



**New Mexico Annual Conference
 Western Hills UMC - El Paso
 June 11-13, 2026**

Pre-Conference Journal Supplement

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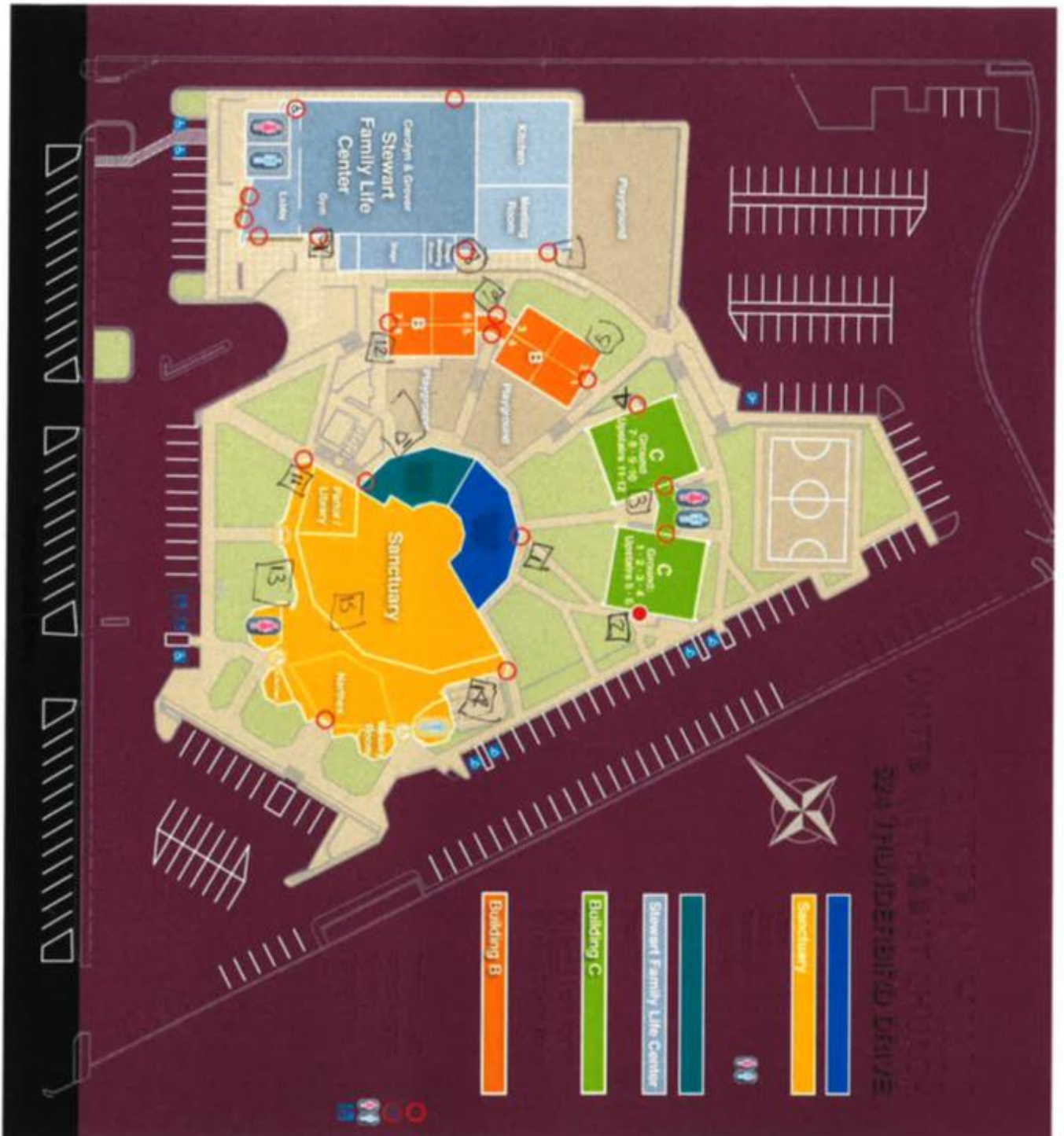
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Western Hills UMC Facility Map



NMAC 2026 Schedule and Agenda

June 11 – 13, 2026

Agenda items are subject to change. Sessions may include more items than are highlighted. All activities at Western Hills UMC are in the Family Life Center (FLC) unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 10

5:15 pm Conference Choir Rehearsal. WHUMC Choir Room
6:00 pm Pre-Conference Gathering, St. Mark's UMC, 5005 Love Road
Registration required

Thursday, June 11

7:00 am Check-In
9:00 am Opening Worship – Bishop Carlo Preaching WHUMC Worship Center
10:30 am Break
11:00 am **Clergy Session – Worship Center**
Laity Session – FLC
12:00 pm Lunch on your own
1:30 pm **Opening Plenary Session**

- Organizing Motions
- Introductions
- Archives and History/Living Archives Awards
- Lydia Patteson Institute

3:00 pm Break
3:30 pm **Plenary Session**
Rev. Dr. Blair Thompson, Chief Learning and Innovation Officer at Wesleyan Impact Partners and Texas Methodist Foundation
5:00 pm 150th Anniversary Fiesta Celebration at Western Hills UMC
7:00 pm Commissioning Rehearsal

Friday, June 12

9:00 am **Plenary Session**
Rev. Dr. Blair Thompson
10:30 am Break
11:00 am Celebration of Ministry Service
12:00 pm Retiree Lunch
1:30 pm **Plenary Session**

- New Church Development
- Campus Ministry
- Disability Concerns
- Creation Care Resolution
- Land Acknowledgement Resolution
- Laity Address

3:00 pm Break
3:30 pm **Plenary Session**

- Claremont School of Theology
- Budget
- DS Salaries Resolution
- Co-Provosts Resolution

- BOPHB + Rental/Housing Resolution
 - Conference Office Resolution
 - *CMT Report – Missional Priorities*
- 4:00 Conference Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm Dinner on your own
BOM Dinner
- 7:00 pm Service of Commissioning – Bishop Grant Hagiya Preaching WHUMC Worship Center
- 9:00 pm Reception

Saturday, June 13

- 9:00 am **Closing Plenary**
- Conference Chancellor
 - Discontinuance – Ojo Amarillo UMC
 - COB Leadership Gathering
 - Nominations
 - Consent Calendar
 - Closing Resolutions
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:30 am Closing Worship/Fixing Appointments
- 12:00 pm Adjournment

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Nominations Report

1 New members of the committees and boards listed below are identified in ***bold italics***. Clergy members are
 2 identified by the “C” notation, while lay members are identified with an “L”. Women are notated with “W”
 3 and men with “M” (for example, a female clergy person is identified as CW, a lay male is identified as LM).
 4 Retired clergy are identified by RET, young adult members of teams or committees are identified by YA. In
 5 some circumstances, members who remain to be determined are marked (TBD) and will be included in the
 6 final membership list published in the 2025 New Mexico Conference Journal.

