



Faith
Hope
Love

2024 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKBOOK

“... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.”

ISAIAH 40:31 (NIV)



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 Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I look forward to us gathering for the 55th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference on June 13-15, 2024, at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio.

We will continue to focus on our quadrennial theme, “Faith Hope Love.” Our three days of Holy Conferencing will be grounded in the prophetic promise recorded in Isaiah 40:31 (NIV): “... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.”

Together we will rejoice in how God’s spirit is at work in transformative ways through the pastors, congregations, and ministries of the East Ohio Conference. We will reclaim our hope in Jesus Christ and renew our commitment to being God’s agents of love, healing, and hope in our communities and throughout the world.

I will preach the Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 13, and Bishop Lanette Plambeck, resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area, will preach the Service of Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday June 15. Rev. Allison LeBrun and Rev. Philip Wilden, East Ohio clergy, will be our Friday and Saturday morning preachers.

Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell, the director of Healing and Resilience for Discipleship Ministries and the Upper Room, will lead us in a time of learning and reflection on the themes of wholeness, well-being, and resilience.

I encourage you, and your congregation, to participate in this year’s conference offering that will benefit Royal Family KIDS Camp, All In Community, and the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund. In addition to placing a check in the offering plate at Annual Conference, you can contribute to this year’s offering by scanning the QR code on page 11 of this workbook, making an online donation on the Annual Conference 2024 page of the Conference website, or mailing a check payable to the East Ohio Conference with AC Offering noted on the memo line to East Ohio Conference, P.O. Box 76019, Cleveland, OH 44101-4755.

Please join me in praying for an outpouring of God’s spirit on every worship service, business session, and time of fellowship at Annual Conference. May all that we do glorify God and bear witness to the love we have for our neighbor and the trust we have in Jesus Christ.

Please visit www.eocumc.com/eoac24 for all information related to the 2024 Annual Conference.

Your Partner in Ministry,

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 13-15 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 *2024 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.

Requesting a Large Print pages of the *2024 Pre-Conference Workbook* to be available upon check-in:

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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55th SESSION
EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER – AKRON OHIO
Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15, 2024

Faith Hope Love • Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY MORNING

June 12, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Agenda Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Production Meeting & Tech Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

June 12, 2024

- 1:00 p.m. **CLERGY EXECUTIVE BUSINESS SESSION**
- 4:00 p.m. Adjournment
- 4:15 p.m. Rehearsal for Service of Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement
- 5:15 p.m. Rehearsal for Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion

THURSDAY MORNING

June 13, 2024

Morning Hospitality Sponsor: Methodist Foundation of Ohio & Wespath Institutional Investments

- 8:00 a.m. Production Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. **CALLING THE CONFERENCE TO ORDER**
SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION AND HOLY COMMUNION
Preacher: Bishop Tracy S. Malone
- 10:30 a.m. **BREAK**
- 10:45 a.m. **OPENING BUSINESS SESSION**
Prayer
Instructions & Opening Motions
AC Program Committee
Agenda, Rules and Administrative Process (ARAP)
Introduction to Resolutions
Episcopacy Committee

Cindy Patterson
Matt Williamson
Cindy Patterson
Cindy Patterson
Heidi Welch

Wellness & Well-Being Moment #1	Beth Ortiz
Equitable Compensation	Gloria Brown
General Conference Report	Gary Henderson
Methodist Foundation of Ohio	Brian Sheetz
Announcements	Matt Williamson

12:30 p.m. **PRAYER AND RECESS**

THURSDAY AFTERNOON
June 13, 2024

2:00 p.m.	BUSINESS SESSION	
	Prayer	
	Episcopal Address	Bishop Tracy S. Malone
	Wellness & Well-Being Moment #2	
	Royal Family KIDS Camp	Dave Scavuzzo
	All In Community	Kathy Dickriede
	Mission Awareness	Kathy Dickriede
	Conference Offering	Matt Williamson
	1/3 All In Community	
	1/3 Royal Family KIDS Camp	
	1/3 Bishop’s Discretionary Fund	

3:20 p.m. **BREAK**

4:00 p.m.	BUSINESS SESSION	
	Prayer	
	Simplified Accountable Structure	Ed Fashbaugh
	Connectional Ministries	Ed Fashbaugh
	Youth Annual Conference (YAC) Recap	Christy Suffecool
	East Ohio Camps	Gary Jones
	Announcements	Matt Williamson

4:30 p.m. **PRAYER AND RECESS**

THURSDAY EVENING
June 13, 2024

6:00 p.m. **LAITY SESSION**
(if needed by action of General Conference to elect Jurisdictional Conference delegates)

FRIDAY MORNING**June 14, 2024***Morning Hospitality Sponsor: Christian Family Credit Union*

8:00 a.m.	Agenda Meeting	
8:15 a.m.	Production Meeting	
8:30 a.m.	Sound Check for Friday Morning Worship	
9:00 a.m.	MORNING WORSHIP Preacher: Rev. Allison LeBrun	
10:00 a.m.	BREAK	
10:15 a.m.	BUSINESS SESSION Prayer Board of Trustees & Corporate Meeting Litany for Closed Churches Wellness & Well-Being Moment #3 Ecumenical Partnerships Introduction of Missionaries Christian Family Credit Union	Randy May Cara Stultz Costello Will Fenton-Jones Tammy Kuntz Robin Chappell
11:15 a.m.	BREAK Prayer A Theological Framework for Emotional Freedom Announcements	Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell
12:30 p.m.	PRAYER AND RECESS	

FRIDAY AFTERNOON**June 14, 2024**

2:00 p.m.	BUSINESS SESSION Prayer Board of Ministry Archives & History Board of Laity Report	Jonathan Priebe Meg Sondey Kimberly Green
3:05 p.m.	BREAK	
3:20 p.m.	BUSINESS SESSION Prayer Anti-Racism Task Force Black College Intern United Women in Faith Wellness & Well-Being Moment #4	Will Fenton-Jones Will Fenton-Jones Judy Kidder

Resolutions	Steve Stultz Costello
Global Education, Ministry, and Initiative (GBHEM)	Kimberly Lord
Announcements	Matt Williams

5:00 p.m. **PRAYER AND RECESS**

**SATURDAY MORNING
June 15, 2024**

Morning Hospitality Sponsor: Foundry Commercial & the EOC Cabinet

8:00 a.m. Agenda Meeting

8:15 a.m. Production Meeting

8:30 a.m. Sound Check for Saturday Devotion

9:00 a.m. **MORNING DEVOTION**
Preacher: Rev. Philip Wilden

9:30 a.m. **BREAK**

9:45 a.m. BUSINESS SESSION	
Prayer	
God's Image in Broken Clay	Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell
Wellness & Well-Being Moment #5	

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

11:35 a.m. BUSINESS SESSION	
Prayer	
Cabinet Report	Bruce Hitchcock
Fixing of Appointments	Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Board of Benefits	Matt Merriman
Resolutions	Steve Stultz Costello
Conference Council on Finance & Administration	Dan Bryant
Concluding Business	
Report of the Daily Proceedings	Andy Call
Announcements	Matt Williamson

1:00 p.m. **PRAYER AND RECESS**

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON
June 15, 2024**

2:30 p.m. **SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING, ORDINATION, AND RETIREMENT**
Preacher: Bishop Lanette Plambeck

4:30 p.m. **BENEDICTION & ADJOURNMENT**

ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION

Tracy S. Malone
Resident Bishop, Presiding

District Superintendents, District Associates, & Conference Executive Staff

Edgar Brady Central Valley District
 Cara Stultz Costello Central Valley District
 Bruce Hitchcock Northern Waters District
 Angela Lewis Northern Waters District
 Kelly Brown South Forest District
 Laura White South Forest District
 Nestor Nazario West Plains District
 Donna Van Trees West Plains District
 Edward Peterson Executive Assistant to the Bishop
 Edward Fashbaugh Executive Director of Connectional Ministries
 Vera Rebrovich Executive Director of Financial & Administrative Services
 Rick Wolcott Executive Director of Communications

Annual Conference Program Committee

Matthew Williamson Chairperson
 Cindy Patterson Conference Secretary
 Kimberly Green Conference Lay Leader
 Susan Lausch Chairperson, AC Worship Committee
 Brenda Vaccaro Registration
 Other Program Committee Members: Wendy Bramley, Jennifer Darling-Mellott, Edward Fashbaugh,
 Nathan Foulkrod, Tammy Kuntz,
 Joy Snyder, Melanie Thomas, Rick Wolcott

Ministry of Music

Joe Leaman, Music Director
 Elizabeth Hoobler, Organist

SPEAKERS



Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Resident Bishop
East Ohio Conference

Bishop Tracy S. Malone has served the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church since 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 president 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, been a delegate to 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 Lanette L. Plambeck
Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area

Bishop Lanette L. Plambeck is the resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area. Prior to her election to the episcopacy in 2022, she served as the assistant to the bishop and director of Clergy & Leadership Excellence in the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Plambeck has served in rural, county, and urban centers and in extension ministry as a college chaplain. Committed to ministry with new people and advancing the culture of call, she worked both to establish a local Pacific-Islander ministry with the Chuukese of Micronesia and to launch Fe y Esperanza UMC serving Spanish-speaking neighbors. A former intelligence analyst in the U.S. Army, Plambeck founded SoldierOn, a redemptive and restorative ministry with soldiers addressing moral trauma and the tragedy of war. She also launched Sister-to-Sister, a mental health and soul-care ministry for trauma survivors.

Plambeck earned her B.A. from Morningside University in Religious Studies and Political Science. She earned a Master of Divinity degree with a specialization in evangelism at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City and a Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership Excellence from Wesley Theological Seminary, in Washington, D.C.

An avid explorer of bookstores, antique shops, and art museums, Plambeck likes to kayak, travel, play board games, cook, bake, and find meaningful ways to celebrate holy days and holidays of the Christian year.



Rev. Allison LeBrun is completing her first year as pastor of Boardman First UMC (Central Valley District). Her first appointment in the East Ohio Conference was as pastor of Vermilion Grace UMC (West Plains District), where she served for six years.

LeBrun's gifts for ministry include relationship-building, preaching, and vision casting. Her ministry passions include Wesleyan theology, inviting all to the table, and creating communities filled with joy. She is currently a member of both the East Ohio Conference Board of Ministry and the Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries. She previously served on district committees and as a member of the Teach • Reach • Bless Steering Committee that raised money to build and furnish a new residence hall for female students on the campus of Africa University.

A native of Canfield, Ohio, LeBrun earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Mount Union and a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School.

She wants you to know, "You are loved by the God who is Love! And there is nothing that can separate us from that Love. Thanks be to God for a Love like that! (Romans 8)." When not in church, LeBrun is an avid reader, word-game fiend, beach-glass collector, and hiker who loves spending time with her family.



Rev. Philip N. Wilden is pastor of New Concord UMC (South Forest District) in the community that is home to his alma mater, Muskingum University.

The appointment to New Concord is the fourth of Wilden's 34 years in ministry, during which he has previously served Orwell and Windsor UMCs, Seville UMC, and Delaware Asbury UMC. He enjoys pastoral calling and leading Bible studies, has sung in church choirs, and currently plays piano for the children's choir at New Concord UMC. When it's not too cold or rainy, Wilden walks the one mile from the parsonage to the church, something that he says has been a helpful spiritual practice.

Wilden is a member of the new District Committee on Ministry in the South Forest District. He has also served in positions of leadership in other districts in which he was appointed and is a past secretary of the East Ohio Conference Board of Ministry.

A native of Coshocton, Wilden was baptized and confirmed at Plainfield United Methodist Church across the street from the home in which he was raised. Wilden earned a bachelor's degree from Muskingum University and a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, where he was a Hutchinson Scholar.



Dr. Ronald Bell is the director of Healing and Resilience for Discipleship Ministries and The Upper Room. He is passionate about emotional formation and the intersection of faith and mental health.

An ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church, Bell has previously served as a new-church-plant pastor and been the director over Congregational Development and Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21) for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church.

An author and a regular guest columnist for several publications, Bell has also created an ongoing webinar series on trauma and empathy that he has led with several universities. The three most popular books that

he has authored all deal with grief and trauma: *Is There Space for Me: Embracing Grief through Art; The Eagle and the Squirrel: Stories, Fables, and Truths for Emotional Formation*; and *The Four Promises: Journeying through Past and Present Trauma*.

Bell has been certified in Trauma Response and Crisis Intervention by Rutgers University School of Social Work and he has a certificate in Business Leadership from Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD, a Master's degree in Theology from Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia Beach, VA, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA.

Annual Conference Online

Follow Annual Conference 2024 online:

- All business sessions and worship services of Annual Conference 2024 will be livestreamed on the Conference website at www.eocumc.com/eoac24.
- Articles and photo galleries will also be posted on the website.
- Join the conversation on Twitter at #eoac24.

Annual Conference 2024 video archives:

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

Annual Conference offering:

The Annual Conference 2024 offering (Fund 9214) will support:

- All In Community Ministry
- Royal Family KIDS Camp
- Bishop's Discretionary Fund



All In Community Ministry restores hope and provides healing in lives affected by the criminal justice system. The ministry is a partnership of the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Royal Family KIDS Camp creates life-changing moments for children six- to 12-years of age in the foster care system by taking them to church-led summer camp for five days.

The Bishop's Discretionary Fund is used by Bishop Tracy S. Malone to support ministry needs that impact countless lives each year.

Your generous donation to the 2024 Annual Conference offering can make a difference for others in the coming year and beyond.

Donate to the AC 2024 Offering:

- In addition to placing an offering in the plate at Annual Conference, you can contribute to the offering online by visiting www.eocumc.com/donate, clicking on the Annual Conference 2024 logo in the middle of the page, then clicking on the red box labeled Learn More & Donate.
- Those wishing to donate 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

Registering for Annual Conference 2024

- Registration opened on Monday, April 1 and will close at end of day Friday, May 17.
- Again, this year, registration is online only.
- Registrants must use an e-mail address that is not shared by anyone else who needs to register for AC 2024
- Register on the East Ohio Conference website, www.eocumc.com or the Annual Conference 2024 website, www.eocumc.com/eoac24.
- Registrants should save the confirmation e-mail they will receive after registering for AC 2024.

Pre-order & Pre-Pay for EOC Special Event Luncheons on the AC Registration Page

- Registrants will be able to pre-order and pre-pay for special event luncheons on the same page as they register for Annual Conference.
- The deadline to pre-order meals is end of day Sunday, June 2.

Modify Registration Option

- Should registrants want to purchase a special events luncheon after they have already registered for this year's conference – and before the meal order deadline of June 2 – they can do so by clicking the Modify Registration button on the AC 2024 registration page.
- Registrants will then be prompted to enter the e-mail address they used to register for this year's conference and the Reference # they received in the registration confirmation e-mail.

Breakfast & Lunch

Meals will be available for purchase ala carte in the main floor rotunda of the John S. Knight Center. You may purchase breakfast prior to 9:00 a.m. worship and lunch during the 12:30-2:00 p.m. (Thursday/Friday) and 1:00-2:30 p.m. (Saturday) meal breaks.

Special Event Meals

You have the opportunity again this year to purchase meals for the special events detailed below. You will pre-order and pre-pay for these meals on the AC 2024 registration page in the following way:

- order at the time that you register for Clergy Session and/or Annual Conference. Note that AC registration closes at the end of the day on Friday, May 17.
- or
- add a meal(s) later but before the end of the day on Sunday, June 2. To do this:
 - click on the AC 2024 registration link,
 - click on Modify Registration,
 - enter the e-mail address you used to register for AC 2024,
 - enter the Reference # you received in the e-mail confirming your AC 2024 registration.

Thursday, June 13

Spiritual Direction & Ways to Pray luncheon is an opportunity to eat and spend time with East Ohio Conference spiritual directors Jenny Gee and Sharon Seyfarth Garner practicing a few short prayers and answering the questions: What is spiritual direction? and How do I find a spiritual director? **Foundations Room & Karl S. Hay Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 120 people.**

Making the Most of Your Wespath Health Benefits luncheon is an opportunity to hear from Wespath Benefits and Investments representatives about the many benefits laity and clergy receive from participating in plans offered by Wespath. **BF Goodrich Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 60 people.**

Abundant Health luncheon led by Rev. Katie Meek, a Global Ministries missionary serving as the mission advocate for our denomination's North Central Jurisdiction, is a workshop highlighting healing ministries taking place in East Ohio Conference partner churches in Liberia, Zimbabwe, and Cambodia. **Bridgestone / Firestone Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 60 people.**

Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors luncheon for members in good standing will elect the 2024-2025 board of directors, revise its constitution, and honor milestones reached by members since last year's Annual Conference. **Akron First UMC. Cost is \$10. Capacity is 75 people.**

Friday, June 14

Breakfast with the Missionaries (served from 7:45-8:45 a.m.) offers participants a chance to learn about covenanting with Mission Advocate for the North Central Jurisdiction Rev. Katie Meek and Willie Berman, director of Manos Juntas Mission in Rio Bravo, Mexico, while hearing about the Rio Bravo ministry and the Nuevo Progreso ministry in Tamaulipas, Mexico. **BF Goodrich Room. Cost is \$10. Capacity is 25 people.**

Eating for the Battle Ahead is an opportunity to have lunch with and be inspired for ministry by Annual Conference 2024 keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell, the director of Healing and Resilience for Discipleship Ministries and The Upper Room. Rev. Dr. Bell will present during Annual Conference on Friday and Saturday mornings. **Foundations Room & Karl S. Hay Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 120 people.**

Financial Health, Wespath, and You luncheon is an opportunity for participants to hear from, and ask questions of, Wespath Benefits and Investment representatives about financial health and things they can do to move toward it in today's consumer-driven world. **Bridgestone / Firestone Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 60 people.**

Health from the Chair luncheon workshop led by Green Family YMCA Health and Wellness Director Amy Scott will offer participants simple moves and exercises they can do to combat the effects of hours of sitting at work or at home – even walking or high movement in not an option. **BF Goodrich Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 60 people.**

Saturday, June 15

Spiritual Practices to Soothe Your Conference Soul is an opportunity to eat lunch while spending time with East Ohio Conference spiritual directors Laurie Tucker and Theresa Carter learning about spiritual direction and discovering several guided spiritual practices. **Bridgestone / Firestone Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 60 people.**

The Why's and How's of Renewal Leave luncheon led by members of the Board of Ministry who have taken renewal leaves will share the biblical and theological groundings of renewal leave and the importance of clergy and laity understanding the need for clergy to take a leave every four years. **Karl S. Hay Room. Cost is \$12. Capacity is 60 people.**

Black Pastor's Fellowship continues to bring members together more than 37 years after its first meal to collectively celebrate church and community life events of the past year, to share and be in prayer together, and to discuss ways the fellowship can be visible in and beyond the East Ohio Conference assuring a supportive spirit to all. **OMNOVA Room. Cost is \$5. Capacity is 35 people.**

Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) luncheon welcomes participants to hear from keynote speakers Dr. Martha Banks and Dr. Gloria Brown discussing Israeli/Palestinian issues and to be present for the announcement of the 2024 Bishop James S. Thomas Leadership Award. **BF Goodrich Room. Cost is \$20. Capacity 65 people.**

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.
- 2) become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the Annual Conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference rules.
- 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/eoac24. 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.

**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.
- 2) become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the Annual Conference, parliamentary procedure, and the Conference rules.
- 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.

Before you go to Annual Conference you should be aware 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/eoac24. 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.”

AC Program Committee Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Pastor Matthew Williamson, AC Program Committee chairperson

The Annual Conference Program Committee welcomes you back to the John S. Knight Center for the 2024 Annual Conference. Our committee helps plan activities that are not part of the worship or business sessions of Annual Conference.

Accessibility and ease of navigation at the John S. Knight Center remain our priorities as we plan for this year's Annual Conference. Throughout Annual Conference, the Program Committee volunteers will staff the entrances to the building, the elevator, and the help desk to answer questions and facilitate the flow of traffic. We have worked with the ABM team at the Broadway Parking Garage attached to the John S. Knight Center for an additional staff person to be present at the exits to allow for more efficient exiting of the parking area. You can do your part by having your parking ticket and payment method ready to hand to the attendant when you reach the exit gate.

During your time at the Annual Conference, please stop by the help desk if you have questions or immediate concerns. This will also be where any lost and found items may be retrieved. We encourage conversation and suggestions to help improve your Annual Conference experience. You will notice we have a parent and baby room within the voting bar this year following up on a suggestion brought to us to meet the needs of parents with infants. We heard and we responded.

Again, this year, 1) there will be no onsite childcare during Annual Conference and 2) a \$100/child scholarship is available to assist with the cost of childcare. Parents of children ages infant to 10 years old may apply for the scholarship offered through the Connectional Ministries Office by calling Melanie Thomas at (330) 499-3972 ext. 102 or sending her an e-mail at mthomas@eocumc.com.

Akron First UMC (263 E. Mill Street) is again offering a limited number of free parking spaces in the church lot during Annual Conference. The church is a short walk from the John S. Knight Center (77 E. Mill Street). As a reminder of what was shared in the March e-blast to AC members, there will not be a shuttle available this year. So you'll want to factor in the walk time to the Center when planning what time you want to arrive at the parking lot in the morning.

You are welcome to share your concerns and ideas in-person and we also invite you to complete the Annual Conference survey found in this *Pre-Conference Workbook*. There is also a QR code on the survey page to scan with your smartphone camera so that you can complete the survey online. Your responses to the survey will help the Program Committee continue to make improvements in our Annual Conference experience.

This year there will be a prayer wall in Plenary Hall where prayer requests can be written and displayed. We will continue to gather prayer requests by email as well. Prayer requests can be emailed to eocprayerconcerns@gmail.com by anyone attending in person or online. The prayers received by email will also be displayed on the prayer wall. Our prayer is that a visual display of our prayers will garnish a deeper corporate connection to our prayers. Not only do we have this prayer wall right here in our midst but for the first time since coming to the JSK center we have a designated prayer room on the main floor near the escalator. The room has been designed by the Spiritual Formation Committee.

The Program Committee is also responsible for designating three ministries to be blessed by the Annual Conference offering, Fund 9214. This year each of the following will receive 1/3 of the AC offering: All In

1 Community Ministry, Royal Family KIDS Camp, and the Bishops's Discretionary Fund. Read more about
2 the Annual Conference offering on page 11 of this *Pre-Conference Workbook*.

3
4 We are very thankful for all the volunteers who help facilitate our committee's responsibilities at Annual
5 Conference. We couldn't provide the level of hospitality we do without them, so be sure to thank one of
6 the many volunteers you see during Annual Conference. If you would like to serve, simply come see me
7 and we will put you to meaningful service.

8
9 In closing, I would like to thank everyone who served on the Program Committee this year. I appreciate
10 working with this group of talented and dedicated individuals. Their talents are the reason our
11 committee successfully attains its goals. Thank you again to Reverend Ed Fashbaugh for his guidance and
12 friendship. Thank you also to Bishop Tracy S. Malone for entrusting me to chair this committee. Most
13 importantly, thank you to the East Ohio Conference for allowing this committee to serve you.

14 15 16 **Agenda, Rules, and Administrative Process Committee Report to Annual Conference 2024**

17
18 *Submitted by Rev. Cindy Patterson, Agenda, Rules and Administrative Process Committee chairperson*

19 20 **Agenda**

21 The agenda for Annual Conference 2024 has been prepared by the Conference secretary, approved by
22 the Ageda, Rules, and Administrative Process (ARAP) Committee and will be presented to the Annual
23 Conference on Thursday, June 13. The agenda will be adapted as needed throughout the Annual
24 Conference session.

25 26 **Rules**

27 Transitioning from 10 to four districts at the beginning of 2024 impacted the equalization formula for
28 selecting district lay members to Annual Conference. During the opening business session, ARAP will
29 bring a motion to suspend the rules pertaining to the equalization process.

30 31 **Administrative Process**

32 Again, this year, the *Pre-Conference Workbook* and other business session materials will be available to
33 view and download from the Annual Conference 2024 website. As a result of the motion that was
34 adopted at Annual Conference 2023, a hard copy of the *Pre-Conference Workbook* will only be printed
35 for those who request one during the online registration for this year's conference. During check-in at
36 the John S. Knight Center, the printed workbooks will be distributed to those who opted-in to receive
37 one. *Pre-Conference Workbooks* will not be mailed.

38
39 Documents to be distributed during Annual Conference will be posted on the Annual Conference 2024
40 website for viewing and downloading. Only those who opted-in to receive a printed copy of the *Pre-*
41 *Conference Workbook* will receive a printed copy of handouts distributed at Annual Conference.

42
43 The Clergy Housing Policy has been updated by Cabinet and the Board of Ministry. It will be presented
44 for discussion and approval at Annual Conference 2024.

45

Committee on Episcopacy Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Rev. Heidi Welch, Committee on Episcopacy chairperson

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

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

Typically, our committee meets with Bishop Malone three times throughout the year, for consultation and feedback. This year, our meetings centered around supporting Bishop Malone as she leads us in “focusing forward” as a Conference.

On January 23, 2024, the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church met virtually for a special called session. Delegates approved combining the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference into a new episcopal area. This new episcopal area will go into effect September 1, 2024.

East Ohio and West Ohio will continue to be two conferences and will share one bishop. Individuals from East Ohio and West Ohio are working together to discern how we can adapt to this new arrangement and ensure our shared bishop is effective and fruitful in her/his ministry.

Bishops are assigned for one quadrennium at a time. Most recently, Bishop Malone was reassigned to the East Ohio Conference for the 2022-2024 quadrennium. At the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in July 2024, the North Central Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy (NCJ COE) will once again do the prayerful and discerning work of matching the gifts and abilities of our bishops with the needs of the episcopal areas in our Jurisdiction.

To help facilitate their work, the NCJ COE provided a survey to send to Conference leadership in March. The survey was an opportunity to provide local input regarding the assignment of bishops and was distributed to over 75 leaders in East Ohio. Special attention was paid to demographics to collect a variety of viewpoints. Results were sent directly to the NCJ COE to assist its work.

Finally, while this report has been prepared prior to General Conference, we are excited that Bishop Malone will assume the role of the president of the Council of Bishops at General Conference! The Council of Bishops is tasked with the work of visioning, leading, and stewarding the mission and direction of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Malone’s role as president is a two-year term, in which she will continue to serve as a bishop in residence of an episcopal area.

As always, we encourage you to pray for Bishop Malone and her ministry in and through East Ohio. May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference, so that we are able, with God’s grace, to do what others claim cannot be done!

Commission on Equitable Compensation Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Dr. Gloria Brown, Commission on Equitable Compensation chair

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 awards 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 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.

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 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).

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 without a responsible stewardship campaign each year. Refer to the Conference website for information on stewardship and stewardship programs.

