



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Schedule of Events</b> .....	4
<b>Greetings from the Planning Team</b> .....	5
<b>A Quick Guide to Parliamentary Procedure</b> .....	6
<b>Parliamentary Procedure At A Glance</b> .....	7
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS</b> .....	8
Albuquerque District.....	8
El Paso District.....	9
Commission on Archives and History .....	10
Endowment Distribution Committee.....	11
Council on Finance and Administration .....	13
Commission on Equitable Compensation .....	26
Board of Laity .....	26
Board of Pension and Health Benefits .....	28
Board of Trustees.....	37
<b>PROGRAM AREA REPORTS</b> .....	39
New Church Development.....	39
Disaster Response in the New Mexico Annual Conference.....	42
New Mexico Conference Border Ministries Team and Board of Church and Society .....	43
Four Corners Native American Ministry .....	44
Lay Servant/Certified Lay Ministry.....	45
Eastern New Mexico University Wesley Foundation.....	47
New Mexico State University Wesley Foundation.....	48
University of New Mexico Wesley Foundation.....	49
United Methodist Men .....	50
United Women in Faith.....	50
<b>INSTITUTIONS</b> .....	52
McCurdy Ministries Community Center .....	52
Methodist Children’s Home.....	54
Providence Place .....	55
TMF .....	57
<b>UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES</b> .....	59
Boston University School of Theology .....	59
Candler School of Theology .....	60
Drew University Theological School.....	61
Duke Divinity School .....	61
GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.....	63
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary .....	64
McMurry University .....	65
Perkins School of Theology .....	66
Southern Methodist University.....	68
St. Paul School of Theology.....	70
United Theological Seminary .....	72
Wesley Theological Seminary .....	73
<b>RESOLUTIONS</b> .....	75
Resolution for Commitment to Creation Care.....	75
Resolution Calling for Action.....	76

Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the New Mexico Conference ..... 78  
Resolution to Change the Conference Formula for Setting Clergy Cabinet Salaries ..... 79  
Resolution Regarding Income to Be Used in Budget and Spending Plans ..... 80  
Resolution to Change Conference Rules Regarding the Council on Finance and Administration..... 81

**New Mexico Annual Conference 2024**  
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
*(Subject to Change)*

**Wednesday, June 12**

8:00 am	Delegate check-in
9:00 am	Opening Worship
10:00 am	Opening Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organizing Motions</li><li>• Consent Calendar</li><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Bishop's Address</li></ul>
11:30	Lunch on your own
1:30 pm	Teaching – Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen, Rio Texas Conference <i>Dancing Together: Reorienting Our Steps</i>
3:00	Break
3:30	Business
5:00	RElax and REconnect Dinner provided by NMAC ( <i>Registration as a delegate or guest required</i> )
6:30 pm	Ordination Rehearsal

**Thursday, June 13**

8:00 am	Delegate check-in
9:00 am	Clergy Executive/Laity Sessions
10:30 am	Teaching – Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary Commission on Archives and History <i>A Vile Past Towards a Vital Future</i>
11:30 am	Memorial Service
12:00 pm	Retiree Luncheon
1:30 pm	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asset-based Community Development – Wendy Abel, TMF</li><li>• Alternate Income Streams for Churches – Rev. Josh Kouri</li><li>• Healthy Congregations – Rev. Kim Kinsey</li></ul>
3:00 pm	Break
3:30 pm	Business
5:00 pm	Dinner on your own
7:00 pm	Ordination and Reception

**Friday, June 14**

8:00 am	Breakfast Meetings
9:00 am	Business
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am	Teaching – Dr. Ashley Boggan <i>Connectionalism Then and Now</i>
11:15 am	Closing Worship/Fixing Appointments
12/12:30 pm	Adjourn

## GREETINGS FROM THE PLANNING TEAM

Dear Family of God,

I am writing to share some exciting news with you - you have the opportunity to register for the New Mexico Annual Conference!

This year's conference promises to be an extraordinary event, filled with inspiration, growth, and great conversations. We are thrilled to announce that the conference will be one half day longer than previous years, allowing for even more opportunities to learn, connect, and engage with fellow attendees. Our theme this year is "RE". We will spend time considering all of our favorite "Re" words. REmember, REvitalize, REfresh, etc.

I am delighted to inform you that we have secured two remarkable speakers for this year's conference. Dr. Ashley Boggan and Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen will be sharing their wisdom, insights, and experiences with us. Their presence is sure to enrich our conference and provide us with valuable perspectives. Dr. Boggan is the General Secretary for the Commission on Archives and History - I know, history and archives might not sound incredibly interesting, but I promise, you are in for a time of inspiration as she helps us REmember from whence we come. Rev. Dr. Campen is doing amazing work on faith formation from cradle to old age. I know you will walk away from her sessions feeling inspired and equipped to grow deeper in your faith and helps others grow in theirs.

In addition to the enlightening presentations, we have curated a series of workshops that will delve into various topics. These workshops will cover areas such as asset-based community development and developing alternative income streams. They are designed to equip attendees with practical knowledge and strategies that can be implemented within their respective communities.

We would like to encourage every church to send at least three representatives - one clergy member and two lay people. This will ensure a diverse and meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences throughout the conference. If you have more than three people from your churches that would like to attend then please bring them with you!

The New Mexico Annual Conference is a fantastic opportunity to connect with other United Methodists from our Conference, learn from experts in the field, and explore new possibilities. We are genuinely excited to welcome you and witness the positive impact that this conference will have on your personal and professional growth.

Mark your calendar, save the date, and get ready for an unforgettable experience. We are eagerly looking forward to seeing you at the conference and sharing this incredible journey together.

Warm regards,

Ross Whiteaker  
Albuquerque District Superintendent

# 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. Ross Whiteaker, District Superintendent*

1 Several days ago, I was reviewing some things I wrote to myself in late October 2023, just days  
2 before I officially took the office of the Albuquerque District Superintendent. I noticed that I  
3 wrote the words “changes,” “challenges,” and “transformation” throughout a few different  
4 days of writings. Looking back on those early months, it is clear, that the Spirit of God was  
5 helping me see what is happening in the Albuquerque District.  
6

#### 7 **Changes**

8 *Change is hard.* Often when we experience change, we struggle with grief over what was lost. I  
9 think there have been two constants in the Albuquerque District in the last twelve months: 1)  
10 God’s presence guiding us and strengthening us; 2) Change. In the last year we have said  
11 farewell to churches that disaffiliated, received two different District Superintendents, we have  
12 seen some of our churches struggle financially and numerically, and we have blessed beloved  
13 pastors who are going on to new ministries. In the midst of the grief and the changes, we *have*  
14 noticed the Spirit of God. *Change is hard.* We also recognize God’s presence and possibilities of  
15 resurrection. We have celebrated gaining new friends and congregations from the Clovis  
16 District. We have received new pastors who add to the energy and faith of our congregations.  
17 We have seen growth and depth in our faith. We have been given a chance to reevaluate what  
18 is most important and lean into the important.  
19

#### 20 **Challenges**

21 Just as the Holy Spirit brings changes into our lives that are sometimes difficult, the Spirit also  
22 brings challenges to our imbedded ways of thinking and practicing our faith. We have incredibly  
23 talented clergy and laity who want nothing more than for those who are outside of our  
24 fellowships to experience the grace of God found in Jesus Christ. These clergy and laity put the  
25 mission field and the mission before their own personal preferences. The challenge is being  
26 sensitive to the Spirit and courageous enough to follow the way to continue reaching new  
27 people and helping the find the grace of God we find in Jesus when it seems that the old ways  
28 of doing so are becoming less and less effective. This is hard work and as we all know, when left  
29 to our own devices we will take the path of least resistance. We like comfort. Fortunately, our  
30 Savior has shown us what it looks like to live a life filled with grace that is lived for others. The  
31 blessings that come from putting the Kingdom of God before our own preference greatly  
32 outnumber the difficulties that come from living a life on mission for the Kin-dom.  
33

#### 34 **Transformations**

35 In the coming months and years, we will continue to see the way we have traditionally  
36 practiced our faith change in ways that will allow us to become even more effective at helping  
37 our friends and neighbors find the liberation that Jesus brings. This will take us leaning into our  
38 United Methodist history and allowing it to inspire us into the future. My hope is that we will



## Administrative Reports

1 work together as a connection in the way we share our resources, both financial resources and  
2 human resources. On any given Sunday there are over 1200 people worshiping in United  
3 Methodist Congregations. By almost any measure that is a very large church. We are a large  
4 church with multiple campuses all over northern New Mexico. For us to open ourselves to this  
5 transformation, I hope we will take advantage of opportunities to develop our leadership skills,  
6 deepen our faith, and work collaboratively toward a common mission of Making Disciples of  
7 Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

---

### EL PASO DISTRICT

*Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, District Superintendent*

8 As a district we are intent upon fulfilling our vision statement: “We believe that everyone in the  
9 geographic span of the El Paso District will find a place to BELONG, to BELIEVE, and to BE USEFUL”. We  
10 also endeavor to BE LOVE in our mission field, our workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and in our  
11 church communities.

12  
13 Throughout this year, we have had to say farewell to beloved friends and churches through the  
14 disaffiliation process, as eight churches from the El Paso District departed The United Methodist Church.  
15 It has been challenging as I have assisted congregations in the disaffiliation discernment process,  
16 actively engaging in at least two sessions for each congregation, and then holding a church conference  
17 for those churches who wanted to take a disaffiliation vote. An additional four churches went through  
18 the process and did not meet the 2/3 required vote to disaffiliate. Our hearts ached as we sent beloved  
19 churches and individuals into the world to serve God faithfully, and we rejoice for those who remain  
20 with us. We have also embraced an expanded district to welcome the wonderful friends of Carlsbad,  
21 Roswell, Hobbs, Cloudcroft, Tularosa, and Capitan, and we are so grateful that they are in our midst! We  
22 look forward to their immense gifts and contributions to our district.

23  
24 I am very grateful for our district Lay Leader, Terry Allen, who accompanied me to almost every charge  
25 conference this Fall. He is actively involved in the Certified Lay Ministry program and the Board of Laity,  
26 as well as conference committees in which he participates as our lay leader representative. Together we  
27 assisted with the district Advent Study (led by Rev. Koreen Guillermo, which was fabulous!) and the  
28 Lenten Spiritual Retreat on the Divine Hours. I look forward to Terry providing a workshop on spiritual  
29 formation in the Fall.

30  
31 On a personal note, this year also brought a challenge for three months as I had coverage of the El Paso  
32 District, Albuquerque District, and the interim provost responsibilities. I am grateful for the  
33 encouragement of Bishop Schnase, hugs along the way from friends, phone calls and texts of support,  
34 and especially the prayers that I sensed daily which sustained me. I wish to extend a huge thank you to  
35 the New Mexico Conference and the conference staff for remaining patient with me during this season  
36 of time.

37  
38 It has been an immense joy to have Rev. Ross Whiteaker, Albuquerque District Superintendent, join the  
39 Cabinet! His insight, discernment, and knowledge are very welcome additions to our common ministries.  
40 We are not only covering our respective districts, but we are sharing in oversight of conference  
41 responsibilities. I am relating to Borderland Ministries, Equitable Compensation, Annual Conference  
42 Nominations, Board of Laity, and Endowment Committee. Ross is overseeing the conference staff, New

## Administrative Reports

1 Church Development, disaster relief efforts, Four Corners Ministries, Annual Conference planning, and is  
2 the Archives and Historical Records liaison. Together we are walking alongside the Board of Trustees,  
3 Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Ministry Team, Council of Finance and Administration, Board of  
4 Pension and Health Benefits, as well as spiritual nurturing and clergy excellence.

5  
6 It is a great honor to serve the El Paso District of the New Mexico Conference! I look forward to the next  
7 year as our district continues to offer radical hospitality and service in the world, shares in worship and  
8 discipleship that transforms lives, and as we nurture our souls and spirits through spiritual disciplines  
9 and practices. Thank you for sharing together as we continue the mission to which we are all called...to  
10 make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

---

### COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

*Willard Steinsiek, Chair*

11 The Commission on Archives and History met on February 15, 2024. David Madonado having resigned  
12 as chairman due to ongoing health issues, our current Historian, Willard Steinsiek, in accordance with  
13 the NM Conference Rules, was named also the Chair of the Committee.

14  
15 The extraordinary events of this past year resulted in a very large influx of materials that need to be  
16 accessioned into our records. 20 boxes of records requiring 47 new accession records, containing 227  
17 individual items were received, most of this as the result of the disaffiliation process by a number of  
18 churches, which continued through the end of 2023. In addition, many church files and pastor files also  
19 had to be sorted and shuffled about in our vertical file cabinets. For the time being these files have been  
20 relocated into a file cabinet of their own for handy reference as needed, but may later become part of  
21 our files for "closed churches."

22  
23 Add to this the more recent acquisition of 20+ boxes containing the records of the Four Corners Native  
24 American Ministries, and it is clear now that additional storage space will be required. At present this  
25 space is available within the NM Conference office and will be utilized appropriately as needed.  
26 To be clear, paragraph 2705 of the Conference Agency Policies and Procedures spells out that "The  
27 Commission on Archives and History shall be the official custodian of the archives of the Conference..."  
28 While the Committee saw no reason at this time to consider relocating the Archives, there was  
29 discussion of the need to create a future plan of what to do if that should that ever become necessary.  
30 To that end we are exploring various possibilities, *none of which may be needed any time soon*,  
31 contingent, of course, upon actions that might be taken by the Jurisdictional Conference or the NM  
32 Conference itself in the future. At this time, we are content to wait and see, but affirm that any future  
33 site location needs to be a location on a ground floor, somewhere within the current boundaries of the  
34 NM Conference, and provide enough space for ongoing storage and research.

35  
36 On April 5-7, with the assistance of Tiffany Hollums at McCurdy Ministries, a Local Church Historian  
37 Training, and Heritage Tour took place. This provided us with an opportunity to learn more about the  
38 history and future plans of McCurdy Ministries, all with the goal of designating this a United Methodist  
39 Historic Site.

40  
41 Therefore, the Commission on Archives and History, having researched the merits and b benefits of this  
42 and already begun the process of submitting an APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A UNITED  
43 METHODIST HISTORIC SITE for the McCurdy School, now requests that the NM Conference vote to also

## Administrative Reports

1 ask the GCAH to designate the site of the McCurdy School as a United Methodist Historic site, so that we  
2 may proceed. You will recall that we have previously obtained such a designation for the Lydia  
3 Patterson Institute. So, this will be only the second such designation within the boundaries of our  
4 Conference.

5  
6 I want to thank all of those on the Commission on Archives and History for their hard work and support,  
7 and all our Local Church Historians as well.

8  
9 I also commend to you the NM Conference Historical Society and encourage you to join them in  
10 supporting this Ministry of Memory that we share together.

11  
12 As the NM Conference Historian, I am available on a limited basis to come and share with you our Story,  
13 and the history and historical figures that formed Methodism in New Mexico. We hope that not only  
14 local congregations, but other organizations with an interest in History will take advantage of this. If  
15 you are interested, please contact me at the NM Conference office.

16  
17 We are truly living in historical times, and so this Ministry of Memory is more important than ever.  
18 Please do your part to ensure that our rich history is properly collected, preserved and shared.  
19 As is our custom, the Commission on Archives and History at its most recent meeting also selected two  
20 new Living Archives. They are \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (To be recognized at Annual  
21 Conference.)

---

### ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

*Rev. Dustin Burrow, Chair*

#### 22 **Adjustment of Grant Application and Award Schedule**

##### 23 **Introduction:**

24  
25 The Endowment Distribution Committee is delighted to announce a significant update to our grant  
26 application and award schedule for the year 2024. This decision comes in response to the overwhelming  
27 response from the community in 2023, with over 25 applications received. Because of this substantial  
28 increase, the Committee has undertaken a strategic adjustment to ensure a thorough and equitable  
29 evaluation process for all applicants.

30  
31 **Revised Grant Application and Award Schedule:** Effective immediately, the Endowment Distribution  
32 Committee has implemented the following modifications to our grant application and award schedule:

- 33 1. **Grant Cycle Frequency:** There will now be one grant cycle per year.
- 34 2. **Application Period:** Applications will be accepted from July 1 to August 1 annually.
- 35 3. **Interviews:** Following the application deadline, the Endowment Distribution Committee will  
36 schedule Zoom interviews with each applicant during our meeting held in August or September.  
37 These interviews aim to provide a deeper understanding of the applicants' passion and vision.
- 38 4. **Enhanced Application Process:** As part of the updated process, applicants will be required to  
39 complete eligibility questionnaires to streamline the evaluation process.
- 40 5. **Informational Webinar:** To assist interested parties in understanding the application process,  
41 the Endowment Distribution Committee will host a webinar providing detailed information  
42 about the grant application procedure.

43

## Administrative Reports

1 **Committee's Vision:** The Endowment Distribution Committee encourages grant proposals that embrace  
2 creativity, collaboration, relational engagement, and seed-funding. Projects that strive to serve the  
3 broader community by fostering relationships and advancing social justice initiatives are particularly  
4 welcomed.

5 In conclusion, the Endowment Distribution Committee looks forward to receiving applications that  
6 embody the spirit of our revised grant process, reflecting our shared commitment to serving and  
7 uplifting our community.

8  
9 For further inquiries or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me:

10 Rev. Dustin S. Burrow

11 Endowment Distribution Committee Chair

12 [Burrow.dustin@gmail.com](mailto:Burrow.dustin@gmail.com)

13  
14 New Mexico Annual Conference Endowment Distribution Committee

15 **Bishop's Award, Vitality Award, Pippin Award, Thaxton Award, and Senior Ministry Award**

16 General Grant Guidelines

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

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

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

38  
39 **Application:** Applicants are required to complete the application form and note clearly the specific Award  
40 to which you are applying (Bishops, Vitality, Pippin, Thaxton, Senior Ministry). All applications and  
41 supporting documentation are to be emailed in PDF format to The New Mexico Annual Conference office  
42 at [frontdesk@nmconfum.com](mailto:frontdesk@nmconfum.com) and to Rev. Dustin S. Burrow, Endowment Distribution Committee Chair at  
43 [burrow.dustin@gmail.com](mailto:burrow.dustin@gmail.com).

### 44 **Additional Information:**

- 45 • The length of each award is for one year. A ministry/mission may apply for additional funds up to  
46 three years, with an exception given for a fourth year at the discretion of the Endowment  
47

## Administrative Reports

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

---

### COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

18 *Rev. John W. Nash, Chair* *Rev. Koreen Guillermo, Vice-Chair*  
19 *Mike Hofacket, Secretary* *Griselda Sandoval, Conference Treasurer/Statistician*  
20

#### 21 **Report #1 Our Shared Financial Ministry**

22 *The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully*  
23 *will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under*  
24 *compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in*  
25 *abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good*  
26 *work... You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to*  
27 *God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also*  
28 *overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your*  
29 *obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and*  
30 *with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he*  
31 *has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:6-15 NRSV)*  
32

33 With an abiding sense of gratitude, your Council on Finance and Administration would like to express  
34 our thankfulness for the way that so many of our churches have been faithful in supporting our shared  
35 ministries over the past year. It has not been an easy year for us, as it has been filled with questions,  
36 division, worry and wonderings about where we go from here. And yet we know that God is not done  
37 with us, or to quote John Wesley’s last words, “Best of all, God is with us.”  
38

39 The annual conference moved to the tithe model in 2015. In 2022 we ended with the highest  
40 percentage payout since we moved to this model. Even in the midst of economic and denominational  
41 uncertainty, our congregations and communities remained faithful in their giving and tithing. Some of  
42 this certainly represented some congregations making sure they were fully paid in preparation for  
43 disaffiliating, but it also represented other congregations being faithful in the midst of the unknown.

## Administrative Reports

1 Our 2023 tithe numbers did not come close to the 2022 numbers. However, we no longer have apple to  
 2 apple comparisons, and so while we can look at historic numbers, especially for the churches who have  
 3 remained faithful to the UMC, they do not truly represent expectations for the future as the realities  
 4 have changed for some of our congregations.

5  
 6 We finished 2023 with 65.5 of our anticipated tithes being paid, but that number represents the  
 7 numbers we budgeted which included churches that disaffiliated, not just the current churches of the  
 8 annual conference. A best guess is that without disaffiliation our pay out probably would have been very  
 9 close to our average, around 91%, if not even more.

10  
 11 A huge positive to note is that while the percentage of the tithe paid last year looks considerably down,  
 12 the percentage of income contributed through the tithe as compared to operational income remained  
 13 in-line with historic percentages. Last years was 6.9%, versus 7% in 2022.

14  
 15 We give thanks for your continued participation in the tithe model and we believe that our continued  
 16 transparency and communication around these issues has borne fruit for the conference in greater trust  
 17 in how we are stewarding our resources for the continued work that God does through the conference  
 18 and the local church.

Shared Ministry or Tithe Model Contributions and Income History								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>% Tithe Paid</b>	86.30%	91.50%	92.40%	91.20%	75.50%	91.00%	99.80%	65.50%
<b>Money Contributed</b>	1,811,137	1,847,264	1,737,971	1,758,157	1,492,387	1,669,853	1,721,047	1,148,931
<b>Reported Line 52 Operational Income</b>	27,020,790	27,704,154	27,436,438	26,971,889	25,358,224	25,871,505	24,694,094	16,756,527
<b>% of income contributed</b>	6.70%	6.50%	6.30%	6.50%	5.90%	6.50%	7.00%	6.90%

### 19 **Report #2: Proposed 2025 Budget and Spending Plan**

20  
 21 When the Council on Finance and Administration proposed the tithe model, which went into effect in  
 22 2015, one of the reasons was to have greater transparency about where the funds the conference  
 23 received from the local church were actually being spent.

24  
 25 There have been three guiding elements under conference rule to setting our budget under the tithe  
 26 model:

- 27 1. The budget shall contain projected income and expenses
- 28 2. The budget shall balance
- 29 3. The projection of anticipated income shall not exceed 8% of the total amounts of income  
 30 reported on line 52 of the annual statistical reports recorded in the most recent Conference  
 31 Journal. For 2022 budgeting purposes, the Conference is directed to use the income reported  
 32 for 2020.

## Administrative Reports

1 Our original plan with the tithe model was to present a spending plan to the annual conference each  
2 year to indicate what we actually expected to spend, rather than giving a best-case scenario if we were  
3 to receive a 100% payout, which we had never actually received. However, to abide by disciplinary rule  
4 to fully fund our general and jurisdictional church apportionments, we have also had to present a  
5 budget plan which calls for 100% payout. We continue that procedure, and so you will find a budget,  
6 which includes 100% payout to our apportionments, and then a spending plan which has a reduced  
7 payout.

