
2022 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**Commission on Archives and History Report to Annual Conference 2022****Submitted by Meg Sondey, chair**

The Commission on Archives and History works to preserve the records of the East Ohio 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. UMHSO also provides congregations celebrating milestone anniversaries with certificates honoring special events upon submission of a request and updated history.

The current Commission consists of 16 members: the chair, a representative from each district, two at-large representatives, the Conference historian, the archivist, and the bishop or the executive assistant to the bishop.

Currently serving in those roles are Meg Sondey, chair; Executive Assistant to the Bishop Ed Peterson; Deb Saito, CN; Pat Hogue, FL; James Macdonald, MO; Sandra Beard, NC; Sue Evans, OV; Mollie Gerlach, SH; John Parr, TR; Kathy Fuller, WR. Kerry King and Mary Ann Stotts are at-large representatives. Sharon Monigold is the current archivist. Donald Trigg is the Conference historian. We currently are without representatives for MV and TW.

The Commission continues its research 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. A rough draft of the history of the relationship is in its final stages of development and the desire is to bring that information to the Conference Board of Trustees later this year.

UMHSO moved the 2021 Convocation and Business Meeting to October 22-23 at Anderson Hills UMC in Cincinnati. The 2021 Convocation theme was "Firsts in Ohio United Methodism." The 2022 Convocation and Business Meeting is planned for October 14-15 at Powell UMC in Powell, Ohio. Information about the Convocation and UMHSO membership can be found online at www.umhso.org.

As a JAC participant, we continue to work 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 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 have been developed and distributed.

The Commission members have continued to work remotely and meet virtually throughout the past year. As always, the Commission remains dedicated to preserving the history of the East Ohio Conference so that through those faith stories we can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Board of Laity Report to Annual Conference 2022
Submitted by Kimberly Green, Conference lay leader

The Board of Laity is responsible for encouraging and supporting committed Christians to grow in faith. The Board is also responsible for working collaboratively with clergy to provide leadership and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Board of Laity met several times by digital conferencing collaboratively with the Conference Connectional Table, formerly known as the Conference Council on Ministries.

The Board of Laity has focused its deliberations on the following:

- Planning and preparation for Annual Conference
- Recruitment of new members for the Board of Laity
- Conversations about racial relations
- Collaborative meetings with Connectional Ministries
- Collaboration with the director of Multicultural Vitality and the director of Missions & Community Engagement on COVID testing advocacy and education
- Small group discussions with Connectional Ministries around vision and the Four Areas of Focus
- Education and collaboration with chairs of Conference boards, commissions, and committees
- Collaboration with the Board of Ministry and Cabinet representation regarding retirement guidance and policy
- Participation in the 2021 Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders
- *Conversations of the Heart* with Bishop Tracy S. Malone
- Updates to COVID pandemic guidelines
- First Aid for Mental Health training

The Board of Laity is committed to living and upholding both the mission and vision of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. Learn more on the Laity pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/laity.

Board of Congregational Development Report to Annual Conference 2022
Submitted by Stephanie Tennant, chairperson; Rev. Beth Ortiz, director of Strategic Ministries

The purpose of the Board of Congregational Development is to creatively increase congregational vitality in East Ohio so that we 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. 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.

Some of the ways we have served the Conference over the last year include:

- Both/And trainings that help congregations embrace online worship and find ways to improve and do it better,
- a Creative Worship training,
- Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) workshops and coaching,
- Small Church Leadership trainings with Paul Nickerson, and
- Transitions training.

We also help provide accountability to churches receiving funds, such as the Trinity Fund proceeds, for initiatives as part of our commitment to be good stewards of what God has given us. We are excited and blessed to walk alongside congregations faithfully serving and boldly living out discipleship. We will continue to be here for the congregations in the coming year providing opportunities for coaching, discipleship, and cohorts.

Reach out to Strategic Ministries to have a discussion of how we can walk alongside you as you serve Christ faithfully. Learn more on the Strategic Ministries pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/strategicmin.com.

Board of Multicultural Vitality Report to Annual Conference 2022 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 and Race (CORR), Church & Society, Native American Awareness, Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR), and Ethnic Local Church Concerns. All of these functional areas are represented in a way that searches for common points of intersection to allow us to creatively undertake justice work with the churches and people of the East Ohio Conference.

Our work this year was driven by Luke 4:18-19 where Jesus states his mission to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Jubilee has inspired our work and will continue to do so for the next year. This work has taken shape in the following initiatives, and we invite you to join in God's call for us to do justice!

Community Organizing

For the past two years, we have been working with community organizer trainer Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser, who has consulted with a group of clergy and laity from Akron around two core questions:

- What does a healthy and vital church look like, and what would it be doing?
- What does a healthy and vital community look like, and what would it be doing?

It's important that these questions be answered by both church members and community members and deep listening is done through the tool of *relational meetings* to find and develop leaders and to build power.

Racial Justice

Our commitment to anti-racism continues to be a focus as we resource churches with guides such as the "All in God's Image" family guides for Native American Awareness and Black History month. Intercultural Competency training and trainings for Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural appointments are still important, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Events such as Perspectives: Black Theologian Day or our Bishops'

Retreat with Black Clergy continue to be sources of inspiration and renewal. We continue to fund scholarships for minority students and provide grants for church ministry and clergy.

Advocacy and Ecumenism

Communal acts of mercy – seeking justice – is discipleship in action. We are a witness to the world when we advocate for marginalized groups, historically oppressed groups, and those who have little. The Ohio Council of Churches and Hunger Network in Ohio continue to be avenues for our voice to be present in the Ohio State Legislature.

