

John 15:1-17

Bearing Fruit that Lasts

2017 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Tracy S. Malone **Resident Bishop**

Tracy S. Malone, Presiding Bishop • Cynthia Patterson, Secretary

Brenda Vaccaro, Workbook Editor

**OHIO EAST AREA
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

8800 Cleveland Avenue NW, P.O. Box 2800 • North Canton, Ohio 44720
Telephone: (800) 831-3972, ext. 112 • Fax: (330) 497-4911

TRACY S. MALONE
RESIDENT BISHOP
Bishopmalone@eocumc.com

GARY M. GEORGE
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP
gary.george@eocumc.com

Dear East Ohio Annual Conference Member,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I have longed and prayed for this moment when we, members of the annual conference and me as your new resident bishop, will join together for a time of Holy Conferencing.

Fresh winds of God's spirit are blowing across the churches and ministries of the East Ohio Conference. I personally witnessed the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit during my visits to all 10 districts. I heard testimonies and learned about how discipleship, outreach ministries and missions are transforming people's lives and communities. I also witnessed the need and opportunity for our churches to grow in our capacity for sharing the Gospel of Christ as we seek to love and reach our neighbors, and engage the needs of our communities.

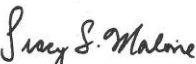
As we meet at Lakeside Chautauqua, on the shores of Lake Erie, it is my prayer that this will truly be a time of revival and renewal ... a time of worship, celebration, learning and sharing. May every decision, every report and every gathering bear witness to God's promises and our ongoing commitment to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our new quadrennial theme is "Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected." This year we will introduce this theme and intentionally reflect on what it means to have an abiding faith in Jesus Christ, and how the fruit of our faith and love is manifested in the way we live, serve, relate and engage in ministry with our neighbors.

I will preach the Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion on Monday afternoon, and the Service of Commissioning and Ordination on Wednesday evening.

Our guest preacher for our Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning worship services will be Bishop Mike McKee, resident bishop of the North Texas Conference. Bishop McKee was elected to the episcopacy by the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2012. He and I previously served together on the General Board of Church and Society and share a passion for discipleship, justice and reconciliation. He is the president of the General Commission of Finance and Administration, serves as a trustee on several boards within his episcopal area, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops.

Derrick and I look forward to seeing you at Lakeside! May we come expecting a fresh outpouring of God's spirit as we meet together! Come, Holy Spirit, Come!


Tracy S. Malone,
Resident Bishop



Dear Bishop Malone and Friends of the East Ohio Conference,

It is our great pleasure to have you join us at Lakeside Chautauqua once again for the East Ohio Annual Conference. As we embark upon our 144th Chautauqua season, we celebrate our strong and lasting connection with The United Methodist Church and the rich history of worship and renewal taking place on the grounds.

We invite you and your family to return to Lakeside this summer to experience the full measure of our 2017 Chautauqua program from June 17-September 4. Each lay or clergy member of Conference has the opportunity to receive two complimentary (one-day) Daily Chautauqua Passes. These passes allow admission to Lakeside Chautauqua for one day and last until 7 p.m. the following day; admission to Hoover Auditorium entertainment on the day of arrival; and access to Lakeside's many religious, educational, cultural and recreational opportunities.

To obtain two complimentary (one-day) Daily Chautauqua Passes, including auto, please email Mary Ann Hirsch at mahirsch@lakesideohio.com. Include the phrase "Complimentary Member Passes" in the subject line of the email, and within the email, state the exact day you want to use the passes.

We offer a number of religious life opportunities, including Sunday worship services, Preachers of the Week, Faith for Living Hour, Vespers by the Lake and children's, teen and college ministries. Lakeside invites significant preachers from across the world to live in residence as part of our Preacher of the Week program. On Sunday mornings during the summer, you can obtain a complimentary Church Pass to attend our worship services. To view our 2017 Preacher of the Week schedule, visit www.lakesideohio.com/religion/preacher.

Marquee entertainers performing in Hoover Auditorium this summer include Chubby Checker (July 8), Jefferson Starship (July 15), OSU Alumni Band (July 22), WAR (July 29), Michael W. Smith (Aug. 12) and The Drifters (Aug. 19).

This year, the Chautauqua Lecture Series will focus on several themes, such as Understanding Music in Context, Responding to Adversity, Russia Today, Seeking Peace in a Multi-Faith World, World War I and Art of the World: An Insider's View.

When you return for a time of renewal at Lakeside, you are also encouraged to participate in some of our recreational opportunities, including sailing, tennis, shuffleboard and miniature golf, and we are excited to announce that our new Grindley Aquatic & Wellness Campus will be opening mid-season.

Lakeside Chautauqua will offer a Generosity & Stewardship Conference from August 6-9, providing learning opportunities for how to cultivate a culture of generosity through stewardship ministry in the church or a religious organization. Registration is open to clergy, laity, financial and stewardship committees, development directors and any individual wanting to know more about living a life of generous giving. Keynote speakers include the Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith, J. Clif Christopher and Bishop Ivan Abrahams. Brian D. Sheetz, Executive Director of the East Ohio UM Foundation, will be a presenter at one of the workshops. Find more details at www.lakesideohio.com/community/generosity.

Additionally, Lakeside is extending a 15% discount to active and retired clergy for overnight accommodations (Sunday-Thursday) at either Hotel Lakeside or the Fountain Inn, subject to availability. To make a reservation, contact (419) 798-4461, ext. 230 and mention the 'Clergy Retreat.' We look forward to having Annual Conference lay and clergy members return this summer to share in the Lakeside Chautauqua experience.

Yours in the Spirit of Lakeside Renewal,



Kevin Sibbring, President/CEO
Lakeside Chautauqua



Rev. Dr. Norman Dewire, Director of Religious Life
Lakeside Chautauqua

ATTENTION LAY MEMBERS:

If you are **not to be a lay member** of Conference this year, please pass this material to your successor and notify Brenda Vaccaro (ext. 153), Conference Registrar, at 1-800-831-3972.

PURPOSE OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE WORKBOOK

This workbook contains proposals submitted by the March 15 deadline, for consideration and action by the East Ohio Annual Conference Session, to be held June 12-15, 2017 at Lakeside Chautauqua, Ohio. (Other proposals will be distributed as they become available.) None of the proposals contained on these pages are the official positions of the East Ohio Conference until they are perfected and adopted by the East Ohio Annual Conference. If adopted, they will be published as part of the official record of the Annual Conference in the 2017 East Ohio Conference Journal.

BRING THIS WORKBOOK WITH YOU TO ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS**Instructions for making larger print copies of this workbook:**

Every effort has been made to conserve Conference resources and to print this workbook in as few pages as possible in a readable typeface. If you are vision-impaired and need enlarged pages, and if you have access to a copy machine with enlargement capability, you can use the 120% setting and 8 ½ x 14" paper. If your local church is not able to do this, you may complete the form below and return it before **May 29, 2017** to: Cheryl Duell, 8800 Cleveland Ave., NW, North Canton, OH 44720, and enlarged pages will be mailed to you before June 8, 2017.

Please send Large Print pages of the 2017 Pre-Conference Workbook to:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Return this form **before** May 29 to:

Cheryl Duell, Workroom Supervisor
East Ohio Conference UMC
8800 Cleveland Ave., NW
North Canton, OH 44720-4567

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48th SESSION
EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
HOOVER AUDITORIUM – LAKESIDE, OHIO
Sunday, June 11 through Thursday, June 15, 2017

AGENDA

SUNDAY EVENING
June 11, 2017

- 4:00 p.m. *Choir Rehearsal at Lakeside UMC*
- 6:00 p.m. *Rehearsal for Ushers in Hoover Auditorium.*
(During all rehearsals, please clear the auditorium.)
- 6:30 p.m. **PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE IN ORCHESTRA HALL** – All clergy, laity, and families invited to participate.
- 7:30 p.m. *Rehearsal and Sound Checks in Hoover Auditorium for Monday's Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion.*

MONDAY MORNING
June 12, 2017

- 8:00 a.m. *Production Meeting in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 8:00 a.m. *Choir Rehearsal in Orchestra Hall.*
- 9:00 a.m. **CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION IN HOOVER AUDITORIUM**
 Gathering Celebration
 Matters of Faith and Order
 Matters of ordination, character and conference relations
 CLERGY SESSION ATTENDED BY (see paragraph 605.7):
 Members in Full Connection (**with vote**)
 Provisional Members (without vote)
 Associate Members (without vote)
 Full-time and Part-time Local Pastors (without vote)
 Lay Members of Board of Ordained Ministry (**with vote**)
- Business of Annual Conference Cara Stultz Costello
 Closing Prayer
- 9:15 a.m. *Youth Band/Youth Skit Rehearsal in Orchestra Hall.*
- 11:30 a.m. Gathering for lunch, with Bishop Malone and Cabinet, for families of those being commemorated during the Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion, North Shore Retirement Center.

MONDAY AFTERNOON
June 12, 2017

- 12:30 p.m. *Choir Rehearsal in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 1:30 p.m. **CALLING THE CONFERENCE TO ORDER**
SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION AND HOLY COMMUNION
Preacher: Bishop Tracy S. Malone
- 3:45 p.m. **OPENING BUSINESS SESSION**
Opening Prayer
Program Committee
Matters of Privilege
Episcopacy Committee
Greetings from Lakeside Chautauqua
Agenda, Rules and Administrative Process
Youth/Youth Annual Conference (YAC) Report
Cokesbury
- Laverne Jenkins
Cindy Patterson
Joe Burkhardt
Kevin Sibbring
Gary George
Austin Wolfinger
Brooke Hilliard
- 4:55 p.m. **COURTESIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Laverne Jenkins
- 5:00 p.m. **BENEDICTION AND RECESS**
- 6:15 p.m. *Rehearsal and Sound Checks in Hoover Auditorium for the Celebration of Retirement.*
- 6:45 p.m. *Choir Rehearsal in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 7:30 p.m. **CELEBRATION OF RETIREMENT (Doors open at 7:00 p.m.):**
Reflections: Bishop Tracy S. Malone
- 9:30 p.m. *Rehearsal for Tuesday Morning Worship.*

TUESDAY MORNING
June 13, 2017

- 7:15 a.m. *Production Meeting in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 7:30 a.m. *Choir Rehearsal in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 8:00 a.m. **MORNING WORSHIP** Preacher: Bishop Michael McKee
- 9:15 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Opening Prayer
Leadership Committee
Introduction to Resolutions
East Ohio Foundation
Treasurer's Report
General Council on Finance and Administration
Episcopal Address
- Gordon Myers
Cindy Patterson
Brian Sheetz
Vera Rebrovich
Shannon Lavrin
Bishop Tracy S. Malone

10:45 a.m.	BREAK	
10:55 a.m.	CONFERENCE SINGING	Cyd Scarnecchia
11:00 a.m.	BUSINESS SESSION Opening Prayer	
	Focus: Improving Global Health	Kathy Dickriede
	Health & Welfare Committee	Ted Buehl
	Pastoral Care	Howard Humphress
	3Cs (Churches, Clinics & Classrooms)	
	Mission Partnerships	Kathy Dickriede
	Imagine No Malaria	Gary Henderson
	COURTESIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Laverne Jenkins
12:00 p.m.	BENEDICTION AND RECESS	
TUESDAY AFTERNOON June 13, 2017		
1:00 p.m.	<i>Choir Rehearsal in Orchestra Hall.</i>	
2:00 p.m.	BUSINESS SESSION Camp Singing & Opening Prayer Personnel Committee Resolutions Disaster Awareness Committee Equitable Compensation Offering	Beth Wilterdink Rock VanFossen Steve Stultz Costello Michael Williams Dan Bilkert
	10% Bishop's Discretionary Fund	
	45% Imagine No Malaria	
	45% East Ohio Volunteers in Mission (VIM)	
3:30 p.m.	BREAK	
3:40 p.m.	CONFERENCE SINGING	Cyd Scarnecchia
3:45 p.m.	BUSINESS SESSION Opening Prayer	
	Focus: Creating New and Renewed Congregations	Kaye Wolfinger
	Laity Address	Greg Rentsch
	Disability Awareness	Bev Hall, Pam Gable, Samantha Hasselbush
	Young People's Ministries	Kaye Wolfinger
4:50 p.m.	COURTESIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Laverne Jenkins
5:00 p.m.	BENEDICTION AND RECESS	
6:30 p.m.	MINISTRY FAIR, Connecting through Mission and Conversation in	

Wesley Lodge & South Auditorium

9:00 p.m. *Rehearsal for Wednesday Morning Worship.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING**June 14, 2017**

7:00 a.m. **3Cs MISSION 5K RUN/1-MILE WALK**

7:15 a.m. *Production Meeting in Hoover Auditorium.*

7:30 a.m. *Choir Rehearsal in Hoover Auditorium.*

8:00 a.m. **MORNING WORSHIP**

Preacher: Bishop Michael McKee

9:15 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**

Opening Prayer

Board of Pensions

Focus: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor

Mission Awareness

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

(UMVIM)

Ministry & Mission Funding

Bill Liming

Kelly Brown

Jerry Krueger

Tammy Kuntz

Bob Myers

10:20 a.m. **BREAK**

10:30 a.m. **CONFERENCE SINGING**

Cyd Scarnecchia

10:35 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**

Opening Prayer

Resolutions

Board of Trustees

Constitutional Amendments

Office of Christian Unity &

Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR)

Steve Stultz Costello

Allen Laferty

Cindy Patterson

Karen Graham

COURTESIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laverne Jenkins

12:00 p.m. **BENEDICTION & RECESS**

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON**June 14, 2017**

- 1:00 p.m. *Choir Rehearsal in Orchestra Hall.*
- 1:00 p.m. *Rehearsal for Service of Commissioning and Ordination in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 2:00 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
 Youth-led Devotions & Opening Prayer
Focus: Developing Principled Christian Leaders
 United Theological Seminary William Jones
 Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) Kent Millard
 Spiritual Formation & Christian Education Jay Rundell
 Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) Janet Zimmerman
 & Black College Fund Student Edgar Brady
 Church & Society Teresa Baker
 Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) Stephanie Bradford
- 2:55 p.m. **BREAK**
- 3:05 p.m. **CONFERENCE SINGING** Cyd Scarnecchia
- 3:10 p.m. Opening Prayer
 Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) Cara Stultz Costello
 Recognize Local Pastors Jim Humphrey
 Cabinet Address Dan Bryant
 New District Superintendents & Fixing of Appointments Bishop Tracy S. Malone
- 4:55 p.m. **COURTESIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Laverne Jenkins
- 5:00 p.m. **BENEDICTION & RECESS**

WEDNESDAY EVENING**June 14, 2017**

- 6:30 p.m. *Choir Rehearsal in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 7:30 p.m. **SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**
 (Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)
 Preacher: Bishop Tracy S. Malone
- 9:30 p.m. *Rehearsal for Thursday Morning Worship in Hoover Auditorium.*

THURSDAY MORNING
June 15, 2017

- 7:15 a.m. *Production Meeting in Hoover Auditorium.*
- 8:00 a.m. **MORNING WORSHIP** Preacher: Bishop Michael McKee
- 9:15 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Opening Prayer
Resolutions Steve Stultz Costello
United Methodist Publishing House Linda Crowell
Council on Finance & Administration (CF&A) David Palmer
- 10:45 a.m. **BREAK**
- 11:00 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Vacation Bible School (VBS) Toni McKee
Opening Prayer
Leadership Committee Gordon Myers
Report on Daily Proceedings
Program Committee Laverne Jenkins
Report & Concluding Business Cindy Patterson
- 11:50 a.m. **COURTESIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Laverne Jenkins
- 12:00 p.m. **BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT**

ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION

Tracy S. Malone
Resident Bishop, Presiding

District Superintendents & Conference Executive Staff

Ed Peterson	Canal District
Doug Lewis	Firelands District
Dan Bryant	Mahoning Valley District
Karen Oehl	Mid-Ohio District
Steve Bailey	North Coast District
James Winkler	Ohio Valley District
Gail Angel	Southern Hills District
Bradley Call	Three Rivers District
Benita Rollins	Tuscarawas District
Sondra Snode	Western Reserve District
Gary George	Assistant to the Bishop
Steve Court	Director of Connectional Ministries
Vera Rebrovich	Director of Financial and Administrative Services
Rick Wolcott	Director of Communications

Annual Conference Program Committee

Laverne Jenkins	Chairperson
Cynthia Patterson	Conference Secretary
Greg Rentsch	Conference Lay Leader
Ruthie Wheeler	Chairperson, Worship Task Group
Brenda Vaccaro	Registration
Barbara Beach, Rhonda Stemmer	Seating and Ushering
Peggy Sutherin, Marla Hum, Traci Householder	Information Desk
Don and Karen Upson	First Aid Co-Coordinator
Toni McKee	Vacation Bible School
Linda Brown & New Leaf UMC Staff	Child Care
Other Program Committee Members: Cheryl Duell, Shawna Hinkle, Mike McClintock, Lois Speelman	
Tadd Sponseller, Shirley Sary, Susan Stevens, Matthew L. Wald	
Betty Wilson, Karen L. Wolcott, Gay Warren, Tina Gallaher	

Annual Conference Worship Task Group

Ruthie Wheeler, Chairperson; Carolyn Berry, Paula Brewer, Judith Wismar Claycomb,
Grant Cook, Gary George, Melanie Glazer, Nathan Howe, Timothy Monteith,
David Rittgers, Cheryl Thompson, Christine Wainwright, Scott Walsh, Rick Wolcott

Ministry of Music

Dr. Grant Cook III, Choir Director; Lavert Stuart, Organist; Cyd Scarnecchia, Song Leader

SPEAKERS

**Bishop Tracy S. Malone***Resident Bishop**East Ohio Conference*

Bishop Tracy S. Malone was assigned to the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church effective September 1, 2016.

As resident bishop, she provides spiritual oversight; shares in equipping, teaching and encouraging mission, outreach, witness and service; and serves as a shepherd of the church in providing a prophetic witness of justice, mercy and unity.

Malone serves on the Boards of Trustees at the United Methodist-affiliated colleges, seminaries and organizations in East Ohio. She also is currently the president of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and is a member of the Board of Directors of The Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church.

During her ministry, she has pastored several churches in the Northern Illinois Conference, represented that conference at four General and Jurisdictional Conferences, served as a district superintendent, and been dean of the Cabinet. She also has written chapters for several books, published articles, blogs and book reviews, and taught courses as an adjunct professor at Aurora University and at Northern Baptist Seminary in Lombard, Illinois.

Malone has a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Sociology, with a minor in Computer Science, from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and a Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

She and her husband Derrick are the parents of two daughters.

**Bishop Michael McKee***Resident Bishop**North Texas Conference*

Bishop Michael McKee was elected to the episcopacy during the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2012 while he was serving as senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Hurst, Texas. He was assigned to serve as the resident bishop of the North Texas Conference effective September 1, 2012.

McKee is a member of the Council of Bishops' Executive Committee and chairs the Justice and Reconciliation Leadership Team. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Southern Methodist University, Texas Methodist Foundation, Southwestern University, and Methodist Health System, Dallas. He also serves as chair of the Executive Board of Perkins School of Theology and co-chairs the Campaign Steering Committee of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

McKee previously served as a delegate to two General Conferences and three Jurisdictional Conferences. He has held numerous offices including chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Mid-Cities District Committee of Ordained Ministry.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, McKee was ordained a Deacon in 1975 and an Elder in 1979. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Theology from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. He has also been awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Texas Wesleyan University.

Bishop McKee and his wife Joan are the parents of two adult daughters.

The Conference Directory

ATM Machine.....	Fountain Inn (Lobby)
Child Care	Lakeside United Methodist Church
Cokesbury Book Store.....	Aigler Room (Fountain Inn)
Conference Information.....	Information Desk (Foyer, Hoover Auditorium)
Conference Sessions	Hoover Auditorium
Conference Secretary.....	Hoover Auditorium (Backstage, West)
Credit Union (Hours: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; 3-5 p.m., Tues. & Wed.)	Women's Club
Handicapped-Accessible Restrooms.....	Hotel Lakeside, Fountain Inn, Pavilion, and Hoover Auditorium
Lakeside Chautauqua Information.....	Lakeside Chautauqua Association Offices
Local Accommodations	Lakeside Chautauqua Association Offices
Lost and Found.....	Information Desk (Foyer, Hoover Auditorium) and Lakeside Chautauqua Association Offices
Communications	Trailer next to Hoover Auditorium
Registration.....	Chautauqua Hall in the Fountain Inn
Telephone	Outside Lakeside Chautauqua Association Offices and Wesley Lodge
Vacation Bible School.....	South Auditorium (Classroom Wings)

Information

Information Desk is located in the foyer of Hoover Auditorium.

Lost And Found: Items can be turned in at the Information Desk or the Lakeside Chautauqua Association offices. If you have lost an item, please check both places.

Cokesbury Bookstore: Cokesbury will have a display and books/materials to sell during Annual Conference in the Aigler Room located just inside the front entrance to Fountain Inn.

Registration/Reservations

Registration will be held in the Chautauqua Room located in the Fountain Inn. **Please enter the room from the East side of the Fountain Inn.** Registration will be open on Sun., June 11, 2:00-8:00 p.m. and Mon., June 12, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration packets are distributed when checking in at the Chautauqua Room. Beginning on Tuesday, registration will be located at the Information Desk in Hoover Auditorium and is available for late registration during the sessions.

Reservations for events: This year, the Lakeside Chautauqua Association is holding to its policy that requires a guaranteed number of reservations by late May. Because of this policy **the deadline for purchasing tickets is May 15.** We have continued the online registration process for special events. Please visit www.eocumc.com/eoac17 to register for a special event.

Vacation Bible School will be available for children 4 years old through 5th grade (completed), in South Auditorium, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Thursday. Cost will be \$15 per child, or \$40 per family. More information may be obtained by contacting events@eocumc.com or the conference office (800-831-3972, ext. 133) until May 27. **Pre-registration is required and is limited to 120 children of clergy and lay members ONLY or May 27, whichever comes first.** You are NOT officially registered until you receive an email letter of confirmation, which will be sent after your reservation form is received online at <http://tinyurl.com/VBS17>. After May 27, you will need to contact Toni McKee at 419-281-6212.

Child Care will be provided for children 18 months through 4th grade (completed) in the Lakeside United Methodist Church. **Pre-registration is required at** <http://tinyurl.com/ChildCare17>. **The cutoff will be the first 75 registered or May 27, whichever comes first.** Child care hours will be Monday through Wednesday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 2:00-5:00 p.m., and Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon or until the close of conference. The cost is a donation – as you are able to pay. We suggest a minimum of \$5.00 for the first child and \$2.00 for each additional child per session. More information may be obtained by contacting events@eocumc.com or the conference office at 800-831-3972, ext. 133.

Children's playground in the park will be open daily during the conference, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with adult supervision, for children 4 years and older.

Annual Conference Online

Wi-Fi in Hoover:

Network Name: Hoover

Username: hoover

Password: lakeside

Follow Annual Conference 2017 online:

Articles, photo galleries, and live-streaming can be viewed at www.eocumc.com/eoac17

Join the conversation on Twitter at #eoac17.

Live-stream schedule:

Mon., June 12	1:30 p.m.	Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion
	7:30 p.m.	Celebration of Retirement
Tues., June 13	8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Episcopal Address
Wed., June 14	8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship
	4:15 p.m.	Cabinet Address
	7:30 p.m.	Service of Commissioning and Ordination
Thurs., June 15	8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship

Annual Conference 2017 Video Archives: Beginning the week of June 19, all services and business sessions of Annual Conference will be uploaded to www.youtube.com/user/EastOhioUMC.

Prayer & Praise Service: The Board of Laity-led Prayer & Praise Service will take place Sun., June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall.

Ministry Fair, Connecting through Mission and Conversation: The ministry fair will be held Tues., June 13, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Wesley Lodge and South Auditorium. The fair will highlight various ministries of our conference.

Midwest Mission Collection Truck: The semi-trailer from Midwest Mission Distribution Center will again be located on Sixth Street between South Auditorium and Epworth Lodge. Parking the truck at this location improves sightlines in the southwest intersection outside of Hoover Auditorium and makes available five (5) handicapped parking spaces.

Parking

Parking: Please be considerate and **do not park** in private drives or block anyone's car. Also, for your own safety, please observe the fire lane signs. **Illegally-parked cars will be towed at the owner's expense. The lot on the corner of Fourth and Central will be open for short-term parking.** Also, there will be parking on Maple Street, west of the campground. A shuttle will be available to take persons to Hoover Auditorium.

Handicapped Parking is available. Please respect the signs. **The block around Hoover Auditorium is for handicapped parking ONLY.** A state identification permit for the handicapped will be the requirement for parking in these areas.

Facilities for those with handicapping conditions: There are four areas in Hoover Auditorium that can be used by wheelchairs. Please ask about these at the Information Desk.

Hearing Assistance Devices will be available in Hoover Auditorium during Annual Conference sessions. The small headphone devices may be picked up at the sound table in the center of the auditorium before each session. Your driver's license or credit card will serve as a security deposit and will be returned to you at the end of each session upon return of the headphones.

