

Pre-Conference Journal

The 150th Session of the
New Mexico Annual Conference
of
The United Methodist Church



Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, Presiding
Thursday, June 19 – Saturday, June 21, 2025
Albuquerque, New Mexico

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Schedule of Events	4
Call to the New Mexico Annual Conference	5
A Quick Guide to Parliamentary Procedure	6
Parliamentary Procedure At A Glance	7
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS	8
Albuquerque District.....	8
El Paso District	8
Commission on Archives and History	9
Endowment Distribution Committee	11
Council on Finance and Administration.....	12
Revolving Loan Fund Activity	23
Commission on Equitable Compensation	23
Board of Ordained Ministry	24
Board of Laity.....	25
Board of Pension and Health Benefits	26
Board of Trustees.....	35
PROGRAM AREA REPORTS	37
New Mexico Conference Border Ministries Team and Board of Church and Society	37
Four Corners Native American Ministry	37
Eastern New Mexico University Wesley Foundation.....	38
University of New Mexico Wesley Foundation.....	39
United Women in Faith.....	40
INSTITUTIONS	41
Methodist Children’s Home.....	41
Providence Place.....	42
South Central Jurisdiction Annual Report.....	43
Texas Methodist Foundation	45
UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES	47
Africa University.....	47
Boston University School of Theology	48
Candler School of Theology	49
Drew University Theological School	50
Duke Divinity School	51
Gammon Theological Seminary	55
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.....	56
McMurry University.....	57
Perkins School of Theology.....	58
Southern Methodist University	60
St. Paul School of Theology.....	61
United Theological Seminary	63
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	65
Proposed Constitutional Amendment #1 - Regionalization	65
Proposed Constitutional Amendment #2 – Inclusiveness of the church.....	79
Proposed Constitutional Amendment #3 – Racial Justice	80
Proposed Constitutional Amendment #4 – Clergy Delegates	81

RESOLUTIONS	82
Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances	82
Resolution for Commitment to Creation Care.....	84
Resolution Calling United Methodists to Act for Change	86
Resolution on District Superintendent Salaries	88
Resolution to Change Rules on District Superintendent Travel	89
Resolution to Change Conference Rules to Address Structural Changes	90
Resolution to Change Membership of the Endowment Distribution Committee	94

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Important Deadlines

May 21 – Last day to reserve group rate rooms at the Sheraton Uptown

May 22 – Registration Fee increases to \$175

June 5 – Registration Closed!

Find registration links and more at <https://www.nmconfum.com/2025-annual-conference-home/>

New Mexico Annual Conference 2025 Schedule of Events (subject to change)

All activities at St. John's UMC, 2626 Arizona NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Thursday, June 19

- | | | |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| 1:00 pm | Opening Worship | |
| 3:00 pm | Opening Business | |
| 4:00 pm | Keynote – How to Tell Your Story | Rev. David Valera |
| 5:30 pm | Dinner provided by NMAC (<i>Registration as a delegate or guest required</i>) | |
| 7:00 pm | Ordination Rehearsal | |

Friday, June 20

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 8:30 am | Clergy Session – Sanctuary |
| | Laity Session - FLC |
| 10:00 am | Break |
| 10:30 am | Business II |
| 11:30 am | Celebration of Ministry Service |
| Noon | Lunch on your own |
| | Retirement Luncheon (<i>Registration required</i>) |
| 1:30 pm | Business III |
| 3:30 pm | Break |
| 4:00 | Business IV |
| 5:30 | BOM Dinner (<i>Invitation only</i>) |
| | Dinner on your own |
| 7:00 | Ordination – Sanctuary |

Saturday, June 21

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 7:30 am | Breakfast Meetings (<i>Invitation only</i>) |
| 8:30 am | Memorial Service |
| 9:00 am | Business V |
| 10:30 am | Break |
| 11:00 am | Closing Business |
| 11:30 am | Closing Worship/Fixing of Appointments |
| 12:30 pm | Adjourn |

CALL TO THE NEW MEXICO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DATE: April 1, 2025

TO: Lay and Clergy Members of the New Mexico Annual Conference (NMAC)

FROM: Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, residential bishop of the New Mexico Annual Conference

RE: Call to the New Mexico Annual Conference Regular Session 2025

Dear United Methodists in the New Mexico Annual Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

With this letter, I hereby call the 150th regular session of the New Mexico Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to meet on June 19-21, 2025, at St. John's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, NM.

Our theme this year is **Lean In, Live Out** based on Micah 6:8. As we continue to find our bearing after a season of disaffiliations and unexpected transitions, we have the exciting opportunity to step into the future and the new ways of being church that God invites us to. To do so, we are invited to **lean in** to each other – to listen to each other's stories, affirm each other's uniqueness and in our diversity, find shared values and a common call so that we might **live out** what is required of us as Christian disciples: to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. I invite you to reflect on our theme and scripture passage as we prepare for our time together.

Your attendance is always essential for building our covenant community, and even more so this year, because we will be voting on the [ratification of four Constitutional Amendments](#), which the 2020/24 General Conference acted on. Each vote is crucial, and I trust you will take that responsibility seriously and make plans to attend.

Information is now available at (insert AC link). Please pay attention to the due dates for registration and other submissions, and I ask you to please abide by these deadlines. Doing so will greatly help the continuing planning of the conference. It will avoid causing undue stress on our staff and volunteers. I trust you will do your part as beloved members of our covenant community.

I am so excited to be with all of you for what will be my first annual conference session with you as your bishop! May the Holy Spirit work in our minds and our hearts, even now, as we prepare for this important work of holy conferencing.



Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

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 It is both a pleasure and an honor to serve the churches and pastors of the Albuquerque District. Our
2 district is a diverse and beautiful one, stretching from the Eastern Plains (Portales, Clovis, and Raton),
3 through the Rio Grande Valley (from Socorro all the way up to Taos), and into the stunning landscapes of
4 western New Mexico (Grants, Gallup, and up to Farmington). One of the great joys of this work is
5 traveling from place to place, taking in the breathtaking beauty of New Mexico, and meeting the faithful
6 people who make our churches vibrant communities of worship and service. It never ceases to amaze
7 me when I step into historic church buildings—like the one in Las Vegas, New Mexico—where you can
8 almost feel the prayers of generations past and sense the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work among the people
9 who gather there.

10
11 One of the initiatives I’ve been excited to launch is our quarterly “Pastors and Professionals” meetings.
12 These gatherings are designed to help our pastors fulfill their continuing education requirements while
13 also fostering fellowship among lay leaders and church employees. Our recent sessions have covered
14 timely and practical topics, including conflict resolution in the church (because let’s be honest, every
15 church has its moments!) and developing alternative income streams to help congregations thrive in
16 changing financial landscapes. The conversations have been lively, insightful, and—most importantly—
17 helpful for our churches as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of ministry today.

18
19 Another exciting development in our district is the work being done by McCurdy Ministries in Española.
20 McCurdy has long been a pillar of mission and education in Northern New Mexico, and they are now
21 launching an inspiring new literacy initiative called "Leer" (Spanish for "read"). This program aims to
22 equip children and families with vital reading skills, fostering a love for learning that will have a lasting
23 impact on their lives. It’s just one more way our churches and ministries are working to share the love of
24 Christ in tangible, life-changing ways.

25
26 There is so much to celebrate in the Albuquerque District, and I am grateful every day to be a part of
27 what God is doing here. Whether in the valleys or the high deserts, in the bustling cities or the quiet
28 country churches, the Spirit is moving among us. I look forward to continuing this journey together!

EL PASO DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, District Superintendent

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

34
35 I am very grateful for our district Lay Leader, Terry Allen, who accompanied me to almost every charge
36 conference this Fall. He is actively involved in the Certified Lay Ministry program and the Board of Laity,
37 as well as conference committees in which he participates as our lay leader representative. Terry led a
38 wonderful spiritual retreat in September on the Rule of Life. Additionally, he has worked with the

Administrative Reports

1 Conference Ministry Team on potential leadership development. With much discernment and prayer,
2 Terry asked to come off the district as lay leader this coming annual conference year. He has led with
3 grace, spiritual depth, and great willingness to do any task. I deeply appreciate his leadership in these
4 past three years!

5
6 This January, the east side churches in El Paso began a journey together with the Change Maker
7 Initiative: Becoming a RISK-Taking Church. Six churches, clergy and laity, are working together on this
8 training in a peer-learning cohort model. They are building teams at the local churches and asking
9 important questions about “what’s next” and how can we be compassion-driven changemakers in the
10 way of Jesus. I am excited to see where this venture takes us and how their collaborative projects
11 inspire, equip and empower others!

12
13 We have been blessed in the past year to expand our district to encompass Roswell, Capitan, Tularosa,
14 Cloudcroft, and the fellowships of Hobbs and Carlsbad. It is a joy to include in our district leadership:
15 Rev. Tina Cross, Rev. Laird Cross (retired), Rev. Young Hoon Kang, Pastor Dan Sherrell, Pastor Lorna Fike,
16 CLM candidate Kim Portillo, and Rev. Stephanie Harmon (retired).

17
18 In addition to district superintendency responsibilities, it is a joy to continue to serve alongside Rev. Ross
19 Whiteaker as we share in oversight of conference responsibilities as co-provosts of the New Mexico
20 Conference. On a personal note, I will be taking renewal time, approved by Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut per
21 paragraph 420 of the BOD, July 1, 2025, through September 1, 2025. Rev. Ross Whiteaker will cover any
22 urgent needs for the El Paso District during this time.

23
24 Lastly, it has been an honor in the past four years to have Rev. Greg Kennedy as the chair of the El Paso
25 District Superintendency Committee. He has chaired this committee with incredible insight, leadership,
26 integrity, and grace, and has supported me in immense ways through disaffiliation and many other
27 challenges. I am beyond grateful for his collegial and spiritual friendship and leadership, and wish him
28 blessings in his retirement!

29
30 It is a great honor to serve the El Paso District of the New Mexico Conference and I look forward to
31 continued opportunities to serve our churches, and the laity and clergy of this beautiful corner of God’s
32 magnificent creation in this mountain-desert region as we continue the mission to which we are all
33 called...to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Willard Steinsiek, Chair

34 We have a lot of History, going back to 1850! That makes this year an anniversary of sorts. 175 years
35 later the Methodists are still here. Enoch Nicholson from Methodist Episcopal Church arrived that year
36 in Santa Fe. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South showed up in El Paso in 1859. These two Methodist
37 Churches later came together to form the Methodist Church in 1939, and then we became the United
38 Methodist Church in 1968 when the Methodist Church united with the Evangelical United Brethren
39 Church as well. As for the New Mexico Conference, the very first session of the NM Mission MEC took
40 place on November 20, 1816. So next Year we will celebrate that as our 150th anniversary as a
41 Conference.

Administrative Reports

Since 1968, of course we have once again become a divided church, but as Methodists we still share a common history of pastors and churches, whose story is also our story. The Archives of the NM Conference of the United Methodist Church, houses the records that tell that story. It is the story of pastors who in keeping with the Lord's call upon their life went to where people were in New Mexico and west Texas and shared the Gospel. It is the story of Lay women and lay men who built Churches and institutions that served the needs of others and the purposes of Kingdom of God. It is a story of adversity and triumph, of success and failure, but it is always HIS story made manifest in us.

Collecting, preserving, and sharing that story is the combined work of the Commission on Archives and History and the NM Conference Historical Society, which twice a year publishes an Historical Journal. We encourage you to become a member of the NM Conference Historical Society not only so that you will receive this Journal twice a year, but so that this ministry of memory can continue. I also want to thank all of those on the Commission on Archives and History for their hard work and support, and all our Local Church Historians as well.

The Commission on Archives and History met on February 26, 2025, and we are pleased to report that the Archives are safe and the work continues. There is however more work than can be accomplished by one person working just one day a week. Therefore, we are currently looking to create a group of Volunteers to assist on a regular basis with the task of accessioning and entering information into our computer. If you live in the Albuquerque area and can do so, please let us know, and/or share this information with anyone you think might be interested.

It is with great joy that this year we accomplished our goal of seeing that the historic site of the Edith M. McCurdy Mission, which is now the site of McCurdy Ministries, was recognized as United Methodist Historic Site #581 by the General Commission of Archives and History. The United Methodist Historical Plaque will be placed on or near the chapel, built in 1916, and then officially recognized on October 11, 2025 during the 113th Birthday Celebration for McCurdy Ministries!

McCurdy Ministries already has a small historical museum and is also the custodian of considerable archives from McCurdy School. Therefore, we have promised to work with them to help protect these records, and to make them more readily accessible to researchers in the future. To that end we will be purchasing and setting up a computer software system and helping them learn how to use it to catalog their museum items and archival records.

I remind all the Conference Boards and Committees that they are required to keep records of their deliberations and work, and follow the Guidelines for Managing Records of the Annual Conference. Please review your records and follow these guidelines. As noted in these guidelines for Conference Committee Records,

This series documents the activities of standing and ad hoc committees, agencies and boards of the conference. They may function as steering committees, activities committees, standards committees, planning committees, awards committees, councils, etc. This series may include but is not limited to agendas; meeting minutes; reports; notes; working papers; and related documentation and correspondence... *Transfer the Official Copy of permanent records to the Archives after 4 years.*

Administrative Reports

As is our custom, the Commission on Archives and History at its most recent meeting also selected two new Living Archives. They are _____ & _____ (To be recognized at Annual Conference.)

ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Rev. Dustin Burrow, Chair

nmac.endowment@gmail.com

The guiding principle of our work as the New Mexico Annual Conference Endowment Distribution Committee is rooted in the 2025 NMAC Theme of Lean In and Live Out based on **Micah 6:8**: “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” This verse calls us to **Lean In**—deepening our faith and connection to God—and **Live Out**—expressing that faith in tangible ways through justice, mercy, and humility. The ministries we fund embody this mission, bringing the love of Christ into communities through service, transformation, and discipleship.

Committee Overview: In 2024, we received over 38 applications from ministries seeking financial support to expand their outreach and impact. With gratitude for the generosity of grant funds entrusted to the NMAC -- **Pippen Endowment, Thaxton Endowment, Bishops’ Endowment, Vitality Endowment, and Senior Ministry Endowment**, we were able to distribute grant funding totaling over \$293,663.34 to initiatives that align with our guiding vision.

2024 Funded Ministries: This year, our funding supported:

- **11** Food/Nutrition-Based Programs – feeding the hungry, acting justly in response to food insecurity.
- **3** Homeless/Border Ministry Programs – extending mercy to the vulnerable.
- **2** Clothing Programs – ensuring dignity and care for those in need.
- **2** Programs Serving the Elderly – walking humbly with those who have paved the way before us.
- **2** Programs for Children’s Tutoring and Empowerment – equipping the next generation to lead with wisdom and compassion.
- **2** Programs Supporting High School Students – guiding young lives toward justice and mercy.
- **2** Matching Grants for Technology Upgrades – expanding digital accessibility to strengthen ministry efforts.
- **2** Programs Impacting College-Aged Students – investing in faith formation and leadership development.
- **1** New Intergenerational Ministry – bringing all ages together to learn, serve, and grow in faith.

Each of these ministries represents the heart of Micah 6:8—justice, mercy, and humility—expressed in tangible and transformative ways.

Looking Ahead – 2025 Grant Cycle: We are excited to announce that the application process for the **2025 NMAC Grant cycle** will open on **July 1, 2025**, and close on **August 15, 2025**. To support applicants, we will host two webinars, and those unable to attend may schedule a one-on-one conversation with a committee member.

We continue to seek and support ministries that **Lean In**—strengthening faith and discipleship—and **Live Out**—transforming communities through intergenerational, lay-led, and mission-driven work. Over the years, we have funded **local churches, campus ministries, extension ministries, and non-profits** that align with our endowment vision and calling.

Administrative Reports

As we walk together in faith, may we remain committed to **acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.**

Thank you for your prayers and continued support. We look forward to seeing your 2025 ideas and applications.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Rev. John W. Nash, Chair Rev. Koreen Guillermo, Vice-Chair
Jacqui Lax, Secretary Griselda Sandoval, Conference Treasurer/Statistician

Report #1 Our Shared Financial Ministry

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

With an abiding sense of gratitude, your Council on Finance and Administration would like to express our thankfulness for the way that so many of our churches have been faithful in supporting our shared ministries over the past year. It has not been an easy year for us as the fallout from disaffiliation has become a reality. Our already tight budget has become even tighter. However, we have a better idea about where things stand than we did at this time last year. We can now live into the new reality with more confidence because we know that God is not done with us. Like John Wesley, we know, “Best of all, God is with us.”

We have been feeling the effects of disaffiliation and now an uncertain national economy. The 2024 tithe numbers showed us the new reality of Conference finances in the post-disaffiliation season. We received 65.7% of our anticipated tithe, which is a slightly higher percentage than 2023, but the 2023 Budget included anticipated income from churches which disaffiliated during the 2023 conference year. This is also reflected in the percentage of income contributed through the tithe as compared to operational income. The 2024 percentage was 5.8% compared to 6.9% last year and 7.0% in 2022. The 5.8% is the lowest percentage payout in the tithe model era. This is indicative of the financial realities that many of our churches are facing. But, based on past history, when we have dipped this low, we rebounded the next year. We cannot make accurate predictions based on that history, but we can hope that it holds true.

In 2024, a total of 56 local congregations contributed 100+% of their tithe on a monthly basis and 39 reported their operational income every month. This represents 66% of NMAC Congregations. Six local congregation contributed 75-99% of their tithe. This represents 7% of all congregations. Two congregations contributed between 50% and 74% of their tithe of operational income, 2% of NMAC congregations. Finally, 21 congregations contributed 0-49% of their tithe – 25% of NMAC congregations.

Administrative Reports

The last years, in the midst of uncertainty, have been difficult financially, yet throughout it all, you remain faithful. We give thanks for your continued participation in the tithe model and we believe that our continued transparency and communication around these issues will continue to bear fruit for the Conference in greater trust in how we are stewarding our resources for the continued work that God does through the Conference and the local church.

Shared Ministry or Tithe Model Contributions and Income History						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
% Tithe Paid	91.20%	75.50%	91.00%	99.80%	65.50%	65.70%
Money Contributed	1,758,157	1,492,387	1,669,853	1,721,047	1,148,931	938,251
Reported Line 52 Operational Income	26,971,889	25,358,224	25,871,505	24,694,094	16,756,527	16,181,498
% of income contributed	6.50%	5.90%	6.50%	7.00%	6.90%	5.80%

Report #2 Proposed 2026 Budget and Spending Plan

At last year's Annual Conference, your Council on Finance and Administration proposed a new model for funding the Budget and Spending Plan for the Conference. This proposal came from long conversations by CF&A about how to address not only the realities of post-disaffiliation existence, in which we lost 40% of our income, but also the long-term continued decline of payouts to the Conference from the local church. That proposal, which the Annual Conference approved, says that the Conference Budget and Spending Plan will now be funded based upon the monies we received in the prior calendar year. This will put a hard cap on our expenditures. This model will go into effect for the 2026 budget year.