Our witness to the world is also to live into Jesus' prayer that we may be one. Our ecumenical partnerships have resulted in webinars and learning opportunities around important issues like climate justice, Afghan refugee resettlement, and the death penalty. We have continued to be in partnership with our ecumenical allies to bring training and studies to United Methodist Church congregations.

Learn more on the Multicultural Ministries pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/multi-cultural.

Spiritual Formation & Christian Education report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by Rev. Carrie Antczak, chairperson; Rev. Gary Jones, director of Spiritual Formation

The purpose of the Spiritual Formation & Christian Education Committee is to provide training and resources for local churches, districts, and our annual conference around spiritual formation and discipleship. As we lived into the next year of the pandemic, we learned that there are many ways to offer this kind of support. We have moved away from large-scale events and are moving towards more relational and intentional partnerships with local congregations.

First, we encourage all congregations and leaders to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/spiritualformationEOC for short webinars, discussions, and resource sharing. This is a great way to get to know our work. We also encourage you to consider connecting with our spiritual formation team who are ready and eager to explore with you a variety of ways you can enrich and strengthen your discipleship ministries. Whether you need one-time consulting or a coach for a longer vision, we're blessed to walk alongside you in ministry. Below are a few topics on which we are prepared to partner with you:

1. Safe Sanctuaries for the Local Church
2. Getting Messy Church Started in Your Setting
3. Offering Worship Engagement Manipulatives in Your Congregation
4. How Can Your Congregation Offer Sensory-Sensitive Inclusiveness?
5. Creating a Race and Religion Forum in Your Congregation
6. Offering Outdoor Discipleship as a way to Reach More People in Your Community
7. Hitting the Milestones with Children and Youth in Your Congregation
8. What Every Child and What Every Youth Should Experience
9. Training Effective Teachers
10. Developing a Discipleship Pathway for Your Congregation

Coming soon ...

1. Spiritual Formation & Christian Education in the Small-Membership Church
2. Digital Discipleship

Are there other discipleship and spiritual formation ministry topics you'd like to explore? Reach out to us and let us know! We are blessed to journey with you as you grow and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Learn more on the Spiritual Formation & Christian Education pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/spiritualformation.com.

Young People's Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by Kaye Wolfinger, director of Young People's Ministries

1. Our biggest initiative has been to equip, empower, and support the adult leaders who minister with young people. There are several ways that we continue to accomplish this goal.
 - a. In November, the regional coordinators took a Sabbath retreat with one another. So much fruit came from our time together. The fellowship and spiritual reconnection helped us individually as well as a team.
 - b. A Youth Leader's Network retreat was held in January. This retreat focused on the spiritual discipline of prayer. Youth leaders were able to experience many different types of prayer that were very experiential. Not only was this an opportunity for individuals to strengthen their own prayer lives but also share many ideas that can be used in ministry with young people. This was also a launching time for the theme of Youth Annual Conference for the 2022-23 school year.
 - c. Leaders continue to meet monthly for our Book Club. All details can be found on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/youngpeople/yn.
 - d. Regional coordinators are available for resources and support for leaders of young people. They have networks they connect with on a regular basis and meet with the director of Young People's Ministries monthly to check in and set goals.

2. Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) meets monthly via Zoom. We have seven faithful members.
 - a. They created a social media Lent devotion/challenge that was promoted to East Ohio Conference clergy and laity, who were able to follow along on Instagram or Facebook [eoc_ypm](#) or by looking for [#reLENTless](#).
 - b. Youth Annual Conference is June 17-19 at Walsh University. The theme is "*Relentless.*" Please add this event, the teens, and their leaders to your prayers.
 - c. Applications are now available online for CCYM for the next school year, please encourage teen leaders to apply.
 - d. We are beginning to talk about and promote YOUTH 2023 which is a Discipleship Ministries event in Florida next year. We hope to have good representation from our East Ohio Conference. Micah Beck, a KSU student and member of Wadsworth UMC, is on the planning team for this event.

3. BHECCM, the Board of Higher Education and Collegiate Campus Ministries, continues to work at aligning the mission and vision of the Conference with partnering of campus ministries that share this common mission.
 - a. Currently, we are funding eight ministries in the state.
 - b. The Board is working with a few other local congregations to cast a vision and reach the mission field of the campus in their own back yards.
 - c. We are continuing to work with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) for our scholarship process which was awarded in late spring.

- d. The Board is exploring ways to improve the scholarship process and is discussing how internships may play a part in the future.

Learn more on the Young People's Ministries pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/youngpeople.com.

Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by Rev. Beth Wilterdink, chairperson; Rev. Gary Jones, director 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 2021, despite COVID-19 still being present, we were able to welcome summer campers and retreat guests back to our sites and programs. It was so good to be present with all the guests and campers we missed! The summer camp ministry was able to offer a fruitful program at Aldersgate, Asbury and Wanake as well as at Lakeside Institute. Things were handled differently to keep campers and staff safe from COVID; and we closed the season with no outbreaks and much new learning. We were also able to step back in to hosting groups for our retreat season. It is great to be back in the business of spiritual, birth, growth, and renewal!

We have had some transitions in camp staff. At Camp Asbury, we were saddened by the retirement of Rev. Bill Graham after 23 years of wonderful, faithful service as our director. Sammi (Vaughan) Riggs who was serving as the assistant director, has stepped into the role of interim director and we hired John Cruz as the new assistant director for Asbury. At Camp Wanake, we had two year-round staff people move on to other jobs and we have hired Amy Ecklund as the assistant director of Guest Group Services and Taylor Johnson as the assistant director of Program. We also have welcomed Buford Sullivan as the new Maintenance manager at Camp Aldersgate. We are blessed to have dedicated and qualified people stepping into leadership in our camping ministry!

