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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

PRE-REGISTRATION IS BEING HANDLED ON-LINE

❖ Go to the Conference website www.ctcumc.org; click on the Annual Conference Registration page and follow the instructions to begin your registration. When registering, please be sure to decide if you wish to purchase your bound copy of the 2017 journal or receive your free digital copy of the 2017 journal.

❖ Voting members of Annual Conference & Alternates – clergy with full or limited voting rights, lay members of the conference and their alternates who have been elected by their church’s charge conference or district conference, and/or those who are voting members by virtue of their conference-level office – need to register.

❖ When you arrive at conference your name tag and information will be at your district table.

LATE REGISTRATION

Attendees not pre-registered, regardless of clergy member or lay member, must register SUNDAY AFTERNOON, June 11th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Please proceed to the “Atrium”. This process will close promptly at 5:30 so that we can attend the opening worship service. Anyone not registered by this deadline will need to see their District Administrator on Monday morning to register.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please note that hotel reservations need to be made independently of registration. If you need to reserve a hotel room in or around Mansfield, we have contracted with the following hotels:

Courtyard Dallas @ Midlothian, 469/672-8760, 50 rooms available
$103.00 per room per night;

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 817/453-8722, 40 rooms available
$109.00 per room per night;

La Quinta Inn & Suites, 817/453-5040, 50 rooms available
$82.00 per room per night;

Fairfield Inns & Suites, 817/473-2700, 35 rooms available
$104.00 per night per room for Queen/$114.00 per night per room for King,

Please visit www.ctcumc.org/ac17-hotels for complete booking information
PRELIMINARY REPORT

The preliminary report is once again being placed on-line. Each member of the annual conference is responsible for downloading and/or printing their report. Many of the items that will be voted on will be lifted up at the District Conferences for discussion and information. Please make every effort to attend your District Conference and talk with others from your church or district as a way to better educate yourself to the matters of the Central Texas Annual Conference.

2017 DISTRICT CONFERENCES

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Sunday, May 21st</td>
<td>Cogdell Memorial UMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAST</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sunday, May 21st</td>
<td>Hurst FUMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTH</td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sunday, May 7th</td>
<td>Burleson FUMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Sunday, May 7th</td>
<td>FUMC Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEST</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sunday, May 7th</td>
<td>FUMC Stephenville</td>
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ANNUAL CONFERENCE Tellers

Head Teller: Bob Rainey

CENTRAL
Clergy: Mary Gean Cope, Brad Slaten, Robyn Young
Lay: Cynthia Gage, Linda Heese, Michael Hensley

EAST
Clergy: Amanda Bresciani, Sandra Hippman, Judy Richmond
Lay: James Boyett, Myrtis Parker, Diana Scott

NORTH
Clergy: Dave Goodrich, Dale Wilbanks
Lay: Dan Gessley, Pam Phinney, Kathy Smith

SOUTH
Clergy: Bill Bales, Darren Walker, Patricia Warden
Lay: Tami Baker, Aurora Cepeda, Vicki Lowry

WEST
Clergy: Harrell Braddock, Michael Cyr, Kory Koch
Lay: Royce Daugherty, Jeff Mills, Kathy Pelton

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SECRETARIES

To be determined

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PAGE

Mikayla Warthen
ANNUAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING
This year’s Conference Offering benefits Project Transformation.

SACRED SPACE FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION
A prayer room is open and available for use while conference is in session in building “C”, Chapel.

JOINT CLERGY & LAY MEMORIAL SERVICE
This service will be on Sunday evening in the sanctuary at FUMC Mansfield.

COKESBURY BOOKSTORE
Cokesbury will be hosting a bookstore at this year’s Annual Conference which is in building “A”, Room 113.

QUEST SCREENING
HealthFlex participants can make an appointment to have their free Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® screening done at Annual Conference. Please note that fasting is highly recommended prior to screening for the most accurate results. The screenings will be in building “C” Rooms #105 & 106 on Tuesday, June 13th from 8:00a-11:00a and Wednesday, June 14th from 8:00a-11:00a. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register for an appointment online, login to HealthFlex/WebMD at www.webmdhealth.com/gbophb and select Quest Diagnostics Blueprint for Wellness® under HealthFlex Vendor Links for single sign on access. Or to pre-register by phone, call 1-855-623-9355 and use Employer Group: United Methodist Church. Pre-registration deadline is May 29, 2017. We may not be able to accommodate walk-ins, so if you plan to do your screening at A.C., please pre-register now to avoid being turned away.

LOST & FOUND
Have you lost something? Did you find something? If either case pertains, please go to the “Connecting Point” table in the Atrium. Maybe what you lost has been found and what you found will be claimed by the owner. Check It Out!!

Wi-Fi is Available
Complimentary, high-speed wireless internet access will be available throughout Mansfield FUMC campus during the 2017 Annual Conference meeting. Log-in information will be provided at the meeting. Remember when all of us are on a break and try to hit the internet at the same time the hot spot most likely will be running extremely slow.
PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONE DURING CONFERENCE

Please be courteous and put your cell phone or other device on *vibrate* only or turn them off during A.C. business sessions and worship services. It is very disrupting to have a ringtone sound off during a presentation or during a worship service. *Thank you* for your courtesy.

DIGITAL COPIES OF PRELIMINARY REPORT & WORSHIP GUIDE
AVAILABLE AT WWW.CTCUMC.ORG/AC17

As has become a standard practice, the 2017 Central Texas Annual Conference Preliminary Report & Worship Guide are available digitally as a PDF. You may access and/or download these Annual Conference reports from your computer or mobile device (phone, tablet, e-reader, etc.) and refer to them throughout AC2017 without having to print a hard copy. So, save a tree or twenty and download them at www.ctcumc.org/AC17. If you do choose to print a hard copy, we suggest waiting until a day or two before conference begins in case any unexpected, last minute changes are necessary. If you need technical assistance in accessing or downloading either the Preliminary Report or the Worship Guide, please email julianhobdy@ctcumc.org.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SERVICE CENTER OFFICE

There will be an A.C. Service Center Table staffed during conference hours for your convenience. The table will be in the atrium.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Sunday – June 11

5:00 P.M.  Young Adult Dinner Gathering – Please R.S.V.P. by 1-June-2017
For Location and to R.S.V.P. contact Amber Massingill @ 305/951-2759 or
ambermassingill@ctcumc.org

5:00 P.M.  Project Transformation Intern Dinner – Please R.S.V.P. by 1-June-2017
Mansfield FUMC - Building “A”, LOFT
Contact: Julie Harding, julieharding@ctcumc.org

Monday – June 12

7:00 A.M.  Texas Wesleyan University Alumni Breakfast – Please R.S.V.P. by 1-June-2017
Mansfield FUMC - Building “A”, LOFT
Contact: Scott Cannon, 817/531-7540 or scannon@txwes.edu

12:00 P.M.  Perkins Alumni & Student Luncheon – BY RESERVATION ONLY – Please R.S.V.P. by
29-May-2017; Contact Marilyn Jones @ revmarilynj@gmail.com. Please send your
$15.00 check payable to Meadowbrook UMC, Attn: Marilyn Jones, 3900 Meadowbrook
Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76103 (Perkins Lunch in the memo line).

12:00 P.M.  Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Alumni Lunch
Joe’s Family Restaurant, 310 N. Mitchell Rd, Mansfield, 76063
No charge, but you MUST R.S.V.P. by 1-June-2017 to Selina Aguirre, 512/404-4809 or saguirre@austinseminary.edu.

Tuesday – June 13

7:00 A.M.  Order of Deacons Breakfast – Please R.S.V.P. by 1-June-2017
Mansfield FUMC - Building “A”, LOFT
Contact: Kay Lancaster 817/274-2571 or klancaster@arlingtonmethodist.org

12:00 P.M.  Youth & Youth Workers Lunch Gathering – Please R.S.V.P. by 1-June-2017
FUMC Mansfield – Building “A”, LOFT
R.S.V.P. to Claire Condrey @ 817/877-5222 or clairecondrey@ctcumc.org

12:00 P.M.  United Methodist Women Luncheon – Please R.S.V.P. by 5-June-2017
Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr, Mansfield, TX 76063.
The cost for lunch is $20.00, reservations must be made at ctcumw.org or send
your completed registration to: Cheri Baxter, 1507 Highland Dr., Mansfield TX 76063;
Make checks payable to CTCUMW, and write LUNCHEON in the memo line.
For additional information contact: Cheri Baxter @ cheribaxter@hotmail.com or
Lynne Grandstaff @ 214/738-7301.

Wednesday – June 14

12:00 P.M.  Board of Pensions Luncheon – BY INVITATION AND RESERVATION ONLY
Mansfield FUMC - Building “A”, LOFT
Contact: Shawn-Marie Riley, 817/877-5222 or shawn-marie@ctcumc.org
AGENDA

2017 CENTRAL TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MANSFIELD
777 N. WALNUT CREEK DRIVE
MANSFIELD, TX 76063
817-477-2287

All conference facilities are handicapped-accessible and smoke-free.

Bishop Mike Lowry, Presiding
Dr. Kevin Watson, Conference Teacher
Dr. Randy Wild, Conference Secretary
Ed Komandosky, Parliamentarian
Rev. Chris Mesa, Quadrennial Annual Conference Worship Chair
Dr. Bob Holloway, Host, East District Superintendent
Rev. David Alexander, Host Pastor & Annual Conference Worship Co-Chair

Anticipate business sessions of annual conference ending Wednesday, June 14, at 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 11

“Energizing and Equipping Local Churches To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee</td>
<td>Building A, Room 216</td>
<td>Chris Hayes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Project Transformation Intern Dinner, Building A, Loft</td>
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<td>Julie Harding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Young Adult Dinner Gathering, Will meet in church parking lot at 5:00pm</td>
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<td>Amber Massingill</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Celebration of Christian Worship: A Service of Remembrance and Renewal, Building B, Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Bishop Mike Lowry</td>
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2017 Conference Offering: Project Transformation

This summer begins the Project Transformation ministry in the Central Texas Conference. Three churches were chosen in the Tarrant County area to provide day camp to the elementary students in the neighborhoods surrounding FUMC Bedford, Meadowbrook UMC, and University UMC. They will participate in an award-winning summer literacy program, receive nutritious meals, and have a daily Bible time. The day camps are staffed by summer college interns (most of whom come from our CTC churches and Wesley Foundations). In future years, we plan to offer this ministry in other areas of our conference,

Every church in the CTC is invited to participate. We need partner churches to: send volunteers to read with the kids, bring meals to the interns at their community living space, conduct book and supply drives, and supporting an intern financially. Your donation will transform lives through relationships; listed below are several levels of impact:

- $30.00 provides 1 week of summer day camp for 1 child
- $60.00 provides training for 1 intern
- $250.00 provides supplies at 1 site for 1 week
- $400.00 pays stipend and living expenses for an intern for 1 week

(For more information, contact Julie Harding at julieharding@ctcumc.org or 817/531-6540)
Monday, June 12

“Energizing and Equipping Local Churches
To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

**Business Session 1**
Monday Morning

- Doors Open at 7 am
- Cokesbury Resource Center, 7:30 am-5:30 pm
  *Building A, Room 113*
- Sacred Space – A Place for Prayer & Reflection
  *Building C, Chapel, open & available daily to all*

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<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Texas Wesleyan University Alumni Breakfast, <em>Building A, Room 216</em></td>
<td>Scott Cannon</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-10:00 am</td>
<td>Clergy Executive Session, <em>Building A, Gym</em></td>
<td>Bishop Mike Lowry</td>
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|           | Laity Session, *Building B, Sanctuary*  
|           | Speaker, Dr. Kevin Watson                                                                   | Mike Ford                    |
|           | Fellowship of Local Pastors Session, *Building A, Loft*                                   | Mike Kerzée                 |
| 10:05-10:10 am | Annual Conference Called to Order, *Sanctuary*                                  | Bishop Lowry                 |
| 10:10-11:00 am | Welcome on Behalf of the East District  
|           | Welcome on Behalf of First UMC, Mansfield                                                 | Bob Holloway, David Alexander|
|           | Organization of the Conference, Registration & Agenda                                       | Randy Wild                   |
|           | Consent Calendar reports (page 17)  
|           | *(For full explanation please see the “Consent Agenda” section immediately following this agenda)* |                              |
|           | Items to “Lay On The Table” Overnight  
|           | *(Sponsored & unsponsored petitions, resolutions and nominations)*                         |                              |
|           | CFA – Introduction of 2018 Budget (page 114)  
|           | Conference Nominations & Leadership Development*                                           | Gary Sult, Georgia Adamson  |
|           | *(Corrections to spelling, contact information or titles may be e-mailed to the Conference Secretary, randywild@ctcumc.org, or Dr. Adamson, georgiaadamson@ctcumc.org at any time)* | Bishop Lowry                 |
| 11:11:45 am | Episcopal Address                                                                          | Bishop Lowry                 |
| 11:45-11:50 am | Educational Opportunities                                                                 | Scott Youngblood             |
| 11:50-Noon | Announcements                                                                              | Randy Wild                   |
| Noon-2:00 pm | Lunch – *(Box lunch pick up in Building A, Gym)*                                         | Beth Evers                   |
| Noon-2:00 pm | Perkins Alumni & Student Luncheon, *Building A, Loft*                                      | Beth Evers                   |
| Noon-2:00 pm | Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Lunch, *Joe’s Family Restaurant* - 310 N. Mitchell Rd, Mansfield | Gary Matthews               |
Business Session 2
Monday Afternoon
Sanctuary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:10 pm</td>
<td>Gathering Music, Singing, Prayer</td>
<td>Beverly Connelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:10-2:25 pm</td>
<td>Lay Address</td>
<td>Mike Ford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:25-2:35 pm</td>
<td>Morris Walker Laity Award</td>
<td>Mike Ford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:35-3:05 pm</td>
<td>Core Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:05-3:30 pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30 pm</td>
<td>Session #1</td>
<td>Kevin Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30-4:45 pm</td>
<td>Introduction of Mrs. Jolynn Lowry</td>
<td>Bob Holloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Texas Methodist Foundation</td>
<td>Tom Locke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-5:15 pm</td>
<td>Announcements/Adjourn for the Day</td>
<td>Randy Wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15-6:00 pm</td>
<td>Q &amp; A - 2018 Annual Conference Budget, (page 114)</td>
<td>Gary Sult &amp; Randy Wild</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuesday, June 13

“Energizing and Equipping Local Churches
To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

- Doors Open at 7 am
- Cokesbury Resource Center, 7:30 am-5:30 pm
  *Building A, Room 113*
- HealthFlex Screenings, 8-11 am, Building C, Rooms 5 & 6
- Sacred Space – A Place for Prayer & Reflection
  *Building C, Chapel, open & available daily to all*

7:00 am Order of Deacons Breakfast, *Building A, Loft*  Kay Lancaster

Business Session 3
Tuesday Morning
Sanctuary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-8:40 am</td>
<td>Gathering Music, Singing, &amp; Prayer</td>
<td>Samuel Macias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40-9:10 am</td>
<td>Youth Address, (page 102)</td>
<td>Taylor Vaughn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10-10:00 am</td>
<td>Session #2</td>
<td>Kevin Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10-10:30 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-11:00 am</td>
<td>CTC Cabinet (page 32)</td>
<td>Bob Holloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:55 am</td>
<td>Center for Mission Support, (page 89)</td>
<td>Randy Wild &amp; Dawne Philips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Five Star Awards</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Missionary Support Awards</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55-Noon</td>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>Randy Wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch – <em>(Box lunch pick up in Building A, Gym)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Youth &amp; Youth Workers Lunch, <em>Building A, Loft</em></td>
<td>Claire Condrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon-2:00 pm</td>
<td>United Methodist Women’s Luncheon, <em>Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr, Mansfield, TX 76063</em></td>
<td>Lynne Grandstaff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:10 pm</td>
<td>Gathering Music, Singing, &amp; Prayer</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:10-3:40 pm</td>
<td>Retirement Service</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:40-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministry, (page 52)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-5:05 pm</td>
<td>Announcements/Adjourn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:05-6:00 pm</td>
<td>Rehearsal for Commissioning &amp; Ordination Service, Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Light Meal Provided (for new retirees; ordinands, [elders and deacons]; new provisional members; spouses; and Cabinet) Building A, Loft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Gathering, Robing and Photos Taken for Journal (for Bishop; Cabinet; new retirees; ordinands [elders and deacons]; and new provisional members) Building C, Room C-8 Photos: Building C, Chapel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Music for Gathering</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-9:00 pm</td>
<td>Celebration of Christian Worship Ordination Service</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>Reception for Ordinands</td>
<td>Building “A”, Gym</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Those Approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry for Ordination**

- Matt Bailey
- Suzi Byrd
- Eric Douglas
- Sela Finau
- Kim Long
- Allen Lutes
- Stefani Reed
- John Reeves
- Kyle Roberson
- Dale Wilbanks
- Alison Zollinger

**Those Approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry for Commissioning**

- Dara Austin
- Christy Barto
- Amanda Bresciani
- Joy Dister
- Corrie Hermans
- Eddie Kahler
- Trevor Kennedy
- Katie Lewis
- Lance Marshall
- Tommy Prud’homme
- Christopher Reyes
- Tina Schramme
- Nick Scott
- Stephanie Staton
- Zach Stiefel
### Wednesday, June 14

“Energizing and Equipping Local Churches To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

- Doors Open at 7 am
- Cokesbury Resource Center, 7:30 am-5:30 pm
  *Building A, Room 113*
- HealthFlex Screenings, 8-11 am, Building C, Rooms 5 & 6
- Sacred Space – A Place for Prayer & Reflection
  *Building C, Chapel, open & available daily to all*

### Business Session 5

**Wednesday Morning**

**Sanctuary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-8:40 am</td>
<td>Gathering Music, Singing, &amp; Prayer</td>
<td>Gabe Dominquez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8:40-9:35 am| Smith Center for Evangelism & Church Growth, *(page 35)*
  Culture of the Call; Harry Denman Evangelism Award                      | Gary Lindley & Mike Ramsdell  |
| 9:35-9:50 am| CTC Trustees                                                                                                                                               | Kevin Wilson                  |
| 9:50-10:05 am| Break                                                                                                                                                        |                               |
| 10:05-10:55 a.m.| Roberts Center for Leadership, *(page 47)*
  Francis Asbury Award, Merit Award                                      | Jeff Roper                    |
| 10:55-11:05 am| Bishop’s Preaching Excellence Award                                                                                                                              | Bishop Lowry                  |
| 11:05-11:35 am| G. C. Constitutional Amendments                                                                                                                               | Tim Bruster                   |
| 11:35-11:55 am| CTC Resolutions                                                                                                                                              | Randy Wild                    |
| 11:55-Noon | Announcements                                                                                                                                             | Randy Wild                    |
| Noon-2:00 pm | Lunch – *(Box lunch pick up in Building A, Gym)*                                                                                                           | Frank Briggs & Shawn-Marie Riley |
| Noon-2:00 pm | Board of Pensions Luncheon, *Building A, Loft*                                                                                                             |                               |

### Business Session 6

**Wednesday Afternoon**

**Sanctuary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:10 pm</td>
<td>Gathering Music, Singing, &amp; Prayer</td>
<td>Patricia Warden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2:10-2:40 pm| Commission on the Way Forward Update
  Conversation: “Wonder, Love & Praise: Sharing a Vision of the Church”                                                      | Casey Orr                     |
| 2:40-3:10 pm| Board of Pensions & Health Benefits, *(page 140)*                                                                                                            | Frank Briggs                  |
| 3:10-3:30 pm| Adoption of CF&A: 2018 Budget, *(page 114)*                                                                                                               | Gary Sult                     |
| 3:30-3:40 pm| UM Publishing House                                                                                                                                                       | Stephen Decker                |
| 3:40-3:45 pm| Adoption of Consent Calendar, *(page 17)*                                                                                                                            | Randy Wild                    |
| 3:45-3:50 pm| Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development
  *(page 34)*                                                                                              | Georgia Adamson               |
| 3:50-4:00 pm| Break                                                                                                                                                        |                               |
| 4:00-4:45 pm| A Service of Worship: Setting of Appointments & Sending Forth                                                                         | Bishop Lowry                  |
| 4:45-4:50 pm| Announcements
  Recognition of First UMC Mansfield, District Administrators,
  CTC Service Center Staff, Logistics & Hospitality Teams | Randy Wild                    |
| 4:50 pm | Adjournment                                                                                                                                             | Bishop Lowry                  |
CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda is a component of our Annual Conference agenda that enables us to group items, reports and resolutions under one umbrella. A consent agenda, as the name implies, refers to the general agreement that certain item(s) are voted on, without questions or discussion, as a package. It differentiates between matters not needing explanation and more complex issues needing examination. It is not that the matters are not important, nor that they don’t need to be approved by the body, it is just that they are not controversial and so there is no need for discussion before taking a vote. In fact, many of those that appear on our consent agenda year after year have no change what-so-ever or a minor word(s) change for clarification. The main purpose of a consent agenda is to liberate our business sessions from administrative details, repetitious discussions, and help keep our focus on celebrating, worshipping, teaching, learning and strategic issues.

To be placed on our consent agenda, the report item must:
1. Not have financial implications that have not already been included in the new budget, and;
2. Not deal with conference rules.

To be removed from the consent agenda, the report item must have the following actions:
1. A note proposing the item be removed, signed by five (5) voting members of the Annual Conference submitted to the Conference Secretary.
2. May only be for the purpose of amending or altering the specific report indicated, and;
3. Must be done within a day of setting the agenda.
CONSENT AGENDA DETAILS

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** 2017 Annual Conference vote to be held at the 2018 Annual Conference to elect a delegation from the Central Texas Conference to the called 2019 Special General Conference and the 2020 General Conference.
** The Annual Conference Planning Team recommendations to the Core Team and annual conference the following dates and locations: 2018 annual conference held at Waco Convention Center, host church Austin Avenue UMC; 2019 annual conference held at the Arlington Convention Center, host church FUMC Hurst; 2020 annual conference held at White’s Chapel UMC.

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** Report 8 Conference Active Group Health Insurance Program (DC), page 156 line 2

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** The Still Water Lodge Task Force Recommendations

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GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016 .................................................................................................................... 212
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** Indicates exceptions to the Consent agenda. These items will be voted on during the report time of each board, agency, committee or entity.
BISHOP J. MICHAEL (MIKE) LOWRY

Bishop Mike Lowry is the resident bishop of the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, where he is the spiritual leader for about 164,000 United Methodists in 300+ congregations and developing faith communities.

At the time of his election and consecration as bishop in July 2008, he was serving as executive director of New Church Development and Transformation in the Southwest Texas Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to that, he was senior pastor at University United Methodist Church, a 5,800-member congregation in San Antonio that grew from 4,800 to 5,700 members during his tenure. His previous appointments include United Methodist Churches in Austin, Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Kerrville and, while a student, serving Plymouth Park in Irving, Texas. Churches under his leadership have received a number of awards and recognitions including Habitat for Humanity, the President’s Award from Huston-Tillotson College, the Churchmanship Award from San Antonio Community of Churches, and the Arthur Moore Evangelism Award three times. Bishop Lowry is a regular blogger at his post, “This Focused Center,” and his “Generous Living” sermon was published in Best Stewardship Sermons of 2005. He has been awarded the B’nai B’rith Award in Social Ethics by Perkins School of Theology and the Harry Denman Evangelism Award by the Foundation for Evangelism (2015). In 2014, he contributed the chapter entitled “Order” in Finding Our Way: Love and Law in The United Methodist Church (Abingdon Press, edited by Rueben P. Job and Neil M. Alexander).

A 1972 graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, Bishop Lowry earned his Master of Theology from Perkins (at SMU) and his Doctor of Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He and his wife Jolynn have a son Nathan & daughter-in-law Abigail and grandson Simon; daughter Sarah & son-in-law Steven and grandchildren Grace and Sam. Family time over the years has included trekking in the national parks, an adventure they still enjoy as time and schedules permit.
Dr. Kevin Watson is the assistant professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Before joining the Candler faculty in 2014, The Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Watson taught at Seattle Pacific University and Perkins School of Theology.

His research interests focus on Christian formation and discipleship from a Wesleyan perspective, particularly communal formation, Wesleyan/Methodist Christianity, the history of early Methodism, American Methodism, common misunderstandings of the Wesleyan tradition, and current events in The United Methodist Church. In addition to writing articles for both scholarly and popular publications, Watson is the author of three books, including *Pursuing Social Holiness: The Band Meeting in Wesley’s Thought and Popular Methodist Practice* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2014). He is currently working on a history of the development and fragmentation of American Methodism as a theological tradition.

Watson is an ordained elder in Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church, and is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the American Society of Church History, and the Wesleyan Theological Society.
VOTING IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
IS DONE WITHIN THE BAR OF THE CONFERENCE

- Lay Members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained clergy, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry. ¶ 602.6

- Alternate Lay Members have all the privileges of the Lay Member only when the Lay Member is absent and s/he is officially seated in the conference in his/her place. ¶ 602.7

- Diaconal Ministers are Lay Members of the Annual Conference (¶ 602.2, 6) and shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of clergy.

- Elders and Deacons in Full Connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the Annual Conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy. ¶ 602.1 (a)

- Provisional Clergy Members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶ 602.1 (b)

- Associate and Affiliate Members shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶ 602.1 (c)

- Full-time and Part-Time Pastors Under Appointment shall have the right to vote in the Annual Conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶ 602.1 (d) Student Local Pastors under appointment have voice without vote.

- Clergy Appointed Under ¶ 346.1 (Ordained Ministers from Other Annual Conferences and Other Methodist Denominations) may be granted voice but not vote in the Annual Conference to which they are appointed.

- Clergy Appointed Under ¶ 346.2 (Ministers from Other Denominations) are seated in the Annual Conference without vote, unless they have been " accorded all the rights and privileges of associate membership in the Annual Conference."
BADGE COLORS
AS THEY RELATE TO VOTING

Blue Badges:
~ Clergy members who are entitled to vote except for the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Clergy Designations:
~ FD; FE; RD; RE.

Orange Badges:
~ Provisional clergy members, associate & affiliate clergy members, local pastors under part-time & full-time appointment and elders or clergy from other denominations who are entitled to vote unless the subject is constitutional amendments or election of clergy delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences; matters of ordination; character and conference relations of clergy.

Clergy Designations:
~ AF; AM; FL; PD; PDO; PE; PL; RA.

Green Badges:
~ Lay members who are entitled to vote unless the matter pertains to the clergy, such as ordination; reception into full membership or election of clergy delegates.

Yellow Badges:
~ Diaconal ministers who are entitled to vote unless the matter pertains to the clergy, such as ordination; reception into full membership or election of clergy delegates.

Clergy Designations:
~ DM; DR.

Red Badges:
~ Assigned lay supply, student local pastors, retired local pastors, clergy from other annual conferences, missionaries assigned by the GBGM, and certified lay missionaries from nations other than the United States, both who are serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference who have voice, but are not allowed to vote.

Clergy Designations:
~ OA; OD; OE; OF; OP; OS; RDS; RDL; RL; RO; RPL; SP; SY.
CLERGY DESIGNATIONS
AS THEY RELATE TO BADGE COLORS & VOTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>Affiliate Member Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM</td>
<td>Associate Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>Diaconal Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR</td>
<td>Retired Diaconal Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD</td>
<td>Deacon in Full Connection</td>
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<tr>
<td>FE</td>
<td>Elder in Full Connection</td>
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<td>FL</td>
<td>Full-Time Local Pastor</td>
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<td>Associate Other Annual Conference</td>
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<td>OD</td>
<td>Deacon Other Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>Elder Other Annual Conference or Other Denomination</td>
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<td>OF</td>
<td>Full Member Other Denomination</td>
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<td>OP</td>
<td>Provisional Other Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>RL</td>
<td>Retired Local Pastor</td>
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<td>RO</td>
<td>Retired Other Conference Elder</td>
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<td>SP</td>
<td>Student Local Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY</td>
<td>Supply</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS GUIDE

The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>§21</td>
<td>Close meeting</td>
<td>I move to adjourn</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§20</td>
<td>Take Break</td>
<td>I move to recess for…</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§19</td>
<td>Register complaint</td>
<td>I rise to a question of privilege</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§18</td>
<td>Make follow agenda</td>
<td>I call for the orders of the day</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§17</td>
<td>Lay aside temporarily</td>
<td>I move to lay the question on the table</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§16</td>
<td>Close debate</td>
<td>I move to the previous question</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§15</td>
<td>Limit or extend debate</td>
<td>I move that debate be limited to…</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§14</td>
<td>Postpone to a certain</td>
<td>I move to postpone the motion to…</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§13</td>
<td>Refer to committee</td>
<td>I move to refer the motion to…</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§12</td>
<td>Modify wording of motion</td>
<td>I move to amend the motion by…</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§11</td>
<td>Kill main motion</td>
<td>I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§10</td>
<td>Bring business before assembly</td>
<td>I move that [or “to”]…</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Incidental motions** – No order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately.

| §23 | Enforce motions                  | Point of Order                         | Yes     | No   | No     | No     | None       |
| §24 | Submit matter to assembly        | I appeal from the decision of the chair | Yes     | Yes  | Varies | No     | Majority   |
| §25 | Suspend rules                    | I move to suspend the rules            | No       | Yes  | No     | No     | 2/3        |
| §26 | Avoid main motion altogether     | I object to the consideration of the question | Yes | No   | No     | No     | 2/3        |
| §27 | Divide motion                    | I move to divide the question          | No       | Yes  | No     | Yes    | Majority   |
| §29 | Demand a rising vote             | Division                               | Yes      | No   | No     | No     | None       |
| §33 | Parliamentary law question       | Parliamentary inquiry                  | Yes      | No   | No     | No     | None       |
| §33 | Request for information          | Point of information                   | Yes      | No   | No     | No     | None       |

**Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly** – No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending.

| §34 | Take matter from table          | I move to take from the table…         | No       | Yes  | No     | No     | Majority   |
| §35 | Cancel previous action          | I move to rescind…                     | No       | Yes  | Yes    | Yes    | 2/3 or Maj with notice |
| §37 | Reconsider motion               | I move to reconsider…                  | No       | Yes  | Varies | No     | Majority   |
EIGHT ESSENTIAL STEPS OF A MAIN MOTION

ACTION FROM THE FLOOR

1. Obtaining the Floor: Member rises and addresses the chair by saying: “Bishop.”

2. Assigning the Floor: The chair recognizes the member by speaking his or her name.

3. Making the Motion: The proper form for introducing a motion is: “I move that…”

4. Seconding the Motion: Member states: “I second the motion.” A second is necessary to avoid spending time considering a question that only one member favors.

5. Stating the Motion: The chair states: “The motion has been made and seconded that … Is there discussion?” Only after the motion is stated by the chair is it before the assembly.

6. Discussion: (Debate) Must be addressed by the chair. It continues until no one wishes to speak or until someone moves to close debate.

7. Putting the Question: The chair states: “The question is on the motion (state motion). Those in favor will say aye. Those opposed will say no.” (The negative vote is called for on all motions except courtesy motions.)

8. Announcing the Vote: The chair states either, “The affirmative has it we will…” or “The negative has it and the motion is lost.” The result must always be announced by the chair.

ACTION BY THE CHAIR

Based on Roberts’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)

(While the above reference is from Robert’s Rule of Order it is understood that we do not conduct our annual conference with a meticulous and stringent interpretation of these rules. The presiding officer, with guidance by the conference parliamentarian, is allowed flexibility in conducting sessions in a fair and orderly manner.)
1. **The motion to adopt the agenda** “with necessary changes” gives the presiding officer the authority to set aside the orders of the day (regularly scheduled business) and take up some other item of business without asking for a two-thirds vote to enable the officer to do so. It simply expedites business and frequently saves time.

2. **The term “friendly amendment”** is often used to describe an amendment offered by someone who is sympathetic to the main motion. Often the maker of the “friendly amendment” will turn to the maker of the motion and ask that person if they will accept a friendly amendment. Please don't do that!! Once a motion is before the assembly, it belongs to the assembly, and must be open to debate and voted on formally. If you are overwhelmed by the desire to explain your intent to the maker of the motion, look him/her up later and say that your motion was a friendly one. This will save time also.

3. **The motion to Lay on the Table** enables the assembly to lay the pending business aside temporarily when something of immediate urgency has arisen that requires attention (or action) of the assembly. It is not debatable.

   It is frequently misused to kill a motion. That requires the motion to postpone indefinitely which is debatable.

   It cannot be qualified, i.e., “lay on the table until a certain time.” That would then become the motion to “Postpone to a certain time” which is debatable.

4. **Voting.** In determining whether a question has obtained 1/3 of the vote cast, the chair should take a rising (standing) vote or in a very small assembly, if no one objects, a show of hands.

   How do you calculate a 2/3 vote? Double the votes cast in the negative, if they are equal to or less than those cast in the affirmative, you have a 2/3 vote (never say 2/3 majority).

   Any member of the assembly who doubts the result of a vote may demand that a voice vote or vote by a show of hands be retaken by a rising vote by going to a microphone and saying “Division” or “I call for a division” or “I doubt the result of the vote” (I personally don’t like this form as it sounds confrontational). It does not require a second or a vote. The chair immediately says “A division is called for (or more grammatically, “demanded” and he/she then proceeds to take a rising vote. The proper name for this motion is Division of the Assembly.

   The chair can call for a counted vote but a single member cannot call for a counted vote. If the chair does not obtain a count at his/her own instance, a member may move that the vote be counted. This motion requires a second and a majority vote for adoption.
DRIVING DIRECTIONS

(Directions are from the city where the District Office is located to First Methodist Mansfield)

From the CENTRAL District (Waco):

Start out going southwest on Washington Ave toward N 12th St. Take the 1st right onto N 12th St. Take the 3rd right onto W Waco Dr / US-84 E. Turn left onto I-35 Service Rd. Merge onto I-35 N via the ramp on the left. Take I-35W N toward Ft Worth. Take EXIT 30 toward FM-917 / Joshua / Mansfield. Merge onto S Interstate 35 W. Take the 1st right onto E FM 917 / FM-917. Continue to follow FM-917. Stay straight to go onto FM-917 / S 2nd Ave. Turn left onto S Main St / US-287 Bus N / TX-496 / FM-157. Turn right onto E Broad St. Turn left onto N Walnut Creek Dr. 777 N WALNUT CREEK DR is on the right. (Your destination is just past Pleasant Ridge Dr. If you reach N. Parkridge Dr., you’ve gone too far.)

From the WEST District (Stephenville):

Start out going northeast on W Washington St / US-377 Bus N toward S Barton St. Turn left onto US-377 N. Turn slight right toward I-20 E. Turn slight right onto Frontage Rd. Merge onto I-20 E / I-820 E via the ramp on the left. Keep right to take I-20 E toward Dallas / Little Rd / Waxahachie. Take the US-287 S exit, EXIT 444, toward Little Rd / Waxahachie. Merge onto US-287 S. Take the exit toward Walnut Creek Dr. Merge onto Highway 287 N. Turn right onto N Walnut Creek Dr. 777 N WALNUT CREEK DR is on the right. (Your destination is just past Pleasant Ridge Dr. If you reach N. Parkridge Dr., you’ve gone too far.)

From the NORTH District (Weatherford):

Start out going north on Sloan St toward E Park Ave. Take the 1st right onto E Park Ave. Turn right to stay on E Park Ave. Turn right onto Santa Fe Dr / FM-2552. Merge onto I-20 E via the ramp on the left. Keep right to take I-20 E toward Dallas / Shreveport. Keep right to take I-20 E toward Dallas / Little Rd / Waxahachie. Take the US-287 S exit, EXIT 444, toward Little Rd / Waxahachie. Merge onto US-287 S. Take the exit toward Walnut Creek Dr. Merge onto Highway 287 N. Turn right onto N Walnut Creek Dr. 777 N WALNUT CREEK DR is on the right. (Your destination is just past Pleasant Ridge Dr. If you reach N. Parkridge Dr., you’ve gone too far.)

From the SOUTH District (Temple):

Start out going south on N 2nd St toward E Adams Ave / TX-53. Take the 1st right onto E Adams Ave / TX-53. Take the I-35 S Take the 1st right onto N General Bruce Dr. Merge onto I-35 N. Take I-35W N toward Ft Worth. Take EXIT 30 toward FM-917 / Joshua / Mansfield. Merge onto S Interstate 35 W Take the 1st right onto E FM 917 / FM-917. Continue to follow FM-917 stay straight to go onto FM-917 / S 2nd Ave. Turn left onto S Main St / US-287 Bus N / TX-496 / FM-157. Turn right onto E Broad St Turn left onto N Walnut Creek Dr 777 N WALNUT CREEK DR is on the right. (Your destination is just past Pleasant Ridge Dr. If you reach N. Parkridge Dr., you’ve gone too far.)
**ROOM ASSIGNMENTS**

The following is a preliminary list of meeting space for organizations and committees during Annual Conference. It does not include receptions or events.

**Please Note:** You will receive maps of First UMC Mansfield buildings and parking lots; area maps that will include local restaurants, hotels, and venues of off-site meals in your conference packet at registration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
<td>Building C, Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Executive Session</td>
<td>Building A, Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laity Session</td>
<td>Building B, Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Pastors Session</td>
<td>Building A, Loft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Business Session</td>
<td>Building B, Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quest Diagnostics</td>
<td>Building C, Rooms 5 &amp; 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Service Center Table</td>
<td>Atrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost &amp; Found</td>
<td>Atrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Registration – Sunday</td>
<td>Atrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q &amp; A – 2018 Budget</td>
<td>Building B, Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Spouses Hospitality</td>
<td>Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Registration – Monday – Wednesday</td>
<td>Find your district administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cokesbury Resource Center</td>
<td>Building A, Room 113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONFERENCE REPORTS

CONFERENCE CORE TEAM
BISHOP MIKE LOWRY, CHAIRPERSON

The Conference Core Team is charged with ensuring that the work of the conference aligns with its mission, vision, values and core strategies. From a broad perspective, the Core Team reviews the conference budget, the deployment of resources, major policy issues and direction, and the outcomes produced by the three conference centers, the Smith Center for Evangelism & Church Growth, the Roberts Center for Leadership and the Center for Mission Support. In addition, the Core Team leads long-range planning. The team creates a culture of accountability against the outcomes and directions laid out by the Annual Conference and the Exodus Project: A Transformational Roadmap for a Church in Transition, and makes sure we are faithful to the Book of Discipline and the guiding principles of the Central Texas Annual Conference. It reviews and gives feedback to the Bishop and executive directors about any matters they wish to process with the group.

The Core Team met four times since Annual Conference 2016:

- September 17, 2016
- November 19, 2016
- February 26, 2017
- May 8, 2017

At the first meeting, we reviewed the current situation in the Conference, including a review of church metrics over time as well as the age of our clergy and the expectation of a significant number of our clergy retiring in the next five years. We then set the stage for the next two meetings, which were primarily focused on setting goals for our Conference. As a resource, we used the book, *The 4 Disciplines of Execution*, by Chris McChesney, Sean Covey and Jim Huling. The book notes that most organizations have too many goals, which leads to poor execution from loss of focus. The Core Team took that message to heart and created two goals for the Conference, with measures at 2020 (end of the current quadrennium) and 2026 (10-year goal):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>As of 2016</th>
<th>2020 Goal</th>
<th>2026 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market Share</td>
<td>1.07%</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professions of Faith</td>
<td>1,845</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Market share is defined as Average Weekly Worship Attendance divided by total population. For the conference goal, Average Weekly Worship Attendance is derived from the year-end EZRA reporting when churches “check out.” Population is taken from the Mission Insite report. For 2016, our Average Weekly Worship Attendance was approximately 42,670, and our total population was approximately 4 million. By 2026, the conference area total population is expected to grow to just over 4.5 million. In order to achieve 1.25% market share, we will need to grow total Average Weekly Worship Attendance to approximately 56,725 by 2026.
Professions of Faith include confirmation, adult professions of faith and faith restored by affirmation (people who have left the Church for several years and have returned). Growing Professions of Faith will take intentional discipleship and reaching out to unchurched people.

The Core Team discussed the concept of market share. While not normal “church terminology,” the Core Team felt that the use of market share helps the Conference and the local churches focus on the market outside the Church. For the local church, this data can be found in Mission Insite reports, which are free to churches in our Conference.

The Core Team recognizes that both of these goals appear daunting and, perhaps to some, unachievable. To be sure, they are a significant reversal of our current Worship Attendance and Professions of Faith trend lines. We cannot do this without strong commitment and, most of all, prayer. To quote Maxie Dunnam, “When is the last time you attempted something so great, so outside your ability to achieve it, that you knew you would fail without the power of the Holy Spirit?”

Other Core Team business:

- Bishop Lowry and the Core Team express their deep appreciation for Ed Komandosky’s service as Central Texas Conference parliamentarian from 2009-2017. Bishop Lowry will name Karen Marcucci as the new conference parliamentarian effective 2018.
- The Core Team reviewed the 2016 year-end financial reports.
- The Core Team reviewed the 2018 budget prior to its approval by the Council on Finance and Administration.
- The Core Team discussed the need for a vote on the delegation to the anticipated 2019 special called General Conference. By simple majority, the Core Team recommended that the 2018 Annual Conference vote on the delegation which will attend both the 2019 special called General Conference and the 2020 General Conference.
- The Core Team heard and affirmed a proposal from the Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth on establishing 100 new Faith Communities by Dec. 31, 2020, with the endeavor beginning Jan. 1, 2018 (more details to be provided during the Smith Center report).
- The Core Team voted to support the Conference Trustees’ recommendation to sell Still Water Lodge and Retreat Center in Glen Rose, Texas.

Core Team recommendations requiring a vote:

1. The Core Team recommended that the 2017 Annual Conference approve a vote to be held at the 2018 Annual Conference to elect a delegation from the Central Texas Conference to the 2019 special General Conference and the 2020 General Conference.
2. The AC Planning Team recommends to the Core Team and annual conference the following dates and locations: 2018 annual conference held at the Waco Convention Center, host church Austin Avenue UMC; 2019 annual conference held at the Arlington Convention Center, host church FUMC Hurst; 2020 annual conference held at White’s Chapel UMC, host church White’s Chapel UMC.

As your new conference lay leader (as of July 2016), I have spent much of this first year familiarizing myself with the structure of the Central Texas Conference, the leadership (both lay and clergy), and the various ministries that are a part of the conference.
The Conference Laity Team is a mix of veteran and rookie District Lay Leaders (DLL’s), all of whom are dedicated to their roles within the conference structure. And Lay Servant Ministries continue to offer excellent educational opportunities on an ever-widening variety of topics, all of which are intended to lead to the forward movement of the Kingdom.

I want to thank each of these leaders as they have graciously been patient with my leadership style and have been so helpful in bringing me up to speed. I also want to thank Bishop Lowry and the members of the Cabinet for their inclusive and welcoming spirit as I have joined the Cabinet. To my knowledge, there is only one other United Methodist conference in the United States that seats a lay member on the appointive cabinet. This Cabinet and Bishop have voiced the conviction that laity are the foundation of our Conference. I can attest to you that they not only talk the talk, but they, indeed, walk the walk – they value the input they receive from the laity point of view. And I believe it is absolutely vital that laity be a part of the conversation at every level of the United Methodist Church.

Finally, it has been my observation that many of the advances in lay leadership within the Central Texas Conference have been shepherded by Dr. Kevin Walters, CTC director of the Roberts Center for Leadership. Kevin has been incredibly helpful in guiding the Conference Laity Team and me, making sure all the pieces are in place and in a timely fashion. The Conference Laity Team, Kevin Walters and so many others who have contributed time and expertise are responsible for:

- The second class of about 30 lay participants in the Vital Leadership Academy, helping prepare them to vision and implement effective service in their local churches and beyond. I would stress that this training is designed to identify emerging leaders in our local congregations and to inspire, train and support those emerging leaders to be in partnership with their local pastors.
- Our District Lay Leaders (Barbara Sullivan – Central District; Sherry Doty – East District; Greg Feris – North District, Barbara Hunsberger – South District, Kathy Pelton – West District, Carolyn Sims – New Church Start District) have worked closely with their corresponding district superintendents, accompanying the DS to clergy district meetings and church visitations. Each DS and DLL is committed to standing shoulder to shoulder as they lead the districts. And many thanks to Associate Conference Lay Leader Darlene Alfred and past Conference Lay Leader Kim Simpson for their invaluable help in orienting me to the job and acting as a sounding board.
- Eight persons are approved for the new classification of Pulpit Supply: Pat Broadstreet, PamDieckert, Bruce Hennie, Darold Hobbs, Bonita Horton, Pam Phinney, Carol Robinson and Sholonda Stone. Certification for pulpit supply will be a focus over the next few years as we foresee a greater need for this classification.
- The conference website laity section (www.ctcumc.org/laity) contains up-to-date information on the many opportunities available for training, resources for educational needs and contact information.

Our goal is to partner with clergy in virtually every area of endeavor in order to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. We continue to seek quality, innovative and relevant means of obtaining that goal. May God bless our endeavors!
This Annual Conference will complete a major change in the Cabinet of the conference. Dr. Clifton Howard and Dr. Randy Wild remain on the Cabinet, being joined by seven new members. In 2016 we have welcomed Conference Lay Leader Mike Ford, Dr. Lisa Neslony, Dr. Leah Hiddegne and Rev. Mike Ramsdell. This year we have welcomed Rev. Ben Disney, Rev. Travis Franklin and Rev. Brad Brittain. They are deeply committed to Christ and to the mission of The United Methodist Church. They are persons of prayer, of experience, of integrity and vision. Each is also gifted in ways that will give leadership as the Exodus Project continues to unfold in ways that equip and energize the local church.

While the cabinet members have changed, there is one element that has not changed. We still use the Daily Office of worship in the morning, mid-day and evening. In our worship, we have prayers of thanksgiving as well as prayers of intercession for our clergy and laity, our church, our conference, nation and world. As a team we stop at difficult times to pray (especially during appointment season,) and individually we pray for our work together.

Since 2011 when the Exodus Project was approved, there have been structural changes in district alignments and in efforts to align personnel and resources for greater mission engagement. The results include an increase of “hands-on mission,” clergy and lay leadership development, evangelism, stewardship and the strategic resources of Healthy Church Initiative, Vital Signs and Mission Insight, which prepare local churches to “know and to serve” the mission field just outside the doors of the church.

This past year, among the many issues that have had our attention, two are worth noting. The first is the decision to begin working with clergy for the purpose of creating individual development plans. In our calling as clergy, a part of our opportunity is to continue to surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit . . . Along with the transformation of the heart is the holy enlightenment of the mind, which was in Christ Jesus. The heart and mind, having the willingness and agility to learn, to grow and to engage people where they are (cultural competency), is a part of living into God’s present and future kingdom as we seek to live out the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The second opportunity is a major focus of Annual Conference learning sessions. The 4 Disciplines of Execution, by Chris McChesney, Sean Covey and Jim Huling, has tapped into a real life dilemma for pastors, laity and churches. The issues are how to take aspirations and turn them into action and how can visions become reality. We will discover that having Wildly Important Goals (WIG), is a part of our seeking God’s appointed mission for every congregation.

In this year we have also worked with an awareness of an undercurrent of anxiety, often expressed as anger and/or grief or confusion, about the divisions within the United Methodist Church. There are various scenarios that are being posited as to the future of the Church, which at this point are just speculation. As a cabinet team, we have differing views as well. With that being the case, we have chosen to focus on the ministry to which Christ calls us as God grants us grace to see it. That grace can be shared with all with whom we have contact and with all who look to the Church as a place, in the words of the late Dr. Robert Mulholland, where “we are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus for the sake of others.” We have chosen to focus on the need for developing leaders and on equipping the local church for that ministry.
At every turn Bishop Lowry and the Council of Bishops are inviting us to pray for each other and for the Commission on the Way Forward. That invitation is not just to pray for what I want but also to pray with a heart open to the changes God is seeking to make in me. This call to pray is a reminder that the Church is in God’s hands and ultimately moves beyond our limited visions to the more expansive vision of Christ reconciling the world to himself. God’s redeeming grace through Christ cannot be silenced or stilled. In the *Upper Room Worship Book*, which the Cabinet uses for worship, there is a Zimbabwean song with a tune by John Bell. It sings:

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If you believe and I believe
And we together pray
The Holy Spirit shall come down
And set God’s people free
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Grace and Peace in Jesus Christ

**CONFERENCE CONNECTIONAL TABLE**

**DR. RANDY WILD, CFMS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The creation of the Conference Connectional Table was a key piece of the Exodus Project approved by the special session of the Central Texas Annual Conference in November 2010. The purpose of the Connectional Table is to make sure that all voices are represented around the table and are heard in the conversation about the mission and ministry of the church. The group is inclusive in nature, collaborative in style, and while being efficient in the stewardship of resources it is also transparent, accessible and accountable in all relationships. It is a place for listening, learning, and coordination of Central Texas Conference ministries around the mission of ‘making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.’ It is organized as a forum for understanding and communication between/among the General Conference representatives, task forces, centers, annual conference, agencies, and other representational ministries.

We continue to collaborate and offer input as to the direction of the annual conference along with a continued emphasis on the inclusiveness of the leadership and ministry of our conference. We are heartened by the great strides we have made in our inclusiveness and diversity while at the same time acknowledging that we still have a long way to go. The changes that we have been making in regards to new ways of monitoring, collaboration and conversation are making a difference.

The Connectional table is where the representative areas required by the *Book of Discipline* reside. The membership of the Connectional Table includes:

1. Conference lay leader
2. Associate conference lay leader
3. Archives and history representative
4. Conference board of pension and health benefits representative
5. Conference board of trustees representative
6. Center executive leadership teams and boards
7. President of Conference United Methodist Women
8. President of Conference United Methodist Men
9. Conference council on youth ministry representative, age 12 – 18
10. Council on finance and administration representative
11. Representative of Disaster Response/UMVIM
xii. Division of Ministry with Young People Representative, age 12 – 30
xiii. Emmaus board of director’s representative
xiv. Inclusiveness Umbrella Team representing:
  a. Church and society
  b. Christian unity and interreligious concerns
  c. Disability concerns
  d. Native American
  e. Religion and Race
  f. Status & Role of Women
  g. Health and welfare
  h. Hispanic ministry
  i. Ethnic Local Church concerns
xv. Conference lay ministry team
xvi. New Church Starts representative
xvii. Renewal of Eastern Mexico Covenant representative
xviii. Members of general and jurisdictional bodies who reside in the annual conference
xix. Strategic groups invited by bishop or executive directors
xx. Ex officio: assistant to the bishop and executive directors of the three centers

The Connectional Table held its latest meeting in March, 2017. Our discussion centered around a review of the CTC direction and culture, including the Big 3 and a review of the strategic direction that the Core Team has been refining. We looked at the strides we have made in inclusiveness over the last several years. We heard a report about new church starts and some exciting new goals regarding faith communities coming beginning in 2018. We also heard the results of our Disaster Recovery efforts this past year and reviewed our 2016 end of year financials and a preliminary review of our 2018 budget.

We realize there is still much work to do, but are confident we have made a strong beginning. The development of the three conference centers, appointment of new leaders and realignment of resources has enabled the progress.

**CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

**DR. GEORGIA ADAMSON, SECRETARY**

Each person is called to ministry by virtue of his or her baptism, and that ministry takes place in all aspects of daily life, both in and outside of the church. The vitality of the Church as a whole depends upon the faith, abilities and actions of all who work together for the glory of God. As Bishop Robert Schnase reminds us in his book, *Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences*, the conference nominations process plays a critical role, particularly at the beginning of each quadrennium. Each of us is called to be a faithful participant in the *mission of the church*, which is to partner with God to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Filling boards, committees, teams and task forces was a big job in 2016 – the beginning of a new quadrennium. The conference nominations team considered it a prime opportunity to identify and live into some adaptive changes around the issue of new and emerging leaders.

In 2017, the scope of work is much more limited. This year at annual conference, there is only a vote on board-nominated slates.
COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

STEVE MCIVER, CHAIRPERSON

The Committee on the Episcopacy met March 19 at the Conference Service Center to begin the quadrennium. Those elected to leadership are:

- Mary Percifield, Secretary
- Rev. Louis Carr, Vice-Chairperson
- Steve McIver, Chairperson

Bishop Lowry presented “The State of the Church” address, and considerable discussion ensued. The areas of focus for the conference have not changed, and the mission is still “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

SMITH CENTER FOR EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH

REPORT 1

OUR PURPOSE

The Center for Evangelism and Church Growth (CECG) exists to energize and equip local churches to share the grace of Jesus Christ in their mission field. Some of the ways that we fulfill this purpose include:

- Starting new churches and faith communities that effectively reach the rapidly de-churched and unchurched populations. (See Report 2 below)
- Working in concert with Path 1: the General Conference Board that provides leadership, training, coaching and mentoring to Annual Conferences to start new congregations. (See Report 2 below)
- Transforming congregations through the Healthy Church Initiative. (See Report 3 below)
- Partnering with local congregations and District Superintendents to provide transformational coaching and consulting. (See Report 4 below)
- Helping churches multiply their impact in their mission field by utilizing Readiness 360: an online survey tool that provides key markers of readiness for ministry and tips for church leaders as they consider changes that can enhance their ministry.
- Real Discipleship Survey
- Partnering with the Center for Mission Support to develop resources for congregations in the areas of Discipleship Pathways and Passionate Worship.

REPORT 2

STARTING NEW CONGREGATIONS

The Central Texas Conference continues its commitment to provide “New Places for New People.” In the past, starting a new church meant establishing a free-standing congregation that was expected to become self-supporting within five years, and ultimately to become a chartered United Methodist congregation. While we will continue to use this model in some places, we know that in the unchurched culture today we must look at new and creative models for providing “New Places for New People.” Currently, we continue to support the following projects:

2. Wesley UMC: a Ghanaian congregation in Arlington. This congregation is pastored by Jacob Atuahene.


4. Our Manna: a church within a church, Korean Congregation meeting at Davis Memorial. Daniel Na is pastor.

5. Life Church, Waco: a second campus of First Waco, multicultural congregation.


7. One Fellowship, a vital merger between Bracks and Mt. Zion churches in Waco. Pastor is Bryan Dalco.

8. Harvest, a vital merger between Thompson Chapel/Ridglea in Fort Worth. Pastor is Louis Carr.

9. The Oaks. This is our newest faith community in Hudson Oaks. Jon Reeves is pastor.

For the past three years, we have partnered with Path 1 in the Large Impact Residency Program. This program provides a potential new church start pastor a residency at a large teaching congregation. For 2017 – 2018 we are investigating developing our own Large Church Impact Residency that would more closely meet the unique development needs in the Central Texas Conference. We are thankful to Dr. John McKellar and Dr. Todd Renner, and the White’s Chapel staff for their commitment to this ministry.