Special Offering Tuesday Morning: The Program Committee has voted to divide the offering as follows:

10% Bishop's Discretionary Fund

45% Imagine No Malaria

45% East Ohio Volunteers in Mission (VIM)

Rehearsals

Worship Service Rehearsal Schedule in Hoover Auditorium:

Sun., June 11	7:30 p.m.	Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion
Mon., June 12	6:15 p.m.	Celebration of Retirement
Mon., June 12	9:30 p.m.	Tuesday Morning Worship
Tues., June 13	9:00 p.m.	Wednesday Morning Worship
Wed., June 14	1:00 p.m.	Service of Commissioning and Ordination
Wed., June 14	9:30 p.m.	Thursday Morning Worship

The East Ohio Annual Conference Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Sun., June 11	4:00-6:00 p.m.	Lakeside UMC
Mon., June 12	8:00-9:15 a.m.	Orchestra Hall
Mon., June 12	12:30-1:00 p.m.	Hoover Auditorium
Mon., June 12	6:45-7:15 p.m.	Hoover Auditorium
Tues., June 13	7:30-8:00 a.m.	Hoover Auditorium
Tues., June 13	1:00-1:45 p.m.	Orchestra Hall
Wed., June 14	7:30-8:00 a.m.	Hoover Auditorium
Wed., June 14	1:00-1:45 p.m.	Orchestra Hall
Wed., June 14	6:30-7:00 p.m.	Hoover Auditorium

Announcement Procedures

E-mail Requests: Announcements can be sent to eocannouncements@gmail.com.

In-Person Requests: Forms will be available in two places inside Hoover Auditorium.

1. At the information booth in the lobby near the bathrooms.
2. From AC Program Chairperson Laverne Jenkins, seated in the first row of chairs by the stage.

To Be Read/Displayed:

1. Requests must be approved by Laverne Jenkins.
2. Requests must concern the total Annual Conference body.
3. Requests must not appear in print in this workbook, the registration packet, or on the flyers distributed during any of the Annual Conference sessions.

Prayer Concern Procedures

E-mail Requests: Prayer requests can be sent to eocprayerconcerns@gmail.com.

In-Person Requests: Forms will be available in two places inside Hoover Auditorium.

1. At the information booth in the lobby near the bathrooms.
2. From AC Program Chairperson Laverne Jenkins, seated in the first row of chairs by the stage.

The names will be read from the prayer cards and the cards will be lifted up during prayer. But to protect privacy issues no specifics will be shared as to why those persons are in need of prayer.

After-Session Prayer Gathering: Clergy and laity representing each district will gather for prayer 15 minutes after the benediction of each day's afternoon business session. The prayer gathering will be held in the train station on Central Avenue, south of Seventh Street.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency: DIAL 911 - The Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department provides help 24 hours a day.

Magruder Memorial Hospital located at 615 Fulton Street in Port Clinton is the nearest medical facility to Lakeside Chautauqua (phone 419-743-3131).

Emergency First-Aid Service: A First-Aid Station is located in the northwest corner of Hoover Auditorium and will be staffed during conference sessions and programs. First-Aiders are also positioned throughout the Auditorium. The ushers for the Annual Conference have been instructed in procedures for getting help in case of an emergency during sessions or programs. For first-aid care when conference is **not** in session, help may be sought at The Lakeside Chautauqua Association Office.

Emergency Medical Service: Anyone who has First Aid, Medical or emergency training and is willing to help at Lakeside during East Ohio Annual Conference, June 11-15, please call or text Pastor Don Upson at 330-990-2251 or Pastor Karen Upson at 330-990-2250; or email them at d1k2u3@outlook.com.

Lost/Forgotten Prescription: Please contact your physician and a pharmacy of your choice. Prescriptions cannot be written for you at Lakeside.

Emergency Weather Shelter: In the event of a storm that produces high winds, the following Lakeside areas are the "safer places" in which to seek shelter:

- Campground shower buildings
- Fountain Inn Aigler Room
- Fountain Inn bathrooms
- Hoover Auditorium restrooms
- Hoover Auditorium backstage dressing rooms
- Lakeside UMC basement
- Pavilion Annex restrooms
- Wesley Lodge restrooms
- Wo-Ho-Mis Lodge lower area stairwells

Meeting/Copy/Phone/Mail Information

Scheduling of Meetings: Please do not schedule meetings in Hoover Auditorium at any time. Arrange for any such meetings with the Association in one of the other buildings on the grounds or notify Gary George or Laverne Jenkins.

Photocopies: The conference office recommends that you make copies of all posters, flyers and handouts prior to departing for Lakeside. If you find that you need last minute copies they can be ordered at the Lakeside Chautauqua office. Payment for the copies (\$.10/page) is due at the time of the request. Please allow a minimum of five (5) hours turnaround time for any size copy job. You may also utilize Minuteman Press, a printing vendor 7-miles from Lakeside at 3956 E. Harbor Light Landing Drive in Port Clinton.

Fax Service: Also available at the Lakeside Chautauqua office for the same price and turnaround time as the photocopy service.

Telephone: The Lakeside Chautauqua Association telephone number is 419-798-4461, and can be called 24 hours a day. If you leave your Lakeside Chautauqua address with the Conference Registrar, you can be reached through this number. **ALL** telephone messages received during business sessions are posted on the kiosk outside the main doors of Hoover Auditorium on Third Street. At all other times, the following applies if you are registered at Annual Conference: **ONLY emergency messages** will be delivered on the grounds of Lakeside Chautauqua or telephoned if you stay outside the grounds. Otherwise, the messages will only be posted on the kiosk. **NO PHONE MESSAGES WILL BE POSTED** on the bulletin board outside The Lakeside Chautauqua Association or the Hotel Lakeside.

Mail may be secured daily at the main entrance to Hoover Auditorium. The delivery schedule is posted at the postal window. Mail can be addressed to the East Ohio Conference, The Lakeside Chautauqua Association, Lakeside, Ohio 43440. Any mail addressed to cottages and hotels by street addresses will be delivered by postal letter carriers.

Lakeside UMC sanctuary will be open for prayer during the week.

Please walk and leave your cars at your cottages if possible. People staying off the grounds must drive in and will need places to park.

Vehicle and Bicycle Safety: All persons are reminded of the need for extreme care and caution at Lakeside Chautauqua! The rules are: alertness, courtesy, slow, and slower! **Bicycles must obey the stop signs.**

Rollerblades and Skateboards are prohibited in the business district and park areas.

PLEASE REMEMBER to bring the following to Annual Conference:

2017 Pre-Conference Workbook; a 3-ring notebook; a tote bag; and a seat cushion.

Since all reports and materials distributed during the Annual Conference sessions are 3-hole punched, a 3-ring notebook will keep your material together. A large tote bag and a soft seat cushion can add to your comfort.

Eating and drinking in Hoover Auditorium are NOT permitted at any time.
Please refrain from bringing food and beverages into the auditorium.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF
THE LAY MEMBERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

You have the honor of being elected as a lay member of the East Ohio Annual Conference. This is an assignment of great responsibility. By virtue of your office*, you are also a member of your Church Council (§ 252.5.g), Finance Committee (§ 258.4) and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (§ 258.2a)** , (above Paragraph numbers refer to the 2012 *Book of Discipline*).

Each member has the responsibility to:

- 1) Attend all sessions of the Annual Conference and leave only under emergency conditions and with the knowledge of his/her district superintendent (See Rule ¶ 2 A. as found in the East Ohio Conference Journal 2016, page 8-26).
- 2) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the Annual Conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference rules as printed in the 2016 Journal, pages 8-24 through 8-36.
- 3) Study pre-conference reports and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Consult with the pastor and church lay leader. While the lay member is obligated only to use his/her own best thinking in the conference, the counsel with others ahead of time should prove helpful.
- 4) Participate vocally at the Annual Conference and help in policy-making decisions.
- 5) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.

You should be aware—before you go to Annual Conference—that a report should be made to your local church congregation as an extension of the Annual Conference. This may be done at a Sunday morning worship service and/or through a more detailed report at a meeting of the church council. In either case, it should be done as soon after Annual Conference as feasible. It is best if this is an oral report. However, it may be written in the church newsletter. Check with your pastor before conference about scheduling and time limits for the report.

The Annual Conference website is a good source of information regarding the actions of Annual Conference. Consult it during and after conference by logging onto www.eocumc.com. In your reporting to your local charge, we suggest that you mention the major issues raised and how they were resolved and how they might affect your local church. You may want to make reference to the inspirational speakers and leaders. We hope you will talk about the positive aspects of the conference, but it is also important to reflect upon the more controversial aspects of the conference as well. A variation could be a dialogue with your pastor with conference explained as both pastor and lay member saw it.

* When a local church has more than one lay member of the Annual Conference, the local church determines which lay member is to be a member of Church Council, the pastor parish/staff parish relations committee and the finance committee.

** Exception: 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Paragraph 258.2a – “No staff members or immediate family member of a pastor or staff member may serve on the pastor parish/staff parish relations committee.”

**RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
CLERGY MEMBERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Each clergy member has the responsibility to:

- 1) Attend all sessions of the Annual Conference and leave only under emergency conditions and with the knowledge of his/her district superintendent. (See 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Paragraph 602.8 and see Rule ¶ 2 A. as found in the 2016 Journal, page 8-26.)
- 2) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the Annual Conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference rules as printed in the 2016 Journal pages 8-24 through 8-36.
- 3) Study Pre-Conference reports and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions.
- 4) Prior to Annual Conference, consult with your lay member(s) so that he/she might understand the various reports and their implication for the life of the church. Keep in mind that the lay member(s) as well as you are obligated to express views and vote as you each feel is best. In no way should you force your view on your lay member(s) or vice versa.
- 5) Participate vocally at the Annual Conference and help in policy-making decisions.
- 6) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.
- 7) Assist the lay member(s) to secure housing if necessary and explain what Lakeside Chautauqua is like. This is especially important if the lay member(s) is newly-elected. The pastor should assist the lay member(s) during the week at Lakeside Chautauqua in whatever way they can.

A report following Annual Conference should be made to your local church. This report is an extension of the Annual Conference and should be made to the congregation. This may be done at a Sunday morning worship service or at a meeting of the Church Council. In either case, it should be done as soon after Annual Conference as feasible. Check with your lay member(s) before conference about scheduling this. Also check with him/her about the time limit for the report.

The East Ohio Annual Conference website is a good source of information regarding the actions of Annual Conference. Consult it during and after conference by logging onto www.eocumc.com. Encourage lay member(s) to mention the major issues raised and how they were resolved and how they might affect your local church. You may want to encourage lay member(s) to make reference to the inspirational speakers and leaders. We hope lay member(s) will talk about the positive aspects of the conference, but it is also important to reflect upon the more controversial aspects of the conference as well. A variation could be a dialogue between the pastor and lay member with conference explained as both pastor and lay member saw it.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE*"Bearing Fruit that Lasts"***Recommendations**

1. That the standing rule 1d will be enforced: "All motions and resolutions shall be reduced to writing. Motions or resolutions made from the floor, not duplicated in other ways, shall be written on forms provided by the conference secretary."
2. That we approve the agenda as printed in the Pre-Conference Workbook and that adjustments to the agenda be made by the Agenda, Rules, and Administrative Process Committee (ARAP) as necessary during the Annual Conference session.

Housekeeping and General Reminders

1. Please remember to take everything with you when you leave the hall at the end of each day.
2. Including your own seat, please save no more than two (2) seats. This will help ensure adequate seating is available, especially for business sessions during which all delegates must be within the bar.
3. At the end of each day please take a few moments to fill out the evaluation form located in your Pre-Conference Workbook. On Thursday, boxes will be located at each exit into which you can deposit your evaluation. Your feedback is extremely helpful and instructive to the ARAP and Program Committees in conference planning.
4. Please show an extra measure of hospitality toward our first-time attendees, especially if they are from your church or district. You can identify them by the "magenta" ribbon attached to their ID badge.

Courtesies, Announcements, Prayer Requests

In addition to the handwritten yellow forms, requests may be submitted as follows:

Prayer Requests: Send to **eocprayerconcerns@gmail.com**

Courtesies and General Announcements: Send to **eocannouncements@gmail.com**

*Upcoming Events: Please include contact information, i.e. name, email address, and phone number.

Sincere appreciation to the members of the Program Committee who work tirelessly to ensure Annual Conference runs smoothly and that your time here is enlightening, affirming and uplifting. Special thanks to the volunteer members of the special work area teams who devote time in their already busy schedules, throughout the year and during Annual Conference week, to serve you. It's been an honor to serve with you and I pray God's continued blessings upon you and your ministries.

Laverne C. Jenkins
Chair, Program Committee

AGENDA, RULES, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS COMMITTEE (ARAP)**I. Agenda**

The agenda of the Annual Conference has been prepared by the Agenda, Rules, and Administrative Process Committee and will be presented to the Annual Conference session on Monday, June 12, 2017.

II. Administrative Process

ARAP met twice during the course of the past conference year. We continued our ongoing evaluation and review of conference processes and rules including vetting the conference rules against the current version of *The Book of Discipline*. ARAP also considered two references from the 2016 annual conference session. We reviewed a motion of reference to “clarify” EOC Standing Rule ¶1.V. Bishop Malone has been advised of our findings. The second reference was to “*study an alternative discernment process to enable holy conversation on subjects that may divide the body.*” ARAP members held an extensive, comprehensive conversation on this referenced item at its October 17, 2016 meeting and expanded the conversation by inviting Rev. Jared Littleton, maker of the motion for reference to participate in the conversation.

On a continuing basis, we recommend proposed changes to conference rules and administrative processes which the annual conference indicates are important to its purpose and align well with our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

III. Proposed Rule Changes (East Ohio Conference Standing Rules)

ARAP is recommending the annual conference consider the two proposed rule changes for the conference year beginning July 1, 2017.

1. Amend Rule ¶3.B-C “Equalization” by substitution (¶3.B) and deletion (¶3.C) so that the substituted and amended rule would read.

¶3 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

- A. **Lay Members.** Lay members and alternates to Annual Conference shall be elected annually.
- B. **Equalization of Lay and Clergy Membership.** The Constitution of The United Methodist Church (*The 2016 Book of Discipline*) ¶32. Article 1) names the following laypersons as members of annual conference.
 1. Lay members elected by each charge
 2. Diaconal ministers
 3. Active deaconesses
 4. Home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference
 5. Conference president of United Methodist Women
 6. Conference president of United Methodist Men
 7. Conference lay leader
 8. District lay leaders
 9. Conference director of Lay Servant Ministries
 10. Conference secretary of Global Ministries
 11. President or equivalent of the conference young adult organization
 12. President of the conference youth organization
 13. One young person between the ages of 12 and 17 from each district

14. One young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district

15. Additional lay members to equalize additional clergy serving in local churches

In addition to those lay members as outlined by *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, Lay membership will include the following:

16. Lay chairpersons of Conference Committees, Commissions, Boards, and Teams

17. Lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference

18. Lay Executive and Director staff

19. CCYM Executive team

20. Two youth CCYM members from each district

After the laypersons serving in these positions are counted and the number compared to the total number of ministerial members of annual conference, the balance needed shall be filled by district lay members at-large.

The balance shall be divided among the districts by dividing one-half of the total needed equally among the districts. The remaining portion of the number needed shall be proportioned among the districts by dividing the total local church membership of the annual conference into the total district local church membership and multiplying the result by the remaining portion of the number needed for equalization.

2. Amend ¶7.A.14 by addition and deletion so that the amended rule would read:

“The annual conference secretary shall give instructions for the casting of each ballot prior to the marking of the ballot by members of annual conference. Ballots shall be declared defective and not counted if, in the opinion of the head tellers, the ballots are marked in a manner inconsistent with the instructions given prior to the casting of the ballot by the conference secretary. Each ballot shall contain votes for **up to** as many candidates as are eligible for election on that ballot—~~no more and no less. Any ballot found to be in violation of this principle shall be considered invalid and shall not be counted.~~”.

IV. Election of the Director of Financial and Administrative Services

Earlier this year the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCF&A) accepted the recommendation of a Search Committee it constituted for the purpose of naming a successor to our former conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, Jessica Vargo. CCF&A made the decision to name Vera Rebrovich as the East Ohio Conference’s new Director of Financial and Administrative Services effective April 1, 2017.

IV. Concluding Matters

We encourage each member of Annual Conference to complete the evaluation form found in the packet each Annual Conference member has received. The evaluations provide helpful information and suggestions to the various conference groups having responsibility for planning the following year’s annual conference. Please turn in the evaluation form at the conclusion of the Thursday morning session.

ARAP expresses grateful appreciation to our conference secretary, Rev. Cindy Patterson, for her leadership and tireless efforts. We also recognize and appreciate the diligent and faithful work of our Journal Editor, Mrs. Brenda Vaccaro, as well as our conference Journal Memoirs editor, Rev. Betsy Schenk. Finally, we welcome Bishop Tracy S. Malone to her first session as East Ohio Conference’s resident bishop. We are grateful for her full participation and support of ARAP’s purpose and work.

Mission Awareness Committee

The Mission Awareness Committee of the East Ohio Conference requests the Annual Conference approve the following recommendations and report:

RECOMMENDATION #1: That the following projects be adopted and promoted as Conference Advance Projects for support by the East Ohio United Methodist Churches July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

East Ohio Conference Advance Projects**EOC 9936 3Cs Mission, East Ohio Conference**

East Ohio mission initiative of the 3Cs-Churches, Clinics, and Classrooms.

EOC 9953 ACCESS Ashland Emergency Shelter, Ashland Area

Provide temporary shelter and meals in a loving Christian environment to homeless women and families with children, while connecting them to resources to become empowered for self-sufficiency and family stability.

EOC 9163 All God's Children, Mansfield, Ohio

Build relationships with inner-city residents of Mansfield with the hope to make and mature disciples for Christ.

EOC 9940 Blue Rose Mission, Mansfield, Ohio

Our purpose is to use community and church groups to do housing repair for people in need.

EOC 9151 Canton Calvary Mission, Canton, Ohio

Provides a safe, warm and caring place for children and adults through multiple food programs, many programs for children, youth and adults, as well as distributions of diapers, baby formula, school supplies, coats, clothing and other items.

EOC 9172 Copeland Oaks Care Fund, Sebring, Ohio

Provides financial assistance for residents who can no longer provide the total cost of their care.

EOC 9899 East Ohio Conference Camps, East Ohio Conference

The funds given through the advance are added to funds granted in the Mission & Ministries funding process, as well as funds available from the Camp and Retreat Endowment (CARE) to grant camperships each year.

EOC 9200 East Ohio Disaster Response Fund, East Ohio Conference

Train volunteers to respond following disasters to help those in need and without insurance to stabilize their property from further damage and clean-up following disasters, including mold remediation.

EOC 9046 East Ohio Volunteers in Mission, East Ohio Conference

Provides funding for various East Ohio Volunteers in Mission programs.

EOC 9093 East Ohio Volunteers in Mission/Russia Initiative, East Ohio Conference

Funds ministries specifically related to the East Ohio Volunteers in Mission Program in Kursk, Russia.

EOC 9140 Epworth Center SOWER Work Mission, Bethesda, Ohio

Provides funds for materials to upgrade homes in this Appalachian area and to expand the volunteer facilities.

EOC 9191 Epworth Center Extension Ministries, Bethesda, Ohio

Funding for outreach programs: hunger, prison ministry, spiritual formation retreats and advocacy programs.

- EOC 9026 Farmer to Farmer (a part of 3Cs), East Ohio Conference**
Through EOC 3Cs, we are making disciples for Jesus Christ by empowering the members of St. John UMC and the people of the Harrisburg Community through the art of Education, Modern Farming and an introduction to the textile industry.
- EOC 9174 Flat Rock Homes, Care Center & Community Services, Flat Rock, Ohio**
Fill the gaps in Medicaid funding so that we can continue our mission to serve persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and behavioral needs through therapeutic programs, vocational and educational opportunities, and resident care through a dedication to caring and excellence that demonstrates Christian values.
- EOC 9134 Harmony House, Mansfield, Ohio**
Emergency shelter for homeless men, women and children and provides life-sustaining services that address needs in our community.
- EOC 9042 Hispanic Ministries in East Ohio, East Ohio Conference**
Aid in the funding of Hispanic Ministries in East Ohio. Funding for many projects is not available under other East Ohio funding.
- EOC 9196 Interchurch Social Services of Knox County, Knox County, Ohio**
Provides emergency assistance to residents of Knox County including rent, utility and prescription assistance, pantry service, clothing, gasoline vouchers for medical appointments and Christmas assistance.
- EOC 9931 Journey's End Ministries, Newcomerstown, Ohio**
Food pantry requesting assistance with food purchases and operational expenses.
- EOC 9186 L.O. T. (Least of These) Camperships, East Ohio Conference**
Raise an endowment which will provide camperships for children, youth, young adults and families from poverty situations to be inclusive of persons from urban, Appalachian, suburban and rural settings.
- EOC 9964 Martha's Cupboard, Fresno, Ohio**
Follow Jesus command to love our neighbor as ourselves by helping those who lost their jobs and are low income to have the cleaning supplies, personal hygiene, diapers, and school supplies they can't purchase on food stamps.
- EOC 9192 Masindi Educational Ministries, Uganda, East Africa**
Supports Rock Foundation School in Masindi, Uganda East Africa through individual student sponsorships and capital improvements to the school.
- EOC 9966 McKinley Community Outreach Center, Lake County, Ohio**
Serve the low-income population of western Lake County by assisting with basic needs that support personal and family stability.
- EOC 9944 Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Chatham, Illinois**
Assist in funding the operation of MMDC and the distribution of supplies as needed.
- EOC 9136 Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio**
Rebuild the lives and homes of the physically and fiscally challenged of Cleveland through volunteer mission groups that improve living environments in order to sow seeds of hope for individuals and neighborhoods.
- EOC 9112 Neighborhood Community Development Center, Steubenville, Ohio**
Find and develop new leaders and empower and support them in the creation of new programming that will benefit the community in the areas of health, education, economic development, and spiritual growth.
- EOC 9947 North Coast Haiti Mission, Haiti**
Every child who first attends a Methodist School in the Cap Haitien Circuit will have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ, successfully complete high school, achieve literacy in English, and gain entrance to a Haitian University.

EOC 9173 Ohio Guidestone, Berea, Ohio

Our mission is to provide pathways for growth, achievement and lifelong success.

EOC 9145 One Way Youth Ministries, Carrollton, Ohio

The specific purpose of this ministry is to provide a safe, Christian based place for teenagers to go after school.

EOC 9102 OPEN M, Akron, Ohio

Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry (OPEN M) is a vibrant and highly effective nonprofit organization that serves more than 9,000 individuals annually with education, food, employment, social, and health services--all intended to break the cycle of poverty and improve the health of our community, one family at a time.

EOC 9175 Otterbein North Shore, Lakeside, Ohio

Values the older person as a child of God; pursuing our mission to enhance the lives of the elders who live here every day with loyalty and passion of purpose.

EOC 9950 Park UMC Discipleship Pathway & Outreach Ministry, Akron, Ohio

To assist people who are followers of Christ to experience transformation in their lives through the Discipleship Training program AND participate in ministry with those living in poverty, with people experiencing life changing tragedies and people who are classified as working poor.

EOC 9948 Partners in Mission, East Ohio Conference

Providing salary support for Kathy Dickriede, missionary with East Ohio Conference as the coordinator of 3C's and East Ohio United Methodist Volunteers In Mission.

EOC 9143 Project Hope for the Homeless, Lake County, Ohio

Respond to the human hurts and hopes of persons in Lake County who are homeless by providing emergency shelter, care, and guidance in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ. This is the only emergency homeless shelter in Lake County.

EOC 9195 South Street Ministries, Akron, Ohio

After school programming for youth, a community bike shop, daily summer camp, sports programs (including football sponsorships and open gym basketball), and Girls Studio for adolescent women and for neighborhood adults the Front Porch Café serves as a community hub for employment, sobriety, reentry, and Christian fellowship.

EOC 9939 Starting Point Outreach Center, Willard, Ohio

To work together with the community to help families become self-sufficient and enjoy life with dignity, peace and justice.

EOC 9170 United Methodist Community Center, Youngstown, Ohio

Support program services for at-risk families in need in the Mahoning Valley District, Youngstown and Warren Sites, for strengthening and empowering of individuals and families through the compassionate delivery of critical services by the Center staff and their community partners.

EOC 9107 Urban Mission Ministries, Steubenville, Ohio

Provides food, shelter, clothing, spiritual care and other life giving services to more than 2,000 families living in the Ohio Valley.

EOC 9171 Wesleyan Village, Elyria, Ohio

Provides charitable life care so that older adults can grow socially, intellectually, physically, and spiritually with the care and support of a Christian community.

EOC 9933 West Side Community House, North Coast District

Transforms lives in the community through an array of model programs and services that strengthen and stabilize the family, encourage lifelong learning and economic self-sufficiency, promote health and wellness, foster independence and renew the life spirit.

RECOMMENDATION #2: That the following projects be adopted and promoted as General Advance Projects for support by the East Ohio United Methodist Churches July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Class of 2017

- 12548A Camphor United Methodist Mission - Projects, Liberia, Africa**
Providing education, healthcare and agricultural training to help people recover from war
- 3021621 Church Projects in Bolivia, Bolivia**
Establishing church projects for evangelization, expansion, construction and growth
- 3021985 Delta Grace Sunflower UMC, Mississippi**
Matching mission teams with those in need of home repair within the Mississippi Delta
- 15022A Highland Support Project, Guatemala**
Promoting community involvement in health and education initiatives to develop local leaders
- 15154A Methodist Children's Home, Bolivia**
Providing a permanent home for abandoned and orphaned children in a family and God centered setting
- 12174A Moscow Seminary - Scholarship and Academic Support, Russia**
Preparing servant leaders for ministry in the Wesleyan tradition and transforming Russian
- 14525A Senegal Wellness Project, Senegal, Africa**
Providing health services to alleviate suffering
- 3020679 Revitalization of Gbarnga Mission and School of Theology, Liberia, Africa**
Rebuilding a mission station and school of theology damaged by 14 years of civil war
- 14536A UMC Kissy General Hospital, Sierra Leone, Africa**
Offering quality eye care and surgery to the community as well as training professionals in this field.

