



2021 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2021 East Ohio Annual Conference
PRE - CONFERENCE WORKBOOK





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

Dear Lay and Clergy Members of the East Ohio Conference,

I greet you in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Our theme for the 2021 Annual Conference Session is *Christ Alive in Us!* and our scriptural focus is Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV), "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." We recognize that in these challenging times in our lives, nation, and world, we have been sustained by God's grace, and have been purposed through Christ Jesus, to do good works. The mission of Christ and the Church remain alive because Christ is alive in us!

The 2021 Annual Conference is scheduled for June 16-19 and will be virtual. The pandemic still prevents safe indoor large gatherings and to protect the health and well-being of all lay and clergy members, provisions have been made to meet on a virtual platform. Intentional efforts are underway to help lay and clergy members engage and participate fully.

The Clergy Executive Session will convene virtually on Wednesday, June 16 at 9:00 a.m. All clergy and pastors are expected to participate.

This year we are opening the Annual Conference session with the Service of Commissioning and Ordination on June 16 at 3:00 p.m. Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA will be the guest preacher.

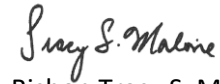
I will be the preacher for the Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion on Thursday, June 17 at 9:00 a.m. The Friday 9:00 a.m. worship preacher is Rev. Carrie Antczak of the UMC of Berea and the Saturday 9:00 a.m. worship preachers are Rev. Gregory Kendrick, Jr. of Cory and Church of the Saviour UMCs and Rev. Karen Oehl of Gay Street UMC. The Celebration of Retirement is scheduled for Thursday at 2:00 p.m. Details about the agenda and how to fully participate in this Annual Conference can be found in this *Pre-Conference Workbook*.

The year's Annual Conference offering has been designated by the Annual Conference Program Committee to benefit: Global Ministries missionaries around the world, Board of Ministry Young Clergy Initiative internships, and the Bishop's discretionary fund. I encourage each local church to prayerfully, and generously, support these initiatives. You can give in the following ways: write a check payable to "East Ohio Conference" with Fund 9214 AC Offering noted on the memo line and mail it to East Ohio Conference, P.O. Box 76019, Cleveland, OH 44101-4755. You may also give your offering online on the Conference website, www.eocumc.com/donate.

I invite you to join me as we prepare for this time of Holy Conferencing. May every decision, every presentation, every worship service, and all celebrations bear witness to how God's spirit is alive and at work through the pastors, laity, and churches of the East Ohio Conference.

Please visit the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/eoac21 for all matters related to the 2021 Annual Conference.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy S. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

ATTENTION LAY MEMBERS:

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

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 16-19 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, 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 *2021 East Ohio Conference Journal*.

HAVE THIS WORKBOOK WITH YOU FOR 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 14** to: Cheryl Duell, 8800 Cleveland Ave., NW, North Canton, OH 44720, and enlarged pages will be mailed to you before May 28.

Please send Large Print pages of the *2021 Pre-Conference Workbook* to:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Return this form **before** May 14 to:

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

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52nd SESSION
EAST OHIO VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER – AKRON, OHIO
Wednesday, June 16 through Saturday, June 19, 2021

AGENDA

TUESDAY EVENING
June 15, 2021

5:00 p.m. *Rehearsal for Service of Commissioning and Ordination*

WEDNESDAY MORNING
June 16, 2021

9:00 a.m. **CLERGY SESSION**

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
June 16, 2021

3:00 p.m. **CALLING THE CONFERENCE TO ORDER**
SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION
Preacher: Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

WEDNESDAY EVENING
June 16, 2021

5:00 p.m. *Rehearsal for Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion*

THURSDAY MORNING
June 17, 2021

9:00 a.m. **SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION AND HOLY COMMUNION**
Preacher: Bishop Tracy S. Malone

10:30 a.m. **BREAK**

11:00 a.m. **OPENING BUSINESS SESSION**

Opening Prayer

Instructions, Opening Motions & Matters of Privilege

Christ Alive in Us!

Program Committee

Agenda, Rules and Administrative Process

Episcopacy Committee

Introduction to Resolutions

Christ Alive in Us!

Cindy Patterson

Ivy Smith

Gary George

Heidi Welch

Cindy Patterson

12:00 p.m. **PRAYER AND RECESS**

THURSDAY AFTERNOON**June 17, 2021**

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 2:00 p.m. | CELEBRATION OF RETIREMENT | Board of Ministry |
| 3:00 p.m. | BREAK | |
| 3:30 p.m. | BUSINESS SESSION
Prayer
Christ Alive in Us!
Episcopal Address
Teach • Reach • Bless
Equitable Compensation
Lay Leader Report
Christ Alive in Us!
Prayer | Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Bruce Hitchcock
Gloria Brown
Kimberly Green |
| 4:45 p.m. | PRAYER AND RECESS | |

THURSDAY EVENING**June 17, 2021**

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 5:00 p.m. | <i>Sound Check for Friday Morning Worship</i> |
|-----------|---|

FRIDAY MORNING**June 18, 2021**

- | | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | MORNING WORSHIP
Preacher: Rev. Carrie Antczak | |
| 10:15 a.m. | BUSINESS SESSION
Opening Prayer
Christ Alive in Us!
Board of Ministry
Cabinet Report
Fixing of Appointments
Personnel Committee
Recognition of 25 Years of Deacon Ministry
Leadership Committee
Prayer | Jon Priebe
Steve Bailey
Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Susan Achberger
Linda McCowen
Gordon Myers |
| 12:00 p.m. | PRAYER AND RECESS | |

FRIDAY AFTERNOON
June 18, 2021

- 2:00 p.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Opening Prayer
Christ Alive in Us!
Report from General Conference Delegation
Board of Benefits
Resolutions
Convene the Annual Corporate Meeting:
Trustees, Closing of Churches
Christ Alive in Us!
- Gary Henderson
Bill Liming
Steve Stultz Costello
Randy May
- 3:30 p.m. **PRAYER AND RECESS**

FRIDAY EVENING
June 18, 2021

- 5:00 p.m. *Sound Check for Saturday Morning Worship*

SATURDAY MORNING
June 19, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. **MORNING WORSHIP**
Preachers: Rev. Gregory E. Kendrick, Jr. and Rev. Karen Oehl
- 10:30 a.m. **BUSINESS SESSION**
Opening Prayer
Christ Alive in Us!
Resolutions
Council on Finance & Administration
Closing Motions
- Steve Stultz Costello
Dan Bryant
Cindy Patterson
- 12:00 p.m. **BENEDICTION & ADJOURNMENT**

ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION

Tracy S. Malone
Resident Bishop, Presiding

District Superintendents & Conference Executive Staff

Ed Peterson	Canal District
Doug Lewis	Firelands District
Abby Auman	Mahoning Valley District
Nestor Nazario	Mid-Ohio District
Steve Bailey	North Coast District
Bruce Hitchcock	Ohio Valley District
Gail Angel	Southern Hills District
Edward Fashbaugh	Three Rivers District
Cara Stultz Costello	Tuscarawas District
Edgar Brady	Western Reserve District
Gary George	Assistant to the Bishop
Steve Court	Director of Connectional Ministries
Vera Rebrovich	Director of Financial & Administrative Services
Rick Wolcott	Director of Communications

Annual Conference Program Committee

Ivy Smith	Chairperson
Cindy Patterson	Conference Secretary
Kimberly Green	Conference Lay Leader
Nathan Howe	Chairperson, AC Worship Committee
Brenda Vaccaro	Registration
Other Program Committee Members:	Steven Court, Gary George, Courtney Gould, George Kovacik, Tammy Palmer, Kristen Patt, Emily Sheetz, Jonathan Stull, Matthew Williamson, Rick Wolcott

Ministry of Music

Ron Barkett, Music Director; Bruce Shewitz, Organist

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, the secretary of the Council of Bishops, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Africa University.

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 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 Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.



Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin
Northwestern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin is the bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He was serving as the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Stony Ridge on May 21, 2016 when he was elected bishop. Installed on July 23 of that year at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green, Beaudoin is currently serving a six-year term as the bishop of the 160 churches of the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA.

Prior to serving 12 years as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Daniel Beaudoin served eight years as the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Edon. From 2013-2015, he was dean of the North Central Conference, one of seven individual conferences that comprise the Northwestern Ohio Synod. As dean he had the responsibility to provide pastoral care and leadership with the conference.

Beaudoin earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., a Master of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and a Master of Arts in Medieval History from the University of Toledo.

He and his wife Rachel are the parents of two sons and a daughter, the parents-in-law of two, and the grandparents of two. Beaudoin enjoys running with the Toledo Roadrunner's Club, reading good books, studying Scripture, and eating Mediterranean food.



Rev. Carrie Antczak
East Ohio Conference

Rev. Carrie Antczak is a Deacon in The United Methodist Church currently serving as pastor of Faith Formation and Outreach at the United Methodist Church of Berea (North Coast District). The church was instrumental in her ministry at a young age. Raised Catholic, Antczak was an eighth grader when confirmands from UMC Berea invited her to church. While she was at the church, she quickly began to sense her call to ministry.

Prior to serving UMC Berea, Antczak was Children's Ministries director and then associate pastor of Discipleship at Bay UMC before becoming Children's pastor at Mayfield UMC. She currently serves as chair of Spiritual Formation for the East Ohio Conference and was elected as a clergy delegate for the postponed 2020 Jurisdictional Conference. She is passionate about compassion, justice, inclusion, and welcoming all people to the community of faith.

Antczak earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology with minors in Gender Studies, Psychology, and Sociology from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity specializing in Mission and Evangelism from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She attributes her love of children's ministry to the childcare work that she did to support all of her years in education.

She and her husband Jason are parents of two children. They enjoy family time together in the outdoors of the Cleveland Metroparks.



Rev. Gregory E. Kendrick, Jr.
West Ohio Conference

Rev. Gregory E. Kendrick, Jr. is pastor of Cory UMC (North Coast District) in Cleveland and pastor of Connections at Church of the Saviour UMC (North Coast District) in Cleveland Heights. He is an Elder in full connection in the West Ohio Conference, where he also serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Before beginning to serve in the East Ohio Conference in 2017, Kendrick served several appointments in the West Ohio Conference including Broad Street UMC, Clair UMC, and Church for All People. He was also the executive director of the Greater Hilltop Area Shalom Zone. He currently serves as the executive director of the Cory-Glenville Community Center and is a member of both the North Coast District Missions/Strategy Committee and the North Coast District Finance and Administrative Committee.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Kendrick is a frequent preacher and facilitator at churches and conferences across The United Methodist Church. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Denison University and a Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

He says that he is privileged to be the father of two children, who assist him in growing in patience daily. One of his great joys was leading and supporting Central Ohio's youngest advocates through Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools.



Rev. Karen Oehl
East Ohio Conference

Rev. Karen Oehl is lead pastor of Gay Street UMC (Three Rivers District) in Mount Vernon. She served six years as superintendent of the Mid-Ohio District prior to her current appointment.

A second-career pastor, Oehl taught middle school social studies for five years before attending seminary. Her first appointment in the East Ohio Conference was to Wooster UMC, which she served for three years before being appointed to serve Marshallville and Easton UMCs. She later served Apple Creek UMC and Brecksville UMC before being appointed to the Cabinet in 2011.

Oehl grew up going to church camps every summer, and that passion became her path to involvement in the East Ohio Conference. She currently serves on the Three Rivers District Committee on Ordained Ministry, and as a clergy delegate to the postponed 2020 Jurisdictional Conference. She previously served as a delegate to the Special Session of General Conference in 2019 and as a reserve delegate to General Conference 2016 and a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference 2016.

A native of Pittsburgh, Oehl earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Wooster and a Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She loves reading, writing, cooking, watching birds, walking in the woods, and spending time in Vermont.

She and her husband Chris are the parents of two adult daughters.

Annual Conference Online

Follow Annual Conference 2021 online:

- All business sessions and worship services of Annual Conference 2021 will be livestreamed on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/eoac21.
- Articles and photo galleries will also be posted on the website.
- Join the conversation on Twitter at #eoac21.

Annual Conference 2021 video archives:

- Videos of the services and worship services will be archived on the Conference Vimeo page, www.vimeo.com/eocumc.

Annual Conference offering:

- Again in 2021, the Annual Conference offering will be collected primarily online.
- The Annual Conference 2021 offering (Fund 9214) will support:
 - Global Ministries Missionaries Around the World
 - Board of Ministry Young Clergy Initiative Internships
 - Bishop's Discretionary Fund
- Learn more about the Annual Conference offering at www.eocumc.com/eoac21/offering.
- Churches and individuals can make online donations to the Annual Conference offering at www.eocumc.com/donate, scrolling down the page to the section labeled Ministries Administered by Council on Ministries, locating Fund 9214: Annual Conference offering, and entering the amount to be donated to the offering.
- Those wishing to make a donation to the Annual Conference offering by mail may do so by making a check payable to the East Ohio Conference and including Fund 9214 or AC offering on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:
East Ohio Conference
P.O. Box 76019
Cleveland, OH 44101-4755

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 § numbers refer to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*).

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 2020*, 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 2020 Journal, pages 8-24 through 8-35.
- 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/eoac21. 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: *The Book of Discipline 2016*, § 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 *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*, ¶ 602.8 and see Rule ¶ 2 A. as found in the *2020 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 *2020 Journal* pages 8-24 through 8-35.
- 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.

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/eoac21. 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 Report to Annual Conference 2021**Submitted by Rev. Ivy Smith, chairperson**

The Annual Conference Program Committee is responsible for providing hospitality and planning all activities that are not part of the business sessions or worship services of Annual Conference. As we have transitioned into the John S. Knight Center and adapted to changes required for hosting a virtual Annual Conference during this pandemic, I am thankful for the flexibility and support of our members.

The Program Committee has focused attention this year on:

- providing COVID-19 safety checks for all persons entering the facility,
- creating a survey – both online and printed in this *Pre-Conference Workbook* – to provide opportunity for you to help us plan for the future, and
- surrounding Annual Conference in prayer by coordinating persons to open each session in prayer and organizing a team of prayer partners for the week.

Prayer Requests

You are encouraged to e-mail to eocprayerconcerns@gmail.com the names of people who are in need of prayer. Please only submit names. Do not submit specifics about why individuals are in need of prayer so that we can protect each person's privacy.

Annual Conference Offering (Fund 9214)

The Program Committee is also responsible for designating the Annual Conference offering, which, again this year, will be collected only online. The offering will benefit the following ministries – with each receiving 1/3 of the offering:

- Global Ministries Missionaries Around the World
- Board of Ministry Young Clergy Initiative Internships
- Bishop's Discretionary Fund

Learn more about the Annual Conference offering at www.eocumc.com/eoac21/offering.

We look forward to expanding the work of the Program Committee as we hopefully return to an in-person Annual Conference in 2022. This is my last year as chair of the Committee. I thank Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Rev. Steve Court, Committee members, and all of you for this opportunity to serve.

Agenda, Rules, and Administrative Process Committee Report to Annual Conference 2021**Submitted by Rev. Dr. Gary George, chairperson****I. Agenda**

The agenda of the Annual Conference has been prepared by the Agenda, Rules, and Administrative Process (ARAP) Committee and will be presented to the virtual Annual Conference session on Thursday June 17.

II. Administrative Process

ARAP met twice following the adjournment of the 2020 virtual East Ohio Conference session held September 26, 2020. The meetings were held virtually (Zoom) on November 19, 2020 and March 17, 2021. ARAP continued its ongoing evaluation and review of Conference processes and rules, including vetting the Conference rules against the current version of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 and Addendum*. On a continuing basis, ARAP recommends proposed changes to

Conference rules, policies, and administrative processes to align with the East Ohio annual conference's stated mission.

The ongoing challenges and constraints attributable to the pandemic led to the decision to have the 2021 Annual Conference session meet virtually. The 2021 Clergy Executive and Annual Conference sessions' production "hub" will be located at the Akron, Ohio John S. Knight Center. Appreciation is extended to the East Ohio Conference team that worked diligently and well in making these arrangements. The John S. Knight Center will be the site of the 2022 session of the Annual Conference and, hopefully "in-person" rather than a virtual format.

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

There are no rule changes being proposed for this year's session of Annual Conference.

IV. Proposed East Ohio Conference Policy Change

At the behest of the Board of Ministry and the Cabinet, ARAP is recommending amendments to two sections of the East Ohio Conference Policies Affecting Clergy, specifically the current section entitled "Day Off" as well as the current section entitled "Vacation, Continuing Education and Professional Responsibilities." The text of the proposed changes to the two respective sections can be found below.

~~Day Off~~ **Sabbath Day**

3. Pastors are ~~encouraged~~ *expected* to take one day a week for ~~renewal~~ *Sabbath* and inform the congregation of that day.

Annual Time Away

4. The pastor shall work with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee each year to plan as far in advance as possible concerning the needs of the pastor to be away for vacation, continuing education and professional responsibilities. Such advance planning will help to ensure adequate coverage of responsibilities during the pastor's absence and to provide for a balance of time spent between serving the local church and providing for other professional opportunities and responsibilities. ~~It is believed that up to 57-59 days per year (including 6-7 Sundays) is sufficient time to provide vacation, professional growth and service for those in full-time appointments.~~

Vacation

- a. The minimum annual (July 1- June 30) vacation schedule for ~~clergypersons~~ *pastors* be *(weekly Sabbath day not to be counted as a vacation day)*:
 - 1) 30 days including ~~four~~ *five* Sundays paid vacation *for clergy appointed full-time. Based upon a six-day workweek. Full member, associate member, probationary member following graduation, ordained ministers from other conferences and denominations serving full time.*
 - ~~2) 14 days including two Sundays paid vacation for the first five years of full-time work and four weeks paid vacation from the sixth year of full-time work for full-time local pastors.~~
 - ~~3) 14 days including two Sundays paid vacation for student pastors who reside on the charge.~~
 - 4) Conference members serving in less-than-full-time appointments shall be entitled to vacation in proportion to the percent of time they are serving. The minimum shall be:
 - Appointed at 75%: 24 days including 4 Sundays*
 - Appointed at 50%: 15 days including 3 Sundays*
 - Appointed at 25%: 8 days including 2 Sundays*

- 1 5) Service in a leadership capacity at a Conference-sponsored event or attendance at
 2 Annual Conference shall not be considered a part of the *clergyperson's* vacation
 3 time.
 4 6) *The completion of ministerial education requirements such as seminary or the*
 5 *Course of Study shall not be considered a part of the clergyperson's vacation time.*

Continuing Education

- 8 b. A clergyperson serving a local church, who has graduated from the Jurisdictional Course
 9 of Study or from an accredited seminary, having completed the requirements for
 10 associate, probationary, or full Conference membership, shall be granted up to 14 days,
 11 including two Sundays, annual study time for continuing education with full
 12 remuneration and benefits. A request for further study time, with plan of scholastic
 13 study, should be made in writing to the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and district
 14 superintendent and carry approval of each. This time segment granted for continuing
 15 education is an addition to that provided for vacation. The local church is encouraged to
 16 share in the cost of continuing education.
 17 * *for the completion of the education requirements of licensed and ordained ministry, an*
 18 *appointed clergyperson shall be granted an additional up to fourteen days, including two*
 19 *Sundays, time away.*

V. Concluding Matters

22 As I conclude my 15-year tenure as ARAP chairperson, I want to extend my grateful appreciation to both
 23 present and former ARAP committee members, Conference secretaries, bishops, journal editors and
 24 Conference staff in carrying out the work ARAP conducts in service to the annual conference. Rev. Ed
 25 Peterson will become the new ARAP chairperson beginning July 1.

Committee on Episcopacy Report to Annual Conference 2021

29 Submitted by Rev. Heidi Welch, chairperson

31 Greetings on behalf of the Committee on Episcopacy. Our task is to:

- 32 • support and pray for Bishop Tracy S. Malone as she oversees the spiritual and temporal affairs of
- 33 the Church,
- 34 • be available to Bishop Malone for consultation and feedback,
- 35 • help interpret the role of our Episcopal leader for our Conference, and,
- 36 • consult with our Bishop and prepare Episcopal reports for the North Central Jurisdictional
- 37 Committee on Episcopacy.

39 This past year, Bishop Tracy S. Malone has been intentionally balancing her leadership between the
 40 missional focus of the annual conference and navigating the ever-changing landscape that impacts that
 41 mission and our shared ministry. We are grateful for the way she has continued to articulate a clear and
 42 positive vision for our annual conference amid the COVID-19 pandemic, social and political unrest, and
 43 the further postponement of the 2020 General Conference.

45 During Lent, Bishop Malone felt led by the Spirit to create a daily devotional calendar, "Journeying
 46 Toward Wholeness," which combines the traditional Lenten themes with our current struggle toward
 47 wholeness within The United Methodist Church. She also worked with the East Ohio delegation to host
 48 an information forum about the changes to plans for General Conference. Bishop Malone continues to
 49 extend her presence throughout our Conference, meeting frequently with laity and clergy, and

preaching at local churches whenever her schedule allows. Along with all of her work in our Conference, Bishop Malone continues to offer her unique gifts for Episcopal leadership around the globe via Zoom.

We are continually grateful for the ways Bishop Malone leads by example: balancing her roles as mother, wife, daughter, bishop, and child of God; and being a calm yet strong presence through the struggle and chaos of living and leading this past year.

Bishop Malone encourages us to remain focused on that which unites us:

- be disciples who make and mature other disciples of Jesus Christ,
- be God's agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world, and
- be courageous in reaching new people, younger people, and a more diverse people.

We encourage you to continue to pray for Bishop Tracy S. Malone, for her husband Derrick, and for her daughters as we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, join together to spread the light of Christ to all the world.

