every church knows that they are welcome to remain a part of the United  
17 Methodist Church, and the New Mexico Conference, we know that the divisions are real and we  
18 want to help churches make good choices for their future.

### 19 20 **Updates on Property Entrusted to the Board of Trustees**

21 This year, the trustees disposed of 5 church properties from congregations that closed – the  
22 church building and parsonage of First UMC, Lordsburg, the parsonage for Monte Sinai UMC,  
23 Carlsbad, the church building for First UMC, Truth or Consequences, and the church building for  
24 Wickett UMC.

25  
26 We are still holding a number of properties, maintaining them, and providing insurance for them  
27 while their future use or sale is discerned. These include properties related to Monte Sinai,  
28 Carlsbad, El Divino Salvador, Odessa, and Clark Memorial, Artesia. Additionally, we expect to  
29 officially receive the properties upon closing resolution for Van Horn First, Sanderson, and El  
30 Paso El Alfarero.

31  
32 Most of the properties will be sold. However, the Trustees are working in coordination with the  
33 New Church Development Committee to discern whether some of these properties could be  
34 used for new congregations, particularly in areas where disaffiliating congregations will leave a  
35 community without a United Methodist option. We hope to support New Church Development  
36 in the launch of communities that will offer a robust witness across our conference.

### 37 38 **Goals for 2022-2023**

39 Insurance Review: As we finish our fourth year with Sovereign and Church Mutual, we will  
40 review our policies to confirm that we are receiving the best possible product for an affordable  
41 price. We are pleased so far with our insurance and want to make sure this relationship remains  
42 positive and constructive while also exploring the full market for the best possible product for  
43 our churches.

44  
45 Investment for the Future: Trustees have a task force that is working to invest a portion of our  
46 current reserves for the long-term benefit of the conference. Right now, I am pleased to report  
47 that we have adequate and even ample reserves on hand.

## Administrative Reports

1        *Investment in the Long-Term Sustainability of Local Churches:* The most common request that  
2 comes to the conference trustees is from congregations that are experiencing vitality, have good  
3 things happening, but are limited by buildings that are aging and falling into disrepair. In the  
4 year ahead, we are exploring plans to help congregations discern their future and use one of  
5 their most useful assets – their church building – to achieve sustainability for the that future.  
6

7        *Creation of a Safety and Emergency Response Policy for Local Churches:* With the continued risk  
8 of shootings or other emergencies at local churches, the Trustees are exploring the creation of a  
9 model Emergency Response Plan (EAP) for use in local churches to maximize safety during  
10 gatherings. The model EAP would be available to all churches. Congregational leadership could  
11 review the plan, tailor it for their local congregation, and be prepared in case an emergency  
12 occurs in their church.  
13

14 I am grateful beyond words to the Trustees for their hard work, attentive focus, good nature, and loving  
15 spirit over the course of the past year. This has been a difficult, and at times, painful time to be in  
16 ministry in our conference. Yet, I truly believe we are laying groundwork that will help us emerge from  
17 this period of division stronger and better equipped for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If you have any  
18 questions related to the report of the trustees, contact me at [pastorjosh@mesaviewumc.org](mailto:pastorjosh@mesaviewumc.org) .

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### NEW MEXICO ANNUAL CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR

*Cari E. Neill, Esq.*

19 This is my third report as Chancellor for the New Mexico Annual Conference. I was elected as Chancellor  
20 and Taffy Bagley of El Paso, Texas was elected as Assistant Chancellor at the 2020 Annual Conference.  
21 We replace Charles Moore, who served as Chancellor for the previous four years.  
22

23 Charlie mentioned in his Chancellor’s reports a bit of wisdom that was passed on to him by the previous  
24 Chancellor, Tom Stanton: matters that come to the Chancellor can be very quiet for a time and very  
25 active for a time, and overall, fairly unpredictable. Charlie passed the same wisdom to Taffy and I and we  
26 have found the same to be true.  
27

28 Despite some questions regarding the Boy Scouts and disaffiliation, the past year has been relatively  
29 quiet as far as conference-wide issues are concerned. Taffy and I have assisted individual churches with  
30 employment, contract, and land issues. We have looked at the connections between churches,  
31 ministries, and annual conference, and we often wonder what is to come next as the questions we  
32 receive are usually so varied and the issues so unlike what we experience in our “usual” practices. Like  
33 many of you, we are looking forward to General Conference in 2024 and any clarity the decisions made  
34 at that conference will bring.  
35

36 There are a few things to be aware of: change is all around us and we need to be prepared to respond to  
37 that change. Although the court approved the Boy Scouts bankruptcy plan, including the proposed  
38 settlement with the alleged victims, the parties who did not agree to the settlement have appealed. The  
39 appeal process is usually much shorter than the initial bankruptcy process, but will still take some time  
40 before we receive full resolution. In the meantime, scouting continues and the churches’ relationships  
41 with scouts continue, although they have changed somewhat. You will see that there is no longer a  
42 “charter” agreement, but an “affiliation” agreement, which more clearly defines the relationship  
43 between the church and the scouts and the roles that each need to fulfill.

## Administrative Reports

1 If you are in need of a new agreement with your scouts, you can find the new affiliation agreement as  
2 well as the facilities use agreement here: <https://methodistscouter.org/a-new-agreement/>. We ask that  
3 you not alter the agreements. There are negotiated and agreed-upon protections included, and any  
4 change could affect your church's legal rights as well as the protections that have been put in place for  
5 the scouts.

6  
7 We are aware that the BSA has their own training and background checks. However, **every person** in the  
8 church who works with children or vulnerable adults needs to take the Safe Sanctuaries training, even if  
9 they receive training from other sources. Truthfully, every person in the church should take the training  
10 so they will know what is included in the policy and how it is to be implemented, even if they are not  
11 getting a background check for volunteer or work-related purposes. This is how we prevent abuse and  
12 hold each other accountable for the safety of those we are here to serve.

13  
14 Finally, I cannot close out this letter without first addressing disaffiliation. If your church is still in the  
15 process of discernment regarding disaffiliation, you need to know that our conference is committed to  
16 loving and supporting you through this process. Don't be afraid to reach out to your DS, the Conference  
17 Trustees, or the Conference Office if you need help, direction, or have questions. If you have a question  
18 that the chancellors need to answer, they will direct you to us.

19  
20 While we grieve for the loss of our churches through disaffiliation, we remain hopeful for the future and  
21 the great work that God is doing through our churches and ministries. Taffy and I still expect a lot of  
22 changes to come out of the next General Conference but remain firm in our belief that the New Mexico  
23 Annual Conference is as prepared for those changes as we can be thanks to the groundwork completed  
24 by Charlie Moore and Randall Partin and thanks to the leadership and support of Bishop Schnase, the  
25 Cabinet, and all the amazing leaders God has brought to the NMAC.

26  
27 While no one can predict what the next year will bring, Taffy and I remain committed to the United  
28 Methodist Church and the New Mexico Annual Conference. We will stand ready to meet the legal  
29 challenges that may arise in the coming year.

## PROGRAM AREA REPORTS

### NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

1 *Rev. Dr. Blossom Matthews, Chair and Assistant Director of Congregational Vitality*  
2

3 **Our Mission:** The New Church Development Team exists to support the creation of new places for new  
4 people and a culture supportive of new church development. This is done through initiating new church  
5 starts, creating a culture of innovation, and equipping the people of God to engage in apostolic mission.  
6

7 **It is the work of New Church Development to:**

- 8 1. Support church planters and church planting congregations/communities in discerning,  
9 planning, and launching new faith communities that will become self-sustaining.  
10 2. Support existing congregations/communities in creating new opportunities to connect with and  
11 disciple new followers of Jesus.  
12 3. Provide opportunities for clergy and laity to be equipped and empowered to create new places  
13 in which new people have the opportunity to encounter and become disciples of Jesus.  
14

15 **The New Church Development Team** (NCD) is comprised of clergy and laity working together to recruit  
16 and assess potential planters, discern missional needs, and support church planting endeavors. During  
17 the past year, NCD has supervised the following church plants: Community Table Dinner Church,  
18 Comunidad de Fe, Good Medicine Way, and X-ile. Additionally, CurioLife Digital Church is in  
19 development.  
20

21 **Responding to the Impact of Disaffiliation:** The Conference Office and NCD are working to provide  
22 creative solutions during this challenging season. Representatives of NCD met with persons in Carlsbad  
23 who desire to remain United Methodist after both Carlsbad UM congregations voted to disaffiliate. This  
24 group is continuing to meet and discuss next steps for providing a United Methodist community in  
25 Carlsbad. NCD members are also hosting online consultation and training for those across the  
26 conference who have been negatively impacted by disaffiliation. Further, a team of pastors are offering  
27 ministry to persons left without a church home by making personal contacts, providing online worship,  
28 and offering discipleship opportunities. This team is also preparing resources for launching house  
29 churches and fresh expressions. Additionally, active and retired clergy have offered their service in  
30 providing the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism to those in communities left without a  
31 United Methodist presence. It has been encouraging to see our clergy and laity come together to  
32 support individuals in need of connection and support.  
33

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## DISASTER RESPONSE IN THE NEW MEXICO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

34 **April 2022 to June 2023**

35 *Hap Escue, Albuquerque District Disaster Response Coordinator*  
36

37 **(Note: the first part of this narrative was written to accompany an UMCOR grant application and has  
38 been adapted for this report. Later in this report, a brief update to UMCOR/NMAC activity since the  
39 original narrative is provided.)**  
40

41 From April 2022 through July 2022, a combination of wildfires burned over 341,000 acres in San Miguel  
42 and Mora Counties (centered NW of Las Vegas, New Mexico) and destroyed over 630 homes. The fires

## Program Area Reports

1 were followed by monsoon rains that washed ash and silt off the burn scars, into ditches, acequias  
2 (irrigation ditches), wells, and homes. In addition to the direct damage to homes and outbuildings from  
3 fires and floods, there are many indirect effects such as the destruction of firewood that many of the,  
4 mostly rural, survivors, had logged and cut for winter heat. This fire and flood disaster is by far the  
5 largest natural disaster in New Mexico history.

6  
7 FEMA, the Forest Service, the Small Business Administration, the USDA, and other government agencies  
8 have been exceptionally forthcoming and aggressive in providing funding to help those affected by the  
9 fires and floods. Still there are many who have not been able to recover with the funds (savings,  
10 insurance, government funding, loans and other from other sources) available. Additional funding has  
11 been approved by Congress, but the funds are not currently available and may not be for 3-6 months (as  
12 of April 2023).

13  
14 The local communities have been active in leading the recovery efforts. There are two primary  
15 volunteer organizations that are active now: the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program that has, and is,  
16 providing emergency assistance such as water, food, clothing, and household furnishing to those who  
17 lost their homes. The Neighbor Helping Neighbors program (NHN) is still providing support for about 30  
18 families each week. The second program is the Calf's Canyon/Hermit's Peak Long Term Recovery Group  
19 (CCHPLTRG or LTRG for convenience) and is focused, as the name would imply, on long term recovery  
20 issues such as mental health counseling and providing for survivor's unmet needs. The LTRG is  
21 operating as a special project of the Las Vegas Community Foundation (a 501c3).

22  
23 To date, the LTRG has received requests from over 200 families/survivors who have unmet needs.  
24 Additional cases are identified daily. The LTRG uses 4 part time volunteer disaster case workers who  
25 assist survivors in documenting their cases, and in providing the documented cases showing that all  
26 other sources of funding have been exhausted and what additional funding is needed. Based on the  
27 receipt of funds from some other community foundations (and some from an UMCOR Solidarity Grant),  
28 the LTRG has been able to fund 15 cases for \$45,000. The cases and money disbursed to date have been  
29 constrained by funds available and not specifically prioritized by need or categorization. To date, the  
30 following organizations have been contacted about grant funding by the LTRG, some have made grants  
31 available (an average of \$3000), and we are waiting to hear back from others:

- 32 • Catholic Charities
- 33 • United Church of Christ
- 34 • Disciples of Christ
- 35 • Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation
- 36 • Santa Fe Community Foundation
- 37 • Las Vegas (NM) Friends of the Museum
- 38 • UMCOR
- 39 • Victory Life Church
- 40 • Las Vegas (NM) Rotary Club
- 41 • Immaculate Conception (Catholic) Church
- 42 • St. Paul's Episcopal Lutheran Church
- 43 • Episcopal Relief and Disaster Fund
- 44 • Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund
- 45 • And others

## Program Area Reports

1 The State of New Mexico, in a recent RFP on Emergency Management, has identified over 4300 (and  
2 that number is expected to grow) family units that have registered with FEMA and may have unmet  
3 needs. Disaster Case Management is required as part of the RFP. However, the scope of the DCM is  
4 limited to assisting the client in preparing a plan for recovery, researching government sources of  
5 funding, and does not include any provision for working with an LTRG or other funding sources to get  
6 resources (money or donations in kind) to help with the individual's recovery other than funds available  
7 from government agencies. Moreover, the DCM support for each client is limited based on the severity  
8 of the client's situation and is limited to no more than 68 hours over a six-month period for the most  
9 severe cases. Less severe cases are limited to 4 hours of DCM time over 2 months. This seems a very  
10 low estimate. The RFP requires many other items which we are unable to comply with. Additionally, the  
11 RFP had a response schedule that we could not comply with (a total of 18 days). A significant factor is  
12 deciding how to approach disaster recovery and support for unmet needs is that many northern New  
13 Mexicans will not/do not deal with government agencies except when absolutely necessary. We have  
14 already found that a significant number of survivors have passed up support opportunities rather than  
15 dealing with state government. Having an LTRG that is a volunteer organization and supported by non-  
16 governmental funding, will encourage many survivors to seek help who would not have otherwise.

17  
18 The Disaster Response Coordinators of the New Mexico Annual conference have been active in the  
19 disaster response since May 2022. We have attempted to provide ERT from New Mexico and western  
20 Texas. As we were still coming out of the COVID pandemic and the county emergency managers did not  
21 want ERT (ongoing fire and flood cleanup that might interfere with Federal Cleanup programs), we were  
22 unable to provide any cleanup activity other than one or two days. Other VOAD (Baptist, Team Rubicon,  
23 Samaritan's Purse) did deploy but either completed a planned short deployment or withdrew due to too  
24 many operational constraints. We have been able to assist in several other ways. Notably, we have  
25 established a wheelchair ramp construction program (in conjunction with the NMRamp program), we  
26 have been able to work with the First United Methodist Church in Las Vegas to lease a part of the facility  
27 as a long-term home for the LTRG and the Neighbor Helping Neighbor (emergency assistance) program,  
28 we have provided funding for both the NHN and the LTRG programs (through an UMCOR Solidarity  
29 Grant), we have distributed about 500 "flood buckets", and we have participated in the build out of  
30 computer infrastructure (in a limited way) for disaster case management. We have also participated in  
31 other small recovery activities. Angela Overstreet, UMCOR, has provided training for LTRG Organization.  
32 We are hoping that she can come back and provide specific training in case management. (Angela and  
33 Mellie Thomas came to Las Vegas in early April to provide disaster case management training.)

34  
35 We have submitted a grant request to UMCOR for \$2,200,000) to support our disaster case  
36 management staffing and funding through the LTRG Unmet needs program. The total UMCOR grant  
37 request is divided into 2 parts. The second part describes the majority of the first 2 years of disaster  
38 relief. The first part was limited to \$200,000 to facilitate rapid approval (i.e., at the UMCOR Director's  
39 approval) and project implementation. The first grant is planned to cover 3-4 months of work.  
40 We have continued to actively participate in a variety of activities related to disaster relief and set up an  
41 infrastructure to support long-term activity. Some activities started before we received the first  
42 increment of our grant request (using NM Conference monies) and have continued as we have moved  
43 into the first increment of UMCOR funding. The following activities have been or are underway now as  
44 part of our disaster response:

- 45 • Completed (and expanded) the lease with the First United Methodist Church in Las Vegas.  
46 (FUMCLV). The Las Vegas Community Foundation is paying the lease of the facility and assisting  
47 with site implementation costs. The NM UMC Conference assisted with a few facilities upgrades  
48 to improve internet capability, facility security and safety.