To help us reach that funding model, the Annual Conference also approved withholding all of the tithes submitted for the last 6 months of 2024, and half of all tithes submitted for 2025. These funds are being set aside in a reserved fund to pay for 2026. Because this is the first year we are doing this, and we still have some uncertainty surrounding payouts as some churches continue to find their feet post-disaffiliation, and everything else happening in the world, we have made our best educated guess on what we should have in hand to fund 2026 at \$980,905.

By Conference rules, we can also fund the Budget and Spending Plan from additional funds available to the Conference. In past years, the Conference has taken a 6% distribution from the Conference endowment. 3% of that has gone to the Conference Budget and Spending Plan, and 3% has gone to the Endowment Distribution Committee. For the 2025 budget year, we increased that distribution to the Conference Budget and Spending Plan to be 4.5%. For the 2026 budget year, CF&A will be requesting all 6% go to fund the Conference Budget and Spending Plan. We do not make that decision lightly, and it is not sustainable for the long-term, but the Conference Endowment Distribution Committee has around \$120,000 in reserves, plus their 2025 distribution, available to them to expend in 2025-2026.

Administrative Reports

1 For those unfamiliar with the work of the Annual Conference, we keep using the terms Budget and
2 Spending Plan and you may not be familiar with what they mean or why we present two options. When
3 we passed the Tithe Model in 2015, one of the purposes was to increase the transparency about where
4 the funds from the Conference were actually going and for each group to know exactly what they had to
5 expend. That was the Spending Plan.

6
7 However, to abide by disciplinary rules to fully fund our general and jurisdictional church
8 apportionments, we have also had to present a Budget which called out for 100% payout to those lines.
9 We have been in conversation with the Bishop about a better way to do this, but for the moment we are
10 following that procedure and so you will find a Budget which includes 100% payout to the general
11 church and then the Spending Plan which has a reduced payout and represents actual projected
12 spending for the Conference.

13
14 In past years, we have set the payout rate to the general and jurisdictional church at 70% or higher. But,
15 in the past few years, because of our own financial realities, we have decreased those numbers. In 2023,
16 we paid 65% of our apportionments. For 2024 we proposed 50% payouts, which we set before we
17 received the new apportionment amounts from the 2024 General Conference, with the expectation that
18 they would be lower. They were, but not substantially. In 2024 we paid out 50%. For the 2025 budget
19 year we bumped that number up to 55%, but are requesting that it again be at 50% for 2026.

20
21 The exception to this payout is for the Episcopal Fund and also Lydia Patterson Institute, both of which
22 we fund at 100%. We also note the disparity that we as the Conference are asking every church to pay
23 100% of their tithe to support the Conference, while turning around and not doing the same for the
24 general church. This is an area for further conversation about payouts in future years and an area for
25 growth.

26
27 If you look at report #4 found in this report, you will see the decline every year in reported operational
28 income and in actual Conference expenses. Both are down by almost 48% since 2012. Report #1 has
29 actual Conference income since 2019; our current income is about half of what it was in 2017. Not all of
30 that is from disaffiliation. On the expense side in report #4 you will see a plateaued around \$2 million
31 from 2018-2023. That should have been through 2022, but we had some unexpected and one-time
32 expenditures in 2023 that elevated that number. Last year we were at \$1.6 million, although some of
33 that is from withholding the tithe to cover 2026.

34
35 At last year's Annual Conference, as part of the resolution to change our funding model, we said we
36 guessed that we would need to get expenditures down to around \$1.1 million for 2026. That was close,
37 as the proposed Spending Plan has us just short of \$1.2 million for 2026. And let us note for comparison,
38 we had actual expenses of \$3.2 million in 2013. So, in the past 13 years, we have reduced expenditures
39 by \$2 million.

40
41 As these decreases have been happening over the years, your CF&A has been reiterating that we do not
42 want to have to be the ones to make significant cuts to the programs and ministries of the Conference.
43 We are well past being able to nickel and dime programs to be able to make everything balance. We are
44 going to have to have serious and difficult conversations about the structure of the Conference and
45 what ministries we continue to fund as a Conference. Some of these conversations are already taking
46 place. We are also very aware of the possibility of cutting off our nose to spite our face.

Administrative Reports

1 In the responses that the Conference Ministry Team received from about communication submitted by
2 churches at the fall charge conferences, greater presence from the Conference was a consistent request.
3 But we will note that the more we cut Conference programming and staff, without figuring out how to
4 replace it and/or do it differently, the less the local church sees from the Conference. They then cut
5 what they are submitting because they are not seeing a return, causing the Conference to cut more, in
6 an endless catch-22 cycle. That too is not sustainable for the long-term.

7
8 As you look at the proposed 2026 Spending Plan, the general church apportionments represent 23.5% of
9 the expenditures. Conference programming and ministries represent just short of 12% and Conference
10 Administration represents just short of 65%. BUT there are some significant caveats to considering those
11 numbers.

12
13 First is that there are things in the Conference Administration line that clearly involve and impact the
14 ministries and programming of the Annual Conference. Where one ends and the other begins is not a
15 clear line of demarcation. Second, the Conference Administration line has already seen significant cuts
16 over the past few years. The expenses for the 2026 Conference Administration lines represent a
17 decrease of \$483,500 from the 2020 Spending Plan. We have made another decrease to the Conference
18 office line, and will be working on where to find those savings. The only increase in that area is for the
19 CF&A which goes to cover the cost of our annual audit, the cost of which has almost doubled in the past
20 few years.

21
22 On the programming and ministries side, they have decreased \$320,000 in the past five years. However,
23 almost all of that is accounted for in New Church Development and Sacramento which represents
24 \$230,000 of that difference. The other difference is in Campus Ministries, which matches their request
25 for actuals, the E-Teams, which have been eliminated, and Four Corners Ministries, for which we are
26 matching actual costs. This doesn't mean that these are good cuts, but where we can find available
27 decreases.

28
29 If you look at the line for New Church Development, you will see a \$0 on the Budget and Spending Plan.
30 This does not mean that we are not funding anything for New Church Development. Last year the
31 Trustees took the lead in requesting \$0 for their expenditures for 2025, with the intention of using
32 reserved funds to cover their expenses. This year New Church Development did the same. They will be
33 funding their activities with reserved funds. This not only helps the Conference, but we, as CF&A, believe
34 better utilizes some of our funding to further the Kingdom of God. It's great to have rainy day funds, and
35 so we are utilizing them while it is starting to drizzle.

36 However, this too is not sustainable in the long-term. At some point New Church Development will have
37 to have a budget line with a number greater than zero, as will Trustees, and some others we are asking
38 to use other funds, including Campus Ministries and Equitable Compensation. With presumed continued
39 decreases in income as well, at some point something has to give on the bottom line.

40
41 And so, once again, your CF&A is strongly, intensely, earnestly, deeply and verbosely encouraging the
42 Annual Conference, and that means all of you reading this, to engage in deliberate conversation and
43 decision making about the operations of the Annual Conference. Right-sizing some things, prioritizing
44 others, and removing some that don't match our focus or vision or that can, and perhaps should be,
45 funded from other sources. Those cuts will have to be made, and we as your CF&A, as we have been
46 saying for many years, don't want to have to make them and then figure out how they will be done.

Administrative Reports

- 1 Given our desire to be good stewards of the resources we reasonably believe we will receive to support
- 2 the ministries and missions of the New Mexico Annual Conference with which the local church has
- 3 entrusted to us, your Council on Finance and Administration submits the following Budget and Spending
- 4 Plan for 2026 for your approval.

	2025 Budget	2025 Spending Plan	2026 Budget	2026 Spending Plan
INCOME				
TITHED INCOME FROM LOCAL CHURCHES				
2021-2023 reported operational income	\$16,756,527	\$16,756,527	\$16,181,498	
8% of reported operational income	\$1,340,522	\$1,340,522		
budgeted portion of income from tithe	\$1,340,522	\$1,340,522		
expected portion of income from tithe	\$1,139,444	\$968,527		
Income received in prior year			\$980,905	\$980,905
OTHER INCOME				
Conference Endowment 6% Distribution - 2026	\$115,000	\$170,914	\$215,920	\$215,920
Disaffiliation Funds				\$0
Additional Stabilization Funds Needed	\$1,051,094	\$777,331	\$336,725	\$0
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,305,538	\$1,916,772	\$1,533,550	\$1,196,826
EXPENSES				
GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS				
World Service	\$191,121	\$105,117	\$195,799	\$97,900
Episcopal Fund	\$94,207	\$94,207	\$96,512	\$96,512
Ministerial Education Fund	\$66,108	\$36,359	\$67,726	\$33,863
Black College Fund	\$26,370	\$14,504	\$27,015	\$13,508
Africa University	\$5,902	\$3,246	\$6,046	\$3,023
General Administration	\$32,301	\$17,766	\$33,091	\$16,546
Interdenominational Cooperation	\$2,736	\$1,505	\$2,803	\$1,402
TOTAL GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS:	\$418,745	\$272,703	\$428,992	\$262,752
JURISDICTIONAL APPORTIONMENTS				
Lydia Patterson	\$16,286	\$16,286	\$16,286	\$16,286
Jurisdictional Administration	\$8,547	\$4,701	\$4,701	\$2,351
Jurisdictional Reserves	\$1,488	\$818	\$818	\$409
TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL APPORTIONMENTS:	\$26,321	\$21,805	\$21,805	\$19,046
TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS:	\$445,066	\$294,508	\$450,797	\$281,798

Administrative Reports

2016 SPENDING PLAN INCOME RESERVE	\$569,722	\$484,264	\$0	\$0
CONFERENCE/AREA ADMINISTRATION				
Conference Office	\$423,000	\$423,000	\$423,000	\$343,000
District Superintendents	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
District Work	\$120,000	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$40,000
Equitable Compensation	\$80,000	\$50,000	\$51,253	\$45,000
Trustees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Conference	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500
Council on Finance and Administration	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
Area Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board of Ordained Ministry	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$5,000
Legal Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Communications	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Conference Committee Meetings	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$1,000
New Cabinet Expenses	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
Delegate Expenses	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$4,000
TOTAL CONFERENCE/AREA ADMINISTRATION:	\$979,500	\$911,500	\$897,753	\$774,500
CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING AND MINISTRIES				
New Church Development	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Campus Ministries	\$100,000	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$80,528
Four Corners Native American Ministries	\$70,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$45,000
Sacramento (camp scholarships)				
Camping Ministries and scholarships	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Equipping Ministries	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Engaging Ministries	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Board of Laity	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Lay Leader	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Unallocated Programming	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Envisioning Ministries	\$2,500	\$500	\$0	\$0
Conference Ministry Team	\$750	\$500	\$3,000	\$3,000
TOTAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING AND MINISTRIES:	\$311,250	\$226,500	\$185,000	\$140,528
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$2,305,538	\$1,916,772	\$1,533,550	\$1,196,826

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

2 Another measure of the generous contributions (above and beyond the tithe) should also be highlighted.

3 Our Second Mile Giving continues to be strong, with a significant increase over last year, and shows a

4 representation of how we are making a difference and changing lives well beyond the walls of our

5 churches. These gifts represent giving to things like disaster relief through UMCOR, Heifer Project,

6 McCurdy and Methodist Children's Home, to name just a few. We also know that these numbers do not

7 represent the totality of giving because of gifts made by individuals directly to these organizations, as

Administrative Reports

well gifts local churches may have made directly that were not reported. These numbers reflect the deep generosity and the joyful giving of our people for all kinds of work to build the Kingdom in our neighborhoods, around our states, the country and the world. Thanks be to God for these gifts!

	2024 SECOND MILE GIVING					
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Contribution	1,298,635	1,271,363	1,143,173	1,420,052	700,388	869,624

(Remitted through the Conference Treasurer)

Advance Projects

Disaster Response, International - Undesignated	3,360	
Disaster Response, International - Ukraine	25,600	
Disaster Response, USA - Maui	1,465	
Disaster Response, USA - Hurricanes	76,600	
Disaster Response, USA - Undesignated	55,459	
Forbes, Belinda	2,500	
Heifer Project International	778	
Total		165,762

Conference Advance Specials

Campus Ministries	500	
Four Corners NA Ministry	100	
Roswell Flood Assistance	795	
Ruidoso Fires	19,587	
Total		20,982

Conference Special Offerings

McCurdy Ministries	555	
McMurry University	75	
Methodist Children's Home	2,434	
Retired Ministers' Day Offering	110	
Sacramento Methodist Assembly	485	
Total		3,659

General Church Special Sunday Offerings

Human Relations Day	1,052	
One Great Hour of Sharing	7,144	
Native American Ministries Sunday	2,769	
Peace with Justice Sunday	894	
World Communion Sunday	1,300	
Youth Service Fund (YSF)	180	
United Methodist Student Day	1,765	
Total		15,104

Other Offerings

Imagine No Malaria	240	
Total		240

Administrative Reports

TOTAL REMITTED THROUGH CONF TREASURER	205,747
Albuquerque District	181,584
Clovis District	3,733
El Paso District	16,050
Other	4,380

TOTAL SECOND MILE GIVING REMITTED DIRECTLY	663,877
Albuquerque District	446,232
Clovis District	143,104
El Paso District	74,541

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL SECOND MILE GIVING	869,624
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Report #4: Reported Local Church Income to the Conference

Compared to 2023, 2024 income declined by 3%, while expenses declined by nearly 21%. From 2019 to 2024, the Conference incurred a 46% decrease in income reported on line 52 of the statistical report. Over the same time frame, expenses declined by 19%. However, comparing the years of 2024 to 2012 income and expenses have both decreased by 48%.

As reported in years past, your CF&A has worked to deal with the declining income. In accordance with last year's resolution, CF&A has now changed the way it funds the Annual Conference Spending Plan.

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%
2024	16,181,498	-3.43%	1,679,904	-20.66%
	% Diff from 2019	-46.01%		-19.35%
	% Diff from 2012	-47.90%		-47.66%

Administrative Reports

Report #5: Stabilization Fund

The New Mexico Annual Conference Structure, Policies, and Rules states in Par. 2310, “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.”

Historically, the Stabilization Fund has been a helpful and necessary tool for those months when the tithe payments from local churches are slow in coming to the Conference Treasurer. It allows the work of the Conference to continue moving smoothly and without delay even when operating in a temporary deficit.

These funds come from a variety of sources – unspent money from the former contingency fund; unspent money from program budgets; and accrued interest and earnings from invested funds.

In the last few years, the Stabilization Fund has also helped the Conference navigate disruptions brought about by disaffiliations without interruption of necessary services and important ministries. The Stabilization Fund, alongside withdrawal liabilities from those disaffiliating churches, has given the Conference breathing room to refocus efforts and scale the Conference’s work for the current reality. With a large number of unknowns, the use of the Stabilization Fund in this way has been critical.

CF&A has also recognized that this use would quickly deplete the Stabilization Fund and has repeatedly informed the Annual Conference that we would only have a few years to operate in such a way. During this transitional time, we have urged the Annual Conference to do the hard work of economizing and right-sizing operations to our current reality.

We have now arrived at the point when the Conference will need to operate within its means. The Stabilization Fund will not be able to cover our deficit and still perform the function for which it was originally envisioned of helping the Conference finances through lean seasons. With the changes in Conference financing, we will also need to review the use and permanence of the Stabilization Fund.

The 2026 Budget and Spending Plan reflect this new reality with reductions in expenditures to more closely align with economic reality, as well as the removal of Stabilization Funds to balance the Budget and Spending Plan. We encourage local churches to continue to meet their tithe so that we may meet the financial needs of the Annual Conference

Administrative Reports

Stabilization Fund Activity

12/31/2024

TMF Beginning Balance 1/1/2024			955,783.14
Income:			
	Transfers	114,850.87	
	Capital Gains	144,595.51	
	Interest Income	49.97	
	Change in Market Value	-96,126.91	
	Total Income		163,369.44
Expenditures:			
	Disbursements	406,389.36	
	Expenses		
	Total Expenditures		406,389.36
Ending Balance 12/31/2024			712,763.22
NMAC Beginning Balance 1/1/2024			-406,389.36
Income:			
	TMF Stabilization Fund	520,332.43	
	Interest Earned	26.09	
	Total Income		520,358.52
Expenditures:			
	Disbursements	554,147.47	
	Expenses		
	Total Expenditures		554,147.47
Ending Balance 12/31/2024			-440,178.31

US BANK - Money Market Beginning Balance 1/1/2024			261,212.38
Income:			
	Interest Earned	26.09	
	Total Income		26.09
Expenditures:			
	Disbursements		
	Total Expenditures		
Ending Balance 12/31/2024			261,238.47

TMF Stabilization Fund 712,763.22

NMAC Stabilization Fund -440,178.31

US BANK Money Market 261,238.47

Total Stabilization Funds

533,823.38

Administrative Reports

Report #6 Fund Reports

New Mexico Conference Texas Methodist Foundation Funds As of 12/31/2024

	Market Value		Gains	Mt Value	Mkt Value
Conference					
Endowment	3,798,102.48	(457,587.88)	0.00	258,117.93	3,598,660.55
Lackey Fund	58,139.67	0.00	0.00	4,203.32	62,342.99
Pruett Loan Fund	44,364.83	(2,709.49)	652.85	2,518.93	44,827.98
Board of Trustees	113,236.87	(7,136.60)	1,644.20	6,534.60	114,279.36
New Church Fund	308,459.72	(16,538.02)	0.00	22,300.70	314,222.40
Senior Ministries					
Endowment	333,521.95	(21,064.92)	3,943.45	20,145.92	451,398.16
Conference					
Building Reserve	23,670.26	0.00	0.00	1,711.30	25,381.56
Congregational					
Transformation	86,388.81	(4,464.48)	962.83	5,277.89	88,165.24
Pace Endowment					
(New Church)	584,841.65	(23,889.02)	0.00	40,466.09	596,443.45
Sivley Special					
Account-CBGM	16.09	0.00	0.00	1.17	17.26
Stabilization Fund	955,783.14	(406,389.36)	144,595.51	(96,126.91)	712,763.22
NMAC Archives and					
History	8,863.50	(750.00)	493.53	139.56	8,846.70
Thaxton Fund	1,422,835.27	(53,399.57)	0.00	102,866.65	1,472,302.35
Volunteers in					
Mission	13,585.30	0.00	0.00	982.18	14,567.48
Pruett Earnings					
Fund	68,967.23	0.00	0.00	5,048.57	76,727.61
Thaxton					
Endowment					
Earnings	74,297.06	(37,108.00)	0.00	0.00	91,563.78
Pippin Endowment	629,971.99	(22,049.00)	0.00	45,574.27	653,497.26
Whitfield Seminary					
Scholarship	39,730.20	(3,000.00)	0.00	2,781.00	39,511.57
New Church Dis	708,250.38	0.00	0.00	51,302.55	776,111.58
NCD Restricted	363,567.95	0.00	0.00	26,284.86	389,852.81
Trustees (New)	1,243,764.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,261,175.63
Campus Ministries	63,080.52	(9,000.00)	8,850.94	(4,747.32)	58,185.25
Native Amer MEF	201,146.93	0.00	0.00	14,542.31	215,689.24
Native Amer MEF					
Earnings	88,326.25	0.00	0.00	6,285.72	94,611.97
Total	11,232,912.58	(1,065,086.34)	161,143.31	516,211.29	11,161,145.40

We will note that CF&A has called for the Conference Investment Committee to be convened to evaluate all of the Conference investments, explore opportunities and to make a report back to the CF&A, BOPHB and Trustees for recommendation to the Annual Conference.