8  
9 In past years we had a goal of set the payout for the general and jurisdictional church at 70% or higher.  
10 In 2022 we reduced that percentage for several reasons. One was the fact that there was a proposal for  
11 the 2020 general conference that would have reduced these amounts, which, of course, has not yet  
12 happened, although at the time we didn't know what was going to happen. The second, and bigger  
13 reason, was the simple financial reality that the conference faced in regards to income and  
14 expenditures. In 2023 we paid 65% of our apportionments. We proposed a payout of 50% for the 2024  
15 spending plan, which you approved last year. We have increased that to a recommended 55% payout  
16 for 2025.

17  
18 The exception to that is for the episcopal fund and for Lydia Patterson Institute, which we pay at 100%. I  
19 will note that the New Mexico Annual Conference payouts to the General and Jurisdictional church  
20 represent .5% of the total for the United States. Only four other conferences pay a smaller percent.  
21 Three of those are missionary conferences, and the other is what remains of Northwest Texas. We  
22 mention that not to dismiss or make light of our payouts, or their need, but to give some perspective  
23 and indicate where we have room to grow in the future.

24  
25 If you look at the table in report #4 of this report, you will see that every year the CF&A has presented a  
26 budget and a spending plan that has continued to decrease expenditures over time. We made significant  
27 cuts in 2016, taking 24% off of spending, as part of the change of moving to the tithe model. Since then,  
28 our expenditures have largely plateaued at around \$2 million a year. In 2023 we did not see some of the  
29 savings we had anticipated because of some unexpected events at the annual conference level that  
30 were onetime expenditures. We hope and expect to see expenses decrease in 2024, and the spending  
31 plan for 2024 represented a 21% decrease over 2023.

32  
33 Overall, we have lost around 40% of our pre-disaffiliation income that is not coming back. Additionally,  
34 some churches have lost revenue because of the issues surrounding disaffiliation, and won't be able to  
35 contribute at the same level. That means that even if every other church were to begin paying 100%  
36 across the board, we will still fall significantly short of prior years' income. We used a little more than  
37 \$400,000 from the stabilization fund to balance the budget in 2023, and we expect a similar number to  
38 be used in 2024. While that may work in the short-term, it is not sustainable in the long-term. That  
39 means our current spending is no longer sustainable.

40  
41 As your CF&A has been stating in their reports for many years, we have cut the budget as much as we  
42 can without making significant decisions about the ministries, mission and operation of the annual  
43 conference. A couple of thousand dollars here and there is not going to make a significant difference.  
44 We have also advised those who request funds from the annual conference spending plan to be  
45 prepared for significant cuts as well as to be prepared to use any funds they may have in reserve to help  
46 fund their ministries. The Trustees, responding to that request, requested to receive \$0 in the 2025

## Administrative Reports

1 spending plan and will use their reserved funds instead. Other groups and committees will be doing the  
2 same.

3  
4 To help deal with our new financial realities, the CF&A has several rules changes to be voted on at this  
5 Annual Conference. The most significant of these is a change to how we account for income for our  
6 budgets and spending plans. As stated above, we currently use line 52 of reported income, which has  
7 continued to decline year over year, and is also becoming much harder to make guestimates about.

8  
9 Your CF&A has been in discussion for several years about how to change this reality and the reality of  
10 the spending plan process to accurately reflect the financial realities of the conference. We cannot  
11 continue to use significant amounts of the stabilization fund to balance the budget. Therefore, we are  
12 proposing that starting with the 2026 spending plan and budget, that the income line reflects only the  
13 monies we have received from the local church in the prior year, plus income we get from other  
14 sources, like investments and reserved funds.

15  
16 To help us get there, we are proposing that starting July 1, of this year that we will reserve all monies  
17 received from the local church tithe, excluding those for pension and health benefits, to be used to  
18 represent 6 months funding for 2026. Then in 2025 we will reserve ½ of the funds we receive each  
19 month to represent the other half of funding for 2026. We will cover this “loss” in income in the current  
20 year by using the remainder of disaffiliating funds and the stabilization fund. In 2025 we will again use  
21 the stabilization fund, use other reserved funds for specific programmatic areas, such as trustees and  
22 new church, as well as increasing the distribution we receive from the endowment fund from 3% to  
23 4.5%.

24  
25 This change will also require significant changes in the structure of the conference and how and what  
26 ministries we continue to fund. CF&A has been saying for many years that we don’t want to have to  
27 make those decisions on behalf of the conference. Therefore, as part of the resolution we are strongly  
28 calling for the annual conference to engage in this dialogue over the next 12-28 months in order to  
29 guide CF&A in making these decisions that are mutually agreed upon. These decisions will have to be  
30 made regardless of whether this motion passes or not because our financial realities will force them  
31 upon us. We would prefer to be proactive rather than reactive.

32  
33 In the proposed 2025 budget and spending plan, you will find a line immediately after the totals for  
34 general and jurisdictional church apportionments that says “2026 SPENDING PLAN INCOME RESERVE.”  
35 This represents reserving half of the income we receive in 2025 for 2026. Because this has to be  
36 recorded as an expense, the total bottom line expenditures does make it look like we have a 15%  
37 increase over 2024’s pending plan (\$1,664,541 versus \$1,916,772). However, if you remove that reserve  
38 line total we are looking at a 14% decrease in the spending plan over 2024 getting us to a little more  
39 than \$1.4 million in actual expenses. That is after a 21% decrease in the 2024 spending plan.

40  
41 You will see that of the total expenditures, 63% is found in conference operating expenses, covering the  
42 various categories listed there. Some of those items, like the legal fund and delegate expenses, we are  
43 allocating more funding than in the past in order to build up reserve funds to cover expected  
44 expenditures in the future. Some of them are expenses that we have entered into agreements over, and  
45 some increases represent the increasing costs of insurance, utilities and the raises we have given to our  
46 deserving conference staff.



## Administrative Reports

1 Of the remainder, 16% is allocated to conference programming and ministries. Although there are things  
 2 in the conference administration line that also clearly involve ministries and missions of the church, and  
 3 so it's not that there is a clear demarcation between these two. The final 21% represents our payout at  
 4 55% to the general church and jurisdictional apportionments.

5  
 6 We did structure the 2025 annual conference budget and spending plan to be operational whether our  
 7 motion on income planning passes or not. We strongly encourage you to vote in support of that motion  
 8 as we believe it represents the best way for we, as a conference, to remain financially viable. In making  
 9 this change, we will move to funding the conference the way the vast majority of our local churches  
 10 operate, which is based on the monies we have in hand. But, if the motion should fail to pass, we will  
 11 simply remove the "2026 SPENDING PLAN INCOME RESERVE" line and seek approval as it is.

12  
 13 We have already said this several times, but let us emphasize again — the conference needs to be  
 14 having conversations about how we fund the ministries and missions of the conference, and make some  
 15 really difficult decisions about some of our programs and processes. We also strongly encourage those  
 16 groups that have reserve funds to begin to utilize them. Having funds for a rainy day is important, but  
 17 CF&A believes that our current reserves in some areas are larger than needed and could be better put to  
 18 use funding the ministries that build the Kingdom of God. We anticipate needing to have the 2026  
 19 spending plan at around \$1.1 million in expenditures, which represents an additional 23% cut, and that  
 20 will be a hard cap on expenditures. Those cuts will have to be made and we would like them to be made  
 21 deliberately.

22 Given our desire to be good stewards of the resources that we can realistically anticipate receiving and  
 23 available for us to use for the ministry and missions of the New Mexico Annual Conference, your Council  
 24 on Finance and Administration submits the following budget and spending plan for 2025 for your  
 25 approval:

	2024 Budget	2024 Spending Plan	2025 Budget	2025 Spending Plan
<b>INCOME</b>				
TITHED INCOME FROM LOCAL CHURCHES				
2023 reported operational income	\$24,694,094	\$24,694,094	\$16,756,527	\$16,756,527
8% of reported operational income	\$1,975,528	\$1,975,528	\$1,340,522	\$1,340,522
budgeted portion of income from tithe	\$1,975,528	\$1,975,528	\$1,340,522	\$1,340,522
expected portion of income from tithe	\$1,679,198	\$1,427,319	\$1,139,444	\$968,527
OTHER INCOME				
Conference Endowment 3% Distribution	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$115,000	\$170,914
Disaffiliation Funds	\$550,016	\$550,016		
Additional Stabilization Funds Needed	\$258,086	\$117,222	\$1,051,094	\$777,331
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,057,284</b>	<b>\$1,664,541</b>	<b>\$2,305,538</b>	<b>\$1,916,772</b>

## Administrative Reports

<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS</b>				
World Service	\$348,012	\$174,006	\$191,121	\$105,117
Episcopal Fund	\$103,061	\$103,061	\$94,207	\$94,207
Ministerial Education Fund	\$117,543	\$58,772	\$66,108	\$36,359
Black College Fund	\$46,887	\$23,444	\$26,370	\$14,504
Africa University	\$10,493	\$5,247	\$5,902	\$3,246
General Administration	\$41,324	\$20,662	\$32,301	\$17,766
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$9,193	\$4,597	\$2,736	\$1,505
<b>TOTAL GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS:</b>	<b>\$676,513</b>	<b>\$389,787</b>	<b>\$418,745</b>	<b>\$272,703</b>
<b>JURISDICTIONAL APPORTIONMENTS</b>				
Lydia Patterson	\$16,286	\$16,286	\$16,286	\$16,286
Jurisdictional Administration	\$8,547	\$4,274	\$8,547	\$4,701
Jurisdictional Reserves	\$1,488	\$744	\$1,488	\$818
<b>TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL APPORTIONMENTS:</b>	<b>\$26,321</b>	<b>\$21,304</b>	<b>\$26,321</b>	<b>\$21,805</b>
<b>TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS:</b>	<b>\$702,834</b>	<b>\$411,091</b>	<b>\$445,066</b>	<b>\$294,508</b>
<b>2026 SPENDING PLAN INCOME RESERVE</b>			<b>\$569,722</b>	<b>\$484,264</b>
<b>CONFERENCE/AREA ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Conference Office	\$409,200	\$409,200	\$423,000	\$423,000
District Superintendents	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
District Work	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$80,000
Equitable Compensation	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$80,000	\$50,000
Trustees	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Annual Conference	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500
Council on Finance and Administration	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Area Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board of Ordained Ministry	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Legal Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Communications	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Conference Committee Meetings	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
New Cabinet Expenses	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Delegate Expenses	\$500	\$500	\$4,000	\$6,000
<b>TOTAL CONFERENCE/AREA ADMINISTRATION:</b>	<b>\$949,700</b>	<b>\$948,200</b>	<b>\$979,500</b>	<b>\$911,500</b>

## Administrative Reports

CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING AND MINISTRIES				
New Church Development	\$160,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
Campus Ministries	\$127,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$90,000
Four Corners Native American Ministries	\$75,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$60,000
Camping Ministries and scholarships	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Equipping Ministries	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,000
Engaging Ministries	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Board of Laity	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Lay Leader			\$8,000	\$8,000
Unallocated Programming	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
Envisioning Ministries	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$500
Conference Ministry Team	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$500
<b>TOTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING AND MINISTRIES:</b>	<b>\$404,750</b>	<b>\$305,250</b>	<b>\$311,250</b>	<b>\$226,500</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$2,057,284</b>	<b>\$1,664,541</b>	<b>\$2,305,538</b>	<b>\$1,916,772</b>

1 **Report #3: Second Mile Giving**

2 Another measure of the generous contributions (above and beyond the tithe) should also be  
 3 highlighted. Our second mile giving continues to be strong, and a representation of how we are making  
 4 a difference and changing lives well beyond the walls of our churches. These gifts represent giving to  
 5 things like disaster relief through UMCOR, Heifer project, McCurdy, Sacramento, and Methodist  
 6 Children’s Home, to name just a few. We also know that these numbers do not represent the totality of  
 7 giving, because some is done by individuals directly, as well as the giving done by congregations who  
 8 disaffiliated and therefore whose numbers we did not receive. But, these numbers do reflect the deep  
 9 generosity, the joyful giving, or our people for all kinds of work to build the kingdom, in our  
 10 neighborhoods, around our states, the country and the world. Thanks be to God for these gifts!

11

### Second Mile Giving History

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<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	700,388

### 2023 SECOND MILE GIVING

(Remitted through the Conference Treasurer)

#### Advance Projects

Disaster Response, International - Undesignated	15,483
Disaster Response, International - Earthquakes	6,778
Disaster Response, International - Ukraine	51,545
Disaster Response, USA - Hawaii	13,819
Disaster Response, USA - Toranados	1,112
Disaster Response, USA - Undesignated	20,557
Forbes, Belinda	2,500
Heifer Project International	694

## Administrative Reports

Maua Hospital, Kenya	495	
Mission for Migrant Workers	30	
Segura, Desiree L.	2,500	
United Methodist NOMADS	50	
World Hunger and Poverty	117	
Total		115,680
<b>Conference Advance Specials</b>		
Albuquerque District Missions	120	
Border Ministries	100	
NM Fires Relief Fund	1,243	
Total		1,463
<b>Conference Special Offerings</b>		
Four Corners NA Ministry	40	
McCurdy Ministries	3,819	
McMurry University	118	
Methodist Children's Home	3,614	
Providence Place	889	
Retired Ministers' Day Offering	84	
Sacramento Methodist Assembly	95	
Total		8,658
<b>General Church Special Sunday Offerings</b>		
Human Relations Day	591	
One Great Hour of Sharing	8,336	
Native American Ministries Sunday	1,943	
Peace with Justice Sunday	665	
World Communion Sunday	2,430	
United Methodist Student Day	740	
Total		14,705
<b>Other Offerings</b>		
Imagine No Malaria	240	
Total		240
<b>TOTAL REMITTED THROUGH CONF TREASURER</b>		<b>140,746</b>
Albuquerque District	116,359	
Clovis District	4,304	
El Paso District	19,883	
Other	200	
<b>TOTAL SECOND MILE GIVING REMITTED DIRECTLY</b>		<b>559,642</b>
Albuquerque District	369,305	
Clovis District	110,467	
El Paso District	79,870	
<b>GRAND TOTAL OF ALL SECOND MILE GIVING</b>		<b>700,388</b>

## Administrative Reports

### **Report 4: Reported Local Church Income to the Conference**

Even without the impact that the disaffiliated churches will have on our shared ministries, for quite a few years CF&A has been naming the decrease in overall income reported to the annual conference in the annual statistical reports. When we went to the tithing model, one of the reasons was the simple recognition that the conference is dependent upon the health of the local church. When the local church does well, then the annual conference should also see positive results. The reverse is also true.

From 2016 to 2022, the conference saw an 8.6% decrease in income reported on line 52 of the statistical reports. This is the number we have used to base our projected income, and we have seen a corresponding decrease not only in income but in budget and spending as well, as discussed in report #2. With disaffiliation, reported income on line 52 for 2023 represented a 32% decrease from 2022, a 38% decrease since 2016, and a 46% decrease in the past twelve years.

We have several ways that we as your CF&A are working to deal with this new financial reality. One of those is a resolution to change the way we fund the annual conference spending plan starting in 2026. We strongly encourage you to read that resolution, as well as the other rule changes we are proposing, and vote in the affirmative when they are presented on the floor of conference.

Year	Total Operational Income	% Change	Actual Expenses	% Change
2012	31,057,016		3,209,346	
2013	30,437,503	-1.99%	3,036,891	-5.37%
2014	30,012,222	-1.40%	2,818,407	-7.19%
2015	28,572,974	-4.80%	2,619,603	-7.05%
2016	27,020,790	-5.43%	1,985,043	-24.22%
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%
2023	16,756,527	-32.14%	2,117,237	-1.67%
	% Diff from 2012	-46.05%		-34.03%

### **Report 5: Stabilization Fund of the New Mexico Annual Conference**

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

The Stabilization Fund is used for necessary expenditures during months that tithe payments from the local churches are slow in coming to the Conference Treasurer. It is also an important tool for managing the funding programs and missions of the New Mexico Annual Conference, and will continue to become

## Administrative Reports

1 critical for the conference following the unknowns that continue following disaffiliations as it relates to  
2 conference income.

3  
4 Historically, funds for the stabilization account came from several sources: Unspent money from the  
5 former contingency fund in the annual conference budget; unspent money from the program budgets of  
6 the annual conference; the accrued interest and earnings from invested conference funds; and prior to  
7 2014, the shared ministries line in the annual conference budget.

8  
9 The CF&A has continued our efforts to align the expenses of the Annual Conference with the income we  
10 can realistically expect to receive. Unfortunately, our historic averages that have helped us make that  
11 decision are no longer representative. In the past decade, the Annual Conference budget and spending  
12 plan have been decreased every year, and actual expenses have decreased 30.2%. Last year's spending  
13 plan represented a 21% decrease over the prior year, and the 2025 spending plan, as outlined in report  
14 #2 of the CF&A report, will also represent a 14% decrease in total expenditures.

15  
16 Unfortunately, due the large number of unknowns and continued instability of disaffiliation, we have  
17 and will continue to expect greater use of the stabilization fund moving forward. In 2023, we used  
18 \$406,389 from the stabilization fund to balance out the spending plan at the end of the year. We  
19 projected to used \$417,180 from the stabilization fund in the current year's spending plan. We won't  
20 know how realistic that number is until we move further into the current year. We also have the funds  
21 we received from disaffiliating churches, totaling \$550,016 at the beginning of the year, that will also be  
22 used this year.

23  
24 The good news is that the stabilization fund allows us to do this. The bad news is that we will not be able  
25 to sustain those expenditures for very many years. As stated in report #2 the conference has about 18  
26 months to make some substantial decisions to bring our expenditures closer in line with our income in  
27 order to keep the stabilization fund available to be used without continuing us to run significant deficits  
28 that cannot be sustained.

29  
30 Overall, the stabilization fund, as well as other reserved funds the conference has, will, we believe, allow  
31 us to weather our current storms for the next two years. However, it cannot be relied upon for the long-  
32 term, and the CF&A strongly encourages the Annual Conference to hold the significant conversations to  
33 make the hard decisions about our ministries in order to drive how we construct our spending plan,  
34 rather than our spending plan driving the ministries we fund.

Administrative Reports

Stabilization Fund Activity  
12/31/2023

TMF Beginning Balance 1/1/2023			841,122.61
<b>Income:</b>			
	Transfers		
	Capital Gains		
	Interest Income		
	Change in Market Value	114,660.53	
	Total Income		114,660.53
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
	Disbursements		
	Expenses		
	Total Expenditures		0.00
Ending Balance 12/31/2023			<b>955,783.14</b>

NMAC Beginning Balance 1/1/2023			-362,362.62
<b>Income:</b>			
	TMF Stabilization Fund	113,998.12	
	US Bank Money Market	362,362.62	
	Interest Earned	31.79	
	Total Income		476,392.53
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
	Disbursements	520,419.27	
	Expenses		
	Total Expenditures		520,419.27
Ending Balance 12/31/2023			<b>-406,389.36</b>

US BANK - Money Market Beginning Balance 1/1/2023			623,543.21
<b>Income:</b>			
	Interest Earned	31.79	
	Total Income		31.79
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
	Disbursements	362,362.62	
	Total Expenditures		
Ending Balance 12/31/2023			<b>261,212.38</b>

TMF Stabilization Fund	955,783.14	
NMAC Stabilization Fund	-406,389.36	
US BANK Money Market	261,212.38	
<b>Total Stabilization Funds</b>		<b>810,606.16</b>

## Administrative Reports

### Report #6 Fund Reports

#### New Mexico Conference Methodist Foundation Funds as of 12/31/2023

	1/1/2023 Market Value	Disburse	Capital Gains	Change in Mt Value	12/31/2023 Mkt Value
Conference Endowment	3,799,937.23	(562,130.05)	179,751.70	296,367.49	3,798,102.48
Lackey Fund	51,164.94	0.00	0.00	6,974.73	58,139.67
Pruett Loan Fund	41,413.67	(2,567.59)	651.91	4,867.04	44,364.83
Board of Trustees	106,222.54	(7,037.24)	0.00	14,050.95	113,236.87
New Church Fund	285,742.47	(16,234.72)	11,316.36	27,635.61	308,459.72
Senior Ministries Endowment	313,323.41	(21,221.00)	0.00	41,417.66	333,521.95
Conference Building Reserve	20,830.64	0.00	0.00	2,839.62	23,670.26
Congregational Transformation	80,129.31	(4,395.92)	0.00	10,655.03	86,388.81
Pace Endowment (New Church)	542,852.09	(23,836.27)	10,176.30	60,293.83	584,841.65
Sivley Special Account-CBGM	14.18	0.00	0.00	1.91	16.09
Stabilization Fund	841,122.61	0.00	0.00	114,660.53	955,783.14
NMAC Archives and History	7,800.21	0.00	0.00	1,063.29	8,863.50
Thaxton Fund	1,297,559.41	(51,605.42)	35,096.91	141,784.37	1,422,835.27
Volunteers in Mission	11,955.54	0.00	0.00	1,629.76	13,585.30
Pruett Earnings Fund	58,354.29	0.00	0.00	8,043.29	68,967.23
Thaxton Endowment Earnings	84,167.23	(62,117.74)	0.00	0.00	74,297.06
Pippin Endowment	572,806.28	(20,048.22)	10,551.51	66,662.42	629,971.99
Whitfield Seminary Scholarship	37,825.28	(3,000.00)	0.00	4,904.83	39,730.20
New Church Dis	609,886.92	0.00	0.00	82,117.88	708,250.38
NCD Restricted	319,952.51	0.00	0.00	43,615.44	363,567.95
Trustees (New)	1,226,265.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,243,764.53
Campus Ministries	55,513.08	0.00	0.00	7,567.44	63,080.52
Native Amer MEF	177,016.33	0.00	0.00	24,130.60	201,146.93
Native Amer MEF Earnings	77,730.19	0.00	0.00	10,596.06	88,326.25
Total	10,619,585.46	(774,194.17)	247,544.69	971,879.78	11,232,912.58



Administrative Reports

**REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITY  
1/1/2023 TO 12/31/2023**

Beginning Cash Balance 01/01/23 \$136,537.00

Income:

NMAC	\$19,440.00	
First UMC, Van Horn	\$6,439.12	
Other Income	\$9,500.00	
Loan Receivable Fund	\$12,997.63	
Interest Earned	\$216.43	
	TOTAL INCOME	\$48,593.18

Disbursements:

Bank service charges/supplies/adjustments	\$4,733.23	
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$4,733.23

Cash Balance in Fund 12/31/2023 \$189,863.41

\$50,000 of cash balance is guarantee money held for UMDF and is unavailable for distribution

Notes Outstanding:

	Loan Amount	Balance
NMAC-6/1/2021	\$77,735.76	\$27,515.95
First UMC, Van Horn - 6/14/2014	\$31,000.00	\$0.00
Total loan amount	\$108,735.76	
	TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$27,515.95
	TOTAL VALUE OF FUND	\$217,379.36

Administrative Reports

**COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION**

*Rev. Layloni Drake, Chair*

1 What a vital role you are playing through the Commission on Equitable Compensation in the life of  
2 churches in our New Mexico Annual Conference! Because of these funds we are able to assist in  
3 providing critical ministries in places that have come on difficult times. In this post-Covid and post-  
4 disaffiliation world we are living into, there is a greater need to provide financial pastoral support.  
5 Currently we are providing support to First United Methodist Church, Las Vegas; First United Methodist  
6 Church, Raton; Zia United Methodist Church, Santa Fe; a two-point charge of Covenant United  
7 Methodist Church in Albuquerque and the Wesley Foundation at New Mexico State; Trinity United  
8 Methodist Church, Roswell; St James Myrtle United Methodist Church, El Paso; and a two-point charge  
9 of Highland United Methodist Church and Mackey Chapel United Methodist Church, Odessa.