Commission on Equitable Compensation Report to Annual Conference 2021

Submitted by Dr. Gloria Brown, chairperson

The overall purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation is to support the Bishop and Cabinet in fulfilling the mission of the East Ohio Conference, which is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This Commission provides salary support, where the Bishop and Cabinet deem necessary, establishes minimum salaries, and makes 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 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*, Section VII below).
 6. Other general operating expenses to consider as reimbursable, such as: continuing education and cellular phone service, including a data package.

II. ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLOWANCES: CHARGES

- A. No minimum salary should be paid to a charge that has not conducted a responsible stewardship campaign each year. Stewardship information is posted on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/shared-min-steward.
- B. Any change in clergy appointment to a charge on minimum salary support should be reported immediately to the office of the Conference director of Financial & Administrative Services.
- C. No minimum salary support should be made to cover the failure of a local charge to meet the pastor's salary as approved by the Charge Conference.
- D. A local charge is expected to maintain its level of clergy support from previous years and must set a definite salary.
- E. A local charge is expected to provide a comfortable parsonage, or adequate housing allowance, meeting standards adopted by the Conference for parsonages and parsonage furnishings.
- F. Any charge receiving minimal salary support will be given a maximum of five years to assume full pastoral support. The charge must project a plan of incremental reductions effective with the second year of support. After five years, minimum salary support may be terminated if substantial progress in reducing dependence on salary support has not been made. Continuation of salary support beyond the five-year limit shall require concurrent action by the Commission and the Cabinet.
- G. The Cabinet representation on the Commission on Equitable Compensation will give an annual report to the Commission regarding the progress each charge is making toward moving off equitable compensation funding.

III. ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLOWANCES: PASTORS

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

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 1 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 office of the Conference director of Financial & Administrative Services. The following information is required, in addition to the application:

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, and
 - 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 responded to the program, use of regular financial updates, and any other helpful information.
3. One copy of the church's year-end report that must be returned to the office of the Conference director of Financial & Administrative Services 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 IV., A. 4.
2. Charges already receiving supplementation with pastoral changes need submit only a new application.

V. MINIMUM CASH SALARY SCHEDULES

Currently, the East Ohio Conference has one of the lowest minimum salaries across the United States and is second to the bottom. In an effort to move our minimum salaries toward a more sustainable wage, the Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends a 2% increase to each

of the three minimum salary categories for 2022. If the above recommendation is approved, the 2022 salary schedule would be as follows:

	2021	2022	
A.	\$39,638	\$40,431	Full members, associate members, provisional members, and ordained persons from other denominations.
B.	\$35,623	\$36,335	Full-time local pastors who <i>have</i> completed the course of study.
C.	\$33,617	\$34,289	Full-time local pastors who <i>have not</i> completed the course of study.

VI. SUSTENTATION AID

Sustentation grants are available in cases of special need or financial emergencies to clergy who are 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 pastor in any one calendar year is \$2,500.

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 (IRS). This figure is posted on the Conference website, www.eocumc.com/finance. Flat fixed rates for mileage are subject to apportionments.
- B. A church or charge may have the option of prepaying an estimated mileage figure monthly. 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 (specific contact information may be excluded 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 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 Staff Parish Relations/Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the pastor.

- 1 G. When the pastor combines local charge business and personal business on the same trip, the
2 mileage attributed to the personal errands shall not be included in the reimbursable mileage.
3
- 4 H. Mileage should be paid by inviting charge when a pastor travels to another charge to perform
5 services at the request of the other charge's pastor.
6
- 7 I. Multiple church charges should divide travel monies in the same proportion as salary, utilities,
8 and other reimbursable expenses. Multiple travel logs must not be required.
9
- 10 J. Students who travel to the charge for weekend pastoral duties shall not include travel to and
11 from school as charge mileage. The charge shall reimburse for extra trips necessitated by
12 pastoral emergencies.





Applicants for Full Membership and Elder's Orders

Name	Rec'd Prov. Member	Current Appointment	Seminary
 Don Ackerman	2019	Crossroads UMC	MTSO
 Marelize Bruner	2019	Columbia UMC	MTSO
 Theodore Buehl	2015	Fitchville UMC	MTSO
 Mikayla Doecker	2019	Mentor UMC	Pittsburgh
 J. Harlen Rife	2019	Pearl Road UMC	MTSO
 Tina Siroki	2015	Trinity UMC Perry Heights	Ashland
 Ivy Smith	2018	Canfield UMC	United

Applicants for Full Membership and Deacon's Orders

Name	Rec'd Prov. Member	Current Appointment	Seminary
 Jennifer Lam	2018	Mercy Medical Health Center/Mentor UMC	Ashland

Applicants for Commissioning as Provisional Members – Elder Track

Name	Education	Current Appointment
 William Baker	United Theological Seminary	Avon UMC
 Sean McLeod	Methodist Theological School in Ohio	Woodlawn UMC
 Amy Vittorio	United Theological Seminary	Republic Trinity UMC
 Jennifer Whitmore	Methodist Theological School in Ohio	Mansfield Main Street UMC

Personnel Committee Report to Annual Conference 2021**Submitted by Susan Achberger, chairperson**

The Conference Personnel Committee is responsible for working with representatives from Conference committees, boards, and agencies to establish executive and professional leadership positions, to review requests by directors for support staff positions, and to set policies and procedures for the employment, evaluation, and supervision of all employees of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

We are aware of, and are in conversation about, the importance of providing meaningful compensation for highly qualified, experienced, and dedicated leadership. Adjustments to staffing are and will continue to be prioritized around missional and strategic needs in a very complex and transitional time in the life of the Church. East Ohio Conference staff at all levels are instrumental in fulfilling the mission and vision of the Conference recognizing that:

- Discipleship is our foundation.
- Covenant guides us.
- Connection strengthens us.
- Leadership moves us forward.

This conference year, the Rev. Dr. Gary George, assistant to the Bishop, and the Rev. Steven Court, director of Connectional Ministries, both announced their retirement. We are extremely grateful for Gary and Steve and for their years of dedicated, faithful service to the East Ohio Conference. The Personnel Committee is also appreciative of the guidance they have provided.

While we are saddened to see Gary and Steve retire, we are also excited to welcome two new members to their new Conference leadership roles in East Ohio. Effective July 1, 2021 the Rev. Ed Peterson will be appointed assistant to the Bishop and the Rev. Ed Fashbaugh will be appointed director of Connectional Ministries. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and will be praying for them as they transition into their new roles.

The Personnel Committee has no motions for this Annual Conference.

Please continue to be in prayer for God's assistance to our Conference directors and staff as they adjust to the wide variety of changes and concerns that they confront each day.

Leadership Committee Report to Annual Conference 2021**Submitted by Rev. Gordon Myers, chairperson**

The Leadership Committee is responsible for nominating persons who are elected by Annual Conference to serve on councils, boards, commissions, committees, and agencies. The committee is also responsible for reviewing and recommending structure changes of all councils, boards, commissions, and committees of the East Ohio Annual Conference

The Leadership Committee is composed of lay and clergy representatives from each district as well as representatives from the Commission On the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), the Commission on Religion & Race (CORR), young adults, youth, and the Board of Laity. The Committee met throughout the year in-person, by phone, and by digital conferencing – giving attention to specific areas of leadership in each meeting. Where possible, directors and chairs were included in

the meeting conversations. I am deeply appreciative of the support, service, and dedication of all who were part of this process.

The Leadership Committee has focused its deliberation on a prayerful process that serves to fulfill the mission and vision of the Conference. To that end, the Committee has been very intentional in gathering the names of persons who:

- are members of The United Methodist Church who support the mission and vision of the East Ohio Conference,
- have aptitude, skills, and capacity to serve in the complex environment and broad perspective needed for Conference leadership, and
- represent perspectives and experiences of new people, young people, and more diverse people.

All nominations in this report are made with consideration for inclusiveness as stated in ¶610.5 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*:

“In the nomination and election of the membership on councils, boards, and agencies of the annual conference, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (¶ 256.3), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general Church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches.”

If you have spelling corrections, editorial corrections, changes in district or ex-officio positions, or other items that do not require a vote of the Annual Conference, please email support@eocumc.com. If you have nomination suggestions for new members, are not able to actively participate in meetings, or request to be removed from leadership – please email the chair, director or staff support for the council, board, commission, or committee. This will provide the chair with names of persons who may or may not be nominated but can also support tasks, activities, events, or processes planned in the coming year.

Please note that Conference rules authorize the Leadership Committee to fill vacancies between sessions of Annual Conference. Places which are to be named (TBN) may already have possibilities identified but these persons have not yet confirmed acceptance of the nomination. These vacancies will be addressed at future meetings of the Leadership Committee.

I especially want to express gratitude to Bishop Tracy S. Malone for her leadership in guiding this process to focus on the mission and vision of this Conference.

On behalf of the Leadership Committee, I move the following:

1. TERMS OF OFFICE

- Terms of office for persons elected quadrennially (as required in *The Discipline*) begin on the date of this action by Annual Conference and end June 30, 2024.
- Persons serving ex-officio serve while holding a specific office or responsibility.
- Persons named or nominated by districts or other agencies serve for one year or until their successor is named.
- All other nominations as well as chairs named by the Bishop are from July 1, 2021 to June 30 of the year indicated (class). If no class is indicated, the term ends June 30, 2024.

2. CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES

Changes in leadership structure will be indicated with the notation “Structure Change” followed by the rationale.

- Annual Conference Program Committee
- Annual Conference Worship Committee
- Council on Young Adult Ministries (CYA)

3. ELECTION OF ALL PERSONS PRESENTED

All names presented in the Leadership Report to the Annual Conference as well as the Addendum to the Leadership Report.

LEADERSHIP REPORT TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In this report:

- “+name” indicates new nominations or ad-interim changes.
- “TBN” indicates “to be named.”
- “Structure Change” indicates a change in the membership structure.
- All other names renew or continue their term of office.
- Abbreviations:

CN – Canal District

OV – Ohio Valley District

FL – Firelands District

TR – Three Rivers District

MO – Mid-Ohio District

TW – Tuscarawas District

MV – Mahoning Valley District

SH – Southern Hills District

NC – North Coast District

WR – Western Reserve District

A) CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

1) Leadership Committee

PURPOSE: to recruit, train, nurture, support, and evaluate leaders in the annual conference and to review proposed structural changes to the annual conference leadership structure and bring them to the Annual Conference session for action. All Conference nominations are to be made with consideration for inclusiveness as stated in ¶610.5 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016*.

STRUCTURE: 36 members and two ex-officio members with voice; chair named by the Bishop, two lay persons and one clergy named by each district, the Conference lay leader; and one representative named by each of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on Religion & Race, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. The director of Connectional Ministries shall be an ex-officio member with voice and the assistant to the Bishop shall be an ex-officio member with vote.

Chair: Gordon Myers (2024)

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh

Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Nominated by Districts (yearly):

David Houser	CN	Lay	TBN	OV	Clergy
Ron Rinehart	CN	Lay	Sylvia Deaton	OV	Lay
TBN	CN	Clergy	Kathy Palmer	OV	Lay
Paul Wilson	FL	Clergy	Dennis Williams	SH	Clergy
Becky Tope	FL	Lay	TBN	SH	Lay
Danielle Herte	FL	Lay	Rhonda Stemmer	SH	Lay
Layton Broome	MO	Clergy	Susan Stevens	TR	Clergy

1	TBN	MO	Lay	Carole Burdette	TR	Lay
2	TBN	MO	Lay	Susan McCurdy	TR	Lay
3	Matthew Darrin	MV	Clergy	+Janet Zimmerman	TW	Clergy
4	TBN	MV	Lay	+Megan Myers	TW	Lay
5	TBN	MV	Lay	TBN	TW	Lay
6	Cynthia Theobald	NC	Clergy	TBN	WR	Clergy
7	Paul Sanicky	NC	Lay	Marcia Schettler	WR	Lay
8	TBN	NC	Lay	Mark Strang	WR	Lay

9

10 Named by Other Agencies:

11 TBN COSROW Blair Porter CCYM (2022)

12 TBN CORR

13

14 Ex-Officio with Vote:

15 Ed Peterson Assistant to Bishop

16 Kim Green Board of Laity

17

18 **2) Agenda, Rules and Administrative Process Committee (ARAP)**19 **PURPOSE:** to plan and order the business of the Annual Conference (BAC).20 **STRUCTURE:** 11 members: one clergy and two laypersons named by the Bishop; ex-officio with vote:21 assistant to the Bishop (serves as chair), Bishop, Conference secretary, *Journal* editor, chair of the

22 Annual Conference Program Committee, director of Connectional Ministries, director of

23 Communications, and district superintendent named by the Bishop.

24

25 Chair: Ed Peterson, Assistant to Bishop

26 Administrative Support: Melissa McGee

27

28 Named by the Bishop:

29 Steven Stultz Costello Clergy (2024)

30 Linda Crowell Lay (2024)

31 TBN Cabinet

32 Jerry Rinehart Lay (2024)

33

34 Ex-Officio with Vote:

35 Bishop Malone Bishop

36 Cynthia Patterson Conference Secretary

37 Brenda Vaccaro Journal Editor

38 TBN AC Program Chair (2021)

39 Ed Fashbaugh Director, Connectional Ministries

40 Rick Wolcott Director, Communications

41

42 **3) Annual Conference Program Committee**43 **PURPOSE:** plan all activities that are not part of the business sessions or worship of Annual Conference.

44 Arrange for facilities which will provide hospitality for all participants and their families during Annual

45 Conference.

46 **STRUCTURE:** 16 members: chair named by the Bishop; four classes with one clergy and one layperson

47 per class nominated by the Leadership Committee, elected by Annual Conference; ex-officio with vote:

48 director of Connectional Ministries; Conference secretary; person nominated by Conference lay leader;

49 chair Annual Conference Worship Committee. The Committee will name team leaders and team

50 members as needed.

STRUCTURE CHANGE: remove assistant to the Bishop and director of Communications as director of Connectional Ministries provides executive staff support. Bishop, assistant to the Bishop, and director of Communications will attend as needed.

Chair: TBN (2024)

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh

Administrative Support: TBN

Nominated by Leadership Committee:

Kristen Patt	Clergy (2022)	Matt Williamson	Clergy (2024)
Kathy Palmer	Lay (2022)	TBN	Lay (2024)
Tammy Kuntz	Clergy (2023)	+Ed Kovacik	Clergy (2025)
+Emily Sheetz	Lay (2023)	+Jonathan Stull	Lay (2025)

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Cynthia Patterson	Conference Secretary
Kim Green	Board of Laity
TBN	Worship Committee
Brenda Vaccaro	Registration, <i>Journal</i> editor

4) Annual Conference Worship Committee

PURPOSE: provide design and leadership for worship during Annual Conference, naming the organist, naming the choir director, and providing altar, stage and volunteer support for all worship services.

STRUCTURE: chair named by the Bishop; two persons nominated by the Board of Ministry (BOM), four classes of two persons each with four-year terms nominated by the Leadership Committee, elected by Annual Conference; ex-officio with vote: chair of Program Committee; director of Communications.

STRUCTURE CHANGE: remove assistant to the Bishop and director of Connectional Ministries as director of Communications provides executive staff support. Bishop, assistant to the Bishop, and director of Connectional Ministries will attend as needed.

Chair: TBN (2024)

Director, Communications: Rick Wolcott

Administrative Support: Brenda Vaccaro

Nominated by Leadership Committee:

TBN (2022)	Karen Graham (2024)
John C. Wilson (2022)	Jonah Mitchell (2024)
Kyle Gould (2023)	+Teresa Betts (2025)
+Susan Lausch (2023)	TBN (2025)

Named by Board of Ministry:

Dianne Tobey Covault	Andrew Scott
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Ex-Officio with Vote:

TBN	Chair, AC Program Committee
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5) Commission on Archives and History

PURPOSE: ¶641 *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016*: to preserve the records of the annual conference, to collect and preserve data relating to the organization and history of the Conference, to maintain an archival depository, to provide liaison with shrines, landmarks, to assist in planning appropriate historical observances within the Conference, to assist churches in preserving their records and compiling their histories, to work with ethnic congregations to develop and preserve the historical records of those congregations and antecedent conferences

STRUCTURE: 16 members: chair named by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference; one representative nominated by each district; two at-large nominated by Leadership Committee (quadrennial term). Conference historian named by Bishop. Ex-officio with vote: Bishop or assistant to Bishop; and archivist (nominated by Ohio Wesleyan University).

Chair: +Meg Sondey (2024)

Assistant to Bishop: Ed Peterson

Administrative Support: Melissa McGee

Nominated by Districts (yearly):

Deb Saito	CN	Sue Evans	OV
Carol Nelson-Burns	FL	Mollie Gerlach	SH
James MacDonald	MO	John Parr	TR
+TBN	MV	TBN	TW
Sandra Beard	NC	Kathy Fuller	WR

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Tracy S. Malone Bishop

Sharon Monigold Archivist

Nominated by Leadership Committee: (term ends 2024)

+Kerry King Mary Ann Stotts

Named by the Bishop:

Donald L. Trigg Conference Historian (No Max)

6) Committee on Episcopacy (COE)

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶637: to support the bishop of the area in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church.

STRUCTURE: 12 members: two persons named by the Bishop; seven at-large members nominated by the Leadership Committee and elected by the Annual Conference; ex-officio with vote: Conference lay leader and two persons from the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. The chair is elected by the Committee.

Chair: +Heidi Welch

Vice-Chair: +Laura Root

Bishop: Tracy S. Malone (Ed Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, as alternate)

Administrative Support: Melissa McGee

Named by the Bishop (2024):

Doug Arbaugh	Lay, Secretary	Darlene Robinson	Clergy
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Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024):

Mark Behnke	Lay	Laura Root	Lay, Vice-Chair
Dan Eggan	Clergy	+Christy Suffecool	Clergy
Cheryl Emrich	Lay	Heidi Welch	Clergy, Chair
Shawn George	Lay		

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Kim Green	Conference Lay Leader
Maggie Jackson	NCJCOE Representative, Lay – NCJ (term extended to 2022)
Gary George	NCJCOE Representative Clergy – NCJ (term extended to 2022)

Episcopal Residence Committee

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶638:* to provide for the care and maintenance of the episcopal residence.

STRUCTURE: three members: chairs of Conference Council on Finance & Administration, Board of Trustees, Conference Episcopacy Committee. All terms based on the term of office they represent.

Director, Financial & Administrative Services: Vera Rebrovich

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Dan Bryant	Chair, CCF&A
Randall May	Chair, Trustees
+Heidi Welch	Chair, Episcopacy

7) Personnel Committee

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶613.13:* to provide for uniform personnel practices and policies in the annual conference. To integrate the mission and vision of the annual conference into the process for hiring of annual conference-level staff; to establish policies and procedures for all annual conference-level professional and staff in matters of selection, termination, evaluation, performance review, salary schedule, benefit guidelines, and employment practices; to solicit applications for available professional positions at the annual conference level; to create position interview teams in cooperation with other Conference agencies; to receive the recommendation of position interview teams and make the appropriate hiring decisions for the given positions; to terminate an employee when necessary; to work in cooperation with the Conference Council on Finance & Administration in their Disciplinary responsibility for hiring and supervising the Conference treasurer/director of Financial & Administrative Services.

STRUCTURE: chair named by the Bishop; Bishop; vice-chair elected from the Committee membership; secretary elected from the Committee membership; seven persons representing CCOM, Board of Communications, CCFA, and Trustees; four members at-large with personnel management and/or administrative experience nominated by the Leadership Committee; ex-officio with voice: director of Connectional Ministries, director of Administrative Services, director of Communications; ex-officio with vote: Bishop or assistant to Bishop.

Chair: +Susan Achberger (2024)

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh
Administrative Support: Melissa McGee

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024):

Stephanie Bradford	Vice-Chair	+Marilyn Coney
Jill Centrello		Peggy Sutherin

Named by Other Agencies:

+Kim Green	CCOM	+Christine Bell	Board of Benefits
TBN	CCOM	Randall May	Trustees
Dan Bryant	CCFA	Steven Stultz Costello	Board of Communications

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone (Ed Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, as alternate)

Ex-Officio with Voice:

Vera Rebrovich Director, Financial & Administrative Services
Rick Wolcott Director, Communications

B) CLERGY LEADERSHIP**1) Board of Ministry (BOM)**

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶635:* the purpose of the BOM is to create a culture of call for all forms of ministry. The BOM recruits and credentials candidates and clergy in addition to recommending them for licensing and ordination. The BOM develops standards for continuing formation and regular evaluation.

STRUCTURE: up to 50 members named by the resident Bishop, elected by Annual Conference in the year following General Conference. Vacancies are filled by the Bishop after consultation with the chair of the Board. Detailed guidance for representational membership is provided in ¶635. The Cabinet representative serves yearly. The chair, registrars, executive committee and other leadership are elected from membership by the Board ¶635.c.