Administrative Reports

REVOLVING LOAN FUND ACTIVITY

1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024

Beginning Cash Balance 01/01/24 \$166,149.75

Income:

NMAC	\$19,440.00	
Interest Earned	\$53.53	
TOTAL INCOME		\$19,493.53

Disbursements:

Bank service charges/supplies	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	

Cash Balance in Fund 12/31/2024	\$185,643.28
---------------------------------	--------------

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

<u>Notes Outstanding:</u>	<u>Loan Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
adjustments		\$23,713.66
NMAC-6/1/2021	\$77,735.76	\$8,075.95
Total loan amount		
TOTAL OUTSTANDING		\$31,789.61
TOTAL VALUE OF FUND		\$217,432.89

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Rev. Layloni Drake, Chair

1 The world finds itself in a challenging place, whether we are talking about the global community, the
2 United States, or the New Mexico Annual Conference region. More than ever the message of hope,
3 perseverance, and love in Jesus Christ needs to be proclaimed and lived out. To that end we as the New
4 Mexico Annual Conference Commission of Equitable Compensation, have reviewed the applications for
5 assistance and have selected those churches that our limited budget will allow us to assist. Those who
6 received that assistance have with great care put those funds to work for our Lord's sake.

7
8 It is exciting that Trinity Roswell have diligently worked in the last several years to reduce the amount of
9 assistance that they need from \$5000 to \$0 for conference year 2025. The CEC is reducing the amount
10 of compensation given to those who are asking for assistance, not because they have asked for less, but
11 because we understand that there will be less to distribute. We, as the CEC, are grateful to each church
12 who has stepped up their giving to shared ministry. What you give makes a difference!

Administrative Reports

In addition to assistance with churches, we also are responsible for bringing before the Annual Conference recommendations for minimum salaries for those who are serving in ministry roles. It has been several years since these minimums have been raised. We recognize that the cost of living has seen significant growth. Therefore, we recommend the following:

Student Pastor	\$39,274
Full Time Local Pastor	\$40,456
Associate Member Pastor	\$42,835
Provisional Member Pastor	\$44,265
Full Elder Pastor	\$46,977

We, the CEC, are grateful for every resource you give us to assist ministry in the small yet significant corners of the New Mexico Annual Conference.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Kimberly Kinsey, Chair

For me it has always been a great privilege to walk beside the candidates as they discern and answer the call to ministry. I'm honored to return to this committee after several quadrenniums and equally blessed to lead the work of the board this year.

As we moved through the year, the board facilitated the election of the chairs. We organized the fall retreat and gathered to meet our new bishop and fellowship with one another.

In February, we meet to review candidates for provisional status and ordination. The interviews gave us the opportunity to hear the ministry and beliefs of those who are pursuing their call to ministry. I appreciate the hard work those individuals contributed both to their paperwork and to the ministries in which they serve.

The executive committee has attended several trainings both at the general church level and through the Texas Methodist Foundation. The entire committee is working on updating the conference handbook and other policies for this quadrennium. I continue to work with them to live fully into the many tasks assigned to us.

Most important this year, I want to celebrate the service of Linda Lucas. Through her work as registrar, she has shepherded numerous candidates through the process of ministry. I appreciate the dedication of her decades of service. As she moves into retirement this year, I'm grateful for her attention.

Administrative Reports

BOARD OF LAITY

*Kathy Jewell, NMAC Lay Leader, Chair
Director of Lay Servant and Certified Lay Ministries*

"Servant Leaders offering classes for equipping laity in missional ministry and providing resources for all laity and clergy."

The New Mexico Conference Board of Laity (NMCBOL) serves in various roles to encourage, equip, engage and empower the laity within the conference. The board's mission includes offering classes for laity, engaging in missional ministry, and providing resources for all laity and clergy.

The New Mexico Conference Board of Laity (NMCBOL) used this last year to equip the laity through lay servant and Certified Lay Ministry classes and training. All classes were announced with registrations, through the weekly communication through the conference email. Each member on the NMCBOL has used their gifts of teaching, organizing, administration, facilitating, encouragement and grace to encourage and equip laity and clergy in spiritual growth through lay servant classes. Lay Servant classes covered a wide range of information from Basic class to finance, to prayer, to preaching, to self-care. Classes were by Zoom and in person.

We are most grateful and appreciative for Steve Henderson's serving on the NMCBOL! He has single handed, developed and organized the CLM Registrar position into an organized and functional process. He has been a font of wisdom, able to see any situation that comes before the Board with a heart of peace and grace. He will be missed as the CLM Registrar! Susan Ideus, will be coming on as the new CLM Registrar, well trained by Steve!

The two District Lay Leaders, Terry Allen and Larry Luna, have been actively engaged in providing opportunities for laity and clergy. Terry and Larry are not only eager to attempt new classes but, are passionate that all laity will have the opportunity to participate missional ministries. I am grateful to them for their support and wisdom.

NMCBOL Members are:

Rev. Dr. Pam Rowley, Cabinet Liaison

Kathy Jewell, Chair

Rev. Cazandra Campos-MacDonald, CLM Consultant

Larry Luna, Albuquerque District Lay Leader

Terry Allen, El Paso District Lay Leader

Cheryll Felder, Lay Servant Data

Roselie Johnston, NMC Staff

Steve Henderson, CLM Register

Rev. Dr. Joe MacDonald, CLM Consultant

Jon Hendricks, El Paso District Lay Servant Coordinator

Barb Tegtmeier, Albuquerque District Lay Servant Coordinator

Heidi Herrera

Susan Ideus, 2025 CLM Registrar

The NMCBOL is in its fifth year of ministry, having started during the pandemic, we spent a year organizing by zoom. With a mission statement to guide us, structure of process and every member

Administrative Reports

contributing to Lay Servant and CLM ministries, we have grown in confidence and assurance that God guides us every step of the way.

Communicating effectively about Lay Servant classes in the NMAC has been challenging. The NMCBOL would like to ask every lay person to please sign up on the conference website, nmconfum.com, to receive the weekly newsletter by email. This opportunity to receive information from the NMC will prove to be highly valuable to every lay person. Also, contact Jon Hendricks or Barb Tegtmeier about a lay servant class you would like to see offered or would like to teach a class. All the classes should focus on leading, caring and communicating, to ensure a continued spiritual growth and relationship with God.

As Conference Lay Leader, it has been an honor, this year to serve the NM Conference. It is not always about what zoom meeting to be at, or what event to prepare for. It is about connecting with laity and clergy, to encourage each to use their spiritual gifts to serve God and make disciples for Jesus. Watching and joining with laity who are engaged, courageous, visionary and present in relationships has been breath-taking this year. More Lay Persons are saying "Yes" to serving in mighty ways. Through collaboration and creativity, lay persons are empowered to "lean in and reach out/live out" in new ways of missional ministry. Thank you, to each of you for the opportunity to serve our God this year!!

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Rev. Joe Whitley, Chair

TBD, Insurance Committee chair

Linn Reece, Pension Committee chair

Anna Marshall, Conference Benefits Officer

Report #1 – Administrative Report

1. ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits administers a Memorial Account with Wespath Benefits and Investments (formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits).

Individuals who wish to participate and contribute to an Endowment should contact the Conference Benefits Officer. Endowment accounts are in honor and memory of the following persons: Bishop & Mrs. Alsie Carleton, Dr. George Ditterline, Dr. C. Edward Ditterline, Dr. M.L. Sims, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sivley, Laura Violet Robertson, Robert E. Robinson and R.I Bledsoe, Rev. Aubrey Walley, and Rev. Dr. Lloyd Hughes. No new endowments were received in 2024.

The Annie Lee Kornegay Fund, established for the purpose of providing emergency support to surviving spouses, is invested with the Texas Methodist Foundation. A permanent Memorial Fund has also been established with the Texas Methodist Foundation. No contributions were made to these funds in 2024. Past contributions have been received in memory of: Bob Harrison, Lillie Ditterline, Ralph Stanfield, Madge McGrew, Mabel Morgan, Joe Scrimshire, and T.J. and Mary Ray Sivley, John Klassen, Levi Louderback, V.B. Irby, Mary Hembree, and Joseph Goodart.

Administrative Reports

2. **SPECIAL BOPHB GRANTS FOR 2024**

Grants awarded in the amount of:

Wellness Grants \$59,976, a decrease of 10% from 2023

Wholeness Grants \$85,000, this includes from when initiated July 1, 2023 -December 2024. 2023-2024 appointments and 6 months of 2024-2025

Medical Grants \$43,305, an 49% increase from 2023

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

A complete list of clergy and surviving spouses will be included in the 2025 Journal.

4. **AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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

a) Adoption agreements for pension and benefit plans.

b) 2024 Distribution to Annuitants

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

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

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

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

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

d) Board meeting expenses

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

f) Biennial actuarial study of retiree healthcare liability

6. **PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET as approved at the February 11, 2025 BOPHB meeting**

Income: 2026

Retiree/Disability Support Fund 250,000

Administration/Transfer In 168,750

HF Income-Actives 745,000

HF Income- Lay 95,000

Dental/Vision 33,500

UMLifeOptions Income-Actives 16,000

UMPIP 315,000

COMPASS /CPP 490,000

2,113,250

Expenses: 2026

Transfers 18,000

UMLifeOptions-Retirees 20,000

Healthcare Incapacity 5,000

Administrative Reports

1	Healthcare Retirees	207,000
2	HF- Actives	745,000
3	HF- Lay	95,000
4	Dental/vision	33,500
5	UMLifeOptions actives	16,000
6	UMPIP	315,000
7	COMPASS/CPP- Actives	490,000
8	Administration Expense	<u>168,750</u>
9		2,113,250

Administrative Reports

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION & HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT				
	Unpaid prior years of clergy's pension and health insurance and Shared Ministries (RDS)	Unpaid prior years of clergy's pension and health insurance and Shared Ministries (RDS)	Billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health insurance and current year RDS.	Billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health insurance and current year RDS.
Church	Amount due as of December 31, 2024	Amount due as of December 31, 2023	Amount due as of December 31, 2024	Amount due as of December 31, 2023
Albuq, Covenant UMC	84,507.32	88,752.08	1,511.78	0
Albuq, El Buen Samaritano	0	0	4,598.74	8,573.01
Belen, First UMC	364.67	0	10,255.34	14,703.56
Gallup, First UMC	84,527.56	93,497.40	4,227.12	3,530.16
Window Rock UMC	134.98	1,443.94	353.98	213.36
Raton, First UMC	3,385.65	0	11,941.00	18,037.45
El Paso, St. Luke's	0	0	313.12	0
El Paso, Tobin Park UMC	0	0	878.00	0
El Paso, Wesley UMC	0	0	1,091.85	0
Las Cruces, El Calvario UMC	5,468.35	0	17,390.24	6,720.77
Mesquite, Del Valle UMC	4,748.33	4,308.77	526.32	439.56
Odessa, The Bridge	0	0	7,783.79	0
Sierra Blanca, First UMC	1,810.36	1,473.04	403.92	337.32
Silver City, First UMC	0	0	4,891.92	0

Administrative Reports

Report #2 — Insurance, Pension, Health and Retiree Benefits

I. Method of Funding and Funding Plans

The **2020/2024 Book of Discipline ¶ 1506** requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to the Wespeth Benefits and Investments for review and favorable written opinion from the Wespeth Benefits and Investments., Copies of the full 2025 comprehensive benefit funding plan report is available upon request from the Benefits Office.

Pre-1982 Plan

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. The **2026** Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended to the New Mexico Annual Conference will be \$774.00. This is a 2.0% increase. Based on the requested actuarial valuations from Wespeth Benefits and Investments as of **October 2024 for 2026 preliminary results**, the portion of the Pre-82 liability attributable to the New Mexico Conference and funded status is, as of 1/1/2026, as follows:

<i>2026 Estimated Actuarial Valuation</i>	
<i>Past Service Rate</i>	<i>774.00</i>
<i>Assets in the Plan</i>	<i>9,184,698</i>
<i>Funding Plan Liability</i>	<i>-8,640,607</i>
<i>Funded status</i>	<i>544,091</i>
<i>Funded Ratio</i>	<i>106%</i>

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

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

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

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

II. Grant Information for Active and Retired Clergy

BOPHB Medical Support Fund:

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

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

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

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

BOPHB Wellness Support Fund

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

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

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

Administrative Reports

The NM Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has established a “Wholeness Grant,” designed to help improve recipients’ mental and emotional health through improved financial security. Upon application, the said grant will award \$2,400 to ordained Elders and Deacons currently under full-time appointment by the NM conference and \$1,200 to Local Licensed Pastors who are currently serving churches under full-time appointment in the NM conference. District Superintendents are also eligible for this grant. The NMBOPHB recommends that recipients consult a tax advisor as to the tax consequences associated with the grant. The NMBOPHB will award the grant annually if it determines, on an annual basis, that funds are available.

III. Insurance Plans for Active Clergy:

a) The Annual Conference shall adopt a funding method for paying medical insurance premiums for active full-time appointed clergy.

(i) As voted by the 2004 Annual Conference, we use the actual cost funding method.

(ii) Every church/charge with full time appointed Clergy under the age of 65 must offer health insurance to full time clergy under appointment.

(iii) Every church/charge shall pay at least the billed medical insurance defined contribution amount (premium credit) for participating clergy. If approved by the church, clergy may enroll other eligible family members, and the church will be required to pay the premium credit for participant +1 or participant + family premium.

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

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

For **2026**, regardless of plan chosen by the participant, churches will pay the defined contribution (premium credit) as follows at the proposed rates. A comparison with the 2025 premium credit indicates a proposed increase of approximately 6%:

	<u>2025 Premium Credit</u>	<u>2026 proposed Premium Credit</u>
Single rate:	\$11,136 (\$928/month)	\$11,844 (\$987/month)
Participant +1 rate:	\$21,156 (\$1,763/month)	\$22,512 (\$1876/month)
Participant +family rate:	\$28,956 (\$2,413/month)	\$30,804 (\$2,567/month)

- Dental premiums show a proposed increase for 2026. The overall increase for dental is 7%. Vision premiums are not projected to increase in 2026.
- Details on all plans are available through the Conference Benefits Office or Wespath Benefits Access site.

Administrative Reports

IV. Direct Billing

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

- a) Every church/charge shall pay the premium costs of *UMLifeOptions* (UMLO) for its eligible appointed clergy and their spouses.
- b) Salary paying units will be billed for all health insurance and AFLAC premiums chosen by the participants. Participants are responsible, through a payroll deduction, for plan cost amounts above the church contribution, dental premium, upgraded vision premium, medical reimbursement amount (MRA), health savings account (HSA), dependent care allowance (DCA) and AFLAC policies.
- c) Billing for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) to each salary paying unit shall be at 3% of plan compensation* for each eligible participant enrolled in the CPP. The conference elects to cover ¾-time clergy who are full and provisional members (elders and deacons), associate members and clergy of other Methodist denominations earning at least 25% of denominational average compensation (DAC) subject to terms of the Plan.
- d) The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is a mandatory plan with Wespath Benefits and Investment. This is 9% of plan compensation* for the defined benefit (CRSP DB) component and 3% of plan compensation* for the defined contribution (CRSP DC) component. This plan ends December 31, 2025. The new retirement plan will be a direct contribution plan that was presented by Wespath at General Conference 2024 and approved to be effective January 1, 2026
- e) UMPIP (United Methodist Personal Investment Plan)
Beginning, January 1, 2020 all active full-time appointed clergy were automatically enrolled with a 4% minimum contribution in the UMPIP program. The automatic 4% was calculated from plan compensation*. If a pastor is already contributing more than 4%, they will continue with that larger amount. If a pastor does not want to contribute 4% of plan compensation*, or they wish to change the contribution amount they are to contact the Conference Benefit Officer. The amount of the UMPIP contribution can be revised any time throughout the year. This UMPIP contribution was added to the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits statement sent to the churches. (the church will no longer remit to Wespath directly). The identified monthly amount is a payroll deduction. ***UMPIP for church lay employees will continue to be sent to Wespath directly.***

**** Plan compensation is cash salary plus housing. If the pastor is in a parsonage the housing is 25% of cash salary. If the pastor is not living in a parsonage the formula is cash salary plus the housing allowance. The value of a parsonage will increase to 35% of cash salary effective January 1, 2026.***

***For example: Pastor A has a cash salary of \$43,000 and lives in a parsonage. Their plan compensation amount would be \$58,050 (salary plus 35%)
Pastor B has a cash salary of \$43,000 and receives a housing allowance of \$12,000 per year. Their plan compensation amount would be \$55,000 (salary plus \$12,000).***

Administrative Reports

f) Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS) is a proportionate payment billed to the churches on the monthly statement. Since the 2022 budget, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits have voted to continue the annual amount of \$450,000, divided by percent decimal among the churches. The RDS ask was reduced in 2025 to \$250,000, divided by a percent decimal among the churches.

V. Unpaid Obligations

- a) The Conference Benefits Officer shall report annually to the Annual Conference the name of each pastoral charge with an unpaid obligation to the NMBPOHB, either from unpaid prior years of Shared Ministries, direct billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health insurance, or unpaid Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS). (See 2016 Discipline, ¶639.4). Each church in default receives a cumulative statement of amounts in default indicated on the monthly invoice sent to churches.
- b) All payments for unpaid prior years of Shared Ministries, direct billed arrearages for appointed clergy's pension and health insurance, or unpaid Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS) shall be applied to the oldest debt first. Payments shall be made payable to the New Mexico Annual Conference and sent to the attention of the Conference Benefits Officer.
- c) The Conference Benefits Officer shall report regularly to the Board all unpaid church obligations. Unpaid insurance premiums, pensions or payments to the Retiree Disability Support fund shall continue as a debt to the church/charge responsible. Each church in default shall receive a cumulative statement of amounts in default. In accordance with its standing rules, the BOPHB has the right to terminate health coverage for clergy, their spouses, and dependent children in the event unsatisfied arrearages of health benefits continue.

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

- a) All retirees will be reimbursed up to \$500.00 for Annual Conference expenses. This will include conference registration, hotel costs, meal costs and/or travel expenses. Requests for reimbursement shall be made, including receipts, to the Conference Benefits Officer within sixty (60) days of the last day of Annual Conference.
- b) Retired Ministers' Day and Offering: Each church is encouraged to participate in The Retired Ministers' Day offering. This fund is used to assist retirees with extraordinary non-medical expenses. Information regarding the retiree programs may be obtained from the conference benefits office.
- c) Retiring clergy that are living in a parsonage shall be reimbursed the actual cost of his/her moving expenses up to \$1,500.00. Receipts need to be sent to the Conference Treasurer within 30 days following their retirement date.
- d) Rental/ Housing Allowances for Retired Ministers/those receiving disability payments.
 - (i) An amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (the

Administrative Reports

“Discipline”), which includes all such payments from the Wespeth Benefits and Investments during the year **2026** by each retired or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the conference, or its predecessors, can be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson.