Class of 2018

- 982418 Heifer International - Fill the Ark, Global**
Heifer's goal is to help three million families annually to receive training and animals. The smallholder farmer families that Heifer has been working with for decades grow 70% of the food the world eats every day.
- 901375 NCJ Volunteers in Mission, USA & Global**
Coordinating and training Volunteers in Mission for short term mission service utilizing teams from the conferences of the North Central Jurisdiction.
- 15080N Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Liberia, Africa**
Providing quality and affordable healthcare in the rural region of Liberia, Africa
- 13760N Manjama Methodist Health Center, Sierra Leone, Africa**
Providing quality and affordable healthcare in the rural region of Sierra Leone, Africa
- 00230A Cambodia Mission Initiative, Cambodia**
Started over 10 years ago, there are now more than 180 local Methodist congregations in Cambodia. This is an exciting growing region. The goal is to start 10 new congregations each year.
- 3020789 Women's Empowerment and Leadership Training Project in Cambodia, Cambodia**
To hold three leadership training seminars each year, attended by at least two women from each Methodist church community throughout the provinces of Cambodia. In some cases, the goal is to train women to be trainers themselves back in their church community.

3021232 Hope for New Life, Malaysia

Reaching out to Vietnamese migrant workers in Malaysia through social, legal and educational programs. Since 2002, the Vietnamese government has sent to Malaysia some 200,000 Vietnamese youth ranging from 18 to 30 years of age to work as laborers.

13421A Tansen United Mission Hospital, Nepal

Offering free care and medical assistance to patients, and providing hospital equipment. Before 1954, there were no hospitals in Nepal, except in Kathmandu. United Mission Hospital, Tansen (UMHT) was the first to begin work outside of the capital.

3021089 New Horizon School, Paraguay, Paraguay, Latin America and Caribbean

Sharing Jesus in an impoverished area in Paraguay through education, recreation, music and art. When we opened the school in 2001, thousands of children in Lambare were not in any school; a majority of the population had dropped out of school around the sixth grade. We started the school to provide an opportunity for children in a poor area on the outskirts of Lambar.

982039 Appalachia Hunger and Poverty, United States, North America

Providing resources for Appalachian church based ministries focusing on issues of hunger and poverty. UMAMN, formally the Appalachian Development Committee, was established in 1972.

RECOMMENDATION #3: that the CCOM Executive Committee, upon recommendation by the Board of Missions, be authorized to revise this list of Advance Projects.

For more information:

Churches may direct giving to Conference Advance Projects and to General Advance Projects by indicating the project number on the church statement/remittance form.

We have chosen these general advance projects for special emphasis and consideration. We have placed them in a three-year class arrangement to give them attention for a definite period and then to bring others to the forefront. A local church may support any general advance project that appears in the Catalog of Advance Projects published by Global Ministries.

Use <http://www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/the-advance> to search for General Advance Projects or to donate directly. Giving Tuesday (November 28, 2017 and November 27, 2018) provides a good opportunity for churches and organizations to use social media to promote a specific advance. Giving Tuesday no longer provides matching funds, but encourages a clearly identified call to give.

**The East Ohio Annual Conference
Ministries and Missions Funding Policies
2018**

MISSION: Is to Make and Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

VISION: Is to Increase the Number of Vital Congregations by:

- **Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.** The church must recruit young people for ministry and provide them with the skills necessary to be effective in this new time of opportunity. Similarly, we must offer leadership training for lay people who are in ministry in countless ways.
- **Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.** If we are to remain faithful to our commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new faith communities, seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship.
- **Engaging in ministry with the poor.** As an expression of our discipleship, United Methodists seek to alleviate conditions that undermine quality of life and limit the opportunity to flourish as we believe God intends for all. As with John Wesley, we seek to change conditions that are unjust, alienating and disempowering. We engage in ministry with the poor, and in this, we especially want to reach out to and protect children.
- **Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.** Conditions of poverty cause illness and death. The lack of access to doctors, nurses, medications and appropriate facilities is deadly, especially among those who live in conditions of poverty. But the diseases of poverty are not inevitable. We believe the people of The United Methodist Church can play a significant role in educating others about diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, and treating and preventing their devastating effects.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The East Ohio Conference will work toward the goal of increasing the number of Vital Congregations by:

- Aligning Resources
- Developing Leaders
- Inspiring Growth

Vital congregations consistently form disciples who:

- Become part of the body of Christ
- Grow in faith to be more like Jesus
- Join Jesus in servant ministries to others
- Form accountable partnerships with ministries between their local church and others in the connection

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

In the Old Testament, the people of God are advised to claim God's vision because their very life depends upon it. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18, KJV)

In the New Testament, followers of Jesus are assured that God has a vision of redemption for the whole world. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not

perish but may have eternal life...in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17, NRSV)

Paul wrote to the early church at Ephesus and prayed for the Ephesians a prayer that speaks to all Christians for all time; "I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the all-glorious Father, may give you the spiritual powers of wisdom and vision, by which there comes the knowledge of him." (Ephesians 1:17, NEB)

PRIMARY TASK

The primary task of the Conference Council on Ministries (CCOM) is to assist local churches to identify and carry out ministry and mission as vital congregations. There will be an emphasis placed upon both the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement as the CCOM works with conference boards, committees, districts and local churches.

The primary task of the Local Church is to: (1) reach out and receive people as they are; (2) provide a setting for people to develop a relationship with God through Jesus Christ; (3) nurture and help them grow in the faith; (4) send them out to live as disciples to create a loving and just world.

MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS FUNDING EVALUATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The CCOM Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee is responsible for the oversight of the Conference Benevolence / Ministry and Mission budget (Apportionment Fund I). The sub-committee recommends policies, serves as a channel for all funding requests, and protects against overlap of programs and abuse. The sub-committee is named by CCOM with consideration for geographical diversity.

CONFERENCE MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS FUNDING POLICIES

The Conference Ministries and Missions funding is a part of the Fund I, "World Service and Conference Ministries and Missions," Shared Ministry apportionment monies given by local churches to be used for missions and ministry within the East Ohio Conference as outreach that leads people to the acceptance of Jesus Christ. Districts, conference boards, and conference committees may receive conference Ministries and Missions grants by demonstrating a need for funds to live out the mission and vision of the East Ohio Annual Conference. As districts and agencies are considering requests for funds, it is recommended attention is given to the support of racial ethnic ministries where applicable. Conference Ministries and Missions funding is intended to be "Seed Money" that assists in the start-up of new missional and outreach programs. Conference Ministries and Missions monies are to be used for funding of mission projects and congregational development work.

Ministry programs are characterized as:

- Strengthening of existing churches and church leaders.
- Programs that educate people in disciple making, witnessing and outreach.
- Programs to assist persons in being mature disciples.

Mission projects are characterized as:

- Projects that are based on poverty and/or the need of the community/people being served.
- Projects that involve the local congregation in hands-on ministry outreach.

The East Ohio Conference is especially responsive to the needs of the local church. While we do reach out ecumenically and are meeting community needs, local congregations and individuals are expected to be the primary connection to ecumenical and community needs.

Ministries and Missions funding will be determined through the following policies:

1. **Forecast** – Prior to the funding cycle, the CCOM Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee, with direction from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, will provide districts, conference boards, and conference committees with a forecast of the amount of money available for conference Ministries and Missions grant funding along with funding applications and the funding policies. The district forecast will be based on the guidelines for distribution formula established by the CCOM and CCF&A. The distribution formula for District Block Grant Funding has as its determining factors:

- District % of Total Population
- District % of Total Families in Poverty
- District % of Ethnic Population
- District % of Total Median Income
- District % of Total Apportionments Paid
- District % of Worship Attendance

2. **Application Process** -

- a. Any program/project that very clearly relates to the mission and vision of the Conference may submit an application for funding to their respective district or conference board or committee.
 - Funds for mission purposes are intended as “Seed Money” to be used as start-up funds to help initiate ministry and mission outreach. Programs/projects should not be funded for more than 3 years unless extenuating circumstances merit up to 5 years.
 - It is important that all applications have a specific plan and/or strategy for a program/project, a clearly defined method(s) in which the funds will be used, and a method for decreasing the “seed money” funding over the 3 year period.
 - Ministries and Missions funding may not be used for capital expenditures.
 - Ministries and Missions monies are for funding outreach ministries and may not be used to provide clergy salaries.
 - Conference policy does not allow the receiving of funds from more than one Ministries and Missions grant.

The district, conference board, or conference committee will consider each completed application to determine if the applicant is in accordance with the mission and vision of the conference. For applicants to receive Ministries and Missions funding they must respond to the following questions:

- How does this project bring people to Christ?
- Is this a United Methodist outreach ministry? How is the local congregation involved in this ministry?
- Who is the target audience? What issue does this project address?
- How does this ministry help strengthen The United Methodist Church?
- How will the mission project decrease its reliance on this seed money over a 3 year period? Where will sustaining funds come from once conference funding has ended?

- Are there other funding sources available to this ministry? (You must attach projected income budget and sources of funding to the application).

The district, conference board, or conference committee must be sure all supporting documentation (budget, helpful program/descriptive data, implementation plans) is attached to the application. If funds are being requested for an event, retreat, or workshop the application should include:

- The event date that has been set and already cleared/placed on the Conference Coordinated Calendar.
- A proposed budget that clearly outlines all anticipated costs of the event.
- An anticipated registration cost for the event. (Although it may be necessary for events to be supported through a benevolent line item it is expected that all events should include a reasonable registration cost to assist in covering expenses.)

After careful review of the application the district, conference board, or conference committee will determine their recommendation for the amount of funding a program/project should receive and complete the district/conference board or committee section of the application. The application with all supporting documentation will then be forwarded to the East Ohio Conference Ministries and Missions Funding Coordinator.

- b.** There will be an amount of money set aside by the CCOM Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee for Emerging Issues. Both district, conference boards, and conference committees may make a request for these funds for mission and ministry projects that emerge in a given year after the budgets have been set. Requests would be made by using the forms provided from the Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee and would be acted upon within 15 days of receipt of the request.

- c.** The CCOM Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee will review all applications and district/conference board and committee recommendations with regard to conference funding policies and the budget forecast and submit recommendations for funding to the Conference Council on Ministries and Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

- 3. Report and Review by Annual Conference** – The Conference Ministries and Missions funding will be recommended by the Conference Council on Ministries and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and presented to the Annual Conference for review and approval.
- 4. Payout Rates** – Ministries and Missions grants shall be paid at the percentage rate set annually by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration based on expected income rates. This payout rate shall be determined at the January meeting of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and immediately communicated by the Director of Connectional Ministries to the districts, conference boards, and conference committees. The districts, conference boards, and conference committees will then determine the division of that block grant payout to each program and/or project and communicate this division to the program or project as well as to the Director of Connectional Ministries by February 15.

- 1 5. **Vouchering** – Each year specific programs must be vouchered, either to be paid:
 - 2 **a.** In 12 “monthly” installments, or
 - 3 **b.** On a one-time or occasional/as needed basis.
 - 4
- 5 6. **Mid-Year Adjustments** – Adjustments of funds from an inactive program, a program whose funding
6 needs have decreased, or where a program has not operated according to the original application,
7 must be reported to the CCOM Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee. All unspent funds shall be
8 returned at the end of each year and shall be retained in the Conference Ministries and Missions
9 Emerging Issues account. At the beginning of each new fiscal year The Conference Council on
10 Ministries or its Executive Committee will determine the amount to be held in the Ministries and
11 Missions Emerging Issues account for that year along with further disbursements of prior year
12 unspent monies. These recommendations must be approved by the Conference Council on Finance
13 and Administration.
14
- 15 7. **Annual Evaluation** – At the end of each funding year the CCOM Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee
16 will provide districts, conference boards, and conference committees with the annual evaluation
17 process and evaluation forms. An annual evaluation is to be completed by each applicant receiving
18 funds in accordance with the evaluation process. These evaluations shall be reviewed by the
19 funding district, conference board, or conference committee and forwarded to the Conference
20 Ministries and Missions Funding Committee along with required supporting documents (including an
21 Audit report where required). Any applicant not completing an evaluation or Audit (where required)
22 according to the submitted timeline will not be considered for future funding.
23

**Timeline for Fund I - Ministries and Missions
Conference Benevolence 2019 Budget
12 Month Planning Process**

Date	Task or Deadline
By January 5, 2018	CCOM distributes 2019 Funding Application Forms and 2017 Funding Evaluation Forms. These are also updated on the conference web site.
Jan/Feb 2018	Districts, Conference Boards & Conference Committees receive and prioritize individual applications within their budget areas using different deadlines based on their meeting schedule.
By March 15, 2018	Districts, Conference Boards & Conference Committees submit all Funding Applications, Evaluations and their recommended budget priorities to CCOM.
April/May 2018	Funding Evaluation sub-committee presents a Ministries and Missions Budget recommendation to CCOM. CCOM then presents a budget recommendation to CCF&A. CCF&A then presents a budget recommendation to be approved by the Annual Conference in June.
June 2018	Annual Conference establishes the 2019 Budget.
By November 1, 2018	Districts, Conference Boards & Conference Committees submit requests for adjustments (if any) to CCOM for line items within the budget set by Annual Conference for 2019.
Nov/Dec 2018	CCOM recommends budget lines items with adjustments to CCF&A for approval within the budget set by Annual Conf.
By January 31, 2019	CCF&A establishes the payout rate for the 2019 budget. Checks will not be issued until the payout rate is set.

NOTE: Conference Advance Special Projects are a separate process which is administered by the Missions Awareness Committee separately from the Ministries and Missions Budget. The Conference Advance Special Project Application deadline is January 15.

Ministries and Missions Funding Forms are available on the web at
<http://www.eocumc.com/missions/funding-forms.html>

BOARD OF PENSIONS

I. Pensions

A. Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (MRPF) Pre-82-Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program

The Ministers Reserve Pension Fund as outlined in *The Book of Discipline* and administered under the authority of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church and the Board of Pensions of the East Ohio Annual Conference, in conformity with the Plan of Union, was the pension program and plan of the East Ohio Conference through

December 31, 1981. A copy of the "Pension and Benefit RULES AND REGULATIONS for Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church" may be secured from **Wespath Benefits & Investments (Wespath) formerly known as** the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church; 1901 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, Illinois, 60201.

1. The following paragraph is presented as an amendment to the action taken by the 1981 Annual Conference (page 237, Volume 2, 1981 Journal) pertaining to the Ministerial Pension Plan and Comprehensive Protection Plan:

The pension rate for retired clergy or local pastors of the Annual Conference for service prior to January 1, 1982 shall be **\$882** for **2018** annuity year. The Past Service Pension Rate (PSPR) for **2018** shall be **1.55%** of the CAC. The PSPR for **2017** is **\$864, 1.55%** of the CAC.

2. Participation by Full-Time Local Pastors

A Local Pastor must be an ordained deacon, must be under Episcopal Appointment, must have rendered not less than four consecutive years of full-time service in the East Ohio Annual Conference, and shall have received a cash salary for such service which equals or exceeds the minimum salary set by the East Ohio Annual Conference (or predecessor conference) for the year in which the service was rendered, before annuity service years began under the M.R.P.F. The name of the Local Pastor must be listed annually under the Disciplinary Questions. In the MPP/CPP Plan, Local Pastors receive a pension based on compensation, and CPP benefits if they receive at least the minimum salary of a full-time Local Pastor. Vesting in MPP is immediate.

Note: This provision applies to the historical practice of ordination as a "Local Elder" or "Local Deacon" which is no longer part of United Methodist polity or practice. The Local Deacon's and Local Elder's orders were credentials enabling supply and local pastors to perform ministry in the local churches to which they were appointed, comparable to licensing as a local pastor today. This provision has no relationship to ordination as Deacon under the *1992 Book of Discipline* (or previous), commensurate with Probationary Membership in the Annual Conference, nor does it pertain to ordination as a Deacon in Full Connection under the *1996 and 2000 Books of Discipline*. It applies only to local pastor and supply years prior to 1982. (Dale Jones, Client Manager, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, February 11, 2003.)

- B. Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)-Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program

Effective January 1, 1982, the pension program was changed to the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), which was authorized by the 1980 General Conference. This plan was administered under the authority of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the Board of Pensions of the East Ohio Conference through December 31, 2006. A detailed copy of the program may be secured from **Wespath Benefits & Investments formerly known as** the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, or the Conference Financial and Administrative Services Office.

C. Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

Effective January 1, 2014, the benefit formulas and eligibility for the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) were changed by authorization of the 2012 General Conference.

The objective of the retirement plan changes is stewardship – balancing between adequacy for participant and affordability and sustainability for the Church.

The Defined Benefit (DB) formula was reduced from 1.25% to 1% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years of service effective January 1, 2014. (The DB formula of 1.25% will remain effective for all covered service prior to January 1, 2014.)

The Defined Contribution (DC) changed, beginning January 1, 2014; the church will contribute 3% of compensation, IF the participant contributes at least 1% of compensation to their United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). If the participant does not contribute 1% to UMPIP, 2% of compensation will be deposited to their CRSP DC account.

UMPIP contributions are direct billed from **Wespath Benefits & Investments** to the local church. UMPIP contributions are 'personal' contributions of the participant, to be reduced from a participant's (pastor's) compensation. UMPIP contributions are NOT church liabilities; it is the function of the church to timely remit their pastor's contributions to the GB.

The Clergy Retirement Security Program is administered under the authority of **Wespath Benefits & Investments** and the Board of Pensions of the East Ohio Conference. A summary of the plan may be secured from **Wespath Benefits & Investments'** website: www.wespath.org

1. Effective January 1, 2014, full-time and three quarter (3/4) time clergy are eligible for CRSP.

The conference is required to report to **Wespath** all appointments in ¼ time increments for the purpose of eligibility in denominational benefit plans.

The time increments are based on the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The schedule of time increments is used solely for the purpose of pension/service credit within the CRSP Defined Benefit Plan.

For 2017 the CAC is \$55,770; therefore for 2017, part time local pastors with plan compensation less than **\$27,885.00** are not eligible for CRSP.

For 2018 the CAC is \$55,668, which is a decrease from 2017. Due to this decrease, for 2018 the Conference will maintain the 2017 schedule of time increments. Therefore for 2018, part time local pastors with plan compensation less than \$27,885 are not eligible for CRSP.

Churches with clergy appointed at half time (1/2) or less may elect to sponsor the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

UMPIP is a 403b pension plan offered by **Wespath Benefits & Investments** in which the employer and the employee may make contributions. UMPIP administrative documents can be

requested through the Conference Benefits Office by phone at (800)-831-3972 ext 103 or 151 or by email: betsy@eocumc.com or robin@eocumc.com

2. Eligible clergy may not waive participation in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP).

3. Deacons

Effective January 1, 2007, the annual conference became the plan sponsor for deacons appointed to a local church, charge, conference or entity for which the conference has pension responsibility. (Reference: CRSP Plan Document Article A2.26 through B3.1i)

4. Annual Conference Funding of CRSP

The Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) began January 1, 2007.

Funding for CRSP's two benefit components (defined benefit and defined contribution) will be provided for each eligible clergy member serving local churches of the East Ohio annual conference, and those eligible clergy under special appointments whose salary is paid by the Conference and who are under Episcopal appointment.

The **2018** CRSP DB pension billing formula will be, at 11% of total compensation, limited to the DAC at **\$70,202**.

The CRSP DC pension billing formula will be at 3% of total compensation, limited to two times the DAC at **\$140,404**.

The **2018** CPP (death & disability) billing will be at 3% of total compensation. Reference III.

5. Special Appointments (Extension Ministries) Conference Responsible

Since January 1, 1982, *conference responsible* appointments have been those in which the EOC Area Center is their salary-paying unit. Currently, those appointments include the District Superintendents, Pastoral Care Executive Director, Director of Connectional Ministries and Associate Directors of CCOM. These appointments are listed in the 2008 EOC Journal, Extension Ministries #1300 Within the Connection Structure of United Methodism (§344.1a.c.). As of January 1, 2007, the Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Clergy Camp Director(s) are considered *conference responsible* appointments.

Salary-paying units cannot sponsor CRSP for their clergy; only Annual Conferences can sponsor CRSP.

6. Special Appointments (Extension Ministries) Non Conference Responsible

Those serving under special appointments that are not paid by the annual conference are not eligible for CRSP. Their respective employing agency may sponsor the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) through **Wespath Benefits & Investments** in Glenview, Illinois.

7. United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

a) UMPIP Personal Contributions

An active participant in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) may make personal contributions through withholding either pre-tax or after-tax from their monthly salary. These withholdings must be submitted to **Wespath Benefits & Investments** from the salary-paying unit monthly on the appropriate forms.

Members are given various options as to how personal contributions could be invested.

Since January 1, 1974, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits **now known as Wespath Benefits & Investments** has made available a program of tax-deferred annuity contributions for members of the Pension Fund. There are two basic requirements: 1) a prior agreement must be made between the member and the local church (or Conference agency); and 2) all remittances under this program must be made by the church treasurer (or agency treasurer). The members shall be given various options as to how their contributions shall be invested. For a packet of information regarding UMPIP Program, contact the **Wespath Benefits & Investments**, 1901 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, IL 60025-1604, or the office of the Conference Benefits Manager.

All interest credited on contributions made under a pre-tax basis, is subject to tax following retirement or withdrawal and not in the year that it is credited. It should not be included in a member's income for tax purposes currently.

b) Lay Employee Pension Plan

On May 7, 2004, General Conference, in an important move toward greater equity among all church workers, approved legislation regarding retirement benefits for lay employees of the local church and annual conference.

According to *The Book of Discipline*, ¶1258.12, the committee on pastor-parish relations or staff parish relations "shall recommend that the church council provide, effective on and after January 1, 2006, a 100 percent vested pension benefit of at least three percent of compensation for lay employees of the local church who work at least 1040 hours per year, are at least 21 years of age, and have at least one year of permanent service."

For additional information on the lay pension benefit plan and all other **Wespath** administered plans, please visit its website at or call its Participant Response Center at 1-800-851-2201. Betsy Stewart, Benefits Manager for the Conference, at 1-800-831-3972 ext 103, is also available to help the local church establish a lay pension plan.

8. Central Conference Pension Initiative

The Central Conference Pension Fund is an independent trust created to receive contributions for pension support of non-U.S. clergy. **Wespath Benefits & Investments Glenview**, Illinois projects that a \$25-50 million endowment is needed to help establish and maintain the fund. The East Ohio Conference encourages active and retired clergy, and laity to make voluntary contributions to the fund. The Financial and Administrative Services Office of the East Ohio

Conference has established Fund #9705 for collection of Central Conference Pension Fund contributions.

II. Health Care Program

THE MISSION OF THE EAST OHIO CONFERENCE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR MAJOR ILLNESS OR INJURY EXPENSES AND TO PROMOTE WELLNESS BY PROVIDING PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH OF MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

The East Ohio Conference Board of Pensions recognizes that it has a fundamental interest in the health and welfare of its members, which is partially given expression by its health care program. The health care program will be designed around the needs of the members, although it may not meet their entire benefit needs. It will be coordinated with, according to law, all benefits provided through governmentally mandated programs. These will be partially or fully funded by the East Ohio Conference, its agencies or local churches accordingly, for such programs as Social Security, Ohio Disability and Workers' Compensation, and such others as become mandated by law.

The goal of our health care program is to promote the general health and well-being of the member and member's family and to reimburse the member for the major costs incurred as a result of an illness or injury.

A. Health Care Benefits Enrollment for Members

Enrollment for new members in the health care program is not automatic and is the responsibility of the individual. Full-time lay employees of local churches and of other approved agencies of the East Ohio annual conference may be enrolled upon approval of the Conference Board of Pensions. The employer in each case shall ultimately be responsible for payment of the premium monthly. Persons transferring into the Conference or beginning employment with the Conference shall have the responsibility for enrollment. Enrollment may be completed by contacting the Conference Financial and Administrative Services Office. Effective January 1, 2002, participation in the Conference Health Benefit Plan became mandatory. (Reference II.B.2.c.)

Healthcare is provided by the Conference on a year-to-year basis.

As of January 1, 2018, the Conference will partner with the Center of Health through Wespath Benefits & Investments to provide health benefits under HealthFlex, which offers a wellness-driven group health plan for The United Methodist Church (UMC) annual conference and employer groups.

B. Health Care Funding

1. **The Conference shall continue to be self-funded for health care coverage for the balance of the calendar year 2017.**

As of January 1, 2018, the conference health care coverage will be with HealthFlex, which is a fully-insured benefit plan.

2. The following health care premiums are based on current data and may be changed as needed:

a) The 2017 & 2018 monthly premiums for active lay employees are:
Single - \$482 (\$5,784 year).
Family - \$1,260 (\$15,120 year).
Single, age 65 & over, secondary to Medicare - \$306 (\$3,672 year).

b) The 2017 & 2018, monthly premiums for retirees* are:
Single, less than age 65 - \$491 (\$5,892 year).
Single, age 65 & over, secondary to Medicare - \$256 (\$3,072 year).