7

8 Annual Conference 2027 Planning Team

9	Kathy Jewell	LW	Conference Lay Leader
10	Maggie Johnson Huntsman	LW	
11	Roselie Johnston	LW	Conference Staff
12	Joe MacDonald	CM	AC Worship Chair
13	Alli Newsom	LW	Conference Staff
14	Pam Rowley	CW	El Paso District Superintendent
15	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Albuquerque District Superintendent
16	Sue Malone	LW	El Paso District Lay Leader
17	<i>Joe Whitley</i>	<i>CM</i>	
18	Stephen White	CM	
19	Kendra White	LW	
20	<i>Jacqui Lax</i>	<i>CW</i>	

21

22 Conference Ministry Team

23	Brad Bennett	CM	Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Chair
24	Dustin Burrow	CM	Endowment Distribution Chair
25	Cazandra Campos-MacDonald	CW	Order of Deacons Chair
26	Tinker Boyd	CW	Fellowship of Local Pastors and Assoc. Members Chair
27	Koreen Guillermo	CM	Council on Finance and Administration Chair
28	<i>Kercida McClain</i>	<i>CM</i>	<i>New Church Development Chair</i>
29	Kathy Jewell	LW	Conference Lay Leader
30	Kim Kinsey	CW	Board of Ordained Ministry Chair
31	Josh Kouri	CM	Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Chair
32	<i>James Heredia</i>	<i>CM</i>	<i>Conference Council on Youth Ministry Chair</i>
33	<i>Hal Grieg</i>	<i>LM</i>	<i>Albuquerque District Lay Leader</i>
34	Sue Malone	LW	El Paso District Lay Leader
35	Douglas Mills	CM	Border Ministries & Church and Society Chair
36	Steve Wilson	LM	Conference Board of Trustees Chair
37	Terry Allen	LM	At-large
38	Amy Wilson-Feltz	CW	At-large
39	Ross Whiteaker	CM	ABQ District Superintendent/Co-Provost
40	Pam Rowley	CW	El Paso District Superintendent/Co-Provost
41	Alli Newsom	LW	Director of Communications (ex-officio)
42	Carlo Rapanut	CM	Bishop (ex-officio)

43

44 Nominations Committee

45	Carlo Rapanut	CM	Bishop/Chair
46	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Albuquerque District Superintendent/Co-Provost
47	<i>Hal Grieg</i>	<i>LM</i>	<i>Albuquerque District Lay Leader</i>

1	Pam Rowley	CW	El Paso District Superintendent/Co-Provost
2	Kathy Jewell	LW	Conference Lay Leader
3	Sue Malone	LW	El Paso District Lay Leader
4	Dustin Burrow	CM	
5	Steve Trout	CM	
6	Susan Trodoux	LW	
7	Roselie Johnston	LW	Conference Secretary
8			
9	<u>Rules Committee</u>		
10	Eddie Rivera	CM	
11	Robert Holder	LM	Chair
12	Adrienne Coleman	CW	
13	Mike Furnish	LM	
14	Mary Galbraith	LW	
15	Roselie Johnston	LW	Conference Secretary
16			
17	<u>Board of Ordained Ministry</u>		
18	Kim Kinsey	CW	Chair
19	Lourdes Calderon	CW (RET)	
20	Aurora Gray	LW (YA)	
21	Young Hoon Kang	CM	
22	Jeannie Williams	CW (RET)	
23	Layloni Drake	CW (RET)	
24	Kathy Jewell	LW	
25	Dustin Burrow	CM	
26	Katia Paredes	CW (FD)	
27	Robert Chavez	LM (CLM)	
28	Sean Smith	CM	Registrar
29	Tina Cross	CW	Chair, Order of Elders
30	Cazandra Campos-MacDonald	CW	Chair, Order of Deacons
31	TBD	CW	Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors
32	Blaine Wimberly	CW	Chair, Albuquerque DCOM
33	Amy Wilson-Feltz	CW	Chair, EL Paso DCOM
34	Pam Rowley	CW	Co-Provost
35			
36	<u>Administrative Review Committee (BOD para. 636)</u>		
37	Jim Hawk	CM (RET)	Chair
38	Koreen Guillermo	CW	
39	George Miller	LM	
40	Eileen Utton	CW	Alternate
41	Gorton Smith	CM (RET)	Alternate
42			
43	<u>Committee on Investigation</u>		
44	Adrienne Coleman	CW	
45	Joshua Kouri	CM	
46	Miriam Maldonado	LW	
47	Eddie Rivera	CM	
48	Ed Shugert	LM	
49	Dave Thomas	LM	
50	Bill Butler	LM	Alternate

1	Linda Coble	LW	Alternate
2	Rodney Ennis	LM	Alternate
3	Nikki McDonald	LW	Alternate
4	Gary Seelau	CM (RET)	Alternate
5	Laird Cross	CM	Alternate
6	Katherine de la Rosa Salazar	CW	Alternate
7	Joe MacDonald	CM	Alternate
8	Tiffany Hollums	CW	Alternate
9	Mary Bell Haney	LW	Alternate
10	Florence Higgins	LW	Alternate
11			
12	<u>Joint Committee on Medical Leave</u>		
13	Brad Bennett	CW	Conference Board of Pensions and Health
14	Claudia Ryan	LM	Conference Board of Pensions and Health
15	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Cabinet Representative
16	Sean Smith	CM	BOM Registrar
17	Jeannie Williams	CW	BOM Representative
18			
19	<u>Conference Committee on Episcopacy</u>		
20	Sean Barnham	LM	
21	Susan Brumbaugh	LW	Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee Member (ex-officio; with vote)
22			
23	Tina Cross	CW	
24	Heidi Herrera	LW	
25	Kathy Jewell	LW	Conference Lay Leader
26	Larry Luna	LM	
27	Pam Rowley	CW	Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee Member (ex-officio; with vote)
28			
29	Sean Smith	CM	Chair
30	Eddie Rivera	CM	
31			
32	<u>Council on Finance and Administration</u>		
33	Beth Caster	LW	
34	Laird Cross	CM	
35	Koreen Guillermo	CW	
36	David Robinson	LM	
37	Josh Kouri	CM	
38	Kathleen Anderson	LW	
39	Jacqui Lax	CW	
40	Anita Wright	LW	
41	Janice Honeycutt	LW	
42	Pam Rowley	CW	El Paso District Superintendent
43	Ross Whiteaker	CM	ABQ District Superintendent
44	Griselda Sandoval	LW	Treasurer (ex-officio)
45	Carlo Rapanut	CM	Bishop (ex-officio)
46			
47	Investments Committee		
48	Carlo Rapanut		Bishop
49	Koreen Guillerm		CFA Chair
50	Pam Rowley		Co-Provost