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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Wilson, Chair

At our June 26, 2024 meeting in Albuquerque, the following officers were elected: Steve Wilson, chair; Michael Puckett, vice-chair, Lisa Blaylock, secretary and Griselda Sandoval, treasurer.

One of the first tasks that Trustees were asked to look into was, if there was a way for churches to disaffiliate after the expiration of 2553. Trustees formed a task force that met several times over the course of the next few months. It was concluded that there is no clear legislative declaration in the Book of Discipline that authorizes the Trustees or any other Board, to create a policy of separation. This was further affirmed by declaratory Decision Number 1512 in November 2025 by the Judicial Council, holding that a local church may not disaffiliate without General Conference action.

Safe Sanctuaries:

Safe Sanctuaries continues to be a vital part of ministry in the NMAC. The Trustees celebrate that nearly all the churches in the conference have a Safe Sanctuary policy. We encourage you to make sure you conduct Safe Sanctuaries training annually to protect your volunteers, employees as well as the children and youth of your church. Protect My Ministry provides background checks and online Safe Sanctuary

Administrative Reports

training videos that your volunteers and staff can view to complete their annual Safe Sanctuary training. If you are not using Protect My Ministry, you are encouraged to go to their website and set up an account for your church. The link to the New Mexico Annual Conference portion of the Protect My Ministry website is: <http://protectmyministry.com/nmumc/>. We appreciate all our churches who are taking the proper steps to protect their volunteers, children and other participants in their ministries. If your church is not using Protect My Ministry, please make sure you are conducting proper background checks and providing adequate training for your staff and volunteers.

Property Entrusted to the Board of Trustees:

These past 12 months the Trustees have sold the following eight properties: Clark Memorial- church and house, Sanderson - church, Van Horn- church, Clovis -house, San Jon - church, El Alfarero - church, and Anthony -church. We still hold a number of properties; most of them are listed for sale. Trustees continue to maintain many other properties and insure them. Churches are a tough sell anywhere but even more so in small communities with little or no growth.

Conference Office Building:

The Conference Office Building is an important asset, and we seek to make sure it is maintained to keep it attractive, functional, and appropriate to serve as our Conference Office. In 2024 we only had routine expenses for the conference office building, there were no outstanding or out of the ordinary expenses. Most repairs for the conference office building are paid for with the funds the trustees set aside each year as part of the annual conference budget. Rosalie Johnston serves as the on-site supervisor of the conference office building and works with the Trustees to make sure repairs, and other issues are dealt with as needed.

Conference Group Insurance:

Our conference has used Sovereign Insurance Group as our Plan Administrator with insurance provided by Church Mutual, for the past five years. Over the past couple of years, the insurance industry has seen unprecedented rate increases due to a number of factors including wind and hail claims, price increases on building materials and labor and an increase in the number of occurrences we see each year. The way insurance companies mitigate these increased costs is through rate increases, increased deductibles and in being more selective of the risks they take on. Unfortunately, our conference has seen the effects of all three. Trustees will continue to shop other Insurance Carriers, Plan Administrators and look for more affordable options for our conference churches.

I am grateful beyond words to the Trustees you have elected to serve on the Board this past year. Their hard work, attentive focus and willingness to work for the conference's best interests is a blessing on its own. If you have questions related to the work of the Trustees, please reach out to one of the Board members or me. We are interested in your ministries, the work of your church and want to be supportive of all you do.

PROGRAM AREA REPORTS

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

Rev. W. Douglas Mills, PhD, Chair

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

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

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

We participate in weekly and monthly network video calls to stay on top of current policies and ministries. We network with both the Desert Southwest Conference and the Rio Texas Conference to provide an unbroken network of ministries along the U.S.-Mexico border. We have resourced local churches, regional coordinators, and episcopal offices in order to assure unity of voice and vision.

The Border Ministries Team is working diligently with the Conference Ministries Team to lean into the vision of Enhancing Border Relationships. While borders may come in various forms, we understand this as a call to build bridges and address shared human needs across the southern international border; and any other borders that divide us.

We call for an act of renewing the covenant relationship currently drawn between the New Mexico Annual Conference and the Conferencia Anual Northcentenrol to work together in migrant ministries.

FOUR CORNERS NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY

Debra Yazzie, Executive Director

He hath shown thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Four Corners Native American Ministry (FCNAM) located in Shiprock, New Mexico has been ever so growing in our outreach to those in need of a loving hand. The year 2024 showed growth both in partnership development, collaborative efforts to bring mission works team back to the four corners region, and staff development.

Some may recall the Four Corners Native American Ministry's webpage which outlined a few ministry objectives we were actively working on such as winter homeless shelter, backpack and school supplies ministry. FCNAM was not showing just how much of the Lord's work were doing for the people. The other ministry projects we would like to highlight are water delivery program, emergency food pantry and hygiene supplies, winter emergency coal and wood delivery, partnership to schedule and coordinate solar over seminars, and a partnership with NM Ramp project to be a site to build ramps in San Juan and possibly McKinley County.

Program Area Reports

FCNAM gave out 76 emergency food boxes, delivered 8,500 gallons of drinking water, delivered 8 tons of coal, delivered 25 cords of fire wood, coordinated 8 mission work team projects, completed 6 solar oven 2-day seminars, 6 community projects, and built 5 ramps.

We give thanks to all our donors, sponsors, volunteers, stakeholders, board members, and staff for a successful 2024. We feel your prayers as we work with our fellow brothers and sisters. Your prayers and donations further push our Ministry to new heights! Ahxe'hee ("thank you" in Navajo language).

We are looking forward to continuing to develop meaningful partnerships and collaborations, that align with FCNAM's mission statement, objectives and goals in 2025.

EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

1417 South Ave. K, Portales New Mexico 88130

575-356-6721

Elizabeth Kirkwood, Executive Director

Wesley at Eastern New Mexico University is a unique place. We are a combination of old and young students from all over the world with different backgrounds and cultures. The beautiful thing about ENMU Wesley is that even the ENMU Alumni still join us sometimes for Wednesday lunch and during occasions too.

At Wesley, we come together to share snacks, meals, have conversations and fellowship. We hold each other in our prayers and ask God to bless us in our daily walks. Wesley was the first place we heard of when we set foot on ENMU campus. Wesley is made of students with different religious background such Christians, Muslim's, Hindus and even the atheist. Wesley welcomes everybody with open arms.

Wesley is a place for everyone regardless of your religious affiliation and race. It's all about extending a heart of love towards everyone who enters Wesley. Especially for international students who are far from home, Wesley is a home away from home. We do not only come to share a meal but to meet friends, have beautiful conversations and laugh over issues. If we are not in class or at the laboratory, then the only place we can be or want to be is at the Wesley. At Wesley, we feel loved and accepted by everyone.

Spiritually, Wesley shares the word of God with us and provides us a place to gather and worship. The Wesley house has taught us that God is merciful, and He loves us beyond our mistakes. No wonder the bible scripture says, 'We love Him because He first loved us- 1John 4:19 NKJV'.

Wesley gives us hope and the assurance that no matter the circumstances, we are loved and appreciated. It is a place to smile, laugh and meet friends and the best part of it is that there is always food available to share. The Wesley House has been our foundation which Christ centered by giving us a sense of hope, purpose and belonging. We would rather be at Wesley during our free hours than to be anywhere else. We thank God for Wesley because for some of us what would have been our story and just can't imagine how life on campus would have been without Wesley.

We just want to take this opportunity to thank God for the Wesley Foundation at ENMU and its leadership for the selfless love and support they have showed us. May Jehovah God Himself, who is the

Program Area Reports

ultimate provider remember the Wesley Foundation always and for the seed of love they have sown into our lives.

The bible scripture says, 'For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and the labor of love, which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister - Hebrews 6:10 NKJV'.

It means God sees, God knows, and He never forgets. God bless the Wesley Foundation for their service to humanity.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO WESLEY FOUNDATION

Lisa Blaylock, Director

We have had a great year with the students at the Wesley Foundation at UNM! It's been a year of strengthening our ministry through intentional learning and fellowship. We have leaned into deeper conversations about Jesus, mental health, and caring for ourselves and one another.

The Wesley Foundation meets weekly at Central UMC, which is directly across the street from the campus. Our Dinner and Devotion every Tuesday night is attended by an average of 12 students each week. We discuss a variety of theological and social issues that the students find helpful or thought provoking.

We received an Endowment grant that is helping fund our ministry to students. Food insecurity on college campuses is very real and affects many students so one of our main goals is to provide an ample, nourishing meal each week. The students take home any leftovers.

We have created a website: wesleyunm.org. Check it out!

The Wesley board held a fundraising dinner in February that was hosted by Central UMC. We had an amazing turnout and raised over \$16,000 for the ministry at UNM.

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

A special thank you to the Board of the Wesley Foundation at UNM. They have revitalized the ministry of the Wesley Foundation and they have worked diligently to create a ministry that touches the lives of students at UNM. I am grateful for their leadership and for Josh Kouri who has chaired the board so capably for the past three years.

Thank you to Andy Stoker and Central UMC for offering the Wesley Foundation a home so close to the campus. With your help, we are re-imagining what it looks like to reach young adults and students who need to find a place to experience God's love and acceptance.

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

Program Area Reports

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Tanya Barlow, New Mexico Conference President

We have been given an assignment from our General Secretary and CEO, Sally Vonner. It is a three-fold assignment: Increase membership to 500,000, increase our yearly pledges to the pre-COVID levels, and fully fund our endowment fund called the Legacy Fund. (We only have 13M more to go for the Legacy fund. Wow!) We intend to lean in to this work as we live out our purpose:

We are: a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Our campaign, Excite and Invite, gives a way for us to lean in and invite new members! Our excitement about the work of United Women in Faith helps us to live out the campaign. As a result, we invite, invite, and invite others to join.

As stated in last year's UWF report to the conference, we are continuing to lean in on the work to live out our commitment to units across the conference – new units and existing ones. Let UWF know about any women's group that is interested to lean in and live out in one or more of the many avenues available in United Women in Faith.

A fairly new program is the ALL-ACCESS digital platform for women who want to attend a digital meeting instead of in person. One such unit started in the Las Cruces area this past year. Six participants have already completed a study on the school to prison pipeline (part of one of UWF's social issues) in the digital space!

Our social action issues continue to be climate justice (Just Energy for All) and racial justice (ending mass incarceration and the criminalization of people of color). This year, we are in the planning stages for one climate justice event and two racial justice events. Stay tuned! As the opportunities keep coming to lean in and live out our purpose.

One of the major events of the year is mission u. It will be held again at Sacramento July 25-27. The study will be "Practicing Hope Together." Did you know Hope is a force that takes reality head on?

Our Spiritual Retreat this year was at McCurdy Ministries in Espanola. We certainly did lean in. The topic, Reading God in Nature, was facilitated by Pastor Lisa Jo Bezner. This was a treat to have one of our major meetings in the northern part of the state. This proved beneficial for those of us not able to drive to Sacramento, or tolerate the altitude of the mountains. It was also a great way to provide support for McCurdy Ministries. Once you see the place, how can you not want to spend time there?

Now we are to figure out how to live out what we experienced at retreat. No worries about that, we are a sisterhood, and have each other's back.

INSTITUTIONS

METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME

Trey Oakley, President/CEO

Greetings from Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) and the thousands of children, youth, and families we serve each year. As an independent 501(c)(3) organization, your continued voluntary support of our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest is as important as ever. I invite each of you to visit our website at MCH.org to learn more about how to refer a child for placement or ways to join our ministry.

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

We are now in our 135th year of ministry. Here are some highlights of the past year:

- We are now in the second year of our five-year strategic plan, Imagine 2028, which continues to guide MCH’s growth and innovation.
- We recently purchased a property near the Waco Family Outreach Center, where apartments will be constructed, in order to better support our Independent Living Program, expanding opportunities for young adults transitioning to self-sufficiency.
- Plans are underway for MCH to host the next Coalition for Residential Excellence (CORE) Conference in 2025. In conjunction with the conference, MCH will resume the Willson-Johnson Lectures, which were established in 1957 as a way for MCH to share best practices with peer agencies and the broader Waco community.
- MCH once again achieved a Charity Navigator Four-Star Rating and Candid Platinum Status, reflecting our continued commitment to financial transparency and stewardship.
- Construction of two new homes will soon be completed at the MCH Boys Ranch to increase census and capacity, allowing us to serve more young people in need of specialized residential services.
- Our commitment to community collaboration remains strong, with continued growth in our Outdoor Education and Recreation program and expansion of our vocational opportunities for youth through the Embry Vocational Building. This year, MCH collaborated with 90 other organizations.
- As a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Ambassador Organization, MCH staff continues to train other like-minded organizations across the nation in TBRI, equipping professionals with trauma-informed care practices.

Institutions

- The MCH Bulldogs boys' track and field team took home their second consecutive Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship Men's State Championship Title. The MCH Bulldogs fought hard in their fifth run for a state football championship, but ultimately fell to Faustina Academy and finished as runners-up.
- Leadership and staff continued to sharpen professional skills and share expertise at key industry conferences, ensuring MCH remains a leader in providing high-quality care for children, youth, and families. This past year, 77 employees earned advanced certifications to better support community and training efforts.

Our achievements in the past and those yet to come are directly related to the many individuals and congregations throughout our service area, including the New Mexico Conference, who support our work and ministry through financial gifts, prayers, advocacy, and service on the Board of Directors. We look forward to a continued partnership with you all for many years to come.

Thank you for supporting our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest.

PROVIDENCE PLACE

Judith Bell, President and CEO

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

The year of 2025 marks 130 years of service; all possible because of your loyal and faithful support from individual donors and United Methodist Churches throughout the New Mexico Conference. Every day, we have the wonderful opportunity to see God's hand in our ministries as the lives of women, children and families are transformed.

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

After settling in at our new location in 2024, Providence Place provided 1,600 packets of diapers and 1,400 packets of wipes to families striving to make ends meet. Family advocates also distributed 3,416 miscellaneous items (food, furniture clothing, etc.,) to families looking for support. The family advocates provided 2,700 hours of parenting education on topics related to improving parenting situations and 1,500 hours of parenting education to improve pregnancy outcomes. Our therapist provided 4,000 hours of counseling to 52 clients identifying as victims of crime. In 2024, Providence Place began providing Mindful Co-Parenting class focusing not only on parent education but also family stabilization. Topics covered in these classes range from understanding the effects of divorce/separation on parents, to stress management and mindfulness practices to supporting children through divorce/separation.

Institutions

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

Without a doubt, churches and their congregants have played a significant role in the success of Providence Place for 130 years; something we will never forget. I encourage you to call to arrange a speaker for your congregation or church group, and request offering materials for an annual church offering. We couldn't continue these ministries without you and we would love to come and share the stories of Providence Place! If we could be a resource to you, contact our Mission Advancement Team at (210) 696-2410 or at mission.advancement@provplace.org. Also, please visit our website at www.provplace.org to learn more about these special ministries and to hear first-hand stories from those we have served.

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION ANNUAL REPORT

Eddie Erwin, SCJC Secretary; Rev. Dr. Derrek Belase, Executive Director Mission Council Chair
www.scjumc.org 15814 Champions Forest Dr. #1968, Spring, Texas 77379

The past year has been a transformative period for the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Our collective efforts have fostered a collaborative spirit, strengthened our mission, and deepened our connections. This report highlights the key developments and initiatives that have shaped our journey over the year.

Collaborative Spirit at the Jurisdictional Conference

In 2024, the Jurisdictional Conference held in Rogers, Arkansas, was marked by a remarkable spirit of collaboration. Delegates from across the jurisdiction came together to engage in meaningful dialogue, share insights, and envision a future filled with hope and purpose. The conference provided a platform for diverse voices, encouraging participation from lay leaders and clergy alike. Highlights from the conference included:

- **LED Talks** - Focused on current challenges and opportunities within our communities, these sessions fostered innovative thinking and shared best practices.
- **Worship Services:** Uplifting moments of worship united participants in fellowship, reinforcing our common mission and commitment to service.
- **Celebrating:** The ministries and retirements of Bishops Jimmy Nunn and Robert Schnase, as well as many more through our jurisdiction.

Active Mission Council

Our Mission Council is actively identifying and addressing our Jurisdiction's current and future needs. Throughout the year, the council has prioritized outreach initiatives, focusing on areas such as:

- **Community Development:** Implementing programs that promote sustainable growth, new ideations of caring for our neighbors, and support marginalized populations.

Institutions

- 1 • **Mission Ministries:** Coordinating responses through UMVIM, Disaster Response, Climate Justice
2 ministries, and many others. We also continue offering affordable and effective insurance for all
3 these service opportunities.
- 4 • **Youth and Family Ministries:** Expanding resources and programs to nurture the current and
5 future generation of church leaders. www.scjumc.org 15814 Champions Forest Dr. #1968 Spring,
6 Texas 77379 The council's efforts have not only enhanced our mission-driven work but have also
7 inspired the fostering of a spirit of generosity and commitment to our Connexion.
8

9 **Lower Apportionments, Increased Connections**

10 As we move forward, deepening our connections cannot be overstated. This year, we have focused on:

- 11 • **Building Relationships:** Conferences are sharing bishops, training, ideas, and resources. Even
12 welcoming Bishop Carlo Rapanut from the Desert Southwest Conference and the Western
13 Jurisdiction are just a few examples of exciting partnerships with one another, fostering a sense
14 of community and shared purpose.
- 15 • **Digital Spaces:** Utilizing technology to connect members across distances, collaborative training
16 sessions for church leaders creating virtual spaces for prayer, discussion, and support.
- 17 • **Lydia Patterson Institute:** In a time when the border is often portrayed as a place of division, La
18 Lydia is a place of hope, faith, and transformation. At LPI, we see a story of students overcoming
19 obstacles to pursue education, we do not see immigrants as statistics but as people, as
20 neighbors, as children of God. We continue to support LPI in apportionments, visiting, serving at
21 the school, and sharing her incredible stories—not just to fund education but to invest in hope
22 itself. The past year in the South Central Jurisdiction has been marked by a spirit of
23 collaboration, active engagement in mission, and a commitment to deepening connections. As
24 we look to the future, we are energized by the possibilities that lie ahead and remain dedicated
25 to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Together,
26 we will continue to grow, innovate, and uplift one another in our shared journey of faith.