B. Any change in clergy appointment to a charge on minimum salary support should be reported immediately to the office of the Conference executive 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 5 years to assume full pastoral support. The charge must project a plan of incremental reductions effective with the

1 second year of support. After five years, minimum salary support may be terminated if
2 substantial progress in reducing dependence on salary support has not been made.
3 Continuation of salary support beyond the five-year limit shall require concurrent action by
4 the commission and the Cabinet.

- 5
6 G. The Cabinet representation on the Commission on Equitable Compensation will give an annual
7 report to the commission regarding the progress each charge is making toward moving off
8 equitable compensation funding.
9

10 **III. ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLOWANCES: PASTORS**

- 11 A. A pastor who is engaged in business, a profession, or farming or who is engaged in non-
12 church activity for remuneration, or who is employed in secular business shall not be eligible
13 for any salary supplementation, except in cases which may qualify for less than full-time
14 appointment.
15
16 B. A retired Conference member or retired local pastor who is serving as pastor shall not be
17 eligible for any salary supplementation or any sustentation allowance.
18
19 C. For the local church to be eligible for salary supplementation, a pastor shall live on the
20 charge or in the parsonage provided by the charge. Under unusual circumstances, the
21 Commission may make an exception.
22
23 D. Minimum salary support is not a contractual right but a consideration of our relationship in
24 Christian ministry.
25

26 **IV. APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES FOR MINIMUM SALARY SUPPORT**

27
28 Supplementation is not automatic but must be applied for each year or when there is a pastoral
29 change.
30

- 31 A. The district superintendent shall apply on behalf of the local church. The district
32 superintendent shall collect the following information when requesting on behalf of a local
33 church.
34
35 1. A copy of the budget for each church on the charge. A completed budget includes:
36 a. The previous year's approved budget, year-end expenditures, and audit report
37 b. The current approved budget and year-to-date expenditures
38 c. The proposed budget for the year support is requested.
39
40 2. A one-paragraph description of the program for stewardship education in each church,
41 including information such as how members were contacted, use of pledge cards,
42 percentage of members who respond to the program, use of regular financial updates,
43 and other helpful information.
44
45 3. One copy of the church's year-end report must be returned to the office of the
46 Conference executive director of Financial & Administrative Services by January 31.
47
48 4. A report with plans for growing the ministry of the charge. Charges beyond the first year
49 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.

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

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

V. **MINIMUM CASH SALARY SCHEDULES**

Currently, East Ohio Conference has one of the lowest minimum salaries across the United States. It is second to the bottom, excluding two missionary Conferences (DAC & CAC Summary, 2023 and 2024 DAC and CACs by Conference name, Wespeth Benefits, and Investments, June 2023). The minimum cash salaries are not commensurate with the cost of living. This claim is substantiated by data collected by the East Ohio Conference Equitable Compensation members.

Location	Consumer Price Index or Cost of Living, % (Based upon a 12-month comparison)	Index - Compared to National Average %
US - National Average	3.4	100
Key Cities in EOC		
Northern Waters District		
Cleveland	3.26	96
Akron	3.19	93.71
Lakewood	3.26	96
Ashtabula	3.05	89.6
Euclid	3.26	95.92
Central Valley District		
Canton	3.09	90.9
Youngstown	2.92	85.81
Alliance	3.08	90.7
Wooster	3.11	91.4
Niles	2.92	85.8
West Plains District		
Mansfield	3.06	90
Mount Vernon	3.25	95.6
Elyria	3.08	90.66
Sandusky	3.07	90.3
Delaware	3.23	95.1
South Forest District		
Cambridge	3.03	89.1

1	New Philadelphia	3.09	91
2	Dover	3.11	91.5
3	Coshocton	3.07	90.3
4	McConnelsville	3.13	92

5
6 The above data for areas in the East Ohio Conference by district were obtained using the following link:
7 <https://www.salary.com/research/cost-of-living/oh> for each location based upon a 12-month
8 comparison (December 2023 vs December 2022). It is readily observable that the inflation rate for the
9 East Ohio Conference is slightly lower than the national average.

10
11 (W. Watts, personal communication, February 12, 2024)

12
13 Therefore, in effort to move the minimum salaries toward a more sustainable wage, to address the
14 current inflation rate to an extent, and to keep churches open, the commission recommends a 5%
15 increase to each of the three minimum salary categories for 2025. If the above recommendation is
16 approved, the 2025 salary schedule will be that seen in Column #4.

2022	2023	2024	2025 Proposed 5% Increase	
40,431	44,474	46,698	49,033	Full members, associate members, provisional members, and ordained persons from other denominations
36,335	39,969	41,967	44,065	Full-time pastors who have completed the course of study
34,289	37,718	39,604	41,584	Full-time pastors who have not completed the course of study

18
19 **VI. SUSTENTATION AID**

20
21 Sustentation grants are available in cases of special need or financial emergencies to all clergy who are
22 under appointment in the East Ohio Conference. In making its decision, the Commission is guided by a
23 printed set of criteria available from the chairperson. The maximum that can be granted to any pastor in
24 any one calendar year is \$2,500. Due to inflation and growing need, donations to this fund are
25 encouraged. The Fund # is 9917.

26
27 **VII. GUIDELINES FOR MILEAGE**

- 28
29 A. In setting the pastor's mileage, the local church(es) shall pay vouchered mileage at the rate set
30 for the current year by the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, which may be
31 obtained at the Conference website: eocumc.com/finance/indes.html.
32
33 B. A church or charge may have the option of prepaying an estimated mileage figure monthly. An
34 accounting of actual miles driven must be reported to the local church treasurer, preferably at
35 month's end but no later than 90 days after prepayment. Any excess or unused portion of the
36 prepayment could either be returned to the treasurer or used to reduce the next prepayment
37 (except at year end).
38

- 1 C. Standard documentation for vouchered miles shall include the date, miles driven, and purpose
2 (May exclude specific contact information where confidentiality is an issue), not including
3 commuting between home and the church.
4
- 5 D. Due to the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church, it is strongly recommended
6 that mileage to district and Conference events and meetings also be paid by the local charge.
7
- 8 E. When specific pastoral duties at a community (non-church) event (e.g., invocation and
9 benediction at commencement), mileage to and from the said event should be paid by the
10 local charge. When an honorarium is given, mileage reimbursement should not be requested
11 unless such honorarium is contributed to a charity or other worthy cause, in which case the
12 local charge may choose to reimburse the pastor for mileage.
13
- 14 F. Mileage reimbursement for continuing education events should be worked out to the mutual
15 satisfaction of the SPR/PPR Committee and the pastor.
16
- 17 G. When the pastor combines local charge business and personal business on the same trip, the
18 mileage attributed to the personal errands shall not be included in the reimbursable mileage.
19
- 20 H. Mileage should be paid by inviting the charge when a pastor travels to another charge to
21 perform services at the request of the other charge's pastor.
22
- 23 I. Multiple church charges should divide travel monies in the same proportion as salary, utilities,
24 and other reimbursable expenses. Multiple travel logs must not be required.
25
- 26 J. Students who travel to the charge for weekend pastoral duties shall not include travel to and
27 from school as charge mileage. The charge shall reimburse for extra trips necessitated by
28 pastoral emergencies.
29
30

31 **Methodist Foundation of Ohio Report to Annual Conference 2024**

32
33 *Submitted by Pastor Brian Sheetz,*
34 *Methodist Foundation of Ohio executive director*
35



36 While the last several years have been full of change for The United
37 Methodist Church, The Methodist Foundation of Ohio remains steady.
38

39 Several years ago, the Foundation changed its bylaws to allow churches with a Wesleyan Heritage to
40 continue to benefit from our services. As a result, we lost just four percent of our assets as these
41 churches left the denomination. Some needed to make withdrawals to satisfy the costs of disaffiliation
42 while others closed their accounts to make a clean break. But this minimal loss leaves the Foundation in
43 a strong position financially and within the annual conference. We are grateful for all the churches that
44 continue to trust us and help them reach and maintain financial stability.
45

46 In 2024 we completed our second wave of clergy travel, taking 40 pilgrims to Israel, most for the first
47 time. Through this significant investment by The Foundation, young clergy and clergy new to professional
48 ministry regardless of age, were able to walk the footsteps of Jesus, from Bethlehem, along the Sea of
49 Galilee, and finally to Jerusalem. Participants reported that the Gospels came alive for them as they
50 better understood the environment of Jesus and the world during his time.
51

1 As both COVID-19 and the time of disaffiliation became smaller in our rear-view mirror we saw an uptick
 2 in the planned giving and endowment development work we provide to churches. A time of uncertainty
 3 has given way to moving forward, often with a better understanding of the risks churches face during
 4 uncertain times. Some of this is based on a critical timeline. As our worshipping congregations continue
 5 to age this is an excellent time to speak with members about planned gifts, those gifts in their wills, or
 6 gifts that provide a lifetime income such as charitable gift annuities. But with every funeral conducted,
 7 the number of potential benefactors shrink. In a very real way, this opportunity is limited and the
 8 churches who develop a strong vision for legacy gifts and their impact on future ministry will be
 9 strengthened by them well into the future.

12 **Royal Family KIDS Camp Report to Annual Conference 2024**

14 *Submitted by Rev. David Scavuzzo*

16 **East Ohio Conference Partnering to Address Child Abuse and Neglect**

17 Humankind suffers in two ways. We suffer from natural occurrences, such as disease, famine, and
 18 natural disasters. We also suffer from the actions of humans. Perhaps, the most insidious form of human
 19 suffering is family-induced childhood trauma (FICT). While the negative effects of wars, famine, injustice,
 20 disease, and poverty cannot be overstated, the psychological and physiological (brain) damage of a child
 21 whose parent is the *cause* of abuse and neglect contributes to, at minimum, the following social ills:
 22 academic failure, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, sex trafficking, homelessness, and sickeningly
 23 high rates of incarceration.

25 Family-induced childhood trauma also increases the risk of heart disease, mental illnesses, chronic lung
 26 disease, liver disease, suicide and more. The effects of toxic stress due to FICT are pervasive, yet toxic
 27 stress itself is preventable. Instead of focusing only on treating the effects of trauma—the array of
 28 physical, mental, and socioeconomic consequences of toxic stress—**our focus is on healing children who**
 29 **have been through more than we can imagine.**

31 **Royal Family KIDS Camp partners, currently, with three East Ohio Conference United Methodist**
 32 **churches chartering camps for some 20,000 children who have been taken from their homes and are a**
 33 **part of our foster system. The vision of Royal Family KIDS Camp** is for God's people to residentially
 34 camp with foster children, ages 6-12, providing a life-changing camp experience through the healing of
 35 relationships through unconditional love.

37 We believe with your help and your local church's help we can mobilize the church community to
 38 confront child abuse and be a part of the miracle of healing by adding mentors to our current camps and
 39 beginning new ones. During a week at camp, we need a minimum of 55-60 adult volunteer staff who can
 40 become a joyful part of crafts, recreation, spiritual guidance, outdoor activities, and relational
 41 adventures. After a week of camp these children leave with deep and healing memories of wholesome
 42 fun, the knowledge they are loved by God, an experience of love and acceptance, achieving new
 43 accomplishments, a personalized scrapbook along with their very own Bible, and so much more.

45 If you feel God calling for you to be involved, you or your local United Methodist church can:

- 46 • pray and learn during Foster Care awareness month each May.
- 47 • prepare in advance 40 scrapbooks for loving memories for each child at camp.
- 48 • plan to gather a few individuals to attend camp for one day.
- 49 • organize and offer the camp birthday party since many of our kids (up to half) do not celebrate
- 50 birthdays.

- 1 • send a small group of adults to one of our three trainings held around the East Ohio area in
2 Strongsville, Willoughby Hills, and Cuyahoga Falls.
- 3 • come to camp and serve one or two nights of “night duty” making sure the children rest well
4 and safely.
- 5 • volunteer a week to come to camp to offer a tangible presence of Love.
- 6 • provide \$600 scholarships for a child to attend camp. This scholarship provides cost of materials
7 for the week, items for them to take home (Bible, camp music, school bag, some clothing), and
8 provides for adult support staff.

10 **With your help, we can include more children!**

11
12 If you feel God’s call to make a difference in a child’s life through Royal Family KIDS Camp, please visit
13 our ministries opportunity inside the John S. Knight Center during Annual Conference this year. If you
14 have questions about Royal Family KIDS Camp, you can e-mail me at scavuzzodave@gmail.com.

15
16 Learn more about Royal Family KIDS Camp on the Conference website at
17 <https://www.eocumc.com/royalfamilykidscamp/index.html>

20 **All In Community Report to Annual Conference 2024**

21
22 *Submitted by Reba Collins, All In Community Lead coordinator*

23
24 “Continue to remember those in prison, as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are
25 mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” – Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)

26
27 The writer of Hebrews seems to know what it is like to be in prison, to be suffering, without a
28 compassionate community. The Apostle Paul certainly knew the incarceration experience. So did Joseph,
29 and yes, even our Jesus knew it.

30
31 All In Community is for *all* of us. Roughly, one in 31 Ohioans is under some form of correctional control
32 (i.e. jail, prison, probation, or parole) through the criminal justice system. Half of American families
33 have, or have had, at least one immediate family member incarcerated. For every one person
34 incarcerated, there are at least three victims. This means our United Methodist congregations have
35 persons involved with the criminal justice system in our midst.

36
37 All In Community exists to engage individuals, churches, criminal justice professionals, and community
38 leaders at the local level *to restore hope and support healing in lives involved in the criminal legal*
39 *system*. All In Community is committed to reducing the shame and stigma associated with criminal
40 justice system involvement.

41
42 The All In Community ministry began as an initiative of the West Ohio Conference of The United
43 Methodist Church and is now partnering with the East Ohio Conference through the Connectional
44 Ministries office Missions & Community Engagement team led by Rev. Kathy Dickriede, Missions &
45 Community Engagement director. We are thankful for this opportunity to partner and share resources
46 for this important work.

47
48 We seek to inspire, encourage, and equip congregations and individuals to share and live the Good
49 News of the Gospel through and with our justice-involved members and neighbors, build restorative
50 relationships, and promote belonging within the local congregation and the church’s local community.

51

1 We equip and engage congregations and individuals to care holistically for those who *have* harmed and
2 those who have *been* harmed. We offer:

- 3 • hope-filled supportive community connections for social-emotional, compassionate care needs,
- 4 • guidance for providing/receiving tangible help for economic, physiological, and safety needs, and
- 5 • healing relationships and spaces to address spiritual and transformational needs.

6
7 All In Community helps prepare and properly position our faithful servants to be in ministry with
8 criminal justice-involved persons because they have felt called to live out Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25
9 and/or because of justice-involved circumstances in their own lives. We equip, engage, and empower
10 God's people to transform lived experiences into life-giving ministry.

11
12 In the East Ohio Conference, we are supporting the work of congregations leading reentry coalition
13 building efforts. We are establishing HOPE Letters groups that are mentoring through correspondence
14 with men and women returning to East Ohio communities. We are walking with lay and clergy persons
15 as they navigate justice-involved experiences, and we are looking to collaborate on new, contextual
16 ministry opportunities.

17
18 All In Community means that regardless of what you 've done, what a loved one has done, or what has
19 been done to you, or them, we are here for *all of you in this community*.

20
21 If you are ready to find God's purpose/healing for your own lived experience or want to walk with
22 someone else in transforming theirs, I invite you to email me at rebakco@gmail.com or Ministries
23 Coordinator Jami Nathan at jami.nathan22@gmail.com.

24 25 **Signature initiatives of All In Community:**

- 26 • **HOPE Letters Ministry** is an Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)
27 supported, faith-based reentry mentoring through correspondence ministry. HOPE Letters
28 groups offer encouragement, guidance, and restorative relationships with men and women in
29 Ohio's correctional facilities, and a welcoming "Community of Hope" upon their release.
- 30
31 • **Four Friends Speakers Bureau** is an outreach ministry that supports formerly incarcerated
32 individuals – also known as returning neighbors – bringing their stories of faith and
33 transformation to others.
- 34
35 • **The First 72** is an initiative to engage individuals and groups to create ways to walk with and
36 support returning neighbors in their first minutes, hours, and days after they are released from
37 incarceration.
- 38
39 • **Good Samaritan Ministry** is a network of trained care providers (i.e., Stephen Ministers) that
40 offer supportive, one-on-one care with individuals affected by the criminal justice system.
- 41
42 • **Building Bridges of Opportunity** is the community engagement arm of our ministry. Through
43 this initiative, All In Community connects with over 1,200 government, community, and faith-
44 based allies. Each year, we convene the "Community Experience" a gathering of the reentry
45 community to build a continuum of care throughout Ohio.

46
47 Learn more about All in Community on the EOC website at
48 <https://www.eocumc.com/allincommunity/index.html>.

1 **Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS)**

2 **A Proposal for a New East Ohio Annual Conference Governance Structure**

3
4 *Submitted by Rev. Ed Fashbaugh, Connectional Ministries executive director*

5
6 The proposal in this report to transition the East Ohio Conference to a Simplified Accountable Structure
7 (SAS) governance model will be presented at Annual Conference for conversation and vote. Adopting
8 the proposal will align the governance models of the East Ohio Conference, the four new districts, and
9 many of the local churches, more than 100 of which currently use a SAS model with more exploring its
10 benefits every year. If adopted by Annual Conference, the Conference SAS model will be initiated in two
11 phases over the next year.

12
13 Phase 1 will be the recruitment, training, and deployment of the Conference Leadership Board (CLB),
14 which will be the primary stewardship and governance body of the EOC SAS. The CLB:

- 15 • will develop yearly goals for the East Ohio Conference that align with its mission and vision, and
- 16 • will distribute the goals to the Conference ministry teams and to the district leadership boards
17 for contextualization, prayer, and action.

18
19 The CLB will be co-chaired by the bishop and the Conference lay leader and will include four lay women,
20 four lay men, four clergy persons, the first lay delegate and first clergy delegate to General Conference,
21 and two people named by the bishop. In fulfilling its mission, the CLB may call on Conference staff and
22 others to serve in advisory roles, having voice but no vote.

23
24 Following each CLB meeting, the EOC Communication team will e-mail laity and clergy to update them
25 on the progression of goals and provide information on decisions made during the meeting. The CLB will
26 also present a report each year to the Annual Conference on the State of the Mission and Vision in the
27 East Ohio Conference.

28
29 In Phase 2 of the proposed SAS a new leadership chart will be created and presented to the 2025 Annual
30 Conference showing the functional relationships of EOC boards, councils, commissions, and committees.
31 In 2024 the current structure will continue to be used. When AC members check-in at the John S. Knight
32 Center for Annual Conference 2024 they will receive the 2024 Leadership Report they will vote to adopt
33 during conference. The report will list the names of clergy and lay persons who have agreed to serve on
34 current boards, councils, commissions, and committees until Annual Conference 2025.

35 36 **Governance Structures and *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church***

37 Just as *The Book of Discipline* (BOD) of *The United Methodist Church* allows for flexibility in the ways that
38 local churches (see ¶1243 & ¶1247.2) and districts (¶1661) organize for the mission of the Church, it also
39 allows for flexibility in the governance structure of annual conferences.

40
41 “The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the
42 world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the
43 local church; all to the glory of God.” (BOD ¶1601)

44
45 In order to accomplish this mission, “annual conferences are permitted the flexibility to design
46 conference and district structures in ways that best support the mission ... in an increasingly diverse
47 global community and that place secondary any prescribed structure, except for the mandated entities
48” (BOD ¶1610.1)

49

1 Conference entities mandated in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist include:

- 2 • Council on Finance & Administration (BOD ¶611)
- 3 • Board of Ministry (BOD ¶635)
- 4 • Administrative Review Committee (BOD ¶636)
- 5 • Episcopacy Committee (BOD ¶637)
- 6 • Board of Benefits (BOD ¶639)
- 7 • Board of Trustees (BOD ¶640)
- 8 • United Women in Faith (BOD ¶647)
- 9 • United Methodist Men (BOD ¶648)

10
11 These mandated entities will be incorporated into the proposed new SAS.

12
13 **Empowerment, Accountability, and Transparency of a Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS)**

14 *Empowerment for service and ministry is the first benefit of SAS.* Through the Phase 2 development of
15 short-term, action-oriented project teams, SAS will provide many more opportunities than in the past
16 for lay persons and clergy persons to be involved in the mission and ministry of the East Ohio
17 Conference. These short-term action teams may exist for a day, a week, a month, or longer, depending
18 on the nature of the team’s work, providing numerous opportunities for many different people to serve
19 in significant ways. Through these teams, the mission and ministry of standing boards and committees
20 will continue in new ways with a primary focus on building, training, and deploying action teams.

21
22 *Accountability for mission and vision is the second benefit of SAS.* The mission of The United Methodist
23 Church is Biblical and focused, and the vision for how the East Ohio Conference can best live into this
24 mission was developed to move this Christ-centered mission forward. The proposed SAS model will
25 enable greater coordination and accountability within all mission and ministry areas of the annual
26 conference so that together we may determine how we are progressing in fulfilling our vision.

27
28 *Transparency of the mission and vision is the third benefit of SAS.* The proposed CLB will meet
29 periodically with the action teams and together they will evaluate what progress has been made on
30 stated goals. They will then determine whether additional assistance is needed, how resources need to
31 be deployed, and if new strategies need to be developed or current strategies need to be altered.

32
33 The empowerment, accountability, and transparency of the proposed new SAS will best position the
34 ministries of the East Ohio Conference to live into our shared vision for how we will accomplish our
35 mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

36
37
38 **Mission Awareness Committee Report to Annual Conference 2024**

39
40 *Submitted by Rev. Kathy Dickriede, Connectional Ministries office Missions & Community Engagement*
41 *director*

42
43 In **2023**, the Mission Awareness committee members had a focus on engaging local churches with the
44 Advance Specials and other local ministries. Committee members are encouraged to find ways to
45 connect churches with missions in local areas. The mission agencies need the Church, and the Church
46 needs the mission agencies to teach us how to be God’s agents of transformation in our communities.
47 Disciples continually need to move out of the “Holy huddle” and into the world to bring the Kingdom of
48 God to the here and now.

49

1 We are pleased to recommend the following as new Advances in 2024, descriptions are in the full list:
2 All In Community | Fund 9984
3 Royal Family KIDS Camp | Fund 9965
4 Lift Her Up, Africa University Scholarship | Fund 9168
5 Youth Service Fund | Fund 9162 (not a new fund but newly listed as an Advance)
6

7 The following Advances have been discontinued:

8 The Vine | Fund 9981 (declined to renew)
9 Multicultural Ministries of Cuyahoga Falls | Fund 9923 (declined to renew)
10 Senior Ministries of Cuyahoga Falls | Fund 9980 (declined to renew)
11

12 Total giving to our Conference Advances has dropped by approximately 33% since 2021. The totals
13 below do not include Undesignated Missions Fund 9001:

14 2023: \$119,597
15 2022: \$127,033
16 2021: \$177,202
17

18 The Advance for Christ is an official program within The United Methodist Church through which donors
19 may designate giving to specific projects and purposes. Advance giving goes the “second mile” in
20 generosity. It is in addition to our covenant promise to support The United Methodist Church through
21 shared ministry funds (budgeted apportionments). The Advance designates 100% of your donation to
22 the specific project indicated in your gift. This is possible because apportionments pay for the
23 communication and financial networks that administer the Advance. Other charities must deduct
24 administrative fees to process similar donations. Donations may be directed to your local church using
25 the Advance number or may be made online at www.eocumc.com/donate.
26

27 Advance projects are partners in mission helping us extend the love of Christ into local communities.
28 Advances have been vetted as working in good financial practices and committed to the mission of The
29 United Methodist Church in East Ohio. The Advances work ecumenically and are always looking for
30 partners who are praying, volunteering, and donating financially. Through volunteering with and
31 learning about these projects, we find the presence of Christ in ways and in areas beyond that which we
32 experience as individual churches. The Board of Missions has reviewed and recommended the Advances
33 listed as Health & Well-Being agencies. All others were reviewed and recommended by the Mission
34 Awareness Committee.
35

36 A General Church Advance project directs funds to a mission partner or purpose reviewed and approved
37 by the Advance Committee of the General Board of Global Ministries. This can include General Advance
38 projects in Ohio and those around the world. Please pray for the people and communities these serve.
39 Volunteer and build relationships with these partners. These connections have much to teach us about
40 being “the body of Christ redeemed by His blood.”
41

42 **Recommendation #1:** That the following be adopted and promoted as Conference Advance projects for
43 support by East Ohio United Methodist churches and individuals from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025
44 (Grouped by ministry or mission type).
45

46 **A) Health & Well-Being Agencies:** historically, affiliated with or in a covenant relationship with the
47 EOCUMC.
48

1 **Canton For All People**, Canton | EOC 9978

2 Canton for All People is a community development corporation formed by Crossroads UMC in
3 partnership with the Lemmon and DeHoff family foundations and other area UMC churches to bring
4 quality housing and opportunities for all people to downtown Canton.

5

6 **Copeland Oaks Care Fund**, Sebring | EOC 9172

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

9

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

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

15

16 **Heart 4 the City**, Akron | EOC 9941

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

19

20 **Nehemiah Mission**, Cleveland | EOC 9136

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

23

24 **OhioGuidestone**, Berea | EOC 9173

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

28

29 **Urban Mission Ministries**, Steubenville | EOC 9107

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

34

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

36 West Side Community House transforms lives in the community through an array of model programs
37 and services that strengthen and stabilize the family, encourage lifelong learning and economic self-
38 sufficiency, promote health and wellness, foster independence, and renew the life spirit.

39

40 **B) Local Ministry Partners:** UMC-affiliated ecumenical or community ministries relating to EOCUMC
41 district strategy.