1	Steve Wilson		Trustees Chair
2	Brad Bennett		BOPHB Chair
3	Griselda Sandoval		Treasurer
4	Mary White		
5			
6	<u>Board of Pensions and Health Benefits</u>		
7	Class of 2029		
8	Christy Mills	LW	
9	Gorton Smith	CM (RET)	
10	Class of 2032		
11	Brad Bennett	CM (RET)	Chair
12	Sarah Allen	LW	
13	David Wilcox	CM	
14	Nancy Kirkpatrick	LW	
15	Joe MacDonald	CM	
16	Claudia Ryan	LW	
17	Shaun Cummings	LM	
18	David Shoup	LM	
19	John Nash	CM	
20	Other Members		
21	Pam Rowley	CW	Co-Provost
22			
23	<u>Board of Laity</u>		
24	Carlo Rapanut	CM	Bishop (ex-officio)
25	Heidi Herrera	LW	Director of Lay Servant Ministries
26	Cazandra Campos-MacDonald	CW	
27	Susan Ideus	LW	CLM Registrar
28	Kathy Jewell	LW	Chair, Conf. LL/Director Lay Servant Ministries
29	Roselie Johnston	LW	Conference Staff (ex-officio)
30	Sue Malone	LW	El Paso District Lay Leader
31	Hal Grieg	LM	Albuquerque District Lay Leader
32	Joe MacDonald	CM	
33	Barb Tegtmeier	LW	
34	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Co-Provost
35	Hank Humiston	LM	
36	Jon Hendricks	LM	
37	Ken McVey	LM	UMM President
38	Tanya Boyd	LW	UWF President
39	Cheryll Felder	LW	UWF
40	Peggy Arensdorf	LW	UWF
41	Aaron Edwards	LM	CCYM Representative
42			
43	<u>Board of Trustees</u>		
44	Class of 2028		
45	Mike Puckett	LM	
46	Suzy Snow	LW	
47	Jon Kuncel	CM	
48	Joe Marshall	CM	

1	Class of 2030		
2	Steve Wilson	LM	Chair
3	Linn Reece	LM	
4	Tinker Boyd	CW	
5	Matt Bridges	CM	
6	Class of 2032		
7	Karen Hobbs	LW	
8	Mike Furnish	LM	
9	Lisa Blaylock	CW	
10	Ex-officio Members		
11	Pam Rowley	CW	Co-Provost
12	Griselda Sandoval	LW	Treasurer
13	Kathy Jewell	LW	Safer Sanctuaries
14			
15	<u>Commission on Archives and History</u>		
16	Florence Higgins	LW	
17	Ed Vigil	CM	Albuquerque District Historian
18	David Ring III	CM	Historical Society
19	Bob Sawyer	CM	
20	Will Steinsiek	CM	Chair, Conference Historian
21	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Cabinet Representative
22	Beth Caster	LW	
23	Cathy Costales	LW	
24	Clyde Stanfield	CM	
25			
26	<u>Endowment Distribution Committee</u>		
27	Jon Kuncel	CM	Trustees clergy representative
28	Dustin Burrow	CM	Chair
29	Pam Rowley	CW	El Paso District Superintendent
30	Ross Whiteaker	CM	ABQ District Superintendent
31	Mary White	LW	CBGM lay representative
32	Kathy Jewell	LW	Trustees lay representative
33	Janie Sinclair	LW	El Paso District lay representative
34	Susan Ideus	LW	ABQ District Lay Representative
35	James Heredia	CM	ABQ District Clergy Representative
36	Jon Moore	CM	El Paso District Clergy Representative
37			
38	<u>Commission on Equitable Compensation</u>		
39	Craig Cockrell	CM (RET)	
40	Layloni Drake	CW	Chair
41	Eileen Utton	CW (RET)	
42	Jana Roberts	LW	
43	Steve White	CM	
44	Allen Wright	LM	
45	Christine Mesa	LW	
46	Pam Rowley	CW	Co-Provost
47	Griselda Sandoval	LW	Treasurer, ex-officio
48	Art Enriquez	LM	

1	<u>New Church Development</u>		
2	Hollie Harris	LW	
3	Salvador Perales	LM	
4	Damon Stalvey	CM	
5	Kercida McClain	LW	Chair
6	<i>Amy Wilson-Feltz</i>	<i>CW</i>	
7	<i>Dustin Burrow</i>	<i>CM</i>	
8	<i>Jennifer Stroh-Viescas</i>	<i>LW</i>	
9	Griselda Sandoval	LW	Conference Treasurer (ex-officio)
10	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Co-Provost
11			
12	<u>Border Ministries and Conference Board of Church and Society</u>		
13	Ellice Whiteaker	LW	YA
14	George Miller	CM	
15	Doug Mills	CM	Chair
16	Lourdes Calderon	CW	
17	Eddie Rivera	CM	
18	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Co-Provost
19	Sarah Allen	LW	
20	Anne Grant	LW	UWF
21	<i>Efrain Belmontes</i>	<i>CM</i>	
22			
23	<u>Conference Board of Global Ministries</u>		
24	Mary White	LW	Chair, El Paso District Missions Secretary
25	Blaine Wimberly	CW	Albuquerque District Missions Secretary
26	Dick Wimberly	LM	
27	Elaine Hays	LW	UWF Representative
28	Hank Humiston	LM	UMM Representative
29	Ross Whiteaker	CW	Co-Provost
30	James Heredia	CM	
31	Terry Allen	LM	
32	<i>Tiffany Hollums</i>	<i>CW</i>	<i>Conference Secretary Global Ministries</i>
33	<i>Roselie Johnston</i>	<i>LW</i>	<i>Conference Disaster Response Coordinator (iterim)</i>
34			
35	<u>Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry</u>		
36	<i>Efrain Belmontes</i>	<i>CM</i>	<i>NMSU Wesley Director</i>
37	<i>Michele Walton</i>	<i>CW</i>	<i>UNM Wesley Director</i>
38	Elizabeth Kirkwood	LW	ENMU Wesley Director
39	Jackson Mills	LM	El Paso Wesley Director
40	<i>Roger Walker</i>	<i>LM</i>	<i>NMSU Wesley Board Rep.</i>
41	<i>Sarah Stamer</i>	<i>LW</i>	<i>UNM Wesley Board Rep.</i>
42	<i>Lisa Lehaul</i>	<i>LW</i>	<i>ENMU Wesley Board Rep.</i>
43	<i>Patricia Barlow</i>	<i>LW</i>	<i>El Paso Wesley Board Rep.</i>
44	Lisa Blaylock	CW	
45	Josh Kouri	CM	Chair
46	Jason Feltz	LM	
47	Lijah Medina	LW	
48	<i>Ross Whiteaker</i>	<i>CM</i>	<i>Co-Provost</i>

