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Office of Connectional Ministries

I am often asked, what is my job description? Well, thanks to social media, I think I may have found a phrase that is as close to an accurate quick response to that question. “It’s complicated”.

So here is an attempt to share most of the work my office does, based on the many challenges of 2022. It was a year full of challenges and unfolding drama. I participated in many long meetings, sometimes well into the night. Gallons of coffee and boba tea consumed. Yet during all that work, (even going through the difficult experience of losing three loved ones within 4 months) I continue to be grateful for this opportunity to serve in this capacity and be part of team UMC for such a time as this. I am deeply thankful for my staff who continue to push our team to new heights, ideas, and adventures. Special thanks to Patrick Scriven, Teri Tobey, and Kathryn Hogg. Oh, and let’s not forget, there is also that clause “and other duties as assigned”.

¶608.b, 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline

The (executive) director of connectional ministries shall serve as an officer of the annual conference and shall sit with the cabinet when the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, and other matters as the cabinet and director may determine.



Rev. David Valera

Disciplinary Responsibilities

¶608.c, 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline

In partnership with the bishop and cabinet and the elected leadership of the conference, the director of connectional ministries shall have the following primary responsibilities:

1. to serve as steward of the vision of the annual conference, including the development, clarification, interpretation, and embodiment of the vision;
2. to serve as leader of the continuous process of transformation and renewal necessary for the annual conference to be faithful to our Christian identity in a changing world;
3. to ensure alignment of the total resources of the conference to its vision;
4. to ensure the connections among the local, district, annual conference, and general church ministries for the purpose of networking, resourcing, and communicating their shared ministry.

A year in the life of an Executive Director of Connectional Ministries.**First Quarter of 2022****Global Connection:**

1. General Conference 2022 – At that point, there was much anticipation and rumors on when General Conference was to convene. GNW leadership continued to wait for official word from the Commission on the General Conference, which was scheduled to meet on February, March, and April of 2023. We were very aware that any type of a decision made at any of those meetings would have a significant impact on Annual Conference 2022. We waited for official word and anticipated planning accordingly.
2. Boy Scouts of America Lawsuit settlement – Each Director of Connectional Ministries was tasked to track and monitor BSA related work as hoped for by the denominational response team. DCMs were assigned a critical role in “oversight and engagement in the survivor healing commitments.” Coordinating this work with our Conference Treasurer, Brant Henshaw continues to the present day.

Western Jurisdiction:

1. Western Jurisdiction Executive Team – As a member of this group, I was lead in making local (hosting) preparations for WJ Leadership meetings set for March 2-6, 2022. This is an annual meeting of numerous boards and agencies of the Western Jurisdiction, and PNW was set as the venue of these gatherings. Having not met during the two years of COVID19 Lockdowns, the PNW host/tech team had to learn what it means to host a hybrid meeting. Special thanks to the staff of Des Moines UMC led by Pastor Pam Osborne for supporting this work.

Greater Northwest:

1. Disaster Response Coordinating Table:

Flooding/Water damage: With so much snow those early weeks of January, potential flooding and water damage had been a major concern for the Disaster Response Teams. Conference Disaster Response Coordinators continued to attend meetings of agencies (FEMA/VOAD's) with hopes to gather the latest data and info. Our regular Monday morning check-ins have proved to be an asset for information gathering and action coordination.

Diversity Task Force: A team has been named and empowered to take lead in inviting BIPOC folks to be more involved in the many aspects of Disaster Response. Too often, the poor, communities of color, and marginalized folks are most susceptible to the ill effects of natural disasters. Many community leaders lack the ability to appropriately address systemic racism and the need for cultural competency. Convenor: Armando Espinosa (Lay person, Renton, Fairwood UMC)

Creation Care/Environmental Justice: After individual and collective meetings with Jenny Philips, the DRC group has been inspired to make sure that this part

of the work becomes an integral aspect of its future. Coordinating the work of our respective Conference Boards within the area of Global Ministries is much needed so that we can start identifying names of individuals who could take leadership roles. Natural disasters have a direct link to climate change and Environmental Justice. Disaster mitigation is one of the priorities of UMCOR, and so the GNW Disaster Response Coordinating Table sees this as a high priority.

During those early months, the table carefully moved forward with the naming of Louise Kienzle as replacement for Rev. David King, serving as OR-ID Disaster Response Coordinator. A new job description and list of priorities were developed for and with the incoming DRC of Oregon-Idaho.