Chair: Jonathan Priebe (2024)

Administrative Coordinator: Cynthia Patterson

Executive Committee (2024)

Doug Winner	Vice-Chair, AM
Joseph Baker	Secretary
Hannah Tucker	Registrar, Full Membership
Nathan Howe	Registrar, Conference Relations
+Lisa Kropinak	Registrar, Provisional Associate Membership
Kimberly Arbaugh	Order of Elders
Linda McCowen	Order of Deacons
Jeri Johnson	Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (FAMLP)

Members (2024)

Will Fenton-Jones	Lay CN
Sue Denham	Lay WL
William Achberger	Lay MO
Mary Jayne Brown	Lay MV
Brian Sheetz	Lay NC, Scholarships and Grants
TBN	Lay OV
Connie Secrest	Lay SH
Jim Stoner	Lay TR
Avis Thrash	Lay TW
Laurie Babcock	Lay WR
Armando Arellano	

1	Seth Auman	
2	Dogba Bass	
3	Carolyn Berry	
4	Joseph Burkhardt	
5	Dianne Tobey Covault	
6	Robin Dillon	
7	Michael Grant	
8	Jeff Harrison	
9	Thomas Joyce	
10	+Allison LeBrun	
11	Karol Lewis	
12	David MacDonald	
13	Brian Oglesbee	
14	+Elizabeth Ortiz	
15	Vernon Palo	
16	Erin Porter	
17	Darlene Robinson	
18	Andrew Scott	Communications
19	DeWayne Smith	
20	Edna Stahl	
21	Ashley Steele	
22	Susan Stevens	
23	Ashwin Welch	Chair, Candidacy
24	+Rebecca Weamer	
25	Tammy Wilden	Psychological Assessments
26	Karen Wolcott	Candidacy Summit
27	Lu Ann Youngman	
28	TBN clergy	
29		
30	Ex-Officio with Vote:	
31	TBN	Cabinet
32		

2) Commission on Clergy Well-Being

PURPOSE: the primary task of the Commission on Clergy Well-Being is equipping clergy who are appointed to local churches or extension ministries with resources for the five dimensions of clergy well-being: spiritual, emotional, financial, physical, and social. This includes researching, educating, advocating, and communicating guidelines for how to access these resources.

STRUCTURE: chair, Cabinet liaison and Board of Ministry liaison named by the Bishop; three clergy nominated by the Leadership Committee, one each from the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. The Leadership Committee will consult with each of the Orders in considering names to be nominated in this process. The Commission may name or remove additional resource consultants as needed.

Chair: David Whitt (2024)

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh

Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Nominated by Leadership Committee: (2024)

Kimberly Arbaugh	Order of Elders
Linda McCowen	Order of Deacons
Steve Rice	Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors

Named by the Bishop:

Doug Lewis	Cabinet Liaison
DeWayne Smith	Board of Ministry Liaison (2024)

Resource Consultants:

The Commission may name or remove resource consultants as needed.

C) FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1) Council on Finance & Administration

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶611:* to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference.

STRUCTURE: 13 members: six lay persons, five clergy persons, nominated by the Leadership Committee; Board of Pensions representative, Conference lay leader; the chair, vice-chair and secretary are elected by the Council; ex-officio with voice: director Financial & Administrative Services, district superintendent, and director of Connectional Ministries; ex-officio with vote: Bishop or assistant to Bishop.

Chair: Dan Bryant (2024)

Director, Financial & Administrative Services: Vera Rebrovich
Administrative Support: Robin Whitacre

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Bill Young	Lay M	TBN	Lay M
Sue Rogers	Lay W, Vice-Chair	Dan Bryant	Clergy M, Chair
Vicky Kelley	Lay W	Steve M. Smith	Clergy M
Marcia Miller	Lay W	R. James Cooper	Clergy M, Secretary
Keith Kirkpatrick	Lay M	+Tina Siroki	Clergy W

Nominated by Other Agencies:

William Liming, Jr. Pensions

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone (Ed Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, as alternate)
Kim Green Board of Laity
Steven Court GCFA Board

Ex-Officio with Voice:

Bruce Hitchcock Cabinet
Ed Fashbaugh Director, Connectional Ministries

2) Board of Trustees

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶640 & ¶2512.1-7: to hold in trust for the benefit of the Conference any and all donations, bequests, and devices that may be given to the Board or Conference; to intervene and take all necessary legal steps to safeguard and protect the interests and rights of the Conference; to make to each session of the Annual Conference a full, true, and faithful report of its doings, of all funds, monies, securities, and property held in trust by it, and of its receipts and disbursements during the conference year.

STRUCTURE: 12 members: four classes of (recommended) three persons, two lay persons and one clergy person, in each class, nominated by the Leadership Committee and elected by the Annual Conference; ex-officio with voice: Bishop (assistant to the Bishop as alternate), Conference lay leader, Conference director of Administrative Services, and chancellor; ex-officio with vote: The chair is elected by the Board.

Chair: +Randall May (2024)

Director, Financial & Administrative Services: Vera Rebrovich

Administrative Support: Brenda Vaccaro

Nominated by Leadership Committee (terms are in classes):

Brian Amstutz	Clergy M (2022)	Ivy Smith	Clergy W (2024)
Bonnie Mitchell	Lay W (2022)	Gloria Brown	Lay W (2024)
Debbie Drew	Lay W (2022)	Brian Hanner	Lay M (2024)
Randall May	Clergy M (2023)	+Peggy Streiff	Clergy W (2025)
Mary Soirefman	Lay W (2023)	TBN	Lay W (2025)
Carla Ponikvar	Lay W (2023)	+Bill Harding	Lay M (2025)

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone (Ed Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, as alternate)

Ex-Officio with Voice:

Rex Miller	Chancellor
Kim Green	Lay Leader or designee
TBN	Cabinet

3) Board of Benefits

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶639.1; the Board shall have charge of the interests and work providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees within the annual conference.

STRUCTURE: eight-year terms arranged in classes, not less than 12 members one-third lay women, one-third lay men, and one-third clergy; one retired clergy member of the Annual Conference, all nominated by the Leadership Committee, one person nominated by the Commission on Religion & Race and elected by the Annual Conference; ex-officio with vote: Bishop and Conference lay leader; ex-officio with voice: one Cabinet representative, director of Financial & Administrative Services, director of Benefits & Human Resources. The chair is elected by the Board.

Chair: +William Liming Jr. (2024)

Director, Financial & Administrative Services: Vera Rebrovich

Director, Benefits & Human Resources: +Michelle Anderson

Administrative Support: Robin Whitacre

Nominated by Leadership Committee (terms are in classes):

William Liming, Jr.	Clergy M (2023)	Chair	Paul R. Turner	Clergy M (2026)
Holly Grant	Lay W (2023)		Erin Griffith	Lay W (2026)
Christine A. Bell	Clergy W (2023)		Mollie Brown	Clergy W (2027)
Carl Schleich	Lay M (2023)		Carol Rinehart	Lay W (2027)
Sylvester Huston	Lay M (2024)		David Palmer	Clergy M (2027)
Lisa Huston	Lay W (2024)		TBN	Lay M (2029)
Matthew Merriman	Clergy M (2025)		Barbara Yoost	Lay W (2029)

Nominated by Other Agencies:

Linda Crowell CORR

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone (Ed Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, as alternate)

Kim Green Board of Laity

Ex-Officio with Voice:

Edgar Brady Cabinet

4) Commission on Equitable Compensation

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶342, ¶614.1,e,f, ¶625, ¶807.20:* to recommend Conference standards for clergy support, administer funds to be used in minimum salary support, study needs for additional support within the Conference, recommend annually to the Conference a schedule of minimum salaries for all full-time pastors.

STRUCTURE: eight members: chair named by the Bishop; six at-large members in classes with an equal balance of lay and clergy with at least one clergy and lay person each from churches of fewer than 200 members, Nominated by the Leadership Committee; one district superintendent with vote; ex-officio with voice: director Financial & Administrative Services; ex-officio with vote: Bishop, assistant to the Bishop.

Chair: +Gloria Brown (2024)

Director, Financial & Administrative Services: Vera Rebrovich

Nominated by Leadership Committee:

Laura Coykendall	Lay (2022)	TBN	Lay (2024)
Jane Piehl	Clergy (2022)	Jim Winkler	Clergy (2024)
TBN	Lay (2023)	TBN	Lay (2025)
Harley Wheeler	Clergy (2023)	+Paula Koch	Clergy (2025)

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone (Ed Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop, as alternate)

Bruce Hitchcock Cabinet

D) COMMUNICATIONS

1) Board of Communications

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶646 & ¶613.4* the Board of Communications is a service agency of the annual conference with responsibilities for promotion and interpretation of the connectional life of the Church. The chair coordinates the efforts of the members, each of whom recruits communicators within their respective districts. The communicators serve the Conference in a variety of potential areas: informing the communications department of events and

human-interest stories within each district; writing for the Conference website, news, and/or Annual Conference; video production; photography; social media; etc.

STRUCTURE: 15 members: chair named by the Bishop, elected by the Annual Conference; one representative nominated by each district, four representatives nominated by the Leadership Committee; ex-officio with vote: assistant to the Bishop, director of Connectional Ministries, director of Communications.

Chair: Steven Stultz Costello (2024)

Director, Communications: Rick Wolcott

Administrative Support: Brenda Vaccaro

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Jeff Croft +David Rittgers

Lisa Herr Jason Snyder

Nominated by Districts (yearly):

Bradford Price	CN	TBN	OV
Paul Atkinson	FL	TBN	SH
Jennifer Darling-Mellott	MO	Ashley McMillin	TR
+Cole Williams	MV	TBN	TW
Bill Cook	NC	Carol Lingenfelter	WR

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Ed Peterson Assistant to the Bishop

Ed Fashbaugh Director, Connectional Ministries

E) COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

1) Conference Council on Ministries (CCOM)

PURPOSE: as part of the total mission of the Church, facilitate the Church's program life in the annual conference. The council's task is to be responsible for the development, administration, and evaluation of the program of the annual conference and to encourage coordinate, and support the Conference agencies, districts, and local churches in their ministry and various programs in accordance with the mission of The United Methodist Church.

STRUCTURE: 48 members: the resident Bishop as chair; vice-chair named by the Bishop; the Conference lay leader; the Conference secretary; two district superintendents named by the Bishop; 10 lay persons, one from each district; the chair or representative of the following boards, committees, agencies or teams: Congregational Vitality, Multicultural Vitality, Religion & Race, Church & Society, Commission on Clergy Well-Being, Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, Status and Role of Women, Council on Youth Ministries, Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Spiritual Formation and Christian Education, Camps & Retreat Ministries, Missions, Funding Evaluation, Stewardship, Communications, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women; one additional each from: Conference Council on Youth Ministries, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women; one person representing Ministry with Older Adults; ex-officio with vote: assistant to the Bishop, members of the General Council on Ministries and the Jurisdictional Council on Ministries (Mission Council); ex-officio with voice: director of Connectional Ministries, CCOM program directors, director of Communications, director of Financial & Administrative Services, and a representative from Conference Council on Finance & Administration.

Chair: Bishop Tracy S. Malone

Vice-Chair: Kim Green (2024)

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh
 Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Nominated by Districts (yearly):

Pam Varga	CN	Sue Rogers	OV
Dave Broski	FL	Clayton Coffey	SH
Mandy Rocks	MO	Sharon Mozena	TR
Deb Anthony	MV	TBN	TW
Sandra Beard	NC	TBN	WR

Commission, Board, or Committee Chairs (or designee of the chair)

David Whitt	Commission on Clergy Well-Being
Lorrin Radzik	Commission on Status and Role of Women (COSROW)
Stephanie Tennant	Board of Congregational Development
Kay Low	Board of Missions
Beth Wilterdink	Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries
Carrie Antczak	Spiritual Formation and Christian Education Committee
David MacDonald	Board of Higher Education
Liz Piatt	Board of Multicultural Vitality
Tina Nees	Commission on Religion & Race (CORR)
Sheena Cameron	Ethnic Local Church
Michael Farmer	Church & Society
Kyle Gould	OCUIR
Steven Stultz Costello	Board of Communications

Named by Other Agencies:

Blair Porter	Chair, CCYM (2021)
Terrell McCann	Vice-Chair, CCYM (2021)
TBN	UM Men President
TBN	UM Men Representative
+Judy Kidder	UM Women President
TBN	UM Women Representative

Named by the Bishop:

TBN	Cabinet
Cara Stultz Costello	Cabinet
TBN	East Ohio Representative to NCJ Mission Council (2024)
TBN	Funding Evaluation Team (2024)
TBN	Stewardship Team (2024)
TBN	Ministry with Older Adults

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Kim Green	Conference Lay Leader
Cynthia Patterson	Conference Secretary
+Ed Peterson	Assistant to the Bishop

Ex-Officio with Voice:

TBN	Director, Congregational Vitality
Gary Jones	Director, Spiritual Formation
Kaye Wolfinger	Director, Young People's Ministries
Will Fenton-Jones	Director, Multicultural Vitality
Kathy Dickriede	Director, Missions & Community Engagement
Rick Wolcott	Director, Communications
Vera Rebrovich	Director, Financial & Administrative Services
Dan Bryant	Chair, CCF&A

CCOM Executive Committee

PURPOSE: provides operational support for CCOM and a process for reviewing contingency requests in the Ministries and Mission funding process. All recommendations and actions of the Executive Committee are delegated by and reported to CCOM at its regular meetings.

STRUCTURE: the CCOM Executive Committee is composed of the Bishop, assistant to the Bishop, CCOM vice-chair, director of Connectional Ministries, treasurer, and Conference lay leader.

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone	Chair
Ed Peterson	Assistant to the Bishop
Ed Fashbaugh	Director, Connectional Ministries
Vera Rebrovich	Director, Financial & Administrative Services
Kim Green	Vice-Chair and Conference Lay Leader

CCOM Representative to North Central Jurisdiction Mission Council

PURPOSE: provide for the development of missions & ministries within the North Central Jurisdiction.

STRUCTURE: a Conference representative named by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference.

TBN

2) Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶644* inform the status and role of all women in the total life of the Conference; to initiate cooperation with United Methodist Women at the annual conference level, and other levels as appropriate, in order to achieve full participation of women in decision making structures.

STRUCTURE: 15 members: chair named by the Bishop, three members nominated by the Leadership Committee, all these proceeding elected by Annual Conference; one representative from United Methodist Women; one representative from each district; one representative nominated by Clergy Women's Association.

Chair: Lorrin Radzik (2024)

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh
Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Dianne Tobey Covault
Hyeran Yu
TBN

Nominated by Districts (yearly):

Kris Patt	CN	TBN	OV
Sheryl Seitz	FL	TBN	SH
TBN	MO	TBN	TR
+Elizabeth Weed	MV	Jacob Heskett	TW
Heidi Welch	NC	Jill Scott	WR

Nominated by Other Agencies:

TBN	UMW
Lenore Robinson	Clergy Women's Association
Dianne Tobey Covault	BOM

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone	GCOSROW
Sandra Lutz	GCOSROW

F) LAY LEADERSHIP**1) Board of Laity**

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶631 and ¶1101-1126:* to foster an awareness of the role of laity both within the local congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world in achieving the mission of the Church; to develop and promote stewardship of time, talent, and possessions within the annual conference in cooperation with the Conference Council on Ministries. The Board shall relate to the lay servant program and to the organized lay groups in the Conference, such as the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Young Adults, and United Methodist Youth, and shall support their work and help them coordinate the activities of the organized laity of the Conference.

STRUCTURE: the Conference lay leader (chair); associate Conference lay leader; the district lay leaders; three persons nominated by the Leadership Committee; two youth nominated by the Leadership Committee; the director of Lay Servant Ministries; the associate director of Lay Servant Ministries; the presidents of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Council on Youth Ministries, and two representatives each from United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Council on Youth Ministries, one district superintendent; the director of Connectional Ministries; the resident Bishop.

Chair: Kim Green (2024) Conference Lay Leader

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh

Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Named by the Bishop:

TBN	Conference Associate Lay Leader
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District Lay Leaders (yearly):

Liz Piatt	CN	Douglas Arbaugh	OV
Rick Hatton	FL	+Rhonda Stemmer	SH
Don Burdsall	MO	Michael Hammond	TR
Cheryl Emrich	MV	+Matthew Myers	TW
Susan Achberger	NC	John C. Wilson	WR

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Mary Holloway	Blair Porter	Youth
Sandra Beard	Zoe Walters	Youth
TBN		

Ex-Officio:

Amanda Armstrong	Director, LSM	TBN	Representative, UMM
Suzette Tidrick	Associate Director, LSM	Blair Porter	President/Chair, CCYM
Jim Trautman	President, UMM	TBN	Representative, CCYM
TBN	Representative, UMM	TBN	Representative, CCYM
TBN	Representative, UMM	Bishop Tracy S. Malone	
+Judy Kidder	President, UMW	TBN	Cabinet
Susan Huston	Representative, UMW		

2) Lay Servant Ministries Committee

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶266-268:* to support, promote and train people in Lay Servant Ministries, to set criteria and guidelines for district committees on Lay Servant Ministries, to develop Lay Servant courses and approve courses developed by district committees, and to organize Conference-wide Lay Servant Ministry events.

STRUCTURE: 26 members: Conference director and associate director of Lay Servant Ministries, Conference lay leader (all named by the Bishop); 10 district directors or their designee; 10 at-large representatives nominated by the Lay Servant Committee; two youth nominated by CCYM; the director of Connectional Ministries.

Chair: Amanda Armstrong (2024), Conference Director, Lay Servant Ministries
 Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh
 Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Nominated by the Bishop:

Suzette Tidrick (2024) Conference Associate Director, LSM, Certified Lay Ministries Coordinator

District Director (named yearly by districts):

+Lydia Stahl	CN	Jerry Rinehart	OV
Sue Denham	FL	Linda Morrow	SH
Sharon Sours	MO	Deb & Steven Gilson	TR
TBN	MV	Olivia Bradley	TW
Michael Kelley	NC	Cathy McIlvaine	WR

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024):

Mell Felder	Peggy Sutherin
Patty Maag	TBN
Ronald McIlvaine	TBN
Ron Rinehart	TBN
Nancymae Scheurer	TBN

Nominated by Other Agencies:

TBN	Board of Laity	TBN	CCYM
TBN	Cabinet	TBN	CCYM

G) CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

1) Board of Congregational Development

PURPOSE: to creatively increase congregational vitality in East Ohio in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our vision is to inspire, equip, and empower local church leadership to risk bold and innovative ministry. The core values of the Board of Congregational Development are leadership training, financial resourcing, congregational networking and promoting new work. It also serves as the equivalent structure permitted by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶633.5 parish and community development. This Board's main function is governance and responsibilities including creating an overall strategy for strengthening the ministry of the local church in meeting the needs of communities or regions and to maintain financial oversight and accountability for the achievement of the Board's objectives.

STRUCTURE: 15 members: chairperson, named by the Bishop; 12 at-large members nominated by the Leadership Committee and elected by the Annual Conference, one Cabinet representative, ex-officio with voice: director of Congregational Vitality.

Chair: Stephanie Tennant (2024)

Director, Congregational Vitality: TBN

Administrative Support: TBN

Nominated by Leadership Committee:

Jack Steele	(Class of 2022)	Connor Prusha	(Class of 2024)
Wendy Reynolds	(Class of 2022)	William Wendell	(Class of 2024)
Robert Mitchell	(Class of 2022)	Missy Diekman	(Class of 2024)
Georgette Gaston	(Class of 2023)	TBN	(Class of 2025)
Steven Petrolewics	(Class of 2023)	TBN	(Class of 2025)
David Houser	(Class of 2023)	TBN	(Class of 2025)

Ex-Officio with Vote:

TBN

Cabinet

H) MULTICULTURAL VITALITY

1) Board of Multicultural Vitality

PURPOSE: the Board of Multicultural Vitality will provide governance leadership to the functional areas of Multicultural Vitality: Commission on Religion & Race (CORR), Church & Society, Native American Awareness, Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR) and Ethnic Local Church Concerns. These areas work collaboratively to meet the requirement articulated in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶629, ¶632, ¶642, ¶643, ¶654, and ¶655. The Board of Multicultural Vitality will use a one-board model to govern, manage budget processes, and establish leadership, teams, and committees as needed. This one-board model will allow for adaptive leadership in managing the functional responsibilities monthly while providing two annual training opportunities in the intersectional areas of racial and social justice. This one-board model will also provide opportunity for increased lay involvement. Each board member will lead a team that supports one of the functional areas. The teams will involve persons who participate in Multicultural Vitality events and want to engage in the work.

STRUCTURE: chair to be named by the Bishop, one Cabinet representative, Board members nominated by the Leadership Committee with specific responsibilities of focus; ex-officio with vote: one member named by each of the racial/ethnic caucuses recognized by the Connectional Table; ex-officio with voice:

director of Multicultural Vitality. Individual membership for each of these areas will be determined by the Board of Multicultural Vitality rather than elected by Annual Conference.

Chair: Liz Piatt (2024)

Director, Multicultural Vitality: Will Fenton-Jones

Administrative Support: TBN

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Tina Nees CORR

Michael Farmer Church & Society

Sheena Cameron Ethnic Local Church Concerns

David Hull-Frye Native American Awareness Committee

Kyle Gould OCUIR

Racial/Ethnic Caucuses Relating to Multicultural Vitality:

Marc Tibbs Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR)

TBN Native American International Caucus (NAIC)

TBN National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM)

TBN Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans (MARCHA)

Named by the Bishop:

Nestor Nazario Cabinet

I) YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

1) Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM)

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶649:* to help develop UM teen leaders. The teens on CCYM get leadership training with hands-on experience as they plan events for local churches at the Conference level. These events help to empower the teens across the Conference to be Christian leaders in their own churches, communities, and schools.

STRUCTURE: Executive Committee elected by CCYM consisting of chair, vice-chair, secretary, chaplain, production coordinator, and five other members as well as the director of Young People's Ministries. District Representation nominated by CCYM rules.

Chair: Blair Porter (2021)

Director, Young People's Ministries: Kaye Wolfinger

Administrative Support: TBN

Executive Committee (2021)

Terrell McCann Vice Chair

Anna Lowers Secretary/Treasurer

Andrew Tope Chaplain

Angela Wright Adult

Stephon Poulton Adult

2) Board of Higher Education and Collegiate Christian Ministries (Higher Ed.)