At the close of 2021, the camping ministry was able to end the year in a good place financially due to a Small Business Administration-backed 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, 2021 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 Camps & Retreat Ministries pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/camps.

Board of Missions & Community Engagement Report to Annual Conference 2022
Submitted by Rev. Kathy Dickriede, director of Missions & Community Engagement

We have been actively working on building resources for community engagement in our East Ohio Conference United Methodist churches; looking to build partnerships and relationships that can lead to advocacy and transformation in community for justice, civic engagement, and community development. The office of Missions & Community Engagement is partnering with the Communications office and the office of Multicultural Vitality to make this happen with webinars, website resources, and already-existing Advances.

As we look to the 2022-2023 conference year, we look to local churches to inspire and inform us on what is already happening as well as turning to mission partners and EOC Advances to teach and lead us in best practices for community engagement. Mission sites like OPEN M, Urban Mission in Steubenville, South Street Ministries in Akron, Canton for All People, and others are leading the way in this work. We will be resourcing these agencies to equip clergy and laity for this work.

Conference leadership has been exploring how to increase the East Ohio participation in Royal Family KID'S Camp. We have worked with leaders from East Ohio's four existing camps to increase diversity in camp staff volunteers and increase the number of camps that are hosted in our communities. Learn more at www.forthethechildren.org.

Long-Term Recovery United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) journeys have happened in Puerto Rico and Lake Charles, Louisiana. During the COVID pandemic, volunteers have engaged in risk-taking missions. Some things are essential. Answering God's call to repair, recover, and rebuild hope in people's lives is one of those essential needs in the world that we can do as followers of Christ. East Ohio is responding, and mission opportunities are available.

International mission partnerships have been strengthened through virtual means over the past two years. We look forward to returning to in-person UMVIM journeys in 2023 to Liberia, Cambodia, Guatemala, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and beyond. Let us know what mission journey you are doing, what you are planning, or a place you would like help building a UMC relationship or partnership within the future!

Learn more on the Missions & Community Engagement pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/missions.

Board of Missions & Community Engagement Committee Reports to Annual Conference 2022**Global Ministries****Submitted by Kevin Schaner, Conference secretary of Global Ministries**

In the past year, I have continued matching churches and small groups with our UMC Global Missionaries. We have worked to educate about the importance of establishing official annual covenant relationships with the missionaries that we support and to add new ones. There are three ways to financially initiate such a relationship:

- larger-member or smaller-member churches joining together (\$2,500)
- individuals (\$500), and
- small groups (\$5 per member).

Learn more on the covenant relationship page of the Global Ministries website at www.umcmmission.org/covenantrelationships.

COVID-19 has opened opportunities for more regular communication compared with when we waited for missionaries to itinerate to us. A sub-committee was initiated in the hopes of creating future local conference leaders. Some of the members assisted seniors to make vaccination appointments. Monthly, the Board of Global Ministries presents #STILLINMISSION, virtual visits with those serving in both the U.S. and around the world. Learn more and register on #STILLINMISSION page of the Global Ministries website at www.umcmmission.org/missionaries-stillinmission.

Health & Well-Being Committee

Submitted by Pastor Georgette Gaston, chairperson

In early 2022, the EOC Health & Welfare Committee changed its name to Health & Well-Being to better reflect the work we are engaging in with EOC agency ministry partners as we work to build better bridges for ministry among UMC agencies, congregations, and the greater community. The current Conference Health & Well-Being Agencies are:

- Canton for All People (new in 2022)
- Copeland Oaks in Sebring
- Epworth Center in Bethesda
- Flat Rock Homes
- Heart 4 the City in Akron
- Nehemiah Mission in Cleveland
- OhioGuidestone, multiple locations in East Ohio
- Otterbein Marblehead Senior Living
- Urban Mission in Steubenville
- West Side Community House in Cleveland

The change in name reflects a shift from an institutional focus on funding to a more relational focus of resourcing one another with ideas and people as well as financial support. Health & Well-Being is working toward building better relationships among the EOC agencies, so that one another's encouragement and expertise enables our partnering agencies to serve their clients in ways with focused training, brainstorming along with a growing list of possibilities.

Ultimately, we're working towards resourcing local churches with opportunities to give, serve and learn from these agencies AND to enable the agencies to learn from the local congregations. It is an inspiring and liminal space we're working in to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

DisAbility Awareness Team

Submitted by Karen Kilgo, Team leader

The DisAbility Awareness Team invites churches to deepen their understanding of individuals with disabilities, to broaden their reach to these individuals and their families, and to include all in the life, ministry, and work of the church. Made in the image of God and gifted within the Body of Christ, all can be part of God's fellowship of believers. The DisAbility Awareness Team offers resources to churches, including speakers for churches and church events for DisAbility Awareness Sundays and other DisAbility Awareness presentations. We offer special messages, group activities, interactive seminars, and more – all focusing on disability awareness and inclusion.

New this year, the respective DisAbility Awareness Teams of the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference have joined together to form the Ohio Disabilities and Ministries Collaborative. The Collaborative publishes regular newsletters chock full of resources for churches in both conferences. We invite volunteers interested in serving on the East Ohio Conference DisAbility Awareness Team to join us, and we especially welcome individuals with disabilities as part of the team. We encourage churches to make their congregations welcoming places for all people! Learn more on the DisAbility Awareness pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/disabilities.

To learn more about Missions & Community Engagement in the East Ohio Conference e-mail the Rev. Kathy Dickriede at kdickriede@eocumc.com.