42

43 **ACCESS** Ashland Emergency Shelter, Ashland County | EOC 9953

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

47

- 1 **Brookdale Orchard**, Cleveland | EOC 9983
2 A community orchard that is a joint mission project of Saint Matthew UMC and the Rockefeller Park
3 Community Restoration & Development Association. Located in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood, they
4 are creating a space for peaceful community gathering and growth.
5
- 6 **Blue Rose Mission**, Mansfield | EOC 9940
7 To provide opportunities for people to bring Christ to homeowners in need in Richland County through
8 home improvement projects. Our purpose is to use community and church groups to do housing repairs
9 for people in need.
10
- 11 **Christian Children's Home of Ohio**, Wooster | EOC 9977
12 Provides a safe and structured environment to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs
13 of children across Ohio that have been abused, neglected, or traumatized by the people they should be
14 able to trust the most. Also offers foster care and counseling services for youth not living on campus.
15
- 16 **Covered Bridge Mission**, Ashtabula County | EOC 9975
17 This mission addresses small home improvement projects that other charitable organizations don't
18 always provide, such as wheelchair ramps. Helping the economically-disadvantaged in the rural and
19 urban areas of Ashtabula County, Ohio's largest geographic county.
20
- 21 **Gifted Gaits**, Quaker City | EOC 9919
22 Gifted Gaits is a ministry in the South Forest District that provides equine-assisted therapy, caregiver
23 support and workforce development that is rooted in prayer, relationships, and horses.
24
- 25 **Journey's End Ministries**, Newcomerstown | EOC 9931
26 Journey's End operates a food pantry to feed the less fortunate in Newcomerstown and the surrounding
27 area. Also offers used clothing and household items.
28
- 29 **Martha's Cupboard**, Fresno | EOC 9964
30 To follow Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves by helping those who have lost their jobs
31 or are low income. Provides cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies, diapers, and school supplies
32 that can't be purchased with food stamps. Hosted by Fresno UMC.
33
- 34 **O.P.E.N. M**, Akron | EOC 9102
35 O.P.E.N. M Community Works Akron (CWA) assists those in poverty to become economically self-
36 sufficient through holistic employment assistance, prioritizing financial literacy, job retention, and
37 mentorship to reduce individual barriers to employment.
38
- 39 **Project Hope for the Homeless** (Ecumenical Shelter Network of Lake Co.) | EOC 9143
40 Project Hope Restoring Hope & Renewing Lives is a 50-bed emergency shelter, which includes a 12-bed
41 family wing with extended hours (Families Moving Forward), as well as comprehensive services and
42 aftercare services upon exit.
43
- 44 **NEW Royal Family KIDS Camp**, multiple churches | Fund 9965
45 Royal Family KIDS Camp is a week-long residential camp for children who have been abused and
46 neglected and who are often part of the foster care system. A part of the national program, For the
47 Children, East Ohio Conference currently has three camps sponsored by Northampton UMC, Willoughby
48 Hills UMC, and Strongsville UMC. Royal Family KIDS Camp is a place of safety, love, and hope. Donations
49 will be shared by all three camps.
50

1 **South Street Ministries, Inc., Akron | EOC 9195**

2 South Street Ministries assists unemployed adults and addresses the spectrum of youth education and
3 mentoring needs in the South Akron community with its many programs.
4

5 **Thrive 10:10, Girard | EOC 9979**

6 Serving Mahoning and Trumbull counties, Thrive 10:10 hosts Ruth's Boutique which provides hygiene,
7 personal care items, and accessories to women and teens in a boutique store setting. A workshop on
8 managing finances called "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World" began in 2023.
9

10 **Trials for Hope, Cleveland | EOC 9982**

11 Delivering dignity and hope to those who fall between the cracks by delivering wholesome food,
12 personal care items, and warmth to the Greater Cleveland area.
13

14 **Wayfinders (formerly Harmony House), Mansfield | EOC 9134**

15 The mission at Wayfinders is to provide homeless citizens in Richland County with a clear path to
16 housing and hope.
17

18 **C) Ministries Administered by the EOCUMC Connectional Ministries Office**

19
20 **Disaster Response in Ohio | EOC 9200**

21 Provides immediate and long-term recovery for the community and the survivors of a disaster in the
22 East Ohio Conference or neighboring areas.
23

24 **Disaster Response Leadership Development | EOC 9648**

25 Funding for United Methodist Committee on Relief Early Response Team (UMCOR ERT) training,
26 scholarships, and leadership development sponsored by the East Ohio Disaster Response Committee.
27

28 **East Ohio Conference Camps | EOC 9899**

29 East Ohio Conference Camps provides for camperships and subsidizes other needs at the camp sites to
30 provide a quality Christian camping program.
31

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

33 The Least of These (L.O.T.) Campership Endowment provides camperships for children, youth, young
34 adults, and families from poverty situations.
35

36 **East Ohio Volunteers in Mission Leadership Development | EOC 9046**

37 Provides funding for training, scholarships, and leadership development of East Ohio Volunteers in
38 Mission.
39

40 **East Ohio Volunteers in Mission Teams | EOC 9643**

41 Funding for team travel, materials, and participant expenses of teams planned and organized by a
42 United Methodist Volunteers in Mission-trained team leader.
43

44 **John M. Roseberry Scholarship Fund | EOC 9976**

45 Scholarships are awarded to racial-ethnic students who have been members of The United Methodist
46 Church for at least three years and do not have the access that others may have to higher education.
47

1 **Emerging Mission Ministries** (formerly Undesignated Missions) | EOC 9001
2 Funds to be used where they are most needed for missions. The Board of Missions approves any
3 spending from this fund. Since 2021, \$340,389 in grants have been put into the mission field through the
4 Serving Others, Inviting Others grant.

5
6 **Youth Service Fund** | EOC 9162
7 Funding for projects that are youth-designed, youth-led, and youth-benefited. Ten percent of donations
8 to this fund are forwarded to the General Church Youth Service Fund and 90% will be utilized at the
9 discretion of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

10

11 **D) United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Disaster Response Ministries**

12

13 **Midwest Mission**, Illinois | EOC 9944
14 Midwest Mission is one of eight cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief
15 (UMCOR) supply network. The Mission distributes UMCOR supplies and other items in response to
16 disasters nationally and internationally.

17

18 **Mission Barn**, New Castle, PA | EOC 9918
19 Established in 2008 as a ministry of Eastbrook UMC, our mission is four-fold: collect, process, package,
20 and ship United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits in a tri-state region; construct handicap
21 access ramps and help with local needs; provide material support for Early Response Teams doing
22 disaster response; provide education about Christian mission, especially UMCOR and United Methodist
23 Volunteers in Mission.

24

25 **UMCOR US Disaster Response** | EOC 1327
26 Donations are forwarded to the General Advance for US Disaster Response, Advance 901670.

27

28 **UMCOR International Relief Fund** | EOC 1301
29 Donations are forwarded to the General Advance for International Relief, Advance 982450.

30

31 **E) General Church, National, and International Mission Partners**

32

33 **NEW All In Community | Fund 9984**
34 Started by the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, All In Community exists to
35 engage individuals, churches, criminal justice professionals, and community leaders in local efforts to
36 restore hope and support healing during and following lived experiences with the criminal justice
37 system. We equip and engage congregations and individuals to care for self and others who have been
38 harmed and who have harmed. All In Community helps prepare and properly position our faithful
39 servants to be in ministry with criminal justice-involved persons because they have felt called to enact
40 the teachings of Matthew 25 and/or because circumstances in their own lives require a caring response.

41

42 **CHOAIDS** (Caring for Haitian Orphans with AIDS), Haiti | EOC 9922
43 CHOAIDS provides shelter, food, access to education, transportation, and medical treatment for
44 neglected children in Haiti who are HIV positive. It also employs HIV-positive women as “house moms”
45 to provide direct care to these orphans.

46

47 **Farmer to Farmer**, Liberia | EOC 9026
48 Farmer to Farmer supports mission partners in Harrisburg, Liberia, whose work includes providing farm
49 equipment and training to the Liberian farming community.

50

1 NEW Lift Her Up, Africa University, Zimbabwe | EOC 9168

2 The East Ohio Conference Teach • Reach • Bless campaign raised more than \$1.5 million to build and
 3 furnish a residence hall for female students on the campus of Africa University (AU) in Zimbabwe. To
 4 continue our commitment to empower female students at Africa University, we have started the Lift Her
 5 Up ministry to fund scholarships so that female students in a refugee camp who have been accepted at
 6 AU will have the funds to enroll at the Pan-African United Methodist institution of higher learning.

8 North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) UMVIM | EOC 9177

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

11 North Coast Haiti Mission, Haiti | EOC 9947

12 Improve the lives of the people of the Cap Haitian Circuit of Eglise Methodiste du Haiti, with a primary
 13 focus on the Methodist school and church in Dondon.

15 The following Advances were still pending renewal as of March 15, 2024:**17 Bike Hope Love, Rootstown | EOC 9180**

18 Started in 1987 and formerly known as Pedaling Parsons, Bike Hope Love is a group of Methodist clergy
 19 and lay people who organize bike trip fundraisers for various missions.

21 Epworth Center, Bethesda | EOC 9140

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

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

28 Interchurch Social Services provides emergency assistance to residents of Knox County including rent,
 29 utility, and prescription assistance, pantry service, clothing, gasoline vouchers for medical appointments,
 30 and Christmas assistance.

32 **RECOMMENDATION #2:** that churches and individuals in East Ohio be encouraged to support General
 33 Advance Project and missionaries. Some projects or missionaries from years ago are no longer active, so
 34 before donating please visit the Advance website, <https://umcmmission.org/about-the-advance/>, to
 35 confirm a project is still active.

37 **RECOMMENDATION #3:** that the Conference Connectional Table, upon recommendation by the Board
 38 of Missions and the Mission Awareness Committee, be authorized to revise this list of Conference
 39 Advance Projects between sessions of Annual Conference.

41 **RECOMMENDATION #4:** that every church promote Special Sunday and Conference offerings,
 42 www.eocumc.com/finance/special-sundays. The local church may use traditional dates or choose any
 43 other time to promote these ministries.

45 World Communion Sunday | EOC 9210

October 6, 2024

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

- 1) 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;
- 2) Ethnic Scholarship Program: 35 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry); and
- 3) Ethnic In-Service Training Program: 15 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry).

United Methodist Student Day | EOC 9211

November 24, 2024

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, 2025

Historically, Human Relations Day has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of 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:

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

UMCOR Sunday | EOC 9206 March 2025

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:

- 1) Humanitarian Relief / Disaster Response
- 2) Sustainable Development
- 3) Global Health (in collaboration with Global Ministries)

Native American Sunday | EOC 9207

April 2025

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

May 2025

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 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 & Well-Being covenant ministries.

1 **Disability Awareness Sunday** | EOC 9212 Any date determined by the local church
 2 Disability Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with differing
 3 abilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with differing abilities and health
 4 concerns. The offering is administered by the Disability Awareness team.

5
 6 **UMVIM Awareness Sunday** | UMC 9643 Any date determined by the local church
 7 United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate those
 8 who have served in short-term missions and the work of UMVIM throughout the world. The offering is
 9 administered by the Conference UMVIM team to provide training, networks, and scholarships for
 10 individuals and mission teams.

11
 12 **Other Special Days:**

13
 14 **#MakeADifferenceDay** October 26, 2024
 15 Make a Difference Day occurs annually on the 4th Saturday in October. This is a good opportunity to
 16 witness to the world and engage other community partners by volunteering in local mission settings.
 17 Contact Advance Special projects for ideas.

18
 19 **#GivingTuesday** December 3, 2024
 20 Unlike Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday emerged to encourage generosity to benefit the
 21 lives of others. The UMC encourages churches and organizations to use social media to promote giving
 22 to general church and Conference advance missions on #GivingTuesday. In 2023, the Board of Missions
 23 matched \$4,545 in donations to 16 of our Advances thanks to the generous support of Emerging Mission
 24 Ministries EOC 9001

25
 26 Visit www.eocumc.com/finance/advance-special for the most current listing of Advance Specials and a
 27 link to donate online.

28
 29
 30 **Conference Board of Trustees Annual Conference 2024**

31
 32 *Submitted by Rev. Dr. Randall W. May, Conference Board of Trustees president*

33
 34 According to ¶2512 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* (as it may be
 35 amended at the General Conference held in 2024, hereinafter referred to as “*The UMC Book of*
 36 *Discipline*”), each annual conference must have a Board of Trustees responsible for receiving, collecting,
 37 holding in trust, and administering all of the conference’s real and personal property. The board meets
 38 as needed but must meet at least once annually. According to ¶2512.6 of *The UMC Book of Discipline*,
 39 the board must make to each session of annual conference a full, true, and faithful report of its doings,
 40 of all funds, monies, securities, and property owned or held in trust by it, and of its receipts,
 41 acquisitions, expenditures, sales, or leasing during the conference year. In accordance with these
 42 requirements, receive now this 2024 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the East Ohio
 43 Conference (“Conference”) for the conference year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024
 44 (“Conference Year”).

45
 46 During the Conference Year, the Board met four times for regular quarterly meetings on the following
 47 dates: July 8, 2023 (hybrid meeting – in-person and on Zoom), October 14, 2023 (hybrid meeting – in-
 48 person and on Zoom), February 10, 2024 (virtual meeting on Zoom), and May 11, 2024 (virtual meeting
 49 on Zoom). Also, the Board dealt with several issues requiring Board action between regular quarterly
 50 meetings using email and online voting, pursuant to its operating rules adopted in 2020. At the July 8,

2023, meeting, the Board elected the following members as officers: Rev. Randall May as president; Brian Bly as vice president; and Brian Knotts as secretary. Vera Rebrovich, executive director of Financial & Administrative Services for the Conference, serves as the Board's Treasurer and is not elected.

The Board's work can be allocated into three principal categories: 1) maintaining and managing Conference properties; 2) acquisition, sale, and leasing of Conference properties; and 3) other tasks associated with Conference properties. The following is a summary of work completed by the Board during the current Conference Year.

Maintaining and Managing Conference-Owned Properties

District Parsonages and Episcopal Residence: The Board, in coordination with Conference executive director of Financial & Administrative Services Vera Rebrovich, the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, and the Episcopal Residence Committee, are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Conference's district parsonages and episcopal residence. If the maintenance and repair work is minimal in nature, it may be handled directly by the district superintendent or the bishop from a budget allocation, while larger maintenance and repair work is handled through Conference executive director of Financial & Administrative Services Vera Rebrovich. The district parsonages and episcopal residence are currently in good condition and repair, although various repair and renovation work was completed during the Conference Year and some additional repair and maintenance work is needed. The Mahoning Valley/Central Valley district parsonage is currently not occupied and is being held pending determination of future need.

Area Center: Ordinary repair and maintenance work was conducted as needed in the Area Center in North Canton, and in addition, some long-deferred renovation projects were also conducted, in coordination with Conference executive director of Financial & Administrative Services Vera Rebrovich. The work included air duct cleaning, new carpet, electrical repair, parking lot lighting, door replacement, new interior signage, replacement of the exterior pylon sign, renovation and reconfiguration of interior areas and conference rooms, and repainting. Additional renovation work will be performed this year in other parts of the Area Center, and the Board will also be considering energy-saving and renewable energy improvements that could be implemented at the Area Center. Some legal work is also being conducted with respect to the land on which the Area Center is located but which has not been improved and is not needed by the Conference. Interest was expressed by several prospective buyers in the excess property, so the Board has approved the execution of some survey work in anticipation of the possible subdivision of the land, and the sale or leasing of the excess property, which the Board hereby seeks authorization for from this Annual Conference.

Other Conference Properties:

Conference Church Camps: The Board continued to review and support repairs, maintenance, and improvement projects at the two camp properties owned by the Conference (Camp Asbury and Camp Wanake), and at the one camp property leased by the Conference (Camp Aldersgate). Additional work and costs are anticipated for all three camps in the next Conference Year.

Acquisition, Sale, and Leasing of Conference Properties

Acquired Properties: The following local churches were closed, and their properties were acquired in title or trust by the Conference during this Conference Year:

- 1 • *Good Shepherd UMC (East Liverpool, Ohio – Central Valley/Mahoning Valley District – church,*
2 *parsonage, and garage):* The closed church building, parsonage, and garage were acquired and
3 held in trust by the Board for the Conference on November 1, 2023.
- 4 • *Ebenezer UMC (Beverly, Ohio – Southern Hills/South Forest District – church):* The closed church
5 building was acquired and held in trust by the Board for the Conference on December 1, 2023.
- 6 • *Marshallville UMC (Marshallville, Ohio – Central Valley/Canal District – church and parsonage):*
7 The closed church building and parsonage were acquired and held in trust by the Board for the
8 Conference on December 31, 2023.
- 9 • *Additional Closed Churches:* As of the date of this report, the Board is aware of several additional
10 churches which are or may be closing or preparing to close. Other local churches have been
11 discussing their futures but have not yet made any firm decisions.

12
13 **Sold Properties:** The following properties were sold by the Conference during this Conference Year:

- 14 • *Calvary UMC (Green Springs, Ohio – West Plains/Firelands District – church):* This church was
15 closed in June of 2022, and the building was sold on July 31, 2023, to a historical society for net
16 proceeds in the amount of \$36,088.00.
- 17 • *Union Pisgah UMC (Attica, Ohio – West Plains/Firelands District – church):* This church was
18 closed in June of 2023, and the building was sold on October 4, 2023, to a corporation for net
19 proceeds in the amount of \$44,943.00.
- 20 • *New Somerset UMC (New Somerset, Ohio – South Forest/Ohio Valley District – church):* This
21 church was closed in January of 2021, and the building was sold on January 2, 2024, to a private
22 individual for net proceeds in the amount of \$60,448.00.
- 23 • *Bray's Chapel UMC (Steubenville, Ohio – South Forest/Ohio Valley District – church):* This church
24 was closed in October of 2022, and the building was sold on January 12, 2024, to a private
25 individual for net proceeds in the amount of \$22,913.00.
- 26 • *Lowellville UMC (Lowellville, Ohio – Central Valley/Mahoning Valley District – church):* This
27 church was closed in May of 2023, and the building was sold on February 13, 2024, to a private
28 individual for net proceeds of \$89,117.00.

29
30 **Pending Sale Transactions:** Sales of the following properties are currently pending:

- 31 • *Good Shepherd UMC (East Liverpool, Ohio – Central Valley/Mahoning Valley District – garage):*
32 This church was closed in November of 2023, and sale of the garage is expected in April of 2024,
33 to a private individual for approximate net proceeds of \$45,000.00.
- 34 • *Canton Calvary Mission (Canton, Ohio – Central Valley/Tuscarawas District – mission/church):*
35 This mission/church was closed in March of 2022, and the Board anticipates that the building
36 will be transferred to Canton For All People/Crossroads UMC later in this Conference Year for no
37 financial consideration so that it can continue operation as a United Methodist mission site.
- 38 • *Good Shepherd UMC (East Liverpool, Ohio – Central Valley/Mahoning Valley District –*
39 *parsonage):* This church was closed in November of 2023, and sale of the parsonage will likely
40 close later in this Conference Year to a private individual for net proceeds yet to be determined.
- 41 • *Salem Fredericktown UMC (Fredericktown, Ohio – South Forest/Three Rivers District – church):*
42 This church was closed in June of 2023, and sale of the church will likely close later in this
43 Conference Year to a private individual for net proceeds of about \$44,599.00.
- 44 • *Blissfield UMC (Blissfield, Ohio – South Forest/Three Rivers District – church):* This church was
45 closed in June of 2023, and the sale of the church will likely close later in this Conference Year to
46 a private individual for net proceeds yet to be determined.

47
48 **Additional District Parsonage Sales and/or Purchases:** Finally, with respect to the acquisition and
49 sale of Conference properties, the Board is also seeking authorization from this Annual Conference
50 to sell and/or acquire additional district parsonage properties as needed. With changes to the

1 districts, and in the superintendency and episcopal organization of the Conference, the Board
2 continues to need the ability to sell unneeded or inconveniently located parsonage properties, and
3 to acquire new parsonage properties conveniently and centrally located for district and Conference
4 housing. Thus, the Board seeks authorization from this Annual Conference to sell and/or acquire
5 additional parsonage properties *ad interim* with the consent of the bishop and majority of the
6 district superintendents, and as approved by the Board and subject to the subsequent approval of
7 the Annual Conference, all as provided for in ¶12515 of *The UMC Book of Discipline*.
8

9 **Leasing:**

- 10
- 11 • *Oil and Gas Rights:* The Board is continuing to discuss and consider the Conference's interests in
12 the oil and gas rights associated with several properties owned by the Conference. The Board,
13 however, currently believes that the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church set forth
14 in *The UMC Book of Discipline* encourage the Board not to approve the sale or leasing of such
15 rights or minerals, as the extraction and use thereof could be damaging to the environment and
16 to this beautiful world created by God.
17

18 **Various Other Tasks Associated with Conference Properties**

- 19
- 20 • *Camping and Retreat Endowment (C.A.R.E.) and Other Camp Assets:* At the end of 2023, the
21 total balance of all C.A.R.E. funds (restricted, unrestricted and C.A.R.E.) was \$ 3,276,794. There is
22 a loan payable to the Conference for the Aldersgate director's house with a total principal
23 balance as of the end of 2023 of \$13,023.00. Loan terms are: 15-year term, 2% interest, \$13,165
24 payment per annum, expected to pay off in 2024.
 - 25 • *Trusts:* The Board continues to work on resolving several trust issues associated with closed local
26 churches, including former Beach City UMC and former Conotton UMC. In addition, the Board is
27 working on some legal issues associated with trusts in which the Conference, districts or closed
28 local churches have been named as beneficiaries.
 - 29 • *Insurance:* The Board, in coordination with Executive Director of Financial & Administrative
30 Services Vera Rebrovich, the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, and Conference
31 Chancellor Rex Miller, and with the leadership and direction of Bishop Tracy S. Malone, has been
32 working on revisions to the Conference's insurance policies, including increases in the per
33 occurrence deductibles for policy claims.
 - 34 • *BSA Bankruptcy:* The Board, in coordination with Executive Director of Financial &
35 Administrative Services Vera Rebrovich, the Conference Council on Finance & Administration,
36 and Conference Chancellor Rex Miller, and with the leadership and direction of Bishop Tracy S.
37 Malone, has been participating in a joint legal defense and resolution effort in the Boy Scouts of
38 America ("BSA") Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Reorganization case. The BSA bankruptcy reorganization
39 plan was approved by the bankruptcy court on September 8, 2022, and affirmed by the U.S.
40 District Court on March 28, 2023, with an effective date of April 19, 2023. A settlement trust
41 from which all claims would be paid was in the process of being set up by the bankruptcy court
42 when an appeal to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was filed by about 100 former BSA
43 claimants. The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily stayed implementation of the plan, but on
44 February 22, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to allow the BSA's \$2.4 billion bankruptcy
45 settlement to proceed. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia will hear the appeal
46 on April 9, 2024, and rule on the case sometime after that. In the meantime, implementation of
47 the plan is proceeding. Once the settlement trust is set up, all settling parties, including United
48 Methodist conferences, districts, and local churches, will pay their settlement amounts into the
49 trust. This Conference has already paid all amounts due from the Conference, districts, and local
50 churches within the Conference into the settlement fund, which settlement fund will be paid
51 into the settlement trust when instructed by the court. In addition to the payment, all local

1 churches in the Conference will be responsible for reviewing and updating their Safe Sanctuary
 2 Policies and taking other actions to protect vulnerable individuals as provided in the United
 3 Methodist Settlement Agreement.

- 4 • *Detterman Log Church, Historic Lyme Village*: The Conference Commission on Archives and
 5 History (“Archives”) financially contributed to the rescue, relocation and restoration of a
 6 historically significant log church formerly located on private land owned by the Detterman
 7 Family in Seneca County, Ohio. The church was relocated to and restored by Historic Lyme Village
 8 in Lyme, Ohio. The Board is working with Archives and other Conference leaders in order to
 9 clarify legal issues associated with the Detterman Log Church, and to determine if any further
 10 financial support is warranted or desired, and from where that financial support will come.
- 11 • *Disaffiliation of Local Churches*: At the 2023 Annual Conference, 237 local churches completed
 12 the disaffiliation process pursuant to ¶12553 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist*
 13 *Church, 2016* by the deadlines set by the bishop and Cabinet. The sunset date for ¶12553 was
 14 December 31, 2023, so no further disaffiliations may be considered at this time. Several
 15 resolutions to reinstate the disaffiliation process have been filed for consideration by the
 16 General Conference to be held in 2024, however as of the date of this report, the General
 17 Conference has not yet taken place and the proposed resolutions have not been considered or
 18 voted upon.
- 19 • *Redistricting*: The Board, through its president, Rev. Randall May, participated in redistricting of
 20 the Conference, moving from 10 districts to four districts. Because the reduction in districts was
 21 carried out by merger rather than by transfer of properties followed by dissolution of the
 22 districts, few transactions had to be individually documented and closed. The Board is still
 23 working with Conference leadership and other Conference committees in order to complete the
 24 redistricting process and winding up of the former districts and district unions.
- 25 • *New Ideas for Use of Conference Properties*: The Board has begun to look at new ways to utilize,
 26 repurpose, and maximize the financial and spiritual value of properties owned by the
 27 Conference, such as developing relationships with new business partners, creating a community
 28 development entity, participating in new church planting or missional outreach efforts, and
 29 envisioning fresh expressions of church. These exciting new prospects will likely not only
 30 continue but increase as the Conference continues to look for new ways to be and to grow the
 31 church within the Conference.

32
 33 The Board has been extremely busy during this Conference Year, so I would like to thank all of the
 34 members of the Board, Executive Director of Financial & Administrative Services Vera Rebrovich, and
 35 Conference Chancellor Rex Miller, for their time and commitment during this challenging year. During
 36 the Conference Year, the Board continued to meet, communicate, and complete all work for which the
 37 Board is responsible effectively, promptly, legally, and carefully. This concludes the 2024 annual report
 38 of the Board of Trustees of the East Ohio Conference.

41 **Christian Family Credit Union Report to Annual Conference 2024**

42
 43 *Submitted by Robin Chappell, Christian Family Credit Union*

44 **Your Money Can Make a Difference for The Kingdom**

45 Since 1939 we have been helping our members to become better financial stewards. When you use the
 46 Credit Union as your primary financial institution, you provide us with the funds to make affordable
 47 loans to other United Methodists and affiliates. We also finance the expansion of ministry opportunities
 48 such as local church construction and building projects, repair and maintenance projects, and other
 49

1 missions that allow our local churches to better share the good news of Jesus Christ in their community
2 and around the world.

3
4 Over the years our Credit Union has grown into a full-service financial institution offering a diverse menu
5 of financial products and electronic delivery systems tailored to meet the needs and expectations of our
6 membership. We provide banking and financial services to clergy, local churches, members and
7 employees of the local churches, conference staff and affiliated organizations of the East Ohio and West
8 Ohio Conferences and Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. Now called Christian Family
9 Credit Union, we also serve members of the larger Protestant and Catholic community of Ohio. We are
10 building a bigger table – to offer the ministry of the Credit Union to a more diverse membership.

11
12 We invite you to become part of our Credit Union family! Once you become a member, you can
13 maintain your membership for life, even if your circumstances change. Your immediate family members,
14 such as your spouse, children, siblings, and parents are also eligible to apply for membership.

15
16 Becoming a member is so easy! Simply give us a call or stop by one of our branch locations and we will
17 take care of the rest! You can also visit us online at www.ChristianFamilyCU.com.

18
19 North Canton Office Indianapolis Office
20 8800 Cleveland Ave. NW 301 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300
21 North Canton, OH 44720 Indianapolis IN 46280
22 (888) 651-0971

23
24 Cincinnati Office
25 410 Chamber Drive
26 Milford, OH 45150
27 (800) 373-1059

28
29 Christian Family Credit Union, where your money and your faith are our mission.

30 31 32 **Commission on Archives and History Report to Annual Conference 2024**

33
34 *Submitted by Meg Sondey, Commission on Archives and History chairperson*

35
36 The Commission on Archives and History works to preserve the records of the congregations and
37 organizations of the East Ohio Annual Conference. The Commission's association with the Methodist
38 Historical Society of Ohio (MHSO) provides local church historians with resources as well as an annual in-
39 person convocation. MHSO also provides congregations celebrating milestone anniversaries with
40 certificates upon submission of a request and updated history.