2. December 26th Sermon resource for local churches –
3. Thank you to Rev. Dr. Leroy Brown. He received words of appreciation from local churches that shifted back to online worship due to a rise in COVID cases and the hazards of winter weather. For some congregations however, the situation raised concerns on how such a resource could be used in a hybrid setting. The PNW tech team took this as a cue to work with specific congregations in developing awareness and resources towards offering hybrid (simultaneous in person & online) worship designs for local churches.
4. The three GNW Directors of Connectional Ministries: We continue to have our regular meetings every Monday, and or Wednesday, allowing us to align critical matters with Bishop Elaine Stanovsky and her episcopal area office team. This set the stage for all involved to start mapping out coordinated work leading AC Sessions 2022.

Pacific Northwest Annual Conference:

1. **Flooding in WA** – Latest report we received from Kathy Bryson (PNW DRC): “We had conversations with UMCOR staff and key mentors from the Disaster Leadership Team for potential disaster case management training support in Whatcom and the other affected Counties and Tribal lands”.

Excerpts from WA Gov. Jay Inslee’s statement that have a direct effect on our work on the ground: *“After the state’s Emergency Management Division coordinated preliminary damage assessments in December, more than 300 homes in Northwest Washington (and parts of British Columbia, CA) were damaged or have sustained serious damage.”*

Gov. Inslee sent a letter to a top official with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Dec. 17th requesting FEMA’s Individual Assistance Program for Clallam, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties, as well as for the federally recognized Lummi Nation, Nooksack Indian Tribe, and Quileute Tribe. Meanwhile, north of the US border, Rev. Norman Feliciano, (First UMC of Canada) and some volunteers, became the eyes, hands, and boots on the ground for the UMC connection. Through their efforts, and with guidance and support from Kathy Bryson, and district leadership, significant relief work was accomplished through Rev. Feliciano’s team, specifically towards the Filipino immigrant communities affected by this natural disaster. Little did we realize that these relief efforts

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would later provide fresh opportunities towards the establishment of a new fellowship/bible study in the area. God be praised!

2. **Board of Congregational Development.** – Working with the Bishop and other staff, an initial list for a potential chairperson & new additional member(s) of the Board of Congregation Development was created. This body needed reorganizing in order carry out its task for the next 6 months and beyond.
3. **Annual Conference Session 2022.** – Convened meetings of the PNW AC Sessions Planning/Coordinating Committee. DCMs continued to coordinate and align the plans for the 3 annual conferences with the bishop, cabinet, and AC Session leaders, while eagerly waiting for the update regarding General Conference 2022.
4. **Creation Care/Climate Justice/Earth Keepers.** - There is a growing list of folks who have been stepping up to participate in this work. I received requests for endorsement to attend the next Earth Keepers certification and training offered by Global Ministries. Once trained, these folks look forward to specialized ministries that relate to Creation Care. (Christian Ed, Advocacy, local church trainings). There is much work ahead for us in the field of Creation Justice and Advocacy.
5. **Search for an Assistant to the Director of Connectional Ministries.** - We started with more than a couple of dozen applicants from all over the United States. Special thanks to Meg Kau (OR-ID HR) for her great wisdom and co-working spirit. We hope to have a new staff person hired by the second quarter of 2022.
6. **Office Redo.** - With the ever-growing demand of hybrid meetings and events, our staff met with consultants to gather ideas on how we could convert our office spaces and provide options for zoom and hybrid meetings. We went on a quest to find the right and appropriate technology for this specific purpose.

Second Quarter of 2022

Global Connection:

1. **General Conference 2022** – Finally announced: GC postponed till May of 2024. This decision of the General Commission on General Conference to move GC 2022 to May 2024 had major implications. The pathway to disaffiliation for local churches and clergy from the UMC was just one. The GNW cabinet and staff sought out plans on how to carefully engage with laity, clergy, and churches on the implications of disaffiliation. Social media groups played a very important role in some of these engagements. There was a lot of information to manage, as mainline and social media channels were also filled with much dis-information. The treasurer's office, board of trustees, benefits officer, and appointive cabinet were on the front edge of providing information and making key decisions that would affect churches and clergy who decide to disaffiliate.
2. **Local Church Disaffiliations** – Attended many online meetings, while closely

monitoring conversations, options, and decisions. Goal: Develop an area wide communications plan for local churches and clergy designed to correct misinformation.