Mission Awareness Committee

Submitted by Rev. Bruce Becker, chairperson

During 2021, the Mission Awareness committee members had a focus on engaging local churches with the Advance Specials and other local ministries. Each district is represented on our team, see the 2022 Leadership Committee Report for details. Each of those team members is encouraged to find ways to connect churches with missions in the local area. Many of them regularly submit articles to district and East Ohio Conference news. We spend a good amount of time introducing our team members to the different Conference Advance Projects (also called Advance Specials) in or connected to the East Ohio Conference. Our team members work with these ministries to help and encourage them to get the word out to local churches.

Over the past couple of years, we have seen some significant fruit of these efforts. Most of our Conference Advances have seen an increase in support, including financial support. Looking at the 2021 end-of-year report our total giving to Advances is up over the past two years: \$185,844 in 2021 compared to \$112,804 in 2020 and \$145,044 in 2019.

As you can see, even if we discount the lower giving of 2020 due to the pandemic, we are still more than 25% above the 2019 figures. I think awareness is paying off. We look forward to being able to work with more congregations and mission sites in 2022.

You will note that we have one new Health & Well-Being Agency (Canton for All People) and one discontinued Health & Well-Being Agency (Canton Calvary Mission). We also have two new Advances (Multicultural Ministries of Cuyahoga Falls and Thrive 10:10), and two discontinued Advances (Resurrection Community Center and Starting Point Outreach Center). Discontinued missions/ministries are listed at the end of Recommendation 1 with the reason they were discontinued.

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 designates 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 online 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 & Community Engagement has reviewed and recommended the Advances listed as Health & Well-Being 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.”

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 & Well-Being Agencies (formerly Health & Welfare): historically affiliated with or in a covenant relationship with the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Canton For All People | EOC 9978

Canton for All People is a Community Development Corporation formed by Crossroads UMC in partnership with the Lemmon and DeHoff family foundations and other area UMC churches to bring quality housing and opportunities for all people to downtown Canton.

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: 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 life-long learning and economic self-sufficiency, promote health and wellness, foster independence, and renew the life spirit.

Local Ministry Partners: UMC-affiliated ecumenical or community ministries relating to East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church 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 don't always provide, such as wheelchair ramps. Helping those who are economically disadvantaged 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. Provides cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies, diapers and school supplies that can't be purchased with food stamps.

Multicultural Ministries of Cuyahoga Falls | EOC 9923

Formerly known as Nepali-Speaking Ministries. Christian education for children and adults who speak English as a second 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 reduce individual barriers to employment.

Project Hope for the Homeless (Ecumenical Shelter Network, 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.

Senior Adult Ministries of Cuyahoga Falls | EOC 9980

Intergenerational ministry to provide spiritual care for senior adults in Cuyahoga Falls.

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.

Thrive 10:10, Girard | EOC 9979

Serving Mahoning and Trumbull counties, Thrive 10:10 provides hygiene and other personal care items to women and teens to boost self-esteem. They are now expanding to serve expanding to help families.

Ministries Administered by the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church Connectional Table (Formerly Conference 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 Early Response Team (ERT UMCOR) 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 an 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 director of Missions & Community Engagement to develop networks and share stories of all God is doing through risk-taking mission partnerships.

Missions – Not Designated | EOC 9001

Funds to be used where most needed for missions, 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**

MMDC is one of eight cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply network. MMDC distributes UMCOR supplies and other items in response to disasters nationally and internationally.

Eastbrook Mission Barn, New Castle, Pennsylvania | 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

Donations are forwarded to the General Advance for U.S. Disaster Response, Advance 901670.

UMCOR International Relief Fund | EOC 1301

Donations are forwarded to the General Advance for International Relief, Advance 982450.

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

Support the work of the North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM).

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 following have been discontinued as Advance Projects:

Canton Calvary Mission, EOC 9151: closed in February 2022.

The Resurrection Community Center, EOC 9974: did not apply for renewal.

Starting Point Outreach Center, EOC 9939: did not apply for renewal.

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

RECOMMENDATION #3: that the Conference Connectional Table, upon recommendation by the Board of Missions and the Mission Awareness Committee, 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 Special Sundays page of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/finance/special-sundays.

World Communion Sunday | EOC 9210**October 2, 2022**

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% (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% (General Board of Higher Education & Ministry); and
- c) Ethnic In-Service Training Program: 15% (General Board of Higher Education & Ministry).

United Methodist Student Day | EOC 9211**November 27, 2022**

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 15, 2023**

Historically, Human Relations Day has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all 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% (General Board of Global Ministries).
- b) United Methodist Voluntary Services Program: 33% (General Board of Global Ministries) and
- c) Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program: 10% (General Board of Church & Society).

UMCOR Sunday | EOC 9206**March 19, 2023**

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 Ministries Sunday | EOC 9207**April 23, 2023**

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. Half 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 & Society and half through the Conference Church & 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 online at www.eocumc.com/church-society/pwj.

Golden Cross Sunday | EOC 9208**Local Church Chooses Date**

The offering is divided among the Health & Well-Being covenant ministries.

DisAbility Awareness Sunday | EOC 9212**Local Church Chooses Date**

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**Local Church Chooses Date**

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) 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 UVMIM team to provide training, networks, and scholarships for individuals and mission teams.

Other Special Days:

#MakeADifferenceDay **October 22, 2022**
 #MakeADifferenceDay 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 28, 2022**
 #GivingTuesday is the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This provides a good opportunity for churches and organizations to use social media to promote a specific advance. Through the 2019 #GivingTuesday campaign, \$624, 868 was donated to The Advance.

Learn more and donate on the Advance Specials pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/finance/advance-special.