41
42 The 2023 184th UMHSO Convocation and Business Meeting was held at John Stewart UMC in Upper
43 Sandusky, Ohio. The 2024 185th MHSO Convocation and Business Meeting is planned for October 11-12
44 at First United Methodist Church of Springboro, Ohio. All local church historians and others interested in
45 Methodist history are encouraged to attend.

46
47 As constituted as of March 2024, the Commission on Archives and History consists of the chair, a
48 representative from each district as they existed prior to consolidation of districts, two at-large
49 representatives, the Conference historian, the archivist, an ex-officio representative from Historic Lyme
50 Village, the location of a United Methodist Heritage Landmark, and the bishop or the executive assistant

1 to the bishop. The current chair is Meg Sondey, a lay member from Willoughby Hills UMC. Donald Trigg
2 is the Conference historian. Stephen Rucker is the ex-officio representative for Historic Lyme Village.

3
4 The Bishop John Seybert/Flat Rock Cluster, a United Methodist Heritage Landmark, includes Bishop
5 Seybert's buggy. The buggy is in a now-disaffiliated former UMC congregation, and conversations are
6 underway to ensure future access to the buggy.

7
8 The most challenging situation for the Commission during 2023-2024 has been the move of the Archives
9 of Ohio United Methodism out of Ohio Wesleyan University. The future location of AOUM is to be
10 determined, and the collections may be divided among several locations, with some materials
11 deaccessioned. Access to the collections may be limited at times and the employment and location of an
12 archivist or person able to research and maintain the collections is to be determined. Representatives
13 from both the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference, along with others with specialized
14 knowledge, are working together on these issues.

15
16 Lists of local church historians in the various East Ohio districts have been provided to the commission
17 members representing those districts so that they may both provide information to them and
18 communicate their needs to the commission. Commission members have noted that the lists are
19 incomplete, and the Commission encourages all congregations to report their local church historians so
20 that important information can continue to be shared with them.

21
22 The commission continues to encourage local church historians and others interested in Methodist
23 history to participate in the Local Church Historians School through the General Commission on Archives
24 and History (GCAH). Its website at www.gcah.org has a myriad of resources for the local church historian
25 as well as anyone interested in Methodist history.

26
27 The commission members have continued to work remotely and meet virtually throughout the past
28 year. As always, the commission remains dedicated to preserving the history of the East Ohio Annual
29 Conference so that through those faith stories we can "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the
30 transformation of the world."

31 32 33 **Board of Benefits Report to Annual Conference 2024**

34
35 *Submitted by Robin Whitacre, Benefits manager*

36 37 I. Pensions

38 A. Ministers Reserve Pension Fund (MRPF) Pre-82-Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement 39 Security Program

40
41 The Ministers Reserve Pension Fund as outlined in *The Book of Discipline of The United*
42 *Methodist Church* and administered under the authority of the Wespath Benefits & Investments
43 and the Board of Pensions of the East Ohio Annual Conference, in conformity with the Plan of
44 Union, was the pension program and plan of the East Ohio Conference through December 31,
45 1981. A copy of the "Pension and Benefit Rules and Regulations for Annual Conferences of The
46 United Methodist Church" may be secured from Wespath Benefits & Investments, 1901 Chestnut
47 Ave., Glenview, Illinois, 60201.

- 1 1. The following paragraph is presented as an amendment to the action taken by the 1981
2 Annual Conference (page 237, Volume 2, 1981 Journal) pertaining to the Ministerial Pension
3 Plan and Comprehensive Protection Plan:
4

5 The pension rate for retired clergy or local pastors of the annual conference for service prior
6 to January 1, 1982, shall be **\$1,015** for **2025** annuity year. **The Past Service Pension Rate**
7 **(PSPR) for 2025 is \$1,015 which is a 2% increase from the PSR from 2024 (\$995).**
8

- 9 2. Participation by Full-Time Local Pastors
10

11 A local pastor must be an ordained Deacon, must be under episcopal appointment, must
12 have rendered not less than four consecutive years of full-time service in the East Ohio
13 Annual Conference, and shall have received a cash salary for such service which equals or
14 exceeds the minimum salary set by the East Ohio Annual Conference (or predecessor
15 conference) for the year in which the service was rendered, before annuity service years
16 began under the M.R.P.F. The name of the local pastor must be listed annually under the
17 Disciplinary Questions. In the MPP/CPP Plan, local pastors receive a pension based on
18 compensation, and CPP benefits if they receive at least the minimum salary of a full-time
19 local pastor. Vesting in MPP is immediate.
20

21 Note: This provision applies to the historical practice of ordination as a "Local Elder" or
22 "Local Deacon" which is no longer part of United Methodist policy or practice. The Local
23 Deacon's and Local Elder's orders were credentials enabling supply and local pastors to
24 perform ministry in the local churches to which they were appointed, comparable to
25 licensing as a local pastor today. This provision has no relationship to ordination as Deacon
26 under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 1992* (or previous),
27 commensurate with probationary membership in the Annual Conference, nor does it
28 pertain to ordination as a Deacon in full connection under the 1996 and 2000 Books of
29 Discipline. It applies only to local pastor and supply years prior to 1982. (Dale Jones, Client
30 Manager, Wespath Benefits & Investments, February 11, 2003.)
31

- 32 B. Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)-Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program
33

34 Effective January 1, 1982, the pension program was changed to the Ministerial Pension Plan
35 (MPP) and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), which was authorized by the 1980 General
36 Conference. This plan was administered under the authority of Wespath Benefits &
37 Investments and the Board of Pensions of the East Ohio Conference through December 31,
38 2006. A detailed copy of the program may be secured from Wespath Benefits & Investments or
39 the Conference Benefits Office.
40

- 41 C. Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)
42

43 Effective January 1, 2014, the benefit formulas and eligibility for the Clergy Retirement Security
44 Program (CRSP) were changed by authorization of the 2012 General Conference.
45

46 The objective of the retirement plan changes is stewardship – balancing between adequacy for
47 the participant and affordability and sustainability for the Church.
48

49 The Defined Benefit (DB) formula was reduced from 1.25% to 1% of the Denominational
50 Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years of service effective January 1,
51 2014. The DB formula of 1.25% will remain effective for all covered service prior to January 1,
52 2014.
53

54 The Defined Contribution (DC) changed, beginning January 1, 2014; the church will contribute
55 3% of compensation, if the participant contributes at least 1% of compensation to their United

1 Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). If the participant does not contribute 1% to
2 UMPIP, 2% of compensation will be deposited to their CRSP DC account.

3
4 UMPIP contributions are billed directly from Wespath Benefits & Investments to the local church.
5 UMPIP contributions are 'personal' contributions of the participant, to be reduced from a
6 participant's (pastor's) compensation. UMPIP contributions are NOT church liabilities; it is the
7 function of the church to timely remit their pastor's contributions to Wespath.

8
9 The Clergy Retirement Security Program is administered under the authority of Wespath
10 Benefits & Investments and the Board of Benefits of the East Ohio Conference. A summary of
11 the plan may be secured from the Wespath Benefits & Investments website, www.wespath.org.

- 12
13 1. Effective January 1, 2014, full-time and three-quarter (3/4) time clergy are eligible for CRSP.

14
15 The Conference is required to report to Wespath all appointments in ¼ time increments for
16 the purpose of eligibility in denominational benefit plans.

17
18 The time increments are based on the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The
19 schedule of time increments is used solely for the purpose of pension/service credit
20 within the CRSP Defined Benefit Plan.

21
22 **For 2023 the CAC is \$62,750; therefore for 2023, part-time local pastors with plan
23 compensation less than \$31,375 are not eligible for CRSP.**

24
25 **For 2024 the CAC is \$65,048; therefore for 2024, part-time local pastors with plan
26 compensation less than \$32,524 are not eligible for CRSP.**

27
28 **For 2025 the CAC is \$67,700, therefore for 2025, part-time local pastors with plan
29 compensation less than \$33,850 are not eligible for CRSP.**

30
31 Churches with clergy appointed at half-time (1/2) or less may elect to sponsor the United
32 Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

33
34 UMPIP is a 403b pension plan offered by Wespath Benefits & Investments in which the
35 employer and the employee may make contributions. UMPIP administrative documents can
36 be requested through the Conference Benefits office by phone at (330) 499-3972 ext. 151 or
37 by email at robin@eocumc.com.

- 38
39 2. Eligible clergy may not waive participation in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

- 40
41 3. Deacons

42
43 Effective January 1, 2007, the annual conference became the plan sponsor for Deacons
44 appointed to a local church, charge, Conference, or entity for which the Conference has
45 pension responsibility. (Reference: CRSP Plan Document Article A2.26 through B3.1i)

- 46
47 4. Annual Conference Funding of CRSP

48
49 The Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) began January 1, 2007.

50
51 Funding for CRSP's two benefit components (defined benefit and defined contribution) will
52 be provided for each eligible clergy member serving local churches of the East Ohio Annual
53 Conference, and those eligible clergy under special appointments whose salary is paid by
54 the Conference and who are under episcopal appointment.

1 The **2025** CRSP DB pension billing formula will be, at 11% of total compensation, limited to
2 the DAC at **\$80,297**.

3
4 The **2025** CRSP DC pension billing formula will be at 3% of total compensation.

5 The **2025** CPP (death & disability) billing will be at 3% of total compensation, limited to two
6 times the DAC at **\$160,594**. Reference III.

7
8 5. Special Appointments (Extension Ministries) Conference Responsible

9
10 Since January 1, 1982, Conference-responsible appointments have been those in which
11 the EOC Area Center is their salary-paying unit. Currently, those appointments include the
12 district superintendents, the executive director of Connectional Ministries, and the
13 associate directors of the Connectional Ministries team. These appointments are listed in
14 the 2008 EOC Journal, Extension Ministries #1300 Within the Connection Structure of
15 United Methodism (¶1344.1a.c.). As of January 1, 2007, the executive assistant to the
16 bishop and clergy Camp director(s) are considered Conference-responsible appointments.

17
18 Salary-paying units cannot sponsor CRSP for their clergy; only annual conferences can
19 sponsor CRSP.

20
21 6. Special Appointments (Extension Ministries) Non-Conference Responsible

22
23 Those serving under special appointments that are not paid by the annual conference are
24 not eligible for CRSP. Their respective employing agency may sponsor the United Methodist
25 Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) through Wespath Benefits & Investments in Glenview,
26 Illinois.

27
28 7. United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

29
30 a) UMPIP Personal Contributions

31
32 An active participant in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) may
33 make personal contributions through withholding either pre-tax or after-tax from their
34 monthly salary. These withholdings must be submitted to Wespath Benefits &
35 Investments from the salary-paying unit monthly on the appropriate forms. Members
36 are given various options as to how personal contributions could be invested.

37
38 Since January 1, 1974, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits now known as
39 Wespath Benefits & Investments has made available a program of tax-deferred annuity
40 contributions for members of the Pension Fund. There are two basic requirements: 1) a
41 prior agreement must be made between the member and the local church (or
42 Conference agency); and 2) all remittances under this program must be made by the
43 church treasurer (or agency treasurer). The members shall be given various options as
44 to how their contributions shall be invested. For a packet of information regarding
45 UMPIP Program, contact the Wespath Benefits & Investments, 1901 Chestnut Ave.,
46 Glenview, IL 60025-1604, or the office of the Conference Benefits officer.

47
48 All interest credited on contributions made under a pre-tax basis, is subject to tax
49 following retirement or withdrawal and not in the year that it is credited. It should not be
50 included in a member's income for tax purposes currently.

51

1 b) Lay Employee Pension Plan
2

3 On May 7, 2004, General Conference, in an important move toward greater equity
4 among all church workers, approved legislation regarding retirement benefits for lay
5 employees of the local church and annual conference.
6

7 According to *The Book of Discipline*, ¶1258.12, the committee on pastor-parish
8 relations or staff parish relations “shall recommend that the church council provide,
9 effective on and after January 1, 2006, a 100-percent vested pension benefit of at
10 least three percent of compensation for lay employees of the local church who work
11 at least 1,040 hours per year, are at least 21 years of age, and have at least one year of
12 permanent service.”
13

14 For additional information on the lay pension benefit plan and all other Wespath
15 administered plans, please visit its website or call its Participant Response Center at 1-
16 800-851-2201. Robin Whitacre, Benefits manager for the Conference, is also available
17 at (330) 499-3972 ext. 151 to help the local church establish a lay pension plan.
18

19 8. Central Conference Pension Initiative
20

21 The Central Conference Pension Fund is an independent trust created to receive
22 contributions for pension support of non-U.S. clergy. Wespath Benefits & Investments
23 Glenview, Illinois projects that a \$25-50 million endowment is needed to help establish and
24 maintain the fund. The East Ohio Conference encourages active and retired clergy, and laity
25 to make voluntary contributions to the fund. The Treasurer’s office of the East Ohio
26 Conference has established Fund 9705 for collection of Central Conference Pension Fund
27 contributions.
28

29 II. Health Care Program

30 THE MISSION OF THE EAST OHIO CONFERENCE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE
31 REIMBURSEMENT FOR MAJOR ILLNESS OR INJURY EXPENSES AND TO PROMOTE WELLNESS BY
32 PROVIDING PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH OF MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS
33 EMPLOYEES.
34

35 The East Ohio Conference Board of Benefits recognizes that it has a fundamental interest in the
36 health and welfare of its members, which is partially given expression by its health care program.
37 The health care program will be designed around the needs of the members, although it may not
38 meet their entire benefit needs. It will be coordinated with, according to law, all benefits provided
39 through governmentally mandated programs. These will be partially or fully funded by the East
40 Ohio Conference, its agencies, or local churches accordingly, for such programs as Social Security,
41 Ohio Disability and Workers’ Compensation, and such others as become mandated by law.
42

43 The goal of our health care program is to promote the general health and well-being of the member
44 and member’s family and to reimburse the member for the major costs incurred as a result of an
45 illness or injury.
46

47 A. Health Care Benefits Enrollment for Members
48

49 Enrollment for new members in the health care program is not automatic and is the
50 responsibility of the individual. Lay employees of local churches and of other approved
51 agencies of the East Ohio Annual Conference may be enrolled upon approval of the Conference
52 Board of Benefits. The employer in each case shall ultimately be responsible for payment of the
53 premium monthly. Persons transferring into the Conference or beginning employment with the
54 Conference shall have the responsibility for enrollment. Enrollment may be completed by

1 contacting the Conference Benefits office. Effective January 1, 2002, participation in the
2 Conference-sponsored Health Benefit Plan became mandatory. (Reference II.B.2.c.)

3
4 Healthcare is provided by the Conference on a year-to-year basis.

5
6 As of January 1, 2018, the Conference partnered with the Center of Health through Wespeth
7 Benefits & Investments to provide health benefits under HealthFlex, which offers a wellness-
8 driven group health plan for The United Methodist Church (UMC) annual conferences and
9 employer groups.

10
11 **B. Health Care Funding**

12
13 1. As of January 1, 2018, health care coverage will be with HealthFlex, which is a fully-insured
14 medical benefit plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

15
16 2. The following health care premiums are based on current data and may be changed as
17 needed:

18
19 a) The 2024 monthly premiums for active lay employees are:

20 Participant only - \$969 (\$11,628 year).

21 Participant plus one - \$1,842 (\$22,104 year).

22 Participant plus family - \$2,520 (\$30,240 year).

23
24 **The 2025 monthly premiums for active lay employees will be:**

25 **Participant only - \$979 (\$11,748 year).**

26 **Participant plus one - \$1,860 (\$22,320 year).**

27 **Participant plus family - \$2,546 (\$30,552 year).**

28
29 b) The 2024 monthly premiums for retirees* are:

30 Participant only (less than age 65) - \$969 (\$11,628 year).

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

32
33 **The 2025 monthly premiums for retirees* will be:**

34 **Participant only (less than age 65) - \$979 (\$11,748 year).**

35 **Participant only (age 65 & over) Medicare required - \$330 (\$3,960 year).**

36
37 *Eligible clergy retirees, their spouses, and surviving spouses, premium share with the
38 Conference based on the clergy retiree's years of pension funded by the East Ohio
39 Conference, as stated in C.6 of this report.

40
41 NOTE: Based on the Conference policy stated in C.6, most retirees premium share at 30%
42 of the above rates (30% is the minimum):

43
44 **Less than age 65: \$293.70 per month (\$3,524.40 year)**

45 **Age 65 & over: \$99 per month (\$1,188 year).**

46
47 c) The 2024 clergy flat rate premium is \$1,807 (\$21,684 year).

48 **The 2025 clergy flat rate premium is \$1,826 (\$21,912 year).**

49

1 The clergy flat rate shall be billed for each episcopal-appointed clergy (including Deacons
2 where health coverage is not provided from another source) serving a local church full-time
3 or three-quarter time* including the executive director of Connectional Ministries and the
4 associate directors in the Connectional Ministries office, the Executive Assistant to the
5 bishop and district superintendents. Each pastoral charge shall be invoiced an amount for
6 health care coverage where applicable. (*Not applicable to part-time local pastors at 75%)
7

8 NOTE: The mandatory health care provision outline above was implemented in 2002 and
9 revisited in 2019 by the Board of Benefits. The key factors of implementing the provision
10 continue to be relevant as the church/Conference continues to evolve and since our number
11 of plan participants has decreased over the years. Removing the mandatory provision will
12 cause appointment challenges and potential financial hardship for churches and plan
13 participants.
14

15 ALL premiums will be remitted to the Conference through direct billing issued by the
16 Financial & Administrative Services Office.
17

- 18 3. Effective 1/1/2018, eligibility for the Conference-sponsored Health Benefit Plan through
19 HealthFlex requires participants to be working a minimum of 30 hrs./week.
20
- 21 4. In cases involving a multiple-point charge, each church shall be billed for both health &
22 pension as instructed by the district office. Premiums for coverage shall be in the amount as
23 determined by the Board of Benefits for flat rate, single, participant + 1 or family as
24 appropriate.
25
- 26 5. The **apportionment for benefits (Fund III) for 2025 will be \$871,700**. Fund III primarily
27 supports retiree health care for eligible retirees, their spouses and surviving spouses who
28 began their service on or after January 1, 1982.
29
- 30 6. The amount paid by the local church under II. B. 2. a) & c) shall not be included in the total
31 base figure used to calculate apportionments.
32
- 33 7. Enrolled employees of Conference-employing agencies shall be direct billed for the
34 appropriate premium for the participant's coverage.
35
- 36 8. No Conference money shall be used to pay for health and/or life insurance coverage
37 other than the Conference-sponsored plan.
38
- 39 9. Participation in Workers' Compensation by episcopal-appointed clergy is required.
40
- 41 10. The East Ohio Conference Health Insurance Policy offers a wide range of benefits that
42 compare favorably to other health plans. The EOC Board of Benefits would like to note
43 that our plan, like similar plans, expects Workers' Compensation to be in effect to cover
44 workplace related accidents, including automobile accidents occurring during the course
45 of business travel and their related cost of claims. The East Ohio Conference Health
46 Insurance Policy DOES NOT provide benefits for injuries sustained during the course of a
47 clergy's employment duties, because that coverage is provided by the Bureau of Workers'
48 Compensation. Therefore: to avoid the possibility that no benefit will be available, all
49 clergy under appointment to a church within the bounds of the East Ohio Conference

1 must be enrolled as a participant with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Premiums
2 for this coverage must be paid by the church or churches to which the clergy is appointed.

3
4 C. Eligibility for Retiree Health Benefits – Clergy

5
6 For a pastor to be eligible to retiree health coverage through the East Ohio Conference such
7 pastor:

- 8
9 1. Must be a member (full member or local pastor) of the East Ohio Conference.
- 10
11 2. Must retire under the provisions of Paragraph 358.2b or 358.2c. (2012 *Book of Discipline*)
12 Members retiring under Paragraph 358.2a (with 20 years of services) are not eligible.
- 13
14 3. Effective on and after July 1, 2010, must have a minimum of 10 years of pension funded by
15 the East Ohio Conference. Deacons must have a minimum of 10 years of service certified by
16 the local church or an approved agency.
- 17
18 4. Must be properly enrolled and covered under Conference sponsored health benefit plan at
19 the time of retirement. Effective on and after July 1, 2010, must have been covered by the
20 Conference-sponsored health benefit plan for at least five years immediately prior to the
21 effective date of retirement. The five years health care participation is not applicable to
22 Deacons. Those individuals who are age 60 or older in 2009 and who would have been
23 eligible for retiree healthcare coverage under the previous policy who are adversely
24 affected by the five-year rule shall be grandfathered/grandmothered to the rules which
25 previously existed. This policy exception extends only to 16 individuals.
- 26
27 5. Post 65: Retirees must participate in the Medicare Part A and Part B programs.
- 28
29 6. Eligible retirees, spouses and surviving spouses shall contribute an amount toward the
30 premium based on the policy effective August 1, 2004; whereas, retirees who have 25 or
31 more accumulative years of pension credit service funded by the East Ohio Conference will
32 pay 30% of their health care premiums. For service less than 25 accumulative years, the
33 retiree will pay 30% plus 2.8% for each year less than 25 years of service. (For example: a
34 retiree with 15 years of service will pay 58% of the premium).
- 35
36 7. **Effective 7/1/28, new retirees, spouses and surviving spouses shall contribute an**
37 **amount toward the premium based on the following policy which becomes effective**
38 **7/1/28. Retirees who have 30 or more accumulative years of pension credit service**
39 **funded by the East Ohio Conference will pay 30% of their health care premiums.**
40 **Retirees who have less than 30 accumulative years of pension credit funded by East**
41 **Ohio Conference will pay 30% plus 2.3% for each year less than 30 years of pension**
42 **credit.**
- 43
44 8. The retired clergy's surviving spouse will be provided health care coverage in the same
45 manner as the retiree (see C.6 above) until such time as they remarry or die. Should this
46 remarried spouse later become single, eligibility for health care insurance coverage shall
47 be returned to this surviving spouse. A surviving spouse of an active clergy will be
48 provided health care coverage until such time as they remarry or die. Should this
49 remarried spouse later become single, eligibility for health care insurance coverage shall
50 be returned to this surviving spouse. Dependent children of active clergy will be provided

1 health care coverage until such time as they no longer meet the requirements to remain
2 "Eligible Dependents." Premium sharing shall be calculated in the same manner as stated
3 in C.6, above.
4

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

9 D. Eligibility for Retiree Health Benefits – Lay Employees
10

11 1. Area Center, Area Office, and Camps

- 12 a) In order for a lay employee of the Area Center, Area office, and Camps to be eligible for
13 retiree health coverage through the East Ohio Conference such employee must be age
14 62.
15 b) Must have a minimum of 10 years of pension funded by the East Ohio Conference.
16 c) Must be properly enrolled and covered under the Conference Health Benefit Plan for at
17 least five years immediately prior to the effective date of retirement.
18 d) Post 65: must participate in the Medicare Part A and Part B.
19 e) For funding see F.3
20

21 2. Agencies, Districts, and Local Churches

- 22 a) In order for a lay employee of a qualifying agency, district, and/or local church to be
23 eligible for retiree health coverage through the East Ohio Conference such employee
24 must be age 65.
25 b) Must have a minimum of 10 years of service certified by the agency, district and/or local
26 church.
27 c) Must be properly enrolled and covered under the Conference Health Benefit Plan for at
28 least five years immediately prior to the effective date of retirement.
29 d) Post 65: must participate in the Medicare Part A and Part B.
30 e) For funding see F.4. 4.
31

32 E. Temporarily Waiver of Retiree Health Benefits – Clergy and Lay
33

34 Effective on and after July 1, 2003, when a retiree, retiree spouse or surviving spouse, is
35 actively employed with employer provided insurance, the participant may temporarily waive
36 the Conference-sponsored health benefit plan without premium sharing, and return to the
37 Plan upon termination of such employer provided insurance. (Documentation will be
38 required.) This includes clergy couples in which one spouse is retired and the other remains
39 active.
40

41 F. Retiree Health Care Funding
42

43 1. Clergy with East Ohio Pre-82 Pension Credit
44

45 Retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan
46 sponsored by the East Ohio Conference premium-share per Conference policy. The
47 Conference supports the balance of their health care plan expenses by funds from the
48 Pension and Health Care Reserve Account as directed by Judicial Council Decision #976
49 and approved by Annual Conference 2004.
50

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

2
3 Retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan of
4 the East Ohio Conference premium-share per Conference policy. Fund III supports the
5 balance of their health care plan expenses.
6

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

8
9 Lay retirees, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan of
10 the East Ohio Conference premium-share on the same basis as the clergy in the East Ohio
11 Conference. Fund III supports the balance of their health care plan expenses.
12

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

14
15 Lay retirees, spouses and surviving spouses who are covered by the Health Care Plan of
16 the East Ohio Conference are billed at full amount of the base premium. Any premium
17 sharing is the responsibility of the individual agency, district, or local church.
18

19 Agencies, districts, or local churches may require lay employees to contribute a portion of
20 the premium cost based on the number of years worked and the age at retirement. The
21 collection of this money is the responsibility of the individual agency, district, or local
22 church.
23

24 Lay retirees must comply with all the provisions of the Conference-sponsored health
25 benefit plan document.
26

27 The Conference Benefits manager shall be authorized to terminate coverage for any lay
28 retiree whose premium is not paid.
29

30 G. Retiree Emergency Aid

31 1. Financial Aid & Hardship Grants

32 Effective January 1, 2002, the policy stated below is applicable to the retiree's secondary
33 Health Care premium sharing. In addition, the original intent of the policy will be
34 maintained.
35 36

37 Where emergency aid is necessary for a retired member of the Conference, a retired local
38 pastor, a surviving spouse, or other Conference claimant, it will be administered by the
39 Executive Committee of the Conference Board of Benefits. Application forms should be
40 obtained from the Treasurer's office and returned to the Treasurer/Benefits officer of the
41 East Ohio Conference.
42

43 2. Emergency Fund for retired clergy with Other Insurance

44 Upon appeal and application, a retiree, retiree spouse, or surviving spouse may request
45 grant money to help pay for other insurance premiums. The Executive Committee of the
46 Conference Board of Benefits will administer the Emergency Fund. Application forms
47 may be obtained from the Benefits office and returned to the Benefits manager of the
48 East Ohio Conference.
49
50
51

1 H. Delinquent Health Care Premium Payments

- 2
- 3 1. Any church/charge or agency having a balance due for health care billing from the
- 4 previous year (December 31), for a pastor's premium, will be notified of such balance by
- 5 the Benefits office, with notification also sent to the pastor's district superintendent and
- 6 chairperson of the Staff-Parish Committee. The Benefits office and the district
- 7 superintendent will work with the church/charge for payment of the delinquent amount.
- 8
- 9 2. Persons on special appointment who are enrolled in the health benefit plan and
- 10 delinquent at year-end (December 31) will be notified of such delinquency by the Benefits
- 11 office. If a satisfactory payment schedule cannot be negotiated by April 1 of the year
- 12 following the delinquency, the coverage will be terminated.
- 13
- 14 3. Laypersons who are enrolled in the health benefit plan and delinquent at year-end
- 15 (December 31) will be notified of such delinquency with their employing church/charge or
- 16 agency also notified. If a satisfactory payment schedule cannot be negotiated by April 1 of
- 17 the year following the delinquency, the person's coverage will be terminated with the
- 18 employing church/charge or agency responsible for the payment. If the church/charge or
- 19 agency does not make the payment, no additional persons from that church/charge or
- 20 agency will be enrolled until the balance is paid in full.
- 21

22 I. Pension and Health Care Arrearage Debt Resolution Policy

23

24 Effective 1/1/2005, a church/charge with past health care and pension arrearages and is current

25 for three calendar years may apply for final resolution. A church/charge seeking resolution must

26 submit a letter requesting arrearage debt resolution with details of their proposal for

27 settlement to their district superintendent with a copy sent to the chair of the Board of

28 Benefits. After full review by Cabinet and Board of Benefits, the Board of Benefits will vote on

29 the negotiation of balance payment and any forgiveness of a determined arrearage.