3. **Boy Scouts of America Lawsuit/Settlement** - Continuing to track and monitor BSA related work as hoped for by denominational response team. “Director of Connectional Ministries – oversight and engagement in the survivor healing commitments.”

Western Jurisdiction:

1. **Western Jurisdictional Conference** – anxiously waited for the official decision from the Judicial Council on dates of (US) Jurisdictional Conferences.
2. **WJ Executive Team (*coordinating role)** – finalizing preparations for hosting the WJ Leadership meetings March 29 – April 3, 2022. **Key groups to coordinate meetings and events: College of Bishops, Committee on Episcopacy, WJ DCMs, Leadership Team, Inter-ethnic Coordinating Committee, Observers, and guests.*
3. **WJ Caucuses/Episcopal Elections** – Tracked conversations on possible candidates, processes for election, etc.
4. **Tongan Relief** – Involvement in conversations regarding coordination and continuing support. Coordinating a communications plan with respective conference treasurers.
5. **Western Jurisdiction DCMs** – I convene this group, and which meets regularly. Concerns have started to grow, primarily with details on the Jurisdictional Conference and episcopal elections.

Greater Northwest:

1. **Hosting WJ meetings and events** were held at Des Moines UMC and PNW Conference Center. Worked with staff and volunteers regarding details of hospitality and tech support. We had folks from OR-ID, AK and even the Desert Southwest Conference volunteer as part of the hosting team.
2. **DCMs & Treasurers**– Working on a multi-year plan on area wide staffing. Considering retirements, staffing changes that are needed to support the finance and program sectors of the episcopal area.
3. **Disaster Response Coordinating Table** –work has slowed down significantly, but we continue to remain vigilant for any unexpected disasters.

Diversity Task Force: Assigned Rev. Cruz Edwin Santos as OCM rep to this group.

Creation Care/Environmental Justice: Continuing conversations between staff and consultants.
4. **Lent/Easter and Worship resources** – Started recording and editing videos of District Superintendents and Staff. Released Rev. *Karen Hernandez* “conversation starter” video on white privilege. Filmed, edited, and shared Rev’s. *Daniel* and

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Sheila Miranda's 'table talk' as a preaching/teaching tool which was released to the Greater Northwest.

5. **DCMs Regular meeting on Mondays with the Bishop** and Wednesdays with key staff and personnel as preparations for Annual Conference Session 2022 were in full swing. Planning included, but not limited to reports, budget, legislations, memorial, retirement, and ordination services. Technology/connectivity was to play an important role in all these events.
6. **Ethnic Clergy Petition to ACs 2022.** A petition asking Wespath to improve its support and customer service for ESL and immigrant folks. Cultural Interpretation and not just language translation.
7. **Transitions Retreat** – 40+ GNW Clergy and pastoral leaders who were moving to new appointments attended this online activity.

Session 1: Gathering our Hearts and Our Ministries

Session 2: Finding Our Spark in the Wilderness

Session 3: Building sustainable patterns in a new context: tending your ministry spark.

On the GNW front, I was assigned as DCM to work with the GNW Safe Sanctuary Team. This team has been tasked with reviewing our GNW Safe Sanctuary guidelines and to develop updated policies or legislation (as needed) that would help ensure safer protocols and practices especially for children, young people and the vulnerable. A team report to all GNWAC Sessions was presented. (Key personnel & groups: Teri Tobey, Lydia Henry, Susan Smalley, Conference Boards of Trustees). After the group's report was finalized and submitted, Brant Henshaw (PNW Treasurer) and Laurie Day (OR-ID DCM) took on the task of taking this to the level of work.

Pacific Northwest:

1. **AC Session 2022 Design Team:** Met every Thursday from 12:30-1:30. Our work now included Legislative processes, nominations and elections, reports, worship, memorial, retirement, etc. PNW AC Sessions 2022 was (still) going to be 100% online.
2. **Nominations Committee:** Supported Nominations Committee to actively recruit replacement members for boards and agencies.
3. **Creation Care/Climate Justice/Earth Keepers.** – *Kathy Neary*, Patrick Scriven, and I had initial conversations regarding this important ministry. Beyond hiring of staff assigned to shepherd this movement, we agreed that the conference needed a fresh look at how it does this ministry and find new ideas so that this work is not simply program or staff based but becomes an ethos of who we are as United Methodists in the Pacific Northwest.
4. **New OCM Assistant – Kathryn Hogg.** We hired a new staff person! After 5 years

of having no one serving in this post, we now have someone who can help coordinate much of the work and projects that are critical to the success of the Office of Connectional Ministries, starting with its Executive Director. Kathryn officially started her role on April 1, 2022.