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶634:* to implement and promote the United Methodist ministries in higher education which are supported by the general church and those specifically related to the Conference; to recommend policies guiding the Conference in its program of ministry on higher education; to train and provide resources for district committees

and local church work areas of higher education and campus ministry; to apprise United Methodists of their historic commitment to, and present mission in, higher education; etc.

STRUCTURE: chair named by the Bishop; eight committee members, nominated by the Leadership Committee, all elected by the Annual Conference, director of Young People's Ministries ex-officio.

Chair: David MacDonald (2024)

Director, Young People's Ministries: Kaye Wolfinger

Administrative Support: TBN

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Liz Piatt

Hoyte Wilhelm

Jane Fleischer

Clyde Lepley

Brenda Widder

Micah Holland

John Partridge

Tim Morrison

3) Council on Young Adult Ministries (CYA)

STRUCTURE CHANGE: CYA ended in 2020 as the persons involved prefer to operate as a network rather than a nominated council.

J) SPIRITUAL FORMATION

1) Spiritual Formation & Christian Education Committee

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶630.2:* develop and promote a Conference program of Christian education that gives children, youth, young adults, and adults a knowledge of and experience in the Christian faith as motivation for Christian service in the Church, the community, and the world etc.; to promote the development of the devotional life throughout the Conference.

STRUCTURE: 12 members: chair named by the Bishop, 11 committee members nominated by the Leadership Committee, all elected by Annual Conference. Director of Spiritual Formation and Media Center coordinator are ex-officio with voice.

Chair: Carrie Antczak (2024)

Director, Spiritual Formation: Gary Jones

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Lauren Clawson Lisa Richards

Kira Holchin Ruth Roth

James Lewis Pat Singelyn

Linda McCowen TBN

Pamela Monteith TBN

Patty Neidert

Ex-Officio with Voice:

Amy George Media Center Coordinator

2) Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries

PURPOSE: establishes the policies that guide, promote, and evaluate East Ohio Camps & Retreat Ministries in accord with the mission and vision of the East Ohio Annual Conference as permitted by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶610.

STRUCTURE: 15 persons: chair named by the Bishop, 12 board members are nominated by the Conference Leadership Committee and elected by the Annual Conference. One Conference Trustee representative and one Cabinet representative shall be nominated by their respective bodies. Ex-officio member with voice will include the director of Spiritual Formation/Camps & Retreat Ministries.

Chair: Kathryn "Beth" Wilterdink (2024)

Director, Spiritual Formation: Gary Jones

Administrative Support: Margaret Nichols

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

Marci Bailey	Tal Lewis
David Collier	Erin Mahaffey
Ellyn Dunlap	Sarah Ring
Abbey Ernst	Ben Wilde
Marsha Haas	Emily Young
Allison LeBrun	TBN

Nominated by Other Agencies:

Brian William Amstutz	Representative, Conference Trustees
Doug Lewis	Cabinet

K) MISSIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**1) Board of Missions**

PURPOSE: to perform the functions as outlined in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶633: that are not assigned to Mission Awareness Committee and the Board of Congregational Vitality.

STRUCTURE: chair and Conference secretary of Global Ministries named by the Bishop; the chairs of Health & Welfare Committee, Mission Awareness Committee, and Disaster Response Committee; the Mission coordinator of Education and Interpretation of United Methodist Women; any members of the General Board of Missions (GBGM); all team leaders created by the Board of Missions to accomplish its purpose.

Chair: Kay Low (2024)

Director, Connectional Ministries: Ed Fashbaugh

Director, Missions & Community Engagement: Kathy Dickriede

Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Ex-Officio with Vote:

Georgette Gaston	Chair, Health & Welfare
Bruce Becker	Chair, Mission Awareness
Tom King	Chair, Disaster Response
+Emma Dixon	Education & Interpretation, UMW
Dan C. Bryant	Member, General Board of Missions (2022)
Karen Kilgo	United Methodist Association (Team Leader)

1 Named by the Bishop (2024):

2 Kevin Schaner Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM)

3 4 **2) Health & Welfare Committee**

5 **PURPOSE:** *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶632.4: as United Methodists,
6 we are committed to creating abundant health for all – a global connection striving for mental, physical,
7 and spiritual well-being. The Health & Welfare Committee resources and equips United Methodists in
8 congregations, extension ministries, and covenant institutions that address concerns for the spiritual,
9 mental, and physical wellbeing of the communities they serve. This will also include oversight for the
10 Golden Cross offerings as well as historic covenant relationships.

11 **STRUCTURE:** chair named by the Bishop; DisAbility Awareness team leader named by the Bishop; five
12 members nominated by the Leadership Committee, 10 members nominated by each of the ministries
13 funded in the Board of Missions/Missions and Ministries budget as well as historical institutions in
14 covenant relationship with the East Ohio Conference.

15
16 Chair: Georgette Gaston (2024)

17 Director, Missions & Community Engagement: Kathy Dickriede

18 Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

19
20 Nominated by Leadership Committee:

21 TBN TBN

22 TBN TBN

23 TBN

24
25 Nominated by Other Agencies:

26 Chanetta Yancey Calvary Mission

27 David Parry Copeland Oaks

28 Darla Schnegg Epworth Center

29 Sherri Buehl Flat Rock Homes

30 Brett Bartels Heart 4 the City

31 Jim Szakacs Nehemiah Mission

32 Andrea O'Brien Ohio Guidestone

33 +Amanda Miller Otterbein Marblehead

34 Ashley Steele Urban Mission

35 Rachelle Milner West Side Community House

36
37 Named by the Bishop (2024):

38 Karen Kilgo Team Leader, DisAbility Awareness

39 40 **3) Mission Awareness Committee**

41 **PURPOSE:** *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* ¶633.4, ¶633.5: cooperate with
42 the General Board of Missions in its program outside the United States to identify with all who are
43 alienated and dispossessed and to assist them in achieving their full human development; to cultivate
44 Advance Special gifts; to develop and implement relationships and church financial support of
45 Conference mission projects and programs, health and welfare ministries.

46

STRUCTURE: eight members: chair named by the Bishop; two members, nominated by the Leadership Committee; 10 members nominated by each district; the UMW Mission coordinator, all elected by Annual Conference. The director of Missions & Community Engagement; the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries is an ex-officio member with vote.

Chair: Bruce Becker (2024)

Director, Missions & Community Engagement: Kathy Dickriede

Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

Nominated by Leadership Committee (2024)

TBN

TBN

District Representatives (named yearly):

Jennifer Dyer	CN	Ashley Steele	OV
Ruth Brown	FL	Lee Ann Dunlap	SH
Amy Barr & +Stan Wertz	MO	Lauren Clawson	TR
Kathryn Adams	MV	Pam Gum & Kimberly Vanoster	TW
TBN	NC	+Pat Singelyn	WR

Nominated by Other Agencies:

Mary Lou Henneman UMW

Ex-Officio with Vote (2024):

Kevin Schaner Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (CSGM)

4) United Methodist Volunteers in Missions (UMVIM)

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶633.6:* to equip mission teams and coordinate Volunteers In Mission ministries

STRUCTURE: a team leader and members nominated by the Board of Missions.

Director, Missions & Community Engagement: Kathy Dickriede

Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

5) Disaster Response Committee

PURPOSE: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 ¶633.4.b:* provide preparedness training, disaster assessment and coordination for supporting local churches, districts, and Conference UMVIM teams responding to disasters. The primary focus is preparedness for, and assessment of, needs created by disasters within the Conference. An additional focus is basic and advance training for UMCOR certification of individuals participating on UMVIM Early Response Teams, UMVIM Long-Term Recovery Teams, and other specializations. Although the Disaster Response Committee provides training, all ERT work teams fall under the responsibility of UMVIM.

STRUCTURE: members named by the Bishop: chair, Ohio VOAD representative, Emotional & Spiritual Care team leader; the director of Connectional Ministries serves as staff support and as the Conference

Disaster Response coordinator; district coordinator(s) of Disaster Response nominated by the district superintendent; ex-officio with vote: Cabinet representative, the director of Missions & Community Engagement and UMCOR-certified Early Response trainers.

Chair: +Tom King (2024)

Disaster Response Coordinator: Ed Fashbaugh, Director, Connectional Ministries

Director, Missions & Community Engagement: Kathy Dickriede

Administrative Support: Melanie Thomas

District Coordinators of Disaster Response

Mike Woodward	CN
Dennis Dendinger	FL
Stan Wertz and Garland Harvey	MO
Bob Catchpole	MV
Bill Cook	NC
Robert Carson	OV
Karen Elliott and Rick Carpenter	SH
+Matt Anderson	TR
Tom Romey	TW
Mike Williams and Vern & Lynn Kempf	WR

Named by the Bishop:

William Sutherin	Representative to Ohio VOAD
Cindy Harvel	Team Leader, Emotional & Spiritual Care
TBN	Cabinet

UMCOR-Certified Early Response Team (ERT) Trainers:

Jason Frazer
Michael Woodward

Board of Benefits Report to Annual Conference 2021

Submitted by Michelle Anderson, director of Benefits & Human Resources

This report has been reduced from 18 pages to four pages for the purposes of the 2021 *Pre-Conference Workbook*. Only sections of the full report that need to be presented to Annual Conference are in this limited edition.

Note: The Board's report uses an ellipsis which is a series of three dots (...) that indicates an intentional omission of a section from a text without altering its original meaning. Therefore, upon seeing the ellipsis understand that a paragraph(s) or a section(s) is not in this year's Board of Benefits workbook report for Annual Conference. The complete Board of Benefits report will be published in *The Conference Journal*.

I. Pensions

A. ...

- 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 **\$956** for **2022** annuity year. The Past Service Pension Rate (PSPR) for **2022** shall be **1.56%** of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The PSPR for **2021** is **\$937** at **1.57%** of the CAC.

...

C. Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

1. ...

For 2021 the CAC is \$59,740; therefore for 2022, part-time local pastors with plan compensation less than \$29,870 are not eligible for CRSP.

For **2022** the CAC is **\$61,298**, therefore for **2022**, part-time local pastors with plan compensation less than **\$30,649** are not eligible for CRSP.

...

II. Health Care Program

...

A. Health Care Benefits Enrollment for Members

...

As of January 1, 2018, the Conference partnered 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 conferences and employer groups.

B. Health Care Funding

1. As of January 1, 2018, health care coverage will be with HealthFlex, which is a fully-insured medical benefit plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield.
2. The following health care premiums are based on current data and may be changed as needed:

a) The 2021 monthly premiums for active lay employees are:

Participant only - \$769 (\$9,288 year).
Participant plus one - \$1,461 (\$17,532 year).
Participant plus family - \$2,000 (\$24,000 year).

The 2022 monthly premiums for active lay employees is:

Participant only - \$777 (\$9,288 year).
Participant plus one - \$1,476 (\$17,712 year).
Participant plus family - \$2,020 (\$24,240 year).

b) The 2021 monthly premiums for retirees* are:

Participant only (less than age 65) - \$769 (\$9,180 year).
Participant only (age 65 & over) Medicare required - \$300 (\$3,600 year).

The 2022 monthly premiums for retirees* are:

Participant only (less than age 65) - \$777 (\$9,228 year).

Participant only (age 65 & over) Medicare required - \$300 (\$3,600 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.

NOTE: Based on the Conference policy stated in C.6; most retirees premium-share at 30% of the above rates (30% is the minimum):

Less than age 65: \$233.10 per month (\$2,797.20 year)

Age 65 & over: \$90 per month (\$1,080 year).

c) The 2021 clergy flat rate premium is \$1,512 (\$18,144 year).

The 2022 clergy flat rate premium is \$1,528.

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, assistant to the Bishop, and district superintendents. Each pastoral charge shall be billed an amount for health care coverage where applicable. (*Not applicable to part time local pastors at 75%).

...

5. The apportionment for benefits (Fund III) for 2022 will be \$1,153,168, which is the same amount for 2021. Fund III primarily supports retiree health care for eligible retirees, their spouses and surviving spouse who began their service on or after January 1, 1982.

X. East Ohio Funds With The General Board of Pensions

Per action by the 1994 Annual Conference, the Board of Pensions will include in its 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.

...

Deposit Account - 10018001

...

Beginning Balance 1/1/2020	\$17,079.54
----------------------------	-------------

Total Deposit Account at 12/31/2020	\$113,469.09
-------------------------------------	--------------

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

...

Pension & Health Care ReserveBeginning Balance **1/1/2020** **\$16,145,643.72****2020 Activity**Investment **Gains** at WespathNet **2020** change **\$2,939,900.90**Total Pension & Health Care Reserve at **12/31/2020** **\$19,085,544.62****Deposit Account – Healthcare Reserve**

...

Healthcare ReserveBeginning Balance **1/1/2020** **\$65,648.88****2020 Activity**Investment Gains at **Wespath**Net **2020** change **\$11,935.56**Total Health Care Reserve at **12/31/2020** **\$77,484.44****Deposit Account – David Charles Boyd Trust**

...

Boyd TrustBeginning Balance **1/1/2020** **\$2,940,528.43****2020 Activity**

Investment Gains at Wespath

Net **2020** change **\$535,272.24**Total Boyd Trust at **12/31/2020** **\$4,203,753.21****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 for 2021 written by the Managing Actuary of Wespath Benefits & Investments, in Glenview, Illinois, is presented below:

East Ohio Conference (180) 2021 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)	Betsy Stewart	08/17/2020
Conference Treasurer	Vera Rebrovich	08/17/2020
Conference Board of Pension Chair	William Liming	08/17/2020
Council on Finance and Administration Chair	Betsy Stewart	08/17/2020



Opinion on **East Ohio Conference 2021** Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

Wespath Benefits and Investments

Wespath Benefits and Investments
1901 W Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025

2021 RESOLUTIONS**Resolution 2021-01: "Condemning QAnon and Walking Alongside Its Victims"****General Church Budget Implications: None****East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes****Rationale:**

QAnon is a dangerous conspiracy theory that is centered on unsubstantiated and antisemitic conspiracy theories, apocalyptic predictions, and false prophecies. Its addictive and salacious ideology has infiltrated our churches, ended relationships, torn apart families, and is a threat to the peace of the society in which we live. Yet those who have fallen prey to this "spiritual pandemic" require our compassion, respect, and empathy if they are to heal from the deep wounds QAnon has inflicted.

Whereas: a recent poll conducted by the conservative American Enterprise Institute found that 27% of white Evangelicals and 18% of white Catholics surveyed believe that QAnon theories are "mostly" or "completely" accurate. The poll also reported that QAnon has the support of 12% of non-Christians, 11% of Latino Catholics and 7% of Black Protestants;

Whereas: another survey by Denison University Political Science Professor Paul Djupe and colleagues, looked at a representative sample of more than 1,700 Americans and found that 50% of white evangelical Christians either "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with QAnon beliefs;

Whereas: ancient Romans spread rumors of the "Thyestean Banquets," saying that Christians committed acts of incest and cannibalism at our communion rituals as a pretext for persecution;

Whereas: for centuries, Christians have spread racist canards that Jews were murdering children and secretly plotting to take over the world as a pretext for persecution;

Whereas: conspiratorial thinking is destructive to real people's lives;

Whereas: QAnon is built upon the false teaching of Christian nationalism and the idea that God has chosen America as a new holy land and anointed America as God's chosen people;

Whereas: QAnon is built on conspiracy theories, some of which are quite grotesque and antisemitic, and it often masquerades as a Christian "holy war;"

Whereas: QAnon employs spiritual language to appeal to Christians, yet takes the Lord's name in vain in order to advance lies and a violent political ideology;

Whereas: QAnon injects transcendental meaning and purpose into the lives of regular folks every day, by convincing people they are central players in a war for the soul of America;

Whereas: conspiracy theories like QAnon have corroded the very fabric of family and friendships while defying the basic principles of Christianity;

Whereas: we are commanded not to bear false witness against our neighbors;

Whereas: Paul commands Timothy, "Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies, for you know they breed quarrels;"

Whereas: Mathew 24:4-5 says, “And Jesus answered them, ‘See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray;”

Whereas: Christians have an incredible opportunity right now to be a witness to a deeply polarized society and the power Holy Spirit to help us maintain our unity (Ephesians 4:3) in the midst of our differing opinions.

Whereas: many ridicule and deride those who believe in QAnon, only driving them deeper into isolation and falsehood;

Therefore, be it resolved that the people of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church renew our baptismal and confirmation vows “to reject evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever form they present themselves” by declaring that QAnon is incompatible with the Christian faith.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the people of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church ask Bishop Tracy S. Malone to form a task group, led by a district superintendent and including both clergy and lay members of her choosing, to investigate the spread of QAnon in our congregations, present their findings to her, offer recommendations for means of accountability for clergy who spread QAnon from their pulpits, and offer recommendations for means of support for congregations and individuals who have been harmed by this destructive heresy.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the people of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church ask our clergy to inform their congregations about the dangers of QAnon and urge those in their congregations to have empathy and compassion for those who have believed QAnon’s lies, walking beside them in humility and grace, knowing that we are all sinners who have been saved by grace.

Submitted by: Rev. Derek Kubilus, Bill Watts, East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network, and the office of Multicultural Vitality.

Resolution 2021-02: “Covenant to Continue Our Work for Racial Justice”

General Church Budget Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

Background:

On May 28, 2020, more than 700 East Ohio Conference clergy and laity signed an Anti-Racism Commitment and Covenant written by Bishop Tracy S. Malone in conjunction with the Extended Cabinet. The covenant expressed “repentance for our silence in the face of the racially motivated brutality that is pervasive throughout the nation.” In September, our 2020 Virtual Annual Conference passed Resolution 2020-01 by 91% affirmation: “A Call for East Ohio United Methodists to Address Racism in our Churches and Communities.” Have our communities – specifically the people and UMC churches of East Ohio completed our work in addressing racism? Racial justice (and injustices) have indeed been discussed, examined, and actions initiated. In short, we **HAVE** made progress, but we are not yet done with the work God calls us to do – as Christians, as United Methodists, and as our Wesleyan doctrines and heritage of social justice define and articulate.

1 **Whereas:** local, district, and Conference-wide studies using texts, videos, film, podcasts, etc. addressing
2 aspects of racism were conducted throughout 2020, virtually and socially distanced;

3
4 **Whereas:** the “Resisting Racism” Facebook site initiated by social justice leadership in East Ohio has
5 sustained multiple daily postings of resources, news items as they emerged, and provided a forum to
6 educate, share information, and connect to others in and beyond our Conference;

7
8 **Whereas:** numerous local, district, and Conference-wide events, panels, actions, and “challenges”
9 provided information and resources, and inspired events;

10
11 **Whereas:** East Ohio United Methodists in relationship to and in conjunction with other peoples of faith
12 have studied, learned, and taken actions to broaden our collective understanding of the history of
13 racism and race-specific harm throughout U.S. history;

14
15 **Whereas:** the people of the East Ohio UMC, along with others, have expanded our knowledge,
16 understanding, and insight into racial injustice during the many initiatives inspired and offered in 2020;

17
18 **Whereas:** our collective engagement and energy has accomplished much towards the stated goal of
19 resisting racism by efforts to understand its history, to recognize and celebrate previously under-
20 recognized accomplishments of people of color, and to explore the residual impacts of racism and racial
21 injustices on Black, Indigenous, and other people of color in Ohio communities and community resource
22 distribution;

23
24 **Therefore, be it resolved,** now is NOT the time to abandon that work and its progress, but to sustain it
25 and move to the next level that racial justice requires: *repentance for the sins of ancestors (and*
26 *ourselves where exposed and evident), because repentance is necessary for reconciliation, as a mean to*
27 *and process of restorative justice, and what God has persistently called those who identify who ourselves*
28 *as “the people of God” to do. SPECIFICALLY:*

29
30 *to continue studying, privately and in groups, to more-fully recognize under-acclaimed contributions of
31 Black, Indigenous and people of color whose skills contributed to building America;

32
33 *to seek to recognize harm that has been done, whether by omission or commission, in our society as
34 well as within ourselves, and even our churches, that has caused suffering and harm to and among our
35 Black, Indigenous, and differently colored sisters and brothers;

36
37 *to examine our own biases that may have blinded or shielded us from seeing harm to which we have
38 contributed (referenced March 2021 by Richard Rohr citing Brian McLaren);

39
40 *to acknowledge the sin of white privilege that separated or hoarded resources, segregating Black,
41 Indigenous and people of color by word, thinking, or action;

42
43 *to reject the mindset and the sin of white supremacy;

44
45 *to seek healing by admitting our failure to love another as God has called us to, and as WE expect God
46 to love us;

47
48 *to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever
49 forms they present themselves;

1 *to denounce evidence and instances of police brutality, racial profiling against Black, Indigenous and
2 people of color; and,

3
4 *to respect and work in our communities for “full protection of the civil rights for all of God’s children.”

5
6 And thus, we pray, as articulated in an African American lectionary:

7 *“O Holy God have mercy and forgive us our shortcomings. Help us to remember our responsibility to our*
8 *families and our neighbors, our stewardship to you, and the work you have given to our hands ... [so that*
9 *we might] accept our responsibility as people of faith and leaders in our congregations, to work for the*
10 *transformation of the world, our Church, and our communities. We covenant with each other, to learn,*
11 *speak, and act in ways that lift-up and protect the rights and dignity of all of God’s people.”*

12
13 **Submitted by:** East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, East Ohio Reconciling Ministries
14 Network, and the office of Multicultural Vitality.
15

Conference Board of Trustees Report to Annual Conference 2021**Submitted by Rev. Dr. Randall May, president**

According to ¶2512 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016*, each annual conference must have a Board of Trustees responsible for receiving, collecting, holding in trust, and administering the Conference's real and personal property. The Board meets as needed but must meet at least annually and make to each session of the Annual Conference a full, true, and faithful report of its doings, of all funds, monies, securities and property held in trust by it, and of its receipts and expenditures during the conference year. In accordance with these requirements, receive now the 2021 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees ("Board") of the East Ohio Conference ("Conference").