As we look to the future, the rapid population growth the Annual Conference will continue. Walsh Ranch in Tarrant and Parker County will begin building homes this year. This will be the largest planned community in the nation. Development along the Chisholm Trail Parkway is starting. Over 2000 lots are being opened in Godley with more development on the books. Growth in Williamson County will continue, especially in the Georgetown area. With this growth we will need to develop “New Places for New People.” One of the roadblocks to meeting our challenge is to identify and train pastors and laity who can start new faith communities. As we look forward, we need vital congregations and visionary leadership that will catch the vision of multiplying their ministry to reach more people for Christ. The Center for Evangelism and Church Growth can provide resources that can help a congregation to explore the possibility of developing a satellite congregation or to adopt a congregation, or to repurpose a church that is closing.

REPORT 3

HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE

The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) is a process designed to transform churches. As a Center, our aim is to provide resources and strategies to pastors, church staff, and laity so that they will be more equipped to reach new people for Christ; to more fully become the church God wants them to be in their community. Through a combination of shared learning experiences, consultation and coaching, HCI has three distinct phases:

Phase 1-Shared Learning Experience and Leadership Training:

Transformation does not happen just by adopting a program, but rather it starts with the development of leadership. Leaders are made—not born. Therefore, the first step in the HCI process revolves around the training of pastors and laity. Through Pastoral Leadership
Development (PLD) and Lay Leadership Development (LLD) programs and Small Church Initiative Workshops (SCI), HCI trains individuals to become leaders that are truly mission-focused. This is the step that prepares pastors and laity for the consultation process where true change begins to occur. Since the fall 2012, we have had:

- More than 300 laity from 66 churches have participated in LLD
- 85 clergy have participated in PLD
- More than 200 laity from 42 churches have participated in SCI workshops
- 49 clergy have participated in SCI workshops

**Phase 2-Self-Study and Consultation:**

If a congregation were able to implement substantive changes on their own, they would have done it already. Recognizing that there are no “quick fixes,” the HCI process offers coaching and consultants to help generate a ministry action plan with incremental steps toward revitalization. When a church votes to proceed into consultation, the first step is for the church leadership to complete a thorough Self-Study. With the completion of this Study, an experienced team of coaches and consultants are then armed with solid data to address a church’s current reality as well as raise awareness of the church’s greatest strengths, assets and opportunities to fully live out The Great Commission.

An on-site consultation consists of interviews, focus groups and workshops. After completing these, the consultation team writes a comprehensive report outlining strengths, concerns and a ministry action plan. After this process is completed, the congregation decides to accept or reject this plan. This decision can truly alter the future of the church. Since our first consultation in April of 2013, we have conducted 37 local church consultations throughout the Conference.

**Phase 3-Implementation with Coaching:**

Provided the congregation accepts the consultation report with prescriptions, experienced coaches then walk with the church for up to 18 months. Coaches are there to help church leadership stay on task, navigate any potential stumbling blocks, celebrate wins, and ultimately to fulfill the ministry action plan outlined in the prescriptions. Currently we have 13 Church Coaches trained. We are identifying other clergy and laity to be trained as coaches.

For additional information about HCI, visit the Conference website and then click on Center for Evangelism & Church Growth. The Center team will meet with congregations to explain the process and to answer any questions you may have.

**REPORT 4**

**TRANSFORMATIONAL COACHING**

Dr. Jerry Roberson is the Consultant in Church Transformation. In addition to coaching churches engaged in the Healthy Church Initiative, he also works one-on-one with pastors and congregations. Currently Dr. Roberson is coaching:

1. Epworth, Arlington, with an emphasis on mission field alignment.
2. McMillian, Fort Worth, with an emphasis on mission field alignment.
3. St. Stephen, Arlington, with an emphasis is on systems development.
4. Grace, Arlington
5. Campus Drive UMC
6. Red Oak UMC

We also assist District Superintendents by providing other possible coaches to meet the unique needs of a congregation. One example is Austin Ave in Waco. We helped the congregation to enlist Dr. Paul Nixon from Washington DC, to develop a comprehensive redevelopment plan. Austin Ave has responded with raising more than $300,000 to begin to implement the plan.

REPORT 5
HARRY DENMAN

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award honors a United Methodist clergy, youth, and lay person in each annual conference who has exhibited outstanding efforts in Wesleyan evangelism by faithfully carrying out the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Since 2010 the Central Texas Annual Conference has been honoring those who make sharing the love of Jesus Christ their mission.

- Mr. Pat Stroman 2010
- Rev. Dr. John McKeller 2010
- Rev. Leah Hidde-Gregory 2011
- Rev. Denise Blakely 2012
- Mr. Scott William Locke 2012
- Mr. Chris Rowe 2013
- Rev. Joel Robbins 2013
- Mr. Jimmy Adam 2014
- Rev. Betsy Godbold 2014
- Bishop Lowry 2015
- Rev. Louis Carr 2015
- Rev. Patricia Warden 2016

Information about the Harry Denman award and nomination forms can be found on the Foundation for Evangelism website, http://foundationforevangelism.org/

REPORT 6
PARTNERS IN GROWTH SHARES

While it is important that we invest in transformation of local churches, we must continue to fund the development of new congregations and faith communities. For more than 35 years laity, clergy, Sunday School classes, youth groups, and congregations across the Central Texas Conference have given generously to support the development of “New Places for New People” through our SHAREHOLDER program. While many have continually purchased one or more SHARES (an annual pledge of $60), others have purchased a portion of a SHARE. Every dollar is critically important as we plan for the rapid growth we are and will be experiencing over the next 30 years! We are grateful to each person, church, church group and organization for supporting New Church Development.
Below is a report of the SHARE program for 2015. Please review your church's participation. If you have questions, contact Tammy Lindley at the Conference Service Center. Prayerfully consider how your church can increase their participation in the coming year. Please see our website or contact Tammy Lindley in the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth for additional information on the SHAREHOLDER program.
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**REPORT 7**

**100 NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES BY 2020**

100 new Faith Communities by December 31st, 2020 (3 years) Beginning January 1, 2018

Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth offers a maximum of $10,000 to each Church that submits an acceptable proposal of a new faith community it intends on starting within the year of receiving the grant. The proposal would be accepted and approved by District Superintendent, Center Direction, and signed by Bishop Lowry.

Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth in partnership with District Superintendents helps identify Churches with untapped potential in promising mission fields. The goal would not just be increased attendance but for churches to grow to a greater level in life and mission.

Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth provides resources, coaching, modeling, creates partnerships between pastors and churches, pastors, and congregations who connect with the 100 New Faith Communities initiative.
What is a new faith community and what qualifies for the grant from the Smith Center for Evangelism and Church growth?

A New Faith Community birthed by an existing Church can be:

- A Faith community identified as a second campus;
- A Faith Community on the existing campus;
- A Faith Community in a location within the area that reaches constituents the Church has targeted:
  - A movie theater, coffee shop, warehouse, school, large home, city park, music venue, restaurant, wedding venue, funeral home, or other location identified by the Church or churches that can host an effective Faith community. Innovation and creativity is welcomed.

Qualifiers:

- Wesleyan
- Includes a consistent (at least weekly) worship experience
- Celebration of the Sacraments
- Has an identifiable pathway to discipleship
- Celebrates professions of faith
- Teaches and practices stewardship (financial and otherwise)
- Receives new members
- Remains accountable and connected to the Central Texas Annual Conference
- Is a sustainable model having the financial, spiritual, and numerical strength to exist long term allowing the existing congregation to step up to a higher level in life and mission.

The approved Church would give a monthly report on the status of the new Faith Community to the Center Director and District Superintendent.

ROBERTS CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
DR. SIDNEY ROBERTS CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP
MR. JEFF ROPER

CLERGY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Bishop continues to talk about the “Big 3” – Christ at the Center, a Focus on the Local Church as the place where discipleship happens, and the need to Develop Lay and Clergy Leaders.

Effective clergy leadership is vital to the success of the local church. While the most healthy, vital churches have a strong partnership between the clergy and laity, the reality is that without a transforming clergy leader shaping the vision and motivating, mobilizing, directing, and resourcing laity so that they are able to fulfill the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” the laity will struggle to move beyond the status quo. The shepherd must lead the flock.
Effective clergy leaders of strong, vital congregations come in all varieties, but they share some common characteristics:

- A strong, personal spiritual core and daily prayer practices
- An ability to lead people to Jesus
- A vision for growth of the local church that they can clearly share with the laity
- A desire for (and willingness to set) measurable goals for the local church and themselves
- Strong support for metrics as one of the measures of progress against the goals
- A willingness to keep learning and exploring in new ways (not just going to the same seminars over and over)
- An ability to deal openly, fairly and decisively with difficult situations and people
- An ability to move the local church from an inward focus to an outward focus
- An attitude of risk-taking and experimenting
- A noticeable sense of urgency and willingness to work hard
- A clear self-awareness of strengths and weaknesses

An honest assessment of our Conference is that we do not have enough effective clergy leaders, as reflected in our continuing decline as measured by average weekly worship attendance and professions of faith, even as the population in our Conference area has grown almost 10% over the last five years. We must do better, not because we simply want to be happy with ourselves over better numbers or because we want to ensure that Connectional Mission Giving is paid. Rather, we need more effective clergy leaders in order to fulfill our mission – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Center for Leadership is working with the Dr. Lamar Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth, the Center for Mission Support and the rest of the Cabinet to increase leadership capabilities in the following ways:

- Clergy leadership development
  - Working with district superintendents to help the clergy create learning plans to improve their leadership capabilities
  - Working with the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth to create on-boarding and transition approaches to help our clergy as they take on a new appointment
  - Evaluating coaching to determine the best approach for supporting our clergy
  - Working with the Core Team to create a “market share” goal for our conference which can be implemented at the local church level
  - Working with the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth to help churches understand the power of setting measurable goals as they envision their future

- Lay leadership development (see report below)

- Campus ministry (see report below)

- Seminary recruiting
  - Working with the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet to create a Seminary Recruiting Team to visit seminaries. The visits are both to support and encourage people from our Conference attending seminaries, as well as to identify other promising young leaders who may be interested in coming to our Conference (including from other denominations).
  - We conducted eight visits to seven seminaries this past year and plan to expand both the recruiting team and the seminaries to be visited in the next year.

Identifying, developing, supporting and challenging clergy leaders to become more effective in the local churches in our Conference will not be an easy task. It will take prayer, focus, hard work
and a willingness to be brutally honest with ourselves and others. But we must do it because the mission of the Church demands it.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**DR. SIDNEY ROBERTS CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP**

**DR. KEVIN WALTERS**

### Lay Leadership Development

Partnering with the Conference Laity Team, the Roberts Center for Leadership seeks to identify and develop new leaders and support existing leaders so they can guide their churches in the mission to make disciples.

The **Vital Leadership Academy** (VLA) welcomed its second cohort in the fall of 2016. (See list, below). The VLA seeks to connect with people who are active in a local church though not yet serving key leadership positions. VLA participants meet as a large group for a series of four overnight retreats. In between, they meet in small groups to discuss practical leadership case studies. Participants are in covenant to engage in a daily spiritual discipline. Presenters at this year’s VLA retreats included Dr. Amber Esping (First UMC, Euless), a professor of educational psychology at TCU, and Dr. Clifton Howard, South District superintendent. Through the VLA, participants learn foundational leadership principles that will help them become better leaders in their churches.

Since the VLA is designed for those with leadership potential rather than established leaders, we depend on clergy and existing lay leaders to invite people to apply (www.ctcumc.org/vla). Please consider who from your church might benefit from the VLA and encourage them to apply.

### Lay Servant Ministries

(LSM) continues to prepare lay people to minister in many ways in our conference (www.ctcumc.org/lsm). Courses in such subjects as leading prayer and recognizing spiritual gifts are offered across the conference. Our goal is to offer at least four LSM classes in each district each year.

After four years as the conference director of LSM, Pam Dieckert (First UMC, Belton) requested to pass the baton to a new leader. In December 2016, the Conference Laity Team selected Pam Phinney (Saginaw UMC) as the new conference director of LSM. In the past year, several districts also selected new district directors of LSM. These are the current district directors:

- **Central:** Larry Ketcham (Covington UMC)
- **East:** Chris Buse (Ferris Heights UMC, Waxahachie)
- **North:** Mariney Shackelford (Springtown UMC)
- **South:** Barbara Foster (First UMC, Temple) and Bill Johnson (Grace UMC, Copperas Cove)
- **West:** Bonita Horton (First UMC, Cross Plains)

In July 2016, Pam Phinney coordinated a jurisdictional gathering of directors of Lay Servant Ministries from neighboring conferences. Hosted by FUMC Hurst, the event carried the theme, “Into the Community: Stepping out to Bring the Church into our Neighborhoods.” One of the highlights was a panel presentation featuring outreach ministries from First Joshua, First Fort Worth and St. Luke UMC (Fort Worth).
2016-17 Vital Leadership Academy
Participants

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Alexander</td>
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<td>David Alvarado</td>
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<td>Allison Barley</td>
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<td>Steve Barrett</td>
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<td>Barry Cauthen</td>
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<td>Maurine Day</td>
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<td>Caroline Garcia</td>
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<td>Michael Hensley</td>
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<td>Rachel Hitt</td>
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<td>Donna Hughlett</td>
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<td>Taylor Lunsford</td>
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<td>Megan Madewell</td>
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<td>Courtney Mullins</td>
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<td>Billy Murphey</td>
<td>FUMC Lake Brownwood</td>
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<td>Lydia Osei-Sarfo</td>
<td>Wesley UMC, Arlington</td>
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<td>Carol Popp</td>
<td>FUMC Fort Worth</td>
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<td>Marilyn Schorr</td>
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<td>Greg Southard</td>
<td>FUMC Joshua</td>
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<td>Sarah Stone</td>
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<td>Jim Turkett</td>
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<td>Kyle Watkins</td>
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<td>Marion Whittemore</td>
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<td>Marla Williamson</td>
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<td>Celeste Zachry</td>
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COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
J. VANCE MORTON, DIRECTOR

The Communications & IT team has enjoyed a time of change, growth and broadened horizons since the close of Annual Conference 2016. While our efforts to energize and equip the local churches of the Central Texas Conference remained the team’s primary focus, the challenges that come with the quadrennial meetings of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church and the South Central Jurisdictional Conference provided rare opportunities to collaborate with, learn from and help lead other conference communications teams in ways of effectively and positively sharing narratives and news with our local churches.

Perhaps the most unique way the CTC Communications & IT team engaged in energizing and equipping the local churches, especially their clergy and lay leadership, was via the 2016 Evangelism Summit, www.ctcumc.org/EvangelismSummit2016. From conceptualization to post-production, the communications team was intimately involved in this event, designed to build upon the momentum begun at AC16 towards recapturing the spirit of Wesleyan Evangelism. The event featured four expert speakers on evangelism, several videos, a program/workbook and myriad levels of follow-up communications.

Some of the more notable highlights from the Communications & IT team’s past year include…
• Production of several CTC Emergency Response videos – two of which were employed by UMCOR and other Emergency Response organizations in their training and promotional materials
• Increased live webstreaming capabilities – produced 2016 Bishop Brown Bag Book Study Series, GC16 Prayer Vigil, GC16 Delegation Listening Posts, 2016 Evangelism Summit and more
• Vastly increased social media presence on Facebook and Twitter
• Enhanced ctcumc.org’s photo, registration, classified and emailer capabilities
• Created a new conference logo, including an accompanying style usage guide
• Increased the backup and scalability of in-house servers
• Upgraded 40 percent of the CTCSC hardware, while lowering the cost per system
• Moved all conference email off in-house servers and out on the cloud to increase productivity and reliability

As mentioned, 2016 provided excellent opportunities to serve and grow beyond the conference. The CTC Communications team led the way for a first-ever active partnership between four of the five UMC conferences in Texas (Central Texas, Northwest Texas, Rio Texas and Texas) to provide coverage of the 2016 General Conference. The Texas Conference Comms Coalition (TCCC) split duties and resources so that none of the conference communicators had to be in Portland, Oregon for the entire conference, yet allowing for a broader amount of coverage from the quadrennial meeting. A similar coalition was employed during the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in July; however, this time conferences from around the jurisdiction – primarily Central Texas, Great Plains, Northwest Texas and Rio Texas – collaborated to provide as wide-ranging coverage of the meeting as possible. During these collaborative times, best practices were shared and gleaned that will allow the conference communications teams to more effectively support the local church going forward.

While we are pleased with what was accomplished in support of the local churches and other CTC organizations, we are far from satisfied. We know there is much more to be done in support of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In 2017 and beyond, the team will continue to enhance and improve its communications offerings in support of the local churches of the CTC. The main transformation will occur in a more proactive focus on messaging and narratives in support of the CTC Core Team’s Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to increase the percentage of the conference’s overall population who attend a United Methodist Church. (Read more about the WIG at www.ctcumc.org/WIG). Other tweaks will include an even greater emphasis on growing our social media presence, updated staffing positions and more targeted, audience-specific communications.

Of all the projects undertaken in the past year, the ones the team enjoyed most were those that allowed for direct collaboration with the local churches. We’d like to thank all of you for your support and comradery, especially those with whom we worked side-by-side, as those are the projects – the projects conceived and executed as part of a team effort with colleagues across the conference and connection – that truly serve to energize us.

The Communications & IT team is made up of J. Vance Morton, director of Communications & IT (vance@ctcumc.org); Julian Hobdy, digital media coordinator (julian@ctcumc.org); and Calvin Scott, IT coordinator (calvin@ctcumc.org). Please reach out to any or all of us at any time. We relish your suggestions, questions, comments, concerns and (most importantly) prayers.
CAMPUS MINISTRY
JOSEPH NADER, COORDINATOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

The campus ministries of the Central Texas Conference are missional outposts established to reach the college and university campuses in our conference. We are on each campus for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven and for the future of the Church. Through the support of the local churches of our conference, we are making disciples of Jesus Christ and raising up a new generation of leaders for the sake of the Church and the world.

This has been a great year of disciple-making for our campus ministries! We have seen growth across our campuses in worship attendance, missional engagement in the world and the fruitful sending of our alumni into the larger Church and world. Please take the time to read the reports from each of our campus ministries as they have worked so hard to amplify their presence on their campuses.

As the Center for Leadership, we have continued to work towards equipping and energizing our campus ministers in their work on campus. Our primary means of doing that is through one-on-one coaching and bi-annual Campus Ministers’ Retreats focused on learning and collaboration. At the Summer 2016 retreat, we heard from different presenters on various topics of concern on college campuses. We heard a presentation on “The Problem of Porn” and learned ways to deal with the rapid increase of porn addiction among college students. Also, we were trained in suicide prevention techniques, and learned about the prevalence of death by suicide as the number two cause of death among people under the age of 35.

The Spring 2017 Retreat focused on some learnings with Dr. William Abraham on developing a catechetical structure for campus ministry. We began to collaborate on developing some level of structure to our discipleship process so we can be confident that our students are leaving our campus ministries prepared for leadership in the local church.

With an eye to the future, we have sensed a call to expand our reach to the 20 or more campuses within CTC borders which currently lack a United Methodist presence. We want to create some level of campus ministry on those campuses, while being realistic about our resources. This work will take collaboration between local churches and the CTC Campus Ministries, including an enormous amount of prayer. I hope you will join us in praying that God would open ways for us to reach EVERY campus in the CTC.

As always we are grateful for the support of the churches of the Central Texas Conference. These are your missional outposts onto the campuses of our conference, and we are thankful for the ways you help sustain our work and encourage us in reaching more and more students.

If you want to learn more about campus ministry and the importance of our work, here are a few, short articles to help your understanding:

The End Game of College Ministry
http://campusministry.org/article/end-game-college-ministry
This is a great basic overview of our purposes and vision for campus ministry.

3 Reasons Why It’s Critical to Start New Campus Ministries
3DM is focused on training and supporting churches in their discipleship-making ministries. They have created a missional arm called TOM (The Order of Mission), and they have been planting campus ministries throughout Western Europe and now the U.S.

**BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**

**DR. CHRIS HAYES, CHAIRPERSON**

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the Central Texas Annual Conference exists to enlist, evaluate, equip and sustain leadership for the current and future ministries of Jesus Christ in The United Methodist Church. We have three areas of focus for the new quadrennium: a deepening of our commitment to offer opportunities for spiritual formation for our clergy, a strengthening of our partnership with the Cabinet and a renewed focus on the District Committees on Ministry.

Our commitment to offer spiritual formation opportunities for our clergy began with the creation of an executive committee position to concentrate on this important aspect of our lives. Dr. Will Cotton was chosen to serve in this newly created position. As one of his first initiatives, Dr. Cotton created prayer partnerships for all clergy of the conference to strengthen their connection with each other through prayer. Also, Dr. Cotton has committed to work with the chairs of the orders to redesign Clergy Time Apart. This year’s Clergy Time Apart was scheduled for April 27-28 at Glen Lake Camp. The purpose of this event is to strengthen our Clergy Covenant through praying and playing together and was built around the theme of Sabbath.

The Board has enjoyed a synergetic working relationship with the Cabinet and looks forward to the continuation of this partnership. In an effort to be proactive concerning changes to the Discipline, which will affect the work of both the Board and the Cabinet, Dr. Hayes has requested a joint meeting of the two groups, which is scheduled to take place in October, 2017. The agenda will include discussions around the eight-year clergy evaluation that is to be implemented by January 2020 and the Bishop’s WIG (Wildly Important Goal) of increasing the worship attendance market share of the conference (which is currently 1% of the population) to 1.25% by 2026. In addition, Dr. Hayes and the Board are exploring ways to work in connection with Jeff Roper, executive director of the Roberts Center for Leadership, to see how we can all focus on clergy excellence together. Our hope is for some common language and focal points as we recruit, credential and deploy fruitful clergy into our mission field.

In his role as candidacy registrar, Rev. Chris Mesa is responsible for oversight of the District Committees on Ministry, which are sub-committees of the board. Rev. Mesa’s goal is to standardize the experience our candidates have with DCOM across district lines. Rev. Mesa plans to have an annual meeting of the district superintendents, district administrators and DCOM chairpersons to foster communication, share best practices and explain board policies and expectations. The next such meeting is scheduled for October, 2017. We believe this is a crucial component of the credentialing process and needs to be unified and strengthened across the annual conference.

Rev. Lee Trigg is responsible for Local Pastor’s Licensing School, which was held July 29-31 and August 7-11, 2016. The change to a restructured format with a shorter residential component...
continues to be well received. We anticipate a smaller than normal group this year because of the lower number of candidates who were certified in January, 2017. To make licensing school the best experience it can be, Rev. Trigg has formed a committee to review the format and presenters and to report back to the Board at its next meeting.

The Orientation to Ministry Summit was held on Aug. 6, 2016, and 26 candidates attended. The summit is an exploration and discernment event and the entry point to candidacy. The group learning environment has allowed candidates to feel connected, provided mutual discernment and created community among those going through the early stages of the candidacy process. Eight of the 26 candidates expressed an interest in licensed ministry, which corresponds to trends cited by The Lewis Center for Church Leadership in its most recent report on clergy trends. We give God thanks for these new people exploring a call into ministry in The United Methodist Church through the Central Texas Conference.

Professional credentialing interviews were held March 20-22, 2017 at Glen Lake Camp. This is the second year that the Board has used the three-team rotation consisting of focus areas of theology and emotional intelligence; practical ministry and polity; and preaching and teaching to interview candidates for commissioning and ordination. The new format has been well received both by candidates and board members. Several changes were made to interviews this year based on feedback from the candidates and best practices shared at the October 2016 GBHEM quadrennial training in Chicago. Desiring to increase the spiritual component of interviews, the Board added a chaplain position to provide pastoral care to the candidates. Rev. Brenda Wier, former board member, served in this role. Also, each candidate received an email of encouragement from the board chair prior to interviews.

Due to the large number of candidates coming for interviews (48 total), which is viewed as a very positive trend, the Board voted to move the continuation interviews (16 candidates) to another day and time. The continuation interviews were April 6, 2017. At the March interviews 11 candidates were approved for ordination, and 16 were approved for commissioning. We will continue to evaluate our interview process and look for ways to ensure that we are discerning and equipping the best and most fruitful for ordained ministry in our annual conference.

The Central Texas Conference was the first conference in the country to make the transition from the Pathways to Ministry file maintenance system to UMCARES, the GCFA-owned file maintenance system. The transition began in September 2016 and was completed in April, 2017. UMCARES will link our candidates’ records to both GBHEM and EZRA with the goal of data sharing. The Board is very grateful for the work of our district administrators, and especially our associate director, Kathy Ezell, for their work in this process.

This year we have a record number of clergy retiring. As has been our tradition for the last two years, our retirees are being honored with video tributes. The video format allows the retirees to recall their experience of ministry and offer reflections on the Church’s past and future. The videos are available to share with family and friends unable to attend the retirement service. We celebrate the ministries of these amazing people, and we pray that God will continue to use their gifts and graces in new ways in retirement. Please join the Board in finding ways to express appreciation for all who are retiring this year from faithful service in the Central Texas Conference.

As I complete my first year as chair of the Board, I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Board for their faithful service and to the Annual Conference for the privilege of serving in this position. The dedication and time that each member offers to this important work often goes unnoticed. I am very grateful for the way they strive to fulfill our mission and purpose. None of our
work would be possible without Kathy Ezell, associate director of the Board. Thank you, Kathy, for all that you do for our annual conference to ensure that we recruit, enlist, evaluate, equip and sustain the best and brightest for ministry in our annual conference.

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH

THE BISHOP’S PREACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
(ESTABLISHED BY BISHOP MIKE LOWRY IN 2010)

Proclaiming the Good News revealed in Jesus Christ was the beginning, middle, and end of John Wesley’s life’s work. He reminded others of this passion repeatedly. You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore, be spent in this work.

The Central Texas Conference Bishop’s Preaching Excellence Award is presented at Annual Conference in recognition of a pastor with a demonstrated pattern of excellence as a communicator of the Gospel. Deeply biblical preaching proclaims a transcendent and divine Word from the Lord. In a secular world that believes it can live without God, preaching brings radical news about a bigger world, a new world, the real world.

Christian preaching deals with profound, life-and-death matters with eternal consequences. It is momentous. Excellent preaching is biblical, authentic, contextual and life-changing. By the power of the Holy Spirit, preaching moves from the text through the preacher into a specific situation toward the Gospel’s goal. Preaching is always connected with the Church but ultimately goes beyond the Church itself and proclaims the kingdom rule of God over all things and the mission of God “to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven” (Col. 1:20).

The 2016 award went to Rev. Ben Disney, senior pastor of Arborlawn United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. Effective July 1, Rev. Disney takes on his new role as East District superintendent. Established by Bishop Lowry in 2010, the award’s first recipient was Dr. Mike McKee, who was then the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Hurst and is now the Bishop presiding over the North Texas Conference. Subsequent awards were presented to:

- 2011 – Dr. John McKellar, co-pastor of White’s Chapel in Southlake
- 2012 – Rev. Quinton J. Gibson, senior pastor of St. James/Kell’s Branch
- 2013 – Rev. David Alexander, pastor of First UMC Mansfield
- 2014 – Dr. Will Cotton, senior pastor of St. Barnabas UMC in Arlington
- 2015 – Rev. Estee Valendy, co-pastor of Saginaw UMC
- 2016 – Rev. Ben Disney, senior pastor of Arborlawn UMC in Fort Worth

Bishop Lowry, after consultation with the Cabinet, determines who receives the award. Recipients are listed on a plaque displayed in the Central Texas Conference Service Center. Each honoree also receives $1,000 to be used for further personal ministry development. There may be years when no award is presented.
THE FRANCIS ASBURY AWARD

The Frances Asbury Award offers recognition to individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the Church’s ministries in higher education at the local, district or annual conference level. It is named for Bishop Asbury, based on his admonition to the people called Methodist to erect a school near every church. “We must,” he said, “. . . give the key of knowledge to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages.”

In 2015, Rev. Joseph Nader was selected as our conference’s first recipient of the award, in honor of his outstanding work in campus ministry. Rev. Nader is director of campus ministry at the University of Texas at Arlington Wesley Foundation. He doubles as coordinator of campus ministry for the Central Texas Conference.

The award is given to one person selected by the annual conference board of higher education of ministry (or its equivalent). There may be years when no recipient is selected; and that was the case in 2016.

Criteria for the award specifies that the recipient must be:

1. A United Methodist;
2. Active in supporting, strengthening, and promoting the Church’s work in higher education ministries (schools, colleges, campus ministries, scholarships, Black College Fund, Africa University, etc.) at the annual conference, district or local church level;
3. Offering outstanding leadership, above and beyond basic responsibilities, to help bring heightened awareness to the significance of the church’s higher education ministries;
4. Involved in efforts in agreement with the concerns of the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry and the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

MORRIS WALKER AWARD

IN MEMORY OF MORRIS DELANEY WALKER, 1909-1972

The Morris Walker Award was established in 1973 to recognize Morris DeLaney Walker’s distinguished and exemplary service to The United Methodist Church as a conference lay leader. Mr. Morris was outstanding, not only in the way he worked tirelessly for the church, but in the standard he set as a role model for laity throughout the conference.

At the 2016 Annual Conference, it was Pam Phinney who received the award named for Mr. Walker. A member of Saginaw United Methodist Church, she began 2017 in a new role as conference director of Lay Servant Ministries (LSM). Certified for pulpit supply, she spends many Sundays preaching or teaching at a number of different churches. She has chaired numerous committees at the local church level, taught LSM courses, served as lay representative to annual conference for about 10 years and was North District director of LSM for about six years.

The original intent of the Morris Walker Award was to honor laypersons who, like Mr. Walker, exemplify the same kind of “above and beyond” service to their local church, community and conference. For a number of years, the award went to both clergy and laity; however, in 2014 the decision was made to reserve the honor for laity. The distinction includes a $500 award for continuing spiritual education.
Mr. Walker credited his parents with teaching him to tithe his abilities, his time and his income for the benefit of the church. “I have found the opportunity of being some small service to the church most gratifying,” he is remembered as saying.

Mr. Walker was president of the District Board of Missions and president of the Protestant Men’s Council of Tarrant County. He was one of the initial 24 directors of the Metropolitan Board of Missions and one of its three incorporators. From the time of his youth, he was a member of Meadowbrook [United] Methodist Church. He served as lay leader, district lay leader for what was then known as the Fort Worth East District, and conference lay leader. He was an exemplary witness in his local church, even as his efforts extended farther afield. In 1963, Mr. Walker represented the Methodist Church in Denmark through a six-week United Nations cultural and spiritual exchange. He had the opportunity to meet Bishop Desmond Tutu when he was a Methodist representative to the United Nations Conference. A true disciple of Jesus Christ, Mr. Walker left a legacy of faith and service.

Access [http://www.ctcumc.org/morriswalkerwinners](http://www.ctcumc.org/morriswalkerwinners) to view a list of Morris Walker Award recipients dating to 1975.

**CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE MERIT AWARD**

These awards are funded by 10 percent of each annual conference’s total receipts to the Student Day Offering for the previous year. Participating annual conferences of the UMC may award one or more scholarships (depending on the total received) to UM students who reside in the conference and who are or will be attending a UM-related college or university. The Central Texas Conference partners with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for this program. All applications are through GBHEM.

**THE UPPER ROOM ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**DR. BOB HOLLOWAY, RETREAT LEADER**

The Academy is an experience of intentional Christian community. The heart of the retreat is the daily rhythm of worship: Morning and Evening Prayer and the Eucharist. Each day two persons known for their spiritual practices, knowledge and experience share with the community. Each evening participants form small covenant groups for sharing the meaning and impact of the day. One of the best teachers at the Academy is Silence. Spaces of silence throughout the day cultivate time for reflection and listening for God.

In February of 2017, Dr. Joretta Marshall, dean of Brite Divinity School and professor of pastoral theology and care, was presenter. The theme was “The Holy Spirit and Forgiveness.” The Prothro Retreat Center on Lake Texoma was filled to capacity as persons entered into the time of learning, worship and reflection. The sessions centered on the biblical and theological insights, the process of forgiving others and oneself and a forgiving church in the world. Participants reported that not only insights were important, but they also came to new experiences of forgiveness and moments when God’s mercy was present to them.

Those who have been a part of the Academy have enjoyed renewal and rest. They have also shared important times of awareness of God’s presence and both God’s grace and call in their lives. One participant has said, “In worship I sensed a newness growing within my heart and mind.” Many report being new to silence only to discover that it became an important part of their prayer and devotional life. As a result of the Academy, people have started prayer groups and
teams in their churches, discipleship groups for accountability and hand-on mission projects through their prayer life. People return year after year for refreshing their daily rhythm of silence and prayer. They are surprised how much they feel a part of a genuine community within the silence.

In 2018 the Five-Day Academy will be Feb. 18-23. Dr. Mary Earle will be our guide through Celtic Spirituality, and Dr. Roger Owen will lead our discoveries into “Addressing Scripture.” The Central Texas Leadership Team is comprised of Dr. Bob Holloway, Rev. Judy Holloway, Rev. Estee Valendy, Rev. Jason Valendy, Kristin Warthen, Rev. Linda Keen and Rev. Jonell Lindh. Information is online at www.upperroom.org or www.5daynorthtexas.com.

HIGHER EDUCATION & CAMPUS MINISTRY

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

The agency launched a new mission and vision at the start of 2017. The updated mission and vision simplify our role as the primary leadership development agency for The United Methodist Church.

MISSION: Our mission is to lead and connect the educational and ministerial life of The United Methodist Church.

VISION: We will continue to transform the world through the power of education and ministry in the Methodist tradition. We will serve God and the worldwide Church in recruiting, nurturing, and educating lay and clergy leaders who seek wisdom and live ethically as God’s peacemakers.

EDUCATION: The Collegiate Ministry Office at GBHEM hosted Imagine What’s NEXT, a three-day event for young adults ages 18-26 to discern their call of lay or clergy leadership and learn ways to connect that God-given call through the work of the church. Nearly 700 students participated in NEXT, an increase of nearly 40 percent from prior years.

The Young Clergy Initiative funds innovative projects across the church to attract young people to ordained ministry. The $7 million initiative has funded more than 75 projects. A biennial event, Exploration, provides a platform for young adults ages 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God’s call to ordained ministry. In 2015, 475 attended Exploration. The 2017 event will take place in Portland, Ore., Nov. 3-5.

The agency has a Global Methodist Education Network that includes more than 1,000 institutions of higher education around the world. GBHEM supports schools, colleges and universities across the U.S. The Schools, Colleges, and Universities Office at GBHEM hosted 30 school presidents at the CEO Meeting of the Council of Independent Colleges in Orlando, Fla. in January 2017. In addition, the office hosted 35 presidents at the National Association of Schools & Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC) winter meeting in Washington, D.C.

Global Education and New Initiatives at GBHEM provides technical assistance, financial support, scholarships and recruitment aids for five target regions across the globe: Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, Europe, and U.S. Global Education works with the United Methodist-related schools, particularly institutions of higher education and theology schools. In addition to schools, the office supports international and regional associations, and it oversees the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development.
The Black College Fund invests in the hopes and dreams of those students attending United Methodist-related historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The Black College Fund distributes 95 percent (on average more than $9 million) of all funds received equally to the 11 HBCUs. The fund provides for faculty development, infrastructure maintenance, and for students who need financial support and scholarship, helping the HBCUs to keep tuition and fees competitive. The Black College Fund was pleased to announce that five of its HBCUs enrolled 22 Hispanic students as part of the Latino student access program in 2016.

The agency works with the Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (CCTE) to distribute grants for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the Central Conferences. The 2012 General Conference established a $5 million CCTE fund, and more than 250 grants have been awarded across 22 countries to date. Due to its impact, the fund was doubled at the 2016 General Conference. New grant recipients were announced in March 2017.

In 2016, GBHEM’s Office of Loans and Scholarships awarded 2,025 students with more than $3.1 million in scholarships and 406 students with more than $1.9 million in loans. The loans and scholarships are open to United Methodist students and seminarians who are seeking to further their education.

GBHEM reestablished its publishing ministry in 2016 to engage, nurture, and advocate for the intellectual life of The United Methodist Church. Through this ministry, GBHEM produces academic resources for the constituencies of the agency, including single-author and multi-author works, as well as edited volumes. More than 10 new and revised books have been released under the publishing ministry.

MINISTRY: In partnership with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM provides e-readers to theological schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia, offering access to the latest textbooks and reference books. The E-Reader Project has distributed nearly 1,500 devices to 22 theological seminaries, loaded with publications in English, French, and Portuguese.

Individuals pursuing licensed and ordained ministry find the resources they need to overcome challenges and barriers sometimes encountered when responding to God’s call in GBHEM’s Candidacy Office. The office coordinated a successful Board of Ordained Ministry Quadrennial Leadership Development in fall 2016. In addition, the office revised the BOM Handbook following General Conference, along with the conference relations resources for the 2016 Book of Discipline. The Candidacy Office is also developing an eight-year Clergy Assessment Process and GBHEM’s Effective Ministry Assessment (EMA) leadership development tool.

Course of Study and Specialized Theological Education provides resources for local pastors to gain the education and training needed for service across the church, with courses available in Spanish. The office launched Portuguese Course Study programs in 2016 and will continue to expand. GBHEM launched three new education options for part-time pastors in December 2016: an Extension of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO) located at United Theological Seminary, a satellite Course of Study program with Saint Paul School of Theology in Hays, Kan., and a pilot Escuela de Cursos de Estudios (ECE), a Spanish Course of Study, in Denver, Colo.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors are credentialed through the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, which provides resources for chaplains and counselors serving inside and outside the walls of the church. UMEA supports those working in 25 ministry settings such as health care, military, prison, workplace, marriage and family, and more. The office is completing the second
pilot initiative to evaluate the effectiveness of a hybrid Clinical Pastoral Education program sponsored by GBHEM.

GBHEM leads clergy continuing education programs, providing resources for spiritual formation and professional development to help ensure an effective clergy for the church. Clergy Lifelong Learning provides an innovative platform for ministry through the multilingual UMC Cyber Campus. In addition, the office organized the 60th anniversary celebration of full clergy rights for women in August 2016 at the United Methodist Clergywomen gathering, which included 450 attendees from 27 countries, speaking six languages. This office continues to provide guidance in cross-cultural/cross-racial leadership development throughout the denomination.

The agency supports deacons and diaconal ministers as they lead the people of God into ministries of compassion and justice, and interpret the needs of the world to the church. The Office of Deacon Ministry Development and Provisional Membership led the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the “recovery” of full-member clergy deacons for the church. In addition, a new certification in parish nursing was created, and the certification in camping and retreat ministries was updated (in collaboration with Discipleship Ministries).

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY
2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE

The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM) celebrates that the Office of Loans and Scholarships awarded more than 2,300 students a total of $5 million in financial assistance for 2016. The GBHEM thanks you for your support in recognizing United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday and Native American Sunday, which help fund a portion of its scholarships. The remaining funds for these awards come from gifts, annuities and endowments GBHEM has invested and administered for decades. Included here is a list of recipients from the Central Texas Conference, who were awarded $68,550 in scholarships.

1. James Atkins, First UMC Gatesville, United Methodist General Scholarship for $1,500 – attends Candler School of Theology.
2. Kaley Batchlear, First UMC Georgetown, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,775 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
3. Brenna Baugh, First UMC Waxahachie, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $3,000 – attends McMurry University.
5. Jacob Cearley, Holland UMC, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Tarleton State University.
7. Deborah Creagh, White’s Chapel UMC, United Methodist General Scholarship for $1,500 – attends Perkins School of Theology.
8. Joy Dister, First UMC Grapevine, Special Seminary Scholarship for $2,000 – attends Perkins School of Theology.
9. Remy Ditu, St. Luke UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
11. Matthew Frantz, First UMC Joshua, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Oklahoma State University.
12. Kaitlyn Frantz, First UMC Joshua, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Centenary College of Louisiana.
14. Chandler Henderson, St. Luke UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,775 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
15. Julian Hobdy, Grace UMC Arlington, UM Allocation Award for $1,650 and Ethnic Minority Scholarship for $800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
16. Benjamin Huebner, Benbrook UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
17. Blake Janek, Valley Mills UMC, UM Allocation Award for $2,500 and Baxter Roelfson Sands Scholarship for $1,200 – attends McMurry University.
18. Jaclynn Janek, Valley Mills UMC, UM Allocation Award for $2,500 – attends McMurry University.
20. Alyssa Leifeste, Aledo UMC, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Texas Woman’s University.
21. Cassandra Leissler, Saint John the Apostle UMC Arlington, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends University of North Texas.
23. Karissa Means, Central UMC Brownwood, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $3,000 – attends McMurry University.
24. Samuel Moore, First UMC Dublin, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Abilene Christian University.
25. Samantha Moore, White’s Chapel UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
27. Jack Payne, First UMC Glen Rose, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $3,000 – attends McMurry University.
28. Abraham Perez, Western Hills UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
29. Michelle Phillips, First UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
30. Matthew Phillips, First UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
31. Joshua Rhymer, Smithfield UMC North Richland Hills, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Texas Tech University.
32. Christopher Rico, El Buen Samaritano UMC, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends the University of Texas at Arlington.
33. Julian Rodriguez, Western Hills UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
34. Kimberlee Sims, Meadowbrook UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
35. Celeste Soto, Western Hills UMC, Ethnic Minority Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Texas A&M University.
36. Stephanie Staton, White’s Chapel UMC, Central Texas Annual Conference Merit Award for $1,175 and Special Seminary Scholarship for $2,000 – attends Perkins Seminary.
37. Michelle Treider, First UMC Midlothian, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends the University of Texas at Arlington.

38. Ximena Villegas Pinzon, El Buen Samaritano, Ethnic Minority Scholarship for $800 – attends Texas Woman’s University.

39. Meghan Webb, Alliance UMC, UM Allocation Award for $1,325 – attends Oklahoma City University.

40. Casey Williams, First UMC Azle, Miriam Hoffman Scholarship for $1,000 and Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.

41. Madeline Williams, First UMC Waco, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends University of Arkansas.

42. Luke Zrostlik, St. Matthew UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,700 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.

TUMCA Scholarship Recipients, Academic Year 2015-16

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<tr>
<th>Scholarship Recipient</th>
<th>Home Church</th>
<th>College or University</th>
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<td>Baugh, Brenna</td>
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Texas United Methodist College Association*  
DR. DARRELL LOYLESS, PRESIDENT

“Unite the pair so long disjointed, knowledge and vital piety, learning and holiness combined.”

The mission and work of the Texas United Methodist College Association continues to be guided by these words of John Wesley. TUMCA students are profoundly grateful for their scholarships. That support has made possible experiences that have changed their lives. One student wrote us last year to say:

“We have not met, but you have played a vital role in my life for a long time...You have affected my family in untold ways. Thanks to you, my fiancé realized her call to ministry and our paths crossed. And now thanks to your generosity, I will continue towards my call.”

While the support from any one congregation may be small, the impact of these funds is enormous. TUMCA students receive hope, affirmation, encouragement, and the development of leadership and servant ministry skills that will serve the church now and in the future. Clergy, laity leaders, teachers, and responsible business and community leaders, once TUMCA scholars, will help chart the course for our church.

Through the funding of scholarships at our United Methodist universities, our students are afforded an opportunity to get an education that offers both intellectual and spiritual development. Our total distribution to TUMCA schools during the year just concluded was $325,000. These funds granted to SMU, Southwestern, Texas Wesleyan, and McMurry are restricted to scholarships for deserving students from United Methodist congregations in Texas. No funds can be used for bricks and mortar. Many of our scholars have been first generation college students.

Texas United Methodist College Association is our extension of a congregation’s mission, and we are grateful for their support and proud to work with them in the transformation of the world.
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<tr>
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The Wesley – where we find our story in God’s narrative for the earth, in gathering as a community, and in scattering like seeds to sow the Kingdom of Christ. Story. Gather. Scatter.

The past year at the Wesley can be classified as a year of expanding our reach to the “nones” (didn’t grow up in church) and the “wounded” (those who have left the church after a specific event in their life). The Wesley is becoming known as a safe place to come explore faith anew or for the first time, and in this work the students are engaged in the work of evangelism.

The Wesley is a place of story, where students learn God’s story (Bible/theology) and they are invited to see how their story fits into the grand narrative of God’s work with the earth. Story is our widest reach – from our core students to the students who only come occasionally. The main point of contact for the Wesley is on Tuesday nights, beginning with a free meal (often provided by a local UMC) and followed by worship. Students have the opportunity to engage in Sunday Night Covenant Group or Guys’ Lunch on Fridays.

The Wesley is a place to gather, where we have instilled a hangout culture. Students can come study, watch TV, take a nap, hang in their hammocks, or relax with a group of friends. The community at the Wesley thrives around un-programmed opportunities to come live life together. In gathering there are organic and programmed times of discipleship. The students are often engaged by staff to think of themselves as the missional church (how can I carry the church into my places of study, work, rest, outside of the Wesley/Local Church).

The Wesley is a place where students are sent out to scatter in a variety of forms. We scatter in mission, and we have taken our largest group of students on mission trip thus far. We also scatter when students graduate or transfer, and the hope is for those students to find a Local Church to plug in and continue the work of the church. The Wesley has in the past three years had five students graduate and begin work in professional ministry, three begin seminary, and seven making re-affirmations of faith.

Story. Gather. Scatter.

For decades, the United Christian Fellowship (UCF) Wesley Foundation at Navarro College has been guiding, supporting and teaching students about Jesus Christ. Navarro College is a diverse, two-year college located in Central Texas. The ethnically diverse student population includes roughly 3,500 individuals. The majority are African American. Most students on our campus come from low income families and attend school through the Pell Grant program. Our student ministry is a resource that helps them with basic needs as well as spiritual needs. Navarro College and the UCF Wesley Foundation are unique due to the positive support of the small community and churches that surround it and the pride they have in their town and school.
Over the past two years we have focused our ministry on raising up Christian leaders in the community to serve and lead others. Since our pilot program began in January 2016, 28 students have completed our Christian Leadership Program. The Christian Leadership Center (CLC) equips students to address 21st century challenges through their faith as they discern their vocational calling in ministry and other disciplines. The center serves as an entry point for students to explore ministry as a vocation.

Opportunities through our Christian Leadership Center include local internships in area businesses and churches. This program provides students exposure to a variety of ministry fields, including ordained ministry and non-profit organizations. Those who enroll in our program examine different topics of study each semester on a rotational basis over four semesters. Topics include Christian Leadership, Christian Service, Spiritual Practices and Christianity in a Global World. Curriculum for this program is developed at the UCF Wesley Foundation and it also includes Clarify for College Ministries.

Some highlights from our CLC this past year include working with Habitat for Humanity and Christmas-in-Action to complete two weekend workdays in Corsicana. Seventeen students attended the All Campus retreat with other Wesley Foundations in February. During the retreat, they were challenged to discern their calling in life and heard from a variety of speakers. Students shared how much fun they had on the retreat and said they enjoyed meeting students from other Wesley Foundations around Texas. During our Tuesday night colloquium sessions at our Wesley Foundation, students focused on Christian service (fall semester) and spiritual practices (spring semester). For the spring semester, students were placed in internships around the community. Settings included Navarro Regional Hospital, Taft Counseling Center, CISD, Heritage Oaks West Retirement Home, Community Bank, Collin Street Bakery, UCF Wesley, First United Methodist Church and Neal Green, Attorney’s Office. They also heard from speakers from the community including the CPD Chief Robert Johnson, Dr. Carey Ford (Philosophy Professor at NC) and Gwen Cook, NP.

In addition to the Christian Leadership Center, we continue to offer Bible Study on Sunday nights with dinner. Our average attendance is 15 students. We offer a free lunch to students and faculty of Navarro College on Mondays, serving anywhere between 30 and 70. Five students joined the CTC Young Adult Mission Trip to Missouri in May, and four participated over the Christmas break in Waco. Three students are working with Project Transformation this summer in Fort Worth.

Navarro College and the UCF Wesley Foundation are set in a unique location in Central Texas. Their partnership has been a positive experience for many years. When students from low-income families become students of Navarro College, our desire is for the UCF Wesley Foundation to be a place where they can gain experience as leaders helping to transform the needs of the community into opportunities to show God's love, grace and mercy to others.

This is a place where we can pour the vision of God’s church into a new generation ready to make a difference in the world when provided the resources, training and encouragement to do what God has called them to do. In the United Methodist Church, we have all that these students need. Only God knows the positive impact this ministry will have on the students, Navarro College and the community of Corsicana.
The purpose of the Wesley Foundation is to create a community of faith to develop students of Tarleton State University as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are creating leaders who are desperately needed in order to transform the Church and the world. We do this by providing a community for the students, allowing them to determine their beliefs in a safe space so they can be more like Christ as they love God, serve others and live righteously.

The Wesley has experienced another incredible year in 2016, and we are looking forward to even more excitement in 2017. Once again, we grew in all areas of our ministry in 2016 versus 2015. We have passionate ancient/future worship that combines the traditions of the past with the music of today. This fall we averaged 56, up from 45 the previous year. We achieve this growth through radical hospitality through our team of greeters and by encouraging our students to make friendships with newer students.

We engaged in risk-taking missions through our mission trips and our weekly service opportunities. In 2016 we took 34 students on mission trips to Tennessee and to Corazal, Belize. Students engaged in life-changing work in those local communities, and their own lives were forever changed. More and more students are committing to lifelong service as both lay and clergy because of these trips. I am even more excited about the weekly mission projects that we do. Our students serve locally in places like Tree House, an after-school program for disadvantaged students. We also had 12 students serve at Glen Lake camp this past summer. All together throughout these events, our students served for more than 10,000 hours! We are accomplishing our mission to make disciples through intentional faith development through our small group ministry and one-on-one discipleship. Fifty-five students each week engaged in small groups last fall, plus there is a spirit of discipleship where students are asking to be discipled. We also practice extravagant generosity in our ministry. Twenty percent of our yearly budget goes towards missions, and our students give each week to create a scholarship for a student to be able to go to high school in Belize.

The result of these practices is that we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, are making disciples who make disciples. Last year we baptized two students and had several reaffirmations of faith. These new believers are already active in leadership and making disciples themselves. It is truly an honor to be a part of such an incredible community and to see the power of how God works in building the Kingdom of God.

The final piece of this picture is that our alumni are now attending local churches, serving in leadership and, in some cases, accepting a call to ministry. Right now we have one former student who is up for commissioning, two students in seminary and one student serving as a missionary with Youth With a Mission! Our alumni are active in local churches, with many of them stepping into leadership. We continue to prioritize and succeed at making disciples of Jesus Christ and raising up a new generation of leaders for the sake of the Church and the world.
WESLEY FOUNDATION AT TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
REV. PAUL MASSINGILL, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

It has been a good year at TCU Wesley! Our numbers are up on all fronts. We have had more students participating in weekly dinner and worship on Wednesday nights. We have had more students involved in small groups and attending retreats. We have had more mission trip opportunities this year, and more students taking advantage of those opportunities. We have connected with more United Methodist students studying at Brite through monthly lunches and other opportunities. We have had more local churches sending volunteers to provide Wednesday night dinners. All of this is good news!

But of course, numbers are never the whole story. There are some important culture shifts happening at TCU Wesley as well. Our Leadership Team is shifting towards deeper discipleship. The team is exploring how to follow Jesus more faithfully by reading books together from authors like Dietrich Bonhoffer, Howard Thurman, Jean Varnier and Tim Keller. We have also been developing “Deeper Life” events each semester for the Leadership Team and the larger Wesley community. Topics for these events include Bible 101, Love and Money, Vocation and Calling, Prayer Life and others.

Our Wesley community is also shifting towards more intentional campus presence and outreach. Early in the fall, we significantly increased efforts to reach new freshmen and connect with new students. Then in November, we co-hosted an event with the TCU Office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services called “The Shout: Amplifying the Cry for Justice.” We invited poets and spoken word artists from Houston to come lead us in a powerful evening of performance and conversation about race on campus. More than 125 students participated, most of whom were students of color. Then in February, a team from Wesley participated in the SLA “Senorita Stroll-off;” Wesley was the only non-Greek organization to stroll in the event. These are examples of how we are becoming more visible across campus and more engaged with our larger campus community. The result of these efforts is that we not only are reaching a greater number of students, but a greater diversity of students as well. This is an encouraging shift that we hope will continue.

Looking ahead, we are excited about some new initiatives and opportunities in the coming year. We have established a partnership with University UMC that will enable us to use a house on their property for a new Wesley residential discipleship community. In April, we launched a mentoring cohort with undergraduate and graduate students to explore callings to vocational ministry … or callings to be ministers in their chosen vocations. We are also having conversations about what it would look like for TCU Wesley to help establish a Wesley presence on other college campuses in the Fort Worth area.

The 2017-18 academic year marks 70 years of Methodist student ministry on the campus of TCU. Since 1947, a Methodist student community has been following Jesus and sharing the love of Jesus with students on the campus of TCU. Our Board of Directors are marking this anniversary by engaging in a strategic visioning process to identify dreams and plans for moving into the future. We would appreciate your continued prayers and support as we begin to discern what God may have in store for our next 70 years! Thank you for continuing to invest in ministry with young adults!
WESLEY FOUNDATION AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

REV. JOSEPH NADER, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

The 2016-2017 school year has been a great season of growth and transition for our campus ministry. We have continued to see steady growth of our reach onto campus, while transitioning our leadership to a younger group of students. The constant rhythm of bringing in new students and sending out graduates means that every few years the shape and culture of our leadership team undergoes a transition. This was one of those years. We count this as a blessing; we are grateful to invest in more students and prepare them for leadership in the local church. Our student leaders may change, but we continue to be focused on our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to raise up a new generation of leaders for the sake of the church and the world.

Freshley, our ministry to freshmen, continues to be a great way to connect with incoming first-year students and help them transition into life on campus, through the lens of Jesus. Freshley gives students a place to connect with friends and learn more about God. It also serves as a place of encouragement as students deal with the major adjustments involved with gaining more independence. Thomas Mitchell, associate director, and Cassidy Ball, ministry intern, lead this great ministry.