1	<u>Conference Council on Youth Ministries</u>		
2	James Heredia	CM	Chair
3	Adult Members:		
4	El Paso District		
5	Kara Heimark	LW	
6	Ernesto Barriguete	CM	
7	Albuquerque District:		
8	TBD		
9	Youth Members:		
10	El Paso District		
11	Ian Armendariz	LM	
12	Albuquerque District		
13	Shelby Mason	LW	
14			
15	<u>Communications Council</u>		
16	Matt Bridges	CM	
17	Alli Newsom	LW	Director of Communications
18	Stuart Davenport	LM	
19	Cazandra Campos-MacDonald	CW	
20	Steve Putnicki	LM	
21			
22	<u>Four Corners Native American Ministries</u>		
23	Norman Mark	CM	Mountain Sky Representative
24	Kathleen Potter	CW	Chair
25	Adrienne Coleman	CW	New Mexico Annual Conference CONAM Chair
26	Pyn Francisco-Hosteen	LW	
27	Theresa Kelly	LW	
28	Kennette Phillips	LW	
29	Griselda Sandoval	LW	Conference Treasurer (ex-officio)
30	Ross Whiteaker	CM	ABQ District Superintendent (ex-officio)
31	TBD		one additional DSW and Mtn Sky Representative
32			
33	<u>Committee on Native American Ministries</u>		
34	Nancy Bidtah	LW	
35	Tinker Boyd	CW	
36	Casey Church	LM	
37	Adrienne Coleman	CW	Chair
38	Steven Jackson	LM	
39	Jodi Lawrence-Secret	LW	
40	Cheri Lyon	CW	
41	Shirley Montoya	CW	
42	Raquel Mull	CW	
43	Sean Smith	CM	
44	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Co-Provost

1	<u>Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women</u>		
2	Amy Jordan	CW	
3	Kathy Duncan	LW	
4	John Milholland	LM	
5	Bill Wood	LM	
6	Cazandra Campos-MacDonald	CW	Chair
7	Cathy Costales	LW	
8	Katherine de la Rosa Salazar	CW	
9	Stan Mortimer	LM	
10	Pam Rowley	CW	Co-Provost
11			
12	<u>Small Membership Church Committee</u>		
13	Daniel Armendariz	LM	
14	Marlene Kravitz	LW	
15	Cheri Lyon	CW	
16	David Wilcox	CM	Chair
17	Deborah Villalva	LW	
18	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Co-Provost
19			
20	<u>Ethnic Local Church Task Force</u>		
21	Obed Alba	CM	
22	Jesse Bermudez	CM	
23	Casey Church	LM	
24	Tina Cross	CW	
25	Patricia Joe	LW	
26	Jose Salgado	LM	
27	Miriam Maldonado	LW	
28	Keith Thompson	LM	
29	Art Villalva	LM	
30	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Co-Provost
31			
32	<u>Disability Concerns</u>		
33	Rachel Minaar	LW	Chair
34	Yvette Gardner-Pickett	LW	
35	Carol Birdsong	LW	
36	Sarah Spencer	LW	
37	Hollie Harris	LW	
38	Jan Nichols	LW	
39	Tony Perez	LM	
40	Kim Portillo	LW	
41	Kaitlyn Vandine	LW	
42	Ross Whiteaker	CM	Co-Provost

Resolution for Discontinuance

Faithful Completion of Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church in Ojo Amarillo, New Mexico

Submitted by Rev. Ross Whiteaker, Albuquerque District Superintendent

Whereas, Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church of Ojo Amarillo, New Mexico grew from humble beginnings, first meeting in private homes and later in the church sanctuary that local members helped construct. In its early years, Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church served as both a place of worship and a center of community life, hosting worship services, Vacation Bible School, youth activities, and outreach ministries to the surrounding rural communities. Throughout its history, the congregation faithfully served the spiritual and practical needs of the people of the region, including nearby Hispanic and Native American communities. Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church maintained a long and faithful witness to the Gospel through worship, service, and Christian fellowship, for which we give thanks to God.

Whereas, the church conference of Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church voted on November 9, 2025, to discontinue the church; and

Whereas, the members and friends of Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church celebrated their life and ministry together on December 28, 2025, during a worship service disbanding the congregation and will go on to serve the Lord in other parts of God's Kingdom here on earth; and

Whereas, the consent to discontinue and observe faithful completion has been granted by Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, the Albuquerque and El Paso District Superintendents, and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with; and

Whereas, the local church property will no longer use, keep, or maintain its membership as a place of divine worship after June 13, 2026;

Therefore, Be It Resolved: That upon the recommendation of the Albuquerque District Superintendent, the New Mexico Annual Conference declares Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church closed on June 13, 2026, pursuant to ¶12549.1.b of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2020/2024* (BOD) and that, on June 13, 2026, the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees assumes control of the real and personal, tangible and intangible property, and any and all other assets, both present and future of Ojo Amarillo United Methodist Church of Ojo Amarillo, New Mexico (¶12549.2.b, BOD).

Finally, Be It Further Resolved: That the New Mexico Annual Conference Board of Trustees is granted the authority to retain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the property in the best interest of the New Mexico Annual Conference as stipulated in ¶12549.2.c). of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024*.

Resolution for Moving Expenses Increase in the New Mexico Conference

Submitted by Rev. Ross Whitaker, Albuquerque DS and Rev. Dr. Pamela Rowley, El Paso DS

- 1 **Whereas**, the current amount for moving expenses for a new pastor stated in standing rule #2805 is \$1,500
2 and is not adequate for the changing economy,
3
- 4 **Whereas**, the amount for moving expenses for churches under Equitable Compensation, Rule #2630 is \$1,500
5 and is not adequate for the changing economy,
6
- 7 **Whereas**, the current amount for moving expenses stated in standing rule #2405.10 for the office of District
8 Superintendents or conference staff is not adequate for the changing economy,
9
- 10 **Whereas**, pastors often incur some of their own costs to make a move to a new appointment,
11 Whereas, our conference entails the state of New Mexico and west Texas and extensive miles to move,
12
- 13 **Whereas**, the last time this amount increased was in 2006 and the costs of making a move continue to
14 increase,
15
- 16 **Whereas**, churches need ample time to prepare for this increase before the next appointment season, this
17 adjustment will be communicated at church/charge conferences in the Fall of 2026,
18
- 19 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the reimbursement for moving expenses for churches receiving a new pastor
20 shall be increased to the amount of \$3,000 but not limited to that amount in standing rules #2805, 2630, and
21 2405.10.