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION



\$5.6M

CHURCH AND AGENCY
IMPACT CERTIFICATE
INVESTMENTS



\$4.9M

IN LOANS TO NEW
MEXICO CHURCHES
AND NONPROFITS



\$849K

IN GRANTS TO
CHURCHES AND
NONPROFITS



Texas Methodist Foundation Report to the 2025 New Mexico Annual Conference

Dear Friends in the New Mexico Conference,

On behalf of Texas Methodist Foundation, thank you for your courageous ministry in this season! Texas Methodist Foundation is honored to be a ministry partner supporting the mission of the New Mexico Annual Conference through investments, loans, gift planning, grants, and leadership and learning initiatives.

At the end of 2024, loans to churches in the New Mexico Annual Conference totaled \$4.9 million, and churches and agencies within the New Mexico Annual Conference had \$5.6 million invested in Texas Methodist Foundation Impact Certificates. Over the last three years, we have provided \$849,000 in grants to churches and nonprofits across New Mexico. Every loan and grant represents dreams that are coming to life!

TMF's ministry is made possible when conferences, congregations, nonprofits, and individuals invest with TMF and get a return on their investment, knowing that we will then lend those dollars to support the vital ministries of congregations and nonprofits. It is also made possible when generous individuals create gift plans and support church endowments that help provide long-term financial well-being to churches and ministries.

All our net revenue is reinvested in the church through leadership cohorts, learning and innovation initiatives, grants, and gift-planning programs that support the mission of the church for the long term.

Over the past five years, TMF has provided \$45.5 million back into churches and nonprofits across Texas and New Mexico, comprised of \$29.7 million in charitable services and grants and \$15.8 million in leadership and learning initiatives.

What you do every day matters, and it is our privilege to support your ministry. We deeply appreciate our partnership with you, as together we participate in a cycle of generosity serving your congregations and leaders doing Christ's loving work in the world.

Gratefully,



Rev. Lisa Greenwood
President & CEO
Texas Methodist Foundation

Institutions

The New Mexico Conference's Team at Texas Methodist Foundation

The Texas Methodist Foundation team is honored to work with churches, nonprofits, and leaders across the New Mexico Conference, providing services and support that are vital to thriving ministries and communities across New Mexico. Please contact any one of us at any time.

Impact Certificate Investments

- Variable and fixed-rate Impact Certificates
- Clergy Appreciation Rate +0.50%



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Endowment and Charitable Gift Planning

- Endowment policy formation
- Laity philanthropy engagement



Tom Stanton
VP General Counsel, Corporate Secretary
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Market-based Investments for Churches and Nonprofits

- Equity and Bond Funds
- Multiple Asset Funds



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Philanthropy

- Gift-planning
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Life Income Gifts
- Endowments



Justin Gould
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Loans

- Debt refinancing
- Property acquisition
- Construction and improvement
- Flexible terms



Chris Miller
Chief Lending Officer
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Learning and Innovation

- Courageous Congregations Collaborative (C3)
- *Igniting Imagination*® Podcast



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Chief Learning and Innovation Officer
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(512) 583-1962

Grants

- For churches and nonprofits
- Providing evangelism with social impact
- Improving the conditions of those living in poverty



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UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

James H. Salley, President/CEO of Africa University (Tennessee) Inc. and Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Greetings and thanks to you, the members of the New Mexico Annual Conference, for your love of Africa University! Your love, lived out in the local church, and across every level of The United Methodist Church worldwide, is a source of hope and of dreams brought to life.

Africa University's students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni are deeply appreciative of the investment of 50 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment by the local churches of the New Mexico Conference in 2024. Thank you for helping to equip change leaders who share the gospel of Jesus Christ, reduce hunger, improve public health, instill hope, and build prosperous and peaceful communities. As the 2025-2028 quadrennium unfolds, Africa University is urging the members of the New Mexico Conference to:

- **Encourage their congregations to maintain their support for the Africa University Fund at the 2016 budget level and strive for 100% investment of the asking each year.**
- **Help identify at least two (2) churches (keystone congregations) in the conference to provide second mile gifts of \$7,000 each (or \$14,000 in total each year) for annual scholarships for two undergraduate students.**

Through Africa University, the New Mexico Conference of The United Methodist Church is nurturing servant leaders with ethics, empathy, and an audacious, can-do mindset. Having experienced God's grace through your love in action, students and graduates of Africa University are stepping forward to help churches and communities to thrive. Here are highlights of the impact of Africa University faculty, administrators, and students in 2024:

- Africa University start-up, Reagan Technologies, earned a [semi-final finish in the Hult Prize Global Accelerator competition](#). Known as the 'Nobel prize contest for students,' the Hult Prize judges were impressed with the three-student AU team's innovative concept for generating electricity from footsteps. The team's climate-smart pavement tiles stood out against the competition from more than 60 universities.
- Another AU trio is transforming education by bridging the digital divide in Africa. Three students majoring in computer science won the [top prize at the UbuntuNet Alliance Women's Hackathon](#) with FUNDISA. It's a chatbot that delivers instant, curriculum-aligned explanations to students who lack internet access, but have phones with SMS functionality. The chatbot enables students to simply send a text to a short code to receive educational support.
- Africa University is excited to share that its Doctor of Ministry program, a first for the continent of Africa, was accredited by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education. Future D.Min. candidates have options for specialization in Mission and Evangelism, Liturgical Theology, Church Administration, Church and Society, and Chaplaincy Ministry. A pioneer group of 10 senior officers in the military, prisons and policing from Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have completed the program, thanks to a collaboration between Africa University and Wesley Theological Seminary. Their doctoral research projects generated new knowledge that addresses deployment trauma, reducing drug abuse among officers, and the use of Psalms of lament for facilitating healing in families of inmates.

This is the global transformation story that New Mexico United Methodists are shaping as partners in mission with Africa University. Thank you for showing up as the means through which promise, dreams, and a just future are being realized. Your leadership and generous contributions are as pivotal today as they were at Africa University's inception, 33 years ago. Thank you for journeying alongside Africa University in ministry.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

G. Sujin Pak, Dean

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as BUSTH seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2024, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

- **Students:** Our academic year 2024-25 entering class was among our most diverse, with 109 new students enrolling, 33% of whom are international students.
- **Faculty:** In July, Shively T. J. Smith was promoted to Associate Professor of New Testament, and in September we welcomed new [faculty member](#) Emilie M. Townes, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Religion and Black Studies. In January we welcomed new Assistant Professor of Religion and Society Luther Young, Jr.
- **Expanding Online/Hybrid Programming:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—continues to expand since launching in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage challenges of public life: bu.edu/sth/marpl. An online Master of Divinity program is planned for Fall 2026.
- **Faculty Research:** Associate Dean Cristian De La Rosa received a second Lilly Endowment Parenting Grant for \$1.25 million. Faculty published more than 130 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, presentations, and book reviews during 2024. Many were interviewed by media publications or featured on podcasts for their scholarship in topics such as social justice activism, historical Methodist leaders, responding to trauma, and the use of AI to predict religious extremism. Selected stories are found at bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include Rev. James M. Smith ('51) Fund for Latinx Lay Education and Rev. Tom Sears ('59) Chaplaincy Operating Fund. We have increased an endowed fund for students specializing in Hebrew Bible.
- **Accreditation and Curriculum:** BUSTH concluded a thorough curriculum revision for the MDiv and MTS programs which launched in fall 2024.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include "A Womanist Ethic of Care." To learn more, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Raíces Latinas Program in Theology, Leadership, & Research and meeting a \$250K match in support of the Religion & Conflict Transformation Program.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as [“Spiritual Leadership in Divided Times: Trauma and Thurman,”](#) and \$500 DEI scholarships are offered to students with financial need to participate in our travel seminars.
- Our Fall 2024 [Lowell Lecture](#) premiered “Simulating Religious Violence,” which captured the work of computer scientists and religious scholars to seek to address conflicts rooted in religious violence.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in our 2030 Strategic Plan. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness, welcoming students from more than 40 denominations. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 416 from 13 countries, 41 states, 32 annual conferences, and 43% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ’s love in and among us.

Candler offers six degrees (Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Religion and Leadership, Master of Religion and Public Life, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry), most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Response to our hybrid-format Master of Divinity, blending online classes and in-person intensives, continues to be strong: 63% of 2024’s MDiv entering class chose the hybrid model. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler’s Teaching Parish program, earning contextual education credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a near 90% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler’s recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God’s call to ministry.

Generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2024-2025, we are on track to award nearly \$6.5 million in scholarship support across all degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarship support, and those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships. Plus, a remarkable gift this year of \$20 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation promises to have a transformative impact on the school and future students alike, fueling a considerable expansion of our scholarship program and reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a hub of Christian learning for an expanding audience. Those who are not seeking a graduate degree can engage in learning through The Candler Foundry, which offers in-person and online short courses, events, and certificate programs; the United Methodist Course of Study for educating licensed local pastors; the Candler Center for Christian Leadership for refining business skills of United Methodist leaders; and La Mesa Academy, offering a graduate certificate in theological studies via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish, English, and Korean.

Universities and Seminaries

Candler continued to strengthen the already robust United Methodist presence among our faculty with four key appointments this year: Geordan Hammond, associate professor of Methodist and Wesleyan studies; Soren Hessler, assistant professor in the practice of leadership and administration; Jennifer Quigley, assistant professor of New Testament; and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, who joined us as bishop-in-residence following the retirement of Bishop Larry Goodpaster.

Jonathan Strom became dean of Candler in August 2024, when former dean Jan Love returned to the faculty. Strom has served on Candler's faculty since 1997 as professor of church history, with nearly a decade as senior associate dean of faculty and academic affairs, and a number of years as director of international initiatives. He is committed to nurturing the school's deep connection with The United Methodist Church.

Candler is strengthened by your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of the church. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu and follow us on social media to stay informed of all we offer throughout the year.

DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Rev. Edwin David Aponte, PhD, ThD (honorary), Dean and Professor of Religion & Culture

Drew University Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while other meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry cohort in South Korea and a pilot in-person Master of Divinity cohort in Liberia. Regular chapel worship originates on campus in Seminary Hall, but also is live-streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate. Drew Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church.

In Fall 2024 Drew Theological School welcomed 94 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2024 semester being 388. Enrollment of international students at Drew increased from 120 students in Fall 2021 to 157 students in Fall 2024. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promotes adaptive leadership skills, and encourages innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across all aspects of the teaching, learning, and the formation of students: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School has an increase in United Methodist students, additionally, Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further

Universities and Seminaries

education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of The United Methodist Church in the annual conferences of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean

In the fall of 2024, Duke Divinity School celebrated its 98th Opening Convocation with these words from Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric: “There are potential pulpits across this university and throughout this land. ... If you are here studying how to become a pastor or a chaplain, you are a Pentecost preacher. If you are here studying to be a theologically formed social worker or health care provider, you are a Pentecost preacher. If you are here as an aspiring scholar or merely as a Christian, you are a Pentecost preacher.”

Through God’s sustaining grace and faithfulness, we continue to welcome students from across the nation and around the world to be trained for ministries ranging from rural church pastorates to hospital and prison chaplains to community service leaders to theological educators. In 2024, we were joined by 224 students from 41 U.S. states and the District of Columbia as well as new students who hold either primary or secondary citizenship in 11 other countries. The Master of Divinity program gained 108 new students, including 62 residential students (up from 54 the year before) and 46 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled eight new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 39 (up from 22 last year); Master of Theology, 10; Master of Theological Studies, 27; the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential students to campus and 21 to the hybrid program.

We are grateful that God continues to bring people with a diversity of backgrounds and gifts to Duke Divinity School. Of the new residential M.Div. students, 42 percent reported one or more non-white racial/ethnic identities, and female students make up 50 percent of incoming residential M.Div. students. For new hybrid M.Div. students, 33 percent reported one or more non-white racial/ethnic; and female students make up 63 percent of incoming hybrid M.Div. students.

This has been a year of centennial celebrations for Duke University and The Duke Endowment. The Divinity School was honored to participate in a Founders’ Weekend chapel service, held in Duke Chapel, in which both United Methodist Church bishops in North Carolina (Bishop Connie Shelton and Bishop Ken Carter) participated in leading the service, along with Dean Colón-Emeric. Divinity students and alumni contributed prayers and music, and of particular note were three women in our Master of Theology program who offered prayers in Mandarin, Hindi, and Korean. It is a joy to share these gifts from our global community with the university campus.

Duke Divinity School continues to invest in ways to support Methodist leadership and pastoral formation. Our D.Min. program welcomed two new cohorts, one in Traditional Leadership and one in Missional Leadership, with support from the Parish Ministry Fund and The Duke Endowment. These students are strengthening their capacity for leadership, establishing new faith communities, and meeting the challenges confronting churches and communities.

Master of Divinity students in the UMC had the opportunity in the spring 2024 semester to enroll in a course designed to prepare them to be observers at the UMC General Conference, held in Charlotte,

Universities and Seminaries

1 N.C. So many students were interested that the enrollment cap had to be raised. Students met weekly
2 with Duke Divinity faculty who are ordained elders in the UMC as well as with nearly half a dozen
3 bishops and denominational leaders. As one student (pursuing ordination in the Virginia Conference)
4 said: "It is a time when we hold fast to our convictions and identify what is unique to the United
5 Methodist Church. What is our role, currently and in the future? It's amazing: our mission is to make
6 disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I am excited about my ministry journey and
7 the future of the UMC."

8
9 Duke Divinity continues to build on our connection to Methodist churches around the world through a
10 formal partnership with Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea. This agreement, signed
11 on Sept. 21, 2024, supports the creation of pathways for the exchange of students, faculty, and
12 academic programming.

13
14 Closer to home, Duke Divinity remains committed to our deep roots in the North Carolina and Western
15 North Carolina Conferences of the United Methodist Church. We mourned the devastation from
16 Hurricane Helene that affected so many of our alumni, supporting congregations, and community
17 partners in western North Carolina. The school—and many students and staff—have sought to support
18 Bishop Ken Carter and the Western North Carolina Conference with resources and relief items.

19
20 Our faculty continue to excel in their committed service to teaching, research, and ministry. Two
21 scholars joined our faculty this year: Aaron Griffith, assistant professor of American church history, and
22 Kevin Hart, Jo Rae Wright University Distinguished Professor, with a joint appointment in the Duke
23 University department of English. William Turner Jr., James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor
24 Emeritus of the Practice of Preaching, received the Duke University Medal for Distinguished Meritorious
25 Service, the highest honor bestowed by the university.

26
27 Duke Divinity commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Women's Center at the school with a guest
28 preacher and celebration dinner. With a \$5 million gift from The Duke Endowment, we are
29 strengthening our Office of Black Church Studies through recruiting a senior scholar and supporting
30 academic, theological research. A \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., part of their Nurturing
31 Children through Worship and Prayer Initiative, will help launch a Duke Divinity program to study how
32 congregations more fully and intentionally engage children in intergenerational corporate worship and
33 prayer practices. The program, "Let the Children Come," is a regional partnership of congregations and
34 leaders from across the southeastern United States.

35
36 Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist
37 Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as
38 we join the leading of God's Spirit in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more
39 about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

40 En el otoño del 2024, Duke Divinity celebró su nonagésima octava convocatoria de apertura con estas
41 palabras del Decano Edgardo Colón-Emeric: "Hay posibles púlpitos en toda esta universidad y por toda
42 esta tierra....Si estás aquí estudiando para ser pastor o capellán, eres un predicador de Pentecostés. Si
43 estás aquí estudiando para ser un trabajador social o un proveedor de cuidado médico teológicamente
44 formado, eres un predicador de Pentecostés. Si estás aquí aspirando a pertenecer a la academia o
45 meramente a ser cristiano, eres un predicador de Pentecostés."

Universities and Seminaries

Por la gracia sustentadora y la fidelidad de Dios, continuamos recibiendo estudiantes de toda la nación y de todo el mundo para ser entrenados para ministerios que van desde el pastorado de la iglesia local hasta la capellanía en hospitales y prisiones; desde el liderazgo comunitario hasta educación teológica. En el 2024, le dimos la bienvenida a 223 estudiantes de 41 estados de los Estados Unidos y el Distrito de Columbia, y a varios estudiantes que poseen ciudadanía primaria o secundaria en otros 11 países. El programa de Maestría en Divinidad recibió 108 nuevos estudiantes, incluyendo 62 en el programa residencial (un incremento de los 54 que recibimos el año anterior) y 46 en el programa híbrido. La Maestría en Artes de la Práctica Cristiana recibió ocho estudiantes nuevos; el Doctorado en Ministerio, 39 (un incremento de 22 que recibimos el año anterior); la Maestría en Teología, 10; la Maestría en Estudios Teológicos, 27; el Doctorado en Teología recibió cinco estudiantes nuevos. El Certificado en Teología y Cuidado de la Salud dio la bienvenida a cinco estudiantes presenciales en el campus y a 21 en el programa híbrido.

Estamos agradecidos de que Dios continúa trayendo personas con diversidad de orígenes y dones a la Escuela de Divinidad de Duke. De los estudiantes del M.Div. residencial, el 42 por ciento reportó una o más identidades raciales/étnicas no-blancas, y el 50 por ciento de nuestras estudiantes entrantes a este programa son mujeres. En el caso de nuevos estudiantes del programa híbrido del M.Div., el 33 por ciento reportó una o más identidades raciales/étnicas no-blancas y el 63 por ciento son mujeres.

Este ha sido un año de celebraciones centenarias para la Universidad de Duke y *The Duke Endowment*. Duke Divinity tuvo el honor de participar del servicio de capilla durante el fin de semana de fundadores que se celebró en la Capilla de Duke, donde ambos obispos de las conferencias de la Iglesia Metodista Unida en Carolina del Norte (la Obispo Connie Shelton y el Obispo Ken Carter) participaron dirigiendo partes del servicio, junto con el Decano Colón-Emeric. Estudiantes y exalumnos de Duke Divinity contribuyeron oraciones y música, haciendo mención especial de tres mujeres que forman parte de nuestro programa de Maestría en Teología quienes ofrecieron oraciones en mandarín, hindi, y coreano. Es un gozo compartir estos dones de nuestra comunidad global con el campus universitario.

Duke Divinity continúa invirtiendo en maneras de apoyo para el liderazgo metodista y su formación pastoral. Nuestro programa de D.Min. le dio la bienvenida a dos cohortes nuevas, una en Liderazgo Tradicional y una en Liderazgo Misional, con apoyo del *Parish Ministry Fund* y *The Duke Endowment*. Estos 39 estudiantes están fortaleciendo su capacidad para el liderazgo, estableciendo nuevas comunidades de fe, y afrontando los retos que enfrentan las iglesias y las comunidades.

Durante la primavera del 2024, aquellos estudiantes de la Maestría en Divinidad que son miembros de la Iglesia Metodista Unida tuvieron la oportunidad de matricularse en un curso diseñado para prepararlos para ser observadores en la Conferencia General de la IMU que se celebró en Charlotte, Carolina del Norte. Tuvimos tantos estudiantes interesados que tuvimos que aumentar el límite de inscripción. Los estudiantes se reunieron semanalmente con miembros de la facultad de Duke Divinity que han sido ordenados presbíteros en la IMU, y con casi media docena de obispos y líderes denominacionales. Como un estudiante (quien está en el proceso para ordenación en la Conferencia de Virginia) dijo: “Este es un tiempo en el cual nos aferramos a nuestras convicciones e identificamos aquello que es único de la Iglesia Metodista Unida. ¿Cuál es nuestro rol en este momento y en el futuro? Es increíble: nuestra misión es hacer discípulos de Jesucristo para la transformación del mundo. Me emociona pensar en mi jornada en el ministerio y el futuro de la IMU.”