**2022-23 Timeline for Fund I - Ministries and Missions (M&M)
 Conference Benevolence Budget
 12-Month Planning Process**

Date	Task or Deadline
June 2022 Annual Conference	Annual Conference establishes the 2023 budget for each Conference board, council, or committee.
October 31, 2022	Deadline for each Conference board, council, or committee to submit to the Connectional Ministries office requests for adjustments to details within their 2023 budget.
November 2022	Connectional Ministries office forwards the adjusted 2023 M&M budget with line-item details to the Council on Finance & Administration (CCF&A) for approval. Connectional Ministries office distributes evaluation forms for funds received in 2022 as well as application forms for 2024 M&M budget development.
December 2022	Requests for December payments in excess of 10% of the 2022 annual budget will require an explanation of why payments were delayed until year end. Vouchers for 2023 payments are submitted by the Connectional Ministries office.
January/February 2023	Each Conference board, council or committee sets its own deadline to receive 2022 evaluations and applications for developing the 2024 M&M budget request.
March 1, 2023	Deadline for all 2022 evaluations and 2024 applications with budget recommendations to the Connectional Ministries office.
March 15, 2023	Deadline for each Conference board, council, or committee to submit a report for the <i>Pre-Conference Workbook</i> , including information gathered from the 2022 evaluations.
March 2023	Executive director of Connectional Ministries presents a Ministries and Missions report and budget recommendation to the Conference Connectional Table (formerly Conference Council on Ministries).
April 2023	The Connectional Ministries office forwards 2024 M&M budget requests

	to CCF&A. CCF&A creates a department level budget to be approved by the Annual Conference.
June 2023 Annual Conference	Annual Conference establishes the 2024 budget.

NOTE: The Ministries and Missions budget is a request for shared giving Fund I dollars. Conference Advance Special projects provide approval for mission projects to seek direct donations and ministry partnerships. Approval to become an Advance Special is a separate process which is administered by the Missions Awareness Committee. Conference Advance Special project applications can be approved throughout the year, but the annual renewal deadline is January 15.

Ministries and Missions funding forms and Advance applications are available online at www.eocumc.com/missions/funding-forms.html

Committee on Lay Servant Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2022 Submitted by Mandy Armstrong

The Committee on Lay Servant Ministries has given its most heartfelt thanks to members whose time with us had come to a close, and then welcomed both new members as well as some familiar faces over the past year. We give praise that districts are able to get back to at least partial face-to-face trainings while in many cases also offering online opportunities for those called by Christ into lay servant ministry.

In 2021 the Committee determined it would no longer use the title Basic Lay Servant. This year we found ourselves focusing on the annual reports as a whole. Much discussion was had over the importance of completing each section of the annual report, especially the section pertaining to having lay servants and speakers write about the activities they are taking part in to help:

“develop your devotional life; improve your understanding of the Bible; improve your understanding of The United Methodist Church; and to improve your skills in caring, leading, communication and speaking”

(EOC lay servant/speaker annual report to the charge conference).

The Committee wants to ensure lay servants continue in the learning process on their own and with their church family and not just rely on the trainings offered by the districts. If a lay servant completes an annual report for initial application to become a certified lay speaker or for renewal of certified lay speaker status, certified lay speaker status will not be approved until the report is completed in its entirety. To help ensure this is done, district directors will be working with the clergy in their districts as well as with district administrative staff to stress this.

Suzette Tidrick, a certified lay minister herself, and Certified Lay Minister Dr. Linda Morrow are working to build the East Ohio Conference lay minister training in the BeADisciple.com platform. They have started a round of training using the new format which includes Zoom sessions. Currently, the following are our East Ohio certified lay ministers:

- George Clark - Southern Hills
- Mel Felder - Mid-Ohio
- Lynn Gorton - North Coast
- Jackie Lewis - Three Rivers
- Cathy McIlvaine - Western Reserve

- Dr. Linda Morrow - Southern Hills
- Dr. Liz Piatt - Canal
- Dr. Joshua Reichard – Mahoning Valley
- Suzette Tidrick - Southern Hills

The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries and its district directors continue to diligently work towards new and innovative ways to meet current and upcoming lay servants where they are and at the same time provide ways to bring them together safely.

Africa University Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by James H. Salley, associate vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement and president/CEO of Africa University (Tennessee) Inc.

“You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden.” – Matthew 5:14 (CEB)

This year, The United Methodist Church marks 30 years of vibrant, transformative ministry through Africa University. Thank you, East Ohio Conference, for your faithfulness and generosity in bringing the dream of Africa University (AU) to life. In celebrating its 30th anniversary, Africa University is honoring the past and looking to the future, while remaining true to its mission as the cornerstone ministry for United Methodist-related leadership development in Africa.

Like the year that preceded it, 2021 affirmed that God’s grace is sufficient in all circumstances. In January 2021, the students, faculty, and staff grappled with the sudden death of Africa University Vice Chancellor, Dr. Munashe Furusa. As the year unfolded, the coronavirus pandemic claimed more lives and continued to restrict travel and damage livelihoods. Unable to be together on campus, the students, faculty, and staff grieved, pivoted, supported, and encouraged each other, and persevered.

Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, Africa University harnessed new opportunities for missional engagement in 2021. The year’s highlights include:

- **Effective online-only teaching, learning and student assessment:** About 99 % of students participated in online learning. Enrollment held steady at 3,060 students and more than 500 graduates from 24 African countries were awarded degrees in July 2021.
- **The installation of AU’s fifth chancellor:** Bishop Gaspar João Domingos of the Western Angola Episcopal Area became chancellor following the death of Bishop John K. Yambasu of Sierra Leone.
- **Research and community service:**
 - AU researchers received US \$2 million in funding for regional initiatives to eradicate malaria, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases.
 - AU’s students and graduates led, and showed their love of neighbor, with initiatives to feed hungry families, care for the environment, and improve the quality of life of legally blind parents and their children.
 - AU received the 2021 Jairos Jiri Humanitarian Award from the government of Zimbabwe for its pandemic impact mitigation efforts.

