REPORTS

to the

2019 PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of the local congregations of The United Methodist Church. The university community—students, faculty, administrators, trustees and alumni—thank the members of the Pacific Northwest Conference for prioritizing Africa University and its ministry with an investment of 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018.

Africa University thanks the Pacific Northwest Conference for its steadfast commitment and strong support, which open doors and equip young people to be difference-makers. The university community is especially humbled by the sacrifices that are being made to maintain a tradition of 100 percent support for the AUF in the Pacific Northwest Conference.

In sowing so generously into the Africa University Fund, the Pacific Northwest Conference continues to affirm the university’s core mission of nurturing leaders who help communities to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security, and abundant health.

Institutional Update:

- In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.

- Throughout 2018, Africa University weathered the challenges of Zimbabwe’s depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption, while also renewing and expanding its infrastructure. Key enhancements in 2018 included the refurbishment of three residence halls for women students and the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university’s operations.

- There is new construction on the Africa University campus thanks to a 25th anniversary gift from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. In December 2018, work began on the foundation for a new residence hall. The university subsequently broke ground for the construction of phase two of its Student Union and Cafeteria building. Both projects are progressing well and are expected to be fully in use by August 2020.

- With conflict, poverty, and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents and ideas are integrated into the search for lasting solutions.

- Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU’s insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitoes—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

Africa University is deeply grateful to the members of the Pacific Northwest Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain its ministry. Thank you, Pacific Northwest United Methodists, for all that you have invested in mission and ministry through Africa University over the past 27 years. Our shared story is one of transformation, hope, and realized dreams. As Africa University and the Pacific Northwest Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God’s unending grace for the increase.
Submitted by:

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Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we live together as disciples in uncertain times!

Breaking News:

- Students: We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchanges and fruitful collaboration.
- Faculty: We welcomed two amazing faculty this year: Shively Smith as Assistant Professor of New Testament, and Nicolette Manglos-Weber as Assistant Professor of Religion and Society.
- Online Lifelong Learning: We are launching a new Online Lifelong Learning Program at the School, offering webinars, workshops, and reading groups for professional enrichment.
- Scholarships: We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Korean Student and African Student Scholarships, and leadership fellowships for promising leaders: Raíces Latinas for Latinx leaders, Sacred Worth for leaders in the LGBTQIA+ community, Howard Thurman for African-American leadership, and Indigenous Studies Fellowships.
- Faith and Ecological Justice Program: This new student program undertakes initiatives to increase ecological awareness, education, and activism in ecological justice.
- Theology and the Arts Initiatives: Recent exhibits and events include “Moments in Time” and “Transcending Conflict.”
- Grants: Henry Luce Foundation has awarded a 3-year grant to support the Educating Effective Chaplains Project. The grant supports work with other seminaries to develop models that can better prepare chaplains for effective ministry.
- Website: After several years of planning, a new School website will launch in Fall semester 2019.

Partnering for Ministry and Transformation:

Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

- Creative Callings: Our vocational project is an exciting partnership with local churches, seeking to create “a culture of call.” It is sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment.
- Engagement with the UMC: Many of our students are delegates, project leaders and assistants, and class participants in General Conference 2019.
- Congregational courses: The Continuing Scholar program offers current BUSTH courses to alums and local clergy as continuing education credit for a small fee per course.
- Doctor of Ministry: The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic: The Clinic provides internships and workshops that foster justice and peace-building.
- Travel seminars: These courses engage students with immersion journeys to the Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, Argentina, and other sites of learning and ministry. Attendees from the recent...
Serbia and Croatia Seminar presented to the 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada.

- Ecumenical partnerships: We continue to build robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ, and to develop new communities with the Unitarian Universalist and Baptist Churches.

- Partnership with Hebrew College: Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor The Journal of Interreligious Studies and State of Formation cohort of emerging leaders.

**Taking Action Globally and Locally:**

- Campus action: Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and participates actively in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World” for the second consecutive year.

- Internships in global service and peacemaking: We provide internships that support students who engage in ministry with churches and service organizations across the world.

**Commitment to Justice:**

Celebrate differences while joining in action.

- Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires; protests on behalf of Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida; protests of white supremacist movements; services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.

- Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

**Other Notable News:**

- 2019 marks the 180th year of the School of Theology, originally founded as the Newbury Bible Institute in 1839.

- Our major development campaign for BUSTH will end in September 2019, and we continue working toward grand success for the future of our School and the vitality of your ministries.

As BUSTH looks to the future, we celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church, who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Your living legacy and faithful witness give us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean
CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

CST values its connection to The United Methodist Church, and we are thankful for your prayers, presence, gifts, and service to our community. Since 1885, CST has existed to prepare students to become agents of transformation and healing in churches, local communities, schools, non-profit institutions, and the world at large. This work continues, in part, by your support.

In 2015, CST developed a five-year strategic plan based on three goals: promoting transformative education, engaging local and global communities, and achieving long-term institutional stability. CST’s groundbreaking approach to theological education is leading the way.

We are still seeing record-breaking enrollment numbers, and advancement numbers remain steady, yet we are running a budget deficit. Many other freestanding seminaries are experiencing this problem, too. One way of ensuring a healthy future is to embed in a like-minded university, so our work with Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, continues as we endeavor toward an affiliation agreement. This agreement will move us another step closer to reaching long-term institutional sustainability.

Willamette is one of a few United Methodist-related universities in the western U.S., which makes it possible for CST to retain both its affiliation as a United Methodist seminary and its reputation as an excellent theological school with renowned programs. Further, partnering with Willamette provides a number of interesting opportunities to strengthen both institutions – including dual degree programs, joint degree programs with Willamette’s current graduate schools (Atkinson Graduate School of Management and the College of Law), and coursework for Willamette undergraduates. CST has always met challenges with courage: from its founding in the San Fernando Valley to its affiliation with and later break from University of Southern California, to its 60+ years in Claremont, CST’s mission has always survived. Embedding within Willamette allows us the opportunity to thrive in a new way.

Even after announcing a possible move, CST’s alumni/ae and friends have been supportive – as evidenced by a steady increase in giving from alumni/ae and friends in the first six months of the 2018-19 fiscal year, compared to the same period of time in the 2017-18 fiscal year. We believe this is an indication of the continued support of our mission and students, and we see this as a vote of confidence in our efforts to create a stable financial model able to sustain the CST mission for years to come.

Additionally, our 2018-19 Fall enrollment of 431 students was the highest in CST history, demonstrating that the potential move has not deterred students from seeking the transformative education offered by CST. In addition, our M.Div. student enrollment was also our highest in history! And this May we graduated our largest class in history – 106 students who represented thirteen different countries. Further, CST’s student body continues to be one of the most diverse among Methodist-affiliated seminaries:

- Our youngest student is 21, and our oldest is 83, with an average age of 41
- Our student body is 29% Methodist, 46% other Christian, 15% non-Christian traditions, 2% non-religious, and 8% unaffiliated/undeclared
- Nearly 60% of our students identify as people of color (14% black/African American, 17% Asian, 11% international/non-resident, 5% Hispanic, 5% Pacific islander/native Hawaiian, 3% two or more races, along with 6% undeclared, and 37% white)

In a world rife with division, our students, professors, and alumni/ae are agents of healing who model peace with justice. CST is made up of people who are engaging local and global communities on a variety of issues, from environmental justice and immigration reform to confronting Islamophobia and peace-building. We could not do this critical work without you.
Although the last year has had its challenges, 2018 also held some significant achievements for CST that serve to further our three goals. First, in cooperation with librarians from other seminaries, the CST librarians led the development of the world’s first entirely open access library in religious studies, boasting more than 180,000 ebooks and hundreds of thousands of articles. The Open Access Digital Theological Library’s (OADTL) mission is to make all content discoverable to the global community through a single curated search experience, and in just its first semester of use, we have had 12,000 unique users logging in regularly in over 120 countries. The library is free for any user anywhere in the world.

Second, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Chang Jung Christian University (CJCU) on collaboration for a Ph.D. program in Contextual Theology in Taiwan. Our relationship with CJCU began in 2014, and this MOU strengthens the development of our academic and cultural interchanges between students and faculty.

Third, CST created a new position: Vice President for International Relations. This position is designed to lead CST to build relations with alumni/ae, churches, donors, and friends in a global context, particularly in Korea where CST has a critical mass of alumni/ae.

Thank you again for supporting Claremont School of Theology as we continue to provide cutting-edge theological education for the real world…and for the world we want to be real. We invite you to stay connected by visiting us at cst.edu, on Facebook, and/or on Twitter @CST_News; and, to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at https://cst.edu/cst-newsletter.

Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President and Professor of Hebrew Bible
Drew University Theological School continued its multi-year self-transformation by launching its new curriculum for the Master of Divinity in the fall of 2018. This entirely reconceived degree seeks to form graduates that are rooted in the Christian story and traditions, capable of effective and creative leadership, and spiritually and socially resourceful for cultivating the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ in, with and for the church and the world.

A new two-year degree, the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry also launched, and offers students the opportunity to prepare for public leadership or a specialized vocation through deep theological and ethical reflection informed by biblical, historical, theological and practical sources.

New pathways in the Master of Arts, the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry were also created as part of the curriculum transformation process which seeks to more intentionally focus the school’s service to the church, as well as to the academy and civil society.

Drew welcomed 145 entering students this academic year, its largest entering class in over a decade, with an overall enrollment of 350 for the current academic year. In the coming year a new 5-year strategic plan will be developed, new degree delivery options that increase accessibility and affordability for prospective students, as well as new partnerships with annual conferences, other church bodies, and values-based organizations that share and strengthen Drew’s mission to advance peace, justice, love of God, neighbor, and the earth.
As the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) builds capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ’s calling in their lives. The agency creates connections and provides resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation. Every elder, deacon and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs. Many young adults find help in clarifying God’s call in their lives through our discernment opportunities.

Through its Office of Strategic Leadership, GBHEM refined plans for a center for leadership development and spiritual formation. It is drawing on research to plan the expansion of leadership training offerings to churches and communities through a range of means such as face-to-face training, online conferencing, consulting, and recommending resources and experts.

The Division of Ordained Ministry (DOM), using extensive research on the components of effective ministry, introduced a new formation process, Effective Ministry 360 (EM360), which guides pastors and congregations to plan and execute mission and ministry objectives. EM360 also offers assessment modules for candidacy, district superintendents, eight-year clergy assessment and Course of Study. DOM provides introduction and orientation sessions about the process.

The Division of Higher Education (DHE) has initiated research to inform a “leadership pipeline” process for university leaders on United Methodist campuses. Among the books GBHEM published this year, “Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness” (book and study guide) exhibits the best of church and academy collaboration. Contributors explore how the church can reengage its Wesleyan heritage as it participates in God’s mission.

The Office of Loans and Scholarships announced an increase in the maximum amount of money United Methodist students can borrow to pursue their education. The annual maximum is $10,000, with a lifetime maximum of $40,000. On average, the agency distributes $5.5 million in scholarships annually.

Partnering with churches and institutions, GBHEM has promoted projects, programs, initiatives, education and leadership development in various cultural contexts within United Methodism and in pan-Methodist relationships. The agency expanded the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, supported the work of regional networks with the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and established Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development. In 2018, hubs were active in nations in Africa, Asia, Europe and England, North America and South America.
SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with campuses in Kansas and Oklahoma. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the seminary enrolled 99 students in master and doctoral degree programs.

Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2018-2019 academic year moving its Kansas staff and faculty offices to the Kansas Campus where classes are held. This move was the final step in the process of renovating classrooms with larger spaces as well as bringing Kansas faculty, staff, and students together. A new Common Room equipped with refrigerator, microwave, and snacks was added to give students a place to gather for community meals, student forums, and study. Enhanced technology upgrades were made on both campuses with the launch of the new FLEX schedule and FOCUS week. We received a $5,000 grant from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation to support our technology program for students. In an ever-increasing digital world, Saint Paul is constantly working to reach beyond its walls.

A new Doctor of Ministry (DMin) focus, Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled Times, was announced with courses beginning Fall 2019. The new DMin focus is offered in partnership with Church of the Resurrection, Gamaliel Network, and the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity. Students can take a mixture of online and hybrid (blended online and on-campus) courses to complete the required curriculum.

This year marks the celebration of over 10 years in Oklahoma. Since 2008, Saint Paul has prepared Oklahoma-area leaders for ministries that meet the needs of today’s churches and society. In collaboration with Oklahoma City University, students enjoy access to all the resources of a vibrant university, as well as the hospitality and support of a close-knit seminary community.

For Fall 2019, The Oklahoma Foundation, in partnership with Saint Paul School of Theology, is offering a three-year scholarship to educate future church leaders. An Oklahoma Foundation Fellow will receive 3 years of full-tuition and fees (covering 79 credit hours toward the Master of Divinity degree). Foundation Fellows will learn multiple ministry skills in areas such as worship, pastoral care, evangelism, and discipleship.

Saint Paul’s faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. Dr. Elaine Robinson, Professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology, worked along with co-editor Amos Nascimiento to solicit chapters from United Methodist scholars around the globe who could present an indigenous account of the history of Methodism in their own context. These authors include: Fulgence Nyengele (Congo), Julio Vilanculos (Moambique), Ulrike Schuler (Western Europe), Sergei Nikolaev (Russia), and Luther Oconer (Philippines). The manuscript is now finished and in the process of being published by GBHEM’s Foundry Books under the title, Global United Methodism: Telling the Stories, Living the Realities.

Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology and Director of Contextual Education, wrote the lead article in the recently published book, Schleiermacher and Sustainability: A Theology for Ecological Living. As part of the Columbia Series in Reformed Theology, each chapter deals with a particular locus in Schleiermacher’s systematic theology, focusing on its implications for sustainable living.

Saint Paul’s 2018-2019 Lecture Series boasted several exciting keynote speakers from across the United States to speak on a myriad of topics such as “10 Steps on the Path of Moral Leadership” and “Speaking of Jesus: Early Methodist Principles for Bearing Witness to the Christian Story in a Multi-Religious World”. In October, Dr. Luke Bretherton of Duke University was the speaker for the Wayne E. Drake Peace Lecture. In February, the Foundation for Evangelism sponsored Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson of Claremont School of Theology to present this year’s Wallace Chappell Lecture. In March, Rev. Dr. David Gushee of Mercer University was the keynote speaker for the Slater-Wilson Lectureship on Spiritual and Intellectual Life.
For 2018, Saint Paul received a grant from Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita, KS that allowed 20 people to experience KLC programs. Several faculty, staff, and alumni were able to practice KLC’s approach to leadership. Those participants have reported being enriched and inspired by the program. For 2019, Saint Paul received 40 slots for community leaders to attend KLC programs.

Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 299 students in Leawood, KS; Hays, KS; Oklahoma City, OK; Columbia, MO; and Springfield, MO. Saint Paul launched a part-time, accelerated COS satellite program in Columbia, MO this year. Comprised of 9 courses in practical theology, this COS option is designed specifically for part-time local pastors or certified lay ministers entering ministry following completion of the Missouri Conference Licensing School. Like any other COS Satellite, the Columbia satellite is a pilot and collaborative program of Saint Paul Course of Study Regional School in collaboration with the Missouri Conference. Since September 2018, COS has offered two courses and enrolled and registered 23 students in the satellite program.

Saint Paul School of Theology is pleased to report that the Higher Learning Commission has changed the seminary’s status from “Accredited - Probation” to “Accredited”. For 60 years, Saint Paul has supplied excellence in theological education and our previous challenges have inspired us to strive beyond excellence. We are excited about our future and furthering the mission of Saint Paul.

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

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Find us online:

www.spst.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/spst.edu
Twitter: www.twitter.com/spst
Instagram: www.instagram.com/saintpaulks_ok/
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/school/saint-paul-school-of-theology
UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

459 men and women are being equipped as faithful, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders for the Church:¹

- 292 Masters Students
- 167 Doctoral Students
- Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States²

Founded nearly 150 years ago by Bishop Milton Wright, father of famed aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright, United has continued that spirit of innovation through:

Online degrees:
- 98% of master’s students have taken one or more course online while studying at United.
- United students live in 39 different states.
- Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.

Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):
- New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.
- Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers.

Doctor of Ministry Degree:
- Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community.
- Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers.
- 3-year program that allows you to complete project as you go, leading to a 78% program graduation rate in 2017 (vs. 54% average among other seminaries)³

Practical education designed to resource the Church:
- The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.
- 91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom.

A focus on Church Renewal:
- 165 Course of Study students⁴
- 42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders)⁴
- Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision

Academic AND Spiritual Growth:
- 95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth.⁵
Diverse Christian Views:

- Over 30 different denominations
- 19 international students from 15 different countries
- 96% of students feel their views are respected in the classroom/seminary community and say they have been taught to respect the views of others.
- 47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities

We thank God for the men and women coming to United because God has called them to serve the least and the lost. We pray as the Lord Jesus instructed his disciples saying, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2).

Dr. Kent Millard
President
United Theological Seminary

1 Data represents Fall 2018 headcount enrollment, unless otherwise specified.
2 ATS 2017-2018 Annual Data Tables. Data represents Fall 2017 headcount enrollment.
3 ATS 2017-2018 Strategic Information Report for United Theological Seminary. Graduation rates represent the percentage of students who were able to complete their chosen degree within a specified period of time which approximates two times the normal length of the degree.
4 Data represents unduplicated headcount enrollment in the 2017-2018 academic year.
5 United Theological Seminary 2017-2018 Student Satisfaction Survey, in which 30% of students responded.
WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FOSTERING WISDOM AND COURAGE

Wesley Theological Seminary, celebrating our 60th year in Washington, DC, has equipped Christian leadership for nearly 150 years. We prepare students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions. President David McAllister-Wilson writes in his new book, A New Church and a New Seminary, “Leadership requires a seminary to foster both wisdom and courage.”

Our faculty is chosen to prepare these kinds of leaders. In the past year, we welcomed Academic Dean Phil Wingeier-Rayo, Ph.D. plus two new faculty, the Rev. Lorena Parrish, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Ministries and Director of the Community Engagement Institute, and the Rev. Anna Petrin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Worship and Chapel Elder. Learn more about all the remarkable scholars on Wesley’s faculty at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/faculty-2/

Whether you are clergy or laity, an alumnus or a prospective student, looking for master’s or doctoral work, or continuing education or simply deeper knowledge, Wesley stands ready to support you in your current and future call to ministry. Here are a few ways Wesley can help you grow in the wisdom of the faith and the courage to lead.

DISCOVER EXCITING PATHWAYS TO SEMINARY STUDIES

Wesley offers a 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies. Wesley equips all those called to serve for ordained Elder and Deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.

Some are able to take advantage of our modern and affordable on-campus housing and food service to be full-time residential students, living in an exciting international capital. But we understand the struggle to balance life, family, ministry, and finances. So, Wesley’s Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years, designed for those with busy ministry, work, and family lives. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2019 at http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/

In our 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program, in partnership with Shenandoah University, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degrees in six years. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees

Wesley provides more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends. Our new Generación Latinx Scholarship joins our many merit-based scholarships that enable students to afford seminary education. The Community Engagement Institute at Wesley embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organizations to find resources and be empowered to innovatively reach their communities. Our Community Engagement Fellows program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their M.Div. degree. Students can focus their fellowship on Public Theology, Urban Ministry or Missional Church. Meet our current Fellows at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/

TAKE YOUR MINISTRY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Wesley is a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs in specialized tracks that can include international study. Our 2020 tracks will include Church Leadership Excellence, offered in conjunction with Wesley’s interna-
tionally respected Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community, and a track designed for military chaplains. Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/

Wesley also offers opportunities for individual study without pursuing a degree. The Certificate in Faith and Public Life explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/

A Certificate in Wesleyan Studies is available online via the Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy. Topics include United Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. The courses can also be taken for personal education and enrichment. More information can be found at www.beadisciple.com/wesley/

ENRICH YOUR CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH AND EXPLORE NEW DIMENSIONS OF MINISTRY

The Lewis Center continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center’s Leading Ideas e-newsletter is now the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. From this we’ve launched a new podcast – Leading Ideas Talk. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/. And look for new practical online courses at lewisonlinelearning.org

From their new location at The Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, the Center for Public Theology, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. In its second year, the Center’s Faith and Public Life Immersion for undergraduates offers a week-long experience of study and encounters with public theologians and those advocating for justice in Washington. For more information, visit http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

The Luce Center for Arts and Religion is the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

The innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master’s degree students to gain community leadership and advocacy skills. Learn more at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies/ or https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, a research project funded by the Lilly Endowment, we are working with 20 local congregations to design innovative ministries as models for ministry by and for young adults. Follow the work and connect with resources at www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/.

STAY CONNECTED

Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley’s degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry.

Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/. Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley’s social media, www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram at wesleyseminary, and on Twitter at WesleyTheoSem or sign up for our electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.
Vision: Camping and Retreat Ministries in the PNW Conference will be at the forefront of making disciples of Jesus Christ and raising up Christian leaders for the transformation of the world.

We are grateful for a conference that supports our camps and camping ministry. There is so much outreach and transformational ministry that happens at Indianola, Lazy F, Ocean Park and Twinlow and it could not happen without the generous support of the PNW Conference. This will be my last report to Annual Conference as my term is up July 1 and Sandi Miller will be taking over as chair of CBS. I am excited for the future of camping in our conference! Here are some highlights from the year:

- The new Lazy F Dining Hall has been built and is being used! It is a beautiful building and the Dedication Ceremony will be Sunday, May 19th from 2-5pm. Thank you to David Burfeind, the Lazy F Site Advisory Team, the Campaign Committee as well as countless individuals and groups for volunteering and helping to make this dining hall a reality. Visit lazyfcamp.org for more information.

- Twinlow Camp has a new Camp Director! Her name is Kristen Moon and she was hired in March. She has been on staff for several years as a Program Director and in January took over as Interim Director for a few months. We are excited to have her as the new director and look forward to working with Kristen. Visit twinlow.org for more information.

- Ocean Park Camp is in the midst of constructing their new zip line and in addition to hosting camps and retreats, also runs the Love, Laughter & Learning Center for preschool age children. Please visit opretreat.org for more information.

- And Camp Indianola had a big jump in summer camp enrollment this past summer and is looking to continue that trend going into this summer. Visit campindianola.org for more information.

- Our executive director, Alan Rogstad, took a well-deserved sabbatical this past summer and we thank him for all the amazing work he does for camping in the PNW Conference.