Our focus continues to be the deeper discipleship and leadership development of our students to prepare them for a Kingdom-oriented life. One way we do this work is by investing in the leadership of the Wesley on Monday nights during our Leadership Discipleship Group. The goal of this time is to invest in our leaders by teaching them what the Kingdom-oriented life looks like, while handing them the keys to teach others the same thing. We want to multiply our discipleship by equipping disciples to make disciples. This is the future of the Church.

We constantly remain grateful for the support of the local churches of the CTC. As a missional outpost to the UTA campus on your behalf, we are grateful for your constant support and encouragement to fulfill our calling to this campus. We are thankful for your prayers, your food, and your gifts.

Thank you for trusting us with this ministry!

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS

ZACHARY LANGER, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, we’ve had so many meaningful and inspirational times together with our students. We’ve continued searching for the best ways to meet their needs, both with our programs and scheduling, and by helping them find opportunities to be more involved with each other and the community around us. All this, of course, while encouraging them to pursue excellence in school, as in everything.

These needs often speak to some of the challenges of campus ministry at a two-year school: a high population of commuting students, students with many outside commitments such as families or work, and students working to transfer to different universities both near and far. Because of our students’ responsibilities, few can return for events in the evening, and fewer still can commit to recurring programs outside class hours. In fact, many of our students struggle enough to juggle the needs of class with work and family. As in previous semesters, we have continued to emphasize our flexibility and availability. Our computers are used daily for classwork and printing,
our TV room is used for games and socializing, and we often have students come in simply to enjoy a meal together during their precious little relaxation time.

We have a few ongoing programs from previous semesters, and they continue to be successful. Our weekly lunch drew more than 100 students several times in the fall — significantly more than in recent memory — and we have seen an increasing number of students staying in the building after the lunch ends to work or spend time together. This lunch represents a wonderful opportunity for local churches to show the students that they support them in an immediate way, as well as a chance for those church members to see and participate in the ministry that is happening at Weatherford College. For nursing, EMT, and police academy students, this lunch represents a moment of rest in the middle of a difficult day, while some of our other students would not eat lunch otherwise. Tuesday lunch makes it possible to meet these unique needs in a meaningful and active way.

We hold a lunch Bible study each Monday that draws between three and six attendees, each of whom brings a unique perspective from their various backgrounds. With a variety of theological or denominational backgrounds represented, this Bible study provides a chance for these students to learn from the scriptures and from each other. It is an integral part of the life of the Church. We have also spent time organizing an opportunity to gather on campus to simply eat lunch together in a way that engages campus in our fellowship and provides a link between our community and the school to which we are ministering.

Additionally, we have held several smaller, one-time events, such as the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday and morning devotionals during Holy Week, which may lead to a weekly morning devotional time in the coming semesters. These represent our focus on Holy Time and an ongoing, continuous awareness of the work of God both throughout history and in our lives.

Our Wesley Foundation sits uniquely within our campus and among campus ministries. Our students may need a little hope or already have high ones, may have solid plans or be waiting for something to become clear, may be just out of high school, married, or have children already, but we are striving to build a community that brings all our students together as one body, gathered around something bigger than any of those factors.

This has been another great year, and we are endlessly thankful for the prayers and support of the Central Texas Conference. Without the love that all of you give us, none of this would be possible. As always, we look forward to working with you as together we continue our Methodist ministry at Weatherford College!

COLLEGES & SEMINARIES

AFRICA UNIVERSITY
MUTARE, ZIMBABWE

JAMES H. SALLEY, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

It is a great joy to recognize and thank the Central Texas Conference for a 100 percent investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016. The commitment of local churches
across all five jurisdictions enabled 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States — up from 32 in 2015 — to invest 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt appreciation, the many ways in which the churches of the Central Texas Conference have been active, faithful, and generous in helping Africa University to realize its mission. Thank you for all that you have contributed to realizing the dream.

Through Africa University, the Central Texas Conference helps young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. As a result of the prayers and contributions of many, the disciple-making mission of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the university’s 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. People who would otherwise be on the margins are actively helping others to experience God’s grace, peace and abundance.

Great things are on the horizon for Africa University in the next quarter century. Your Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by:

- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 26 African countries. (*Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represent more than half of the student body.*)
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

As part of the observance of AU’s 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members, congregations and districts of the Central Texas Conference to take time out in 2017 to celebrate their journey with Africa University. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University’s honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special “AU@25” event or Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University’s ministry and invite attendees to each give at least $25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary.

Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to active faith, hope, and transformation in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who serve in the Central Texas Conference.

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Huston-Tillotson University supports the Central Texas Conference through our mission to provide the university’s diverse student body with an exemplary education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, balanced with professional development and directed to public service and leadership through our mission of nurturing “a legacy of leadership and excellence in education, connecting knowledge, power, passion and values.” HT transforms lives through a dynamic educational experience that values academic excellence and spiritual growth while cultivating democracy and community through outreach and engagement. HT leverages resources to enhance our competitive future in the areas of organizational effectiveness, funding, technology and industry partnerships. We achieve our mission through the diversity of our student body, opportunities for spiritual growth and civic engagement and the global perspective of our educational programs. The core values of HT are represented by IDEAL: Integrity (we believe in honesty, sincerity, and responsibility), Diversity (we recognize and value the differences that enrich our educational environment), Excellence (we are committed to the highest standards of expectation and achievement), Accountability (we believe in taking responsibility for our actions and outcomes), Leadership (we set an example and provide an environment that cultivates tomorrow’s leaders).

Highlights

- Huston-Tillotson University celebrated 141 years of providing access to higher education during the Charter Day Convocation celebrating the merger of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College into Huston-Tillotson University. The program included alumnus Rev. G.V. Clark, the HT Concert Choir, the Elite Combo and the recognition of top-ranking students.
- Huston-Tillotson University Day at Wesley United Methodist Church was a day of discovery, recognition, and celebration for Huston-Tillotson University with music provided by the HT gospel choir. The HT Concert Choir joined with the church choir. Huston-Tillotson University was once housed in the basement of Wesley.
- Built in 2015, the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center is the newest addition to HT’s campus. The Center is a partnership with HT, CommUnityCare (CUC) a federally qualified health center (FQHC), Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC), and the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. In addition to providing care for HT students, faculty and staff, the center is dedicated to helping underserved residents of Austin gain access to health care and offers both medical and behavioral health care services in a primary care setting.
- Green is the New Black (GITNB) continues to participate in sustainability initiatives in the community as well as nationally and internationally. Huston-Tillotson University is the first private historically black institution in the nation to capture renewable energy from one-fourth of its campus buildings. Another effort is the solar-powered electronic device charging station.
- The W.E.B. DuBois honors program coordinated the 14th annual DuBois Lecture Series and also managed the third-annual Diversity Hackathon on campus March 11-12. The event’s mission is to assist millennials of color in recognizing that they can be more than consumers of technology.
- The First-Year Experience is designed to help incoming students learn about the psychology of success and how to implement self-empowerment strategy. Our students also engage in a critical analysis of social and environmental justice issues and proactively apply what they
have learned to effectively serve the needs of our east Austin community. Our students engage in tutoring the youth, feeding the hungry, fixing computers and planting trees.

- The ACADEMY (Achievement in College Algebra During the Matriculation Year) is Huston-Tillotson’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Its mission is to equip students for success in the foundational mathematics courses.

- The Writers’ Studio revised and improved its class presentations. The HT Visiting Writers Series featured Celeste Guzman Mendoza and Ire’ne Lara Silva in a Q&A session and reading.

- Huston-Tillotson Space Science Day featured NASA’s return to campus, bringing middle school students to work with HT students and NASA scientists.

- The mentoring relationship between the UT Black Graduate Students Association and HT Psychology majors continues to flourish.

- Two students made presentations at international conferences: Remy Galan, “A Debate of Science: In a Literary Context,” his theory about whether language is a science, at the Pop Culture/American Culture Conference; and Shannon Breeding plus three English faculty members, a panel discussion, “Cultivation of a Research Culture that Challenges Hegemony at an HBCU” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication.


- The Biology Program is offering a new elective for upper level students - molecular bioinformatics. The course was developed by Dr. Amanda Masino of HT and Dr. Harold Zakon of The University of Texas at Austin as part of an ongoing research training collaboration. The bioinformatics field blends biology and computer science.

- Each year, students participate in the traditional AusPrEP and Pre-Algebra Institute summer programs. Along with rigorous instruction in the core subjects, students are exposed to a variety of career fields in science and technology.

- The Dumpster Project is building a thought-provoking and environmentally healthy home inside a 33-square-foot used trash dumpster. It’s meant to inspire sustainable solutions drawing from science, technology, engineering, design and the arts.

- Five students are poised to study summer 2017 at Heilongjiang University in Harbin, China.

- In October of 2016, Religious Life and Campus Ministries hosted its annual Civility Week on campus. The Worship through Arts Ministry had its first collaboration with all the ministries (gospel choir, praise dancers and mime ministry) performing together.

- The 2017 spring break mission trip to San Ignacio, Belize provided an opportunity to attend a worship service at Wesley United Methodist Church, partner with the Cornerstone Foundation, work with children who couldn’t afford lunch at school and redo a mural on the wall of St. Andrews Primary School.

- Green is the New Black (GITNB) students continue their Green Education Campaign at Blackshear Elementary Fine Arts Academy.

- Students from several campus departments were involved in planning Earth Day 2017 observances – interning with Earth Day Austin, running a variety of booths and coordinating other activities expected to draw about 10,000 participants.

- The HT Health Connection e-health community empowerment program continues to collaborate with community based organizations to empower our campus and underserved populations in our community with health information from the National Library of Medicine.

- HT Volleyball advanced to the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament for the second year in a row. Laycia Robinson received 2016 NAIA All-American Honorable Mention.
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas
R. Gerald Turner, President

More than 100 years ago the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had the foresight to understand what a great institution of higher education could mean for the ambitious young city of Dallas. Southern Methodist University continues to mark exciting developments as students and faculty pursue opportunities that provide a platform for making global impact. Recent highlights include:

In fall 2016 SMU’s total enrollment of 11,739 included 6,521 undergraduates and 5,218 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 26 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,719 (more than 14 percent of total enrollment) represented 124 foreign countries.

SMU ranks among the nation’s top universities. In the 2017 U.S. News & World Report listings, SMU ranks 56th among 310 of the “best national universities.” Several individual schools and academic programs also earned national rankings.

SMU received $26 million in external funding during 2015-16 for research in the U.S. and worldwide. Current research subjects include water quality, natural hazards, cyber security and treatments for cancer and other diseases.

In January, SMU received a $2 million gift from SMU Trustee emeritus and longtime benefactor Cary M. Maguire to endow the directorship of SMU’s Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility. The Maguire Center supports ethics-related education and activities for students and faculty, as well as outreach to community, private and public institutions. Also in January, SMU received a $2.5 million gift from AT&T to endow the AT&T Center for Virtualization to fund its research to support the fast, reliable cloud-based telecommunications necessary for global connectivity. Announced in October, a $1.7 million grant from the Texas Instruments (TI) Foundation will help fund the STEM Teacher Academy at SMU’s Simmons School of Education and Human Development to help Dallas ISD teachers develop methods for engaging students in science.

In July, Craig C. Hill became the new dean at SMU’s Perkins School of Theology, after the former Dean William B. Lawrence retired in May. Hill came to SMU from Duke University, where he had served as executive director of the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Christian Practice programs and as research professor of theological pedagogy. Also in July, Maria Dixon Hall, associate professor of organizational communication and director of corporate communication and public affairs, was named as the provost’s senior advisor for campus cultural intelligence initiatives. Hall leads the initiative to cultivate a campus culture that equips faculty, staff and students to engage with today’s culturally complex world.

Frederick R. Chang, director of SMU’s Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security in the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and inducted into the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas.

Sabri Ates, associate professor in SMU’s Clements Department of History in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and Zachary Wallmark, assistant professor and chair of music history at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, received fellowship grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities – the only two recipients in North Texas from the current funding cycle.
In fall, SMU opened its new Dr. Bob Smith Health Center, which provides comprehensive medical care to students. The two-story building houses medical and counseling programs, a full-service pharmacy and SMU’s health education program. Students returning to campus also celebrated a transformed Fondren Library, which includes new common spaces, study zones and a Starbucks.

SMU hosted inspirational speakers at its 2016 Commencement ceremonies. In May, Richard Templeton, SMU Board of Trustees member, and Texas Instruments CEO, with his wife, Mary Templeton, philanthropist and community volunteer, shared lessons learned from a swimming accident two and a half years ago that left Mrs. Templeton paralyzed. Mr. Templeton touted resiliency as a critical personal characteristic, and Mrs. Templeton challenged the graduates to jump into opportunities to make a difference as they begin their next life phase. In December, retired Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown, who gained national attention for his handling of a gunman’s July 2016 ambush of five police officers, told the graduates, “you may be the next greatest generation of heroes in this country.”

SMU treasures its Methodist heritage, and we ask for your continued prayers and support.

**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

**GEORGETOWN, TEXAS**

**EDWARD BURGER, PRESIDENT AND PROFESSOR**

As I complete my fourth academic year as President of Southwestern University, I marvel at the ways in which our history of “firsts” continues to lead the way for our future. We are the first institution of higher education in Texas, home to the first Rhodes Scholar in Texas, and the first in the nation to honor alumni with a homecoming celebration. This tradition of “firsts” continues as we create new and dynamic educational experiences for today’s young hearts and minds, built on a foundation of strength from our past.

In August, Southwestern welcomed 381 entering students, bringing the total enrollment to 1,486. A total of 73 percent of the new class was in the top 25 percent of their graduating class, and 36 percent were in the top 10 percent. Altogether, 19 states and seven countries are represented in the class. Underrepresented students make up 39 percent of the class, and 15 percent are first-generation students. I was pleased to have the opportunity to visit personally with prospective students and their families at the 21 events hosted on campus this year.

Last year marked the opening of our Phase I renovation of the Fondren-Jones Science Building, which will pave the way for a remarkable future for our students. Southwestern’s annual Research and Creative Works Symposium, “From Every Voice,” continues to yield a high level of participation and offers an undergraduate presentation experience that is second to none; and Paideia Connections invites our campus and local community to think, create, and connect ideas across disciplines in an exercise of reason and problem-solving.

Southwestern also continued the “President’s Thinking Symposium on Living, Learning, and Leading.” As part of my experiential course, “Effective Thinking and Creative Puzzle-Solving,” my class hosted noted guests from around the country who described the “puzzles” of their professional careers, the practices of mind they use to resolve them, and led thought-provoking conversations on the meaningful and life-changing experiences that have shaped their lives.
As I reflect on this past year, I am honored to bear witness to the power of Southwestern: a catalyst of creative thinking and experience that occurs when engaged minds come together. I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit Southwestern and see first-hand the ways in which this intellectual community is thinking, creating and connecting ideas to make meaning and make a difference.

Recent Accolades
- USA Today, U.S. News and World Report, and Washington Monthly ranked Southwestern as the top national liberal arts college in Texas. Kiplinger's Personal Finance named Southwestern a “Best College Value.” Southwestern is one of 47 colleges and universities nationwide to be named a “Best Buy” school in the 2017 Fiske Guide to Colleges. Princeton Review accolades: the university’s inclusion in the Top 200 “Colleges that Pay You Back;” Southwestern Career Services named fourth in the nation and No. 1 in Texas; and the university’s inclusion among its Best 380 Colleges, Best Western Colleges, and Best Green Colleges. The university was also named a Military Friendly® School, and for 2015-2016 it was selected – for the sixth year in a row -- the EPA’s College and University Green Power Conference Champion.

Academics
- Southwestern’s Paideia curriculum continues to provide students an interdisciplinary educational experience which includes community engaged learning. Eleven clusters have been designed for 1,300 first-year seniors. In addition, 30 students have received support for study abroad programs, and 18 students are participating in a living-learning community in our Global Engagement Hall.
- In its 16th consecutive year, the King Creativity Fund supported innovative, visionary student projects across the disciplinary spectrum.

Faculty Achievements
- For 2016, seven faculty members received Sam Taylor Fellowship grants from the UMC’s Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Higher Education, providing pivotal support in the early phases of a project. Professors of Biology Maria Todd and Maria Cuevas received a $15,000 grant from the Joe and Jessie Crump Foundation for Medical Research, enabling biology majors to assist them in endometrial cancer research. Jessica Hower, assistant professor of history, received a John Fell Research Fund Grant from Oxford University to present a paper at a conference on Imperial Comparison.
- Mike Gesinski, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, was awarded a grant from the Petroleum Research Fund and the American Chemical Society, providing $55,000 for an organic chemistry research program for students. Reggie Byron, associate professor of sociology, was awarded a grant from the Fund for Advancing the Discipline of the American Sociological Association. Deidra McCall ’18 and Madeline Carrola ’18, assist in his project, “Discriminatory Race and Gender Termination from Low Wage Work.”

Student Achievements
- Fifty-six students were inducted into Southwestern’s chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi honor societies. Markell Henderson ’19 was one of 16 in the prestigious Kemper Scholars Program’s incoming class. The program supports summer internships. Sophia Anthony, Rachel Arco, Lacey Bowersox and Emilie Fisher of the Class of 2018 received two-year Hatton W. Sumners scholarships from the Dallas Foundation. These awards provide $20,000 in scholarship support each year, as well as financial support to attend trainings, lectures and other events.
- Lauren Gillespie ’18 received a Woman Scholar for Computing Research scholarship as one of 60 selected from 600 applicants. It allowed her to attend last October’s Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. Marissa Madrid-Ortega ’17 was awarded an $8,000
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, allowing her to continue her language study in China. Physics students Isabella Ferranti ’17 and Yash Gandhi ’17 received National Institute of Standards and Technology Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships to attend the group’s 11-week research program in Boulder, Colo.

**Athletics**

- A third of the student body participated in the University’s 20-sport NCAA Division III Intercollegiate Athletic Program. Highlights: Football’s first Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) championship – four years after its reinstatement in 2013 – its first conference title since the 1946’s Texas Conference co-championship; Volleyball’s first-ever NCAA regional title, its win over Tufts University in the NCAA quarterfinals and its trip to the Final Four, where it bowed out with a loss to Washington University St. Louis; and Men’s Golf’s SCAC title.
- Will Cates ’16 and Kaitlyn Foster ’16 were named Kassen/Lowry Athletes of the Year. Second-team All-American honors went to Justin Broussard ’17. Various Academic All-American honors went to Will Cates ’16, baseball; and volleyball players Nikki Welch ’17 and Kate Mitchell ’17. SCAC soccer honors went to Mallory Harkins ’20, Defensive Player of the Year; and Mary Cardone ’20, Newcomer of the Year. Tyler Gammill ’18 won the individual championship and SCAC Golfer of the Year, becoming the first Southwestern male golfer to win the award.

**Speakers and Symposia**

- In the 2016 Roy and Margaret Shilling Lecture Series, Sister Helen Prejean presented *Dead Man Walking – The Journey Continues*. The 2016 commencement address was delivered by Janet H. Brown, executive director of the Commission on Presidential Debates. The Keynote Colloquium: Language and Revolution featured three speakers on how language changes the world. Race and Ethnicity Studies hosted an interdisciplinary symposium during Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Week. The 2017 Brown Symposium in early March focused on the arts giving voice to issues that spurred revolutions.

**Major Highlights**

- Last fall, Texas Wesleyan unveiled plans for its $20.25 million Nick and Lou Martin University Center, to be located in the heart of campus. The 44,000-square-foot Martin Center is the most significant capital project at Texas Wesleyan in more than a century. For the first time, Texas Wesleyan will have a centrally located hub for student life. The university is currently more than halfway to its fundraising goal.
- Wesleyan’s endowment has exceeded the 2020 Vision goal of reaching $50 million. Endowed funds provide permanent support for student scholarships and academic excellence. Continuing to build the endowment is crucially important to the university’s long-term financial strength.
• Our 125th Anniversary Year was a record-breaker for The Wesleyan Fund, Texas Wesleyan's annual fund. Due to the support of Jack Morton '43 and the Morton Challenge, we surpassed our goal of $600,000 and raised $725,200. And, 77 percent of the gifts were either new or increased gifts.

• Four years ahead of our 2020 Vision goal, Texas Wesleyan residence halls reached capacity. With 500 students now living on campus, the university has a stronger foundation for building a vibrant student life.

• Texas Wesleyan realigned its current health care professional programs to create the School of Health Professions. The new school paves the way for the development of a nurse practitioner program, which the university hopes to launch by 2018.

• In the fall, Texas Wesleyan will launch its new, innovative online MBA. The program is 100 percent online and can be completed in as little as one year. Designed with input from area business leaders, the new, "Smaller. Smarter." MBA is built for working adults.

• The university exceeded its goal of recruiting 75 football players to begin its leadership class with a total of 116 football recruits enrolled at Texas Wesleyan in the fall. The team is preparing for spring scrimmage and will take the field in Fall 2017.

• Texas Wesleyan's Graduate Programs of Nurse Anesthesia pass rate for first-time takers of the Nurse Anesthesia Certification Examination was 90 percent. The preferred pass rate is 80 percent of all first-time takers in a testing period, and the national pass rate was 84.5 percent.

• Texas Wesleyan’s graduate counseling program joined with UNT Health Science Center (UNTHSC) and the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCBD) to offer counseling services to CCBD patients through UNTHSC’s Institute for Patient Safety.

• Last year marked the university’s 17th First Day of College: Science and Reading Camp. This annual event is a collaboration between Texas Wesleyan’s School of Education and Fort Worth ISD elementary schools that educate second language learners from all over the world.

• The new Marjorie Herrera Lewis Endowed Speakers Series, aimed to support mass communications majors, welcomed former Dallas Cowboy fullback and current NFL analyst Daryl Johnston to Texas Wesleyan to share his stories of college football and success.

• The Texas Wesleyan School of Business and the Student Government Association launched a new Women in Leadership Forum, which featured a panel of women business leaders, followed by lunch, to offer students an opportunity for reflection, learning, discussion, networking and empowerment.

• Martha Williams and Joan Trew, co-founders of Williams Trew Real Estate, were honored at the 47th annual Business Hall of Fame. Each year, Texas Wesleyan, the Fort Worth Business Press and the Fort Worth Chamber join forces to present the Fort Worth Business Hall of Fame, which promotes business as a challenging and dynamic profession.

• Texas Wesleyan and Fort Worth ISD ignited a grant-funded partnership that provides students at the neighboring Paul Laurence Dunbar High School the opportunity to get a jump start on their college career by enrolling in and attending Texas Wesleyan classes conducted primarily in Dunbar classrooms.

• Texas Wesleyan earned Blue Zones Project Approved Worksite status, a city-wide initiative to encourage schools, businesses and individuals to make healthier choices.

• Student Life launched an Ally training program for the entire campus community, aimed to create a welcoming environment that challenges oppression and builds a network of allies for LGBT students.

• Professor Mark E. Hanshaw, Ph.D., dean of the School of Arts & Letters, was invited to serve as the general editor of a new volume focused on the effect of interfaith engagement within the academy. The volume – Intersections: Faith(s), Church and the Academy – will be
published by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, as a part of its Bristol series.

- Jim Lewis, Texas Wesleyan’s vice president for advancement, was honored with the Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award at the Greater Dallas Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ 31st Annual National Philanthropy Day Luncheon.
- Texas Wesleyan head women’s tennis coach, Angel Martinez, was named the United States Professional Tennis Association Texas College Coach of the Year.
- Texas Wesleyan Athletics led the Sooner Athletic Conference with 118 student-athletes on the Commission’s Honor Roll.
- Media relations efforts continued to impact positive perception and brand awareness locally and throughout the region in the form of coverage from such outlets as the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, the Dallas Morning News, the Golf Channel and every major TV news station in the D-FW market. The revival of Texas Wesleyan football was featured on the front page of USA TODAY with the headline, “At Texas Wesleyan, a football revival 75 years in the making.”
- The “Smaller. Smarter.” marketing campaign won 12 marketing and advertising awards from regional and national organizations, bringing the total of awards won since the inception of the campaign in 2012, to an astounding 71.
- For the seventh year in a row, U.S. News & World Report ranks Texas Wesleyan University in the No. 1 tier of universities in the West.

www.txwes.edu

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
MARY ELIZABETH MOORE, DEAN

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) travels with you in the vital journey of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. We celebrate our students, alums, and church partners, who join hands in serving God and building toward transformed communities.

Breaking News

- **Congregations**: We welcomed Jonathan Calvillo as a new faculty member in sociology of religion, leading us toward better understanding of congregations and faith identity. See also our website of congregational resources: [http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-2/congregational-research-and-development/](http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-2/congregational-research-and-development/).
- **Doctor of Ministry**: The DMin program in Transformational Leadership is soaring with deeply committed student cohorts who are widely ecumenical, culturally diverse, and increasingly global. The blended model includes intensives, online courses, and close work with faculty mentors.
- **Scholarships**: We multiplied funding for student scholarships and housing, including the Vincent Machozi Scholarship for African students who seek to cultivate ministries of compassion, justice, & peace in their homelands.
- **Religion and Arts Initiative**: The Initiative sponsored a hymn-writing contest this year, complementing the photography contest last year and STH’s rotating art exhibits. The current exhibit focuses on ecological healing: “Sense of Place” by women print-makers from Ecuador and Maine.

**Partnering for Ministry and Transformation**: Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.
• Congregational courses: Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning together.

• Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic: Internships, workshops, and projects that foster justice and reconciliation.

• Travel seminars: Courses engaging local communities on the Arizona-Mexican border and in Cuba, Germany, and Indonesia.

• Ecumenical partnerships: Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan denominations, while building strong programs with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ.

• Partnership with Hebrew College: Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*. The focus is on enriching theological education and developing religious leaders who are faithful and wise.

Taking Action Globally and Locally

• Campus action: Work with Boston University to improve accessibility and sustainability: to provide full access for all persons (a work in progress) and to live sustainably with the planet.

• Internships in global service and peacemaking: Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

Renewed Commitment to Justice: Celebrating differences while joining together for action.

• Standing with Standing Rock: Several BUSTH students and alums joined indigenous peoples at the Oceti Sakowin Camp in North Dakota to protest the pipeline on sacred Sioux land.

• Deep conversations: Faculty, students and administrators have led deep conversations on issues that divide, but with respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

Other Notable Headlines

• Our own Associate Dean Pamela Lightsey was featured in Boston University’s 2016 Annual Report for her pursuit of justice, empowerment, and change.

• Our graduating senior, Rev. Mariama White-Hammond (AME) led the Boston Women’s March, and some 75 STH faculty and students marched, calling for social and ecological justice as we build new futures in the United States.

• Students of all theological and social orientations are asking and then acting: “What can I do to make this world better?” “How can I witness to my Christian faith?”

As BUSTH looks back on 2016, it celebrates transformational leaders who have loved God and cared mightily for God’s world. Their living legacy gives us hope and courage for the future.
and courageous Christian leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and 10 dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 475 students are enrolled, with 51 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.) and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 83 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2016-2017, we awarded nearly $5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. In addition, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them – and the churches they lead – well into the future.

In fall of 2016, Candler welcomed to the faculty Larry Goodpaster as Bishop-in-Residence, and Kendall Soulen as professor of systematic theology. Three Candler alumni began their terms as newly elected bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction: David Graves 90T in Alabama-West Florida, R. Lawson Bryan 75T 85T in South Georgia and Sue Haupert-Johnson 95T in North Georgia.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.
As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our founding this year, we find ourselves in the unique position of reflecting deeply on our past and, at the same time, looking with confidence and enthusiasm toward the future. Drew Theological School has, throughout its long and distinguished history, fostered a vibrant spirit of learning and community that allows for a rich diversity of both expression and experience. These qualities of inclusion and a steadfast commitment to social justice are what make the Theo School what it is today – and have, in fact, defined it from the beginning of its existence.

In the spirit of our founders, we continue to educate students from all over the United States and throughout the world. We continue to pursue a mission of empowering students to “creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace and love of God, neighbor and the earth.” In the classroom and beyond, we continue to focus on educating and forming rooted, innovative, and bold leaders for the church, the academy, and the world. These are the principles that attract students to our programs, and they guide us in all we do to support them during their time with us.

We have seen the effects of this in our rising enrollment numbers. In the last three semesters, the Theological School has seen a steady growth in both applications and enrollments, and early indications strongly suggest we will continue that trend this year. Our students hail from across the country, represent 21 different denominations, as well as a sturdy non-denominational presence, making Drew a truly ecumenical community. Yet we could not have arrived here on our own: over 30 percent of our applicants come to us through recommendations from our alumni and friends.

We also have a history of great success when we open our doors to prospective students and invite them to explore our programs first-hand. Of the students who attended our Open Doors at Drew event last March, more than 50 percent enrolled. These gatherings are so successful because they offer prospective students an opportunity to see Drew in person – to see Drew in action. We allow them to immerse themselves for the day in dynamic classroom conversations, worship services, and panel discussions with both current students and alumni. These events highlight our efforts to create a truly collaborative, comprehensive, and transformative experience that involves the entire Drew community.

A recent report by the Pew Research Center, “America’s Changing Religious Landscape,” made clear that seminaries and theological schools must reimagine their programs and how they reach students who are seeking out new expressions of Christian theology, ethics, liturgy, and gathered community. In order to accommodate these prospective students and offer them the kind of dynamic and relevant theological training they seek, we embarked on an ambitious transformation of our curriculum, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. This project has been guided by our efforts to address the changing needs of our students, those who may not choose to pursue a traditional ministerial path, and those who require a more flexible structure to their education.

While our commitment to the Church and to the training of pastoral leaders is unwavering, we have also focused on ensuring that our current curriculum, teaching and student assessment are aligned with more diverse demographics, changes in vocational choices and the need to prepare
religious leaders to serve effectively in multi-faith, secular, and even non-religious settings. We aim to serve the students whose vocational goals may include chaplaincy in healthcare settings, the military or corporate venues; those who may seek to work as life coaches; or who may pursue careers in advocacy, social activism, and the non-profit world more generally. The focus is on preparing students for transformational leadership, wherever their vocation is lived out.

Our curriculum transformation project also includes a focus on various modes of delivery – online classes and a flexible course schedule for students who are unable to attend class during the day or those who live too far from campus to attend in person regularly. These changes will expand our sphere of influence and the contexts in which our students serve, inspiring us to think more broadly about what is required for leadership-in-context. It will also hopefully bring us an even more diverse student body, something that Drew values highly. The curriculum we hope to implement will more clearly and intentionally help students root themselves in the cumulative wisdom of their tradition (more Bible and theology) but also prepare them to be adaptive leaders who confidently innovate ancient wisdom and tradition in order to address contemporary needs and challenges. They will do more and sit less. Their mentors in learning and experimenting will extend beyond our residential faculty and draw from the rich resources of partner organizations and networks which can provide the real-world settings for these "experiments in courage," where the pursuit of wisdom and godly living can be more vigorously pursued.

The majority of our students come to us with experience in ministry, and many are currently exercising some form of public religious leadership. Additionally, an increasing number of students come to us with a wide range of experience in the foundational understanding of basic biblical texts and theological concepts. Furthermore, an emphasis on public theology and the role of the public theologian and leader is an essential aspect of the work of Christian ministry today, and more attention will be paid to helping our students develop this aspect of their ministry.

All these efforts will make it possible to offer our bold vision to a wider audience of students. While these changes will be significant, they will in no way alter the spirit that has distinguished a Drew Theological School education for 150 years. Indeed, these changes have their source and their end in that very spirit, and they will, we are confident, contribute to its continued vitality. We are thrilled by how our vision for the future of the Theo School is unfolding and taking shape. We look forward to our continued work with the entire Drew community – both past and present, on and off-campus – as we transform this center of learning, pastoral formation and service to respond in relevant and powerful ways to the changing needs of our churches, our communities and the world.

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
LALLENE J. RECTOR, PRESIDENT

In 2016-2017, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is focusing on the following priorities:

- Supporting the local church in addressing economic challenges and engaging young adults as active members of the church.
- Furthering our commitment to public theology with the launch of the Garrett-Evanston Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program and the Hispanic and Latino/a Center’s installation of the Cátedra Paulo Freire.
• Re-imagining lifelong learning as a new “Connectional Learning” program that provides opportunities to meet learners where they are with the type of education they need when they need it.

• Engaging faculty scholarship in the design of new courses for a new MDiv curriculum beginning Fall 2017 and in celebrating faculty publications.

Supporting the Local Church in addressing economic challenges and engaging young adults: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary received two Lilly Endowment awards last fall. A $750,000 grant will support clergy education in theologically informed financial and business practices. We believe that strong leadership in the financial health of a congregation is critical to its vitality. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment’s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. To help clergy meet these economic challenges, Garrett-Evangelical has created a multi-dimensional program, “Leading Vibrant Congregations: A Collaboration of Faith and Finance.” To read more about the program, visit: www.garrett.edu/FaithAndFinance. A $1.5 million grant will assist congregations in launching or mentoring new ministries that will attract young adults – a population that congregations today are struggling to reach. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment’s newly announced Young Adult Initiative 2016. With this grant, Garrett-Evangelical becomes one of 12 innovation hubs around the country helping churches create informed and meaningful ministries for millennials. Read more about “Holy Yearnings, Holy Listening, Holy Partnerships: A Peer-to-Peer Young Adult Ministry Initiative” at www.garrett.edu/YoungAdultInitiative.

Public Theology: This year, Garrett-Evangelical opened the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® program in partnership with the Evanston community. The CDF Freedom Schools program is a six-week, high-quality, literacy rich program free to underserved children. It’s proven to curb summer learning loss and help close achievement gaps. Last summer, 35 children in grades 4, 5 and 6 participated. These scholars were from Evanston’s Fifth Ward, a ward of primarily black and brown people and the only ward in Evanston without its own elementary school. The program was a resounding success. Parents saw their children fall in love with reading and get excited to go to the school each day. And, we were excited to learn in January, the Garrett-Evanston CDF Freedom Schools Program was approved for summer 2017.

We are driven to increase enrollment of Hispanic and Latina/o students. Dr. Débora Junker, assistant dean of students and director of the Hispanic Center, has revived the work of the center by including new volunteer activities and “lunch and learn” discussions. In 2016, the center installed the Cátedra Paulo Freire, which promotes educational events, research activities and the enrichment of dialogue among students, faculty, religious leaders and community members. The Cátedra is a resource for Latino/a communities, encouraging their engagement and interaction with the realities and contexts of the Latino/a population in the U.S., and at the same time enhancing relationships with the Garrett-Evangelical community.

Connectional Lifelong Learning: At Garrett-Evangelical, we understand every person has a unique learning path. Education and training needs vary based on the journeys of the career and vocation in which you may find yourself. Considerations for physical location, ability to travel, learning preferences, time, and budget are important when undertaking learning, whether for degree purposes or for lifelong learning purposes. That’s why we designed “Connectional Learning” to meet you where you are and to connect you with the education you need when you need it. Connectional Learning is our language for building an extended learning community that connects personal learning interests with accessible non-degree educational resources; professional development needs for knowledge and skills with continuing education units; and diversity of learners to a variety of delivery formats (on and off-campus; online; hybrid). Check
our Connectional Learning site often for the latest regional offerings, online courses, webinars, and faculty blogs: www.garrett.edu/ConnectionalLearning.

Faculty Scholarship: In light of all that is happening in the world today and our commitment to put faith into action for the wellbeing of all persons and creation, we have redefined the focus, requirements, and targeted outcomes of our Master of Divinity degree. The new MDiv curriculum will begin fall 2017. The faculty has designed a number of new courses for this curriculum to prepare leaders for ministry in contemporary cultural and social realities, including attention to race, gender, class and sexuality, as well as the personal and vocational development of the student. We are also pleased to share the following faculty publications that may be of interest to you:

- Nancy E. Bedford, Georgia Harkness professor of applied theology, *Galatians: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*
- Wonhee Anne Joh, associate professor of systematic theology, *Critical Theology against US Militarism in Asia*
- James L. Papandrea, associate professor of church history: *Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of Early Christians; Seven Revolutions: How Christianity Changed the World and Can Change It Again; The Earliest Christologies: Five Images of Christ in Postapostolic Age*
- Stephen G. Ray, Jr., Neal F. and Ila A. Fisher professor of systematic theology, *Awake to the Moment: An Introduction to Theology*
- Jack L. Seymour, professor emeritus of religious education, *Teaching Biblical Faith*
- Mark R. Teasdale, E. Stanley Jones associate professor of evangelism, *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists*
- Brent P. Waters, Jerre and Mary Joy Stead professor of Christian social ethics: *Just Capitalism; Christian Moral Theology in the Emerging Technoculture*

About us: Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:
- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by some of the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

**ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**  
**DENVER, COLORADO**  
**REV. THOMAS V. WOLFE, PH.D., PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Blessings to you as together we continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the world. As a United Methodist-related theological school, Iliff is committed to shaping the larger historical arc, which Dr. Martin Luther King reminds us “bends toward justice.” We are mindful of the significance of this as we celebrate this year the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s courageous, “Beyond Vietnam” speech, which was written by our own
late Professor Emeritus Dr. Vincent Harding. Our faculty today follow the example set by Dr. Harding – to make our students agents of dialogue within difference.

Our students are diverse, gifted, mindful and courageous. Prior to theological school, they were teachers, counselors, attorneys, social workers, pilots, undergraduate students and much more. They have seen the world. Hungry to engage the moral discourse, they each walked away from their established lives. They learn in community to address their own hungers in a way that will take them with a spirit of dignity into the lives of those who hunger for it.

Our established online and hybrid programs allow our students to build community from anywhere and to honor and maintain their connectional commitments while they learn. They remain rooted in their communities and continue to serve congregations through their degree programs.

We make programs to serve our students so they can serve the world, Church and academy. Our cooperative programs with the military have worked to make chaplains who can minister to a wide range of faiths. Care for our active military and veterans of all faiths is an exciting part of what Iliff offers. Our Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency (SOFR) program, funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, has been a leading presence in discovering solutions to crushing student debt. We have successfully supported our students through our scholarship programs, including the Ministerial Education Fund that is a vital part of educating future pastors, chaplains, teachers, spiritual leaders and community organizers.

Iliff listens, and what’s more – we are present to hear. Our community has a 125-year tradition of creating leaders with courageous theological imagination for social justice. In our changing world, we continue to develop our ability to prepare leaders who will walk closer to those places where people are experiencing fractured communities. In this midst of a broken world, we stand in relationship with our students, alumni, board members and you. Blessings as we walk together.

www.iliff.edu

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY – DALLAS, TEXAS
CRAIG C. HILL, DEAN & PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Central Texas Annual Conference:

- Eighteen students affiliated with the Central Texas Conference are enrolled at Perkins, including: 11 Master of Divinity students, two Master of Theological Studies students, two Master of Arts in Ministry students, two Doctor of Ministry students and one undeclared student.
- Eligible 2016–2017 students from the Central Texas Conference each received a Perkins Annual Conference Endowment (PACE) grant in the amount of $4,200, with qualifying students receiving an additional $6,000 each in need-based aid.
- A total of five Perkins students have been placed as interns within the Central Texas Conference this year in the following settings: Arborlawn UMC, First UMC Hurst, New World UMC, First UMC Colleyville and University UMC.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2016-17 academic year totals 342 students, of which more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than 45 percent are ethnic minority students. Master’s degree programs comprise approximately 51 percent male and 49 percent female students. The
D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program has 32 students.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Perkins welcomed the appointment of Dr. Craig C. Hill as Dean and Professor of New Testament. Dean Hill most recently served as Executive Director of the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Christian Practice programs at Duke, as well as Research Professor of Theological Pedagogy. Additionally, he served at, among other institutions, Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; Yale Divinity School; the University of Cambridge, England; and at seminaries in Moscow, Russia; and Seoul, South Korea.

- In looking ahead to its exciting and vibrant future, Perkins instituted the first formal market/marketing study undertaken by the school in a decade. Working in conjunction with an external consulting group, the study is an effort to gauge feedback from Perkins alumni, students, faculty, staff and other key constituencies on how best to guide the school during its next phase forward. One essential component of that study was the creation of the Perkins Engagement Team, a group of key staff and faculty who meet every other week to generate ideas, formulate strategy and review progress related to Perkins’ admissions, recruiting and marketing functions.

- Renowned biblical scholar N.T. Wright was the featured lecturer as Perkins hosted “Simply Wright: N.T. Wright at Perkins | SMU” on Nov. 15-17, 2016. Wright gave three nightly lectures which were free to the public and drew more than 3,000 attendees, and directed workshops for the 120 conference attendees during the day. To date, videos of the three lectures have garnered more than 35,000 views on the Perkins YouTube channel.

- Dr. Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi, professor of world Christianities and mission studies at Perkins, was appointed to serve as the director for the doctor of ministry program at Perkins. He joined the Perkins faculty in July 2010, having previously served as professor of world Christianity at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., from 1994-2010.

- Bart Patton, who has nearly 20 years of experience in ministry, joined Perkins as its director of youth and young adult ministry education. He provides oversight and strategic planning for Perkins’ programs for high school youth and their families, young adults, and practitioners who work with these constituencies. Additionally, Patton will be the point person for connecting Perkins and SMU to church and community organizations that work with youth and their families and with young adults.

- Perkins, in conjunction with the Houston Methodist Hospital system, began offering seminars and courses to educate hospital staff and personnel on the role of theology and healing.

Perkins thanks our many colleagues, friends and alumni/ae across the connection for generous support in many ways, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DAYTON, OHIO
DR. KENT MILLARD, INTERIM PRESIDENT

Where Dreams Take Flight

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, was founded in 1871 by Milton Wright, a bishop in The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and father of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville
Wright. The Wright brothers had a passionate dream of developing the first successful "flying
machine." They experienced great difficulties, hardships and setbacks in achieving their dream.
Through their determination and commitment, however, their dream eventually was fulfilled, and
they were the first human beings to achieve sustained flight.

God often plants a vision or dream in someone's heart to become a full-time servant of Jesus
Christ. In St. Peter's sermon on Pentecost, Peter quotes the prophet Joel who said, "God
declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts
2:17). When God pours out the Spirit on someone and calls them into ministry, United seeks to
partner with that person in helping them to grow spiritually and intellectually in achieving their
God-given call and dream.

In the fall of 2016, 418 students enrolled at United to answer God's call and vision for their lives.
Our prayer is that God will use United to prepare these students to become faithful, fruitful and
effective pastors and church leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of
the world. According to a recent survey, 86% of our graduates are either currently serving in local
congregations or are retired from serving in local congregations. United alumni/ae are making an
impact.

On January 1, 2017, United celebrated the beginning of a new partnership in ministry with
Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). United has become an extension site for the
Course of Study School of Ohio located at MTSO, providing a convenient hybrid program for part-
time pastors pursuing a local pastor's license. Through United's course of study, pastors
experience a Friday-Saturday weekend on campus and finish coursework online over the weeks
that follow. Courses are offered four times per year.

If you feel God calling you to serve in any form of Christian ministry, we encourage you to go
online to united.edu to discover the option that fits your ministry and calling. May God bless you
as you respond to God's dream for your life to serve in either the ordained, commissioned or lay
ministry.

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
REV. DR. DAVID McALLISTER-WILSON, PRESIDENT

At Wesley Theological Seminary, we are building on 135 years of faithful preparation of church-
and world-changing leaders by continuing to innovate and grow. We are excited to partner with
you in the ministry to which God has called you now – and wherever you may be called in the
future. Keep reading for good news that you can use...

Grow as a leader

Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to be the internationally respected go-to
resource for actionable best practices for clergy and laity. The center's free Leading Ideas e-
newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 17,000 people. Our
new Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy offers 11 online courses covering a variety of
topics including Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and
the intersection of faith and science. Laypeople can earn a certification in Wesleyan Studies by
completing six of the courses online, or can choose to take courses individually for personal
education and enrichment. Two new certificate programs – Faith and Public Life and African American Church Studies – allow individuals to take specialized classes without pursuing a degree.

**Live more fully in God’s mission**

Wesley has received a grant of $1.5 million from the Lilly Endowment to help congregations design innovative ministries that support and enrich the religious lives of young adults. Through this grant, 20 nearby congregations will be selected to work with Wesley as an innovation hub that brings together church leaders, young adults, experts and practitioners for conversation, education, and exchange of ideas. The ultimate goal will be to help each congregation launch new partnerships with young adults, ages 23 to 29.

The Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown continues to help the church turn itself inside out. It now offers an innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program from Heal the Sick, an initiative to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. The Institute’s newest component is Wesley’s Center for Public Theology, which is designed to equip pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Luce Center for Arts and Religion remains the only seminary-based program unifying arts and theology. The public is invited to artist talks with each new exhibit; and classes and workshops with visiting artists are offered.

**Some of the options for seminarians**

- Wesley’s master of divinity (M.Div.) degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive and weeknight courses in five years.
- The new African American Church Studies M.Div. specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges future leaders may encounter in African American churches.
- The Public Theology specialization allows students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy.
- Wesley continues to offer 36-hour Master of Arts degrees and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies degree to equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.
- Wesley’s Doctor of Ministry program continues to offer the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks in theological education. We are excited to announce the launch of our third track based in Cambridge, England: *Holiness, Effective Ministry and Engagement with the World*, beginning in January 2018. Other 2018 tracks include Art and Theology, Church Leadership Excellence and Soul Care for Pastors, Chaplains and Clinicians.

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership moves to an exciting new phase in its 14-year history with the transition of leadership from founding director Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems Jr., to new director, Wesley faculty member, the Rev. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Weems will continue to be part of the Lewis Center as part-time Senior Consultant, continuing his ground-breaking work in denominational conference resourcing.

Wesley faculty members continually develop resources to advance theological scholarship and help Christians grow. This year we have celebrated new books by Drs. F. Douglas Powe Jr., Eileen Guenther, Shively Smith, Ryan Danker, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, and Joseph Bush. In the past year, we have welcomed a new professor of preaching, the Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles.
and a new chapel elder and visiting professor of worship, the Rev. Gina Campbell, and we are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Rick Elgendy as professor of Christian ethics.

Thank you for journeying with us through this update! We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God’s dream together. Blessings to you on a fruitful and faithful annual conference. We thank you for your service and hold you in prayer as you continue in ministry, wherever that may be.

CENTER FOR MISSION SUPPORT

OUR FOCUS

The Mission Support Leadership Team has been instrumental in helping organize our center and to establish center responsibilities along with pursuing objectives and plans for the Center as a whole and for helping each staff person more fully understand and live-out their relationship to the vision and mission of the Annual Conference and its connection to the larger global church. This has been accomplished around a spirit of collaboration and collegiality that has resulted in a more cohesive approach to ministry.

We have focused our ministry through the areas of:

1. Risk Taking Mission and Service;
2. Intentional Faith Development;
3. Engaging in Ministry with the Poor; and,

The Center for Mission Support serves as a resource to equip people and local congregations to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.

In many ways, the past five years have been spent investing in building relationships with our churches AND helping them see that when we say, “We are from the Conference and we are here to help!”, we mean it. Our whole mission as a conference staff is to “energize and equip local churches.”

Obviously, we do that in a variety of ways: with information about education, training, leadership development, with providing resources (both print, digitally and with persons), and a variety of other ways. It has been wonderful to see how our churches have responded to this new found partnership for ministry as we have witnessed the results in ways our churches are engaging in mission, ministry with children and youth, connectional mission and learning opportunities with more depth than we have seen in the past.

In 2016-17, the Center staff and leadership team has collaborated to further the work at the district and local church levels. As you will read in the reports that follow, we have worked hard to provide effective training, partnering, resourcing, and avenues for reaching out to, and building relationships with, individuals and communities both locally and internationally, in witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ which addresses the whole person in body, mind, and spirit and offers redemption and acceptance into the family of God regardless of a person’s status in life or in the community.
This witness has been seen within the development of ministries of justice, including immigration and other social reform, community development, disaster recovery, compassion, advocacy, presence, proclamation, and care for the sick, the prisoner, the hungry and thirsty, the stranger, and those without adequate shelter, clothing, jobs, education, and access to public and social benefits. In this way, the Center seeks to invite, empower, and support the missional life of every pastor, lay person, and congregation as vital to what it means to be a Christian in this world both in our own local communities and around the world, so that all come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and participate in God’s abundance for all people and all of creation.

In 2017-18 we will continue our focus of connecting, resourcing and partnering with agencies, individuals and churches to more adequately offer the redemptive love of Jesus Christ. We will make it our laser focus to use the WIG as outlined by the Core Team as our single-minded mission and find effective and efficient ways to engage with our local churches to take the next step in providing those in their mission field not just a “hand out” but helping them give a “hand up”.

In other words, offering resources to our local churches that will help them:

1. Assess the ministries they currently have and determining what need they meet;
2. Evaluating the current programming to see how current ministries could be adapted/expanded to be more relational than emergency relief; and,
3. Establishing some models of evaluation to determine progress.

The natural flow would be to look at ways to continue to resource basic needs while beginning to shift ministry resources (both $\$ and human) away from emergency relief and toward relationship building and empowerment to working on systemic societal/cultural barriers. There are any number of models of ministry that do this in certain ways depending on the needs they want to address.

Ministry at the final stage or transformational level can only grow out of relational ministries but can be a natural outflow once the church is entrenched in ministry with relationships.

Another focus point for us in 2017-2018 will be in inclusiveness and diversity issues, including cross racial/cross cultural appointments and give churches and pastors in our conference to adjust to the changing demographics of our neighborhoods. We have already met with Erin Hawkins, General Secretary for the General Conference Commission of Religion and Race to begin our work as an Inclusiveness Team.

We invite you to dream with us by answering the following questions…

- How can we help you meet the ministry needs of your community?
- How can we help you connect with other individuals/churches/agencies to reach out?
- How can we partner with you?

We want to hear from you on how we might better serve you to be faithful in making disciples in your local mission field in 2017-18. Send your suggestions and needs to me at randywild@ctcumc.org.

Thank you for your faithfulness in being the church in this time.
Below you will find just a sample of the reports from various ministries that relate to the Center for Mission Support and how we have attempted, through partnering and resourcing, to energize and equip the local church within the bounds of the CTC.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
LYNNE GRANSTAFF, CTC UMW PRESIDENT

“For such a time as this” Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women has devoted time, energy and resources in meeting the needs of women, children and youth in our conference and beyond. At a meeting, I recently attended, the leader said, in reference to the 8 women who met in 1869 on a “dark and stormy night in Boston” to establish what would later become United Methodist Women, “They weren’t just meeting to have tea and cookies.” To which I responded, “And yet they may have enjoyed some!”

It is important to me, as President of Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women (CTC UMW) to challenge our leaders and members to remember and embrace the history of UMW, including the fellowship and fun of teas, bake sales, and pot luck suppers, that help build community and relationships, while continuing to boldly address the social justice issues of today in the same way our forebears have done ever since they first saved their pennies to send Dr. Clara Swain and teacher Isabella Thoburn to India to address social injustice in the education and medical care of women.

To that end, we have been diligent in planning events that challenge our thinking, encourage courageous, thoughtful, and loving action, and nurture our relationships, personal faith and spiritual growth.

Since Annual Conference 2016 those events have included:

- **2016 Annual Conference Luncheon** at Waco Convention center at which we heard stories of human trafficking from a young woman and her mother and were challenged to be vigilant in watching for signs of human trafficking where we live and work.
- **Mission U** (formerly the School of Christian Mission) at Glen Lake Camp where we studied Human Sexuality and the Bible (Spiritual Growth Study), Climate Justice (Issue Study), and Latin America (Geographic Study).
- Our **44th Leadership Development Event and Annual Autumn Gathering** at Brownwood First United Methodist Church where we focused on being “Stewards of the Earth.” Featured speakers from Wesleyan Homes, Project 44, National UMW, Texas Impact, and the Georgetown UMW Bag Ladies educated us and encouraged us to love and care for our environment. The Bag Ladies shared a mission project using plastic shopping bags to crochet sleeping mats for persons experiencing homelessness. We were delighted by the gift of song from the Aldersgate “Promise Singers.” We also conducted the business of CTC UMW—approving a budget, recognizing our retiring officers, and electing and installing officers for the next 2 years.
- **UCC Act III Christmas Party** at the Bethlehem Center was a fun evening spent with the wonderful teens of the Act III program at United Community Centers, one of our National Mission Institutes. We spent the evening eating dinner, playing games and sharing the Christmas story in word and song.
- **Legislative Event**: Methodist women from all over Texas and part of New Mexico met in Austin to set our legislative priorities for 2017. They include: Prioritize Education, Prioritize
Health, Prioritize Children and Families, and Prioritize Human Dignity. The complete priority list can be seen at http://ctcumw.org/page/social_action.

- Sing-a-Rainbow: the annual CTC UMW Charter for Racial Justice event was held in February at Acton United Methodist Church. Maternal Child Health was the focus of speakers from local, regional and national organizations. They shared startling statistics about the mortality of mothers, infants and children in Texas and the USA. The groups who work to assist expectant mothers, mothers and their children in challenging social and economic circumstances inspired us to get involved locally.

- Spiritual Growth Retreat: We gathered at Arrowhead Camp and Retreat Center in Cleburne for 24 hours of spiritual nurture and care. Reverend Debra Crumpton led our study on “Living Water” as we learned how to keep our spiritual buckets full by seeking positivity and avoiding negativity. About 70 ladies attended and during our mission project they crafted, wrote and addressed 180 cards to our CTC missionaries and the 8 National UMW Regional Missionaries.

As leaders of United Methodist Women, my leadership team and I know the importance of participating in leadership training. Since our installation in October 2016, we have attended:

- National UMW Leadership Development Days in St. Louis, MO or Tempe, AZ. Seven of us spent time with National UMW leaders learning our leadership roles, discussing how to create new communities for new UMW, and seeking clarity on issues of social justice.

- Voices: it was my privilege to attend this event focused on the importance of intentional inclusion of cultures, languages, and ages as we plan UMW events and projects. It was inspiring and encouraging to learn what other Conferences are doing and get ideas for possible future CTC UMW activities.

- Task Force on Immigration: Rebecca Lucas, our CTC Social Action Chair, is participating in this important work as a representative of South Central Jurisdiction. The task force had just been established as I prepare this report, and so I will share details in my report for 2018. Please be in prayer for the group.

- Program Advisory Group: Deaconess, Megan Hale, ably represents us on the National UMW PGA. Megan brings a delightfully fresh outlook and is doing a superb job as our liaison.