30

31 The pension and health care arrearages of a closed church will be removed upon written

32 recommendation by Cabinet and consultation of the Conference executive director of Financial

33 & Administrative Services.

34

35 III. Disability and Death Benefits

36

37 A. Clergy - Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

38

- 39 1. Long-term disability (LTD), survival and death benefits are provided through the
- 40 Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) for clergy under full-time episcopal appointment and
- 41 receiving 'plan compensation' equal to or greater than 60% of the Denominational Average
- 42 Compensation or the Conference Average Compensation. Clergy serving at three-quarter
- 43 time participate under CPP Special Arrangements provision. (Part time local pastors are not
- 44 eligible for CPP.)
- 45
- 46 2. The funding rate yearly for each eligible full-time clergy member (including Deacons)
- 47 serving local churches of the East Ohio Conference, or special appointments whose salary is
- 48 paid by the Conference who are under episcopal appointment is 3% of plan compensation
- 49 (salary plus housing) with two times the DAC as the cap. The required funding rate for those
- 50 under CPP Special Arrangements is 3% of the Denominational Average Compensation.
- 51

- 1 3. CPP LTD benefits may be approved by the Wespath Benefits & Investments for the
2 members who are granted Medical Leave by action of the Annual Conference.
3
- 4 4. The Comprehensive Protection Plan is administered by the Wespath Benefits &
5 Investments, providing monthly LTD benefits to active participants who qualify.
6
- 7 5. The income replacement payable by CPP is 70% of the plan compensation, with plan
8 compensation capped at 200% of the DAC.
9
- 10 6. The CPP disability benefit (income replacement) is reduced by any disability benefit payable
11 under Social Security. The revised benefit applies only to eligible clergy whose disability
12 effective date, as determined by Wespath Benefits & Investments on or after 1/1/02. Clergy
13 approved for CPP disability benefits continue to be credited pension contributions.
14
- 15 7. For the purpose of receiving CPP benefits, a clergyperson is considered disabled based on
16 medical evidence that he/she is unable to engage in the usual and customary duties of a
17 United Methodist clergyperson due to bodily injury, disease or mental or emotional disorder
18 or disease which will last for at least six continuous months and excluding disability
19 resulting from: 1) service in the armed forces of any country, 2) warfare, 3) intentional self-
20 inflicted injury, 4) participation in any criminal or unlawful act. After receiving benefits for
21 24 months, in order to continue receiving CPP disability benefits, a clergyperson must
22 demonstrate that he/she is unable to engage in substantially all of the usual and customary
23 duties pertaining to any employment in an occupation for which the disabled clergyperson
24 is reasonably qualified.
25
- 26 8. The disabled member is encouraged to make application to Social Security Administration
27 to determine eligibility under the government's program. Social Security disability benefits
28 may begin after a waiting period of five full calendar months.
29
- 30 9. Health care coverage upon Medical Leave is administered according to the Conference's
31 Health Benefit Plan document, and current plan language takes precedence in all cases. If
32 the member is enrolled in the Conference-sponsored Health Benefit Plan coverage prior to
33 being granted Medical Leave, coverage will continue 180 days following the date the
34 member was actively at work, at no cost to the member. The next 18 months the provision
35 of the plan for Continuation of Coverage would be applicable, at no cost to the member. If
36 the member is determined under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act to have been
37 disabled at the time of Medical Leave, coverage would continue as a secondary coverage to
38 Medicare disability. If the member does not become Social Security disabled, the
39 Conference-sponsored Health Benefit coverage terminates after the 18 months under the
40 Continuation of Coverage Provision.
41
- 42 CPP death benefits are based on eligibility as an active clergyperson and as a retiree. The
43 schedule of CPP benefits for 2020 can be found on the Conference website.
44
- 45 Educational Benefits are provided for the children of deceased members while enrolled in an
46 accredited college through age 25.
47

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

- 2
- 3 1. Local churches with episcopal-appointed clergy not eligible for the Comprehensive
4 Protection Plan (CPP) may adopt an UMLifeOptions plan to provide long-term disability
5 (LTD) and life insurance coverage for their appointed pastor.
- 6
- 7 2. For more information regarding sponsoring UMLifeOptions, please visit Wespath
8 Benefits & Investments' webpage at [http://www.wespath.org/center-for-](http://www.wespath.org/center-for-health/plans/umlifeoptions/)
9 [health/plans/umlifeoptions/](http://www.wespath.org/center-for-health/plans/umlifeoptions/)

10

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

- 12
- 13 1. UMLifeOptions formerly known as the Basic Protection Plan (BPP) of The United
14 Methodist Church covers lay employees for Long Term Disability (LTD) of the Area Center,
15 Area office, and Camps. The income replacement payable by UMLifeOptions is equivalent
16 to 60% of the employee's pre-disability compensation. The UMLifeOptions disability
17 benefit (income replacement) is not reduced by any disability benefit payable under
18 Social Security.
- 19
- 20 2. As of January 1, 2009, UMLifeOptions will make a maximum 3% of pre-disability
21 compensation contribution to the approved disabled Employee's United Methodist
22 Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

23

24 IV. Special Grants

25 The East Ohio Conference for **2023-2024** conference year shall pay special grants calculated by the
26 Board of Benefits to such persons approved by the Board.

27

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

30

31 The following is in effect for **2025**:

32

33 An amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans
34 authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "Discipline"), which
35 includes all such payments from Wespath Benefits & Investments ("Wespath"), during the period
36 **January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025**, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled
37 clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is
38 designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and

39

40 The pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation
41 applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds
42 authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial
43 annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan,
44 annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergyperson
45 rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled clergyperson of
46 this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of
47 the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church,
48 or any other employer that employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry
49 of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit
50 under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled

1 clergy person's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross
2 compensation.

3
4 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergy person's gross income in
5 any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal
6 Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the
7 rental/housing allowance designated by the clergy person's employer or other appropriate body
8 of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount
9 actually expended by the clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair
10 rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the
11 cost of utilities in such year. Each clergy person or former clergy person is urged to consult with
12 his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as
13 a housing allowance exclusion.

14 15 VI. Service Records

- 16
17 A. The official years for pension are those entered on the service records on file with Wespeth
18 Benefits & Investments and certified by the Conference Board of Pensions, not the service
19 records in the Journal. Persons with questions about their service record should contact the
20 Conference Benefits office.
21
22 B. Pension credit with another conference either for effective, associate, or local pastor years
23 must be established by direct contact with that conference and by its official action.
24
25 C. The East Ohio Conference does not have any responsibility for annuity years other than those
26 served in the East Ohio Conference, or one of its predecessor conferences, except for service in
27 the former Sandusky, Lexington, or Southeast Ohio Conference assigned by a joint Distribution
28 Committee of Wespeth Benefits & Investments.
29

30 VII. For Information

- 31
32 A. Concerning all payments to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits or the Ministerial
33 Reserve Pension Fund, and all pension payments to claimants, or other information, write to the
34 Wespeth Benefits & Investments, 1901 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, Illinois, 60025-1604 or visit
35 Wespeth's website, www.wespeth.org.
36
37 B. Concerning clergy benefits and/or pension credit, service years, or credit as full-time local
38 pastor, write or contact the Conference Benefits office, 8800 Cleveland Avenue NW, P.O. Box
39 2800, North Canton, Ohio 44720.
40

41 VIII. References

- 42
43 A. For the "Plan of Union", see pages 423-424, recommendation 21, 1969 Yearbook and Record of
44 the North East Ohio Annual Conference, or pages 57-58, Recommendation 21, 1969 Conference
45 Journal of the East Ohio Conference.
46
47 B. For the "Guidelines for Granting Benefits to a Person Whose Membership Has Been
48 Terminated", see pages 196-198 of the 1973 Yearbook and Record of the East Ohio Annual
49 Conference.
50

1 C. For the special action regarding “Benefits for the Surviving Spouse of a Marriage Subsequent to
2 the Member’s Retirement”, see the action on page 195 of the 1973 yearbook and Record of
3 the East Ohio Annual Conference, as amended in 1975, page 198, Volume II, of the Journal of
4 the East Ohio Conference.

5
6 D. For the special action regarding “Equalization of Benefits Related to Required Personal
7 Contributions”, see pages 197-198 of the *1976 Journal of the East Ohio Conference, Volume II*.
8 (References are available in the Conference Treasurer’s office).
9

10 IX. East Ohio Funds held with Wespath Benefits & Investments

11
12 Per action by the 1994 Annual Conference, the Board of Pensions (now known as the Board of
13 Benefits) will include in their report to Annual Conference a report of all funds held, beginning
14 balance, income for the previous year, expenses for same, and ending balances audited or un-
15 audited.

16
17 The East Ohio Conference Board of Benefits maintains four accounts with Wespath Benefits &
18 Investments in Glenview, Illinois. The first account is a deposit account for CRSP and CPP liabilities.
19 Second is our holding account for the money raised in the Capital Funds Campaign and its accrued
20 interest. The third deposit account holds a portion of our Health Care Reserve, and the fourth
21 account holds proceeds from a 1929 trust and earned interest. Following is a brief description of
22 each account and its related balances and activity for the previous year 2017.
23

24 **Deposit Account – 10018001**

25
26 This is the East Ohio Conference deposit account with Wespath Benefits & Investments and is our
27 ‘primary’ account. Money raised through Apportionments and Direct Pension Billing in East Ohio for
28 HealthFlex, CRSP, (Clergy Retirement Security Program), CPP (Comprehensive Protection Plan), and Past
29 Service obligations are forwarded from East Ohio to this account. On a monthly basis, the GBOP charges
30 and transfers money from this account to all the individual clergy accounts currently funded.
31

32 **Summary**

	Market Value
33 Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	\$24,685.60
34 Deposit	\$8,248,369.50
35 Adjustment Credit	\$0.00
36 Insurance Deductions	\$0.00
37 Wespath Annual Dstr (Chartered Fund)	\$0.00
38	
39 Monthly Settlement	(\$876,998.65)
40 Insurance Deduction Fee	\$0.00
41 DB Contributions	(\$1,389,251.00)
42 HEALTHFLEX	(\$5,744,144.48)
43 Realized Gain/Loss	\$5,726.17
44 Change in Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$48.89
45 Total Deposit Account at 12/31/2023	\$268,436.03

46
47
48 Change in Unrealized Gain/Loss is for the fiscal year, 2023.
49

1	Income Earned – Gross	\$6,026.03	
2	Fund Operating Expenses		(\$251.14)
3	Income Earned – Net		<u>\$5,774.89</u>

4
5

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

7

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

14

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

21

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

23

24 On an annual basis, an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million may be withdrawn from this account for pre-
25 82 benefits. All activity around these accounts will be printed in the annual *Pre-Conference Workbook*, as
26 well as in *The Journal*.

27

28 **Pension & Health Care Reserve**

29 **Beginning Balance 1/1/2023**

30 Change in Unrealized Gain/Loss

31 **Total Pension & Health Care Reserve at 12/31/2023**

32

33 **Healthcare Reserve**

34

35 As the Conference recovered from its critical financial problems associated with its Health Care Program
36 in 1990, we began to build a reserve. In 1992 this deposit account was established to hold that reserve.
37 Prior to 2003, most of the reserve was maintained with the General Board (GBOP) and some health care
38 funds were maintained locally as working capital. The General Board ceased paying interest on accounts
39 as of February 28, 2003. For the balance of 2003, monies were transferred from this account to the
40 deposit account to care for monthly MPP/ CPP liabilities. The East Ohio United Methodist Credit Union,
41 paying interest, then became the holder of most of the reserve. These reserves aid cash flow and protect
42 our Health Plan against unplanned and catastrophic events not covered by existing stop loss insurance.
43 Finally, it allows us to stabilize fluctuation in our premium charges.

44

45 **Healthcare Reserve**

46 **Beginning Balance 1/1/2023**

47 Change in Unrealized Gain/Loss

49 **Total Health Care Reserve at 12/31/2023**

50

\$17,304,535.14
<u>\$2,374,984.88</u>
<u>\$19,679,520.02</u>

\$70,253.81
<u>\$ 9,642.08</u>
<u>\$79,895.89</u>

1 **David Charles Boyd Trust**

2
3 This trust was drafted in 1929 with distribution to the "Trustees or other proper governing body of the
4 Northeastern Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church or its successors for the benefit of
5 the Itinerant Minister's Conference Claimants' Endowment Fund".

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

11
12 This fund has been used to provide financial assistance to clergy retirees, spouses and surviving
13 spouses with regard to their required health care premium-sharing amounts and to fund monthly
14 conference health care expense for disabled clergy and their families who do not have pre-82 pension
15 claim.

16
17 **Boyd Trust**

18 Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	\$3,887,386.31
19	
20 Change in Unrealized Gain/Loss	<u>\$ 470,561.60</u>
21 Total Boyd Trust at 12/31/2023	<u><u>\$4,357,847.91</u></u>
22	

23 X. The Funding Plan

24
25 General Conference 2012 approved legislation requiring each conference to annually submit to Wespath
26 Benefits & Investments a comprehensive funding benefit plan (CFBP) for addressing its benefits
27 obligations. **The responding opinion for 2023 written by the Managing Actuary of Wespath Benefits &**
28 **Investments, in Glenview, Illinois, is presented below:**



Opinion on East Ohio Conference 2024 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

XI. 2023 Record of Benefit Payments			
This table reflects payments made to annuitants, beneficiaries and other recipients from the Clergy Retirement Security Program, Ministerial Pension Plan Annuitants Reserve for Pre-82 Pension; Conference Special Grants; and from the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) for disability, minimum surviving spouse and dependent children benefits.			
Recipients	Membership	Number of Participants	Benefits Paid
Ministerial Members	Inside	518	12,472,685.17
	Elsewhere	228	3,021,763.62
	Total	746	15,494,448.79
Local Pastors	Inside	102	613,659.41
	Elsewhere	20	64,784.07
	Total	122	678,443.48
Surviving Spouses	Inside	186	2,036,968.23
	Elsewhere	138	1,123,940.63
	Total	324	3,160,908.86
Other Recipients		119	1,231,834.94
Conference	Inside	806	15,123,312.81
	Elsewhere	505	5,442,323.26
	Total	1311	20,565,636.07

2024 Resolutions**Resolution 2024-01: "Becoming PEACE MAKERS"****General Church Budget Implications: None****East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes**

This resolution calls the people of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church to explore, to promote, and to work at becoming peace makers in our churches, our communities, our nation, and the wider world.

Whereas: Christianity itself is rooted in the concept of peace and peace making (Matthew 5:9); and

Whereas: Jesus—often referred to as the Prince of Peace—modeled being a peacemaker, taught peace-making in parables (e.g., The Good Samaritan; Luke 10: 25-27), and guided his disciples to also live as peace makers; and

Whereas: the ancient prophets were "seers" (esp. Isaiah and Micah) who envisioned a NEW world order aligned with God's plans, different from the contentions and disparities of war, hunger, need, and greed. They envisioned a new social environment where guns used to kill were turned into tools for planting crops to feed the people, where orchards and fields weren't hoarded for a few, but thrived as orchards to feed us all. Isn't that the world we want, too? and

Whereas: throughout civilizations, some have called for, modeled, and led us toward peace, while others appealed to childish temptations to hoard, fight, even kill one another, despite God's commandments; and

Whereas: John Wesley called early Methodists to recognize, respect, and even serve community needs so that ALL might prosper rather than having some suffer; and

Whereas: both the early Methodist and more recent United Methodist Church bodies composed and ratified "social principles" specifying actions and practices that promoted peaceful communities of shared resources and respectful co-existence; and

Whereas: the organization of United Women in Faith grew from recognition of and commitment to providing medical and educational resources to benefit the lives of impoverished female adults and children they had not even met, a broadened commitment that has continued over 150 years; and

Whereas: the many ministries supported by UMC funds, direct work, and numerous physical and human resources reflect a centuries' old commitment to relieve, or alleviate, suffering resulting from hostile actions of war, famine, and actions of repressive political regimes; and

Whereas: the accumulated actions described above articulate the commitment of the people called "Methodist," who seek to serve as peace makers, and peacekeepers.

Therefore: We resolve to renew our commitment, our mission, as Christians further informed by United Methodist principles and inspired by John Wesley and his vision, to sustain the Message of Jesus the Christ to be peace makers in the ways, the places, by the means we have, to promote peace in our time.

Rationale:

This resolution calls us to work towards peace making by engaging in and promoting these actions:

- to read, consider, and explore the vision of peace articulated by Jesus, Isaiah and Micah;
- to reflect on how both individually and collectively we might become “co-conspirators” for peace;
- to engage in study, reflection, and dialogue exploring actions and attitudes that support and promote peace;
- to speak for and take actions, individually and collectively, that model and promote peace;
- to commit to better understanding of the means of promoting, encouraging, and making peace, working toward fulfilling Jesus’ continuing ministry, Micah’s vision, and Wesley’s “call to action.”

Resources and References:

- “Engendering Democratic Transition from Conflict: Women's Inclusion in Northern Ireland's Peace Process” (Linda Racioppi & Katherine O’ Sullivan See)
- “United Women in Faith: Our 150-year legacy began with a few bold women determined to change the world for the better”
- “Camp David Accords and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process”
- “1908 Social Creed” of the Methodist Church
- “Our Social Principles” [of The United Methodist Church]
- “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (UDHR): The Preamble

Submitted by: East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, East Ohio United Women in Faith, and East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network

Resolution 2024-02: “Because We Care”

General Church Budget Implications: None

East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes

Whereas: Christians in the Holy Land have issued an urgent call to Christians, churches and ecumenical institutions “to engage in a process of study, reflection and confession concerning the historic and systemic deprivation of the rights of the Palestinian people, and the use of the Bible by many to justify and support this oppression.” (“Cry for Hope: A Call to Decisive Action”: www.cryforhope.org); and

Whereas: we cannot serve God faithfully while remaining silent about the oppression of the Palestinian people; and

Whereas: struggling for a future based on human rights, liberty, and justice for all people in the Holy Land is especially crucial now; and

Whereas: the justice movement United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) was established in 2010 to answer the call of Palestinian Christians and offers resources, speakers, and other assistance for individuals and congregations seeking to learn about the Holy Land and become advocates for justice and peace;

Therefore, be it resolved: that each voting member of the conference is encouraged to bring this message to their home congregation; and

1 **Be it further resolved:** that each church in the East Ohio Conference is strongly encouraged to:

- 2 • engage in study and discussion of “Cry for Hope” and learn more about the Palestinian people
- 3 and their struggle with UMKR educational materials at www.kairosresponse.org.
- 4 • oppose the equating of criticism of the Israeli government’s unjust actions with antisemitism.
- 5 • answer Palestinian Christians’ call to “come and see” the reality of their lives today in the Holy
- 6 Land.
- 7 • locate a knowledgeable and available speaker, in consultation with UMKR justice advocates, and
- 8 arrange for that person to speak to the congregation on this subject.

9
10 **Submitted by:** East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, East Ohio Reconciling Ministries
11 Network, and East Ohio Multicultural Ministries Board

12
13
14 **Resolution 2024-03: “Clear and Open Appointments”**

15 **General Church Budget Implications: None**

16 **East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes**

17
18 **Whereas:** clear and open appointments is a process by which clergy are provided an opportunity to
19 share their interest with the appointive Cabinet in appointments that are known early in the process due
20 to retirements, the ending of an interim period, or a change in status of the outgoing pastor; and

21
22 **Whereas:** clear and open appointments would potentially reduce bias by ensuring that all those who
23 might be interested in a position have the opportunity to be considered by Cabinet, while still
24 maintaining the bishop’s ultimate authority to appoint the right pastor to the right church; and

25
26 **Whereas:** there are numerous annual conferences that utilize some form of “clear and open
27 appointments” including:

- 28 • Michigan AC
- 29 • Iowa AC
- 30 • Minnesota AC
- 31 • Dakotas AC
- 32 • Northern Illinois AC
- 33 • Indiana AC
- 34 • Great Plains AC
- 35 • Missouri AC
- 36 • Mountain Sky AC
- 37 • Greater Northwest AC
- 38 • Pacific Northwest AC
- 39 • Baltimore Washington AC
- 40 • Pennsylvania Delaware AC
- 41 • New York AC
- 42 • Eastern Pennsylvania AC
- 43 • Greater New Jersey AC
- 44 • Upper New York AC
- 45 • Greater Northwest Episcopal Area
- 46 • Oregon-Idaho AC
- 47 • Desert Southwest AC

48
49 **Whereas:** we, the annual conference, hope to see a continued move toward a collaborative discernment
50 approach; and

1 **Whereas:** 1st John 1:7 tells us when we “walk in the light, as [Jesus] is in the light, we have fellowship
2 with one another”.

3
4 **Therefore, be it resolved:** that we appreciate the concept of clear and open appointments and hope
5 there will be opportunities to explore it further.

6
7 **Submitted by:** Rev. Andrew Scott OSL, Rev. Jared Gadowski Littleton, Rev. Allison LeBrun, Rev. Shannon
8 V. Pitorak, Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault OSL, Rev. Kyle Gould OSL, Rev. Lorrin Radzik, Rev. Charles Tobias,
9 Rev. Derek Kubilus OSL, Pastor James Szakacs, Rev. Linda McCowen, Rev. Jennifer Darling-Mellott, Rev.
10 Pamela Buzalka, Lindsay Mahaney LLP, Rev. Beth McGuire, Rev. Scott M. Low, Sam Mohn LLP, Pastor
11 Sandra Stover, Dr. Valerie Riedthaler, deaconess

12
13
14 **Resolution 2024-04: “Identifying and Opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land”**

15 **General Church Budget Implications: None**

16 **East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes**

17
18 **Whereas:** in most of the region between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, Israel is the sole
19 governing power, and, in the remainder, Israel maintains primary control over Palestinians’ lives, and
20

21 **Whereas:** Israeli authorities have demonstrated a clear intent to maintain domination over Palestinians
22 by enacting a system of laws and policies that grant full self-determination exclusively to Jewish Israelis
23 and enforce systematic oppression of Palestinians, which is the essence of an apartheid system, and
24

25 **Whereas:** apartheid is not defined by the conditions that existed in South Africa, but by the United
26 Nations Convention on Apartheid of 1973 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of
27 1993, and

28
29 **Whereas:** apartheid is named as a “crime against humanity” under international law and the primary
30 features of apartheid include:

- 31 • codifying into law a preferred group of people and giving that group preferential access to
32 resources, benefits and services,
- 33 • segregating the population into geographic areas based on identity, and
- 34 • establishing laws and policies designed to suppress opposition to the regime and enforcing
35 domination through arbitrary imprisonment, torture, cruel and inhumane treatment, and other
36 violations of human rights, and

37
38 **Whereas:** within Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the Israeli government has
39 established its control over the lives of Palestinians with discriminatory laws and policies specifying
40 where they can live, whom they can marry, where and when they can travel short distances, which
41 roads they can drive on, how much water they can use, when they can access their own farms, what
42 land they can purchase, which justice system they are subject to, whether they will receive due process,
43 and the kinds of punishment they will receive, and

44
45 **Whereas:** Israel has seized more than three-quarters of the land of its Palestinian citizens and continues
46 their dispossession today, and Palestinians in the OPT have lived under Israeli military law for
47 generations without any protected civil rights, and

48
49 **Whereas:** Israel has blatantly codified a racist governing principle in the Nation State Basic Law of 2018,
50 which grants self-determination exclusively to the Jewish citizens of Israel, and

51

1 **Whereas:** many authoritative scholars and organizations have conducted in-depth investigations and
2 issued reports regarding Israeli apartheid, including:

- 3 • In 2009, a thoroughly documented, 302-page report on the OPT by an international group of
4 legal scholars, commissioned by the South African government,
- 5 • In 2017, the 74-page report commissioned by the United Nations Economic and Social
6 Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA): “Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the
7 Question of Apartheid,”
- 8 • In 2020, a 58-page report published by the Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din: “The
9 Occupation of the West Bank and the Crime of Apartheid;”
- 10 • In January 2021, a strong indictment of the Israeli government from Israel’s most eminent
11 human rights center, B’Tselem: “A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the
12 Mediterranean Sea: This Is Apartheid,”
- 13 • In April 2021, another extensively documented report, this from the world-renowned Human
14 Rights Watch: “A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and
15 Persecution,” and
- 16 • In February 2022, the powerful and comprehensive report from the global leader in human
17 rights advocacy, Amnesty International: “Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians,” and
18

19 **Whereas:** these commissions, legal scholars, and human rights organizations have all come to the same
20 unavoidable conclusion: that the Israeli government is committing the crime against humanity known as
21 apartheid, and

22
23 **Whereas:** if apartheid is to be opposed and abolished, it is essential for the international community to
24 recognize and name apartheid where it exists, and

25
26 **Whereas:** Kairos Palestine, the Palestinian Christian movement endorsed by all the major Christian
27 denominations in Palestine, in their "Cry for Hope" of 2020 has called upon the Church around the world
28 to nonviolently oppose both “apartheid and occupation” in the Holy Land and to “uphold a vision of
29 inclusivity and equality for all peoples of the land,” and

30
31 **Whereas:** the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state that United Methodists “commend
32 and encourage the self-awareness of all racial and ethnic groups and oppressed people that leads them
33 to demand their just and equal rights as members of society,” and furthermore “call the Church to
34 challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities,” and

35
36 **Whereas:** The United Methodist Church has forcefully declared its opposition to the crime of apartheid,
37 calling it a “heresy” and “a sin” that must be “condemned unequivocally – within Southern Africa and
38 neighboring countries and throughout the world.”