- 5. **Conference Office Space** – with changes in COVID-19 protocols and work-related dynamics, we have reconfigured workspaces in the office building so we could develop more hybrid style meetings and gatherings.
- 6. **Camping and Outdoor Ministries** – Because of the COVID-19 lockdown, a new pattern of regular zoom check-in with camp directors and the Exec. Director of camping ministries has emerged. This regular connection continues to develop plans and ideas for re-engaging the mission field and local churches, using disciple making as a key approach.

Third Quarter, 2022

(The outcome of work during this quarter are reflected in the journal)

Western Jurisdiction:

- 1. **Episcopal Nominations.** Arising from the work of the WJ Leadership team that met in Des Moines UMC in early April, the whole WJ embarked on a move to “identify diverse candidates for episcopacy, creating a mosaic of strengths within the College as a whole”. First Elected delegates worked together and developed a process of discernment for candidates and for the election process. \$20k has been allocated by the WJCFA/Leadership Team to support this process.

What this meant for PNW and all AC Sessions in the WJ:

Each AC Session is being asked to suspend their respective rules on episcopal nominations, to allow a process of lifting names of those who are willing to be part of a WJ wide discernment process designed to help the jurisdiction elect 4 new Bishops. (Key personnel & groups: Bishop, DCM's, First Elects, Rules Committee, Comm. on Episcopacy)

- 2. **Western Jurisdiction DCMs** – Continued to meet regularly to follow up on the work related to the WJ with respect to our Annual Conference. We said goodbye to Dave McPherson (DCM from the Desert SW) who retired on July 1, 2022.

Greater Northwest Area:

- 1. **Clergy Transitions Retreat.** We invited the Rev. Laura Stephens-Reed who is a clergy and congregational coach to design an online retreat for our transitioning pastoral leaders. We held this event on June 6-7, 2022. (Key personnel & Groups: Bishop, GNW Cabinet and Staff)
- 2. **GNW Worship Team.** (Coordinating detailed work with Bishop, staff, cabinet, and leaders.)

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3. **GNW DCMs:** GNW Opening and Closing Session with the Bishop's retirement celebration.

Pacific Northwest Conference Session:

Annual Conference Session Design Team (Met every Thursday) Deep dive into:

- a. Business of the AC
- b. Clergy Session
- c. Laity Session
- d. Episcopal (Discernment) Nominations
- d. Worship and Memorial
- e. Ordination
- f. Communications and Tech.
- g. Nominations

Note for Annual Conference Events of 2022:

GNW Clergy Sessions: The Bishop presided from PNW Conference Center.

GNW AC Sessions: The Sanctuary of Des Moines UMC.

PNW Ordination: The Sanctuary of Kent UMC (Indoor).

Fourth Quarter, 2022

1. **GNW DCM's Retreat:** Much good can be said about our DCMs' retreat in Homer, AK in October of 2022. The several days we spent helped align not only our work but also how we work together as colleagues while being fully aware of the different dynamics each of us must navigate, in our respective conferences. Let's be reminded, there is not one job description for every DCM. We also decided to use Trello as the shared project management platform. Some of these include:
 - Episcopal Elections
 - Transitions for Episcopal leaders
 - Disaffiliations
 - AC Sessions for 2023 & 2024
 - AC Sessions Shared Technology (Resourcing and training)
 - Circle of Indigenous Ministries
 - Reproductive Rights
 - Young Clergy Leadership Cohorts
 - Tongan Relief
 - Certified Lay Ministry

- Disaster Response
- Creation Justice and Advocacy
- Safe Sanctuary Audits
- Boy Scouts of America (Conference Commitments)

2. **Western Jurisdictional Conference.** November 2022, Salt Lake City, UT. Celebrated the retirement of Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, and Bishop Grant Hagiya. We also witnessed the historic election of Bishop Carlo Rapanut, Bishop Dottie Escobido Frank, & Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth (who is assigned to the GNW).

Being present and available to help as part of the DCMs of the WJ.

Worked with communicators in photo/video documentation.

Served as ‘handler’ for Bishop Carlo Rapanut.

Assigned to work with Kristin Caldwell to produce videos of the three new Bishops.