From the first conversations in 1984 to formal approval at the General Conference in 1988, the planting of Africa University required vision, faith, and bold action in the face of predictions that it could never succeed. Africa University found staunch allies in East Ohio, across the global Methodist connection, and beyond. The “Dream is Alive” was the rallying cry in March 1992 as the first 40 students from six African countries started lectures in repurposed farm buildings.

The people called United Methodists in the East Ohio Conference caught the vision. Individual members as well as local congregations have consistently responded with extravagant generosity, including most recently in support of the Teach • Reach • Bless campaign to provide safe, comfortable on-campus housing for female students. Thank you, East Ohio Conference, for exceeding the goal of \$1.5 million a full year earlier than initially planned.

Africa University's journey from day one to the present is a shared story of being salt and light. Africa University is also an East Ohio Conference success story – of restoring hope, equipping, and sending forth young leaders to shape an abundant life for themselves and for the communities they serve. Africa University is grateful to the East Ohio Conference for investing 84.68 % of its budget commitment to the Africa University Fund (AUF) in 2021. Thank you for ensuring access to a life-changing educational experience for African young people, especially those who are unable to fund a college education on their own.

Thank you, East Ohio United Methodists, for letting your light shine for young women and men who would otherwise be left on the sidelines. "A city on top of a hill can't be hidden." Similarly, AU's current students and its more than 10,000 graduates to date are that metaphor made real. Continue to walk alongside them, East Ohio Conference, as they hone their abilities, live fully into their God-given purpose, and join in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Boston University School of Theology

Boston University School of Theology Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by G. Sujin Pak, dean

I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times. A year like 2021 makes even more relevant BUSTH's historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice in cultivating transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

Breaking News

- *Return to Campus:* Faculty, administrators, and library returned to in-person instruction and work in Fall 2021, with many events reaching hybrid audiences. Strict COVID-19 precautions continue to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and administrators.
- *Students:* Our Fall 2021 entering class was among our most diverse, with 108 new students enrolling in September.
- *Faculty:* In September we celebrated the appointment of Cristian De La Rosa as associate dean for Students and Community Life. Professor Shelly Rambo leads the Lilly-funded project on "Trauma-Responsive Congregations," and two faculty members – Professor Dana Robert and Professor Wesley Wildman – were each honored with festschrifts. Professor Jonathan Calvillo's book *The Saints of Santa Ana* received the HTI Book Award, and Professor Choi Hee An published *A Postcolonial Leadership*. BUSTH is conducting two faculty searches with anticipation of welcoming new faculty in the fall.
- *Launch of a New Online Degree:* BUSTH's first fully-online master's degree – the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL) – is currently enrolling students for its first cohort in Fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life.

- *Peale Foundation Grant:* Professor Steven Sandage and his research team were awarded a \$2.19 million, five-year grant by the Norman Vincent Peale Foundation for a project that fosters a network of communities for relational care and support to spiritual leaders and therapists to offer resources to reduce trauma risk and vocational burnout and foster flourishing.
- *Scholarships:* We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include the Sacred Worth Scholarship Fund and the Dean Thurman & Bishop Easterling Fellowship Fund.
- *Online Lifelong Learning:* BUSTH offers online workshops for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent workshops include “Practices of Grief in a Time of Pandemic” and “Reflecting with Howard Thurman.” To learn more, visit www.bu.edu/sth/oll.
- *Development:* Recent accomplishments include endowing the Center for Global Christianity and Mission upon its 20th anniversary and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.

Commitment to Justice and Compassion

BUSTH’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as “Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds.” The 2021-22 Lowell Lectures are dedicated to cross-advocacy and intersectionality in racial justice efforts. This fall, Dr. Kwok Pui Lan advocated for broader understandings of political theology and greater awareness of anti-Asian sentiment and violence. A diverse panel response fostered rich conversation. Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

Candler School of Theology Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by Jan Love, Mary Lee Hardin Willard dean and professor of Christianity and World Politics

Since 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has lived into our mission, educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world. This year, as we leaned into this critical work and continued to adapt to a world changed by the coronavirus pandemic, we imagined new possibilities for students who are called by God to pursue serious theological study and preparation for ministry. For some, opening avenues to graduate theological education requires moving financial obstacles, and for others, geography or family responsibilities may be the barriers. Candler is committed to assisting students in removing these barriers and opening new pathways to ministry.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from 43 denominations, with 45% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 466 from 16 countries and 38 states, 45% Persons of Color (U.S.), and a median age of 28 among MDivs. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our students and our larger community and providing a “learning laboratory” for ministry in the 21st century – ministry that reaches across difference, works to resolve injustice, and embodies Christ’s love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and 10 dual degrees. Our DMin is 90% online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while earning their degrees. Its high 87% completion rate illustrates both the quality of our students and Candler’s commitment to their success. This year, we increased online offerings in other degrees as well. Now students can complete the Master of Religion and Public Life completely online; the Master of Religious Leadership with concentrations in Youth Ministry, Justice, Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, or Wesleyan Leadership and

Heritage in a hybrid format; and MDiv students can complete core classes online. Plus, our new Remote Teaching Parish (RTP) program allows MDiv students who have jobs in ecclesial settings far from our Atlanta campus to take core classes online and complete their contextual education requirements at their place of ministry, participating in mentor-led online groups with other RTP students.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority. In 2020-2021, we awarded more than \$6.8 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98.5% 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, MRL, and ThM students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

Hundreds of laity and theology students alike have joined in classes and events offered through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program 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 online panel discussions, those who want to delve more deeply into theology and the Bible have the chance to do just that. View the latest offerings at www.candlerfoundry.emory.edu.