## Program Area Reports

- 1 • Set up of offices at FUMCLV to support long-term recovery activities and other LTRG activities,  
2 provide space for FEMA VOAD Liaison, configure workspace for disaster case managers, and  
3 started a thrift store as part of the community's emergency assistance programs.
- 4 • Hired a case management support staff to facilitate the UMC's participation in the long-term  
5 recovery program. Staff, in addition to case managers, includes an office administrator, a  
6 bookkeeper/reports analyst, a construction supervisor, and a project manager. (Underway as of  
7 4/15/2023)
- 8 • Set up for long-term case management staff that provides space for UMCOR, and NM  
9 Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) case managers in a  
10 volunteer and paid staff mix. This approach provides that Disaster Response Clients have a  
11 seamless experience and receive as promptly as possible the help that they need.
- 12 • Purchased 10 laptop computers for use by disaster case managers to archive case related  
13 documents and keep track of the status of cases. The laptop computers were specifically to  
14 provide a integrated and protected workspace (using Microsoft 365). Three days of training  
15 were provided to ensure that all case managers were able to use the software and understood  
16 the protections that were put into place to protect client's Personally Identifiable information  
17 (PII)
- 18 • As the computer systems were put into place, a project was undertaken to digitize all paper-  
19 based case folders so greater protection could be given to the client-related information.  
20 (Starting soon, as of 4/15/2023)
- 21 • Implemented a client/case tracking system to provide case status and meet reporting  
22 requirements.
- 23 • Participated in Unmet Needs Table as part of the HPCC LTRG.
- 24 • Acceptance and distribution of grant funds from other sources (e.g., the Presbyterian Church)  
25 for staff and unmet needs (in conjunction with LVCF and LTRG). This approach avoids the  
26 duplication of staffing overhead activity.
- 27 • Participation in firewood acquisition and distribution through the LTRG and unmet needs table.
- 28 • Many of these activities have been undertaken as a direct outreach of the NMAC UMC. As we  
29 have received funds from UMCOR as part of an approved grant, the grant money has, and will,  
30 be used primarily for disaster case management, funding of client unmet needs and project  
31 management.

32  
33 It is to the issue of survivor's (client) unmet needs that our activity will primarily be addressed.  
34 Organizationally, we are and expect to collaborate with the HPCC LTRG. We (UMCOR) will provide the  
35 infrastructure (computers and staffing) to facilitate the functionality, and Disaster Case Management  
36 staff, and (some) significant unmet needs funding. The HPCC LTRG will oversee the fund raising,  
37 community messaging, case management oversight (intake to closeout), and operation of the unmet  
38 needs table. The project is expected to last 4-5 years.

39 The Neighbor Helping Neighbor program and the LTRG case management activity had to be out of their  
40 first location before the end of January 2023. The lease of the First Methodist Church provides another  
41 location that can be a permanent home for those programs. UMCOR funding will continue to provide  
42 funding for project management, case management staffing and addressing client's unmet needs.

43 Currently, (April 23, 2023), the project is:

- 44 • Hiring staff
- 45 • Implementing Disaster Case Management as taught by UMCOR
- 46 • Setting up project accounting and client tracking
- 47 • Waiting for approval of the second part of the UMCOR grant request (\$2,000,000).

## NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

*Rev. W. Douglas Mills, PhD, Chair*

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The Conference Board of Church and Society Church and Society works to fulfill the mandate of

- relating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Church, communities, and the world in which we live;
- bringing the whole of human life into conformity with the will of God;
- and showing that reconciliation involves personal, social and civic righteousness.

Since its founding, The United Methodist Church has spoken to the issues of the day as an expression of the Wesleyan commitment to social holiness. Addressing more than 30 social issues on which The United Methodist Church has claimed a position, the Conference Board of Church and Society communicates with policymakers and leaders around the world with the mission of transforming the world.

Of the more than thirty issues to which the conference Board of Church and Society gives attention, the ones that has have the greatest impact on our churches in the last year are the issues of immigration, asylum seekers, and hospitality. At Annual Conference 2022, the New Mexico Annual Conference Border Ministries Team was created to give primary focus to the ministries within the U.S. border region of the conference.

The Border Ministries Team believes it is important to develop further our connection with the Conferencia Anual Norcentral and its Bishop Rodolfo Rivera. Bishop Rivera is also the President of the Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church of Mexico.

It seems likely that our conference ministries will be connected to the Rio Texas Conference. The Border Ministries Team has developed a relationship with the staff and ministries of the Rio Texas Conference and is planning mutual tours of the two conferences and the various ministries of hospitality to migrants.

At the same time, our conference has its own unique features within our geographical bounds. We have begun mapping ministry resources and sites alongside needs and implications so that we can better determine how to resource our local churches.

Justice and immigration issues are always before us. The Conference Border Ministries Team and the Board of Church and Society rejoices in the presence of our churches and ministries, who show love and compassion and are making a difference in the lives of others.

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## FOUR CORNERS NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY

*Debra Yazzie, Executive Director*

36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41

The Four Corners Native American Ministry has a new Executive Director since mid-December 2022. Rev. Tweedy Evelene Sombrero Navarrete retired and is enjoying her free time in Glendale, Arizona. We are grateful for her leadership, compassion and devotion to the mission and objectives of FCNAM while at the helm.



## Program Area Reports

1 Ms. Debra Yazzie comes from the community of Shiprock. She is very active in her community as a Vice  
2 President of the Chapter (e.g., Similar to a Town hall), as a volunteer youth sports Coach, community  
3 service coordinator, and an advocate for the Elderly, Veterans, and Disabled.

4  
5 Debra hit the ground running by swiftly developing a handbook for the HOGAN winter shelter staff  
6 which advocated to provide a positive and safe environment for all relatives staying at the shelter. A  
7 total of 742 relatives were served during the official 1<sup>st</sup> season of the HOGHAN winter shelter. HOGHAN  
8 (“House of Growth, Harmony, And Nurturing”) is a spin-off of the Navajo word for “home” or “Hogan”.  
9 The HOGHAN winter shelter officially ended on March 4, 2023 (Opened on November 1, 2022). We had  
10 a great partnership with Northern Navajo Medical Center Doctors, Navajo Nation Emergency Medical  
11 Team, and Shiprock Police District. All these service providers were there when our HOGHAN winter  
12 shelter staff needed their assistance, expertise and knowledge. We could not have had a successful and  
13 safe outcome without them.

14  
15 The Ministry staff have been busy with a variety of repairs and upkeep of the facility to prepare for the  
16 workgroups coming this summer. The facility and grounds are around 25 years old. The Ministry will be  
17 addressing two major repairs prior to the summer months: the Pastor house outdoor electric service  
18 panel and sewer line sag. Every donation received is really appreciated to help with these costly repairs  
19 to keep the Ministry up and running for the next 25 years.

20  
21 We continue to serve our relatives when they stop by to talk or request for a sandwich or quick hot meal  
22 (cup of soup). We are always happy to provide food from our pantry and words of encouragement to  
23 help ease their worries and struggles. Continued prayers for healing and wellness of our relatives  
24 struggling to overcome addiction.

25  
26 The Ministry is continuing our efforts to collaborate with other community stakeholders in the areas of  
27 housing, homelessness advocacy, sobriety and suicide prevention connections, delivery and set up water  
28 tanks, and provide donated clothing/homeware for relatives experiencing loss of home due to burnout.

29  
30 We are so grateful for all the donated clothing that has reached us from as far away as Las Cruces, New  
31 Mexico! What a wonderful blessing from our relatives who care and love us with all their heart and soul.  
32 25 boxes of donated clothing were received. We also received a donation of disposable pampers (size 1  
33 thru 6) and sanitation supplies.

34  
35 We were very fortunate to have a group of youth who spent their spring break helping deep clean and  
36 move stuff around in the dorm/shelter. They took down a few bunk beds and moved them to our new  
37 shelter location. They also help with cleaning up leaves and downed tree limbs around the facility. We  
38 are excited for the upcoming Solar oven workshop planned for the month of May and the workgroups  
39 coming in June and July.

40

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## LAY SERVANT/CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY

*Kathy Jewell, CLM, Director of Lay Servant/Certified Lay Minister Ministries*

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light- 1 Peter 2:9*

"The ministry of the laity flows from a commitment to Christ's outreaching love. Lay members of The United Methodist Church are, by history and calling, active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), every lay person is called to be missional. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission." Para. 127, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church-2016*.

This last year, 2022-2023, the Lay Servants (LS) and Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) of the New Mexico Conference have been actively engaged in fulfilling both scripture, 1 Peter 2:9, and the BOD, para 127. Not only have these persons been actively empowered to continue with studies through classes, on line and in person, each month, but, have been encouraged to participate in missional ministries in their home church and local communities. Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers have filled pulpits, developed faith communities, lead small groups, established outreach ministries, care for their congregations, preach, conduct public worship and facilitated classes. They, Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers, have been active in being the hands and feet of Jesus in the New Mexico Conference.

With the support of the New Mexico Conference Board of Laity, the ministries of the Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers, have been recognized in the Jurisdiction and nationally for the organization and structure, accountability and availability. The diversity of the classes that have been offered and the passion of the facilitators to present these classes has not gone unrecognized. Each Facilitator provides in depth discussion and scope of the class topic. A huge thank you goes out to each person for the time and commitment they make to offering these classes. Without these persons the continuation of Basic Lay Servant Class, Advanced Lay Servant Classes, Continuing Education Classes (for CLM's), and the CLM Training Class would not be possible.

God has called each Lay Servant and Certified Lay Minister as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers have felt the gentle touch or a big push to serve in a larger capacity. If you are called to "lead" you are called to "serve". Lay Servant classes are a step for laypersons in their faith journey as they strive for a closer relationship with Jesus. The ministries of Lay Servanthood are Leading, Caring and Communicating. Each class will encompass these three areas. To participate in a Basic Class (the first class to take) or an Advanced Lay Servant Class (take a minimum of every three years to maintain Certified Lay Servant status) contact your District Lay Servant Coordinator: Albuquerque-Bernice Hughes, CLM, Clovis-Charlie Powell, CLM, or El Paso-Jon Hendricks, CLM. They can advise you on the classes that will be coming up. Also, the NM Conference weekly email will offer registration for all classes happening each month.

The Certified Lay Ministers were gathered together in August of 2022, for a time of retreat and Discernment. Rev. Beth Estock lead us through spiritual practices of discernment and offered observations for spiritual growth and servant leadership. Rev. Dr. Kevin Johnson, offered lively Safer

## Program Area Reports

1 Sanctuaries Basic class and Safer Sanctuaries Train the Trainer refresher class. Each person attending  
2 had the opportunity to have quiet time, worship experiences (Thank you, Bishop Schnase!!), spiritual  
3 painting, free books offered and Make 'n Take crafts (did anyone every figure out how to fold a "prayer  
4 crane"??) The 2023 Retreat will be Aug. 17-19, David Teel, guest speaker, will offer "Covenant  
5 Leadership."

6  
7 CLM's are now being encouraged and equipped to look toward other certifications that might be calling  
8 them. These added Specializations are: UMC Parish Nurse, UMC Path 1 Church Planter, NPHLM Lay  
9 Missioner, Children's Faith Formation, Men's Ministry Specialist, Congregational Care Minister, Certified  
10 UMC Administrator, and Simple Accountable Structure Specialist. All of these specializations are  
11 available to any CLM through Discipleship Ministries or contact Kathy Jewell.

12  
13 The CLM Training Program is one of caring, serving, and being present as servant leaders. "I want you to  
14 be all love. This is the perfection I believe and teach." John Wesley. CLM's are engaged in an alignment  
15 of Leadership Culture with missional ministry, relationship building and spiritual growth. CLM's are  
16 missioned with bringing the love of Christ to all people, in ways that have yet to be visioned, by means  
17 that have yet to be explored, but with the courage and trust that God has a mighty plan for the Certified  
18 Lay Minister Program!!

19  
20 As we all come together in living out God's purpose, we know our "why", we know our "connection", we  
21 know our "conversation", we know our relationship, we know our Lord. All Laity are God's own  
22 "Possession", we are all one in the body of light!

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### EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

24 1417 South Ave. K, Portales New Mexico 88130

25 575-356-6721

26 *Elizabeth Kirkwood, Executive Director*

27  
28 ENMU Wesley has stayed busy all throughout the year from summer 2022 -2023 academic school year.  
29 **First**, we the students would like to thank all the churches in the Clovis District and beyond for your  
30 support financially, prayers and love for we the students here at Eastern New Mexico University Wesley  
31 House. We are students from "All Walks of Life." We come to this place scared, worried, and hungry.  
32 We find sanctuary, food, friends, and fellowship here. We also know that weather we have a faith or  
33 not, all students are welcome here at this place we call "Our Home Away from Home."

34  
35 **June 2022**- 2 students and a director headed to Las Cruces, New Mexico for Annual Conference. We  
36 met many exciting people who truly care about what we are doing here at ENMU Wesley. On our final  
37 day we gave our report which had an awesome impact and outcome.

38  
39 Several of our International Wesley students stayed in Portales to work for the summer. Many of them  
40 worked many jobs, here on ENMU Campus. From painting the college curbs, sidewalks, and parking  
41 spaces. Others were on moving crews, moving furniture for professors whose building is being  
42 renovated.

43  
44 **August 2022**, we prepared for our ENMU Dawg Daze Fair. Wesley has a table at our community fair the  
45 Move-in weekend before "Fall 2022 semester" begins. Here is where our local businesses in Portales  
46 come out, supporting our students and in return the students find out which ministries and resources

## Program Area Reports

1 are available. We hand out Wesley Bags with our information and weekly schedule inside. We are able  
2 to minister and have programming for our students through donations, offerings and Grants we applied  
3 and awarded from the annual conference. The money goes towards food, and supplies for our students  
4 for the year. We are thankful, grateful and blessed for the gifts we receive.  
5

6 **September 2022**, Comes and we are in full force. Easterns' rodeo, football, volleyball and soccer teams  
7 are going full force. We open at 8:30am and close at 6pm daily, with a free bistro with snacks and  
8 drinks. Wesley is the only "Campus Ministry" to stay open daily and provide 2 free meals weekly. Which  
9 are Wednesday Free Lunch and Devotion, and Sunday Evening Free Supper and Devotion. Which  
10 includes activities for our students.  
11

12 **October 2022**, we hold our "International Supper and Game night." Our international students prepare  
13 lots of great food and dishes from their home countries. 13 countries were represented! Wesley Board  
14 of Directors donated pumpkins for our students to carve and paint. At the end of the month students  
15 begin to prepare for our Wesley November Pancake supper and Auction Fundraiser.  
16

17 **November 2022**, First Sunday in November "ENMU Wesley House Pancake, Sausage Supper, and  
18 Auction Fundraiser." Local Churches and members come out to support our Wesley students. Delicious  
19 bake goods, homemade pies, cakes, and breads are handmade by students. Along with handmade arts  
20 and crafts are auctioned off. Lots of laughs, fun and the students see the community come out and  
21 support our ministry. Our Wesley international students come together to prepare, and fellowship  
22 Thanksgiving dinner together. Many international students do not celebrate Thanksgiving but they know  
23 it involves FOOD! After Thanksgiving break we are back preparing for "Fall Graduation" and finals week.  
24

25 **December 2022**, first Sunday, Farwell UMC brings Christmas to our Wesley! Great food, games and gifts  
26 for all our students. December is a short month with finals, graduation and students leaving for their  
27 next chapter in their lives. Many students leave and go home and come back in January for the Spring  
28 semester.  
29

30 **January and February 2023**, students start arriving back to campus, many wait till the last minute to  
31 come back. Wesley is open and ready for our friends and students to come back. We offer Lunch, open  
32 kitchen, and bistro for the students to come eat, visit, study, have theological discussions and bring new  
33 students to ENMU Wesley. In the 2023 Spring semester we award Thirteen students with the "**Harry  
34 Jordan Wesley Alumni Scholarship**." Harry Jordan was on our Wesley Board, he loved the students. He  
35 passed away in December 2013. The 13 students awarded are grateful for the opportunity to apply.  
36 They are honored to hear about this man and his family. Students are honored to be a recipient of this  
37 scholarship. Nine international students were awarded. Students gathered for "Super Bowl Sunday,  
38 Food and Fellowship." Lent, two pastors from the Clovis District came and offered Ashes for students on  
39 "Ash Wednesday."  
40

41 **March 2023**, March brings "Mid-terms and Spring break." Many students come to Wesley to study, eat  
42 and cram for mid-terms. At the end of March we can see the end of the road as we prepare for our final  
43 weeks of the semester.  
44

45 **April, May and June, 2023**, Our Rodeo students are on the road every weekend, Soccer teams are ready  
46 for Spring season. Other students prepare for their final days here on Campus. May is finals and  
47 graduation. Wesley honors our graduates with a fellowship graduation dinner for them, their parents,  
48 and guests. Students use this time to bring their families to the Wesley to show them where "their  
home away from home" is. We say good-bye, pray for their future and look forward to those who will

## Program Area Reports

1 be returning for the fall semester. We will miss them, but it is a time and a season in their lives. They  
2 know that GOD lead them there to find our ministry. We prepare for Summer Break and Annual  
3 Conference.