10  
11 Six of the seven Churches are making progress toward ending their need for assistance in the five-year  
12 framework as described in our rules. Each pastoral appointment has its unique challenges whether it is  
13 changing demographics or changing attitudes. Each church is seeking to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
14 that is open to all persons, ages, nations, and races.

15  
16 Each year we are tasked with the responsibility of recommending minimum salaries for pastoral  
17 support. No recommendation was made last year as leadership was in transition. We are astutely aware  
18 of the rising cost of goods and services, as well as the pocketbook issues that some congregations face.  
19 We therefore recommend the following minimum salaries:

Student Pastor	\$38,130
Full Time Local Pastor	\$39,859
Associate Member Pastor	\$41,587
Provisional Member Pastor	\$42,976
Full Elder Pastor	\$45,618

---

**BOARD OF LAITY**

*Kathy Jewell, NMAC Lay Leader, Chair*

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

24  
25 *But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy*  
26 *people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night and day*  
27 *difference he made for you, from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted”, 1 Peter 2:9*

28  
29 The NMCBOL purpose is to identify and develop Christian Servant Leaders for the church and the world.  
30 We live in stressful times and the importance of Servant Leaders cannot be taken for granted. Servant  
31 Leaders help others grow in faith, sharing God’s gifts of peace, love, redemption and hope. To embody  
32 encouragement, engagement, equipping and empowering of all laity. Actively engaged laity are key in  
33 any congregation. The early Methodist movement grew through the efforts of laity. Laypeople were  
34 actively encouraged, engaged and empowered in the ministry of the church through leading small  
35 groups, teaching Bible study, providing outreach ministry and administrative leadership, as well as

## Administrative Reports

1 serving in team ministry with the clergy---transformational discipleship! This is who we are as United  
2 Methodists!

3  
4 The members of the Board of Laity are truly a blessing and Servant Leaders of the highest standard.  
5 These members have spent hours this year serving the NM Conference in mighty ways! They attend  
6 bimonthly meetings to engage in a vision of encouragement for the laity of the NM Conference. They  
7 are creative and mission oriented, aware of the complexity of the church and committed to equipping  
8 the laity.

9  
10 All Board of Laity members are actively engaged in their home church to help laity through difficult and  
11 challenging situations and grow because of the circumstances. Each Board of Laity member, whether  
12 clergy or laity, strive to be a bridge between the laity and the Board, through sharing of updated  
13 guidelines for Lay Servant class and Certified Lay Ministry Program. Members bring to the Board of Laity  
14 the connection and status of their home church.

15  
16 Members of the NMCBOL are:  
17 Bishop Robert Schnase  
18 Rev. Dr. Pam Rowley, Cabinet Liaison  
19 Kathy Jewell, CLM, Chair, Team Leader for CLM Interviews  
20 Steve Henderson, CLM, CLM Registrar  
21 Grant Claycomb, CLM, Team Leader for CLM Interviews  
22 Larry Luna, CLM, Team Leader for CLM Interviews  
23 Rev. Dr. Joe MacDonald  
24 Rev. Cazandra Campos-MacDonald  
25 Susan Ideus, CLM, Albuquerque District Lay Servant Coordinator  
26 Jon Hendricks, CLM, El Paso District Lay Servant Coordinator  
27 Terry Allen, CLM  
28 Cheryl Felder, United Women in Faith representative  
29 Chris Caldes, United Methodist Men representative  
30 Roselie Johnston, NMC Staff representative

31  
32 Larry Luna, CLM, Lay Leader for the Albuquerque District and Terry Allen, CLM, El Paso District, are  
33 determined Servant Leaders, who are passionate about equipping the laity in their districts. Both are  
34 future-oriented in visioning a future for laity that is ripe with missional ministry and equipping training  
35 for lay leadership. Because both, Larry and Terry, seek to identify, nurture, encourage and support  
36 leadership in others, the NM Conference laity will be empowered to make disciples for Jesus!

37  
38 This year was a VERY steep learning curve for me as the Conference Lay Leader. Little did I know that  
39 serving with Bishop Schnase, Rev. Dr. Pam Rowley, Rev. Ross Whiteaker and Alli Newsom would not only  
40 increase the miles of travel, but mostly the awareness of how blessed we are to have the UMC  
41 connectional system. Under their leadership the NMC is in the hands of wise and spiritually based  
42 leaders. Also, Roselie Johnston is a valuable source of institutional information that keeps us all focused  
43 on the path. Her insight and voice are beyond measure for the Board of Laity!

44  
45 It is our hope and prayer that the New Mexico Conference Board of Laity can be a resource of all Laity.  
46 That each member can be present to encourage, equip, engage and empower laity be the hands and  
47 feet of Jesus Christ. Clergy and Laity are encouraged to reach out to any member of the Board of Laity  
48 for conversation or resource.

Administrative Reports

**BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

*Rev. Joe Whitley, Chair*

*TBD, Insurance Committee chair*

*Linn Reece, Pension Committee chair*

*Anna Marshall, Conference Benefits Officer*

1 **Report #1 – Administrative Report**

2

3 **1. ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS**

4 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits administers a Memorial Account with Wespath  
5 Benefits and Investments (formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits).  
6 *Individuals who wish to participate and contribute to an Endowment should contact the Conference*  
7 *Benefits Officer.* Endowment accounts are in honor and memory of the following persons: Bishop &  
8 Mrs. Alsie Carleton, Dr. George Ditterline, Dr. C. Edward Ditterline, Dr. M.L. Sims, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sivley,  
9 Laura Violet Robertson, Robert E. Robinson and R.I Bledsoe, Rev. Aubrey Walley, and Rev. Dr. Lloyd  
10 Hughes. No new endowments were received in 2023.

11

12 The Annie Lee Kornegay Fund, established for the purpose of providing emergency support to surviving  
13 spouses, is invested with the Texas Methodist Foundation. A permanent Memorial Fund has also been  
14 established with the Texas Methodist Foundation. No contributions were made to these funds in 2023.  
15 Past contributions have been received in memory of: Bob Harrison, Lillie Ditterline, Ralph Stanfield,  
16 Madge McGrew, Mabel Morgan, Joe Scrimshire, and T.J. and Mary Ray Sivley, John Klassen, Levi  
17 Louderback, V.B. Irby, Mary Hembree, and Joseph Goodart.

18

19 **2. SPECIAL BOPHB GRANTS FOR 2023**

20 Grants awarded in the amount of:

21 Wellness Grants \$65,800

22 Medical Grants \$29,000

23

24 **3. RETIRED CLERGY, SURVIVING SPOUSES, DEPENDENT CHILDREN, INCAPACITY**

25 A complete list of clergy and surviving spouses will be included in the 2024 Journal.

26

27 **4. AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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

29 a) Adoption agreements for pension and benefit plans.

30 b) 2023 Distribution to Annuitants

31 c) List of Investments (2016 Discipline ¶1508.7). The New Mexico Conference Board of Pension  
32 and Health Benefits invest the majority of its funds with Wespath, the investment division of  
33 Wespath Benefits and Investments, Glenview, IL. Additional funds are invested with the  
34 Texas Methodist Foundation, Inc. A list of funds on deposit with these institutions is available  
35 upon request.

36 d) Audit - The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits reports assets and liabilities in  
37 the annual audit of conference funds. The 2022 completed audit is available for review.

38

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

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

## Administrative Reports

- 1 b) Office expenses-rent, postage, telephone, supplies, software maintenance
- 2 c) Retiree expenses to Annual Conference, Annual Conference retiree's luncheon
- 3 d) Board meeting expenses
- 4 e) Education and Advocacy-seminars, benefits events, videos, brochures
- 5 f) Biennial actuarial study of retiree healthcare liability

6  
7 **6. REVISED 2024 BUDGET as approved at the February 12, 2024 BOPHB meeting**  
8 **Revised budget necessary due to disaffiliations and clergy withdrawals**  
9 **(details available from the Conference Benefits Office)**

Income: 2024		<u>Revision</u>
Retiree/Disability Support Fund	555,700	454,264
Accounts/Transfers Admin expense	176,600	172,000
HF Income-Actives	1,081,757	700,000
HF Income- Lay	82,184	60,000
Dental/Vision	40,000	30,000
UMLifeOptions Income-Actives	25,058	20,000
UMPIP	295,000	245,000
CRSP/PPP Income- Actives	<u>816,238</u>	<u>735,888</u>
	<b>3,072,537</b>	<b>2,417,152</b>
 Expenses: 2024		
UMLifeOptions Retirees	18,000	20,000
Healthcare Incapacity	40,000	25,000
Healthcare Retirees	497,700	409,264
HF- Actives	1,081,757	700,000
HF- Lay/MRA	82,184	60,000
Dental/vision	40,000	30,000
UMLifeOptions actives	25,058	20,000
UMPIP	295,000	245,000
CRSP/PPP- Actives	816,238	735,888
Administration/Program	<u>176,600</u>	<u>172,000</u>
	<b>3,072,537</b>	<b>2,417,152</b>

Administrative Reports

1 ***PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET as approved at the February 12, 2023 BOPHB meeting***

2

3 **Income: 2025**

4 **Retiree/Disability Support Fund 524,700**

5 **Accounts/Transfers Admin expense 178,250**

6 **HF Income-Actives 700,000**

7 **HF Income- Lay 60,000**

8 **Dental/Vision 30,000**

9 **UMLifeOptions Income-Actives 20,000**

10 **UMPIP 245,000**

11 **CRSP/ CPP Income- Actives 735,888**

12 **2,493,838**

13 **Expenses: 2025**

14 **UMLifeOptions Retirees 20,000**

15 **Healthcare Incapacity 20,000**

16 **Healthcare Retirees 484,700**

17 **HF- Actives 700,000**

18 **HF- Lay 60,000**

19 **Dental/vision 30,000**

20 **UMLifeOptions actives 20,000**

21 **UMPIP 245,000**

22 **CRSP/ CPP- Actives 735,888**

23 **Administration/Program 178,250**

24 **2,493,838**

Administrative Reports

<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)</b>	<b>Unpaid prior years of clergy's pension and health insurance and Shared Ministries (RDS)</b>	<b>Billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health insurance and current year RDS.</b>	<b>Billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health insurance and current year RDS.</b>
Church	Amount due as of <b><i>December 31, 2022</i></b>	Amount due as of <b><i>December 31, 2023</i></b>	Amount due as of <b><i>December 31, 2022</i></b>	Amount due as of <b><i>December 31, 2023</i></b>
Albuq, Covenant UMC	82,898.52	88,752.08	9,066.00	0
Albuq, El Buen Samaritano	9,548.57	0	16,498.74	8,573.01
Belen, First UMC	0	0	0	14,703.56
Gallup, First UMC	79,583.76	93,497.40	18,413.64	3,530.16
Las Vegas, First UMC	1853.20	1,922.32	926.16	856.56
Window Rock UMC	1,229.26	1443.94	214.68	213.36
Portales, First UMC	0	0	0	1,785.10
Raton, First UMC	0	0	0	18,037.45
El Paso, St. Mark's UMC	0	0	5,474.42	5,474.42
El Paso, Trinity-First UMC	0	0	104.37	24,773.85
Las Cruces, El Calvario UMC	0	0	11,521.32	6,720.77
Mesquite, Del Valle UMC	3,866.45	4,308.77	442.32	439.56
Sierra Blanca, First UMC	1,133.56	1,473.04	339.48	337.32

## 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 2024 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 **2025** Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the New Mexico Annual Conference will be  
17 \$758.00. This is a 2.0% increase. Based on the requested actuarial valuations from Wespath  
18 Benefits and Investments as of **October 2023 for 2025 preliminary results**, the portion of the  
19 Pre-82 liability attributable to the New Mexico Conference and funded status is, as of 1/1/2025,  
20 as follows:

21

<i>2025 Estimated Actuarial Valuation</i>	
<i>Past Service Rate</i>	<i>758.00</i>
<i>Assets in the Plan</i>	<i>10,752,909</i>
<i>Funding Plan Liability</i>	<i>-9,956,138</i>
<i>Funded status</i>	<i>796,771</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**

#### 3 BOPHB Medical Support Fund:

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.

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.

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.

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.

#### 27 BOPHB Wellness Support Fund

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.

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.

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

### 1 III. Insurance Plans for Active Clergy:

- 2
- 3 a) The Annual Conference shall adopt a funding method for paying medical insurance
- 4 premiums for active full-time appointed clergy.
- 5
- 6 (i) As voted by the 2004 Annual Conference, we use the actual cost funding
- 7 method.
- 8
- 9 (ii) Every church/charge with full time appointed Clergy under the age of 65 must
- 10 offer health insurance to full time clergy under appointment.
- 11
- 12 (iii) Every church/charge shall pay at least the billed medical insurance defined
- 13 contribution amount (premium credit) for participating clergy. If approved by
- 14 the church, clergy may enroll other eligible family members, and the church will
- 15 be required to pay the premium credit for participant +1 or participant + family
- 16 premium.
- 17

18 The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits introduced HealthFlex Exchange for all

19 participants that began January 1, 2017. It also provides a platform where participants “shop” for a

20 health plan, while giving plan sponsors (the church) more predictability over health care costs.

21

22 This gives HealthFlex participants greater flexibility in choosing the level of coverage that fits their

23 preferences and budget.

24

25 For **2025**, regardless of plan chosen by the participant, churches will pay the defined contribution

26 (premium credit) as follows at the proposed rates. A comparison with the 2024 premium credit

27 indicates a proposed increase of approximately 7%:

	<u>2024 Premium Credit</u>	<u>2025 proposed Premium Credit</u>
28 <b>Single rate:</b>	\$10,404 (\$867/month)	\$11,136 (\$928/month)
29 <b>Participant +1 rate:</b>	\$19,764(\$1,647/month)	\$21,156 (\$1,763/ month)
30 <b>Participant +family rate:</b>	\$27,048 (\$2,254/month)	\$28,956 (\$2,413/month)

31

32

33

- 34 • Dental and Vision premiums show proposed increases for 2025. The overall increase for dental
- 35 is 8.7% and the overall increase for vision is 20%.
- 36
- 37 • Details on all plans are available through the Conference Benefits Office or Wespath Benefits
- 38 Access site.
- 39

### 40 IV. Direct Billing

41 *Every salary paying unit will be billed directly every month from the conference benefits office.*

42 *Payments shall be due by the 20th of each month.*

43

- 44 a) Every church/charge shall pay the premium costs of *UMLifeOptions* (UMLO) for its eligible
- 45 appointed clergy and their spouses.
- 46
- 47 b) Salary paying units will be billed for all health insurance and AFLAC premiums chosen by the
- 48 participants. Participants are responsible, through a payroll deduction, for plan cost

## Administrative Reports

1 amounts above the church contribution, dental premium, upgraded vision premium,  
2 medical reimbursement amount (MRA), health savings account (HSA), dependent care  
3 allowance (DCA) and AFLAC policies.  
4

- 5 c) Billing for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) to each salary paying unit shall be at 3%  
6 of plan compensation\* for each eligible participant enrolled in the CPP. The conference  
7 elects to cover ¾-time clergy who are full and provisional members (elders and deacons),  
8 associate members and clergy of other Methodist denominations earning at least 25% of  
9 denominational average compensation (DAC) subject to terms of the Plan.  
10
- 11 d) The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is a mandatory plan with Wespath Benefits  
12 and Investment. This is 9% of plan compensation\* for the defined benefit (CRSP DB)  
13 component and 3% of plan compensation\* for the defined contribution (CRSP DC)  
14 component.  
15
- 16 e) UMPIP (United Methodist Personal Investment Plan)  
17 Beginning, January 1, 2020 all active full-time appointed clergy were automatically enrolled  
18 with a 4% minimum contribution in the UMPIP program. The automatic 4% was calculated  
19 from plan compensation\*. If a pastor is already contributing more than 4%, they will  
20 continue with that larger amount. If a pastor does not want to contribute 4% of plan  
21 compensation\*, or they wish to change the contribution amount they are to  
22 contact the Conference Benefit Officer. The amount of the UMPIP contribution can be  
23 revised any time throughout the year. This UMPIP contribution was added to the  
24 Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits statement sent to the churches. (the  
25 church will no longer remit to Wespath directly). The identified monthly amount is a payroll  
26 deduction. *UMPIP for church lay employees will continue to be sent to Wespath directly.*  
27

28 ***\* Plan compensation is cash salary plus housing. If the pastor is in a parsonage the  
29 housing is 25% of cash salary. If the pastor is not living in a parsonage the formula is  
30 cash salary plus the housing allowance.***  
31

32 ***For example: Pastor A has a cash salary of \$43,000 and lives in a parsonage. Their  
33 plan compensation amount would be \$53,750 (salary plus 25%)  
34 Pastor B has a cash salary of \$43,000 and receives a housing allowance of \$12,000 per  
35 year. Their plan compensation amount would be \$55,000 (salary plus \$12,000).***  
36

- 37 f) Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS) is a proportionate payment billed to the churches on  
38 the monthly statement. Since the 2022 budget, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits have  
39 voted to continue the annual amount of \$450,000, divided by percent decimal among the  
40 churches.  
41

### 42 V. Unpaid Obligations

43

- 44 a) The Conference Benefits Officer shall report annually to the Annual Conference the name of  
45 each pastoral charge with an unpaid obligation to the NMBPOHB, either from unpaid prior  
46 years of Shared Ministries, direct billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health  
47 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 Wespath Benefits and  
38 Investments during the year **2025** 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 Wespath 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

## Administrative Reports

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

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

---

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Steve Wilson -Interim Chair*

16 The New Mexico Conference Board of Trustees is focused on the careful administration of our  
17 conference assets, preparation for the future and the ministry support for local congregations.

#### 18 19 **Administration of Conference Assets**

20  
21 Conference Group Insurance: The Conference Trustees have used Sovereign Insurance Group as our  
22 plan administrator since 2020 with insurance provided by Church Mutual. As our conference churches  
23 know, we incurred some real challenges this year with our group program. Due largely to the insurance  
24 market, we had several churches that were non-renewed due to the "fire-rating" of their community.  
25 Churches in Texas saw an incredible increase in their wind and hail coverage to the point that a major  
26 hailstorm would impose deductibles over \$500,000 for some of our churches. The churches in New  
27 Mexico will also see higher deductibles as the insurance industry is recovering from higher claims  
28 frequency and rising costs. There were some UMC Conferences that had all their insurance cancelled  
29 and were left to find coverage on their own. Our conference was impacted by this tight market, but not  
30 to the extent of other conferences. NM Conference Trustees are determined to continue shopping and  
31 exploring different alternatives, to find an amicable policy for the protection of our churches and the  
32 conference.

33  
34 Endowment Funds: With oversight of the Pippin and Thaxton endowment funds, the trustees have two  
35 representatives on the Endowment Distribution Committee. Their role is to ensure that funds are  
36 awarded for purposes congruent with the original donors. Distribution of those funds are explained in  
37 the report of the Endowment Committee.

38  
39 Conference Office Building: One of the important assets of our annual conference is the office building  
40 on Lomas Blvd. in Albuquerque. We continue to strive to see that the building is well maintained to keep  
41 it useful and welcoming for all who use it.

## Administrative Reports

- 1 Other Assets: Trustees still have a number of church properties that we are in the process of selling.
- 2 Several of the properties are in smaller communities and the market for them is limited. We will
- 3 continue to do modest, needed, maintenance in hopes of liquidating these properties as soon as
- 4 possible for the benefit of our conference.

## PROGRAM AREA REPORTS

### NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

*Rev. D.G. Hollums, Chair*

1 REkindling...

2

3 In this season of disaffiliations, the New Church Development (NCD) Team has been forced to take on a  
4 number of new and unique challenges aiming to Rekindle the flame of innovation and passionate  
5 community creation. Not only are we seeing the continued growth and thriving of our new faith  
6 community church plants, Good Medicine Way and X-ile. We are also dreaming alongside new and  
7 innovative ways of providing community online and in-person with the researching work of what is  
8 beginning to be called, "CurioLife." Please read below the reflections and updates of those who are  
9 leading each of these ministries.

10

11 We have also been heavy hearted for our United Methodist family whom we have lovingly called the  
12 Faithful Remnant. This Faithful Remnant are our beloved who have had their local churches disaffiliate,  
13 and yet desire and continue to remain United in their Methodism. For these dispersed communities we,  
14 as the NCD Team, have worked with the cabinet to help them realize their full potential as new fresh  
15 expressions of our United Methodist Church and we as a team and conference will support each of  
16 these communities as new faith community church plants. If you are a part of our faithful remnant  
17 family, please know you are never alone, and please reach out to me or anyone on the NCD team if you  
18 need anything. We love you.