Universities and Seminaries

Duke Divinity continúa construyendo sobre nuestra conexión con iglesias metodistas alrededor del mundo a través de una colaboración formal con la Universidad Teológica Metodista en Seúl, Corea del Sur. Este acuerdo, el cual se firmó el 21 de septiembre del 2024, apoya la creación de sendas para el intercambio de estudiantes, facultad, y programación académica.

Más cerca de casa, Duke Divinity continúa comprometida a nuestras raíces profundas en las conferencias de Carolina del Norte y del Oeste de Carolina del Norte de la Iglesia Metodista Unida. Lamentamos la devastación causada por el Huracán Helene que afectó a tantos de nuestros alumnos, nuestras congregaciones de apoyo, y nuestros socios comunitarios en el oeste de Carolina del Norte. Esta escuela – junto con muchos de nuestros estudiantes y nuestro personal – han buscado apoyar al Obispo Ken Carter y a la Conferencia del Oeste de Carolina del Norte con recursos y artículos de apoyo.

Nuestra facultad continúa sobresaliendo en su servicio comprometido a la educación, la investigación, y el ministerio. Este año, se añadieron dos miembros a nuestra facultad: Aaron Griffith, Profesor Asistente de Historia de la Iglesia Estadounidense, y Kevin Hart, Profesor Universitario Distinguido, con un nombramiento conjunto en el Departamento de Inglés de la Universidad de Duke. William Turner Jr., Profesor Emérito de la Práctica de la Predicación, recibió la Medalla al Servicio Meritorio Distinguido de la Universidad de Duke, el honor más alto que otorga la universidad.

Duke Divinity conmemoró el quincuagésimo aniversario del Centro de la Mujer en nuestra escuela con la presencia de una predicadora invitada y una cena de celebración. Con el recibimiento de un fondo de \$5 millones del *Duke Endowment* estamos fortaleciendo nuestra Oficina de Estudios de la Iglesia Negra a través del reclutamiento de un nuevo profesor y el apoyo a investigación teológica académica. Una beca de \$1.25 millones del *Lilly Endowment* como parte de su Iniciativa para Nutrir a la Niñez a través de la Adoración y la Oración ayudará a lanzar un programa en Duke Divinity para estudiar como las congregaciones pueden involucrar a la niñez de maneras más completas e intencionales en la adoración colectiva intergeneracional y las prácticas de oración. El programa “Dejar a Los Niños Venir” es una colaboración regional de congregaciones y líderes del sureste de los Estados Unidos.

Duke Divinity continúa estando agradecida por nuestra participación continua en la Iglesia Metodista Unida y nuestra colaboración con esta conferencia. Miramos con emoción hacia la continuación del trabajo colaborativo entre nuestras instituciones mientras juntos seguimos la dirección del Espíritu Santo en la tarea de preparar personas para el ministerio cristiano. Para aprender más sobre Duke Divinity, por favor visite nuestra página web www.divinity.duke.edu.

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY is the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon's Mission is to help prepare for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all.

GTS is currently an "extended unit" of the Interdenominational Theological Center. As a constituent member of the ITC who is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), GTS has conferred degrees in partnership with the ITC for Gammon Theological Seminary graduates since 1959. Gammon Theological Seminary seeks separate accreditation through SACSCOC and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS).

We are excited to share Academic and Operational updates for 2024.

- In June 2024, we hired a world-renowned theologian and scholar, Dr. Renita J. Weems, as our Chief Academic Officer.
- This Fall 2024, we launched state-of-the-art renovations to the Gammon building. The renovations transformed the facility into a place for four in-person class sessions, upgrading all meeting spaces with state-of-the-art technology and furnishings.
- In September 2024, the Board of Trustees of Gammon Theological Seminary approved the submission of our application to begin the SACSCOC Accreditation process. This historic decision included Gammon launching our Independent MDIV degree program in September 2024.
- Here are a few of this year's ministry and fund development highlights.
- In Spring 2024, Gammon hosted our 2nd Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, which received \$70,000 in donations toward the scholarship fund.
- The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship The fund, which was launched by Dr. Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey) and Dr. Walter Kimbrough, continues to grow with matching gifts in partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.
- In June 2024, the Florida Conference's Rev. Geraldine McClellan Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is now fully endowed at the Florida United Methodist Foundation, continued to grow with donations for 2024. Now, the fund balance exceeds \$130,000.00, and Dr. Geraldine McClellan was honored at our 2024 Founder's Day/Pastors and Leaders Conference Gala banquet with our Icon of Excellence Award.
- Gammon hosted the Ebony Exploration Event for 75 young adults under the age of 35. The students explored their sense of call and vocational discernment.
- In December 2024, Gammon celebrated our 141st Founder's Day and Pastors and Leaders Conference. We hosted over three hundred people attending workshops (in person and virtual) and our Scholarship Gala Dinner at IMPACT Church in Atlanta, GA.
- Gammon received two \$10,000 donations for two new endowed funds from Dr. James H. Salley, in honor of his parents in the South Carolina Conference, and from Rev. Dr. Michael McQueen, District Superintendent for the North Georgia Central North District.

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary continues to live into its mission of *Forming courageous leaders in the way of Jesus to cultivate communities of justice, compassion, and hope...for the thriving of the Church and the healing of the world*. We do this work in partnership with the annual conferences of the United Methodist Church and other partners who share our values. Now in our 172nd year of ministry to the church, the academy, and the world, Garrett is a strong, growing, thriving community of faith and learning that represents the fullness of the global church's witness.

During this past academic year, Garrett welcomed its largest entering class in over a decade for a fifth straight year, with 135 new students, and a current enrollment of 324 students representing 38 states and 24 nations from across the globe. We continue to see growth in our student body from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, adding to an already richly diverse student body. While our denominational diversity also continues to grow, we also proudly welcomed growth in our United Methodist students who constitute more than half of our student body. Our faculty also reflect this regional and global diversity, with fully half originating from nations outside the United States.

Our growth in recent years continues to reflect patterns seen across theological education, mainly in distance and online learners. For the first time in our history, distance learners in the entering class outnumbered residential students. This has allowed for truly global learning spaces that have enriched our conversations and our overall learning environment. We're blessed to have the world represented in our classrooms, which also impacts how our faculty teach, what they research, and for whom.

Over the last year Garrett has also been blessed by multiple major grants to fund faculty research and institutional priorities. A major grant is funding the work of our Center for Ecological Regeneration, allowing the seminary to partner with local congregations in the Midwest to equip them to respond to climate change in their communities and the disproportionate impact it tends to have on the poor and local economies. Another major grant is funding work in our Centro Raíces Latinas to strengthen Hispanic-Latiné pastoral leaders and congregations, helping clergy and communities build institutional capacity and expand their ministries. Yet another grant is helping to expand the reach and impact of our Garrett Collective, our lifelong learning and resource platform that seeks to make theological education accessible and affordable to a significantly broader audience.

Garrett's world-class faculty continue developing curricular innovations that are responsive to the church's growing needs, while also contributing a significant body of scholarly work to their respective fields. They are also partnering with annual conferences and local churches in delivering much needed programming for leadership development and faith formation, an expanding focus of our Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships division. Garrett is proud to be a United Methodist institution, and proud to continue to deepen its partnership and programming with annual conferences around the globe.

Universities and Seminaries

MCMURRY UNIVERSITY

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

Dr. Lynne Murray, University President

Rev. Ricky Harrison, University Chaplain and Director RSL

As McMurry moves further into its second century, growth, innovation, and transformation continue to shape the University's trajectory. This fall, McMurry welcomed 3,183 students — the largest enrollment in University history and a 25% increase from the previous year. The 2024 incoming freshman class is the largest in 16 years, marking the third consecutive year of freshman growth and the second-largest freshman cohort in McMurry's 101-year history. In January the University welcomed Dr. Lynne Murray as its 11th president, following the distinguished tenure of Dr. Sandra S. Harper. Dr. Murray brings extensive experience in higher education leadership, with a vision focused on strategic expansion of academic programs, strengthening community engagement, and championing student success.

The full acquisition of the Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing in January marks a key milestone in McMurry's growth, solidifying its position as a regional leader in nursing education. McMurry is also enhancing educational access through strategic partnerships. A collaboration with Texas Wesleyan provides a seamless pathway for students to earn a BSN degree from McMurry after completing an Associate of Arts in Science. Additionally, a new dual-enrollment program with Cisco College allows students to earn both an associate's degree in surgical technology, respiratory therapy, or pharmacy technician, and a Bachelor of Science in human health science from McMurry, offering a comprehensive educational experience that blends specialized healthcare training with a strong liberal arts foundation.

McMurry's commitment to academic innovation has earned national recognition. The STEM Student Success Center (S3C) was named a "Program to Watch" by *Excelencia in Education*, highlighting it as a model for best practices in supporting Latino students. This distinction not only elevates McMurry's profile but also opens doors for increased support, partnerships, and opportunities to expand its impact. Additionally, McMurry was chosen as one of just eight universities nationwide to participate in a pilot project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed at improving outcomes for all students, with a focus on enhancing success for Latino students.

Religious & Spiritual Life remains vibrant at McMurry. Weekly Chapel services welcome an average of 75-100 students, faculty, and staff for praise and worship each Tuesday morning. The Religious Life Student Leadership Team of around 25 students plan and execute a variety of ministries across campus, including Grocery Bingo, Holy Grounds, Men's & Women's Bible Studies, and a variety of fun fellowship events.

In May 2025 Religious & Spiritual Life led its second annual Spiritual Formation Pilgrimage. This team of 20 student pilgrims spent a week immersed in the ecumenical monastic community of *Taizé*, located in the Burgundy Region of France. Each year over 100,000 young people make pilgrimage to Taizé for prayer, Bible study, sharing groups, and communal work led by the monastic brothers. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, pilgrims are encouraged to live in the Christ-like spirit of kindness, simplicity, and reconciliation. Thanks to the generosity of congregations across the Horizon Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences, McMurry was able to provide a \$2,000 scholarship to *each of the 20 student pilgrims*. We look forward to returning with students to visit these congregations in the coming year to share how this transformative experience impacted the spiritual lives of these young people.

Universities and Seminaries

McMurry remains grateful for its strong and vibrant relationship with the United Methodist Church. This year we are proud to welcome Rev. Tom Long and Rev. Dr. Clayton Oliphint onto the McMurry University Board of Trustees. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our ties with the Horizon Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences as we prepare students for lives of leadership, service, and success in both the Church and the world.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Hugo Magallanes, Ph.D., Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean, ad interim

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

- Five (5) students affiliated with the New Mexico Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins, four Master of Divinity students and one Master of Arts in Ministry student.
- During the 2024-25 academic year, three students from the New Mexico Annual Conference received funding from the PACE (Perkins Annual Conference Endowment) grant, with a financial aid award totaling \$800.
- One (1) Perkins student from the New Mexico Conference is currently participating in internships.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2024-2025 academic year totaled 277 students. This year, the institution launched a Spanish M.Div. program, introduced a new hybrid-online modality, and unveiled a redesigned curriculum. Of the 97 incoming students, 59 enrolled in the new hybrid-online program, representing 14 different states.

Institutional Highlights

- Perkins appointed Dr. Bryan P. Stone as the new Leighton K. Farrell Dean, effective June 1. An SMU Ph.D. graduate and former associate dean at Boston University, Stone brings extensive experience in theological education, online learning innovation and interdisciplinary research. His leadership will further Perkins' mission of preparing students for impactful ministry and scholarship.
- In August 2024, Perkins welcomed Rev. Emily Nelms Chastain as Instructor in the History of Christianity. An ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church and Ph.D. candidate at Boston University, her research focused on American religious history, world Christianity and Methodist studies. In 2024, Perkins announced key leadership updates to strengthen its engagement and outreach efforts. Nakoya Loucks joined as Assistant Dean of Marketing and Communications, bringing extensive experience in strategic marketing and communications. Bart Patton was promoted to Assistant Dean of External Programs and Church Relations, expanding his role in advancing partnerships and initiatives both locally and beyond. Additionally, Tracy Anne Allred, now Assistant Dean of Students, Alums, and Community Engagement took on expanded responsibilities in alumni relations, further deepening connections with Perkins graduates.
- Dr. Dallas Gingles was appointed Director of the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Program at Perkins in Fall Semester 2024. Gingles comes to the director position following years of involvement in the D.Min. program, including reading students' dissertations and teaching D.Min. courses. Gingles is a Ph.D. graduate of Southern Methodist University and earned an M.T.S. from Perkins. As Associate Professor of Practice in Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics, his teaching specialties include Christian ethics, systematic theology, and bioethics.

Universities and Seminaries

- Dr. Michael “Mike” Greene was appointed director of the Black/Africana Church Studies (BACS) Program at Perkins in September 2024. He is a 2004 graduate of SMU, with a Ph.D. in Religious Ethics. Under his leadership, the program continues to explore Black theology, preaching, worship, and social justice ministry within African American and African Diasporic church traditions.
- Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, a trailblazer in the Fresh Expressions movement, was appointed as the inaugural director of its Fresh Expressions House of Studies, launched on June 1, 2025. This new program will offer innovative theological education that equips students to lead ministries in unconventional spaces. Rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, the initiative aims to provide a dynamic environment for reimagining ministry and leadership for a new generation, with a focus on real-world ministry practice and engagement in nontraditional settings.
- Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, faculty member at Perkins, received the Wesleyan Theological Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in March 2025 for her contributions to Wesleyan-Holiness scholarship and leadership. Dr. Robin W. Lovin, former Dean of Perkins, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Christian Ethics in January 2025, recognizing his influential work in Christian ethics.
- In 2025, Perkins will celebrate the retirement of four faculty members whose contributions have left a lasting impact on the Perkins community. Dr. Ted A. Campbell, Albert C. Outler Professor of Wesley Studies, Dr. Ruben L. F. Habito, Professor of World Religions, Dr. Susanne Johnson, Associate Professor of Christian Education, and Dr. Mark W. Stamm, Professor of Christian Worship will retire after years of dedicated teaching, scholarship, and mentorship.
- Perkins secured multiple grants to support its efforts in various initiatives, including scholarships and upcoming capital projects. The Spanish Language Initiative received funding from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, as well as the Association of Theological Schools. Lilly Endowment Inc. provided SMU with a significant grant to improve exhibitions, accessibility, and academic programs related to religion and culture at Bridwell Library.
- Perkins School of Theology's 2024 Fall Convocation, *Faith in a Digital Age*, explored the intersection of faith, technology, and ethics in a rapidly evolving digital world. Held November 14-15, this event emphasized the need for faith leaders to engage with technological advancements thoughtfully.
- The Testimony HQ initiative at Perkins is transforming congregations by embedding testimony as a spiritual practice and community tool. In its third and final cohort, the program has helped 30 churches within a 350-mile radius of Dallas integrate testimony into their ministries, supported by a Lilly Endowment grant offering coaching, resources, and stipends to strengthen faith and connections.
- The 65th anniversary of the Sacred Music program at Perkins, held February 24–26, 2025, brought together alumni, faculty, and friends for fellowship, reflection, and celebration. Hosted on the SMU campus, the event honored the program's legacy while exploring the future of church music in a post-pandemic world. Dr. Marcell Silva Steuernagel highlighted the value of in-person connection, offering alumni a chance to reconnect and discuss the future of sacred music.

The highlights listed above are reflective of the vibrant engagement of Perkins faculty, staff and students. Our mission is to equip persons for faithful leadership and Christian ministry in a changing church and society; to educate those seeking a deeper understanding of the Christian faith; and to strengthen the church, academy and world through service, scholarship and advocacy. We thank our

many colleagues, friends and alumni of The United Methodist Church for your generous support, including referrals of prospective students.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

R. Gerald Turner, President

214-768-2000

www.smu.edu

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

Students, faculty, and staff

SMU attracts academically excellent and diverse students. For the 2024–25 academic year, 7,285 undergraduates and 4,831 graduate students make up the total student population of over 12,000. Over 2,600 full-time faculty and staff support SMU's diverse student body. After graduation, they will join 136,000 alumni worldwide.

New SMU president

Jay Hartzell was named SMU's 11th president in January 2025 and will officially join the Hilltop on June 1. A highly respected leader in higher education, he was named the president of the University of Texas at Austin in 2020. Before that, he was dean of UT's McCombs School of Business and a longtime faculty member. We are excited to welcome him and his wife, Kara, to campus and look forward to his contributions leading SMU into its next era.

Perkins School of Theology

Bryan P. Stone '92, an innovative educator, researcher, and bridge builder, was named the Leighton K. Farrell Dean of SMU's Perkins School of Theology in February 2025. An SMU alumnus, he previously served as associate dean for academic affairs and the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Boston University School of Theology.

Comprehensive campaign, research funding and athletics

As of February 2025, donors have contributed over \$1.404 billion to the University's comprehensive campaign: *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, putting the University on track to surpass its \$1.5 billion goal by the end of the fiscal year on May 31, 2025. *SMU Ignited* has had notable impact across the entire University – attracting and supporting outstanding students and faculty, exploring new fields and cutting-edge technologies, and positively impacting Dallas and the world beyond.

In early 2025, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education designated SMU as one of the top 187 doctoral research universities in the United States, awarding it the prestigious Research One (R1) status. This designation will help SMU accelerate its research efforts, and we expect it to open doors for new collaborations and opportunities. SMU's research expenditures reached \$62.5 million in 2024, making it the third consecutive year of exceeding \$57 million. This funding, which supports both

Universities and Seminaries

domestic and global research, comes from agencies including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education, and other federal and state partners.

Our success in the classroom and laboratory was matched on the playing field, as the University experienced a remarkable first season as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Historically, SMU has won 10 national championships, over 200 conference titles, and produced more than 150 Olympians. Since 2013, all 17 teams have reached the postseason, with 16 winning conference championships.

Rankings

SMU continues to receive strong recognition and high rankings, including:

- Top 25% best national universities by *U.S. News & World Report* (2025), a Best Value School, and among the Best Colleges for Veterans.
- Among the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education in *The Princeton Review's* "Best 390 Colleges" and its "2025 Best Southwest Colleges."
- Top 5% best nationwide colleges (73 out of 2,238) by College Factual (2025). Also, top 1% of the U.S. best liberal arts/sciences and humanities schools for students pursuing a bachelor's degree and among the highest-paid graduates across a range of fields.
- Perkins Chapel at No. 10 on the list of the nation's most beautiful college churches and chapels by College Rank.

SMU remains grateful for the enduring work of our Perkins School of Theology in the instruction and training of clergy for all Wesleyan traditions and other denominations. We request your continued prayers and support.