4  
5 Throughout our academic year 35-50 students walk through our Wesley doors weekly. Thank you to  
6 everyone who supports us here we cannot say enough. Because of you, your churches and GOD you  
7 make a difference in our students lives.

8

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### NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

*Brian Townsend, Director*

9

10

11 PURPOSE: The vision of the ministry at the Wesley Foundation at NMSU is to help make disciples of  
12 Jesus who are committed to loving God and loving people.

13

14 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

15 Attendance: We graduated 6 students in May of 2022! Some of these have stayed with us as graduate  
16 students! We have a core group of 12 students at Wesley who are attending either our Tuesday evening  
17 student led Bible Study, our Wednesday night worship, or our Friday nights of food and fun. We've had  
18 40 different students attend an event at Wesley over the past year.

19

20 Special Events: We took another annual camping trip to Caballo Lake in September and had 7 students  
21 join for 2 days of fun in the sun. At the end of the past school year, we joined UTEP students at  
22 Sacramento for a work day and have another one scheduled!

23

24 Local Church Connections: We continue to have students involved in local churches. We have a student  
25 leading worship, one helping with music in a local church, two involved in after-school programs for kids,  
26 and a couple helping with local UMC youth groups. We also had students help lead worship and present  
27 testimonies of God's goodness in three out of our four local churches.

28

29 We hosted an appreciation banquet for our current and potential local partners/donors this past fall and  
30 had over 30 people in attendance. As a result, we have added both financial donors and people who are  
31 now providing meals for students on Friday nights. We increased our giving by almost \$7,000 between  
32 the fiscal year of 2021 and 2022.

33

34 We continue to have over two dozen faithful people who are praying for us every month and are  
35 receiving a monthly prayer email. If you would like to pray with us please send an email to  
36 pray4wesleynmsu@gmail.com.

37

38 The Archey Family Leadership Endowment: We are in the final stages of finalizing the Endowment  
39 which will provide scholarships to develop Christian leaders among Wesley students. If you would like  
40 more information or would like to give, please visit our website- nmsuwesley.org.

41

42 Wesley Board: I am grateful for the wonderful board members of Wesley who are committed to seeing  
43 college students grow and thrive. We have representatives from each of the 4 local Las Cruces churches  
44 and are currently looking to expand.

## Program Area Reports

1 Financial Summary:

2 Total Expenses calendar year of 2022 \$66,331

3 Total Income \$55,634

4

5 We are grateful for the continued love and support of the UMC churches in our conference!

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### EL PASO WESLEY CAMPUS MINISTRY

*James Heredia, Director*

6

7

8 El Paso Wesley ministry has continued to establish and grow in the scholarship ministry offered to  
9 students in our community. We desire to support these students in all aspects of their life by partnering  
10 with them to build on the foundation of Jesus in their lives. The Wesley Board understands the necessity  
11 of financial need in these students' lives, and they find joy in helping to ease the financial burden school  
12 can place on the students. The Wesley Board desires to embody Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has  
13 been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much  
14 more will be asked." This past year the Wesley Board approved ten scholarships in the amount of 1,000.  
15 These students are so appreciative for the help and ability to be connected to a community that loves  
16 and supports them.

17

18 The El Paso Wesley Board has continued to meet through Zoom to support and encourage the ministry  
19 of the El Paso Wesley Foundation. Amber Armendariz is serving as the Board Chair, David Nichols as  
20 Scholarship Chair, and Ed Shugart as Treasurer.

21

22 As we continue to develop connection with churches in the El Paso district our hope is to be a place for  
23 our students to be equipped to go and do the work of the church. Many of our churches are missing this  
24 age group. Our desire is to equip these students to be sent and utilize their gifts to serve where God  
25 leads them. Once a month the Wesley group has been serving local churches in their area of need. The  
26 Wesley group has helped the elderly of Tobin Park UMC with yard work, unloaded pumpkins at Vista  
27 Ysleta UMC, church clean up with St James Myrtle, and moving day with St Paul UMC. We are  
28 continuously looking to partner with all our local churches and serve them.

29

30 Wesley El Paso meets every Sunday 5pm to 8pm at Tobin Park UMC. We have an average of 10-15  
31 students on Sunday nights. Our time together consists of worship, food, games, devotional, and prayer.  
32 Once a month our leadership team plans and organizes an Outreach event to invite other students and  
33 friends to be a part and have fellowship with one another. They have organized events like Thanksgiving  
34 meal, Haunted House, Christmas Party, Sacramento Work Camp, and Movie Day. All these events have  
35 begun and end in prayer and are centered on a lesson about Jesus.

36

37 The leadership team consists of four students who work to plan nine outreach events, use a marketing  
38 budget for shirts and swag, plan service projects, and spiritual development. Currently our team meets  
39 once a month to review past events, discuss future events, develop, and manage the budget for the  
40 year, and have time of devotional and prayer with one another. The student leaders have also been  
41 present at the Wesley Board Meetings expressing their voice and establishing connection with the  
42 current members of the board. They have worked to plan out fun events for the Wesley throughout the  
43 year to build connection with current students and invite new students into the community. The  
44 leadership team has also budgeted and utilized funds to help market the Wesley to students in the El  
45 Paso area.

## Program Area Reports

1 I am excited about the community of leaders we are building at the El Paso Wesley. Our hope is to build  
2 a community that loves like Jesus and equip our students for every good work that God has for them.  
3

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### **UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)**

4 David W. ("Dave") Price, PhD, President, NM Conference UMM,  
5

#### 6 CALLING ALL METHODIST MEN! 7

8 The United Methodist Men (UMM) of the NM Annual Conference (NMAC) of the United Methodist  
9 Church (UMC) will be reestablishing their ministry for God and the church in the coming year. (Attempts  
10 to do so in 2022 were disrupted because of a case of cancer and its treatment.) We are looking for men  
11 who are willing to serve God. Are you one of them? Any man can be a part of this NMAC UMM  
12 ministry, but elected officers must be UMC members. Others wanting to be participants in the NMAC  
13 UMM ministry not need to be members of a UMC with a chartered UMM unit or any UMC.  
14

15 To provide leadership of the NMAC UMM, there will be a virtual meeting of the NMAC UMM on  
16 Tuesday, April 28, 2023, from 6:00-7:00 pm MDT. Registration for this meeting can be obtained from  
17 the NM Conference Office through the weekly conference E-newsletter. Access to the conference  
18 newsletter can be obtained from the Conference website ([www.nmconfum.com](http://www.nmconfum.com)). Men interested in  
19 this virtual meeting are encouraged to register early.  
20

21 This virtual meeting will be to election of a new slate of NMAC UMM officers. The elected officers are:  
22 President; 1st Vice-President; 2nd Vice-President; Secretary; and, Treasurer. Elected UMM officers must  
23 be willing to serve their term, available for their term of service, and a member of a UMC. The multiple  
24 President and Vice-President positions are provided to represent men from the different parts of the  
25 NMAC.  
26

27 In the past, you may not have been part of a UMM unit or any men's ministry. However, your life can be  
28 changed by God through working, praying, encouraging and studying with other men. Your  
29 commitment to God can be strengthened. You can catch a vision of what God meant you to be. Are you  
30 interested?  
31

32 We are trying to contact as many men in the NMAC as possible. If you are not directly contacted but are  
33 interested in being part of the ministry of the NMAC UMM, please contact members of the NMAC UMM  
34 Cabinet: Chris Caldes ([wcaldes1@gmail.com](mailto:wcaldes1@gmail.com), 505/870-5820), Ken McVey ([kmcvey124@comcast.net](mailto:kmcvey124@comcast.net),  
35 505/980-3254) or Dave Price ([dr555price@msn.com](mailto:dr555price@msn.com), 505/897-0875). We will need your contact  
36 information (name, phone number, type of phone--cell or landline and E-mail address) to keep you  
37 informed of our efforts in the NMAC UMM.

## INSTITUTIONS

### MCCURDY MINISTRIES COMMUNITY CENTER

*Sarah Allen, Director of Development/Church Relations*

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**McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC)** continues to implement our vision to “create hope and empower the lives of children, youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs in Española, NM.” We were pleased to celebrate 110 years in mission in October 2022, with alumni and current students, families, friends and volunteers from all over the country. We have continued our ministries in creative ways and are strengthened by God’s grace and your help! We have been pleased to return to in person learning, after virtual learning much of 2021, amid ongoing precautions to keep our students as safe as possible. We have been developing new programs to meet the needs of our students and the Española Valley, as well as our faith and volunteer communities.

**Our Project Cariño counselors** have been continuing to provide play, talk, and family therapy services for the last year, all at no charge, to McCurdy Charter School and McCurdy Ministries students. They have continued offering educational programs for students and support groups. The upside has meant increased contact with parents and guardians which benefits our students. Our counselors’ crisis intervention services have continued to save lives with your support. Learning materials have been developed to provide Peer Mediation services by students for students at the Charter School and training has taken place. This project was the brainchild of one of our Social Work Interns.

**Our McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico PreK staff** returned to live educational services for our preschoolers. Each child has a role in helping to teach and guide their fellow students. Whether they are pointing to the months on the calendar or guiding fellow students into lunch, each child is growing in their leadership and mentoring skills in our Pre-K class. Students have learned the Pledge of Allegiance and the New Mexico state song. They sing songs about letters of the alphabet, learning words with the sound and rhymes with other letters they have learned. From taking care of their pet fish, to putting up the blocks from play time, each child has a new special role each week that builds skills and strengthens self-confidence.

**After School Care Program helps their students share their faith** by providing activities that help students express their faith through art, song and learning about Jesus. It also provides time and help with homework and building computer skills. Students are escorted from the McCurdy Charter School to brightly decorated classrooms at McCurdy Ministries until their parents or grandparents can safely pick them up after their work day.

**Camp Stars** will return again this summer planning to provide 50 children with six weeks of Vacation Bible School combined with STEM learning. The theme is Monumental faith, exploring God’s awesome creations while inspiring the students to form a rock solid faith for the road ahead. There will be interactive experiments, fun arts and crafts, and great songs to complement the students’ greater understanding of God’s creation. Most of our students have never visited any of the nearby geologic wonders and there will be 6 field trips to deepen their understanding of God’s amazing planet, Earth.

**Many Individual Volunteers and Volunteers in Mission Teams** have continued to work creatively to support our missions from afar by holding virtual mission trips, dedicating special offerings to our ministries, knitting hats and scarves for our students, utilizing our new Amazon gift registry to send



## Institutions

1 needed supplies for our students without having to pay extra postage and sending notes of  
2 encouragement to our staff. We thank you! We reopened the campus to volunteers last summer and  
3 had 15 teams come to help from various parts of the country. There are still several weeks for additional  
4 volunteer teams to come to McCurdy as we clean out and prepare to take down some of older buildings  
5 to make way for our new growth. For more information on our Volunteer in Mission activities go to our  
6 web page at <https://mccurdy.org> and make plans to bring a work team later this year. Our volunteers  
7 also receive a monthly Volunteer newsletter which helps keep everyone connected.

8  
9 ***We are continuing to send out weekly McCurdy Ministries Devotionals*** sharing thoughts about Christ's  
10 great love and the ways God has been at work through our ministries. To receive this devotional by  
11 email please send a request to [sallen@mccurdy.org](mailto:sallen@mccurdy.org). We also provided our first Lenten study by Zoom  
12 and had over 20 people from 7 states participate in Adam Hamilton's study on Luke: Jesus and the  
13 Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws.

14  
15 ***Four years ago MMCC created a Public/Private Partnership*** to work with our county commissioners,  
16 state representatives, city officials, the New Mexico North Central Economic Development Department,  
17 and several area agencies and nonprofits to find ways to better strengthen MMCC to serve our  
18 community and region. We are moving forward with our vision for a "Live, Work, Educate and Recreate  
19 Planned Community" on campus. For more information on this partnership go to our website at  
20 [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org).

21  
22 ***Celebrating 110 years of mission service:*** In October 2022 we had a special celebration commemorating  
23 our 110 years of making a difference in the Española Valley. We had over 400 people attend and enjoy  
24 the day. We couldn't have done it without the help of our loyal volunteers, UWF and Conference  
25 support and your prayers, gifts and guidance. Thank you.

26  
27 **For more information about McCurdy Ministries Community Center or to ask our staff to present a**  
28 **program at your church about our ministries please contact Pastor Sarah Allen, director of**  
29 **development/church relations, at 928-691-6471 or email her at [sallen@mccurdy.org](mailto:sallen@mccurdy.org).**

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## SACRAMENTO CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

30 ***"Come to the Mountain! Let God Refresh Your Soul!"***

31 *Jeffrey Eigenmann, Executive Director*

32 PO Box 8 Sacramento, NM 88347

33 575-687-3414

34 [jeff@sacramentocamp.org](mailto:jeff@sacramentocamp.org)

35 [www.sacramentocamp.org](http://www.sacramentocamp.org)

36 *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Psalm 34:8*

37 Blessings:

38 What a blessed year we had in 2022. All debt was paid off, we raised enough money for the next part of  
39 the FLC project, our HAFB contract was renewed for the next 5 years and WE HAD CAMP! Additionally,  
40 Brenna Parker, our head cook retired, and we were able to celebrate her 16 years of dedication and  
41 'good cooking'. I am always amazed at the faithfulness of God and how He continues to bless us and all  
42 who visit here. I must also thank all of you, our faithful donors, who love on us so generously. I wish you  
43 could see how your gifts directly impact the ministry here. The stories of changed lives in this special  
44 place continue to impact future generations much as they did yours.

## Institutions

1 Usage:

2 In 2022 we had 15,213.88 camper days of which 20.13% was used by the Methodist church. 2022  
3 proved to be our second-best year in terms of overall usage. I would like to bring a disturbing trend in  
4 our summer camp attendance to your attention. The years in question are 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and  
5 2022 (note 2020 and 2021 are not listed as we had no camp due to Covid). Our camping numbers have  
6 dropped significantly over the years. I have no doubt that you see the same trend in your local youth  
7 groups. In 2016 we had 961 campers in attendance. This has dropped by 60.15% to an attendance of  
8 383 in 2022. CCYM and ROC have not had a camp since 2019 and they are not on the books for 2023. I  
9 fear that they may not ever recover.

10

11 Difficulties:

12 2022 was not without its share of hardships. We lost two key staff to the vaccine mandate required of us  
13 as a government contractor. Church Mutual non-renewed our coverage referencing our fire line score of  
14 98 (100 is the worst possible score). New insurance has been obtained but with a significant increase in  
15 cost. We still have a host of infrastructure challenges. Add onto this all of the struggles and heartache  
16 that are associated with disaffiliation.

17

18 Sacramento's Position related to disaffiliation:

19 YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THAT SACRAMENTO IS TRYING TO LEAVE THE UMC. THIS IS ONLY PARTIALLY TRUE. I WOULD LIKE TO  
20 REFER YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SEGMENT. IT IS AN EXCERPT FROM A LETTER THAT WAS PROVIDED TO THE CONFERENCE  
21 OFFICE IN LATE 2022. PLEASE KNOW THAT SOME OF IT MAY FEEL DATED FOR THIS REASON. I HAVE NOT UPDATED IT FOR THE  
22 PURPOSE OF TRANSPARENCY.

23 (BEGIN EXCERPT)

24

25 A TIME OF MINISTRY:

26 Sacramento was formed in the heart of the Great Depression, yet God has always blessed this special  
27 place. Throughout its existence, Sacramento has served over a hundred thousand people. One can only  
28 wonder how many lives have been redeemed for Christ on this sacred ground.

29 In the first years, Sacramento was off to a wonderful start. Each summer brought in more than 500  
30 people. Since 1931, the camp has only closed once, this was during WWII. No one, not even  
31 Sacramento, escaped the effects of the Second World War. From 1942 until 1947 Sacramento was in  
32 limbo status. However, God kept his hand upon this place, and after much prayer, the stripped facilities  
33 were refurbished, and the camp opened again. Sacramento has survived the Great Depression, WWII,  
34 five fires, a flood, the Great Recession of 2007 which nearly shut Sacramento down, and Covid-19. To  
35 date, Sacramento has had a long and vibrant ministry in partnership with the NMAC of the United  
36 Methodist Church.