- Legacy Fund: Linda Hutchings attended training this year. UMW will be celebrating a milestone 150th birthday in 2019, and to celebrate the event an endowment fund has been established. The fund will ensure that the administrative, leadership development and technology expenses of UMW are paid, allowing mission giving to go directly to missions. Please consider giving a gift in honor of someone you know as we commemorate putting “Faith, Hope, and Love into Action on behalf of women, children and youth for 150 years.” http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150

It is a blessing, and my pleasure and privilege to serve with you.

**RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE**

**FIVE STAR MISSION AWARDS**

Five Star Mission Awards recognize churches that have done the following:

1. Paid 100% of their Connectional Mission Giving;
2. Made a contribution to a United Methodist Missionary or to a United Methodist Global Church Partnership program;
3. Made a contribution to a United Methodist advance special;
4. Participated in local mission;
5. Offered an on-going program of mission education.

Congratulations to these churches who have completed these foundational steps toward missional involvement for 2016:

### North District

- Acton UMC
- Arlington Heights UMC
- Azle FUMC
- Edge Park UMC
- Fort Worth FUMC
- Poolville UMC
- Tolar UMC
- Weatherford FUMC

- Alliance UMC
- Asbury UMC
- Burleson FUMC
- Faith UMC
- Godley UMC
- Saginaw UMC
- University UMC

### South District

- Gatesville FUMC
- Harker Heights UMC
- St. Andrew’s UMC, Killeen
- St. Philip’s UMC, Round Rock
- Temple FUMC

- Good News UMC
- Salado UMC
- St. John’s UMC, Georgetown
- Tenth Street UMC
- Wellspring UMC

### East District

- Arlington FUMC
- Colleyville UMC
- Ferris Heights UMC
- Grace UMC, Arlington
- Hurst FUMC
- Mansfield FUMC
- Smithfield UMC
- St. John the Apostle UMC
- St. Paul UMC
- Waxahachie FUMC

- Alvarado FUMC
- Ennis FUMC
- Good Shepherd UMC
- Grapevine FUMC
- Keller UMC
- New World UMC
- St. Barnabas UMC
- St. Luke UMC
- Trinity UMC, Arlington
- White’s Chapel UMC

### West District

- Ballinger FUMC
- Cross Plains FUMC
- Graham FUMC
- Morgan Mill FUMC
- Oakdale UMC
- Stephenville FUMC

- Breckenridge FUMC
- Gordon UMC
- Hamilton FUMC
- Newcastle UMC
- Olney FUMC

### Central District
We are excited to celebrate these 11 First Time Recipients of the Five Star Award:

**North District**
- Brock UMC
- Cahill UMC
- Waples UMC

**South District**
- Florence UMC
- Hutto Discovery UMC
- Nolanville UMC

**East District**
- Bedford UMC
- Bristol UMC
- Handley UMC
- Palmer UMC

**Central District**
- Woodway UMC

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**Missionary Covenant Relationship Awards**

**Central Texas Annual Conference**

**Calendar year 2016**

Congratulations to these fifty-five Central Texas Conference churches who fulfilled their covenant relationship with a United Methodist Global Ministries missionary in 2016, or participated in “In Mission Together”. The covenant relationship commitment is a financial contribution of $2500/year or $5/member/year, whichever is less and an ongoing relationship of prayer and support during the year. The Central Texas Conference’s total missionary giving for 2016 was $92,392.96.

**North District**
- Acton UMC
  - Jonathan McCurley
- Aledo UMC
  - Tendai Paul Manyeza
- Alliance UMC
  - Lisa Williams
- Arlington Heights UMC
  - Gaston Ntambo
- Brock UMC
  - Donna Pewo
- Cahill UMC
  - Cindy Ceballos
- Edge Park UMC
  - Cindy Ceballos
- Poolville UMC
  - Donna Pewo
### South District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gatesville FUMC</td>
<td>Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Georgetown FUMC</td>
<td>David Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Grace/Copperas Cove</td>
<td>Steve &amp; Suzanne Buchele, Mission Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Harker Heights UMC</td>
<td>Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Killeen FUMC</td>
<td>David &amp; Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Salado UMC</td>
<td>James Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>St. Andrews UMC</td>
<td>David and Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>St. John’s/Georgetown</td>
<td>Gaston &amp; Jeanne Ntambo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>St. Philip’s/Round Rock</td>
<td>Steve &amp; Suzanne Buchele, Mission Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wellspring UMC</td>
<td>Steve &amp; Suzanne Buchele, Mission Society</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### East District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Alvarado FUMC</td>
<td>David Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Arlington FUMC</td>
<td>Rukang Chikomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Colleyville FUMC</td>
<td>Rukang Chikomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ferris Heights UMC</td>
<td>David &amp; Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Hurst FUMC</td>
<td>Jonathan Baker; David &amp; Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mansfield FUMC</td>
<td>Willie Berman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>New World UMC</td>
<td>Rukang Chikomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Palmer UMC</td>
<td>Willie Berman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>St. Barnabas UMC</td>
<td>Jeanne Ntambo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>St. Paul UMC</td>
<td>David &amp; Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Trinity UMC</td>
<td>John Nday and Dieuonne Karihano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Waxahachie FUMC</td>
<td>Willie Berman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>White’s Chapel UMC</td>
<td>Becky Harrell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### West District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Breckenridge FUMC</td>
<td>William Lovelace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Cross Plains FUMC</td>
<td>Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Gordon UMC</td>
<td>David &amp; Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Hico FUMC</td>
<td>Mary Escobar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Lake Brownwood FUMC</td>
<td>General Missionary Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Morgan Mill UMC</td>
<td>Donna Pewo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Novice UMC</td>
<td>William Lovelace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Oakdale UMC</td>
<td>Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Olney FUMC</td>
<td>Rukang Chikomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Stephenville FUMC</td>
<td>Gaston Ntambo and Willie Berman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Central District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>King Memorial UMC</td>
<td>William Lovelace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Koppel UMC</td>
<td>Greg Henneman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Thornton UMC</td>
<td>David &amp; Cindy Ceballos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Church Start District
We also want to acknowledge these churches who made a contribution to a United Methodist missionary at less than the full covenant level in 2016, but have made the first step in connecting with United Methodist global missions:

Central District
- Groesbeck UMC
- Mart UMC
- Line Street UMC

East District
- Bedford FUMC
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Keller FUMC
- St. Stephen’s UMC
- Bristol UMC
- Ennis FUMC
- St. John the Apostle UMC
- Wesley Ghanaian Community of Faith

North District
- Burleson FUMC
- Godley UMC
- University UMC
- Fort Worth First UMC
- Saginaw UMC
- Weatherford FUMC

South District
- Belton UMC
- Florence UMC
- Nolanville UMC
- Tenth Street UMC
- Discovery UMC
- Moody-Leon UMC
- Temple FUMC

West District
- Ballinger FUMC
- Newcastle UMC
- Graham FUMC

Disaster Response

REV. LARAINÉ WAUGHTAL, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE/UMVIM
LARAINÉ@CTCUMC.ORG

Once again 2016 was a busy year with response to storms. Our response was both within The Central Texas Conference and out of conference, serving in these eight different areas:

Ellis County Tornado

This event began on December 26, 2015. However, our work continued into 2016. We had a total of 18 Early Response and Emotional & Spiritual Care Teams who led the way, also supervising all the volunteers for the entire response from other organizations.

- 358 volunteers worked 3,615 hours at a value of $79,530,
75 Properties were cleaned and all school furniture, etc., was moved to a new building,
135 health kits were distributed at a value of $900,
Tarps were provided at a value of $900,
Five and Two Food Truck from Arlington Heights UMC delivered 550 meals at a value of
$3,850, and
Ovilla UMC housed and managed all donated goods. Our goal is to equip and energize
the local churches in leadership and Ovilla did a marvelous job of this during this event.

**Houston**

In April of 2016 heavy flooding hit the city of Houston and our sister Texas Conference. The
Central Texas Conference responded by sending 346 cleaning buckets to the conference.

- The value of this was $22,490.

**West**

In May, 2016, the community of West was hit again. This time, on the same weekend they were
hit by straight line winds that toppled trees and damaged roofs, the announcement was made that
the Fertilizer Plant explosion of 2013 was not an accident — it was a crime. The Central Texas
Conference responded in multiple ways. Some of the original case managers and our Emotional
& Spiritual Care Teams responded together to go and visit with the families whose homes we
helped recover and rebuild. Family after family welcomed the visits and the opportunity to talk
about the effect of this very difficult news. While these teams talked with the families, our Early
Response teams tarped roofs and cut up downed trees from the wind sheer that cut through the
city. The Mayor was heard to say, “Thank goodness for the Methodists.”

- Six teams responded totaling 35 people,
- The value of all of our teams was $19,404.

**Breckenridge**

In May of 2016 Breckenridge was hit by heavy storms and flooding. Rev. Cal Hoffman and the
FUMC Breckenridge church led the way by literally walking the streets and finding people who
needed help from the flooding. Church members and other Early Response Teams began the
work of helping people recover their home. Most families were able to recover once the initial
work was done and FUMC Breckenridge adopted one of the young families in need.

- 5 teams totaling 19 people responded to this disaster,
- The value on the response was $7,392.

**Hood County**

In spring, 2016, storms struck again with flooding in Hood County and again our volunteers have
responded. 15 Early Response Teams responded during the clean-up. We are now accepting
UMVIM teams to come and help with the repair process.

- Total value of the contribution was $14,168.
**Louisiana**

In August 2016, Louisiana was hit by flooding that was even worse than Katrina due to heavy rains. Our conference responded immediately with a delivery of cleaning buckets and school kits and health kits.

- The value of this delivery was $12,950.

Other churches stepped up with donations, food and furniture. Lakeside UMC, pastor Thomas Q Robbins and hard-working volunteer Eve Hamilton led the way facilitating through their church three semi-truck loads containing 33,000 pounds of food to Louisiana that was donated by an agency. Lakeside stepped up and paid for the expense of the delivery truck and the driver. The conference worked as a resource to help Lakeside UMC make this incredible donation happen considering that Baton Rouge Food Bank was flooded in the disaster. While we do not know the exact value on the food the cost of delivery was $10,000.

Alliance UMC was the next to step up with an amazing donation. Pastor Jim McClurg and church member Eric Kountz made this donation happen. Jim and Eric’s company RPM Expedite USA provided the five semi-trucks at a value of $5,200 that transported furniture donated by American Leather with the value of $337,000. These were high end, brand new couches and chairs for flood survivors.

The generosity of the churches, church members and companies all working in partnership have helped so many families recover in these unique and amazing ways.

Our work has continued in Corsicana, Ellis and Williamson Counties from disasters of the previous year:

**Navarro County 2015 Two Floods**

14 Early Response and Emotional & Spiritual Care teams responded with 2,235 hours at a value of $49,170. Navarro county is now taking UMVIM teams for the repairs.

**Williamson County 2015 Flood**

- 34 mission teams involving 617 volunteers serving 15,182 hours at a value of $334,004,
- 58 repairs occurred involving 61 households including a total of 209 people in those households,
- $405,936 in money donated for materials, and
- $29,400 in kind donations (i.e.- furniture) totaling $509,916 have been made to date.

There are two more complete home rebuilds remaining to finish the work in this community.

The following information provides a snapshot of our teams providing response to disasters in 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Teams</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellis County Tornado</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>358 People</td>
<td>$85,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Floods</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>346 Flood buckets</td>
<td>$22,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
West Event 6 27 People $19,404
Breckenridge 5 19 People $7,392
Hood County 15 31 People $14,168
Louisiana All churches Cleaning, health & school kits $12,950
Transportation costs for 33,000 lbs/food $10,000
Louisiana Lakeside UMC RPM Expedit & American Leather $342,200
Louisiana Alliance UMC
Navarro Floods 14 2,234 hours worked $49,170
Williamson County Floods 34 (617 vols) 15,182 hours $334,004
Williamson County 61 homes/209 lives Money & in-kind $509,916

Total for 2016 $1,023,700

Emergency Response Trainings

In 2016, 78 Emergency Response team members were trained, 30 were re-certified, and 16 Emotional & Spiritual Care Team members were trained.

UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission)
REV. LARAINA WAUGHTAL, COORDINATOR OF DISASTER RESPONSE/UMVIM
LARAINA@CTCUMC.ORG

Please read the Disaster Response report to see the large number of teams that worked as UMVIM construction teams for the repair/rebuilds across our conference.

In 2014, the CTC began providing insurance for our global VIM teams and in 2015 we were able to provide insurance to our domestic teams. This insurance has made it very affordable for teams to be covered while they are out serving in ministry. International accident/illness insurance is available at $2.67 per day per person while domestic accident insurance is $1 per day per person. If a person has insurance (and most people’s insurance does not cover them overseas) this insurance becomes their secondary insurance picking up what your insurance does not minus your $50 deductible. If you do not have insurance at all this insurance will cover you. All the detailed information is available on our conference website under the missions heading. This insurance has proven to be invaluable to many teams. We hope that all teams will utilize this insurance in the future. 1,563 individuals utilized our domestic insurance and 21 churches utilized our international insurance in 2016. For more information about our insurance, look on the CTC website: http://www.ctcumc.org/missiontripinsurance

To help you understand the difference our UMVIM teams have made we can look in our own backyard to the flooding in Williamson County. 34 mission teams involving 617 volunteers served 15,182 hours at a value of $334,004. Of the 49 church teams reporting, we have had teams serve in five states in the United States including New Mexico, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas. Internationally, we know of churches serving in 15 countries around the world. These teams involved construction, medical, relational, educational and/or VBS activities. A total of 1598 adults were involved in these projects. This does include numbers from CTC Serve which is in another report.
We held a total of 7 UMVIM Leadership Team trainings in 2016 with 54 people being trained.

The Center for Mission Support sponsored an Older Adult Mission trip to Sager Brown to work on kits for UMCOR. This trip was another successful event. Information about the 2017 trip can be found on the CTC website: http://www.ctcumc.org/missionsites

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference – multiple churches and conference teams have partnered with the OIMC to help improve and repair their camps, build wheelchair ramps and covers for the ramps from the weather. Many more teams continue to sign up and build this wonderful relationship. We invite you to go to our conference webpage to receive information on working with the OIMC http://www.ctcumc.org/missionsites.

The Center for Mission Support also sponsored the second annual mission trip designed by young adults for young adults called “Here, There, and Everywhere.” This year a group of 12 young adults from local UM churches and Wesley Foundations went to Waco, TX, where they finished construction on a guest house at the Susannah Wesley house. The group also built a stage platform at the Baylor Wesley Foundation and stayed overnight at Central UMC. Here, There, and Everywhere will be offered again for young adults in January 2018.

We are now accepting VIM teams in Granbury and Corsicana to help with repairs and rebuilds.

Advance Giving

Central Texas Conference continues to be supporters of mission and ministry all across our global connection as United Methodists making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Each of the ministries below engages at least one of our areas of focus as United Methodists: engaging in ministry with the poor, improving global health, developing principled Christian leaders, all the while creating new and renewed congregations by creating international partnerships where both sites are renewed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Below are the top ten advance specials that our conference supports:

**UMCOR USA** $98,235.75

**Missionary Support** $92,392.96

The missionaries include:

- William Lovelace
- David Ceballos
- Cindy Ceballos
- Becky Harrell
- Rukang Chikomb
- Willie Berman
- Jonathan Baker
- Jeanne Ntambo
- Gaston Ntambo
- John Nday
- Dieudonne Karhano
- Donna Pewo
- Jonathan MCurley
- Lisa Williams
- James Williams
- Tendai Paul Manyeza
- Greg Henneman
- Mutwale Ntambo wa Mushidi
- Steve Buchele (Mission Society)
- Suzanne Buchele (Mission Society)
- Mary Escobar

Child Rescue Center – Sierra Leone \( \text{\$12,905.00} \)

The vision of the Child Rescue Center is to see every child in Sierra Leone, particularly girls, remain in school, free from any danger of exploitation from forced child labor and trafficking as well as foster leadership within them to become the future leaders of Sierra Leone.

Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia \( \text{\$9,800.00} \)

The vision of Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia is to transform communities using community based healthcare models for medical and dental care through education and services, especially to women and children following Liberia’s devastating civil war.

UMCOR Global \( \text{\$8,554.94} \)

The UMCOR Global fund provides immediate assistance for disasters around the world whenever they happen.

Maua Methodist Hospital \( \text{\$6,525.00} \)

The vision of Maua Methodist Hospital is to save the lives of hundreds of critically ill inpatients unable to pay for their healthcare in Kenya.

Imagine No Malaria \( \text{\$4,821.11} \)

The vision is to achieve 20% reduction in malaria morbidity and mortality in the targeted communities over a five-year period. To date, Imagine No Malaria has raised over \$12 million to fight the disease.

AIDS Orphan Projects/HIV AIDS \( \text{\$3,887.55} \)

These funds resource HIV/AIDS related ministries across the globe.

Ghana Water Project \( \text{\$3,000.00} \)

The vision of the Ghana Water Project is to help Ghana achieve universal coverage for water and sanitation by providing safe reliable drinking water and sanitation facilities for the people of Ghana.

ZOE \( \text{\$2,610.00} \)

The vision of Zoe is to empower the most vulnerable of God’s children physically, psychologically, and spiritually.

Remaining Projects \( \text{\$11,612.02} \)

Total CTC Advance Giving for 2016 \( \text{\$229,794.33} \)

While the Central Texas Conference supports ministries around the world through our prayers, presence and service on mission trips, and sharing of stories about the ministries, we recognize
the competition for our resources. In 2016, giving to Advance Specials was down $204,163 and
giving to support the missionaries who daily live out their call in these ministry sites was down
$31,562. As your church considers the best way to live out your calling to the world, consider
how you might be renewed and energized for ministry through partnering with an advance special
or missionary. Essentially, if each person in worship gave $6 more per year, which is the average
price of a fast food combo meal, we can make up the difference in 2017. Contact Rev. Molly K.
Simpson for more information or support getting started.

Central Texas Conference Youth Ministry
CLAIRE CONDREY, COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
CLAIRECONDREY@CTCUMC.ORG

The 2016-2017 year has been a great one for the Conference Youth Ministry. Youth Workers
from across our conference have been committed to not only their local church Youth Ministry,
but also to supporting one another. Over the course of the year, Youth Workers have participated
in the Youth Worker Sabbath, Youth Worker gatherings and Accountability Groups.

Youth Worker Sabbath, held at Stillwater Lodge in Glen Rose provided a time for Youth Workers
to recharge after busy summers of mission trips, spiritual retreats, and more. Our theme was
“Joy” and our facilitator was the Galloway UMC Director of Youth Ministry, Joe Woolsey. Youth
Worker gatherings were held across the conference. These informal gatherings provide a time
of brainstorming and ministry support. Youth Worker Accountability Groups were held in the
northern and southern parts of our conference. Youth Workers attended these meetings for an
intentional time of accountability and continuing education. Our conference is truly blessed by
dedicated, caring and devoted Youth Workers who strive every day to follow the mission of our
UMC and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Conference Youth Ministry leadership teams worked incredibly hard in the 2016-2017 year.
We saw an increase in our participation and church representation. Below you will see reports
from two our leaders: our CCYM President, Taylor Vaughan, and one of our CTCYM Advisory
Task Force Team Members, Kylie Williams. Taylor is serving her third year on CCYM, and her
second year as President. Taylor is a senior in high school and attends FUMC Grapevine. Kylie
Williams is serving her third year on the ATFT. She is a freshman at Texas A&M and a member
at FUMC Mineral Wells.

Central Texas Conference Council on Youth Ministry
TAYLOR VAUGHAN, CCYM PRESIDENT
CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE YOUTH IN MISSION

The Central Texas Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) is a conference wide group
of youth leaders that are dedicated to growing the faith of the youth in the Central Texas
Conference.

Over the past year, our CCYM team has grown; we are now a team of 40 youth and adults.
Throughout the 2017-2018 year CCYM met once every 3 months to plan events and grow in not
only our faith but also strengthen our leadership qualities. Each year, one of our biggest
responsibilities is the planning and organizing of our conference wide youth spiritual retreat, Mid-
Winter. Mid-Winter takes place at Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose, TX during two separate
weekends in February. At Mid-Winter participants get an opportunity to worship and serve the
Lord, and also play games and interact with youth and adults from different churches. The theme
of Mid-Winter 2017 was “Embark. Explore. Engage.” In the morning and evenings, we spent time in worship with music from Bus Seven and messages from Reverend Jarrod Johnston. Our small group curriculum was written by Reverend Margret Fields. Through small groups and Reverend Johnston’s messages we explored how we each can look to the disciples in the Bible to carry out our Christian duty as present day disciples. Also, at our second weekend, during Sunday morning closing worship, we had a special guest join us for communion. Bishop Lowry came and worshipped with us and consecrated communion. As the CCYM President, I was asked to help serve communion with Bishop Lowry. Being the age I am, it was quite a huge honor to get to serve alongside such a prestigious figure in our United Methodist Church. All of the attendees of this Mid-Winter were in complete amazement and very grateful that Bishop was able to speak and serve with us. At the end of these two incredible weekends we had over 500 participants collectively and had 38 churches in attendance.

This year, we added a new event called Unite. Youth groups gathered for a one day event at Glen Lake Camp in an effort to focus on and further experience the community of the United Methodist Church. Churches had the opportunity to come and play games, do different activities around camp and build invaluable relationships with neighboring churches within our conference. We had 27 churches in total attendance and over 300 participants. We absolutely cannot wait to continue growing our relationships as the Church and serving God with our whole hearts.

Likewise, this year we have started a continued to grow a program that we focused on last year, called Youth Service Fund. We have assigned two youth co-chairs that are responsible for finding ways to raise funds for YSF. This year we felt called to continue to support Threads of Hope. This organization, in the Philippines, helps residents earn a living wage by weaving beautiful bracelets that we purchase and sell as a fundraiser. Half of the proceeds go to help these impoverished families and the other half goes to support YSF. In addition, we sold concessions during free time activities at Mid-Winter and Central Texas Conference hats. The hats were a huge hit and I encourage you all to buy one! This year, we will be accepting applications for YSF grants to support local church youth ministry within Central Texas Conference. A limited number will be awarded for the year of 2018.

CCYM as a group really blew everything out of the water this year and I could not be more proud of each and every one of our team members. We enjoy meeting and working together with one common focus. We have youth ranging from 8th-12th grade and adults that work alongside us to bring new ideas and lots of fun to our meetings. Many of our youth hold officer positions such as vice president, secretary and many others. Of course, we could not do this if it were not for our amazing adults who have taught us what it means to be a true faithful follower and lover of Jesus Christ. As I previously stated, this fantastic group continues to grow and exceed all expectations. We spent more time than ever this year training and building each other up as leaders. As a group, we continue to encourage one another to spread the love of God and break out of our comfort zones to reach all people in the way that Jesus would have. We cannot wait to see where our next adventure will take us.

A note to Central Texas Conference:

As this year comes to a close and my time on CCYM begins to wind down, I would like to personally say thank you. Thank you for continuing to support your local youth groups in the United Methodist Church and for graciously loving on us. I would not be the woman I am today without the leadership opportunities and invaluable relationships CTC has blessed me with, and for that I am forever grateful to each and every one of you. I am able to rest in the knowledge that as I move forward to Auburn University in the fall, I will always have a home in this
Conference. Thank you for being so passionate for the Lord and for teaching me what radiant love can do in this ever changing world. Be blessed.

Report from the CTCYM Advisory Task Force

T.J. Wilkins, Advisory Task Force Member

It is a sensational time to be a part of the Advisory Task Force Team. Last year, CTCYM 2016 had over 1400 participants from 64 different churches. We are very excited about CTCYM 2017! It has been incredible to see our plans come together as we prepare to head to Oklahoma and the Central Texas Conference this summer. Our theme “Choose 2B” reminds us that no matter where we are on our spiritual journey we have been empowered with the fruit of the Spirit. That power can have a positive and everlasting impact not only on our personal relationship with God, but also on the people and communities around us. The week’s messages will be centered around choosing to be Christ-like with a focus on the Fruit of the Spirit. We have received an enormous amount of enthusiasm from the communities we will be serving this summer, and we are very eager to connect with their members and hopefully impact their lives as much as they will impact ours. This year we have partnered with fifteen generous churches in Oklahoma and four within the Central Texas Conference that will serve as Living Centers. Once again, we are anticipating about 1500 participants.

The CTCYM Advisory Task Force Team, ATFT, is responsible for the overall coordination of the mission experience. In the past three years, I have served, the amount of youth involvement within the team has increased. I currently serve on the team as a young adult and it is encouraging to see the growing youth participants making the decision to get involved, express their opinion and take leadership roles on sub-committees and worship. I believe this involvement will help the team stay relevant in the ever-changing world of youth. The team has worked diligently preparing for 2017, and we have already begun planning for 2018 and 2019. In June of 2018 we will be serving the State of New Mexico for the first time, and in July of 2018 we will be serving South East Texas (along I-45 and Hwy 6). We have received great anticipation and open arms from the communities and churches in New Mexico regarding the decision to serve there, and are looking forward to expanding our mission opportunities to a neighboring state. We are excited about our theme for 2018 and cannot wait to unveil it at our 2017 closing worships.

ENGAGING IN MINISTRY WITH THE POOR

Local Church Partnerships

One of the primary ways the Center for Mission Support resources local church outreach ministry is through the Ministry Partnership Grants. These are one-time resourcing opportunities to help local churches start new ministries which reach out into their communities in new ways. The application process requires a leadership team within the local church for the ministry as well as a plan for sustainability for subsequent years. In 2016, we were privileged to award $10,145 to CTC churches for partnerships through CTC Serve and $16,500 in other grants including these new mission initiatives:

- Weatherford FUMC “Difference Makers” children’s mission ministry
Mission Leader Reading Groups

Connecting and resourcing local church mission leaders continues to be a priority of The Center for Mission Support. One of the primary ways we served our churches this year was through the facilitation of regional reading and discussion groups for local church pastors/mission leaders. Thanks to these four churches who offered gracious hospitality to our reading groups: Temple FUMC, Crowley FUMC, DeLeon FUMC, and Central UMC, Waco and to several church leaders who shared their particular experiences of working with these resources. Together, our mission leaders read and discussed these resources:

- The Hole in Our Gospel by Richard Stearns
- What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty by Bill Ehlig and Ruby Payne
- When Helping Hurts by Stephen Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- Change the World by Mike Slaughter

CTC Serve

On September 11, 2016, many churches went past the walls of their building to serve within their communities with an emphasis on hunger and food insecurity. Almost 2,000 people served in some capacity, having put in over 2,000 total hours. These churches spent $13,000 on their outreach projects and over 12,000 meals or weekend bags were prepared. In addition, the Center for Mission Support provided over $10,000 in grant support to CTC churches for this day, enabling them to reach into their communities and build relationships with the grace of Jesus Christ. Most importantly, however, read a few of the stories from the day to fully grasp the impact made on both the communities and congregations:

Dido United Methodist Church

- After worship, the church came together in the Fellowship Hall to put together the snack sacks. We gathered around for instructions and explanations of what the snack packs were for and why. As we put together the sacks, we sang praise songs, talked, laughed, and had a wonderful time. We prayed over the snack sacks when we were done and put them in our pantry for delivery to the elementary school later. As a result of this event we have gotten to know the elementary school counselor, set up a time to serve lunch for the teachers of the school so we can tell the teachers we want to help with more than just snack packs, four people have signed up to be mentors/tutors, and we are going to help with Christmas for families in need at the school.

Hutto Discovery UMC

- We met early on the Friday evening, Sept 9, and delivered pre-printed bags for food collection to a neighborhood near our church. We advertised ahead of time through the neighborhood’s Facebook page, letting them know who we were, that we were coming, and what our objective was. On Sunday, Sept 11, we met in the early evening and returned to the neighborhood to collect the bags. The neighborhood was very responsive, glad to
help, and appreciative of our efforts. We collected just shy of 1000 pounds of food, which was donated to Hutto Community Food Pantry.

**Meadowbrook UMC**
- On CTC Serve Day, several churches and civic organizations came together to provide produce for Eastside Ministries, a local food pantry and clothes closet. Recently, the pantry had lost its produce partner and we wanted to supplement what produce they were buying. More and more churches got on board as we talked about Veggie-Palooza. On the day of the event, representatives from 3 of the 5 churches were present as we loaded and unloaded several vehicles worth of produce. We decorated a truck with posters and balloons and drove from Meadowbrook, east on Lancaster Ave., to Eastside Ministries. The parade of cars got attention! Overall, we learned that hunger cannot always be visually diagnosed and that our churches are in an area of great need. There are simple things that we can do to alleviate hunger in our neighborhoods. Together, we collected over 1300 pounds of produce to benefit our neighbors. Glory to God!

**Genesis UMC and Christ UMC**
- Hunger ministry leaders explained to the volunteers about the need of the some children in the Crowley ISD who needed food over the weekend. The Snack Sacks they would be packaging would help provide some nutritious food for the children and their siblings to take over the weekend would be distributed by the school counselors. There was great teamwork between these two churches partnering together for the project. They all had a great time and want to join in doing other projects together for the community.

**Breckenridge FUMC**
- A team of adults and youth met at the community garden where we built 4 raised beds in order to make the garden easier for adults to use and increase our efficiency. We had an enjoyable event and the youth learned some good skills and gardening information. It was hot that day, but we kept everyone hydrated. We enjoy the opportunity it provides to help our community and challenge us to stay involved in outreach to those in need.

Thank you to all the churches and volunteers who participated in CTC Serve. Be encouraged and know that you are truly embodying God’s call to seek justice in the world. We pray that you continue to grow relationships and serve with the people of your communities not just one day during the year but every day throughout the life of your congregation.

Watch the CTC website for more information about CTC Serve 2017 scheduled for September 10, 2017.

**Project Transformation Central Texas Conference**

**JULIE HARDING, PROJECT TRANSFORMATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

JULIEHARDING@CTCUMC.ORG

This past year the leaders of Project Transformation have been creating the foundation of a new ministry by building relationships with people and churches from across the conference. Partner churches are coming together to support the development of young adult leaders, the enrichment of underserved children, and strengthening site churches in changing neighborhoods.

To enable all of this to happen, we have hired an executive director and a program director who together have over 14 years of experience with Project Transformation. Texas Wesleyan
University has been a key partner in this initiative and graciously renovated an office space in Polytechnic UMC. In addition, the 24 interns will move into OC Hall at TWU the last week of May, and volunteers will bring dinner nightly to the fellowship hall in Polytechnic UMC.

This summer we are excited to have three program sites at FUMC Bedford, Meadowbrook UMC, and University UMC. Church leaders are preparing to welcome eight interns to run the program and up to 80 children at each site. We have also hired two house pastors who will live with the interns to plan and facilitate the community living experience including daily devotionals, & weekly worship.

At the time of this printing, we are recruiting partner churches who will support intern salaries, provide meals and resource Project Transformation in many other ways. We look forward to recognizing our Partner Churches at Annual Conference.

In addition, we are thankful for these Project Transformation Leadership Team Members who have served faithfully during this year:

- Rev. Dara Austin - Associate Pastor for Faithworks Missions & Outreach, White’s Chapel UMC
- Buz Barlow - Chairman, Jabez Capital/Ventures
- Greg Feris, Ed. D. (Fundraising Chair) – Retired University Professor & Athletics Administrator
- Susan Luttrel (Board Development Chair) – Director of Serving and Outreach, First UMC Mansfield
- Rev. Amber Massingill – Associate Director of Faith Formation, Central Texas Conference of the UMC
- Thomas Mitchell – Associate Director, University of Texas at Arlington Wesley Foundation
- Rev. Dawne Phillips – Director of Missions, Central Texas Conference of the UMC
- Rev. Philip Rhodes (Chair) – Senior Pastor, First UMC Hurst
- Dr. Jerry Roberson – Church Transformation Consultant, Central Texas Conference of the UMC
- Rev. Rezolia Roberson – Pastor, Covenant UMC
- Hiram Smith – Member, First UMC Deleon, TX
- Rev. Amy Tate Almy, AFC – Associate Minister, City Point UMC & Financial Educator, Money Matters Ministries
- Rev. Dr. Robert Warden (Finance Chair) - Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army Retired

The conference, districts, churches, individuals, and foundations have been extremely generous with their financial contributions. As of this printing, we have raised over $180,000 to support our first summer’s program. If you would like to learn more about how to partner with Project Transformation, look for one of the interns in their green polo shirts at opening worship where they will be commissioned into service.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT
REV. AMBER MASSINGILL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION

Children’s Ministry Coaching
“Time for Children” is a three-year coaching program for Children’s ministry leaders provided in partnership between the Central Texas Conference and Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley through a grant from the Texas Methodist Foundation. The goal of the coaching is to energize and equip congregations to develop a vision and resources for children’s ministry beyond Sunday school lessons; to help hurting children and families; and to enable children to be a vital part of the church’s mission in the world. The coaching provided by Dr. Hadley equips children’s leaders to implement spiritual formation practices in their children’s ministry. Twenty-One Central Texas Conference churches are entering the second year of the year of this program. They include:

Aledo UMC
Arlington FUMC
Azle FUMC
Couts UMC
DeLeon FUMC
Georgetown FUMC
Grapevine FUMC
Joshua FUMC
Martin UMC
Smithfield UMC
Weatherford FUMC

Arborlawn UMC
Arlington Heights UMC
Colleyville FUMC
Davis Memorial UMC
Grace UMC, Copperas Cove
Granbury FUMC
Hurst FUMC
Killeen FUMC
Saginaw UMC
St. Barnabas UMC (*first year)

**Confirmation Celebration**

Confirmation classes from around the conference came together on April 22nd, 2017 at FUMC Killeen to learn how to be live out their Confirmation vows with their Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. Thank you to the breakout leaders who lead workshops in these five areas of Christian commitment, to our worship leaders- the youth praise band from Methodist Children’s Home, and especially to Bishop Mike Lowry for his wisdom and blessing upon the Confirmands.

**Kids Bible Camp**

The Central Texas Conference partnered again with Glen Lake Camp to bring together over 100 third, fourth, and fifth graders for Bible Camp. The purpose of Bible Camp is to ignite a passion for reading scripture in our young people. This year’s theme was “Sowing Seeds” with featured speaker, Nancy Worcester. Each student received a journal to use in their daily scripture reading when they returned home. Kids’ Bible Camp will be held at Glen Lake on September 15-16, 2017.

**Young Adults**

Engaging young adults in Service and Witness through their local church was a prominent theme in 2016. To encourage young adults and those who work with youth and young adults to attend the Evangelism Summit ‘16 held at White’s Chapel UMC, the Central Texas Conference offered a free dinner and discussion event with Rev. Olu Brown at the end of the day. Around 40 pastors, youth directors, and young adult leaders attended the dinner and discussion, and were encouraged to hear more of Rev. Brown’s personal story and wisdom on engaging young people in the ministry and mission of the church.

The Central Texas Conference sponsored the second annual mission trip designed by young adults for young adults called “Here, There, and Everywhere.” This year a group of 12 young
adults from local UM churches and Wesley Foundations went to Waco, TX, where they finished
construction on a guest house at the Susannah Wesley house. The group also build a stage
platform at the Baylor Wesley Foundation and stayed overnight at Central UMC. Here, There, and
Everywhere will be offered again for young adults in January 2018.

Ministry Safe

Since 2015 when MinistrySafe was adopted as our Conference-wide abuse prevention system,
there has been overwhelming success in congregations implementing MinistrySafe. Although the
initial set up and transition was challenging for many congregations, the vast majority of churches
have persevered to understand the system, overcome resistance to the changes, and now have
a good foundation of MinistrySafe operating in their ministries.

During this process, most congregations have relied upon the pastor and/or children and youth
staff to lead the compliance process. Each church has a Safety System Administrator (SSA)
who maintains the online dashboard and often facilitates the compliance process for volunteers
and staff. In 2016, the MinistrySafe Oversight Committee requested that MinistrySafe SSA be
added to the Charge Conference list of “Local Church Leaders” so that now we can communicate
directly through the Conference database console to those leaders responsible for MinistrySafe.
Currently, the console holds 226 names of SSAs in our Conference.

However, the burden is not on the SSA alone. At this point, every congregation should also have
a Safety Committee, as per the CTC MinistrySafe policy, which helps makes decisions on how
to implement the policy, monitors local ministries, and addresses safety violations and concerns.
For our smallest churches, many Pastors are serving as the SSA as well as facilitating the
compliance process for their volunteers. In these cases, a Safety Committee is essential for
maintaining accountability and sharing responsibility between the pastor and laity.

At first, MinistrySafe seemed confined to children and youth ministries within the walls of the
church. Now, local Mission and Outreach teams are also seeing the need for MinistrySafe
certification as they interact with the community and represent the United Methodist Church in the
streets of their neighborhoods. Churches are asking their mission and outreach volunteers to be
MinistrySafe compliant.

The CTC MinistrySafe Oversight Committee monitors compliance in several CTC programs
including:

- Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) and its annual Mid-Winter retreat
- Central Texas Youth in Mission projects (CTCYM) and its Advisory Task Force
- Children’s Bible Camp and Confirmation Celebration
- Chrysalis
- Project Transformation
- Emergency Response Teams (ERT), UMVIM leader training, Emotional/Spiritual Care
training

All adults- laity and clergy- who attend any of the CTC-sponsored programs listed above must
submit a compliance form before attending the event.

In an effort to model best practices, the CTC Cabinet members have completed the 5 Safety
Steps required for individual MinistrySafe compliance. Our hope is that the District
Superintendents and their Assistants will be able to encourage Pastors who have not yet completed MinistrySafe themselves or congregations in their District who have not yet engaged the program.

The MinistrySafe Oversight Committee is aware that some churches are not utilizing all 5 Safety Steps when training volunteers. Some churches merely run a criminal background check and require the video training, leaving out all or part of the screening process (application, interview, references). The Oversight Committee is also aware that some churches have self-reported on their Charge Conference forms that the church is “non-compliant” with CTC MinistrySafe expectations.

From the perspective of the Oversight Committee, **full compliance** for a local church would look like this:

- Has in place an SSA who is different from the Pastor (although the Pastor can be one of two SSAs)
- Has a functioning Safety Committee which monitors church ministries and programs
- Follows all 5 safety steps with volunteers and staff: Video Training, Safety Application, Interview, References, Criminal Background Check
- Utilizes their MinistrySafe dashboard with up-to-date information, as well as a secure and confidential paper trail
- Implements the CTC MinistrySafe policy for programs with children, youth, and vulnerable adults

The MinistrySafe Oversight Committee will continue to monitor Conference-sponsored programs ensuring they remain in compliance with the criteria listed above. Beyond that work, the Committee’s main goals for the next two years are:

1. To encourage all CTC clergy to become MinistrySafe compliant through their local church (or through the district or conference office when necessary).
2. To strengthen local Safety Committees
   a. through specialized workshops for those church leaders/staff
   b. by increasing awareness of the role of Safety Committees among Pastors and local Trustee committees.

### Looking Ahead in 2017

**ENGAGE MISSION CONFERENCE**  
October 6-7, 2017  
FUMC Temple

The purpose of Engage is to energize and equip local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by empowering local church mission leaders. The plenary and breakout sessions are designed to encourage clergy and lay mission leaders to rethink and reframe missions as ministry that provides opportunities for transformation through relationships. The Friday night worship and learning session is central to the event and will set the framework for everything participants will experience in Saturday’s sessions - See more at: [http://www.ctcumc.org/engage](http://www.ctcumc.org/engage)
GLEN LAKE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER
NATALIE DAVIDSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Glen Lake Camp is continuing to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The full-time staff at Glen Lake utilized the end of 2016 to reflect on our ministry goals and truly consider how the ministry of Glen Lake fulfills its mission. The team of directors worked to create a vision and core values to fulfill our ultimate mission. 1 Peter 4:8-11 has inspired our work and vision for our ministry.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him, be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:8-11

Our vision is to create an environment where authentic relationships are formed. Our core values are to love deeply, serve graciously, and host intentionally. We are challenged by the scripture in 1 Peter and hope to serve our guests in a way in which we reflect and point to Christ. As we serve the Central Texas Conference and other guests, we hope they will recognize the new environment we are creating. We are also taking these core values and vision into account when we make decisions regarding facility maintenance and design. With the mission, vision, and core values as our foundation, we are daily tackling the work of camp and retreat ministries.

As we train the staff and prepare for summer camp, we are excited to welcome two new members to the team. Kim Fair joined our staff in February. Kim has experience in camping from the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Kim is hiring and training the summer staff for the 2017 Summer Camp season. Kim is originally from Australia and came to the United States for a summer camp internship through an international camping program. Kim brings experience in programming and administration.

Our second new staff member is Andrew Templeman. Andrew is from the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Andrew served multiple summers at a conference camp in west Ohio and has filled the role of Recreation Manager at Glen Lake with Daran Miller’s changing roles to Development Director.

The Glen Lake Board of Directors have guided the ministry of Glen Lake this year with their attention to financial planning, ministry evaluation, and immediate and imminent plans. The Glen Lake Board of Directors and staff are excited to host retreat groups and prepare for summer campers. We have reached and exceeded our goals for the past two summers in camper attendance. We are thankful to the CTCUMC for helping us get the word out about summer camp. We are continually looking for opportunities to serve our conference and connect with churches and their members. Glen Lake continues to be a ministry of the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church and we desire to serve its members and help connect new campers to their local UM churches.

Please join us as we prepare for the 2017 Summer Camp season and our coming year of serving guests. We would love to get you plugged into volunteer opportunities at Glen Lake and would appreciate your prayers as we focus on our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
Thank you for reviewing our report and we look forward to serving you soon! Please review the Still Water Lodge Taskforce Report for an update on Glen Lake Camp Board of Directors’ request for review of the ministry of Still Water Lodge.

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ED KOMANDOSKY, CHAIRMAN

This past year (2016) saw a concentrated effort to finish out, complete, furnish and move archives and historical items in possession of the CTC to the new facility in Arlington. This effort culminated with a dedication ceremony presided over by Bishop Lowry on Nov. 5, 2016.

As this quadrennium ended, new leadership for the Archives and History Commission was put in place. Rev. Robyn Young was elected chair and Russell Keelin was chosen secretary for the next four years.

The Archives and History Commission will continue to promote the goal of local churches collecting and preserving photos, books, newspapers and other items of historical significance. We will also encourage more churches to seek historical markers as appropriate and to train more local church historians.

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

CALVIN SCOTT, CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE ARCHIVIST

This year the Central Texas Archives held our open house. After the open house, I was able to return to the normalcy of working the archives. One of my major goals this year is to scan the West Texas Conference Journals from 1939 to 1970, and make them available online. To accomplish this I may need to work with the other conferences or the jurisdiction so I can get a complete run of the journals. This year I have answered over 25 archive requests, and I am still doing my regular job of appraising and cataloging materials for the archives. I also wanted to congratulate Jean Traster for receiving Ministry of Memory Award from the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church. The Central Texas Conference and South Central Jurisdiction would not be the archival institution we are today without Jean’s numerous contributions.

I would also like to let our churches know a few of the vital records they need to keep. One of the most requested and least available record is baptism records. Baptism records have always been highly requested, but most churches do not keep a decent copy of those records. Membership records should also always be kept. This is important to keep in mind as many membership records are kept and managed by computer databases and physical copies are no longer kept. It is important that those records are kept permanently whether that be electronically or physically. There are other records that are also important to keep like committee, board, Property and deed records, and others, that are very useful for our archives to have.
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<th>Section</th>
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<td>II. JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE</td>
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<td>III. CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP</td>
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Increase (Decrease)  351,431     73,674
Increase (Decrease)  3.45%        0.70%

ADJUSTMENT - Previously collected CMG in Relocation Funds -351,431 -100,000

2017 Connectional Mission Giving Shares Allocated to Churches $ 10,171,964  $ 10,497,069

The budget increase from 2016 to 2018 is 4.18%.
### 2018 Central Texas Conference Budget

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<td>2. Center Events/Recruitment/Training</td>
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<td>d. Mission Esperanza</td>
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<td>f. Wesley Ghanaian</td>
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<td>g. Harvest</td>
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### V. CENTER FOR MISSION SUPPORT

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<td>3. Glen Lake Camp</td>
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<td>4. Texas Methodist College Association</td>
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<td>5. Ministry Safe</td>
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<td>B. Developing Principled Christian Leaders</td>
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<td>2. Young Adult Development</td>
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<td>C. Risk Taking Mission and Service</td>
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<td>1. VIM Training/Education/Leadership/Team Work</td>
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<td>4. Justice for our Neighbors – JFON</td>
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<td>E. Global Health Ministry</td>
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<td>c. Disability Concerns</td>
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<td>d. Ethnic Local Church Training</td>
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<td>e. Status and Role of Women</td>
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<td>2. Global Health Partnerships</td>
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<td>F. Passionate Worship</td>
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<td>G. Center Administration Expenses</td>
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<td>1. Staff Salaries and Benefits</td>
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<td>b. Board of Pensions</td>
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<td>c. Board of Trustees</td>
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<td>d. CFA</td>
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<td>e. Equitable Compensation</td>
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<td>f. Personnel Committee/Rules Committee</td>
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<td>3. Team Ministry, Training and Resources</td>
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<td>VI. AC ORGANIZATION/ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>3,790,265</td>
<td>3,807,585</td>
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<td>A. Cabinet</td>
<td>1,370,217</td>
<td>1,407,696</td>
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1. DS’s Compensation and Benefits | 777,261 | 799,560
2. Executive Director’s Compensation and Benefits | 592,956 | 608,136

**B. Connectional Resources** | **1,526,968** | **1,498,596**

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount 2016</th>
<th>Amount 2017</th>
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<td>1. Conference Claimants (pre-82 Pension Liability)</td>
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<td>2. Equitable Compensation/Interim Pastoral Support</td>
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<td>3. Clergy Moving Expense</td>
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<td>4. Retiree Health Benefits</td>
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<td>5. Chancellor</td>
<td>35,000</td>
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<td>6. General/Jurisdictional Delegates</td>
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<td>7. Journal</td>
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<td>8. Annual Conference</td>
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<td>9. Episcopal Residence/Office</td>
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<td>10. Service Center Operations</td>
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<td>c. Insurance</td>
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<td>d. Office Equipment/Supplies/Maintenance</td>
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<td>27,700</td>
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<td>e. Utilities/Telephone</td>
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<td>f. Copier/Postage Meter Lease/Expenses</td>
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<td>g. Equity</td>
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<td>11. Glen Lake Camp Debt Service</td>
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<td>12. Sustentation Fund (As per ¶ 626 2012 BOD)</td>
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**C. District Support** | **893,080** | **901,293**

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<td>2. East</td>
<td>203,042</td>
<td>209,261</td>
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<td>3. North</td>
<td>179,730</td>
<td>175,350</td>
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<td>4. South</td>
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<td>5. West</td>
<td>153,687</td>
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Connectional Mission Giving Shares Allocated to Churches
(If NO ADJUSTMENT) | $10,523,395 | $10,597,069 |

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<th>Amount 2016</th>
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<td>$ Increase (Decrease)</td>
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<td>$73,674</td>
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<td>ADJUSTMENT – Previously collected CMG in Relocation Funds</td>
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2017 Connectional Mission Giving Shares Allocated to Churches | $10,171,964 | $10,497,069 |

(*) The detail lines in the budgets are informational spending guidelines only, and do not represent any contractual support obligation.
NOTES TO 2018 BUDGET

1. As churches choose to close the conference becomes the owner of the property. The utilities, maintenance, insurance and other costs associated with the new conference property continues to go up.

2. Digitizing archival records, and additional utility costs of separate facility space.

3. This money is earmarked to provide adequate funding for the liabilities associated with our various clergy benefits (Health & Pension). Currently this funding is earmarked for our Retiree Health Liability. The latest valuation audit found us with funding for 36% of our $5,500,000 liability. We have reduced the asking amount for this fund over the last 4 years by $500,000. As the last of these benefit liabilities becomes adequately funded we will further reduce this amount.

4. By action of the 2012 Annual Conference and beginning with the 2013 budget we annually deposit $100,000 into our Wespath Building Equity Fund (balance 13/31/16 = $425,867). The intent of the fund is to allow the conference to have a substantial amount of money secured for whatever the needs of the conference in its next phase of growth.

5. By action of the 2007 Annual Conference and in adherence with ¶ 626 of the 2012 Book of Discipline a sustentation fund was established as part of the benefit program through the Annual Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The fund is to provide resources and temporary financial assistance to clergy and to assist local congregations in times of clergy transition. The funds are underwritten with an amount of .25% of the total Annual Conference plan compensation collected from CTC churches through the connectional ministry budget. You may find further information in “Report” 1 in the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Report.

### 2014 - 2018 BUDGET COMPARISONS

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<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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### 2010 - 2016 END OF YEAR FUNDS REPORT

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<td>649,070</td>
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<td>Contingency Fund</td>
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<td>52,701</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<td>Permanent Reserve ***</td>
<td>648,312</td>
<td>545,927</td>
<td>539,414</td>
<td>549,993</td>
<td>561,597</td>
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<td>TOTAL RESERVES</td>
<td>619,143</td>
<td>682,519</td>
<td>792,432</td>
<td>1,138,246</td>
<td>1,463,368</td>
<td>1,662,738</td>
<td>1,765,370</td>
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</table>

* Provides operational cash flow, particularly in the first quarter. Three years of above average CMG payout (2012-2014) has increased this amount substantially. At the end of 2016, $150,000 was transferred from Budget Reserve to Permanent, and $38,695.51 was transferred from Budget Reserve to restore Contingency Fund (CFA Report #3).

** The Annual Conference voted that beginning with the 2013 budget we were to put $100,000 annually into an equity fund. The intent of the fund is to allow the conference to have a substantial amount of money secured for whatever the needs of the conference in its next phase of growth.

*** Annual Conference goal for Permanent Reserve is 10% of budget or approximately $1,000,000
The churches of the Central Texas Conference are to be congratulated on another excellent payout on Connectional Mission Giving (CMG) shares (a.k.a. apportionments)! Even with all the financial challenges we have faced as a nation, in our annual conference and congregations, the churches of the Central Texas Conference had the following total payout percentages:

- 2012: 93.14%
- 2013: 98.01%
- 2014: 96.26%
- 2015: 96.65%
- 2016: 95.55%

Once again 2016 proved the continued financial faithfulness of the people in Central Texas churches. This marvelous percentage of giving shows the strength, vitality and pride of the churches of the Central Texas Conference!

In addition to the above-average CMG, our churches also gave over $133,654 to Special Day offerings, $229,794 to missionaries and advance special projects, and $117,185 to other ministries to help others.

The CTC churches contributed a total of $9,725,097 for CMG while 259 churches (10 of these churches did not pay out last year) out of 285 churches, over 91%, paid 100% of their share amounts in full. For a full listing of each local church and their percentage paid you may log on to the conference web site www.ctcumc.org and highlight finance and click the link to Connectional Mission Giving.

This District connectional giving percentage results can be seen in the chart below.

- New Church: 100.00% (Rev. Gary Lindley, District Superintendent)
- South: 97.63% (Dr. Clifton Howard, District Superintendent)
- North: 96.49% (Rev. Mike Ramsdell, District Superintendent)
- West: 95.71% (Rev. Lisa Neslon, District Superintendent)
- Central: 94.63% (Rev. Leah Hidde-Gregory, District Superintendent)
- East: 94.36% (Dr. Bob Holloway, District Superintendent)

We commend all of the pastors and churches in the CTC for your faithfulness!!! We are especially aware that several pastors and churches truly went the extra mile to achieve these results and we are deeply grateful to all who made extraordinary efforts. We are also vividly aware that all these percentages, numbers and amounts while fun to measure, they don’t tell the whole story nor even the most important part of the story...for they are merely a form of measuring, truly what can’t be fully measured except by God....... our mission and ministry, the lives touched and transformed and the potential to touch even more lives during 2016.

The CFA continues to expect 100% payout of our connectional obligations and urges every church to take seriously the recommended ten-month payout plan in which 10% of the annual
CMG amount is remitted monthly. Without doubt, making monthly payments beginning in January or February is an important step in paying your connectional mission opportunities in full.

¶ 622 of the 2016 Book of Discipline states that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits amounts, the Episcopal Fund, the District Superintendents Fund, and Equitable Compensation are apportioned funds which are to be paid on the same schedule as the pastors’ base compensation is paid. The Cabinet joins the Council in reminding each church to adhere to this mandate monthly.

The Council, the Executive Director of Mission Support and the Conference Comptroller/Treasurer are making special efforts to provide the information conference leaders and members expect in a more open and transparent way. The Council takes seriously its fiduciary responsibility and is working with conference leaders to insure the continued faithful and effective stewardship of all conference funds. Log on to the Conference web site www.ctcumc.org and highlight the Finance tab and click on the “Connectional Mission Giving” (CMG) tab for the most current information.

1. Compensation for the District Superintendents and Executive Center Directors is determined by the following formulas:
   a. Salary: The District Superintendents and Executive Directors salaries will be adjusted annually by the percentage change in the CTC Conference Average Compensation (CAC) formula calculated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). The 2018 salary will be $133,212.
   b. Housing Allowance: At the District Superintendent and Executive Director level, the formula will be 20% of salary rounded to the nearest thousand. The percentage will be reviewed every four years. The next review will be in 2020. The Housing Allowance for 2018 will be $27,000.

2. There may be amounts set to provide for the District Superintendents’ and Executive Directors’ expense for conference meetings and additional ministerial expenses in an accountable reimbursement plan, the district superintendent’s portion of the conference health benefits plan premium, for an amount requested by each district superintendent or executive director to be excluded from salary and added to the district (or conference) contribution toward housing allowance, and each district superintendent and executive director’s salary. The line item amount for each of these is to be determined in consultation with and approved by the Council on Finance and Administration. It is required that the accountable reimbursement plan for the district superintendent and executive director’s expense for conference meetings and additional ministerial expenses be established in accordance with Sec. 62 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Also, any Housing Expense Set-aside, as desired by each district superintendent or executive director shall be established in accordance with Sec. 107 of the IRC in like manner. Further, the cost of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, billed directly to the conference, will be an apportionment to the districts. An additional amount for voucher, reimbursed expenses related to each executive director’s office is also a part of the respective council’s or commission’s budget.