19

20 Sunday, March 17th representatives of the NCD team went to lead a day retreat with both the Faithful  
21 Remnant located in Lea County and Carlsbad. We discussed the importance of seeing what feels like  
22 betrayal as an opportunity to lean into who God desires for them to be for the Kingdom of God as well  
23 as the communities in which they are living among. We discussed forming a small leadership team for  
24 organization, the important of discerning who God is calling them to be, and the values they see within  
25 their leaders that God is giving them, and to be able to have this beautiful gift of living into resurrection.  
26 They are all excited to deal and conspire with God for how they can be the hands, feet, and voice of  
27 Christ not only for themselves, but for the communities surrounding them. This is very early on in a  
28 process of support and care for these faithful family, and it is very important in this time to remind them  
29 they are not alone, and they are loved, prayed, and cared for. If you'd like to find out how you can  
30 support these communities, please reach out to me ([pastor@ziaumc.org](mailto:pastor@ziaumc.org)) and I can either get you in  
31 touch with their leadership, or show you how you can provide support through NCD.

32

33 In the midst of a season of what feels like the flame of United Methodism has been blown out, we as  
34 United Methodists persist, resist, and choose to rekindle the flame of the Holy Spirit from the ever-  
35 glowing coals of the heart of our God.

36

37 May you all be blessed to be a blessing and always allow your hearts and minds to be formed and  
38 changed by God to live our faith out in new, ancient, and ways that are effective in offering family  
39 community to those whom are not yet a part of our United Methodist tradition.

----

## Program Area Reports

### 1 **CurioLife - A Digital Fresh Expression**

2

3 Dear Bishop, Cabinet and Members of the New Mexico Conference:

4

5 An object considered to be rare, unusual, or intriguing might be known as a “curio.” The word also  
6 provides the root for our understanding of curiosity. “Life” encompasses all that we experience as  
7 human beings. A curious faith is a faith that is alive, and such is the premise of CurioLife. The idea for  
8 this digital fresh expression of church grew from a desire to invite people to do church the way we do  
9 life: on the go. Yes, we can find great value in slowing down and designating large chunks of time to  
10 religious traditions. It’s also true that a series of short segments of meaningful spiritual practice can  
11 reveal ongoing encounters with God in our everyday experiences.

12

13 So far, with the blessing and support of New Church Development, I have engaged in research regarding  
14 current attitudes about church from people who vow not to set foot in a traditional church space and  
15 the willingness of those same people to engage in faith practices online. I’ve begun working with a tech  
16 development team called Myst to dream about what a new church presence in the digital realm might  
17 look like and how it might function. Right now, we’re thinking about a web-based option that looks and  
18 functions like a mobile app but is easy to find on any device wherever apps are downloaded. Current  
19 ideas for CurioLife include the utilization of subscriptions, podcasts, videos, music playlists, chatrooms,  
20 digital classrooms, social media platforms, video conferencing, and more to enable people to connect  
21 with God and with each other, to do and be the church, whenever and wherever.

22

23 The development of CurioLife also now includes regular meetings with a clergy coach, Rev. Matt Rawle  
24 of Asbury United Methodist Church in Bossier City, Louisiana, who is doing great work with his team  
25 regarding how to engage people with the gospel of Jesus in digital spaces. As CurioLife comes online, the  
26 continued goal will be to provide opportunities for personal faith development AND multiple options —  
27 both synchronous and asynchronous — to connect with other believers and followers of Jesus through  
28 worship, study, and service. Next steps for CurioLife include clarifying the mission and vision around  
29 core values, completing the prototype, building and inputting content, marketing and launching. These  
30 next steps likely will shift and change as the process unfolds and as the Holy Spirit leads, and that’s  
31 exciting. I’m grateful to NCD and for the ongoing support, and I look forward to taking part in what God  
32 has in store for this exploration of curiosity. Prayers are appreciated.

33

34 *Grace and Peace, Rev. Amy Wilson Feltz, Pastor ([amy@mstarlc.church](mailto:amy@mstarlc.church))*

35

36 — — —

37

### 38 **Good Medicine Way**

39

40 Good Medicine Way exists to build an intertribal community among the Native American residents of  
41 Albuquerque and the surrounding area and give them a place to live out those relationships while  
42 growing closer to each other and the Creator Jesus Christ. We have a desire to build authentic  
43 relationships to reach all generations and teach Biblical truth in a culturally sensitive way while living out  
44 the Kingdom of God among the Native American people in Albuquerque.

45

46 Further we want to provide a place where we can begin to heal the many wrongs done to Native  
47 Americans by presenting the message of Jesus Christ in a culturally sensitive manner. In order to  
48 accomplish this, we must first create authentic relationships with the native American community.



## Program Area Reports

1 To accomplish the above, we at Good Medicine Way offer a unique approach with our Monday night  
2 gathering. The gathering begins at 5:30 pm with a light meal and at 6:00 pm we go live online  
3 simultaneously with our service by having an in person, Zoom format, as well as a Facebook and  
4 YouTube live.

5  
6 Good Medicine Way also offers two book studies, one study is open to all that meets at 6:30 pm on  
7 Tuesdays and a women's book study at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. We offer another study which is an 8-  
8 week program Lora Church leads called, "Circle of Healing: Gently Unwrapping Trauma Through  
9 Community Education." This class is for Native Women on Tuesday evenings. Lora also graciously offers  
10 a beginning Sewing Class to the local Native community and also to the Native students at Albuquerque  
11 High School.

12  
13 I would love to come to any churches that would have me and some of my church members to share the  
14 amazing ministry that is occurring within Good Medicine Way and how your churches can support this  
15 rare, important ministry building our intertribal community. Please reach out to me to schedule a time  
16 for us to speak at your church.

17  
18 *Rev. Dr. Casey Church, Church Planter and Pastor ([lchurch111@comcast.net](mailto:lchurch111@comcast.net))*

19  
20 ---

### 21 **X-ile**

22  
23  
24 We use the fancy church word "incarnation" to describe Jesus as God being "with us" in the world. This  
25 is extremely important to our church as we seek to follow Jesus by being present in the world and loving  
26 our neighbors there. This is why I describe X-ile's methodology of being the Church and worshipping God  
27 in public as the "incarnational church."

28  
29 As we entered 2023, we embarked on a journey to address critical issues in our community, and with  
30 our New Mexico Conference support and donations from many others, we achieved significant progress.  
31 Together, we established 12 new faith communities, bringing the total number of communities we serve  
32 in New Mexico to an impressive 22. We also had 11 baptisms this year: 9 adults and 2 children. Your  
33 support has made it possible for us to provide essential resources and create a sense of belonging for  
34 spiritually restless individuals and families in need.

35  
36 Additionally, we are proud to share that we were able to brighten the holiday season for 60 families of  
37 local middle school students experiencing housing insecurity over Christmas. We provided Christmas  
38 stockings filled with essential supplies and fun items to bring joy during this special time of year. Your  
39 kindness and compassion made all the difference for these families facing challenging circumstances.

40  
41 Moreover, our commitment to ensuring that no child goes hungry resulted in the provision of over  
42 60,000 weekend meals to students who rely on free lunch during the school week. By addressing food  
43 insecurity, we are helping to alleviate the burden on families and contribute to the overall well-being  
44 and success of these children.

45  
46 However, our work is not done. The needs in our communities continue to grow, and with your  
47 continued support we can make an even greater impact! Our 30 for 30 club is the base of our support  
48 structure. These are groups of 30 people that give at least 30 dollars a month. If you are willing to be

## Program Area Reports

1 part of one of these groups or make a one-time gift, please make a tax-deductible donation at [http://x-](http://x-ile.com/donate)  
2 [ile.com/donate](http://x-ile.com/donate). Together, we can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families facing  
3 adversity, and create a better future for communities all over New Mexico.

4  
5 Your support will enable us to expand our reach and provide critical resources and relationships to those  
6 who need them the most. Together, we can join Jesus in the world around us, create lasting change, and  
7 foster communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

8  
9 As we look back on these achievements, we are deeply grateful for your continued support. It is your  
10 generosity and prayer support that allows us to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those who  
11 need it most. Your love makes it possible for us to provide essential resources, create supportive  
12 Christian communities for people without church backgrounds, and empower individuals to break the  
13 cycle of poverty.

14  
15 *With heartfelt gratitude, Rev. Dr. Todd Seelau, Founder and Pastor of X-ile ([rev.todd@gmail.com](mailto:rev.todd@gmail.com))*

16  
17 ---

18  
19 This concludes the 2024 Conference report from the New Church Development Team. Peace and a holy  
20 uncomfortable feeling be with us all from God which forces us all to be open to new ways of living and  
21 being Jesus in the world.

22  
23 *D.G. Hollums, Chair ([pastor@ziaumc.org](mailto:pastor@ziaumc.org))*

---

## DISASTER RESPONSE IN THE NEW MEXICO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### 25 26 **LONG-TERM RECOVERY IN SAN MIGUEL AND MORA COUNTIES** 27 **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS (NHN)**

28  
29 **NHN** initially was grassroots volunteers operating in the shelter at Memorial Middle School in Las Vegas,  
30 NM during the Hermits Peak Fire. By late July 2022, the school needed its gym back, as school was going  
31 to start. New Mexico Highlands University offered space for use as a continued resources location for  
32 fire and then flood survivors. The site offered a space for meals, non-perishable food, supplies, clothing,  
33 household items and assistance for applying for apply for FEMA Stafford ACT and other agencies for  
34 assistance. The NMHU site also offered scheduled and impromptu support and counseling, both  
35 mental/emotional on site and referrals, and spiritual care from local pastors.

36  
37 NHN was serving and meeting, informally, the needs of the community. The Mora San Miguel Long  
38 Term Recovery Group (MSMLTRG) was formed to fundraise and secure monies needed for Unmet Needs  
39 and case managers. Everyone was 100% volunteer for the first 14 months. We also had phenomenal  
40 support from The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

41  
42 As the structure became defined and grants were secured, everyone fell into natural roles. Some  
43 remained as volunteers and other aspects of ongoing support had the opportunity to become paid  
44 positions. Depending on a person's ability some started playing multiple roles within NHN.

## Program Area Reports

1 While the MSMLTRG has fundraised much needed funds for Unmet Needs, initial case management and  
2 planning for cultural heritage and economic recovery support with the support of the Las Vegas New  
3 Mexico Community Foundation (LVNMCF). NHN has taken on many of the LTRG's typical roles. UMCOR  
4 now covers salaries for the Case Managers and Volunteer Management. There are five (5) and two (2)  
5 volunteers. St. Paul's Peace covers the cost of the monthly rent for the NHN community gathering  
6 location, case management and the Unmet Needs Table at 715 National Avenue, Las Vegas, NM. The  
7 MSMLTRG provides insurance.

8  
9 In addition to this disaster case management structure, NHN staff continues to volunteer to coordinate  
10 Community Healing Events and referrals for emotional and spiritual care, as well as coordinate a  
11 voucher-based program for a survivor's Thrift Store to shop for donated items.

12  
13 NHN is survivor centered, always meet the person "where they are."

14  
15 Healing comes through connection and sharing recovery together.

16  
17 In a rural and widespread community, survivors of the HPCC fire and flood did not have an existing social  
18 service organization to turn to. While a large number of initial and ongoing supporters came and come  
19 from faith-based organizations, our land has been "off the beaten path" of "normal" roles. We are all in  
20 recovery together, and in the grief cycle and prayer cycle, we are frequently still "lamenting" and feeling  
21 like we're living the life of JOB!

---

### **NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE BORDER MINISTRIES TEAM AND BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

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

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

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

27  
28 Our work since 2018 has continued and strengthened along obvious trajectories.

- 29 • Work on the new articulation of the Social Principles, originally prepared for 2020, will be  
30 presented to the General Conference when it meets later this year. The Social Principles are a  
31 resource for mission and ministry for United Methodists across the globe, calling all United  
32 Methodists be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- 33  
34 • Monthly video calls for border issue ministry providers continue, hosted now by participants  
35 from the Rio Texas Conference.
- 36  
37 • A Peace with Justice Coordinator attends the quarterly Church and Society video calls, giving  
38 particular attention to gun violence prevention.
- 39  
40 • In the last year, our focus has been on invigorating the Border Immigration Law and Justice  
41 Center (BILJC), formerly known as JFON (Justice for our neighbors). Board members have been  
42 drafted and they have begun a process of strategic planning. BILJC is part of a national network

## Program Area Reports

1 originally created as an UMCOR mission focus and supported by several congregations in our  
2 annual conference.

- 3 • We continue to dialog and partner with staff from the Rio Texas Conference to build stronger  
4 relationships and deeper resources for doing work with migrants, both along the border and in  
5 the interior.

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

---

### **FOUR CORNERS NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY**

*Debra Yazzie, Executive Director*

9 In 2023, Four Corners Native American Ministry renewed its commitment to the people of the Four  
10 Corners region. FCNAM revised the mission statement and updated their objective and goals by  
11 restarting with a new Executive Director and staff.  
12

13 The winter homeless shelter dorm was renovated and the staff brought a home feeling to the facility  
14 emphasizing the Navajo word for home: HOGHAN-House Of Growth, Harmony, And Nurturing. The  
15 shelter's new look included a new gate entrance area with lighting, an intake area to help the relatives  
16 get out of the wind and cold. Lockers were used to store personal belongings. A humanitarian grant for  
17 food was awarded to FCNAM and this food was cooked from scratch to feed the relatives dinner and  
18 breakfast. The relatives were given clean sleep wear and issued clean bedding each night of their stay.  
19 Relatives took warm showers and each shower stall had a shower dispenser with shampoo, conditioner,  
20 and body wash. Relatives really enjoyed the TV, board games and books available for entertainment  
21 before bed time. Our shelter staff received jackets and staff t-shirts to be easily identified when working  
22 with public safety personnel and emergency health workers. We hosted nearly 150 homeless relatives  
23 this past season.  
24

25 FCNAM renewed our presence in the communities by collaborating, partnering, and volunteering with  
26 many organizations so we could reconnect with people and help bridge the gap for volunteering and  
27 community needs. We gave 15 tours of the facility and gave 5 presentations.  
28

29 We revised and redeveloped the water delivery program with a Phase I and Phase II activity. Phase I  
30 involved delivering the water totes to 13 families, purchasing the necessary equipment such as a water  
31 pump, hoses, and power supply (inverter) to pump water from the water tank in the FCNAM truck to the  
32 water tote. Phase II involved purchasing smaller water barrels for easier handling and lower quantities  
33 of water to pump to more people. The larger totes were stationed at homes with large families (10+  
34 people) or people living more than 15 miles away from the center of town, and the smaller, 55-gallon  
35 water barrels were stationed at home with one to four family members. Approximately 3,000 gallons of  
36 potable water was delivered in 2023.  
37

38 FCNAM partnered with Solar Oven Partners out of Raymond, South Dakota to sponsor two-day solar  
39 oven seminars. We were able to hold two, two-day solar oven seminars (Shiprock, NM and Window  
40 Rock, AZ) and have two, one day information sessions in Tuba City, Arizona and Farmington, NM. We  
41 look forward to holding three, 2-day seminars in 2024.

## Program Area Reports

1 We partnered with several schools and shelters (children’s home and domestic shelters) to provide  
2 emergency food boxes and help develop clothing closets. We look forward to continue to outreach to  
3 schools to help keep their clothing closets and food pantries stocked. With the winter clothing donations  
4 of knitted beanies, gloves, scarfs, winter boots, winter jackets, we were able to assist over 600 children.  
5 We are so grateful for the donations sent to the Ministry.  
6

7 We had three mission work teams that came to stay an average of 8 days at our dormitory. We assisted  
8 them with coordinating projects such as ramp building, pro-panel roof installation, painting, yard  
9 cleaning, and wood stove removal/wall repair. All three mission work teams have booked for this  
10 coming year (2024) and we have two team holding dates for coming out to do mission work.  
11

12 We were able to partner with Shiprock Chapter and Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) to get  
13 several loads of coal to deliver to families in need of emergency coal.  
14

---

### LAY SERVANT/CERTIFIED LAY MINISTRY

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

#### **Lay Servant Ministry**

18 Laity are the primary agents of holy love incarnate in the world: “The witness of the laity, their Christ-  
19 like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the  
20 primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and the United  
21 Methodist Church will fulfill its mission” (BOD 2016, para. 127)  
22

23 The certified lay servant serves the local church in ways in which his/her witness, leadership and service  
24 inspires others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The certified lay  
25 servant, through continued study and training, should prepare to undertake one or more of the  
26 following functions, giving primary attention to service within the local church, UM collegiate ministry or  
27 other UM setting: provide leadership, lead meetings for prayer, training, study and discussion, assist  
28 with services of worship, preach the Word. (BOD 2016, para. 266.2)  
29

30 The certified lay minister serves to enhance the quality of ministry much like a class leader did in early  
31 Methodism through service in the local church, circuit or cooperative parish, or by expanding team  
32 ministry in other churches and charges. As with lay ministry in early Methodism, the certified lay  
33 minister uses his/her spiritual gifts as evidence of God’s grace. (BOD 2016, para. 268.2)  
34

35 Do you hear the similarities in these three paragraphs from the Book of Discipline, which addresses the  
36 ministry of the laity. It can be very confusing what is a local church lay servant (LCLS, taken a Basic  
37 Course), certified lay servant (CLS, taken Basic and Advanced Courses), or certified lay minister (CLM, a  
38 CLS who is “called” to continue further study). The good news is there are a lot of resources to help you  
39 figure all of this out!! The NM Conference Lay Servant Coordinators, Susan Ideus, Albuquerque District,  
40 and Jon Hendricks, El Paso District, are there to guide you as you journey through the studies of Lay  
41 Servant Ministries.  
42

43 Susan and Jon, along with Scott Maderer, Lay Servant Coordinator for Rio Texas, have been very busy  
44 this last year orchestrating Basic and Advanced classes that bridge both Rio Texas and NM Conference,  
45 also Jocelyn Furr, NW Texas Conference has shared in connectional classes. Each Lay Servant class,  
46 whether Basic or an Advanced was facilitated by a clergy or lay person, sometimes both, most of the

## Program Area Reports

1 classes have been on zoom, and all the classes have been well attended. It is very exciting that the three  
2 conferences can share the lay servant class training in such a way as to build relationships and  
3 connections. The variety of the classes included Spiritual Gifts, Homiletics, Leadership, Richard Rohr  
4 studies, History/Polity, Sacraments, Advent study, and church finance. A very wide range of Advanced  
5 Lay Servant classes that also double as Continuing Ed. classes for CLMs.

6  
7 All Lay Servant class registrations can be found on the NMC website or in the Tuesday email (if you do  
8 not receive this email signup at the bottom of the first page of nmconfum.com). Roselie Johnston is the  
9 handles all the registrations and zoom links with a world of knowledge and troubleshooting. Certificates  
10 of participation are sent to each participant by one of the District Lay Servant Coordinators! If you have  
11 any suggestions for future classes that would contain "Leading, Caring, and Communicating," please let  
12 Susan Ideus, Jon Hendricks or myself know.

13  
14 Be encouraged to take a Lay Servant Class next year. The facilitators are awesome, the variety of classes  
15 are fabulous, and you get to meet others from around the NM Conference, Rio Texas Conference and  
16 NW Texas Conference. The Lay Servant classes are designed to educate those persons interested in  
17 stretching their faith to participate more fully in the ministries of the church. Each course provides  
18 participants with a better understanding of a holistic approach to participating in God's mission to the  
19 world and equips lay servants to be engaged and empowered in their faith walk and ministry.

### 20 21 **Certified Lay Ministry**

22 **WHO-**As a Certified Lay Minister (CLM) is a Certified Lay Servant (CLS) who is called (encouraged by God)  
23 and equipped (by the NM Conference CLM Candidate program) to conduct public worship, care for the  
24 congregation, assist in local church programs and outreach, establish new faith communities, deliver the  
25 Word, lead small groups, be in team ministry with the clergy person as a servant leader.

26  
27 **WHY-**A CLM, according to BOD 2016, para. 268.2, enhances the quality of ministry as did the class leader  
28 in early Methodism, expand team ministry, use spiritual gifts as evidence of God's grace.

29  
30 **WHAT-** A CLM follows through with Training, (7 Modules, taught over the course of a year or more),  
31 Supervision (of a clergy person and a Mutual Ministry Covenant Team), Support (of the NMCBOL, DS and  
32 Bishop), and Accountability Recertification every two years, submit Annual Report to Church  
33 Conference)

34  
35 **THEN-**A CLM, in their home church, in team ministry with the clergy person, enhances the life of the  
36 church through offering servant leadership roles and assisting with the life of the church with the  
37 confidence of their "calling" and the training received. A CLM, under the direction of the DS, may be  
38 assigned to a church, long term, to bring the Word and assist in the life of the church. CLMs, assigned to  
39 a church, are NOT clergy, but serve the church in the capacity of a lay person, with NO sacramental  
40 privileges.

41  
42 **NOW-** The NM Conference is very blessed to have, at the writing of this report, twenty-seven active  
43 CLMs, who are assigned a church, serving as a church staff person, servant leaders in team ministry or  
44 bringing their gifts to their community. Currently, there are 14 CLM Candidates that are in training. We  
45 are excited to share in the CLM training this year with Rio Texas and NW Texas.

46  
47 Steve Henderson, CLM, has completed a CLM Specialization in Congregational Care, this year. This is a  
48 very big accomplishment, a first for the NM Conference. Steve also serves as the CLM Registrar, keeping

## Program Area Reports

1 all the records and documents organized!! Boy, that is a job!! A huge shout out to Steve for his  
2 leadership!

3 The CLM Retreat in August of 2023, filled with joy and Spirit! David Teel offered sessions on “Covenant  
4 Leadership,” while Rev. Dr. Kevin Johnson walked us through the Safer Sanctuaries interactive online  
5 class. The CLM Retreat team was small, but for 2024 it has grown to 6 CLMs, who are eager to bring a  
6 time of “Spiritual Leadership” in August, for all who attend.

7  
8 It is a humble honor to serve as Director of LS/CLM ministries. When asked to offer a session of “Grace  
9 of CLMs” at the National CLM Convocation in January, my heart leaped, to know that each of the NMC  
10 CLMs were a part of the talk of grace of CLMs. Each CLM is a gift to their church, their family, our  
11 conference. Each CLM has a passion to share their servant leadership with others. Each CLM has made  
12 the journey through training and recertification with grace!

13  
14 If you are feeling that “nudge” from God to pursue a CLM ministry, contact any of the CLMs and ask,  
15 “What’s this all about?” Get ready for a ministry event that will change your world!

16

---

### **EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION**

1417 South Ave. K, Portales New Mexico 88130

575-356-6721

*Elizabeth Kirkwood, Executive Director*

17 *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:18*

18

19 Above all the students at ENMU Wesley House, director, and Wesley board of directors would like to  
20 thank GOD, the New Mexico Annual Conference and churches for your prayers, love, and support. The  
21 Wesley Foundation at ENMU has been a campus house now for 71 years. Past Alumni still come by to  
22 visit from time to time during the semester.