37

38 Working through Sacramento, the NMAC was able to accomplish many great things. Most of these were  
39 accomplished through a partnership with other organizations such as McMurry College, the Women's  
40 Society of Christian Service School of Mission, The Methodist Student Movement at New Mexico State,  
41 the Navajo Nation, Fort Bliss, and others. These exclude the multiple Conference ran summer camps  
42 which were equally successful. The '70s and '80s were a time of great growth and expansion hosting  
43 nearly ten thousand camper days each year. However, the '90s through the first decade of the new  
44 millennium was a time of decline. As mentioned earlier, 2007-2008 were tough years, and rumors of  
45 shutting the doors were commonplace.

46

47 During this time, Bill McCuaig was hired as the Executive Director and he did a tremendous job. Bill  
48 added many new programs, and the camp began to steadily increase in usage topping out in 2019 at

## Institutions

1 19,640 camper days. By this time many of the facilities were aging and in desperate need of renovation.  
2 The Front Porch was constructed in 2019 and the first phase of the Family Life Center was completed in  
3 2021. In late 2019, Covid-19 struck the world. Then on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020, the State deemed Sacramento  
4 a “non-essential” entity. While some functions remained crucial, many of the staff were furloughed, laid  
5 off, retired, or otherwise unemployed. For those who were lucky enough to keep their jobs, they  
6 suffered pay cuts, loss of benefits, and reduced hours. By the summer of 2021, Sacramento saw some  
7 improvement but not much. Most groups and all Conference Camps were canceled for that year. In  
8 November of 2021, after a long search, the board hired Jeffrey Eigenmann to follow Bill who had just  
9 retired. Jeff has been with Sacramento since 2013. Marching into 2022 was like marching into a new  
10 world, full of unknowns. Sacramento faced vaccine mandates and employee loss due to those  
11 mandates. The insurance industry saw nineteen individual one billion dollar natural disasters. Because of  
12 this, they developed a fire line map, and Sacramento was rated 98 out of 100 (100 being the worse  
13 rating). This led to the loss of insurance coverage and Sacramento had to scramble to get new coverage.  
14 In addition, the world is living in a “new normal”. This is a time of great confusion surrounding how to  
15 operate in a Covid-19 positive world as one variant continually develops after another. Lastly, the  
16 tragedy that is the division of the United Methodist Church is quickly coming to a head. Despite all of  
17 this, the ministry continues, lives are changed, and the Spirit of the Living God rests upon this special  
18 place. Looking at the second quarter of 2022, Sacramento will likely see camper days that are within  
19 75% of 2019.

20

21 MOVING FORWARD AMONGST A CHURCH DIVIDED, THE CASE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

22 Now, as Sacramento has greatly grown in the number of people served and the programs offered, a new  
23 threat has crept its way in. For reasons we do not need to discuss here, the United Methodist Church is  
24 splitting. This division threatens the future of Sacramento. It has already impacted us in very real ways.  
25 Ways that have generated liability and made us vulnerable. It is Sacramento’s expressed desire to fully  
26 exercise its autonomy from the UMC and be recognized as completely independent. In this way,  
27 Sacramento believes it can best fulfill its purpose as defined in its latest Articles of Incorporation: “To  
28 promote the gospel of Jesus Christ”. This promotion is understood to be as Christ instructed it in Mark  
29 16:15, He said to them, “Go into **all** the world and preach the gospel to **all** creation”. It is the “**all**” in this  
30 scripture that we wish to focus on. Sacramento believes that Christ died for everyone and wishes to  
31 ensure that everyone feels equally welcome to commune with God at this special place regardless of  
32 which side of the division they side with. Remaining neutral and independent so that **all** feel welcome is  
33 the goal. With this independence Sacramento can continue to serve the UMC and whatever other  
34 factions arise from the disaffiliation. Further, we can better serve others outside of the NMAC. In 2019  
35 only 24.36% of Sacramento’s total usage was derived from the NMAC. Simply put, Sacramento desires  
36 to expand its ministry reach and believes it can best do so by exercising its autonomy. During the last  
37 few years of decline for the UMC, Sacramento has continued to grow. This is largely in part to  
38 Sacramento’s autonomy and ability to serve churches of other denominations

39

40 It is with much prayer that Sacramento seeks to fully exercise its autonomy and independence from the  
41 NMAC. Sacramento Camp and Conference Center INC., governed by its board, believes that to secure a  
42 healthy and unencumbered future they must move forward in this manner to ensure that **all** persons  
43 are equally served.

44 (This ends the excerpt)

45

46 I wish all UMC members to know that Sacramento does not wish to pull away from or abandon you.  
47 Rather we wish to acknowledge and honor our long history of ministry together. However, with the  
48 UMC usage numbers as low as they are and dwindling support from the UMC, we will cease to exist if

## Institutions

1 we are not allowed to continue operating independently and serving those outside of the UMC as we  
2 have in past. We greatly desire to still be “your camp” and serve you with the same passion and  
3 hospitality you have come to expect from Sacramento.  
4

5 Looking Forward:

6 2023 is looking to be an exciting year. We have many new churches utilizing us and our summer camps.  
7 Additionally, we will begin construction on the worship center portion of the FLC project in June. We  
8 look forward to seeing each of you at Annual Conference and out here at camp. Let us know how we can  
9 serve you!  
10

---

### METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME

*Trey Oakley, President/CEO*

11  
12  
13 Greetings from Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) and the more than 10,000 children, youth and  
14 families we serve each year. We appreciate your continued friendship through the New Mexico Annual  
15 Conference. In light of changes occurring in the church, and as an independent 501c3 organization, your  
16 continued voluntary support of our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest is as  
17 important as ever.

18 I invite each of you to visit our website at MCH.org. There you can download stories, identify resources,  
19 view a transparent listing of our financial resources and services delivered, find out how to refer a child  
20 for placement, or learn more about a call to join our ministry.  
21

22 Your support provides the resources needed to offer the care, programs and talented individuals  
23 needed to positively affect the lives of those we serve through residential care on the Waco campus and  
24 Boys Ranch and through 14 MCH Family Outreach offices, including Las Cruces, Albuquerque, El Paso  
25 and the Permian Basin.  
26

27 We are now in our 133<sup>nd</sup> year serving children, youth and families. Here are a few highlights of the past  
28 year:

- 29 • The MCH Board of Directors unanimously approved a proposal to begin a master planning  
30 process for the MCH Boys Ranch. This includes expansion of programs and examining how MCH  
31 can be even more effective in meeting the needs of children through residential placement.  
32
- 33 • For the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive time since 1986, MCH earned national reaccreditation from the Council  
34 on Accreditation (COA). MCH was evaluated on more than 800 standards, which examined all  
35 areas of our operations.  
36
- 37 • Secured multiple million-dollar gifts for the Stone and Harris Homes on the Waco campus, and  
38 construction is underway. These new homes are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> new additions and complete  
39 Phase 4 of the multiyear Building Hope Capital Campaign.  
40
- 41 • Raised more than \$900,000 in support of the launch of the 14<sup>th</sup> MCH Family Outreach office,  
42 which will be located in the Permian Basin and open in 2023.  
43
- 44 • Strengthened the “Together We Flourish” initiative designed to maximize and steward our  
45 resources for ministry through collective impact, generosity and support in order to achieve the

## Institutions

1 MCH vision and mission in a greater way. This initiative guides us as we seek out collaborations  
2 with other organizations and strengthen the cohesion between our ministry programs.  
3

- 4 • MCH leadership attended the 2022 United Methodist Association (UMA) Conference in  
5 Savannah, Georgia. President and CEO Trey Oakley, Vice President for Programs Traci Wagner,  
6 and Community Engagement and Training Specialist John Warren presented at the conference.  
7
- 8 • Launched a new Emergent Services program with MCH Family Outreach. Emergent Services  
9 allows staff to offer referral consultation, assistance and support in an efficient and impactful  
10 manner.  
11
- 12 • Launched a pilot program to provide free professional counseling services for individuals and  
13 families. The program is initially being offered through the MCH Family Outreach offices in  
14 Abilene and Waco, with hopes of expanding to other MCH Family Outreach locations.  
15
- 16 • MCH recognized Stephanie Cummings, residential supervisor on the Waco campus, who  
17 received the award for “General Residential Operation Staff of the Year” from the Texas Alliance  
18 of Child and Family Services. She was later recognized at the TACFS Administrators Conference.  
19
- 20 • Children, youth and families enjoyed fun summer activities across our residential and Family  
21 Outreach programs. Youth participated in faith formation camps, volunteer opportunities and  
22 service-based mission trips.  
23
- 24 • The MCH Family Outreach team in El Paso participated in “Camp Ability” which empowers teens  
25 and young adults with disabilities. Staff assisted with games, crafts and activities.  
26
- 27 • Dedicated the Florence C. Howard Prayer Labyrinth on the Waco campus. The prayer labyrinth is  
28 a space for outdoor worship, personal spiritual growth and contemplation.  
29

30 Our achievements in the past and those yet to come are directly related to the many individuals and  
31 congregations throughout our service area, including the New Mexico Annual Conference, who support  
32 our work and ministry through financial gifts, prayers, advocacy and service on the Board of Directors.  
33 Let us continue realizing the great work already being done and begin to witness how God is going to  
34 move in the next chapter at MCH. May God continue to bless MCH and the ministries of the New Mexico  
35 Annual Conference.  
36

---

### PROVIDENCE PLACE

*Judith Bell, President and CEO*

37  
38  
39 Bishop and the members of the New Mexico Annual Conference, thank you on behalf of our Board of  
40 Directors, staff, and those on our campus who are working hard to achieve their own personal level of  
41 success. Your dedication in partnership with the ministry of Providence Place is immeasurable.  
42

43 The year of 2023 marks 128 years of service; all possible because of your loyal and faithful support from  
44 individual donors and United Methodist Churches throughout the New Mexico Annual Conference.  
45 Every day, we have the wonderful opportunity to see God’s hand in our ministries as the lives of the  
46 women, children and families are transformed.

## Institutions

1 Providence Place works to end the cycle of generational trauma through innovative services and  
2 continues to evolve its programs and services to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve. The  
3 world is changing; inflation has caused new uncertainties for many. Families are struggling with the  
4 rising costs of gas, food, diapers and formula. Providence Place serves over 2,000 individuals each year;  
5 100% of those we serve are living day-to-day trying to make ends meet.

6  
7 The relationship between Providence Place and New Annual Mexico Conference, along with individual  
8 churches, has been lifechanging in so many ways. Together, we have helped young women facing  
9 unplanned pregnancies, provided a home for countless young adults, offered hope and restoration for  
10 survivors of complex trauma, and created loving homes for children in foster care. What makes our  
11 programs unique is our ability to serve women, children and families using a trauma informed care  
12 model. This commitment to women and families started with our founder, Madame Volino, when she  
13 first sought help from Travis Park Methodist Church in San Antonio and changed her life from a brothel  
14 owner to a sanctuary for women and young children in need. Without a doubt, churches and their  
15 congregants have played a significant role in the success of Providence Place for 128 years; something  
16 we will never forget.

17  
18 I encourage you to call to arrange a speaker for your congregation or church group, and request offering  
19 materials for an annual church offering. We couldn't continue these ministries without you and we  
20 would love to come and share the stories of Providence Place! If we could be a resource to you, contact  
21 our Mission Advancement Team at (210) 696-2410 or at [mission.advancement@provplace.org](mailto:mission.advancement@provplace.org). Also,  
22 please visit our website at [www.provplace.org](http://www.provplace.org) to learn more about these special ministries and to hear  
23 first-hand stories from those we have served.

24  
25  
26 Obispo y a los miembros de la Conferencia anual de Nuevo México, gracias en nombre de nuestra Junta  
27 Directiva, del personal y de quienes en nuestro campus que trabajan arduamente para alcanzar su  
28 propio nivel personal de éxito. Su dedicación en asociación con el ministerio de Providence Place es  
29 incommensurable.

30  
31 El año 2023 marca 128 años de servicio; todo posible gracias a su apoyo leal y fiel de donantes  
32 individuales e Iglesias Metodistas Unidas en toda la Conferencia anual de Nuevo México. Todos los días,  
33 tenemos la maravillosa oportunidad de ver la mano de Dios en nuestros ministerios a medida que se  
34 transforman las vidas de las mujeres, los niños y las familias.

35  
36 Providence Place trabaja para poner fin al ciclo del trauma generacional mediante servicios innovadores  
37 y sigue evolucionando sus programas y servicios para satisfacer las necesidades siempre cambiantes de  
38 aquellos a quienes atendemos. El mundo está cambiando; la inflación ha provocado nuevas  
39 incertidumbres para muchos. Las familias luchan contra el aumento de los costos de la gasolina, la  
40 comida, los pañales y la leche maternizada. Providence Place atiende a más de 2.000 personas cada año;  
41 el 100% de las personas a las que atendemos viven el día a día intentando llegar a fin de mes.

42  
43 La relación entre Providence Place y la Conferencia anual de Nuevo México y las iglesias individuales ha  
44 cambiado la vida de muchas maneras. Juntos, hemos ayudado a mujeres jóvenes que se enfrentan a  
45 embarazos no deseados, hemos proporcionado un hogar a innumerables adultos jóvenes, hemos  
46 ofrecido esperanza y restauración a supervivientes de traumas complejos y hemos creado hogares  
47 amorosos para niños en acogida. Lo que hace que nuestros programas sean únicos es nuestra capacidad  
48 para atender a mujeres, niños y familias utilizando un modelo de atención informado sobre el trauma.

## Institutions

1 Este compromiso con las mujeres y las familias comenzó con nuestra fundadora, Madame Volino,  
2 cuando buscó ayuda por primera vez en la Iglesia Metodista Travis Park de San Antonio y cambió su vida  
3 de propietaria de un burdel a santuario para mujeres y niños pequeños necesitados. Sin duda, las  
4 iglesias y sus feligreses han desempeñado un papel importante en el éxito de Providence Place durante  
5 128 años; algo que nunca olvidaremos.

6  
7 Le animo a que llame para concertar un orador para su congregación o grupo religioso, y a que solicite  
8 materiales para una ofrenda anual de la iglesia. No podríamos continuar con estos ministerios sin usted  
9 y ¡nos encantaría venir y compartir las historias de Providence Place! Si podemos ser un recurso para  
10 usted, comuníquese con nuestro Equipo de Avance de la Misión al (210) 696-2410 o en  
11 [mission.advancement@provplace.org](mailto:mission.advancement@provplace.org). Además, visite nuestro sitio web en [www.provplace.org](http://www.provplace.org) para  
12 conocer más acerca de estos ministerios especiales y escuchar historias de primera mano de aquellos a  
13 quienes hemos servido.

14 Respetuosamente,

15  
16  
17 Dra. Judith Bell, Presidenta y Directora General  
18

---

### TMF

*Lisa Greenwood, President*

800-404-7674

[www.tmf-fdn.org](http://www.tmf-fdn.org)

19  
20  
21  
22 Texas Methodist Foundation ended 2022 with deep gratitude for the many investors,  
23 philanthropists, borrowers, and leaders we have been blessed to serve in ministry. In 2022 TMF  
24 honored Tom Locke for 33-years of service, awarding him the Medallion of Merit at his retirement  
25 celebration in November. Over the last five years, TMF has cumulatively invested over \$130.1  
26 million of revenue and endowment distributions in Methodist churches and nonprofits across Texas  
27 and New Mexico. During this time of change, and with our new President & CEO, Rev. Lisa  
28 Greenwood, we remain steadfast in our commitment to partnering with the New Mexico Annual  
29 Conference of the United Methodist Church, walking alongside congregations, together creating  
30 cultures of purpose, generosity, and courage.

31  
32 Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp is New Mexico Senior Area Representative and the primary contact and bridge  
33 between congregations, clergy and laity, and Texas Methodist Foundation. As partner in ministry,  
34 Scott connects members of the New Mexico Conference to relevant resources available at Texas  
35 Methodist Foundation.

36  
37 Texas Methodist Foundation, headquartered in Austin, Tx, serves Methodist individuals, churches,  
38 and agencies with the six annual conferences in Texas and New Mexico. We appreciate the  
39 opportunity to report some of the ways we served Methodists last year.

#### 40 41 **Within the New Mexico Conference**

- 42 • Loans to churches in the New Mexico Conference totaled \$4.9 million at the end of 2022.
- 43 • Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the New Mexico Conference had \$2.9  
44 million invested in the Methodist Loan Fund.
- 45 • In 2022, six clergy from the New Mexico Conference participated in a TMF peer learning group.

## Institutions

- At Annual Conference in 2022, TMF staff members Rev. Dr. Scott Sharp (NM Senior Area Representative) and Rev. Dr. Blair Thompson-White (Leadership Ministry) presented on the Five Adaptive Muscles congregations need to strengthen and flex to be fit, agile, and ready for God's work now.