*Eligible clergy retirees, their spouses, and surviving spouses, premium-share with the conference based on the clergy retiree's years of pension funded by the East Ohio Conference, as stated in C.6 of this report.

c) The 2017 clergy flat rate premium is \$1,209 (\$14,508 year). **The clergy flat rate premium is scheduled to remain the same for 2018.** The clergy flat rate shall be billed for each episcopal appointed clergy (including deacons where health coverage is not provided from another source) serving a local church full time or three-quarter time* including the Director and Associate Directors of CCOM, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, Conference Evangelist, District Superintendents, lay employees of the Area Center, Area Office, and Directors of Camps sites. Each pastoral charge shall be billed an amount for health care coverage where applicable. Changes in these rates, if any, will be announced as early as possible. Amounts will be remitted to the Conference Director of Financial and Administrative Services on Health Care forms provided by the Director of Financial and Administrative Services. (*Not applicable to part time local pastors at 75%)

3. Part Time Local Pastors, or Ordained Clergy, Provisional, and Associate Members appointed ½ time or ¼ time - The single lay rate premium may be billed for each episcopal appointed clergy serving a local church as part time local pastor or Ordained Clergy, Provisional, and Associate Members appointed ½ time or ¼ time who are working a minimum of twenty hours per week and requesting single coverage. Family coverage for these appointments shall be billed at the flat rate. (Effective 1/1/2010)
4. In those cases involving a multiple point charge, the lead church shall be so directly billed. In all cases, the cost sharing arrangements between and among the various churches within the charge shall be as locally agreed and the lead church shall pay the required medical insurance premium to the Conference. Premiums for coverage shall be in the amount as determined by the Board of Pensions for flat rate, single, or family as appropriate.
5. The apportionment for health care benefits for **2018** is \$1,463,711.00.
6. The amount paid by the local church under II. B. 2. a) & c) shall not be included in the total base figure used to calculate apportionments.
7. Enrolled employees of conference employing agencies shall be direct billed for the appropriate premium for the participant's coverage.

8. No conference money shall be used to pay for health and/or life insurance coverage other than the Conference sponsored plan.
9. Participation in Workers' Compensation by Episcopally Appointed clergy is required.
10. The East Ohio Conference Health Insurance Policy offers a wide range of benefits that compare favorably to other health plans. The EOC Board of Pensions would like to note that our plan, like similar plans, expects Workers' Compensation to be in effect to cover workplace related accidents, including automobile accidents occurring in the course of business travel, and their related cost of claims. The East Ohio Conference Health Insurance Policy DOES NOT provide benefits for injuries sustained in the course of a clergy's employment duties, because that coverage is provided by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation:

Therefore: To avoid the possibility that no benefit will be available, all clergy under appointment to a church within the bounds of the East Ohio Conference must be enrolled as a participant with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Premiums for this coverage must be paid by the church or churches to which the clergy is appointed.

C. Eligibility for Retiree Health Benefits – Clergy

In order for a pastor to be eligible to retiree health coverage through the East Ohio Conference such pastor:

1. Must be a member (full member or local pastor) of the East Ohio Conference.
2. Must retire under the provisions of Paragraph 358.2b or 358.2c. (*2012 Book of Discipline*) Members retiring under Paragraph 358.2a (with twenty years of services) are not eligible.
3. Effective on and after July 1, 2010, must have a minimum of 10 years of pension funded by the East Ohio Conference. Deacons must have a minimum of 10 years of service certified by the local church or an approved agency.
4. Must be properly enrolled and covered under Conference Health Benefit Plan at the time of retirement. Effective on and after July 1, 2010, must have been covered by the Conference Health Benefit Plan for at least 5 years immediately prior to the effective date of retirement. The 5 years health care participation is not applicable to deacons.

Those individuals who are age 60 or older in 2009 and who would have been eligible for retiree healthcare coverage under the previous policy who are adversely affected by the 5 year rule shall be grandfathered/grandmothered to the rules which previously existed. This policy exception extends only to 16 individuals.

5. Post 65: Retirees must participate in the Medicare Part A and Part B programs.
6. Eligible retirees, spouses and surviving spouses shall contribute an amount toward the premium based on the policy effective August 1, 2004; whereas, retirees who have twenty-five (25) or more accumulative years of pension credit service funded by the East Ohio

Conference will pay 30% of their health care premiums. For service less than twenty-five (25) accumulative years, the retiree will pay 30% plus 2.8% for each year less than 25 years of service. (For example: a retiree with fifteen (15) years of service will pay 58% of the premium).

7. The retired clergy's surviving spouse will be provided health care coverage in the same manner as the retiree (see C.6 above) until such time as they remarry or die. Should this remarried spouse later become single, eligibility for health care insurance coverage shall be returned to this surviving spouse. A surviving spouse of an active clergy will be provided health care coverage until such time as they remarry or die.

Should this remarried spouse later become single, eligibility for health care insurance coverage shall be returned to this surviving spouse. Dependent children of active clergy will be provided health care coverage until such time as they no longer meet the requirements to remain "Eligible Dependents." Premium sharing shall be calculated in the same manner as stated in C.6, above.

8. Retirees may add a spouse and/or dependents to the Health Care Plan after retirement, provided that the cost, as determined annually by the East Ohio Conference Board of Pensions, is paid by the retiree.

D. Eligibility for Retiree Health Benefits – Lay Employees

1. Area Center, Area Office, and Camps

- a) In order for a Lay employee of the Area Center, Area Office, and Camps to be eligible for retiree health coverage through the East Ohio Conference such employee must be age 62.
- b) Must have a minimum of 10 years of pension funded by the East Ohio Conference.
- c) Must be properly enrolled and covered under the Conference Health Benefit Plan for at least 5 years immediately prior to the effective date of retirement.
- d) Post 65: must participate in the Medicare Part A and Part B.
- e) For funding see F.3

2. Agencies, Districts, and Local Churches

- a) In order for a Lay employee of a qualifying Agency, District, and/or Local Church to be eligible for retiree health coverage through the East Ohio Conference such employee must be age 65.
- b) Must have a minimum of 10 years of service certified by the Agency, District and/or Local Church.
- c) Must be properly enrolled and covered under the Conference Health Benefit Plan for at least 5 years immediately prior to the effective date of retirement.
- d) Post 65: must participate in the Medicare Part A and Part B.
- e) For funding see F.4. 4.

E. Temporary Waiver of Retiree Health Benefits – Clergy and Lay

Effective on and after July 1, 2003, when a retiree, retiree spouse or surviving spouse, is actively employed with employer provided insurance, the participant may temporarily waive the Conference Health Care Plan without premium sharing, and return to the Plan upon termination

of such employer provided insurance. (Documentation will be required.) This includes clergy couples in which one spouse is retired and the other remains active.

F. Retiree Health Care Funding

1. Clergy with East Ohio Pre-82 Pension Credit

Retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan of the East Ohio Conference premium-share per conference policy. The Conference supports the balance of their health care plan expenses by funds from the Pension and Health Care Reserve Account as directed by Judicial Counsel Decision #976 and approved by Annual Conference 2004.

2. Clergy with East Ohio Pension Credit on and after 1/1/1982 with No Pre-82 Pension Credit

Retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan of the East Ohio Conference premium-share per conference policy. Fund III supports the balance of their health care plan expenses. The Board of Pension budgets annually \$250,000 and any balance after expenses is maintained as a reserve for these retirees.

3. Lay Retirees (Area Center, Area Office, and Camps)

Lay retirees, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan of the East Ohio Conference premium-share on the same basis as the clergy in the East Ohio Conference. Fund III supports the balance of their health care plan expenses.

4. Lay Retiree (Agencies, Districts and Local Churches)

Lay retirees, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan of the East Ohio Conference are billed at full amount of the base premium. Any premium-sharing is the responsibility of the individual agency, district or local church.

Agencies, districts or local churches may require lay employees to contribute a portion of the premium cost based on the number of years worked and the age at retirement. The collection of this money is the responsibility of the individual agency, district or local church.

Lay retirees must comply with all the provisions of the Health Care plan document.

The Conference Benefits Manager shall be authorized to terminate coverage for any lay retiree whose premium is not paid.

G. Retiree Emergency Aid

1. Financial Aid & Hardship Grants

Effective January 1, 2002, the policy stated below is applicable to the retiree's secondary Health Care premium sharing. In addition, the original intent of the policy will be maintained.

Where emergency aid is necessary for a retired member of the Conference, a retired local pastor, a surviving spouse, or other Conference claimant, it will be administered by the Executive Committee of the Conference Board of Pensions. Application forms should be obtained from the Financial and Administrative Services Office and returned to the Director Financial and Administrative Services/Benefits Manager of the East Ohio Conference.

2. Emergency Fund for retired clergy with Other Insurance

Upon appeal and application, a retiree, retiree spouse or surviving spouse may request grant money to help pay for other insurance premiums. The Executive Committee of the Conference Board of Pensions will administer the Emergency Fund. Application forms may be obtained from the Benefits Office and returned to the Benefits Manager of the East Ohio Conference.

H. Delinquent Health Care Premium Payments

1. Any church/charge or agency having a balance due for health care billing from the previous year (December 31), for a pastor's premium, will be notified of such balance by the Benefits Office, with notification also sent to the pastor's District Superintendent and Chairperson of the Staff-Parish Committee. The Benefits Office and the District Superintendent will work with the church/charge for payment of the delinquent amount.

2. Persons on Special Appointment who are enrolled in the health care benefit plan and delinquent at year-end (December 31) will be notified of such delinquency by the Benefits Office. If a satisfactory payment schedule cannot be negotiated by April 1 of the year following the delinquency, the coverage will be terminated.

3. Laypersons who are enrolled in the health care benefit plan and delinquent at year-end (December 31) will be notified of such delinquency with their employing church/charge or agency also notified. If a satisfactory payment schedule cannot be negotiated by April 1 of the year following the delinquency, the person's coverage will be terminated with the employing church/charge or agency responsible for the payment. If the church/charge or agency does not make the payment, no additional persons from that church/charge or agency will be enrolled until the balance is paid in full.

I. Pension and Health Care Arrearage Debt Resolution Policy

Effective 1/1/2005, a church/charge with past health care and pension arrearages and is current for three calendar years may apply for final resolution. A church/charge seeking resolution must submit a letter requesting arrearage debt resolution with details of their proposal for settlement to their District Superintendent with a copy sent to the Chair of the Board of Pensions. After full review by Cabinet and Board of Pensions, the Board of Pensions will vote on the negotiation of balance payment and any forgiveness of a determined arrearage.

The pension and health care arrearages of a closed church will be removed upon written recommendation by Cabinet and consultation of the Conference Financial and Administrative Services.

III. Disability and Death Benefits

A. Clergy - Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

1. Long-term disability (LTD), survival and death benefits are provided through the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) for clergy under full time episcopal appointment and receiving 'plan compensation' equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average Compensation or the Conference Average Compensation. Clergy serving at three-quarter

time participate under CPP Special Arrangements provision. (Part time local pastors are not eligible for CPP.)

2. **In 2016, Wespeth Benefits & Investments Board of Directors approved a CPP premium redirection period for 2018 & 2019. This action was prompted by the decrease in the funded status of the denomination's pension plans. The primary cause of this decrease was the updated mortality table used in the valuations that reflects that people are living longer. The conference will continue to bill for CPP premiums for 2018 & 2019 in an effort to offset future benefit increases.**

The funding rate yearly for each eligible full time clergy member (including deacons) serving local churches of the East Ohio Conference, or special appointments whose salary is paid by the Conference who are under Episcopal Appointment is 3% of plan compensation (salary plus housing) with two times the DAC as the cap. The required funding rate for those under CPP Special Arrangements is 3% of the Denominational Average Compensation.

3. CPP LTD benefits may be approved by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits for the members who are granted Medical Leave by action of the Annual Conference.
4. The Comprehensive Protection Plan is administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, providing monthly LTD benefits to active participants who qualify.
5. The income replacement payable by CPP is 70% of the plan compensation, with plan compensation capped at 200% of the DAC.
6. The CPP disability benefit (income replacement) is reduced by any disability benefit payable under Social Security. The revised benefit applies only to eligible clergy whose disability effective date, as determined by **Wespeth Benefits & Investments** on or after 1/1/02. Clergy approved for CPP disability benefits continue to be credited pension contributions.
7. For the purpose of receiving CPP benefits, a clergyperson is considered disabled based on medical evidence that he/she is unable to engage in the usual and customary duties of a United Methodist clergyperson due to bodily injury, disease or mental or emotional disorder or disease which will last for at least six continuous months and excluding disability resulting from: 1) Service in the armed forces of any country, 2) Warfare, 3) Intentional self-inflicted injury, 4) Participation in any criminal or unlawful act. After receiving benefits for 24 months, in order to continue receiving CPP disability benefits, a clergyperson must demonstrate that he/she is unable to engage in substantially all of the usual and customary duties pertaining to any employment in an occupation for which the disabled clergyperson is reasonably qualified.
8. The disabled member is encouraged to make application to Social Security Administration to determine eligibility under the government's program. Social Security disability benefits may begin after a waiting period of five full calendar months.
9. Health care coverage upon Medical Leave is administered according to the Conference's Health Benefit Plan document, and current plan language takes precedence in all cases. If the member is enrolled in the Conference Health Benefit Plan coverage prior to being granted Medical Leave, coverage will continue 180 days following the date the member was

actively at work, at no cost to the member. The next 18 months the provision of the plan for Continuation of Coverage would be applicable, at no cost to the member. If the member is determined under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act to have been disabled at the time of Medical Leave, coverage would continue as a secondary coverage to Medicare disability. If the member does not become Social Security disabled, the Conference Health Care coverage terminates after the 18 months under the Continuation of Coverage Provision.

CPP death benefits are based on eligibility as an active clergyperson and as a retiree.

Based on eligibility, death benefits for **2018**:

- Active members: \$50,000
- Spouse of an active member: **\$14,040.40**
- Surviving spouse of active member: **\$10,530.30**
- Child (age 18 & younger) of active member: **\$7,020.20**

Retirees (retired before 1/1/2013)

- Death of a retired member: **\$21,060.60**
- Spouse of a retired member: **\$14,040.40**
- Surviving spouse of retired member: **\$10,530.30**
- Child (age 18 & younger) of retired member: **\$7,020.20**

Retirees (retired 1/1/2013 or later)

- Death of a retired member: \$20,400
- Spouse of a retired member: \$15,300
- Surviving spouse of retired member: \$10,200
- Child (age 18 & younger) of retired member: \$8,160

Educational Benefits are provided for the children of deceased members while enrolled in an accredited college through age 25.

B. Clergy – UMLifeOptions (clergy not eligible for CPP)

1. Local churches with episcopal appointed clergy not eligible for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) may adopt an UMLifeOptions plan to provide long-term disability (LTD) and life insurance coverage for their appointed pastor.
2. For more information regarding sponsoring UMLifeOptions, please visit Wespeth Benefits & Investments' webpage at <http://www.wespeth.org/center-for-health/plans/umlifeoptions/> Or call **Wespeth** at 1-800-851-2201 (option 3). Churches or pastors are welcome to contact Betsy Stewart, EOC Benefits Manager, at 1-800-831-3972 ext 103.

C. Lay Employees (Area Center, Area Office and Camps) UMLifeOptions

1. UMLifeOptions formerly known as the Basic Protection Plan (BPP) of The United Methodist Church covers lay employees for Long-Term Disability (LTD) of the Area Center, Area Office and Camps. The income replacement payable by UMLifeOptions is equivalent to 60% of the employee's predisability compensation. The UMLifeOptions disability benefit (income replacement) is not reduced by any disability benefit payable under Social Security.

2. As of January 1, 2009, UMLifeOptions will make a maximum 3% of predisability compensation contribution to the approved disabled Employee's United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

IV. Voluntary Transition Program

The Voluntary Transition Program provides eligible clergy with a financially supported method for a grace-filled exit. The program is for eligible clergy who voluntarily choose to withdraw from the ministry. The program was adopted at General Conference 2012. It is effective January 1, 2013 and will terminate December 31, 2020.

The program provides an eligible participant a career transition package that includes: 1) Severance benefits based on current compensation and years of service; 2) Continuation of health benefits through the conference plan; 3) Continuation of active participant death benefit through the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) if applicable during Transition Period; 4) Access to outplacement services; 5) Moving expenses subject to conference policy.

Eligibility: 1) Clergy must be in good standing; 2) At least five years of service in full connection (i.e., elders or deacons); 3) Active participant in CPP for five years immediately preceding separation from service; 4) Not being within two years of eligibility to retire under *The Book of Discipline* Paragraph 358.2(b) (30 years of service or age 62); 5) Conference approval of participant in the program; 6) Withdrawal and surrender of credentials.

For questions, clergy may contact their District Superintendent or Betsy Stewart in the Benefits Office at 1-800-831-3972 ext 103.

V. Special Grants

The East Ohio Conference for **2017-2018** Conference year shall pay special Grants calculated by the Board of Pensions to such persons approved by the Board.

VI. Rental/Housing Allowance Policy for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the East Ohio Conference Policies and Guidelines

The following is in effect for 2018:

An amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the period January 1, **2018** through December 31, **2018**, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

The pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of

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

8
9 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in
10 any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal
11 Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the
12 rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of
13 the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount
14 actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental
15 value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of
16 utilities in such year. Each clergy person or former clergy person is urged to consult with his or her
17 own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing
18 allowance exclusion.

19
20 VII. Service Records

- 21
22 A. The official years for pension are those entered on the service records on file with **Wespath**
23 **Benefits & Investments** and certified by the Conference Board of Pensions, not the service
24 records in the Journal. Persons with questions about their service record should contact the
25 Conference Benefits Office.
26
27 B. Pension credit with another conference either for effective, associate, or local pastor years must
28 be established by direct contact with that conference and by its official action.
29
30 C. The East Ohio Conference does not have any responsibility for annuity years other than those
31 served in the East Ohio Conference, or one of its predecessor conferences, except for service in
32 the former Sandusky, Lexington, or Southeast Ohio Conference assigned by a joint Distribution
33 Committee of the General Board of Pensions **now known as Wespath Benefits & Investments**.
34

35 VIII. For Information

- 36
37 A. Concerning all payments to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits or the Ministerial
38 Reserve Pension Fund, and all pension payments to claimants, or other information, write to the
39 **Wespath Benefits & Investments**, 1901 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, Illinois, 60025-1604 or visit
40 **Wespath's website: www.wespath.org**
41
42 B. Concerning clergy benefits and/or pension credit, service years, or credit as full-time Local
43 Pastor, write or contact the Conference Benefits Office, 8800 Cleveland Avenue NW, P.O. Box
44 2800, North Canton, Ohio 44720.
45

IX. References

- A. For the "Plan of Union", see pages 423-424, recommendation 21, 1969 Yearbook and Record of the North East Ohio Annual Conference, or pages 57-58, Recommendation 21, 1969 Conference Journal of the East Ohio Conference.
- B. For the "Guidelines for Granting Benefits to a Person Whose Membership Has Been Terminated", see pages 196-198 of the 1973 Yearbook and Record of the East Ohio Annual Conference.
- C. For the special action regarding "Benefits for the Surviving Spouse of a Marriage Subsequent to the Member's Retirement", see the action on page 195 of the 1973.
- D. For the special action regarding "Equalization of Benefits Related to Required Personal Contributions", see pages 197-198 of the 1976 Journal of the East Ohio Conference, Volume II. (References are available in the Conference Financial and Administrative Services Office).

X. East Ohio Funds With The General Board of Pensions

Per action by the 1994 Annual Conference, the Board of Pensions will include in their report to Annual Conference a report of all funds held, beginning balance, income for the previous year, expenses for same, and ending balances audited or un-audited.

The East Ohio Conference Board of Pensions maintains four (4) accounts with **Wespath Benefits & Investments** formerly known as the General Board of Pensions in Glenview, Illinois. The first Account is a deposit account for MPP and CPP liabilities. Second is our holding account for the money raised in the Capital Funds Campaign and its accrued interest. The third deposit account holds a portion of our Health Care Reserve and the fourth account holds proceeds from a 1929 trust and earned interest. Following is a brief description of each account and its related balances and activity for the previous year **2016**.

Deposit Account - 10018001

This is the East Ohio Conference deposit account with **Wespath Benefits & Investments** and is our 'primary' account. Money raised through Apportionments and Direct Pension Billing in East Ohio for CRSP, (Clergy Retirement Security Program), CPP (Comprehensive Protection Plan), and Past Service obligations are forwarded from East Ohio to this Account. On a monthly basis, the GBOP charges and transfers money from this account to all the individual clergy accounts currently funded.

Beginning Balance 1/1/2016		56,931
2016 Activity		
Income	4,411	
Expenses	<u>-7,843</u>	
Net 2016 change		-3,432
Total Deposit Account at 12/31/2016		\$53,499

Deposit Account-Pension and Health Care Reserve Account (P&HCR)

This account was formerly known as the Capital Funds Campaign Account. By action of Annual Conference 2001, this account was re-designated as the Pension and Health Care Reserve Account, and approved to be maintained to provide a reserve for Conference pension and health care plan liabilities subject to disbursement only upon recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions and approval of Annual Conference. This action was questioned at Annual Conference 2003. Judicial Council ruled on the question in October 2003; therefore, the guiding principle of this account was amended to read:

“The East Ohio Annual Conference is directed (Judicial Council decision #976) to fund the pre-1982 past service account meeting the donor intent of the 1988-92 capital funds campaign. The appropriate amount should be based on the current actuarial projections for the pre-1982 past service account. All remaining funds including accrued interest shall be held in the East Ohio Annual Conference Pension and Health Reserve Account for pension and health benefits for pre 1982 clergy, spouses and dependents.”

In addition, the EOC BOP will adhere to the following guidelines concerning this fund:

On an annual basis, an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million may be withdrawn from this account for pre-82 benefits. All activity around these accounts are printed in the annual Pre-Conference Workbook, as well as in the Journal.

Pension & Health Care Reserve

Beginning Balance 1/1/2016	21,295,095
2016 Activity	
Investment Gains at Wespath	516,091
Transfer to local Health Care Reserve to cover Pre 82 claimants Pertaining to 2015	-312,308
Transfer to local Health Care Reserve to cover Pre 82 claimants Pertaining to 2016	<u>-2,341,667</u>
Net 2016 change	-2,137,884
Total Pension & Health Care Reserve at 12/31/2016	\$19,157,211

Note: After year 2015, \$312,308 was transferred from Pension & Health Care Reserve to the local Health Care Reserve. The amount transferred was the balance of monies needed to support the 2015 health care cost for retirees, spouses, surviving spouses and disabled participants who are Pre-82 pension claimants.

Note: During year 2016, \$2,341,667 was transferred from Pension & Health Care Reserve to the local Health Care Reserve. The amount transferred was monies needed to support the 2015 health care cost for retirees, spouses, surviving spouses and disabled participants who are Pre-82 pension claimants.

Deposit Account – Health Care Reserve

As the Conference recovered from its critical financial problems associated with its Health Care Program in 1990, we began to build a reserve. In 1992 this deposit account was established to hold that reserve. Prior to 2003, the majority of the reserve was maintained with the General Board (GBOP) and some

health care funds were maintained locally as working capital. The General Board ceased paying interest on accounts as of February 28, 2003. For the balance of 2003, monies were transferred from this account to the deposit account to care for monthly MPP/CPP liabilities. The East Ohio United Methodist Credit Union, paying interest, then became the holder of the majority of the reserve. These reserves aid cash flow and protect our Health Plan against unplanned and catastrophic events not covered by existing stop loss insurance. Finally, it allows us to stabilize fluctuation in our premium charges.

Health Care Reserve

Beginning Balance 1/1/2016		3,180,009
2016 Activity		
Investment Gains at Wespath	44,989	
Income earned locally	29,150	
Transfer from P&HCR	2,341,667	
Transfer from Boyd Trust	399,794	
Health Care Expenses	<u>-2,851,479</u>	
Net 2016 change		-35,879
Total Health Care Reserve at 12/31/2016		\$3,144,130

Note: After year end 2015, \$399,794 was transferred from Boyd Trust to the local Health Care Reserve. The amount transferred equals the balance of monies needed to support the 2015 financial aid for retirees, spouses, surviving spouses and disabled participants who are not Pre-82 pension claimants.

Note: In 2016, a total of \$2,341,667 was transferred from Pension & Health Care Reserve to the local Health Care Reserve to support health care cost for retirees, spouses, surviving spouses and disabled participants who are Pre-82 pension claimants.

Deposit Account – David Charles Boyd Trust

This trust was drafted in 1929 with distribution to the “Trustees or other proper governing body of the Northeastern Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church or its successors for the benefit of the Itinerant Minister’s Conference Claimants’ Endowment Fund”.

The actual distribution of \$556,859.97 was made in June of 1996. The proceeds were deposited with the GBOP in Evanston. In 1998, \$11,774 from the Superannuants Fund was donated to this fund. In 2014, the final distribution of \$904,453.78 from the Boyd Estate was received. **In 2016, \$6,216.25 was donated from the estate of Warren Sartwell and deposited to this fund.**

This fund has been used to provide financial assistance to clergy retirees, spouses and surviving spouses with regard to their required health care premium-sharing amounts and to fund monthly conference health care expense for disabled clergy and their families who do not have pre82 pension claim.