3. The district committees on finance are authorized to prepare budgets for presentation to the district stewards. An amount up to 10% of the support and compensation for the district superintendent may be included in the district budget to defray the utility costs of the district parsonage. In addition, an amount up to 10% of the support and compensation may be included in the district budget for the purpose of voucher reimbursement of travel and business-related expenses. District budgets shall not include a discretionary fund, but may include a District Operations Expense item. The district budget shall be submitted
to the Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration for approval each year. The district stewards are authorized to apportion a Connectional Contingency Fund to be used for paying in full at the district level apportioned items, which may fall short within the respective district. The Connectional Contingency Fund will be administered at the district level in the same manner as the District Work Fund. It is understood that if a portion of the Connectional Contingency Fund is not used in any given year, it will remain in the fund and future connectional mission giving funds will be reduced. Any adjustments for unusual local church situations will be made in the CMG of the Connectional Contingency Fund only. All other necessary funds will be distributed to every local church on the basis of the decimal.

4. At the end of each fiscal year unexpended unrestricted operation/budget funds, less the amount needed to cover deficits in conference budget accounts, shall be transferred into the operating reserve and an accounting of all operating reserve funds shall be made at each Annual Conference.

5. Each year the use of the unspent Contingency Fund shall be reviewed by the Council on Finance and Administration and the Bishop to decide if any amount should be used for Conference, Jurisdictional and General Church apportionments before going into the Operating Reserve.

REPORT NO. 2

1. General Conference created six unique Special Sundays to help congregations work with communities, rebuild shattered lives, strengthen self-sufficiency, encourage partnerships, nurture Native American ministries, model peace and justice, provide scholarships and loans for United Methodist students, and much more. “Be generous,” Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (The Message) advises. “Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns...Be a blessing to others.” God has blessed us, and through church-wide Special Sundays we can pass on those blessings to others. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration approves and recommends the following Special Sunday offerings be taken in all local churches of the Central Texas Conference on, near or at a date designated by the local church in 2018:

- Human Relations Day January 14 (Sunday prior to Dr. MLK observance)
- UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) March 11 (4th Sunday in Lent)
- Native American Ministries Sunday April 15 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
- Peace with Justice Sunday May 27 (1st Sunday after Pentecost)
- World Wide Communion October 7 (1st Sunday in October)
- United Methodist Student Day November 25 (Last Sunday of November)

In addition, the ministries listed below are geographically in or are related to the Central Texas Conference for which an offering has been approved. Once again the dates that are listed are suggestions for 2018.

- Church Growth and Development February
- Golden Cross (1st Sunday) May 6
- Wesleyan Home (Mother’s Day) May 13
- Annual Conference Special Offering June
- Lydia Patterson Institute July
- Christian Education Sunday (2nd Sunday) September 9
- Thanksgiving Offering November
- Methodist Mission Home (1st Sunday)  November 4
- The Methodist Children’s Home, Waco  December

For information on any of these special offerings you are encouraged to go to our web site www.ctcumc.org and highlight finance and click the link to “Special Sundays” tab.

2. The three Conference Ministry Centers and District Superintendents shall have prepared in writing and submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration their budgets for the ensuing year by the date set by the Council on Finance and Administration. Requests will not be considered if received after the due date unless an extension has been requested and approved.

3. An amount equal to 50% of the General/Jurisdictional Conference per diem or reimbursement for actual expenses above the per diem, whichever is less, shall be paid to each lay and clergy delegate. The first and second lay and first and second clergy alternate delegates to General Conference (first two lay and first two clergy elected as Jurisdictional Conference delegates) shall additionally be reimbursed up to an amount not to exceed 50% of the General Conference per diem plus reasonable transportation reimbursement. The first Reserve elected to Jurisdictional Conference shall receive a total reimbursement not to exceed 150% of the Jurisdictional Conference per diem plus reasonable transportation expenses. Other delegation expenses and the expenses of other elected delegates not previously specified may be paid based on the availability of funds in consultation between the head of the delegation and CFA.

4. The Executive Director of the Center for Mission Support is authorized to:
   a. Consolidate the various funds of the Annual Conference and of the agencies into one or more bank accounts.
   b. Write all checks for the agencies of the conference upon requisition by authorized officers of the agency and in keeping with approved conference budget. The Treasurer is also authorized to transmit to the authorized treasurers all other funds that are raised by the local churches in response to General, Jurisdictional and Annual Conference askings that have been approved by the appropriate body.
   c. The conference treasurer, after the close of the fiscal year, shall transfer from the accounts of all boards, commissions, and other agencies of the conference into the operating reserve all unexpended balances of the annual appropriations for the year just closed (excepting only items specifically exempted by CFA) making allowances for all outstanding checks. This procedure is recommended with the understanding that the Executive Director for Mission Support will honor the requisitions for all necessary expenses of the new fiscal year within the limits of the appropriations.
   d. Invest the funds of the conference in government securities and federally insured depositories up to and not exceeding insurability, and/or with the Texas Methodist Foundation and to borrow on and dispose of investments at, or prior to, maturity, and to deposit the proceeds from these investments in accounts of the conference under the guidance of the Council on Finance and Administration.

Deposit funds for specifically designated purposes in federally insured depositories up to and not exceeding insurability, and/or with the Texas Methodist Foundation under the joint control of the Central Treasury (Conference Council on Finance and Administration) and the agency concerned, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.
REPORT NO. 3
RESERVE FUNDS

In order to establish a better system of accountability, the Council on Finance and Administration, following action of the 1991 Annual Conference, implemented the following management procedures for reserve funds beginning 1/1/92:

1. The operating reserve is no longer treated as a contingency fund but as a cash flow fund.
2. A separate contingency fund has been set up to cover unbudgeted expenses with accounting of these expenditures to be made to the Annual Conference.
3. A contingency fund of $50,000 has been established from the operating reserve.
4. The contingency fund will be replenished at the beginning of each year by the interest earnings on both the contingency fund and the operating reserve. Any interest earnings over and above that necessary to replenish the contingency fund to a balance of $50,000 will go into the operating reserve.
5. The goal is a permanent operating reserve fund of 10% of the current budget to be used strictly for cash flow.
6. The operating reserve will be replenished by funds unused by the conference at the end of the year.
7. The authority for the administration of these funds rests with the Council on Finance and Administration pursuant to the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church and the Guiding Principles and Best Practices of the Central Texas Conference.

CONTINGENCY FUND POLICY

1. Expenditures will be made from the Contingency Fund under one of two circumstances:
   a. Unforeseen circumstances, unpredicted, unplanned for, emergency situations that could not have been foreseen by reasonable people and reasonable committees.
   b. Failure of expected income to support a budgeted expenditure.
2. The conference treasurer may authorize up to $250; the CFA executive committee may authorize up to $5,000 either in meeting or by phone; those over $5,000 must be authorized by the full board either in meeting (in person or email) or by phone.
3. No disbursement will be made without the authorization signature of either the conference treasurer or the chair of CFA.

REPORT NO. 4
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

The accountable mileage reimbursement for conference staff shall be the IRS rate. All others shall be reimbursed at 25 cents per mile for one to six persons in a car, and 35 cents per mile when seven or more members ride in the same car for necessary travel on conference business. Due to the fluctuation of gasoline prices, the CFA is authorized to change the mileage rate between sessions of the Annual Conference if deemed necessary. This reimbursement rate will be effective at the close of this Annual Conference.
REPORT NO. 5
ACCOUNTABILITY

The Council on Finance and Administration, through the Executive Director of the Center for Mission Support, shall monitor monies received through the apportioned funds and keep those Boards and Agencies receiving funds from the conference advised of possible shortfalls to enable them to adjust their expenses where at all possible in order for expenditures not to exceed actual income for the year. CFA will seek to work with Boards and Agencies to allow the maximum funding of ministries and programs without creating a deficit situation in the Conference Budget.

REPORT NO. 6
NEXT YEAR BUDGET

At Annual Conference, CFA will present a budget which is comprised of the major ministry components of the Conference. When the Conference approves the budget, it will be voting on the figures of those components and the composite total. If occasion arises to meet unforeseen and unusual expenses, or to provide for emerging ministries that could not be known at the time of budget preparation, a request may be made to CFA for approval to shift monies from one major ministry component to another major ministry component of the budget. In faithfulness to the Financial Best Practices this procedure will not be used simply because a ministry area anticipates some funds will not be spent.

REPORT NO. 7
CHURCH INCORPORATION RECOMMENDED

In these days when churches are more vulnerable to being sued than they were in the past, and for a far wider list of causes, it is imperative that each local church be incorporated. Failing to be incorporated puts each of the members of the church in jeopardy. In addition to being incorporated each church must review its property and liability insurance coverage with consideration for areas of liability not only between church staff and members or guests, and not only between the church as an entity and whomever might happen upon the premises, but also for the area of liability of employer versus employee.

REPORT NO. 8
NEWLY CHARTERED CHURCH CONNECTIONAL MISSION GIVING

Each newly chartered church shall be apportioned 25% of what would be its connectional mission giving, under Annual Conference Financial Procedures point C., for its first year after records are available, 50% its second year, 75% its third year and 100% its fourth year and thereafter.

REPORT NO. 9
CONFERENCE TREASURER

We recommend David Stinson for election as our Conference Treasurer.

REPORT NO. 10
AUDITOR FOR THE CONFERENCE TREASURY

We recommend Rylander, Clay & Opitz, LLP as the auditing firm for the Conference Treasury.
REPORT NO. 11

CONFERENCE PLEDGE TO LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE (LPI)

For over 100 years LPI has responded to the need to provide a quality education for Hispanic students in the El Paso region. It is a bilingual, cross-cultural academic education for underprivileged students who might otherwise not attend high school or have an opportunity for higher education. The program, offering grades 9-12, is fully accredited. The academic standards are strictly enforced and students are challenged to pursue academic excellence.

- 99% of students meet the federal poverty guidelines.
- 98% of LPI students enroll in a higher education institution.
- Last year the 76 LPI graduates were awarded over $1.6 million in scholarships from UM schools.

In 2014, LPI expanded the educational opportunities for students and implemented a fully accredited 7th and 8th grade Middle School with concentration on ESL and asked various annual conferences for help. The Central Texas Conference was one of the very first conferences to pledge to sponsor a cluster of four (4) ESL classrooms within the new middle school wing with a donation of $300,000. This gift would allow LPI to further the mission of preparing young men and women with a rigorous college preparatory education while being nurtured in Christian values.

If you’ll remember the action taken at the 2014 Annual Conference was..." that the Central Texas Conference pledge $300,000 to the "Second 100 Year" Capital funds campaign to sponsor a cluster of four (4) ESL classrooms within the new Middle School wing at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso."

Dr. Scott Youngblood will lead our conference capital funds campaign task force to help ensure that LPI continues to be one of the nation’s most unique multi-cultural educational institutions that help to prepare young men and women with a rigorous college preparatory education, while being nurtured in Christian values. If you would like to serve in this effort, please contact Dr. Youngblood or Mavis in the Conference Center for Mission Support.

REPORT NO. 12

REDIRECTION OF TUMCA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

We affirm the decision by the 2014 Annual Conference to redirect funds scholarship program of the Texas United Methodist College Association (TUMCA) to the Central Texas Conference Scholarship program. In 2018, the full $100,000 has been placed in the Center for Leadership Budget for clergy recruitment.

REPORT NO. 13

ONE APPORTIONED FUND

In the local church mission and ministry is best funded with a unified budget. Similarly, the Conference office has tried to more efficiently fund its mission and ministry budget by reducing the number of apportioned funds. In 2012 the number of apportioned funds was reduced from twenty-two to three. Directed by the vote of the 2014 annual conference, the number of apportioned funds was further reduced from three (General Church, Jurisdiction, and Conference)
to one (Connectional Mission Giving [CMG]). The move to one fund proved to be successful and achieved its purpose of further simplifying the process of accounting for remittances from our local churches, and gave greater flexibility to the Conference in the timing of support for the connectional mission of the Conference budget.

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION & CLERGY BENEFITS
LARA WHITLEY FRANKLIN, CHAIRPERSON
Larawhitley@gmail.com

REPORT No. 1

The commission has met as needed and has carried out its responsibilities of overseeing the Minimum Compensation program for the Annual Conference with its primary purpose focused on assisting local churches in moving from part-time to full-time pastoral positions. The Equitable Compensation Funds are meant to be used as transitional funds and are not to be considered long-term subsidies. We intend to keep working with local churches, district superintendents, and the cabinet to set time frames and benchmarks to help a church move from part-time to full-time. This transition can usually be accomplished by a three-year commitment. To continue to receive Equitable Compensation funds a transitional church shall pay 100% of their connectional mission giving shares. The commission is therefore willing to not only provide financial assistance, but also provide educational assistance to help all equitable compensation entities with the tools and help to rise above the minimum compensation levels for their clergy.

The Central Texas Conference also has a history of supporting missional churches where full-time pastors may need to be appointed for special purposes for which the congregation is unable to pay a full-time salary. In these missional cases, continued effective communication is essential with the pastor, congregation, District Superintendent, and Executive Center Directors of the CTC to ensure these congregations continue to be effective in reaching others, transforming lives, and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in the identified mission field.

The commission seeks to be responsible to the churches of the Annual Conference in not requesting more than is needed and at the same time to provide adequately for the program. We also realize the balancing act between the need to raise the minimum salary for our clergy while at the same time respecting the financial constraints among our churches that produce the need for equitable compensation in the first place. Therefore, the past several years we have continued to research the correlation between higher minimum salaries and more effective pastorates. What our research continues to show is that there seemed to be no correlation between higher salaries and more effective pastorates. In fact, almost the opposite was true...the more effective pastorates were those who were placed in missional settings at less than full-time who were fully invested in the community and in effect many times coming from the community themselves. And in an unexpected yet related finding, the higher the minimum salary the lower the average conference salary as more churches tend to migrate toward the minimum. We continue to monitor our minimum salary recommendation annually.

We recommend that the Equitable Compensation levels for all categories of supplements be the amounts in the categories from the chart below for 2017. Additionally, we recommend that the 2017 budget for Equitable Compensation be $75,000.00 in Salary Compensation/Interim Pastoral Support, and $90,000 in the Moving Expense Fund.
The Equitable Compensation Commission of the Central Texas Conference will offer to participate with those churches receiving equitable compensation in obtaining workers’ compensation insurance for lay and clergy employees through the Conference-wide insurance program, up to $250.00 per policy.

REPORT NO. 2
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FUND

There shall be a program of equitable compensation support in the Central Texas Conference under the management of the Commission on Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits. This program shall be patterned after ¶625 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. Based on these guidelines, the following paragraphs shall compose the operating procedure for the Equitable Compensation Program for all the clergy members of the conference members in full connection, associate members and provisional members of the Central Texas Conference serving full time for 2017-2018 conference year.

1. A prerequisite for consideration of salary supplements from the Equitable Compensation Fund shall be the filing with the Commission of a written application (Form EQ1/2018) by the District Superintendent each January 1 or anytime an appointment change occurs in an Equitable Compensation appointment. The District Superintendent shall certify classification of the clergy and the salary (using Pastoral Support & Compensation Worksheet figures) set by the charge.

2. Salary grants shall be made for a calendar year with payments made monthly. In cases of appointment changes at or between Annual Conference sessions, the District Superintendent shall file a written request with the Commission. Approved supplements shall then be paid on a pro-rata basis for the part of the year actually served.

3. A church/charge is eligible to receive equitable compensation benefits for a maximum of three (3) years; a one year extension may be granted by the Cabinet if the charge exhibits progress and potential.

4. The following conditions must be met by the pastoral charge before it can become eligible for consideration to receive supplements from the Equitable Compensation Fund:
   a. The pastoral charge shall have conducted a stewardship campaign for the local budget of each of its churches during the previous calendar year. This shall be an every member campaign. The Commission will assist in such a campaign upon written request from the charge pastor or district superintendent.
   b. All connectional mission giving (CMG) items shall have been paid in full by the local church for the previous calendar year.
   c. The charge must have at least 100 members.

   In unusual situations, the Commission on Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits may waive any or all of these conditions.

5. The Commission on Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits will pay any amount up to 1/4 of the minimum salary set by the Annual Conference for each applicant according to his/her ministerial classification. If any exception under paragraph 3 or 4 is sought, the request must be endorsed by a 2/3 vote of the Cabinet before it can be considered by the Commission.

6. Recognizing the growing strain on our smaller churches in providing a full-time clergy that even at minimum equitable compensation the total cost to a local church can run up to $65,000 annually, we recommended no change in the minimum equitable compensation for 2018.
1. **Elder in Full Connection** -- $41,148
2. **Provisional member (1992 Disc.) or Provisional Elder (2000 Disc.)**
   a. **Non-student** -- $35,899
   b. **Student** -- $33,176
3. **Associate Member** -- $35,899
4. **Full-time Local Pastor** -- $33,176

7. Rates for adjustment will be considered annually by the commission and reported to the annual conference. The amounts reflected include the following 6 items found on the pastor’s support and compensation form (PSCF):
   a. Base salary (Part 3.1),
   b. Utilities (Part 2), which shall be provided with payments made by the local church or reimbursed when paid by the pastor.
   c. Voucher travel reimbursement (Part 4.e or a portion of 4.a), which shall be reimbursed at the IRS rate with appropriate records and documentation provided to the church,
   d. Dependent premium (Part 4.b) payments made by the local church,
   e. Dependent premium supplemental payments paid by the conference at the discretion of the District Superintendent, and
   f. Other conference subsidies received, but excluding any reimbursement for Annual Conference expenses.

8. Housing shall be provided in a church-owned parsonage or provided for with a monthly allowance. Exclusive of parsonage considerations or a housing allowance. In calculating equitable compensation payments, no more than 25% may be deducted from total compensation as a housing allowance (even if the housing allowance actually constitutes more than 25% of the total compensation). Exception to this rule may be made for missional considerations.

9. Pastors who are appointed to less than full-time service as addressed in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, (¶ 338.2) shall be eligible to receive salary supplements from the Equitable Salary Fund. The amount of salary supplement for which the pastor is eligible will be determined by the Cabinet’s interpretation of time actually spent in serving the charge. For example, if the pastor is deemed as serving 1/4 of full time, his/her minimum salary eligibility would be 1/4 of the minimum of his/her conference relationship classification. The categories of 1/4, 1/2, and 3/4 will be followed in determining less than full-time eligibility for salary supplements from the Equitable Salary Fund.

10. Ministers who are not eligible for salary supplements are:
    a. Those whose appointment is other than pastor of a charge.
    b. Those classified as part-time local pastor.
    c. Retired ministers.
    d. No pastor shall be eligible to receive salary supplements from this fund who has been offered appointments with a higher salary, but who persistently prefers for personal reasons to remain in a present appointment.
    e. Associate Pastors

11. The Commission is studying ways in which Equitable Salary funds may be used to supplement unusual situations beyond the Conference minimum scale to provide assistance for pastors who remain in churches for missional purposes at the request of the Cabinet. We continue in dialogue with the Cabinet about such a policy.
REPORT NO. 3
MOVING EXPENSES/POLICY & PROCEDURES

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible:

- Elders in Full Connection*
- Associate Members*
- Full-Time Local Pastors*
- Provisional Members*
- Commissioned Ministers preparing for ordination as Elders in Full Connection, Associate Members or Full-Time Local Pastors*
- Retiring clergy in one of the first three relationships above are eligible to receive funds for one move into housing not already owned or supported by a local church after retirement, up to the maximum allowed. In circumstances in which the retiring pastor, in one of the first three relationships listed above, planning to retire moves prior to the retirement date, reimbursement for a move made within one year prior to the retirement date shall be made upon retirement, contingent upon the presentation of proper documentation.
- Voluntary Transition Program sponsored by GBOPHB.
- Disability Leave.
- The family of a clergy person in the first five relationships above who dies while under appointment shall be eligible to receive funds for the initial move into housing not already owned or supported by a local church, up to the maximum amount allowed.

*Appointed to a local church in the Central Texas Annual Conference or for whom the Conference is pension responsible (such as District Superintendents, Conference Directors, Wesley Foundation Directors, etc.).

Ineligible:

- Deacons
- Part-Time Local Pastors
- Leave of Absence, of any kind. (Does not include Disability Leave.)
- Surrender of Credentials, either voluntarily or involuntarily.
- Moves that do not involve change of appointment.
- Those eligible clergy who change appointments, but who do not change houses, will not eligible for any moving funds, with the exception of a maximum of $500 for moving office supplies upon the presentation of proper documentation.

Moving Allowance

Our Conference Moving Policy has two options: (a) Self-Move and (b) Commercial Move. The total expense of either choice will not exceed $2,500 to the Conference. All documentation must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the appointment.

- Self-Move – The Self-Move plan will normally consist of the pastor paying the initial bill and being reimbursed the actual expenses up to a maximum of $2,500. Proper documentation of receipts for the cost of van rental, gasoline, boxes, tape and...
packaging material and $2.00 per mile must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer before receiving reimbursement.

- **Commercial Move** – Whether you interview and hire your own commercial moving company, pay the bill and turn in receipts for reimbursement or use one of the commercial movers from the list we supply that will bill the Conference, makes no difference. Upon receiving the invoice from the moving company or receiving the receipts from you, the Conference will pay for the commercial move up to a maximum of $2,500 of actual moving expense. The Commercial Move includes the cost of the movers and cost for boxes, tape and packaging material not to exceed the total of $2,500.

*In either case any expense above the maximum of $2,500 will be the responsibility of the pastor.*

*In no case will the Conference pay more than the actual expenses incurred, up to a maximum of $2,500 for a move.*

**Method of Payment**

A list of movers that will bill the Annual Conference is found in the Moving below. All expenses that are within the Annual Conference Allowance will be billed directly to the Annual Conference by those moving companies. If a moving company is used that will not bill the Annual Conference directly or the clergy chooses a self-move, then the moving clergy/family is responsible for the bill and will be reimbursed by the Annual Conference for all documented expenses that are within the Annual Conference Allowance. Any documented expenses paid by the moving clergy/family are to be submitted to the Annual Conference Treasurer with a completed moving expense form within sixty (60) days of the appointment. The Conference Treasurer shall issue payment to the moving company or the entity that incurred the expense.

### Central Texas Conference Clergy Moving Companies

#### 2017 Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>% off Texas Moving Tariff</th>
<th>Rates for Contiguous County Moves</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Points Pioneer</strong></td>
<td>71% (+ appl. fuel surcharge)</td>
<td>3 men/1 van $108 per hour</td>
<td>Free Used Boxes delivered plus paper and tape at no charge (for local moves).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>817-275-6888 - Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 men/1 van $135 per hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>817-275-7847 - Fax</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 men/1 van $165 per hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Brouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,000 lbs. $150/hr. $1,350.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:michelle@allpointspioneer.com">michelle@allpointspioneer.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>16,000 lbs. $175/hr. $1,620.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2450 114th St., Ste. 290</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Prairie, TX 75050</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Berger/Allied Van Lines</strong></td>
<td>65% (+ appl. fuel surcharge - currently 3% but changes every month)</td>
<td>2 men/1 van $90 per hour</td>
<td>Free Used Boxes delivered plus paper and tape at no charge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>817-789-3014</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 men/1 van $120 per hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-800-678-3980</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 men/1 van $150 per hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark McIntire</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 men/1 van $180 per hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMC Account Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,000 lbs. $180/hr. $1,800.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:markm@bergerallied.com">markm@bergerallied.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>16,000 lbs. $210/hr. $2,100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exceptions

1. Exceptions to any of the above may be approved or denied by the Central Texas Conference Treasurer in consultation with the previous and receiving District Superintendents.

2. Appeals of any decision by the Conference Treasurer may be directed to the Commission on Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits. The Commission on Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits shall have final authority to interpret the moving policy and make decisions.

Moving Procedures

1. Receiving DS gives to the clergy the Moving Packet which includes moving companies that will bill the Annual Conference, and other pertinent moving information.

2. The Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee of each charge which is receiving a new pastor will appoint one of its members to serve as Moving Coordinator who will coordinate the move with the incoming pastor and work to facilitate the easiest and most pleasant move possible. At the introductory meeting between the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee and the new pastor, the Moving Coordinator will be present in order to be introduced to the pastor.

3. The Clergy.....if using a commercial mover, should get estimates from at least two moving companies of his/her choice and chooses the one he/she wishes to use. The clergy contracts with the company of choice to move them and send the bill to the Annual Conference Treasurer. If the estimate is over $2,500 the clergy will send a check to the Conference Treasurer for the amount over the $2,500 limit with a copy of the original estimate and the completed reimbursement form. If the company is one that will not send a bill to the Conference for payment, he/she can work out payment with the Annual Conference by having the mover call the Conference Treasurer at 817-877-5222 or pay the moving company and submit the completed reimbursement form and documentation of expenses for reimbursement.

4. The Clergy.....if choosing a self-move, keeps all their receipts for the cost of van rental, gasoline, boxes, tape, packaging material and $2.00 per mile and turns in the completed reimbursement form and required documentation to the office of the Central Texas Annual Conference Treasurer within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the appointment for reimbursement.
REPORT NO. 4

POLICY REGARDING CLERGY HOUSING & PARSONAGE STANDARDS

The church today demands the clergy to be not only a preacher, as was the early circuit rider, but a resident pastor and responsible citizen in the community. In order to meet these felt needs, and to call men and women to a dedicated ministry, the church must provide living conditions that will establish an adequate base from which to operate. It is the privilege and responsibility of the members of each congregation to provide the physical setting which will give the parsonage family the maximum comfort and convenience in order that the energies of the pastor may be more concentrated on his/her task and willing service in the Church of God. Because the parsonage, like the church building, reflects upon the congregation and the pastor, it should be in such condition that all concerned can be justifiably proud of it. Likewise, pastors should exercise the same diligence in caring for the parsonage as they would if it were their own property; mindful that they are stewards for those who will live in the parsonage after them.

In this section on Housing Standards for Elders in Full Connection, including Housing Allowances and Parsonage standards, the word “clergy” means “elders in full connection.” The standards on Housing Allowances and parsonages apply to those churches that have elders in full connection and that are not receiving an equitable salary support.

The size and make-up of clergy families, and the size, location, and type of housing provided for clergy families by local churches is a major factor in the well-being of clergy families. As such, it has an impact on the effectiveness of clergy. Although it is clear that no one single provision for housing will completely satisfy all the needs of every clergy family and every local church, the goal is to best satisfy the needs of all.

Death of or Unexpected Circumstances of a Clergy Member While Living in a Parsonage

In the event of the death of a clergy person or a set of unexpected circumstances involving a clergy person which results in an immediate need of a change in pastoral appointment and which involves a clergy family occupying a parsonage, a grace-filled arrangement should be determined through a conversation with the clergy family, the local church Pastor Parish Relations committee, the District Superintendent, and the Cabinet. In each case the intent is to allow a period of time (recommended not to exceed sixty days) for a spouse and family to make new living arrangements.

Housing Allowances

While parsonages have been the traditional means of providing housing for clergy families, there are those local church settings and situations where a housing allowance can be an effective and efficient means of providing housing for clergy families. However, it must be understood that if a house is purchased by a clergy family, there is the potential for financial hardship and difficulties related to the sale of a house when an appointment change is made.

It must also be understood that a housing allowance will have no effect on the tenure of a pastor, neither increasing nor decreasing the potential length of a pastorate.

1. If a housing allowance is provided by a local church, the amount shall be sufficient to allow for the rental/lease/purchase of housing that meets the parsonage standards of the annual
conference. (The conference uses a figure of 20% of salary while the General Board of Pension uses 25% in its pension computation.)

2. A utility allowance may be paid in addition to the housing allowance.

3. The amount of the housing allowance and/or of the utility allowance shall be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the amount is adequate.

4. The District Superintendent, in consultation with the pastor and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, shall be responsible for ensuring that these standards are met.

Clergy couples

General Conference Action provides housing is not compensation for pastors appointed to churches in The United Methodist Church. When two pastors who are married to each other are appointed to neighboring charges where it is reasonable for them to live in the same parsonage, neither pastor is entitled to a housing allowance or rent from the unused parsonage. However, this situation may be considered during the setting of compensation of the pastor, in a conversation between the District Superintendent and the appropriate Pastor-Parish Relations Committee(s).

Parsonage Standards for Local Churches

The following Parsonage Standards were put in place and approved at the 1973 Central Texas Annual Conference, and have appeared in our Journals since that time. Therefore, parsonages built or purchased prior to December 31, 1973 may not meet all of the recommendations in Sections I and II, but are subject to requirements in Sections III – V. Parsonages built/purchased after January 1, 1974 are subject to all recommendations and requirements listed below in Sections I – V.

SECTION I
LOCATION

The location of a new parsonage is a matter of extreme importance. It should provide for the safety, convenience and privacy of the parsonage family. For this reason, we recommend that a new parsonage not be located adjacent to the church facilities.

SECTION II
SIZE OF BUILDING AND LIVING AREAS

The new or remodeled parsonage should be large enough to accommodate the pastor's family. It should provide adequate space for the entertainment of guests. It should be remembered in selecting a parsonage that the present parsonage family is not the only one who will live in that parsonage and that the house should be adaptable for a variety of family sizes and situations. Also, care should be given that facilities should be fully accessible for those with handicapping conditions meeting standards of the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶2544.4.b.

Recommendations:

1. 1800 square feet minimum living space.
2. At least 3 bedrooms, preferably 4.
3. At least 2 bath, preferable 2 ½ with adequate linen closet.
4. Family and dining areas adequate for entertaining.
5. Preferably a separate area (living, sitting or office) that could be used for visiting or study.
6. Adequate closet and storage space. Closet space in each bedroom and other storage space well distributed throughout the house.
7. Laundry area (see Section III.B.7)
8. Adequate garage or carport space (preferably 2-car attached garage)
9. Adequate outside living area with fenced yard.

**SECTION III**

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

A. Health & Safety
1. Adequate supply of hot and cold water in bathrooms, kitchen and laundry.
2. Proper sewage disposal according to the standards of local and/or State Department of Health.
3. Fire extinguisher in kitchen with yearly inspection.
4. Automatic central heating and air conditioning.
5. Bathroom heating and hot water heaters should be protected and if not electric should be properly vented.
6. Provide smoke detectors for kitchen, living, laundry, and bedroom areas.
7. Provide carbon monoxide detectors, unless parsonage is completely electric.
8. Recommend that a Lead Paint Disclosure be provided for parsonages built before 1978.

B. Kitchen with Well-Planned Work Area
1. Cooking area complete with range or built-in cooking units, counter space, hood and exhaust fan.
2. Sink area complete with modern double bowl sink with disposal and drain space.
3. Large automatic refrigerator with freezer unit.
4. Required code electrical outlets for every room.
5. A well-equipped kitchen with adequate storage for dishes, utensils and food pantry.
7. Laundry room with properly vented washer/dryer.

C. Furnishings
1. Effective January 1, 2011, all living, family, dining and bedroom furnishings become the responsibility of the resident parsonage family.
2. Window coverings, drapes, curtains, and blinds, adequate for privacy, is the responsibility of the church.
3. Internet/cable ready.
4. If the parsonage family is expected to maintain the lawn, the church will supply lawn tools, weed eater, mower (self-propelled or riding) as appropriate for size of yard. In addition, the church will provided water hoses, ladder, and garbage receptacles.

**SECTION IV**

**MAINTENANCE**

1. **Decoration** - Both the interior and exterior of the parsonage should be kept in such a state of decoration as to preserve not only its physical condition but its aesthetic value as well. Decorating and/or any remodeling should be done in consultation with the parsonage family.
2. **Repair and replacement** - An annual budget item will enable the Trustees and Parsonage Committee to have a consistent, rather than haphazard program of maintenance and improvement that will be less costly in the long run. There should be an annual budget item for repair and replacement of appliances and equipment.

Section V
Miscellaneous

1. **Parsonage Book** - It is recommended that the parsonage committee prepare and keep up-to-date a record in which are placed all guarantees, repair parts lists, and the instructions for use of equipment belonging in the parsonage. The record should also indicate when and from whom purchased and whom to call for service. Also, this book may well contain a list of whom to call for various reasons, where to find various items, when and by whom various improvements were made, and other information helpful to an incoming minister.

2. **Insurance** - The trustees should be certain that the church-owned house and contents are insured for at least 80% of replacement cost against fire, wind, and other hazards. Public liability insurance should be carried on parsonage property. Tenant Homeowners insurance is available for all ministers who desire to cover personal possessions and liability. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PASTOR TO INSURE PERSONAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE PASTOR AND FAMILY.**

3. **Utility Deposits** - Should be made in the name of the church.

4. **Gifts to Parsonage** - Before a gift is received, care should be given to consult with the parsonage family, trustees and/or parsonage committee regarding the needs of the gift. If received, the gift should be designated specifically if it is to remain in the parsonage or is to be the personal gift for the parsonage family. In the event, it is to remain in the parsonage, the trustees and/or parsonage committee must approve it. A Gift/Donation Policy by the Trustees and/or parsonage committee of the church should be in place to insure clearly understood polices of acceptance, receipt and acknowledgement of any gifts.

5. **Pastor’s Office/Study** - The Office/Study should be located in the Church Building and adequately furnished and equipped. Some pastors may choose to also maintain an office in the parsonage and be responsible for its furnishings in addition to the official church Office/Study.

6. **Parsonage Furnishings** - Since we have transitioned to parsonage families being responsible to have their own furnishings, when furniture still exists in the parsonage, we encourage an open dialogue between the parsonage family, PPR committee, and Board of Trustees and/or Parsonage committee concerning the issue of whose furnishings are to be used. We highly recommend, when in the doubt, that the parsonage family furnishings be used to furnish the parsonage.

Adequate parsonage facilities, based on the above minimum standards insure that a pastoral appointment can be made based on the needs of the charge, rather than the ability of the parsonage to receive the family assigned. An annual review of the church-owned parsonage, to ensure proper maintenance, will be conducted by the chair of the board of trustees or the chair of the parsonage committee, if one exists, the chair of the committee on pastor-parish relations, and the pastor (¶2533.4, 2016 Book of Discipline).
United Methodist ministers are in a unique position in their role as pastors of a local church. Their membership and relationship is primarily to the Annual Conference as they serve under the appointment of the Bishop. At the same time their salary-paying unit is the local church. They are called to accountability for effective ministry both by the Bishop through the appointive system and by the local church through the Pastor-Parish Relations (PPR) Committee. In vacation policy and similar matters it should be remembered by all that a pastor is not the employee of the local church. On the other hand, the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶258.2 gives to the PPR Committee a consultative role in such matters. Ministers are also asked to serve in various conference responsibilities and camps, these duties should not be considered as vacation. However, pastors and Pastor-Parish Relations Committees should work out a satisfactory balance of time rendered between conference and district duties, local church needs, and personal outside activities by the pastor. In all matters, there must be an on-going dialogue between the needs of the pastor and his/her family and the PPR committee and the needs of the church so there is no misunderstanding. This Vacation Policy for Clergy is to standardize clergy vacations across the Conference and is for clergy appointed within the bounds of the Central Texas Conference. Vacation time is calculated on a conference year basis (7/1 – 6/30). Vacation time not used in one year cannot be carried over into the next year. There will be no pay in lieu of unused vacation time.

For every week’s vacation, a paid Sunday off is included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Relationship</th>
<th>Years of Service **</th>
<th>Vacation Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Members serving student appointments, OR Full Time Local pastors in process of Course of Study</td>
<td>Minimum six months (after consultation with district superintendent and PPR Committee)</td>
<td>Two Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Local Pastors having completed Course of Study, OR Associate Members, OR Provisional Members serving full time appointments, OR Full Conference members</td>
<td>Less than five years</td>
<td>Two Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-9 years</td>
<td>Three Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 or more years</td>
<td>Four Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Years of service refer to years served as a full-time United Methodist commissioned minister, probationary member, diaconal minister, local pastor, associate member, deacon in full connection, or elder in full connection under appointment in an Annual Conference, not to years of service in the local church to which a pastor is appointed. In computing a person’s “years of service,” time spent in all categories shall be cumulated and all shall count toward the person’s total “years of service.”

**NOTE:**

In addition to the above guidelines, the PPR Committee should be sensitive to a pastor’s need for time off from the pastoral duties, and should encourage the pastor to take regular days off each week.
NOTE:

Time used for Continuing Education, Spiritual formation and Course of Study is defined in the Book of Discipline. The BOD states that, “a clergy member’s continuing education and spiritual growth program shall include professional formation leaves at least one week each year and may include at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the ministers’ vacations and shall be planned in consultation with their charges or other agencies to which they are appointed as well as the bishop, district superintendent, and annual conference continuing education committee.” ¶ 350.2 2016 Book of Discipline.

REPORT NO. 6
INTERIM PASTORAL SUPPORT POLICY

1. The purpose of this policy is to assist member churches in the event a clergy person appointed to 50%, 75% or 100% service to a local church of the Central Texas Conference is unable to perform the duties of their appointment due to a documented medical disability when the duration of the disability exceeds 30 days but is anticipated to be less than 180 days.

2. The duration of the disability is not the date reported, but the date the clergy person became unable to perform his or her duties because of the disabling condition. This provision is applied in order to coordinate with the provisions of the long-term disability plan under the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). Under no conditions will this policy apply to a clergy person whose disability qualifies for a benefit under the provisions of the CPP.

3. Disability in this context is defined as being under a doctor’s care and unable to perform one or more essential duties for more than thirty days as certified by a physician.

4. When a disability within the above definition occurs, a request for assistance can be initiated by the clergyperson, the District Superintendent, or the Pastor/Staff Relations Committee. There must be immediate notification to the Central Texas Conference Benefits Officer and to the District Superintendent. The request should provide a description of the situation and appropriate documentation. Before any benefit is paid, there must be a physician’s certification that the clergy person’s condition meets the parameters of this policy.

5. The Joint Committee on Medical Leave will be the body that approves the grant request. The approval will be on the basis that 2 criteria have been met: (1) there is a certification by a physician and (2) the district superintendent has verified the need for interim clergy service funding and has consulted with the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee concerning its provision. No further medical evidence will be evaluated beyond the Physician’s Certification.

6. The benefit provided consists of reimbursement of part or all of the costs of providing interim clergy services during the period of the pastor’s disability covered under this policy (30 days to 180 days). The pastor continues under appointment to the charge and the charge continues to provide full compensation to the appointed clergy person.

7. The provision of interim clergy services will be arranged by the District Superintendent and the Cabinet in consultation with the Charge’s Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee.

8. If the member church, in consultation with the District Superintendent, elects to obtain interim clergy services for clergy disability past 30 days, the Central Texas Conference will reimburse the district for the actual expense of the interim clergy up to an amount equal to one half of the total of the last approved clergy compensation package of the disabled clergy person (which includes salary, housing, pension and health).

9. When a clergyperson is expected to be unable to perform the duties of their job due to illness or
1 injury for a disabling condition that has an expected duration of more than 180 days, this policy
is not applicable.

10. In order to obtain reimbursement for interim clergy services approved under this policy, the local
church must provide documentation of expenses for the interim clergy services to the Central
Texas Conference Director of Pension and Benefits.

This policy does not address maternity or paternity leave which is covered under the 2016 Book
of Discipline ¶355. If a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth is determined, then
this short-term disability policy could apply.

**HOMES FOR RETIRED MINISTERS**

MAVIS HOWELL, SUPERINTENDENT

MAVIS@CTCUMC.ORG

It is a tremendous privilege to be a part of the Homes for Retired Ministers (HRM) program of the
Central Texas Conference. This year numerous repairs have been made to the homes, new
shed, new coat of paint, several other minor repairs. I enjoy visiting with the residents, and look
forward to serving their needs in the coming year.

As it is the policy of the HRM Board of Trustees to sell homes as they become vacant and hold
the funds in reserve to purchase a home as the need arises. In the past year we have had three
(3) inquiries regarding this program. If you know of a retired clergy or surviving spouse that might
be in need, please have them contact me at mavis@ctcumc.org.

This year, Homes for Retired Ministers has 2 homes in our ministry as of April 1, 2017. Both
homes have residents and they are as follows:

**HOMES AND THEIR RESIDENTS**

- Burleson 1009 Stockton  Rev. & Mrs. Ellis Holden
- Temple 4305 Cactus  Mrs. Dorothy Lightfoot

Thank you for your faithful support of this wonderful ministry of our Conference.

**BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS**

REV. FRANK BRIGGS, CHAIRPERSON

fbriggs@lfwired.org

The Central Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is charged with the work of
providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance and pensioning of the clergy and
their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the UMC, its institutions, organizations,
and agencies within the Annual Conference, except as otherwise provided for by Wespath,
formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). The Board works closely
with Wespath which provides excellent interpretation and guidance in our pension, health
insurance and other benefits.
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The basic “draft” account at Westpath where budgeted monies for the Pre-82 Pension Program and the Comprehensive Protection Program are accumulated. The General Board drafts from this account to pay our obligations when due. The balance represents accumulated earnings from across the years, and is unencumbered except for what is needed for cash flow purposes.

Balance 01-01-16 $1,360,215.03

Deposits $594,116.03
Adjustment Credit $368.00
Annual Distribution $367.16
Market Gain/Loss $87,614.38
Apportioned Settlements and Debits ($1,158,680.67)

Ending Balance 12-31-16 $883,999.93

PRE-82

An account established to accumulate funds to satisfy claims from the pension plan in place prior to 1982. (See Report No. 2 for funding plan.) These funds, by Wespath rule, are invested in the Multiple Asset Fund (MAF). Funds deposited and subsequent earnings are permanently restricted by Wespath for Pre-82 pension liabilities.

Balance 01-01-16 $22,784,360.59
Deposits $799,202.50
Payments to Claimants ($2,449,054.73)
Market Gain/(Loss) $1,755,017.54

Ending Balance 12-31-15 $22,889,525.90

ENDOWMENT & TRUST FUNDS (CAPITAL FUNDS CAMPAIGN)
(Dedicated for funding our Pre-82 unfunded liability)

This fund represents the amounts collected from our 1986/87 capital funds campaign ($966,112.00). Included in the beginning balance is interest, which has been earned since funds have been placed on deposit.

Balance 01-01-16 $1,667,050.59
Market Gain/(Loss) ($110,929.32)

Ending Balance 12-31-16 $1,777,979.91

CRSP DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The basic deposit account for the defined benefit component of the Clergy Retirement Security Program. On the last business day of each year the required dollar amount to fund this component is transferred into the Retirement Program administered by the Wespath.

Balance 01-01-16 $1,654,573.80
Deposits $2,231,518.76
Market Gain/(Loss) $278,856.33
DB Contributions ($1,430,632.00)

Ending Balance 12-31-16 $2,734,316.89
HEALTH BENEFITS

The basic “draft” account at General Board of Pensions where budgeted monies and benefit payment invoice receipts for the HealthFlex active plan are deposited, and transfers from the Retiree Health Benefits account pay the obligations as they come due.

Balance 01-01-16 $ 2,362,674.47
  Deposits $ 3,770,403.63
  Market Gain/(Loss) $ 205,336.30
  HealthFlex Payments ($ 3,765,497.42)
Ending Balance 12-31-16 $ 2,572,916.98

RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

The deposit account for the Retiree Health Insurance unfunded liability. Unspent retiree funds from the budget are transferred to pay for future Health Savings obligations.

Retiree Health Balance 01-01-16 $ 1,509,987.32
  Deposits $ 500,000.00
  Market Gain/(Loss) $ 136,955.19
Ending Balance 12-31-16 $ 2,146,942.51

GRANT SUPPORT

Provides grant money to clergy and surviving spouses of clergy to assist with catastrophic, unanticipated medical expenses. See Report 11. Grant support funds initially resided in the Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

Grant Support Balance 01-01-16 $ 58,312.20
  Deposits $ 20,000.00
  Market Gain/(Loss) $ 4,967.58
Ending Balance 12-31-16 $ 83,279.78

SUSTENTATION FUND

A fund established to provide financial assistance to churches and clergy in times of clergy transition. (See Report 11 for more information.)

Balance 01-01-16 $ 250,849.23
  Deposits $ 3,890.00
  Withdrawal ($ 16,328.14)
  Market Gain/(Loss) $ 21,107.32
Ending Balance 12-31-16 $ 309,518.41
**SUPERANNUATE FUND**

The principal amount of this fund ($63,986) is a result of the 1939 merger of the Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Episcopal South, and is permanently restricted. All past and future earnings are unrestricted.

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Balance 01-01-16</td>
<td>$1,117,925.46</td>
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<td>Restricted Balance 01-01-16</td>
<td>$63,986.00</td>
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<td>Market Gain/(Loss)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Ending Balance 12-31-16</td>
<td>$63,986.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Ending Balance 01-01-16</td>
<td>$1,217,332.96</td>
</tr>
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**BUILDING FUND**

The Annual Conference voted that beginning with the 2013 budget to put $100,000.00 annually into an equity fund to allow the Conference to accumulate a substantial amount of money secured for the next phase of growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balance 01-01-16</td>
<td>$195,675.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
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<td>Market Gain/(Loss)</td>
<td>$30,191.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Balance 12-31-16</td>
<td>$425,867.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**REPORT NO. 2**

**2018 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY**

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 requires that each annual conference develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) for review and be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath. This document is only a summary of the information contained in the actual signed funding plan and does not contain all the information required for a comprehensive view of the conference’s benefit obligations. You may request the full contents of the 2018 comprehensive benefit funding plan from your conference benefit office.

**CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP)**

**Defined Benefit (DB) & Defined Contribution (DC)**

**Program Overview:** The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The program is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MMP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982.
CRSP consists of both a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences.

Current Funding Plan Information: The Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP DB) annuities total liability as of January 1, 2016, is $(1,422,046,473), while total plan assets are $1,530,170,830, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 108%. The Central Texas Conference portion of the liability is 1.2985% and the 2018 contribution is $1,424,857. The conference anticipates that the amount will be funded by Direct Billing. Additionally, General Conference 2012 approved a change to CRSP that provides each annual conference the discretion to determine whether to cover three-quarter and/or half-time clergy. The Central Texas Conference has elected to cover clergy service 50%+ under CRSP effective January 1, 2018.

Effective January 1, 2014, the CRSP DC plan was reduced from a 3% to a 2% of plan compensation non-matching contribution. Clergy can earn up to an additional 1% CRSP DC contribution by contributing at least 1% of their plan compensation to UMPIP; therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of plan compensation to UMPIP, the individual will receive a contribution of 3% to CRSP DC. The 2018 CRSP DC contribution is anticipated to be $600,732 and will be funded by Direct Billing.

MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MMP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MMP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MMP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MMP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when the funds are to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or it may be paid in a lump sum.

Current Funding Plan Information: The Ministerial Pension Plan (MMP) annuities' total liability as of January 1, 2016 is $(3,422,875,264), while total plan assets are $3,600,174,516, resulting in a current plan funded ratio of 105%. The required contribution for 2018 is 0$. The Central Texas Conference’s percentage of the total is 0.9517%. Future MPP annuitants have a total account balance of $3,787,199,647 and the Central Texas Conference’s portion of that balance is $47,691,119 or 1.26% of the total.

PRE-82 PLAN

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provided clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the Conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:
1. Years of service with pension credit-approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and The Book of Discipline.

2. The conference pension rate (past service rate)—the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-82 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life based benefit and, at that point, the clergy’s benefit is the greater of the PSR or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy’s benefit is recalculated; but the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

**Current Funding Plan Information:** The 2018 PSR recommended to the Central Texas Conference will be $695, representing a 1.02% increase from the 2017 rate. The conference expects future annual increases to be approximately 1.00% until we develop a comprehensive philosophy for future increases. The contingent annuitant percentage is recommended to remain at the 75% level.

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**ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM**

**Program Overview:** The CTC offers the Self-Funded – HealthFlex program to its active eligible participants.

**Current Funding Plan Information:** The total cost of the program for 2018 is anticipated to be $4,166,377 and will be funded by Direct Billing. It is anticipated that increases for future years will average 5.00%.

**Additional Plan Sponsor Funded Coverage:** The Central Texas Conference has elected to provide health benefits coverage to the following groups during periods where-without plan sponsor – funded premiums – the participants would not be provided coverage or benefits (all figures as of 12/31/2016):

1. Clergy or Lay on Disability (including Pending Disability); 5 participants at an estimated cost of $91,680.
2. Surviving Spouses and Children of Deceased Active Participants; 2 participants at an estimated cost of $64,176.

The projected annual cost as of 12/31/2018 for additional plan sponsor funded coverage is $15,621.

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**POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)**

**Program Overview:** The Central Texas Conference currently offers a stipend for Post-Retirement Medical coverage for its eligible clergy.
Current Funding Plan Information: The Central Texas Conference intentions for 2018 are to retain the current plan benefit. PRM eligibility and benefits provided are found in the CTC Journal under the Conference Board of Pensions report #9 Retiree & Medicare Eligible Health Benefits.

Based on the most recent PRM valuation dated 01/01/2017, the following is the funded position of the PRM benefits:

1. Expected Post-Retirement Obligation (EPBO) net plan sponsor cost $7,375,827
2. Accumulated Post-Retirement Obligation (APBO) net plan sponsor cost $5,520,419
3. Assets (in-plan and outside) designated for PRM $2,210,211
4. Service cost (SC) net plan sponsor cost $0.00
5. Unfunded APBO, [3. – 2.] $(3,310,208)
6. Number of annual payments 20
7. Portion of unfunded APBO, [5. / 6.] $165,510
8. Ongoing funding contribution, [4. + 7.] $165,510

Future increases/decreases to the assets or APBO will be funded over the duration of the program as calculated in the PRM valuation report, which is scheduled to be executed every two years.

These values are based on a 3.90% long term discount rate, a 4.00% long term expected rate of return on assets, and a valuation year medical trend (inflation rate) of 6.50% with an ultimate medical trend (inflation rate) of 5.00%, beginning in 2023.

In addition to the PRM funding contribution listed above the projected annual plan benefit cost for 2018 (subsidies, HRAs, claims or premiums) is $125,000.

**COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)**

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provided death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the Texas Central Conference contains its elections to cover the categories mentioned above.

Current Funding Plan Information: For 2018, the Texas Central Conference has no required contribution to the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The estimate for 2018 reflects the CPP redirection option in the amount of $589,375 which is still being collected through direct billing and will be redirected to offset our conferences’ 70% deficiency in post retiree medical liability. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 2.50% per year due to the historical average annual increase in clergy plan compensation.
UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of the United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual’s retirement account balance.

Current Funding Plan Information: Conference office lay employees working an average of 30 hours per week or more are eligible for a plan sponsor-funded pension contribution of 3% of salary. In addition, each lay employee may earn an additional 3% with a 3% personal contribution. The conference’s estimated contribution for 2018 is $61,452 and will be funded via an amount collected from the conference connectional mission giving shares.

The Central Texas Conference, as of January 1, 2018 is planning on sponsoring the UMPIP for clergy serving full-time and are eligible for a pension contribution of the equivalent of the combined DB amount and 3% DC of salary. The conference’s estimated contribution for 2018 is $58,139 and will be funded via an amount collected from the conference connectional mission giving shares.

OTHER DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) OBLIGATIONS

Plan Overview: The Central Texas Conference currently offers the following DC benefit(s): Moving Expense Fund – DC Type. The estimated contribution for 2018 is $90,000 funded via an amount collected from the conference connectional mission giving shares. The anticipated average increase in future years is expected to be 0.00% per year due to the current maximum benefit of $2,500 per move.

CONCLUSIONS

The 2018 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan and this summary document incorporated, to the best of our understanding, the Central Texas Conference’s obligations and funding requirements of the benefits provided to the clergy and laity of the Central Texas Conference.

REPORT NO. 3
PAST SERVICE RATE

In accordance with the changes in the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶1506, which outlines the requirements for the Past Service Rate (PSR) for those clergy with pre-1982 service years who qualify for annuity, the Conference Board of Pensions recommends that the PSR for 2018 be $695, which represents a 1.02% increase. There is much changing in the pension world from Mortality tables showing we are living longer to decreases in the past several years, the board has been researching the PSR since 1982. In light of this research, the board will be monitoring the annual PSR with the eventual goal of having the annual PSR change recommendation based on a rationale which will both honor our retirees and make the liability demands on the conference sustainable.
The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), effective January 1, 2007, is the pension program for all eligible United Methodist Clergy.

CRSP offers a two (2) component benefit design:

1. **Core Defined Contribution** (DC) – promises a defined amount that is deposited into an active clergyperson’s account with monthly deposits. This benefit distributed at retirement is the accumulated amount plus earnings (losses) in the individual’s account.

2. **Core Defined Benefit** (DB) – promises a specific dollar amount at retirement regardless of market conditions or investment performance. The amount is based on a formula that specifies a monthly retirement benefit to eligible clergy for the remainder of their lives.

Plan provisions effective January 1, 2016:

- Clergy who are appointed ¼ time are not eligible to earn CRSP benefits.
- Provides a monthly retirement benefit using 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years of service from January 1, 2007 to
December 31, 2013. The multiplier is reduced to 1% for years of service beginning January 1, 2014.

- The defined contribution (DC) component of CRSP is 2% of compensation with a match for participant contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) – up to 1% of compensation. Therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of compensation to UMPIP, his or her CRSP DC contributions will be 3%.
- The initial dollar amount of the benefit paid to a married participant is reduced to offset the value of spousal benefits. Please note: This change only applies for benefits based on service on or after January 1, 2014. Benefits earned under CRSP prior to January 1, 2014 are not affected. Participants may designate a disabled adult child as a secondary contingent annuitant. After the participant and her or her spouse die, the disabled adult child would continue to receive DB benefits for life. The initial participant benefit would be reduced to pay for this extra benefit.

2017 FUNDING PLAN

By action of the 2012 General Conference the percentage amount required for the plan was amended and the following information is the result of implementing the “new” CRSP.

The 2017 financial obligation of CRSP required of the Central Texas Conference is:

- Core Defined Contribution – 2% of participant plan compensation plus a matching 1% for a total of 3%.
- Core Defined Benefit -- $1,442,824

The cost of participation in CRSP will remain the same as in 2016 and will continue to be direct billed to the local church for the two (2) core components: (Defined Benefit & Defined Contribution).

- Defined Contribution – 3% of each eligible clergyperson’s plan compensation.
- Defined Benefit --
  - Full-time Clergy $6,100.00
  - ¾ time Clergy $4,575.00
  - ½ time Clergy $3,050.00

The Conference Board of Pension strongly recommends that churches with a clergy appointed ¼ time sponsor the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) with a 12% contribution level for their clergy.