Associate Dean of Methodist Studies the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder will retire from Candler at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. We are grateful to God for her energetic and skillful leadership in this vital area as she strengthened the connection between our students and conferences throughout The UMC, mentoring them as they discerned their call and navigated the ordination process.

Candler's ability to fulfill our mission to provide the church with the faithful and creative leaders it needs depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at www.candler.emory.edu.

Drew University Theological School Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, interim dean

In Spring and Fall of 2021, Drew Theological School began returning to its Madison, New Jersey, campus for some classes, meetings, and worship. As with many churches, in-person events were held in spaces equipped for livestreaming or Zoom participation. The shift to remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic thus significantly expanded our online course offerings and accessible community events. Now, a number of students in Drew's masters' programs will progress through their programs in U.S. and global locations far from New Jersey. This year, we welcomed 150 new students, again the largest class in a decade, and have a current enrollment of 376 students.

Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who are taking their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents. Diversity is a hallmark of our student body, including theological, vocational, age, and especially racial and national diversity both international – Asian, African, and South American and U.S. – Black, white, Latinx, and Asian American – students. Our student body is truly global, with 35% of students from 21 different countries. For the first time in its history, Drew has an African student association, initiated by Drew Theological School students from 14 African countries, that is already contributing richly to the Drew community both on campus and online. We have welcomed new faculty in Latinx ministries and world Christianity. We have also seen an increase in United Methodist students particularly interested in the school's Gospel-inspired traditions of social justice advocacy and widely inclusive ministry. We are proud that many

United Methodist Global Fellows have recently chosen to continue their journey in ministry at Drew. Our United Methodist Church graduates are serving in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York Conferences as well as conferences across the country.

The faculty is committed to continuing to develop the curriculum in ways that take seriously the wide range of lived experience and calls to ministry of the students that gather in our global classrooms. 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.

Duke Divinity School Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by Stacey Tompkins, Wesleyan Engagement project coordinator

Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen associate professor of Theology and Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation, began his two-year term as the dean of Duke Divinity School (DDS) on July 1. Colón-Emeric earned both his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Duke and has been a member of the faculty since 2008. An ordained Elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference, he directs the Central American Methodist Course of Study and the Peru Theological Initiative and serves on the United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order. He is the first Latino dean of the school.

A partnership with North Carolina Wesleyan College will enable qualified undergraduates to take courses at DDS. Funded by the Kern Family Foundation, the Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program offers select undergraduates the option to begin coursework toward the Hybrid M.Div. or Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.) degrees while completing their baccalaureate degree. It will help lower educational debt and accelerate the timeline to ministry. DDS launched the Asian House of Studies, to support Asian and Asian-American students; build a network of students, alumni, and church leaders under the leadership of Sangwoo Kim, senior director of the Methodist House of Studies, and Jung Choi, senior director of Wesleyan Formation Initiatives.

Three new certificates were approved this year. The Certificate in Methodist/Wesleyan Studies is aimed at pan-Methodist/Wesleyan students who want to engage in robust training in Wesleyan theology and spiritual practice in preparation for leadership positions. In the Certificate in Latinx Studies, students will hone skills for ministry while becoming part of a learning community that is committed to and seeks to learn from Hispanic/Latinx traditions and cultures. The Certificate in Worship is designed to prepare students to engage in practical formation and theoretical reflection on the worship in Christian congregations.

DDS announced 12 full-tuition fellowships to support incoming residential M.Div. degree program students who pursue a certificate in Black Church Studies or Latinx Studies. In addition to providing full-tuition scholarships, the fellowships provide vocational formation and mentoring and up to \$24,000 in stipend and internship opportunities. The fellowships begin in the fall of 2022.

The office of Wesleyan Engagement announced the “Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism,” an initiative of DDS with the support of the Kern Family Foundation. It seeks to nurture innovative leadership within the Wesleyan tradition as a constructive and hope-filled response to a turbulent ecclesial landscape. Supported by the Duke Endowment, the school launched To Heal the Wounded Soul, a project to strengthen Wesleyan pastors in the Carolinas who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, including from the AME, AME Zion, CME, and UMC churches.

This academic year DDS welcomed the largest incoming class in the school’s history, with 259 new students. Enrollment in the M.Div. degree program increased to 133 students. The growth was driven by the first cohort of 52 Hybrid M.Div. students. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) welcomed 36 students, the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) gained 33, and the M.A. 17. The Master of Theology (Th.M.) enrolled 12 students, and the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) enrolled seven. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential students and 14 students in the hybrid program.

Three new faculty members joined the faculty in 2021. Polly Ha is an associate professor of the History of Christianity. Ronald K. Rittgers is the chair in Lutheran Studies and professor of the History of Christianity. Daniel Castelo is the William Kellon Quick professor of Theology and Methodist Studies.

Methodist Theological School in Ohio Report to Annual Conference 2022

Submitted by Danny Russell, director of Communications

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you news from MTSO.