Boyd Trust

Beginning Balance 1/1/2016		1,932,146
2016 Activity		
Investment Gains at Wespath	105,928	
Sartwell funds received in 2016	6,216	
Transfer to Local Health Care Reserve	<u>-399,794</u>	
Net 2016 change		287,650
Total Boyd Trust at 12/31/2016		\$1,644,496

Note: After year end 2015, \$399,794 was transferred from Boyd Trust to the local Health Care Reserve. The amount transferred equals the balance of monies needed to support the 2015 financial aid for retirees, spouses, surviving spouses and disabled participants who are not Pre-82 pension claimants.

XI. The Funding Plan

General Conference 2012 approved legislation requiring each conference to annually submit to **Wespath Benefits & Investments** a comprehensive funding benefit plan (CFBP) for addressing its benefits obligations. The responding opinion written by the Managing Actuary of **Wespath Benefits & Investments**, in Glenview, Illinois, will be included in the Annual Conference Packet received at AC registration.

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The overall purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation is to support the bishop and cabinet in fulfilling the mission of our conference, which is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ. This commission provides support by: providing salary support, where the bishop and cabinet deem necessary, establishing minimum salaries, and by and making sustentation grants.

I. Pastoral Compensation for Full Time Clergy

- A. Total ministerial compensation paid directly to or for the pastor by the charge shall include:
1. Cash Salary, which should be the maximum possible from the local church, but no less than the minimum standards listed in section V of this report. In cases where equitable salary support is requested churches must pay at least 50% of that listed in section V of this report.
 2. Parsonage provided, or housing allowance when parsonage is not available.
 3. Parsonage/housing utilities, to be paid by the local Charge, including but not limited to:
 - a. Electricity
 - b. Heating
 - c. Water and sewer
 - d. One basic telephone line (not including personal long distance), which could be cell phone service;
 - e. Regular trash collection;
 - f. Basic cable service or equivalent service where available and desired by the pastor.
 - g. Basic high-speed internet where readily available, if desired by the pastor
 4. Conference health insurance and pension.
 5. Travel for local charge business at the IRS mileage rate with substantiation of mileage required (see *Guidelines for Mileage*, par. VI below).
 6. Other general operating expenses to consider as reimbursable, such as: continuing education and cellular phone service, including a data package.

1 II. ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLOWANCES: CHARGES
2

- 3 A. No minimum salary should be paid to a charge that has not conducted a responsible
4 Stewardship Campaign each year. Refer to the Conference website for information on
5 stewardship and stewardship programs.
6
- 7 B. Any change in clergy appointment to a Charge on minimum salary support should be reported
8 immediately to the Conference Financial and Administrative Services Office.
9
- 10 C. No minimum salary support should be made to cover the failure of a local charge to meet the
11 pastor's salary as approved by the Charge Conference.
12
- 13 D. A local charge is expected to maintain its level of clergy support from previous years and must
14 set a definite salary.
15
- 16 E. A local charge is expected to provide a comfortable parsonage (or adequate housing
17 allowance) meeting standards adopted by the Conference for parsonages and parsonage
18 furnishings (**8-11, 2016 Journal**).
19
- 20 F. Any charge receiving minimum salary support will be given a maximum of five years to assume
21 full pastoral support. The charge must project a plan of incremental reductions effective with
22 the second year of support. After five years, minimum salary support may be terminated if
23 substantial progress in reducing dependence on salary support has not been made.
24 Continuation of salary support beyond the five-year limit shall require concurrent action by
25 the Commission and the Cabinet.
26
- 27 G. The cabinet representative on the Commission on Equitable Compensation will give an annual
28 report to the commission regarding the progress each charge is making toward moving off of
29 equitable compensation funding.
30

31 III. ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLOWANCES: PASTORS
32

- 33 A. A pastor who is engaged in business, a profession, or farming, or who is engaged in a non-
34 church activity for remuneration, or who is employed in secular business shall not be eligible
35 for any salary supplementation, except in cases which may qualify for "less than full-time"
36 appointment.
37
- 38 B. A retired Conference member or retired local pastor who is serving as pastor shall not be
39 eligible for any salary supplementation or any sustentation allowance.
40
- 41 C. In order for the local church to be eligible for salary supplementation, a pastor shall live on the
42 charge or in the parsonage provided by the charge. Under unusual circumstances the
43 Commission may make an exception.
44
- 45 D. Minimum Salary support is not a contractual right but a consideration of our relationship in
46 Christian Ministry.
47

IV. APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES FOR MINIMUM SALARY SUPPORT:

Supplementation is not automatic but must be applied for each year or when there is a pastoral change. The deadline for filing applications for the next calendar year is November 1st or immediately following charge conference. However, any time there is a change in pastoral appointment or status of the applicant, a new application must be completed. The local charge is responsible for filing the application.

A. The local charge shall obtain the application forms from its district superintendent. The local Staff-Parish Relations committee shall complete the forms and send them in duplicate by the deadline to the Conference Financial and Administrative Services Office, together with:

1. Two copies of the church budget for each church on the charge. A completed budget includes:
 - a. The previous year's approved budget, year end expenditures, and audit report;
 - b. The current approved budget and year-to-date expenditures;
 - c. The proposed budget for the year support is requested.
2. A one-paragraph description of the program for Stewardship Education in each church including information such as how members were contacted, use of pledge cards, percentage of members who respond to the program, use of regular financial updates, and any other helpful information.
3. One copy of the church year-end report that is required in the Conference Financial and Administrative Services Office by January 31.
4. A report with plans for growing the ministry of the charge. Charges beyond the first year of receiving funds shall include in that report how they are progressing on their plans for growing ministry, including anything they have learned from what did not work in the past.
5. Incomplete applications or applications submitted without required documentation will be returned without consideration by the Commission, and payment may be delayed.

B. When a pastoral change is made during the year:

1. Charges requesting support for the first time shall also submit the items listed above in IV., A., 1. to 4.
2. Charges already receiving supplementation with pastoral changes need submit only a new application.

V. MINIMUM CASH SALARY SCHEDULES

As of 1992, the base number used for determining Minimum Salary is the current year's Conference Average Cash Compensation (CACC). The CACC is the Conference Average Compensation (CAC) with the housing factor removed. Starting in 1995, and until changed by the GBOP, the CAC represents 125% of the CACC. **Salaries will be based on previous year's CAC/CACC numbers. Since the CAC for 2017 is \$55,770 and the CACC is \$44,616, the formula for calculating**

the 2018 minimum salaries will use the 2017 CACC or \$44,616. The following percentages are multiplied by \$44,616 for 2017:

- A. 79% for Full Members, Associate Members, Probationary Members, and ordained persons from other denominations.
- B. 71% for full-time Local Pastors who have completed the course of study
- C. 67% for full-time Local Pastors who have not completed the course of study.

The 2017/2018 Salary Schedule is as follows:

	2017	2018	
A.	\$34,558	\$35,247	Full Members, Associate Members, Probationary Members, and ordained persons from other denominations.
B.	\$31,058	\$31,677	Full-time Local Pastors who have completed the course of study.
C.	\$29,308	\$29,893	Full-time Local Pastors who have <u>not</u> completed the course of study.

VI. SUSTENTATION AID

- D. Sustentation grants are available in cases of special need or financial emergencies to pastors who are ministerial members or local pastors under appointment in the East Ohio Conference. In making its decision, the Commission is guided by a printed set of criteria available from the chairperson. The maximum that can be granted to any one person in any one calendar year is \$2,500.
- E. In cases of less-than full-time service, the annual maximum shall be prorated in correlation to the percentage of service. Applications may be obtained from the chairperson of the Commission, or the district superintendent. The district superintendent will sign the application forms, add any comments, and forward the application to the chairperson of the Commission.

VII. GUIDELINES FOR MILEAGE:

- A. In setting the pastor's mileage, the local church(es) shall pay vouchered mileage at the mileage rate set for the current year by the Internal Revenue Service. This figure may be obtained by doing a search for "business mileage rate" on the IRS website, www.irs.gov. Flat fixed rates for mileage are subject to apportionments.
- B. A church or charge may have the option of prepaying an estimated mileage figure on a monthly basis. An accounting of actual miles driven must be reported to the local church treasurer, preferably at month end, but no later than 90 days after prepayment. At this time any excess or unused portion of the prepayment could either be returned to the treasurer or used to reduce the next prepayment (except at year end).

- C. Standard documentation for vouchered miles shall include: date, miles driven, purpose (may exclude specific contact information where confidentiality is an issue), not including commuting between home and the church.
- D. Due to the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church, it is strongly recommended that mileage to district and conference events and meetings also be paid by the local charge.
- E. When specific pastoral duties are required at a community (non-church) event (e.g., invocation and benediction at Commencement), mileage to and from said event should be paid by the local charge. When an honorarium is given, mileage reimbursement should not be requested unless such honorarium is contributed to a charity or other worthy cause, in which case the local charge may choose to reimburse the pastor for mileage.
- F. Mileage reimbursement for continuing education events should be worked out to the mutual satisfaction of the SPR/PPR committee and the pastor.
- G. When the pastor combines local charge business and personal business on the same trip, the mileage attributed to the personal errands shall not be included in the reimbursable mileage.
- H. Mileage should be paid by the inviting charge when a pastor travels to another charge to perform services at the request of the other charge's pastor.
- I. Multiple church charges should divide travel monies in the same proportion as salary, utilities, and other reimbursable expenses. Multiple travel logs must not be required.
- J. Students who travel to the charge for weekend pastoral duties shall not include travel to and from school as charge mileage. The charge shall reimburse for extra trips necessitated by pastoral emergencies.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

David Palmer, CCFA President

We transitioned through a major leadership change in the first quarter of 2017, as our long-time Conference Treasurer, Jessica Vargo, took a new position with the Kent State University Foundation. We held an open house in her honor on Sunday, March 12, to provide East Ohio United Methodists with an opportunity to express appreciation to Jessica for her exemplary service to our Conference.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration began the search process for Jessica's successor in late 2016. We utilized the services of the General Council on Finance and Administration, which provided us with a support team to facilitate the search process; and we formed a twelve-member Search Committee, which included Conference leaders from both within and beyond CCFA. Through a very extensive process, with high-level professional support from GCFA, the Search Committee was able to sift through a large number of qualified applicants and, after final interviews, make a hiring recommendation to CCFA.

1 Following action by CCFA, we officially announced the hiring of Vera Rebrovich on Monday, March 13.
2 Vera brings a strong accounting background and more than twenty years of experience as a financial
3 manager and analyst with major firms in our area. She went through an “onboarding” process during
4 the month of March and commenced her work in our Conference office on April 1.

5
6 In the meantime, CCFA had contracted with Jessica Vargo to work part-time from January through
7 March, in order to provide continuity and ongoing leadership in the Treasurer’s Office during the
8 transitional period.

9
10 In the context of hiring Vera, CCFA changed the job title to “Director of Financial and Administrative
11 Services.” Although only very minor changes were made to the job description, the new title is more in
12 line with the other “director” positions that we have in the Area Center. As in the past, the Director of
13 Financial and Administrative Services will oversee not only Conference finances but also property
14 matters and statistics.

15
16 Looking at Conference finances in 2016, we saw a troubling dip in support for shared ministry funds.
17 Following an 83.21% pay-in rate in 2015, we had an 82.32% pay-in rate in 2016. This reverses progress
18 we had made through 2014, when the pay in-rate had risen to 83.42%, which was the highest pay-in
19 rate in twenty years. We are hopeful that we will resume an upward climb in the pay-in rate during
20 2017.

21
22 The percentage of churches that paid 100% of their apportioned shared ministry funds was 68%, the
23 same as in 2015. This is still up from the period of 2008-2011, when just 65% of our churches paid 100%
24 of their apportioned funds.

25
26 We have been seeing an ongoing decline in giving to the shared ministry challenge goal, with total giving
27 falling from \$195,000 in 2014 to \$185,000 in 2015 to \$178,000 in 2016. The shared ministry challenge
28 goal is an important feature in our missions giving, as contributions to the challenge goal serve to bridge
29 the gap between our pay-in rate and our actual expenses. This past year, 319 churches contributed to
30 the shared ministry challenge goal, compared to 324 churches in 2015 and 366 in 2014.

31
32 For 2017, CCFA maintained the benevolent pay-out rate at 85%, the same as in the previous years of
33 2013-2016. In 2012, the pay-out rate for benevolences had been 82%. We have enough in benevolent
34 reserves to sustain the rate short-term; the longer term picture will be dependent upon our pay-in rate.

35
36 For 2018, CCFA is once again presenting a budget that shows no increase over the prior year. This will
37 be the thirteenth year in a row in which the budget has been the same or below the previous year.

38
39 Looking beyond our apportioned funds to areas of direct billing, our direct billing pay-in rate – for
40 pensions and hospitalization – was 99%, a bright spot in our financial picture! Nevertheless, we
41 continue to deal with rising health care expenses.

42
43 Our total giving in East Ohio to advance specials in 2016 was \$760,000, compared to \$754,000 in 2015 –
44 well above the \$693,000 goal.

45
46 Our investment returns were better in 2016 than in 2015, which helped our reserves; but large health
47 care expenses caused our total reserves to decline.

48

We still ended the year in a solid position in our cash accounts. Perhaps the greatest celebration is that we were able – for the eleventh year in a row! – to pay our General Church apportionments at 100%.

With this foundation, CCFA proposes the following items to the Annual Conference:

I. PAYMENTS AND REPORTING

- A) **Local Church Apportionment Payments** - All payments to Conference Budget items shall be made at least monthly to the Director of Financial and Administrative Services on supplied remittance forms. Special offerings should be sent only with the regular monthly remittance. Please do not send them separately. Payments should be sent directly to the bank lock box in the envelopes provided. There is also a separate remittance form for the directly billed Health Care & Pension Program. Please follow the directions on the separate remittance forms.
- 1) **Timing** - Items in the Conference Budget that are apportionments are expected to be paid in full. One-half of the apportionment shall be paid by June 30. To do less causes hardship for the programs and people of the East Ohio Conference.
 - 2) **Reporting** - The District Superintendent will receive up-to-date reports on the apportionment giving levels of the local churches and is asked to be an advocate for full fair-share giving by each local congregation.
 - 3) **Staying current** in all five apportionment funds is expected. Any church who wishes to support the ministry of any of the funds at greater than 100% is encouraged to do so.
- B) **Annual Church Reports** - Annual church reports (Pastor's Report) shall be mailed to the Director of Financial and Administrative Services by **January 22, 2018**, but an extension until **January 31, 2018** may be granted in cases of emergency, provided the request is made in writing and received by the Director of Financial and Administrative Services before **January 22, 2018**. This extension is automatically granted to multiple church charges. The Director of Financial and Administrative Services needs to begin work by the 26th in order to complete all the necessary details in making up the reports for the end of the year. Money must be received at the bank by **January 5, 2018**. Monies received after **January 5, 2018** will not be credited to the **2017** records. When churches do not file a year-end statistical report, those churches' next apportionments will be increased by the same percentage as the increase in the Conference Budget.
- C) **Audit Reports** - Paragraph 617.2, *The Book of Discipline* 2008. All agencies receiving financial support from conference benevolences or from any other authorized conference-wide appeal shall make audited reports to the Council concerning all such receipts and the disbursements thereof in such detail and at such times as the Council may direct. These audits shall be due on May 15, or 90 days following the closing of the fiscal year, and shall be sent to the Funding Evaluation Committee of the CCOM office. Any agency that fails to provide a satisfactory audited report by said deadline will have its current year funding suspended until the Committee accepts the report. The Council has established minimum guidelines for audits and an Audit Committee has provided a standard form for use by all Districts commencing with the 1995 audit using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or an acceptable comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles and including a listing of property values

and all fund balances including investments, restricted and non-restricted funds. All audits are to be duly signed by the person performing the audit. Copies of District audits shall be available to local churches at the District Conferences.

- D) **Investment Reports** - The Director of Financial and Administrative Services is authorized, in consultation with CCFA, to invest a portion of the Huntington Sweep Account fund in AAA Commercial Paper. Monthly reports of investments shall be made at CCFA meetings.

II. BUDGET

- A) **Time Line** - All program agencies asking for funds shall participate in a One-Year Budget.

- B) **Ministries and Mission Balances** - Carry-over balances in the (Fund I) Conference Connectional Mission Apportionments accounts shall be channeled into a Ministries and Mission Contingency Fund. At year-end all un-vouchered project/program funds shall be retained in the CCOM Ministries and Mission Contingency Account. Final disbursements of unspent balances will be determined by CCOM at the end of each 12- month period. The Ministries and Mission contingency balance can be accessed by procedures adopted by the CCOM.

- C) **CCFA Established Rate** - Annually, CCFA will review receipts to shared ministry funds from apportionments and determine the rate of payout for the balance or duration of the year.

Payout Rates - 2017

SHARED MINISTRY FUND I - World Service and Conference Benevolences: **85%** initial funding for benevolence items. Funds received over the **85%** funding level will be disbursed upon authorization following Annual Conference, CCOM and CCF&A policy.

SHARED MINISTRY FUNDS II & IV - Connectional Support Services Fund and Clergy Support Fund: 100% funding for obligatory items such as telephone, postage, legal and audit fees. Also for salaries, travel, benefits, housing and utilities for total Conference staff and support staff. **75%** funding for all other administrative items. **75%** funding for the total salary support budget amount, but all individuals approved for salary support will be paid at 100%.

SHARED MINISTRY FUND III - Ministerial Pension and Hospitalization Fund: All monies received will be disbursed as needed to cover obligatory costs. Any unexpended monies will be held in Fund III reserves.

SHARED MINISTRY FUND V - Education Fund: All monies received will be disbursed pro rata on a monthly basis.

D) CONTINGENCY AND RESERVE FUNDS

- 1) **Contingency Funds** - By action of the 1976 Annual Conference, two (2) contingency funds were established, Administrative and Ministries and Missions. CCFA and CCOM agreed that unused balances at the end of the year are put into the respective unbudgeted Conference Contingency Funds. CCOM may initiate requests for Ministries and Missions Fund through their established procedure. Non-CCOM

related groups may appeal directly to CCFA for Administrative Contingency Funds.

These requests must stand 5 tests:

- 1) Does not duplicate budgeted funding
- 2) Has not been turned down in budgeting process
- 3) Does not circumvent budgeting process
- 4) Funds are available
- 5) Where applicable, has specific bid figures attached to the requests. Ministries and Mission grants are paid only upon submission of a documented voucher, in the same manner as budgeted item grants are made.

- 2) **Reserve Funds** - These funds consist of interest earnings from short-term investments, restricted funds, and some unspent contingency funds voted to Administrative Reserves by CCFA. This fund is used under jurisdiction of CCFA primarily for capital and administrative expenditures. Since October 18, 1972, CCFA's goal, upon recommendation of General Council on Finance and Administration, has been to set the Unrestricted Reserve Fund Limit at one and half times the average monthly income from the preceding year's Conference apportionment receipts. Current limit for **2016** is **\$1,265,310**. The administrative reserve had a balance of **\$1,265,310** at **12/31/16**.

III. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT

- A) **District Superintendent's Salary** - The formula for District Superintendent's salary was established at the 2002 Annual Conference. **Because of the numerous voluntary wage freezes taken by the District Superintendents over the years, the formula for their salary was updated in 2009 by Annual Conference. The formula salary shall be equal to 1.80 (formerly 1.90) times the Conference Average Cash Salary of the 2016 year for Pastors as computed by the General Board of Pensions for the 2018 year. For 2018 salary, we will use the 2016 Conference Average Cash Salary of \$43,744 which will calculate a salary of \$78,739 for 2018.** The salaries for the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Assistant to the Bishop, and the Director of Financial and Administrative Services are set by using the same formula, but with a housing allowance adjustment.
- B) **Travel Allowance** - Effective January 1, **2017** the mileage reimbursement rate for Annual Conference Staff shall be the maximum rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service, currently **\$0.535** per mile.
- C) **Housing/Utilities**
 - 1) District Superintendents shall be provided housing with full utilities and maintenance provided.
 - 2) Assistant to the Bishop, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Director of Financial and Administrative Services shall receive a housing allowance – or if not clergy a salary adjustment – equal to 25% of the salary figure that is established using the formula in part A.
 - 3) CCOM Associate Directors (full-time) and the Director of Pastoral Care shall receive housing allowance at a rate established by CCFA, plus full utilities, if clergy.

- D) **Expenses** - Conference Director of Financial and Administrative Services audits all line items and requires substantiation for reimbursable expenses. Outside auditors review the Director of Financial and Administrative Services expense account.
- E) **Minimum Salary** - Minimum requirements detailed in the Commission on Equitable Salaries report are to be applicable to all charges.
- F) **Health Insurance** - Each pastoral charge shall be billed an amount for health care coverage where applicable. For 2018 it is anticipated that the premium will rise by 4% or less. The East Ohio Conference Board of Pensions will set the final premium charges. Employing agencies will be charged the appropriate premium for their participants. Amounts will be remitted to the Conference Director of Financial and Administrative Services on Health Care Forms provided by the Director of Financial and Administrative Services.
- G) **Pension/Disability CRSP/CPP Direct Billing** - (See worksheet provided with Omnibus Form). Each pastoral charge will be billed an amount for CRSP and/or CPP.
- H) **Travel Reimbursement** - The rate for mileage reimbursement for Conference business, for other than Conference staff, shall be paid only in cases of critical need at .14 per mile.

IV. **MOVING EXPENSES**

The purpose of this policy is to describe how the East Ohio Conference will help defray the costs of household moves related to clergy assignment within the Conference and to clearly state the rules which apply so that local charges and affected individuals may recognize in advance the maximum amount of financial help they might receive from Conference. Moving expenses, subject to conditions and limitations that follow, are to be shared by the Conference and the charge accepting the minister. The Conference-share reimbursement rate will be determined by the CCFA based upon available funding. Moving arrangements are to be made by the individual who will move, and such arrangements are subject to approval by the charge sharing the cost. It is recommended that a professional mover be used. On a non-professional move, the annual conference will not reimburse for labor or wages and the conference will assume no liability for such a move. All exceptions to this move reimbursement policy may be referred to the CCFA for resolution.

A) **Conditions and Limitations**

- 1) **Positions Covered** - Situations eligible for reimbursement are those, which involve either a parsonage or a housing allowance from local church or Conference for clergy under Episcopal appointment. An appointment beyond local church may be covered only if it is a position in which East Ohio Conference funds full salary. Also covered would be newly retired pastors being hired as supply pastors (see also B-1). In negotiating with candidates for Conference professional positions approved in Conference Journal, this policy should be used as a guideline.
- 2) **Reimbursements** - Charge receiving pastor is to pay the carrier and submit documented voucher to the Director of Financial and Administrative Services for reimbursement of the Conference share. The Annual Conference will reimburse the local churches/charges 50% (subject to limitations) of the moving costs of each pastor under Episcopal appointment. All local churches/charges with a valid moving bill

incurred at the usual moving time at the end of June, must submit that bill to the Director of Financial and Administrative Services by August 1 each year. The Director of Financial and Administrative Services will subsequently reimburse to the local churches an amount of 50% of the moving bill, (subject to limitations). Mid-year moving bills shall be submitted with prior approval of the Cabinet.

- 3) **Apportionment Requirement** - If half-year apportionment payments of Shared Ministry Funds II, III, IV as well as directly billed Pension and Health Care are current as of June 30, a charge will be eligible for moving reimbursement as per established policy. In charges whose current-year apportionments are not paid to date, only churches of said charges which have these apportionments paid will be proportionally reimbursed the Conference share of moving expense.

4) **Distance, Packing and Weight Limitation**

- a) **Distance** - is limited to mileage within the Conference boundaries following the shortest route acceptable to the carrier.
- b) **Packing** - Conference reimbursement to local churches for packing materials and/or packing charges is limited to 50% of the actual charges but not more than \$400.
- c) **Weight** - Maximum weight is 14,000 pounds net. Only household goods are included. Specific exclusions include cars, boats, and trailers, as well as storage charges and overtime for movers.
- d) **Estimate** - As part of exercising stewardship while planning the move, the pastor being moved shall obtain two written estimates of the full cost of the move (including insurance from licensed movers) and shall submit all estimates as attachments to the reimbursement request. Each estimate, as well as the final bill, must specify weight, distance, and insurance coverage. Insurance costs for moving reimbursed by the conference will be limited to 50% of actual charges, but not to exceed \$125.00.

- 5) **New Seminary Graduate Appointments** - Graduates entering East Ohio Conference to assume their first full-time appointments will be given total moving expense reimbursement from the place of origin of their move to their new appointment in the Annual Conference if they use a self-move method. If using a professional move the graduates shall be under the conditions and limitations of Section IV.A. If moving from outside the conference the local church/charge to which the incoming graduate is appointed shall be expected to pay the appropriate moving expense prorated from the nearest conference boundary to the new residence. The mode of move shall be determined by the D.S. in consultation with the Pastor, Church and Cabinet.

- 6) **Out of Conference Transfers In** - Churches receiving persons transferring into East Ohio from other Annual Conferences shall have their related moving expenses reimbursed by the Annual Conference under the terms specified in A1-4 (except 4a, Distance). The local church/charge will be expected to pay one-half of the actual cost of the move, but not more than half of the cost of the average professional move over

the prior two years as listed in this report. The East Ohio Annual Conference will pay the balance subject to payout rates specified in A1-4.