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

James Bradley Bennett, Chair

1 Executive Committee:

- 2 The Reverend J Bradley Bennett, Chair
3 The Reverend Doctor Joe MacDonald, Vice-Chair
4 Sarah Allen, Secretary and Health Benefits Committee Chair
5 Claudia Ryan, Pension Benefits Committee Chair
6 Christy Mills, Grant Committee Chair and Treasurer
7 The Reverend Gorton Smith, Retiree Liaison

8 Additional Board members:

- 9 Shaun Cummings
10 Hal Greig
11 Nancy Kirkpatrick
12 David Shoup
13 The Reverend David Wilcox

14 Ex-Officio:

- 15 The Reverend Doctor Pam Rowley, Provost & Superintendent
16 Andy Sroka, Wespeth Conference Liason

17 Staff:

- 18 Melissa Thacker, Board Administrative Assistant
19 Griselda Sandoval, Board Treasurer
20

21 Report #1 – Administrative Report

22 1. ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS

23 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits administers a Memorial Account with Wespeth
24 Benefits and Investments (formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits).
25 *Individuals who wish to participate and contribute to an Endowment should contact the Conference*
26 *Benefits Officer.* Endowment accounts are in honor and memory of the following persons: Bishop &
27 Mrs. Alsie Carleton, Dr. George Ditterline, Dr. C. Edward Ditterline, Dr. M.L. Sims, Mr. & Mrs. Tom
28 Sivley, Laura Violet Robertson, Robert E. Robinson and R.I Bledsoe, Rev. Aubrey Walley, and Rev. Dr.
29 Lloyd Hughes. No new endowments were received in 2025.
30

31 The Annie Lee Kornegay Fund, established for the purpose of providing emergency support to surviving
32 spouses, is invested with the Texas Methodist Foundation. A permanent Memorial Fund has also been
33 established with the Texas Methodist Foundation. No contributions were made to these funds in 2025.
34 Past contributions have been received in memory of: Bob Harrison, Lillie Ditterline, Ralph Stanfield,
35 Madge McGrew, Mabel Morgan, Joe Scrimshire, and T.J. and Mary Ray Sivley, John Klassen, Levi
36 Louderback, V.B. Irby, Mary Hembree, and Joseph Goodart.
37

38 2. Special BOPHB GRANTS FOR 2025

39 Grants awarded in 2025 to 16 pastors total (14 Full-Time and 2 Part-Time clergy):

40 Medical Grants	\$43,876.51
41 Wellness Grants	\$63,495.39
42 Wholeness Grants	\$36,000.00
43 total 2025 grants	\$143,371.90

1 **3. PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET (approved at February 25, 2026 BOPHB meeting)**

INCOME 2027	
Retiree/Disability Support Fund	\$ 250,000.00
Administration/Transfer In	\$ 125,500.00
HealthFlex Income-Active Clergy	\$ 800,000.00
HealthFlex Income-Laity	\$ 150,000.00
Dental/Vision	\$ 40,000.00
COMPASS / CPP	\$ 530,000.00
UMLifeOptions Income-Actives	\$ 20,000.00
UMPIP	\$ 315,000.00
INCOME TOTAL	\$ 2,230,500.00
EXPENSE 2027	
Retiree/Disability Support Fund	\$ 250,000.00
Administration/Transfer In	\$ 125,500.00
HealthFlex Income-Active Clergy	\$ 800,000.00
HealthFlex Income-Laity	\$ 150,000.00
Dental/Vision	\$ 40,000.00
COMPASS / CPP	\$ 530,000.00
UMLifeOptions Income-Actives	\$ 20,000.00
UMPIP	\$ 315,000.00
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 2,230,500.00

2 **4. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:**

3 The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits provides for the following expenses in
 4 administrative line items:

- 5 a) Benefits Staff-compensation, benefits, travel, professional dues
- 6 b) Office expenses-rent, postage, telephone, supplies, software maintenance
- 7 c) Retiree expenses to Annual Conference, Annual Conference retiree’s luncheon
- 8 d) Board meeting expenses
- 9 e) Education and Advocacy-seminars, benefits events, videos, brochures
- 10 f) Biennial actuarial study of retiree healthcare liability

1 **5. REPORTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

2 The following reports are available upon request to the Conference Benefits office.

3 A. Adoption agreements for pension and benefit plans.

4 B. 2025 Distribution to Annuitants

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

10 **6. RETIRED CLERGY, SURVIVING SPOUSES, DEPENDENT CHILDREN, AND INCAPACITY LEAVE**

11 A complete list of retired clergy and surviving spouses will be included in the 2026 Journal.

12 **7. REPORT OF LOCAL CHURCH UNPAID OBLIGATIONS (Pension & Health Benefit Arrearages)**

13 Reports of unpaid obligations by District and All Districts totaled:

District	Amount Due end of 2024	Amount Due January 31, 2026
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT	\$ 189,459.08	\$ 184,447.91
CLOVIS DISTRICT	\$ 10,268.93	\$ 7,061.16
EL PASO DISTRICT	\$ 37,716.30	\$ 68,903.79
ALL DISTRICTS	\$ 237,444.31	\$ 260,412.86

District - City	Local Church	Amount Due end of 2024	Amount Due JAN 31, 2026
Clovis - Alamogordo	Grace UMC	\$ 893.64	\$ 970.17
Clovis, - Portales	First UMC	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,008.15
Clovis - Raton	First UMC	\$ 41.19	\$ 2,082.84
Clovis - DISTRICT	TOTAL	\$ 934.83	\$ 7,061.16

District - City	Local Church	Amount Due end of 2024	Amount Due January 31, 2026
Albuquerque	Asbury UMC	\$ 3,285.03	\$ 5,699.73
Albuquerque	Covenant UMC	\$ 84,981.42	\$ 79,857.49
Albuquerque - Belen	First UMC	\$ 8,888.53	\$ 16,256.90
Albuquerque - Española	Valley View UMC	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,073.46
Albuquerque - Gallup	First UMC	\$ 88,754.68	\$ 78,140.68
Albuquerque - Las Vegas	First UMC	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,249.06
Albuquerque - Window Rock	Window Rock UMC	\$ 148.43	\$ 170.59
Albuquerque DISTRICT	TOTAL	\$ 186,058.09	\$ 184,447.91