During the conference year, the Board met four times – three regular meetings via Zoom (10/17/20, 1/9/21, 4/16/21), and one special meeting via Zoom (3/9/21). The Board dealt with issues arising between meetings through the use of email and conference calls. At the first meeting of the Board after Annual Conference, the Board elected officers: Randall May as president; Ivy Smith as vice president; and Brian Hanner as secretary. Vera Rebrovich, director of Financial & Administration Services for the Conference, serves as the Board's treasurer.

The Board's work is comprised of three principal categories: 1) maintaining and managing Conference properties; 2) acquisition, sale, and leasing of Conference properties; and 3) other tasks associated with Conference property. The following is a summary of work completed or anticipated to be completed by the Board during the conference year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. (Please note that this report was written on March 15, 2021 and will be updated for year-end matters prior to publication in *The Conference Journal*.)

Maintaining and Managing Conference-Owned Properties

District and Episcopal Residences: On April 16, 2020, the Board, in coordination with Conference Director of Financial & Administration Services Vera Rebrovich, the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, and the Episcopal Residence Committee, contracted with A. Anthony Corporation to fulfill its responsibility for repair and maintenance of the Conference's nine district parsonages and the Episcopal residence. The district parsonages and Episcopal residence are currently in good condition and repair. The Tuscarawas District parsonage was sold for \$225,000 on January 26, 2021, as it needed many repairs and updating, and was no longer needed.

Area Center and Other Property: The Board worked with Conference Director of Financial & Administration Services Vera Rebrovich and other Conference leaders on maintenance and repair work related to the Area Center. No significant repairs were needed this year, although some interior finish work was needed in connection with the creation of the new Tuscarawas District office within the Area Center.

Slip and Fall: A customer of the Christian Family Credit Union slipped and fell in the Area Center parking lot on December 28, 2020. The Board is working with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, the Conference's insurance provider, to resolve the claim.

Acquisition, Sale and Leasing of Conference Properties

Former Howard UMC, Howard: Sold on June 30, 2020, for \$40,000.

Area Center Leases: Space in the Area Center was leased to several related entities, Christian Family Credit Union and Methodist Foundation of Ohio, after prior leases had expired. Some additional space was also leased for a new Tuscarawas District office.

1 *Former James S. Thomas UMC, Canton:* With the support and encouragement of the Tuscarawas District
2 and of Bishop Tracy S. Malone and the Cabinet, and after carefully reviewing a mission site proposal, the
3 former James S. Thomas UMC in Canton, was transferred on January 26, 2021, pursuant to ¶2549.2(c)
4 and ¶2549.7 of *The Book of Discipline* without charge to Crossroads UMC to use as a local missional
5 outreach site. The building was in poor condition, requiring a lot of repair and remediation work to make
6 it safe and useable for its intended purpose, so in addition to the property, the Board also voted to
7 transfer \$45,000 to Crossroads UMC in order to help defray costs.

8
9 *Former Canton Korean UMC, Canton:* This closed church included three parcels: the church building, a
10 parsonage, and a vacant 6.65-acre mostly-wetlands parcel. The vacant land was sold on January 27,
11 2021 for \$143,000, and the parsonage was sold on February 5, 2021 for \$214,500. The church parcel is
12 currently listed for sale but has not yet sold.

13
14 *Former Trinity UMC, West Cleveland:* With the support and encouragement of the North Coast District
15 and of Bishop Malone and the Cabinet, and after carefully reviewing a mission site proposal, the former
16 Trinity UMC in West Cleveland, will soon be transferred pursuant to ¶2549.2(c) and ¶2549.7 of *The Book*
17 *of Discipline* without charge to Rocky River UMC to use as a local missional outreach site. Its mission,
18 “Twice Blessed Free Store,” currently occupies space in the Nehemiah Mission, which space is needed by
19 Nehemiah, so this transfer effectively benefits two vital urban missions.

20
21 *Former Bethel Valley UMC, Akron:* This property is in contract for sale for \$91,000, with closing
22 anticipated in April 2021. The buyer intends to use the property as a church.

23 *Former Leetonia First UMC, Leetonia:* This property is in contract for sale for \$99,000, with closing
24 anticipated in April 2021.

25
26 *Epworth Center Lease:* This Conference-owned property in Bethesda, Belmont County is currently being
27 leased to the Epworth Center for use as a community-based Christian outreach mission. The original
28 lease has expired, and a new 15-year lease with annual rental of \$1 (same as current rent) is being
29 prepared and will be signed in April 2021.

30
31 *Former Robbins Memorial UMC, Washingtonville:* A buyer is interested in this property. In addition to a
32 church, there is also a small cemetery located on the property. Prior to sale, the property must be split,
33 with the church sold to the buyer and the cemetery conveyed to the local township. The legal work to
34 subdivide this property is under way.

35
36 *Oil and Gas Leases:* The Board is considering interest in the oil and gas rights associated with several
37 properties owned by the Conference.

38
39 *Additional Closed Churches:* As of the date on which this report was written, the Board is aware of
40 several additional churches which are closing or preparing to close. Other local churches have been
41 discussing their futures but have not yet made any firm decisions.

42 43 **Various Other Tasks Associated with Conference Property**

44 *Camping and Retreat Endowment (C.A.R.E.) and Other Camp Assets:* The total current balance of C.A.R.E.
45 is \$3,167,356. The total current balance of all funds (restricted, unrestricted and C.A.R.E.) is \$3,167,356.
46 There is a loan payable to the Conference for the Aldersgate director’s house with a total principal
47 balance due of \$50,571. The loan terms are: 15-year term, 2% interest, \$13,165 payment per annum.

48
49 *Disaffiliating Church Issues:* A local church within the Conference is attempting to disaffiliate from the
50 Conference without following the process set forth in ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. The Board, in

1 coordination with Bishop Malone, Assistant to the Bishop Gary George, the superintendent in whose
2 district the church is located, the chair of the affected District Board of Church and Location, and
3 Conference Chancellor Rex Miller, are working to protect the Conference and resolve this matter.
4

5 *Paycheck Protection Program Loan:* Director of Financial & Administration Services Vera Rebrovich, at
6 the direction of Bishop Malone, and in consultation with the Conference Council on Finance &
7 Administration and the Board, applied for a Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) Loan under the U.S.
8 CARES Act. The PPP Loan in the sum of \$818,763 was approved on May 4, 2020. On December 21, 2020,
9 the Conference filed a Loan Forgiveness Application, and on February 8, 2021, the Conference was
10 granted 100% forgiveness of the loan.
11

12 *Trusts:* The Board is working to resolve several trust issues associated with closed local churches: former
13 Beach City UMC and former Conotton UMC.
14

15 *BSA Bankruptcy:* The Board, in coordination with Director of Financial & Administration Services Vera
16 Rebrovich, the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, and Conference Chancellor Rex Miller,
17 and at the direction of Bishop Malone, has decided to join a joint legal defense effort in the Scouting
18 BSA bankruptcy to defend proofs of claim filed by local United Methodist churches which sponsored
19 Scouting BSA units. The Conference has contributed \$5,000 to a fund for legal expenses associated with
20 the defense and has set up a reserve for any losses.
21

22 *Closing Church Checklist:* The Board has been working with District Superintendent Abby Auman on the
23 creation of a written checklist for use in connection with closing churches in order to make the closing
24 process more consistent and efficient. Several incidents of valuable property being abandoned in closed
25 churches upon their sale have occurred, and hopefully the checklist will help avoid any similar issues in
26 the future.
27

28 *Detterman Log Church, Historic Lyme Village:* The Conference Commission on Archives and History
29 (“Archives”) financially contributed to the rescue, relocation and restoration of a historically significant
30 log church formerly located on private land owned by the Detterman family in Seneca County, Ohio. The
31 church was relocated to Historic Lyme Village in Lyme, Ohio, and was restored. Archives continued
32 financial support for periodic repair of the Detterman Log Church until this year. The Board is working
33 with Archives and other Conference leaders to clarify legal issues associated with the church to
34 determine if any further support is warranted and from where that support will come.
35

36 The Board has been busy during this conference year, so I would like to thank the members of the Board
37 for their time and commitment during this challenging season. During the conference year, the Board
38 continued to communicate and meet in many novel ways in order to effectively, promptly and safely
39 complete the work for which the Board is responsible. This concludes the annual report of the Board of
40 Trustees of the East Ohio Conference.
41

Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CCF&A) Report to Annual Conference 2021
Submitted by Rev. Dan Bryant, chairperson

This past year, 2020, was a year we all will forever remember. As the COVID pandemic forced all of us to “rethink” how to do church in ways that pushed us into unknown territory, God’s Spirit awakened us. We found ourselves, not alone, but in the refrain echoed across the country in early 2020, we realized that “we are in this together.” Friends, as we glance at God’s movement in our lives last year, we see much for which to be thankful.

The pay-in rate from local churches to our East Ohio Conference budget was 77.1% in 2020 compared to 78% in 2019. Given the unprecedented pandemic reality, the pay-in rate staying close to 2019 is a witness of God’s faithfulness. As highlighted last year, our pay-in rates have been declining each of the past seven years. As our budget continues to gradually decrease and 2021 may return to a more “normal” way of mission and ministry, we are hopeful for an even larger pay-in rate in 2021.

We celebrate the faithful commitment of our local churches that paid 100% of their apportionments. We saw an 8% decline in local churches paying full apportionments but praise God for those who were able to still maintain their level of giving. The creative adaptability of our pastors and churches enabled over 100 churches to increase their giving in 2020 and we even had four churches give to apportionments that had been unable to do so in the past. Truly, God’s Spirit was moving even amidst a pandemic to help us find a way. Our Conference can accomplish a great deal through shared ministry that local churches could not accomplish on their own. Yet, at the same time, we know that the most critical investment for mission and ministry are those made at the local church.

Looking back at 2020, the churches that did well were those that actively and regularly reached out to members, those that already had in place electronic forms of giving, and those that were able to tell a story about the difference they are making in the lives of their community. In addition, churches that were able to adapt their worship styles have done well. Churches that relied solely on in-person worship services have struggled financially. Churches that were on the financial edge before the pandemic have been pushed over the edge by the pandemic.

The 2020 Conference budget was reduced by 5% so that local churches would have more available funds for their respective mission fields. CCF&A continues to monitor trends and examine budgetary needs as we head into this quadrennium. Since General Conference is postponed until August 2022, we are treading water regarding implications of denominational changes that may come our way.

Giving to Advance Specials in 2020 totaled \$682,901. In 2019, East Ohio churches gave \$882,000. In 2018, East Ohio Conference churches gave \$950,000 to Advance Specials, compared to \$924,500 in 2017, \$760,000 in 2016 and \$754,000 in 2015.

For more than a decade, the East Ohio Conference has reflected the value of paying 100% of shared ministry apportionments by paying 100% of the Conference’s General Church apportionments. In 2020, for the 15th year in a row, the East Ohio Conference continued this pattern by paying all General Church apportionments at 100%.

Looking beyond apportioned funds to areas of direct billing, the direct billing pay-in rate in 2020 – for pensions and hospitalization – was 98.6% which was slightly less than the 99% from 2019. The actual cash shortfall caused by unpaid direct billings in 2020 was \$137,685, an increase from a shortfall of \$40,350 in 2019. This increased shortfall increased the pension and health care arrearages. Such

arrearages put stress on the Conference budget since health care and pension costs must still be paid when a local church falls short.

The ongoing decline in the pay-in rate toward the apportioned funds in 2020 confirmed that reducing the 2021 budget by 5% was a good decision. Looking ahead CCF&A intends to propose a further reduction of 5% in the 2022 budget for the five apportioned shared ministry funds. Approving this budget will be part of our actions at Annual Conference.

God is with us as we journey into 2021.

With the assurance of God's presence, and the foundational comments above, CCF&A proposes these policy 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 & 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 should 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 that 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 submitted online by **January 18, 2022** but an extension until **January 31, 2022** may be granted in cases of emergency, provided the request is made in writing and received by the director of Financial & Administrative Services before **January 18, 2022**. This extension is automatically granted to multiple church charges. Money must be received at the bank by **January 5, 2022**. Please make note of this date! Monies received after **January 5, 2022** will not be credited to the 2021 records. When churches do not file a year-end statistical report, those churches' next apportionments will remain at the same level.
- C) **Audit Reports** – ¶ 617.2 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016*. 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 March 31, or 90 days following the closing of the fiscal year and shall be sent to the Funding Evaluation Committee of the Conference Council on Ministries (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 & Administrative Services is authorized, in consultation with CCF&A, to invest a portion of the Huntington Sweep Account fund in AAA Commercial Paper. Monthly reports of investments shall be made at CCF&A meetings.

II. BUDGET

- A) **Timeline** – All program agencies asking for funds shall participate in a one-year budget.

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

- C) **Payout rates** – All funds are budgeted for a 100% payout rate.

- D) **Contingency and Reserve Funds**

- 1) **Contingency Funds** – By action of the 1976 Annual Conference, two contingency funds were established, Administrative and Ministries and Missions. CCF&A 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 its established procedure. Non CCOM-related groups may appeal directly to CCF&A for Administrative Contingency Funds. Any such request must stand five tests:
- Does not duplicate budgeted funding
 - Has not been turned down in the budgeting process
 - Does not circumvent the budgeting process
 - Funds are available, and
 - Where applicable, there are specific bid figures attached to the requests. Ministries and Missions 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 and restricted funds, and some unspent contingency funds voted to the Unrestricted Reserve Fund by CCF&A. This fund is used under the jurisdiction of CCF&A primarily as a reserve for capital or administrative expenditures. Since October 18, 1972, CCF&A's goal, upon recommendation of the General Council on Finance & Administration, has been to set the Unrestricted Reserve Fund Limit at one and one-half times the average monthly income from the preceding year's Conference apportionment receipts. The current limit for **2020** is **\$1,372,710**. The Unrestricted Reserve Fund had a balance of **\$1,372,710** on **December 31, 2020**.

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 is equal to 1.80 times (formerly 1.90 times) the Conference Average Cash Salary of the 2020 year for pastors as computed by the General Board of Pensions for the 2022 year. For 2022 salary, we will use the 2020 Conference Average Cash Salary of \$46,157, which will calculate a salary of \$83,082 for 2022. The salaries for the director of Connectional Ministries, the assistant to the Bishop, the director of Financial & Administrative Services, and the director of Communications are set by using the same formula, but with a housing allowance adjustment.
- B) Travel Allowance** – Effective **January 1, 2021** the mileage reimbursement rate for Annual Conference staff shall be the maximum rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service, currently **\$0.56** per mile.
- C) Housing/Utilities**
- 1) District superintendents shall be provided housing with full utilities and maintenance provided.
 - 2) The assistant to the Bishop, the director of Connectional Ministries, the director of Financial & Administrative Services, and the director of Communications shall receive a housing allowance – or if not clergy a salary adjustment – equal to 25% of the salary figure that is established in part A.
 - 3) CCOM associate directors (full-time) shall receive a housing allowance at a rate established by CCF&A, plus full utilities, if clergy.
- D) Expenses** – Conference treasurer audits all line items and requires substantiation for reimbursable expenses. Outside auditors review the treasurer's 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 2022 it is anticipated that the premium will remain approximately the same. The East Ohio Conference Board of Benefits will set the final premium charges. Employing agencies will be charged the appropriate premium for their participants. Amounts will be remitted on Health Care Forms provided by the director of Financial & 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 \$0.14 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 the 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 CCF&A 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 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 CCF&A 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 a local church or the Conference for clergy under episcopal appointment. An appointment beyond the local church may be covered only if it is a position in which the 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 *The Conference Journal*, this policy should be used as a guideline.
- 2) **Reimbursements** – The charge receiving a pastor is to pay the carrier and submit a documented voucher to the director of Financial & Administrative Services for reimbursement of the Conference share. The Conference will reimburse the local church/charge 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 & Administrative Services by August 1 each year. The director of Financial & 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** – 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 \$500.
 - c) **Weight** – 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 well as the final bill, as attachments to the reimbursement request.
- 5) **New Seminary Graduate Appointments** – Graduates entering the 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 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 district superintendent 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:

2019 and 2020 average (used in 2021) = \$2,000.

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 Conference 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 ¶ 358.1, 2.a., 2.b., 2.c of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008*, 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 months of the end of their work unless granted an extension in writing by the director of Financial & Administrative Services, and with prior approval of both Cabinet and CCF&A. 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.
- 3) **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** – CCF&A 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:

$$\text{Local Church Total Base Figure} / \text{Conference Total Base Figure} = \text{Local Church Grade Figure}$$

- 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 expenses 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.

- 1 B) **Timeline** - Preliminary apportionments for 2022 will be mailed in late July 2021 and will be
 2 based on the Local Church report for the year 2020. Final apportionments will be mailed by mid-
 3 September 2021.
 4
- 5 C) **New Churches** – A new church will be apportioned by the Conference and the district 10% of its
 6 “full” amount during the first year after the effective charter year. During the second year the
 7 apportionments will be at 15%; during the third year 20%; fourth year 40%; fifth year 60%; sixth
 8 year 80% and 100% in the seventh year and thereafter. Existing new churches will be considered
 9 as in their first year. The term “apportionments” is meant to include all apportioned.
 10
- 11 D) **New Program Staff Position Salaries** – These salaries will be exempt from total base figure
 12 calculation for a period of two years from the date of hire. During this time, new program staff
 13 position salaries will be reported along with the date of hire each year on the local church report
 14 to annual conference.
 15
- 16 E) **Merged Churches** – As part of the merger process, the congregations involved will create a
 17 proposed budget for the merged church which will go into effect on the date the merged church
 18 begins worshipping and meeting as one congregation. This budget will be worked out in
 19 consultation with, and given approval by, the district superintendent and the district Committee
 20 on Church Building and Location. This budget will then be forwarded to the office of the director
 21 of Financial & Administrative Services to be used to formulate the current year’s apportionment
 22 figures for the newly merged church. A new total base figure will be calculated for the merged
 23 church based on the formula outlined in ¶ V.A) above.
 24
- 25 This new total base figure will be in effect until the actual financial records of the merged church
 26 are reported for the first full year of its existence and can be used to calculate a total base figure
 27 based on actual expenditures.
 28
- 29 A new classification of merged churches will be VITAL Mergers. Those mergers fulfilling the
 30 VITAL Merger qualifications will be considered as a new church start by the Board of
 31 Congregational Development and will consequently be considered a New Church for
 32 apportionment purposes.
 33

34 VI. EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL TREASURY

- 35
- 36 A) All Conference assets, liabilities, and fund balances are to be accounted for by the office of the
 37 director of Financial & Administrative Services, who will provide a Central Treasury for the East
 38 Ohio Annual Conference (See *2012 Discipline* ¶613.12). The director of Financial &
 39 Administrative Services is charged with the accounting for all financial activity of the
 40 Conference, including all boards, agencies, and committees. No group or individual may perform
 41 this accounting function in lieu of the director of Financial & Administrative Services, who must
 42 account for all receipts, disbursements, and fund balances.
 43
- 44 B) The director of Financial & Administrative Services is not currently expected to perform the
 45 accounting function for the district offices, the EOC Credit Union, the EOC Foundation, or the
 46 UMW. These bodies perform their own accounting function and are both separately audited and
 47 reported to the annual conference.
 48

1 **VII. CONFERENCE LOAN POLICY**

- 2 CCF&A may borrow up to 2% of the Conference annual apportioned budget in any given
- 3 Conference year for current expense purposes.

2021 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**Commission on Archives and History Report to Annual Conference 2021****Submitted by Meg Sondey, chairperson**

The Commission on Archives and History works to preserve the records of the Annual Conference and provides oversight of the Archives of Ohio United Methodism (AOUM) at Ohio Wesleyan University through the Joint Archives Committee (JAC). The Commission's association with the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio (UMHSO) provides local church historians with online resources at www.umhso.org as well as an annual in-person convocation. Upon submission of a request and updated history. UMHSO provides to congregations celebrating milestone anniversaries certificates honoring special events.

The current Commission consists of 16 members: the chair, a representative from each of the 10 districts of the East Ohio Conference, two at-large representatives, the Conference historian, the archivist, and the Bishop or assistant to the Bishop.

Currently serving in those roles are: Meg Sondey, chair; Assistant to the Bishop Gary George; Deb Saito, Canal District; Carol Nelson-Burns, Firelands District; James Macdonald, Mid-Ohio District; Sandra Beard, North Coast District; Sue Evans, Ohio Valley District; Mollie Gerlach, Southern Hills District; John Parr, Three Rivers District; Kathy Fuller, Western Reserve District; Kerry King and Mary Ann Stotts, at-large; Sharon Monigold, archivist; and Donald Trigg, Conference historian. Representatives for the Mahoning Valley District and the Tuscarawas District will be nominated in the future.

The most significant work that the Commission has taken over the past few years has been to work to clarify the history, relationship, and responsibilities of the Commission with the historically significant Detterman Log Church, built in 1846, and now located at historic Lyme Village in Bellevue. Don Trigg and Gary George, among others, have provided information and recommendations for moving forward in order to define our relationship with Lyme Village more clearly. Work on this will continue with the creation of a strategic team that plans to share its findings and recommendations with the Commission and the Conference Board of Trustees in the fall.