REPORT NO. 5
FUNDING FOR THE ACTIVE HEALTH CARE PLAN

We will continue to direct bill the total active health insurance/dental premium to the local church/Conference sponsored agency for the entire year.

2017 Defined Contribution Yearly Amounts:

- Active Clergy/Lay $10,056
- Pre-65 Retirees on Active Plan $1,000
- Surviving Spouse $5,028
- Medical Leave of Absence $5,028
• We will direct bill the total active health insurance/dental premium or the defined 
  contribution amount for active clergy/lay, whichever is greater, to the local 
  church/Conference sponsored agency for the entire year. 
• The entire defined contribution amount for full-time clergy appointed to local churches 
  within the Conference is to be paid by the local church or the salary paying unit as a benefit 
  (line item in the budget). This includes all Full Elders, Provisional Elders, Associate 
  Members, and Full-time Local Pastors appointed to local churches in the Conference, as 
  well as those for whom the Conference is the Plan sponsor for the Pension program such 
  as District Superintendents, Conference staff appointees, and Campus Ministers. In 
  addition, this will also apply to Full Elders, Provisional Elders and Associate Members 
  appointed at least one-half time and Student Local Pastors appointed full time. 
• The defined contribution amount for full-time lay staff participating in the plan may be cost 
  shared at the discretion of the local church or salary paying unit. 
• Any amount above the defined contribution amount is the responsibility of the 
  appointee/staff person. 
• An optional agreement may be made between the church or salary paying unit and the 
  appointee/staff person for the church or salary paying unit to pay the amount or a portion 
  of the amount over the defined contribution. 

The Conference will pay the defined contribution amount for the lay employees of the Annual 
Conference. Any amount above the defined contribution is the responsibility of the employee 

We will continue to direct bill the total active health insurance/dental premium to the local 
church/Conference sponsored agency for the entire year. 

REPORT NO. 6 
PENSION & BENEFIT ARREARAGE REPORT 

The Conference Board of Pensions recommends that it continue to actively pursue the issue of 
pension arrearage utilizing a very fair but stringent examination of each situation to determine 
what steps need to be taken to assure the integrity of the affected minister's future pension 
benefits and as such recommends the following procedure for dealing with current and future 
pension contributions: 

1. Each January we will review a report of the accounts showing arrearage for the past year. 
   Letters will be sent to the following lay leaders of the churches involved: Administrative 
   Board/Council Chair, Pastor/Staff Relations Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, 
   and Treasurer. The pastor and the District Superintendent will also receive the letter. The 
   letter will emphasize the importance of this issue and urge them to bring their contributions 
   current by sending their check or making other payments arrangements with the Service 
   Center at Central Texas Conference, 3200 E. Rosedale Street, Fort Worth, TX 76105. 
2. Each church which does not meet its obligation will report this fact to its Charge Conference 
   and give an explanation. The District Superintendent will keep a record of this action. 

The local churches are reminded that pension benefits are in reality deferred ministerial 
compensation which should carry the same urgency in terms of payment as the monthly salary 
itself. Failure to pay this pension could result in reduced pension benefits. The Board feels 
strongly that if a local church is not able to pay the pension dollars there is a serious question as 
to whether that church remains a financially viable congregation. In fact, we consider it 
irresponsible for a congregation to “use” a pastor but are unwilling to assure his or her retirement
receipts. As of December 31, 2016, we had 4 churches/salary paying units in pension arrears and 3 churches/salary paying units in health premium arrears for a total arrearage of $31,794.88.

¶639.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline requires the Conference Board to keep a permanent record of defaults of the churches in the Conference in paying their pension and benefit amounts in full. According to our Conference Treasurer and Benefits Administrator, the following churches were in default by more than 60 days at the end of 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Paying Unit</th>
<th>Pension/CPP</th>
<th>HealthFlex/Café Plan</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McMillan</td>
<td>$14,070.02</td>
<td>$695.00</td>
<td>$14,765.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Zion, Waco</td>
<td>$1,944.08</td>
<td>$2,085.00</td>
<td>$4,029.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrew’s, Arlington</td>
<td>$5,266.64</td>
<td>$4,584.00</td>
<td>$9,850.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongan First</td>
<td>$3,150.14</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$3,150.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$31,794.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have been diligently working with churches who are chronically behind on their benefit payments to strategize how they might best move forward in ministry, up to and including a covenant plan to forgive their past arrearage if they will stay current with their benefit payments.

REPORT NO. 7

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if the conference or salary-paying unit sponsors the plan and they are able to satisfy the eligibility requirements which include clergy serving at least ¾ time with plan compensation at least 25% of the denominational average compensation (DAC). In addition, there is continuation of CPP for Full Members, Associate Members and Provisional Members on voluntary leave or family leave for a period of one year.

Death Benefit Amounts for the Plan Year 2017 & 2018

The following generally describes the death benefit amounts payable under the terms and conditions of the CPP to eligible participants and their beneficiaries. If you are not sure of your eligibility to receive these benefits, please call Wespath at 800-851-2201. In the event that there is a discrepancy between the information printed in this Journal and the CPP Plan Document, the plan document always governs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denominational Average Compensation (DAC)</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Participant Death Benefits:</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse Death Benefit:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Participant or Retired prior to 01/01/13 (20% of DAC)</td>
<td>$13,915</td>
<td>$14,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant retired after 01/01/13</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving Spouse Death Benefit:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Participant or Retired prior to 01/01/13 (15% of DAC)</td>
<td>$10,436</td>
<td>$10,530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participant retired after 01/01/13 $10,000 $10,000

Surviving Child Annual Benefit:
Younger than 18 years old: (10% of DAC) $  6,957 $  7,020
18-24 years old (1/2 applied as education benefit): (20% of DAC) $13,915 $14,040

Child Death Benefit:
Active Participant or Retired prior to 01/01/13 (10% of DAC) $  6,957 $  7,020
Participant retired after 01/01/13 $  8,000 $  8,000

Retired Participant Death Benefits:
Prior to 01/01/13 (30% of DAC) $20,872 $21,061
After 01/01/13 $20,000 $20,000

The Conference Board of Pension recommends that every person update their Designation of Beneficiary form at least every five years, or upon a change of appointment for active clergypersons, or upon any life changing event (marriage, death of a spouse, divorce, etc.)

REPORT NO. 8
CONFERENCE ACTIVE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Central Texas Conference is now in our fourteenth year of providing medical and pharmacy benefits through HealthFlex, sponsored by Wespath and administered by BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois and Optum RX, and we continue to be very satisfied with the program. In 2016, to align with the changing health care landscape, we entered HealthFlex Exchange. HealthFlex Exchange, a private exchange, gave participants greater choice across more HealthFlex plans with varying designs and premium costs. When combined with comprehensive online and telephonic support resources, HealthFlex Exchange gives flexibility to choose coverage that best fits the participant’s health needs, financial needs, and financial situation. HealthFlex Exchange encourages greater accountability by participants for health care costs and utilization, while retaining the valued HealthFlex benefits and wellness opportunities that participants have come to expect.

The Central Texas Conference Board of Pensions designated a non-taxable defined contribution (DC)—a fixed dollar amount for each HealthFlex participant. Participants used the allocated DC amount to “shop” for a health plan and pay for some or all premiums for the HealthFlex plan of their choice. The DC appeared as a “credit toward purchase” when choosing a HealthFlex plan from all available HealthFlex plan designs. Participants who chose plans costing less than their defined contribution credit amount are “banking” the overage, the unspent DC balance is credited by HealthFlex to the participant’s health reimbursement account (HRA) or health savings account (HSA), depending on the health plan selected. The annual overage amount (i.e., unspent DC balance) is not credited in a lump sum; rather, it is available on a prorated, monthly basis over the plan year. Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limits for annual HSA contributions apply. Participants who chose plans costing more than the defined contribution credit amount are seeing a monthly cost, which may commit them to paycheck deductions from their salary-paying unit (SPU) to cover the cost difference between the DC amount they receive and their higher actual cost for monthly premiums (i.e., the participant’s share of the premium cost).

ACTIVE HEALTH PLAN ELIGIBILITY

Our health insurance plan will continue to be a mandatory program administered according to the HealthFlex rules for mandatory conference programs.
Those clergy for whom the program is mandatory are:

- Elders, Provisional Elders and Associate Members (appointed at least ½ time).
- Full-time Local Pastors appointed to local churches in the Conference.
- Student Local Pastors.
- Those for whom the Conference is the Plan sponsor for the pension program such as District Superintendents, Conference staff appointees, and Campus Ministers.

Those clergy for whom the program is optional are:

- Deacons serving at least ½ time are eligible for coverage at the Salary-Paying Unit (local church) level under a Sub-Adoption Agreement, but are not mandated.

Clergy not included in the plan (and thus not allowed insurance through the Conference):

- Elders, Provisional Elders and Associate Members appointed less than ½ time.
- Ministers of Other Denominations.
- Those appointed to extension ministers other than those named above.
- Part-time Local Pastors.

The Conference Board of Pensions reserves the right each year to choose the optional categories of appointments to be selected to best serve the needs of the Conference. Where a clergyperson in a mandatory category chooses to waive the program, the church/charge served by that clergyperson will be assessed a minimum contribution equal to the defined contribution (DC) amount for the year to be paid monthly. This is to insure the stability of the program so it will be in place for other clergy who will serve that church/charge.

Medical Reimbursement Accounts (MRA), Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts (DCA) and Health Savings Accounts (HSA) are offered as a benefit through HealthFlex. Only those enrolled in the HealthFlex health plans may participate.

VOLUNTARY & INVOLUNTARY LEAVE

Those clergy on Voluntary Leave have the option to remain covered on the active health plan for a period of one year and then, upon termination, they can elect to stay on the Continuation Plan for one additional year. Those on Involuntary Leave lose eligibility for coverage immediately but may elect to stay on the Continuation Plan for one year. Both categories of leave will be directly billed at the full premium rate.

LAY EMPLOYEES

Lay employees normally scheduled to work 30 hours or more per week may be eligible for coverage at the Salary-Paying Unit (local church) level under a Sub-Adoption Agreement if Risk Pool requirements are met. The Risk Pool Rules apply to lay employees on an employer-by-employer basis. Surviving spouses and dependents of covered lay employees deceased on or after January 1, 2009 may be eligible for coverage as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death and that option is elected by the Salary-Paying Unit and will be responsible for the entire premium. A new spouse acquired by a surviving spouse, lay or clergy, is not eligible for benefits through the Conference.
The 2017 Health Plan Rates and Defined Contribution amounts are found in the following chart.

**2017 HEALTHFLEX EXCHANGE**

**CENTRAL TX CONFERENCE**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017**

7 Medical Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Feature</th>
<th>B1000/RX P1</th>
<th>CDHP C2000 “Gold”</th>
<th>CDHP C3000 “Silver”</th>
<th>HDHP H1500 “Gold”</th>
<th>HDHP H2000 “Silver”</th>
<th>HDHP H3000 “Bronze”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>$ 835.00</td>
<td>$ 796.00</td>
<td>$ 703.00</td>
<td>$ 791.00</td>
<td>$ 749.00</td>
<td>$ 634.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + 1</td>
<td>$ 1,994.00</td>
<td>$ 1,902.00</td>
<td>$ 1,680.00</td>
<td>$ 1,891.00</td>
<td>$ 1,791.00</td>
<td>$ 1,515.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + Family</td>
<td>$ 2,519.00</td>
<td>$ 2,402.00</td>
<td>$ 2,122.00</td>
<td>$ 2,388.00</td>
<td>$ 2,261.00</td>
<td>$ 1,913.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 Dental Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Feature</th>
<th>Passive PPO 1000</th>
<th>PPO</th>
<th>Passive PPO 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>$ 42.00</td>
<td>$ 47.00</td>
<td>$ 60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + 1</td>
<td>$ 96.00</td>
<td>$ 105.00</td>
<td>$ 132.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + Family</td>
<td>$ 111.00</td>
<td>$ 122.00</td>
<td>$ 152.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 Vision Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Feature</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Full Service</th>
<th>Premier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>$ 5.62</td>
<td>$ 14.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + 1</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>$ 9.06</td>
<td>$ 23.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + Family</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>$ 14.32</td>
<td>$ 37.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 2017 Defined Contribution (DC) Amounts (Yearly)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Clergy</td>
<td>$10,056.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Lay</td>
<td>$10,056.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-65 Retiree Clergy &amp; Spouses</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving Dep Clergy</td>
<td>$5,028.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Leave of Absence</td>
<td>$5,028.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 2017 Default Plan (For participant)

- Medical: CDHP C2000 “Gold”
- Dental: Passive PPO 1000
- Vision: Basic

**INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

HealthFlex uses incentives as part of their strategy to promote engagement in healthy behaviors and wellness programs. The 2017 strategy continues the focus on rewarding both for measuring risks (Blueprint for Wellness and HealthQuotient [HQ] and for taking action toward better health.
and well-being. Rewards emphasize participating in programs that have shown to have a positive impact on health risk and cost, including health coaching and Virgin Pulse.

## 2017 Incentives At-A-Glance

### Virgin Pulse 2.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity</strong></td>
<td>Per 1,000 steps (up to 140 points/day for 14,000 steps)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 or more active minutes</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 or more active minutes</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45 or more active minutes</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take 7,000 steps 20 days in a month</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take 10,000 steps 20 days in a month</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measurement</strong></td>
<td>Enter your measurements (weight)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self-Tracking</strong></td>
<td>1 entry (up to 30 Points/day)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Achieve the promoted Healthy Habit for 5 of 7 days</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cards</strong></td>
<td>Complete card (2/day--20 Points each)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Challenges</strong></td>
<td>Join challenges set up by your conference or employer</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Join a personal challenge</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Quarterly Rewards Earned</th>
<th>Cumulative Quarterly Rewards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HealthFlex Wellness Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>HealthFlex Wellness Points Per Action</th>
<th>Frequency Allowed</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Measures Rewards -- see Healthy Rewards Table (page 5)</td>
<td>6 possible rewards for 20 points each</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Meet AHA guidelines on six 2017 Blueprint for Wellness measures or achieve improved measures on 2017 Blueprint for Wellness as compared to 2016 Blueprint for Wellness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete any WebMD coaching call in 2017</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6 times</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit success story through the HealthFlex/WebMD website</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(name/contact information required to receive points but can publish anonymously)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have your success story selected (will be notified of selection by HealthFlex)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4 times</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View the &quot;Wellness Success Stories&quot; page on the HealthFlex/WebMD website (maximum once per calendar quarter)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 times</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select any goal in My Health Assistant on the HealthFlex/WebMD website</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 times</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve any goal in My Health Assistant</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for emotional counseling</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access EAP for Work/Life Services</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activate your account with MDLIVE telemedicine provider - NEW</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt a new spiritual practice for 1 month - NEW</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete the EY Financial Wellness Assessment - NEW</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total needed to earn $150 PulseCash = 150 Wellness Points</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blueprint for Wellness Screening

HealthFlex will deposit $100 PulseCash in your Virgin Pulse account when you complete the Blueprint for Wellness (BFW) screening. The screening must be completed between April 1 and July 31. The $100 PulseCash incentive is only for participants and spouses in HealthFlex PPO, CDHP, and HDHP plans. Please allow up to 30 days for PulseCash to be credited to your Virgin Pulse account.

HealthQuotient (HQ)

The HealthQuotient (HQ) is an online health assessment questionnaire taken in August or September 2017. It helps to evaluate your risk for common health concerns, such as heart disease, diabetes, depression and high cholesterol. Identifying risk levels helps you prioritize your health goals and puts you in a better position to take steps that may lower your risk. Completing the HQ takes 20 minutes or less, but its benefits—improved well-being, enhanced vitality and prudent stewardship of Church resources—can be long-lasting. By taking the HQ you will avoid a higher 2018 deductible—save $250/$500. If your spouse is also covered by HealthFlex, he or she also must complete the HQ during this timeframe to avoid the higher deductible. Taking the HQ in August or September is the only way to avoid the higher medical plan deductible in 2018.
**HEALTH & DENTAL BENEFITS/RATES 2018**

**ACTIVE HEALTH PLAN RATES**

The Conference health plan ended the 2015 plan year with a claims loss ratio of 111% which means that the cost of claims paid in 2015 exceeded the premium dollars collected by 11%. Here is a look at the loss ratio for the last few years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Loss Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>117%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>111%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>101%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>124%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rate setting is based upon a 25-month look back so an unfavorable claims history resulting in a loss ratio that exceeds 100% affects rates for the next several years. Our history of poor loss ratios is realized in the rates we received from HealthFlex for 2018.

The 2018 Health Plan Rates and Defined Contribution amounts are found in the following chart

### 2018 HEALTHFLEX EXCHANGE  
**CENTRAL TX CONFERENCE**  
**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018**

#### Medical Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Feature</th>
<th>B1000/RX P1</th>
<th>CDHP C2000 “Gold”</th>
<th>CDHP C3000 “Silver”</th>
<th>HDHP H1500 “Gold”</th>
<th>HDHP H2000 “Silver”</th>
<th>HDHP H3000 “Bronze”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>$907.00</td>
<td>$864.00</td>
<td>$743.00</td>
<td>$856.00</td>
<td>$783.00</td>
<td>$676.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + 1</td>
<td>$2,167.00</td>
<td>$2,063.00</td>
<td>$1,776.00</td>
<td>$2,046.00</td>
<td>$1,872.00</td>
<td>$1,615.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + Family</td>
<td>$2,737.00</td>
<td>$2,606.00</td>
<td>$2,244.00</td>
<td>$2,584.00</td>
<td>$2,363.00</td>
<td>$2,039.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Dental Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Feature</th>
<th>Passive PPO 1000</th>
<th>PPO</th>
<th>Passive PPO 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>$44.00</td>
<td>$49.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + 1</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$109.00</td>
<td>$131.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + Family</td>
<td>$116.00</td>
<td>$126.00</td>
<td>$151.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Vision Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Feature</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Full Service</th>
<th>Premier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>$5.62</td>
<td>$14.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + 1</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>$9.06</td>
<td>$23.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant + Family</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>$14.32</td>
<td>$37.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2018 Defined Contribution (DC) Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Clergy</td>
<td>$875.00</td>
<td>$10,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Lay</td>
<td>$875.00</td>
<td>$10,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-65 Retiree Clergy &amp; Spouses</td>
<td>$83.33</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving Dep Clergy</td>
<td>$437.50</td>
<td>$5,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Leave of Absence</td>
<td>$437.50</td>
<td>$5,250.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2018 Default Plan (For participant)
- Medical: CDHP C2000 “Gold”
- Dental: Passive PPO 1000
- Vision: Basic

### MDLIVE Telemedicine
#### New in 2017

MDLIVE is a telemedicine service available for HealthFlex participants. It provides 24/7 access to state-licensed, board-certified doctors (including pediatricians) via phone, secure video or an easy-to-use MDLIVE mobile app to treat non-emergency medical conditions. MDLIVE doctors can diagnose your symptoms, prescribe non-narcotic medication, and send prescriptions to your pharmacy of choice. See the WebMD website for additional information and to access this service.

### 2018 Local Church Waiver of Optional Family Coverage

As a further means of determining the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on our clergy, their families and their participation in the HealthFlex Exchange, we initiated a pilot program in 2017 (up to a maximum of 10 churches) to enable the local church (and our Annual Conference) to experience the use of alternative health coverage options for clergy families. Participation in the pilot program required the agreement of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB), the Cabinet, the local church Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (PPR) and the approval of the Church Council or equivalent church administrative body. This program will continue in 2018.

1. Beginning July 1, 2017, the administrative body of a local church may make a request of the CBOPHB, in the form of a waiver, to be exempt from offering family coverage for health care. The CBOPHB, at its discretion, will decide the appropriateness of each request. **Note to the Local Church:** Exemption from offering family coverage would exempt ALL clergy and lay employees, of a church sponsored health plan, from family coverage, not just those in HealthFlex.

2. Any church interested in participating in the pilot program may request an application from the Conference Benefits Officer (CBO). All completed applications requesting the waiver must be received no later than September 1, 2017.

3. Any church currently participating in the program will continue unless a termination request is received no later than September 1, 2017.

4. The decision of the CBOPHB will be made by September 15, 2017 in order to allow all those affected to make adequate plans prior to Charge Conference and Annual Enrollment in November.
5. All new waivers granted will become effective January 1, 2018.
6. Under no circumstances does this exempt those eligible clergy or a local church from being enrolled in the mandated conference health plan.

REPORT NO. 9
RETIREE & MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH BENEFITS

The Conference shares the funding of the Retiree Health Benefit Program for eligible retired participants with the retired clergy and spouses. The Conference Retiree Health Benefit Program assumes participation in Medicare Parts A and B and is designed to extend certain benefits beyond what Medicare pays.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLERGY RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

The Conference will provide access to coverage to the clergy retiree and his/her eligible spouse if the following service requirements have been met (these rules are in effect for any clergyperson who retires after Annual Conference June, 2002).

At the time of retirement, the clergyperson must:

- Have been working in at least ¾ time appointment as a Full Member of the Central Texas Conference or as a Full Time Local Pastor eligible for retirement per the Discipline and the rules of the Annual Conference.
- Be a member of the Central Texas Conference, serving in a local church or one of its “Conference Responsible” agencies.
- Have at least five (5) years of ministerial service in the Central Texas Conference and ten (10) years of service in the United Methodist Church. A waiver of the five (5) year requirement for service in the Central Texas Conference may be considered by the Central Texas Conference Board of Pensions upon recommendation of the Cabinet.

Surviving spouses of deceased, retired clergy are eligible as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death. A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for retiree benefits through the Conference.

RETIREE/MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH PLAN 2017

Effective January 1, 2013, the Central Texas Annual Conference and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits began partnering with One Exchange to provide plan advice and enrollment assistance in choosing Medicare supplemental health coverage and prescription drug plan in the open market. Through this arrangement the participant is responsible for paying premiums, but are assisted with premium and out of pocket expenses by the Central Texas Annual Conference through a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) funded specifically for the participant. Retirees and spouses must be a participant in the Conference health plan at retirement to continue with Conference health benefits after retirement.

RETIREE/MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH PLAN FUNDING 2017

For those eligible clergypersons and their eligible spouses, the Conference will fund a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) up to a maximum of $900 per year/per person for early and full retirees based on their years of ministerial service in the United Methodist Church. Surviving
spouses of deceased clergy are eligible for the HRA as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death. A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for retiree benefits through the Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Service (full years)</th>
<th>HRA Amount (per year per person)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 or above</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For those eligible clergypersons and their eligible spouses who retired before January 1, 2008, the Conference will fund the HRA at the maximum amount per person.

RETIREE/MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH PLAN FUNDING 2018

For those eligible clergypersons and their eligible spouses, the Conference will fund a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The maximum has been increased up to $1,000 per year/per person for early and full retirees based on their years of ministerial service in the United Methodist Church with the two additional funded tiers raised similarly. Surviving spouses of deceased clergy are eligible for the HRA as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death. A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for retiree benefits through the Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Service (full years)</th>
<th>HRA Amount (per year per person)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>$700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 or above</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For those eligible clergypersons and their eligible spouses who retired before January 1, 2008, the Conference will fund the HRA at the maximum amount per person.

PRE-65 RETIREE FUNDING –2017 & 2018

If, at the time of early or full retirement, the eligible clergyperson or spouse is less than 65 years of age and has been covered under HealthFlex for the five consecutive years just prior to retirement, they are eligible to remain on the active plan. A Defined Contribution (DC) amount of $1,000.00 per year (pro-rated for a partial year) will be provided by the Conference to offset the cost of the active health plan premium. The premium, less the DC amount, will be direct billed to the retiree.

A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for retiree benefits through the Conference.

OPTING-OUT AT RETIREMENT

If, at the time of retirement, a retiree has Other Employer-sponsored Group Health Coverage (e.g. through a spouse’s employer), he/she may decline retiree coverage and retain the ability to
receive retiree health benefits at a future date. If the retiree loses his or her coverage, it is the retiree’s responsibility to notify the Conference within 30 calendar days of loss of other coverage. If this 30-day requirement is not met, the retiree will forfeit the ability to receive retiree health benefits through the Conference at a future date. If an eligible retiree without Other Employer-sponsored Group Health Coverage declines coverage at the time of retirement, the retiree will forfeit the ability to receive retiree health benefits through the Conference at a future date.

**MEDICARE SECONDARY PAYER – SMALL EMPLOYER EXCEPTION**

Beginning January 1, 2009, the Central Texas Conference elected the exception that allows a multiple employer plan to exempt certain individuals from the Medicare secondary payer rules for the working aged. This election helps reduce costs incurred by the Conference and the overall HealthFlex program. This exception applies to clergy, lay employees and spouses who are 65 years of age or older, entitled to Medicare due to their age, and have coverage under the HealthFlex program through an employer (local church or Conference sponsored entity) who employs fewer than 20 employees. For those individuals affected by the exception, Medicare will be the primary payer of their claims beginning the first day of the month they attain age 65 (or the first of the month following approval from Medicare), even if still an active employee, and the participant will no longer be eligible for coverage under the active plan. Eligible lay employees and spouses, 65 years of age or older, will be moved from the active plan to the open market with access to One Exchange. Due to the Affordable Care Act limitations, the Conference is unable to offer a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to accompany this plan effective January 1, 2015. Participation in the Medicare supplemental policies through One Exchange satisfies the requirement of Conference health plan participation for retirement benefit purposes.

**LAY RETIREE/MEDICARE ELIGIBLE COVERAGE**

Beginning with a retirement date of January 1, 2009 or later, a lay employee whose active service has ended and who has completed a minimum of five years of continuous and uninterrupted coverage in HealthFlex immediately preceding the date of retirement and is less than 65 years of age at the time of retirement, may continue on the active plan if so elected by their salary paying unit on the Sub-Adoption Agreement. This will also apply to any eligible family members covered at the time of retirement. The lay employee will be responsible for the entire premium. Surviving spouses of retired, deceased lay employees are eligible for coverage as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death and are responsible for the entire premium. A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for benefits through the Conference. Lay retirees/spouses who are 65 years of age or older will have access to One Exchange to assist in the move out into the open market but they will be responsible for their entire premium. Lay retirees are not eligible for an HRA.

**OPTING OUT OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

We continue to have a concern for clergy who may have opted out of the Social Security system. It is imperative that those persons be Medicare eligible when they turn 65, or they likely will not be able to obtain any medical insurance. Some who have opted out may have this eligibility through a spouse, or through enough previous employment. However, it should also be noted that eligibility for Social Security disability payments differs from the requirements for retirement and Medicare benefits. If a pastor is considering this course, they should investigate these matters very carefully.
RETIREE AND MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH PLAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

HealthFlex uses incentives as part of their strategy to promote engagement in healthy behaviors and wellness programs.

2017 INCENTIVES AT-A-GLANCE

VIRGIN PULSE 2.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Per 1,000 steps (up to 140 points/day for 14,000 steps)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 or more active minutes</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 or more active minutes</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45 or more active minutes</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take 7,000 steps 20 days in a month</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take 10,000 steps 20 days in a month</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEASUREMENT SELF-TRACKING</td>
<td>Enter your measurements (weight)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 entry (up to 30 Points/day)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Achieve the promoted Healthy Habit for 5 of 7 days</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARDS CHALLENGES</td>
<td>Complete card (2/day–20 Points each)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Join challenges set up by your conference or employer</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Join a personal challenge</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REPORT NO. 10
SUSTENTATION FUND

By action of the 2007 Annual Conference a sustentation fund was established as part of the benefit program through the Annual Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The fund represents a tangible expression of a collegial relationship among clergy under appointment in the Conference to provide transitional aid. The fund is to provide needed resources and temporary financial assistance to clergy and to assist local congregations in times of clergy transition.

In order to maintain confidentiality, resources from the Sustentation Fund may be used with the recommendation of the Cabinet for:

- Vocational counseling for clergy exiting ordained ministry.
- Temporary salary and/or benefit support for clergy under suspension or exiting ministry.
- Special assessment and intervention strategies to restore clergy to effectiveness.
- Provision of interim ministry supply.
- Support of a crisis response team for congregation/church staffs in times of crisis.
- Other unique needs to support clergy effectiveness/clergy families.
In the case of clergy going on Leave of Absence, the Cabinet, Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and/or the clergy session of members in full connection in accordance with the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶354.1 may approve resources from the Sustentation Fund for use.

In the case of clergy taking Honorable Location or Administrative Location, resources from the Sustentation Fund may be used upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry in accordance with the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶359.1 and ¶363.3 (b)(4), respectively. The Board of Ordained Ministry or its Executive Committee may also make a request to the Cabinet for the use of Sustentation Fund resources in other situations to provide resources or transitional support for clergy.

The Sustentation Fund is included in the 2018 budget presented to Annual Conference. As a point of information, the funds are underwritten with an amount of .25% of the total Annual Conference plan compensation collected from CTC churches through the connectional ministry budget of the Conference.

See Fund Balance in Report 1 above.

REPORT NO. 11
GRANT SUPPORT FUND FOR CLERGY

A Support Fund has been established to provide grant money to clergy, and surviving spouses of clergy to assist with catastrophic, unanticipated medical expenses.

1. Grant monies may be available to clergy and surviving spouses of clergy from the Conference Board’s Consolidated Grant Fund, as well as other available resources. Clergy with unanticipated medical expenses may also qualify for assistance from the Farmers Fund with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Conference grant application forms can be obtained from the Conference Benefits Administrator and should be sent to the Conference Benefits Officer at the Conference Service Center.

2. Funds and earnings on deposit with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall be restricted for providing clergy benefits programs and funding retiree benefits.

Fund Balance 12/31/2016: $83,279.78

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONFERENCE SUPPORT FUND GRANT APPLICATION

The following guidelines shall be used in reviewing and approving a Support Fund Grant application:

- An individual may receive one grant in a calendar year.
- A grant will only be approved for a one-time emergency situation due to catastrophic, unanticipated medical expenses.
- A grant will not be approved if a previous grant was made for the same emergency situation.
- Distressed clergy members of the Central Texas Annual Conference, their spouses or surviving spouses are eligible to apply for a grant. The term “clergy member” is interpreted to mean both active and retired conference members.
• A grant should only be requested to supplement health care insurance if all other resources have already been utilized. This also applies to requests to cover deductibles or co-payments.
• An application must be completed by the participant or a person authorized to act on the participant’s behalf.
• The Central Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall review the application.
• The grant amount will be a maximum of $3,000 per individual request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis based on need.

1 An emergency is defined as an “unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action; a pressing need.”
2 Authorized: Power of attorney or agreement between participant and conference officer, or a court appointed guardian.

NOTE: Support Fund Grants received from the Central Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits may be considered taxable income due to the relationship between the clergy person and the annual conference.

REPORT NO. 12

VOLUNTARY TRANSITION PROGRAM (VTP) FOR CLERGY

A program authorized by the 2012 General Conference and being offered by the General Board, is called the Voluntary Transition Program (VTP). The General Conference action was taken as a result of a comprehensive Church Systems Task Force which recognized that for some of us, it’s probable that we feel that we have fulfilled the mission to which we felt God had called us. And because of this, our season for ministry should naturally now transition away from Conference membership and to another vocation where we can continue to fulfill God’s calling on our lives.

The Task Force encouraged General Conference to recognize that it is detrimental to the lives of individuals who feel they must remain in ordained ministry because of the system that we have in place, and that when some individuals recognize that they would like to transition out of the ordained ministry, a means to accomplish this should be provided.

The VTP has been implemented and will be in effect until the end of 2020. It is available to Clergy with a minimum of 5 years of full connection, in good standing, and they must be an active CPP participant 5 years immediately preceding separation and must not be within 2 years of eligible retirement. Additionally, the Conference leadership must approve their request and at the completion of the process the individual must surrender her or his credentials.

With the VTP there is a Severance Benefit that is calculated using two weeks of a Participant’s Plan Compensation for every full year of continuous service. As an example, an Elder, aged 45 with 10 years of continuous service, and a plan compensation of $65,000 ($2500 per 2 weeks) would receive a lump sum payment of $25,000. This is obviously just one example but it shows you the effort our General Board is giving toward helping anyone who wants to take advantage of this opportunity to move out of ordained ministry in our Connection, to a new season of life. Additionally, during the transitional period our Conference would continue to pay the employer portion of your Health Benefits. There are other additional benefits you can find on the GBOPH
website (gpophb.org). There are links to the VTP program on the home page of the GBOPH website. You'll find the description under the Comprehensive Protection Plan and if you type this address into your browser it will take you there, http://www.gbophb.org/assets/1/7/3097.pdf.

REPORT NO. 13

RESOLUTION RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED, DISABLED, MINISTERS ON INCAPACITY LEAVE OR FORMER CLERGY PERSONS OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE

The Central Texas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation; and

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

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

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions
to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a
terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of
his or her gross compensation.

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

REPORT NO. 14
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

To better manage and evaluate the risk of our invested fund we have set up an Investment
Committee. The committee will assist the Board of Pensions in clearly defining the purpose and
financial requirements of our conference BOP and develop investment goals and strategies,
funding policy and other operational guidelines to better maximize the investment potential of our
funds. The committee is made up of persons with a wide variety of funding and investment
experience.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
KEVIN WILSON, PRESIDENT

TRUSTEES ARE CUSTODIAN FOR THE FOLLOWING CONFERENCE PROPERTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Property Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crowley-Neeley Survey</td>
<td>HWY 1187</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>Vacant Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azle-Eagle Mountain UMC</td>
<td>7955 Reed Rd.</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>Active Local Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weatherford-Knutson Prop</td>
<td>1015 Azle Hwy</td>
<td>Parker</td>
<td>Vacant Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Hill School</td>
<td>3006 Schwartz Avenue</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Vista UMC</td>
<td>200 S. Hughes Street</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Closed Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Vista Parsonage</td>
<td>100 E. Smith Street</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Currently Renting Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valera UMC</td>
<td>300 Pearce Street</td>
<td>Coleman</td>
<td>Closed Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riesel UMC</td>
<td>508 W. Frederick St.</td>
<td>McLennan</td>
<td>Active-Local Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson Oaks UMC</td>
<td>2911 Inspiration Drive</td>
<td>Parker</td>
<td>New Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Fellowship UMC</td>
<td>1005 La Salle Av.</td>
<td>McLennan</td>
<td>New Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Ghanain</td>
<td>2201 E. Park Row</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>Former Aldersgate UMC</td>
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CONFERENCE PROPERTIES SOLD IN 2016-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Property Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Zion UMC</td>
<td>1212 N. Fifth, Waco, TX</td>
<td>McLennan</td>
<td>Closed Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Hill UMC</td>
<td>3005 Oscar Avenue, FW, TX</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>Closed Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONFERENCE RELATED STRUCTURES/ENTITIES INSURANCE

The Board of Trustees takes seriously its responsibility to verify that the Conference Insurance coverage is current. To that end, a review of all the Conference insurance policies has been completed, and we are satisfied that the Conference insurance coverages are adequate. The Conference insurance broker of choice continues to be Bart Tucker of Roach, Howard, Smith, and Barton in Fort Worth at 1-800-295-6607. We encourage all conference churches to annually review their insurance coverage to make sure that it meets their current needs and periodically to examine their local church coverage and get a review and rate quote.

CONFERENCE ELECTRIC AGGREGATE PLAN

Electric utilities in the state of Texas were deregulated effective January 1, 2002. Deregulation offered the opportunity for the churches of the Central Texas Conference to join together to purchase electricity. All of the churches of the conference have been invited to participate in this effort. To date approximately 300 CTC entities have enrolled and the program continues to be beneficial with the benefits of achieving scale, the ability to anticipate costs in budgeting, and protection against the volatility of natural gas prices and future cost increases. Since our first contract that began in 2008 our price of electricity per kilowatt hour (kWh) has decreased. You can see by the following chart how our group program has benefitted our churches with each successive contract implementing decreases in electrical costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Term</th>
<th>Per kWh Hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008 - 2013</td>
<td>0.0749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 - 2015</td>
<td>0.0588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 - 2016</td>
<td>0.0566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 - 2018</td>
<td>0.0499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 - 2021</td>
<td>0.0408</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Energy Charges. This charge is the deregulated part of your bill and was negotiated through a competitive bid process conducted by the CTC service center. This charge is noted on your bill as “ENERGY” and is calculated by multiplying your kWh usage for a particular month times the Conference contract rate which is 0.0499.

2. Transmission, Distribution, Utility (TDU) charges. These charges are the regulated part of your bill. These are set by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and are non-negotiable. These charges are referred to as “pass through” charges and are the same no matter the name of your Retail Electric Provider (REP). The conference REP is Hudson Energy. However, they have no control over these regulated charges. Hudson simply passes along the bill that is sent to them by ONCOR who is the TDU Company.

There are many components that make up this TDU part of your bill. However, the one that is by far the largest is the “DEMAND” charge. Demand is defined as the total number of watts that hit your meter at any point in time. So, for instance, on Sunday morning to turn all your lights and air or electric heat at the same time that will be for most the highest demand. This could affect your bill for the next 12 months. Each month you will be billed the higher of your current month Demand reading or 80% of your highest demand reading over the past 12 months. For example if you hit 150KW on the hottest Sunday in August and that was the highest Demand reading over the past 12 months then you will be billed $5.00 times 150 = $750.00. Now suppose that in Jan, Feb, Mar, and Apr you hit between 50 and 75 KW demand each month. For each of those months you will be billed 80% of
the last twelve months peak which in our example would be 150 X 80% = 120. 120X$5.00 = $600.00.

As you can see if you reduce your peak Demand permanently you can reduce your demand charges for all the remaining months. (For more detailed information please call the conference service center)

**LANDMARK POLICY**

Pursuant to the 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶2512.7, the “Establishment of Annual Conference Policy with Regard to Government Landmark Efforts to Designate Church Owned Property as Landmarks”, policy was approved at the 2011 Annual Conference Session. It can be found in the 2012 Conference Journal beginning on page 274.

**MINISTRYSAFE**

Since 2015 when MinistrySafe was adopted as our Conference-wide abuse prevention system, there has been overwhelming success in congregations implementing MinistrySafe. Although the initial set up and transition was challenging for many congregations, the vast majority of churches have persevered to understand the system, overcome resistance to the changes, and now have a good foundation of MinistrySafe operating in their ministries.

During this process, most congregations have relied upon the pastor and/or children and youth staff to lead the compliance process. Each church has a Safety System Administrator (SSA) who maintains the online dashboard and often facilitates the compliance process for volunteers and staff. In 2016, the MinistrySafe Oversight Committee requested that MinistrySafe SSA be added to the Charge Conference list of “Local Church Leaders” so that now we can communicate directly through the Conference database console to those leaders responsible for MinistrySafe. Currently, the console holds 226 names of SSAs in our Conference.

However, the burden is not on the SSA alone. At this point, every congregation should also have a Safety Committee, as per the CTC MinistrySafe policy, which helps makes decisions on how to implement the policy, monitors local ministries, and addresses safety violations and concerns. For our smallest churches, many Pastors are serving as the SSA as well as facilitating the compliance process for their volunteers. In these cases, a Safety Committee is essential for maintaining accountability and sharing responsibility between the pastor and laity.

At first, MinistrySafe seemed confined to children and youth ministries within the walls of the church. Now, local Mission and Outreach teams are also seeing the need for MinistrySafe certification as they interact with the community and represent the United Methodist Church in the streets of their neighborhoods. Churches are asking their mission and outreach volunteers to be MinistrySafe compliant.

The CTC MinistrySafe Oversight Committee monitors compliance in several CTC programs including:

- Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) and its annual Mid-Winter retreat
- Central Texas Youth in Mission projects (CTCYM) and its Advisory Task Force
- Children’s Bible Camp and Confirmation Celebration
- Chrysalis
- Project Transformation
Emergency Response Teams (ERT), UMVIM leader training, Emotional/Spiritual Care training

All adults- laity and clergy- who attend any of the CTC-sponsored programs listed above must submit a compliance form before attending the event.

In an effort to model best practices, the CTC Cabinet members have completed the 5 Safety Steps required for individual MinistrySafe compliance. Our hope is that the District Superintendents and their Assistants will be able to encourage Pastors who have not yet completed MinistrySafe themselves or congregations in their District who have not yet engaged the program.

The MinistrySafe Oversight Committee is aware that some churches are not utilizing all 5 Safety Steps when training volunteers. Some churches merely run a criminal background check and require the video training, leaving out all or part of the screening process (application, interview, references). The Oversight Committee is also aware that some churches have self-reported on their Charge Conference forms that the church is "non-compliant" with CTC MinistrySafe expectations.

From the perspective of the Oversight Committee, full compliance for a local church would look like this:

- Has in place an SSA who is different from the Pastor (although the Pastor can be one of two SSAs)
- Has a functioning Safety Committee which monitors church ministries and programs
- Follows all 5 safety steps with volunteers and staff: Video Training, Safety Application, Interview, References, Criminal Background Check
- Utilizes their MinistrySafe dashboard with up-to-date information, as well as a secure and confidential paper trail
- Implements the CTC MinistrySafe policy for programs with children, youth, and vulnerable adults

The MinistrySafe Oversight Committee will continue to monitor Conference-sponsored programs ensuring they remain in compliance with the criteria listed above. Beyond that work, the Committee’s main goals for the next two years are:

3. To encourage all CTC clergy to become MinistrySafe compliant through their local church (or through the district or conference office when necessary).

4. To strengthen local Safety Committees
   a. through specialized workshops for those church leaders/staff
   b. by increasing awareness of the role of Safety Committees among Pastors and local Trustee committees.

CHURCH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Conference policy requires that each church in the charge carry adequate property, liability and Workers’ Compensation Insurance on pastors and other employees. If a pastor (or other worker) receives a work-related injury, health insurance will not pay on what should be a worker’s compensation claim. In addition, regular liability insurance will not pay or protect a church against such a gap in coverage. Please, if you do not have workers’ compensation
coverage, check with our Conference agent, Roach, Howard, Smith and Barton (1-800-295-6607) in Fort Worth, or any agent of your choosing.

We encourage churches to survey the insurance coverage that they now have and compare it to the minimum coverage standards (listed below) we feel are imperative for your church to minimize risk. Certainly, there may be good reasons for your church to carry a different amount than the minimum. As always consult with your local church insurance agent or call the Conference Service Center for more information. We also encourage you to routinely shop your insurance needs and compare it with new policies and new carriers. We remind churches that a required part of Charge Conference reporting is a report from the Trustees, which lists insurance coverage and deed recordings.

For help in determining whether your local church insurance is adequate please use the following link to the General Conference Finance and Administration (GCFA) web site for a worksheet.


CENTRAL TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
LOCAL CHURCH MINIMUM INSURANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2016 Book of Discipline ¶2533.2 requires local church trustees to annually review and report on the adequacy of local church property and liability insurance coverage “to ensure that the church, its properties, and its personnel are properly protected against risks.” Since 1797, the Discipline has provided that the property and assets of local churches are held in trust for the benefit of the denomination. Inadequate insurance puts local church property and assets at risk, including the denomination’s trust therein. Therefore, Trustees of the Central Texas Conference, representing the denomination’s trust interest, have adopted the following minimum insurance requirements for local churches:

Commercial Package Policy, to include the following minimum limits:

- Fine Arts $25,000
- Comprehensive General Liability Occurrence $1,000,000 Aggregate $2,000,000
- Pastoral Counseling Liability Occurrence $1,000,000 Aggregate $2,000,000
- Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability Occurrence $1,000,000
- Employee Benefits Liability (EBL) Occurrence $1,000,000 Aggregate $1,000,000
- Medical Payments $10,000
- Sexual Misconduct Liability Occurrence $1,000,000 Aggregate $1,000,000
- Crime/Employer Dishonesty Occurrence $25,000

Directors & Officers (D&O) Policy, to include the following minimum limits

- Directors’ & Officers $1,000,000
- Employee Practices Liability (EPL) $1,000,000 (including Sexual Harassment)

Workers’ Compensation Policy, including supply clergy

- Bodily Injury by Accident Each Accident $1,000,000
- Bodily Injury by Disease Policy Limit $1,000,000
**Umbrella Policy (Excess Liability)** – An Umbrella policy is suggested, but not required

This excess policy must extend over Commercial General Liability, Pastoral counseling, Employee Benefits Liability, Owned Auto, Hired & Non-Owned Auto and Workers Compensation. A higher per occurrence limit may be appropriate based on specific risk characteristics such as church size and/or scope of operations and ministries

- Per Occurrence Limit $1,000,000 (minimum) Aggregate $1,000,000

As always there may be good reasons to have different amounts of coverage.

Please consult with your insurance agent or call the Conference Service Center 817/877-5222 with any questions.

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**The Texas Open Carry Law for Concealed Handgun Holders & CTC Ministry Policy**

The Open Carry Law for Concealed Handgun Holders (“Open Carry Law”) became effective January 1, 2016. This law authorizes an individual who possesses a concealed handgun license issued by the state of Texas or by a state that Texas recognizes to carry the handgun in plain view in a public place as long as the handgun is carried in a shoulder or belt holster.

Property owners may prohibit the entrance onto their property by a person licensed to openly carry a handgun by providing verbal or written communication of the prohibition. The written communication may be a card, document or sign posted on the premises of the owner. The sign would be required to: (1) include in English and Spanish the statutory warning prescribed in the Texas Penal Code, (2) have contrasting colors with block letters at least one inch in height, and (3) be displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public at each entrance to the property.

Examples of signs which meet the statutory requirements for prohibiting both concealed and openly carried handguns are in the 2016 CTC Journal, Board of Trustees Report p. 324. Signs can be purchased on line or can be “homemade” as long as they meet the statutory requirements. ¶3426.11 in the Book of Resolutions states, “reflecting the traditional role of The United Methodist Church that has been one of safety and sanctuary, every United Methodist Church is officially declared a weapon-free zone.” Believing that the open carry of handguns on church property is inconsistent with an atmosphere of prayer and worship, safety and sanctuary, it is the recommendation of the Conference Board of Trustees that oral and/or written notice be given in accordance with the statute prohibiting the “Open Carry” of handguns in churches of the Conference. We make no recommendation regarding the prohibition of concealed handguns on church property and suggest that this be left up to individual congregations. It is our further recommendation that, in addition to whatever normal security churches provide during worship services and other activities occurring on church campuses, trained personnel, whether ushers or others, be designated as persons to assist in the event of a disturbance or an apparent violation of the notices the churches have posted with regard to the presence of guns on the property.

In addition, recognizing that the church is not a building, the church is the people and the ministry that we undertake both within the church building and outside in the mission fields of our communities and world. We remind everyone that by vote of the 2016 CTC annual conference for
all ministries sponsored by the Central Texas Conference, i.e. CTCYM and conference children and youth events, mission trips, disaster response and VIM events, etc., (these are not meant to be the exclusive/exhaustive list of ministries but are examples) are to be declared a weapon free zone.

DISTRICT PROPERTY ISSUES

RESOLUTION FOR THE DISCONTINUANCE OF BETHEL UMC OF NORTH DISTRICT

WHEREAS the congregation of Bethel UMC located in Tarrant County, Texas, in the North District, has declared its intention to close after faithful servant ministry for many years; and

WHEREAS the North District has surveyed the needs of ministry in the mission field and believe it can be served by existing nearby congregations; and

WHEREAS it would appear to serve no missional purpose to retain this property; and

WHEREAS the membership of Bethel United Methodist Church has been transferred to other congregations and there are no existing trustees; and

WHEREAS the abandonment of the church and the abandonment of its property has been recommended by the District Superintendent and approved by the Bishop, a majority of the District Superintendents and the District Board of Church Location and Building according to ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline; and

WHEREAS all steps required by the Disciplinary have been taken;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bethel United Methodist Church be discontinued as of January 15, 2017, and all of its property declared abandoned and transferred to the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church for sale, distribution, and other disposition as the Conference Board of Trustees may deem in the best interest of the conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Central Texas Conference Board of Trustees be authorized, in its discretion, to distribute the items of the property which may be best used by other churches to such churches or to the Center for Evangelism & Church Growth and to sell all other property with the net proceeds given to the Center for Evangelism & Church Growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the membership of the remaining congregation of Bethel UMC at the time of this action be transferred to Benbrook United Methodist Church, and that all official records of the discontinued church be forwarded to the Central Texas Conference archives.

STILL WATER LODGE TASK FORCE

GARY CUMBIE, CHAIRPERSON
The members of the Still Water Lodge Task Force appreciate being given the opportunity to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the facility and its sustainability. Further, we express appreciation to Dr. Randy Wild, Executive Director - Center for Mission Support for the Central Texas Conference, and to Natalie Davidson, Executive Director for the Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center, for providing valuable background information and facilitating our review.

**Background – Glen Lake Camp**

Glen Lake Camp was created as a ministry of the Central Texas Conference with the purchase of the former Lakeview Camp in 1939. Since that time, the camp has provided opportunities for spiritual growth through summer camp for youth and through retreats and conferences for all age groups. The Mission of Glen Lake Camp is the same as that of our Annual Conference: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Glen Lake Camp Vision is: People encounter God through the teaching of Christian faith, restoration of hope, and inspiration of love.

Glen Lake Camp is in a beautiful 55-acre natural setting, well-suited to its Mission and Vision, and it has been successful in its operation. Many within the Central Texas Conference have a strong attachment to the Camp and its role in their spiritual growth and development.

While Glen Lake has long had a limited ability to accommodate adult groups and conferences, it was felt some years ago that more could and should be done to reach this important demographic. While plans were considered for possible construction on the camp site to accommodate more adult groups, an opportunity presented itself in 2007 to acquire a nearby property, the Still Water Retirement Community.

**Annual Conference approves a Task Force**

In the 2016 GLC board report to the Central Texas Annual Conference there was a request for the annual conference to appoint a task force to study the issues related to the Still Water Lodge. The task force was made up of members of the Glen Lake Camp Board, Conference Board of Trustees, Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Lay Leader, Executive Director of Mission Support, Executive Director of GLC and 4 at large members of the annual conference.

The following is the background, assessment and recommendations of the annual conference appointed task force on Still Water Lodge.

**Background – Still Water Lodge**

The former Still Water Retirement Community was designed as an apartment-style residence for active seniors. It is a two-story structure, with 27 suites plus kitchen and dining and meeting facilities, located on 7 acres fronting the Paluxy River. Built in 2000, it is located about a mile from the Glen Lake Camp. Camp leaders, after study and research, produced a business plan declaring that the property was a good fit with their plans for an adult retreat and conference center, and so in 2007, with Conference approval, the property was purchased by Glen Lake Camp with $2.8 million borrowed from the Texas Methodist Foundation. An additional $300,000 was borrowed, to equip the facility with furnishings and to make some initial modifications to the building making a total of $3.1 million borrowed. Initial plans were to convert the 27 apartment-style suites into smaller hotel room-sized units, doubling capacity to more than 100 guests, and then building a new, larger dining room and additional meeting space to accommodate more guests. Construction would take place on one-fourth of the facility at a time (i.e. north wing upstairs, north wing downstairs, etc.), so that the rest of the Center would remain operational. The business plan anticipated that the Retreat Center would operate with a negative cash flow initially, but that through effective marketing to CTC congregations and adult Sunday School Classes, as well as other religious and secular groups, the center would be covering its costs by
the end of year two, and would thereafter generate a surplus capable of funding necessary
renovations and expansions.

Experience
In reality, it was not possible to double the number of rooms. Initial efforts to do so revealed that
plumbing /electrical/mechanical infrastructure was installed in an unorthodox manner, such that it
prevented the removal of some walls and did not allow for the creation of smaller hotel-type rooms
(i.e., a bedroom with its own bathroom). Thus, the Still Water Lodge and Conference Center has
been operated with only 27 units. All have living rooms and kitchens, but those two amenities do
not add much value for conference attendees, who tend to do their visiting with other attendees
in common areas, and who expect to have their meals prepared for them. Some of the units have
two bedrooms, and many of the units have beds added in their living room spaces, but this type
of accommodation doesn’t work for potential conference attendees who expect more privacy.
While some family groups function well in this environment, and some other groups enjoy the
quaint arrangements, overall the facility has not been successful in attracting clientele. It should
be pointed out, that in 2015, 76% of revenues came from non-UMC groups. Some of these might
have been groups with a religious purpose, but to a significant extent we are having to market our
facility to customers who don’t help us meet our Mission and Vision.

Financially, Still Water has been able to pay little on its principal while making the interest only
payments on its mortgage, such that the balance owing is still approximately $3.008 million. Since
2013, Glen Lake Camp management has been able to isolate financial performance for Still Water
Lodge. In that year, it had a deficit of $187K. In 2014 and 2015, the deficits were $78K and
$100K, respectively. In 2016 the deficit was $150K. These annual deficits roughly approximate
the annual mortgage interest payment of $150K, which is to say that annual income otherwise
covers operating costs but not any mortgage interest, let alone principal, payments.

Essentially Still Water has run a deficit for 9+ years and it is not expected, given the limited number
of units available and their unusual configuration, that Still Water can ever be expected to succeed
as a retreat center and pay off its mortgage. In addition, this annual $125K+ average deficiency
has been covered from the Glen Lake Camp budget, thereby using valuable resources needed
for maintenance and ministry programming at GLC, while at the same time diverting some of the
attention of the GLC board to the financial matters of Still Water Lodge from their focus on GLC
and its successful summer camping ministry.

Recommendation
The Task Force strongly acknowledges and endorses the need for adult conference and retreat
space, and wishes that the Still Water facility were better-designed for that purpose. With 20/20
hindsight, we feel it would have been better to construct such a facility on some remote corner of
the Glen Lake Camp, rather than buying Still Water with the hopes of converting it.

Nonetheless, the Camp now owns Still Water, and its $125K+ average annual deficit. Given that
fact, and the potential for growing repair and maintenance costs, and the inability to significantly
increase our revenues, and the fact that we are not effectively achieving our Mission and Vision,
it is the recommendation of the Task Force:

1. That the Still Water property be marketed and sold. Efforts should begin promptly to find
   a buyer by marketing the property as widely as possible to attract various potential owners.
   Obviously one such buyer might be one with experience that would enable them to operate
   Still Water as the retirement center it was designed to be.

2. That Still Water continues to operate as a retreat center until such time it is sold, so long
   as it continues to cover its operating expenses (not including interest).
3. That the Board of Directors of Glen Lake Camp work with the Texas Methodist Foundation to retire the mortgage as the Still Water property is sold, and to the extent necessary refinance any unpaid balance.