- Two of our sites with be hosting LGBTQI camps this summer. One will be for youth at Ocean Park and one will be at Twinlow for adults. We are grateful to have four welcoming camps in the PNW Conference!

- CBS is close to finishing the process of updating our strategic plan. Thank you to everyone that filled out the CBS survey. It helped our process of visioning with the ultimate goal of continuing the health and vitality of our campsites for many years to come.

Thank you to all those who serve on CBS, and to those who work and volunteer for our camps. It has been an honor to serve on CBS since 2011 and I am grateful for the opportunity. If you have not done so already, we invite you to visit our website www.pnwcamps.org and see how you can get involved. We thank you for your time, your prayers, your gifts and any way that you have supported camping this past year.

Peter Fraser, Chair of Camping Board Of Stewards
The work of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church is to advocate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the church and society. As Christians, we are called to bring healing, justice, and love to our broken hurting world. Our Social Principles guide us as United Methodist to speak out on societal concerns and work toward a society that provides justice for all. The PNW Conference Board of Church and Society seeks to provide resources for biblically based social justice to our local congregations, as well as connect them with the resources of the General Board.

At last year’s Annual Conference, our Peace with Justice Coordinator, Rev. Dave Wright, presented the Peace with Justice Award to Goldendale UMC in support of the Big River Youth Council’s participation in the Leadership Development Unit Conference, and to Ellensburg UMC for their Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) program. The MLK award went to Rev. Karen Yokota Love.

We held two Social Principles workshops last spring. One was at Federal Way UMC, and the other at Spokane Valley UMC. Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers, Director for Annual Conference Relations at the General Board of Church and Society, led the workshops.

This year we continued to work on our areas of focus of our board for this quadrennium, which are Climate Justice, Systemic-Racial Oppression, Economic Justice, and Engagement with the parish – helping the parish engage the issues. The Conference Board seeks to be a two-way link between the General Board and the local churches in the PNW. We are working to find ways to accomplish this. Along with our Facebook page and web page linked from the PNWUMC page, we encourage all local churches to have a social justice advocate or church and society focal point, per ¶252.2 in the 2016 Book of Discipline. We are working on email lists so that we can be in regular contact with the social justice advocate or lay member from each local church. These lists are used to address advocacy needs and opportunities relevant to each District, our Conference, National, or Global concerns.

The board is also making efforts to lift up the advocacy work of the Faith Action Network, Earth Ministry, and other regional faith-based justice networks.

In January, the board sponsored Rev. Ruth Marston and Rev. Katy Shedlock for the Young Adult Clergy Forum in Washington DC. They returned with new ideas for engaging their faith in the public square. Katy was moved by the idea of “the liturgy of the neighborhood.” She said perhaps the most valuable thing she learned was that the “dichotomy between ‘social justice pastors’ and ‘congregation builders’ that I have observed among my colleagues, is flawed on both sides. What is the point of building up the local church if not to use its power to make an impact on the most pressing injustices of our time? And what is the point of public advocacy as a Christian minister if it is not rooted in the life and needs of the community?” Ruth suggested an idea of an organized walk (hundreds of miles), carrying the names of those hurt, killed, or otherwise affected by gun violence, and then perhaps “take a few guns and turn ‘em into garden tools too.” This conference continues to be a meaningful experience for all who attend!

The board will bring Heather White, Professor of Religion and Gender/Queer studies at the University of Puget Sound, to speak during Annual Conference this year. This event will be during a lunch or dinner and will be publicized during Annual Conference. Please look for the information and plan to attend!

I would like to thank the members of the board for your faithful work toward justice!

Ann Mayer, Chair
OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Our current backdrop of ministry: A dividing divided church.

The 2019 special called session of General Conference has clearly placed The United Methodist Church in a posture of deep division. Not many would have been able to predict the actual outcome of the votes. Even less anticipated is the multi-layered pain that the conference has brought to conservatives, centrists and progressives alike. The fountain of pain and deep division seems to have gone deeper and wider than the fountain of hope and unity we have tried so hard to define for the past 50 years.

As a lifelong United Methodist, I believe this is one of our darkest moments in time. Stories from mainline media, social media, blogs, vlogs, board and agency meetings, local church gatherings and one-on-one conversations all lead to several questions needing to be answered:

- How are we going to navigate this deep division in the church?
- Is this leading to a split in the denomination?
- Is this the end of United Methodism as we know it?
- Who will lead us through these wandering moments in our life as a denomination?

To many, these questions (and the discussions associated with them) have become so numbing that the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world has been deeply affected.

As conference staff, we hear and experience the pain and frustration throughout the connection. And yet, there are many who want to continue on with their ministries. Ready to face the daily challenges in their communities willing to give their gifts and resources to what matters most in their mission field. There is pain, but hope is not overrun by fear. So, we continue to do our best in supporting those who are in need, listening to those who want to share, and being in ministry with the many who feel alone and lonely and need to be part of a welcoming community of faith.

A Technical and Adaptive resource for the conference.

I am often asked the question: What is the Office of Connectional Ministries (OCM)? What do you do as Director of Connectional Ministries?

Once in a while I get (mistakenly) introduced as Director of Correctional Ministries. Believe me, someways I wish my title was as definitive and focused as one who works in Correctional Ministries. But the job title nor the job is that contained. The work of the office is one both adaptive and technical that expands to connections with the Western Jurisdiction, General Agencies, Central Conferences, Ecumenical Boards and Agencies and even beyond our faith-based community.

The 2012 United Methodist Book of Discipline calls the director of connectional ministries to work with the bishop, cabinet and elected conference leaders fulfill four primary responsibilities:

1. Serve as steward of the conference’s vision and mission,
2. Lead a continuous process of transformation and renewal,
3. Ensure alignment of conference resources with the vision, and
4. Ensure healthy connections among local churches, districts, the conference and the general church.

My daily responsibility begins with being team leader of the OCM staff, who have very varied job descriptions and responsibilities. Some are so unique; you would only find them in our setting (e.g. Transitional Ministry Developer). However, these responsibilities are connected to all that goes on and in the life of the annual conference and episcopal area. It starts with the qualifier that Team OCM is composed of personnel that bring technical and/or adaptive abilities and strengths.
CHANGES WITHIN

Two years before the launch of the Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team) of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area, the OCM worked closely with the Bishop and Area Cabinet, Treasurer’s Office(s), Council on Finance and Administration, Connectional Table and the Board of Congregational Development in implementing the vision, work and future of the IV Team. The collaborative process was both technical and adaptive. Moving forward in this new direction meant the connectional structure had to be rethought and allowed to shift in order to bring major changes to the Office of Connectional Ministries.

A NEW VIEW

Here’s a view of how the creation of the IV Team has shifted the resourcing of the OCM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 PNW OCM Budget</td>
<td>$1,093,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 PNW OCM Budget</td>
<td>$1,106,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Connectional Ministries Budget</td>
<td>$1,032,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV Team (GNW Episcopal Area)</td>
<td>$325,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCM (PNW)</td>
<td>$707,095</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For 2019, here is a pie chart that spells out the percentages of the OCM budget ($707,095).

PNW Connectional Ministries Staff

- Executive Director of Connectional Ministries
- Director of Communications, Ministries with Young People
- Program Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- Transition Ministry Developer (*Special Appointment*)
- Coordinator of Hispanic/Latinx Ministries
- Office Manager/Assistant
- Publication Manager/Creation Care Advocate
- Help Desk Manager
- Regional Media Center Manager
- Regional Media Center Technician

*Rev. David Valera, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries*
The primary goal of the Board of Congregational Development (BoCD) is to be a good steward of the financial resources with which we have been entrusted. With one of the largest budgets in the conference, we are responsible for oversight and accountability of funding for new church plants, church revitalization efforts, and leadership development projects. We do this by working with the Greater Northwest Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team), district superintendents, and conference staff. Our board includes lay, clergy, district superintendents, and conference staff.

In another report, members of the IV Team will describe their work creating new places for new people, revitalizing churches, and developing church leaders. The BoCD and IV Team focus on Inclusion, Innovation, and Multiplication as our core areas of effort. Inherent in that work is the need for visionary leadership at all levels. It takes proven leadership to plant churches, revitalize existing congregations, and develop church leaders that are culturally competent and connected to their communities.

Our work as a board is expanding to a more regional perspective and closer integration with the Oregon-Idaho (OR-ID) and Alaska Conference groups responsible for similar development work. Moving forward, we expect an intentional effort to pool resources across the episcopal area when projects have the potential to be replicated.

In an effort to shift from the traditional programmatic approach to congregational development, the BoCD is focusing resources to produce hopeful outcomes in new leadership, new people, and new places. We will equip innovative pastors and local churches to better understand their context, use proven entrepreneurial practices, and focus on community engagement. We see four areas where we must focus our resources to gain the most development potential:

- Intercultural Competency – becoming more culturally competent in order to effectively communicate and engage cross-culturally, on a personal and church level
- Faith-based Community Organizing – learning how to listen to neighbors and build relationships and partnerships which improve the community
- Asset-based Community Development – this is less about doing things for people and more about partnering with what is already happening in the community
- Intentional Multiplication – with a strong foundation in Wesleyan disciple-making, we seek to develop leaders who develop leaders and create new places for new people

To replicate the creative ideas and best practices discovered by our local churches and leveraged by the IV Team, we envision Centers of Vitality in key geographic areas. These multicultural hubs will offer training, resources, creative collaboration, and community engagement. Key areas of emphasis include recruiting and equipping leaders that are as diverse as our communities, particularly persons of color.

Not forgetting our churches located in more isolated areas, we are working with district superintendents in the PNW and OR-ID conferences to promote the Rural Church Initiative. The RCI allows smaller rural churches to pool resources and provide accessibility for training and sharing of best practices. This allows the IV Team to maximize its resources and reach out to geographic groupings of churches across traditional district and conference boundaries.

The Board of Congregational Development is looking for lay and clergy members with a passion for innovation, people who can manage risk, and those with a spirit of resilience. Board members also need to be able to recognize and instill those qualities in others. If you feel called to be on the cutting edge of inclusion, innovation, and multiplication, join us on the BoCD.

David Reinholz, Interim Board Chairperson
EARLY RESPONSE TEAM MISSION SUMMARY
REPORT TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON 2018 EFFORTS

Building upon the 2017 ERT program growth and outreach, 2018 was a year of expanding assets, relationships and new ways to serve in disaster response missions. Most significantly, I recruited, coordinated and implemented the first comprehensive Western Jurisdiction multi-ERT missions to Beaufort, NC in response to Hurricane Florence. I also established a mutually beneficial relationship with the Benton County Fire District #4 to securely store and easily access the Conference-owned two shower and two tools trailers. I also either staffed and/or helped manage two county-led disaster assistance centers. The following is a summary of those accomplishments:

• Coordinated installation of the new Greater Northwest Episcopal area logo for the three new Greater Northwest Episcopal Area shower trailers with the Alaska and Oregon-Idaho Disaster Response Coordinators.

• Worked with ERT members Dana Bryson and Dave Riddle to inspect, repair, develop operations manuals and outfit the new two- and three-stall shower trailers to be in a ready state for deployment. Dana, Dave and ERT members Lynn and Dennis Magnuson enabled the three-stall trailer to be towed from Eastern Washington to the Lazy F for pick up by Alaska DRC Dan Wilcox onto its home in Alaska.