39
40 **Therefore, be it resolved:** that the East Oho Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms that
41 apartheid is antithetical to the Gospel message and that we recognize and oppose Israeli apartheid as
42 we strive to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves," and

43
44 **Be it further resolved:** that the Conference recommends that the U.S. government condition U.S.
45 funding to Israel upon Israel’s willingness to dismantle its apartheid system and implement all the rights
46 due to Palestinians under international law, and

47
48 **Be it further resolved:** that the Conference urges all United Methodist clergy and laity to listen to the
49 voices of Palestinians regarding their situation, by meeting with them in their homeland, by seeking

1 opportunities to hear from them at online events, and through the study of the Palestinian Christians'
2 landmark 2020 document entitled "Cry for Hope: A Call for Decisive Action."

3
4 **Footnotes:**

- 5 1. The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid,
6 United Nations – <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cspca/cspca.html>
7 The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court – [https://www.icc-cpi.int/resource-](https://www.icc-cpi.int/resource-library/documents/rs-eng.pdf)
8 [library/documents/rs-eng.pdf](https://www.icc-cpi.int/resource-library/documents/rs-eng.pdf)
9 2. Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa report – "Occupation, colonialism, apartheid?
10 A re-assessment of Israel's practices in the occupied Palestinian territories under international
11 law" <https://repository.hsra.ac.za/handle/20.500.11910/4619>
12 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) report – "Israeli
13 Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid,"
14 https://www.kairosresponse.org/it_is_apartheid.html
15 Yesh Din Report – "The Occupation of the West Bank and the Crime of Apartheid"
16 [https://www.yesh-din.org/en/the-occupation-of-the-west-bank-and-the-crime-of-apartheid-](https://www.yesh-din.org/en/the-occupation-of-the-west-bank-and-the-crime-of-apartheid-legal-opinion/)
17 [legal-opinion/](https://www.yesh-din.org/en/the-occupation-of-the-west-bank-and-the-crime-of-apartheid-legal-opinion/)
18 B'Tselem Report – "A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean
19 Sea: It is Apartheid" https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid
20 Human Rights Watch report – "A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of
21 Apartheid and Persecution" [https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/19/israeli-apartheid-](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/19/israeli-apartheid-threshold-crossed#)
22 [threshold-crossed#](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/19/israeli-apartheid-threshold-crossed#)
23 Amnesty International report – "Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians: A Look into Decades of
24 Oppression and Domination"
25 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>
26 3. Kairos Palestine Statement – "Cry for Hope: A Call for Decisive Action"
27 <https://www.cryforhope.org>
28 4. Social Principles: The Social Community
29 The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016
30 <https://www.umc.org/en/content/social-principles-the-social-community>
31 5. "Southern Africa," United Methodist Book of Resolutions, adopted 1988; "Web of Apartheid.
32 South Africa and the destabilization of its neighbors," United Methodist Book of Resolutions,
33 adopted 1992

34
35 **Submitted by:** East Ohio Multicultural Ministries Board, East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social
36 Action, and East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network

37
38
39 **Resolution 2024-05: "Opposition to Unjust Theology Regarding the Holy Land"**

40 **General Church Budget Implications: None**

41 **East Ohio Conference Implications: Yes**

42
43 **Whereas:** many Christians adhere to the theology of Christian Zionism, believing that the modern state
44 of Israel is a continuation of biblical Israel and a fulfillment of biblical prophecy and that "it is the
45 responsibility of Christians to support the State of Israel and its policies;" and

46
47 **Whereas:** the New Testament does not prophesy a modern Israeli state controlled by any single group
48 of people, but does envision a time when Christ will have eliminated "the dividing wall of hostility"
49 between Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14); and

50

1 **Whereas:** a statement endorsed by 13 bishops and patriarchs of Palestinian Christian churches says that
 2 Western Christians have attached “biblical and theological legitimacy to the infringement of our rights”
 3 and calls on their fellow Christians to “deepen their reflection on the Word of God and to rectify their
 4 interpretations” and avoid “any use of the Bible to legitimize or support political options and positions
 5 that are based upon injustice;” and
 6

7 **Whereas:** for decades, The United Methodist Church has opposed Israel’s treatment of the Palestinian
 8 people, including: “the continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the
 9 confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the
 10 continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a ‘Greater Israel’ that includes the
 11 occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings;” and
 12

13 **Whereas:** Christian Zionism is having a significant and dangerous impact on U.S. policy regarding Israel,
 14 by obstructing efforts to achieve a just peace and promoting U.S. acceptance of unjust treatment of
 15 Palestinians, and the Israeli government is increasingly reliant on Christians in the United States who
 16 adhere to this theology for political support.
 17

18 **Therefore, be it resolved:** that the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church declares its
 19 opposition to any theology or biblical interpretation that would justify denying or violating the human
 20 rights of Palestinians and other religious and ethnic minorities in Israel/Palestine; and
 21

22 **Be it further resolved:** that the East Ohio Conference encourages its bishop to form a discussion group
 23 to explore and identify the biblical and theological reasons for opposing Israel’s treatment of the
 24 Palestinian people.
 25

26 Footnotes

- 27 1. www.christianzionism.org
- 28 2. The Kairos Palestine Document – Paragraphs 2.3.3 and 2.4
 29 https://www.kairosresponse.org/kairos_palestine_document.html
- 30 3. Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land, UMC Book of Resolutions 2016, #6111
 31 [https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/opposition-to-](https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/opposition-to-israeli-settlements-in-palestinian-land-6111)
 32 [israeli-settlements-in-palestinian-land-6111](https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/opposition-to-israeli-settlements-in-palestinian-land-6111)
- 33 4. Christian Zionism and the Formation of Foreign Policy <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24915906>
 34 The Impact of Christian Zionism on American Policy
 35 https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/olj/ad/ad_v9_2/daw01.html
 36 The mainstreaming of Christian Zionism could warp foreign policy
 37 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/06/30/mainstreaming-christian-zionism-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/06/30/mainstreaming-christian-zionism-could-warp-foreign-policy/)
 38 [could-warp-foreign-policy/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/06/30/mainstreaming-christian-zionism-could-warp-foreign-policy/)
 39 The Dangerous Potent Elixir of Christian Zionism
 40 <https://www.wrmea.org/007-april/the-dangerous-potent-elixir-of-christian-zionism.html>
 41 As Israel increasingly relies on US evangelicals for support, younger ones are walking away
 42 [https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/05/26/as-israel-increasingly-relies-](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/05/26/as-israel-increasingly-relies-on-us-evangelicals-for-support-younger-ones-are-walking-away-what-polls-show/)
 43 [on-us-evangelicals-for-support-younger-ones-are-walking-away-what-polls-show/](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/05/26/as-israel-increasingly-relies-on-us-evangelicals-for-support-younger-ones-are-walking-away-what-polls-show/)
 44 What Next for Christian Zionists?
 45 <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/07/19/christian-zionists-israel-trump-netanyahu-evangelicals>
 46

47 **Submitted by:** East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, East Ohio Multicultural Ministries
 48 Board, and East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network
 49

1 Conference Council on Finance & Administration Report to Annual Conference 2024

2
3 *Submitted by Rev. Dan Bryant, Conference Council on Finance & Administration chairperson*

4
5 Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica, “your strong faith in the Lord is like a breath of new life.”
6 (1Thessalonians 3:8)

7
8 As we glance back at the significant changes that took place in 2023, both within our own lives and the
9 life of the East Ohio Conference, we can only marvel at your strong faith to journey through the valley of
10 uncertainties into a new place of possibilities. Truly, your strong faith in the Lord is like a breath of new
11 life!

12
13 Bishop Tracy S. Malone declared this encouraging statement in her message during the first gathering in
14 each new district: “We don’t know what the future holds but I stand here to tell you that I have an
15 unshakeable confidence in the One who holds the future, Jesus! What I’m asking for us today and every
16 day is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

17
18 In our roles as financial stewards of the East Ohio Conference, we strive to maximize our resources to
19 help local churches, districts and the Conference truly engage in vital missions and ministry so that we
20 keep the main thing the main thing. I’d like to share financial highlights from 2023 and to tell you that
21 we have strong faith and an unshakeable confidence as we minister in new ways in 2024.

22
23 We give thanks for the gift of 405 local churches that faithfully served their mission fields across the East
24 Ohio Conference for the 12 months of 2023. We celebrate the faithful commitment of 242 of those
25 churches that paid 100% of their apportionments last year. We also give thanks for the 87 churches that
26 increased their giving to apportionments in 2023.

27
28 The pay-in rate from local churches to our East Ohio Conference budget was 65.3% in 2023 compared to
29 78.4% in 2022. The \$6.4 million contributed towards the mission and ministry of East Ohio was 20% less
30 than 2022. It is important to note that 2023 apportionment receipts are skewed because of disaffiliation
31 payments. Pay-in if you included those would have been 96.8%, but because of the accounting
32 treatment of those receipts, they were not counted in the same way as “regular” Fund 1 through Fund 5
33 apportionment receipts.

34
35 The question was asked, “*how much was received from disaffiliated churches?*”

36 Total funds received through disaffiliations toward apportionments (current and in arrears) came to
37 approximately \$3.1 million. Disaffiliation receipts for medical and pension arrearages came to
38 approximately \$95,000. Disaffiliation receipts pertaining to pension liabilities were approximately \$3.8
39 million. Total disaffiliation receipts came in just shy of \$7 million.

40
41 The funds received through disaffiliation enable us to navigate the transitional years of both 2024 and
42 2025. We recognize our budget must be significantly reduced and these funds will help us through the
43 transition needed to determine what is an appropriate budget for EOC going forward. Honestly, we have
44 many unknown variables at this time that warrant a deliberate approach, so we are again planning to
45 have the disaffiliation funds (not earmarked for unfunded liability) help offset the anticipated reduced
46 2025 budget deficit.

47
48 Giving to Advance Specials in 2023 totaled \$919,304. Included in that amount was \$29,000 donated
49 specifically to the Teach • Reach • Bless campaign.

50

1 For the 19th year, our East Ohio Conference paid 100% of our General Church apportionments. East Ohio
2 Conference sent the General Church \$2,075,680 for our share of the anticipated General Church
3 apportionment amount. We paid the same amount as in 2022 because we have been including the same
4 amount in our Conference budget due to General Conference not meeting and being able to approve a
5 new updated budget. The General Church funds support global efforts of the church through seven
6 general funds: World Service, Ministerial Education, Episcopal, Black College, Interdenominational
7 Cooperation, Africa University, and the General Administration Fund. As United Methodists we believe
8 and support the saying, “the world is our parish.”
9

10 Looking beyond apportioned funds to areas of direct billing, the Medical Insurance direct bill pay-in rate
11 in 2023 was 102.6% because of payment of older payment made in 2023. The Pension direct bill pay-in
12 rate for 2023 was 94.8%. The actual aggregate pay-in rate for 2023 for both was 96.7%.

13
14 Because of the faithfulness and generosity of our local churches, East Ohio Conference was able to
15 increase its apportionment payment for Africa University in 2023 over and above what the anticipated
16 budget amount had been. Our 2023 apportionment payment to Africa University Fund was \$38,052.

17
18 Looking ahead, the Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CCF&A) intends to propose a
19 further reduction of 20% in the 2025 budget for the five apportioned shared ministry funds. The large
20 disaffiliation of churches last year and the corresponding financial implications of their leaving
21 necessitate a significant reduction in our 2025 budget recommendation. We know the local church is the
22 focal point of mission and ministry and the budget reduction is essential to helping the local church do
23 just that. Approving this budget will be part of our actions at Annual Conference.

24
25 As we journey together in 2024, we pray that you will be encouraged by the continued movement of
26 God’s Spirit that guides our decisions and is at work in the transformative ministries across our East Ohio
27 Conference that are sharing God’s love and witness to a world hungering for justice, peace, and
28 compassion.

29
30 With the assurance of God’s presence, and the foundational comments above, CCF&A proposes these
31 policy items to the Annual Conference:

32 33 I. PAYMENTS AND REPORTING

34
35 A) **Local Church Apportionment Payments** – All payments to Conference budget items shall be
36 made at least monthly to the executive director of Financial & Administrative Services on
37 supplied remittance forms. Special offerings should be sent only with the regular monthly
38 remittance. Please do not send them separately. Payments should be sent directly to the bank
39 lock box in the envelopes provided. There is also a separate remittance form for the directly
40 billed Health Care & Pension Program. Please follow the directions on the separate remittance
41 forms.

- 42
43 1) **Timing** – Items in the Conference budget that are apportionments are expected to be paid
44 in full. One-half of the apportionment should be paid by June 30. To do less causes hardship
45 for the programs and people of the East Ohio Conference.
- 46 2) **Reporting** – The district superintendent will receive up-to-date reports on the
47 apportionment giving levels of the local churches and is asked to be an advocate for full fair-
48 share giving by each local congregation.
- 49 3) **Staying current** in all five apportionment funds is expected. Any church that wishes to
50 support the ministry of any of the funds at greater than 100% is encouraged to do so.

1 B) **Annual Church Reports** – 2023 annual church reports (pastor’s report) were due online by
2 January 17, 2024 but an extension until March 31, 2024 was granted due to the transition from
3 the old EZRA database to the new Chronicles database.
4

5 2024 annual church reports (pastor’s report) shall be submitted online by January 17, 2025 but
6 an extension until January 31, 2025 may be granted in cases of emergency, provided the request
7 is made in writing and received by the executive director of Financial & Administrative Services
8 before January 17, 2025. This extension is automatically granted to multiple church charges.
9

10 PLEASE NOTE: money must be received at the bank by the third business day of the new year: in
11 2024 that was January 4, and in 2025 that will January 6. The deadline is imposed upon us by
12 our audit firm. The cut-off is the third business day of the new year, every year. Please make
13 note of this date! Monies received after the third business day of the new year: January 6, 2025
14 will not be credited to the 2024 records. Be aware that credit card transactions and ACH
15 payments take one business to process. Please plan accordingly.
16

17 When churches do not file a year-end statistical report, those churches' next apportionments
18 will remain at the same level as the last year for which they filed a statistical report.
19

20 C) **Audit Reports** – ¶ 617.2 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016*. All
21 agencies receiving financial support from Conference benevolences or from any other
22 authorized Conference-wide appeal shall make audited reports to the council concerning all
23 such receipts and the disbursements thereof in such detail and at such times as the council may
24 direct. These audits shall be due on March 31, or 90 days following the closing of the fiscal year
25 and shall be sent to the Funding Evaluation Committee of the Connectional Ministries office.
26 Any agency that fails to provide a satisfactory audited report by said deadline will have its
27 current-year funding suspended until the committee accepts the report. The council has
28 established minimum guidelines for audits and an Audit Committee has provided a standard
29 form for use by all districts commencing with the 1995 audit using generally accepted
30 accounting principles or an acceptable comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally
31 accepted accounting principles and including a listing of property values and all fund balances
32 including investments, restricted and non-restricted funds. All audits are to be duly signed by
33 the person performing the audit. Copies of district audits shall be available to local churches at
34 the district conferences.
35

36 D) **Investment Reports** – The executive director of Financial & Administrative Services is
37 authorized, in consultation with CCF&A, to invest a portion of the Huntington Sweep Account
38 fund in AAA Commercial Paper. Monthly reports of investments shall be made at CCF&A
39 meetings.
40

41 II. BUDGET

42

43 A) **Timeline** – All program agencies asking for funds shall participate in a one-year budget.
44

45 B) **Ministries and Missions Balances** – Carry-over balances in the Fund I Conference Connectional
46 Mission Apportionments accounts shall be channeled into a Ministries and Missions
47 Contingency Fund. At year-end, all un-vouchered project/program funds shall be retained in the
48 Connectional Table Ministries and Missions Contingency account. Final disbursements of
49 unspent balances will be determined by the Connectional Table at the end of each 12-month

1 period. The Ministries and Missions contingency balance can be accessed by procedures
2 adopted by the Connectional Table.

3
4 C) **Payout rates** – All funds are budgeted for a 100% payout rate.

5
6 D) **Contingency and Reserve Funds**

7
8 1) **Contingency Funds** – By action of the 1976 Annual Conference, two contingency funds were
9 established, Administrative and Ministries and Missions. CCF&A and Connectional Table
10 agreed that unused balances at the end of the year are put into the respective unbudgeted
11 Conference Contingency Funds. Connectional Table may initiate requests for Ministries and
12 Missions Fund through its established procedure. Non-Connectional Table-related groups
13 may appeal directly to CCF&A for Administrative Contingency Funds. Any such request must
14 stand five tests:

- 15 a) Does not duplicate budgeted funding
16 b) Has not been turned down in the budgeting process
17 c) Does not circumvent the budgeting process
18 d) Funds are available
19 e) Where applicable, there are specific bid figures attached to the requests. Ministries and
20 Missions grants are paid only upon submission of a documented voucher, in the same
21 manner as budgeted item grants are made.

22
23 2) **Reserve Funds** – These funds consist of interest earnings from short-term investments and
24 restricted funds, and some unspent contingency funds voted to the Unrestricted Reserve
25 Fund by CCF&A. This fund is used under the jurisdiction of CCF&A primarily as a reserve for
26 capital or administrative expenditures. Since October 18, 1972, CCF&A's goal, upon
27 recommendation of the General Council on Finance & Administration, has been to set the
28 Unrestricted Reserve Fund Limit at one and one-half times the average monthly income
29 from the preceding year's Conference apportionment receipts. The current limit for 2023
30 was \$996,865. The Unrestricted Reserve Fund had a balance of \$996,865 on December 31,
31 2023.

32
33 **III. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT**

34
35 A) **District Superintendent's Salary** – The formula for district superintendent salaries was
36 established at the 2002 Annual Conference. Because of the numerous voluntary wage freezes
37 taken by the district superintendents over the years, the formula for their salary was updated in
38 2009 by Annual Conference. The salary formula is equal to 1.80 times (formerly 1.90 times) the
39 Conference Average Cash Salary of the 2023 year for pastors as computed by the General Board
40 of Pensions for the 2025 year. For 2025 salary, we will use the 2023 Conference Average Cash
41 Salary of \$50,200 which will calculate a salary of \$90,360 for 2025. The salaries for the executive
42 director of Connectional Ministries, the executive assistant to the bishop, the executive director
43 of Financial & Administrative Services, and the executive director of Communications are set by
44 using the same formula, but with a housing allowance adjustment.

45
46 B) **Travel Allowance** – Effective January 1, 2024, the mileage reimbursement rate for Annual
47 Conference staff shall be the maximum rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service, currently
48 \$0.67 per mile.

49

1 C) **Housing/Utilities**

- 2 1) District superintendents shall be provided housing with full utilities and maintenance
3 provided.
- 4 2) The executive assistant to the bishop, the executive director of Connectional Ministries, the
5 executive director of Financial & Administrative Services, and the executive director of
6 Communications shall receive a housing allowance – or if not clergy a salary adjustment –
7 equal to 25% of the salary figure that is established in part A.
- 8 3) Connectional Ministries associate directors (full-time) shall receive a housing allowance at a
9 rate established by CCF&A, plus full utilities, if clergy.

10

11 D) **Expenses** – Conference treasurer audits all line items and requires substantiation for
12 reimbursable expenses. Outside auditors review the treasurer's expense account.

13

14 E) **Minimum Salary** – Minimum requirements detailed in the Commission on Equitable Salaries
15 report are to be applicable to all charges.

16

17 F) **Health Insurance** – Each pastoral charge shall be billed an amount for health care coverage
18 where applicable. For 2024 it is anticipated that the premium will increase slightly. The East
19 Ohio Conference Board of Benefits will set the final premium charges. Employing agencies will
20 be charged the appropriate premium for their participants. Amounts will be remitted on Health
21 Care forms provided by the executive director of Financial & Administrative Services.

22

23 G) **Pension/Disability CRSP/ CPP Direct Billing** – (See worksheet provided with Omnibus Form).
24 Each pastoral charge will be billed an amount for CRSP and/or CPP.

25

26 H) **Travel Reimbursement** – The rate for mileage reimbursement for Conference business, for
27 other than Conference staff, shall be paid only in cases of critical need at \$0.14 per mile.

28

29 **IV. MOVING EXPENSES**

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

41

42 A) **Conditions and Limitations**

- 43 1) **Positions Covered** – Situations eligible for reimbursement are those which involve either a
44 parsonage or a housing allowance from a local church or the Conference for clergy under
45 Episcopal appointment. An appointment beyond the local church may be covered only if it is
46 a position in which the East Ohio Conference funds full salary. Also covered would be newly
47 retired pastors being hired as supply pastors (see also B-1). In negotiating with candidates
48 for Conference professional positions approved in *The Conference Journal*, this policy should
49 be used as a guideline.
- 50

- 1 2) **Reimbursements** – The charge receiving a pastor is to pay the carrier and submit a
2 documented voucher to the executive director of Financial & Administrative Services for
3 reimbursement of the Conference share. The Conference will reimburse the local
4 church/charge 50% (subject to limitations) of the moving costs of each pastor under
5 Episcopal appointment. All local churches/charges with a valid moving bill incurred at the
6 usual moving time, at the end of June, must submit that bill to the executive director of
7 Financial & Administrative Services by August 1 each year. The executive director of
8 Financial & Administrative Services will subsequently reimburse to the local churches an
9 amount of 50% of the moving bill (subject to limitations). Mid-year moving bills shall be
10 submitted with prior approval of the Cabinet.
11
- 12 3) **Apportionment Requirement** – If half-year apportionment payments of Shared Ministry
13 Funds II, III, IV as well as directly-billed Pension and Health Care are current as of June 30, a
14 charge will be eligible for moving reimbursement as per established policy. In charges
15 whose current-year apportionments are not paid to date, only churches of said charges
16 which have these apportionments paid will be proportionally reimbursed the Conference-
17 share of moving expense.
18
- 19 4) **Distance, Packing and Weight Limitation**
20 a) **Distance** – This is limited to mileage within the Conference boundaries following the
21 shortest route acceptable to the carrier.
22
- 23 b) **Packing** – Conference reimbursement to local churches for packing materials and/or
24 packing charges is limited to \$500.
25
- 26 c) **Weight** – Only household goods are included. Specific exclusions include cars, boats,
27 and trailers, as well as storage charges and overtime for movers.
28
- 29 d) **Estimate** – As part of exercising stewardship while planning the move, the pastor being
30 moved shall obtain two written estimates of the full cost of the move (including
31 insurance from licensed movers) and shall submit all estimates, as well as the final bill,
32 as attachments to the reimbursement request.
33
- 34 5) **New Seminary Graduate Appointments** – Graduates entering the East Ohio Conference to
35 assume their first full-time appointments will be given total moving expense reimbursement
36 from the place of origin of their move to their new appointment in the Conference if they
37 use a self-move method. If using a professional move, the graduates shall be under the
38 conditions and limitations of Section IV.A. If moving from outside the Conference the local
39 church/charge to which the incoming graduate is appointed shall be expected to pay the
40 appropriate moving expense prorated from the nearest Conference boundary to the new
41 residence. The mode of move shall be determined by the district superintendent in
42 consultation with the pastor, church, and Cabinet.
43
- 44 6) **Out of Conference Transfers In** – Churches receiving persons transferring into East Ohio
45 from other annual conferences shall have their related moving expenses reimbursed by the
46 annual conference under the terms specified in A1-4 (except 4a, Distance). The local
47 church/charge will be expected to pay one-half of the actual cost of the move, but not more
48 than half of the cost of the average professional move over the prior two years as listed in
49 this report. The East Ohio annual conference will pay the balance subject to payout rates
50 specified in A1-4.
51

The Average Professional moving expense over the prior two years:
2022 and 2023 average (used in 2024) = \$2,968.

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 executive 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.

1 The "grade figure" shall be computed as follows:
2

3 Local Church Total Base Figure / Conference Total Base Figure = Local Church Grade Figure
4

5 1) **Total Base Figure** – Total base figures are the sum of the church program expenses, other
6 current expenses, salary paid pastor and associates, and travel and utilities paid to pastor
7 and associates by the church for them. The total base figure is listed annually in *The*
8 *Conference Journal*.

9 a) **Travel** – Travel at the Conference-approved rate per vouchered mile for each pastor
10 and/or diaconal minister will not be counted in total base figure. If a flat rate or
11 allowance is used, the total amount is taxable to the recipient, and the total amount will
12 be included in the calculation of the total base figure.
13

14 b) **Moving Expense** – The moving expenses paid by the church are not added to the total
15 base figure but must be reported by each church as outlined in the local church report
16 to annual conference.
17

18 c) **Health Insurance** – The health insurance premiums for lay and clergy paid directly by
19 the charge shall not be considered in establishing the charge's apportionments.
20

21 d) **Pension** – Pension provided for lay employees is not considered in establishing the
22 charge's apportionments. Pension charges billed directly to the local church/charge for
23 clergy shall not be considered in establishing the charge's apportionments.
24

25 e) **Housing Allowance** – Housing allowance for apportionments shall exclude amounts
26 expended on either rent or mortgage and interest payments. Taxes, maintenance,
27 insurance, and utilities will remain a part of the formula.
28

29 B) **Timeline** - Preliminary apportionments for 2025 will be mailed in September, 2024 and will be
30 based on the Local Church report for the year 2023. Final apportionments will be mailed in
31 October, 2024.
32

33 C) **New Churches** – A new church will be apportioned by the Conference and the district 10% of its
34 "full" amount during the first year after the effective charter year. During the second year the
35 apportionments will be at 15%; during the third year 20%; fourth year 40%; fifth year 60%; sixth
36 year 80% and 100% in the seventh year and thereafter. Existing new churches will be considered
37 as in their first year. The term "apportionments" is meant to include all apportioned funds.
38

39 D) **New Program Staff Position Salaries** – These salaries will be exempt from total base figure
40 calculation for a period of two years from the date of hire. During this time, new program staff
41 position salaries will be reported along with the date of hire each year on the local church report
42 to annual conference.
43

44 E) **Merged Churches** – As part of the merger process, the congregations involved will create a
45 proposed budget for the merged church which will go into effect on the date the merged church
46 begins worshipping and meeting as one congregation. This budget will be worked out in
47 consultation with, and given approval by, the district superintendent and the district Committee
48 on Church Building and Location. This budget will then be forwarded to the office of the
49 executive director of Financial & Administrative Services to be used to formulate the current

1 year's apportionment figures for the newly merged church. A new total base figure will be
2 calculated for the merged church based on the formula outlined in ¶ V.A) above.

3
4 This new total base figure will be in effect until the actual financial records of the merged church
5 are reported for the first full year of its existence and can be used to calculate a total base figure
6 based on actual expenditures.

7
8 A new classification of merged churches will be VITAL Mergers. Those mergers fulfilling the
9 VITAL Merger qualifications will be considered as a new church start by the Board of
10 Congregational Development and will consequently be considered a New Church for
11 apportionment purposes.