### Throughout Texas and New Mexico

- As of December 31, 2022, total assets under management by TMF were \$647.9 million.
- Methodist Loan Fund investments ended the year at \$312.2 million, and our loan portfolio at \$290.4 million.
- Total gifts to TMF's ministries equaled \$1.2 million, including gifts to Leadership Ministry, Grants, and TMF's Undesignated Endowment.
- Total gifts to TMF for the benefit of others ended 2022 at \$1.8 million, including all planned giving Endowments, Charitable Gift Annuities, Trusts, Donor-Advised Funds.
- In 2022, the TMF Grants Ministry funded approximately \$2.03 million in support of 82 churches and nonprofits. Of that total, TMF granted \$1.49 million from its restricted permanent endowment funds, and the remainder from its operating budget.
- TMF's Leadership Ministry works to equip leaders for deep change through conversations of courage, learning, and innovation. Some of these conversations take the form of ongoing peer groups and others as stand-alone conversations around an adaptive issue. These peer relationships offer fresh perspectives, renew their sense of calling and embolden them for courageous leadership.
- In March 2023, TMF hosted Launch 3.0 in Houston, Texas, a gathering of 90+ leaders from around the United States exploring innovative ministry.
- Fueled by the desire to encourage and support, the TMF team of Area Representatives continues to remain steadfast and loyal to those they serve. As walk-beside partners in ministry, the Area Representative team equips and empowers faith communities by providing financial best practices, inspiring cultures of generosity, and cultivating strategies of legacy giving (often initiated by the workshop Putting Your House in Order). Churches who desire to nurture purpose and innovation embrace a process of discernment guided by this question, "What difference is God calling us to make in this time and in this place?" Engaging both informal conversation and contract services church leadership use Holy Conversations (4-6 months with a team of 7-9) and Holy Excavations (half-day workshop with 25-30 people) to explore their call.

### TMF Board Members

TMF Board members previously elected by the New Mexico Conference include:

- Mr. John Goodwin, Layperson, serving through Annual Conference 2023 (Albuquerque)
- Mr. Sid Strebeck, Layperson, serving through Annual Conference 2023 (Clovis)
- Rev. Dr. Eduardo Rivera, Clergy, serving through 2024 (Albuquerque)



**NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES**

PO Box 26782 Albuquerque, NM 87125

[www.nmchurches.org](http://www.nmchurches.org)

*Rev. Lynne Hinton, Conference Director*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 As the Conference Director of NMCC, I am grateful for the participation of the New Mexico Conference  
6 of the United Methodist Church within our organization. NM Conference of Churches, now over fifty  
7 years strong, continues to work in the state of New Mexico, "heeding Jesus' call to strive for unity,  
8 justice, peace, and the integrity of creation."

9  
10 This year we are in conversation with the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry regarding the sponsorship of  
11 a Spiritual Skills Program as part of the Master of Theological Studies' program in partnership with St.  
12 Norbert College offered at the Norbertine Abbey in Albuquerque. This program will provide students  
13 with clinical and classroom training that will be the equivalent of one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education,  
14 a training program for chaplains. At present, there are no CPE training centers in the state of New  
15 Mexico.

16  
17 We are also in conversation with the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod regarding a shared position in  
18 ecumenical advocacy. This is an exciting new venture that would put NM Conference of Churches as an  
19 active participant in state legislative work.

20  
21 We remain in partnership with NM Interfaith Power and Light and serve as the fiduciary for Interfaith  
22 Hunger Coalition. We are committed to working for creation justice and have been partnering with NM  
23 IPL around the important issues in our state regarding both water concerns and methane emissions.

24  
25 We have offered retreats at Advent and Lent, opportunities for spiritual growth and ecumenical  
26 gatherings and will continue to offer educational opportunities around racial justice, how to engage  
27 faithfully in difficult conversations, and church life post-COVID.

28  
29 In October of 2022, we hosted a film showing of *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination*  
30 *Code*, and featured the presence via Zoom of the filmmaker Steven Newcomb for questions and  
31 conversation. We look forward to more gatherings like this one, providing education around the  
32 particular concerns of our Indigenous siblings across the state.

33  
34 We continue to work for faith communities and faith leaders across the state of New Mexico and are  
35 grateful for the support of judicatories and churches.

36  
37 Thank you for your prayers and support.

## UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES

### AFRICA UNIVERSITY

1 *James H. Salley, President and Chief Executive Officer, Africa University (Tennessee) Inc.*

2 *Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*

3 [jsalley@qbhem.org](mailto:jsalley@qbhem.org)

615.340.7438

5 ***You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. —Matthew 5:14 (CEB)***

7 United Methodists worldwide celebrated an 'Ebenezer' moment in the ministry of Africa University in  
8 2022, marking 30 years of faithfulness, generosity, growth, and impact within and beyond The United  
9 Methodist Church.

10  
11 God's presence and provision in the life of Africa University are evident, thanks to the prayers and  
12 generous support of the New Mexico Conference. Thank you! The New Mexico Conference continues to  
13 maintain its investment, delivering 65 percent of its share of general church giving to support the day-to-  
14 day operations of Africa University. At 83.7 percent overall in 2022, giving to the Africa University Fund  
15 (AUF) remained resilient in all five jurisdictions in the United States.

16  
17 Supported by strong missional engagement and investment by New Mexico United Methodists and church  
18 members across the denomination, Africa University embraced new opportunities as it emerged from  
19 pandemic-related restrictions in 2022.

- 20 • **Enrollment:** Strategic recruitment and retention initiatives, including blended learning options,  
21 technology upgrades, and additional mental health support and financial aid, helped Africa  
22 University achieve a total enrollment at 2,791 students in August 2022. Female students  
23 comprised 58 percent of the student population and 23 African nations were represented.
- 24 • **Academic Growth:** Africa University launched its first new academic unit in almost twenty years—  
25 The School of Law—with a pioneer cohort of 20 students pursuing the Bachelor of Laws (Honors)  
26 (LLBS) degree program. The institution has five new undergraduate and graduate programs  
27 approved for implementation by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE), the  
28 national accreditation and quality assurance agency.
- 29 • **Infrastructure expansion:** Construction of a new residence hall for female students at Africa  
30 University is ongoing. Funding to build and equip the facility was provided by the East Ohio  
31 Conference (EOC). The EOC's **Teach \* Reach \* Bless** campaign raised more than \$1.5 million.
- 32 • **Outcomes:** 712 graduates from 18 African countries became Africa University alumni in June  
33 2022, with the institution's 28th commencement. Equipped for transformational leadership,  
34 Africa University graduates are making vital contributions as clergy, educators, agriculturalists,  
35 health professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators. Throughout 2022, faculty and students  
36 shared internationally recognized research efforts aimed at reducing deaths from malaria and  
37 tuberculosis, protecting the rights of children, and increasing food security in African  
38 communities.

39  
40 Africa University's year-long 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary program culminated in October 2022 with a gathering of  
41 more than 3,000 people at its main campus in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Amidst the commemoration and joyful  
42 thanksgiving livestreamed to the world, the Rev. Dr. Peter Mageto was formally installed as the fifth vice  
43 chancellor (president) of the institution.

## Universities and Seminaries

1 Mageto, a Kenyan and academician specializing in theological ethics, echoed the gratitude of the students,  
2 faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni of Africa University for the incalculable sum of answered prayers that  
3 are the Africa University story. His inaugural address highlighted the optimism and commitment to  
4 purpose that are the foundation of the university’s unfolding vision.

5  
6 “Today, Africa University turns 30. The number 30 is in itself a blessed figure. Thirty was the age of our  
7 Lord Jesus Christ when he commenced his ministry here on earth. It gives us great faith to be walking  
8 resolutely towards the fourth decade,” Mageto said.

9  
10 Thank you, New Mexico Conference, for nurturing change leaders and building an enduring legacy through  
11 the ministry of Africa University. Let us continue to journey together—learning, leading, and serving God,  
12 all the time, everywhere.

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### BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*G. Sujin Pak, Dean*

14  
15  
16 I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times. A year  
17 like 2022 makes even more relevant BUSTH’s historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice  
18 in equipping transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership  
19 with you.

#### BREAKING NEWS:

- 22 ● **Students:** Our academic year 2022-23 entering class was among our most diverse, with 88 new  
23 students enrolling, 34% of whom are international students.
- 24 ● **Faculty:** In September we welcomed three new [faculty members](#): James McCarty, Assistant  
25 Clinical Professor of Religion and Conflict Transformation; Eunil David Cho, Assistant Professor  
26 of Spiritual Care; and Peng Yin, Assistant Professor of Ethics.
- 27 ● **New Online Degree First Cohort:** BUSTH’s first fully online master’s degree—the Master of  
28 Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—welcomed its first students in fall 2022. MARPL seeks  
29 students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of  
30 public life. Learn more at [bu.edu/sth/marpl](http://bu.edu/sth/marpl).
- 31 ● **Faculty Research:** Prof. Filipe Maia was awarded a Louisville Institute book grant in April, and  
32 Prof. Luis Menéndez-Antuña was awarded a grant from the Catholic Biblical Association in  
33 August. Other large grants continue to move forward, including the Trauma Responsive  
34 Congregations Project led by Prof. Shelly Rambo and supported by the Lilly Endowment, and  
35 the Positive Psychology and Formation-Based Flourishing grant led by Prof. Steven Sandage  
36 and supported by the Peale Foundation.
- 37 ● **Scholarships:** This year, we announced free tuition for all residential master’s candidates. We  
38 continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and  
39 leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New  
40 funds include the Research & Teaching Fund and Affirmation & Empowerment Fund as well as  
41 the following endowed funds: DEI, Theology & the Arts, and Doctor of Ministry.
- 42 ● **Accreditation Visit:** BUSTH just welcomed the United Methodist University Senate Review  
43 team on February 1-3 for our re-accreditation visit.
- 44 ● **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual  
45 enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include “Ethics and Video Games,” and  
46 “Spiritual Mending for Helping Professionals.” To learn more, visit [bu.edu/sth/oll](http://bu.edu/sth/oll).

## Universities and Seminaries

- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Faith and Ecological Justice Fund, and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.

### COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as [“Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds.”](#)
- This year’s [Lowell Lecture](#) topics explore the spiritual dimension of artistic expression. This fall, Dr. Emmett G. Price III highlighted the brilliant resilience and demonstrative hope of Black folk through the lens of two exceptional spiritual beings: Nina Simone and John Coltrane. A diverse panel response fostered rich conversation.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

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## CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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

Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from more than 42 denominations, with nearly half of Master of Divinity students coming from the Wesleyan tradition, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 417 from 16 countries and 33 states, and 43% persons of color. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our life together and providing a “learning laboratory” for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ’s love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees and ten dual degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats so students can remain rooted in their home communities as they pursue their degrees. Our new hybrid Master of Divinity blending online classes and in-person intensives launches in Fall 2023, and our successful Doctor of Ministry—with its high 87% completion rate—is 90% online. Hybrid and online options are also available in the Master of Religious Leadership and the Master of Religion and Public Life programs. Plus, Candler’s Teaching Parish program allows student pastors to earn contextual education credit as they serve their churches. We are excited that these flexible learning formats make a first-rate Candler education possible for even more people who are called to ministry.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2021-2022, we awarded \$7.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition. MDiv students also complete a financial literacy program to strengthen their financial and budgeting skills and reduce debt.

Candler was recently honored as one of 16 theological schools to receive a “Pathways to Tomorrow” grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The \$5 million grant will support Candler in establishing a set of initiatives to create an interconnected continuum of offerings for the education of pastoral leaders. This

## Universities and Seminaries

1 will position Candler as a hub of theological learning with multiple entry points, including The Candler  
2 Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to the public, the United  
3 Methodist Course of Study, undergraduate classes, and a new venture, La Mesa Academy for  
4 Theological Studies. Set to launch in Fall 2023, La Mesa Academy will offer diplomas in pastoral  
5 leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish and English. An optional third year of  
6 study will be offered to those aspiring to continue to a graduate professional degree at Candler.

7  
8 This year, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski as Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies, a position  
9 made available by the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder. Brett is an elder in full connection in  
10 the Florida Annual Conference and most recently served for nine years as senior pastor of Christ Church  
11 United Methodist in Ft. Lauderdale. In addition to other pastoral appointments, he has held a variety of  
12 leadership roles in the Florida Conference, including chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He is  
13 deeply committed to working with students in discerning their call, spiritual formation, and guiding  
14 them through the commissioning and ordination process.

15  
16 Candler's ability to fulfill our mission to provide the church with the faithful and creative leaders it needs  
17 depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance  
18 this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at  
19 [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu).

20 —Jan Love  
21

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## DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

*Edwin David Aponte, Dean*

22  
23  
24 Drew educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and  
25 change agents. In Fall 2022 Drew welcomed 77 new students, and as of February 2023 Drew has a total  
26 enrollment of 408 students. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to  
27 graduate theological education with substantial ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend  
28 among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. During 2022, Drew classes met on  
29 campus in Madison, New Jersey, but also some classes met exclusively online, while other met in hybrid  
30 fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person. This was also the case with chapel worship. This reflects  
31 both our ongoing emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, but also Drew leaning into what it  
32 means to be a global school with a global student population. With 35% of students coming from 28  
33 different countries Drew Theological School is truly global and diverse in theology, vocations, age, as  
34 well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities. Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs  
35 foster out-of-the-box thinking, provide real-world apprenticeships, promotes adaptive leadership skills,  
36 and encourages innovation through a team-taught core courses reflecting the integration of the  
37 theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty articulated shared  
38 values are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and  
39 sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and  
40 cooperation. The Theological School has seen an increase in United Methodist students. Moreover,  
41 Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows who chose to pursue education for ministry at Drew.  
42 UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States as well as in our regional  
43 conferences in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York Annual Conference.

## Universities and Seminaries

### DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

*Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean*

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Duke Divinity School has been blessed to be part of the fresh work of the Holy Spirit this year and to participate in “little Pentecosts”—signs and foretastes of the hope we profess and the calling we follow. In his Opening Convocations sermon, Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric said: “If Duke Divinity School is to keep on its Pentecost journey, it needs to devote itself to being guided by the marker of mercy. Our motto of *Eruditio et Religio* only makes sense when we add mercy. ... How we care for the needy is the measure for the apostolicity of our studies, the holiness of our communion, and the power of our prayers.”

The school has continued in its commitment to form ministers of the gospel who will seek God’s justice and mercy. Our faculty have been leaders in the Duke Climate Initiative participating with colleagues from the Nicholas School for the Environment in the event “Pastoral Care for Climate Change: Weaving Together Science and Theology for Justice,” at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, N.C. Divinity faculty have also co-taught a university course titled “Let’s Talk about Climate Change,” and welcomed 30 young faith leaders from various religious traditions and places worldwide to understand better how to engage their faith communities in the fight for our climate.

The Office of Black Church Studies, which has been commemorating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, hosted “Justice Ministry Reimagined: Reentry Simulation” for pastors, students, and lay leaders to learn more about how to support people reentering the community after incarceration. We launched the Prison Engagement Initiative with the Kenan Institute for Ethics. Divinity faculty taught a “Trauma Engaged Duke” seminar and led the project team Developing Best Practices for Trauma-Informed Teaching and Learning. These programs and events complement the ongoing work of field education and ministerial formation that puts Duke Divinity students in contexts ranging from rural churches to hospital chaplaincy to farm ministry, and many more.

This fall, we welcomed 226 entering students from 35 different states and eight other countries, including Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, and South Korea. The Master of Divinity program gained 130 new students, with 88 residential students and 42 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled 13 new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 28; Master of Theology, six; Master of Theological Studies, 22; the Doctor of Theology welcomed six new students to campus, and one special student has enrolled. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed four residential students to campus and 16 in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 30 percent of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Latinx students, six percent; Asian students, five percent; and American Indian students, one percent. Fifty-seven percent of students in the incoming class are female.

There were 33 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 30 percent affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Baptists made up 17 percent of the incoming students; Anglican-Episcopal students, 12 percent; and nondenominational students, 12 percent. Dean Colón-Emeric said: “It is with the guidance of the acts of the apostles, their communal praxis, that the Divinity School continues to build that most delicate and often discredited of structures: an ecumenical community, a community that boldly professes the Apostles’ creed, a community where Christians from estranged churches study together, a community of generous, joyful Pentecost orthodoxy.”