The Average Professional moving expense over the prior two years:

2015 and 2016 average (used in 2017) = \$2,303

- 7) **Moves of Under 50 Miles** - Clergy (not retirees) appointed to a church/charge whose eligible move will be under 50 miles from current employment to new place of employment are subject to a tax liability on the full cost of the benefit received (cost of move). All clergy so affected shall submit to the Director of Financial and Administrative Services a request for reimbursement of the tax consequence of the move to them. These requests will be completed as early as possible in the year following the move.

B) Retirees and Disability

NOTICE: All benefits described in this section are to be applied for those retiring in the current year. Anyone retiring in a prior year should consult the language in the Journal for the year in which they retired. Reimbursed moving expenses for retirees is a taxable transaction and will receive a Form 1099 at year-end, appropriately.

- 1) **Retirees** - Full-time local pastors and clergy under appointment as District Superintendents, Conference staff, or on a pastoral charge, serving with pension funded by the Conference, shall be eligible to receive a non-recurring moving expense allowance at the time of their retirement under Paragraph 358.1,2.a.,2.b.,2.c of the 2008 Discipline, provided that such clergy shall not have been re-admitted for the purpose of retirement. Retirees eligible per the previous language that are approved to continue working in retirement will remain eligible for this non-recurring moving expense allowance at such time as they end their work. This allowance must be used within six (6) months of the end of their work unless granted an extension in writing by the Director of Financial and Administrative Services, and with prior approval of both Cabinet and CCFA. The development and administration of policy governing the allowance shall be the responsibility of the Conference Board of Pensions.
- 2) **Payment Amount**
- a) **Inside Conference** - Clergy retiring and moving to a retirement residence within the East Ohio Conference at the time of their retirement shall receive full reimbursement for actual expenses in accord with the conditions and limitations of Section IV.A.1-4.
- b) **Outside Conference** - Clergy retiring and moving to a retirement residence outside the East Ohio Conference at the time of retirement shall receive actual expenses up to a maximum equal to the average cost of a professional move reimbursed by the Annual Conference over the two years prior to their actual retirement.
- c) **Other Than Time of Retirement** - Retired clergy moving to a retirement residency either inside or outside the East Ohio Conference (and who have not already used their non-recurring retirement move reimbursement), shall be reimbursed actual expenses up to a maximum equal to the average cost of a

professional move reimbursed by the Annual Conference over the two years prior to their actual retirement.

- 4) **Disability/Death** - A similar non-recurring moving expense allowance will be granted to eligible members granted disability, full time local pastors granted disability benefits, and surviving spouse of eligible members or full time local pastors.

V. **APPORTIONMENT PROCESS**

- A) **Formula** - CCFA recommends the following formula for determining apportionment of Shared Ministry Funds: Apportionments to local churches will be based on non-benevolent and non-building expenditures (referred to as "total base figure"). A "grade figure" will be derived for each local church so that it may readily figure its share of any conference budgeted item. The "grade figure" shall be computed as follows:

Local Church Total Base Figure

Conference Total Base Figure = Local Church Grade Figure

- 1) **Total Base Figure** - Total Base Figures are the sum of the Church Program Expenses, Other Current Expenses, Salary Paid Pastor and Associates, and Travel and Utilities paid to Pastor and Associates by the church for them. The Total Base Figure is listed annually in the Conference Journal.
 - a) **Travel** - Travel at the Conference approved rate per vouchered mile for each pastor and/or diaconal minister will not be counted in total base figure. If a flat rate or allowance is used, the total amount is taxable to the recipient, and the total amount will be included in the calculation of the Total Base Figure.
 - b) **Moving Expense** - The moving expense paid by the church are not added to the Total Base Figure, but must be reported by each church as outlined in the Local Church Report to Annual Conference.
 - c) **Health Insurance** - The health insurance premiums for lay and clergy paid directly by the charge shall not be considered in establishing the charge's apportionments.
 - d) **Pension** - Pension provided for lay employees is not considered in establishing the charge's apportionments. Pension charges billed directly to the local church/charge for clergy shall not be considered in establishing the charge's apportionments.
 - e) **Housing Allowance** - Housing allowance for apportionments shall exclude amounts expended on either rent or mortgage and interest payments. Taxes, maintenance, insurance, and utilities will remain a part of the formula.

- B) **Time line** - Preliminary Apportionments for 2018 will be made late in July 2017 and will be based on the report for the year 2016 Final apportionments will be mailed by mid September 2017.

- C) **New Churches** – A new church will be apportioned by the Conference and the District 10% of its 'full' amount during the first year after the effective charter year. During the second year the apportionments will be at 15%; during the third year 20%; fourth year 40%; fifth year 60%; sixth year 80% and 100% in the seventh year and thereafter. Existing new churches will be considered as in their first year. The term apportionments is meant to include all apportioned funds (Currently five in **2017**).

D) **New Program Staff Position Salaries**- These salaries will be exempt from Total Base Figure calculation for a period of two years from the date of hire. During this period of time new program staff position salaries will be reported along with the date of hire each year on the Local Church Report to Annual Conference.

E) **Merged Churches** - As part of the merger process, the congregations involved will create a proposed budget for the merged church which will go into effect on the date the merged church begins worshipping and meeting as one congregation. This budget will be worked out in consultation with, and given approval by, the District Superintendent and the District Committee on Church Building and Location. This budget will then be forwarded to the office of the Director of Financial and Administrative Services to be used to formulate the current year's apportionment figures for the newly merged church. A new total base figure will be calculated for the merged church based on the formula outlined in ¶ V.A) above.

This new total base figure will be in effect until the actual Financial records of the merged church are reported for the first full year of its existence and can be used to calculate a total base figure based on actual expenditures.

A new classification of merged churches will be "VITAL Mergers." Those mergers fulfilling the VITAL Merger qualifications will be considered as a new church start by the Board of Congregational Development and will consequently, be considered a "New Church" for apportionment purposes.

VI. **EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL TREASURY**

A) All Conference Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balances are to be accounted for by the Office of the Director of Financial and Administrative Services, who will provide a Central Treasury for the East Ohio Annual Conference (See 2012 DISCIPLINE ¶613.12). The Director of Financial and Administrative Services is charged with the accounting for all financial activity of the Annual Conference, including all Boards, Agencies, and Committees. No group or individual may perform this accounting function in lieu of the Director of Financial and Administrative Services, who must account for all receipts, disbursements, and fund balances.

B) The Director of Financial and Administrative Services is not currently expected to perform the accounting function for the District Offices, the EOC Credit Union, the EOC Foundation, or the UMW. These bodies perform their own accounting function and are both separately audited and reported to the Annual Conference.

VII. **CONFERENCE LOAN POLICY**

CCFA may borrow up to 2% of the Conference Annual Apportioned Budget in any given conference year for current expense purposes.

2017 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2017-01: "Effectively Recruiting and Retaining Young Clergy of Color"

General Church Budget Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

WHEREAS: In 2017, 7% of the clergy in the East Ohio Annual Conference are African American, Native American, Latina/o, and/or Asian American/Pacific Islander, and

WHEREAS: 18% of the people in Ohio are African American, Native American, Latina/o, and/or Asian American/Pacific Islander, and

WHEREAS: In 2016, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted Resolution #8020: Effectively Recruiting and Retaining Young Clergy of Color, calling for United States annual conferences to:

1. use empirically supported, culturally relevant recruitment and retention practices for young clergy of color,
2. provide clergy and lay members with education about institutional racism, and
3. provide reports of their racial diversity clergy recruitment and retention practices and progress in their annual conference journals,

THEREFORE: The East Ohio Annual Conference shall actively recruit and retain clergy of color, with particular efforts to recruit and retain young clergy of color, using empirically supported, culturally relevant employment practices for African American, Native American, Latina/o, and Asian American/Pacific Islander clergy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the East Ohio Annual Conference shall actively educate its clergy and lay members about institutional racism in accordance with ¶162A of the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the East Ohio Annual Conference shall annually include a report of its racial diversity clergy recruitment and retention practices and progress in its annual conference journal.

Submitted by: East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action and East Ohio Black Methodist for Church Renewal

Resolution 2017-02: "Welcoming the Migrant in Our Midst"

Financial Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

Rationale: The United Methodist Church affirms the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of all persons regardless of their nationality or legal status. Yet we have neighbors, co-workers, and friends who have been separated from their loved ones or are living in fear of their families being torn apart through our broken immigration system. We have sisters and brothers around the world fleeing violence and hunger and searching for a safe place.

1 **Whereas**, many immigrants have migrated to our state seeking safety, security and prosperity; and

2
3 **Whereas**, immigrants and refugees are contributing members of our communities and many of them sit
4 in the pews and are behind the pulpits of United Methodist Churches in the East Ohio Conference; and

5
6 **Whereas**, we have benefitted by the leadership of immigrants and refugees. They have added to our
7 witness for Christ as we have all dedicated ourselves to the church's mission of making disciples of
8 Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

9
10 **Whereas**, the writer of Leviticus commands the love of the immigrant, who "shall be to you as the
11 citizen among you." (Leviticus 19:33-34); and

12
13 **Whereas** early in Jesus' life, he was a refugee to Africa fleeing persecution and violence in his
14 homeland (Matthew 2:13-15). Jesus told us that nations would be judged on the basis of the way
15 they fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, cared for the prisoner (Matthew
16 25:31-46); and

17
18 **Whereas**, hateful and divisive rhetoric and actions by leaders in our government and others have
19 ignited xenophobic and racist attitudes and actions among some of our fellow citizens including
20 government employees;

21
22 **Therefore be it resolved** that we in the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, as
23 followers of Jesus, commit ourselves to work to eliminate racism and violence directed toward newly
24 arriving migrants from all parts of the world as well as those who have lived and worked among us for
25 some time and that we express our opposition to any immigration policy that excludes refugees solely
26 on the basis of their religion or national origin;

27
28 **Be it further resolved** that the East Ohio Conference encourages all churches to educate and equip
29 their members to provide hospitality and welcome to migrants and refugees in their communities (the
30 Resolution approved by General Conference "Welcoming the Migrant to the United States" would be
31 an excellent resource); and to take further actions and advocate for just policies through prayer and
32 discernment;

33
34 **Be it further resolved** that the East Ohio Conference calls upon our political leaders and policy makers
35 to assure our laws affirm the worth, dignity, inherent values and rights of immigrants.

36
37 **Be it further resolved** that the East Ohio Conference calls upon our political leaders and policy makers
38 to continue to accept refugees and grant asylum based on the need of those seeking our help, such as
39 victims of natural disaster, innocent victims of war, or persons whose lives are in danger due to political
40 issues, and not based on how a person might benefit the United States.

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42
43 **Submitted by:** East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action and East Ohio Black Methodist for
44 Church Renewal
45

Resolution 2017-03: “Promoting Human Rights of Palestinians”

General Church Budget Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

Rationale: United Methodists in our conference are deeply concerned about the ongoing violence and injustices in Palestine/Israel. Jesus calls us to care for our neighbors near and far, to speak out and stand up for justice.

Whereas we affirm Israel’s right to permanent, recognized and secure borders, and Palestinians’ rights to self-determination and formation of a viable state; and,

Whereas “The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlement, and any vision of a ‘Greater Israel’ that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings (Resolution 6111: “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land.” 2012 *Book of Resolutions*); and

Whereas we are called to support members of Christ’s church around the world, including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land due to Israel’s confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation; and

Whereas the Palestinian Christian community, through the Kairos Palestine document, has requested the support of the wider Church; (Kairos Palestine. “A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering” – https://www.kairosresponse.org/Kairos_Palestine_Document_.html. Web. March 2015); and

Whereas Palestinian Christian leaders have specifically requested the support of The United Methodist Church; (Letter to the United Methodist Church from Rifat Odeh Kassis, General Coordinator, Kairos Palestine, November 28, 2014 http://www.kairosresponse.org/Rifat_Kassis.html. Web January 2015); and

Whereas the 2012 General Conference reiterated the call to end the occupation, through boycotts of goods produced in the occupied territories (Resolution 6111: “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land.” 2012 *Book of Resolutions*); and,

Whereas all UMC missionaries serving in the Holy Land over the last 25 years support concrete actions by our denomination to show our support of Palestinian rights. (United Methodist Missionaries Support Divestment from the Israeli Occupation, https://www.kairosresponse.org/UMC_Missionaries_Divestment.html. Web. January 2015), and

Whereas the 2016 General Conference passed strong resolutions calling for an end to Israel’s unjust practice toward Palestinians despite fierce opposition.

- Resolution 6111: “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land” calls for accountability from the Israeli government for the destruction of land and life. It urges US officials to contact the Israeli government to halt the expansion of illegal settlements and confiscation of Palestinian land.
- Resolution 8008: “Task Force on Israel and Palestine” calls for a church-wide Task Force led by key agencies to review and research actions that respond to the requests by church

missionaries and Palestinian Christians. All United Methodist missionaries who have served in the Holy Land and thousands of Palestinian Christians have asked the church to cut its financial ties to the occupation.

- Resolution 6116: "Palestinian Land Rights and Access to Water and Electricity", and Resolution 8008: "Task Force on Israel and Palestine" reflected concern that Israeli settlers have access to four times as much water as Palestinians, though the major aquifer is located beneath Palestinian land. This allocation of water according to ethnicity is a violation of United Methodist principles and international law. Throughout the West Bank, Palestinian land is being surrounded and confiscated for Israeli settlements, which the church opposes. Orchards and homes are being destroyed.

Therefore, be it resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference shall create a diverse and representative task force to review and research actions that can be taken to respond to these requests by our UMC missionaries and our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Christ, to formulate recommendations for our East Ohio Conference.

Be it further resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on the U.S. government, the government of Israel, and the elected Palestinian leadership to reject all acts of aggression and violence, to respect the equality and dignity of all the region's people, and to forge solutions based on the principles of international laws and human rights.

Submitted by: East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action and East Ohio Black Methodist for Church Renewal

Resolution 2017-04: "Criminalization of Communities of Color"

General Church Budget Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

Whereas, a problem exists today in the U.S. regarding criminalizing communities of color; and,

Whereas, one element of this problem is in police interactions with persons of color; and,

Whereas, some of the most dramatic examples of the problem of police interactions with communities of color are the overzealous response of police officers in the following recent encounters: **Tamir Rice**, a 12-year old boy who was shot in under two seconds upon the arrival of police officers in **Cleveland, OH**, in November 2014; **Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams**, an unarmed African American couple, who were killed in December 2012 by 137 rounds fired by **Cleveland, OH** police; **Tanisha Anderson**, an unarmed African American woman on whom **Cleveland, OH** police used fatal excessive force instead of providing requested mental health assistance in November 2015; **John Crawford III**, who, within seconds of police officers' arrival, was shot to death while he was distracted on his cellphone but was holding a BB-gun in a Wal-Mart in **Dayton, OH**, in August 2014; **Eric Garner**, who was choked to death on **Staten Island, NY**, in July 2014, despite exclaiming that he couldn't breathe as a police officer forced him to the ground; **Victor White III**, who was shot in the side of his chest in March 2014, in **New Iberia, LA**, while handcuffed with his hands behind his back in the back of a police car, though the sheriff's office and coroner say that his death was a suicide from a self-inflicted gunshot, from a gun that the police hadn't found when they searched him, fired in spite of the handcuffs; **Jonathan Ferrell**, a former college football player who got into a car accident late at night in **Charlotte, NC**, in September 2013,

knocked on the door of a nearby home for help, scared the woman who answered, who then called police, who upon their arrival fired 12 shots at Kerrick, striking him 10 times and killing him; **Walter Scott**, who was stopped for a broken taillight in April 2015 in **North Charleston, SC**, attempted to run away, and was shot at 8 times, ultimately dying from multiple gunshot wounds to his back; **Yvette Smith**, who called police to respond to a fight within her home in February 2012 in **Bastrop, TX**, and, when police arrived, she was shot to death upon stepping out of her home at the command of officers; **Flint Farmer** in **Chicago, IL**, in June 2011, who was shot at 16 times while holding his cellphone, including three fatal shots fired into his back while he lay on the ground; all of which resulted in the potentially avoidable deaths of these individuals at the hands of police officers; and,

Whereas, in all, at least 77 unarmed men and women of color have been killed either by police or while in police custody since the 1999 death of Amadou Diallo in New York, (*Unarmed People of Color Killed by Police, 1999-2014*, found at <http://goo.gl/PviHvL>); and,

Whereas, according to a 2014 National Academies Press report, “The Growth of Incarceration in the U.S.: Exploring Causes and Consequences,” the U.S. incarcerates more people than any other nation on the planet, both in numbers and proportion; we warehouse 2.2 million members of our population in jail or prisons, nearly 1 out of every 100 adults, about 5-10 times higher rates than in Western Europe and other democracies; although the U.S. accounts for 5% of the world’s population, we account for nearly 25% of the world’s prisoners; in addition, more than half of state prisoners are serving time for nonviolent crimes and of those, 1 of every 9, about 159,000 people, are serving life sentences – nearly 1/3 of them without the possibility of parole, (*The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring the Causes and Consequences*, found at <http://goo.gl/EEi8Ar>), (*New York Times* “End Mass Incarceration Now”, found at <http://goo.gl/uZNkFq>); and,

Whereas, this report continues, “Those who are incarcerated in U.S. prisons come largely from the most disadvantaged segments of the population. They comprise mainly minority men under age 40, poorly educated, and often carrying additional deficits of drug and alcohol addiction, mental and physical illness, and a lack of work preparation and experience. Their criminal responsibility is real, but it is embedded in a context of social and economic disadvantage. More than half the prison population is black or Hispanic. In 2010, blacks were incarcerated at six times and Hispanics at three times the rate for non-Hispanic whites”; (*The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring the Causes and Consequences*, found at <http://goo.gl/EEi8Ar>), and,

Whereas, The United Methodist Church cares; we are a church and the East Ohio Annual Conference is a region that has a history of walking with the marginalized and responding to the cries of the oppressed;

Whereas, In 2008, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted Resolution #3379: *White Privilege in the United States*, calling for United States annual conferences to:

1. Focus not only on the plight of people living in urban or rural ghettos, but also on white privilege and its impact on white persons.
2. Recognize white privilege as an underlying cause of injustice in our society including our church and to commit the church to its elimination in church and society.
3. Direct the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD), in consultation with the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), to prepare a study guide on white privilege and its consequences in church and society.
4. Ask the Board of Church and Society in every annual conference to sponsor workshops on white privilege.

5. Direct the GCORR and the GBOD to jointly review and develop UM curriculum materials, with particular attention to those for children and youth, for the purpose of affirming children of all racial and ethnic groups, and to communicate in our curriculum materials that in our society, privileges that are taken for granted by white persons are often denied to others because of their racial and ethnic identity.
6. Ask each local church with a predominantly white membership: 1) to reflect on its own willingness to welcome persons without regard to race and to assess the relative accessibility in housing, employment, education and recreation in its community to white persons and to persons of color; and 2) to welcome persons of color into membership and full participation in the church and community and to advocate for their access to the benefits which white persons take for granted.
7. Challenge individual white persons to confess their participation in the sin of racism and repent for past and current racist practices. And we challenge individual ethnic persons to appropriate acts of forgiveness; and finally,
8. Call all persons, whatever their racial or ethnic heritage, to work together to restore the broken body of Christ.

Whereas, the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted Resolution #3379: Stop Criminalizing Communities of Color in the United States, calling on annual conferences and local churches to:

- Call United Methodists to discernment on these issues through use of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, as well as the frameworks of human rights, racial justice, and restorative justice. Use a critical lens regarding mass media. (See Resolution #8016, "Proper Use of Information Communication Technologies.")
- Engage with churches and local communities in speaking out publicly for police accountability regarding racial profiling, misconduct, abuse, and killings.

Whereas, Black Methodists for Church Renewal issued a March 2017 statement, aligning with Black Lives Matter on the demands for:

- An end to the war against Black people, including an end to the criminalization, incarceration, and killing of our people;
- Reparations for past and continuing harms;
- Investments in the education, health and safety of Black people, and
- Independent Black political power and Black self-determination in all areas of society in which a remaking of the current U.S. political system occurs in order to create a real democracy where Black people and all marginalized people can effectively exercise full political power,

Therefore be it resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference calls on our churches to offer your facilities as safe spaces in which to host town hall meetings for the discussion of and mutual planning to address police-community relations and the broader context of the criminalization of communities of color and disenfranchisement from the justice system; you are encouraged to invite local political leaders and elected officials, persons who are in the field of law and law enforcement, behavioral specialists, activists and advocates, and diverse communities, most especially persons of color; and,

Be it further resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference calls on its members to pray over these struggles, within our churches and within our families, and then to get involved, in the same way that

Jesus got involved with the downtrodden and marginalized within the communities he encountered; and,

Be it further resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference encourages Sunday School classes and other small groups to read and discuss Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech, "The Other America," found at <http://goo.gl/VGaTZI>, and The Thoughtful Christian's *The Racism Study Pack*, found at <http://goo.gl/uapLck>; in this discussion, it is important that we look inward and ask ourselves difficult questions about ourselves, our people and our communities, and that we generate actions out of that discussion; and,

Be it further resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference urges other United Methodist Church officials, bodies and related organizations, including the Council of Bishops, to join us in speaking out at this challenging time; this is not a moment in this nation's history when we can remain silent; and,

Be it further resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference applauds the Black Lives Matters movement and other related groups engaging in peaceful mass protest to keep public attention focused on these injustices, and we encourage our members to join in such nonviolent protests as a testimony to these ongoing wrongs within our nation; and,

Be it further resolved that the East Ohio Annual Conference opposes and condemns legislative efforts to push back against efforts to educate and raise awareness of racial injustices via establishing overwhelmingly harsh punitive measures in response to civil disobedience, such as 3-10 years in jail for blocking a public roadway; and,

Be it further resolved that the calls upon East Ohio Annual Conference churches, members, Sunday School classes and other small groups be conveyed by email and through such other means as deemed appropriate by conference and district staff; and,

Be it further resolved that the sense of this resolution, along with a copy, be conveyed to the following individuals via a letter by the Conference Secretary:

- **Governor of Ohio**
- **Ohio's US Senators**
- **Members of US House of Representatives representing parts of Ohio included in "East Ohio Conference"**
- **Ohio legislators representing "East Ohio Conference"**

Submitted by: East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action and East Ohio Black Methodist for Church Renewal

Resolution 2017-05: "Christian Behavior Toward GLBTQ People"

General Church Budget Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church states that "Homosexual persons...are individuals of sacred worth" and that "...we affirm that God's grace is available to all" (Social Principles, *The 2000 Book of Discipline*, par. 161G), and

WHEREAS: Hate, physical violence, threats of violence, and name-calling against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer people deny their sacred worth, and

WHEREAS: This violence can lead to low self-esteem and self-hatred, resulting in many problems, including a higher suicide rate among gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer teenagers, and

WHEREAS: Insufficient condemnation by the church of violent behavior creates an environment in which those who commit violent acts believe their behavior is acceptable;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the East Ohio Annual Conference:

1. Affirms the duty of all Christians to demonstrate Christian love for all people;
2. Strongly condemns and opposes all kinds of hate, physical violence, threats of violence, and name-calling. All such behavior is un-Christian and is wrong;
3. Acknowledges differences over theological understandings about homosexuality. These beliefs should be expressed in a spirit of Christian love and non-violence;
4. Encourages local congregations of The United Methodist Church to educate themselves about the problem of violence and witness to their communities about these problems, especially when local incidents occur; and
5. Calls on all United Methodists to refrain from violent behavior and to inform themselves and the residents of their communities about the dangers of such behavior.

Submitted by: East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action and East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network

Resolution 2017-06: "Day of Repentance"

General Church Budget Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

Whereas: Jesus calls us to love one another, and

Whereas: The Bible proclaims that Christ died for all of us while we were sinners, and

Whereas: Our nation today is experiencing a growing level of sinfulness of angry words and incivility in public discourse, and

Whereas: Such ugly decorum is found in a growing number of circumstances, from the acrimonious words hurled about in public demonstrations, to the intemperate language and sweeping condemnations from leaders in government, and

Whereas: Such disrespect of one another at any level of life breeds a cancerous escalation of animosity and destructive relationships among people throughout society, and

Whereas: Such disruption created by such unChrist-like interactions is undermining our nation's spiritual strength and clearly eroding our proud and time honored national claims, such as "One nation under God," "e pluribus unum," and "United we stand."

Therefore, be it resolved that: The East Ohio Conference declare the last Sunday of June to be a Day of Repentance, providing a time and opportunity to ask God's forgiveness for any such divisive and destruction interactions on our part, and

Be it further resolved that: Just as the last Sunday of June celebrates independence from worldly oppression by it's placement between two celebrations of independence, Juneteenth (the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the U.S.) and July 4th (commemorating our nation's independence) so may our Day of Repentance commemorate our independence from a spiritual oppression within our hearts and interactions with others of God's people, and

Be it further resolved that: In our individual prayers and corporate worship that day we ask God's forgiveness for our failure to embody Christ's model of grace and forgiveness, that he modeled for us in his encounters with those who despised him and/or spoke against him, and

Be it further resolved that: Through personal invitations and media announcements we invite others to share this time of repentance and spiritual renewal.

Submitted by: East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action and East Ohio Black Methodist for Church Renewal

Resolution 2017-07: "Maintaining Health Care for the Most Vulnerable"

"From our earliest days United Methodists have believed that providing health care to others is an important duty of Christians."¹

Whereas Jesus declared that "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b, NRSV);

Whereas John Wesley demonstrated a particular concern for those who were not receiving high quality health care as evidenced by his book *The Primitive Physick*;

Whereas health care is a basic human right², not merely a commodity to be sold in the marketplace;³

Whereas as *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* states

Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril...