23

24 One of the goals I have is to sit down with each student and try to get to know their story. The outcome  
25 has been remarkable! Students realize that I\we are invested in them and their schooling. This makes a  
26 difference when you have international students coming to America for the first time, like the young  
27 man from Ghana. He arrived in January for the 2024 Spring semester. One of the campus custodians  
28 found him shivering in the music building. He asked if he could stay and get warm. She asked if he had a  
29 jacket or coat. He said, *“No, they told me I’d be coming to the desert!”* He has made his way to our  
30 Wesley House and now comes regularly.

31

32 Community meals have become a weekly event at our campus house. One student will prepare a meal  
33 of rice, eggs, noodles with chicken. A text message will go out letting everyone know there is food and  
34 to come and eat. 3-4 students will gather around a plate or pot and share the food. They share with  
35 other students as they make their way to the kitchen. It is very humbling watching them share with  
36 each other and other students who come to our Wesley. The food is delicious. We still offer 2 meals a  
37 week, kitchen with food to prepare, our Bistro filled with snacks and beverages, internet, washer and  
38 dryer for their laundry, chapel, and classroom for studying. Apples, bananas, rice, noodles, and eggs are  
39 staples that we run out of weekly. We keep them in “Supply and Demand!” So many of our students  
40 say the same thing over and over, *“This is our home away from home!”* We have learned that our  
41 Wesley House is an essential part of our ENMU campus community for the students. Throughout the

## Program Area Reports

1 year we have 2 fundraisers, special dinners, such as international student dinners, student Easter egg  
2 hunt, Christmas Party, Finals game night all our Wesley students participate in. Local Methodist  
3 churches help our Wesley students and House with meals, supplies, prayers, and support. For this we  
4 are grateful. We will continue, by GOD'S grace, to be here for the many young people who walk through  
5 our doors every new semester. We thank the members of the New Mexico Annual Conference.  
6

---

### NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

*Brian Townsend, Executive Director*  
(575) 571-5340

7 The real highlight of our ministry is the lives of students being changed! We want you to hear from one  
8 of those students who spoke during our donor appreciation banquet this past fall in front of about forty  
9 supporters of the ministry. This is a snippet of what was shared:

10  
11 *I never thought I would be here at this time last year. I grew up Christian, but the church of my childhood*  
12 *was cruel. I was young, only 16 when I decided God could not be real and if he was... he must be as cruel*  
13 *as the people in that church. I wondered why His people would bring me so much pain.*

14  
15 *I was an atheist because it was easier to say that God wasn't real than to think that God just didn't love*  
16 *me.*

17  
18 *I decided to come to Wesley worship after a long time of warming up to the idea through the Wesley*  
19 *dinners. I went with the expectation that I would cry and I did cry. Just not for the reasons I thought I*  
20 *would. When I left worship that night my friend took me back to my dorm, and we sat in the car and I*  
21 *started crying. I could not stop, I was full-on sobbing. Not because I felt out of place, not because it was*  
22 *cruel, but because it wasn't. And I was so relieved because nobody said a single mean thing to me the*  
23 *entire night. I cried because I said who I was: I said more than my major, more than my age, more than*  
24 *my name even and they said: We accept you. In their words and their actions, I could tell they meant it.*  
25 *Wesley has helped me to be okay with restoring my faith in God. The people at Wesley have restored my*  
26 *faith in humanity. The people here at the Wesley Foundation took the broken girl I was: the girl who*  
27 *thought I would be hated and shunned the same way as I was hated and shunned when I was a child.*  
28 *They helped give me the strength to talk with God again.*

29  
30 *I am inexplicably grateful for all of the people of Wesley who welcomed me and continue to welcome me*  
31 *with open arms. I am also so grateful for all of the people who continue to make this opportunity*  
32 *possible for me. I hope to do the same for the newcomers here, and I hope to find the people who are*  
33 *just like I was and show them this beautiful gift too. Thank you.*

34  
35 Student Engagement: This student is supported by a core group of twelve students regularly active in  
36 the community of Wesley with additional students joining in activities throughout the year. Many  
37 students identify as agnostic or atheist – but they have found a safe place to explore their faith.

38  
39 Local Church Connections: We continue to have students involved in local churches. We have a student  
40 leading worship, one helping with music in a local church, and two involved in after-school programs for  
41 kids.  
42



## Program Area Reports

1 The Archey Family Leadership Endowment: After the initial generous donation of \$10,000 from the the  
2 Archey Family, our wonderful donors matched the funds with over \$13,000 given in less than two  
3 months! If you would like more information or would like to give, please visit our website –  
4 nmsuwesley.org. This endowment supports student leadership scholarships and opportunities.

5 We are grateful for the continued love and support of the UMC churches in our conference!  
6

---

### UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO WESLEY FOUNDATION

7 *Lisa Blaylock, Director*

8 The Wesley Foundation at UNM has had a year of renewal and revitalization. It's been a year of  
9 strengthening our ministry with students through intentional learning and fellowship.

10  
11 After much thought and prayer, including listening sessions with former students who lived in the  
12 Wesley House, the board voted to sell it. The sale to the University of New Mexico was final in  
13 December, 2023. The board is spending time in discerning how to best invest the proceeds to enable  
14 campus ministry for the future.

15  
16 The Wesley Foundation has relocated to Central UMC, which is directly across the street from the  
17 campus. We also have office space there that offers a place to meet with students during the week. We  
18 meet weekly on Tuesday evenings for Dinner and Devotion.

19  
20 We hosted a table at Back-To-School days on campus in August and we opened the school year with a  
21 barbeque at Central. Several board members attended. We are intentionally creating time for our  
22 board to connect with the students to get to know them better so they might better strategize for the  
23 future of the ministry.

24  
25 Our Tuesday night Dinner and Devotion averages 8 students, with about 20 on our rolls. We discuss a  
26 variety of theological and social issues that the students find helpful or thought provoking.

27  
28 We received an Endowment grant that is helping fund our ministry to students. We understand that  
29 there are students who are food insecure so one of our main goals is to provide an ample, nourishing  
30 meal each week. The students take home any leftovers.

31  
32 We hope to have more activities centered around building relationships through fellowship and fun.

33  
34 We have several students graduating this spring and we are planning a good way to celebrate them and  
35 send them into the world.

36  
37 A special thank you to the Board of the Wesley Foundation at UNM. They have revitalized the ministry  
38 of the Wesley Foundation and they have worked diligently to recreate what campus ministry looks like  
39 in the post-pandemic world.

40  
41 Thank you to Central UMC for renting us space and offering the Foundation a home so close to the  
42 campus. With your help, we can reimagine what it looks like to reach young adults and students who  
43 need to find a place to experience God's love and acceptance.

## Program Area Reports

1 Thank you to Jon Kuncel for his presence, his knowledge and wisdom and especially his love of young  
2 people. Jon volunteers weekly to be a loving, spiritual mentor to the students. This ministry would not  
3 be the same without him.  
4

---

### UNITED METHODIST MEN

*David W. ("Dave") Price, PhD, Interim President, NM Conference UMM*

5 The results in trying to build men's ministry has not been as successful as anticipated. There was a  
6 canvas (attempting to contact all listed United Methodist Churches, UMCs, in the Conference) and there  
7 was limited interest in men's ministries and the UMM. This was due in part to the effects of  
8 disaffiliation and the sense there were other higher priorities within the local churches to focus on.  
9

10 We realize that men's ministry is vital to the growth of the church. A study on the effect of men's  
11 ministry showed that, if a youth was engaged with a church, there was a 12% chance the family would  
12 follow. If a woman was active in the church, there was a 40% chance the family would follow. However,  
13 if a man became active in the church, there was a 92% chance the family would follow.  
14

15 Even though Conference UMM activities have been limited, there are scattered UMM efforts:  
16

17 1) There is a monthly men's breakfast that meets at Paradise Hills UMC. It is attended by 20-60  
18 people (mostly men, dependent on the speakers), many drawn from other churches and some other  
19 denominations.  
20

21 2) There are at least three weekly men's class meetings that meet virtually encouraging growth in  
22 the knowledge of life of the Lord Jesus. (I am involved in two of them.) These three class meetings have  
23 been meeting since the last active NM Conference UMM retreat.  
24

25 3) We had a presence at the last UMC Annual Conference.  
26

27 4) The NM Conference UMC cabinet (consisting of the Interim President, the Conference  
28 Treasurer, Ken McVey, and the Albuquerque District UMM President, Chris Caldes) meets monthly to try  
29 to build up NM Conference men's ministry.  
30

31 5) These activities will continue, but it is hoped with Conference support that more men's ministry  
32 may be initiated, supported and made effective throughout the Conference.

---

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

*Kathleen Duncan, New Mexico Conference President*

33 **Renamed** as United Women in Faith, our members in disaffiliated churches have not felt left behind but  
34 know they still have a place with us. Our **Rename** also create as a space to **Recruit** members of other  
35 faiths. Our ALL-ACCESS membership is a digital platform for women who want to attend a digital  
36 meeting instead of in person. We are **Reaching** out to women of all ages and faiths.  
37

38 The **Reorganization** of our Conference Leadership Team has been very successful. We have streamlined  
39 how we do things to make the best use of our women's gifts. Our national leadership is offering many  
40 more opportunities for leadership training sessions. When we have a Spiritual **Retreat** or Mission u at

## Program Area Reports

1 Sacramento, it is Repeated in the El Paso and Albuquerque Districts to reach as many of our women and  
2 new **Recruits** as possible. One of our newly Reignited units, Mountainside UWinFaith hosted our  
3 Albuquerque District Mission u Study this year! Our Unit Presidents meet quarterly to share what they  
4 are doing and discuss issues we have in common. Our 2024 Mission u will be held at Sacramento on July  
5 26-28. **Remember** – all clergy, lay and families are invited to attend.

6  
7 We are working to **Revitalize** units that lost membership after Covid and **Restarting** units, some  
8 clustering with other units until they are up and running. We are **Reinvigorating** our units by offering  
9 more programs and opportunities district and conference wide. Some examples are we had 18 United  
10 Women in Faith from the Conference attend the Lutheran Advocacy Day in Santa Fe. Central UWinFaith  
11 hosted a Soul Care Event at the Botanical Gardens attended by sisters from across the ABQ District and  
12 St. John’s UWinFaith invited all our units to their “Pretzel Day.”

13  
14 We **Recognize** the importance of climate care by supporting our Just Energy for All Campaign and will be  
15 presenting a **Resolution** to engage every New Mexico United Methodist Church in climate justice issues.  
16 We also address racial justice by supporting our Charter for Racial Justice with webinars and events  
17 throughout the year and work for justice through our other national priority issue of interrupting the  
18 school to prison pipeline.

19 We **Respect** and support the work of the National Mission Institutions in New Mexico. New Beginnings  
20 in Farmington is a **Refuge** for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. McCurdy Ministries **Respond**  
21 to the many and varied needs of the families in Espanola. Wide ranging local missions are **Represented**  
22 through the work of our local units.

23  
24 The New Mexico Conference of United Women in Faith Resolve to forge courageous new paths. We will  
25 go wherever we are needed because the needs are great but our power, our **Resolve** and our faith are  
26 even greater.

## INSTITUTIONS

### MCCURDY MINISTRIES COMMUNITY CENTER

*Rev. Tiffany Hollums*

1 McCurdy Ministries Community Center (MMCC) is a national historic Methodist institution celebrating  
2 112 of living out our vision to “create hope and empower the lives of children, youth, adults and families  
3 through education, life skills, and faith-based programs in Española, NM”. We believe and sense that  
4 God has placed McCurdy Ministries exactly where we are for ‘such a time as this’, as our community has  
5 deep needs, but also incredible promise. We are excited to be able to share new partnerships,  
6 ministries, and dreams that are springing up before us.

7  
8 **New Partnerships:** McCurdy Ministries welcomed the following non-profit partners onto our campus to  
9 join us in ministry in the community:

10 **-New Mexico Ramps Project:** This Fall, the NM Ramps Project RESTORED the McCurdy School  
11 ‘Laundry Room’ into a new workshop to build ramps to bless elderly and disabled in the  
12 Española valley. NM Ramp Project offers these individuals and families a chance to live safely  
13 and with dignity in their homes and we are honored to partner with them.

14  
15 **-Locker#505:** Locker#505 is a nonprofit student clothing bank from Albuquerque which has  
16 served students and their families for 10 years. We are excited to announce that Locker#505  
17 McCurdy will be opening August 2024 in the RENEWED ‘Teacherage’ building on McCurdy’s  
18 campus. Volunteers in Missions teams, McCurdy staff, Locker#505, and other volunteers will be  
19 helping to transform the Teacherage into a kid/teen friendly shopping experience where  
20 students can come to experience in tangible ways just how special they are as they receive (for  
21 free) much needed clothing, new shoes, new socks and underwear, books, school supplies, and  
22 toiletries.

23  
24 **-United Way of Northern New Mexico:** Our friends with the United Way RECREATED a  
25 basement room in one of our former Superintendent homes to be their office and new  
26 gathering space. McCurdy Ministries and the United Way of Northern New Mexico are  
27 dedicated to partnering together to address critical needs in the community, with a particular  
28 focus on youth leadership and mentoring.

29  
30 **-Las Cumbres Grandparents Raising Grandkids Group** began meeting this Fall at McCurdy  
31 Ministries and we have been deeply touched with this group of grandparents and their  
32 grandkids as they support one another. McCurdy Ministries is now leading the time with the  
33 children and youth while their grandparents have learning and support groups once a month. In  
34 the Española Public Schools, 69% of children are being raised by their grandparents and this  
35 group is one way in which McCurdy Ministries can support these brave grandparents and  
36 resilient grandchildren in a hands-on way. The partnership with Locker#505 was borne out of  
37 the needs expressed from this group of grandparents! Our dream with Las Cumbres is to create  
38 a space on McCurdy Ministries’ campus dedicated to Grandparents raising their grandchildren  
39 where they can have a common space for the Grandparents to enjoy time together while the  
40 children/teens can play, create, and spend time with one another in a safe and nurturing  
41 environment.

## Institutions

1 And these are just a few of the exciting partnerships that are forming at McCurdy Ministries. We are  
2 currently in the prayerful process of applying with CYFD to be a Family Resource Campus with the hope  
3 that McCurdy Ministries campus would become a place where families throughout Rio Arriba County  
4 could come to receive family support, counseling, education, and help with basic needs. We are actively  
5 joining with various partners in the community to dream about how we can join together to support the  
6 youth in our community through shared leadership opportunities, a teen gathering space at McCurdy  
7 Ministries, and restorative justice/youth diversion programs to help support teenagers and their  
8 families.

9  
10 **Project Cariño** is a powerful and important ministry of McCurdy which provides free mental health  
11 services to McCurdy Charter school children, youth and their families. The Big Buddy program through  
12 Project Cariño continues to partner older youth with younger students to provide much needed support  
13 and mentoring. The need for mental health professionals is at a critical need in New Mexico and through  
14 Project Cariño we are able to offer Masters' level students an internship to help them complete this  
15 important training and supervision necessary to be a mental health professional. Our new Executive  
16 Director began volunteering at detention at the McCurdy Charter school and this time of restorative  
17 justice is one tangible way in which McCurdy Ministries is working to give teens support and meaningful  
18 relationships, but it is also offering us a chance to deeply listen to the needs of the teens in the  
19 community. Our hopes are to be able to partner with other area nonprofits to provide a space for teens  
20 to gather, share, grow, and create community as we continue to hear that this is a high need in the  
21 community.

22  
23 **Our McCurdy Schools of Northern New Mexico PreK** continues to provide an innovative education for  
24 preschool children and their families. The preschoolers are learning socio-emotional skills that are also  
25 part of their home learning with their families. The joy on the preschoolers' faces as they share how  
26 they each have a special 'job' each week and proudly show their learning activities that they do at home  
27 with their families is inspiring and a reminder of just how critical early childhood learning is for these  
28 children.

29  
30 **The After School Care Program** provides children and pre-teens a faith based daily time to learn about  
31 their faith and God in creative and fun ways. They have learned how to sew as they created Jonah's fish  
32 and have blessed us with their written prayers to God. McCurdy Ministries' After school program is  
33 uniquely faith based and it is evident in the meaningful art and writings from these students that they  
34 are growing closer to Christ through this time each week.

35  
36 **Camp Stars** will return this summer with weeks of exploring God's awesome creation with interactive  
37 experiments, arts and crafts, games, and great songs about God's creation. Our prayer is that with Camp  
38 Stars, children and their families can make a connection with Christ and with McCurdy Ministries that  
39 will continue to deepen and form community when they need it most.

40  
41 **The McCurdy Public/Private Partnership** continues to work with our county commissioners, state  
42 representatives, city officials, the New Mexico North Central Economic Development Department, and  
43 several area agencies and nonprofits to find ways to better strengthen MMCC to serve our community  
44 and region.

45  
46 **Many Individual Volunteers and Volunteers in Mission Teams** continue to RENEW the ministries at  
47 McCurdy Ministries and are an incredible blessing to us and to the community. This year, these teams

## Institutions

1 will be helping to prepare and organize the Locker#505 student clothing center, prepare for a large  
2 Estate Sale to make space for new ministries, and will help to RESTORE our campus as we dream of new  
3 uses for our buildings such as a special gathering space for Grandparents who are raising their Grandkids  
4 or a dedicated Teen Center. Our volunteers also receive a monthly Volunteer newsletter which helps  
5 keep everyone connected and inspired.

6  
7 **Keep up to date with all of the amazing things happening in and through McCurdy Ministries in a**  
8 **variety of ways such as our Facebook page, receive weekly McCurdy Ministries Devotionals, the**  
9 **Quarterly Messenger newsletter, and our website, [www.mccurdy.org](http://www.mccurdy.org).**

10  
11 We would also be honored to come and share about McCurdy Ministries with your church or United  
12 Women in Faith group. To receive more information about McCurdy Ministries, please contact Tiffany  
13 Hollums at [thollums@mccurdy.org](mailto:thollums@mccurdy.org).

14  
15 McCurdy Ministries is deeply thankful for the New Mexico Annual Conference and the amazing  
16 congregations and individuals who make our ministry possible. It is truly an honor to continue, with your  
17 prayers and support, to be a light of Christ in the Española Valley.

---

## METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

*Trey Oakley, President/CEO*

19 Greetings from Methodist Children's Home (MCH) and the more than 10,000 children, youth and  
20 families we serve each year. As an independent 501c3 organization, your continued voluntary support of  
21 our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest is as important as ever. I invite each  
22 of you to visit our website at [MCH.org](http://MCH.org) to learn more about how to refer a child for placement, or a call  
23 to join our ministry.

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

29  
30 We are now in our 134<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. Here are some highlights of the past year:

- 31 • We launched our new strategic plan, Imagine 2028, to guide MCH growth and innovation for the  
32 next five years.
- 33  
34 • We opened a new MCH Family Outreach office in the Permian Basin, to serve Midland, Odessa  
35 and surrounding areas through family preservation services and community-based programs.
- 36  
37 • We completed the Building Hope capital campaign on the Waco campus, which began in 2015,  
38 and opened the Stone and Harris Homes.
- 39  
40 • We launched and expanded free professional counseling services in two MCH Family Outreach  
41 locations.
- 42  
43 • We announced plans for a new vision at the MCH Boys Ranch to provide for young men with  
44 more complex, specialized needs and began renovations to have this new program operational

## Institutions

1 in 2024.

- 2
- 3 • We expanded our efforts through the Together We Flourish initiative by investing in other like-
- 4 minded organizations.
- 5
- 6 • We grew our community collaborations, especially in the Outdoor Education and Recreation
- 7 program with several groups joining for day-long team-building exercises and activities. Other
- 8 community collaboration highlights include annual high school career events where students
- 9 gained knowledge about life after graduation from high school.
- 10
- 11 • We once again received the highest ratings from Charity Navigator and Candid (formerly
- 12 Guidestar).
- 13
- 14 • Construction began on the Waco campus of the Embry Vocational Building which will expand
- 15 vocational opportunities for young people served through our charter school.
- 16
- 17 • Family Outreach staff presented services to various communities throughout our service area of
- 18 Texas and New Mexico through fairs, school events and partnering agencies.
- 19
- 20 • The MCH Bulldogs boys' track and field team took home the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship
- 21 Men's State Championship Title, a first in school history. The MCH Bulldogs fought hard in their
- 22 fourth run for a state football championship but ultimately fell to Victory Christian Academy.
- 23
- 24 • We expanded our horsemanship program opportunities at the MCH Boys Ranch. Students learn
- 25 how to care for their horses and further bond through fellowship with other youth.
- 26
- 27 • As a TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention) Ambassador Organization, MCH staff continued
- 28 to train other like-minded groups across the nation in TBRI.
- 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 We look forward to a continued partnership with you all for many years to come.  
34 Thank you for supporting our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest.  
35

---

### PROVIDENCE PLACE

*Judith Bell, President and CEO*

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

40 The year of 2024 marks 129 years of service; all possible because of your loyal and faithful support from  
41 individual donors and United Methodist Churches throughout the New Mexico Conference. Every day,  
42 we have the wonderful opportunity to see God's hand in our ministries as the lives of women, children  
43 and families are transformed.  
44

## Institutions

1 Providence Place experienced many transitions in during the past year. The Board of Directors made a  
2 bittersweet decision to eliminate residential services and sell the property located at 6487 Whitby Road.  
3 The decision was made due to trends within the residential services community and the growing cost of  
4 those services. The agency relocated to 326 Sterling Browning Road in February 2024. The move also  
5 allowed us to innovate how services are provided.

6  
7 Providence Place is redefining how services are provided to victims of crime and trauma survivors.  
8 Providence Place strives to develop programs that are culturally competent and have transformational  
9 community impact; redefining how clients receive service will, without doubt, generate immeasurable  
10 impact. Providence Place provides Trauma Informed comprehensive services to survivors of complex  
11 trauma and victims of crime including but not limited to intimate partner violence, sexual assault, child  
12 abuse and professionals of other non-profits.

13  
14 The relationship between Providence Place and The New Mexico Conference, along with individual  
15 churches, has been lifechanging in so many ways. Together, we have helped young women facing  
16 unplanned pregnancies, provided a home for countless young adults, offered hope and restoration for  
17 survivors of complex trauma, and created loving homes for children in foster care. What makes our  
18 programs unique is our ability to serve women, children and families using a trauma informed care  
19 model. This commitment to women and families started with our founder, Madame Volino, when she  
20 first sought help from Travis Park Methodist Church in San Antonio and changed her life from a brothel  
21 owner to a sanctuary for women and young children in need.