Worked with some members of the H/L youth on their roles and expectations at WJC.

Helped with the management of medical crises among the PNW delegation.

3. **Episcopal transition:** As we excitedly welcomed Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, it also meant working behind the scenes on many details of a transition of this magnitude. Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth officially assumed his office on January 1, 2023.
4. Here is the link to Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth’s intro video:

<https://vimeo.com/784668057/8ca518f59e...>

Greater Northwest Area

- Working with Jim Truitt on possible scenarios/expectations for Area Cabinet training on disaster response.
- Continuing to monitor numerous flooding/snowstorm conditions via Disaster Response Coordinators. Kathy and Dana Bryson have been giving regular updates.
- Safe Sanctuary policies/practices – Met with Teri Tobey to continue following up on possible legislation for AC 2023, reflecting on learnings from recent legal issues with Boy Scouts of America.
- Regional Media Center – Met with team to start preparations for Annual Conference Season for possibly three Annual Conferences of the Area. We are now looking into developing and training multiple tech teams, to respond to this growing demand from groups that are meeting online/hybrid meetings.

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Started organizing with our conference staff on calendar details for 2023, based off the area cabinet calendar. This calendaring work allowed us to plan meetings and events such as:

- Regular PNW staff meetings have resumed.
- One on one with executives on year end assessments of work and possibilities for 2023.
- Coordinating with Treasurer next steps with regards to AC Session 2023.
- Tracking the delegation requirements for GC 2024. (Do we need to elect a new slate in 2023?)
- Align boards and agencies with regards to meetings, anticipated projects, budgets, etc.
- Planning on next meeting(s) of the Connectional Table. (Budget hearing with CFA)
- Recruiting key leadership of *AC Session 2023.
- Christmas Institute 2022 (I am serving as Co-Dean with Rev. Yvonne Agduyeng)
- Training new tech team members. (Also recruiting from local churches)
- Local church consultations on worship and tech.

*Visited and met with leadership of Tacoma Mason UMC as possible venue for AC 2023. After the visit, I shared this possibility with DS Derek Nakano who also saw the excitement of Mason UMC. There are still details to be worked on, and there are nearby venues including University of Puget Sound where we could possibly have our plenary session as needed.

Christmas Institute: For the first time since the lockdown of 2020, we held this young people's camp at Lazy F from December 26-29. We had a total of 53 campers, adult chaperones, and clergy who came all the way from AK. We also had several visitors and guests who came during evening worship and MTV night. One third of our campers were first timers. Most of our young leaders were developed (discipled) through previous CI camps. Thank you to the Commission on Ethnic Ministries who increased funding support for CI 2022.

Local churches and camps our office directly engaged with in 2022.

- Sequim
- Snohomish
- Pioneer, Walla Walla
- Sunnyside
- Palabra Viviente (Everett)
- Vancouver First (WA)
- Simpson/Pullman
- Lynden

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- Mount Vernon
- Ocean Shores
- Port Hadlock
- Yakima Wesley
- Vashon
- Spanaway
- Port Angeles
- Mercer Island
- Coeur d'Alene
- Gig Harbor
- Marysville
- FUMC Canada
- Mason, Tacoma
- Fall City
- Snoqualmie
- Centralia
- Ocean Park
- Camp Indianola
- Lazy F Camp
- Twinlow
- Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David Valera

Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, PNW Conference

Board of Congregational Development

The Board of Congregational Development (BOCD) oversees the creation of new faith communities and support for vitality in existing congregations. It works in conjunction with the GNW Appointive Cabinet and the Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team), each tending critical parts of this work.

The funding for this work comes from a few sources – some from apportioned giving but most from legacy funds transferred by the Board of Trustees from sale of church properties. The BOCD feels a special responsibility for seeing that these legacy funds are invested in faith expressions that might resonate with new people, younger people, and more diverse people for continuation of a Wesleyan theology in the region.

The BOCD was newly formed in Spring 2022. This represents the first full year of work for this new board. I am grateful to the members as we have learned the history of this work, and have begun to put our stamp on the work moving forward. You will see a full listing of projects and funding in the Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team) report.

During 2022, BOCD accompanied IV Team in listening to planter/innovators in the area. We did not make it to all the planters in the PNW Conference, but we made it to many. Our goal was to reestablish ties with planters, and to accompany our Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality as she heard the stories, positive and negative, of the planters' experiences. It has been valuable to the strengthening of relationships, and to learn from those who have or are exiting the process. These conversations will inform our work moving forward.