## Universities and Seminaries

1 The school continued to build on its rich tradition of ecumenical engagement, with Dean Colón-Emeric  
2 participating in the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission Dialogue meeting with Pope  
3 Francis at the Vatican. Student Eliza Love, M.Div.'23, was awarded the \$10,000 Bossey Institute  
4 scholarship from the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops to attend the World Council of Church  
5 Ecumenical Institute. The Houses of Study at Duke Divinity School—Methodist House, Anglican Episcopal  
6 House, Presbyterian/Reformed House, Baptist House, Office of Black Church Studies, Asian House, and  
7 Hispanic House—all enrich the Duke Divinity community through theological formation, student  
8 support, dynamic lectures, and robust programming.

9  
10 The school has also welcomed new leaders who bring their gifts to the work of advancing the mission to  
11 serve Christ and the church. Three new associate deans have accepted appointments: Daniel Castelo,  
12 William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, as associate dean for Academic  
13 Formation; Jung Choi, a consulting professor and director of the Asian House of Studies, as associate  
14 dean for Global and Intercultural Formation; and Sangwoo Kim, a consulting professor and senior  
15 director of the Methodist House of Studies and the Wesleyan Formation Initiatives, as associate dean for  
16 Vocational Formation. Linda Coley, who earned an M.Div. from Duke Divinity along with M.S., M.B.A.,  
17 and Ph.D. degrees, has also joined as the executive director for the Ormond Center.

18  
19 Several new programs demonstrate Duke's sustained commitment to connecting with churches and  
20 ministers. The Ormond Center launched the Community Craft Collaborative to create resources for  
21 equipping lay and congregational leaders. The Certificate in Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation  
22 (CCTR), facilitated by leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of conflict transformation and  
23 reconciliation from Duke University and other institutions, provides a timely learning opportunity for  
24 pastors and other church leaders seeking theological and practical skills to foster reconciliation in their  
25 congregations and surrounding communities. We celebrate the expansion of our connection to UMC  
26 colleges through a partnership with Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., to enable qualified undergraduates  
27 to take master's level course through the Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program. The Clergy  
28 Health Initiative supports healthy practices for vibrant ministry. The research and programming from  
29 other Duke Divinity initiatives, including Theology, Medicine, and Culture; Duke Initiatives in Theology  
30 and the Arts; Leadership Education at Duke Divinity; and Thriving Rural Communities, continue to  
31 provide numerous opportunities to bear witness to God's creativity, compassion, and care for  
32 communities and congregations.

33  
34 Our Convocation & Pastors' School (CPS) returned to an in-person format for the first time since the  
35 start of the pandemic with the theme, *Creativity & Courage: From Trauma to Tough Hope*. The  
36 presenters—professional dancers, visual artists, musicians, and scholars—guided participants in facing  
37 brokenness and sin honestly, as they offered glimpses of "the beauty of holiness." *NY Times Best Selling*  
38 *Author & Associate Professor of Christian History, Kate Bowler led a live taping of her Everything*  
39 *Happens podcast to kick off CPS with over 1000 registered participants.*

40  
41 Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist  
42 Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as  
43 we join the leading of God's Spirit in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To  
44 learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

INFORME ANUAL DE LA CONFERENCIA 2023

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2  
3 Duke Divinity School ha recibido la bendición de ser partícipe en las obra del Espíritu Santo este año y en  
4 experimentar “pequeños Pentecosteses”, señales y anticipos de la esperanza que profesamos y la  
5 vocación que seguimos. En su sermón en el culto de apertura para el año académico, el Decano Edgardo  
6 Colón-Emeric dijo: “Para Duke Divinity School proseguir en el camino de Pentecostés, necesitamos ser  
7 guiados por señales de misericordia. Nuestro lema de *Eruditio et Religio* solo tiene sentido en conjunto  
8 con la práctica de la misericordia. ...La manera en que cuidamos a los necesitados es la medida de la  
9 apostolicidad de nuestros estudios, la santidad de nuestra comunión y el poder de nuestras oraciones”.

10  
11 La escuela ha continuado en su compromiso de formar pastores del evangelio que buscan la justicia y la  
12 misericordia de Dios. Nuestra facultad ha estado en vanguardia de la Iniciativa Climática de Duke junto  
13 con colegas de la facultad del Nicholas School for the Environment en el evento "Cuidado Pastoral para  
14 el Cambio Climático: Uniendo la Ciencia y la Teología para la Justicia", en el Laboratorio Marino de la  
15 Universidad de Duke en Beaufort, N.C. Profesores de divinidad también han impartido un curso  
16 universitario titulado "Hablemos sobre el cambio climático" y recibieron a 30 jóvenes líderes  
17 internacionales de diversas tradiciones religiosas con el propósito de comprender mejor cómo  
18 involucrar a las comunidades religiosas en la lucha por nuestro medio ambiente.

19  
20 La Oficina de Estudios Afro-americanos, que está conmemorando su 50º año de aniversario, presentó "El  
21 ministerio de justicia re-imaginado " para ayudar a pastores, estudiantes y líderes laicos a aprender más  
22 sobre cómo apoyar la reintegración de personas a sus comunidades después del encarcelamiento.  
23 Inauguramos la Iniciativa de Compromiso con las Prisiones juntos con el Instituto de Ética de Kenan. El  
24 cuerpo docente de Duke Divinity impartió un seminario llamado "Trauma Engaged Duke" (*Duke:*  
25 *Comprometido con el Trauma*) para desarrollar mejores prácticas para la enseñanza y el aprendizaje  
26 sensibles a perspectivas informadas por experiencias traumáticas. Estos programas y eventos  
27 complementan el trabajo formación ministerial que asigna a los estudiantes de Duke Divinity a servir en  
28 una gran variedad de contextos, desde iglesias rurales hasta capellanía de hospitales, ministerio agrícola  
29 y muchos más.

30  
31 Este otoño, recibimos a 226 nuevos estudiantes de 35 estados diferentes y ocho países: Canadá,  
32 Colombia, Indonesia, Japón, México, Nicaragua, Nigeria y Corea del Sur. El programa de Maestría en  
33 Divinidad recibió 130 nuevos estudiantes, con 88 estudiantes presenciales y 42 en el programa híbrido.  
34 La Maestría de Artes en Práctica Cristiana inscribió a 13 nuevos estudiantes; el Doctor en Ministerio, 28;  
35 Maestría en Teología, seis; Maestría en Estudios Teológicos, 22; el Doctorado en Teología recibió a seis  
36 nuevos estudiantes y un estudiante especial se inscribió. El Certificado en Teología y Cuidado de la Salud  
37 recibió a cuatro estudiantes presenciales y a 16 en el programa híbrido. En todos los programas en Duke  
38 Divinity School, el 30 por ciento de la clase entrante se identificó como de una raza o etnia que no es  
39 blanca. Los estudiantes afroamericanos constituyen el 18 por ciento de todos los estudiantes; los  
40 estudiantes latinos, seis por ciento; los estudiantes asiáticos, cinco por ciento; y estudiantes indígenas,  
41 uno por ciento. El cincuenta y siete por ciento de los estudiantes de la clase entrante son mujeres.  
42 Hay 33 denominaciones representadas en la clase entrante del programa M.Div., con un 30 por ciento  
43 afiliado a la Iglesia Metodista Unida. Los bautistas constituían el 17 por ciento de los estudiantes  
44 entrantes; estudiantes anglicanos-episcopales, 12 por ciento; y estudiantes sin denominación, 12 por  
45 ciento. El Decano Colón-Emeric dijo: “Guiados por los hechos de los apóstoles y su praxis comunitaria, el  
46 Divinity School continúa construyendo la más delicada y muchas veces desacreditada de las estructuras:



## Universities and Seminaries

1 una comunidad ecuménica, una comunidad que audazmente profesa el Credo de los Apóstoles, una  
2 comunidad donde los cristianos de iglesias separadas estudian juntos, una comunidad que vive una  
3 ortodoxia alegre y generosa en el espíritu de Pentecostés".  
4

5 La escuela continuó construyendo sobre su rica tradición de compromiso ecuménico, con el Decano  
6 Colón-Emeric participando en la reunión de la Comisión Mixta Internacional para Diálogo entre el  
7 Concilio Mundial Metodista y la Iglesia Católica Romana con el Papa Francisco en el Vaticano. La  
8 estudiante Eliza Love, M.Div.'23, recibió una beca de \$10,000 del Consejo de Obispos de la Iglesia  
9 Metodista Unida para asistir al Instituto Ecuménico del Consejo Mundial de la Iglesia en Bossey. Las  
10 Casas de Estudios de Duke Divinity School (Casa Metodista, Casa Episcopal Anglicana, Casa  
11 Presbiteriana/Reformada, Casa Bautista, Oficina de Estudios Afro-americanos, Casa de Estudios Asiáticos  
12 y Casa de Estudios Hispanos) siguen enriqueciendo a la comunidad de Duke Divinity a través de la  
13 formación teológica, el apoyo estudiantil, charlas dinámicas y programación robusta.  
14

15 La escuela también recibió nuevos líderes que aportan sus dones al trabajo de avanzar en la misión de  
16 servir a Cristo y a la iglesia. Tres nuevos decanos asociados han aceptado nombramientos: Daniel  
17 Castelo, Profesor William Kellon Quick de Teología y Estudios Metodistas, como decano asociado de  
18 Formación Académica; Jung Choi, profesora adjunta y directora de la Casa de Estudios de Asia, como  
19 decana asociada de Formación Global e Intercultural; y Sangwoo Kim, profesor adjunto y director de la  
20 Casa de Estudios Metodista y de las Iniciativas de Formación Wesleyana, como decano asociado de  
21 Formación Vocacional. Linda Coley, quien obtuvo un M.Div. de Duke Divinity junto con los títulos MS,  
22 M.B.A. y Ph.D., también se unió como directora ejecutiva del Ormond Center.  
23

24 Varios programas nuevos demuestran el compromiso de Duke Divinity en vincularse con iglesias y  
25 ministerios. El Centro Ormond lanzó el Community Craft Collaborative para crear recursos para equipar  
26 a líderes laicos y congregacionales. El Certificado en Transformación y Reconciliación de Conflictos  
27 (CCTR), facilitado por académicos y profesionales destacados en los áreas de transformación y  
28 reconciliación de conflictos de la Universidad de Duke y otras instituciones, brinda una oportunidad de  
29 aprendizaje oportuna para pastores y otros líderes de la iglesia que buscan destrezas teológicas y  
30 prácticas para fomentar la reconciliación en sus congregaciones y comunidades circundantes. La  
31 Iniciativa de Salud del Clero apoya prácticas saludables para un ministerio vibrante. La investigación y  
32 programación de otras iniciativas de Duke Divinity, incluyendo Teología, Medicina y Cultura; Duke  
33 Iniciativas en Teología y las Artes; Educación de Liderazgo en Duke Divinity; y Comunidades Rurales  
34 Prósperas, continúan brindando numerosas oportunidades para dar testimonio de la creatividad, la  
35 compasión y el cuidado de Dios por las comunidades y las congregaciones.  
36

37 Nuestra Convocatoria y Escuela de Pastores (CPS) volvió a un formato presencial por primera vez desde  
38 el comienzo de la pandemia con el tema, *Creatividad y coraje: del trauma a la esperanza audaz*. Los  
39 presentadores (bailarines profesionales, artistas visuales, músicos y académicos) guiaron a los  
40 participantes a enfrentar el quebrantamiento y el pecado con honestidad, mientras ofrecían vislumbres  
41 de "la belleza de la santidad". La autora de libros reconocidos como "best sellers" por el New York Times  
42 y profesora de la historia cristiana, Kate Bowler dirigió una grabación en vivo de su *Todo pasa* podcast  
43 para lanzar CPS donde se registraron más de 1000 participantes.  
44

45 Duke Divinity School continúa agradecida por nuestra participación continua en la Iglesia Metodista  
46 Unida y nuestra asociación con esta conferencia anual. Celebramos la expansión de nuestra conexión  
47 con las universidades de la IMU a través de una asociación con Wesleyan College en Macon, Georgia,  
48 para permitir que los estudiantes universitarios calificados tomen un curso de nivel de maestría a través

## Universities and Seminaries

1 del Programa de formación pastoral acelerada de Duke. Esperamos continuar nuestro trabajo con  
2 ustedes mientras nos unimos a la dirección del Espíritu de Dios en la tarea de preparar a hombres y  
3 mujeres para el ministerio cristiano. Para obtener más información sobre Duke Divinity School, visite  
4 nuestro sitio web en [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

5  
6 Presentado respetuosamente por Edgardo Colón-Emeric  
7 Decano de la Escuela de Divinidad de Duke  
8

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### MCMURRY UNIVERSITY

9 S. 14th & Sayles Blvd., McMurry Station, Abilene, TX 79697

10 (325) 793-3800 [www.mcm.edu](http://www.mcm.edu)

11 *Dr. Sandra S. Harper, President*  
12

13 As McMurry University celebrates its Centennial, words like *growth, advancement, progression, and*  
14 *development* characterize the vibrant ethos of the campus. The University kicked off the celebration last  
15 September during Convocation, and it will continue through Homecoming 2023. This fall, a group of  
16 alumni, employees, and community members and their families planted the new iris garden, which is  
17 named in honor of long-tenured professor Pug Parris. In January, the University announced the  
18 McMurry 100, a list of people who, without their contributions, we would not be celebrating the  
19 Centennial. Names on the list include McMurry founder, Dr. J.W. Hunt; Methodist bishops Alsie Carleton  
20 and Dan Solomon; Methodist minister the Rev. Dr. J.T. Griswold; and University chaplains the Revs. Dr.  
21 Bert Affleck and Johnnie Kahl, as well as Dr. Robert Monk, known as McMurry's unofficial chaplain for  
22 many decades. We believe these names highlight the close relationship McMurry has always had with  
23 the Methodist church, and we are honored to continue that partnership. See the full list at  
24 <https://mcm.edu/centennial/mcmurry-100>.

25  
26 Religious and Spiritual Life has maintained strength and value at McMurry. Mission trips resumed after a  
27 pause during the pandemic. A team of 12 students and two advisors traveled to Florida to serve as  
28 volunteers at Give Kids The World Village. Eleven students and three sponsors will be traveling to Puerto  
29 Rico in May with Community Collaborations International to work on hurricane relief, community  
30 resiliency, and environmental projects. We introduced our Emergency Aid Service, which provides  
31 students with essential needs. And we continued our partnership with Lydia Patterson Institute; two  
32 students will be graduating in May from McMurry and two others will start at the University this fall.  
33

34 In June 2022, McMurry broke ground on the reimagined Shirley L. and Mildred Garrison United  
35 Methodist Student Center, scheduled to open in fall 2023. McMurry acquired the management of the  
36 Hunt and Martin residence halls and began construction on new apartments, and our current  
37 apartments are being renovated this summer. These significant investments point to the commitment of  
38 the University to enhance the student experience.  
39

40 Work has begun on a new strategic plan that includes campus listening sessions with faculty and staff to  
41 discuss ideas as we prepare the Second Century pillars of McMurry's future.  
42

43 McMurry has new academic programs:

- 44 ○ Lift Off invites STEM students to campus early to complete course credit and mentorship.
- 45 ○ The cybersecurity major is now available both fully online and blended (online and in person).

## Universities and Seminaries

- 1 ○ A new public health major and a new associate of science in general studies have been added to  
2 the curriculum.
- 3 ○ The Dual Credit Academy is growing.
- 4 ○ A National Science Foundation STEM grant will launch in summer 2023.
- 5 ○ Funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will help strengthen the War Hawk  
6 Success Center academic success coaching model.

7  
8 As we celebrate our Centennial and look toward the next 100 years, McMurry will continue to embrace  
9 growth on our campus and in our community. A major element of McMurry's growth has been due to  
10 alumnus and University Chaplain the Rev. Marty CashBurless, who will have completed six years of  
11 service to our students when she retires this June. She has shepherded McMurry through celebrations,  
12 successes, and tribulations, including the global pandemic. She is a valued member of the President's  
13 Cabinet and the Diversity Council, not to mention many other groups that have sought her wisdom. To  
14 paraphrase 2 Timothy 4:7, Marty has "fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith."  
15

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### PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

16 *Bishop Michael McKee, Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean, ad interim*  
17

18 Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the New Mexico Annual Conference of The United  
19 Methodist Church.

- 20 ● One (1) student affiliated with the New Mexico Annual Conference is enrolled at Perkins, a  
21 Master of Theological Studies student.
- 22 ● During the 2022-23 academic year, one (1) student from the New Mexico Annual  
23 Conference received funding from the PACE (Perkins Annual Conference Endowment) grant,  
24 with a financial aid award totaling \$2,800.