District - City	Local Church	Amount Due end of 2024	Amount Due JAN 31, 2026
El Paso	Tobin Park UMC	\$ 878.00	\$ 136.96
El Paso	Vista Ysleta UMC	\$ 115.90	\$ 580.09
El Paso	Wesley UMC	\$ 1,091.85	\$ 3,711.49
El Paso - Las Cruces	El Calvario UMC	\$ 20,497.39	\$ 28,345.90
El Paso - Marfa	First UMC	\$ 0.00	\$ 925.65
El Paso - Mesquite	Del Valle UMC	\$ 5,274.65	\$ 5,647.13
El Paso - Odessa	The Bridge	\$ 7,783.79	\$ 26,755.73
El Paso - Sierra Blanca	First UMC	\$ 2,214.28	\$ 2,430.34
El Paso - Silver City	First UMC	\$ 148.20	\$ 370.50
El Paso DISTRICT	TOTAL	\$ 38,004.06	\$ 68,903.79

- 1 The Benefit Analyst shall report annually to the Annual Conference the name of each pastoral charge with an
- 2 unpaid obligation to the NMBPHB, either from unpaid prior years of Shared Ministries, direct billed

1 arrearages for appointed clergy’s pension and health insurance, or unpaid Retiree Disability Support Funds
2 (RDS). (See 2016 Discipline, ¶639.4). Each church in default receives a cumulative statement of amounts in
3 default indicated on the monthly invoice sent to churches.

- 4 A. The Benefit Analyst shall report annually to the Annual Conference the name of each pastoral
5 charge with an unpaid obligation to the NMBOPHB, either from unpaid prior years of Shared
6 Ministries, direct billed arrearages for appointed clergy’s pension and health insurance, or unpaid
7 Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS). (See 2016 Discipline, ¶639.4). Each church in default
8 receives a cumulative statement of amounts in default indicated on the monthly invoice sent to
9 churches.
- 10 B. All payments for unpaid prior years of Shared Ministries, direct billed arrearages for appointed
11 clergy’s pension and health insurance, or unpaid Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS) shall be
12 applied to the oldest debt first. Payments shall be made payable to the New Mexico Annual
13 Conference and sent to the attention of the Benefits Analyst.
- 14 C. The Benefit Analyst shall report regularly to the Board all unpaid church obligations. Unpaid
15 insurance premiums, pensions or payments to the Retiree Disability
16 Support fund shall continue as a debt to the church/charge responsible. Each church in default shall
17 receive a cumulative statement of amounts in default. In accordance with its standing rules, the
18 BOPHB has the right to terminate health coverage for clergy, their spouses, and dependent children
19 in the event unsatisfied arrearages of health benefits continue.
20

21 Report #2 – Pension, Insurance, Active Clergy Health and Retiree Benefits

22 1. Method of Funding and Funding Plans

23 The **2020/2024 Book of Discipline ¶ 1506** requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and
24 implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all of its benefit obligations. The funding
25 plan shall be submitted annually to the Wespeth Benefits and Investments for review and favorable
26 written opinion from the Wespeth Benefits and Investments.
27

28 A bit of history: The “Pre-82 Plan” was replaced by Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and then the Clergy
29 Retirement Security Program (CRSP). During the years of the MPP plan, Pastors were also able to
30 choose make contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). Those funds
31 continue to be managed by Wespeth. COMPASS is an account-based defined contribution 403(b)
32 retirement plan, which also includes the option for clergy to contribute to a new Personal Investment
33 Plan (PIP) a retirement savings plan (also IRS 403.B). All the pension and personal investment funds
34 from all of these plans are managed by WESPETH on behalf of each clergy person or their Surviving
35 Spouse or Beneficiaries. Please go to wespeth.org to learn more about all these plans.
36

37 The **2027** Past Service Rate (PSR) recommended for the New Mexico Annual Conference Funding Plan
38 will be **\$790.00**. This is a 2.0% increase over the PSR of \$774.00 for 2026. The Board of Pension and
39 Health Benefits decision is based on WESPETH’s pre-1982 New Mexico (581) Pension Actuarial
40 Valuation Reports as of **January 1, 2024 for 2025 (FINAL) and January 1, 2025 for 2027**
41 **(PRELIMINARY)** as the portion of the Pre-82 liability attributable to the New Mexico Conference and
42 funded status is, as of 1/1/2026.

1 The funded ratio is recalculated each year based on economic and demographic changes. These
2 changes create the possibility that Pre-82 contributions may be required at a future date. The
3 contingent annuitant percentage shall remain at the 100% level.
4

5 The NMBOPHB bills local churches directly for COMPASS and deposits collected amounts in a
6 designated account held at TMF. The Board may also choose to redirect pre-82 surplus when the over
7 funding ratio exceeds 120%. The Board recognizes that any redirection of pre-82 surplus increases the
8 probability of required contributions to the plan in the future. For this reason, any decisions for
9 redirection will be made on a year-by-year basis.
10

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

2027 Preliminary Funding Values

Past Service Rate	790
Contingent Annuitant % (CA%)	100%
Assets in the Plan	\$ 9,076,865
Funding Plan Liability	\$ (8,544,052)
Funded status	\$ 532,813
Funded Ratio	106%

15
16 **2. Grant Information for Active and Retired Clergy**

17 The NMBoPHB recommends that recipients consult a tax advisor as to the tax consequences
18 associated with the following grants. Only a limited number of grants are available each year. The
19 NMBoPHB will award the grants annually if it determines, on an annual basis, that funds are
20 available. Applications may be found on the Conference website (www.nmconfum.com) or requested
21 from the NM BoPHB Treasurer (nmbophbtreasurer@gmail.com). The application must be completed
22 by the participant or a person authorized to act on the participant's behalf. All applications are
23 confidential and only seen by members of the BoPHB sub-committee. Applicants must submit any
24 additional information sought by the reviewing sub-committee in order for the grant to be approved.
25

26 **BoPHB Medical Support Fund**

27 The New Mexico Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB) provides the Medical Support Fund grant
28 for **Active and Retired clergy** of the New Mexico Annual Conference, as well as their spouses, surviving
29 spouses or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children) the opportunity to apply for
30 grant assistance.
31

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

1 The grant amount is maximum \$5,000 per family, per year, whether active or retired. Each request will
2 be reviewed on an individual basis. An applicant may apply several times during the year, but any
3 grants awarded will not total in excess of \$5,000.