We believe it is a governmental responsibility to provide all citizens with health care;⁴

Whereas Medicaid expansion is targeted to persons with lower incomes (138% of the Federal Poverty Line or \$33,534 for a family of 4) and provides health care to the most vulnerable;

¹ 2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions, Paragraph 3201.

² 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline, Paragraph 162V.

³ 2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions, Paragraph 3201.

⁴ 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline, Paragraph 162V.

Whereas eleven million people in the United States have enrolled under the provisions of Medicaid expansion adopted in 31 states;⁵

Whereas 702,000 persons in Ohio have gained coverage under the provisions of the expansion;⁶

Whereas 75% of those obtaining coverage were previously uninsured and 27% of those were diagnosed with at least one chronic condition after obtaining coverage;⁷

Whereas after the expansion 38.5% of Ohioans in big cities and 43.5% in rural hubs were covered by Medicaid;⁸

And whereas the East Ohio Conference is in covenant relationship with five health and welfare agencies that rely on Medicaid and other insurance coverage to provide services to those in their care;

Therefore, be it resolved that we call on United Methodists individually and United Methodist congregations acting together to:

- 1) Oppose repeal of the Medicaid expansion;
- 2) Oppose reducing payments to Medicaid through mechanisms such as block granting federal Medicaid money to the states which reduces coverage;
- 3) Oppose any efforts to reduce the existing amount of health care coverage;
- 4) Support expansion of health care and health care insurance to insure that all people have access to affordable, high quality health care.

Be it further resolved that:

1. We call on congregations to be the center of community discussions to ensure that health care is provided for all;
2. We ask all United Methodists to engage with the appropriate political representatives by in person meetings, phone calls, emails, and letters.

Resolution 2017-08: "Maintaining *The Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016*"

Rationale: Concerning Biblical teachings and our historic and current United Methodist traditions and policies regarding human sexual ethics and its current teachings on marriage [See Paragraphs 161G-Social Principles; homosexuality/homosexual persons: 341.6, 2702.1b, 613.19, 806.9, 304.3].

WHEREAS - The General Conference of The United Methodist Church 2016 did not change the historic and traditional teachings in the areas of human sexuality and the covenant of Christian marriage;

WHEREAS – In the spirit of seeking discernment, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church 2016 asked for no departures from the historic and traditional positions which some United

⁵ Medicaid Expansion Enrollment, The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation, Available from <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-expansion-enrollment/>, Accessed on 3/7/17.

⁶ Ohio Medicaid Group VII Assessment, A Report to the General Assembly, Available from <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/portals/0/resources/reports/annual/group-viii-assessment.pdf>, Accessed on 3/7/17.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Medicaid and Ohio Guidestone, The Center for Community Solutions, presentation on 2.22.17.

Methodist councils, boards, agencies, and the Council of Bishops are enacting in defiance of *The Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016*;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church commits to support fully and continually the Biblical, historic, and current teachings, positions and policies as stated in *The Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016*. Further, the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church affirms and mandates compliance with these positions and policies by all EOC councils, boards, and agencies. And lastly, our Bishop is being asked to enforce these directives of the United Methodist Church.

Submitted by the Church Council of the Shreve United Methodist Church – Shreve, Ohio.

**2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church**

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, 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 women's and girl's equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509

Yes, 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶4, Article IV, amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “all persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition”. After “because of race, color, national origin,” delete “status,” and add “ability”. At the end of the paragraph, add “nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 would read:

The United Methodist Church is 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 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. 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, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 767 Yes, 22 No (Calendar Item 111, DCA pp. 2105). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III, (2016 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III) amend by addition as follows:

After the first sentence, add, “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.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference 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 conference, who, together with those first elected as

above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central 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 conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central 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.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 621 Yes, 15 No (Calendar Item 468, DCA p. 2217). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, Article I, amend by addition, as follows:

To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 would read:

The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V

On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes, 79 No (Calendar Item 446, DCA p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, Article VI, amend by addition, as follows:

After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that 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.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 would read:

1 The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The
2 Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist
3 Church.

4 The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The
5 Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of
6 The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of
7 The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have
8 determined.⁹⁴

9 The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one
10 clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference
11 delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official
12 administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the
13 conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall
14 recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the
15 jurisdictional conference.

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

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20
21
22 **Covenant Statement of Relationship**
23 **between**
24 **The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church**
25 **and**
26 **Copeland Oaks**

27
28 **July 2017 – June 2021**
29
30

31 **I. History**

32 Copeland Oaks, a full service continuing care retirement community, located in Sebring, Ohio was
33 created in 1963 by action of the North East Ohio Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. This
34 action was the result of a recommendation presented in 1962 from the Ohio Area Study Committee on
35 aging, that a new home be established within the bounds of the conference. A gift of land by the
36 Kenneth Cope Family of Canton for the purpose of establishing such a home gave initial impetus to the
37 project. A Board of Trustees was appointed by Bishop Hazen G. Werner, incorporation papers were
38 filed, and the Rev. Virgil Jump was appointed as the first Executive Director. The doors of Copeland Oaks
39 opened to new residents in 1968.

40
41 Thanks to a \$1 million grant from the J. Ford Crandall Foundation of Youngstown, Copeland Oaks, under
42 the leadership of Dr. Claude L. Roe, was able to meet the need for a larger skilled nursing unit. A new
43 corporation was formed in 1979 and the doors to what became known as Crandall Medical Center
44 opened in late 1981. Crandall incorporated the concept of an all-private room skilled nursing facility.

45
46 **II. The Meaning of Church Affiliation**

47 Copeland Oaks has had a close relationship with the Methodist Church from its very inception. In the
48 mid 1970's, when Copeland Oaks found itself in financial peril, it was the East Ohio Conference that
49 came to its aid.

Church affiliation defines the relationship between an agency seeking to minister from a Christian perspective and the Annual Conference, which represents the embodiment of Christ's church. That relationship is a two way street. From the Annual Conference the agency receives leadership from those who represent the conference on its Board of Directors. Mission funds from the Annual Conference assist in making charitable care possible. The agency is accountable to the Conference, specifically in undergoing an evaluation by The United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries. The values that are articulated by the Biblical witness flow from the Church that proclaims them. In return, Copeland Oaks offers service to the members of The United Methodist Church as well as to all who are in need of its particular expertise. The staff of Copeland Oaks is knowledgeable of the field in which they serve and they are very capable in addressing the issues that exist within this area of service. It is the mission of Copeland Oaks to minister in the name of Christ and to act as a representative of the Church in this special area of need.

III. Theological Statement

The ministry of Christ, in addition to proclaiming the presence and the coming Kingdom of God, was directed toward men, women, and children who found themselves in a serious condition of vulnerability. Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons, heard the cry of the outcast, and made them a particular focus of his redeeming love. In this tradition of caring for others, Copeland Oaks, Crandall Medical Center, and the Oaks Foundation seek to minister to those facing the vulnerability brought on by advancing age.

IV. Mission

Copeland Oaks, Crandall Medical Center, and the Oaks Foundation have mission statements as adopted by their respective Board of Directors. The statements are as follows:

Copeland Oaks

Copeland Oaks is a non-profit retirement community operating in covenant with The United Methodist Church and is open to people of all faiths. We provide flexible choices to meet the physical, recreational, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive needs of individuals in a safe family environment. We function as a cost effective option for those desiring Christian values in independent living, assisted living and skilled health care. Copeland Oaks offers the security of continued Life Care through the assistance of the Oaks Foundation.

Crandall Medical Center

Crandall Medical Center is a non-profit skilled nursing facility on the campus of Copeland Oaks, operating in covenant with The United Methodist Church and open to people of all faiths. We are dedicated to providing quality nursing care to the residents of Copeland Oaks and the surrounding area with respect for each person's right to privacy, dignity, and personal choice in an environment of Christian love and compassion.

The Oaks Foundation

The Oaks Foundation, a non-profit organization operating in covenant with The United Methodist Church, encourages philanthropy and Christian stewardship to benefit the residents of Copeland Oaks and Crandall Medical Center.

Goals are articulated in the strategic plan as developed by the Board of Directors in consultation with representatives of the resident population and staff. These goals are updated annually.

V. Particular Considerations

1. Parties Involved

This Covenant Statement of Relationship is between Copeland Oaks and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. This covenant statement has been reviewed by the Copeland Oaks, the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, and the Conference Council on Ministries of The East Ohio Conference. This covenant has been approved by The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

2. Review and Renewal

This Covenant Statement of Relationship will be renewed every quadrennium unless significant material changes warrant an earlier review and renewal and shall continue in existence until either party, upon a one (1) year notification, indicates the desire to terminate the covenant.

3. Ownership and Control

The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church and Copeland Oaks shall hereafter recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. Any financial gifts and support between these two bodies would be determined by each independently, weighing the merits of each other's programs and needs. By this affiliation, The East Ohio Conference does not assume a right to exercise control over the management of Copeland Oaks.

The ownership and control of the assets and operation rests in the Copeland Oaks Corporation and its Board of Directors. The ownership and control of the assets and operation of the Crandall Medical Center and of the Oaks Foundation likewise rests in their respective Boards of Directors, a majority of whom are elected by the Copeland Oaks Board.

4. Financial Relationship with the Annual Conference

Each year Copeland Oaks may request financial support from The East Ohio Conference as a health and welfare ministry. Requests will identify specific ministries and purposes.

In addition, Copeland Oaks may annually request continuation as a Conference Advance Special which includes use of contact information for the churches and pastors of The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

5. Responsibilities of Conference Affiliation

In accordance with The *2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* ¶2517, this covenant:

- a) Encourages Copeland Oaks to hold membership in The United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;
- b) Requires Copeland Oaks to pursue accreditation in one of the faith-based accreditation bodies, approved by the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, which encompass programmatic standards, self-study, and peer review appropriate to Church-related institutions.

6. Legal Liability

Copeland Oaks and The East Ohio Conference recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately and without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. It is understood that each party shall not be legally or financially responsible for the other party or any of its affiliates.

7. Reporting

Copeland Oaks will voluntarily provide a report of a current audit, conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards, annually to The East Ohio Conference for informational purposes.

8. East Ohio Conference Presence on the Governing Bodies

Because of the deep connection with The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, Copeland Oaks pledges a strong commitment to having a significant number of East Ohio Conference United Methodist members on appropriate governance bodies. Where legally possible, Copeland Oaks will ask the Bishop of East Ohio for the names of potential members for consideration. It is understood that these persons would serve as advocates of this Covenant and provide connection between the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference and Copeland Oaks.

This Covenant, establishing affiliation relationship between Copeland Oaks and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, entered upon the date stated below, is mutually subscribed to by the parties listed below, signing as authorized representatives of their respective organizations.

_____ Name (date)	_____ Name (date)
Chairperson, Board of Directors	Executive Director
Copeland Oaks	Copeland Oaks
_____ Tracy S. Malone (date)	_____ Rev. Ted Buehl (date)
Resident Bishop	Chair
East Ohio Conference	Health and Welfare Committee

**Covenant Statement of Relationship
Between
The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church
and
Flat Rock Homes**

July 2017 – June 2021

I. History

Flat Rock Homes has been in a covenant relationship with the church since the agency's inception in 1866. In 1866, our agency was founded under the name "The Ebenezer Orphan Home of the Evangelical Association" in Tiffin, OH as a ministry of the Evangelical Church (or the Evangelical Association). In 1867, our agency moved to our present location in Flat Rock, OH. In 1946, the Evangelical Church merged with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church to form The

1 United Methodist Church. Today, Flat Rock Homes remains deeply committed to our partnership with
2 the churches of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

3
4 The mission of our agency has changed throughout our history but our commitment to serve individuals
5 with critical needs through the transformative power of Christ's love remains central to the care we
6 provide. In 1866, our agency was founded to serve children orphaned as a result of Civil War. The
7 missionary focus of our agency remained centered on serving orphans until 1978. Following a severe
8 blizzard in the winter of 1978, which destroyed the main building on the campus of Flat Rock Children's
9 Home, the focus of Flat Rock's ministry transitioned from an orphanage to serving children with
10 intellectual and developmental disabilities. This remains the focus of our mission and ministry today.

11 **II. The Meaning of Church Affiliation**

12
13 The East Ohio Conference affiliation of a health and welfare ministry program signifies that it is integral
14 to the mission of the Conference. It testifies that the services provided to alleviate human suffering are
15 worthy of the support of The United Methodist Church in East Ohio, community organizations,
16 governmental agencies, and individuals. It also testifies that both services and employment are non-
17 discriminatory.

18 **III. Theological Statement**

19
20
21 Jesus said that by serving "the least of these", we also serve him (Matthew 25:31). James says, "Religion
22 that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their
23 distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27). In that spirit, John Wesley, founder
24 of Methodism, emphasized that faith should show itself in practical works of compassion and mercy.
25 Since the late 18th century "Wesleyans" have founded a disproportionate number of hospitals,
26 orphanages and homes serving the elderly. Those cared for are persons of all faiths, not just United
27 Methodists. These institutional settings have been a critical component of the movement known as
28 Methodism. As followers of Jesus who did not withhold His healing power from the servant of a Roman
29 military officer (Matthew 8) or the daughter of a woman of another race (Matthew 15), we reach out to
30 all who are vulnerable or in need, regardless of their race, gender, age, socio-economic status or
31 religious belief.

32 **IV. Mission**

33
34
35 The mission of Flat Rock Homes is to provide outstanding services which transform the lives of persons
36 with intellectual & developmental disabilities, their families and persons with critical needs through a
37 dedication to caring and excellence that demonstrates Christian values.

38 **V. Particular Considerations**

39 **1. Parties Involved**

40
41 This Covenant Statement of Relationship is between Flat Rock Homes and The East Ohio Conference of
42 The United Methodist Church. This covenant statement has been reviewed by Flat Rock Homes, the
43 Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, and the Conference Council on Ministries
44 of The East Ohio Conference. This covenant has been approved by action of The East Ohio Annual
45 Conference of The United Methodist Church.

2. Review and Renewal

This Covenant Statement of Relationship will be renewed every quadrennium unless significant material changes warrant an earlier review and renewal and shall continue in existence until either party, upon a one (1) year notification, indicates the desire to terminate the covenant.

3. Ownership and Control

The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church and Flat Rock Homes shall hereafter recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. Any financial gifts and support between these two bodies would be determined by each independently, weighing the merits of each other's programs and needs. By this affiliation, The East Ohio Conference does not assume a right to exercise control over the management of Flat Rock Homes.

4. Financial Relationship with the Annual Conference

Each year Flat Rock Homes may request financial support from The East Ohio Conference as a health and welfare ministry. Requests will identify specific ministries and purposes.

In addition, Flat Rock Homes may annually request continuation as a Conference Advance Special which includes use of contact information for the churches and pastors of The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

5. Responsibilities of Conference Affiliation

In accordance with *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* ¶2517, this covenant:

- a) Encourages Flat Rock Homes to hold membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;
- b) Requires Flat Rock Homes to pursue accreditation in one of the faith-based accreditation bodies, approved by the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, which encompass programmatic standards, self-study, and peer review appropriate to Church-related institutions.

6. Legal Liability

Flat Rock Homes and The East Ohio Conference recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately and without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. It is understood that each party shall not be legally or financially responsible for the other party or any of its affiliates.

7. Reporting

Flat Rock Homes will voluntarily provide a report of a current audit, conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards, annually to The East Ohio Conference for informational purposes.

8. East Ohio Conference Presence on the Governing Bodies

Because of the deep connection with The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, Flat Rock Homes pledges a strong commitment to having a significant number of East Ohio Conference United Methodist members on appropriate governance bodies. Where legally possible, Flat Rock Homes will ask the Bishop of East Ohio for the names of potential members for consideration. It is understood that these persons would serve as advocates of this Covenant and provide connection between the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference and Flat Rock Homes.

This Covenant, establishing affiliation relationship between Flat Rock Homes and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, entered upon the date stated below, is mutually subscribed to by the parties listed below, signing as authorized representatives of their respective organizations.

_____ Name (date) Chairperson, Board of Directors Flat Rock Homes	_____ Name (date) Executive Director Flat Rock Homes
_____ Tracy S. Malone (date) Resident Bishop East Ohio Conference	_____ Rev. Ted Buehl (date) Chair Health and Welfare Committee

**Covenant Statement of Relationship
between
The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church
and
OhioGuidestone**

July 2017 – June 2021

I. History

OhioGuidestone has a long and rich tradition of serving children and families. But it is clear that without the supportive relationship of friends, foundations and corporations over the years, we could not accomplish important work with children and families. For almost 150 years we have evolved, changed and grown to meet the needs of the time. We have done this by staying true to our mission.

OhioGuidestone is a separate 501 3c non-profit corporation that has been nurtured by The United Methodist Churches through a covenant relationship with the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

In 1864, the German Methodist Episcopal Church founded the German Methodist Orphan Asylum – later called OhioGuidestone – to shelter Civil War Orphans. We dedicated our first 100 years to caring for children classified as neglected, dependent or abandoned. Maria Betch was the first orphan who arrived on May 1, 1864. At the end of the third year there were 30 children. The first home, purchased from James Wallace, was sold to the German Wallace College and now is the older part of the present Kohler Hall.

In 1959, the Child Welfare League of America completed a Board initiated study that helped lead us in a new direction. The following year, we shifted our focus to serving children and youth needing specialized therapeutic programs. Our aim, whenever possible, became to preserve family relationships and to create for each child a sense of continuity and security.

Today, as OhioGuidestone, we continue to respond to the needs of the community's most vulnerable children and their families. Through a broad range of programs in many communities and on our Berea campus, we address the individual mental health and developmental needs of infants, children, youth, adults and families.

A common misconception is that we are a small organization serving Berea, Ohio and surrounding communities. In fact, our Berea location is our headquarters for a variety of regional sites across Northeast Ohio. We serve children and families from over 33 counties primarily in the East Ohio Conference as well as a few counties that all outside the conference.

Many new programs have been added and expanded in response to community needs. These programs provide a spectrum of services to serve a diverse mix of clients ranging from the most severely emotionally disturbed and delinquent to community children needing day care. Through all that we do, it is our goal to keep children and families together.

OhioGuidestone is highly regarded for innovative, comprehensive programming. We operate four components – Out of Home Care, Community Services, Mental Health Services, and Church Relations and Child Care – all of which strive to preserve family relationships, make children and families more self-sufficient, and reduce clients' needs for future social service or court interventions.

II. The Meaning of Church Affiliation

Annual Conference affiliation of a health and welfare ministry signifies that said ministry is integral to the mission and ministry of the Conference. Through affiliation, the Annual Conference witnesses to the accountability of such ministries and publicly commends them as worthy ministries. It testifies that the services provided to nurture, healing and wholeness are worthy of the support of The United Methodist Churches in East Ohio. It also testifies that both services and employment are non-discriminatory.

III. Theological Statement

Because of affiliation with The United Methodist Church, health and welfare institutions have a responsibility to see themselves in a different way than do secular service providers. OhioGuidestone considers cooperating with God's ongoing work of helping the "least of these" as central to its mission.

The Children, Youth and Families Section of The United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries, of which OhioGuidestone is a member, has formulated this commitment statement:

- To provide a resource of ministry to children and families for The United Methodist Church
- To give theological reflection on its commitment to ministries for children, youth and families
- To reflect particularly on its ministry to those children who can no longer remain with their own families and therefore may be separated from any nurturing home, family or community
- To consider the circumstances of the parents and family and how intervention and counseling may help to unite family members and provide for a safe and nurturing environment for all parties

Child care institutions are moving toward family centered practices in order to provide a more holistic approach benefiting both child and family members. What we want to address in our agency's programs is the dysfunction of behaviors in family members, the breakdown of communications, the inadequacy of parenting and the improving of coping skills for all parties. These are but a few of the areas where we might intervene with therapeutic services as ministry.

OhioGuidestone is guided by this theological premise. In recent years we seek to strengthen all families, in the church setting, in the community, in situations of economic scarcity as well as abundance.

What Happens to Children is What Happens to the World...

Children are our future's progenitors, our inheritors to whom we pass the baton of our traditions, our hopes and dreams. In addition to, or in spite of the accruelements we have placed upon them, Jesus sanctifies them. Luke 18:15-17 reads, "Now they were bringing even infants to Him that He might touch them; and when the disciples saw it they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.'" Jesus embraces the child to identify both our proper service, rendered humbly, and Himself as the source of our transformation through that service. Children, as with all God's people, are of sacred worth, and He holds them closest to His side. Caring for them is God's work that we are privileged to do.

We seek to cultivate the child's religious interests as given to them by their family's culture and traditions and/or by their own initiative. We do not seek to proselytize or implore a child to a particular belief. We stand in the gap between church and state to provide the intersections and avenues for children to reconnect with their families in a safe and healthy environment and to provide them the opportunity to connect with God in a personal relationship. Our calling is to embrace children and seek to nurture their spiritual preference, familial relationships and mental health.

IV. Mission

The mission of OhioGuidestone is to provide pathways for growth, achievement and lifelong success.

OhioGuidestone, which operates facilities throughout Ohio, has as its mission the following:

- a. To serve children and families who have a wide variety of needs, and who may benefit from the service programs offered by the corporation
- b. To afford said children and families educational opportunities, counseling services, rehabilitation therapy to assist them in overcoming and living with disabilities and to provide social welfare and mental health services as needed
- c. To offer said services to children and families without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, social or economic status

OhioGuidestone seeks to fulfill these purposes in a context which reflects a conscious commitment to the Christian values reflected in the Theological Statement of this Covenant Statement.

V. Particular Considerations

1. Parties Involved

This Covenant Statement of Relationship is between OhioGuidestone and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. This covenant statement has been reviewed by OhioGuidestone, the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, and the Conference Council on Ministries of The East Ohio Conference. This covenant has been approved by action of The East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

2. Review and Renewal

This Covenant Statement of Relationship will be renewed every quadrennium unless significant material changes warrant an earlier review and renewal and shall continue in existence until either party, upon a one (1) year notification, indicates the desire to terminate the covenant.

3. Ownership and Control

The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church and OhioGuidestone shall hereafter recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. Any financial gifts and support between these two bodies would be determined by each independently, weighing the merits of each other's programs and needs. By this affiliation, The East Ohio Conference does not assume a right to exercise control over the management of OhioGuidestone.

4. Financial Relationship with the Annual Conference

Each year OhioGuidestone may request financial support from The East Ohio Conference as a health and welfare ministry. Requests will identify specific ministries and purposes.

In addition, OhioGuidestone may annually request continuation as a Conference Advance Special which includes use of contact information for the churches and pastors of The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

5. Responsibilities of Conference Affiliation

In accordance with *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* ¶2517, this covenant:

- a) Encourages OhioGuidestone to hold membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;
- b) Requires OhioGuidestone to pursue accreditation in one of the faith-based accreditation bodies, approved by the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, which encompass programmatic standards, self-study, and peer review appropriate to Church-related institutions.

6. Legal Liability

OhioGuidestone and The East Ohio Conference recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately and without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. It is understood that each party shall not be legally or financially responsible for the other party or any of its affiliates.

7. Reporting

OhioGuidestone will voluntarily provide a report of a current audit, conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards, annually to The East Ohio Conference for informational purposes.

8. East Ohio Conference Presence on the Governing Bodies

Because of the deep connection with The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, OhioGuidestone pledges a strong commitment to having a significant number of East Ohio Conference United Methodist members on appropriate governance bodies. Where legally possible, OhioGuidestone will ask the Bishop of East Ohio for the names of potential members for consideration. It is understood that these persons would serve as advocates of this Covenant and provide connection between the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference and OhioGuidestone.

- a. The Board of Directors of OhioGuidestone shall be elected as set forth in the Amended Code of Regulations. A minority number of directors are elected by the Board of Directors and affirmed by the East Ohio Conference. Affirmation by the East Ohio Conference does not include the right of the Conference to nominate, appoint, and/or reject proposed directors. The control of the nomination and appointment of directors resides solely with OhioGuidestone and its Board of Directors.
- b. The following persons shall serve as ex-officio members of the Board of Directors, with vote: the Resident Bishop, the North Coast District Superintendent, the Chairperson of the Health and Welfare Committee.

This Covenant, establishing affiliation relationship between OhioGuidestone and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, entered upon the date stated below, is mutually subscribed to by the parties listed below, signing as authorized representatives of their respective organizations.

 Name (date)
 Chairperson, Board of Directors
 OhioGuidestone

 Name (date)
 Secretary, Board of Directors
 OhioGuidestone

 Tracy S. Malone (date)
 Resident Bishop
 East Ohio Conference

 Rev. Ted Buehl (date)
 Chair
 Health and Welfare Committee

**Covenant Statement of Relationship
 between
 The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church
 and
 Otterbein North Shore**

July 2017 – June 2021

I. History

Providing quality services is a keystone of our rich heritage, which began in 1912 in Lebanon, Ohio when Otterbein was established on land purchased from the Shakers. Since then, Otterbein has grown to five continuing care retirement communities, and nine small house neighborhoods providing quality, person-centered, home-like nursing care, throughout Ohio.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life and holistic growth of older persons. Our vision is to help older persons live comfortable and secure lives. We pursue this vision through excellence, innovation and integrity by developing relationships with the older persons we serve, the partners in caring with whom we serve and the constituent communities, which enable us to serve.