With \$1 million Grant, MTSO Supports Existing Religious Leaders and Helps Form New Ones

MTSO has received a five-year grant of \$999,665 to establish “Connecting Pathways: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Strengthen and Sustain Current and Future Faith Leaders.” The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment Inc.’s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. The project utilizes MTSO’s distinct strengths in two distinct parts. Part One, “Connecting Pathways: Congregations and Other Ministry Partners,” supports existing religious leaders, focusing on anti-racism training and resourcing. Working with partner organizations, MTSO helps faith leaders to assess land use and church food programs to assist in building community engagement. Part Two, “Connecting Pathways: Vocational Exploration Intensive for Young Adults,” invites young adults to imagine the possibilities for lifelong faith, offering experiential learning, theological reflection, worship, and relationships with healthy community leaders and vibrant faith communities. It introduces the whys and hows of ministry, connecting participants with faith leaders, including some of those involved in Part One of the project.

New Initiative Enhances Scientific Literacy for Seminarians

MTSO has a long-standing commitment to preparing religious leaders who are conversant in and respectful of science. An important part of that effort is “Questioning Science with Good Faith: Shifting the Engagement of Science in Seminaries,” a project that integrates science into church history and theological studies curricula while also contributing to the public discourse on intersection of science and religion. The project is made possible by a \$75,000 grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program. The grant is funded by the John Templeton Foundation. In September 2021, MTSO offered an online, multi-professional conversation, “Pastors, Pandemics and Public Health: Building Collaborative Responses to COVID-19.”

Full-tuition Scholarships Extended to Those Pursuing United Methodist Candidacy

MTSO and the school's donors pledged to extend a full-tuition pledge to all prospective students who are pursuing United Methodist Elder or Deacon candidacy. The MTSO admissions staff is happy to answer questions about this initiative at (800) 333-6876 or admissions@mtso.edu.

Visit Methodist Theological School in Ohio online at www.mtso.edu.

Saint Paul School of Theology Report to Annual Conference 2022



Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a flexible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of The United Methodist Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and a contextual curriculum.

As the global pandemic continues to bring challenges to our daily lives, Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2021-2022 academic year again offering students an option to attend courses via Zoom or on-campus while maintaining safety protocols. Our weekly chapel service continues to be available online, allowing staff and students to come together as one institution where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are.

This year, we have had many faculty and staff changes. After many years of tremendous service to students and the Seminary, Dr. James Brandt and Dr. Hal Knight announced retirement plans effective at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, Dr. Jeanne Hoeft will step down from her role as vice president of Academic Affairs and dean at the end of the academic year but will continue as faculty. New additions to Saint Paul include Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, assistant professor of Ethics, Church and Society; Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe, executive director of the Oklahoma Campus; Dr. Lucas Endicott, COS School regional director; and Rabbi Michael Zedek, rabbi-in-residence.

Saint Paul welcomed 45 new students for the 2021-2022 academic year. New student enrollment for the Fall semester increased by 44% (34 new students), with an overall increase for the year of 73%. Enrollment remained strong for the MDiv program with promising growth in our newly designed MATS and MACM programs. Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 228 individual students, 49 of which were new students, with approximately 550 registrations and offering a total of 50 courses. Serving 32 conferences, 121 full-time and 106 part-time licensed local pastors comprised these registrations.

As we have happily reported in years' past, Saint Paul is financially-sound and operates with a balanced budget. These last years' changes have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students.

Our aim has always been to utilize technology as a conduit to bring faculty and students together regardless of whether they are on-campus or joining remotely through Zoom. All our classrooms began upgrades in Fall 2021 with offerings from Neat. Each smaller classroom added a 65" Neat Board, a self-contained screen that functions as a full Zoom room, as well as an electronic whiteboard. We implemented Neat Bars in other classrooms that connect to our classrooms' existing screens. We are currently implementing Neat Bar Pros, just released at the end of 2021, in each of our large classrooms.

At Saint Paul School of Theology, we have always tried to be pioneers with distance-learning technologies.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. 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.

Visit Saint Paul School of Theology online at www.spst.edu.

United Theological Seminary Report to Annual Conference 2022 Submitted by Dr. Kent Millard, president

For the past 150 years, United Theological Seminary has educated men and women for Christian ministry within the historic traditions of the United Brethren, Evangelical United Brethren, and United Methodist churches. On October 11, 1871, United Theological Seminary, then Union Biblical Seminary, held its first classes in Dayton, Ohio. From a starting class of 11 students, the seminary has grown to 488 students in its most recent academic year,* representing 39 denominations, 11 countries, and 39 states. Today's seminary serves a diverse student body that is 53% African American.**

On October 10, 2021, the seminary celebrated its 150th anniversary and burned the mortgage on its current campus facilities, freeing up \$400,000 annually to support student scholarships.

In 2021, United received a grant of \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative to expand the seminary's Houses of Study, which offer specialized master's tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements and denominations they serve. The seminary has introduced six Houses of Study, currently enrolling for 2022-23:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Rev. Dr. Michael Beck;
- Mosaix, in partnership with Mosaix Global Network and directed by Rev. Chip Freed;
- Hispanic, 100% in Spanish for Spanish-speaking leaders, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa;
- Black United Methodist, directed by Dr. Vance Ross;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Mark Chironna; and
- Global Wesleyan, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover

Because United believes so passionately in this initiative, the seminary has dedicated additional resources to offer half-tuition scholarships for inaugural students in its Houses of Study programs.

United also introduced the Academic Dean's Scholarship, which provides 50% tuition for the duration of a master's degree program, and the Presidential Scholarship, awarding up to \$5,000 per year to new students.

In honor of United's 150th anniversary year, a generous donor gifted \$2 million to help graduating students reduce their educational debt. Each graduate in the 2021-22 academic year will receive up to \$20,000 toward student debt from theological and previous academic studies.

As United looks forward to the next 150 years with gratitude and anticipation, the seminary remains committed to the preparation of faithful and fruitful Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

** Student data represent 2020-2021 headcount enrollment.*

*** Figure represents those who responded.*