ST. PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Jay K. Simmons, President

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community dedicated to forming leaders for innovative, creative ministry. Our integrated theological education, enriched by faith and social justice, combines real-world experience with academic rigor. Through our FLEX schedule offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning options, our Master's and Doctorate programs provide customized education guided by dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community leaders. Our graduates emerge equipped with the tools and first-hand experience to pursue diverse paths in ministry, service, and leadership locally and globally.

Saint Paul recently launched an innovative Doctor of Ministry program: Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership. This program focuses on developing contemplative spirituality practices that empower students to become change agents in church and society. Grounded in divine listening, students engage with innovative ministry practices while learning to manage and sustain them through adaptive principles, emotional intelligence, and intercultural competence. The program prepares leaders to forge renewed paths for faithful leadership in a challenging world. Discover more about the Saint Paul DMin at spst.edu/doctor-of-ministry/.

In July 2024, the Pause/Play Center for Preachers welcomed its first cohort of 12 preachers from five denominations nationwide. These leaders sought to revitalize their preaching through Spiritual Direction, coaching, retreats, and specialized resources. The Center's inaugural public gathering drew 50

Universities and Seminaries

pastors nationwide for a two-day event featuring keynote speaker and Saint Paul alumna Dr. Marcia McFee. The Center accepts applications for the next pastor cohort open in March, with registration for the July 30-August 2, 2025 Kansas City gathering beginning in January.

Saint Paul School of Theology earned the distinction of hosting the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to Be Human?" through a national competition by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and American Library Association (ALA). Scientists and experts from the NMNH Human Origins Program will visit our Kansas Campus in Leawood to lead community events, including clergy programs, educator workshops, and community conversations. The exhibit, running February through May 2025, features interactive panels, kiosks, hands-on displays, and videos that explore humanity's evolutionary journey. This free public exhibition encourages meaningful dialogue about human origins while embracing diverse perspectives from both scientific and theological viewpoints.

Our hybrid format continues to unite our community, enabling participants to join chapel services and events either in-person or online. Weekly chapel services throughout the academic year showcase the talents of students, alums, faculty, and local leaders. At the same time, Spiritual Formation sessions engage participants in varied spiritual practices, from outdoor experiences to community leadership connections.

The Saint Paul faculty consistently upholds high scholarship, research, publication, and engagement standards. Notable recent faculty achievements include:

- Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Lindsey P. Pherigo Associate Professor of New Testament Studies and Biblical Interpretation, contributed the chapter "Biblical Interpretation and Criticism in Neocolonial Africa: Challenges, Conceptualizations, and Needs in the Twenty-First Century" to *The FUTURE of the Biblical PAST*
- Dr. Jacob Randolph, Assistant Professor of History of Christianity and Academic Director of the Oklahoma Campus, published "What About the Palestinians? Southern Baptists vs. Southern Baptist Missionaries"
- Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education and Pause/Play Center for Preachers, authored "Designing Worship from a Process Perspective" in *Preaching the Uncontrolling Love of God* and launched the Pause/Play Center for Preachers podcast
- Dr. Richard Liantonio, Adjunct Professor of Hebrew Bible, reviewed *The Bible: A Very Short Introduction*, 2nd ed. in the *Journal of Jewish Studies*

The 2024-2025 academic year brought significant leadership changes to Saint Paul. The Board of Trustees appointed Mrs. Dana Aldridge as Board Chair and welcomed Tom Cochran as Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Cochran's extensive experience strengthens our donor relationships and alums network. We are actively reconnecting with alums across the Midwest and beyond through regional events, fostering collaboration and sharing recent achievements.

The Course of Study (COS) School served 233 students in 2024-2025, including 66 new enrollees, offering 45 classes with approximately 550 total registrations. The program serves 34 Conferences and 92 Districts, supporting 107 full-time and 121 part-time Licensed Local Pastors. Twenty-two students completed the 20-course program this year. With GBHEM approval, we offer both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. COS School students receive full seminary benefits, including library access, chapel participation, and engagement in campus events.

Universities and Seminaries

Saint Paul maintains strong financial health with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment nine to ten times our annual expenses. Seven years of focused sustainability efforts have positioned us for strategic growth. As always, we continue to be grateful for the community donations supporting technology advancement, scholarships, and program development. Our enhanced hybrid learning model provides flexible options for students while maintaining educational excellence. The Board's newly approved strategic plan charts an ambitious course for our future.

Our partnership with Zoom and Neat has yielded significant technological improvements. The new Neat Center technology enhances remote classroom participation, while upgraded Classroom Neat Boards offer improved functionality and flexibility. These advancements, combined with AI enhancements in Microsoft 365, our Student Information System, and our Learning Management System, create a more dynamic learning environment. In addition, the Fall 2024 chapel renovation has transformed the space into a more sacred and technologically enhanced environment.

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

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dr. Kent Millard, President

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. United welcomes all who are following God's call on their lives, and many are answering God's call! In the 2023-2024 academic year, the seminary served 595 graduate students, making it the second largest of the thirteen United Methodist seminaries in the United States, according to the Association of Theological Schools.ⁱ

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 35 states, 21 nations, and 48 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest group at 30 percent of the student body.ⁱⁱ

Academics

In large part, enrollment growth is due to continued interest in United's Houses of Study programs, which offer master's and certificate tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements, and denominations in which they serve.

In summer 2024, United welcomed its inaugural cohort of Doctor of Theology students. The advanced research degree program is conducted primarily from a distance, requiring only four weeks of in-person intensives during the three-year program. During their program, students develop original research with a focus on church renewal.

United's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract students looking for an advanced professional degree to expand their ministerial and leadership capabilities. In the 2023-2024 school year, 267 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Universities and Seminaries

Finances

United celebrated becoming debt free in May 2024, after making its last payment on a \$3.3 million debt to its endowment. In addition to eliminating the seminary's debt, United has been focused on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment will expand scholarship opportunities for students for generations to come. With the increase in scholarship gifts from the Fresh Wind campaign and the reduction of United's own debt, the seminary has significantly increased scholarship support for United students.

Innovation Center

The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center celebrated the third anniversary since its launch as United's "research and development" hub for ministry practitioners and thought leaders seeking to create and provide innovative resourcing for congregations. In 2024, the Innovation Center engaged over 2,200 participants through more than 30 live webinars, training events and courses.

In Romans 10:14, St. Paul writes: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? *And how shall they hear without a preacher?*" United's students and graduates are going out into the world to proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love. Thanks be to God!

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #1 - REGIONALIZATION

On April 26, 2024, at a session of the Postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Charlotte, North Carolina, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 586 Yes, 154 No (Calendar Item 22, DCA p. 1994). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

AMEND ¶¶ 9, (which shall be renumbered ¶ 10), 10 (which shall be renumbered ¶ 9), 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 61 and add new 13 as follows:

~~¶ 9. Article III~~ Article II. - There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional ~~central~~ regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

~~¶ 9-10. Article II~~ Article III. - There ~~shall~~ may be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church ~~in the United States of America~~, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

(NEW - Renumber subsequent paragraphs) ¶ 13. Article VI.— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

¶ 15. Article III. – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, ~~jurisdictional~~, and ~~central~~ regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference.

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 16. Article IV.- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

...

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of central conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America.

...

16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by ~~central~~ regional conferences without jurisdictions.

...

16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

...

16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶13.5.

¶ 23. **Article I.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ 24. **Article II.** - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 25. **Article III.** - The ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

¶ 26. **Article IV.** - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the ~~Council-College~~ College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

¶ 27. **Article V.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

...

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

and in the regional conferences.

6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher clergy or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

Section V. ~~Central~~ Regional Conferences

¶ 28. Article I. – There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America with such powers, duties, ~~powers~~, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

~~The number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be determined by the Uniting Conference. Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.~~

1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

¶ 29. Article II. – The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ 30. Article III. – The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective ~~central~~ regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. ~~The date and place of the first meeting succeeding the Uniting Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective central conferences, or in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.~~

¶ 31. Article IV. – The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

2. In regional conferences without jurisdictions, to elect the bishops for the respective ~~central~~ regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such ~~central~~ regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶ 40 within their respective areas.

5. To ~~make such~~ legislate and make rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including such changes and adaptations of the General Discipline

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1 as follows, as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have
2 been or shall be vested in the General Conference while upholding the Constitution and the
3 decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

4 a) To establish and publish a regional Discipline with legislation and provisions
5 pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries,
6 including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay
7 ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.

8 b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.

9 c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on
10 all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and
11 therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional Discipline regarding
12 specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum
13 requirements.

14 d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including
15 ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second
16 Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so
17 as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.

18 e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while
19 upholding mandated structures.

20 When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall
21 guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along
22 with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

23 6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules,
24 regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the central regional conference
25 Discipline enacted by the central regional conference.

26 7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy,
27 including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and
28 methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not
29 be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the
30 right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the
31 chargeable offenses and their penalties.

32 To A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall
33 appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher clergy
34 or lay member of that central the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

35 **¶ 32. Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members.
36 The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional
37 members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall
38 consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active
39 deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual
40 conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of
41 United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of
42 Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or
43 equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference
44 youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one
45 young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between
46 the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as
47 may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central regional
48 conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ 33. Article II.-The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and their respective ~~regional jurisdictional or central~~ conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

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

In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1 **¶ 35. Article IV.**-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective
2 regional and jurisdictional or central conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its
3 regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection
4 and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual
5 conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those
6 provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors
7 who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional
8 conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under
9 appointment immediately preceding the election.

10 **¶ 36. Article V.**-The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional
11 conference, and jurisdictional or central conferences as well as jurisdictional conference if its
12 regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual
13 conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall
14 have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next
15 preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church
16 for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual
17 conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and jurisdictional or
18 central regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference
19 has jurisdictions.

20 [DELETE ¶ 38 and ¶ 39 and renumber all of the articles within its section and renumber
21 all subsequent paragraphs of the Constitution.]

22 ~~**¶ 38. Article II.**- The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be~~
23 ~~formed into central regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be~~
24 ~~determined by the Uniting Conference, the General Conference having authority subsequently to~~
25 ~~make changes in the number and boundaries.~~

26 ~~**¶ 39. Article III.**- Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the jurisdictional~~
27 ~~conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the~~
28 ~~annual conferences of each of the jurisdictional conferences involved.~~

29 **¶ 40 Article IV.** - The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and
30 episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction,
31 if a regional conference has jurisdictions. ~~jurisdictional conferences in the United States of~~
32 ~~America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the~~
33 ~~provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the~~
34 ~~jurisdictional and the central conferences.~~ The authority of regional and jurisdictional and central
35 conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the
36 College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

37 **¶ 46. Article II.**-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by
38 the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, ~~jurisdictional and central conferences~~
39 and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed ~~by the General~~
40 ~~Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central regional conference for~~
41 ~~those elected by such central conference~~, provided that episcopal elections in central regional
42 conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the ~~central~~
43 such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

44 **¶ 48. Article IV.**-The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central conference~~ regional
45 conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of
46 Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the
47 annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1 **¶ 49. Article V.**-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in ~~the~~
2 ~~jurisdictional or central conferences~~ their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a
3 regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred.
4 Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and
5 residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on
6 either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction
7 may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for
8 transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number
9 transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not
10 transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless
11 that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless
12 the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the
13 episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members
14 present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are
15 involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a
16 member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by
17 that jurisdictional conference.

18 A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other
19 temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, provided that the
20 request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

21 In the case of an emergency in any ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or
22 jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop
23 or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central~~
24 regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the
25 said ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has
26 jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional
27 conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

28 **¶ 50. Article VI.** - ~~The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United~~
29 ~~Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be~~
30 ~~bishops of The United Methodist Church.~~
31 ~~The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The~~
32 ~~Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bBishops elected by the~~
33 ~~jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bBishops elected by a~~
34 ~~central regional conference without jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have~~
35 ~~such tenure as the central regional conference electing him them shall have determined.~~

36 The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions,
37 ~~jurisdictional conference~~ shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy
38 and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference
39 delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and
40 official administration, and report to ~~the~~ its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, a
41 ~~conference if a region has jurisdictions~~, its findings for such action as the conference may deem
42 appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the
43 assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the ~~jurisdictional~~
44 respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1 **¶ 52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several ~~regional jurisdictional and central~~
2 conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference
3 has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional
4 conference.

5 **¶ 56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

6 1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal
7 of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference
8 and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional or ~~central~~
9 conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional or central
10 conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional or
11 ~~central~~ conference.

12 ...
13 4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General
14 Conference board, or regional, or jurisdictional or ~~central~~ conference board or body, upon appeal
15 by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of
16 the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional or ~~a central~~ conference.

17 ...
18 **¶ 61. Article III.** - A regional or jurisdictional or ~~central~~ conference may by a majority
19 vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be
20 submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a
21 two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for
22 amendments.
23 The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this
24 petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General
25 Conference.

26
27 **[If ratified, the paragraphs would read as follows:]**

28 **¶ 9. Article II.** - There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide
29 Church and, if necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and
30 privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall
31 be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

32 **¶ 10. Article III.** - There may be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church,
33 with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United
34 Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than
35 geographical and regional division.

36 **¶ 13. Article VI.**— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional
37 conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the
38 Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference
39 but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and
40 substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

41 **¶ 15. Article III.** – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the
42 General and regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the
43 provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy
44 members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of
45 professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each
46 annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to
47 at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the regional
48 conference.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1 In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of
2 representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary
3 conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the
4 number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the
5 number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference,
6 provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference
7 shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and
8 further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their
9 respective jurisdictional conferences.

10 ¶ 16. **Article IV.**- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all
11 matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the
12 exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

13 . . .

14 16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional
15 conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and
16 missions, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

17 16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the
18 worldwide Church.

19 . . .

20 16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional
21 conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences
22 without jurisdictions.

23 . . .

24 16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences, and to change
25 the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the
26 annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

27 . . .

28 16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority
29 vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

30 ¶ 23. **Article I.**-The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many
31 representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined
32 by a uniform basis established by the regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that
33 no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences
34 shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

35 ¶ 24. **Article II.** - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same
36 privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the
37 annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional
38 conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

39 ¶ 25. **Article III.** - The regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of
40 representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall
41 be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual
42 conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

43 ¶ 26. **Article IV.** - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the
44 College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated
45 committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a
46 place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective
47 College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional
48 conference.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1 **¶ 27. Article V.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and
2 duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

3 ...

4 4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be
5 no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by
6 the consent of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

7 5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within
8 the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference
9 and in the regional conferences.

10 6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay
11 member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

12 **Section V. Regional Conferences**

13 **¶ 28. Article I.**— There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide
14 Church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised
15 equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

16 1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

17 a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of
18 America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences
19 identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

20 b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the
21 postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional
22 conferences.

23 2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries
24 of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

25 **¶ 29. Article II.** – The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as
26 shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be
27 clergy and lay in equal numbers.

28 **¶ 30. Article III.** – The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the
29 meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the
30 preceding respective regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the
31 General Conference.

32 **¶ 31. Article IV.** – The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as
33 the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits
34 fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

35 1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent
36 interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

37 2 . In regional conferences without jurisdictions, to elect the bishops for the respective
38 regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by
39 the General Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and
40 to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to their areas; and to
41 cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the
42 General Conference.

43 3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to
44 elect their administrative officers.

45 4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in
46 accordance with ¶ 40.
47

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1 5. To legislate rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their
2 boundaries including changes and adaptations of the general Discipline as follows, while
3 upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

4 a) To establish and publish a regional Discipline with legislation and provisions
5 pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries,
6 including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay
7 ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.

8 b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.

9 c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on
10 all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and
11 therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional Discipline regarding
12 specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum
13 requirements.

14 d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including
15 ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second
16 Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so
17 as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.

18 e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while
19 upholding mandated structures.

20 When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall
21 guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along
22 with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

23 6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules,
24 regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional Discipline enacted by the
25 regional conference.

26 7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy,
27 including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and
28 methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not
29 be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the
30 right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the
31 chargeable offenses and their penalties.

32 A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall
33 appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of
34 the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

35 **¶ 32. Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members.
36 The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional
37 members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall
38 consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active
39 deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual
40 conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of
41 United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of
42 Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or
43 equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference
44 youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one
45 young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between
46 the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as
47 may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the regional
48 conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ 33. Article II.-The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and their respective regional conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

¶ 34. Article III.-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the regional conference. The additional delegates to the regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference. In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

¶ 35. Article IV.-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ 36. Article V.—The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ 40 Article II.— The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions. The authority of regional and jurisdictional conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

¶ 46. Article II.—The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by each regional conference, provided that episcopal elections in regional conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ 48. Article IV.—The bishops of each regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

¶ 49. Article V.—The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, provided that the

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ 50. Article VI. - Bishops elected by the jurisdictions shall have life tenure. Bishops elected by a regional conference without jurisdictions shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing them shall have determined.

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

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

¶ 52. Article VIII. - The bishops of the several regional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

¶ 56. Article II. - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, regional, or jurisdictional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

¶ 61. Article III. - A regional or jurisdictional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #2 – INCLUSIVENESS OF THE CHURCH

On May 3, 2024, at a session of the Postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Charlotte, North Carolina, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 607 Yes, 67 No (Calendar Item 240, DCA p. 2099). The amendment is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #3 – RACIAL JUSTICE

On May 3, 2024, at a session of the Postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Charlotte, North Carolina, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 651 Yes, 59 No (Calendar Item 550, DCA p. 2237). The amendment is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims ~~the value of each person that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as a God's unique and beloved children. child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.~~ Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.⁷

7. Amended 2000

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.⁷

7. Amended 2000

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #4 – CLERGY DELEGATES

On May 2, 2024, at a session of the Postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Charlotte, North Carolina, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 547 Yes, 99 No (Calendar Item 555, DCA p.2237). The amendment is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from ⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or ~~an M.Div. Master of Divinity~~ degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. ⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from ⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. ⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[Editorial note: The proposed change of language in this paragraph related to central conferences would be changed to reflect the necessary updates should the Proposed Constitutional Amendment related to Regionalization be ratified.]

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES

for Active, Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the New Mexico Conference New Mexico

Submitted by Board of Pension and Health Benefits

1 The New Mexico Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to
2 rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

3
4 **Whereas**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which
5 this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the
6 gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained,
7 commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");
8

9 **Whereas**, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons
10 with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;
11

12 **Whereas**, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered
13 to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration
14 of previous active service; and
15

16 **Whereas**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the
17 appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were
18 members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;
19

20 **Now, therefore, be it resolved:** That an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments
21 received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the
22 "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from Wespeth Benefits and Investments during the year
23 2026 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its
24 predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson;
25 and
26

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

39 **Note:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any
40 year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and

Resolutions

- 1 regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by
- 2 the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the
- 3 foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or
- 4 provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and
- 5 appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

RESOLUTION FOR COMMITMENT TO CREATION CARE

Submitted by New Mexico Conference United Women in Faith, Tanya Barlow, President; United Women in Faith/ Central United Methodist Church Green Team, Dodie Hawkins, Chair

Whereas, “Humans have a responsibility to steward the earth thoughtfully and sustainably.”