UMHSO cancelled its in-person annual meeting and convocation for 2020 in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and had scheduled the 2021 convocation for April 30 to May 1 at Anderson Hills UMC in Cincinnati. Pandemic concerns resulted in the UMHSO Executive Committee deciding to move the 2021 convocation to October 22-23 in Cincinnati. The 2021 convocation theme is "Firsts in Ohio United Methodism." UMHSO membership and convocation information is available at www.umhso.org.

As a JAC participant, we have been working to address rapidly developing space issues at the Archives at Ohio Wesleyan because of the large influx of records from recently closed churches. Archivist Sharon Monigold has undertaken a detailed space study and JAC is continuing conversations to determine how and where additional appropriate space may be found as well as what potential editing of current holdings might be undertaken.

Lists of local church historians in the various East Ohio Conference districts have been provided to the Commission members representing those districts so that they may both provide information to them and communicate their needs to the Commission as a whole. Commission members have been encouraged to contact congregations without listed historians to determine if there is, in fact, an active local church historian at that location. A one-page description of Commission members' responsibilities, as well as a "welcome packet" for new Commission members are both being developed.

The Commission members have continued to work remotely and meet virtually throughout the past year. We are grateful to the Conference office for providing the technological ability to hold those virtual meetings. As always, the Commission remains dedicated to preserving the history of the East Ohio Annual Conference so that through those faith stories we can “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/history-archives.

Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) Report to Annual Conference 2021 Submitted by Rev. Lorrin Radzik, chairperson

In the East Ohio Annual Conference, the Commission on the Role and Status of Women (COSROW) serves the Church by encouraging the full participation of all persons, especially women, in the total life of The United Methodist Church, in partnership with the work of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* directs the work of the Annual Conference Commissions in areas of monitoring and research, advocacy, education, and cooperation with other Conference and denominational supports. More information about the duties of the Annual Conference COSROW, or about the work of your annual conference COSROW may be found in ¶ 644 in *The Book of Discipline*, or on the Annual Conference website under the Advocacy tab, www.eocumc.com/church-society. We invite and encourage you to check out the many resources available for your use in both of those places. We also take this moment to mark and celebrate the 65th anniversary of full clergy rights for women in The United Methodist Church.

COSROW has continued our ongoing work in line with our general purpose and mission. This year has provided opportunities for continued study of clergy salaries across the annual conference, education, and continued attention to the credentialing process from the local church to Conference leadership, as well as deeper work and development of a Clergy Harassment Policy alongside a revision to the East Ohio Conference Sexual Ethics Policy in partnership with other annual conference groups and offices. We anticipate finalizing this work in the year ahead, so that we can move forward to share these policies and provide education and support to the annual conference as we seek to love one another more fully.

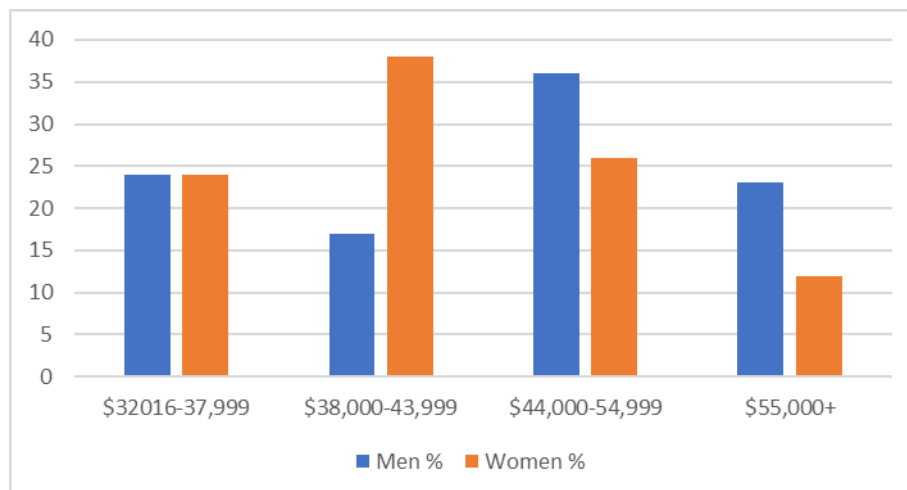
This year also brought COSROW the opportunity to lead a full afternoon of Boundaries Training at New Clergy Orientation, a first for the East Ohio Annual Conference.

In addition to these tasks, the Commission also collaborated with a task group from the Episcopal office and Board of Ministry to host “Toward Healing the Harm” on March 8, 2021. “Toward Healing the Harm” was designed as a one-day event focused on helping clergy take the next step in healing from the harm caused by gender discrimination and harassment in the Church. This event was designed specifically with the experiences of clergywomen in mind, but by no means negates the experiences of all our colleagues in ministry, both clergy and laity, and inclusive of all gender identities. While this was a one-day event, we certainly recognize that there is much more work to be done in recognizing harm, educating the clergy and laity, and working together to live more fully into our baptismal vows and our calling to care for one another as children of God. It is our hope and our sincere prayer that this event is only the first of many, considering the intersectionality of our lives, while also providing space for attendees to take the next step in healing, so that, together, we can be transformed by God’s grace and continue to work toward an end of sexual harassment and discrimination in our churches and our communities.

For the last several years, COSROW has reported the findings of our Annual Clergy Salary Analysis to this body. With gratitude for the work of the Rev. Beth Ortiz and the Connectional Ministries team, we submit to you these findings from the 2020 analysis.

- A 2020 analysis reviewed salary data for 260 full-time clergy and was inclusive of 74 women and 186 men. This comparison did not include superintendents or clergy serving on Conference staff. This comparison also did not include years of experience or other facts that could impact pay such as those who are limited in their ability to participate in the itinerant system.
- In a brief comparison of 2019 and 2020 data, we note marginal differences in the pay equity of male and female clergy but note that the differences that do exist do not lean toward pay equity.
- In 2020, the average salary for full-time female clergy was \$4,135 less than male clergy: \$44,185 for women, \$48,320 for men, while in 2019, the data reflects female clergy were paid \$4,010 less than their counterparts. In 2020, the comparison of average full-time clergy salaries reflected that women are paid 91 cents for every dollar their male counterparts made.
- In the chart below we observe that the lower two salary ranges combined, shown to the left on the chart, have a higher percentage of women than men. Of the full-time female clergy, 62% are making less than \$44,000, while only 41% of male clergy fall in this range. It is of note that from 2019, male clergy in this range remained steady (41%) while the female clergy percentage grew 4% (58% in 2019).
- In the highest salary range, shown to the right on the chart, we note that 12% of all female clergy and 23% of all men earn \$55,000 or more. These percentages mark a decrease from 2019, with 1% fewer female clergy and 3% fewer male clergy falling into this category.
- In the \$44,000-\$54,999 range, the percentage of male clergy in this category increased from 2019 from 33 to 36. The percentage of female clergy decreased from 29 to 26.
- Overall, the change from 2019 to 2020 marks a small but notable regression in progress towards pay equality amongst full-time clergy serving in the East Ohio Annual Conference.

2020 Salary Range Comparison of 260 Appointed Full-Time Clergy



Amidst the changes of the past year, your Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women commits to standing with you as we work together toward gender equity in our Conference, in The United Methodist Church, and in the world around us, praying and yearning for the day when all of us, regardless of status, gender identity, or any other variable are valued and cared for as beloved children of God. In the year ahead, we seek to continue the work that we have begun and expand our work to be

more intentionally inclusive of the ways we can be supportive of lay women and others in the full life of the church. We look forward to your partnership and to continuing to serve among you.

Committee on Lay Servant Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2021

Submitted by Mandy Armstrong, chairperson

The East Ohio Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries has faced its share of highs and lows during this unprecedented time, but through the grace of God we are moving in the right direction and overcoming obstacles we never thought we would have to face. The Committee determined the need last year to give a year extension to those requiring a course in 2020. This not only would eliminate some worry for our lay servants who worry a great deal about meeting requirements, but it also gave our district directors and committees some time to plan their next steps in determining the best way to reach and train new and current lay servants. As a result of the continued pandemic into 2021, the Committee has approved another year extension for those requiring a course in 2020 or 2021.

The Committee decided, after much discussion, to move forward through majority vote to no longer use the title basic lay servant. People are encouraged to take the Basic class as a step toward discerning and developing a sense of call to ministry that may include becoming a certified lay servant. A certificate of completion is issued for Basic training, but persons will not apply to become a lay servant at that point. Persons who complete the Basic class will no longer need to fill out a lay servant report for Charge Conference. Persons may apply to become certified lay servants after completion of both the Basic and an Advance course. Certified lay servants will continue to fill out an annual report to Charge Conference. The lay servant annual report has been updated accordingly and is available at www.eocumc.com/laity/lay-servants. Please do not use prior year reports. This change in status level will take place July 1, 2021.

The Committee moved to certify one new certified lay speaker this past year. We are very excited to be moving forward in the development of a new lay servant ministry course entitled “Unity, Racial Diversity, and the Church” by the Southern Hills District. The course will use the book *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism* written by Carolyn Helsel. Course objectives will allow participants to:

- Become familiar with the United Methodist position on racism and its relationship to broader social justice issues as expressed in Article 5 of its *Constitution*, *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2017-2020*, and *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016*.
- Examine the scriptural and theological foundations for the “rights of racial and ethnic persons” as defined in the *Social Principles*.
- Become familiar with the history of racism in the United States and across our denomination.
- Become familiar with current vocabulary used in the Conference Stand Against Racism initiative.
- Explore concepts related to implicit bias.
- Explore personal experiences with race and how those differ from others’ experiences.
- Recognize why dismantling racism requires people to become anti-racists.
- Develop next steps for beginning or continuing to dismantle racism in their own settings and commit to taking at least one action step in 2021.

(Advance lay servant training course proposal submission)

Through the hard work and dedication of Suzette Tidrick, associate director of lay servant ministries and coordinator of certified lay ministries, the Committee has approved the following classification guidelines for our certified lay ministers (CLM) as they move through the recertification process and beyond.

Active: CLM is certified and serving as a CLM through an active mutual ministry covenant.

Inactive: CLM is certified but not serving in the role of a CLM. There is no current mutual ministry covenant in place. Training requirements and yearly reporting to the district are required (an advanced lay servant course every two years and annual report to the Charge Conference form submitted). The person may request a change to certified lay servant or certified lay speaker if qualified.

Discontinued: CLM is no longer certified and not serving in the role of a CLM. To recertify, applicant must apply to the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries for reinstatement. The requirements for reinstatement will be determined based upon individual circumstances by a team of three persons: the CLM coordinator, the director of Connectional Ministries and the chair or representative of the district Committee on Ministry in which the mutual ministry covenant will be held. These requirements will include an interview and be consistent with those needed for other CLM applicants.

The Committee approved one new and discontinued four certified lay ministers.

The following are currently certified as active CLMs in the East Ohio Conference:

- George Clark, Southern Hills - recertified 2021
- Mell Felder, Mid-Ohio - recertified 2021
- Lynn Gorton, North Coast - certified 2020
- Jackie Lewis, Three Rivers - certified 2021
- Cathy McIlvaine, Western Reserve - recertified 2021
- Dr. Linda Morrow, Southern Hills - recertified 2021
- Dr. Liz Piatt, Canal - newly certified 2021
- Dr. Joshua Reichard, Mahoning Valley - recertified 2021
- Suzette Tidrick, Southern Hills - recertified 2021

The following are discontinued as CLMs in the East Ohio Conference with appreciation for their service:

- William Corbin
- Laura Coykendall
- Marla Laney
- Cynthia Ward

The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries and its district directors are working diligently to find new and innovative ways to continue to train our lay servants and those wishing to become lay servants until the day districts can meet in person as they did in the past. Our wish is that while we continue to move forward, when that day comes, we will also continue what we are already doing to reach even more people.

Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/laity/lay-servants.

Board of Congregational Development Report to Annual Conference 2021
Submitted by Rev. Kelly Brown, director of Congregational Vitality

The Board of Congregational Development exists to empower and encourage congregations to be more vital by aligning resources, growing lay and clergy leadership, and focusing on the local congregation as the primary place of making disciples that belong to the body of Christ; growing in Christ (practicing the means of Wesleyan grace); and joining Jesus in ministry. In 2020, we adopted the following eight commitments to guide our work:

- Being centered in Christ
- That everyone is an evangelist
- Developing transformational leadership
- Creating new spaces for new people
- Every church is a vital church
- The church is engaged with the community
- Develop and deploy young evangelists, pioneers, and leaders
- Grow our digital presence: digital age evangelism

We organize our financial resources into the following three areas:

- leadership development,
- vital development, and
- developing new congregations.

The intended outcome for leadership development is to provide learning opportunities for clergy and laity so that they can effectively lead congregations through the changes necessary to become more healthy and vital. In 2020, these funds supported our ongoing leadership cohorts and the stand-alone training opportunities we offered. The cohorts are learning communities that last for several months and involve learning, coaching, and strategic planning. In 2020, we offered eight cohorts, two of which were designed to help churches relaunch ministry after the pandemic. This year over 30 churches participated in a cohort. The hope is that through the cohorts, we would increase the level of church leadership so the congregations can be better positioned to live out the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and to also fulfill the East Ohio Conference vision. Through the cohorts, churches define vision, develop strategic plans, and build discipleship processes. We also used these funds to continue developing our coaching network and help to provide coaches for the churches engaged in the leadership cohorts.

The outcome for the vital development funding is to increase the number of vital congregations by helping churches engage in practices that better connect them with their community, so that those connections would lead to opportunities for faith sharing and transformation. These funds enabled us to partner with districts to offer the "How to Reach New People" workshops. In 2020, we had over 25 churches from four districts participate in this workshop that helps churches design a 12-month plan for outreach and participate in coaching. Through these workshops, churches have engaged in creative and innovative outreach ministries that enable them to connect to their communities during the pandemic.

The funding in developing new congregations is directed to help new churches and new faith communities have the resources needed to become healthy, vital, and sustainable, whether that is through training, coaching, or financial. With these funds we supported five churches with direct funding grants for staff and or program. The total of these disbursements is \$120,000. These five churches had a weekly average worship attendance of 794 people in-person and 217 average weekly online attendance. In 2020, these churches had 27 professions of faith and 15 baptism. All of these

churches contributed 100% to apportionment giving. Along with the five churches above, we also provided coaching resources using these funds for seven additional churches in the East Ohio Conference.

Last year was a challenging one for ministry and all of these churches that are engaged in starting new faith communities have worked hard to continue being bold and courageous leaders in reaching new people, younger people, and a more diverse people. One of the biggest adjustments has been presenting a both/and ministry or having a vital online presence and strong in-person opportunities. The outcome from this commitment has led to new ministry models evolving that have reached new people well beyond the geographical boundaries of East Ohio.

During 2020, the Board of Congregational Development worked with the Trinity Fund Endowment Committee and the East Ohio Cabinet to disburse financial resources to congregations engaging in new and innovative ministries. The Trinity Fund is an endowment fund which enables us to make multi-year financial resourcing commitments not connected to apportionment giving. Last year was the first year that this funding stream was available to be disbursed. Currently, we have made multi-year financial resourcing commitments to support two new ministries in the Cleveland area and another redevelopment ministry in the Canton area.

Board of Multicultural Vitality Report to Annual Conference 2021
Submitted by Will Fenton-Jones, director of Multicultural Vitality

The Board of Multicultural Vitality provides a space for the intersectional work of the Commission on Religion & Race (CORR), Church & Society, Native American Awareness, Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR), and Ethnic Local Church Concerns. Each of these functional areas is represented in a way that searches for common points of intersection to allow for creative and innovative ways to engage justice work with the churches and people of the East Ohio Conference.

While the COVID-19 pandemic suspended some of the regular activities of the Board, it also provided opportunities for new venues of learning and conversation. COVID-19, while negatively impacting many communities, disproportionately negatively impacted communities of color. Over the course of 2020, entities from across The United Methodist Connection hosted webinars that engaged in meaningful conversation around why these disparities exist. Often titled “the two pandemics,” racism was regularly engaged in many forums.

Last year also saw a time of unprecedented unrest around racial justice. The leadership of the East Ohio Conference in May 2020 committed to the work of anti-racism. This commitment led to a Conference-wide training for all clergy under appointment and the development of follow-on trainings. In the spring of 2021, the laity of the East Ohio Conference received a similar training. As the Conference lives into its commitment, the work of the Board of Multicultural Vitality is even more pressing. The Board of Multicultural Vitality encourages the East Ohio Conference in 2021-2022 to consider these questions when approaching all issues of justice, but specifically issues of racial justice:

1. Who have you talked to or shared with another about the issue?
2. How have you stepped out of your “comfort zone” to hear from and learn from people affected?
3. What have you read or learned to increase your knowledge of the subject? What does the Bible say?
4. How have you invested (time and money) in addressing this issue/topic?

5. Have you identified policy (in The UMC and in government) that needs to change and considered impact and history?
6. Of what do you need to repent?

These questions have been at the heart of multiple online study groups and initiatives throughout 2020-2021 for the Conference to address not only racial justice, but justice around safe and affordable housing, income inequality, migration, Native and Indigenous peoples, food access, and many more. In the work of justice there is no condemnation, but an earnest yearning to live into Micah 6:8. Over the next annual conference year we encourage pastors, churches, laity, and all Conference structures to continue the work started in 2020. Visit the East Ohio Conference Stand Against Racism Page, www.eocumc.com/standagainstracism to learn more and stay engaged in the work.

Young People's Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2021

Submitted by Kaye Wolfinger, director, Young People's Ministries/Higher Education & Campus Ministry

While we lived through a pandemic in 2020, ministry with youth and young people still prevailed.

We offered an online version of Youth Annual Conference where individuals could watch in their homes, or small groups could gather for a viewing party. This virtual event offered a community worship experience that brought together people from all over the state. Youth groups were encouraged to also serve their neighbors and communities in the needs they recognized in safe ways.

The Board of Higher Education and Collegiate Campus Ministries granted scholarships and supported campus ministries that continued to reach students virtually. Regular Youth Leaders' Network groups met all year virtually for prayer, sharing of ideas, and emotional support. The Practically Honest podcast became a valuable tool during 2020 as we continued to record and publish stories and suggestions for those that live and work with young people throughout the pandemic. Those resources can be found online at www.practicallyhonest.org.

Spiritual Formation and Christian Education Committee Report to Annual Conference 2021

Submitted by Rev. Gary Jones, director of Spiritual Formation/Camps & Retreat Ministries

The purpose of Spiritual Formation and Christian Education Committee is to provide training and resources for local churches, districts, and our annual conference around spiritual formation and Christian education. In 2020, because of COVID-19 restrictions, the focus of the committee's work changed. There were several online trainings, Facebook live events, and Zoom gatherings to provide support and training for local church spiritual formation and Christian education leaders.

The outcome that the committee is seeking is two-fold:

1. To have trained and educated spiritual formation and Christian education leaders in local congregations, and
2. To strengthen the spiritual formation and Christian education ministries of the local church, helping it to remain vital.

Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2021**Submitted by Rev. Beth Wilterdink, chairperson, and****Rev. Gary Jones, director of Spiritual Formation/Camps & Retreat Ministries**

The East Ohio Conference Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries (BCRM) has a vision for partnering with local churches, developing safe places of hospitality at our camp and retreat sites, facilitating transformational Christian programs, connecting people to God's creation, and encouraging all people to encounter and grow in the power of Christ's love in Christian community.

In 2020, because of COVID-19, the camping ministry had to step away and find different ways to fulfill this vision. Though we missed hosting many of our guest groups for retreat ministry and were deeply saddened that we could not welcome summer campers, we were able to host families who came to camp as a household to experience retreat, hospitality, and spiritual growth.

While our camps were not nearly as full as we would have liked, we used our resources wisely, along with the unexpected gift of time, to strengthen Camp & Retreat Ministries' future. We were able to complete site visits leading to an assessment and plan several projects at our sites. Our directors, Dan Bajc, Rev. Bill Graham, and Julie Lutt have worked extremely hard with their staff to complete much needed projects that will secure and enhance the ministry as we move into the future.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Gary Jones, we joined the Thriving Board Cohort, a process offered through the Christian Camp and Conference Association, to enhance our work as the BCRM. Through our participation in the first two-day session in November, five goals were set and have been accomplished. The BCRM completed the second two-day session in April.

At the close of 2020, the camping ministry was able to end the year in a good place financially due to a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan and gracious giving from supporters of the ministry.

The BCRM has been paying attention to changing trends in society, looking at the lessons learned during COVID-19, and exploring the possibilities to address these trends and needs in the future.

Overall, 2020 was a very challenging year for our Camps & Retreat Ministries, but one also filled with many blessings. We look forward to serving the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church as we move into the future.

Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/camps.

Board of Missions Report to 2021 Annual Conference**Submitted by Kay Low, chairperson, and****Rev. Kathy Dickriede, director of Missions & Community Engagement**

The Board of Missions works to empower mission ministries by resourcing and equipping them to reach new young and diverse people to be God's agents of transformation in our local communities and around the world. The committees and teams under the Board of Missions are: United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), the Health and Welfare Committee, the Disaster Response Committee, the Mission Awareness Committee, and the Disability Awareness Team. The Conference secretary of Global Ministries also sits on the Board of Missions.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)

During the COVID pandemic, UMVIM journeys have been more localized and moved to new virtual platforms. Virtual UMVIM journeys have happened across the connection to Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Peru, Guatemala, and Mexico. Participation has been global via online meeting software and strengthening host country partnerships and empowerment has been the goal. With local UMVIM journeys being the priority, we have worked to strengthen the East Ohio mission sites with heightened exposure in E-News, mission news, and nurturing new and existing partnerships with Nehemiah Mission in Cleveland, Urban Mission in Steubenville, Epworth Community Center in Bethesda, Blue Rose Mission in Mansfield, and the new Covered Bridge Ministry in Jefferson/Ashtabula County.