• Established a partnership with the Benton Franklin Fire District 4 in West Richland to permanently store the PNW Conference’s two ERT tool trailers and two shower trailers in a 24/7 assembly area and secured storage lot. This was in response to long range planning for a Cascadia Subduction event and more secure storage for the Conference’s trailer and supply assets.

• Represented the Early Response Team program at the June PNW Annual Conference in Puyallup. Showcased the two-stall “little shower trailer” and a tool trailer as “open houses” during the event.

• As a result of the Annual Conference showcase, met with and toured the shower trailers at length with a volunteer team from Walla Walla’s Pioneer UMC considering a shower trailer for their homeless mission.

• Planned, coordinated, implemented and instructed at the Second Annual ERT “Spring Training” May 10-12 at the Lazy F Camp and Retreat for a total of 22 participants. Also hosted a Western Jurisdiction ERT “Train the Trainer” class during the Spring Training for seven new Western Jurisdiction ERT trainers.

• Supported an ERT Chainsaw mission to Okanogan County at the request of the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group (OCLTRG). Five qualified ERT chainsaw members responded serving a total of 80 hours felling trees and clearing debris.

• Assembled and participated on an ERT Site Assessment Team to Okanogan County upon request of an OCLTRG “pay it forward” response effort for families not served during a May flood event in the county. Visited and assessed five families and provided a report to the OCLTRG for next steps.

• As a result of the site assessment mission assembled, coordinated and led a July 29 - August 1 ERT mission to the Okanogan County in support of the May flood survivors. Four families were served through muck out, debris hauling, and dump runs for a total of 169 volunteer hours.

• Continued the May flood event and OCLTRG “Up from the Ashes” rebuild support by towing the two-stall shower trailer to Omak UMC to serve VIM teams and ERTs. Multiple volunteer teams tallied up about 85 showers during the “little shower trailer’s” first mission.

ERT 2018 “AT A GLANCE”

Disaster Responses: 6
“In the Field” Volunteer Hours: 1,634
Showers in the “Little Shower Trailer”: 85
In coordination with the OCLTRG and case manager, returned to the Okanogan County with a small team to serve the May flood event survivors September 23-28 through a coordinated ERT/VIM team effort for four families and a total of 168 volunteer hours.

Attended the October 10-11 Western Jurisdiction UMVIM Retreat, Disaster Response Session at the Alton Collins Retreat Center outside of Troutdale, Oregon. Provided training input and offered training services for the upcoming Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy hosted by the Desert Southwest Conference in Phoenix March 2019.

Took the lead on recruiting, coordinating and deploying three back-to-back ERTs with members from the Western Jurisdiction traveling to Beaufort, North Carolina, Oct. 28th through Nov. 18th to muck out homes damaged by Hurricane Florence. Teams consisted of ERT-trained volunteers from the Pacific Northwest, Oregon-Idaho, Mountain Sky, California-Nevada and the Desert Southwest Conferences – 22 people in total for the largest Western Jurisdiction-level ERT coordinated disaster response to date. Led the third ERT mission. The three ERTs served a total of 19 families in the least-served areas of Carteret County contributing approximately 962 hours of volunteer labor.

Staffed a California-Pacific Conference (Cal-Pac) disaster response table for two days in November at the Los Angeles County-managed Agoura Hills Disaster Assistance Center providing support and services to the Woolsey Fire survivors. Cal-Pac UMC gave out gas cards, ash sifters, masks, Tyvek as one of 40 participating agencies.

Attended the Dec 11 Cal-Pac Disaster Response Task Force Meeting in Irvine, Ca. Asked to be the point of contact with FEMA as Project Coordinator for potential Saipan UMC volunteer support in response to Super Typhoon Yutu.

PNW Disaster Response and Early Response Team member, managing the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management’s Community Recovery Center in response to the December 18 Port Orchard tornado. Responsibilities included Incident Coordination Deputy, Public Information Officer, ERT Coordinator. Tasks included acting, when necessary, for Incident Coordination lead Jim Truitt, communicating with ERT members for potential response, in-field damage assessments, interfacing with survivors and volunteers, communicating with local government agencies and media. Participated in initial meeting of the Tornado Recovery Committee (Long Term Recovery Group) with more than 30 state/county/local government, business, non-profit and service organizations. Attended the Kitsap County DEM-led town hall meeting focused on communications between survivors, volunteers and support agencies. Served in the Community Recovery Center beginning Dec. 28 and continued into 2019. As of Dec. 31, 2018: 215 total ERT volunteer hours.

Kathy Bryson, PNW Early Response Team Coordinator
Your Commission on Ethnic Ministries continues to reflect our Conference priorities of funding projects that increase ethnic inclusion and uplift ministry and programmatic innovation - as we support ethnic ministries and programs that are reaching out to struggling, under served and disconnected communities of color across our region. We give thanks that through your apportionment giving, your churches and ministries are partnering with us in this good work that is blessing many, and creating and spreading a vital energy and spirit throughout our Annual Conference!

The two main vehicles for the disbursement of these financial resources....

NEW LIFE GRANTS, for Vital and Growing Ethnic and Linguistic Faith Communities prompts faith communities to take discipleship into their neighborhoods, responding to the current and emerging needs of their communities and ministries, seeking to bring a new and renewing spirit that touches lives and builds relationships, in the name of Jesus Christ.

In 2019, the Commission awarded grants to the following ministries that are doing good works for ethnic ministries and communities....

- **HIGHLINE UMC** received a $3,200 grant to support the development of Se Sabio Educando, a parenting education program for 1st and 2nd Generation Latino parents with young children living in the Burien community.
- **TOPPENISH, NEW HARVEST UMC** received a third year of funding, this year $4,000, to continue events designed to meet needs and introduce The United Methodist Church to their surrounding community.
- **SQUAMISH FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP, B.C. CANADA**, a new start Filipino/Canadian community, received a $4,500 grant to support the purchase of audio visual worship resources for the relocation of their ministry to a new building.
- **LA PALABRA VIVIENTE** received a second year of funding, this year $4,000, for their outreach programs to continue to build relationship among Hispanic/Latino families in the area.
- **GRACE UMC** received a $5,000 grant to support the creation and development of a Youth Resource Center housed in their church, specifically designed to reach out to youth in the community by creating a bridge to the church.

BEYOND THE DOORS, Mission Field Engagement provides a three-year grant ($3,900 a year with a 10% decline per year) for faith communities to employ a worker to coordinate outreach programs or do outreach work that invites racial/ethnic (persons of color) and linguistic communities (first language other than English) into relationship with the United Methodist Church locally. BEYOND THE DOORS focuses on the mission field of the established faith community and supports the faith community in ministry beyond its doors. All ministries of the PNW Conference are eligible to apply.

In 2019, one church will receive the third year of funding to continue their work through the support of our Grants...

- **VALLEY AND MOUNTAIN UMC** moves into its final year of funding for outreach to young multicultural families in Seattle.

As well, 2019 moved these ministries into the second year of our funding cycles....

- **FOWLER UMC** in Spokane is building relationship with African immigrant populations in Spokane.
NEW HARVEST MINISTRY in Toppenish is building relationships among younger Hispanic/Latinx families in the area.

And in this round of grants, the following ministry was welcomed into the first year of our funding cycle....

MOUNT VERNON UMC received $3,900 to secure an Outreach Worker who will serve and reach out to the growing Hispanic Community in their city, seeking to connect their ministry to their emerging needs.

In addition, your apportioned giving supports leadership and spiritual development of ethnic leaders, lay and clergy, emerging and mature, for the mission of the church, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

ETHNIC CLERGY SPIRITUAL FORMATION - In 2019, the Commission will support ethnic clergy to attend the Two Year Academy for Spiritual Formation, a significant personal commitment on the part of clergy with minimal support from the Board of Ordained Ministry.

ETHNIC YOUTH CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS - In 2018, 15 racial/ethnic young people attended camp on scholarship, which also enhances the camp experience for young people of the majority culture.

CONVOCATION/CONFERENCE YOUTH RETREAT SCHOLARSHIPS - In 2018, 26 ethnic young people were granted half and quarter-time support to attend Convocation, with young people receiving a smaller grant this year in order to extend the funding to more participants.

CHRISTMAS INSTITUTE - Filipino, Filipino-American, Filipino-Canadian young adults lead a 5-day retreat for junior and senior high youth. Christmas Institute continues to be a catalyst to activate young people in their local churches and communities, and in some cases to hear and discern a call into ordained ministry.

ETHNIC CAUCUS SUPPORT - Enables ethnic leadership gatherings for fellowship, support, training and advocacy

COEM SPECIAL GRANTS - The commission provided support for a number of special projects and emerging new needs that continued or arose in 2018.

TACOMA: FIRST KOREAN UMC increased its staffing to reach English-speaking Koreans (1.5 or 2nd generation) and English-speaking spouses of Korean immigrants.

WILBUR MEMORIAL UMC received support to fund a position for a Yakama laywoman to develop programs to serve young people in the community.

SUNNYSIDE HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY received funds for Joel Rodriguez to serve their community.

NOOKSACK INDIAN UMC, a Native American ministry that is sustained by lay leadership from the area.

Supported the second year of PROJECT TRANSFORMATION. While this project was not sustainable beyond 2018, it did excellent work of connecting congregations with diverse communities, connecting young people with the work of ministry, and connecting children and families with summer resources to sustain or surpass grade level expectations.

As we look to 2019 and 2020, a new vision is emerging for the Commission on Ethnic Ministries, as we have worked with our Conference leadership, and been encouraged by our Bishop to seize a creative and innovative spirit in our work with you....
• BEING PROACTIVE RATHER THAN REACTIVE IN SEEKING OUT PLACES FOR INNOVATION - The Commission on Ethnic Ministries has most often functioned as a reactive body that waits for funding requests to come from ethnic ministry hubs; however our unfolding vision is to be more proactive in seeking out and unearthing places and people where there is great potential for vital ethnic ministries to be birthed and to flourish.

• Developing STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS with the Cabinet, Conference staff on the Innovation Vi- tality Team, Board of Congregational Development and the Board of Ordained Ministry as well as local churches and ministries, in an effort to engage this proactive, innovative, developmental spirit across our Annual Conference.

• In embracing the understanding that all churches and ministries - both dominant and non-dominant - are called to be OPEN AND INCLUSIVE SPIRITUAL CENTERS AND HOMES for ethnic persons who reside in their communities, our vision is to identify places of untapped potential across our Annual Conference, and train churches and leaders to build culturally appropriate bridges between disconnected populations: to serve these communities in their needs to be sure, but also to open doors to the vital energy that these communities and people can bring into a ministry and program, and into our Annual Conference.

Our 2020 budget reflects these new visions and priorities.

We are excited for the new opportunities and possibilities that are being created even now for just such a time as this, when we all long for an energizing Pentecost spirit to blow through our doors and windows, and en- liven our ministries in ways that we cannot even begin to imagine. We truly believe that these possibilities lie in part with the ethnic communities that are in your neighborhoods and around your ministries, who are longing for someone or something to offer a beacon of light and hope that will reveal the power of transformation, healing, wholeness and love that comes in Jesus, who is Christ for us and for the world. And our encourage- ment is that you all will look around your neighborhoods and in your communities, and see the untapped potentials that are all around you, and be bridge builders to your ministries that will surely be a blessing to others, but find as well that these new persons and communities will surely be a blessing to you, and bring a transform- ing, healing and hopeful spirit into your faith communities. May God be with us, and with you all, in this holy and hopeful endeavor!