12
13 **VI. EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL TREASURY**

14 All Conference assets, liabilities, and fund balances are to be accounted for by the office of the
15 director of Financial & Administrative Services, who will provide a Central Treasury for the East
16 Ohio Annual Conference (See 2012 Discipline ¶613.12). The executive director of Financial &
17 Administrative Services is charged with the accounting for all financial activity of the Conference,
18 including all boards, agencies, and committees. No group or individual may perform this accounting
19 function in lieu of the executive director of Financial & Administrative Services, who must account
20 for all receipts, disbursements, and fund balances.

21
22 The executive director of Financial & Administrative Services is not currently expected to perform
23 the accounting function for the district offices, or the United Women in Faith. These bodies
24 perform their own accounting function and are both separately audited and reported to the annual
25 conference.

26
27 **VII. CONFERENCE LOAN POLICY**

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

2024 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**Personnel Committee Report to Annual Conference 2024**

Submitted by Susan Achberger, Personnel Committee 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 executive directors for support staff positions, and to set policies and procedures for the employment, evaluation, and supervision of all employees of the East Ohio Annual Conference.

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 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.

Since the last report, the Conference has hired Connectional Ministries office Young People's Ministries Co-Directors Tim Beck and Pastor Christy Suffecool. We are grateful for the work they have done in their roles and for the energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives they bring to their positions.

We have also continued our relationship with our General Council on Finance & Administration (GCFA) business partners. They have been hard at work and some of their tasks thus far include helping to create the job description for the Young People's Ministries co-directors, reviewing job descriptions, and updating the Personnel Handbook. We are grateful for their work and look forward to this continued partnership.

The Personnel Committee has no motions for this Annual Conference.

I would like to thank Bishop Tracy S. Malone and the East Ohio Conference for this opportunity to serve as I conclude my term as chair of the Personnel Committee. I began serving as chair in 2020 and the pandemic required us to adapt and make changes to how we conducted our meetings. During the past four years, the Personnel Committee has been able to successfully conduct its business exclusively via Zoom, providing flexibility to committee members and empowering me to conduct the meetings efficiently. I am truly grateful for this experience and the relationships I have developed with the gifted individuals on the Personnel Committee.

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

(To be included in both the Pre-Conference Workbook and Journal)

Board of Congregational Development Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Rev. Mikayla Doepker, Board of Congregational Development chairperson and Rev. Beth Ortiz, Connectional Ministries office Strategic Ministries director

The purpose of the Board of Congregational Development is to creatively increase congregational vitality in East Ohio so that congregations may increase their capacity to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The vision of the board 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.

In 2023, the Board of Congregational Development focused on supporting the local church and pastoral leaders as they seek to live out God's vision for their community by continuing to provide coaching, consultants, training opportunities, and more.

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

- launching the Lighthouse Church initiative. This ministry walked with over 50 churches with teams of clergy and laity to intentionally grow in hospitality as they welcome guests into worship, welcome new people into the heart of ministry, and learn how to go outside their walls to offer hospitality to the community around them.
- continuing micro-grants for a second year; awarding \$10,033 to local churches/charges attempting new bold and courageous ministries to reach those not already in their faith communities.
- Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) workshops, cohorts, and coaching.
- maintaining and developing online curriculum for Portico, the Conference's online learning platform.
- providing unique cohorts throughout the year for specific circumstances including cooperative parishes, transitions, and more.

Board members also help provide accountability to churches receiving grants, such as grants from the Trinity Fund, for new or revitalizing congregations. These are often multi-year commitments to help support the revitalization of East Ohio congregations, create new expressions of faith, and provide other ways of supporting congregations that continue to seek to live out God's call in their community.

In the coming year, the board looks forward to continuing to explore new ways to support churches and clergy as they seek to faithfully serve God. Learn more on the Strategic Ministries pages of the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/strategicmin.com.

Board of Multicultural Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Will Fenton-Jones, Connectional Ministries office Multicultural Ministries director

The Board of Multicultural Ministries provides a space for the intersectional work of the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR), Church and Society, Native American Awareness, Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR) and Ethnic Local Church Concerns. All 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.

During the 2023-2024 church year the board continued this important work through the awarding of grants for pastors, student scholarships, church and organizational grants, as well as having events and training focused on equipping and growing the capacity of clergy and local churches in the areas of anti-racism and social and racial justice.

The 2023 budget was fully utilized and supported areas such as:

- climate justice through “Perspectives: Caring for God’s Creation”.
- cross-racial and cross-cultural appointment trainings through the General Commission on Religion and Race (G CORR).
- Facing the Future, Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) activities.
- training at the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS).
- support of ecumenical initiatives through the Hunger Network in Ohio and Ohio Council of Churches.
- the annual Black Theologian’s Day that continued the tradition of holding before the conference a Black theological perspective along with a challenge to creatively invest and engage in communities of color. This year’s focus was “Perspectives: Just Economy”.

The most pressing ongoing challenge for the board is to maximize the impact of Mission and Ministry Funding that supports the mission of the local church while also challenging existing structures and the resulting inequity and injustice beyond the local church. There is a desire and need for maximum participation in the work of the board that represents many functions required by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. The 2024 transition of district governance to Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) will allow opportunity for the board to engage with district leadership to discuss the intersectionality of the board and to brainstorm how the board can continue to resource ministry in our local communities.

Camps & Retreat Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries chairperson and Rev. Gary Jones, Connectional Ministries office Spiritual Formation/Camps & Retreat Ministries director

Every year, hundreds of East Ohio campers enjoy life-changing weeks at Camp Aldersgate, Camp Asbury, Camp Wanake or at one of the other opportunities offered for youth – ReachOut, CYF, and Lakeside Institute. In a week of summer camp, there are more contact hours with campers than a year’s worth of Sunday school classes (if they had perfect attendance). Campers come to these beautiful places and have incredible experiences as they learn about God, make new friends, try new things, learn about themselves, and take it all home.

Camp & Retreat Ministries has historically been an important part of our Annual Conference. East Ohio Camps exists as an extension of the ministry of our local churches by providing campers an opportunity to accept an invitation to Christian faith, to learn and grow along their faith journey, and to be revived or renewed in their walk with Jesus Christ. In a spirit of celebration, it is our joy to report how each summer, about 1/3rd of our campers report on their evaluations that they have made a first-time faith commitment to follow Jesus, 1/3rd report they have rededicated their lives to Jesus, and about 3/4th of all campers report they have grown in their faith. It is no wonder that many former campers and staff are now in full-time Christian service.

Our future, as a country and a church, depends on children and youth. They are the new generation that will lead. By providing opportunities to explore nature, to dive into personal relationships with Jesus

Christ, and to expand leadership potential and by providing a place to step away from the tensions of the world, East Ohio Camps will continue helping our children and youth now and well into the future.

It should be no surprise how the cost of providing this important ministry has greatly increased over the past several years. Insurance, food, utilities, and supply costs have mushroomed since COVID. Many campers are bringing with them greater needs for care with medications and IEPs (individualized educational plans) that require more staffing attention. Maintenance and improvements funding does not stretch as far as it has in the past.

Camping ministry has always been funded through a variety of sources: program and hosting fees, primarily; and additionally, through the generosity of the East Ohio Conference Mission and Ministry fund supported by local church apportionments; generous donors; and from legacy gifts as donors include planned giving in their estate plans. Currently the Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries is working to better diversify our sources of funding through developing an Annual Fund Appeal effort so that individuals may directly support the ongoing ministry of the camps.

In 2023, the Board of Camps & Retreat Ministries completed a consultation process to guide the board in focusing on the future of Camps & Retreat Ministries in East Ohio. The annual campaign mentioned above, and an innovative marketing strategy are two important outcomes from this process.

We covet your prayers as we continue moving forward impacting the children, youth, and adults of today and tomorrow with this vital ministry of East Ohio.

Board of Missions Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Rev. Kathy Dickriede, Connectional Ministries Missions & Community Engagement director

The Board of Missions awarded \$81,438 in grants in 2023 through the Serving Others, Inviting Others grant made possible by the generous support of churches that give to Undesignated Mission Giving, Fund 9001. These are new and emerging ministries where the East Ohio Conference partnered with churches, mission agencies, and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) journey participants.

Recipients:

- Bennetts Corners UMC, free store and pantry
- Celebration UMC, ramp project
- Christian Children's Home of Ohio, bridge project
- Coalburg UMC, playground refurbishment
- Jessica Martz, Guatemala UMVIM trip
- Mayfield UMC, Guatemala UMVIM trip
- Mount Pleasant UMC, community baby shower
- Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland, salary support
- Saint Matthew's UMC, Brookdale Orchard
- Saint Paul's UMC, Fresh Expressions podcast
- Sally Ruth, Liberia UMVIM trip
- South Street Ministries, re-entry programs
- Thrive 10:10, Ruth's Boutique
- Urban Mission Ministries Inc., outreach campaign

We are striving to keep our work and budget focused on resourcing and equipping the local church for ministry outside the walls of the church building. We want to be disciples who are God's agents of transformation, being bold and courageous to reach new, young, and more diverse people. We continue to move toward framing our work around the Social Principles. These are some of the ways we did this work:

- East Ohio was invited to engage with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction and the West Ohio Conference of The UMC in the justice ministry of All In Community (AIC). Read more about this ministry on page 26 of this workbook.
- Board of Missions expanded our reach with three of our churches engaged in Royal Family KIDS Camp. Read more about this ministry on page 25 of this workbook.
- Board of Missions hosted an in-person grant writing workshop in October at Ashland First UMC.
- the second Bridges Out of Poverty cohort started in the fall of 2023. This is a six-month bi-monthly Zoom opportunity for learning and empowerment. Full-day Bridges training is held two to three times a year throughout the conference. Getting Ahead courses are offered on a regular basis through Thrive 10:10 at Girard UMC.

In 2024-2025, the Board of Missions focus will be on Disability Awareness. This focus will include connecting faith communities engaged in this ministry through outreach, sensory rooms, proms, caregiving, etc. Our hope is to resource other churches and faith communities to live into this call with people of all ages and differing abilities. Whether it is a person with a disability because of an accident, age, addiction, genetics, seen or unseen, all people need God's grace and love. How can your church be more inclusive to this population? Let us work together on this.

The Board of Missions continues to look at ways to help East Ohio work toward being an anti-racist conference. We seek to discover the places where we need to retell our history, refrain from colonialism, and work to create equitable, empowered, and transformative community.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)

UMVIM team leader training is offered in various locations throughout the Conference multiple times each year. E-mail me at kdickriede@eocumc.com to learn best practices for entering the mission field whether international, domestic, or local. As followers of Jesus, we all have something to gain and learn about entering new cultures.

In 2023 teams and individuals journeyed internationally to Liberia, Guatemala, Mexico, Haiti, and Cuba. Please let us know when and where you are partnering in missions, whether it is a mission journey across town or a youth annual summer mission experience. We want to count you among the East Ohio faithful who are answering calls to missions! To help us know what you are doing in missions we invite you to fill out the UMVIM NCJ (North Central Jurisdiction) mission journey form accessed by visiting www.umvim.org and clicking on the registration/insurance link located under the Serve tab.

Future UMVIM teams will journey to Estonia, Liberia, Cambodia, Guatemala, Mexico, Midwest Mission in Illinois, Goodworks in Athens, Ohio, and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about these UMVIM journeys, e-mail me at kdickriede@eocumc.com.

There are multiple overnight UMVIM sites in East Ohio that would love to host you or a team for a day or more:

- The Nehemiah Mission in Cleveland
- Urban Mission in Steubenville
- Blue Rose Mission in Mansfield
- Epworth Center in Bethesda

- Jefferson Covered Bridge Mission
- Main Street Mission in Wooster

Part of the UMVIM movement for individuals and couples 18 years of age and older is the call to serve as a mission volunteer seeking long-term partnerships with communities domestically and around the world. Find out more at <https://umvim.org/mvols>.

Global Mission Fellows are young adults, ages 20–30, who are committed to serving in social justice ministries for two years. You can serve domestically in the U.S. or internationally. Find out more at <https://umcmmission.org/global-mission-fellows>.

Health & Well-Being Missions

Learn more on the East Ohio Conference website at www.eocumc.com/missions.

If you have questions about serving in mission, please e-mail me at kdickriede@eocumc.com or call me at (330) 499-3972 ext. 114.

Disaster Response Committee Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Tom King, Disaster Response Committee chairperson

Disaster Response was very active in supporting the East Palestine community as it responded to the tragic train derailment that made national headlines in February 2023. Thanks to many years of support and networking, the United Methodist churches in the community were able to adapt quickly. I recently spoke with Bill Sutherin, an East Palestine resident, the committee representative to Ohio Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster (VOAD), and lay leader at Centenary UMC. We want to share some of what he learned as it relates to churches and disaster response. All quotes are from Bill Sutherin.

How could East Palestine have been better prepared?

“Have more people trained in disaster response.” United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Early Response Team (ERT) training is offered periodically by the East Ohio Conference Disaster Response Committee and Connecting Neighbors training is available to assist churches to be a community resource. The conference now has three UMCOR ERT certified trainers: Michael Woodward, Mike Williams, and Bob Catchpole.

“Have one designated coordinator or contact person in the community for seniors and their group leaders.” Seniors particularly are a vulnerable population due to isolation and health impacts. They didn’t know who to contact or to trust for information during the train derailment.

“Advocate for area fire departments to have compatible radio systems.” Incompatible radios hindered communication and coordination at critical times.

“A ministerial association would have helped with early coordination of resources available.” Centenary UMC is part of a cooperative parish of six churches which helped with providing mutual aid and support.

“Make a list of the best people you know who will work behind the scenes and get things done.”

Advice learned from your recent disaster?

“Be honest with people offering aid about what you need and do not need.” East Palestine was inundated with cases of bottled water. It’s often said that the two biggest challenges of disaster response are well-intentioned people showing up unexpectedly to help and sending unrequested donations of clothing. While well intentioned, this distracts disaster managers from immediate needs.

“Communicate more often with police and fire personnel about what to do and what not to do. National media may interview many people but are usually seeking to report on the sensational and controversial. Be careful about who you talk to and what you say. If there is a media presence, expect protestors of unrelated issues there to grab attention.” Early on, have one point person to deal with the media to project a positive view.

“Know your County Emergency Management Agency director. They are your best advisor and connector to resources.”

East Palestine experienced a human-caused disaster (train derailment) rather than a natural disaster. What were the similarities and differences in the aftermath?

“Anger and fury were expressed, and hurtfully, at those cooperating with the ‘at fault’ party.” Frustration was vented at the railroad and townspeople cooperating with railroad officials. Expect a few individuals or groups to dominate public meetings and their comment time. Limit those who want to dominate – best done by fellow attendees.

“Anxiety and depression of what’s to come persisted.” Anticipate and seek out the Emotional and Spiritual Care Team (ESCT) and assistance. Some of our ESCT trained members visited East Palestine in the months following the derailment. The East Ohio ESCT leader position is currently vacant, but if training is offered in the future, it will be shared on the website and in E-News.

“Calm people’s fears ... and warn people of the likelihood of scams preying on the lack of information and fear. Do not be too kind to unknown strangers offering help.” The situation in East Palestine was unique, but the lessons learned can be applied to any community that might find itself dealing with a natural or human made disaster.

The East Ohio Disaster Response Committee also wants to thank everyone who donated to Disaster Response in Ohio Fund 9200 for East Palestine. Over \$13,000 was raised in 2023 and the committee moved to send it to Centenary UMC. Centenary split the funds with Emmanuel UMC, also located in East Palestine. Funds were used to purchase home air filters and water for residents. They also donated food to local agencies that provided free groceries and meals.

The Disaster Response Committee continues to provide support for local churches and their communities through training and response to disasters in East Ohio. We also support and encourage active participation in United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) long-term recovery mission trips as these provide excellent practical experience for teams. Disaster Response teams were organized by the former Western Reserve District coordinators in response to windstorm damage last year. We are currently offering support to Monroe County, which was impacted by an EF-2 tornado in February 2024. In 2023, an additional 11 people were trained and certified as UMCOR ERT volunteers. We have three UMCOR-certified ERT trainers, so if you have a group of people interested in becoming ERT certified, contact me about getting a training schedule. The Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, Rev. Steve Court, attended the Global Ministries US Partners Consultation in December along with several others from East Ohio.

Lastly, many thanks to our committee representatives. We encourage you to find out more about Disaster Response, ERT, and Connecting Neighbors on our website, www.eocumc.com/missions/disaster-response. If you have questions about the Disaster Response Committee, please e-mail me at kings7565@gmail.com.

Young People's Ministries Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Pastor Christy Suffecool and Tim Beck, Young People's Ministries co-directors

Young People's Ministry: Equipping and Growing Capacity

Young People's Ministries (YPM), as part of the Connectional Ministries office, offers bi-annual Youth Leaders Network trainings for the purpose of equipping and growing the capacity of youth leaders and local churches to reach younger and more diverse people for Jesus Christ. YPM strives to connect youth leaders from around the East Ohio Conference for networking, idea sharing, collaborating and support.

In August 2023 YPM hosted the "Re-Imagining Youth Ministry in the Post-COVID Age" training. The goal was to create a safe space to dream and discern, where pastors, leaders and volunteers could share ideas and receive real-time feedback to help the decision-making process. Collectively those attending tackled tough topics such as: "the wants and needs of teens and how to combat the uncertain climate of youth ministry". Each group was also given time for goalsetting while discussing core values for ministry. YPM's next training is tentatively set for August 24.

YPM's annual 24-hour Youth Leaders Network Retreat was held in January of this year at the Embassy Suites in North Canton. This year we had 52 leaders attend representing 35 East Ohio churches. The retreat theme was "Abide" (John 15:5). Attendees were provided space for prayer, rest, visioning, study, and worship. Together the collective work of designing effective youth ministry for local churches, large and small, was continued. In large group sessions, attendees took a deep dive exploring practical discipling practices for youth groups and agreed it is time to change the approach. After much discussion and discernment, this is where attendees landed ... The Future of Student Ministry is this: To disciple young people to become faithful followers of Jesus by:

- Being present.
- Being open.
- caring.
- Collaborating.
- Creating safe spaces.
- Decentralizing.
- Having a team approach.
- Increasing awareness.
- investing in one another.
- Listening more.
- Walking alongside.

YPM's next Youth Leaders Network Retreat is tentatively set for January 17-18, 2025.

Lastly, there are five regional coordinators who are an extension of Young People's Ministries. They are facilitators, organizers and connectors who schedule regional meetups for youth leaders while also working within local settings to help churches with collaborative efforts (retreats, worship nights, fun events, etc.)

For more information visit the website, www.eocumc.com/youngpeople and e-mail Tim Beck (tbeck@eocumc.com) or Pastor Christy Suffecool (csuffecool@eocumc.com).

Africa University Report to Annual Conference 2024

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

“Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.” - Philippians 4:9 (NRSV)

Africa University greeted 2024 with bold faith and eager confidence because of the goodness of United Methodists who are faithful, generous, and enthusiastic about investing in transforming lives and communities.

Thank you, East Ohio United Methodists, for the commitment and generosity that has made 100 percent investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment a tradition for your annual conference. Your unwavering engagement has helped Africa University to evolve into the cornerstone institution for The United Methodist Church’s mission of disciple-making for transformational impact in Africa and beyond.

As United Methodists fortify themselves for a vital and vibrant witness beyond the postponed 2020 General Conference in 2024 and its outcomes, Africa University urges the members of the East Ohio Conference to:

- support Africa University’s effort to secure General Conference approval of Report #4.
- maintain your investment in the Africa University Fund at 100% of the 2016 budget level as outlined in the resolution that is before the General Conference.
- secure at least two (2) more churches (*keystone congregations*) in your conference that will commit to provide second mile gifts of \$6,500 each or \$13,000 in total for annual scholarships for two undergraduate students. (*This will help address any shortfall in giving to the fund.*)

In 2023, sustained by the steadfast support of The United Methodist Church, Africa University:

- provided more than \$2M in scholarships and financial aid grants to students who would otherwise fail to access higher education.
- enrolled 2,219 young women and men from 26 African countries.
- launched its second new academic unit in less than a year – the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences – with a first cohort of 279 students.
- shared innovations, such as lozenges made from the indigenous *Zumbani* plant, and IT solutions to reduce food waste and make vital research findings more accessible to those who need the information.
- saw its alumni swell to more than 12,000 serving in 32 African countries, with the addition of 954 graduates.
-

Going forward, Africa University’s focus is on delivering high-impact pan-African education, grounded in Christian values, which is relevant in the ever-changing context of the African continent and the world. Additional programs in STEM subjects are planned in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, including an undergraduate degree in Artificial Intelligence. Ninety-two young women are currently enjoying the convenience and safety of on-campus housing in the Bishop Tracy S. Malone Residence Hall, thanks to the second mile giving of clergy and lay members of the East Ohio Conference.

Thank you, United Methodists of the East Ohio Conference, helping new people to experience an abundant life in Christ through faith and action! Your generous support for the Africa University Fund apportionment ensures that Africa University can continue to nurture ethical and effective leaders whose daily efforts increase food security, overall health, good governance, abundance, and peace in their communities. Let us keep doing this important work together and may the God of peace be with you!

**Boston University School of Theology
Report to Annual Conference 2024**



Boston University School of Theology

Submitted by G. Sujin Pak, Boston University School of Theology dean

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2023, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are all the more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

- **Students:** Our academic year 2023-24 entering class was among our most diverse, with 86 new students enrolling, 34% of whom are international students.
- **Faculty:** In September we welcomed visiting faculty member David Anderson Hooker, visiting associate professor of Religion and Conflict Transformation. Two new faculty searches are underway – an assistant professor of Religion and Society and the Martin Luther King, Jr. professor of Religion and Black Studies.
- **Expanding Online Programming:** BUSTH's first fully-online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL) – continues to expand after welcoming its first students in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life. Learn more at bu.edu/sth/marpl.
- **Faculty Research:** Associate Dean Cristian De La Rosa received a Lilly Parenting Grant for \$1.25 million. Our faculty members published more than 75 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, and book reviews during 2023. Many were interviewed by media publications for their work on academics and activism, fat liberation, caring for creation, responding to congregational trauma, and the spread of Christianity in Africa. Selected stories can be found at bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include the Research & Teaching Fund and Affirmation & Empowerment Fund. We have newly endowed funds for DEI, Theology & the Arts, and Doctor of Ministry.
- **Accreditation and Curriculum:** BUSTH received a renewed full and unqualified listing by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church. BUSTH is concluding a curriculum review for the MDiv and MTS programs which will launch in fall 2024.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include “Sustaining Spirits while Empires Crumble” and “Preaching Mark with Different Voices.” To learn more, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Faith and Ecological Justice Fund, 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."
- This year's Lowell Lecture topics explore the role and responses of theological education for the challenges of today with lectures from Rev. Dr. Ted Smith (fall) and Dr. Keri Day (spring).
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing, as written in our 2030 Strategic Plan. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

Candler School of Theology Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Candler School of Theology, Emory University office of Communications

Since 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from more than 40 denominations, with nearly half of Master of Divinity students coming from the Methodist family, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 419 from 12 countries and 38 states, and 44% persons of color. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our life together and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century – ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six degrees (Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Religion and Public Life, Master of Religious Leadership, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry) and 10 dual degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Response to our new hybrid-format Master of Divinity, which launched in Fall 2023, has been strong: 65% of 2023's MDiv entering class chose the hybrid model, blending online classes and in-person intensives. Plus, around 20% of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program to earn contextual education credit as they serve as student pastors in local churches. Our proven DMin program – with a near 90% completion rate – is 90% online as well. These flexible options plus Candler's recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for even more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Reducing student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2023-2024, we are on track to award \$6.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. 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 receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition. MDiv students also receive financial coaching and complete a financial literacy program to strengthen their budgeting skills and reduce debt. That knowledge will serve them—and the ministries they serve—well into the future.

Candler is growing in exciting directions as it creates avenues to bring high-quality theological education to a wider audience. It is a hub of Christian learning with multiple entry points. Those who aren't seeking an advanced degree can engage in learning through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to the public through short courses, events, and related activities; the United Methodist Course of Study to educate licensed local pastors; the new Candler Center for Christian Leadership to refine business-related skills of United Methodist leaders; and La Mesa

Academy, offering diplomas in pastoral leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish, English, and Korean.

One of the biggest news items of the year for Candler is the announcement that after nearly 18 years, Dean Jan Love will step down from Candler's deanship in the summer of 2024. Through Dean Love's transformational leadership, Candler has expanded to offer three new degrees, five new dual degrees, and more online and hybrid options, including the highly successful hybrid MDiv and DMin degrees. She has increased the diversity of Candler's faculty and student body, continued the school's tradition of world-class scholarship in hiring 75% of the current full-time faculty, and grown the number of endowed professorships. Her efforts have enhanced Candler's ability to fulfill its mission in a rapidly changing environment, and she leaves the school in a strong position. The next dean of Candler is expected to be named by early summer.

Candler 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 candler.emory.edu.

Drew University Theological School Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Rev. Edwin David Aponte, PhD, ThD (honorary), Drew University Theological School dean and professor of Religion & Culture

Drew University Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church and society. Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, several classes meet exclusively online, while other meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person. This is also the case with chapel worship which originates in Seminary Hall, but also is livestreamed so that students around the world participate. Drew Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church.

In Fall 2023 Drew Theological School welcomed 104 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by head count) growing from 364 students in Fall 2021 to 407 in Fall 2023 semester. Enrollment of international students at Drew increased from 120 students in Fall 2021 to 169 students in Fall 2023. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

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

Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. United Methodist Church graduates are serving in conferences across the United States, and especially within our nearby regional United Methodist conferences of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York.

Duke Divinity School Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Duke Divinity School dean

Duke Divinity School can attest to the work of God's Spirit to usher us into a season of hope and continued faithfulness to the mission and calling to serve the church, academy, and the world. In 2023, the Duke University president and provost appointed Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric for a full five-year term.

The Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS) commemorated its 50th anniversary. The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale (D'79) received Duke University's Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions in ministry and service. The Hispanic House of Studies (HHS) celebrated its quinceañera. HHS was created by the Divinity School, with support from The Duke Endowment, to support the formation of ministers to Hispanic/Latinx congregations and communities in the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Annual Conferences and beyond. These efforts extend throughout our academic and ministerial programs. For instance, we now offer the "Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism" course in Spanish on Divinity+.

This fall, we welcomed 215 entering students from 35 different states and 16 other countries. The Master of Divinity program gained 104 new students, with 54 residential students and 50 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled 13 new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 22; Master of Theology, 11; Master of Theological Studies, 29; the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus, and five special students enrolled. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed 11 residential students to campus and 15 in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 31 percent of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white.

Duke Divinity School continues to invest in pathways to support Methodist leadership and pastoral formation. Divinity+ launched the Church Administration series focused on developing practical skills for church leaders. More than 1,000 learners have enrolled in the first two courses, "Theology and Time Management" and "Strategic Management." We inaugurated the Certificate in Chaplaincy, designed to prepare students to provide spiritual care in a variety of settings such as hospitals, hospice, prisons, higher education, and the military. The certificate can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Th.M., and M.T.S. degree programs.