Rev. Kathy Dickriede hosted one virtual UMVIM training in 2020, she hopes to host in-person trainings again in 2021. Team leader training teaches best practices of empowering mission hosts, financial transparency, how to organize team meetings, working with UMC partners, incorporating devotions/worship, having a time of mission reflection in your mission journey, obtaining UMVIM insurance and registering your UMVIM journey with Conference leadership. UMVIM team leader training is always available for scheduling, just contact Kathy Dickriede. Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/missions/umvim.

Health & Welfare

Representatives from our Health & Welfare (H&W) agencies have come together to collaborate, learn, and share challenges and best practices. Last year was a challenging one for them, but most were able to adapt to safely continue their operations through the pandemic. This has been a new model for this committee's work. The committee was expanded in 2020 to include all mission sites funded by apportionments as well as historic Health & Welfare Covenant Relationships. Current H&W agencies are Calvary Mission, Copeland Oaks, Epworth Center, Flat Rock Homes, Heart 4 the City, Nehemiah Mission, OhioGuidestone, Otterbein Marblehead, Urban Mission, and West Side Community House. Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/missions/health-welfare.

Disaster Response Committee

The Disaster Response Committee has updated the Conference Disaster Response Plan to be more concise. It now clearly outlines who does what in the event of a disaster. This plan is available on the Disaster Response page of the Conference website. The Committee chair and the Conference Disaster Response coordinator have been meeting online to review this plan with the district disaster response coordinators, district superintendents, and their administrative assistants. The Committee has approved the revised Plan for immediate use, distribution, and publishing. Additional district disaster coordinator training was scheduled for April 15. Due to physical distancing constraints and the need to do some parts of the training in-person, there was only one United Methodist Committee on Relief Early Response Team (UMCOR ERT) training in 2020. Ten people were certified as UMCOR ERT volunteers from that training. Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/missions/disaster-response.

Mission Awareness Committee

The Mission Awareness Committee is working in a renewed model with representatives from each district coming together to learn about and discover the missions in their district. The Committee also reviewed annual applications for the Conference Advance Specials. The full Mission Awareness report, which includes recommended Advance Specials, can be found in this workbook. The most current list of Advances can be found on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/finance/advance-special.

Giving to the Advance is donor directed and 100% of the funds will be sent to the mission or ministry the church or individual selects. Giving has decreased dramatically over the last few years, a trend that

started before the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these missions saw increased demand for services in 2020. The Committee will continue to discover more ways to promote and tell the mission story and to encourage local church and faith community partnerships with these missions.

The East Ohio Conference continues our strong and long ongoing partnership with the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) our North Central Jurisdictional UMCOR depot. MMDC sends a truck to East Ohio twice a year (June and early December) to collect donated items for UMCOR cleaning, school, and hygiene kits. MMDC collects many other items like crutches, gently used medical equipment, sewing machines, and bikes. Collection sites in each district help to make donating simple. When MMDC was in East Ohio in early December 2020, it brought kits requested by the West Side Community House in Cleveland. Eastbrook Mission Barn in Western Pennsylvania is another nearby site where UMCOR kits are collected and distributed. Kits can be requested through the district or Conference Disaster Response coordinator.

DisAbility Awareness Team

The DisAbility Awareness Team has been working on a resource for churches that need grants to improve accessibility for all people. We have a team of speakers available to speak to churches and church groups for DisAbility Awareness Sunday activities. We offer special messages, group activities, interactive seminars, etc. focused on disability awareness and inclusion. We strive to include people with disabilities as members of the team. We encourage churches to make their congregations welcoming, especially for people with differing physical and mental abilities. Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/disabilities.

Global Ministries

Kevin Schaner, the Conference secretary to Global Ministries, has been working at communicating the benefits of missionary partnerships with Global Missions. Itineration of missionaries during the COVID pandemic has been done virtually through the Global Ministries #StillinMission series. Learn more at www.umcmmission.org/missionaries-stillinmission.

Mission Awareness Committee Report to Annual Conference 2021 Submitted by Rev. Bruce Becker, chairperson

The Advance for Christ is an official program within The United Methodist Church through which donors may designate giving to specific projects and purposes. Advance giving goes the “second mile” in generosity. It is in addition to our covenant promise to support The United Methodist Church through shared ministry funds (budgeted apportionments).

The Advance forwards 100% of your donation to the specific project indicated in your gift. This is possible because apportionments pay for the communication and financial networks that administer the Advance. Other charities must deduct administrative fees to process similar donations. Donations may be directed to your local church using the advance number or may be made on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/donate.

Advance projects are partners in mission helping us extend the love of Christ into local communities. Through volunteering with and learning about these projects, we find the presence of Christ in ways and in areas beyond that which we experience as individual churches.

A Conference Advance project directs funds to a mission partner (or purpose) that has been reviewed and approved by the Mission Awareness Committee of the East Ohio Conference. The Board of Missions has reviewed and recommended the Advances listed as Health & Welfare agencies.

A General Advance project directs funds to a mission partner (or purpose) that has been reviewed and approved by the Advance Committee of the General Board of Global Ministries. This can include General Advance projects in Ohio as well as those around the world.

Please pray for the people and communities these serve. Volunteer and build relationships with these partners. These connections have much to teach us about being “the body of Christ redeemed by His blood.”

You will note that we have one new advance, Christian Children’s Home of Ohio, and six discontinued advances. Discontinued Advances are listed at the end of Recommendation #1 with the reason they are discontinued.

Recommendation #1: that the following be adopted and promoted as Conference Advance Projects for support by the East Ohio United Methodist Churches (NOTE: Grouped by ministry or mission type).

Health & Welfare Agencies historically affiliated with and in a covenant relationship with the EOCUMC.

Canton Calvary Mission, Canton | EOC 9151

Canton Calvary Mission provides a safe, warm, and caring place for children, teens, and adults through multiple programs such as: food programs, after-school and summer programs for children and teens, diapers and formula, health education opportunities and connection to healthcare through our partnership with Access Health, school supplies, clothing, bedding, and household and other items.

Copeland Oaks Care Fund, Sebring | EOC 9172

The Life Care Fund is an on-going program that provides financial assistance to aging folks in our care who can no longer afford to pay for housing, meals, prescriptions, and healthcare needs.

Epworth Center, Bethesda | EOC 9140

Epworth Center Work Mission helps our neighbors who apply for assistance during the summer months. Mission teams come to Epworth for three to five days and work mostly on outdoor projects such as ramps, porches, fences, yards, or painting for those who cannot physically or financially do the work themselves.

Flat Rock Home & Care Center, Flat Rock | EOC 9174

Flat Rock provides health care, day programming, vocational and employment services for adults with significant developmental disabilities and severe behavioral disorders in nine counties in Ohio. This project provides much-needed free, charitable care and services not covered by Medicaid or other programs.

Heart 4 the City, Akron | EOC 9941

Building the front porch to the Kingdom of God by prioritizing relationships and establishing programs that address needs in our community, including a food pantry and a free store.

Nehemiah Mission, Cleveland | EOC 9136

The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland rebuilds lives and homes of physically and fiscally challenged individuals to sow seeds of hope.

OhioGuidestone, Berea | EOC 9173

OhioGuidestone's mission is to provide pathways for growth, achievement, and lifelong success by helping those we serve overcome barriers to success and find the joy that comes with self-sufficiency and accomplishment.

Otterbein Marblehead | EOC 9175

Otterbein values the older person as a child of God. In keeping with our United Methodist tradition, Otterbein seeks to enhance the quality of life and holistic growth of older persons.

Urban Mission Ministries, Steubenville | EOC 9107

Provides a holistic ministry approach to ending poverty in the Ohio Valley by providing hunger relief, housing, community development, neighborhood revitalization, and spiritual care for individuals and families. Our vision is to end poverty one fresh start at a time. If you wish to donate to the Neighborhood Community Development Center, use this fund and note NCDC in the memo.

West Side Community House (WSCH), Cleveland | EOC 9933

West Side Community House 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.

Local Ministry Partners that are UMC-affiliated, ecumenical, or community ministries relating to EOCUMC district strategy.

ACCESS Ashland Emergency Shelter, Ashland County | EOC 9953

Provides 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.

Blue Rose Mission, Mansfield | EOC 9940

To provide opportunities for people to bring Christ to homeowners in need in Richland County through home improvement projects. Our purpose is to use community and church groups to do housing repair for people in need.

Christian Children's Home of Ohio, Wooster | EOC 9977

Provides a safe and structured environment to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of children across Ohio that have been abused, neglected, or traumatized by the people they should be able to trust the most. Also offers foster care and counseling services for youth not living on campus.

Covered Bridge Mission, Ashtabula County | EOC 9975

This mission addresses small home improvement projects that other charitable organizations do not always provide, such as wheelchair ramps. Helping those with an economic disadvantage in the rural and urban areas of Ashtabula County, Ohio's largest geographic county.

Gifted Gaits, Quaker City | EOC 9919

Gifted Gaits is a ministry in the Southern Hills District, birthed out of Kennonsburg UMC. It provides equine assisted therapy, caregiver support and workforce development that is rooted in prayer, relationships, and horses.

Harmony House, Mansfield | EOC 9134

Our mission at Harmony House is to provide the homeless citizens in Richland County with a clear path to housing and hope.

Interchurch Social Services of Knox County, Knox County | EOC 9196

Interchurch Social Services 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.

Journey's End Ministries, Newcomerstown | EOC 9931

Journey's End operates a food pantry to feed the less fortunate in Newcomerstown and the surrounding area. We also offer used clothing and household items.

Martha's Cupboard, Fresno | EOC 9964

To follow Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves by helping those who have lost their jobs or are low income. We provide cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies, diapers, and school supplies that cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Nepali-Speaking Ministry, Cuyahoga Falls | EOC 9923

Christian education for children and adults who speak English as a second language, including those who speak Nepali as a first language.

O.P.E.N. M, Akron | EOC 9102

O.P.E.N. M Community Works Akron (CWA) assists those in poverty to become economically self-sufficient through holistic employment assistance, prioritizing financial literacy, job retention, and mentorship to lower individual barriers to employment.

Project Hope for the Homeless (Ecumenical Shelter Network of Lake County) | EOC 9143

Project Hope Restoring Hope & Renewing Lives is a 50-bed emergency shelter, which includes a 12-bed family wing with extended hours (Families Moving Forward), as well as comprehensive services and aftercare services upon exit.

South Street Ministries, Inc., Akron | EOC 9195

South Street Ministries assists unemployed adults and addresses the spectrum of youth education and mentoring needs in the South Akron community with its many programs.

Starting Point Outreach Center, Willard | EOC 9939

A community mission to provide help and guidance for crisis resolution and the achievement of financial, personal, and spiritual well-being. We promote Christ-centered family values while helping low- and moderate-income families overcome financial crises, providing low-cost immigration legal assistance, and giving support for recovering addicts.

Ministries Administered by the EOCUMC Council on Ministries**Disaster Response in Ohio | EOC 9200**

Provides immediate and long-term recovery for the community and the survivors of a disaster in the East Ohio Conference or neighboring areas.

Disaster Response Leadership Development | EOC 9648

Funding for United Methodist Committee on Relief Early Response Team (UMCOR ERT) training, scholarships, and leadership development sponsored by the East Ohio Disaster Response Committee.

East Ohio Conference Camps | EOC 9899

East Ohio Conference camps provides for camperships and subsidizes other needs at the camp sites to provide a quality Christian camping program.

East Ohio Conference Camps - L.O.T. Campership Program | EOC 9186

The Least Of These (L.O.T.) Campership Endowment provides camperships for children, youth, young adults and families from poverty situations.

East Ohio Volunteers in Mission Leadership Development | EOC 9046

Provides funding for training, scholarships, and leadership development of East Ohio Volunteers in Mission.

East Ohio Volunteers in Mission Teams | EOC 9643

Funding for team travel, materials, and participant expenses of teams planned and organized by a UMVIM-trained team leader.

John M. Roseberry Scholarship Fund | EOC 9976

Scholarships are awarded to racial-ethnic students who have been members of The United Methodist Church for at least three years and do not have the access to higher education that others may have.

Partners in Mission | EOC 9948

Staff salary and expenses for the East Ohio Missions coordinator to develop networks and share stories of all God is doing through risk-taking mission partnerships.

Missions - Not Designated | EOC Fund 9001

This fund is to be used where most-needed for missions. The Board of Missions approves any spending from this fund.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Disaster Response**Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC), Illinois | EOC 9944**

A facility for collecting, processing, sorting, and shipping material goods for disaster response.

Eastbrook Mission Barn, New Castle, PA | EOC 9918

Established in 2008 as a ministry of Eastbrook UMC, our mission is four-fold: collect, process, package and ship UMCOR kits in a tri-state region; construct handicap access ramps and help with local needs; provide material support for ERT (Early Response Teams) doing disaster response; provide education about Christian mission, especially UMCOR and UMVIM.

UMCOR US Disaster Response | EOC 1327**UMCOR International Relief Fund | EOC 1301****General Church, National and International Mission Partners****CHOAIDS (Caring for Haitian Orphans with AIDS), Haiti | EOC 9922**

CHOAIDS provides shelter, food, access to education, transportation, and medical treatment for neglected children in Haiti who are HIV-positive. They also employ HIV-positive women as “house moms” to provide direct care to these orphans.

Farmer to Farmer, Liberia | EOC 9026

Farmer to Farmer supports mission partners in Harrisburg, Liberia, whose work includes providing farm equipment and training to the Liberian farming community.

North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) UMVIM | EOC 9177**North Coast of Haiti Mission, Haiti | EOC 9947**

Improve the lives of the people of the Cap Haitian Circuit of Eglise Methodiste du Haiti, with a primary focus on the Methodist School and Church in Dondon.

The Resurrection Community Center, Mamantel, Mexico | EOC 9974

The center is currently being renovated and expanded to provide a space for worship services, bible study, English as a second language (ESL) classes, free community meals, computer resource center, and library. Visitors will also be able to receive canned goods, vouchers for farmers market, hygiene kits, clothing, school supplies, and low-cost haircuts.

The following have been discontinued as Advance Projects, with reason listed in parenthesis.

3Cs Missions | EOC 9936 (Please give to specific projects or fund 9643 for UMVIM teams.)

Kenmore Free Store, Akron | EOC 9920 (Did not apply for renewal.)

Masindi Educational Ministries, Uganda | EOC 9192 (Did not apply for renewal.)

McKinley Community Outreach Center, Willoughby | EOC 9966 (Did not apply for renewal.)

Neighborhood Community Development Center, Steubenville | EOC 9112 (Donors who wish to support NCDC can use Urban Mission 9107 and designate it for NCDC.)

Young Peoples Ministries Service Projects | EOC 9701 (Did not apply for renewal.)

RECOMMENDATION #2: that churches and individuals in East Ohio be encouraged to support General Advance Projects. Visit www.advance.umcmmission.org to search for General Advance Projects or to donate directly.

RECOMMENDATION #3: that the Conference Council On Ministries Executive Committee, upon recommendation by the Board of Missions, be authorized to revise this list of Conference Advance Projects between sessions of Annual Conference.

RECOMMENDATION #4: that every church promote the Special Sunday and Conference offerings. The local church may use traditional dates or choose any other time to promote these ministries. Learn more on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/finance/special-sundays.

World Communion Sunday | EOC 9210 October 3, 2021

Historically, World Communion Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday of October. The offering supports ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college and people of color who have not historically had access to resources that make higher education possible. The offering is disbursed to:

- a) World Communion Scholarships: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries), with at least one half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States;
- b) Ethnic Scholarship Program: 35 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry); and
- c) Ethnic In-Service Training Program: 15 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry).

United Methodist Student Day | EOC 9211**November 28, 2021**

Historically, United Methodist Student Day has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November. The offering supports United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund.

Human Relations Sunday | EOC 9204**January 16, 2022**

Historically, Human Relations Day has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all of God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The offering is disbursed through:

- a) Community Developers Program: 57 percent (General Board of Global Ministries);
- b) United Methodist Voluntary Services Program: 33 percent (General Board of Global Ministries); and
- c) Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program: 10 percent (General Board of Church and Society).

UMCOR Sunday | EOC 9206**March 27, 2022**

Previously called "One Great Hour of Sharing," this offering supports the administration and foundational work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the global humanitarian aid and development organization of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR's work can be categorized into three major areas:

- a) Humanitarian Relief / Disaster Response
- b) Sustainable Development
- c) Global Health (in collaboration with Global Ministries)

Native American Sunday | EOC 9207**May 1, 2022**

Historically, Native American Ministries Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the third Sunday of Easter. This Sunday serves to remind the Church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. Half of the offering is disbursed through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to provide Scholarships for Native Americans. The other half of the offering is disbursed through the Conference Native American Awareness Committee to develop and strengthen Native American ministries within the annual conference.

Peace with Justice Sunday | EOC 9209**June 12, 2022**

Historically, Peace with Justice Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Half of the offering is disbursed through the General Board of Church and Society and half through the Conference Church and Society Committee. The offering supports programs that advocate for peace and justice at home and around the world. East Ohio Peace With Justice grant applications are available on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/church-society/pwj.

Golden Cross Sunday | EOC 9208 Any date determined by the local church.

The offering is divided among the Health & Welfare covenant ministries.

DisAbility Awareness Sunday | EOC 9212 Any date determined by the local church.

DisAbility Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with differing abilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with differing abilities and health concerns. The offering is administered by the DisAbility Awareness team.

Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday | UMC 9643 Any date determined by the local church.

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate those who have served in short-term missions and the work of UMVIM throughout the world. The offering is administered by the Conference UMVIM team to provide training, networks, and scholarships for individuals and mission teams.

Other Special Days:**#MakeADifferenceDay****October 23, 2021**

Make a Difference Day occurs annually on the fourth Saturday in October. This is a good opportunity to witness to the world and engage other community partners by volunteering in local mission settings. Contact Advance Special Projects for ideas.

#GivingTuesday**November 30, 2021**

Giving Tuesday is the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This provides a good opportunity for churches and organizations to use social media to promote a specific advance. In 2019, \$624, 868 was donated to The Advance through The UMC #GivingTuesday campaign.

Churches may give to Conference Advance Projects and to General Advance Projects by taking up an offering and indicating the project number on the church statement/remittance form sent by the local church treasurer to the East Ohio Conference.

View the list of current Advance Projects on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/finance/advance-special.

Africa University Fund Report to Annual Conference 2021

What a joy it is to share with you, the members of the East Ohio Conference, as passionately engaged partners in ministry with Africa University. The opportunity to update and thank you is truly a blessing, given the uncertainty and upheaval that have been a shared experience, locally and globally, from the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

Africa University is deeply grateful to the local congregations of the East Ohio Conference for investing 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2020. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Africa University with such faithfulness. By making this an ongoing commitment and giving generously, even in difficult times, East Ohio United Methodist congregations are a source of inspiration, momentum and strength.

Thank you, East Ohio, for scholarship and financial aid gifts that are making dreams possible for young people who would otherwise never have a chance of pursuing a college education.

The East Ohio Conference's **Teach • Reach • Bless** campaign, supporting access to on-campus housing for women students, is a wonderful investment in student quality of life and yet another boost to the overall sustainability of the University's ministry.

The multilayered impact of COVID-19 and the measures instituted to control the public health crisis it engendered have brought about profound and lasting adjustments to how we live, work, serve and connect. For Africa University, these included:

- **A shift to online-only teaching and learning from late March through December 2020.** Online teaching and remote work required more equipment and training for faculty and staff as well as creative actions to ensure consistent internet access for the students, regardless of location. As the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degrees, Africa University had the infrastructure and expertise to transition smoothly and break new ground with competence-based student assessment tools.
- **An extraordinary rise in the continental university rankings.** Africa University is currently ranked number one in Zimbabwe and 39th among the top 200 universities in Africa, having moved up 59 spots in 2020.
- **Gifts totaling more than \$300,000 from across the United Methodist connection that were designated for COVID-19 relief efforts.** These second-mile gifts enabled Africa University to house, feed and encourage almost 300 international students who were stranded on its campus between March and late July 2020.
- **Excellent student retention and modest enrollment growth,** with a more than 99% uptake of online learning by students. More than 3,000 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 academic year – an increase of 16% over the previous year – with 2,395 young people studying full-time. Fifty-seven percent of full-time students were female and 24% were international.
- **Innovation, outreach and service through:**
 - the development and distribution of masks and hand sanitizer (*of its own design/formulation*), that have now been certified and cleared for commercial production.
 - the launch, via a web application, of farm to household delivery of fresh produce, meat and poultry products by the Africa University Dream Farm Trust.
 - two student-led initiatives – **Feed a Family** and **Ben Hill UMC Women's Residence Girl Child Support Program** – that provided medical care, food, and school fees assistance to

vulnerable families in the wider community. Campus-based and home-based students raised resources, procured supplies and organized safe distribution to families.

- **The successful completion of two new buildings** – the Highland Park UMC-funded student union facility and a dormitory for female students. A new solar farm powers the Highland Park women's dormitory.

Africa University's online campus is here to stay, thanks to infrastructure upgrades and the lesson learned while staying on mission in 2020. Going forward, Africa University is committed to growing its pan-African presence and impact through new programs, partnerships, and an effective blend of in-person and online learning options.