#### 25 26 **Enrollment Update**

27 Enrollment at Perkins for the 2022-23 academic year totaled 257 students. The hybrid Houston-  
28 Galveston Extension Program, in its fifth year of providing a combination of online and residential  
29 classes leading to the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 96 students during the 2022-23 academic  
30 year.

#### 31 32 **Institutional Highlights**

- 33 ● Craig C. Hill, who became the 11th dean of Perkins School of Theology in July 2016, retired as  
34 dean December 31, 2022, due to medical reasons. Hill, the Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean  
35 and Professor of New Testament, will remain a member of the Perkins faculty until December  
36 31, 2023. During his years at Perkins, he led a thorough study and reorganization of the Office of  
37 Enrollment Management, doubling new student enrollment from 2016-17 to 2019-20. Under his  
38 leadership, financial aid to students increased by 50 percent. He also reinvigorated the Houston-  
39 Galveston extension site as a hybrid program. Hill broadened academic offerings to include the  
40 development of the Baptist House of Studies, the Black/Africana Studies and a healthcare  
41 chaplaincy program.
- 42 ● Bishop Michael McKee began his service as Dean of Perkins School of Theology *ad*  
43 *interim* effective January 1, 2023. He will serve until a permanent dean has been named. Bishop  
44 McKee previously served as episcopal leader of the North Texas Annual Conference since his  
45 election by the South Central Jurisdiction in 2012, from which he retired on January 1, 2023. As  
46 interim dean, he will provide leadership development with students and alumni and, at a time of

## Universities and Seminaries

- 1 particular challenge within the Methodist denomination, will further strengthen SMU's ties with  
2 donors, congregations and institutions within our region as well as nationally.
- 3 • The inaugural William J. Abraham Memorial Lecture took place Oct. 17 in Perkins Chapel, with  
4 Dr. Fred Aquino delivering the lecture and a reception following in the Blue Room in Bridwell  
5 Library. Bridwell Library (SMU Libraries) and Perkins School of Theology established the annual  
6 Memorial Lecture to bring a scholar to the SMU campus each year to engage in a topic related  
7 to Abraham's work of the scholar's choosing. Dr. Abraham, 73, died suddenly in October  
8 2021. He was the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies at Perkins from 1995 until his  
9 retirement in May 2021.
  - 10 • Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. (M.Div. '97; D.Min. '09) was honored as the 2022 recipient of the Perkins  
11 Distinguished Alumnus/a Award. Saenz, a native of south Texas and lifelong United Methodist,  
12 was elected bishop in 2016 at the South Central Jurisdictional Conference. He currently serves as  
13 episcopal leader of the North Texas and Central Texas annual conferences. The banquet, which  
14 took place Nov. 14, also recognized the 2021 Award recipient, Evelyn Parker, and the 2020  
15 Award recipients, the Rev. Donald W. Underwood and the Rev. Dr. Sidney G. Hall, III.
  - 16 • Eight congregations were selected for the second cohort of the Lilly Endowment-funded  
17 Testimony HQ initiative to develop thriving congregations through the practice of testimony as  
18 community engagement. These congregations were selected from applications submitted from  
19 churches within a 350-mile radius of Dallas. The cohort congregations will each receive up to  
20 \$5,000 in grant funding to support their Testimony HQ work from January through December  
21 2023. The following year, in 2024, each of these churches will mentor a church selected to  
22 participate in the third cohort.
  - 23 • An anonymous donor gifted to Perkins and Bridwell Library a Heritage Edition of the St. John's  
24 Bible. Only 299 copies are being produced, with only a few copies in the State of Texas.  
25 Renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson produced the hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible. The  
26 volumes are bound – by hand – in a single piece of Italian calfskin leather and adorned with a  
27 solid silver clasp. The headbands are handsewn in Pakistan. Each volume is numbered and  
28 initialed by Donald Jackson and protected in a burgundy clamshell box.
  - 29 • Perkins is continuing its curriculum review process, chaired by Dr. Rebekah Miles, as it seeks  
30 refinement in its degree programs that will enhance flexibility for students while also providing  
31 opportunities to engage with the school's degree concentrations. We hope to implement the  
32 revised curriculum beginning Fall 2024.
  - 33 • Following a formal campus visit by a seven-member review committee in September, the  
34 University Senate of the General Board for Higher Education and Ministry provided SMU and  
35 Perkins School of Theology a positive recommendation with regard to institutional integrity,  
36 well-structured programs, sound management and clearly defined church relationships. This  
37 review process takes place once every 10 years.
  - 38 • Dr. Rebekah Miles and Dr. Ted Campbell were formally installed as the holders of two endowed  
39 chairs: Miles as the Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology and Ethics and  
40 Campbell as the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies. Not only do the two chairs  
41 involve professorial positions, but the new chairholders also received an engraved desk chair as  
42 part of the formal installation ceremony. Miles and Campbell also each delivered a lecture on a  
43 topic of their choosing as part of the installation.
  - 44 • Dr. Bruce Marshall, Lehman Professor of Christian Doctrine, was awarded the 2023 Altshuler  
45 Distinguished Teaching Award. Bestowed annually since 2001, the award recognizes four SMU  
46 faculty members for their notable commitment to and achievements in fostering student  
47 learning. These are teachers whose concerns for higher education go beyond classroom

## Universities and Seminaries

1 boundaries and often the boundaries of their own disciplines. In student mentoring, in  
2 discussions about teaching, and in continuous reflection about their own successes and ways to  
3 improve, they represent the highest achievement in reaching the goals of higher education.

- 4 • Rev. Dr. Elias H. Lopez (M.Div. '10, D.Min. '18) joined the faculty and staff as Associate Director  
5 of the Intern Program. Dr. Lopez brings a strong background in pastoral care and theology to this  
6 position. Prior to Perkins, he served as Director of Pastoral Care at Methodist Health System in  
7 Dallas, leading a team of 36 chaplains in providing spiritual support to the entire healthcare  
8 system.
- 9 • We are saddened to announce the death of Kenneth Hart, Professor Emeritus of Sacred Music  
10 and former Director of the Sacred Music program from 1987 to 2005. Among his scholarship, he  
11 wrote and published the 2014 volume titled *A Day for Dancing: The Life and Music of Lloyd*  
12 *Pfautsch*.

13  
14 The highlights listed above are reflective of the vibrant engagement of Perkins faculty, staff and  
15 students. Our mission is to equip persons for faithful leadership and Christian ministry in a changing  
16 church and society; to educate those seeking a deeper understanding of the Christian faith; and to  
17 strengthen the church, academy, and world through service, scholarship, and advocacy. We thank our  
18 many colleagues, friends and alumni in the New Mexico Annual Conference of The United Methodist  
19 Church for your generous support, including referrals of prospective students.

20 Grace and peace,  
21

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### SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

22 *R. Gerald Turner, President*

23 214-768-2000

24 [www.smu.edu](http://www.smu.edu)

25 Southern Methodist University (SMU) has served as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning since its  
26 founding in 1911 by the citizens of Dallas and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. SMU's mission is  
27 to expand knowledge through research and teaching and to serve as an igniter and facilitator of growth  
28 in Dallas and North Texas. With continued Methodist representation on the Board of Trustees and by  
29 welcoming students of all faiths, SMU is reaching a higher level of accomplishment and global  
30 recognition in our second century of shaping world changers. Consistent with the University's  
31 appreciation of our Wesleyan heritage, SMU voluntarily submits this report to the New Mexico Annual  
32 Conference.

#### 33 **Students, faculty, and staff**

34 Each year SMU continues to attract more academically qualified and diverse students. The 1,639  
35 students of the Class of 2026 entered with the highest grade-point average (3.71) of any previous first-  
36 year class. Equally important, nearly a third of these incoming students (32%) identified as being from an  
37 underrepresented background. Just over 100 of these new Mustangs had their tuition fully met through  
38 SMU's scholarship for high-achieving Texas students who are eligible for federal Pell grants. Most of  
39 them (59%) come to Dallas from other states, 38% are homegrown Texans and 3% are international  
40 students.

41  
42  
43 As our incoming students reach new heights of academic excellence, research by our faculty members,  
44 graduate students, and even undergraduates benefits our region and the world around us. SMU remains  
45 committed to our goal of becoming a Research One (R1) institution in the Carnegie Classification system,  
46 which will further elevate our national rankings and reputation.

## Universities and Seminaries

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### Rankings

- SMU continues to receive strong recognition and high rankings among prestigious reviewers, including:
- Top 20% best national universities by *U.S. News & World Report* (2023). Also cited among the Top Performers on Social Mobility and Best Colleges for Veterans and Best Value Schools (2023).
  - Top 12% (No. 94 out of 796) of U.S. public and private universities by the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* (2022).
  - One of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education by *The Princeton Review’s* The Best 388 Colleges and among its 2023 Best Colleges: Region by Region.
  - Top 5% best nationwide colleges (91 out of 2,241) by College Factual (2023). Also, SMU alumni ranked among the top 10% in pay for graduates across a range of fields.
  - SMU’s Perkins Chapel at No. 16 out of 35 of the nation’s most beautiful college churches and chapels by College Rank.
  - “Higher research activity” as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

### Capital campaign and research funding

Momentum is growing as the University moves into the second year of the comprehensive campaign *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*. As of March 1, 2023, donors have contributed over \$991 million to this multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, explore new fields and cutting-edge technologies, and positively impact Dallas and the world beyond.

In fiscal year 2023, SMU received nearly \$46 million in external funding for domestic and global research. Current funding agencies include the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, Google, and Toyota USA Foundation.

### Perkins School of Theology

After six and a half years of service, Craig Hill retired as dean of the Perkins School of Theology on December 31, 2022, but is continuing as a member of the faculty until December 31, 2023. We are pleased to have Bishop Michael McKee ’78 serving as interim dean until a successor is brought aboard.

The Caren and Vin Prothro Organ project is fully funded. The 1927 Skinner organ has been restored, and installation of this rare instrument in our Perkins Chapel should be completed by November 2023.

SMU remains grateful for the enduring work of our Perkins School of Theology in the instruction and training of clergy for all Wesleyan traditions and other denominations. We ask for your prayers and continued support as we strive to further our mission to make a positive impact on the world around us.

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## ST. PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Where Theology Meets Life*

[www.spst.edu](http://www.spst.edu)

Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEXible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and in remote spaces. Our contextual curriculum features Ministry Collaboration Groups, Practicums, Spiritual

## Universities and Seminaries

1 Formation Retreats, and Seminars. Students learn from dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and  
2 community leaders about best ministry practices leaving our graduates with the tools and first-hand  
3 experience necessary to meet the needs of a changing world.

4  
5 We continue to implement the changes the last few years have integrated into our daily lives. Our  
6 weekly chapel service utilizes a hybrid format, where participants may join in-person or online, allowing  
7 staff and students to come together as one institution where all are invited to create a sacred  
8 atmosphere from wherever they are. In addition, Saint Paul offers weekly Spiritual Formation allowing  
9 students to engage in spiritual practices led by Rev. Jen Logsdon-Kellogg. Some practices will take us  
10 outdoors or to other sacred spaces, and others will have us connect with community leaders.

11  
12 Saint Paul welcomed over 30 new students for the 2022-2023 academic year. Enrollment remained solid  
13 for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program with promising growth on our Oklahoma campus.  
14 With COVID-19 restrictions lifted yet monitored, prospective students returned to in-person visits on  
15 both campuses, experiencing community meals, worship, and the newly implemented "Hammock  
16 ministry" on the Oklahoma campus. The Admissions team continues to expand travel to meet new  
17 students, including the Carolinas, Washington, D.C., and various parts of Texas.

18  
19 This year we have focused on strengthening the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry by creating two  
20 specializations: Women, Society, and Church; and Social Justice and Advocacy. In each case, the student  
21 takes 22 hours of MACM required courses, and then the remaining 12 hours of the degree are  
22 comprised of courses focusing upon the specialization. The two existing specializations, Prophetic  
23 Witness and Service; and Deacon Ministries, will continue to be offered as well. The Women, Society,  
24 and Church Studies specialization is also available in the MDiv program, as is a specialization in Wesleyan  
25 Studies.

26  
27 Saint Paul staff and faculty continue contributing to the academy, church, and society. This year, we  
28 welcomed Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean and  
29 Professor of New Testament. The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of  
30 scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and  
31 publications have been so numerous that space permits only sharing selected highlights.

- 32 • Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth co-authored a journal article with Julie Faith Parker, "'Where  
33 Have All the Young Girls Gone?' Discovering the Girls of the Bible through Childist Analysis of  
34 Exodus 2 and Mark 5-7," in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 38, no. 2 (Fall 2022).
- 35 • Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual  
36 Education, was the keynote speaker for the United Methodist Church Missouri Preaching  
37 Academy "Offering the Word to a Digital World." She published "Failure to Discern the  
38 Online/Hybrid Body: A Captivity of the Eucharist" for the special issue of *Currents in  
39 Theology and Mission: Eucharist and Online Worship: Toward Extended Theological  
40 Reflection*, vol. 50, no. 1 (2023) and published the chapter "Liturgical Authority and the  
41 Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" in *Liturgical Authority in Free Church  
42 Traditions*, edited by Sarah Johnson and Andrew Wymer, Calvin Worship and Witness Series.
- 43 • Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church, and Society, led a "Race,  
44 Liberation, and Political Economics" series at Second Presbyterian. He also spoke at The  
45 Open Table KC on "Race, Liberation, and Economics."
- 46 • Dr. Amy Oden, Adjunct Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality, was a guest  
47 speaker at numerous events around the country this year, including at a Five Day Academy

## Universities and Seminaries

1 for Spiritual Formation in Oklahoma, the Beyond Conference in St. Louis, and the Academy  
2 for Spiritual Formation in Alabama.

3  
4 In October, Saint Paul hosted a forum on "Innovative, Creative Ministry" featuring alumni Matt Austin  
5 '18, Fabian Gonzalez '20, Bo Ireland '18, Matt Patrick '18, & Abby Peper '22, with each sharing their  
6 personal stories of innovation in ministry. In November, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Israel  
7 Kamudzandu, hosted a forum given by Rev. Mike Slaughter, former lead pastor at Ginghamburg  
8 Church, on "Spiritual Awakening: the here and the not yet." Later in the year, the Evangelical Society  
9 hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns, Visiting Professor of Pentecostal Studies and  
10 Director of the Global Pentecostal House of Study at United Theological Seminary. And on May 12, Saint  
11 Paul again held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together  
12 from both campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. During the ceremony, we  
13 honored the 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Bishop Delores J.  
14 "Dee" Williamston.

15  
16 Saint Paul Board of Trustees changed leadership this year as long-time faculty and board member Rev.  
17 Dr. Tex Sample concluded his term as chair of the Board. Dr. Amy Hogan, Professor of Education and  
18 Dean of the School of Education at Ottawa University, has succeeded him as chair. Dr. Hogan possesses  
19 a deep reservoir of experience in teaching, research, and accreditation. In response to President Neil  
20 Blair's announcement that he will retire on December 31, 2023, Dr. Hogan appointed a search  
21 committee composed of faculty, staff, students, and trustees charged with identifying Saint Paul's next  
22 president. The search committee is currently conferring with Saint Paul's constituent groups to prepare  
23 the position prospectus that will describe Saint Paul's needs and aspirations to candidates.

24  
25 In September 2022, Saint Paul School of Theology hosted a review team from the Higher Learning  
26 Commission (HLC), one of Saint Paul's primary accreditation agencies, as part of the Seminary's regular  
27 reaffirmation cycle. On November 18, 2022, the Higher Learning Commission notified Saint Paul that the  
28 Commission "continued the accreditation of Saint Paul School of Theology with the next Reaffirmation  
29 of Accreditation in 2028-2029." The Seminary's Board of Trustees also devoted considerable time to  
30 improving its governance capacity. For example, in April 2022, trustees invested a significant portion of  
31 their meeting in a facilitated Emotional Intelligence and Trust-Building workshop. The workshop was led  
32 by Gail Parker, a noted management consultant who has worked with clients such as KPMG, Goldman  
33 Sachs, and Disney, among many others. In October 2022, former executive director of the Association of  
34 Theological Schools, Dan Aleshire, offered an overview of demographic and enrollment trends in the  
35 nation's seminaries, focusing on how those trends affect institutions' diversity, equity, and inclusion  
36 initiatives. As these activities suggest, the Board remains deeply committed to enhancing its capabilities  
37 to guide Saint Paul effectively and knowledgeably.