Rev. Derek Nakano, Chair of Commission on Ethnic Ministries
CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
REPORT TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR 2018 YEAR

The Conference Board of Global Ministries is a program committee, the Mission ‘arm’ of our conference. The Board consists of representatives from many areas of activity. Mission is what helps our churches to grow and reach out to others. This may be local, conference wide, jurisdiction wide, or globally. We are the United Methodist Church in action!

All programming and spending is done with the question: “How does this educate, enable, and empower the local church to be in mission?”

PNW CREATION CARE – CINDY HAVERKAMP

Cindy began having conversations with local churches about their work in creation care, and brought back a regular publication. She also strengthened our ties with our ecumenical partners. We will miss her commitment and look forward to continuing this work in the annual conference.

MISSION U – REV. CAROL MARIANO

Mission u faced some challenges in 2018 because fewer than anticipated attended and Mission u was forced to use reserves, but the numbers anticipated has been changed for 2019. Again, gifted leaders and teachers led participants through timely classes, helping each to learn more generally and specifically about the role of mission in the world and in our lives.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN – JANET’ CROUSE

The purpose of UMW includes participation in the global ministries of the church through the pledge to mission supporting U.S. and international mission agencies. District and local UMW raise these funds. On CBGM, UMW coordinates with other programs and shares leadership for Mission u.

PNW EARLY RESPONSE TEAM – KATHY BRYSON

See separate report included in Pre-Conference Handbook.

JAMAA LETU ORPHANAGES/HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA – ERIC SPARKMAN

The Bishop’s task force continues to consider the deep issues of our extended family in the Democratic Republic of Congo and what the best way forward for us might be. We grieve the loss of our co-chair Rev. Jon Short and his joyful enthusiasm for ministry with children and youth is deeply missed. The team hopes to move forward with some of his joy and maybe a few of his puns.

Other leadership changes on The Bishop’s task Force include Barbara Dadd Shaffer stepping down from the chair position in 2017. Barbara continues to help with scholarships for the college age orphans. She was succeeded by Rev. Jon Short and Eric Sparkman as co-chairs. After Jon’s death Rev. Bruce Smith assumed the role of co-chair. In 2018, Rose Mangini stepped back as orphan sponsor coordinator. Her dedicated work for the orphans and local churches will be missed.

This past year a team of six people visited the orphanages of Jamaa Letu in Lumbumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The team included Rev. Kristin Joyner, Rev. Bruce Smith, Betsy Broom, Sarah Kimsey, Bryn Martin and Dianne Weaver. Their task was to interview 24 university students who have grown up in the orphanages and to record their stories. They have published a book “Stories from the Congo” that is available through Wesley United Methodist Church for $25 as a fundraiser for the continuing support of our University students. Their stories are the personal accounts of how the Jamaa Letu orphanages have been making a difference over these past 20 years.
The success of the orphanages is raising new questions for the Bishop’s task force. What is the right way for us to be in relationship with the young adults who still need support? What are the appropriate expectations we have for the local churches to continue support of the orphanages? How will we be in relationship through this moment of denominational divisions and changes?

We would like to thank the many who continue to contribute to the ministry of the orphanages. Your gifts through collecting coins in the “Jars for Jamaa Letu” are transforming lives. We invite you to join us in prayer for the ministry of the task force as we continue to seek a way forward for all of those whose lives we have touched through this ministry of the Annual Conference.

**GLOBAL MISSIONS FELLOWS PROGRAM – PAUL MITCHELL, SEATAC AFFILIATE CO-ORDINATOR**

The Global Mission Fellows Program is a 2-year mission service opportunity of the General Board of Global Ministries for young adult PNW CBGMs, ages 20-30, to work in social justice ministries. The program is organized into geographic “Affiliates” led by “Affiliate Coordinators” who are involved in recruiting, interviewing, selecting, assigning, supporting and evaluating the fellows. In our case, the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference is the affiliate entity and Rev. Paul Mitchell is the designated Affiliate Coordinator. The GMF Affiliate Team includes Rev. David Valera, Teri Tobey, Rev. Kathleen Weber, and Rev. Pat Simpson. Our affiliate currently has one fellow placed at Tacoma Community House. The goal is to maintain at least four fellows and four placements with two new fellows each year in order to provide mutual support in a cohort. We are in the early stages of expanding the affiliate to include placements in immigration related ministries in Western and Central Washington. We also hope to support new conversations about development of young adult leadership development opportunities across the Greater Northwest Area.

**PNW – VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION – CHERYL REAGAN**

UMVIM teams travel throughout our conference, and the world, bringing assistance to those rebuilding after disasters or seeking to improve their ministry settings.

Culture diversity is increasingly critical, and we would like to see us recruiting young adults particularly those that can speak Spanish to be interpreters for VIM teams going to Spanish speaking mission locations. As we send teams to other regions with other language barriers, we can look at recruiting for that need as well. Whether working at the border or outside our border, they would be a great asset.

I travel throughout the conference doing trainings for those wishing to lead UMVIM teams, and we also send individuals to group training events to create a greater base of trained team leaders.

As with anything, the volunteers over time start to age out, whether in physical abilities or their actual age. It is important to keep encouraging the youth in our churches to become involved in Mission. Cheney UMC sent a 2 youth on my last 2 UMVIM trips to Hurricane Harvey recovery (brother and sister).

This is their statement after returning:

> “Our mission trip was amazing! To give someone their house back, there’s few words to describe the feeling. It was so much fun getting to meet new people and to listen to how the hurricane had affected them. But they didn’t let the hurricane stop them from enjoying their life. The Kings were very welcoming and helpful in the process of rebuilding. We were greeted in the drive way by Mr. King who was very ready and so were we. The trip was a blast and a once in a life-time experience. I think it is our duty as Christians to give both hands when only one is needed and to be there for our community no matter the circumstance. I’m thankful for the opportunity and blessed with the experience."

— Ty and Jenna Mansfield
UMVIM – WESTERN JURISDICTION – RONDA CORDILL, WJ COORDINATOR

The primary goal of the UMVIM WJ program is to ‘connect and empower short term volunteers to be servants of Jesus Christ around the world’. This is being accomplished through training the team leaders focusing on the use of ‘Best Practices for Short Term Mission Teams’.

Accomplishments in 2018:

Preliminary estimates show that the UMVIM program of the Western Jurisdiction has sent out more than 1600 volunteers on 152 teams contributing 10,000 days of service in 2018. These teams served in more than 20 countries world-wide and in more than five states outside of the jurisdiction. All the Annual Conferences in the WJ have received and sent UMVIM teams to serve at established UMVIM sites including Disaster and Long-Term Recovery Teams within the Jurisdiction.

The following activities were completed during 2018:

- **Team Leader Training with ‘Best Practices’ Updated:**
  - The UMVIM WJ Team Leader Training Manual has been revised.
  - Standardized team form templates have been updated.
  - Insurance paperwork and associated process have developed and on the website for all teams to register and request insurance.
  - All UMVIM AC Coordinators received training using a new training curriculum developed by the UMVIM Jurisdictional Coordinators which included Servant Leadership, Adult Teaching Theories, Ministry of Care when working with disaster victims, and youth teams using a curriculum entitled, ‘It’s Your Mission’.

- **Strengthen the connection between the Annual Conferences UMVIM and Disaster Response Leadership Teams**, with UMCOR assisting with the effort to support the work of disaster preparedness and recovery after the disaster has occurred.
  - Joint UMVIM ACC and CDRCs with UMCOR Representative met for 2 days at the Fall ACC Meeting Oct. 10-11, 2018. Good progress toward that collaboration.
  - Five Disaster Coordinators from the WJ along with the UMVIM WJ Coordinator met for a week-long training at Sager hosted by UMCOR.
  - Ten Early Response Team trainings (more than 150 individuals) were conducted in the Jurisdiction in 2018 by UMCOR ERT Trainers from the Jurisdiction.
  - In 2018, more than 55 Early Response Teams and Long-Term Recovery Teams were deployed to various disaster sites in Texas, North Carolina, California (Cal/Pac and Cal/Nev), and PNW.
  - Four ERT/LTR teams have served in Puerto Rico in 2018.
  - We are currently working on 2019 Disaster Academy in Scottsdale, AZ on March 28-31, 2019.

- **Increase awareness of and participation in the UMVIM program throughout the jurisdiction.**
  - A new website was launched using UMCOM’s WordPress and routine updated with current information on teams and training.
  - WJ UMVIM Newsletter - sent monthly to more than 650 people. Updated Newsletter format to be archived on the Website.
  - Attended the UMW Assembly in May in Ohio.

- **Increased and sustainable funding of UMVIM WJ Program**
  - The UMVIM WJ program is currently supported through a General Board of Global Ministries grant, with assistance from the WJ and the individual ACs. This is used to support a contracted WJ UMVIM Coordinator at 30 hours per week and the associated travel.
Since July 2017, the WJ has provided team insurance to UMVIM teams in the jurisdiction.

Designed giving can be given through The Advance UMVIM WJ #901 463.

**Establish and strengthen connections** between UMIVIM Volunteers and local, national, and world-wide UMVIM sites.

- Six AC UMVIM Coordinators attended the Global Ministries Summit in Atlanta, GA in December 2018. We learned more about Global Ministries, the Four Mission Goals, and how we, as UMVIM Annual Conference Coordinators, can be more effective in our work.
- Information from sites and Global Ministries is disseminated to the ACC and published in the WJ UMVIM Newsletter monthly.
- The WJ Coordinator met twice with other Jurisdictional Coordinators and Global Ministries in Atlanta.

**Education for UMVIM Annual Conference Coordinators (ACC):**

- Conducted an UMVIM team leader training using the new UMVIM Team Leader Curriculum developed by the jurisdictional coordinators for all the ACC UMVIM Coordinators and 2 UMVIM Conference Team Leader Trainers (Cal/Nev and Cal/Pac are expanding their teams as well or provided orientation to the new Annual Conference Coordinator. Welcome Cheryl Reagan (PNW).
- The Jurisdictional Coordinator assisted with training of Mission Volunteers (formally Individual Volunteer) in New Mexico in October.
- Quarterly conference calls and monthly email updates are sent out by the WJ Coordinator on educational topics including team development.
- Explored and developed an ‘Immigration Immersion’ in Tucson AZ in October assisted by members of JFON, which will be initiated April 1st - 4th with AC Coordinators and other members from JFON.

**Action Plan for 2019:**

- Support the current UMVIM/Disaster Leadership Teams and assist other AC as needed to:
  - Standardize approach to ‘Best Practices’ of Background Checks and Safe Gatherings education
  - Develop a strong Disaster Ministry focusing on preparedness (Connecting Neighbors) and during a disaster.
- Using the updated WJ UMVIM Team Leader Training toolkit, the AC Coordinators and Team Leader Trainers will conduct Team Leader Trainings throughout the Conferences, encouraging teams to follow ‘Best Practices' and demonstrate the benefits of being an UMVIM team.
- Continue to increase awareness of UMVIM through social media and by developing 1-2 videos to be shown at Annual Conferences, other mission and awareness events and will be on the website.
- In Fall 2019, ACC educational meeting will be conducted in Salt Lake City (agenda yet to be determined.)
- Alternative UMVIM team types will be developed such as the Immigration Immersion which will be offered at least 3 times in 2019. One of the teams will be focused on youth and young adults.
- The Jurisdictional Coordinator will attend Youth 2019 in Kansas City in July highlighting the youth sites in the WJ
- Update the list of current WJ UMVIM WJ sites placed on website through Zee maps.
- Increase funding through use of the Advance and UMVIM Team Insurance with goal of $6,000 annually.