22  
23 Without a doubt, churches and their congregants have played a significant role in the success of  
24 Providence Place for 128 years; something we will never forget. I encourage you to call to arrange a  
25 speaker for your congregation or church group, and request offering materials for an annual church  
26 offering. We couldn't continue these ministries without you and we would love to come and share the  
27 stories of Providence Place! If we could be a resource to you, contact our Mission Advancement Team at  
28 (210) 696-2410 or at [mission.advancement@provplace.org](mailto:mission.advancement@provplace.org). Also, please visit our website at  
29 [www.provplace.org](http://www.provplace.org) to learn more about these special ministries and to hear first-hand stories from  
30 those we have served.

31  
32  
33  
34 Obispo y a los miembros de la Conferencia de Nuevo México, gracias en nombre de nuestra Junta  
35 Directiva, del personal y de quienes trabajan arduamente para alcanzar su propio nivel personal de  
36 éxito. Su dedicación en asociación con el ministerio de Providence Place es inconmensurable.

37  
38 El año 2024 marcará 129 años de servicio; todo ello posible gracias a su apoyo leal y fiel de donantes  
39 individuales e Iglesias Metodistas Unidas de toda la Conferencia de Nuevo México. Todos los días,  
40 tenemos la maravillosa oportunidad de ver la mano de Dios en nuestros ministerios, a medida que se  
41 transforman las vidas de mujeres, niños y familias.

42  
43 Providence Place experimentó muchas transiciones durante el año pasado. La Junta Directiva tomó la  
44 decisión agridulce de eliminar los servicios residenciales y vender la propiedad ubicada en 6487 Whitby  
45 Road. La decisión se tomó debido a las tendencias dentro de la comunidad de servicios residenciales y  
46 al creciente costo de dichos servicios. La agencia se trasladó a 326 Sterling Browning Road en febrero de  
47 2024. El traslado también nos permitió innovar la forma en que se prestan los servicios.



## Institutions

1 Providence Place está redefiniendo el modo en que se prestan servicios a las víctimas de delitos y a los  
2 supervivientes de traumas. Providence Place se esfuerza por desarrollar programas que sean  
3 culturalmente competentes y tengan un impacto transformador en la comunidad; redefinir el modo en  
4 que los clientes reciben los servicios generará, sin duda, un impacto inconmensurable. Providence Place  
5 proporciona servicios integrales informados sobre traumas a supervivientes de traumas complejos y  
6 víctimas de delitos, incluidos, entre otros, violencia en la pareja, agresión sexual, abuso infantil y  
7 profesionales de otras organizaciones.  
8

9 La relación entre Providence Place y la Conferencia de Nuevo México, junto con iglesias individuales, ha  
10 cambiado la vida de muchas maneras. Juntos, hemos ayudado a mujeres jóvenes que se enfrentaban a  
11 embarazos no deseados, hemos proporcionado un hogar a innumerables adultos jóvenes, hemos  
12 ofrecido esperanza y restauración a supervivientes de traumas complejos y hemos creado hogares  
13 amorosos para niños en acogida. Lo que hace que nuestros programas sean únicos es nuestra capacidad  
14 para atender a mujeres, niños y familias utilizando un modelo de atención informado sobre el trauma.  
15 Este compromiso con las mujeres y las familias comenzó con nuestra fundadora, Madame Volino,  
16 cuando buscó ayuda por primera vez en la Iglesia Metodista Travis Park de San Antonio y cambió su vida  
17 de propietaria de un burdel a santuario para mujeres y niños pequeños necesitados.  
18

19 Sin duda, las iglesias y sus feligreses han desempeñado un papel importante en el éxito de Providence  
20 Place durante 128 años; algo que nunca olvidaremos. Les animo a que llamen para organizar un orador  
21 para su congregación o grupo religioso, y a que soliciten materiales para una ofrenda anual de la iglesia.  
22 No podríamos continuar con estos ministerios sin ustedes, ¡y nos encantaría venir a compartir las  
23 historias de Providence Place! Si podemos ser un recurso para usted, comuníquese con nuestro Equipo  
24 de Avance de la Misión al (210) 696-2410 o en [mission.advancement@provplace.org](mailto:mission.advancement@provplace.org). Además, visite  
25 nuestro sitio web en [www.provplace.org](http://www.provplace.org) para conocer más acerca de estos ministerios especiales y  
26 escuchar historias de primera mano de aquellos a quienes hemos servido.  
27

---

### TMF

*Rev. Lisa Greenwood, President*

800-404-7674

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

28 Texas Methodist Foundation is deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve congregations, ministries,  
29 communities, and church leaders across Texas and New Mexico. In 2023, TMF honored David McCaskill's  
30 retirement after 24 years of service as Senior Vice President of Loans and Investment Services and  
31 welcomed Chris Miller to the foundation as Vice President of Lending. TMF invests all its resources to  
32 strengthen the church's mission in partnership with investors, philanthropists, borrowers, and leaders,  
33 creating a cycle of generosity. TMF deeply appreciates its partnership with the New Mexico Annual  
34 Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving its congregations and leaders toward bringing  
35 about the loving world God Imagines. We appreciate the opportunity to report the ways we served  
36 Methodists this past year.  
37

#### **2023 Year in Review**

##### **Within the Rio Texas Annual Conference**

- Loans to churches in the New Mexico Annual Conference totaled \$4.4 million at the end of 2023.
- Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the New Mexico Annual Conference had \$4.7 million invested in the TMF Loan Fund.

## Institutions

### 1 Throughout Texas and New Mexico

- 2 • As of December 31, 2023, total assets under management by TMF were \$684.8 million.
- 3 • TMF Loan Fund investments ended the year at \$315.6 million, and the loan portfolio was \$284.1
- 4 million.
- 5 • TMF's philanthropic impact totaled \$10.4 million in 2023:
  - 6 ○ TMF received \$4.6M in new charitable gifts which supports churches and nonprofits
  - 7 across TX & NM as well as TMF's Grants and Learning & Innovation Ministries
  - 8 ○ TMF's Grants ministry distributed \$1.5M to 76 churches and nonprofits in Texas and
  - 9 New Mexico, serving over 316,000 individuals.
  - 10 ○ In addition to our Grants ministry, TMF distributed \$4.28M from donor directed
  - 11 endowments and donor-advised funds to support churches and nonprofits.
- 12 • TMF's Leadership Ministry was renamed Learning & Innovation (L&I) to reflect how it supports
- 13 and emboldens leaders across the Methodist ecosystem, creating space for new learning and
- 14 inspiring innovation, serving over 500 leaders in 20 groups and 40 Learning & Innovation events.
- 15
- 16

### 17 TMF Board Member

18  
19 TMF has submitted the following candidate for re-election to the Texas Methodist Foundation Board of  
20 Directors from the New Mexico Conference:

- 21
- 22 ▪ Rev. Dr. Eduardo Rivera, Clergy, final 3-year term serving through 2027

## UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES

### BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*G. Sujin Pak, Dean*

1 Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as BUSTH seeks to serve the church and the  
2 world! In a year like 2023, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are  
3 all the more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.  
4

#### 5 NEWS:

- 6 ● **Students:** Our academic year 2023-24 entering class was among our most diverse, with 86 new  
7 students enrolling, 34% of whom are international students.
- 8 ● **Faculty:** In September we welcomed visiting [faculty member](#) David Anderson Hooker, Visiting  
9 Associate Professor of Religion and Conflict Transformation. Two new faculty searches are  
10 underway—an Assistant Professor of Religion and Society and the Martin Luther King, Jr.  
11 Professor of Religion and Black Studies.
- 12 ● **Expanding Online Programming:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of  
13 Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—continues to expand after welcoming its first  
14 students in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that  
15 creatively engage the challenges of public life. Learn more at [bu.edu/sth/marpl](https://bu.edu/sth/marpl).
- 16 ● **Faculty Research:** Associate Dean Cristian De La Rosa received a Lilly Parenting Grant for \$1.25  
17 million. Our faculty members published more than 75 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, and  
18 book reviews during 2023. Many were interviewed by media publications for their work on  
19 academics and activism, fat liberation, caring for creation, responding to congregational  
20 trauma, and the spread of Christianity in Africa. Selected stories can be found at  
21 [bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/](https://bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/).
- 22 ● **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained  
23 ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality  
24 studies. New funds include the Research & Teaching Fund and Affirmation & Empowerment  
25 Fund. We have newly endowed funds for DEI, Theology & the Arts, and Doctor of Ministry.
- 26 ● **Accreditation and Curriculum:** BUSTH received a renewed full and unqualified listing by the  
27 University Senate of the United Methodist Church. BUSTH is concluding a curriculum review for  
28 the MDiv and MTS programs which will launch in fall 2024.
- 29 ● **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual  
30 enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include “Sustaining Spirits while Empires  
31 Crumble” and “Preaching Mark with Different Voices.” To learn more, visit [bu.edu/sth/oll](https://bu.edu/sth/oll).
- 32 ● **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Faith and Ecological Justice  
33 Fund, and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.  
34

#### 35 COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- 36 ● BUSTH's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts,  
37 such as “[Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds](#).”
- 38 ● This year's [Lowell Lecture](#) topics explore the role and responses of theological education for  
39 the challenges of today with lectures from Rev. Dr. Ted Smith (fall) and Dr. Keri Day (spring).
- 40 ● Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in  
41 our 2030 Strategic Plan. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and is active in the  
42 Green Seminary Initiative.

## CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

1  
2 Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated faithful and creative leaders  
3 for the church’s ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church,  
4 Candler holds true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students  
5 from more than 40 denominations, with nearly half of Master of Divinity students coming from the  
6 Methodist family, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal  
7 Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others. Our  
8 student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 419 from  
9 12 countries and 38 states, and 44% persons of color. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our life  
10 together and providing a “learning laboratory” for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates  
11 community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ’s love in and  
12 among us.

13  
14 Candler offers six degrees (Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Religion and  
15 Public Life, Master of Religious Leadership, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry) and ten dual  
16 degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Response to our new hybrid-format  
17 Master of Divinity, which launched in Fall 2023, has been strong: 65% of 2023’s MDiv entering class  
18 chose the hybrid model, blending online classes and in-person intensives. Plus, around 20% of MDiv  
19 students participate in Candler’s Teaching Parish program to earn contextual education credit as they  
20 serve as student pastors in local churches. Our proven DMin program—with a near 90% completion  
21 rate—is 90% online as well. These flexible options plus Candler’s recognized academic excellence and  
22 hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for even more people to follow God’s call to  
23 ministry.

24  
25 Reducing student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2023-2024, we are  
26 on track to award \$6.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. All  
27 MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition  
28 scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of  
29 tuition. MDiv students also receive financial coaching and complete a financial literacy program to  
30 strengthen their budgeting skills and reduce debt. That knowledge will serve them—and the ministries  
31 they serve—well into the future.

32  
33 Candler is growing in exciting directions as it creates avenues to bring high-quality theological education  
34 to a wider audience. It is a hub of Christian learning with multiple entry points. Those who aren’t seeking  
35 an advanced degree can engage in learning through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to  
36 make theological education accessible to the public through short courses, events, and related activities;  
37 the United Methodist Course of Study to educate licensed local pastors; the new Candler Center for  
38 Christian Leadership to refine business-related skills of United Methodist leaders; and La Mesa  
39 Academy, offering diplomas in pastoral leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in  
40 Spanish, English, and Korean.

41  
42 One of the biggest news items of the year for Candler is the announcement that after nearly 18 years,  
43 Dean Jan Love will step down from Candler’s deanship in the summer of 2024. Through Dean Love’s  
44 transformational leadership, Candler has expanded to offer three new degrees, five new dual degrees,  
45 and more online and hybrid options, including the highly successful hybrid MDiv and DMin degrees. She  
46 has increased the diversity of Candler’s faculty and student body, continued the school’s tradition of

## Universities and Seminaries

1 world-class scholarship in hiring 75% of the current full-time faculty, and grown the number of endowed  
2 professorships. Her efforts have enhanced Candler’s ability to fulfill its mission in a rapidly changing  
3 environment, and she leaves the school in a strong position. The next dean of Candler is expected to be  
4 named by early summer.

5  
6 Candler depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you  
7 advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at  
8 [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu).

9

---

### **DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL**

*Edwin David Aponte, Dean*

10 Drew University Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists,  
11 teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church and society. Drew  
12 Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and  
13 international identities. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to  
14 graduate theological education with prior ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among  
15 all theological schools in the United States and Canada. Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New  
16 Jersey, several classes meet exclusively online, while other meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online,  
17 partially in-person. This is also the case with chapel worship which originates in Seminary Hall, but also is  
18 live-streamed so that students around the world participate. Drew Theological School is a global  
19 seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church.

20

21 In Fall 2023 Drew Theological School welcomed 104 new students in all degree programs, with total  
22 student enrollment (by head count) growing from 364 students in Fall 2021 to 407 in Fall 2023  
23 semester. Enrollment of international students at Drew increased from 120 students in Fall 2021 to 169  
24 students in Fall 2023. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a  
25 student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South  
26 Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

27

28 Drew’s interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promotes adaptive  
29 leadership skills, and encourages innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of  
30 electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty’s shared values are  
31 infused across all aspects of the teaching and learning: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and  
32 sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding  
33 and cooperation. Drew Theological School has an increase in United Methodist students, additionally,  
34 Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC  
35 graduates are serving in conferences across the United States, and especially within our nearby regional  
36 United Methodist conferences of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York Annual  
37 Conference.

38

---

### **DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL**

*Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean*

39 Duke Divinity School can attest to the work of God’s Spirit to usher us into a season of hope and  
40 continued faithfulness to the mission and calling to serve the church, academy, and the world. In 2023,  
41 the Duke University president and provost appointed Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric for a full five-year

## Universities and Seminaries

1 term. In his Opening Convocation sermon, he stated: “This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my  
2 ordination in the United Methodist Church. This is the school that prepared me. Today, I give God thanks  
3 for still allowing me to serve as a minister of the gospel and I renew the vow I made when I was installed  
4 as dean. By the grace of God and en conjunto with you, I will uphold this school’s ‘commitment to God  
5 and the people of God, to the highest standards of academic excellence, and to this university.’”  
6

7 In the next three years, we will celebrate a number of centennial milestones: Duke University and The  
8 Duke Endowment (2024), the 17<sup>th</sup> centennial of the Council of Nicaea (2025), and Duke Divinity School  
9 (2026). As a foretaste of those occasions to reflect and celebrate, we have had two important milestone  
10 celebrations in 2023. The Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS) commemorated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, an  
11 occasion to rejoice in all that God has done through OBCS to bless our Duke Divinity community and to  
12 extend the gifts from the Black Church to the whole church. As just one example of the impact and  
13 influence from OBCS, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale (D’79) received Duke University’s Distinguished Alumni  
14 Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions in ministry and service.  
15

16 The Hispanic House of Studies (HHS) celebrated its quinceañera (15<sup>th</sup> anniversary), another opportunity  
17 to have our hope buoyed by God’s work in our midst. HHS was created by the Divinity School, with  
18 support from The Duke Endowment, to support the formation of ministers to Hispanic/Latinx  
19 congregations and communities in the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Annual Conferences  
20 and beyond. These efforts are not confined to a limited silo but extend throughout our academic and  
21 ministerial programs. For instance, we now offer the “Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism” course in  
22 Spanish on Divinity+, an online resource that is widely available for ministers and congregations.  
23

24 This fall, we welcomed 215 entering students from 35 different states as well as new community  
25 members who hold either primary or secondary citizenship in 16 other countries including Canada,  
26 Chile, China, Finland, Germany, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South  
27 Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Zimbabwe. The Master of Divinity program gained 104 new students, with 54  
28 residential students and 50 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled 13  
29 new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 22; Master of Theology, 11; Master of Theological Studies, 29; the  
30 Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus, and five special students enrolled. The  
31 Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed 11 residential students to campus and 15 in the  
32 hybrid program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 31 percent of the incoming class  
33 identified as a race or ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 21 percent of all students;  
34 Latinx students, seven percent. Fifty-four percent of students in the incoming class identify as female.  
35 There were 25 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 26 percent affiliated with  
36 the United Methodist Church. Baptists made up 10 percent of the incoming students; Anglican or  
37 Episcopal students, 10 percent; and nondenominational students, 12 percent.  
38

39 Duke Divinity School continues to invest in pathways to support Methodist leadership and pastoral  
40 formation. Divinity+ launched the Church Administration series focused on developing practical skills for  
41 church leaders. More than 1,000 learners have enrolled in the first two courses, “Theology and Time  
42 Management” and “Strategic Management.” We inaugurated the Certificate in Chaplaincy, designed to  
43 prepare students to provide spiritual care in a variety of settings such as hospitals, hospice, prisons,  
44 higher education, and the military. The certificate can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Th.M.,  
45 and M.T.S. degree programs.  
46

47 The school has also welcomed new leaders who bring their gifts to the work of advancing the mission to  
48 serve Christ and the church. Two houses have appointed new directors: the Office of Black Church

## Universities and Seminaries

1 Studies is led by the Rev. Dr. Eric Lewis Williams (D'05), assistant professor of theology and Black Church  
2 Studies; and the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies has named the Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough  
3 (D'83), Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of the Practice of Anglican Studies. Key members who have  
4 joined our staff team include Anita Lumpkin, executive director of enrollment management; and the  
5 Rev. Sarah Belles, a Duke Divinity alumna and ordained elder in full connection with the Western North  
6 Carolina Annual Conference, as the director of student life.

7  
8 Several new programs demonstrate Duke's sustained commitment to connecting with churches and  
9 ministers. With gratitude to funding from the Lilly Endowment, the Divinity School has launched the  
10 Transformative Preaching Lab to prepare creative, culturally competent preachers who can reach  
11 audiences in effective and engaging ways. It will expand preaching training for students in the hybrid  
12 modality of the M.Div. program with new courses and preaching laboratories along with new capacities  
13 to explore and engage digital tools for community worship and preaching. The Transformative Preaching  
14 Lab also provides new opportunities for formation in trauma-informed preaching and preaching in  
15 immigrant communities, issues that are especially salient in communities across the country and around  
16 the world.

17  
18 The Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative has launched the Mental Health Track for Christian  
19 mental health practitioners as part of its Certificate in Theology and Health Care. This hybrid certificate  
20 program offers spiritual and theological formation for mental health clinicians in a range of disciplines.  
21 The research and programming from other Duke Divinity initiatives, including Theology, Medicine, and  
22 Culture; Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts; Leadership Education at Duke Divinity; and Thriving  
23 Rural Communities, continue to provide numerous opportunities to bear witness to God's creativity,  
24 compassion, and care for communities and congregations.

25  
26 Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist  
27 Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as  
28 we join the leading of God's Spirit in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more  
29 about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

---

### **GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

*Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean*

31 Gammon Theological Seminary is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist  
32 constituent member in Atlanta, Georgia. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian  
33 Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to  
34 practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the  
35 church and local/global communities. Gammon was founded in 1883, bearing the name of the Rev.  
36 Elijah H. Gammon, a generous clergyman, businessman, and philanthropist. Rev. Elijah H. Gammon  
37 invested and endowed the founding of Gammon Seminary in partnership with Bishop Henry Warren and  
38 the Freedman's Aid Society. Gammon has educated Black Clergy for almost 140 years, with graduates  
39 serving every level of the church, including Bishops, Superintendents, General church leaders,  
40 Conference staff, and Clergy in every jurisdiction. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs:  
41 the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. The  
42 support given to The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences  
43 continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological  
44 education.

## Universities and Seminaries

1 Our 17th President/Dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, and the Gammon staff team continue to lead  
2 innovatively in chartering a "Brand New Day" for Gammon's recruitment, retention, research and  
3 resources, fund development, and scholarship endowments in her first two years of service.  
4

### 5 **Our new initiatives and celebrations this year, 2023 – 2024, at Gammon, include:**

- 6 • In May 2023, Gammon held our 1st Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament,  
7 receiving \$70,000 in donations to assist students with their tuition, which also helped Gammon  
8 build more relationships and partnerships.
- 9 • In June 2023, The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship Fund was launched by Dr.  
10 Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey) and Dr. Walter Kimbrough with a  
11 \$50,000.00 matching gift in partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.
- 12 • In June 2023, The Florida Conference raised and donated over \$ 60,000.00 to the Rev. Geraldine  
13 McClellan Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is now fully endowed by the Florida United  
14 Methodist Foundation.
- 15 • In July 2023 and December 2023, Gammon hosted the Ebony Exploration Event for 75 young  
16 adults under 35, increasing participation and forming strategic partnerships with external  
17 organizations to enhance the program's reach and impact.
- 18 • In December 2023, we celebrated our 140th Founders Day Event/Pastors and Leaders  
19 Conference, with over two hundred persons attending workshops (in person and virtual) and  
20 our Scholarship Gala Dinner, hosted at IMPACT Church in Atlanta, GA.

21  
22 The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the  
23 significant debt our students incur as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is  
24 committed to raising a million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students  
25 called and committed to full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church. We are grateful to this  
26 Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral  
27 leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.  
28

---

## GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

29 For 170 years Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary has been in service to the Church and the  
30 Wesleyan/Methodist connection through the formation of Christian leaders in ordained and lay  
31 ministries. As the result of a new strategic planning process that seeks to position the seminary more  
32 fully and purposefully in service to the global church, Garrett adopted a new mission and vision that will  
33 focus our work to this end *Forming courageous leaders in the way of Jesus to cultivate communities of*  
34 *justice, compassion, and hope...for the thriving of the Church and the healing of the world.*  
35

36 During this past academic year, Garrett also welcomed its largest entering class in over a decade, with  
37 124 new students, and a current enrollment of 314 students representing 37 states and 21 nations from  
38 across the globe. We have experienced particular growth in students from the African continent and the  
39 Indian subcontinent, adding to an already richly diverse student body. While our denominational  
40 diversity also continues to grow, we also proudly welcomed growth in our United Methodist students  
41 who constitute more than 50% of our student body.  
42

43 Of particular importance in the past year has been the partnership we have entered into with Phillips  
44 School of Theology of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME). Phillips students are now also  
45 fully Garrett students and together we are preparing the next generation of CME leaders in a robust



## Universities and Seminaries

1 pan-Methodist/Wesleyan context alongside UMC, AME, and AMEZ students. Phillips President, Dr. Paul  
2 Brown, is now also affiliated with our faculty, teaching CME History, Doctrine, and Polity, as well as  
3 spiritual formation and organizational leadership courses. It is our hope and intention to continue to  
4 grow this partnership and foster a truly pan-Methodist/Wesleyan ethos which includes our growing  
5 global Methodist partners in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Additionally, last year, all Garrett degree  
6 programs were made truly hybrid so that students can study with us and earn their degrees either on  
7 our Evanston campus or in virtual learning spaces around the globe. This has added an amazing breadth  
8 of experience and contexts to our classrooms, where we seek to address real-world challenges with  
9 gospel inspired solutions or responses.