Otterbein Homes has embarked on a successful journey to re-define the living space of nursing and assisted living care. Our goal is to ensure that people, whether at Otterbein independent living, long-term or short-term, feel as though they are in the comfort of their own home.

We have a solid reputation that has made us a trusted and valuable resource in the communities where we are located. Otterbein's greatest assets are the people who live and work in our communities, share their talents, interests and dreams to create a sense of community.

All Otterbein communities offer an unrivaled lifestyle in a variety of neighborhoods, with activities customized to interests of the residents who call Otterbein home. In addition, all levels of health care services, including assisted living, therapy services and nursing care, are available if a need arises.

Otterbein is rated an A- by Standard & Poors – the world's foremost provider of independent credit rates, indices, risk evaluation and investment research and data. There are about 20 CCRCs (Continuing Care Retirement Communities) nationwide who have achieved an A- rating.

Otterbein North Shore is rated 5-star by the Offices of Medicare and Medicaid, and in 2016 celebrated 20 years as an Ottawa County community resource, employer and retirement community model.

II. The Meaning of Church Affiliation

The Annual Conference affiliation of a health and welfare ministry program signifies that it is integral to the mission of the Conference. It testifies that the services provided to alleviate human suffering are worthy of the support of The United Methodist Church in East Ohio, community organizations, governmental agencies, and individuals. It also testifies that both services and employment are non-discriminatory.

III. Theological Statement

Otterbein lives by the tenets of The United Methodist Church, but individuals don't have to be a Methodist to partake of our care. All people are welcome.

Our history and faith perspective

To us it's a ministry based on defined values. But in practical terms, Otterbein Senior Lifestyle Choices is a non-profit, non-denominational health and human service organization open to everyone. Our community is respectful, open and loving to all. It's important to know, however, that we have spiritual resources for all to draw upon.

IV. Mission and Goals

In keeping with our United Methodist tradition, we seek to enhance the quality of life and holistic growth of older persons.

Our strategic goal is to liberate elders from the mindset of institutional care.

V. Particular Considerations

1. Parties Involved

This Covenant Statement of Relationship is between Otterbein North Shore and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. This covenant statement has been reviewed by the Otterbein North Shore Board of Directors, the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, and the Conference Council on Ministries of The East Ohio Conference. This covenant has been approved by action of The East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

2. Review and Renewal

This Covenant Statement of Relationship will be renewed every quadrennium unless significant material changes warrant an earlier review and renewal and shall continue in existence until either party, upon a one (1) year notification, indicates the desire to terminate the covenant.

3. Ownership and Control

The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church and Otterbein North Shore shall hereafter recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. Any financial gifts and support between these two bodies would be determined by each independently, weighing the merits of each other's programs and needs. By this affiliation, The East Ohio Conference does not assume a right to exercise control over the management of Otterbein North Shore.

4. Financial Relationship with the Annual Conference

Each year Otterbein North Shore may request financial support from The East Ohio Conference as a health and welfare ministry. Requests will identify specific ministries and purposes.

In addition, Otterbein North Shore may annually request continuation as a Conference Advance Special which includes use of contact information for the churches and pastors of The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

5. Responsibilities of Conference Affiliation

In accordance with *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* ¶2517, this covenant:

- c) Encourages Otterbein North Shore to hold membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;
- d) Requires Otterbein North Shore to pursue accreditation in one of the faith-based accreditation bodies, approved by the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, which encompass programmatic standards, self-study, and peer review appropriate to Church-related institutions.

6. Legal Liability

Otterbein North Shore and The East Ohio Conference recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately and without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. It is understood that each party shall not be legally or financially responsible for the other party or any of its affiliates.

7. Reporting

Otterbein North Shore will voluntarily provide a report of a current audit, conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards, annually to The East Ohio Conference for informational purposes.

8. East Ohio Conference Presence on the Governing Bodies

Because of the deep connection with The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, Otterbein North Shore pledges a strong commitment to having a significant number of East Ohio Conference United Methodist members on appropriate governance bodies. Where legally possible, Otterbein North Shore will ask the Bishop of East Ohio for the names of potential members for consideration. It is understood that these persons would serve as advocates of this Covenant and

provide connection between the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference and Otterbein North Shore.

This Covenant, establishing affiliation relationship between Otterbein North Shore and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, entered upon the date stated below, is mutually subscribed to by the parties listed below, signing as authorized representatives of their respective organizations.

Jen Lenthe (date)
Executive Director
Otterbein North Shore

Tracy S. Malone (date)
Resident Bishop
East Ohio Conference

Rev. Ted Buehl (date)
Chair
Health and Welfare Committee

**Covenant Statement of Relationship
between
The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church
and
Wesleyan Village**

July 2017 – June 2021

I. History

Wesleyan Village was founded in 1896 through the vision of one woman, Mrs. Mary Lilly, who shared a concern for the elderly of her community. Within several years, Mrs. Lilly had organized an Association of local residents to manage the home and raise funds for the construction of a new facility. The new building was completed in 1902. At the request of the Association, The North Ohio Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church resolved in 1907 to take the quickly growing organization under its care and management. The members of The Old Ladies' Home Association had become advanced in years, and it was their desire to put "the property and the work in the hands of persons who can be depended upon to permanently and successfully manage it."

Pressure for expansion in the 1920s caused the organization to purchase the current property where Wesleyan Village is located, and to open admission to men. Growth over succeeding decades created the current continuing care retirement community, providing quality care for older adults in all stages of life. In 1996, a second retirement community—Wesleyan Meadows—began development to provide independent living residences and services in Sheffield Village, Ohio.

1 In November 2016, Wesleyan Village, along with Wesleyan Meadows and Wesleyan Senior Living
2 Foundation, entered into a member substitution agreement with American Eagle Lifecare Corporation, a
3 non-profit corporation dedicated to providing care and services to seniors, with communities in Ohio,
4 Indiana and Texas. Life Care Services, the nation's leader in managing non-profit senior living
5 communities was selected as a partner to provide management services.
6

7 **II. The Meaning of Church Affiliation**

8 The East Ohio Conference affiliation of a health and welfare ministry program signifies that it is integral
9 to the mission of the Conference. It testifies that the services provided to alleviate human suffering are
10 worthy of the support of The United Methodist Church in east Ohio, community organizations,
11 governmental agencies, and individuals. It also testifies that both services and employment are non-
12 discriminatory.
13

14 **III. Theological Statement**

15 Jesus of Nazareth, empowered by the Holy Spirit, took as his charter for ministry "the preaching of good
16 news to the poor, the proclaiming of release to the captives, the recovering of sight for the blind, the
17 liberating of those who are oppressed, and the proclaiming of the acceptable, year of the Lord" (Luke
18 4:18ff). Additionally, he said, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John
19 10:10b). Jesus respected and ministered to persons regardless of their age, gender, race, status, or any
20 other category attached by society. The Apostle Paul also understood the Lord's mandate to be
21 concerned for the needs of the most vulnerable in society, writing, and "We who are strong ought to
22 bear the infirmities of the weak."
23

24 Given the brokenness of individual lives and groups within society, the needs of persons of all ages and
25 conditions, and God's call to freedom, openness and wholeness, The East Ohio Conference of The
26 United Methodist Church has been supportive of health and welfare ministries through various
27 institutions and programs. Such ministries are attempts to bring wholeness to all persons. These
28 ministries are channels for The East Ohio Conference and the institutions and programs affiliated with it,
29 and they offer opportunities to enter into covenants which enable the mission of the church to be
30 fulfilled.
31

32 We must constantly be aware of the needs of individuals in our communities, and we respond by
33 strengthening facilities which meet those needs, as well as developing programs to meet newly
34 discovered needs. In the expression of the Christian faith this reflects the words of Jesus as he said:
35

36 "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or brothers or your kinsman or
37 rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast,
38 invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed because they cannot
39 repay you." (Luke 14:22)
40

41 Throughout the history of The United Methodist Church, we have founded communities and have
42 delegated to them the task of organizing and administering service and ministry to persons who have
43 particular needs, including education, health care, counseling, shelter, and matters of justice. It is our
44 intention to continue this faith-based commitment through those whom we serve in our communities at
45 Wesleyan Village and Wesleyan Meadows.
46

IV. Mission

Wesleyan Village's mission is to provide an environment for older adults to experience the fullness of life, encouraging them to age successfully by growing socially, intellectually, physically, and spiritually with the care and support of a Christian community.

V. Particular Considerations**1. Parties Involved**

This Covenant Statement of Relationship is between Wesleyan Village and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. This covenant statement has been reviewed by the American Eagle Lifecare Corporation Board of Directors on behalf of Wesleyan Village, the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, and the Conference Council on Ministries of The East Ohio Conference. This covenant has been approved by action of The East Ohio Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

2. Review and Renewal

This Covenant Statement of Relationship will be renewed every quadrennium unless significant material changes warrant an earlier review and renewal and shall continue in existence until either party, upon a one (1) year notification, indicates the desire to terminate the covenant.

3. Ownership and Control

The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church and Wesleyan Village shall hereafter recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. Any financial gifts and support between these two bodies would be determined by each independently, weighing the merits of each other's programs and needs. By this affiliation, The East Ohio Conference does not assume a right to exercise control over the management of Wesleyan Village.

4. Financial Relationship with the Annual Conference

Each year Wesleyan Village may request financial support from The East Ohio Conference as a health and welfare ministry. Requests will identify specific ministries and purposes.

In addition, Wesleyan Village may annually request continuation as a Conference Advance Special which includes use of contact information for the churches and pastors of The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

5. Responsibilities of Conference Affiliation

In accordance with *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* ¶2517, this covenant:

- a) Encourages Wesleyan Village to hold membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;
- b) Requires Wesleyan Village to pursue accreditation in one of the faith-based accreditation bodies, approved by the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference, which encompass programmatic standards, self-study, and peer review appropriate to Church-related institutions.

6. Legal Liability

Wesleyan Village and The East Ohio Conference recognize each other as independent entities, governed and financed separately and without fiscal or legal responsibility for each other. It is understood that The East Ohio Conference shall not be legally or financially responsible for Wesleyan Village or any of its affiliates.

7. Reporting

Wesleyan Village will voluntarily provide a report of a current audit, conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards, annually to The East Ohio Conference for informational purposes.

8. East Ohio Conference Presence on the Governing Bodies

Because of the deep connection with The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, Wesleyan Village and Wesleyan Senior Living Foundation pledges a strong commitment to having a significant number of East Ohio Conference United Methodist members on appropriate governance bodies. Where legally possible, Wesleyan Village will ask the Bishop of East Ohio for the names of potential members for consideration. It is understood that these persons would serve as advocates of this Covenant and provide connection between the Health and Welfare Committee of The East Ohio Conference and Wesleyan Village.

This Covenant, establishing affiliation relationship between Wesleyan Village and The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, entered upon the date stated below, is mutually subscribed to by the parties listed below, signing as authorized representatives of their respective organizations.

Elan Ruggill (date)
President
American Eagle Lifecare Corporation

Jessica Short (date)
Executive Director
Wesleyan Village

Tracy S. Malone (date)
Resident Bishop
East Ohio Conference

Rev. Ted Buehl (date)
Chair
Health and Welfare Committee

FREQUENTLY-USED ACRONYMS

ABLC	Appointment Beyond the Local Church
ARAP	Agenda, Rules and Administrative Process Committee
BCRM	Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries
BGM or BOGM	Board of Global Ministries
BHEM	Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
BOM	Board of Ordained Ministry
BOPH	Board of Pensions and Hospitalization
CACC	Conference Average Cash Compensation
CCFA	Conference Council on Finance and Administration
CCOM	Conference Council on Ministries
CCYM	Conference Council on Youth Ministries
COCUIC	Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
COSROW	Commission on the Status and Role of Women
CPAC	Conference Pastoral Advisory Committee
DAC	Denominational Average Compensation
dCOM	District Committee on Ordained Ministry
DCOM	District Council on Ministries
DS	District Superintendent
EOCCU	East Ohio Conference Credit Union
G-ETS	Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
M.Div	Master of Divinity
MPP	Ministerial Pension Plan
OCC	Ohio Council of Churches
PPR/SPR	Pastor-Parish Relations/Staff-Parish Relations
S.T.D.	Doctorate of Sacred Theology
R & R	Commission on Religion and Race
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
UMM	United Methodist Men
UMPH	United Methodist Publishing House
UMW	United Methodist Women
UMVIM	United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
DR	Disaster Response
YAC	Youth Annual Conference

<p>EACH TIME YOU WANT TO DO THIS:¹</p> <p>¹Motions or resolutions made from the floor shall be reduced to writing on forms provided by the conference secretary</p>	<p>FIRST GIVE YOUR NAME AND YOUR DISTRICT, AND THEN SAY THIS:</p>	<p>Interrupt Speaker?</p> <p>Second Needed?</p> <p>Motion debatable?</p> <p>Amendable?</p> <p>Vote?</p>
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Introduce business	"I move that..."	no	yes	yes	yes	majority
Take up matter previously tabled	"I move that we take from the table"	no	yes	no	no	majority
Reconsider matter previously voted	"I move we reconsider..."	no	yes	*	no	majority

Adjourn	"I move to adjourn"	no	yes	no	no	majority
Recess	"I move we recess until..."	no	yes	no	no	majority
Suspend debate without calling for vote	"I move that we table"	no	yes	no	no	majority
End debate	"I move the previous question"	no	yes	no	no	2/3 majority
Limit debate	"I move debate be limited to..."	no	yes	no	no	2/3 majority
Postpone to specific time	"I move to postpone this matter until..."	no	yes	yes	yes	majority
Have matter studied further	"I move we refer this matter to..."	no	yes	yes	yes	majority
Amend a motion or substitute	"I move to amend by..." or "I move to substitute..."	no	yes	yes	yes	majority
Postpone indefinitely	"I move to postpone indefinitely..."	no	yes	yes	yes	majority

Correct error in parliamentary procedure	"Point of order"	yes	no	no	no	Chair rules
Obtain advice on parliamentary procedure	"I raise a parliamentary inquiry"	yes	no	no	no	Chair rules
Request information	"Point of information"	yes	no	no	no	none

* yes, if the matter was debatable, no, if the matter was not debatable.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVALUATION 2017

This survey may be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EastOhio2017>

The local church is the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. The vision of the EO Conference is to increase the health and vitality of congregations and faith communities so that the places we live and work may experience the good news of God's grace. We accomplish this by aligning resources to support and strengthen the effectiveness of lay and clergy leadership in making and maturing disciples. Please rate each of the following in accomplishing this purpose:

Sunday Evening Prayer and Praise Service

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Monday Morning Clergy Session

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Monday Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion - Bishop Malone

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Monday Evening Celebration of Retirement - Bishop Malone

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Tuesday Morning Worship – Bishop McKee

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Tuesday Evening Ministry Fair, Connecting through Mission and Conversation

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Wednesday Morning Worship - Bishop McKee

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Wednesday Evening Service of Commissioning and Ordination – Bishop Malone

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Thursday Morning Worship - Bishop McKee

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Thursday Morning Business Sessions of Annual Conference

1	2	3	4	5
Inspiring	Informative	Average	Needs Attention	Did Not Attend

Online registration & Registration for Special Events

1	2	3	4	5
Very Easy	OK	Difficult	Tried but gave up	Did Not Use

What part of Annual Conference has been the most helpful in equipping you and your church to reach out in the name of Jesus?

What suggestions would you have to help us design Annual Conference to better equip you and your church?

Person Completing This Evaluation is (Please circle): Laity Clergy

Age (circle): Youth in Adult Adult Adult Adult
 Grade 6-12 Age 18-35 Age 36-50 Age 51-65 Age 66+

2017

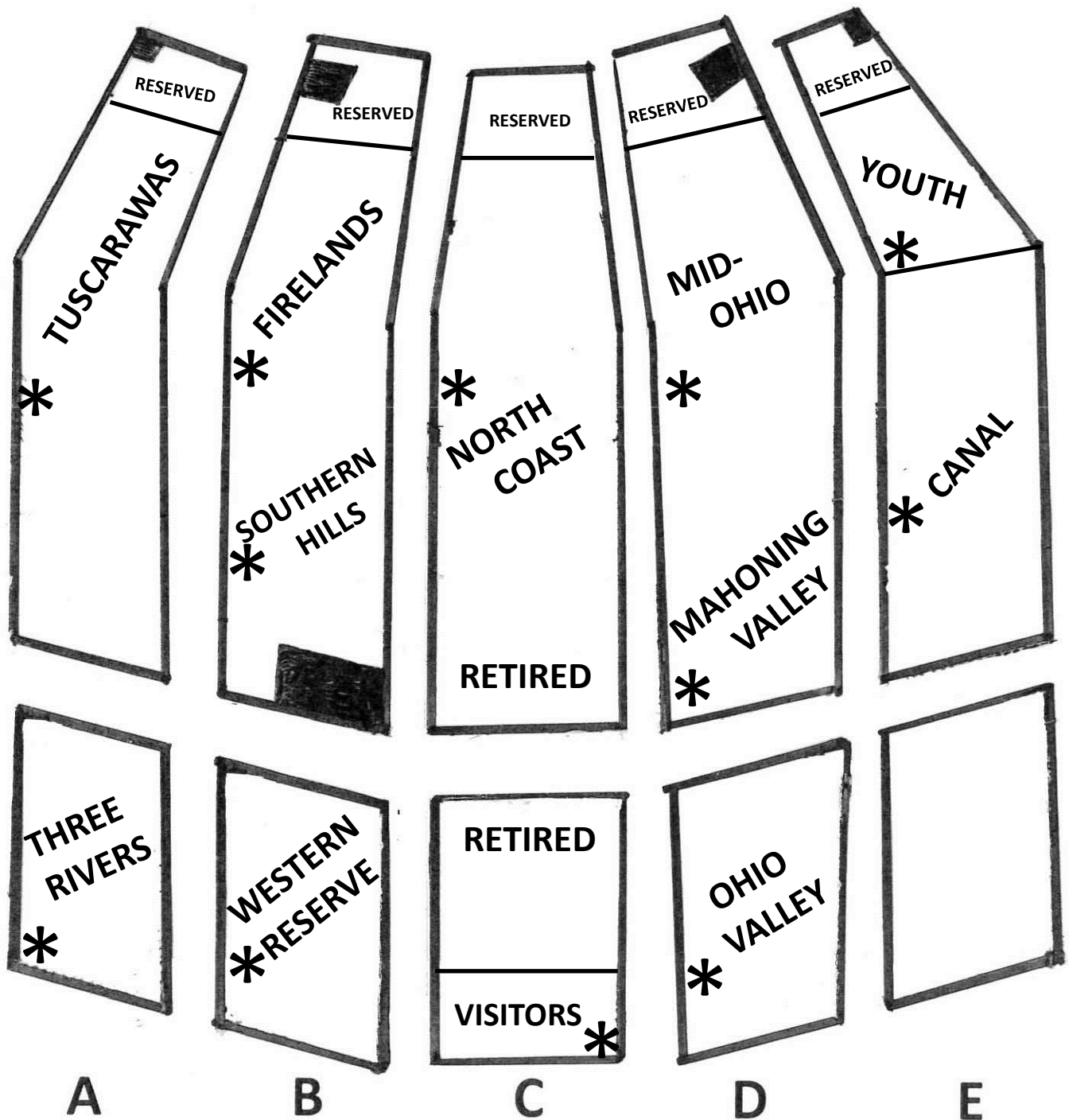
East Ohio Annual Conference
Hoover Auditorium

SOUTH FRONT STAGE

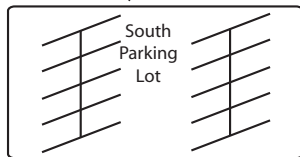
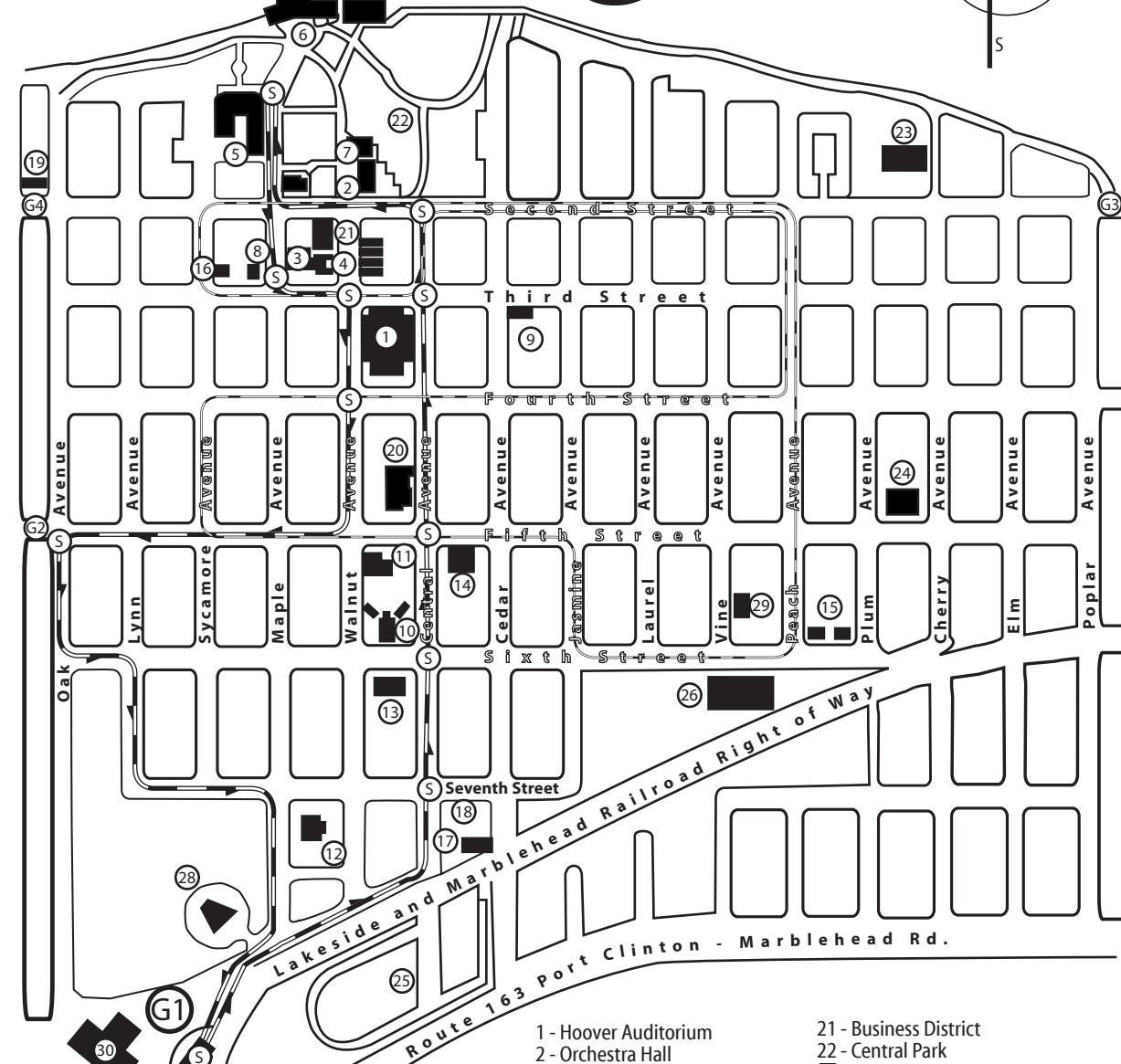
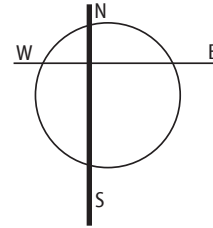
EAST

WEST

RESERVED FOR PROGRAM COMMITTEE A-D

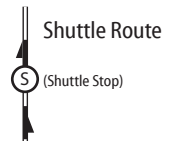


LakeSide



To Danbury High School Parking
(No shuttle available)

- 1 - Hoover Auditorium
- 2 - Orchestra Hall
- 3 - Fountain Inn
- 4 - Lakeside Association Office
- 5 - Hotel Lakeside
- 6 - Pavilion
- 7 - Green Gables
- 8 - Heritage Hall
- 9 - Bradley Temple
- 10 - South Auditorium
- 11 - Wesley Lodge
- 12 - Old Schoolhouse
- 13 - Rhein Center for the Arts
- 14 - Wo Ho Mis Lodge
- 15 - Hilltop House and Annex
- 16 - Archives
- 17 - Train Station
- 18 - Youth Cabins
- 19 - Employee Dormitories
- 20 - Lakeside United Methodist Church
- 21 - Business District
- 22 - Central Park
 - ☐ Shuffleboard
 - ☐ Miniature Golf
 - ☐ Steele Bandstand
 - ☐ Basketball/Volleyball
 - ☐ Children's Playground
- 23 - Perry Park
 - ☐ Tennis Courts
- 24 - Cherry Park
- 25 - Lakeside RV Campground
- 26 - Williams Tennis Campus
- 27 - Lakeside Dock
- 28 - Chapel in the Woods
- 29 - LWBS Boat Works Workshop
- 30 - South Gate Welcome Center
- G1 - South Gate
- G2 - West Fifth Street Gate
- G3 - East Gate
- G4 - West Second Street Gate



Mack Mobile Route
(driver follows inbetween calls)