The Office of Black Church Studies is led by the Rev. Dr. Eric Lewis Williams (D'05), assistant professor of theology and Black Church Studies; and the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies has named the Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough (D'83), Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of the Practice of Anglican Studies. Key members who have joined our staff team include Anita Lumpkin, executive director of enrollment management; and the Rev. Sarah Belles, a Duke Divinity alumna and ordained Elder in full connection with the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, as the director of student life.

With gratitude to funding from the Lilly Endowment, the Divinity School has launched the Transformative Preaching Lab to expand preaching training for students in the hybrid M.Div. program with new courses and preaching laboratories and provide new opportunities for formation in trauma-informed preaching and preaching in immigrant communities.

The Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative has launched the Mental Health Track for Christian mental health practitioners as part of its Certificate in Theology and Health Care. This hybrid certificate program offers spiritual and theological formation for mental health clinicians in a range of disciplines.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference.

ESCUELA DE DIVINIDAD DE DUKE

REPORTE A LA CONFERENCIA ANUAL 2024

Enviado respetuosamente por Edgardo Colón-Emeric

Decano de la Escuela de Divinidad de Duke

La Escuela de Divinidad de Duke puede dar fe de la obra del Espíritu de Dios para llevarnos a una etapa de esperanza y continua fidelidad a la misión y el llamado de servir a la iglesia, la academia, y al mundo. En el 2023, el presidente y rector de la Universidad de Duke asignó al Decano Edgardo Colón-Emeric por un término completo de cinco años.

La Oficina de Estudios de la Iglesia Negra (OEIN) conmemoró su aniversario número 50. La Rev. Dra. Cynthia Hale (D'79) recibió el Premio al Alumno Egresado Distinguido de la Universidad de Duke en reconocimiento a sus importantes contribuciones en el ministerio y el servicio.

La Casa Hispana de Estudios (LCHE) celebró su quinceañera. Ahora ofrecemos el curso "Redescubriendo el Corazón del Metodismo" en Español en la plataforma Divinity+.

Este otoño, le dimos la bienvenida a 215 estudiantes de nuevo ingreso de 35 estados diferentes y 16 países distintos. El programa de Maestría en Divinidad agregó 104 nuevos estudiantes, 54 de los cuales son estudiantes residenciales y 50 estudiantes del programa híbrido. El programa de Maestría de las Artes en la Práctica Cristiana inscribió 13 nuevos estudiantes; el de Doctorado en Ministerio, 22; el de Maestría en Teología, 11; el de Maestría de Estudios Teológicos, 29; el de Doctorado en Teología a cinco nuevos estudiantes al campus, e inscribió a 5 estudiantes especiales. El programa de Certificado en Teología y Cuidado de la Salud a 11 estudiantes residenciales al campus y a 15 en el programa híbrido.

La plataforma Divinity+ lanzó la serie de Administración de la Iglesia la cual se enfoca en desarrollar las habilidades prácticas para líderes de iglesia. Más de 1,000 estudiantes se han inscrito en los primeros dos cursos, "La Teología y el Manejo del Tiempo" y "Administración Estratégica". Inauguramos el Certificado en Capellanía, diseñado para preparar estudiantes para proveer cuidado espiritual en una variedad de ámbitos tales como hospitales, hospicios, prisiones, instituciones de educación superior, y el servicio militar.

La Oficina de Estudios de la Iglesia Negra es dirigida por el Rev. Dr. Eric Lewis Williams (D'05), profesor asistente de teología y Estudios de la Iglesia Negra; y la Casa de Estudios Anglicana Episcopal ha nombrado al Muy Rev. Timothy Kimbrough (D'83), Profesor Jack and Barbara Bovender de la Práctica de Estudios Anglicanos.

Con gratitud por los fondos recibidos de La Dotación Lilly, la Escuela de Divinidad, ha lanzado el Laboratorio de Predicación Transformadora. El Laboratorio de Predicación Transformadora también provee nuevas oportunidades para la formación en la predicación consciente de situaciones y experiencias traumáticas y la predicación en comunidades inmigrantes.

La Iniciativa de Teología, Medicina, y Cultura ha lanzado el Enfoque de Estudio en Salud Mental para practicantes Cristianos de la salud mental como parte de su Certificado en Teología y Cuidado de la Salud.

Gammon Theological Seminary Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, Gammon Theological Seminary president/dean

Gammon Theological Seminary is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member in Atlanta, Georgia. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities. Gammon was founded in 1883, bearing the name of the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, a generous clergyman, businessman, and philanthropist. Rev. Elijah H. Gammon invested and endowed the founding of Gammon Seminary in partnership with Bishop Henry Warren and the Freedman's Aid Society. Gammon has educated Black clergy for almost 140 years, with graduates serving every level of the church, including bishops, superintendents, General church leaders, conference staff, and clergy in every jurisdiction. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. The support given to The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist conferences continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education.

Our 17th president/dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, and the Gammon staff team continue to lead innovatively in chartering a "Brand New Day" for Gammon's recruitment, retention, research and resources, fund development, and scholarship endowments in her first two years of service.

Our new initiatives and celebrations this year, 2023 – 2024, at Gammon, include:

- In May 2023, Gammon held our 1st Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, receiving \$70,000 in donations to assist students with their tuition, which also helped Gammon build more relationships and partnerships.
- In June 2023, The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship Fund was launched by Dr. Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey) and Dr. Walter Kimbrough with a \$50,000 matching gift in partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.
- In June 2023, The Florida Conference raised and donated over \$ 60,000 to the Rev. Geraldine McClellan Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is now fully endowed by the Florida United Methodist Foundation.
- In July 2023 and December 2023, Gammon hosted the Ebony Exploration Event for 75 young adults under 35 years of age, increasing participation and forming strategic partnerships with external organizations to enhance the program's reach and impact.
- In December 2023, we celebrated our 140th Founders Day Event/Pastors and Leaders Conference, with over 200 persons attending workshops (in-person and virtual) and our Scholarship Gala Dinner, hosted at IMPACT Church in Atlanta, GA.

The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the significant debt our students incur as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is committed to raising one million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students called and committed to full-time ministry in The United Methodist Church. We are grateful to

this Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.

Learn more at www.gammon-itc.org.

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Javier A. Viera, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary president

For 170 years Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary has been in service to the Church and the Wesleyan/Methodist connection through the formation of Christian leaders in ordained and lay ministries. As the result of a new strategic planning process that seeks to position the seminary more fully and purposefully in service to the global Church, Garrett adopted a new mission and vision that will focus our work to this end: *Forming courageous leaders in the way of Jesus to cultivate communities of justice, compassion, and hope ... for the thriving of the Church and the healing of the world.*

During this past academic year, Garrett also welcomed its largest entering class in over a decade, with 124 new students, and a current enrollment of 314 students representing 37 states and 21 nations from across the globe. We have experienced particular growth in students from the African continent and the Indian subcontinent, adding to an already richly diverse student body. While our denominational diversity also continues to grow, we also proudly welcomed growth in our United Methodist students who constitute more than 50% of our student body.

Of particular importance in the past year has been the partnership we have entered into with Phillips School of Theology of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME). Phillips students are now also fully Garrett students and together we are preparing the next generation of CME leaders in a robust pan-Methodist/Wesleyan context alongside UMC, AME, and AMEZ students. Phillips President, Dr. Paul Brown, is now also affiliated with our faculty, teaching CME History, Doctrine, and Polity, as well as spiritual formation and organizational leadership courses. It is our hope and intention to continue to grow this partnership and foster a truly pan-Methodist/Wesleyan ethos which includes our growing global Methodist partners in Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Additionally, last year, all Garrett degree programs were made truly hybrid so that students can study with us and earn their degrees either on our Evanston campus or in virtual learning spaces around the globe. This has added an amazing breadth of experience and contexts to our classrooms, where we seek to address real-world challenges with gospel inspired solutions or responses.

Garrett's world-class faculty continue developing curricular innovations that are responsive to the Church's growing needs, while also contributing a significant body of scholarly work to their respective fields. Our faculty are also at work developing The Garrett Collective, an online platform of theological learning and resources for churches and partner organizations inspired by our faculty's research and/or strategic partnerships. Finally, at this critical juncture in the history of United Methodism, faculty leaders are providing essential guidance to UMC students, while also continuing to envision with hope the next expression of Methodism that is responsive to the Spirit's call for such a time as this.

Methodist Theological School in Ohio Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Danny Russell, Methodist Theological School in Ohio director of Communications

Thank you for this opportunity to bring news from MTSO.

Curriculum Revision Offers Shorter Paths to Degrees

Beginning in the fall of 2024, Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) will offer incoming master's degree students a slate of revised programs offering clear, achievable paths to their vocations. This curriculum revision will give most students the opportunity to complete their degrees in less time. Under the updated curriculum, the Master of Divinity degree requires 75 credit hours and is achievable in three years. The Master of Theological Studies, MA in Public Theology, and MA in Social Justice require 39 hours and are achievable in two years.

The revised curriculum for each master's degree is organized around four cores: the Values Core, Methods Core, Vocational Electives Core, and Integrative Core. Detailed information is available at mtso.edu/degreeupdates.

The MA in Public Theology Gets a New Name and Updated Focus

MTSO's newly revised MA in Public Theology degree (formerly the MA in Practical Theology) deepens the knowledge and skills of those working to build societal peace, justice and the common good. The MAPT offers formation for the next generation of practical, public theologians by cultivating abilities for negotiating the dynamic interplay in these areas: Christian heritage, congregational culture and contemporary society; theological, educational and social- science disciplines; and the diversities of human and creaturely existence.

Cross-cultural Immersion is Expanded

Previously required for the Master of Divinity and MA in Social Justice degrees, cross-cultural immersion trips are now required for all MTSO master's degrees and are covered by tuition. Cross-cultural immersion is not a mission trip. Rather, it is an opportunity to learn from and fully experience another culture, rather than attempting to "help" or impact cultures different from one's own. Trips nurture a global perspective and serve as a foundation for learning to respect the rich diversity of beliefs and practices in the wider church. Participants in the January 2024 cross-cultural trip visited South Africa. Upcoming destinations include Mexico and Italy.

Learn more at www.mtso.edu.

St. Paul School of Theology Report to Annual Conference 2024



Submitted by Jay K. Simmons, St. Paul School of Theology president

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 serving a diverse community committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and remote spaces. Our contextual curriculum features ministry collaboration groups, practicums, spiritual formation retreats, and seminars. Students learn from dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community leaders about best ministry practices, leaving our graduates with the tools and first-hand experience necessary to meet the needs of a changing world.

In 2024, we are launching two exciting new programs to revitalize current pastors and preachers and prepare seminary students for music ministry. First, with the help of Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching grant and the leadership of Dr. Casey Sigmon, assistant professor of Preaching and Worship and director of Contextual Education and Pause/Play Center for Preachers, Saint Paul School of Theology is creating a Center that addresses the risk of losing heart and prophetic imagination as a preacher in this divided world. The Pause/Play Center for Preachers' mission is in its name: to hold space for busy preachers to pause and play their way into a renewal of their vocation as preachers of the Good News. Second, for Fall 2024, as part of our Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) degree program, we will launch a first-of-its-kind specialization in Modern Worship Music. Saint Paul will partner with The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection and their COR Worship Collective to prepare students to write, produce, and perform modern worship music. Students will integrate a worship leaders' skills with their study of theology, the bible, history, and worship in a diverse, inclusive, and spiritually enriching environment. Lastly, we recently completed the (Theo)Logic Studio on our Oklahoma Campus. The Studio is for creating, recording, and editing digital media resources for the ministries of students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, we brought 41 new, faithful theologians from across the world to our learning community. International students from South Korea, Belgium, and Mexico added to the global learning environment on both campuses and online. Twenty-seven percent of incoming students identified as a race or ethnicity other than white, and 53 percent identified as female.

The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year brought a change in leadership to the Seminary. Rev. Neil Blair '80 retired as President on December 31, 2023, and President Jay Simmons, formerly vice president of Institutional Advancement, took the helm at the start of 2024.

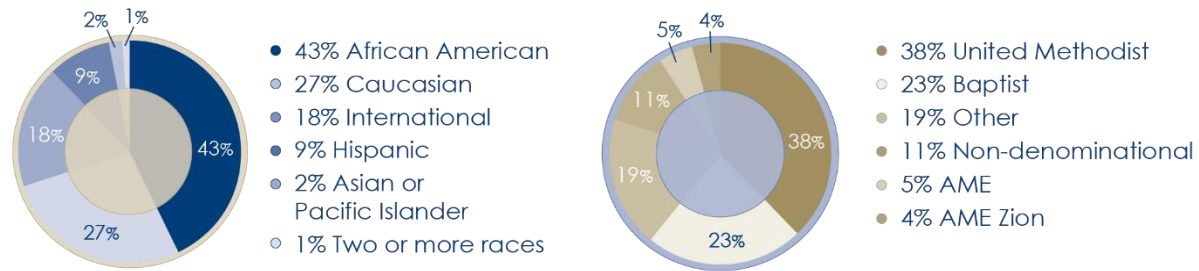
Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. Your advocacy for the Seminary and generous financial support have been vital in realizing our accomplishments. Many thanks for the innumerable ways you have helped Saint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

Learn more at www.spst.edu.

United Theological Seminary Report to Annual Conference 2024

Submitted by Kent Millard, United Theological Seminary president

For more than 150 years, United Theological Seminary has prepared men and women to serve as faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the seminary served 547 students, representing 36 states, 20 countries, and 43 denominations, with 38% of students identifying as United Methodist. United in Christ, the student body is a multi-ethnic, multi-racial community that is 43% African American, 27% White, 18% international, 9% Hispanic, and 2% Asian or Pacific Islander.* During the 2022-2023 academic year, 120 graduates completed their programs.



* Student data represent unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2022-2023 academic year. Demographic figures represent those who responded.

Houses of Study

United's academic programs include seven Houses of Study for denominational, church renewal, and/or language- and culture-based ministry, including online Spanish and Korean houses of study. These houses of study have enrolled over 120 new master's students in the United States and around the world.

Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center

In 2023, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, engaged more than 5,000 participants through 64 resourcing events and activities. The Center partnered with the Black Methodists for Church Renewal Laity Advocacy Committee to conduct the 2023 Laity Leadership Institution. The Center also launched a *Dynamite Prayer* movement, based on the guidebook *Dynamite Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment* (Invite Resources, 2022) by Rev. Kibbey and Rev. Dr. Rosario Picardo. Multiple United Methodist conferences and more than 90 congregations across denominations committed to be part of a Dynamite Prayer Wave and received resourcing on the practice of "breakthrough prayer."

New Faces at United

Over the past year, the seminary welcomed several new members to the United community. Bishop James Swanson, most recently bishop of the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church, was installed as United Methodist bishop-in-residence. Dr. Pauline Paris Buisch and Rev. Dr. Xavier L. Johnson joined the faculty as assistant professor of Old Testament and assistant professor of Preaching and Black Church Studies, respectively, and Dr. Eliseo Mejia came on board as the Academic Oversight officer for the Hispanic house of study.

Reducing Student Debt

Finances shouldn't stand in the way of a seminary education. That's why United has launched the Fresh Wind: Where the Spirit Takes Flight campaign to add \$10 million to the scholarship endowment, which will dramatically increase the seminary's capacity to provide scholarships to students for many years to come. As of January 2024, the seminary was more than 70% toward the \$10 million goal.



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

Canal

Akron Park
 Atwater
 Barberton Lakeview
 Cuyahoga Falls First
 East Greenville
 Easton
 Hudson
 Kent
 Medina
 Mogadore
 Montrose Zion
 New Pittsburg
 Oak Chapel
 Peninsula
 Rittman
 Seville
 Sharon Center
 Smithville (Wooster)
 Sterling
 Twin Falls
 Uniontown
 Wadsworth
 Wooster
 Wooster Church Of The Cross

Firelands

Amherst UMC
 Chippewa Ch At Lake
 Clyde First
 Edison Memorial
 Green Springs
 Greenwich
 Henrietta
 Huron
 Kelley's Island Zion
 Lakeside
 Laporte
 Melmore
 New London
 New Washington
 North Fairfield
 Republic Trinity
 Rust
 Sandusky Trinity

Seybert
 Tiffin Faith
 Tiffin St Paul
 Vickery
 West Salem

Mahoning Valley

Boardman First
 Braceville
 Brookfield
 Bunker Hill
 Coalburg
 Deerfield
 East Fairfield
 East Liverpool First
 Elkton
 Howland
 Negley
 New Springfield Trinity
 Niles New Hope
 North Lima Calvary
 Ohltown
 Palmyra
 Rogers
 Salineville
 Western Reserve
 Youngstown Trinity

Mid-Ohio

Ashland First
 Bucyrus
 Canaan
 Delaware Asbury
 Ebenezer
 Harmony Chapel
 Lexington Church of The Cross
 Mansfield Chapel Hill
 Mansfield First
 Martel
 Ontario
 Plankton
 Polk
 Red Haw
 Savannah

Scioto
 Shelby First
 Sparta
 St Paul
 Williamsport

North Coast

Aldersgate
 Avon
 Bay
 Bennetts Corner
 Berea
 Brecksville
 Calvary Lakewood
 Celebration
 Chagrin Falls
 Church Of The Saviour
 Cleveland Christ
 Columbia
 Garfield Heights
 Garfield Memorial
 Independence
 Lake Shore
 Lakewood
 Mount Pleasant
 Nottingham
 Pearl Road
 Pleasant Hills
 Ridgewood
 Rocky River
 St Paul
 Strongsville
 Westlake

Ohio Valley

Adena
 Bannock
 Bell Chapel
 Bethel
 Bridgeport First
 Brooks Run
 Carrollton
 Christ
 Dellroy
 Flushing



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

Hopewell
Lansing
Maynard
Mt Pleasant
Powhatan Point
Rayland
Scio
Scott Memorial
Sewellsville
Shadyside Lincoln Avenue

Southern Hills

Antrim
Armstrong Mills
Ava
Barnesville Main
Batesville
Belle Valley
Bells
Belmont
Caldwell
Cambridge Ninth St
Center
Chalfant's Chapel
Claysville
Cumberland
Fairview
Fairview
Gaysport
Greenbrier
Hirambsburg
Jacobsburg
Lore City
Lowell
Macksburg
Mary Reed
Morristown
Mt Ephraim
New Concord
New Matamoras
Old Washington
Pleasant City
Quaker City

Rural Dale
Salesville
Sardis
Senecaville
Somerton
Unionport
Woodsfield

Three Rivers

Batemantown UMC
Beulah
Bigelow
Brandon
Conesville
Coshocton Grace
Danville
Dundee
Fresno
Green Valley Chapel
Isleta
Keene
Lakeville
Liberty Chapel
Lock Federated
Moreland
Mount Hope
Nellie Chapel
New Guilford
New Moscow
Orange
Otsego
Perrysville
Roscoe
South Vernon
Trinway
Utica
Wolf

Tuscarawas

Alliance Christ
Bolivar
Canal Fulton
Centenary

Crystal Park
East Canton Mt Tabor
East Rochester
Malvern
Massillon Epworth
Massillon Trinity
New Franklin
Newcomers Chapel of Pigeon
Run
North Canton Faith
Otterbein
The Vine
Union Avenue
Werner
Wilmot

Western Reserve

Amboy
Bulah Calvary
Cherry Valley
Colebrook
Geneva
Gustavus Federated
Harpersfield
Jefferson
Leon
Light House
Madison Chapel
Mayfield
Mentor
Monroe
Nelson
North Mentor Centenary
Orwell
Painesville
Perry
Portage Faith
Shoregate
Southington
Willoughby Hills
Windham
Windsor

Annual Conference 2024 Evaluation



Please take a moment to complete the brief post-conference evaluation. The Annual Conference Program Committee appreciates your feedback and takes it into consideration when planning the next conference.

You can access and complete the online Annual Conference evaluation by clicking or copying and pasting this link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024EOCUMCAC>, or by scanning this QR code with your smart phone camera.

If you prefer to print the survey and complete it by hand, please e-mail a request for the printable pdf to Melanie Thomas, Connectional Ministries office administrative assistant, at mthomas@eocumc.com

1. What is your East Ohio Conference relationship?

- Clergy (active)
- Clergy (retired)
- Lay (representing a church)
- Lay (at-large representing district or Conference)
- Guest

2. Age

- Youth in grades 6-12
- 18-35
- 36-50
- 51-65
- 66+

3. In which district do you live?

- Central Valley
- Northern Waters
- South Forest
- West Plains
- Other (please indicate)_____

4. Select the option that best describes your travel to and from Annual Conference:

- I commuted from my home each day.
- I stayed overnight away from my home.

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

6. What was one highlight for you personally at this year's Annual Conference?

7. What suggestions do you have for us to improve the design of Annual Conference to better equip you and your church?

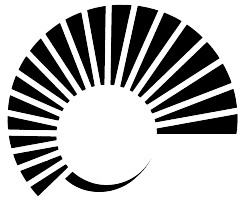
8. What other comments or suggestions would you like to share with the planners of Annual Conference?

9. Optional:

Name _____

Email _____

HOW TO UNDERSTAND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE						
EACH TIME YOU WANT TO DO THIS: ¹ ¹ Motions or resolutions made from the floor shall be reduced to writing on forms provided by the Conference secretary	FIRST GIVE YOUR NAME AND YOUR DISTRICT, AND THEN SAY THIS:	Interrupt Speaker?				
		Second Needed?				
		Motion debatable?				
		Amendable?				
Vote?						
MAIN MOTIONS as tools to introduce new business						
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
SECONDARY MOTIONS in order of preference						
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
INCIDENTAL MOTIONS grow out of the business the Conference is considering						
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.						



JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER

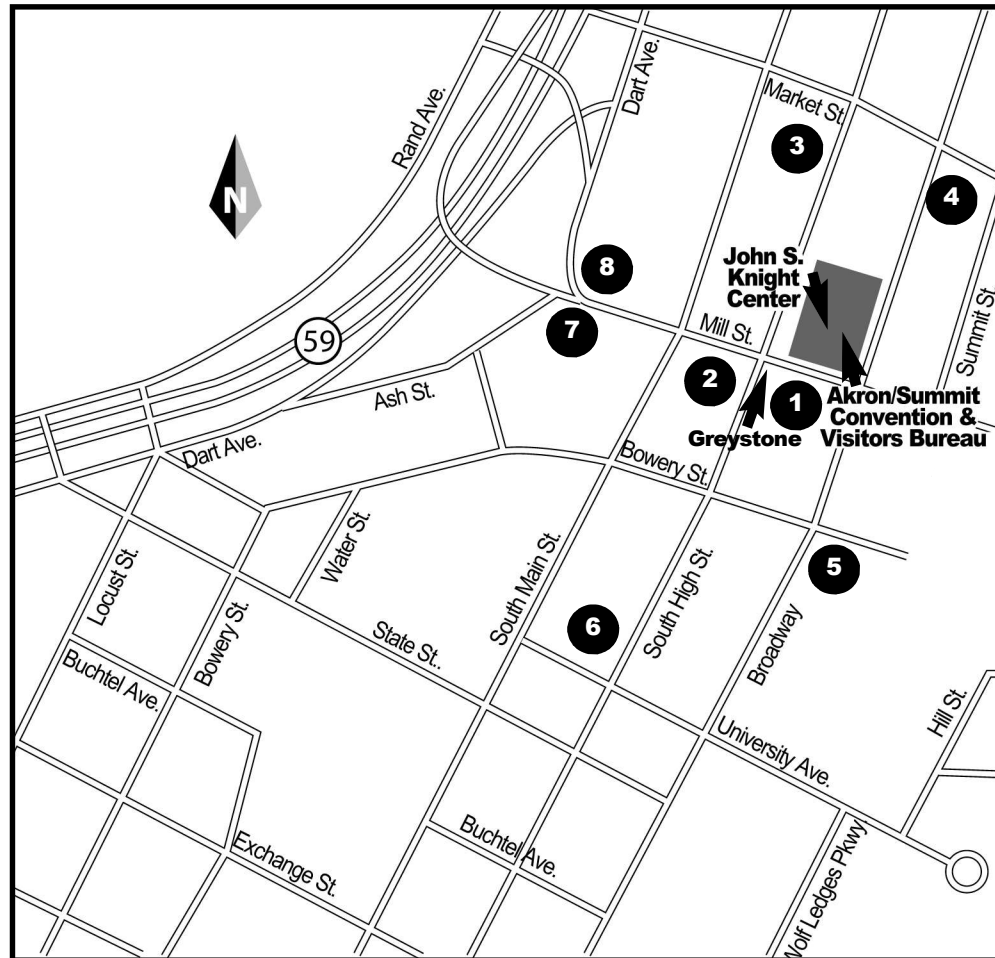
77 E. Mill Street Akron, OH 44308

330.374.8900 800.245.4254

www.johnsknightcenter.org

ADJACENT DOWNTOWN AREA PARKING

- NOTE:**
- Parking is FREE in all City of Akron decks on Fridays after 6pm, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.
 - Mondays through Thursdays, 6pm to 6am - \$2 flat rate.
 - City of Akron-owned decks include: Broadway, Cascade, CitiCenter, High/Market & Morley.



- 1** Broadway deck -690 spaces
120 S. Broadway St.
Skywalk to John S. Knight Center
\$1.00 per ½ hour, \$7.00 max
\$65/\$55 per month (rooftop)
24 hrs, 7 days
330.375.2597
- 2** CitiCenter deck -236 spaces
132 S. High St.
\$1.00 per ½ hour, \$7.00 max
\$70/\$92 per month
M-F 7a-9p
330.375.2598
- 3** High/Market deck -595 spaces
40 S. High St.
\$1.00 per ½ hour, \$7.00 max
\$70/\$92 per month
M-F 7a-11p
330.375.2671
- 4** Broadway/Market lot -183 spaces
43 S. Broadway St.
\$2.00 (quarters only)
\$35 per month
24 hrs, 7 days

- 5** Morley Health Center deck -549 spaces
177 S. Broadway St.
\$1.00 per ½ hour, \$6.00 max
\$65 per month
24 hrs, 7 days
330.375.2594
- 6** Summit County deck -1,140 spaces
200 S. High St.
.75 ¢ per ¼ hour, \$5.00 max
\$66.25/\$72 per month
M-Sat 7a-11p
330.434.7232
- 7** Cascade deck -2,031 spaces
10 W. Mill St.
\$1.00 per ½ hour, \$6.00 max
\$70/\$92 per month
24 hrs, 7 days
330.375.2595
- 8** Akron Centre deck -1,014 spaces
11 W. Mill St.
\$1.00 per ½ hour, \$9.00 max
\$75/\$100 per month
M-F 7a-11p
330.375.2596

Note: Rates are subject to change.

A comprehensive parking map for the entire downtown Akron area is available at www.downtownakron.com.

REV: 01.27.2022