10  
11 Garrett's world-class faculty continue developing curricular innovations that are responsive to the  
12 church's growing needs, while also contributing a significant body of scholarly work to their respective  
13 fields. Our faculty are also at work developing The Garrett Collective, an online platform of theological  
14 learning and resources for churches and partner organizations inspired by our faculty's research and/or  
15 strategic partnerships. Finally, at this critical juncture in the history of United Methodism, faculty  
16 leaders are providing essential guidance to UMC students, while also continuing to envision with hope  
17 the next expression of Methodism that is responsive to the Spirit's call for such a time as this.

---

### MCMURRY UNIVERSITY

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

*Rev. Ricky Harrison, University Chaplain and Director RSL*

19 Rev. Ricky Harrison is thrilled to be back at McMurry University, after nearly 10 years away, serving as  
20 the University Chaplain and Director of Religious & Spiritual Life (RSL) since August 2023. Nearly a year  
21 into his role, Rev. Harrison is bringing a new spirit to campus with the support of Rev. Dr. Russell Miller,  
22 who serves as assistant director.

23  
24 During his first year back on campus, chapel attendance has increased to more than 80 students each  
25 week – more than 20% increase over last year. He has introduced new Bible studies and RSL events.  
26 Student engagement has increased with 23 RSL student volunteers. He has continued to expand mission  
27 services by taking 26 students back to Florida in December and he will be taking a group of 18 to Spain in  
28 May. Rev. Harrison has continued his outreach to conference churches providing guest sermons. In June,  
29 he will be visiting churches in the New Mexico Conference and looks forward to sharing his passion and  
30 ministry.

31  
32 Before returning to McMurry, for six years Rev. Harrison served in full-time congregational ministry in  
33 Wise County, Texas. His service in United Methodist communities across Wise County has included  
34 church planting, missional outreach, community development, and traditional pulpit ministry. He shared  
35 that he's incredibly excited to be back in Abilene with the McMurry community. McMurry was one of  
36 the places that enabled him to hear God's call most clearly on his life, and he hopes to offer that same  
37 gift of grace to new generations of young people.

38  
39 McMurry mission services and trips, locally and away, are proof of God's presence and that McMurry is  
40 leaning into the core values of *Christian faith as the foundation of life* and *Service as the measure of life*.  
41 In December, 26 McMurry students along with Revs. Harrison and Miller and Volleyball Coach and  
42 Assistant Athletic Director Cammie Petree returned for a second year to serve terminally ill children and  
43 their families at Give Kids the World Village in Florida. Rev. Harrison noted students developed a strong

## Universities and Seminaries

1 sense of fulfillment and purpose as they contributed to the well-being of children and families facing  
2 challenging circumstances. Knowing that they are making a positive impact on the lives of those in need  
3 can be deeply satisfying. In addition to personal fulfillment, the McMurry volunteers gain a deeper  
4 understanding of the challenges faced by these families, while fostering a sense of community  
5 engagement and social responsibility. McMurry's RSL team looks forward to continuing to serve this  
6 philanthropic organization each year. The trip was made possible by the generosity of a donor who  
7 covered all costs. Each student paid \$100 to show their commitment to the purpose of the trip.  
8

9 Revs. Harrison and Miller will be leading another spiritual journey in May. They are taking 18 students to  
10 traverse the El Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of Saint James, representing the network of  
11 pilgrim routes that lead to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. Pilgrims from  
12 various parts of the world have walked these trails for centuries, seeking the tomb of St. James the  
13 Greater, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, said to be buried in the cathedral. The goal of the RSL trip is  
14 to nurture spiritual growth while offering McMurry students physical challenge and cultural experiences  
15 and adventures.  
16

17 As Rev. Harrison looks forward to the upcoming year, his hope is that RSL on campus will continue to  
18 grow as a ministry owned by students. He currently has 20 members of the chapel band, and he looks  
19 forward to adding to this talented group. "I'm excited to get to know the gifts, graces, and passions of  
20 McMurry students," said Rev. Harrison and then equip and empower them to lead our ministry  
21 together. My job as a campus minister is the same as any pastor, 'to equip the saints for the work of  
22 ministry' (Ephesians 4:12)."  
23

---

### PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

24 *Bishop Michael McKee, Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean, ad interim*  
25

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

- 28 • Three (3) students affiliated with the New Mexico Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins,  
29 two Master of Divinity students and 1 Master of Arts in Ministry student.
- 30 • During the 2023-24 academic year, 1 student from the New Mexico Annual Conference received  
31 funding from the PACE (Perkins Annual Conference Endowment) grant, with a financial  
32 aid award totaling \$2,800.
- 33 • One (1) Perkins student from the New Mexico Annual Conference currently is taking part in  
34 internship.  
35

#### Enrollment Update

36  
37 Enrollment at Perkins for the 2023-24 academic year totaled 293 students. The Houston-Galveston  
38 Extension Program, in its sixth year of providing a combination of online and residential classes leading  
39 to the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 87 students during the 2023-24 academic year.

#### Institutional Highlights

- 40 • The SMU Board of Trustees voted at its December 2023 meeting to authorize Perkins School of  
41 Theology to offer a new hybrid format for its Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Ministry  
42 degrees. The new modality, open to those enrolling in Fall 2024, is designed to accommodate  
43 students from across the country, providing them with the flexibility to join the Perkins  
44 community while minimizing the need for extensive on-campus presence. The program  
45 combines a majority of online coursework with occasional immersive experiences. The Board of  
46

## Universities and Seminaries

- 1 Trustees also approved new curriculum requirements for four of Perkins' degree programs: the  
2 Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Ministry, Master of Theological Studies and Master of  
3 Sacred Music.
- 4 • Dr. Elizabeth G. Lobo, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, has convened a  
5 committee – chaired by Dr. Peter Moore – to search for the next dean of Perkins School of  
6 Theology. The committee includes members of SMU's Board of Trustees; the Perkins Executive  
7 Board; faculty, staff and students from Perkins; and key university stakeholders who interface  
8 with the school.
  - 9 • Christina Rhodes, who has served a variety of roles in development and enrollment  
10 management at SMU since 2017, has been appointed Assistant Dean of Enrollment  
11 Management at Perkins. As Assistant Dean, Rhodes will play a pivotal role in crafting a vision for  
12 Perkins' recruitment, admissions and scholarship aid.
  - 13 • Dr. Frederick Aquino joined the Perkins faculty as Professor of Systematic Theology in August 2023. He  
14 is a noted scholar and theologian who previously served on the faculty of Abilene Christian University  
15 since 1998. Dr. Aquino received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from SMU in 2000.
  - 16 • Dr. Elias Lopez was named director of the Perkins Doctor of Ministry program in June 2023. He is  
17 a 2018 graduate of the Perkins D.Min. program and earned his Master of Divinity from Perkins in  
18 2010. Dr. Lopez also is director of the Perkins Intern Program.
  - 19 • The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Pace III (M.Div. '82) and Rev. Dr. Clayton Oliphint (M.Div. '88, D.Min. '96) were  
20 selected as recipients of the 2023 Perkins Distinguished Alumnus/a Award. The award recognizes  
21 Perkins graduates who have demonstrated effectiveness and integrity in service to the church,  
22 continuing support for the goals of Perkins and Southern Methodist University, outstanding service to  
23 the community and exemplary character. Dr. Pace has served as Senior Pastor at St. Luke's UMC in  
24 Houston since 2006, and Dr. Oliphint has served as Senior Pastor at First UMC Richardson since 2001.  
25 They were honored at a banquet on the SMU campus on Nov. 13.
  - 26 • Eleven congregations were selected for the third and final cohort of the Lilly Endowment-funded  
27 Testimony HQ initiative to develop thriving congregations through the practice of testimony as  
28 community engagement. These congregations were selected from applications submitted from  
29 churches within a 350-mile radius of Dallas. The cohort congregations will each receive up to  
30 \$5,000 in grant funding to support their Testimony HQ work from January through December  
31 2024.
  - 32 • More than 3,500 people visited Bridwell Library in April 2023 to view the Codex Sassoon, one of  
33 the most important and influential works of global religious and cultural history. More than one  
34 thousand years old, the codex is the earliest and most complete Hebrew Bible. Carbon-dating  
35 indicates it was created in the 10th century, but the book spent most of its existence out of the  
36 public eye. Viewers of the exhibit were also invited to attend Codex Fest – a series of lectures,  
37 music and other events and activities on the Perkins campus organized by Bridwell staff and  
38 others.
  - 39 • The Office of the Provost recognized Dr. James Lee, Associate Professor of the History of Early  
40 Christianity, as a recipient of this year's Provost Research Fellowship – a \$15,000 cash award –  
41 designed to provide research support to SMU's outstanding scholars during the current  
42 academic year.
  - 43 • The installation of the Caren and Vin Prothro new chancel organ in Perkins Chapel – a project  
44 that has been ongoing over the last two years – has been completed by the Ortloff Company of  
45 Needham, Mass. This extraordinary instrument was built in 1927 by E.M. Skinner, the country's  
46 premiere organ builder at the time, and its color palette is absolutely unique in this area. The

## Universities and Seminaries

1 organ is doubly significant because of its pristine condition (never altered in 100 years) and first-  
2 rate restoration. Its original home was Fourth Presbyterian Church, Manhattan NYC.

- 3 • We are saddened to announce the death of the Rev. Dr. Charles Aaron, co-director of the  
4 Perkins Intern Program, who passed away unexpectedly on November 29. Dr. Aaron received his  
5 Master of Divinity from Perkins in 1985. He began serving as an adjunct professor at Perkins in  
6 2002 before joining the staff full-time in 2017.

7  
8 The highlights listed above are reflective of the vibrant engagement of Perkins faculty, staff and  
9 students. Our mission is to equip persons for faithful leadership and Christian ministry in a changing  
10 church and society; to educate those seeking a deeper understanding of the Christian faith; and to  
11 strengthen the church, academy and world through service, scholarship and advocacy. We thank our  
12 many colleagues, friends and alumni in the New Mexico Annual Conference of The United Methodist  
13 Church for your generous support, including referrals of prospective students.  
14

---

### SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

*R. Gerald Turner, President*

214-768-2000

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

15 Southern Methodist University (SMU) has served as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning since its  
16 founding in 1911 by the citizens of Dallas and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. SMU's mission is  
17 to expand knowledge through research and teaching and to serve as an igniter and facilitator of growth  
18 in Dallas and North Texas. With continued Methodist representation on the Board of Trustees and by  
19 welcoming students of all faiths, SMU is reaching a higher level of accomplishment and global  
20 recognition as shaping world changers. Consistent with the University's appreciation of our Wesleyan  
21 heritage, SMU voluntarily submits this report to the New Mexico Annual Conference.  
22

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

23 SMU continues to attract academically excellent and diverse students. The Class of 2027 comprises  
24 1,592 new first-year and 283 new transfer students. For the 2023-24 academic year, 7,115  
25 undergraduates and 4,727 graduate students make up the total student population of nearly 12,000,  
26 representing all 50 states and 87 countries. 56% of them are from other states, 41% are Texans and 3%  
27 are international students. Once they graduate, they will become Mustangs for life, joining 136,000  
28 alumni worldwide and 61,000 in DFW.  
29

30  
31 SMU's annual economic impact on the Dallas metro area exceeds \$7 billion. Our faculty members,  
32 graduate students, and even undergraduates conduct research that enhances our region and world. The  
33 White House and U.S. Department of Commerce have selected SMU to lead a federally funded initiative  
34 for economic development in the semiconductor supply chain. The Texoma Semiconductor Hub is the  
35 only one of its kind in Texas among 31 hubs nationwide.  
36

#### **Comprehensive capital campaign and research funding**

37 SMU's collective vision for the future of the University and Dallas is propelled by the University's  
38 comprehensive campaign: *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*. As of March 2024, donors have  
39 contributed over \$1.288 billion to date toward this multiyear \$1.5 billion goal to attract and support  
40 outstanding students and faculty, explore new fields and cutting-edge technologies, and positively  
41 impact Dallas and the world beyond.  
42  
43

## Universities and Seminaries

1 Strengthening SMU’s position as an institution of academic and athletic distinction is the upcoming  
2 transition into the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), where SMU athletic teams will compete against  
3 some of the country’s most academically focused colleges and universities. The heightened prestige and  
4 visibility from participating in the ACC will also bolster the University’s academic priority of becoming a  
5 Research One (R1) institution in the Carnegie Classification system.

6  
7 For 2023, SMU reported \$59.7 million in research expenditure which included external funding for  
8 domestic and global research. Current funding agencies include the National Science Foundation,  
9 National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, National  
10 Institute of Justice, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), Google, and Toyota USA  
11 Foundation.

### 12 13 **Rankings**

14 SMU continues to receive strong recognition and high rankings among prestigious reviewers, including:

- 15 • Top 20% best national universities by *U.S. News & World Report* (2024). Also, first among Dallas-  
16 area universities, a Best Value School, one of the Best Colleges for Veterans, and a Top  
17 Performer on Social Mobility among national universities by USNWR (2024).
- 18 • Among the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education in *The Princeton Review’s*  
19 “Best 389 Colleges” and its “2024 Best Southwest Colleges.”
- 20 • Top 5% best nationwide colleges (68 out of 2,238) by College Factual (2024). Also, top 1% of the  
21 U.S. best liberal arts/sciences and humanities schools for students pursuing a bachelor’s degree  
22 and among the highest-paid graduates across a range of fields.
- 23 • “Higher research activity” as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of  
24 Teaching.
- 25 • And Perkins Chapel at No. 10 on the list of the nation’s most beautiful college churches and  
26 chapels by College Rank.

### 27 28 **Perkins School of Theology**

29 The SMU Board of Trustees has authorized Perkins School of Theology to offer a new hybrid format for  
30 its Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Ministry degrees. Starting this fall, the new modality will  
31 ensure that Perkins continues to deliver the outstanding personal graduate education that is their  
32 hallmark and allow additional flexibility for students who may not reside in Dallas.

33  
34 As Bishop Michael McKee serves as dean of the Perkins School ad interim, a committee has been  
35 convened to search for the school’s next dean. The committee includes members of SMU’s Board of  
36 Trustees; the Perkins Executive Board; faculty, staff, and students from Perkins; and key University  
37 stakeholders.

38  
39 SMU remains grateful for the enduring work of our Perkins School of Theology in the instruction and  
40 training of clergy for all Wesleyan traditions and other denominations. We ask for your prayers and  
41 continued support as we strive to further our mission to make a positive impact on the world around us.

## ST. PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Jay K. Simmons, President*

1 Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEXible  
2 schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community committed to the  
3 formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. Grounded in the  
4 academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and remote spaces.  
5 Our contextual curriculum features Ministry Collaboration Groups, Practicums, Spiritual Formation  
6 Retreats, and Seminars. Students learn from dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community  
7 leaders about best ministry practices, leaving our graduates with the tools and first-hand experience  
8 necessary to meet the needs of a changing world.

9  
10 At the core of our mission at Saint Paul is the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through  
11 rigorous academic life. In 2024, we are launching two exciting new programs to revitalize current pastors  
12 and preachers and prepare seminary students for music ministry. First, with the help of Lilly Endowment's  
13 Compelling Preaching grant and the leadership of Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and  
14 Worship and Director of Contextual Education and Pause/Play Center for Preachers, Saint Paul School of  
15 Theology is creating a Center that addresses the risk of losing heart and prophetic imagination as a  
16 preacher in this divided world. The [Pause/Play Center for Preachers'](#) mission is in its name: to hold space  
17 for busy preachers to pause and play their way into a renewal of their vocation as preachers of the Good  
18 News. Second, for Fall 2024, as part of our Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) degree program,  
19 we will launch a first-of-its-kind specialization in Modern Worship Music. Saint Paul will partner with The  
20 United Methodist Church of the Resurrection and their [COR Worship Collective](#) to prepare students to  
21 write, produce, and perform modern worship music. Students will integrate a worship leaders' skills with  
22 their study of theology, the bible, history, and worship in a diverse, inclusive, and spiritually enriching  
23 environment. Lastly, we recently completed the (Theo)Logic Studio on our Oklahoma Campus. The Studio  
24 serves as a dedicated space for creating, recording, and editing digital media resources tailored to the  
25 ministries of students, staff, faculty, and alums, encompassing content development ranging from  
26 podcasts and video resources to digital graphics.

27  
28 We continue to invite Saint Paul students, alums, and friends to join us in a hybrid format, where  
29 participants may join in-person or online, allowing everyone to come together as one institution from  
30 wherever they are. Saint Paul offers weekly chapel services throughout the academic year featuring  
31 students, alums, faculty, and local leaders. In addition, weekly Spiritual Formation allows attendees to  
32 engage in spiritual practices led by new Oklahoma Chapel Coordinator Rev. Alanna Ireland '23. Some  
33 practices take us outdoors or to other sacred spaces, and others have us connect with community leaders.

34  
35 For the 2023-2024 academic year, we brought 41 new, faithful theologians from across the world to our  
36 learning community. International students from South Korea, Belgium, and Mexico added to the global  
37 learning environment on both campuses and online. Twenty-seven percent of incoming students  
38 identified as a race or ethnicity other than white, and 53 percent identified as female.

39  
40 Saint Paul staff and faculty continue contributing to the academy, church, and society. The faculty of Saint  
41 Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and  
42 engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and publications have been so numerous that space  
43 permits only sharing selected highlights:

## Universities and Seminaries

- 1 • Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Lindsey P. Pherigo Associate Professor of New Testament Studies and  
2 Biblical Interpretation, published *Translation as Incarnation: The Bible in the Twenty-First Century*  
3 *Global South* and was the featured guest speaker of our January forum.
- 4 • Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church, and Society, published *Black*  
5 *Theology and The Black Panthers*
- 6 • Dr. Elaine Robinson, Professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology, published *Leading*  
7 *with Love: Spiritual Disciplines For Practical Leadership*
- 8 • Rabbi Michael Zedek, Rabbi-in-Residence, published *Taking Miracles Seriously: A Journey to*  
9 *Everyday Spirituality* and hosted a forum with Dr. Jeanne Hoeft, Associate Professor of Pastoral  
10 Theology and Pastoral Care, and Franklin and Louise Cole Associate Professor in Town and Country  
11 Ministries, on The War in Israel and Traumatized Communities
- 12 • Dr. Mike Graves, Professor Emeritus of William K. McElvaney of Preaching and Worship, published  
13 *Jesus' Vision for Your One Wild and Precious Life (on Things Like Poverty, Hunger, Polarization,*  
14 *Inclusion, and More)*

15  
16 The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year brought a change in leadership to the Seminary. Rev. Neil Blair '80 retired as  
17 President on December 31, 2023, and President Jay Simmons, formerly Vice President of Institutional  
18 Advancement, took the helm at the start of 2024. In addition, Saint Paul Board of Trustees' Chair Dr. Amy  
19 Hogan stepped down as Board Chair, with Ms. Sharon Cleaver assuming the position until the end of June  
20 2024. Our current strategic plan is set to conclude within the coming year. Consequently, the Board of  
21 Trustees formed a task force several months ago to prepare the next iteration of our strategic plan.  
22 Members of the Seminary's Executive Leadership Team are now working with faculty and staff to refine  
23 the draft scripted by the task force. These efforts will continue over the next few months until we have a  
24 document ready for review by the Board of Trustees. While we are still too early in this effort to comment  
25 on any specific initiatives, the plan ultimately endorsed by the Board will guide all our efforts for the next  
26 several years. Therefore, this effort is critical in defining how we ensure that Saint Paul remains a vital and  
27 vigorous Seminary committed to preparing our students for creative and innovative ministry.

28  
29 For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 250 individual students,  
30 including 79 new students, with approximately 600 registrations and offering 46 classes. Serving 31  
31 Conferences, 89 Districts, 116 Full Time and 126 Part-Time Licensed Local Pastors comprised these  
32 registrations. Seventy percent of these students are taking more than one course. To help offset student  
33 costs, twenty percent of all students received aid from their conference or church. COS School continues  
34 to attract a diverse student body. One hundred eighty-eight students ranged in age from 30 to 65, and 62  
35 students ranged in age from 66 to 82. Students self-identified across four racial/ethnic groups. Fifty-two  
36 percent were male, and forty-eight percent were female. Many COS School students serve more than one  
37 church, many rural, with a few dozen students serving three or more churches. We helped 23 students  
38 finish the 20-course program this year, issuing them certificates of completion. With approval from  
39 GBHEM, the school has continued its course offerings in both asynchronous and synchronous online  
40 formats. Utilizing this online format, we reached students in 28 states. We continue to offer online  
41 registration completed by the student with the ability to access their student account through Populi as  
42 used by our Seminary students. COS also uses the same learning platform, Moodle, as our Seminary  
43 students. By implementing the Course of Study School into Populi, these students share the same benefits  
44 as the Seminary, allowing them to participate in the Saint Paul experience. They have full access to the  
45 Seminary library on campus and online, with several required readings accessible as an eBook. We have  
46 invited COS School students to join our Saint Paul School of Theology Weekly Chapel Services and Spiritual  
47 Formation gatherings and other Saint Paul events.