Thank you, East Ohio United Methodists, for helping to prepare young leaders to be "an aroma that brings life" to a world that is crying out for justice, compassion, healing and wholeness (2 Cor. 2:14-16). Your prayers and gifts provide a strong foundation for the efforts of the students, lecturers and administrators as they engage in disciple-making by example.

In journeying alongside Africa University in ministry and mission, East Ohio United Methodists are the church in the world – witnessing to a risen Christ with whom all things are possible. East Ohio, as you affirm that we are all in it together, God's grace is indeed sufficient. To God be the glory.

*James H. Salley, associate vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development office*



Boston University School of Theology

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

I am grateful for my first opportunity to thank you for your moral, prayerful, and material support of the Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH). A year like 2020 makes the School's historic and ongoing commitments to social justice even more relevant, and we remain hopeful in our continued partnership with you.

Breaking News

- **Virtual Learning:** Our faculty, staff, and library pivoted to fully remote learning in Spring 2020 upon the COVID-19 lockdown, continuing through the summer terms. Boston University's "Learn *from* Anywhere" hybrid approach to learning began in Fall 2020, which included a thorough on-campus testing program and strict COVID-19 precautions to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff.
- **Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body. Our Fall 2020 entering class was among our largest classes ever, with 128 new students enrolling in September.
- **Faculty:** We celebrated *dean emerita* Mary Elizabeth Moore's 12-year service to the School as she stepped down on December 31, 2020. New dean G. Sujin Pak began her appointment on January 1, 2021. Dean Pak is known for her commitments to academic rigor, social justice, and United Methodism, which made her a wonderful fit for the deanship of BUSTH.

- **Lilly Endowment Grant for Thriving Congregations Initiative:** BUSTH was awarded a nearly-\$1 million, four-year grant to work with urban congregations responding to trauma. The project will focus on responding to congregants who are continually shaped by and reacting to compounding traumatic events, such as systemic racism, gun violence, homelessness, or immigration stressors.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry. Leadership fellowships support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies: Raíces Latinas, Sacred Worth, Indigenous Studies, Korean Studies, Women in Leadership, and Black Church Studies.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH began to offer online workshops and reading groups for professional and spiritual enrichment of alumni and other religious leaders. Topics include religious Afro-futurism, spirituality through the writings of Howard Thurman, and practices of grief in a time of pandemic. To learn about or participate in the next BUSTH Lifelong Learning offerings, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our traditional exhibits moved to an online space. The current exhibit is available online at www.butheoartsgallery2020.wordpress.com.
- **Development:** Recently raised funds reflect broad support from alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, with a far-reaching impact on the School's ability to pursue its mission. More than 2,800 donors, including 1,927 alumni (a 50% alumni participation rate), contributed to the recent campaign.

Partnering for Ministry and Transformation

- **Doctor of Ministry:** The D. Min. in Transformational Leadership flourishes with lively student cohorts that are interfaith, broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global.
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** We now have four denominational Communities of Learning: Wesleyan/Methodist, Episcopal/Anglican, United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* and the *State of Formation* for emerging leaders.
- **Chaplaincy education:** BUSTH and the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab received a grant to support the joint project "Innovations in Chaplaincy Education," which will seek to redesign courses on chaplaincy in higher education.

Commitment to Justice

- Faculty, staff, and students are active in #BlackLivesMatter efforts to seek racial equality, and also in supporting people suffering the consequences of immigration practices or disability inequities.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

Blessings and gratitude,
G. Sujin Pak, dean

Candler School of Theology—2021 Report to the UMC Annual Conferences

Since our founding in 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated more than 10,000 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. We continued our work even through this most difficult year, with the coronavirus continuing its march around the world, a reckoning for racial injustice rolling across our nation, and a toxic, divisive political atmosphere challenging our civic life. Perhaps there has been no better year than this to underscore the importance of faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world—the type of leaders we form at Candler.

Though our mission remains unchanged, the pandemic has necessitated many changes in how we undertake that mission: We have shifted classes online, redesigned syllabi to support optimal online learning, developed new ways to worship and experience community together in the virtual sphere, and discerned which new habits and modalities have promise for enriching our work even after the pandemic ends. Through these efforts, we and our students have gained deep experience in being flexible, adaptable, and creative as we respond to the demands of ever-changing contexts—experience that not only serves us well now, but will continue to serve us and our ministries far into the future.

Candler is one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, we enthusiastically welcome students from 44 denominations, with 46% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 483 from 12 countries and 37 states, 44 percent persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. This diversity is a rich blessing, and this year we created a new staff position of assistant director of student life for diversity, equity and inclusion to foster understanding and ensure we are responsive to the needs of our diverse student body.

We offer six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees. Our new Chaplaincy concentration is now among our most popular, and our Teaching Parish program enables students to serve as student pastors in local churches throughout the southeast, learning firsthand about shepherding a congregation; this year, there were 36 participants.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid remains among our top priorities. In 2019-2020, we awarded nearly \$6.6 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, and master of religious leadership students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

The demands of the pandemic did not diminish Candler's robust schedule of events. Candler's Black Church Studies program celebrated its 30th anniversary with a yearlong slate of online lectures and panel discussions, now available at vimeo.com/candler. We also launched The Candler Foundry to make theological education accessible to all, through short and semester-length courses taught by Candler faculty, videos and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one, and Facebook Live panel discussions connecting theology with current issues in the world. View the latest offerings at candlerfoundry.emory.edu.

Candler's ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu.

—Jan Love

*Mary Lee Hardin Willard dean and professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology, Emory University*

Drew University Theological School

As with most other schools in the northeast of the U.S., Drew University evacuated its campus in early spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drew Theological School faculty and staff adapted to this challenge with resilience, compassion, and creativity. The Theological School faculty put their courses all online, led development workshops for faculty across the university, and, in order to accommodate our many international admits who would not be able to enter the United States for fall 2020, designed an asynchronous Master of Divinity program. As a result of this work, the Theological School welcomed 147 new students, its largest entering class in a decade, with an enrollment of 380 for the current academic year. Our chapel team has also led the way in creating online worship experiences that connect the Drew community now across the globe. All degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who go all over the world to take their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents.

Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, interim dean

Duke University Divinity School

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen associate professor of Reconciliation and Theology, associate dean for Academic Affairs, and director of the Center for Reconciliation will become dean of Duke Divinity School (DDS) July 1, 2021. Dean Gregory L. Jones will leave DDS to become president of Belmont University.

DDS announced a new hybrid version of its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program that will give students the opportunity to earn the M.Div. degree without relocating to Durham, N.C. The hybrid learning curriculum combines remote coursework with week-long residential intensives. The first cohort will begin in fall 2021.

DDS welcomed the largest incoming class in school history with 257 new students from 35 different states and seven countries. Our Master of Arts in Christian Practice (28 students) and Doctor of Ministry (52 students) programs received record enrollments. The Master of Theology (13 students), Master of

Theological Studies (34 students), and Doctor of Theology (six students) had strong enrollment. Our new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll six students. Across all degree programs, 31% of the incoming class identified as a race/ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 21% of all students, Asian students, 5%; and American Indian students, 2%. Forty-five percent of students in the incoming class were female, and 55% were male. The M.Div. degree program gained 113 new students.

2020 also witnessed an expansion of DDS partnerships, including the Kern Family Foundation partnership with the office of Wesleyan Engagement to provide accelerated pathways for undergraduate students to pursue the M.Div. degree at Duke. DDS welcomed its first cohort of students at Martin Methodist College. The Americas Initiative, a fellowship of organizations, scholars and practitioners convened by the Center for Reconciliation, is working on peacebuilding among Latin American and Latinx communities, particularly those of Indigenous and African descent. The five-year Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration, begun in the fall of 2019 and jointly funded by DDS and the Provost's office, is working to harness the research and experiential wisdom of Black pastoral leaders nationally through a leadership school and practical theology archiving project.

DDS sought to reckon in deeper and broader ways with systemic racism. A Story Listening and Gathering project solicited past or present students, faculty, and staff to share stories of how race affects daily life at DDS with a goal of understanding the experiences of the community and to inform the school's broader anti-racism efforts. A new Race and the Professions Fellowship, in partnership with the Kenan Institute for Ethics, and the Churches Promoting Recovery Project, in partnership with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative, provided new opportunities for students to deepen their vocational formation and reimagine community transformation beyond campus.

DDS hired eight new faculty members in 2020. Peter Casarella is a professor of Theology. Sarah Barton is an assistant professor of Occupational Therapy and Theological Ethics. Quinton Dixie is an associate research professor of Church History and Black Church Studies. Zebulon Highben is associate professor of the practice of Church Music. Alma Tinoco Ruiz is a lecturer in Homiletics and Evangelism and director of the Hispanic House of Studies. Janet Martin Soskice is the William K. Warren Distinguished research professor of Catholic Theology. Norbert Wilson is professor of Food, Economics, and Community. Wylin D. Wilson is an assistant professor of Theological Ethics.

L. Gregory Jones, dean of the Divinity School



Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of The United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution, online and on-campus, in Kansas and Oklahoma. This past year, we have all faced new challenges amid these unsettled times. Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2020-2021 academic year offering students an online option for all courses. With many students choosing to attend class solely online, our Student Council created a monthly "Chat & Chew" where students, faculty, and staff come together to eat lunch and talk about life, seminary, and ministry. In addition, Rev. Rod Newman, our Oklahoma Campus Chapel coordinator, crafts a weekly community prayer to provide encouragement and faithfulness as the school seeks to provide spiritual formation in new ways.

Kansas Campus Chapel coordinator Dr. Casey Sigmon took worship to new technological levels by introducing our weekly online worship service via Zoom, bringing our separate campus chapel services together for one service where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are.

Along with our featured alumni worship preachers, the community was blessed this fall by the presence of Musician in Residence Hannah Rand, from The Many, who led the music each week for worship. In Spring 2020, Odell Talley, director of Music for Swope Parkway United and organist for Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist, served as musician in residence. For those who cannot join us live, chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel.

This year, we have faced several challenges that turned into opportunities for new recruiting spaces and partnerships to enhance students' seminary experience. With the change from in-person to virtual events, Rev. Shannon Hancock, director of Admissions and Communications, has expanded her reach to prospective students by participating as a virtual exhibitor at online conferences. Rev. Hancock engages with prospective students via apps such as Whova and HopIn to highlight Saint Paul's unique course delivery system and formative community.

In February, Saint Paul held the 2021 Slater-Willson Lecture online featuring Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre. His lecture, "Why Do They Come?" explored the political, economic, and social causes of our current immigration crisis. Before the lecture, Rev. Dr. De La Torre participated in a student-led forum, entering a conversation centering around the practical aspects of ministry and immigration. Later in April, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a lecture given by Dr. Sammy G. Alfaro, associate professor of Theology at Grand Canyon University and pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Dia (New Day Church), on the "Pastoral Strategies for Ministering Among Latinx Immigrant Communities." And for the first time, on May 22, Saint Paul held a virtual commencement celebration with videos, cap and gown photos, online congratulatory messages from friends and family, and a commencement address by Rev. Chebon Kernell. The class of 2021 had 22 graduates, including 16 Master of Divinity and one Doctor of Ministry graduates. Due to the pandemic, for safety concerns, Saint Paul has postponed our 60th Anniversary Celebration. However, we have rescheduled the event for Friday, October 22 and look forward to coming together as a community for a safe, in-person gathering.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking more to answer the call. We are a seminary that offers online and on-campus classes with a flexible schedule to help our students manage pastoral leadership demands in the 21st century. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

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



Thank you and congratulations to these churches which have
paid **100% of their Apportionments**

Canal

Atwater
Bethel Valley
Burton City
Charlestown
Chapel of The Cross
Clearview
Clinton
Cuya Falls First
East Greenville
Kent
Lakemore
Macedonia
Medina
Mogadore
Montrose Zion
New Pittsburg
Oak Chapel
Orrville Trinity
Peninsula
Rittman
Sawyerwood
Seville
Sharon Center
Shreve
Sterling
Tallmadge
Twin Falls
Uniontown
Wadsworth
West Lebanon
Wooster
Wooster Church Of The Cross

Firelands

Amherst UMC
Attica
Belden
Bellevue First
Burbank Faith
Burbank Trinity
Clarksfield
Clyde First
Collins
Columbus Avenue
Cornerstone

Creston Canaan
Edison Memorial
Fitchville
Flat Rock Ebenezer
Grafton
Green Springs
Greenwich
Henrietta
Homerville
Huron
Kelleys Island Zion
La Grange
Lakeside
Lakeview (FL)
Laporte
Leroy
Lorain Lighthouse UMC
Mount Carmel
New Washington
North Fairfield
Norwalk First
Nova Community
Republic Trinity
Richmond
Rust
Sandusky Trinity
Seybert
South Amherst
Spencer
Tiffin Faith
Tiffin St Paul
Union Pisgah
Union Salem
Vickery
Wellington
West Hartland
West Salem

Mahoning Valley

Boardman First
Braceville
Bunker Hill
Champion Otterbein
Coalburg
Damascus
Deerfield

E Liverpool First
East Fairfield
Elkton
Ellsworth
Fowler
Highlandtown
Howland
Lisbon
Millcreek Community UMC
Negley
New Garden
Niles New Hope
North Lima Calvary
Ohltown
Palmyra
Pricetown
Riley's
Sebring
Smith Corners
Vienna
West Austintown
Western Reserve
Youngstown Trinity

Mid-Ohio

Adario
Ashland First
Ashley
Black Fork Parish: Faith
Blooming Grove
Boundary
Bucyrus
Bucyrus Mount Zion
Canaan
Cardington First
Center
Chesterville
Claridon
Crestline First
Denmark
Ebenezer
Edison
Fairview

Fairview (Wooster)
Harmony Chapel



Thank you and congratulations to these churches which have paid **100% of their Apportionments**

Hayesville
Iberia
Jeromesville
Johnsville Grace
Lakefork
Lemert
Lexington Ch Cross
Main Street
Mansfield Chapel Hill
Mansfield First
Mansfield Trinity
Martel
Memorial United Methodist
Church of Caledonia, Ohio
Mt Gilead Trinity
Nankin Community Church
Nevada
New Beginnings
Olivesburg
Ontario
Paradise Hill
Plankton
Polk
Red Haw
Shelby First
Shelby Trinity
Sixteen
Sparta
Williamsport
Woodlawn

North Coast

Aldersgate
Avon
Bay
Bennetts Corner
Berea
Brecksville
Calvary Lakewood
Ch Of The Saviour
Chagrin Falls
Cleveland Christ
Columbia
Elyria Community
Garfield Heights
Garfield Memorial

Lake Shore
Lakewood
Mount Pleasant (Medina)
North Olmsted
Pearl Road
Ridgewood
Rocky River
St Paul
Strongsville
Westlake

Ohio Valley

Adena
Amity
Amsterdam
Bellaire South
Bergholz
Bethel
Bowerston First
Bowerston Trinity
Bray's Chapel
Bridgeport First
Brooks Run
Buena Vista
Carrollton
Christ
Deersville
Dellroy
East Springfield Church Of
The Cross
Flushing
Hanover
Harmony
Harrisville
Herrington-bethel
Holloway
Hopedale
Jewett
Kilgore
Lloydsville
Maynard
Mt Pleasant
Mt Zion
Mt Zion
Mt Zion Carroll Co
New Alexandria

New Athens
Oak Grove
Old Wegee
Perrysville
Pleasant Grove
Pleasant Hill
Pleasant Valley
Powhatan Point
Rankin
Rayland
Scott Memorial
Sewellsville
Shadyside Lincoln Avenue
Sherrodsville Calvary
Toronto First
Unionport

Southern Hills

Antrim
Ava
Barnesville Main
Batesville
Belle Valley
Bethesda
Bethlehem
Caldwell
Cambridge First
Center
Chalfant's Chapel
Chandlersville
Claysville
Cumberland
Derwent
Duncan Falls
Fairview
Gaysport
Greenbrier
Hannibal
Hills
Hirambsburg
Jacobsburg
Jerusalem
Keith
Kennonsburg
Lebanon
Lore City



Thank you and congratulations to these churches which have paid **100% of their Apportionments**

Lower Salem
Macksburg
Mary Reed
Mc Kendree
McConnelsville Grace
Morristown
Mt Ephraim
New Concord
New Matamoras
Newport
Norwich
Old Washington
Pleasant City
Pleasant Grove Musk
Pleasant Ridge
Quaker City
Ragans Chapel
Rural Dale
Salem
Salem Hall
Salesville
Sand Hill (SH)
Senecaville
Somerton
Stafford
Winterset
Woodsfield

Three Rivers

Adamsville
Amity
Batemantown UMC
Berlin
Bethel
Beulah
Bigelow
Birmingham
Blissfield
Brandon
Conesville
Danville
Ebenezer
Fredericktown
Freeport
Fresno
Gambier Epworth

Green Valley Chapel
Holmesville
Hopewell
Irish Ridge
Isleta
Jelloway
Keene
Killbuck
Kings
Lakeville
Liberty Chapel
Millersburg
Moreland
Mount Hope
Mulberry Street
Nashville
Nellie Chapel
New Guilford
New Moscow
Newcomerstown Calvary
Orange
Otsego
Plainfield
Pleasant Grove Tusc
Prospect
Roscoe
South Vernon
Trinway
Tyndal
Utica
Waterford
Wesley Chapel
West Union
Wolf

Tuscarawas

Alliance Aldersgate
Alliance Christ
Alliance Lexington
Asbury
Bisel
Bolivar
Canton Epworth
Church Of The Lake
Crooked Run
Crosspoint UMC

Crystal Park
Dover Faith
East Rochester
Gnadenhutten
Holmes
Magnolia
Malvern
Massillon Trinity
Midvale
N Canton Faith
N Canton Grace
New Cumberland
New Franklin
New Life UMC
New Philadelphia Broadway
New Way UMC
Newcomers Chapel of Pigeon Run
Newport
North Industry
Otterbein
Pleasant Valley
Real Hope
Sandyville
Strasburg
Uhrichsville First
Uhrichsville Grace
Union Avenue
Union Hill
Werner
Wilmot

Western Reserve

Amboy
Ashtabula First
Bulah Calvary
Chardon
Cherry Valley
Colebrook
Cortland
Garrettsville
Geneva
Gustavus Federated
Harpersfield
Hartford
Hope Ridge



Thank you and congratulations to these churches which have
paid **100% of their Apportionments**

Jefferson
Kelloggsville
Kinsman
Leon
Madison Chapel
Madison Park
Mentor
Middlefield
Monroe
N Mentor Centenary

Nelson
North Bloomfield
Orangeville
Orwell
Perry
Richmond
Saybrook
Southington
Thompson
Vernon

West Farmington
Wildare
Williamsfield
Willoughby
Willoughby Hills
Windham
Windsor

Annual Conference 2021 Evaluation
East Ohio Annual Conference June 16 - June 19, 2021

The East Ohio Conference exists to live out its vision to equip and support pastors, congregations, and faith communities to grow in their capacity to bear fruit that lasts:

- being disciples, making disciples, and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ;
- being God's agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world; and
- being bold and courageous leaders in reaching new people, younger people, and a more diverse people.

Recognizing the changes required by the pandemic to meet virtually, please evaluate the effectiveness of the following in accomplishing its purpose as part of the mission and vision of the Conference:

1. Please indicate how you participated in Annual Conference (choose all that apply)
 - ☐ Able to view and vote online
 - ☐ Viewed as a livestream
 - ☐ Attended as a guest
 - ☐ Comments: _____
2. What is your membership with/relation to the East Ohio Annual Conference?
 - ☐ Voting member – Clergy
 - ☐ Voting member – Lay
 - ☐ Clergy serving in East Ohio – not a voting member
 - ☐ Lay person in East Ohio – not a voting member
 - ☐ Comments: _____
3. Online Registration for Annual Conference
 - ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 4 (Very Effective)
 - ☐ N/A
 - ☐ Comments: _____
4. Wednesday Commissioning and Ordination
 - ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
 - ☐ N/A (Did Not Attend/View)
 - ☐ Comments: _____

5. Thursday Service of Commemoration & Holy Communion

- ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
 - ☐ N/A (Did Not Attend/View)
 - ☐ Comments: _____
-

6. Thursday Celebration of Retirement

- ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
 - ☐ N/A (Did Not Attend/View)
 - ☐ Comments: _____
-

7. Friday Morning Worship

- ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
 - ☐ N/A (Did Not Attend/View)
 - ☐ Comments: _____
-

8. Saturday Morning Worship

- ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
 - ☐ N/A (Did Not Attend/View)
 - ☐ Comments: _____
-

9. Episcopal Address

- ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
 - ☐ 2
 - ☐ 3
 - ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
 - ☐ N/A (Did Not Attend/View)
 - ☐ Comments: _____
-

10. Business Sessions of Annual Conference

- ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
- ☐ N/A (Did Not Attend/View)
- ☐ Comments: _____

11. Ability to vote if eligible/ease of voting

- ☐ 1 (Needs Attention)
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4 (Very Meaningful)
- ☐ N/A (Not Eligible to Vote)
- ☐ Comments: _____

12. What part of Annual Conference has been the most helpful in equipping you and your church?

13. What would help us design Annual Conference to better equip you and your church?

14. Person completing this evaluation is:

- ☐ Clergy
- ☐ Laity

15. Please select which age category applies to you:

- ☐ Youth in grade 6-12
- ☐ Adult age 18-35
- ☐ Adult age 36-50
- ☐ Adult age 51-65
- ☐ Adult age 66+

<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>	Interrupt Speaker?
		Second Needed?
		Motion debatable?
		Amendable?
		Vote?

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.