UMVIM Western Jurisdiction Programs wants to thank you for your support over the past year, it is much appreciated.
CONFERENCE SECRETARY OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES – MARILYN REID

Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries and District Secretaries serve as the connection between GBGM and the conference, districts and local churches. We provide mission resources, support mission events and train district mission secretaries.

Each year we have a Mission Luncheon Event at Annual Conference to meet and introduce Missionaries and to promote Mission Anywhere2gether.

2018 included the following:

- Coordinated itineration for missionaries itinerating the PNW
- Continued to promote Mission Anywhere2gether
- Published articles about the missionaries that itinerated the PNW
- Recruited, trained and nurtured District Mission Secretaries
- Attended annual WJ of Conference Mission Secretaries and shared what’s happening in the PNW
- Hosted Mission Luncheon Event at Annual Conference to introduce and promote Missionary works

The following missionaries itinerated and will itinerate the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area for 2019:

a. Katherine Parker – March 1- 18, 2019; June 27- August 19, 2019
   Note: Katherine Parker is one of the study leaders for Mission u

b. Rev. Paul Jeffrey – April 28- June 3, 2019

c. Desiree Segura–April and Osias Segura-Guzman – June 6-, 2019
   They will be attending Annual Conference and will speak during the Mission Lunch.

Lynn Magnuson, Chair of Conference Board of Global Ministries
Dear Partners in Ministry,

Greetings! I look forward to connecting in Puyallup this June. Here is a summary of what’s been going on at the Foundation since the last time we gathered as an Annual Conference.

We’ve trained our two new Associate Directors, Julia Frisbie and Rev. David Nieda. Both bring long histories of service to the church and multiple skills and talents to the job. Their responsibilities are to work with me in providing resources directly to you. With Julia and David onboard, our capacity to respond to your needs has increased dramatically. From July 2018 to May 2019, we’ve given 36 presentations and workshops in local churches across the Episcopal Area!

We’ve also developed more resources for your church, which are available on our new website. Visit nwumf.org/resources for updated brochures. See nwumf.org/news to find the articles you may have seen in our conference newsletter. Our latest audited financial statements are available at nwumf.org/audits. Our prayer is that, when your church needs planned giving and endowment support, it will be easier than ever for you to reach us, and what we provide will be better than ever.

Our partnership with Wespath continues to work well. Just like UMCOR allows us to do more in the mission field than any of our churches could do alone, Wespath allows us to pool our money and have a bigger positive impact in the global financial markets. In the aftermath of General Conference 2019, the UMC faces an uncertain future. Because we are an independent entity, we intend to continue partnering with all the churches we serve today and more. So far, our relationship with Wespath has supported this goal, and we remain pleased with both their financial and social returns.

The stock market continues to be volatile. In late 2018, we experienced the correction that many expected after 2017’s bull market. But in early 2019, our investments earned back the value lost in 2018 and more. What does this mean for long-term investors like you? Because you plan to ride out the highs and lows, you can remain confident and focused on the long term. Our advice is don’t look! The funds that you hold with the Foundation are broadly diversified. Wespath hires world-class managers with a variety of specialties to carry out multiple strategies in almost every sector (barring our ethical exclusions, of course). This is diversification upon diversification. It’s our best protection against ongoing volatility.

For those invested in our Stable Value Fund, you are probably aware of the gradual increases in return that it has earned over the last couple of years. As of mid-April the annualized return has exceeded 3%. This is an excellent return on a very liquid, high credit quality, portfolio.

The Foundation’s assets under management have continued to grow. In 2018, we had over $10 million in new deposits. It’s our privilege to offer you a faith-based approach to investing that is broadly diversified and gets great returns. Thank you for your trust in us. It’s a gift that we never take for granted.

Sincerely,

Tom Wilson, Executive Director
Introduction

This is my third year of my second term serving as Chairperson of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP). I have served on the board for 16 years, eight as Secretary. The board meets twice a year, generally on the first Saturday of March and November, in addition to conference calls/emails throughout the year to address other issues as may arise.

Our conference continues to be served by our Conference Benefits Officer (CBO), Bruce Galvin, in his 43rd year with the Conference! Bruce is highly respected by Wespath Benefits and Investments in Chicago, and by other CBO’s around the country. He continues to bring thoughtful recommendations to the board and provides us with enough information to have vigorous discussions as a board and make what I always believe to be decisions in the best interest of the active and retired clergy we proudly serve. His professionalism and grace this year, given the difficult year he has had personally, is an inspiration to the entire board, and we continue to hold him in our prayers as he adjusts to this new phase in his life.

Members of this dedicated board include:

Jeffrey Johnson (Vice-Chair)  Bill Edom  Pam Brokaw
Crystal Natland (Secretary) Marty Fortin, Jr. Elizabeth Ingram Schindler
Sarah Achterhof Dennis Magnuson
Julleen Snyder John Weston
Joyce O’Connor-Magee Ilaise Folau
Jim Odiorne Gloria Kynn

Non-voting members: John Shaffer, Rik Jamieson, Brant Henshaw, Mark Galang, Paula Whitbeck (Wespath Conference Liaison) and Bruce Galvin.

Pension Board Subsidies

For many years the Board has provided subsidies to offset some of the benefit costs for local churches and pastors. Four years history is shown below. Endowment earnings have provided the following funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019 (est)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Churches Only</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Subsidy/Mission Church</td>
<td>$7,542</td>
<td>$7,838</td>
<td>$8,145</td>
<td>$8,418</td>
<td>$8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRSP Subsidy</td>
<td>$233,632</td>
<td>$71,500</td>
<td>$74,464</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Active Pastors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthFlex Exch. Prem. Support</td>
<td>$192,621</td>
<td>$173,720</td>
<td>$170,000</td>
<td>$152,682</td>
<td>$161,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Leave</td>
<td>$59,091</td>
<td>$61,625</td>
<td>$51,505</td>
<td>$30,178</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Churches/Pastors-2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness Incentive</td>
<td>$136,979</td>
<td>$15,600</td>
<td>$77,000</td>
<td>$176,938</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retirees</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Subsidies</td>
<td>$103,084</td>
<td>$123,536</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
<td>$108,081</td>
<td>$104,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Subsidy</strong></td>
<td>$732,949</td>
<td>$453,819</td>
<td>$414,114</td>
<td>$478,297</td>
<td>$296,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HealthFlex Claims Performance**

Our conference Healthflex claims ratio for 2018 was 86%, which is pretty good. When the large claims (over $50,000) are taken out, the claims ratio drops to 42.5%, so the pooling of large claims (sharing in the costs) with the rest of the HealthFlex conferences does benefit us in years with large claims. Our medical rates will increase 3.0% in 2020. Dental rates will increase by 9.0% and full vision rates will remain unchanged.

**2018 Financial Highlights: Balance Sheet / Operating Statement**

2018 was not a good year for our investments, though the market has recovered quite nicely in the first quarter of 2019. As of December 31, 2018:

- Health & Claimants Endowment Funds -6.2%
- CRSP Endowment -4.6%
- Pension Endowment -8.1%
- Pension Reserve 0.3%
- Pension Endowment: $3,137,866
- Pension Reserve Fund: $895,922
- Clergy Retirement Security Plan Endowment: $9,064,436
- Conference Claimants Endowment: $2,129,780
- Health Endowment: $2,649,109
- Total Assets: $20,557,706

Building a reserve fund for down market years and funding pensions into the future remain the primary focus of this board. To that end, we created a Pension Endowment out of the Pension Reserve Fund. The Pension Endowment will be for the long term, where excess earnings will be added. The goal is to keep close to $1,000,000 in the Pension Reserve Fund and continue to build the Pension Endowment projected to be over $7,000,000 by 2022.

**CBO for Alaska Conference**

Bruce Galvin continues to be the CBO of the Alaska Missionary Conference as well as CBO of the PNW Conference.

**Apportionments**

In 2018 we received 96.5% of pension and benefits apportionments from the churches. Thank you for your continued strong support from all churches who paid their pension and benefit apportionments in full (all but 27 churches). Apportionments are required to pay health benefit premiums for retired clergy and other benefit costs as described earlier. The CBOP continues to recommend apportionment reductions for the Annual Conference budget. Our request to the 2019 Annual Conference for 2020 has been reduced by another $50,000, to $100,000. Twenty years ago in 2001 the pension and benefit apportionment was $1,501,000!

**Retirement**

So far this year twelve clergy serving the PNW Conference have indicated their intention to retire during the 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019 appointment year. We wish them happy retirement. See the list of those seeking retirement in the recommendation section (FF) of the handbook.
Retired pastor Rev. John Shaffer continues to provide capable leadership in ministering to retired clergy. He organizes and hosts the retirees luncheon at annual conference and has authored and sent retirees informative newsletters. He also attends scheduled meetings of the retiree groups throughout the conference. We once again thank John for his service.

**Past Service Rate**

The board has historically recommended an increase in the Past Service Rate for the pre-82 pension plan. The past service rate for 2019 is $756.00 or 1.16% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The conference intends to maintain the PSR at 1.0% of CAC which is no longer required per action at General Conference in 2012. For the past few years the CAC has not increased by 2%; consequently a 2% increase in PSR has gradually raised it above 1% of CAC to the benefit of retired clergy. Under 2012 General Conference legislation it is no longer a requirement to raise the past service rate but the CBOP recognizes how important this pension income is for those that retired many years ago. We are maintaining the increase at 2% to help keep pension benefits fully funded. The 2020 recommended past service rate is $772.00, or 1.17% of the CAC. Details of historical Past Service Rates are available from the CBO upon request.

**CBO Evaluation**

During our March 2nd meeting, the Board of Pensions convened a voting member only session. We offered an opportunity for the CBO to bring concerns to the board and to offer our feedback to him. We offered our congratulations to our CBO, Bruce Galvin, for another great year of leadership.

The CBOP is renewing our contract with Revelation Financial Planning LLC (dba Bruce Galvin, CFP®) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 for $21,221 to be used to offer free financial planning to all clergy.

**Conclusion**

The market remains at historically high levels, but we remain concerned that this rate of market growth is unsustainable and we are in for a correction or even some down years. Our mantra at the Board remains, to build reserves to weather the down market years and meet our obligations to the retirees now and in the future. The work of this Board will remain integral to meeting the retirement and health needs of the clergy in the coming challenging times. I again thank all board members for their faithful attendance and thoughtful deliberations and contributions.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Carey B. Kolb, Chairperson, Conference Board of Pensions*
CONFERENCE TREASURER’S REPORT

The 2018 calendar year was once again an extremely busy one for the Treasurer’s office. From new church plants, changes to WA state labor laws, legal activities, property sales, and the roll out of the Area Office to go along with our regular fiduciary activities. We again had a clean audit of our 2017 books.

Shared Ministry apportionments came in again at 93% which is the same as 2017. Our Annual Conference paid 100% of General Church apportionments along with all but one conference of the Western Jurisdiction. We thank you for your dedication to the connection. Our new scholarship model supplied 16 individuals from 13 local churches attending 12 different institutions funds to support their education.