38  
39 We are happy to report that Saint Paul School of Theology is financially sound. We operate with a  
40 balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment 9-10 times the size of our annual expenses. As always, we  
41 continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and  
42 evolving academic programs to students. As of the close of 2022, over one hundred alumni and friends  
43 of Saint Paul contributed more than \$60,000 to create the Tex and Peggy Sample Endowed Scholarship  
44 Fund honoring the life and work of Tex and Peggy Sample. Sustainability has been our focus over the  
45 past five years, and we have achieved our goal. Investments in our future bring exciting new  
46 opportunities for our students, staff, and faculty. Our significant technological investments have allowed  
47 us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model providing a flexible working arrangement for our  
48 students.



## Universities and Seminaries

1 We are continuing to enhance our partnership with Zoom and Neat. Late last Spring, in conjunction with  
2 our Neat Board electronic whiteboards and Neat Bars, we implemented Neat's newest product, their  
3 Neat Bar Pros, in our large classrooms. These new bars are designed to offer a superior video and audio  
4 experience in large spaces and the ability to output to multiple large screens to enhance the overall  
5 classroom experience significantly. We have rolled out additional Zoom Room Neat Boards in numerous  
6 common areas to encourage ad-hoc use of the technology for breakout groups and other miscellaneous  
7 meetings between our two campuses and remote students. One of the best features of this technology  
8 is its ability to receive automatic real-time over-the-air features upgrades. Several significant  
9 enhancements have rolled out this past year, including improved voice cancellation, Zoom Room  
10 Breakout Groups, real-time Closed Captions with transcripts, and updated use of AI to split each in-  
11 classroom student into their individual zoomed-in Zoom window. In addition, our Neat equipment  
12 continuously monitors several environmental factors within our classrooms; air quality, temperature,  
13 humidity, VOC, and CO2, as well as being able to tell if the classrooms are occupied and how many  
14 individuals are in the room. We can also monitor the audio/video quality and network connectivity in  
15 each of our classrooms, as well as the connection quality for all remote students attending the class. We  
16 are excited about the additional enhancements that will come to our classrooms from Neat and Zoom  
17 over this next year and look forward to our continued partnership with Neat and Zoom on this  
18 groundbreaking technology.

19  
20 Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover  
21 more and answer the call. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we  
22 continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for generations to come.

23  
24 President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your prayers  
25 and support.

26

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### UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Dr. Kent Millard, President*

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28

29

30 United Theological Seminary celebrated rising enrollment in the 2022-2023 academic year. In the  
31 previous year, 464 students were enrolled at United; in 2022-2023, the seminary is serving 541 students,  
32 a 17% increase. A diverse community of many denominations, races, and nationalities, United welcomed  
33 students from 36 states, 21 countries, and 43 denominations, with 42% of students identifying as United  
34 Methodist. \* The Seminary prepared 103 Course of Study students\*\* and served 10 students through the  
35 Hispanic Christian Academy, a 3-year online course of ministry program for Hispanic/Latino lay pastors  
36 and leaders serving United Methodist congregations.

37

#### **Houses of Study**

38  
39 In large part, this enrollment growth is a result of the seminary's House of Study initiative, which is  
40 supported by a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. As of  
41 2022-2023, the Seminary has established five Houses of Study that are equipping master's students for  
42 the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements, and denominations in which they serve:

43

44

45

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship, directed by Bishop Lisa Weah;

## Universities and Seminaries

- 1 • Global Methodist, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover;
- 2 • Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns;
- 3 • and Hispanic, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa.

4  
5 The largest of these communities is the Hispanic House of Study (Casa de Estudios Hispana), which is  
6 meeting a need for Hispanic/Latino pastors and church leaders ready to pursue a Master of Divinity in  
7 their native language. Nearly 50 students from across the United States and Latin America, including  
8 students from Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, and Peru, started in the online program in the 2022-2023  
9 academic year.

10  
11 As United continues to expand its offerings to support church leaders, it is preparing to launch three  
12 new Houses of Study in the 2023-2024 academic year: a Korean House of Study, taught 100% in Korean  
13 for Korean-speaking students, led by Dr. Seok Jae Jeon; an African Methodist Episcopal Zion House of  
14 Study led by Bishop Eric Leake; and a Global Lutheran House of Study led by Dr. Richard Blue, Dr. Tom  
15 Thorstad and Dr. Dan Landin.

### 16 17 **Doctor of Ministry**

18 The Seminary is also seeing growth in its Doctor of Ministry program. In 2022-2023, the Doctor of  
19 Ministry program has grown to 250 students, an increase of 32% over the past five years.\* Doctoral  
20 students at United are actively engaged in ministry and seeking to become more effective leaders for  
21 the Church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. Students identify a need within their congregations or  
22 communities and, with the support of a peer group, mentor, and United faculty, they develop a model  
23 of ministry to address the challenge.

### 24 25 **Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center**

26 Launched in Fall 2021, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, is  
27 connecting with pastors, ministry leaders, and congregational members hungry to bring God's renewal  
28 to their faith communities. In the past year alone, the Innovation Center has engaged more than 1,000  
29 participants through more than 40 live webinars, training events, and courses. The Innovation Center  
30 has also partnered with The Center for Spiritual Formation, a connectional ministry of the Susquehanna  
31 Conference of The United Methodist Church, to offer a two-year online training course for those called  
32 to the ministry of spiritual direction. In addition, the Center is partnering with two United Methodist  
33 conferences to provide its Breakthrough Prayer Initiative training for all clergy in these conferences.  
34 Through these and other new opportunities, the Innovation Center seeks to set the stage for the  
35 increased vitality of leaders and congregations everywhere.

36  
37 \* Student data represent 2022-2023 headcount enrollment, as of March 1, 2023. Denominational figures  
38 represent those who responded.

39 \*\* Course of Study figures represent the most recent four terms.

## WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President, Wesley Theological Seminary*

Wesley Theological Seminary continues to grow and thrive through research, innovation, and equipping Christian leaders for real-life ministries.

### ***Course offerings and support that respond to students' needs***

Get the education you need in the format you want.

- Pursue your call in a dynamic community within the corridors of power in Washington, DC, or earn a degree through flexible hybrid and online options from your home! Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/study/](http://wesleyseminary.edu/study/)
- Our **FlexMA** is a 36-hour flexible M.A. degree for those preparing for bi-vocational or specialized ministries. Learn more: [www.wesleyseminary.edu/flexma/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/flexma/)
- **Wesley offers specializations** in African American church leadership, public theology, military chaplaincy, and certifications in Christian studies, children and youth ministry and advocacy, and health ministry. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu](http://wesleyseminary.edu)

Wesley provides \$2 million annually in scholarships, including **full-tuition scholarships** for master's applicants recommended by alums, campus ministers, or Christian service ministries; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students working 10+ years in a non-ministry setting; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx leaders in ministry.

Wesley's **Doctor of Ministry programs** includes relevant tracks such as Church Leadership Excellence, Soul Care, Global Church Leadership, Howard Thurman, and the ground-breaking track on Trauma, Moral Injury, and Christian Life. Journey with a cohort of leaders with online classes and hybrid week-long intensive sessions. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/](http://wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/)

### ***Research projects support congregational thriving and envision future ministry.***

- Over \$11 million in Grants from Lilly Endowment Inc. undergird Wesley's research into and support of congregational thriving and innovation.
- In collaboration with Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary is developing professional courses and certificates for pastors.
- The **Wesley Innovation Hub** brings together diverse congregational cohorts to learn and practice ministry innovations that engage young adults for social change. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/](http://wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/)
- The Wesley Ministry Innovation Fellowship is a one-year, cohort-based experience with community formation, spiritual direction, graduate-level courses, and hands-on experience leading innovation. Each innovator earns a stipend and four graduate academic course credits. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/design-fellows/](http://wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/design-fellows/)
- **The Lewis Center for Church Leadership's Religious Workforce Project** offers multi-denominational research into current and future needs. Visit [religiousworkforce.com/](http://religiousworkforce.com/)

## Universities and Seminaries

1 ***Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry.***

2

3 **The Lewis Center for Church Leadership** conducts leading-edge research for the local church. Find the  
4 **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** and **Leading Ideas podcast**, a weekly resource for over 20,000 leaders, at  
5 [churchleadership.com](http://churchleadership.com).

6

7 The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches  
8 and faith-based organization engaging their communities.

9 • The online **Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work  
10 in their parishes. Contact: Dr. Tom Pruski, [tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu).

11 • The **Center for Public Theology** creates spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion  
12 and politics. Visit [wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/](http://wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/).

13

14 **The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion** explores the intersection of the arts and theology.  
15 Visit [luceartsandreligion.org](http://luceartsandreligion.org).

16

### 17 **Stay connected**

18 Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu). Follow us on social media—  
19 Facebook [wesleyseminary](https://www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary), Instagram [@wesleyseminary](https://www.instagram.com/wesleyseminary), LinkedIn [wesleytheologicalseminary](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wesleytheologicalseminary), and  
20 Twitter [@WesTheoSem](https://twitter.com/WesTheoSem).

## RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION FOR COMMITMENT TO CREATION CARE – 2023

1 *New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women dba United Women in Faith, Kathleen Duncan,*  
2 *President; Ellen Lipsey, President, South Central Jurisdiction, United Women in Faith; Dodie Hawkins,*  
3 *Chairperson, New Mexico Conference United Women in Faith, Creation Care Green Team.*  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, “God created humans to care for creation on God’s behalf.” (Genesis, 2:15)  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Climate change is real.  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Humans are responsible.  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, The impact is serious.  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The need to act is now.  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it.”  
16 (The United Methodist Social Principles of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016*,  
17 p. 106.)  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, “We affirm Paragraph 160.D Global Climate Stewardship as our ongoing commitment to join  
20 the movement to address creation care and climate change as an existential crisis the Church cannot  
21 ignore,” (Climate Crisis Response for the Council of Bishops, November 2-5, 2021.)  
22

23 **THEREFORE**, All Churches in the New Mexico Conference shall distribute Creation Justice Tips available at  
24 [UMCreationJustice.org](http://UMCreationJustice.org) on a monthly basis by whatever means is practical for their Church.

Resolutions

**RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR ACTIVE, RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGYPERSONS OF THE NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE**

*New Mexico Board of Pension and Health Benefits*

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The New Mexico 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 Wespeth Benefits and Investments during the year **2024** 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 Wespeth Benefits and Investments and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth Benefits and Investment 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:** 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

Resolutions

1 provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and  
2 appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.  
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**RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE**

**EL ALFARERO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN EL PASO, TEXAS**

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, El Paso District Superintendent*

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5  
6 **WHEREAS**, El Alfarero United Methodist Church of El Paso, Texas transferred from the Rio Grande  
7 Conference, becoming a part of the New Mexico Conference on July 1, 2014, and has a long and proud  
8 history of service to the Lord and the Buena Vista mission field; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the church conference of El Alfarero United Methodist Church of El Paso, Texas voted on July  
11 31, 2022, to discontinue the church; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the members and friends of the El Alfarero United Methodist Church celebrated their life and  
14 ministry together on August 7, 2022, during a worship service disbanding the congregation and will go on  
15 to serve the Lord in other parts of God’s Kingdom here on earth; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the consent to discontinue has been granted by Bishop Robert Schnase, the Albuquerque,  
18 Clovis, and El Paso District Superintendents, and the El Paso District Board of Church Location and Building  
19 and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the local church property will no longer use, keep or maintain its membership as a place of  
22 divine worship after August 7, 2022;  
23

24 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That upon the recommendation of the El Paso District Superintendent, the New  
25 Mexico Annual Conference declares El Alfarero United Methodist Church closed on August 7, 2022,  
26 pursuant to ¶2549.1.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (BOD) and that, on August 7, 2022, the New Mexico  
27 Annual Conference Board of Trustees assumes control of the real and personal, tangible and intangible  
28 property, and any and all other assets, both present and future, of El Alfarero United Methodist Church  
29 of El Paso, TX (¶2549.2.b) BOD).  
30

31 **FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees is granted the  
32 authority to retain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the property in the best interest of the New Mexico  
33 Annual Conference as stipulated in ¶2549.2.c). of the BOD.

Resolutions

**RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE  
ANTHONY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN ANTHONY, TEXAS**

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, El Paso District Superintendent*

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**WHEREAS**, Anthony United Methodist Church of Anthony, Texas was organized as a congregation in 1906, holding services once a month in a one-room adobe schoolhouse west of the railroad tracks in Anthony, and for over a decade holding intermittent services and Sunday school classes until 1922 when the congregation was officially organized as Anthony Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the building completed in 1924, and has continued a long and proud history of service to the Lord and its mission field, north of El Paso.

**WHEREAS**, the church conference of Anthony United Methodist Church of Anthony, Texas voted on March 26, 2023, to discontinue the church; and

**WHEREAS**, the members and friends of Anthony United Methodist Church celebrated their life and ministry together on April 16, 2023, during a worship service disbanding the congregation and will go on to serve the Lord in other parts of God’s Kingdom here on earth; and

**WHEREAS**, the consent to discontinue has been granted by Bishop Robert Schnase, the Albuquerque, Clovis, and El Paso District Superintendents, and the El Paso District Board of Church Location and Building and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with; and

**WHEREAS**, the local church property will no longer use, keep or maintain its membership as a place of divine worship after April 16, 2023;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That upon the recommendation of the El Paso District Superintendent, the New Mexico Annual Conference declares Anthony United Methodist Church closed on April 16, 2023, pursuant to ¶2549.1.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (BOD) and that, on April 16, 2023, the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees assumes control of the real and personal, tangible and intangible property, and any and all other assets, both present and future of Anthony United Methodist Church of Anthony, TX (¶2549.2.b) BOD).

**FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees is granted the authority to retain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the property in the best interest of the New Mexico Annual Conference as stipulated in ¶2549.2.c). of the BOD.



Resolutions

**RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANDERSON, TEXAS**

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, El Paso District Superintendent*

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**WHEREAS**, First United Methodist Church of Sanderson, Texas was organized as a congregation at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and has a long and proud history of service to the Lord and its mission field at the gateway of the Big Bend region; and

**WHEREAS**, the church conference of First United Methodist Church of Sanderson voted on November 14, 2022, to discontinue the church; and

**WHEREAS**, the members and friends of the First United Methodist Church celebrated their life and ministry together on January 29, 2023 during a worship service disbanding the congregation and will go on to serve the Lord in other parts of God’s Kingdom here on earth; and

**WHEREAS**, the consent to discontinue has been granted by Bishop Robert Schnase, the Albuquerque, Clovis, and El Paso District Superintendents, and the El Paso District Board of Church Location and Building and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with; and

**WHEREAS**, the local church property will no longer use, keep or maintain its membership as a place of divine worship after January 29, 2023;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That upon the recommendation of the El Paso District Superintendent, the New Mexico Annual Conference declares First United Methodist Church of Sanderson, Texas closed on January 29, 2023, pursuant to ¶12549.1.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (BOD) and that, on January 29, 2023, the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees assumed control of the real and personal, tangible and intangible property, and any and all other assets, both present and future, of First United Methodist Church of Sanderson, Texas (¶12549.2.b) BOD).

**FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees is granted the authority to retain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the property in the best interest of the New Mexico Annual Conference as stipulated in ¶12549.2.c). of the BOD.

Resolutions

**RESOLUTION FOR DISCONTINUANCE  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF VAN HORN, TEXAS**

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, El Paso District Superintendent*

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**WHEREAS**, First United Methodist Church of Van Horn, Texas was organized as a congregation in 1908, occupying its first church building in 1909, and has a long and proud history of service to the Lord and its mission field; and

**WHEREAS**, the church conference of First United Methodist Church of Van Horn voted on November 11, 2022, to discontinue the church; and

**WHEREAS**, the members and friends of the First United Methodist Church of Van Horn celebrated their life and ministry together on December 25, 2022 during a worship service disbanding the congregation and will go on to serve the Lord in other parts of God’s Kingdom here on earth; and

**WHEREAS**, the consent to discontinue has been granted by Bishop Robert Schnase, the Albuquerque, Clovis, and El Paso District Superintendents, and the El Paso District Board of Church Location and Building and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with; and

**WHEREAS**, the local church property will no longer use, keep or maintain its membership as a place of divine worship after December 25, 2022;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That upon the recommendation of the El Paso District Superintendent, the New Mexico Annual Conference declares First United Methodist Church of Van Horn, Texas closed on December 25, 2022, pursuant to ¶2549.1.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (BOD) and that, on December 25, 2022, the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees assumed control of the real and personal, tangible and intangible property, and any and all other assets, both present and future, of First United Methodist Church of Van Horn, Texas (¶2549.2.b) BOD).

**FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees is granted the authority to retain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the property in the best interest of the New Mexico Annual Conference as stipulated in ¶2549.2.c). of the BOD.