4 5 **BoPHB Wellness Support Fund**

6 The BOPHB provides a Wellness Support Fund grant opportunity for **Active and Retired clergy** of the
7 New Mexico Annual Conference, as well as their spouses, surviving spouses or surviving dependent
8 children (including adult dependent children), to proactively improve their spiritual, mental and
9 physical health. After any insurance or other financial help is taken into consideration, any retired
10 clergy or clergy under full-time appointment may apply to the BOPHB for this grant. Items that may be
11 considered include, but are not limited to, spiritual direction; coaching; help with weight loss; and
12 physical fitness training, facilities, and equipment.

13
14 Requests will be reviewed by the BOPHB sub-committee and all requests will remain confidential. If
15 approved, the sub-committee will decide what percentage of the request will be funded.
16 Disbursements may be made on a one time or repeating basis, depending on the nature of the request.
17 Approved gym memberships will be paid on a quarterly basis once receipts are received.

18
19 The submission of a completed application does not guarantee awarding of a grant. Three BOPHB
20 members, elected by the BOPHB, shall constitute the Wellness Fund Review Committee. All grant
21 requests will be strictly confidential. The grant amount is a maximum of \$5,000 per year per clergy
22 member. Applications may be found on the conference website.

23 24 **BoPHB Wholeness Grant**

25 The NM Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has established a “Wholeness Grant,”
26 designed to help improve recipients’ mental and emotional health through improved financial
27 security. Upon application, the said grant will award \$2,400 to ordained Elders and Deacons currently
28 under full-time appointment by the NM conference and \$1,200 to Licensed Local Pastors who are
29 currently serving churches under full-time appointment in the NM Conference. District
30 Superintendents are also eligible for this grant.

31 32 **3. Health Insurance Plans for Active Clergy:**

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

- 35 I. As voted by the 2004 Annual Conference, we use the actual cost funding method.
36 II. Every church/charge or organization with full time appointed Clergy under the age of 65 must
37 offer health insurance to full time clergy under appointment.
38 III. Every church/charge or organization shall pay at least the billed medical insurance defined
39 contribution amount (premium credit) for participating clergy. If approved by the church, clergy
40 may enroll other eligible family members, and the church will be required to pay the premium
41 credit for participant +1 or participant + family premium.

42
43 The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (BoPHB) has adopted WESPATH’s HealthFlex
44 Exchange for all participants. In 2027, HealthFlex provides a platform where participants will “shop”
45 for a health plan among 4 plans. A Plan Adoption with HealthFlex gives plan sponsors (the
46 church/charge or organization) more predictability over health care costs and gives HealthFlex
47 participants (Pastors/Clergy) flexibility in choosing the level of coverage that fits their preferences
48 and budget.

See the following HealthFlex Rate Sheets for 2027 for Medical, Dental, and Vision:



HealthFlex 2027 Rate Sheet

Plan Sponsor New Mexico

Medical Plan Rates					
Plan	Tier	Projected 2027 Enrollment	2026 Rate	2027 Rate	% Increase
B1000	Participant	6	\$1,181	\$1,453	23.0%
B1000	Participant+1	4	\$2,244	\$2,761	23.0%
B1000	Family	1	\$3,071	\$3,778	23.0%
B1000 Total		11	\$230,000	\$282,000	22.6%
C2000 with HRA	Participant	8	\$1,134	\$1,351	19.1%
C2000 with HRA	Participant+1	3	\$2,154	\$2,567	19.2%
C2000 with HRA	Family	1	\$2,948	\$3,513	19.2%
C2000 with HRA Total		12	\$222,000	\$264,000	18.9%
H2000 with HSA	Participant	4	\$1,105	\$1,308	18.4%
H2000 with HSA	Participant+1	2	\$2,100	\$2,485	18.3%
H2000 with HSA	Family	5	\$2,874	\$3,400	18.3%
H2000 with HSA Total		11	\$276,000	\$326,000	18.1%
H5000 with HSA	Participant	5	\$891	\$1,096	23.0%
H5000 with HSA	Participant+1	1	\$1,693	\$2,082	23.0%
H5000 with HSA	Family	4	\$2,316	\$2,849	23.0%
H5000 Total		10	\$185,000	\$227,000	22.7%
Grand Total		44			

Dental Plan Rates					
Plan	Tier	Projected 2027 Enrollment	2026 Rate	2027 Rate	% Increase
Passive PPO 2000	Participant	2	\$56	\$56	0.0%
Passive PPO 2000	Participant+1	2	\$112	\$112	0.0%
Passive PPO 2000	Family	1	\$168	\$168	0.0%
Passive PPO 2000 Total		5	\$6,000	\$6,000	0.0%
Dental PPO	Participant	13	\$46	\$46	0.0%
Dental PPO	Participant+1	5	\$92	\$92	0.0%
Dental PPO	Family	6	\$138	\$138	0.0%
Dental PPO Total		24	\$23,000	\$23,000	0.0%
Dental HMO	Participant	0	\$18	\$18	0.0%
Dental HMO	Participant+1	0	\$32	\$32	0.0%
Dental HMO	Family	0	\$56	\$56	0.0%
Dental HMO Total		0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Grand Total		29			

Vision Buy-Up Plan Rates					
Plan	Tier	Projected 2027 Enrollment	2026 Rate	2027 Rate	% Inc
Full Service	Participant	6	\$9	\$9	0.0%
Full Service	Participant+1	4	\$14	\$14	0.0%
Full Service	Family	2	\$22	\$22	0.0%
Full Service Total		12	\$2,000	\$2,000	0.0%
Premier	Participant	11	\$15	\$15	0.0%
Premier	Participant+1	3	\$25	\$25	0.0%
Premier	Family	3	\$40	\$40	0.0%
Premier Total		17	\$4,000	\$4,000	0.0%
Grand Total		29			

13
14

15 Total annual costs for 2026 and 2027 are impacted by the projected enrollment numbers (see the rates
16 sheets above). For **2027**, regardless of plan chosen by the participant, local churches and organizations will
17 pay the defined contribution (premium credit) as follows at the proposed rates.

18 Complete COMPASS plan are at [WESPATH.ORG \(https://www.wespath.org/connect-with-us\)](https://www.wespath.org/connect-with-us). Or, call
19 and ask for HealthFlex Representatives who are available business days (M-F) from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00
20 p.m., Central time. [1-800-851-2201](tel:1-800-851-2201)

21

22 **4. Direct Billing**

23 Every salary paying unit (church/charge or organization) will be billed directly near the beginning
24 every month from the conference Benefits office. Payments shall be due by the 20th of each month.