4. That the Board of Directors of Glen Lake Camp be authorized to take all necessary steps to carry out this action and to cause to be executed any necessary contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other written instrument.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Cumbie (chairperson), Gary Sult (CFA), Kevin Wilson (BOT), Mike Ford (Lay Leader), J.D. Wynn & Steve Vincent (GLC), John McKellar, Debra Crumpton, Kyland Dobbins (at large), and Randy Wild and Natalie Davidson.

- This recommendation was passed unanimously by the GLC board meeting on February 11, 2017.
- This recommendation was passed unanimously by the Cabinet at a meeting on March 14, 2017.
- The 4 recommendations were passed unanimously by the Conference Board of Trustees meeting on April 5, 2017.
- This recommendation was passed unanimously by the Conference CFA meeting on April 25, 2017.
- This recommendation will be presented to the Core Team meeting on May 8, 2017.

GLC & STILL WATER LODGE INFORMATION

PROVIDED BY THE GLEN LAKE CAMP BOARD AND STAFF

Glen Lake Board Hires a Consultant
In March 2014, the Glen Lake Camp Board partnered with Kaleidoscope Inc., a recognized national leader in consulting with camping organizations. This is the second time KI has been used to consult with GLC. The first time led to the development of a strategic plan that enabled the building of our first phase of new lodging, dining hall, chapel, gym, etc.

During this second partnership, the board asked KI to help develop……

- a comprehensive assessment of the full ministry operation including review of use, finances, program model, sites and facilities, competition, marketing and staffing model;
- Develop strategic directions for the ministry in relation to the vision of camp leaders (board members and staff); and,
- Create an implementation plan that moves Glen Lake to a place of health and long term sustainability as a vital and viable ministry.

This process took shape over the ensuing year with 4 board workshops and considerable time spent touring the facilities and meeting with the staff. In the spring of 2015, the GLC board received the Comprehensive Assessment and Strategic Plan presented to them by Kaleidoscope, Inc.

One of the key points of discussion throughout the process was group use of the facilities and debt maintenance regarding the 2nd site of Glen Lake Camp called Still Water. The general conversations revolved around 4 main issues:

1. Renovation plans at Still Water were not able to be implemented for a variety of reasons;
2. While capacity at Still Water was near 100% on weekends, the week day usage was not able to generate any real measurable income;
3. While UM groups provided between 31% - 42% of the usage, with discounts for UM groups, they are only accounting for approximately 24% of the revenue. And the revenue from all usage was still not sufficient to pay the bills and interest only on the debt; and,
4. That the money being used from GLC budget to meet the annual Still Water Lodge deficit was not allowing the camp to fully fund programming and maintenance that was needed.

The following excerpt is copied directly from the Comprehensive Assessment and Strategic Plan report presented by Kaleidoscope Inc., to the GLC board.

**Debt Relief Plan**

The outstanding capital debt (~$3 million) on Still Water Lodge is a significant burden on the Glen Lake ministry and the Board. Presently Glen Lake is paying the interest on the note, but not toward the principle.

**Goal:** Develop a plan to address the debt and communicate to constitutes and the Annual Conference

**Note:** The large debt owed on the Still Water facility is challenging in many ways. One challenge is that the facility does not serve as effectively and efficiently as it could. Investing funds to expand the meeting and dining areas would allow for more efficiency in hosting multiple groups. Leaders may also wish to consider converting the suites to private rooms. A number of questions are apparent when considering adding to the capital investment and debt of this facility:
• Should more capital funds be spent on this facility and invested in an adult model of ministry?
• What reasonable growth could be expected with expanding meeting/dining space at Still Water?
• Does the Annual Conference have an interest in adult retreat ministry to garner the support to pay off the current and potentially expanded debt?
• Could the asset of Still Water be better used to develop a family/adult center on the Glen Lake main camp property? Does the land on the main camp property accommodate the desired facilities and any other new development?

Immediate

• Form the message to be shared with a new Executive Director about the debt at the time of offering a position.

Assignment

➢ Board leadership in connection with Annual Conference leaders.

Still Water Lodge 2012 – 2015 Usage Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWL</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>User Days</td>
<td>2,658</td>
<td>2,139</td>
<td>2,855</td>
<td>2,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Use</td>
<td>36% UM</td>
<td>35% UM</td>
<td>40% UM</td>
<td>34% UM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46% Other</td>
<td>44% Other</td>
<td>33% Other</td>
<td>42% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18% non-church</td>
<td>21% non-church</td>
<td>27% non-church</td>
<td>24% non-church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-29 - 29%</td>
<td>20-29 - 24%</td>
<td>20-29 - 22%</td>
<td>20-29 - 25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UM = Individual UMC and Conference Events
Other = Other church (faith based) groups
Non-UMC = Corporations, businesses, families, non-faith based groups

* Group size – These are the 3 largest percentages of age groups served

INCOME

% of Use for 2015

10% CTC (Conference sponsored ministries)
14% UMC (individual UMC churches)
76% Non-UMC (non-faith based entities)

Limitations of Current Facility
(taken from user responses)
1. Room Design  
   a. Privacy  
   b. Bathroom availability/Distance/Privacy  
2. Limited Meeting Space  
   a. Only 2 small meeting spaces  
3. Multiple Groups share a meal  

**Blessings of Current Facility**  
(taken from user responses)  
1. Able to book two groups at a time  
2. Offer hotel style bedding  
3. 24-hour coffee room  
4. Safety of all being in one building (women's retreat attendees)  

**Still Water Lodge Loan**  

**Original Loan:**  
$3,100,000 @ 7.25%  

**Remaining Loan Amount Balances:**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-31-2009</td>
<td>$3,010,198.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-31-2010</td>
<td>$3,010,198.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-27-2011</td>
<td>$3,010,198.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(in October 2011, GLC Board approved asking TMF for an additional $25,000 for maintenance and repairs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02-19-2012</td>
<td>$3,020,306.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-01-2013</td>
<td>$3,015,767.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-13-2015</td>
<td>$3,015,354.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-03-2016</td>
<td>$3,013,706.48 @ 5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Income (Loss) from Still Water Lodge Budget Account**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>194,121.58</td>
<td>323,377.36</td>
<td>319,830.04</td>
<td>245,781.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>381,551.12</td>
<td>401,589.27</td>
<td>420,319.14</td>
<td>395,820.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income (Loss)</td>
<td>(187,429.54)</td>
<td>(78,249.54)</td>
<td>(100,489.10)</td>
<td>(150,039.08)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE STATISTICAL REPORT

David Stinson, Statistician

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 1, 2016 (1) 147,170

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members received:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profession of Faith</td>
<td>1,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affirmation</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Previous Year</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer other UMC</td>
<td>1,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other denominations</td>
<td>1,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total members received 2016</strong></td>
<td>5,044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members removed:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charge conference</td>
<td>986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Previous Year</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer other UMC</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other denominations</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>1,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total members removed 2016</strong></td>
<td>4,531</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DECEMBER 31, 2016 (2) 147,683

| Gain of 513                                   |       |

Ethnic breakdown of 2016 membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>3,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>2,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islanders</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>137,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Racial</td>
<td>1,793</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 Attendance at principal worship 42,725

| Loss of 699                              |

Church school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>18,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>8,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults</td>
<td>4,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Adults</td>
<td>35,109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP 66,486

| Loss of 3,835 |

Church school average attendance 19,852

| Gain of 349 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church school membership equals 45.02% of church membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church school average attendance equals 29.86% of church school membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church school average attendance equals 46.46% of worship attendance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES:

(1) Includes 319 “members” in non-chartered churches

(2) Includes 326 “members” in non-chartered churches
ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & BEST PRACTICES

INTRODUCTION

In order to make our organization more nimble and adaptive, the 2011 Annual Conference session adopted the following three reports: “Guiding Principles and Best Practices,” Annual Conference Organization and a Policy and Procedures manual.

The “Guiding Principles and Best Practices” are foundational to the understanding of our mission and ministry. They represent our new understanding and way of doing ministry as flexible and adaptive. Our annual conference and the individual churches are in a time of transition; we must continually be on the move, initiating, facing, and adapting quickly to changing realities. The “Guiding Principles and Best Practices” require a two-thirds vote of the annual conference to amend or suspend.

The Annual Conference Organization document and the Policy and Procedures manual are administrative in nature, and changes are to be handled at the appropriate organizational level.

The intent is that each document continues to be more organic and less institutional. They are living and breathing organisms that adapt and change as necessary to do the work of God in the world.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- We embrace and celebrate the mission of the United Methodist Church of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
- We believe that the churches of our conference are “mission stations,” outposts for the work of God in the world.
- We believe that mission at all levels of the church should be well defined, laser focused, with measurable outcomes.
- We believe that the Conference and its local congregations are called to be good stewards of the resources God provides for our work.
- We believe that we are called to be faithful to the five core values of Evangelism, The Wesleyan Tradition, Spiritual Growth, Mission, and Inclusiveness.
- We embrace the four focus areas of the United Methodist Church: 1) Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world, 2) Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones, 3) Engaging in ministry with the poor, and 4) Stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.
- We believe that each local church can become a “Fruitful Congregation” by practicing Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission, and Extravagant Generosity.
- We believe in the inevitability of change, that it’s God’s gift, and it is our task to manage change in efficient and creative ways.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEST PRACTICES

- The Central Texas Conference shall be organized according to the current *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church. In accordance with the *Discipline*, it shall meet annually at a time appointed by the Bishop at the location chosen by the Annual Conference. Adjourned or special sessions shall be called in a manner set forth by the *Discipline*.
- The business of the Annual Conference shall be conducted by the current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.
- A Preliminary Report of matters for consideration by a session of the Annual Conference shall be made available to the members of the Annual Conference at least one month prior to the session of the Annual Conference.
- Lay members and alternate lay members of the Annual Conference shall be elected at their local church charge conference for a one-year term following their election, subject to the provisions of the *Book of Discipline*.
- There shall be an equal number of lay and clergy members on the Annual Conference. The procedure for the equalization of lay and clergy members in the next Annual Conference will be presented as part of the report of Center for Mission Support.
- The procedures for handling matters to be presented to Annual Conference that were not in the Preliminary Report can be found in the Policy and Procedures Manual of the Annual Conference.
- Any of the Best Practices and Guiding Principles of the Annual Conference may be amended or suspended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a session of the Annual Conference provided that any such motion to amend the Best Practices must be laid on the table at least one day before the Conference can vote to amend.
- Vacancies in membership on Annual Conference bodies that occur between sessions of the Annual Conference shall be filled by the appropriate bodies following the procedures outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual of the Annual Conference.
- General Church and Annual Conference apportionments shall be apportioned to each local church on a conference wide basis. The details of the formula shall be part of the report of The Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration. (¶615.1-6)
- There shall be a Manual of Conference Policies and Procedures that outlines policies and procedures related to Financial Matters, Clergy Benefits, Change of Appointment and other issues related to the functions of the Church.
- There will be a team to record, read and approve the proceedings of the Annual Conference after the final session. The team will be nominated by the Center for Mission Support and approved by the Core Leadership Team.
- The Districts of the Annual Conference will organize in such a way to reflect the offices/tasks required by the *Book of Discipline* and the Annual Conference. Beyond the basic Disciplinary and Conference requirements, Districts may organize in the best way to accomplish the mission of the Annual Conference and support the mission of their local churches.

FINANCIAL BEST PRACTICES

- The fiscal year of the Annual Conference shall be from January 1 to December 31, and the salaries of clergy members (appointed as pastors, District Superintendents, Executive Center Directors) and lay employees shall be paid accordingly.
- The Council on Finance and Administration shall present the proposed budget for the purpose of clarification and correction only at the first business session of the Annual
Conference each year. Changes in the proposed budget shall be reported by the committee, board and/or Center making the request at the time they report to the Annual Conference. Approval or disapproval of the financial request shall be voted as an amendment to the proposed budget at the final presentation of the budget by CFA at the last session of the Annual Conference.

- Any proposal to create a new apportionment or to change the purpose for an existing apportionment shall be presented during a regular or called session of the Annual Conference, and shall not be voted on until the next session of the Annual Conference.
- Any proposed change of the decimal formula shall first be studied by the Council on Finance and Administration. CFA shall then report its recommendation to the Annual Conference (2016 Book of Discipline ¶615).
- The auditing firm approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall audit all books of treasurers of boards whose auditing is not provided in the Book of Discipline, and report the results to the CFA. A statement of these accounts will be sent to the Conference Secretary for inclusion in the minutes.
- The Council on Finance and Administration shall recommend the mileage reimbursement for necessary travel to Conference meetings for members of all Conference entities.
- The Conference Treasurer, after the close of the fiscal year, shall transfer into the Operating Reserve all unexpended balances of the annual appropriations for the year just closed (excepting only items specifically exempted by the Council on Finance and Administration). The Conference Treasurer will honor the requisitions for all necessary expenses of the new fiscal year within the limits of the appropriations.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

1. The Annual Conference is to be organized to accomplish the stated mission of the United Methodist Church. “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
2. There shall be a **Conference Core Team** that will ensure the work of the conference aligns with its mission, vision, values, and core strategies. From a broad perspective, the Core Team reviews: the conference budget before it is sent to the council on finance and administration, the deployment of resources, major policy issues, and the outcomes produced by the three conference centers. The Core Team creates a culture of accountability against the outcomes and direction laid out by the annual conference and makes sure we are faithful to the *Book of Discipline* and the “Guiding Principles and Best Practices” of the conference. In addition, the team leads long-range planning and recommends policies and direction including possible changes to the “Guiding Principles and Best Practices.” Finally, the core team advises the bishop concerning executive staffing for the three centers. To facilitate its work, the Core Team may name and oversee temporary task groups for special projects. The team will be convened by the bishop or, in the absence of the bishop, by the clergy assistant to the bishop.

   a. The membership of the Conference Core Team will include:
      i. The bishop (voice but not vote)
      ii. The conference lay leader or associate conference lay leader
      iii. One lay person elected by each of the five geographical districts
      iv. One lay person chosen from the New Church Start District
      v. Seven at-large members appointed by the bishop
      vi. The dean of the cabinet
      vii. The clergy assistant to the bishop
      viii. The executive director of the Roberts Center for Leadership
      ix. The executive director of the Smith Center for Evangelism & Church Growth
      x. The executive director of the Center for Mission Support

3. There will be an assistant to the bishop who will serve as support and resource for the bishop, cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Core Team, conference communications and information technology team, committee on episcopacy, and conference executive staff. The assistant to the bishop will carry the portfolio for complaints, work with the bishop and the annual conference planning team to develop the annual conference agenda, work with recruitment, transfers, leadership development, as well as any other projects assigned by the bishop.

4. There will be the **Connectional Table** of the annual conference. Its purpose is to provide for the diversity of voices and interests of the conference to be heard in conversation about the mission and ministry of the Church. The group is collaborative, inclusive and may change as ministry needs change. The Connectional Table is to enable the flow of information and communication among the various interests and ministries within the conference. The Table is where the representative areas required by the *Book of Discipline* reside.

   a. The membership of the Connectional Table includes:
      i. Conference lay leader
      ii. Associate conference lay leader
      iii. Archives and history representative
      iv. Conference board of pension and health benefits representative
      v. Conference board of trustees representative
      vi. Center executive leadership teams and boards
      vii. President of Conference United Methodist Women
      viii. President of Conference United Methodist Men
      ix. Conference council on youth ministry representative, age 12-18
      x. Council on finance and administration representative
      xi. Coordinator of Disaster Response/UMVIM
      xii. Division of Ministry with Young People Representative, age 12-30
xiii. Emmaus board of director’s representative
xiv. Inclusiveness Umbrella Team representing:
   1) Health and welfare leadership team
   2) Church and society leadership team
   3) Christian unity and interreligious concerns leadership team
   4) Disability Concerns
   5) Native American
   6) GCORR/Status & Role of Women
xv. Conference lay ministry team
xvi. New Church Starts representative
xvii. Renewal of Eastern Mexico Covenant representative
xviii. Members of general and jurisdictional bodies who reside in the annual conference
xix. Strategic groups invited by bishop or executive directors
xx. Ex officio: assistant to the bishop and executive directors of the three centers

b. The Connectional Table will be convened by any of the center executive directors. It meets twice each year, typically in March and October.

5. There will be a Roberts Center for Leadership.
a. The center will be responsible for the following functions:
   i. Higher education and campus ministry
   ii. Identifying and recruiting new clergy and lay leaders, especially those who are young and those who add diversity
   iii. Developing and equipping new and existing clergy and lay leaders
   iv. Professional and ethical behavior for clergy and lay leaders
b. The center will be the organizational home of the following:
   i. The Board of Ordained Ministry (¶635.1)
      1) Those in intentional interim ministry
      2) Those in extension ministries (¶316)
      3) The Order of Elders (¶306)
      4) The Order of Deacons (¶306)
      5) The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members (¶635)
   ii. The Administrative Review Committee (¶636)
   iii. The Committee on Investigation (¶2703)
   iv. The Conference Lay Ministry Team (¶631)
   v. The Committee on the Episcopacy (¶637)
   vi. The Conference Nominations and Leadership Development Team

6. There will be a Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth. The center will be responsible for the following functions:
a. Small membership and rural church transformation
b. Ethnic local church concerns
c. Resourcing churches
d. Evangelism and witness
e. Establishment of new faith communities
f. Transformation of existing congregations
g. Parish and community development

7. There will be a Center for Mission Support. The Center will be responsible for the following functions:
a. The Administrative Functions of the Annual Conference
   i. Finance
   ii. Health Insurance
iii. Pensions
iv. Minutes of the Annual Conference
v. Archives and History
vi. Episcopal Residence
vii. Equalizing of Annual Conference Membership
viii. Conference Center Facility
ix. Glen Lake Camp
x. Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits
xi. Housing for Retired Ministers

b. The Missional Outreach of the Annual Conference
   i. Conference Mission Ministries
   ii. Disaster Response
   iii. Mission Experience (CTCYM & VIM)
   iv. Conference Council on Youth Ministry
   v. Risk Taking Mission and Service
   vi. Intentional Faith Development
   vii. Engaging in Ministry with the Poor
   viii. Global Health
   ix. MinistrySafe Policy

c. It will be the organizational home of the following:
   i. Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center Board
   ii. Committee on Finance & Administration
   iii. The Board of Pensions & Health Benefits
   iv. The Board of Trustees
   v. The Committee on Episcopal Residence
   vi. The Commission on Equitable Compensation & Clergy Benefits

CTCUMC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

PROCEDURE FOR EQUALIZATION OF LAY & CLERGY MEMBERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Center for Mission Support annually to revise the number of additional lay members required to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

2. The Center for Mission Support shall notify each District Superintendent as to the churches that will elect additional members preceding the next Annual Conference, by September 1.

3. To equalize the number of lay and clergy in addition to *The Book of Discipline*, ¶602.4, the following will be members by virtue of offices held:
   a. Each District United Methodist Women President;
   b. Each District United Methodist Men President;
   c. Each District Student Leadership President;
   d. One additional youth designated by the District Student Leadership Team;
   e. Lay chairs of Conference boards, councils, commissions, or committees;
   f. Lay Members of any general and/or jurisdictional agencies who reside in the Central Texas Conference and are not otherwise members of the Annual Conference.
   g. Lay people serving as campus ministers/directors of Wesley Foundations in the conference (¶602.1e)
PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

1. All resolutions and petitions for consideration of Annual Conference shall be presented to the Conference Secretary sixty days prior to the beginning of the Annual Conference session. It is the responsibility of the Conference Secretary to send these resolutions and petitions to the appropriate Center Team. The Center Team will report a recommendation of concurrence or non-concurrence and/or any revisions prior to the Annual Conference.

2. All matters to be presented to the Annual Conference in session which pertain to the work of one of the Center Teams, and which were not received and considered before the Preliminary Report was made available, shall be referred by the Conference Secretary to the appropriate Center Team for consideration. The Center Team will report a recommendation of concurrence or non-concurrence and/or any revisions prior to the Annual Conference.

3. All other papers, resolutions or reports presented to Annual Conference which may not pertain directly to the work of one of its standing bodies must also be referred to the designated Conference Secretary and then to a study committee nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference. Those shall be reported back to the Conference with recommendation for concurrence or non-concurrence and/or any revisions prior to the close of the Conference session, unless otherwise directed by the Annual Conference.

4. All papers, resolutions, obituaries and reports coming to the Conference, not included in the preliminary report, must be typewritten in triplicate and two copies of said report must be in the hands of the designated Conference Secretary before they are presented to the Conference. Any reports requiring approval of the Annual Conference, not in the preliminary report, shall be reproduced for members of the Conference by the proponent so that all may follow the report as it is being presented.

5. The Center for Mission Support shall designate a team to receive and publish suitable memoirs of deceased clergy and widows or widowers of clergy. The clergy in charge of the funeral of such persons shall be responsible for preparing the memoir and filing it with the Center for Mission Support immediately after the funeral.

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATIONS TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. There shall be a conference nominations and leadership development team. It shall be the purpose of the team to seek out and enlist the services of the best-qualified people available within the annual conference to fill various positions for which it is to approve nominations.

2. The membership shall be the bishop, who shall be the chair,
   a. The assistant to the bishop as vice chair and secretary
   b. The district superintendents;
   c. Conference lay leader;
   d. Presidents of UMW, UMM, and conference council on youth ministry;
   e. District lay leaders or their representatives from each of the six districts;
   f. One clergy representative from each of the five geographical districts
   g. One other youth representative recommended annually by the conference council on youth ministry;
   h. Inclusiveness Umbrella Team chair or representative;
   i. Option of up to three people at large to provide diversity;
   j. The bishop, assistant to bishop and executive directors of the conference centers shall be members without vote.
3. Members for all standing committees, boards, and commissions of the annual conference shall be selected in such a manner as the Book of Discipline may specifically require or as the annual conference may determine.

4. The conference nominations and leadership development team shall make nominations to the annual conference as may be necessary to accomplish the mission and/or required by the current Book of Discipline.

5. It is recommended that insofar as possible, the membership on leadership teams, councils, boards, and agencies of the annual conference shall be representative of the conference’s districts except for the Board of Ordained Ministry.

6. It is recommended no person shall serve as an elected member of more than one of the annual conference standing bodies at one time, unless necessary for age, ethnic, gender, district or expertise representation.

7. The procedure for electing board members of agencies and institutions of or related to the conference as required by the Discipline and/or “Guiding Principles” shall be:
   a. By April 1, the boards of all agencies and institutions of or related to the annual conference shall submit a report to the conference nominations and leadership development team, nominating people to be elected by the Central Texas Conference to serve on their boards of directors or trustees.
      i. The conference nominations and leadership development team may return the nominations to the agencies and institutions with recommendations for further review and resubmission;
      ii. The conference nominations and leadership development team shall have ultimate authority to submit nominations to the annual conference in order to achieve appropriate age, ethnic, gender, district and expertise representation.
   b. When the nominations are complete, the conference nominations and leadership development team shall present nominations for the respective boards including the executive board of the Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth to the annual conference for election.
   c. Following board elections by annual conference, each board shall elect their own officers. By July 1, each board will present the names of its officers to the conference nominations and leadership development team.

8. The procedure for nominating and electing all other conference leadership positions shall be:
   a. By February 15, the conference nominations and leadership development team shall make available to each district superintendent a listing of all positions for which district nominations are solicited for consideration by the conference nominations and leadership development team to appear on the slate that will be presented at the ensuing annual conference session.
   b. By April 1, the district nominations and leadership development team /or its equivalent body will have met and submitted district nominations for all positions in question, taking into consideration the names submitted by local churches. The district team, however, shall only nominate people it feels are adequately equipped for the task and may elect not to make nominations in those cases where it feels minimum qualifications for the positions in question are not present. Before nominating a person, the district team will contact the person regarding the responsibility of the position and whether or not he or she is willing to serve, if elected.
   c. By May 10, the conference nominations and leadership development team shall prepare a list of nominees for all positions that must be filled by next annual conference.
Before nominating a person for a conference team or committee, the conference
nominations and leadership development team will instruct the conference center
responsible for the particular team or committee to contact the person regarding the
responsibility of the position and whether or not he or she is willing to serve, if elected.

9. In the case of a mid-year vacancy, the conference nominations and leadership development
team can approve interim board members proposed by the agency, board or institution.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

1. **Remittance Procedure**
   Apporportionment payments, askings, special day offerings, advance specials, and any
   missional gifts from a pastoral charge to the Conference Treasurer should be submitted
   either online or by check with accompanying current year remittance form. The Conference
   Treasurer will in turn post, in a timely fashion, remittances received. The Conference
   Treasurer will also report monthly to the Bishop, Cabinet and Churches the status of funds
   remitted.

2. **Conference Budget Preparation Procedure**
   After careful consideration of all financial responsibilities of the Annual Conference, the
   Council on Finance and Administration, and the Executive Center Directors shall
   recommend all funding levels for the major categories in the total Conference program. If
   for any reason the Conference benevolence budget needs to be changed, CFA shall adjust
   the allocation and refer it back to the three Conference Centers for adjustments of the
   itemized appropriations in the Conference benevolence budget. Should any Conference
   Center agency feel its cause has been neglected or excluded, it shall have the opportunity
   to represent its cause before the Council on Finance and Administration (the Book of
   Discipline ¶614).

3. **Conference Budget based on Local Church Decimal**
   All Conference items allocated to the local churches of the Conference shall be based on
   the decimal arrived at by the following formula: Determine Conference total expenditure by
   adding the total of the following Table II statistical items:
   a. 46 – Total amount paid by the local church for all direct-billed clergy non-health
      benefits (pension payment and CRSP)
   b. 48 – Total amount paid in base compensation to pastor
   c. 49 – Total amount paid in base compensation to all associate pastors assigned by
      the bishop
   d. 50 – Total amount paid to/for pastor and associate(s) for housing and utilities
      and/or related allowances
   e. 52 – Total amount paid to pastor and associate(s) for any other cash allowances
      (non-accountable)
   f. 53 – Total amount paid in salary and benefits for Deacons
   g. 54 – Total amount paid in salary and benefits for Diaconal Ministers
   h. 55 – Total amount paid in salary and benefits for all other church staff
   i. 56 – Total amount spent for local church program expenses
   j. 57 – Total amount spent for other local church operating expenses
   
   Add the above ten (10) expenditures for each local church to get the “local church total
   expenditure.” Divide each “local church expenditure” by the “Conference total expenditure”
to arrive at the local church decimal. (Each decimal is rounded to five decimal places.)
   Multiply the local church decimal by Conference Apportionment allocation to get the Local
Church Apportionment. (Each apportionment is rounded to the nearest dollar, with each church being apportioned at least one dollar for each apportionment.)

4. **Council on Finance and Administration Duty**
   It shall be the duty of the Council on Finance and Administration to compute the decimal annually using the latest statistics (corrected, if necessary), and furnish the table of apportionments to the Districts for distribution.

5. **Items for Distribution**
   All items to be distributed under the formula are included in the Conference budget: all General Church Apportionments, all Jurisdictional Church Apportionments, and Annual Conference Administration and Ministries. Others can only be added by action of the Annual Conference.

6. **Special Day Offering**
   Any Special Day Offering, except where set by the Book of Discipline, must first be annually presented and approved by the Council on Finance and Administration. No such day shall be recommended to the Annual Conference for any agency, cause, or institution, nor shall such a day be listed or printed on the Conference calendar, unless such agency, cause, or institution has presented a full financial statement and audit, including current annual income and expense, together with its report to the appropriate Conference Ministry Center.

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**ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES FOR SAFE SANCTUARY**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT MINISTRYSAFE SAFETY SYSTEM**

Be it resolved, that the Central Texas Annual Conference establish the MinistrySafe Safety System as the official resource equipping churches to develop a foundational safety system for children, youth and vulnerable persons.

Be it further resolved, that in the Fall – 2014, each District will host a MinistrySafe Safety System training event on the processes and procedures for our conference local churches to become adequately informed and trained.

Be it further resolved, that between January 1 and June 30, 2015, every District and local church will enlist their volunteers in receiving the MinistrySafe on-line training offered and adopt their own MinistrySafe Policy.

Be it further resolved, that the MinistrySafe abuse prevention policy will be implemented for all Conference and District Events and enacted in all congregations within the geographical bounds of the Central Texas Conference, effective July 1, 2015 and further that in each local church charge conference in the fall of 2015 the church Board of Trustees will provide a copy of their church policy.

Be it further resolved, that a MinistrySafe Task Force be created for the purpose of:

1. Overseeing the implementation and establishment of procedures for MinistrySafe Awareness and Training for all staff and volunteer adult leaders of children, youth and vulnerable persons.
2. Bringing a Conference MinistrySafe policy back to the 2015 Annual Conference for adoption.

And, finally, be it further resolved that this policy is adopted in the Central Texas Annual Conference.
One definition of “vulnerable persons” is one who because of physical or mental infirmity or emotional disability or other physical, mental or emotional dysfunction may be vulnerable to maltreatment. Vulnerable persons are those who serve and can be in a position where accusations of abuse could mistakenly arise; or who have been abused either as a child or an adult.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE POLICIES ON ETHICS**

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER: LIVING INTO GOD’S HIGHEST IDEALS**

**THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry & Cabinet March 19, 2013

To be set apart for ministry and appointed or assigned to serve as clergy and church leaders in the Central Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is to be given a sacred trust, which requires the highest standard of ethical behavior in all relationships.

**I Timothy 4:8-16 CEB** – Train yourself for a holy life! While physical training has some value, training in holy living is useful for everything. It has promise for this life now and the life to come. This saying is reliable and deserves complete acceptance. We work and struggle for this: “Our hope is set on the living God, who is the savior of all people, especially those who believe.” Command these things. Teach them. Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers through your speech, behavior, love, faith, and by being sexually pure. Until I arrive, pay attention to public reading, preaching, and teaching. Don’t neglect the spiritual gift in you that was given through prophecy when the elders laid hands on you. Practice these things, and live by them so that your progress will be visible to all. Focus on working on your own development and on what you teach. If you do this, you will save yourself and those who hear you.

Ordination and membership in an annual conference in The United Methodist Church is a sacred trust. Sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and/or sexual abuse are incompatible with biblical teachings, prohibited by the *Book of Discipline* and a violation of this sacred trust. The Conference is committed to the eradication of this conduct if it should occur and to the creation of an environment of hospitality for all persons. When such conduct is alleged, the Conference is under obligation to investigate, to protect all parties, to discover the truth, and to respond in ways that are consistent with our “highest ideals.”

The following policy is offered to the conference with the prayer that it will contribute to the goal of bringing our practice and accountability into conformity with our “highest God given ideals.”

*We give thanks to the West Ohio, Louisiana, Texas and Virginia Annual Conferences for their discussions and models, which have helped us to focus and develop our policy.*

As clergy and church leaders within the Central Texas Conference we will be guided by the following:

1. **In our personal and professional relationships, we will:**
   a. Be above reproach in all that we do.
b. Practice habits that encourage and promote the physical, emotional and spiritual health of our families and ourselves.

c. Serve the members and constituents in our current appointment and mission field. We do not provide ministerial services in other UM churches unless a consultation between the former pastor/retired pastor and pastor under appointment determine that it is for the health and in the best interest of the congregation.

d. Nurture a healthy relationship between active and retired ministers; retired ministers accepting responsibility for the performance of any ministerial function only upon direct invitation of the appointed pastor.

e. Keep appropriate confidences and privileged information.

f. Avoid communicating (verbal, written and electronic) negatively about a colleague, especially our predecessor or successor.

g. Avoid the appearance of impropriety in visitation and counseling sessions.

h. Maintain a healthy emotional and social balance and maintain boundaries between pastoral identity and self-identity, private and community life, self and others.

i. Take care that attire and grooming do not detract from ministry effectiveness.

j. Keep faith with loved ones, giving to them the time and attention needed for a healthy marriage and family.

k. Separate our ministerial role from our personal lives by not dating those directly served by our ministry.

l. Encourage the congregation in the care and upkeep of the parsonage, leave the church and parsonage clean and in good condition and accept financial responsibility for damage to the parsonage beyond normal wear and tear (see Conference Parsonage Policies).

2. In issues of integrity we will:

a. Be fiscally responsible;

b. Be honest;

c. Properly represent the polity, doctrine and history of the United Methodist Church;

d. Properly represent the mission, vision, values and core strategies of the Central Texas Annual Conference (can be found on conference website);

e. Diligently care for our souls and minds through Spiritual Formation in retreats, prayer, Biblical study, small groups and educational opportunities;

f. Acknowledge sources for preaching and in written material; we will not plagiarize another’s work;

g. As clergy and church leaders we will complete/attend the BOM approved training, addressing clergy sexual ethics and other boundary issues each quadrennial period in the designated time. Failure to complete this mandatory training will result in (a) referral to Executive Committee BOM for possible Administrative Complaint and (b) may have consequences affecting future appointments;

h. As full time clergy, we will not accept employment outside of the appointed charge. Any deviation from this must be brought to the District Superintendent, BOM and Cabinet approval prior to acceptance (¶ 338.1).

i. Maintain the highest ethical standards regarding the use of any modern technology, avoiding even the perception of inappropriate use of the internet and understanding that e-mail and text messaging are not a private domain and should not be treated as such;

j. Provide pastoral services for weddings, baptisms and funerals to church members without charge; the receipt of honoraria is acceptable;

k. Seek no gifts, bequests or material benefits for self or family members from any organization or individual;
1. As an act of faith and concern, refrain from gambling and the use of pornography (the UMC is opposed to all forms of pornography) and strive to minister to those victimized by those practices (Social Principles page 155-163, ¶ page 516-517);
2. We commit ourselves and our churches to engage in continued dialogue and reflection on the UMC Social Principles in order to shape our personal and community life.

3. In regard to power issues we will:
   a. Be aware of the power that is inherent in our various roles and use that power to maximize ministry opportunities that communicate worth, mutuality and collegiality;
   b. Provide ministerial services in order to build up the body of Christ;
   c. Welcome regular feedback and evaluation in order to enhance pastor’s fruitfulness; being responsive to constructive feedback and humbly committed to improvements;
   d. Nurture loyalty and trust among paid staff and volunteers;
   e. Establish clear, appropriate boundaries with anyone with whom we have a ministerial, business, professional or social relationship;
   f. Not use our ministerial status, position, relationship, our authority to abuse, misguide, negatively influence, manipulate or take advantage of anyone.

4. In areas where there might be a conflict of interest we will:
   a. Advise and refer persons to other clergy or other professionals such as: lawyers, doctors, counselors, etc. when appropriate; being aware that our judgment can be impaired by prior dealings, by becoming personally involved, or by becoming an advocate for one party against another;
   b. Absent ourselves at an appropriate time from discussion and decision when there is an actual or potential conflict of interest in matters affecting ourselves, our family or our financial interests;
   c. Never take advantage of anyone to whom we are providing services in order to further our personal, religious, political, financial or business interests or those of our family;
   d. Use discretion concerning the acceptance of or return of gifts for ourselves or our family;
   e. Avoid using the congregation as a captive audience for products or services created or provided in a non-clergy role;
   f. Make a commitment that the more important the conversation, or the more personal the matters, we will communicate with the person(s) directly;
   g. Not accept or confer an office, position, assignment or receive compensation, which may present the appearance of favoritism or a conflict of interest.

5. The Book of Discipline
   a. The Discipline is the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which United Methodists govern themselves. In all matters pertaining to church law it is the decisive word.

If more detailed interpretation is needed you may contact your District Superintendent, a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Ministry or a Cabinet member. Contact information can be found on the conference website.
SEXUAL ETHICS POLICY FOR PROFESSING MEMBERS OF
THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Updated policy regarding harassment of clergy by
a professing member of a local church

Adopted by Executive Committee Board of Ordained Ministry March 19, 2013

Statement of Policy

A Professing Member of the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church shall not
engage in harassment, including but not limited to sexual and/or gender harassment of clergy (¶¶
605.9 and 2702.3 in the 2012 the Book of Discipline).

Theological Foundation

All persons are created by God. God intends all persons to have worth and dignity in their
relationships. We are one connected body, and when one part of the body is injured physically,
emotionally or spiritually, the entire body is rendered less than God intended. Misconduct of a
sexual nature of any kind violates a person’s wholeness and is an unjust use of status and power
and a sinful behavior against God and one another. The Scripture witnesses to a God who brings
about justice, mercy and grace. The Church is called to express God’s love in concrete actions
of compassion and healing for all people.

Definitions

1. Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is a form of sexual misconduct and is defined in
the Social Principles as “any unwanted sexual advance or demand, verbal or physical that
is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating or coercive. Sexual
harassment destroys community. “Sexual harassment must be understood as an
exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue” (2012 the
Book of Discipline, ¶ 161.I). Sexual harassment of clergy includes, but is not limited to, the
creation of a hostile or abusive environment, which undermines the ministry of the clergy
person serving within the appointment (2012 the Book of Discipline, ¶ 2702.3). Behaviors
considered sexual harassment can include “unwanted sexual jokes, repeated advances,
touching, displays or comments that insult, degrade, or sexually exploit women, men, elders,
children or youth” (2012 Book of Resolutions, page 136). Sexually harassing behaviors may
be in person, by phone, e-mail, texting and/or social networking sites.

2. Power: Clergy are generally considered to be in positions of power due to their professional
role as spiritual leaders within a church. There are however, situations in which professing
members of a church have the power to create a hostile or abusive environment which
undermines the ministry of the clergy person serving within the appointment to the local
church. Some of those situations are related to gender, race, age, wealth, education and
status within the community.

3. Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse means unwanted physical conduct of a sexual nature, sexual
contact or sexualized behavior and may include, by example, touching, fondling, other
physical contact and sexual relations.

4. Sexual Misconduct: The 2012 the Book of Discipline identifies sexual misconduct as a
chargeable offense for clergy (¶2702.1) and for lay (¶ 2702.3).
Making a Complaint

Clergy and other persons who have knowledge of a possible violation of this policy by a Professing Member may report the same to the chairperson of Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee and the District Superintendent. Upon receipt of any complaint, the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee with the guidance of the Conference Consultant and District Superintendent will investigate, consider any response and take action to seek a just resolution.

REPORTING, INVESTIGATING AND RESOLVING VIOLATIONS OF THE CTC SEXUAL ETHICS POLICY FOR PROFESSING MEMBERS

The clergy person who feels harassed by a lay person is encouraged to use the following procedures. If the offending behavior and complaint is sexual abuse or sexual misconduct then the immediate procedure is a formal complaint as outlined in the 2012 Book of Discipline ¶2703.3. Identifying sexual or gender harassment depends on a determination of what a reasonable person would perceive as unacceptable. It is important to resolve complaints confidentially and, if possible, informally.

Initial Resolution Process

1. Clergy are responsible for establishing and maintaining clear boundaries of professional conduct.
2. Therefore, a clergy person should respond immediately and clearly to the harasser that such behavior is unwelcome and uncomfortable
3. If the behavior continues:
   a. Avoid being alone with the harasser.
   b. Keep accurate records of the harassing behavior.
   c. May contact the Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (if the Chair of SPRC is the harasser then contact the District Superintendent directly).
   d. Notify the District Superintendent.

Informal Resolution Process

1. In all cases, the pastor or District Superintendent should take pastoral steps to resolve any complaints.
   a. The purpose is to determine if the complaint is valid or a miscommunication and a misunderstanding exist.
   b. Ask the accused to make an appropriate written statement to the clergy person. The written response may include explanation of the behavior resulting in a misperception of intent, an apology and a promise not to repeat the behavior.
   c. If the clergy person finds the response satisfactory then the complaint will be considered as resolved.
   d. If the response of the accused is not satisfactory or the accused refuses to respond, then the complaint will move to the formal process.

Formal Resolution Process

1. If the District Superintendent determines that the process outlined above has been followed and the complaint is not resolved, then the district superintendent and district lay leader may appoint a committee on investigation according to ¶2703.3 in the 2012 the Book of Discipline.
2. The final decision of the committee will be communicated in writing to the clergy person and the accused. Should this not be resolved, it then moves to ¶2704.4 in the 2012 Book of Discipline.

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONTINUING EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL FORMATION POLICY

Adopted by Executive Committee Board of Ordained Ministry & Cabinet March 19, 2013

The Central Texas Conference is committed to being a learning community and so we believe the life of the clergyperson is a journey of renewal and excellence in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul gives us the essence of this journey in Philippians when he invites us to focus on spiritual disciplines and to focus on the things of excellence as we journey. Through this focus we can live out our calling in the balance God desires for us called “shalom.” This policy is designed for every clergyperson under Episcopal appointment.

Spiritual Formation is the intentional lifelong pursuit of the nourishment and renewal of the soul through the Holy Spirit in the use of the spiritual disciplines in order to center their lives in Christ.

Continuing Education is the intentional development of the professional identity of the clergyperson through education and instruction that enhances the effectiveness and excellence of the clergyperson’s methods of work and self-awareness so that the clergyperson can better equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Each year, effective clergypersons work collaboratively with S/PPR committees and District Superintendents to select and participate in 20 continuing education contact hours (2.0 units) and 10 spiritual formation contact hours (1.0 units), which help them stay centered in Jesus Christ and hone skills needed to continue equipping congregations. Clergypersons are expected to report continuing education and spiritual formation contact hours annually by Dec. 1. These are reported in three places; as part of the charge conference process, to their District Superintendent and to the Administrative Assistant of the CTC Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM). Their District Superintendent/Supervisor will use the information as part of their supervisory interview. The BOM will use as part of their faithfulness to the covenant of our life together and for consideration if a person is in process towards commissioning or ordination. Churches should ensure that every pastor has adequate time and financial support to participate. In addition to vacation time, a minimum of 10 days each year is considered essential for a full-time clergyperson’s study, retreat and renewal.

Benefits of Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation
- Improvement of some specific ministry skill, such as preaching, administration, time management, conflict management
- Increased spiritual maturity and commitment to Christ
- Life increasingly centered in Christ
- Increased self-awareness
- Calmer spirit
- Increased understanding of the scriptures, Christian history, theology
- Development of new innovative programs, missions or other ministry forms

Types of continuing Education and Spiritual Formation
1. Professional skills/knowledge development.
2. Personal assessment and life planning.
4. Increasing faith and commitment through spiritual formation.

**Approved Events and “Contact Hours**

There is no approved list of Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation events. Instead of naming an “approved list” of events, each clergyperson is responsible for choosing growth producing, transforming and formative events in collaboration with the S/PPRC and District Superintendent and for determining the appropriate number of “contact hours” to report for each event. A “contact hour” is the actual time of learning or transformation – usually the actual hours of lecture, instruction, group discussion or individual study. Hours for travel, meals, sleep, fellowship and group discussion of issues outside the study topic are not considered contact hours.

If the event does not offer a CEU, a letter identifying the number of contact hours will be sufficient.

For online continuing education, the sponsoring agency shall offer an official CEU.

**Forms of Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation**

Actual contact hours (hours of lecture, instruction, group discussion or individual study) during the following activities are forms of Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation:

1. Supervised activities such as degree programs, credit courses, pastor’s schools, clinical training, etc.
2. Short term events such as seminars and workshops
3. Peer study
4. Short study leaves
5. Sabbatical leaves
6. Carefully chosen travel and work experiences
7. Provisional and Board of Ordained Ministry work
8. Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation retreats or events

**Some Examples of Continuing Educations and Spiritual Formation events**

1. Minister’s Week, SMU and Brite
2. UMW School of Christian Missions
3. District/Conference workshops, retreats, seminars
4. Spirit Streams (Three Day Academy of Spiritual Formation)
5. Five Day Academy of Spiritual Formation
6. Upper Room Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation
7. Clinical Pastoral Education
8. Elder’s, Deacon’s or Local Pastor’s Retreat
9. Doctor of Ministry Programs or other degree programs that instruct ministry
10. Silent or Guided Retreat

**What is not considered Continuing Education or Spiritual Formation?**

1. List of books read for sermon preparation
2. Classes taught by the clergyperson
3. Study trips without contact hours
4. Mission trips
Self-Directed Continuing Education

Spiritual Formation may be self-directed each year, but the clergyperson must be willing to produce evidence of the work, such as:

- A selection from a journal of what is learned
- A schedule for the spiritual or silent retreat

Part-time Clergy

Clergypersons in less than full-time appointments should participate in Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation in accordance with the percentage of their status. (For example, a half-time pastor should complete half of the full-time requirements or 10 continuing education hours and 5 spiritual formation hours).

Accountability and Reporting (See the 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶ 351.2, ¶ 351.5, ¶ 258.2.g.8)

The clergyperson is responsible for devising a plan for Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation in collaboration with the S/PPRC and District Superintendent, implementing the plan and reporting the plan’s completion by Dec. 1 of each calendar year.

The plan will be used as part of your supervisory meeting with the District Superintendent, meeting charge conference requirements, and disciplinary requirements monitored by the CTC Board of Ordained Ministry, specifically through the Orders and Fellowship of Local Pastors. When necessary the Orders and Fellowship of Local Pastors chairs may bring a recommendation for action (regarding a clergy) to the Executive Committee of BOM.

A Continuing Education Unit certificate is not required. If an event is not fully attended, a portion of the event may be counted if the attendance is enough to receive the benefit of the event. For example, if a Clergy Gathering includes 10 Continuing Education contact hours and a clergyperson leaves after 5 hours of attendance, he/she should report 5 hours of CEU or .5 credits.

Clergy in extension ministries and beyond the local church report continuing education and spiritual formation on their annual report form.

Pastors who have completed the Course of Study or seminary are still required to undertake continuing education, which benefits the disciple-making ministry of the local congregation.

Funding

Each church should ensure their pastor(s) have adequate funds for all required Continuing Education and Spiritual Formation contact hours. We recommend a minimum of $1,000 be available for those in full-time appointments.

There are also Ministerial Education Funds available for those who are Full Members, Associate Members, or Permanent Local Pastors. Currently $800 per quadrennial period is available through an application process with BOM (found on the BOM website). Often the event itself will have some scholarship funds, which might be awarded. Each clergyperson is responsible for continuing education and spiritual formation funds.

Our appreciation goes out to the Texas Annual Conference, the Virginia Annual Conference and others for their discussions and contributions to this document.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE POLICY FOR DISCONTINUED OR ABANDONED CHURCH PROPERTY

PROCEDURES FOR DISCONTINUED OR ABANDONED CHURCH PROPERTY

Any property abandoned in the past or that shall be abandoned in the future and the property disposed of as directed by the 2016 Book of Discipline in accordance with ¶ 2549, the proceeds derived there from, if any, shall be first applied to the retirement of pension deficits, and the satisfaction of any claims against ministerial pension annuities which may have arisen out of failure of that church to make proportionate payment for support. The remaining proceeds are to be transferred to the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth.

In the event of a church closure or abandonment, the official and historical records of the closed or abandoned church will be transferred directly to the Archives Depository of the Central Texas Conference by the District Superintendent of the District in which the closed or abandoned church is located.

In the event of two or more churches merging, the official and historical records of the churches being merged shall be transferred to the Archives Depository of the Central Texas Conference by the District Superintendent of the District in which the churches are located. The records shall be transferred to the Archives Depository no later than three months following the merger.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTIES

The Central Texas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to the real and personal properties as they relate to the uniting of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South:

WHEREAS, in 1939, The Methodist Episcopal Church (M.E. Church), and The Methodist Episcopal Church South (the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the M.E. South Church) united to form the Methodist church and the properties of the uniting churches, both real and personal became the properties of the Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church united to form the United Methodist Church and the properties of the uniting churches, both real and personal became the properties of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the properties of the United Methodist Church that lay within the bounds of the Central Texas United Methodist Church are held in Trust by the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church (Conference); and

WHEREAS, it has been the established policy of the Conference to use the proceeds from the sale of closed and/or abandoned properties for the funding of new churches and faith communities under the direction of the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth, Inc.; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Central Texas Conference hereby designates the Executive Director of the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth, Inc., as its Property Manager, Trustee and Agent for the sale of closed and/or abandoned church properties.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE POLICIES FOR LOCAL CHURCHES REGARDING PASTORAL VACATIONS, HOUSING, UTILITIES & MOVES

Each congregation shall annually give attention to the vacation policy, using as the guideline for its discussion the policy found in this Manual.

Each congregation shall annually give attention to the housing policy, using as the guideline for its discussion the policy found in this Manual.

Parsonage utilities should be in the name of the church, i.e., the deposit paid by the church. If the parsonage utilities are not paid by the church, the departing pastor must have arranged in advance of his/her departure to have the meters read on moving day, or on the day of departing the parsonage.

The departing pastor is responsible for the bills up to that time.

In the event of death of a clergy or diaconal minister residing in a church owned residence, the family of the deceased clergy or diaconal minister will be allowed ninety days to find other housing and vacate the church owned residence, or such other time as deemed appropriate by the Cabinet and by the local church pastor-parish relations committee.

The effective date for Annual Conference moves and clergy retirements will be July 1. The official move day will be the Wednesday after the last Sunday in June, with the first Sunday at the new appointment being the first Sunday in July.

Salaries of clergy moving at Annual Conference shall be paid through June 30 by the former charge and from July 1 by the receiving charge.

No pastor is allowed to claim reimbursement for more than ½ of the Pastor’s accountable reimbursement Plan between January and June without recommendation of the PPR/SPR Committee and approval by the Administrative Board.

VACATION POLICY

United Methodist ministers are in a unique position in their role as pastors of a local church. Their membership and relationship is primarily to the Annual Conference as they serve under the appointment of the Bishop. At the same time their salary-paying unit is the local church. They are called to accountability for effective ministry both by the Bishop through the appointive system and by the local church through the Pastor-Parish Relations (PPR) Committee. In vacation policy and similar matters it should be remembered by all that a pastor is not the employee of the local church. On the other hand, the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶258.2 gives to the PPR Committee a consultative role in such matters. Ministers are also asked to serve in various conference responsibilities and camps, these duties should not be considered as vacation. However, pastors and Pastor-Parish Relations Committees should work out a satisfactory balance of time rendered between conference and district duties, local church needs, and personal outside activities by the pastor. In all matters there must be an on-going dialogue between the needs of the pastor and his/her family and the PPR committee and the needs of the church so there is no misunderstanding.
This Vacation Policy for Clergy is to standardize clergy vacations across the Conference and is for clergy appointed within the bounds of the Central Texas Conference. Vacation time is calculated on a conference year basis (7/1 – 6/30). Vacation time not used in one year cannot be carried over into the next year. There will be no pay in lieu of unused vacation time. For every week’s vacation, a paid Sunday off is included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Relationship</th>
<th>Years of Service **</th>
<th>Vacation Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Members serving student appointments, OR Full Time Local pastors in process of four-week Course of Study</td>
<td>Minimum six months (after consultation with district superintendent and PPR Committee)</td>
<td>Two Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Local Pastors having completed Course of Study, OR Associate Members, OR Provisional Members serving full time appointments, OR Full Conference members</td>
<td>Less than five years</td>
<td>Two Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-9 years</td>
<td>Three Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 or more years</td>
<td>Four Weeks Paid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Years of service refer to years served as a full-time United Methodist commissioned minister, probationary member, diaconal minister, local pastor, associate member, deacon in full connection, or elder in full connection under appointment in an Annual Conference, not to years of service in the local church to which a pastor is appointed. In computing a person’s “years of service,” time spent in all categories shall be cumulated and all shall count toward the person’s total “years of service.”

**NOTE:** In addition to the above guidelines, the PPR Committee should be sensitive to a pastor’s need for time off from the pastoral duties, and should encourage the pastor to take regular days off each week.

**NOTE:** Our Book of Discipline states that, “a clergy member’s continuing education and spiritual growth program should include such leaves at least one week each year and at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the minister’s vacations and shall be planned in consultation with their charges or other agencies to which they are appointed as well as the bishop, district superintendent, and annual conference continuing education committee.” ¶ 350.2 2016 Book of Discipline.

**Annual Conference Policies Regarding Clergy Housing & Parsonage Standards**

The church today demands the clergy to be not only a preacher, as was the early circuit rider, but a resident pastor and responsible citizen in the community. In order to meet these felt needs, and to call men and women to a dedicated ministry, the church must provide living conditions that will establish an adequate base from which to operate. It is the privilege and responsibility of the members of each congregation to provide the physical setting which will give the parsonage family the maximum comfort and convenience in order that the energies of the pastor may be more concentrated on his/her task and willing service in the Church of God. Because the parsonage,
like the church building, reflects upon the congregation and the pastor, it should be in such
c-condition that all concerned can be justifiably proud of it. Likewise, pastors should exercise the
same diligence in caring for the parsonage as they would if it were their own property; mindful
that they are stewards for those who will live in the parsonage after them.

In this section on Housing Standards for Elders in Full Connection, including Housing Allowances
and Parsonage standards, the word “clergy” means “elders in full connection.” The standards on
Housing Allowances and parsonages apply to those churches that have elders in full connection and
that are not receiving an equitable salary support.

The size and make-up of clergy families, and the size, location, and type of housing provided for
clergy families by local churches is a major factor in the well-being of clergy families. As such, it has
an impact on the effectiveness of clergy. Although it is clear that no one single provision for housing
will completely satisfy all the needs of every clergy family and every local church, the goal is to best
satisfy the needs of all.

**Death of or Unexpected Circumstances**

**of a Clergy Member While Living in a Parsonage**

In the event of the death of a clergy person or a set of unexpected circumstances involving a clergy
person which results in an immediate need of a change in pastoral appointment and which involves
a clergy family occupying a parsonage, a grace-filled arrangement should be determined through a
conversation with the clergy family, the local church Pastor Parish Relations committee, the District
Superintendent, and the Cabinet. In each case the intent is to allow a period of time (recommended
not to exceed sixty days) for a spouse and family to make new living arrangements.

**Housing Allowances**

While parsonages have been the traditional means of providing housing for clergy families, there are
those local church settings and situations where a housing allowance can be an effective and efficient
means of providing housing for clergy families. However, it must be understood that if a house is
purchased by a clergy family, there is the potential for financial hardship and difficulties related to the
sale of a house when an appointment change is made.

It must also be understood that a housing allowance will have no effect on the tenure of a pastor,
nor increasing nor decreasing the potential length of a pastorate.

5. If a housing allowance is provided by a local church, the amount shall be sufficient to allow
for the rental/lease/purchase of housing that meets the parsonage standards of the annual
conference. (The conference uses a figure of 20% of salary while the General Board of
Pension uses 25% in its pension computation.)