Of the churches that voted to discontinue their active ministry at Annual Conference in 2018 all of the properties have been sold with the proceeds being held for the use of the Board of Congregational Development to fund the 3 new church plants we are launching in 2019, along with several revitalization projects. The Trustees have been engaging more directly with BOCD in resourcing their new ministry initiatives as well as caring for the assets currently in their care.

The Council of Finance and Administration has continued to drive the conversation of how to budget, based on strategic missional priorities. This is leading us to a zero-based budget model (boards and agencies will no longer have line item reserves) and new accountability criteria for Shared Ministry money spent. An Investment Policy was developed and implemented for all Conference holdings. This stewardship effort should further solidify our fiscal stability. The proposed budget for 2020 will be the 11th time in the last 12 years that the Conference budget has decreased. CFA is proposing a budget that is about 1% smaller than 2019. For perspective, the total apportioned budget in 2013 was $6.1 million and in 2020 it will be $5.1 million.

Continuing in service to the Conference are Bruce Galvin, Benefits Officer, Pam Kaiser, Staff Accountant, Cathy Lang, Accounts Receivable and Facilities Manager, and Rik Jamieson, Assistant Treasurer and Benefits Officer. We added Gretchen Engle part time as our Annual Conference Registrar. The team is very experienced and will continue to provide excellent service to the Annual Conference.

On the next page is the computation of the ceiling rule (allowing a possible 2.52% increase) based on the increased spending by local churches.

*Brant Henshaw, Conference Treasurer*
### COMPUTATION OF THE CEILING RULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Point Base Item</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor’s Salaries/Base Comp.</td>
<td>7,190,099</td>
<td>7,515,250</td>
<td>4.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities &amp; Other/Furn. Allow. &amp; HA</td>
<td>2,919,620</td>
<td>2,519,004</td>
<td>-13.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsonage Estimate</td>
<td>714,419</td>
<td>413,008</td>
<td>-42.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel - Professional Expenses - (ARP)</td>
<td>527,461</td>
<td>550,858</td>
<td>4.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cash Allowances</td>
<td>26,516</td>
<td>23,728</td>
<td>-10.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>11,378,115</td>
<td>11,021,848</td>
<td>-3.13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other Current Expenses                            | 8,325,131  | 9,276,398  | 11.43%   |
| Program Current Expenses                          | 1,900,484  | 1,967,367  | 3.52%    |

| Diaconal and Lay Employees Comp.                  | 9,760,003  | 9,889,755  | 1.33%    |
| Sub-Total                                         | 19,985,618 | 21,133,520 | 5.74%    |
| Grand Totals                                      | 31,363,733 | 32,155,368 | 2.52%    |

| 2018 Total Budget                                 | 5,275,138  |            |          |
| Allowable Increase                                |            | 133,147    | 2.52%    |
| Maximum 2018                                      | 5,384,124  |            |          |

2018:
- MSA: 1,985,967
- WS & Conf Benevolences: 2,535,761
- Pension: 250,000
- DSC: 215,000
- ME & Black College: 271,109
- Africa University: 17,301

**Total Budget for 2018:** 5,275,138
21% of the remittance collected from local churches is forwarded to the General Church as part of our conference participation in the greater connectional ministry. Below are the amounts and categories of the General Church that the PNW conference supports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Category</th>
<th>2020 Total Shared Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remitted to the General Church</td>
<td>$1,100,557 21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained in the PNW Conference</td>
<td>$4,030,986 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,131,543</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

World Service: $566,151
Ministerial Education: $191,219
Black College: $76,276
Africa University: $17,070
Episcopal: $167,660
Interdenominational Work: $14,955
General Administration: $67,226

$1,100,557
79% of the remittance collected from the local churches stays in the PNW conference to do ministry represented by this picture. These are the priorities that the leadership of the conference discerns every year and presents to the Annual Conference for approval.

About 52% of the ministry spend is for new or renewing local church and clergy support.

Another 26% is used to develop the current and future leaders within the PNW Conference.

Note another piece of the pie that impacts all of our churches unnecessarily. To meet the goal of our shared ministry 10% of this budget is required to over-apportion every local church to make up for those churches that will fail to pay their share of the budget. This means every church is asked to carry more weight because some are carrying less. All churches could realize reduced apportionments in this budget thanks to the efforts of more local churches paying 100% of their apportionments. Refer to the "Forecasted Apportionment Review" chart to see the potential impact of continued improvement by all local churches to pay 100% of their apportionment.
### APPORTIONMENT REVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Forcasted Amount Apportioned</th>
<th>Basis for Shared Ministry</th>
<th>Included Over Apportionment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$5,131,543</td>
<td>$4,743,878</td>
<td>$387,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$4,881,605</td>
<td>$4,743,878</td>
<td>$137,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$4,743,443</td>
<td>$4,743,878</td>
<td>($435)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** This table shows the impact of churches paying less than 100% of apportionments. The chart assumes the 2020 actual shared ministry remains level while every church strives to reach 100% paid apportionments by 2022.

![Chart showing apportionment data]

**WHAT IS THE PICTURE SAYING**

This graph shows what could happen if every church paid 100% of their apportionment amount by the start of the 2022 budget.

In the 2020 budget we estimate, based on experience, that we will need to over apportion the entire group of local churches by $387,655. This graph shows what would happen during the 3 year period from 2020 thru 2022 if this over apportionment was reduced and eliminated.

The key take away is that if every church paid 100% of their apportionment then every church would see a reduction of their apportioned amounts by about 10% from the 2020 budgeted amount.

And here’s the really good news, the PNW conference as a connectional ministry would still engage in all of the ministry plans we have today. In a sense, we get “More for Less” and have resources to reach more people for Christ.
The Conference Treasurer according to Rule VII must calculate the “ceiling” for each budget. In essence this calculation determines the maximum allowable increase in the proposed budget.

The increase can not exceed the actual % increase of local churches expenses used in determining apportionments. This assures the conference budget reflects the actual experience of the local churches in terms of spending.

This chart shows that during the most recent 5 years budgets, the final budget presented for approval was:

1. Significantly less than the allowable “ceiling” budget
2. Continuing to decrease each year in actual dollars
3. The actual dollar decrease would be greater if adjusted for cost of living increases
CONFERENCE STATISTICS REPORT

Conference statistics shows a shift in the size categories of our churches and a continuing trend of decline in overall average weekly attendance.

Using the designations Corporate (351+), Program (151-350), Pastoral (51-150), and Family (up to 50), here’s the data. You will also see the annual total of reported Baptisms across the Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate (351+)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program (151-350)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral (51-150)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family (&lt; 51)</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Baptisms</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Attendance</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average weekly attendance number is significant as it is generally accepted as the attendance level to sustain a full time ordained pastor.
CHURCHES WHICH PAID 100% OF ALL 2018 APPORTIONMENTS

CREST TO COAST
Missional District
Battle Ground
Bay Center
Bonney Lake: Foothills
Camas
Castle Rock
Central Park
Centralia
Eatonville
Elma
Fern Prairie
Grays River
Kalamazoo
Kelso First
Lacey: St. Andrews
Little Rock
Morton
Oakville
Ocean Shores
Olympia: First
Orting
Pe Ell
Puyallup
Puyallup: Light of the Hill
Randle
Ridgefield
Satsop
Shelton
Skamokawa
South Bend
Spanaway
Stevenson
Sumner
Tacoma: Summit
Tumwater
Vader Grace
Vancouver: First
Vancouver: Mill Plain
Vancouver: Orchards
Vancouver: Salmon Creek
Vancouver Heights
Washougal
White Salmon
Willapa
Winlock
Yelm

INLAND
Missional District
Anatone
Bonners Ferry
Cavernish
Cheney
Clark Fork
Coeur d'Alene
Davenport Edwall
Deer Park
Elmoro
Grangeville
Green Bluff
Kendrick
LaCrosse
Lewiston Orchards
Nez Perce
Orofino Peck
Pomeroy
Pullman: Simpson
Reardan
Rockford
Sandpoint
Spokane: Audubon Park
Spokane: Covenant
Spokane: Fowler
Spokane: Moran
Spokane: Saint Paul’s
Spokane Valley

SEATAC
Missional District
Auburn
Bellevue: Aldersgate
Bellevue: First
Bellevue: Korean UMC
Bellevue: St. Peter’s
Burien: Highline
Covington: Cornerstone
Des Moines
Federal Way
Federal Way Good Seed
Federal Way Sunrise
Fircrest
Kent
Mercer Island
Milton
Renton: Fairwood
Renton: First
Renton: Kennydale
Seattle: Beacon
Seattle: Blaine Memorial
Seattle: Bryn Mawr
Seattle: Crown Hill
Seattle: First Tongan
Seattle: First
Seattle: Grace

SEVEN RIVERS
Missional District
Benton City
Cashmere
Chelan: Lake Chelan
Conconully
Connell
Dayton
East Wenatchee Trinity
Ellensburg
Ephrata
Goldendale
Hartline
Kennewick: First
Leavenworth
Malott
Manson
Methow Valley
Moses Lake
Okanogan
Omak
Oroville
Pasco: Riverview
Royal City
Selah
Walla Walla: Pioneer
Wenatchee: First
Yakima: Wesley

Thank You!
The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCOYM) team is a group of youth and adult volunteers from all across the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, selected to be on this volunteer team. We represent youth on wider boards and committees of the Annual Conference, share information about district and conference youth events, and plan a Conference-wide youth event called Convo. This year the team included youth members from across the conference who met three times this year in order to make what we do possible. The Executive Team of this body met for an additional two meetings for continued planning, and discussion on the future regarding youth ministry.

One of the things we do as a team is plan an event called Convo. Convo is the largest youth event of the year for our Annual Conference. Hundreds of youth and adult youth workers gather for three days of music, prayer, fun, learning, and growth. The Convo chairs and the team worked hard throughout the year to plan Convo 2018. Convo 2018 was held during Memorial Day weekend and the theme was “Instruments of Peace.” We focused on exploring tools to help us learn how to be a better participant in difficult conversations. We had the pleasure of hearing Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner the Director of Frontera Wesley, the Wesley Foundation of Tucson.

Planning ahead to Convo 2019 we are again at the University of Puget Sound on Memorial Day weekend. The theme chosen for 2019 was “The Journey.” We selected Dr. Leroy Barber as our speaker this year. The Rev. Dr. Leroy Barber is the Director of Innovation for an Engaged Church for the Greater Northwest Area. Barber is a graduate of Immanuel Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia and has served as the International Executive Director for Word Made Flesh and was the Executive Director of the Voices Project, which is an organization that influences culture through training and promoting leaders of color. He has authored a number of books, including “Everyday Missions: How Ordinary People Can Change the World” and “Embrace: God’s Radical Shalom for a Divided World”. He will help us explore how we navigate the great journey of life especially as we work through times of uncertainty and trouble. We will explore how God’s love and faith keep us steadfast and give us hope even during the storms and trials of life.

We choose to do all of this to create and establish a culture within our community of youth working to help fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church, to create disciples of Jesus Christ and to call to action these youth to change the unique and special worlds they live in. Thank you for your support of youth in local churches and around the conference.