Romans 1:20

Whereas, “Nature is suffering and longing, and humans should care for the planet.” Romans 8:22

Whereas, sustainability is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.” (United Nations Brundtland Commission, 1987)

Whereas, the United Methodist Book of Social Principles “encourages individuals and the church to adopt sustainable practices that protect the environment and ensure the needs of future generations.”

Whereas, United Women in Faith offer 13 sustainable practices for church or social events which include: accessibility, affordability, carbon footprint, healthy food and beverages, just economic opportunities, local solidarity, multigenerational inclusion, paper use, racial justice, toxin reduction, waste reduction, water use and well-being of participants.

Therefore, be it resolved that all Churches in the New Mexico Annual Conference comply with as many of the United Women in Faith Sustainability Practices as possible when planning Church events.

For informational purposes related to the Resolution to Creation Care

UWF 13 Sustainability Guidelines

INTENTIONALLY PLAN EVENTS THAT.....

are **ACCESSIBLE:** Make sure publicity indicates accessibility and the registration form asks for special needs requests. Take special interest in evaluation from those with accessibility challenges.

are **AFFORDABLE:** Offer scholarships, carpooling and low-cost housing options. Model economically diverse speakers.

REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT: Offer carpooling, choose venues with public transportation, turn down the air-conditioning and heat, and look for venues that use renewable energy.

serve **HEALTHY FOOD AND BEVERAGES:** Take into consideration the just treatment of farmworkers when you buy food for your meetings.

Resolutions

1
2 pay attention to **JUST ECONOMIC PRACTICES:** Support worker co-ops and minority- and women-owned
3 businesses.

4
5 are in **SOLIDARITY WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY:** Make relationships with the community in which
6 you'll be holding your events.

7
8 are **MULTIGENERATIONAL:** Provide child care and teen covenants, and abide by your Conference's Safe
9 Sanctuary policies. Invite young women to be keynote speakers at your meetings!

10
11 **MINIMIZE PAPER USE:** Limit handouts, use double-sided printouts and choose chlorine-process-free and
12 recycled-content paper. Minimize use of napkins and other paper products.

13
14 are **RACIALLY JUST:** When planning events, agree on racial justice goals and create a diverse planning
15 team from the start. Use vendors that have U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity
16 Commission policies in place.

17
18 **REDUCE TOXINS:** Avoid using petroleum-based products whenever possible, and avoid toxic cleaning
19 products and lawn care products. Reduce your energy use.

20
21 **REDUCE WASTE:** Compost. Donate excess food. Use reusable centerpieces. Reduce the amount of
22 packaging, paper and other disposable products you use. Choose reusable plates, cups, and utensils
23 instead.

24
25 **REDUCE WATER USE:** Be aware when you're purchasing goods and services that all extraction,
26 manufacturing and agriculture takes water. Ask if venues have low-flow showers and toilets. Ask
27 facilities not to automatically fill water glasses and inquire about their towel-reuse policies.

28
29 **PROVIDE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF PARTICIPANTS:** Offer stretching, exercise, and opportunities to be
30 outdoors. Include intentional breaks in the program. Provide times in which those gathered can learn
31 about the history and ecology of the place where the meeting is held. Compassionate listeners should
32 be a part of each meeting.

RESOLUTION CALLING UNITED METHODISTS TO ACT FOR CHANGE

So that All May Live in Safety

Submitted by Tanya Barlow, President, NM Conference United Women in Faith

Endorsed by the New Mexico United Women in Faith

Rationale: Micah 6:8 (NRSVUE)... “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”

As United Methodists we know what is required of us, and that we are to go about doing justice with kindness. We are to be in right relationship with one another. We are to follow the teachings of Christ to transform the world. 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 such as PTSD to families, friends, witnesses, and co-workers who are impacted.

RESOLUTION:

Whereas September 13, 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the expiration of the federal assault weapons ban. The original ban was crafted and signed into law in 1994 and had bipartisan support. However, after intense lobbying by the corporate gun lobby and NRA, congress allowed the law to sunset in 2004. In the decade after the ban expired, mass shootings in which six or more deaths occurred increased by 347%. (Brady United Campaign to End Gun Violence)

Whereas 155% more people are shot and 47% more people die in incidents where assault weapons or large-capacity magazines are used. When an assault weapon and/or a high-capacity magazine is used in a public mass shooting, nearly fourteen times as many people are injured, and twice as many people are killed. (Brady United Campaign to End Gun Violence)

Whereas 63% of Americans support a ban on assault weapons. (Brady United Campaign to End Gun Violence)

Whereas the state of New Mexico and the state of Texas do not, at the time of this writing, have assault weapons prohibited legislation passed. (everytownresearch.org)

Whereas the United Methodist Social Principles as adopted by the General Conference Charlotte 2024 states on page 36, “We call on church and society to support and advocate for the well-being of all children and young people and for their safety, nurture, agency, education, and participation in church and community life.”

Therefore, be it resolved, that every congregation in the New Mexico Conference is made for such a time as this. For the local church, preventing gun violence is about the sanctity of life. We know what to do for justice, kindness, and walking with God:

-Entering courageous conversations on the causes and effects of gun violence with our churches and communities;

Resolutions

- 1 -Support gun sense legislation and vote as if our children's lives depended on it;
- 2 -Securely store our firearms and encourage others to do so, using the BeSMART campaign for kids;
- 3 -Know the signs of suicide (suicide hotline call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org))

RESOLUTION ON DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT SALARIES

Submitted by the Council on Finance and Administration

1 **Whereas**, at the 2024 Annual Conference a new salary formula was set for the clergy cabinet members
2 of the New Mexico Annual Conference;

3
4 **Whereas**, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration said that it made an educated guess to
5 establish a formula that could be useable year-over-year, but because the situation of clergy salaries
6 from disaffiliations was still somewhat unknown that they would evaluate this formula each year;

7
8 **Whereas**, some of the top clergy salaries in the Conference have shifted down causing what would be a
9 significant decrease to the compensation of the clergy cabinet members;

10
11 **Whereas**, the two district superintendents have seen their work load increase with the loss of one
12 district superintendent and the provost;

13
14 **Whereas**, the Council on Finance and Administration does not know if salaries for ordained clergy and
15 local pastors have yet stabilized following disaffiliation and some economic turmoil;

16
17 **Whereas**, the Council on Finance and Administration does not want to create another new formula until
18 a new baseline of clergy salaries is established;

19
20 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that for the appointment year of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, that the
21 formula for district superintendents shall remain at 107% of the average of the top five clergy cash
22 salaries of the conference for the prior year. Additionally, the district superintendents for the
23 Albuquerque and El Paso Districts shall each receive a \$15,000 stipend for their coverage of the Provost
24 position.

25
26 **Be it further resolved**, if a housing allowance is provided to a district superintendent in lieu of a
27 parsonage, it shall be equal to 25% of the cash salary and the stipend, rounded to the nearest dollar.

28
29 **Be it finally resolved**, the Council on Finance and Administration shall continue to monitor the current
30 salary formula for district superintendents yearly, and when they believe clergy salaries at the local
31 church have stabilized, to create a new formula that maintains a stable relationship between clergy
32 cabinet members and local church pastors to present to the Annual Conference.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE RULES ON DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT TRAVEL

Submitted by the Rules Committee

1 **WHEREAS**, the 2024 Annual Conference resolved that the number of districts in the New Mexico
2 Conference shall be two;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, it was resolved that the Committee on Standing Rules be requested to bring an updated
5 standing rule to the 2025 Annual Conference for compliance to the above;

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Rules Committee has examined the *Conference Structure, Policies, and Standing Rules*
8 and found one reference involving the number of Districts;

9
10 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the first sentence of Rule 2405.20 be amended to read as
11 follows:

12
13 **2405.20 District Superintendent Travel.** Each District Superintendent shall voucher to the Conference
14 Treasurer, with the guidelines determined by the Council on Finance and Administration, the
15 reimbursable expense for travel, entertainment and other expenses in and out of the assigned district,
16 up to 1/2 of the total amount annually budgeted.

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE CONFERENCE RULES TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL CHANGES

Submitted by the Conference Ministry Team

Whereas there have been many changes in the Conference leadership and structure in past years and,

Whereas there was need to change Conference rules to address these changes,

Therefore, be it resolved that The Conference Ministry Team (CMT) proposes the following rules changes to the New Mexico Annual Conference Structure, Policies, and Standing Rules. The intent of these changes is to omit from Conference Rules references to “E-Teams,” and to simplify the structure of the annual conference.

Deleted items are indicated by strike-through; additions are in red.

1305 Conference Ministry Team. The Conference Ministry Team (CMT) functions as the Conference Leadership Team. The CMT’s purpose is to empower the Annual Conference by providing, coordinating, facilitating, prioritizing and aligning resources to facilitate the programmatic and administrative life of the Annual Conference toward making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The CMT shall consist of the Conference Lay Leader (as vice-chair), the District Lay Leaders, the District Superintendents, ~~the Chairpersons of the Envisioning, Equipping and Engaging Teams,~~ **the Chairperson of CFA, the Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Chairperson of the conference Trustees, the Chairperson of the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, the Chairperson of Church and Society (Border Ministries Team),** Chair of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, **and other persons as needed for inclusiveness,** and the Provost/Director of Congregational Vitality (as chair). *Ex officio* members include: the Bishop and the Director of Communications. The CMT may designate functional responsibilities within the CMT as needed. The CMT shall meet at least quarterly and as needed. The CMT will assign responsibilities and tasks to the agencies listed below in the operations of conference agencies, in cooperation with the Conference Council of Finance and Administration, and with the approval of the session of the Annual Conference. The CMT may create task forces for limited time periods to address needs not specifically covered by the other agencies listed below. Task forces will automatically dissolve at the end of their designated period unless extended by the CMT or as may be otherwise limited by the *Discipline*.

~~**1310 Conference “E Teams.”** The Conference “E Teams” are comprised of the Envisioning, Equipping, and Engaging Ministry Teams. The Conference E Teams report to the CMT through their respective chairpersons. Each E-Team Chairperson shall interpret the actions and direction of the CMT to their E-Team. The E Teams are responsible for focusing and guiding the mission and ministry of the conference agencies of The United Methodist Church assisted by the CMT and the Provost/Director of Congregational Vitality [¶1608].~~

1310.05 Envisioning Ministry Team. The Envisioning Team shall envision the future of the NMAC in fulfilling the mission of the Annual Conference in a continually changing world. Its task is to assist the NMAC in setting clear direction for its ministries, plans, and resources. The Envisioning Ministry Team membership shall be composed of the designated Chairperson of the Envisioning Ministries

Resolutions

Team and other members chosen by the presiding bishop based on their gifts in discernment and visioning. The Envisioning Ministry Team will meet as needed but at least twice each year.

~~1310.10 Equipping Ministries Team.~~ The Equipping Team shall equip local churches and their leaders with practical ways to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Equipping Ministries Team's membership shall be composed of the designated Chairperson of the Equipping Ministries Team and up to 11 more persons nominated for their passion in equipping ministries. The Equipping Ministry Team and its Related Ministries shall fulfill the Disciplinary requirements and functions for the following areas and the connection to general agencies for:

~~¶630. Conference Board of Discipleship * †~~

~~¶645. Conference Commission on the Small Membership Church *~~

~~¶649. Conference Council on Youth Ministry* †~~

~~¶650. Conference Council on Young Adult Ministry* †~~

~~¶651. Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries* †~~

(*shared with Engaging; † shared with Laity)

The Equipping Ministry Team's other related ministry areas include Children, Adults, Older Adults, Family, and Singles. Meeting of the Equipping Ministry Team will be held as needed but at least twice each year.

~~1310.15 Engaging Ministry Team.~~ The Engaging Team shall engage in ministry areas that typically can be done with greater efficiency and effect, rather than individual churches' ministry. The various member groups join together as the Engaging Ministry Team to pool resources toward mission initiatives larger than any one group could do by itself. The Engaging Ministry Team membership shall be composed of the designated Chairperson of the Engaging Ministries Team, and 11 persons with a passion and expertise for Engaging ministries. The Engaging Ministry Team shall fulfill the Disciplinary connectional functions to the general agencies for:

~~¶629. Conference Board of Church and Society~~

~~¶630. Conference Board of Discipleship * †~~

~~¶632. Conference Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns~~

~~¶633. Conference Board of Global Ministries (& Volunteers in Missions)~~

~~¶634. Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry~~

~~¶642. Conference Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns~~

~~¶643. Conference Commission on Religion and Race~~

~~¶644. Conference Commission on The Status and Role of Women~~

~~¶645. Conference Commission on the Small Membership Church *~~

~~¶646. Communications Council~~

~~¶647. United Methodist Women †~~

~~¶648. United Methodist Men †~~

~~¶649. Conference Council on Youth Ministry* †~~

~~¶650. Conference Council on Young Adult Ministry* †~~

~~¶651. Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries* †~~

~~¶653. Conference Committee on Disability Concerns~~

~~¶654. Conference Committee on Native American Ministry~~

~~¶655. Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries~~

~~¶656. Conference Advance program~~

~~¶657. Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries~~

(*shared with Equipping; † shared with Laity)

Resolutions

The Engaging Ministry Team shall also relate to the following groups: New Mexico Conference of Churches, Texas Conference of Churches, Hispanic Ministries, Four Corners Native American Ministries, Sacramento Camp and Conference Center, Northern New Mexico Group Ministry, McMurry University, and Scouting and Civic Youth Organizations (shared with Laity).

The Engaging Ministry Team shall be the contact for the general church in regard to the responsibilities outlined in the Discipline for the conference committee related to the Engaging Team.

The Engaging Ministry Team will meet as needed but at least twice each year. Organization of the Related Ministries and the Engaging Ministries Team internal structure is to be determined by the Engaging Ministry Team to achieve the optimal efficiencies and effectiveness in ministry.

1315 Resource Person Assignments. The CMT, assisted by the Envisioning, Engaging and Equipping Ministries Teams, shall work together to assure the requirements of the *Discipline* are met as to naming of Resource Persons and all necessary committees, groups, boards, or other entities for the proper functioning of the NMAC between its annual sessions.

1315.05 Age Level and Family Resource Persons. The CMT and the chairpersons of the Envisioning, Engaging, and Equipping Ministries Teams may select active members of the Envisioning, Engaging, and Equipping Ministries Teams and provide those names to the Conference Nominating Team who may nominate, and the Annual Conference elect annually, the following persons, if the mission and ministry of the Annual Conference requires:

- Adult ministries resource person
- Children's ministries resource person
- Disability Concerns resource person
- Family ministries resource person
- Older Adult ministries resource person
- Singles ministries resource person
- Youth ministries resource person

It will be the responsibility of these persons to be knowledgeable regarding resources, needs, and issues in their age level or family area. They will work with the **corresponding** district **resource** person as requested, the district superintendent, or the district person.

When based upon input from the districts or the age level/family resource person, the **CMT** ~~Engaging Ministry Team~~ determines that a conference-wide emphasis/program is needed; a task force would be established, charged, and funded. It is assumed that the task area resource person would be the primary resource person to that task force. Others would be invited to assist in program development and implementation as needed. As the charge was fulfilled, the task force would be dissolved.

1315.10 Program Area Resource Persons. The CMT shall select active members of the Envisioning, Engaging, and Equipping Ministries Teams and **may** provide those names to the Conference Nominating Team who shall nominate, and the Annual Conference elect annually, the following persons:

- Status and Role of Women resource person [¶644]
- Religion and Race resource person [¶643]

Resolutions

1 Christian Unity resource person [¶642]
2 Ethnic Ministries resource person [¶632]
3 Church and Society resource person [¶629]
4 Global Ministries resource person [¶633]
5 Small Membership Church resource person [¶645]
6

7 These persons shall be the contact/resource persons for the General Church, the Engaging Ministry
8 Team, and the District Leadership Teams in regard to the responsibilities outlined in the *Discipline*
9 for the conference committee by that name. It will be the responsibility of these persons to be
10 knowledgeable regarding resources, needs, and issues. They will work with the district person as
11 requested by the District Leadership Team, the district superintendent, or the district person.
12

13 When based upon input from the districts or the task area person, the CMT Engaging Ministry Team
14 determines that a conference-wide emphasis/program is needed; a task force would be established,
15 charged, and funded. It is assumed that the task area resource person would be the primary
16 resource person to that task force. Others would be invited to assist in program development and
17 implementation as needed. As the charge was fulfilled, the task force would be dissolved.

18 As a continuation of its commitment to the minority constituencies (Asian, Black, Hispanic, and
19 Native American) in the Annual Conference, the CMT is directed to request the Council on Finance
20 and Administration to provide funding for at least four meetings each year of a task group with a
21 minimum of one representative from each constituency.

**RESOLUTION TO CHANGE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION
COMMITTEE**

Submitted by Rev. Dustin Burrow, Chair Endowment Distribution

Whereas, The Endowment Distribution Committee of the New Mexico Annual Conference (NMAC) currently includes a membership structure based on historical district configurations that no longer reflect the current realities and demands placed upon it. In 2024 alone, this committee was tasked with reviewing, interviewing, and processing 38 applications, in which we distributed over \$293,000 in funds. The effectiveness of such crucial work can be compromised by the absence of even a single member under the current structure, given its limited size. This not only places undue responsibility on the remaining members but also risks delays and potential oversights in the administration of these significant funds. This new structure will enhance the committee's capacity to manage its responsibilities effectively, particularly in years with a high volume of applications and funding distribution. This restructuring recognizes the evolving landscape of the NMAC and aims to ensure that the committee's work is supported by a membership framework that is both equitable and functional.

Whereas, the committee structure has not been revisited for several years, possibly dating back to a time when the NMAC encompassed four districts. The recent reconfiguration into fewer districts necessitates a reevaluation of the committee's composition to ensure it remains representative and effective.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the membership of the EDC be restructured to be a better representation of the current district configuration of the NMAC and ensure of a more robust representation and distribution of responsibilities as is vital for the meticulous management of its tasks.

Be it further resolved that the following changes be made to the membership of the Endowment Distribution Committee

Deleted items are indicated by strike-through; additions are in red.

1325 ...

The Endowment Distribution Committee shall be comprised of the following members: ~~one clergyperson and one layperson selected from the membership of the Conference Board of Global Ministries, one clergyperson and one layperson from the membership of the Board of Trustees, and one representative from each district of the NMAC. District representatives will rotate between clergy and laity. The Provost/Director of Congregational Vitality shall serve ex-officio with voice, but no vote.~~

One layperson and one clergyperson from the Board of Trustees;
One layperson and one clergyperson from the Conference Board of Global Ministries (GBGM);
One layperson and one clergyperson from the El Paso District;
One layperson and one clergyperson from the Albuquerque District;
Superintendents from Albuquerque and El Paso shall serve ex-officio with voice, and no vote.