- 25 I. Every church/charge or organization shall pay the premium costs of *UMLifeOptions* (UMLO) for
26 its eligible appointed clergy and their spouses.
- 27 II. Salary paying units will be billed for all health insurance and optional AFLAC premiums chosen by
28 the participants. Participants are responsible, through a payroll deduction, for plan cost amounts
29 above the church contribution, dental premium, upgraded vision premium, medical
30 reimbursement amount (MRA), health savings account (HSA), dependent care allowance (DCA)
31 and AFLAC policies.
- 32 III. Billing for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) to each salary paying unit shall be at 3% of
33 plan compensation* for each eligible participant enrolled in the CPP. The conference elects to
34 cover 3/4-time clergy who are Full and Provisional members (Elders and Deacons) of the Annual
35 Conference, Associate members and Clergy of other Methodist denominations earning at least
36 25% of denominational average compensation (DAC) subject to terms of the Plan.
- 37 IV. Retiree Disability Support Funds (RDS) is a proportionate payment billed to the churches on the
38 monthly statement. The RDS was reduced by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits in 2025
39 to \$250,000, divided by a percent decimal among all the churches, which is calculated from their
40 total income in the previous year.
- 41 V. COMPASS is a mandatory plan with Wespath Benefits and Investment, which began January 1,
42 2026. The UMC contributes to your retirement account in four ways to support clergy long-term
43 financial well-being:

- 1 I. COMPASS **FLAT** monthly contribution (paid by the local church).
- 2 II. COMPASS **3%** of plan compensation contribution (paid by the local church).
- 3 III. A dollar-for-dollar COMPASS **MATCH** on clergy contributions, **up to 4% of plan** compensation
- 4 (paid by the local church).
- 5 IV. In order to ensure that clergy receive the full UMC COMPASS **MATCH** paid by the local **AND**
- 6 support long-term growth, CLERGY are able to contribute much more with COMPASS **FLEX**,
- 7 beyond the 4% MATCH. Even small, consistent increases over time can make a meaningful
- 8 difference in your future retirement income (% established and paid by clergy).
- 9

10 **5. Retiree Information (Conference and Moving Reimbursements, Rental/Housing Allowances and For**
11 **Those Receiving Disability Payments (CPP Disability)**

- 12 1. All retirees will be reimbursed up to \$500.00 for Annual Conference expenses. This will include
- 13 conference registration, hotel costs, meal costs and/or travel expenses. Requests for reimbursement
- 14 shall be made, including receipts, to the Conference Benefits Analyst within sixty (60) days of the last
- 15 day of Annual Conference.
- 16 2. Retiring clergy who are living in a parsonage shall be reimbursed the actual cost of his/her moving
- 17 expenses up to \$1,500.00. Receipts need to be sent to the Conference Benefits Analyst within 30
- 18 days following their retirement date.
- 19 3. Rental/ Housing Allowances for Retired Ministers/those receiving disability payments.
- 20 I. An amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized
- 21 under The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes
- 22 all such payments from the Wespeth Benefits and Investments during the year **2027** by each
- 23 retired or disabled Clergy-person who is or was a member of the conference, or its predecessors,
- 24 can be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergy-person.
- 25 II. The pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any
- 26 pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the
- 27 Discipline, including such payments from Wespeth Benefits and Investments and from a
- 28 commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a
- 29 GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a
- 30 Clergy-person rendered to this conference or that a retired or disabled Clergy-person of this
- 31 conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the church, general agency of
- 32 the church, other institution of the church, former denomination that is now a part of the
- 33 church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy-person to perform services related
- 34 to the ministry of the church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to,
- 35 or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergy-
- 36 person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.
- 37 III. NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy-person's gross
- 38 income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code
- 39 Section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the
- 40 rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy-person's employer or other appropriate
- 41 body of the church (such as this conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2)
- 42 the amount actually expended by the Clergy-person's to rent or provide a home in such year;
- 43 or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a
- 44 garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Africa University

Submitted by James H. Salley, President and Chief Executive Officer – Africa University (Tennessee) Inc., and Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement – Africa University (Zimbabwe).

jsalley@africau.org | <https://support.africau.org> | www.africau.edu

1 Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

2

3 Thank you to the congregations of the New Mexico Conference of The United Methodist Church for your
4 steady support of Africa University.

5

6 2025 was a year of strong growth and momentum for Africa University (AU). In June, AU graduated its largest
7 class ever—622 students from 20 African countries. In August, the university welcomed its most diverse
8 incoming class, with students from 30 nations. They study in four colleges, a law school, and two institutes on
9 a modern, fully debt-free campus built for learning and community.

10

11 New Mexico Conference congregations generously invested in the Africa University Fund at 54.9 percent in
12 2025. This faithful support makes a real difference in forming disciples who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead
13 courageously—across Africa and around the world.

14

15 A few highlights from 2025:

16 • A self-funded solar power plant now supplies 100 percent of AU campus electricity, easing pressure on
17 Zimbabwe’s national grid and benefiting nearby communities.

18 • A new collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health
19 advances research in food security, sustainable agriculture, and environmental resilience. Faculty and
20 graduate researchers are developing evidence-based responses to climate stress, water insecurity,
21 and agricultural vulnerability—equipping communities to adapt and thrive.

22 • An expanded partnership supporting applied research with The United Methodist Church’s Global
23 Ministries agency focuses on at-risk agriculture and malaria prevention, strengthening rural
24 communities.

25 • In partnership with United Methodist Communications, AU is training African church communicators
26 in digital engagement and media strategy—strengthening the Church’s witness across diverse
27 contexts.

28 • AU’s School of Law moot court team earned the honor of representing Africa at the World Round of
29 the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition in the United Kingdom in 2026.

30

31 These milestones are directly connected to your generosity. As this quadrennium continues, Africa University
32 thanks every congregation in the New Mexico Conference for continuing to strive for 100 percent funding
33 each year. AU also invites churches to explore becoming “Keystone Congregations” by committing \$7,000
34 annually in scholarship support for one undergraduate student—and walking alongside that student with
35 prayer and encouragement throughout their degree journey.

36

37 Africa University remains a living expression of our worldwide connection. Because you give, research
38 advances. Because you pray, leaders are called and formed. Because you believe in Africa University, hope
39 expands across nations.

40

41 Thank you for standing with AU. Together, we are shaping a generation equipped to lead Africa—and the
42 Church—into a resilient and faithful future.