Falisha Hola, President, Conference Council on Youth Ministries
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

to the

2019 PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CREST TO COAST MISSIONAL DISTRICT

The Crest to Coast (C2C) Missional District spent this year getting to know one another - with a new District Superintendent, a new geographic region and a new (and quite cool) name. While we become familiar with our new district, we have focused conversation on what United Methodism could look like in the greater Southwest Washington area and how we might collaborate across the district connection to achieve those visions.

The C2C Missional District now has two church starts (the South Sound New Church Start with Heather Sparkman in West Olympia and the Pinoy Church Start with Lyn Rush in the Vancouver-Portland area) and one revitalization project in Orting (centering around Recovery Café). These developing communities and ministries are at various stages of their life but reflect how we are working to reach new people and to connect with community partners.

In our post-General Conference context, laity and clergy have expressed a variety of feelings—anxiety and uncertainty, pain and confusion, readiness and hope. Local churches continue to debrief and digest what GC means for them and Table Talks 3.0 has been fruitful. But the reality is that the in-between time we find ourselves in is difficult for all.

We have lived into the Bishop’s Crossing Over theme this year in our clergy gathering, district-wide training day, and district youth retreat. Pastoral leaders met for a clergy day apart to discuss how they cross over from competition to collaboration. Laity and clergy met for a training day centered around crossing over from scar-city to abundant life. Workshops included building community partnerships, one-on-one conversations, small church ministry, earthquake preparedness and alternative ways to worship. The Youth Retreat brought together youth from across the district to explore crossing over into a holistic rhythm of life.

In closing, I acknowledge two losses in the district this year. We lost a beloved clergy colleague, Rev. Jon Short, at the end of November. It was a devastating loss for the Short family, Vancouver First UMC, and our PNW conference. I continue to give thanks for Jon’s call to ministry, his humor, his support of children and youth, and his dedication to the church. I’m grateful to clergy colleagues who stepped in to support Vancouver First immediately and then for the rest of the appointment year. We also gave thanks for McCleary UMC and all of the ministry done through the church. McCleary UMC will come to faithful completion at the end of this appointment year. For all the members and clergy who have attended and served over the years, we give God thanks and praise.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kathleen Weber, Crest to Coast Missional District Superintendent
INLAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

As I complete my third year, I continue to be grateful for our local churches witnessing to Christ’s life, ministry, death and resurrection! We certainly live in a time of uncertainty, and last year, when I wrote “We don’t exactly know what will come, but I have been assuring folks of two things: things will be different after 2019/2020, and God will still be active in our world!” I didn’t know how true those words would be. We still only see the path ahead as if we are in a fog. Only the next few steps are visible. I pray that as we take these next few steps the path becomes more visible and the fog begins to lift.

Each and every community of faith in the district has diversity of opinion, and yet we are finding ways to love one another and love our neighbors in real and tangible ways. We are engaging schools, hospitals and neighborhoods with programs that meet real human needs, while also I believe the rest of our conference, jurisdiction and denomination could learn something about how to engage the Gospel of Jesus Christ without losing touch with either God’s grace or God’s timeless truth. My encouragement is for each person and congregation in the district to continue to get out of our comfort zone with respect to sharing the love of God with everyone with whom they come into contact.

Often in the space of this report we describe appointment changes happening within the district and conference, but because of the early due date for this report many of the moves are still waiting to be finalized. One thing is certain—Change happens. Some pastors will move and others will remain. My general philosophy in making appointments is to maintain stability as long as momentum and direction are progressing in a faithful trajectory. Another certainty is that we will continue to celebrate the witnesses of congregations that close or discontinue their ministry, realizing that congregations have a life cycle like any organization or organism. These congregations are not failures. They merely faithfully complete their ministry.

For the missional strategy of the region and district, I do see us moving to try and connect better with all the other Methodists in our area so we can do more together than we ever could do separately. I would love for “cooperative parishes” or “circuits” to develop in geographic regions that make sense. To do this effectively, we would want to empower a leader in each cooperative parish or circuit to take over some of the oversight, supervision and administrative responsibilities, which would allow the superintendent to become one who works much more closely with leadership development of the leaders. With all the uncertainty around us one thing is clear… We should never be alone.

There are exciting developments coming, even in this season of uncertainty. We are striving to connect with all kinds of people, especially younger people and more diverse people. I can’t wait to see what God is going to do with us. Let me know if I can be a help or resource in any way!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gregg Sealey, Inland Missional District Superintendent
Whew! Almost a year now has passed since we started this new journey together. As you may already know, we have inherited the name Puget Sound (Missional) District and yet in reality it is a new district all together with our churches, pastors and congregations coming from the former Puget Sound District, the former Tacoma District and the former Seattle District so a reorganization or a formation of new district leadership team was in order. In September, we gathered this new team in Edmonds UMC to help plan our work moving forward. Since then we organized 10 missional clusters in our district. I have to give a shout out to our clergy leaders who are providing leadership to these clusters namely: Elizabeth Ingram-Schindler, Lara Bolger, Clarissa Fuentes, Jenny Smith, Kathy Hartgraves, Mark Johnson, David Parker, Tom Steffen, John Weston and Paul Mitchell.

I am also so grateful to the great ministry and participation by our Laity in our work together. Our District Lay Leader, Keith Skore—together with the members of the District Board of Laity—are now in the process of recruiting and organizing lay cohort groups in every missional cluster to work in partnership with our clergy in these clusters.

This year we also had a very successful “Roots and Wings” district training event. Our theme this year is “Love Thy Neighbor.” The Greater Northwest Area’s Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team) led us throughout the day, in worship, plenary session, conversations and workshops revolving around the three key practices that we believe are present in every vital congregation. These practices are namely, INCLUSION, INNOVATION and MULTIPLICATION. We have picked the theme, “Love Thy Neighbor” to celebrate what God is already doing in our faith communities in the ways we are loving and engaging our neighbors as well as to spark further our imagination towards what is still possible about God’s transformative work in our neighborhoods. To this end, four workshops were offered, namely: Faith-based Community Organizing, Asset Based Community Development, Intercultural Competency, and Intentional Multiplication.

Recognizing that like the denomination, we also have traditionalists, conservatives, moderates and progressives in our churches in the district, but believing that our differences are what make us even stronger, between March 10th and April 23rd, five Post-GC debriefings, dialogues and conversations (aka Table Talks 3.0) were organized.

Finally, let me also say that in the midst of the many uncertainties about the future of the UMC as a denomination, especially in light of the decision of the 2019 Special Called Session of the General Conference, that I invite all of us to remain faithful to God, faithful to God’s mission for us and trusting that God is with us still. In the midst of the ups and downs and the twist and turns of this whole process, let us not lose sight of our mission together. Let us never lose sight of our call together “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. Whatever happens, let us not stop being the church. Let nothing prevent us from fulfilling our mission. But also, let us remember that we need not do this mission alone but rather, we are invited to do it together, to do it in love for the “other”, in love for ALL of our neighbors, even those who do not look, think, speak, live or even love like us.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J. Mark Galang, Puget Sound Missional District Superintendent
SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT

In a year of changes, one of our bigger changes was redefining the boundaries of our missional districts. This year 54 urban churches came together to form a SeaTac Missional District focused on redesigning and redeveloping our urban strategy. We kicked off the new year with a clergy retreat in September as we dug deep into the strategies of community organizing, and the building blocks of cross-cultural communication. Throughout the autumn we engaged in cluster conferences of four or more churches learning together about the stages of Christian faith, and a conversation about human sexuality. We also initiated a Lay Leaders summit and nominated Andy O’Donnell (Renton First) as the SeaTac Missional Lay Leader.

We looked outward as a District as each congregation was partnered with a congregation in Kenya for the purpose of mutual prayer. It is hoped that what begins in prayer will mature through relationship-building throughout the next years. As a District we wept, protested and then advocated for the civil rights of immigrants. This culminated in raising $10,000 for a bail fund administered through El Dios Vivo as we tried to put our prayers into practice.

We celebrated sprouts of renewal as Valley & Mountain United Methodist began the year giving birth to a second site in Ravenna and as this year ends, plans are in process to begin a third site. Thomas Yang continues to build a new church in South Park, and the congregational renewal project called the South End Union (consisting of Bryn Mawr, Grace, Renton First and Riverton Park) all demonstrated growth and vitality.

As this year ends, we prepare to share a hearty “well done, good and faithful servant” as Pastors Nancy Ferree Clark (Federal Way), Ann Berney (Wallingford), John Chae (Mercer Island) and Mel Woodworth (Bryn Mawr) all move into retirement. And we also pause to remember the faithful ministry of Crown Hill United Methodist Church as it brings its completed ministry to a close in June 2019.

We also have witnessed big changes at Trinity and University Temple churches. Trinity sold its building and closes the year nomadically as it begins the process of discerning its future path. Still healthy and vital they are seeking to do church in a new way. University Temple has also sold its land and will start a multi-year process of rebuilding its church as part of a larger development that will include student housing.

As this year closes we prepare to greet Rev. Derek Nakano (Blaine) as our new District Superintendent in July 2019. I will return to the parish (Lake Washington UMC). It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity for these last four years. In this time of great changes, I am grateful for the perseverance of the saints as we run this Gospel race together. We run for the prize of being part of God’s great dream of Christ being all-in-all.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Rich Lang, SeaTac Missional District Superintendent
In a district as geographically large as Seven Rivers, it’s a challenge to provide the support and resourcing that congregations and clergy need. District Lay Leader, Karen Fisher, the district leadership team, and I spent much time this year thinking how to help our large, dispersed district could be organized more effectively.

We moved in the direction of forming five missional circuits, groupings of congregations that share a common geographic region. The pastors and laity of a missional circuit would look together at who is in their mission field, learn and work together, and support each other in their ministry. It’s not uncommon for a church to be facing a challenge and be unaware that the church in the next town has already navigated it and would be glad to help.

We imagine regular circuit gatherings where leaders from the area churches would gather to pray and share both the challenges they’re facing and what’s working. Demographic shifts are easy to miss. But when people from four different churches remark on the shifts they’re seeing in their neighborhoods, trends become more visible. We see a day when it’s the churches of the circuit that come to the DS and say “we are seeing new people that we can’t reach; it’s time to plant a new church here.” We see a day that when a church comes to the end of its life, the surrounding churches help it through the closing processes and gather to celebrate its life and ministry.

To that end, whenever it was possible this year, we brought churches together as a way of beginning this shift. Charge conferences were combined with workshops based on the book Anatomy of Peace and held in each of the five missional circuits. Table Talks in the fall and the spring provided information before and after the 2019 General Conference.

The churches of the Seven Rivers Missional District are working hard at trying to connect with their communities in life-giving ways. Our goal is to provide them with better and more timely resourcing. This work has just begun. Like many things, it will likely get messier before it settles out and works smoothly. The final form may not look anything like we envision, but we’ve taken a first step.

I’m delighted that Rev. Joanne Coleman Campbell has accepted the call to serve as the new Superintendent for the district and take the work to the next level. She is a strong administrator and has a gift in organizing systems. I can’t think of anyone better for this moment in time.

It’s been blessing to step back into the DS role these past two years in an interim capacity, to reconnect with old friends, and to meet new ones. In July, I’ll continue to live in Yakima, but move back into extension ministry working in the area of leadership coaching and pastoral supervision. My prayers will be with you as you move into this next phase of your journeys and I look forward to seeing you along the way.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mary Huycke, Seven Rivers Missional District Superintendent