6. A utility allowance may be paid in addition to the housing allowance.

7. The amount of the housing allowance and/or of the utility allowance shall be reviewed on an
annual basis to ensure that the amount is adequate.

8. The District Superintendent, in consultation with the pastor and the Pastor-Parish Relations
Committee, shall be responsible for ensuring that these standards are met.
Unused Parsonages

Whenever, by choice, a clergy chooses not to reside in a parsonage provided by a local congregation for their residence, no clergy member shall have any claim on the “fair market value” or the rental proceeds from the unused parsonage. The use or non-use of the parsonage may be considered in the setting of the compensation of the pastor in conversation with the District Superintendent and the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Clergy couples

General Conference Action provides housing is not compensation for pastors appointed to churches in The United Methodist Church. When two pastors who are married to each other are appointed to neighboring charges where it is reasonable for them to live in the same parsonage, neither pastor is entitled to a housing allowance or rent from the unused parsonage. However, this situation may be considered during the setting of compensation of the pastor, in a conversation between the District Superintendent and the appropriate Pastor-Parish Relations Committee(s).

Parsonage Standards for Local Churches

The following Parsonage Standards were put in place and approved at the 1973 Central Texas Annual Conference, and have appeared in our Journals since that time. Therefore, parsonages built or purchased prior to December 31, 1973 may not meet all of the recommendations in Sections I and II, but are subject to requirements in Sections III – V. Parsonages built/purchased after January 1, 1974 are subject to all recommendations and requirements listed below in Sections I – V.

SECTION I
LOCATION

The location of a new parsonage is a matter of extreme importance. It should provide for the safety, convenience and privacy of the parsonage family. For this reason, we recommend that a new parsonage not be located adjacent to the church facilities.

SECTION II
SIZE OF BUILDING AND LIVING AREAS

The new or remodeled parsonage should be large enough to accommodate the pastor’s family. It should provide adequate space for the entertainment of guests. It should be remembered in selecting a parsonage that the present parsonage family is not the only one who will live in that parsonage and that the house should be adaptable for a variety of family sizes and situations. Also, care should be given that facilities should be fully accessible for those with handicapping conditions meeting standards of the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶2544.4.b.

Recommendations:

1. 1800 square feet minimum living space.
2. At least 3 bedrooms, preferably 4.
3. At least 2 bath, preferable 2 ½ with adequate linen closet.
4. Family and dining areas adequate for entertaining.
5. Preferably a separate area (living, sitting or office) that could be used for visiting or study.
6. Adequate closet and storage space. Closet space in each bedroom and other storage space well distributed throughout the house.
7. Laundry area (see Section III.B.7)
8. Adequate garage or carport space (preferably 2-car attached garage)
9. Adequate outside living area with fenced yard.

SECTION III
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

A. Health & Safety
1. Adequate supply of hot and cold water in bathrooms, kitchen and laundry.
2. Proper sewage disposal according to the standards of local and/or State Department of Health.
3. Fire extinguisher in kitchen with yearly inspection.
4. Automatic central heating and air conditioning.
5. Bathroom heating and hot water heaters should be protected and if not electric should be properly vented.
6. Provide smoke detectors for kitchen, living, laundry, and bedroom areas.
7. Provide carbon monoxide detectors, unless parsonage is completely electric.
8. Recommend that a Lead Paint Disclosure be provided for parsonages built before 1978.

B. Kitchen with Well-Planned Work Area
1. Cooking area complete with range or built-in cooking units, counter space, hood and exhaust fan.
2. Sink area complete with modern double bowl sink with disposal and drain space.
3. Large automatic refrigerator with freezer unit.
4. Required code electrical outlets for every room.
5. A well-equipped kitchen with adequate storage for dishes, utensils and food pantry.
7. Laundry room with properly vented washer/dryer.

C. Furnishings
1. Effective January 1, 2011, all living, family, dining and bedroom furnishings become the responsibility of the resident parsonage family.
2. Window coverings, drapes, curtains, and blinds, adequate for privacy, is the responsibility of the church.
3. Internet/cable ready.
4. If the parsonage family is expected to maintain the lawn, the church will supply lawn tools, weed eater, mower (self-propelled or riding) as appropriate for size of yard. In addition, the church will provided water hoses, ladder, and garbage receptacles.

SECTION IV
MAINTENANCE

1. Decoration - Both the interior and exterior of the parsonage should be kept in such a state of decoration as to preserve not only its physical condition but its aesthetic value as well. Decorating and/or any remodeling should be done in consultation with the parsonage family.
2. Repair and replacement - An annual budget item will enable the Trustees and Parsonage Committee to have a consistent, rather than haphazard program of maintenance and
improvement that will be less costly in the long run. There should be an annual budget item for repair and replacement of appliances and equipment.

Section V
Miscellaneous

1. Parsonage Book - It is recommended that the parsonage committee prepare and keep up-to-date a record in which are placed all guarantees, repair parts lists, and the instructions for use of equipment belonging in the parsonage. The record should also indicate when and from whom purchased and whom to call for service. Also, this book may well contain a list of whom to call for various reasons, where to find various items, when and by whom various improvements were made, and other information helpful to an incoming minister.

2. Insurance - The trustees should be certain that the church-owned house and contents are insured for at least 80% of replacement cost against fire, wind, and other hazards. Public liability insurance should be carried on parsonage property. Tenant Homeowners insurance is available for all ministers who desire to cover personal possessions and liability. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PASTOR TO INSURE PERSONAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE PASTOR AND FAMILY.

3. Utility Deposits - Should be made in the name of the church.

4. Gifts to Parsonage - Before a gift is received, care should be given to consult with the parsonage family, trustees and/or parsonage committee regarding the needs of the gift. If received, the gift should be designated specifically if it is to remain in the parsonage or is to be the personal gift for the parsonage family. In the event, it is to remain in the parsonage, the trustees and/or parsonage committee must approve it. A Gift/Donation Policy by the Trustees and/or parsonage committee of the church should be in place to insure clearly understood policies of acceptance, receipt and acknowledgement of any gifts.

5. Pastor’s Office/Study - The Office/Study should be located in the Church Building and adequately furnished and equipped. Some pastors may choose to also maintain an office in the parsonage and be responsible for its furnishings in addition to the official church Office/Study.

6. Parsonage Furnishings - Since we have transitioned to parsonage families being responsible to have their own furnishings, when furniture still exists in the parsonage, we encourage an open dialogue between the parsonage family, PPR committee, and Board of Trustees and/or Parsonage committee concerning the issue of whose furnishings are to be used. We highly recommend, when in the doubt, that the parsonage family furnishings be used to furnish the parsonage.

Adequate parsonage facilities, based on the above minimum standards insure that a pastoral appointment can be made based on the needs of the charge, rather than the ability of the parsonage to receive the family assigned. An annual review of the church-owned parsonage, to ensure proper maintenance, will be conducted by the chair of the board of trustees or the chair of the parsonage committee, if one exists, the chair of the committee on pastor-parish relations, and the pastor (§2533.4, 2016 Book of Discipline).
RESOLUTION RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED, DISABLED, MINISTERS ON INCAPACITY LEAVE OR FORMER CLERGY PERSONS OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE

The Central Texas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation; and

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

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

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOVING EXPENSES
POLICY & PROCEDURES

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible:

• Elders in Full Connection*
• Associate Members*
• Full-Time Local Pastors*
• Provisional Members*
• Commissioned Ministers preparing for ordination as Elders in Full Connection, Associate Members or Full-Time Local Pastors*
• Retiring clergy in one of the first three relationships above are eligible to receive funds for one move into housing not already owned or supported by a local church after retirement, up to the maximum allowed. In circumstances in which the retiring pastor, in one of the first three relationships listed above, planning to retire moves prior to the retirement date, reimbursement for a move made within one year prior to the retirement date shall be made upon retirement, contingent upon the presentation of proper documentation.
• Voluntary Transition Program sponsored by GBOPHB.
• Disability Leave.
• The family of a clergy person in the first five relationships above who dies while under appointment shall be eligible to receive funds for the initial move into housing not already owned or supported by a local church, up to the maximum amount allowed.

*Appointed to a local church in the Central Texas Annual Conference or for whom the Conference is pension responsible (such as District Superintendents, Conference Directors, Wesley Foundation Directors, etc.).

Ineligible:

• Deacons
• Part-Time Local Pastors
• Leave of Absence, of any kind. (Does not include Disability Leave.)
• Surrender of Credentials, either voluntarily or involuntarily.
• Moves that do not involve change of appointment.
• Those eligible clergy who change appointments, but who do not change houses, will not eligible for any moving funds, with the exception of a maximum of $500 for moving office supplies upon the presentation of proper documentation.
Moving Allowance

Our Conference Moving Policy has two options: (a) Self-Move and (b) Commercial Move. The total expense of either choice will not exceed $2,500 to the Conference. All documentation must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the appointment.

- **Self-Move** – The Self-Move plan will normally consist of the pastor paying the initial bill and being reimbursed the actual expenses up to a maximum of $2,500. Proper documentation of receipts for the cost of van rental, gasoline, boxes, tape and packaging material and $2.00 per mile must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer before receiving reimbursement.

- **Commercial Move** – Whether you interview and hire your own commercial moving company, pay the bill and turn in receipts for reimbursement or use one of the commercial movers from the list we supply that will bill the Conference, makes no difference. Upon receiving the invoice from the moving company or receiving the receipts from you, the Conference will pay for the commercial move up to a maximum of $2,500 of actual moving expense. The Commercial Move includes the cost of the movers and cost for boxes, tape and packaging material not to exceed the total of $2,500.

*In either case any expense above the maximum of $2,500 will be the responsibility of the pastor.*

*In no case will the Conference pay more than the actual expenses incurred, up to a maximum of $2,500 for a move.*

**Method of Payment**

A list of movers that will bill the Annual Conference is found in the Moving below. All expenses that are within the Annual Conference Allowance will be billed directly to the Annual Conference by those moving companies. If a moving company is used that will not bill the Annual Conference directly or the clergy chooses a self-move, then the moving clergy/family is responsible for the bill and will be reimbursed by the Annual Conference for all documented expenses that are within the Annual Conference Allowance. Any documented expenses paid by the moving clergy/family are to be submitted to the Annual Conference Treasurer with a completed moving expense form within sixty (60) days of the appointment. The Conference Treasurer shall issue payment to the moving company or the entity that incurred the expense.
## Central Texas Conference Clergy Moving Companies
### 2017 Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>% off Texas Moving Tariff</th>
<th>Rates for Contiguous County Moves</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Points Pioneer</strong></td>
<td>71% (+ appl. fuel surcharge)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free Used Boxes delivered plus paper and tape at no charge (for local moves).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>817-275-6888 - Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>817-275-7847 - Fax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Brouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:michelle@allpointspioneer.com">michelle@allpointspioneer.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2450 114th St., Ste. 290</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Prairie, TX 75050</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Berger/Allied Van Lines</strong></td>
<td>65% (+ appl. fuel surcharge - currently 3% but changes every month)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free Used Boxes delivered plus paper and tape at no charge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>817-799-3014</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-800-678-3980</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark McIntire</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMC Account Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:markm@bergerallied.com">markm@bergerallied.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bekins Moving Solutions &amp; Storage</strong></td>
<td>At least 65%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free Used Boxes delivered plus paper and tape. “$50 delivery charge” Each additional man and/or truck is $32.00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>817-308-9999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Crandall</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kcrandall@bekinsa1.com">kcrandall@bekinsa1.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>972-304-0353 x3859</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle (Missy) Chambers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:mchambers@bekinsa1.com">mchambers@bekinsa1.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>505 Airline Dr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coppell, TX 75019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Buehler - May Flower Trans &amp; Stg.</strong></td>
<td>62% (+ appl. fuel surcharge)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free Used Boxes delivered plus paper and tape at no charge. Insurance is included as per the state tariff at 0.60c per pound per article.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Wasikowski</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:rwasikowski@buehlercompanies.com">rwasikowski@buehlercompanies.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>633 Mony St.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ft. Worth, TX 76102</td>
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<tr>
<td>817-624-8466/ 972-330-7217</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Exceptions
1. Exceptions to any of the above may be approved or denied by the Central Texas Conference Treasurer in consultation with the previous and receiving District Superintendents.
2. Appeals of any decision by the Conference Treasurer may be directed to the Commission on Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits. The Commission on Equitable Compensation and Clergy Benefits shall have final authority to interpret the moving policy and make decisions.

### Moving Procedures
1. **Receiving DS** gives to the clergy the Moving Packet which includes moving companies that will bill the Annual Conference, and other pertinent moving information.
2. **The Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee of each charge which is receiving a new pastor** will appoint one of its members to serve as Moving Coordinator who will coordinate the move with the incoming pastor and work to facilitate the easiest and most pleasant move possible. At the introductory meeting between the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee
and the new pastor, the Moving Coordinator will be present in order to be introduced to the pastor.

3. **The Clergy……if using a commercial mover**, should get estimates from at least two moving companies of his/her choice and chooses the one he/she wishes to use. The clergy contracts with the company of choice to move them and send the bill to the Annual Conference Treasurer. If the estimate is over $2,500 the clergy will send a check to the Conference Treasurer for the amount over the $2,500 limit with a copy of the original estimate and the completed reimbursement form. If the company is one that will not send a bill to the Conference for payment, he/she can work out payment with the Annual Conference by having the mover call the Conference Treasurer at 817-877-5222 or pay the moving company and submit the completed reimbursement form and documentation of expenses for reimbursement.

4. **The Clergy……if choosing a self-move**, keeps all their receipts for the cost of van rental, gasoline, boxes, tape, packaging material and $2.00 per mile and turns in the completed reimbursement form and required documentation to the office of the Central Texas Annual Conference Treasurer within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the appointment for reimbursement.

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**Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church**

**Confirmation of Parsonage Inspection 2016**

Report to Charge/Church Conference

Adopted by Executive Committee of Board of Ordained Ministry and Cabinet March 19, 2013

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This form is to be filled out for yearly charge/church conference and again within 30 days of a pastoral move.

Charge/Church___________________________________ Date______________

Parsonage address________________________________________________

The 2016 *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church in ¶ 2533.4 states:

> The chairperson of the board of trustees or the chairperson of the parsonage committee, if one exists, the chairperson of the committee on pastor parish relations and the pastor **shall make annual review of the church owned parsonage to ensure proper maintenance.**

Has such an annual review, with a walk through of the premises, been conducted within the past 12 months?

- [ ] Yes    Date of last inspection: ____________________________
- [ ] No    Scheduled date for inspection: ______________________

Is appropriate action being taken, or has such action been taken, to take care of parsonage maintenance needs and/or improvements? (Use back of this sheet if more space is needed).

- [ ] No corrective measures were necessary.
Action has been taken to meet the following needs from the last inspection:

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

Action is still needed on the following items:

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

Action is still needed on the following new items:

___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________

Excessive Damage has been discovered (this is damage caused by failure to attend to proper and timely attention to household tasks, damage caused by children, pets or hobbies that go beyond the normal wear & tear). If this is in dispute or the pastor refuses to rectify the matter, the District Superintendent is to be contacted immediately.

The matter may be referred by the Cabinet to the Executive Committee of the BOM with recommendations for mediation or formal Administrative charges in accordance with ¶362 the Book of Discipline. These mediation terms may include:

1. Moving expense dollars are reduced by the amount of damage.
2. Pastor pays for own move.
3. A deposit is required, after the first occurrence of excessive damage on the next parsonage (example: $250 a month or $3,000 up front is paid to the church and placed in a designated account until pastor’s next move. If everything is within the norm, pastor receives the deposit money.)

We affirm that the parsonage of ________________________ United Methodist Church was left in proper condition.

Chair, Committee on Pastor Parish Relations

Chair, Board of Trustees or Parsonage Committee

Pastor

District Superintendent

INTERIM PASTORAL SUPPORT POLICY

1. The purpose of this policy is to assist member churches in the event a clergy person appointed to 50%, 75% or 100% service to a local church of the Central Texas Conference is unable to perform the duties of their appointment due to a documented medical disability
when the duration of the disability exceeds 30 days, but is anticipated to be less than 180 days.

2. The duration of the disability is not the date reported, but the date the clergy person became unable to perform his or her duties because of the disabling condition. This provision is applied in order to coordinate with the provisions of the long term disability plan under the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). Under no conditions will this policy apply to a clergy person whose disability qualifies for a benefit under the provisions of the CPP.

3. Disability in this context is defined as being under a doctor's care and unable to perform one or more essential duties for more than thirty (30) days as certified by a physician.

4. When a disability within the above definition occurs, a request for assistance can be initiated by the clergyperson, the District Superintendent, or the Pastor/Staff Relations Committee. There must be immediate notification to the Central Texas Conference Benefits Officer and to the District Superintendent. The request should provide a description of the situation and appropriate documentation. Before any benefit is paid, there must be a physician’s certification that the clergy person’s condition meets the parameters of this policy.

5. The Joint Committee on Medical Leave will be the body that approves the grant request. The approval will be on the basis that two (2) criteria have been met: 1) there is a certification by a physician and 2) the district superintendent has verified the need for interim clergy service funding and has consulted with the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee concerning its provision. No further medical evidence will be evaluated beyond the Physician’s Certification.

6. The benefit provided consists of reimbursement of part of or all of the costs of providing interim clergy services during the period of the pastor’s disability covered under this policy (30 days to 180 days). The pastor continues under appointment to the charge and the charge continues to provide full compensation to the appointed clergy person.

7. The provision of interim clergy services will be arranged by the District Superintendent and the Cabinet in consultation with the Charge’s Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee.

8. If the member church, in consultation with the District Superintendent, elects to obtain interim clergy services for clergy disability past 30 days, the District will make arrangements to pay the interim clergy and the Central Texas Conference will reimburse the district for the actual expense of the interim clergy up to an amount equal to one half of the total of the last approved clergy compensation package of the disabled clergy person (which includes salary, housing, pension and health).

9. When due to illness or injury for a disabling condition that has an expected duration of more than 180 days, this policy is not applicable.

10. In order to obtain reimbursement for interim clergy services approved under this policy, the District must provide documentation of expenses for the interim clergy services to the Central Texas Conference Benefits Officer.

This policy does not address maternity or paternity leave which is covered under the Book of Discipline ¶356. If a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth is determined, then this short term disability policy could apply.
RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION TO KEEP OUR 2016 DELEGATES
FOR THE POSSIBLE CALLED GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 2019

Whereas the delegation of the Central Texas Conference for the 2016 General Conference has already been elected; and

Whereas this delegation has already established working relationships and have engaged in holy conferencing regarding the General Conference of the United Methodist Church; and

Whereas the Commission on a Way Forward is building trust, working through differences (cultural and linguistic), coming to understand the complexity of human sexuality, fostering the diversity of leadership, seeking common ground, desiring unity, and working toward collaboration; and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Central Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church oppose re-electing new delegates before the possible Called General Conference in 2019, and instead, offer our support and encouragement to the previously elected delegation that represented our Annual Conference at the 2016 General Conference.

Respectfully Submitted:

The Love Your Neighbor Coalition of the Central Texas Annual Conference

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

REV. L. FITZGERALD REIST, II, SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

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

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

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of women’s and girl’s equality and well-being.
If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509 Yes, 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

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

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

After the first sentence, add, “Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.”
If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

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

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

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

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

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

AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

ALDERSGATE ENRICHMENT CENTER
EARLY, TEXAS
MARSHALL THORNHILL, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

In 1994, Mike Pinson stood before this conference and said, “If you want to see God at work, come to Aldersgate.” That statement holds just as true today as it did 23 years ago. As 2017 approaches, we reflect on how God’s hand touched our organization in 2016 as well as celebrate our 30th birthday this May.
Aldersgate has spread its wings in 2016 as we underwent a 20,000-sq. ft. expansion of our campus including an addition to our Recycling Center, completion of our very own on-campus chapel and a brand new state-of-the-art Production Facility. This was one of the biggest expansions in our organization’s history, and a bit scary to say the least. But, after much prayer; we knew that God would provide and that He did. With this expansion came two major contracts that, by their term cycle, will have more than paid for the expansion. This expansion also offered opportunities for over one hundred volunteers to donate over 2,500 hours to improving our campus! If you don’t believe that God is at work on our campus, then I would encourage you to come for a visit.

We also kicked off a new tradition in 2016 with our 1st Annual Easter Eggstravaganza event! This fun and “egg” citing event surrounded a cause that is dear to our hearts. We noticed that our community did not have any sort of Easter egg hunt that was geared toward children with special needs. Therefore, they would often get trampled by other kids and were not offered the same opportunities as others. So, with that in mind, we decided to host our own Special Hunt for kids with special needs. This was an invitation-only hunt and invitations were passed out through the special needs programs in our local area schools. The event was a huge success and included a general Easter Egg hunt for the kids in our community and an Egg Run obstacle course for the adults. Inside the Gathering Place, our 6,000-sq. ft. open venue, the ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) and Center for Life Resources hosted a carnival packed with games and some “egg” stravagent prizes! Early Chamber of Commerce hosted a silent auction on our behalf, and the Aktion Club of Brownwood served from the snack bar. There was even an appearance from Al the Aldersgate Easter Bunny. But the biggest hit was the Barfield Family Foundation Egg Roulette tournament. This event allowed participants to go head-to-head (no pun intended) by smashing eggs on their forehead to find out if they were raw or hard-boiled. The loser was the first to get “yolked” so-to-speak.

As we closed the books on an amazing year in 2016, our excitement only continued to grow as we looked forward to 2017. This year; we will celebrate our 30th birthday. It was in 1987 that a bold group of Methodist Men cast vision for the extraordinary organization that Aldersgate is today. Without the bravery and dedication of these men, none of the last thirty years would have been possible, including the countless lives that have been changed by the love and blessing of the ministry on the other side of those gates. When I say, lives were changed, I don’t just mean those of our associates. As much love and support that our staff pour on to those adults with special needs there is just as much, if not more, reciprocated back to our staff. If you haven’t, I would encourage you to visit our website and read the staff biographies. It will warm your heart to know that the Methodist Conference was the spark that has caused such a wildfire of hope, love, and faith in Aldersgate Enrichment Center and everyone associated with the organization. To honor that, we are hosting a 30th birthday celebration for Aldersgate on September 9, 2017. We would LOVE to have each and every one of you in attendance. Our Buildings, Boots & BBQ Birthday Bash will include an open tour of our facilities, a BBQ plate meal, and a special presentation on the history of Aldersgate. Check our website or follow us on social media for more details.

Again, we know that Aldersgate would not exist if it weren’t for the boldness of those Methodist Men that God spoke to and we are so thankful for their faithfulness to follow God’s word and lay the groundwork for this blessing that we call home. We would like to thank ALL of our supporters for the continuous prayers, contributions, and encouraging words. We continue to seek support in those organizations and individuals alike who have a heart for adults with special needs. As God continues to work through us, we gratefully welcome support in prayer, financial contributions, gifts-in-kind, or volunteer labor. If you are ever in the Central Texas area, we
encourage you to stop buy and visit. We would love to offer you lunch and a tour. But most importantly, we would love for you to get to know our associates and truly see why our organization’s tag line is: God At Work!

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE
EL PASO, TEXAS
SOCORRO BRITO DE ANDA, PRESIDENT

Every year, Lydia Patterson institute (LPI) becomes a stronger ministry of the United Methodist Church with its eternal mission of changing lives and serving as a catalyst from despair to optimism through knowledge and faith. At least 400 lives are being touched daily. Students are prepared for a life of higher education, and many are brought to Jesus Christ with a promise to Christian service.

Three years ago, LPI added a middle school to its already highly successful high school program. With the addition of the 7th and 8th grades came the integration of the latest state-of-the-art technology available for the classroom. The 9th and 10th grades were upgraded last year, and the 11th and 12th grades were completed this school year. This makes our school the only one in the El Paso area totally technologically operated with Smartboards and E-Pads in every classroom and Ebooks in every subject.

The mission of Lydia Patterson is to form bilingual leaders for both church and society, and to provide them with the tools to break the cycle of poverty and make a better life for themselves and their families. This past school year, we graduated 83 seniors. All are in college today. On graduation night, we announced a total of $1.6 million in scholarships from United Methodists colleges and universities alone. Our connection with other United Methodist institutions merits mention as to the success of our ministry.

Our job is to help students and their families move forward towards a higher socio-economic level. The challenges are plentiful, but we meet them with faith and optimism. Economic conditions across the border hinder the economic abilities of our parents. This year, the price of gasoline was doubled, and the Mexican peso is in a constant state of devaluation. The effect of the downturns is a need for more scholarships to support our students.

Lydia Patterson Institute, your mission on the U. S. – Mexico border is a promise of hope to those fearing the uncertainties of border issues and the threats of deportation. At a time where politicians and government officials talk about building fences or higher walls, Lydia Patterson is building taller bridges between the two countries to bring families to more equitable means of living, and preparing its students to serve both sides of the border with dignity and integrity in a bi-national setting. We strive to form the bilingual leaders of tomorrow and our next generation of disciples for the transformation of a world of peace and harmony on our U. S. – Mexico borders and beyond.

Thank you for being a part of this redemptive ministry and for joining us in making it a vital one for the next 100 years. Our appreciation goes out to the Bishop and every United Methodist church in this conference and all those who support us with their dollars and their prayers. We extend a warm invitation to visit our campus, whether in a mission tour, work team, or personal stopover, and experience firsthand the life of one of the greatest ministries of the United Methodist Church.
METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME

WACO, TEXAS

TIM BROWN, PRESIDENT/CEO

Greetings from Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) and the more than 5,000 children, youth and families we serve. Our ministry is possible thanks to the support of our many benefactors and friends, including those from the Central Texas Annual Conference. I am honored to report to you that MCH continues to be in compliance with and, in many cases, exceed best practice standards for childcare established by the states of Texas and New Mexico as well as the Council on Accreditation (COA), an international accrediting organization of child welfare, behavioral health, and community-based social services.

I invite each member of the annual conference to visit our website at www.MCH.org. There you can view our strategic plan, annual report or explore in more detail the services we offer. You can also download stories; identify resources to help educate your congregation on our ministry; view a transparent listing of our financial resources and services delivered; find out how you can refer a child for placement; or learn more about a call to join our ministry as a home parent, foster parent or in another capacity.

Guided by our core values of Christian Principles, Relationships, Responsibility, Growth, Service and Hope; MCH provides the care, programs and talented individuals needed to positively impact the lives of children, youth and families throughout Texas and New Mexico. This is happening every day in residential programs on our Waco campus and Boys Ranch as well as through 13 MCH Family Outreach offices, including Killeen and Waco.

The reasons children and youth arrive in our care are unique to each individual. They range from extreme trauma, a sudden change in the family structure, school issues, or poor choices in a difficult and ever-changing world. We invest in our staff so that regardless of what brings someone to MCH, they encounter the highest level of care possible. Our vision remains to share what we learn with pastors, youth ministers and family members in the local church because MCH knows you are encountering similar situations.

Through the generosity of our benefactors, the prayers of our friends and supporters, and the commitment of a skilled community of MCH employees, here are some of the things you helped MCH accomplish for God’s glory and those we serve:

- Began the process of creating a bold three-year strategic plan to help chart a bright future for this ministry and address the ever-changing needs of children, youth and families from Texas and New Mexico. Our leadership team is committed to finding new and innovative ways to fulfill our mission and partner with United Methodist congregations to serve those who would benefit from the services we offer.

- Opened the first new residential home in more than 50 years, The Dr. Jack Kyle and Evelyn Daniels Home, on our Waco campus.

- Started building two additional homes thanks to the generosity of our supporters. These homes are part of our capital campaign, "Building Hope." This campaign seeks to create 21st century homes that are designed and equipped to best serve the children now entering our care. The response from our benefactors, alumni and fellow childcare providers to the new homes’ design and features has been amazing.
• Assisted 35 young men and women in graduating from our University of Texas – University Charter School on the Waco campus and other public school systems. Thanks to our many friends who designated gifts for scholarships, approximately $500,000 was available to assist 84 MCH alumni in pursuing advanced education degrees and certificates.

• Established new MCH Family Outreach offices in Killeen and Bryan/College Station, Texas, and Las Cruces, N.M.

• Enjoyed a great year for our athletic programs, Ag Science/FFA and Environmental Studies programs and other extracurricular activities. Our MCH Bulldog football team reached the state semifinals and we enjoyed one of our best years on record at the Heart O’ Texas Fair & Rodeo. We believe these and other extracurricular activities are powerful ways to help empower our young people and strengthen their sense of belonging in our nurturing, Christian community.

Our achievements in the past, and those yet to come, are directly related to the men and women who give their time, talents and resources to bless our children. The following individuals from the Central Texas Annual Conference serve on the MCH Board of Directors:

Dr. Jeff Clark, Temple
Rev. Steve Ramsdell, Waco
Rev. Clifton Howard, Fort Worth

These individuals, along with other Board members, MCH Commissioners and benefactors, enable our ministry to achieve its mission. If you would like to schedule a speaker, arrange a tour or request resources to help promote an offering, contact our Development office by email at development@MCH.org, by phone at (254) 750-1314 or (800) 853-1272. You can also reach us by mail at 1111 Herring Avenue, Waco, Texas 76708.

As we now celebrate our 127th year of ministry, MCH knows our service to children and families is possible because of God’s amazing grace and our generous benefactors. Thank you for your trust and support of our ministry. May God continue to bless you, the ministries of the Central Texas Annual Conference and Methodist Children’s Home.

MOUNT SEQUOYAH CENTER, INC.
JESS L. SCHLOAD, CEO
150 N Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
479.443.4531 OFFICE | 800.760.8126 TOLL FREE
www.mountsequoyah.org

1922-2017 – 95 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Greetings to the Central Texas Conference from all of us at Mount Sequoyah in Fayetteville, AR. Serving United Methodist and many others since 1922, we continue to be a vital part of the South Central United Methodist. This past year we hosted and helped sponsor a number of UMC events including:

• United Methodist Study School Lay Servant Academy
• Missions Camp
• Children’s Ministries Beyond Conference.
• SCJ Mission Academy.
• Youth and Young Adults gathering in fall of 2016
• Easter Sunrise Service United Methodist led.
• Partnered with the University of Arkansas Wesley Ministries to provide housing for an intern

As many of you know, our direct relationship with the South Central Jurisdiction ended last summer. However, we will always strive to be a part of the United Methodist as we have for 95 years. The programs listed above and many more being planned are an example of our commitment to this relationship. We sincerely thank all of you for your support over the years.

Mount Sequoyah ended 2016 with a surplus and is in an excellent place fiscally. There are challenges as we do have aging facilities. As we go through the next 5 years leading to our 100th anniversary year, you will be hearing about our campaign to make major upgrades to Clapp Auditorium and Wesley. We dream of Clapp being a multi-functional space that can hold up to 400 people. Wesley, built in 1927, is going to be a major project where we will seek to keep the historical feel while making it a modern and comfortable lodging and meeting venue.

Mount Sequoyah had been working on a major matching grant provided by the Arkansas United Methodist Foundation. This $300,000 grant was fully matched in 2016 and the resulting funds helped a great deal in upgrading many of our lodging and meeting facilities.

In 2016 we also welcomed our new CEO, Jess Schload. Jess came from a similar site in the Florida Conference, the Life Enrichment Center. He has served conference and retreat centers for over 25 years. We hope many of you can come to Mount Sequoyah sometime to see all the upgrades and meet our new CEO.

Blessings to you all and our prayers are with you as you meet and work together for Christ in 2017. As always, Mount Sequoyah seeks to be a partner with you in this effort.

PROVIDENCE PLACE
(FORMERLY METHODIST MISSION HOME)
SAN ANTONIO, TX

JUDITH BELL, INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO
BILL AVERA, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and those on our campus who are working hard to achieve their own personal level of success, I thank you – Bishop Mike Lowry and the members of the Central Texas Annual Conference – for your dedication in partnership with the ministry of Providence Place. By God’s grace, we celebrated our 121st anniversary in 2016 thanks to the committed support from individual donors and United Methodist Churches. We have been able to be a blessing to those around us for well over a century, and we couldn’t have done it without you.

Providence Place provides a safe haven for those who have felt excluded. We offer adoption services to women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, as well as those who are looking to open their hearts and homes to a child in need of a forever family. We also have our Center for Higher Independence (CHI), which is a transitional program for young adults with cognitive or physical disabilities. Here, we offer social, independent living and vocational training to students
who are trying to live to their full potential and capabilities, believing that they will find themselves accomplishing things they never thought were possible.

I’d like to take time here to share a few of the exciting things that have happened around our campus this past year:

A huge win for Providence Place comes in being named as a recipient of the Impact San Antonio grant. With the money that was awarded, we will be able to purchase equipment that will substantially enhance the work environment simulations for the students in our Work Training Center. Please come by our exhibitor table during Annual Conference to pick up our newsletter, where we go into much more detail about this process!

In June of 2016, we celebrated a record-setting number of twenty-nine young adults who graduated from the Center for Higher Independence program, of whom 90% had found employment upon graduation. We are beyond excited for them and are grateful to have been a part of their story – you helped them reach their goals!

In the Horticulture program, our garden has doubled in size and we’ve made two additions – sheep! Maude and Maxine are taken care of by the students and have become the greeters to those driving onto our campus. We have a farm stand, where the students will sell the produce that’s grown in the garden, and we’ve found a rise in its popularity! Our neighbor has graciously partnered with us to use the corner of their lawn to hold our stand and we’ve noticed we have regulars coming to visit us most Fridays (weather permitting). We’ve even traveled to different Farmer’s Markets around San Antonio!

Throughout this past year, our Chaplain, Rev. Carrie Land, has truly been God’s hands and feet throughout our campus. She has done an outstanding job at counseling expectant mothers and students, leading Bible studies, organizing our praise band and preaching in our weekly Chapel Service. All are welcome to Chapel, including staff and those beyond our walls – if you find yourself in San Antonio at 3:30 on a Thursday afternoon, come join us! We are so grateful for Carrie’s servant heart and leadership.

Carrie has also recently begun leading our Adoptions of Texas program. Under her direction, we have seen a broader range in outreach efforts and a peak in adoption inquiries. This past year we have had many post-adopt interactions, most recently we’ve had a man who was born in 1970 and his adopted mother fly in from Missouri to meet his birth mom and biological brother and sister on our campus. After a few phone calls between them, it was a grand reunion and we were blessed to be able to experience that with them.

This October, we will be honoring the 50 years we have spent on our current campus. We have seen many faces and heard many stories; through your compassion, thousands of lives have been changed for the better. If you would like to join us for this celebration, we would be honored to have you!

Last but certainly not least, I would also like to take the time to recognize those from the Central Texas Annual Conference who give of themselves, their time and resources to serve on the Providence Place Board of Directors:

**Honorary Board of Directors**

Pat Camp Cameron, TX
Robert Garrett  Weatherford, TX

I encourage you to schedule a tour of our beautiful 25 acre campus, coordinate a volunteer mission trip, arrange a speaker for your congregation or church group, and request offering materials for an annual church offering. We couldn’t continue these ministries without you and we would love to come and share the stories of Providence Place! If we could be a resource to you, contact our Advancement Team at (210) 696-2410 or at mission.advancement@provplace.org. Also, please visit our website at www.provplace.org to learn more about these special ministries and to hear first-hand stories from those we have served.

THERESA HEALTH RESOURCES

ARLINGTON, TEXAS

BARCLAY E. BERDAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Grounded in the healing ministries of the Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church, Texas Health Resources is committed to providing health care to those in North Texas with respect for each person, confidence in the gifts of medicine and reliance on the healing power of faith.

As a faith-based health care system, Texas Health compassionately and confidently addresses not only the physical needs of individuals, but also the emotional and spiritual needs. Being one of the country’s largest non-profit health systems, Texas Health continues to enhance our communities’ access to quality health care and educational resources. With more than 350 points of access, individuals can seek care at numerous hospitals, outpatient centers, doctors’ offices and imaging centers in and around Dallas-Fort Worth. Providing health care to more than 7 million residents in 16 counties across North Texas, Texas Health also takes on the social responsibility of improving the welfare of society through the faithful stewardship of resources – in 2016 alone, more than 1 million people received assistance through Texas Health’s community collaborations and health initiatives. That translates to nearly $2 million dollars in charitable contributions, grants and sponsorships. Texas Health exceeded the state’s nonprofit requirement by nearly 24 percent after giving nearly $848 million dollars in charity care and community benefit.

In our efforts to consistently create positive and sustainable improvement and growth for the communities we serve, we are mindful of how our current decisions will impact future generations. This is why Texas Health continues to connect and build strong relationships, locally and nationally, in hopes of better serving North Texas residents through patient-centered care, for years to come.

With the Dallas-Fort Worth population far from declining, Texas Health will continue to grow as well. Significant expansion projects have helped Texas Health address the needs of individuals, offering quality, convenient care close to home. Responding to the evolving needs of North Texans, Texas Health has embarked upon several noteworthy projects:

- During 2016, Texas Health announced a joint venture with Adeptus Health. The alignment has led to the addition of 31 freestanding emergency departments and a hospital in the Carrollton area.
- Texas Health Hospital Clearfork opened its doors to residents of southwest Fort Worth last year. The joint replacement surgical center includes inpatient care and rehabilitation services.
Texas Health Neighborhood Care and Wellness center in Prosper opened its doors in Feb. 2017, after breaking ground last year. The facility provides 24/7 emergency care, along with several specialty care services.

Later this year, Texas Health will open two behavioral health centers. Texas Health Residential Treatment Center in Mansfield will offer long-term treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, along with an emphasis on well-being. Texas Health Behavioral Health Hospital Corinth will serve as an inpatient and outpatient behavioral facility for Denton County residents.

On the horizon, Texas Health will expand to Frisco. The joint venture, with UT Southwestern Medical Center, is slated to break ground this summer.

Although Texas Health's expansion projects provide clinicians with a structured arena to better address the health care needs of the community, our employees never lose sight of the importance of giving back to our communities. That's why it comes as no surprise that in 2016, Texas Health was ranked No. 44 on the Fortune and Great Places to Work® list of Best Workplaces for Giving Back.

Not only that, Texas Health earned the No. 1 spot on the list of Best Workplaces in Health Care and ranking No. 46 on the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For® list. The accolades simply serve as a testament to our ongoing commitment to providing quality, personalized services to all North Texans, at the bedside and beyond.

As a health care system, Texas Health understands the joys and pains of welcoming and losing loved ones. To help individuals with their emotional journeys, at every Texas Health facility, we have a place for worship, a place for meditation or both. During 2016, several renovation projects enhanced memory gardens and chapels on several Texas Health campuses. We also anticipate the opening of a new chapel – Texas Health Arlington Memorial's Dan Dipert Family Chapel, within the next year.

Texas Health's healing ministry is also evident in the selfless and continued works of the Faith Community Nursing program. More than 215 registered nurses have helped serve more than 129,600 individuals throughout North Texas. Through their diligent work, Texas Health continues to achieve significant goals that benefit our communities:

- 2,659 blood pressure screenings administered, a 28.4% increase from 2015; and
- 5,200 flu vaccines administered, a 21% increase from 2015.

Along with faithful ministry in our communities, Texas Health's pastoral care ministry continues to flourish, with the advancement of two programs – the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and Attending Clergy Association. With a successful, national accreditation review for our CPE program, we anticipate an additional center at Texas Health Plano by the end of the year. In the near future, we look to add new technology for virtual classroom participation and support for online interaction as well – just one of many tactics being implemented to enhance clergy education and support.

Thanks to the unwavering faith and effective leadership of Rev. Dr. Eric Smith, Texas Health's pastoral care services continue to nurture the spiritual and emotional needs of individuals, inside and outside the hospital walls. Chaplain Smith retired on March 31, 2017 – and Texas Health is eternally grateful for his many years of faithful ministry to and for our organization.
Even though Texas Health focuses on addressing the health care needs of individuals, our faith-based heritage also motivates us to help others to strive for a lifetime of health and well-being. In essence, the healing power of faith and medicine will forever serve as foundational keystones for all that we do.

**TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION**

**TOM LOCKE, PRESIDENT**

TMF is committed to using the abundance God has given us to help congregations build cultures of purpose and generosity that inspire a spirit of abundance. TMF was blessed with another year of growth, ending 2016 with approximately $525 million in assets under management. The measure of success, however, for all of our services – investments, loans, leadership ministry, strategic discernment, grants, stewardship services, and legacy giving – is in how effective they are at helping individuals and congregations echo God’s generosity by using their abundance to invest in God’s promise-filled future.

Eric McKinney, TMF Area Representative for the Central Texas Conference, is the primary point of engagement between congregations (clergy and laity) and TMF and connects Central Texas Conference constituents to resources relevant to their unique goals for missional growth in their congregations and communities.

TMF, headquartered in Austin, serves United Methodist individuals, churches and agencies within the six annual conferences in Texas and New Mexico. We appreciate the opportunity to report some of the ways we served United Methodists last year.

**Within the Central Texas Conference:**
- Loans from TMF to churches in the Central Texas Annual Conference totaled $62.6 million at the end of 2016.
- Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the Central Texas Annual Conference had $29.9 million invested with TMF’s Methodist Loan Fund and $39.2 million invested in all portfolios.

**Throughout Texas and New Mexico:**
- As of December 31, 2016, total assets under management by TMF were approximately $524.9 million.
- Methodist Loan Fund investments ended the year at $333.1 million, and our loan portfolio at $342.7 million.
- TMF’s Undesignated Endowment grew from $31.6 million to $34.6 million.
- Our Leadership Ministry Endowment grew from $5.8 million to $7.1 million.
- Gifts to TMF saw significant gains, including new gifts and pledges of $455,941 to the Gil Rendle Learning and Leadership Endowment. Total gifts ended the year at $3.4 million, including gifts to Leadership Ministry of $492,058 and $40,827 to Grants. Our Development staff worked with individual donors on planned gifts totaling $2.9 million.
- During 2016, TMF made grants totaling approximately $1 million. Of that total, an estimated $650,000 came from unrestricted endowments and $350,000 from TMF operations. The Grants Committee of the TMF Board of Directors determines distribution decisions for these discretionary funds. In 2016, grants funds were distributed as follows:
  - 43% to outreach ministries and evangelism targeting systemic change
  - 45% to ministries which systemically benefit families living in poverty, particularly children
• 12% for scholarships
  o In addition to the $1 million cited above, TMF provided $180,000 in special grant funding to the six conferences we serve throughout Texas and New Mexico. Since beginning these grants in 2009, TMF has awarded a total of $1,430,000 to the conferences, to be used at the discretion of the presiding Bishops.
• TMF distributed approximately $1 million from permanent endowments, predominantly to United Methodist causes.
• TMF’s Leadership Ministry seeks to enable courage, learning, and innovation among leaders. The primary method by which we do this work is through facilitating transformational conversations. During 2016, TMF hosted 15 peer-learning groups, involving over 275 clergy and lay leaders from across Texas and New Mexico, and from the other conferences of the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ). In addition to continuing he SCJ Bishops Conclave, the New and Continuing District Superintendent groups, Executive Pastors, Musicians, and Ministry with the Poor groups, in 2016 TMF Leadership Ministry and Area Representatives worked in collaboration with Horizons Stewardship Company to launch a Year-Round Generosity Pilot Project with seven congregations in the North Texas Conference. We also are engaged in an ongoing learning partnership with Ministry Innovation Fellows Angie Thurston and Casper ter Kuile at Harvard Divinity School who are working to resource and network ministry innovators across the country.
• In 2016, the Area Representatives team adopted a new hybrid model of representing TMF’s work, which includes both geographic coverage and resource specialization. Specialties within the team include laity empowerment, year-round stewardship planning, endowment and legacy giving, strategic discernment, Miracle Sunday stewardship campaigns, and non-profit governance. The team held 22 Putting Your House in Order seminars; four comprehensive ‘Holy Conversations’ discernment processes; 15 half-day or full-day core purpose workshops; and two Miracle Sunday campaigns. The team visited with 25 churches about beginning or re-awakening endowment giving and assisted several non-profit boards of directors on matters of governance.

TMF Board members
TMF has submitted the following candidate for election to the TMF Board of Directors from the Central Texas Annual Conference:
  • Dr. Chris Hayes, Clergy, three-year term (Keller)

TMF Board members previously elected by the Central Texas Annual Conference include:
  • Mr. Dale Knobel, Layperson, currently serving through 2019 (Georgetown)
  • Mr. Henry Joyner, Layperson, currently serving through 2018 (Colleyville)
  • Mr. Wesley Millican, Layperson, currently serving through 2018 (Southlake)

TMF Board members from within the Central Texas Annual Conference who are currently serving in an otherwise elected or advisory capacity include:
  • Bishop J. Michael Lowry, Advisory Member (Fort Worth)
  • Mr. Hiram Smith, Jr., Emeritus (De Leon)

WESLEYAN HOMES, INC.
CHRIS SPENCE, PRESIDENT

Wesleyan Homes is honored to be marking our 55th year as a Central Texas Conference ministry. As we look to the year ahead, I am pleased to offer this report on the ways in which we are fulfilling our mission to offer comfort and care for senior adults in a place they consider home.
As is evident in our churches and organizations, Texas is aging. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the number of Texans age 60 and above, which was 3.7 million in 2010, will nearly double by 2030. In general, Americans are living longer and healthier lives. Additionally, healthcare costs have risen dramatically for older Americans who often are living off fixed incomes. The rapid growth in this population, along with the economic pressures they face, has wide-ranging implications for ministries like Wesleyan Homes.

We have to prepare to serve greater numbers of senior adults in ways that respond to their ever-changing needs while also providing affordable and charitable care. As a continuum of care provider, Wesleyan Homes offers independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, rehabilitation, memory care, home health and hospice for more than 800 residents and patients. That means we can care for our residents as they age and their healthcare and assistance needs increase.

As more for-profits expand within the senior living industry, faith-based non-profit communities like Wesleyan Homes increasingly offer a rare blend of quality services and healthcare combined with compassion, personal relationships and genuine love and respect for the oldest among us. Our culture of caring grows out of Christian faith and belief that each and every person we serve is a child of God and deserving of love.

A lesson for all of us is that no matter one’s age or physical limitations, God has a purpose for us. The Rev. Inell Claypool, who serves as chaplain at The Wesleyan at Scenic, a skilled nursing facility, recently had some 90+ year-old residents heed her urging to discern what their purpose might be. They returned to her excited to share the ways in which they found they could serve their own community.

In 2017, with the generous support of The Central Texas Conference, individual donors and our devoted board, Wesleyan Homes will complete expansions of our independent living and assisted living communities - nearly doubling our capacity at independent living and increasing the number of apartments in assisted living by more than a third.

Finally, we express our gratitude to the individuals and congregations that support the Wesleyan’s Benevolent Fund. Because of you, Wesleyan Homes residents know that their place with us is secure. Since Wesleyan Homes was established, your gifts of benevolence have helped ensure that no resident has had to leave our care because he or she exhausted their financial resources. That is a great gift to those in need.

Thank you for supporting Wesleyan Homes and our ministry. We deeply appreciate your prayers, referrals and financial support. You enable us to provide high-quality compassionate care to those who once cared for us.
On the next eight (8) pages you will find the following forms for your use should you need them:

- Per Diem Expense Voucher
- Amendment -- Correction -- Motion
- Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate
- 2017 Journal Order Form
- Sending Greetings or Sympathy
PER DIEM EXPENSE VOUCHER
2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It is recommended that any person whose expenses to annual conference are being paid by a church or other organization not complete a Per Diem request.

(Please Print)
Name

Mailing Address

City __________________________ State _______ Zip _____________

☐ Please indicate if this is a new address since June 2015

Three Responses needed:

1. Check One: 
   _____ Minister's Surviving Spouse
   _____ Retired Clergy
   _____ Retired Deaconess
   _____ Retired Diaconal Minister
   _____ Student Appointed to Attend School
   _____ Minister on Less Than Minimum Compensation
   _____ Minister on Disability Leave

(Eligibility for benefits is determined according to STATUS UPON ARRIVAL at Annual Conference.)

2. Circle days in attendance: Monday Tuesday Wednesday

3. Check County Residence: 
   _____ Tarrant County = $17.50/day
   _____ All Other Counties = $35.00/day

Signature ____________________________ Date ______________

To receive your per diem check at Annual Conference, please complete this form and return to the address below no later than May 26, 2017:

Central Texas Conference UMC
Attn: David Stinson
3200 E. Rosedale Street
Fort Worth, TX 76105

Conference Office Approval

000-92850

Amount of documented expenses to be reimbursed: $ __________________
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**Report Being Addressed:**

**Wording:**

**Members Signature:**

**Church:**

**Address:**

**City, Zip:**
**CENTRAL TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*(Submit this copy to the Conference Secretary)*

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## CENTRAL TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Report Being Addressed:

Wording:

Members Signature:

Church:

Address:

City, Zip:
Hotel Reservations are to be made by each individual member to the Annual Conference. The following form is a “Hotel Tax Exemption Form” for use in reducing the tax paid or hotel occupancy during the Annual Conference. Fill out the form and submit it to the hotel when you check in.

Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate

Provide completed certificate to hotel to claim exemption from hotel tax. Hotel operators should request a photo ID, business card or other document to verify a guest's affiliation with the exempt entity. Employees of exempt entities traveling on official business can pay in any manner. For non-employees to be exempt, the exempt entity must provide a completed certificate and pay the hotel with its funds (e.g., exempt entity check, credit card or direct billing). This certificate does not need a number to be valid.

Name of exempt entity
Central Texas Conference UMC (TX TIN 3006690725)

Exempt entity status (Religious, charitable, educational, government): Religious

Address of exempt organization (Street and number)
3200 E Rosecrans St

City, State, ZIP code
Fort Worth, TX 76105-2334

Guest certification. I declare that I am an occupant of this hotel or official business sanctioned by the exempt organization named above and that all information shown on this document is true and correct. I further understand that it is a criminal offense to issue an exemption certificate to a hotel that I know will be used in a manner that does not qualify for the exemptions found in the hotel occupancy tax and other laws. The offense may range from a Class C misdemeanor to a felony of the second degree.

Guest name (Type or print)

Host name

Guest signature

Date

Exemption claimed
Check the box for the exemption claimed. See Rule 3.161: Definitions, Exemptions, and Exemption Certificate.

☐ United States Federal Agencies or Foreign Diplomats. Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state and local hotel tax.

☐ Texas State Government Officials and Employees. (An individual must present a Hotel Tax Exemption Photo ID Card). Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This limited category is exempt from state and local hotel tax. Note: State agencies and city, county or other local government entities and officials or employees are not exempt from state or local hotel tax, even when traveling on official business.

☐ Charitable Entities. (Comptroller-issued letter of exemption required). Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state hotel tax, but not local hotel tax.

☐ Educational Entities. Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state hotel tax, but not local hotel tax.

☐ Religious Entities. (Comptroller-issued letter of exemption required). Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state hotel tax, but not local hotel tax.

☐ Exempt by Other Federal or State Law. Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state and local hotel tax.

Permanent Resident Exemption (30 consecutive days): An exemption certificate is not required for the permanent resident exemption. A permanent resident is exempt the day the guest has given written notice or reserves a room for at least 30 consecutive days and the guest stays for 30 consecutive days, beginning on the reservation date. Otherwise, a permanent resident is exempt on the 31st consecutive day of the stay and is not entitled to a tax refund on the first 30 days. Any interruption in the resident's right to occupy a room voids the exemption. A permanent resident is exempt from state and local hotel tax.

Hotels should keep all records, including completed exemption certificates, for four years.

Do NOT send this form to the Comptroller of Public Accounts.
2017 JOURNAL ORDER FORM

A CD version of the 2017 Journal will automatically ship as follows: Each pastor will receive 3, (1 for office; 1 for lay member; 1 for secretary) plus 1 additional for each additional church on the charge and 1 additional if membership entitles the church to an additional lay member.

1. *Each Deacon in Full Connection will receive 1 (or 2 if she/he has a secretary).
2. *Each staff associate who is a probationer, diaconal minister or full-time local pastor will receive 1 (or 2 if she/he has a secretary).
3. *Each staff associate or affiliate who is in the CTC under ¶ 337.1 or 337.2 of the 1996 Discipline will receive 1 (or 2 if she/he has a secretary).
4. Special appointments will receive 1.
5. Those serving Wesley Foundations and local churches will receive an additional 2 copies (1 for foundation office and 1 for foundation secretary.) Those serving only Wesley Foundations will receive 2 (1 for office and 1 for secretary).
6. Retired ministers will receive 1.
7. Diaconals beyond the local church will receive 1.
8. Surviving spouses will receive 1.
9. Immediate family (spouse and children) of those listed in memoirs will receive 1 each.
10. District superintendents will receive 1 (in addition to the 2 spirals)
11. Conference Board, commission, and committee chairs and other members of the Annual Conference “by virtue of office” will receive 1.
12. Each agency listed in the Journal will receive 1.

*IF YOU HAVE A SECRETARY, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS SECTION:

NAME: ____________________________

CHURCH: ____________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PRINTED VERSION OF THE 2017 JOURNAL, PLEASE ORDER BELOW:

NAME: ____________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________

CITY: ____________________________ STATE: ______ ZIP: ______

PLEASE CHOOSE WHICH TYPE OF BINDING YOU WANT:

_____ Perfect binding @ $35.00 each $ _________ Total Amount Due

_____ Spiral binding @ $35.00 each $ _________ Total Amount Due

Mail to: Central Texas Conference
Attn: Center Administrator - Mission Support
3200 E. Rosedale Street
Fort Worth, TX 76105

Total amount due MUST accompany order and be received by May 27, 2017
SENDING GREETINGS OR SYMPATHY FROM THE CENTRAL TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FORM

To send a message of greeting or sympathy from The Central Texas Conference 2016, please fill out this form and submit to the Conference Secretary.

Person(s) to receive the message:

Is this person(s) address in the Conference Journal?       YES       NO

If No, please provide it:

Address: ____________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________

If in a hospital or care facility, name and address please:

Care Facility: _______________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________

Reason for the Message:

Check one of the options below

☐ Get Well
☐ Sympathy for death of: ____________________________________________
☐ Congratulations for: _____________________________________________
☐ Absence from CTC AC due to: ______________________________________
☐ Other, please explain: ____________________________________________
SENDING GREETINGS OR SYMPATHY FROM THE CENTRAL TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FORM

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Is this person(s) address in the Conference Journal? YES NO

If No, please provide it:

Address: ________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________________________________________

If in a hospital or care facility, name and address please:

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