## Universities and Seminaries

1 Saint Paul is a financially healthy Seminary. We operate with a balanced budget, no debt, and an  
2 endowment that is 9-10 times the size of our annual expenses. Sustainability has been our focus over the  
3 past six years, and we have achieved our goal. Investments in our future bring exciting new opportunities  
4 for our students, staff, and faculty. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the  
5 community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students. Our  
6 significant technological investments have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model,  
7 providing a flexible working arrangement for our students.  
8

9 We are continuing to enhance our partnership with Zoom and Neat. We now have Neat Bars & Neat  
10 Boards in all our classrooms. In addition, during this last year, we implemented a Neat Board in Harris  
11 Chapel on our Oklahoma Campus. We also have Neat Boards in multiple common areas to encourage ad-  
12 hoc use of the technology for breakout groups and other miscellaneous meetings between our two  
13 campuses and our remote students. One of the best features of this technology is its ability to receive  
14 automatic real-time over-the-air feature upgrades. Zoom & Neat continue enhancing our learning  
15 environment by rolling out new enhancements, including enhanced whiteboarding, noise cancellation,  
16 and AI features. Our Neat equipment continuously monitors several environmental factors within our  
17 classrooms: air quality, temperature, humidity, VOC, and CO2, as well as being able to tell if the classrooms  
18 are occupied and how many individuals are in the room. We can also monitor the audio/video quality and  
19 network connectivity in each of our classrooms, as well as the connection quality for all remote students  
20 attending the class. We are excited about the additional enhancements that will come to our classrooms  
21 from Neat and Zoom over this next year.  
22

23 Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover  
24 more and answer the call. Your advocacy for the Seminary and generous financial support have been vital  
25 in realizing our accomplishments. Many thanks for the innumerable ways you have helped Saint Paul. Your  
26 prayers and actions on behalf of the Seminary are a blessing to all of us.  
27

---

## UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

28  
29 For more than 150 years, United Theological Seminary has prepared men and women to serve as faithful  
30 and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the  
31 seminary served 547 students, representing 36 states, 20 countries, and 43 denominations, with 38% of  
32 students identifying as United Methodist. United in Christ, the student body is a multi-ethnic, multi-  
33 racial community that is 43% African American, 27% White, 18% international, 9% Hispanic, and 2%  
34 Asian or Pacific Islander.\* During the 2022-2023 academic year, 120 graduates completed their  
35 programs.  
36

### **Houses of Study**

37  
38 United's academic programs include seven Houses of Study for denominational, church renewal, and/or  
39 language- and culture-based ministry, including online Spanish and Korean houses of study. These  
40 houses of study have enrolled over 120 new master's students in the United States and around the  
41 world.  
42

### **Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center**

43  
44 In 2023, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, engaged more  
45 than 5,000 participants through 64 resourcing events and activities. The Center partnered with the Black  
46 Methodists for Church Renewal Laity Advocacy Committee to conduct the 2023 Laity Leadership



## Universities and Seminaries

1 Institution. The Center also launched a *Dynamite Prayer* movement, based on the guidebook *Dynamite*  
2 *Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment* (Invite Resources, 2022) by Rev. Kibbey and Rev. Dr. Rosario Picardo.  
3 Multiple United Methodist conferences and more than 90 congregations across denominations  
4 committed to be part of a Dynamite Prayer Wave and received resourcing on the practice of  
5 “breakthrough prayer.”  
6

### 7 **New Faces at United**

8 Over the past year, the seminary welcomed several new members to the United community. Bishop  
9 James Swanson, most recently bishop of the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church,  
10 was installed as United Methodist Bishop-in-Residence. Dr. Pauline Paris Buisch and Rev. Dr. Xavier L.  
11 Johnson joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Assistant Professor of Preaching  
12 and Black Church Studies, respectively, and Dr. Eliseo Mejia came on board as the Academic Oversight  
13 Officer for the Hispanic House of Study.  
14

### 15 **Reducing Student Debt**

16 Finances shouldn’t stand in the way of a seminary education. That’s why United has launched the Fresh  
17 Wind: Where the Spirit Takes Flight campaign to add \$10 million to the scholarship endowment, which  
18 will dramatically increase the seminary’s capacity to provide scholarships to students for many years to  
19 come. As of January 2024, the seminary was more than 70% toward the \$10 million goal.  
20 Kent Millard, President  
21

22 \* Student data represent unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2022-2023 academic year.  
23 Demographic figures represent those who responded.  
24

---

## WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

25 The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary (WTS) is to equip persons for Christian ministry  
26 and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a  
27 prophetic voice in the public square.  
28

29 Despite the challenges posed by the global landscape, WTS continues to flourish, driven by our  
30 commitment to excellence in theological education and community engagement:  
31

32 **Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees:** We offer  
33 pathways to meet the needs of a variety of students. Whether traditional, brick and mortar, in-person  
34 study or a flexible, online, hybrid model (Wesley FlexMA), WTS is committed to  
35 curating space for theological reflection, academic inquiry, and practical application.

36 <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>  
37

38 **Doctor of Ministry Degree:** WTS is a leader in DMin education offering specialized tracks of  
39 study for scholars going into parish ministry, global missions, or military chaplaincy.

40 <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>  
41

42 **Wesley Innovation Hub:** WTS received a \$1.2M grant from the Lilly Endowment and will  
43 embark on groundbreaking initiatives that harness the power of technology, entrepreneurship,  
44 and interdisciplinary collaboration. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

## Universities and Seminaries

- 1 **Center for Public Theology:** WTS received a generous grant from the Trinity Wall Street  
2 Foundation to launch “The Public Theology Fellows Program,” an innovative initiative to bridge  
3 gaps between faith communities and political action.  
4 <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>  
5
- 6 **Community Engagement Institute:** WTS received a generous grant from City Seminary in  
7 NYC for the innovative, immersive study and praxis of urban ministry.  
8 <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/>  
9
- 10 **The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion:** WTS is thrilled to share two new  
11 exhibits, *Sacred Ground*, which focused on the intersection of community-engaged art and  
12 spirituality; and *Paradise Lost*, a captivating exhibition highlighting transcultural, multicultural,  
13 and interreligious narratives. <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>  
14
- 15 **Lewis Center for Church Leadership:** The Lewis Center conducts leading edge research for  
16 the local church. WTS is pleased to report a growing demand for transformative leadership  
17 training within religious communities. <https://www.churchleadership.com/>  
18
- 19 **Call us:** (202) 885-8659 **Email us:** [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu). **Follow us:** Facebook/IG:  
20 @WesleySeminary and LinkedIn: @WesleyTheologicalSeminary

## RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION FOR COMMITMENT TO CREATION CARE

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

4  
5        **Whereas**, “God created humans to care for creation on God’s behalf.” (Genesis 2:15)

6  
7        **Whereas**, “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it.”  
8        The United Methodist Social Principles of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* 2016, p.  
9        106.

10  
11       **Whereas**, More than 96% of New Mexico is in varying degrees of drought. (U.S. Drought Monitor,  
12       (February 13, 2024)

13  
14       **Whereas**, More than 50% of urban water is used to irrigate “non-functional grass”, meaning the only  
15       use is for aesthetics. (Western Resource Advocates)

16  
17       **Whereas**, Rivers in the West that sustain our communities and environment are overtaxed due to  
18       climate change, multi-year drought and decades of overuse.

19  
20       **Whereas**, Churches and homeowners can replace lawns with low-water alternatives such as native  
21       grasses and plants, trees, and shrubs.

22  
23       **Whereas**, Replacing non-functional grass saves money, supports healthy ecosystems, uses less water  
24       and keeps more water in rivers, and increases water security and resilience to climate change.

25  
26       **Whereas**, Some municipalities have initiated rebate programs to encourage the conversion of high  
27       water use grass. (Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Authority 2024)

28  
29       **Therefore**, Be it resolved that all Churches in the New Mexico Conference and their members seek ways  
30       to reduce or eliminate non-functional grassy areas on their property to reduce their use of precious  
31       water.

## RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ACTION

### So that Children May Live Free from Gun Violence

*Submitted by Tanya Barlow, Vice President, NM Conferenced United Women in Faith*

#### Rationale

Hearing Christ's Call:

In Luke 18, we see Jesus on the final journey to Jerusalem. Many adults had been besieging Jesus with questions and challenges. Suddenly Jesus is interrupted by parents who are bringing their children. The caregivers seek a blessing, a promise of a safe place to belong, to grow free of harm. Jesus replies with great kindness, "Let them come to me. They know what my Kin-dom looks like."

As United Methodists, we have the same call: to bless all God's children with a place to belong, to grow, to become strong and filled with wisdom and the grace of God (Luke 2:40). Therefore, we call upon United Methodists to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context (2016 Book of Resolutions, #3428, "Our Call to End Gun Violence"), in an effort to help quell the gun violence that is killing and maiming a growing number of children, youth, men and women in our communities and causing ongoing trauma to families, friends, witnesses, and co-workers who are also impacted.

**Whereas** Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States. In the U.S., 35% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides and 60% are homicides. In New Mexico specifically, an average of 33 children and teens die by guns every year, of which 49% of these deaths are suicides and 47% are homicides. (Children and teens gun deaths: CDC, WONDER, five-year average: 2016-2020, ages 0-19; Leading causes of death: CDC, WONDER, 2020, ages 0-19.) The Texas counties that are part of the New Mexico Conference for the ten-year span of 2011-2020, have the following gun deaths data:

1. El Paso gun deaths/100,000: 6.8  
Homicides: 142  
Suicides: 422
2. Brewster gun deaths/100,000: 24.7  
Homicides: <20  
Suicides: <20
3. Pecos gun deaths/100,000: 13.9  
Homicides: <20  
Suicides: <20
4. Ector gun deaths/100,000: 13.1  
Homicides: 67  
Suicides: 124

Data not displayed for Dallas, Winkler, Presidio, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Ward, Dawson, and Reeves counties due to <20 deaths in a 10-year period.  
(Source: CDC WONDER.)

#### Resolution:

Call upon every congregation of the United Methodist New Mexico Conference to take some specific action of love and responsibility for children as part of the movement to prevent gun violence.

## Resolutions

1 Action Suggestions for Congregations:  
2

3 **1. Actively support and pray for** the emotional, spiritual and mental health needs of children as they  
4 grow up in an era of school lockdowns, active shooter drills and near-daily news of gun violence.  
5

6 **2. Promote Secure Gun Storage** – United Methodist Churches can share information about the **Be**  
7 **SMART for Kids** campaign, which provides strategies and resources to protect children from  
8 unintentional firearm injury and death. Congregations are gifted at sharing safety information in their  
9 communities, which can include life-saving information on the importance of secure gun storage in  
10 every home where there is a gun. Congregations can offer free or low-cost gun locks to church  
11 members, neighbors and others, and encourage schools to send secure gun storage information home  
12 in backpacks for parents.  
13

14 **3. Encourage Parents and Caregivers to Take Gun Safety Action** – Embolden parents and caretakers to  
15 always ask if there is a gun in a home and how it is stored before sending children to play in other  
16 homes. Churches can provide parents and caretakers with guidance on how to talk to children and  
17 adolescents about what to do if they discover unsecured guns and what to do if they know of a gun that  
18 has been brought to school, church or another gathering.  
19

20 **4. End Gun Marketing to Children** – Congregations can monitor and advocate with their retail stores to  
21 stop the “normalization” of firearms that happens in the mind of a child when guns are advertised to  
22 appeal directly to children and displayed in stores where children may see them. This includes the need  
23 for retailers to refrain from including toy guns in Easter baskets, Christmas displays and other ways that  
24 train children to acclimate to the presence of guns, such as the promotion of the youth-sized JR-15.  
25

26 **5. Promote Gun Security Technology** – Learn about and advocate for wide-spread use of existing  
27 technology that allows a gun to be fired only by the owner, preventing unintentional shootings,  
28 deterring gun theft and preventing youth and child suicide. Promote the use of biometric locks for  
29 secure gun storage, limiting access to the gun owner.  
30

31 **6. Act for change** – Demonstrate to children that adults will act to protect them from gun violence.  
32 Participate in efforts such as Be SMART for Kids, Guns to Gardens, Violence Interruption Programs;  
33 support youth-led gun violence prevention organizations, and gun violence survivors and their families;  
34 engage in advocacy with elected officials for gun-sense regulation such as comprehensive background  
35 checks, a ban on the future sale of semiautomatic assault weapons and raising the age for gun  
36 purchases to 21 or older. Where appropriate, involve children, teens and youth in these efforts.  
37

38 **7. Vote** – As citizens, parents and grandparents, prayerfully prioritize the lives of America’s children in  
39 determining how to cast our individual votes in local, state and national elections.  
40

41 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that every congregation in the New Mexico Conference respond to gun  
42 violence as a community-wide health care emergency by entering into courageous conversation on the  
43 causes and effects of gun violence and by taking steps to prevent violence. We affirm “Our Call to End  
44 Gun Violence” (2016 UM Book of Resolutions #3428) and will prioritize:

- 45 • Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers;
- 46 • Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their  
47 communities, from purchasing a gun;
- 48 • Ensuring greater access to services for those who have mental illness;

## Resolutions

- 1 • And promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and  
2 promote public safety;
- 3 • Secure storage or child access prevention required.

---

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

5 *Submitted by New Mexico Board of Pension and Health Benefits*

6  
7 The New Mexico Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to  
8 rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

9  
10 **Whereas**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which  
11 this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the  
12 gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained,  
13 commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

14  
15 **Whereas**, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons  
16 with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

17  
18 **Whereas**, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered  
19 to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration  
20 of previous active service; and

21  
22 **Whereas**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the  
23 appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were  
24 members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

25  
26 **Now, therefore**, be it resolved: That an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments  
27 received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the  
28 “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespeth Benefits and Investments during the year  
29 2025 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its  
30 predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson;  
31 and

32  
33 That the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any  
34 pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including  
35 such payments from Wespeth Benefits and Investments and from a commercial annuity company that  
36 provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth Benefits and Investment plan,  
37 annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to  
38 this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to  
39 any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the  
40 Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed  
41 the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that  
42 elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active,  
43 retired, or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

## Resolutions

1 **Note:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any  
2 year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and  
3 regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by  
4 the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the  
5 foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or  
6 provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and  
7 appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.  
8

---

### **RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE CONFERENCE FORMULA FOR SETTING CLERGY CABINET SALARIES**

9 *Submitted by the Council on Finance and Administration, Rev. John Nash, Chair*

10

11 **Whereas**, the conference formula for setting the salaries for the District Superintendents and Provost  
12 was established to maintain a stable relationship between the salaries of clergy cabinet members and  
13 local church pastors.

14

15 **Whereas**, the formula had been set at 89% of the averages of the top five cash salary and housing  
16 packages in each district from the prior year. (rule 2405.05)

17

18 **Whereas**, this formula was fair and equitable for many years, but required stability in the number of full-  
19 time appointments to maintain a stable relationship to pastoral salaries.

20

21 **Whereas**, the disaffiliation of churches in the New Mexico Annual Conference has changed the average  
22 salaries of clergy.

23

24 **Whereas**, if this old formula would be applied with the new averages it would make a significant  
25 decrease to the salaries of clergy cabinet members.

26

27 **Whereas**, with disaffiliation the work of the District Superintendents has been increased.

28

29 **Whereas**, the Council on Finance and Administration said at the 2023 Annual Conference that this rule  
30 would need to be reevaluated and perhaps changed.

31

32 **Whereas**, the old rule did not stipulate when the new salaries were to go into effect.

33

34 **Whereas**, there were different rules for housing allowances between the District Superintendent (rule  
35 2405.15) and the Provost (rule 2420.05)

36

37 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that rule 2405.05 will be amended to read as follows:

38 **District Superintendent Salary.** The annual cash salary for the District Superintendent shall be included  
39 in the District Superintendents Fund. The cash salary of each superintendent shall be 107% of the  
40 average of the top five clergy cash salaries of the conference for the prior year. Any salary change will go  
41 into effect at the start of the new appointive year, or July 1.

42

43 **Be it further resolved** to amend rule 2405.15 to delete the last two lines in the first paragraph that say:  
44 "If a housing allowance is provided to a district superintendent in lieu of a parsonage, that amount shall  
45 be determined by the district. If the housing allowance exceeds 25% of the base salary, the district shall

## Resolutions

1 also be responsible for the pension obligation incurred on the amount in excess of 25%” and insert: “If a  
2 housing allowance is provided to a district superintendent in lieu of a parsonage, it shall be equal to 25%  
3 of the cash salary established for the district superintendent for that year, rounded to the nearest  
4 dollar.”

5  
6 **Be it further resolved** that the Council on Finance and Administration, as part of their budgeting work,  
7 shall evaluate this rule each year, and if a change is required to meet the above stipulations, shall  
8 present a new formula at the next Annual Conference.  
9

---

### RESOLUTION REGARDING INCOME TO BE USED IN BUDGET AND SPENDING PLANS

10 *Submitted by the Council on Finance and Administration, Rev. John Nash, Chair*

11  
12 **Whereas**, when the Annual Conference passed “The Tithing Model” in 2015, the rule established for  
13 creating the budget and spending plan stipulated that income could not exceed 8% of the total amounts  
14 reported by all churches on line 52 of the annual statistical report for the most recent year, plus other  
15 projected sources of income.

16  
17 **Whereas**, the conference has never received 100% of a tithe based upon the line 52 in any year since  
18 the tithe model went into place.

19  
20 **Whereas**, the Council on Finance and Administration has had to make educated guesses about income  
21 to project for the coming year, usually settling around 85% for the budget, and 85% of that 85% for the  
22 spending plan.

23  
24 **Whereas**, the income reported by the local church has continued to decrease year-over-year.

25  
26 **Whereas**, the churches who disaffiliated from the annual conference represented nearly 40% of the  
27 income the conference had previously received.

28  
29 **Whereas**, other churches have been impacted by disaffiliation, even while remaining United Methodist,  
30 and will not be able to tithe at their prior levels.

31  
32 **Whereas**, the CF&A has continued to present budgets and spending plans that are reductions from prior  
33 years, such that the 2024 spending plan represents a 41% decrease of expenses a decade ago.

34  
35 **Whereas**, the CF&A has cut the budget in most areas and cannot continue to make meaningful cuts with  
36 having significant impact on the ministries and missions of the conference.

37  
38 **And whereas**, the CF&A has been counseling the conference for many years that it would soon come to  
39 a point where significant decisions about spending would have to be made, and that the CF&A did not  
40 want to be the ones to have to make those decisions.

41  
42 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that the CF&A, in creating the spending plan, will move to a model starting  
43 with the 2026 budget year where income from the proposed spending plan can only be based upon the  
44 income that the conference received in the prior year, plus other projected sources of income, such as  
45 earnings on investments.



## Resolutions

1 **Be it further resolved** that to help achieve this plan, starting July 1, 2024, the conference treasurer will  
2 reserve all income received from the local churches representing their tithe to the conference, excluding  
3 pension and health benefit payments, to be put into a special reserve fund. In 2025, the conference  
4 treasurer will reserve one-half (1/2) of all funds received from the local churches representing their tithe  
5 to the conference, excluding pension and health benefit payments, to be put into the same special  
6 reserve fund. These funds will then represent the income to be spent in 2026. Monies received in 2026  
7 will be held to fund the budget and spending plan in 2027, and so forth.

8  
9 **Be it further resolved** that the CF&A will cover this “loss” of income for 2024 and 2025 by using reserved  
10 funds, including the stabilization fund and funds reserved for specific conference use, to cover the  
11 budget shortfalls.

12  
13 **Be it further resolved** that the CF&A strongly recommends that the leadership of the conference spend  
14 the next 12-18 months engaged in dialogue about where the conference funds are best spent to further  
15 the ministries of the conference and the building of the Kingdom of God in preparation for the change  
16 this funding plan will represent to the conference.

17  
18 **Be it finally resolved** that rule 2435.25 be changed to read: “The Council on Finance and Administration  
19 shall recommend to the Annual Conference for its action a spending plan that reflects projected income  
20 and expense. The spending plan shall balance. Starting in 2026, the conference-wide projected income  
21 from local churches shall not exceed the monies received from the local church in the prior year  
22 representing their shared ministries which have been set aside for this purpose. The spending plan may  
23 include other projected sources of income, such as earnings on investments. The Council on Finance and  
24 Administration shall also present to the Annual Conference for its action an amount from the Board of  
25 Pension and Health Benefits to be apportioned to the local churches proportionally based on their  
26 reported operational income. The BPOHB budget shall not have the same restrictions as the conference  
27 spending plan.”

---

### **RESOLUTION TO CHANGE CONFERENCE RULES REGARDING THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

29 *Submitted by the Council on Finance and Administration, Rev. John Nash, Chair*

30  
31 **Be it resolved** that the following rules be amended as stipulated:

32  
33 **2325 Travel and Expense Allowances – Within the Bounds of the Conference.**

34 The current rule stipulating reimbursement of “meals up to \$10 with a maximum of up to \$30/day,”  
35 shall be changed to “meals for breakfast up to \$15, lunch up to \$18, dinner up to \$30, with a maximum  
36 of up to \$60/day per person.”

37  
38 **“2415 Policy for Use of a Conference Credit Card.** Should there be a need for the conference to approve  
39 a credit card for any of its officers or employees while they are engaged in the business of the  
40 Conference, the credit card shall not be used for personal expenditures, except in the most extreme  
41 emergency. The conference treasurer will report any violation to the ~~Provost/Director of Congregational~~  
42 ~~Vitality and the CF&A President~~ for resolution.”

43  
44 Stricken text shall be replaced with “Cabinet and CF&A chair”

## Resolutions

1 **“2430 Depositories of Conference Funds.** The following will be depositories of conference funds, with  
2 the provision that the Executive Committee of the Council on Finance and Administration is authorized  
3 to make changes in the deposit(ies) as may be advantageous to the conference:

4 ~~Bank of Albuquerque~~  
5 ~~Bank of the West~~  
6 ~~Carlsbad National Bank~~  
7 ~~First American Bank, Artesia~~  
8 ~~Los Alamos National Bank~~  
9 Texas Methodist Foundation  
10 US Bank”

11  
12 Stricken text will be removed and BMO will be added as a depository. Additionally, add “If depositories  
13 are changed, the CF&A will report this to the Annual Conference in their next conference report.” as the  
14 last line.

15  
16 **2440.20 Investments.** Second Paragraph:

17 “If it is deemed necessary, an investment committee will be established to include the following: ~~1) Area~~  
18 ~~Bishop, 2) President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, 3) President of the Board~~  
19 ~~of Directors of the Texas Methodist Foundation, 4) Treasurer of the Annual Conference, 5) One lay~~  
20 ~~member, chosen for independence from the program units of the Annual Conference, to be nominated~~  
21 ~~by the Annual Conference Nominating Committee.”~~

22  
23 Stricken text shall be replaced with:

24 “1) Area Bishop, 2) Chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, 3) Representative  
25 from the Cabinet, 4) Chair of Conference Board of Trustees, 5) Chair of Conference Board of Pension and  
26 Health Benefits, 6) Treasurer of the Annual Conference, 7) One lay member, chosen for independence  
27 from the program units of the Annual Conference, to be nominated by the Annual Conference  
28 Nominating Committee.”