Part of our listening was in inviting planters, who were at the peak of their funding, to provide self-evaluations of their projects, and to talk with BOCD about their learnings. This process allowed us to distribute some additional funding to help mitigate for the effects of the pandemic on these plants. We also worked with the Oregon-Idaho Congregational Development Team to design and offer Pivot Grants for COVID relief for other projects. (The Vitality Team in Alaska was invited to participate but declined as it has just one planter and project.) The process of receiving and reading the Pivot Grant applications gave us greater insight into the work of our planters and projects. We have amazingly talented leaders in this area of ministry. Still, it is difficult work, as we who pastor or lead in our established congregations are aware.

As we move into the next year, we will be attending to how we might support established congregations in developing strategies and honing skills to reach further into our communities. We value your input on how we might measure these efforts since we are in a context of great reluctance to engage in Christian community, particularly among younger generations.

We celebrate our planters and the projects they tend. Please pray with us that we may support them well, and that we may discover the ways in which our Wesleyan theology may multiply to make positive change in the world.

Rev. Kathy Hartgraves, Chair

Hispanic/ Latinx Ministry

The vision of Hispanic/Latinx Ministry in the Pacific Northwest is to be a church called to be united and diverse in God’s love that changes lives and transforms communities.

Respect

We recognize the inherent value and dignity of all God’s creation and all people.

Justice

We strive to live into the equality of God’s provision in a world where every need is met.

Love

Inspired by the compassion and grace of our God, we seek to joyfully embrace and serve with all people.

Community

We commit to live with our neighbors united in loyalty, family, solidarity, and inclusivity.

Mission

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our strategy to live into this vision is to

- Raise up leaders in all parts of the church who are committed to this vision and prepared with skills, faith, and a network of persons and faith communities with which to walk each day closer to being the church we envision. To continue providing training for lay people and pastors within the local churches
- To continue recruiting and training those called to be Certified Lay Missioners and Ministers.
- To continue providing support, training, and listening to youth and young adults in their faith and leadership and strengthening our connection with our MARCHA West Youth group.
- To continue providing spaces, networking, peer support, prayer and community to women leaders/pastors, our siblings from the LGBTQIA+ community and to all pastors.
- To continue recruiting ally leaders within the church to gain skills in Spanish and in culture to better connect with Hispanic/Latinx church leaders and neighbors by providing learning experiences and translating resources from Spanish to English and from English to Spanish.
- To continue recruiting and providing a variety of supports for Latinx persons called to ministry, guiding, accompanying, and facilitating for them the conference processes for formation, licensing and/or ordination.
- Advocate within the church for inclusion, innovation, and multiplication and to be a church that is ready and active advocating in every levels.
- To continue providing learning experiences to local church leaders in advocacy.
- To continue working intentionally with the PNW communications team to help

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us tell the stories of ministry.

- Create faith communities in new places and re-new faith communities already established that have become limited in their vision and relationships.
- To continue providing workshops with the GNW IV Team on diversity intelligence and cultural competency.
- To continue having an annual family camp where every Latinx Faith Community can network across local churches, celebrate, recreate, learn and grow stronger in faith.
- With the help of the National Plan Office to continue providing financial support for Pastors Salaries to new and on-going congregations and ministries involving Latinx persons and communities.

Summary of events/programs/projects

- Providing support and workshops for the online presence of our churches
- Leading the design team for our Immigration Round Table
- Providing resources and support for CWJFON
- Participating with CWJFON in our two Round Tables on Immigration (Spring/Fall), “Walking with our Immigrant neighbors”: a panel discussion.
- Lay Servant Basic Course in Spanish
- Coordinating and providing support to our GNW Disaster Response Team. Participating as one of the leaders for the workshop with the Cabinet.
- Providing support and resources for the GNW Disaster Response Diversity Task Force
- Provided Leadership support to district superintendents, leading the charge conferences of Hispanic/Latinx congregations
- Coordinating and providing support to our students of the COSS
- Providing online resources to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month
- Producing our quarterly newsletter
- Providing support and leadership for Puget-Sound Missional District in a strategic plan for H/L Ministry in Skagit County
- Providing support and Leadership for Sea-Tac Missional District in a strategic plan for our Hispanic/Latinx Progressive Church in Sea-Tac Missional District.
- Providing support and leadership to our cabinet with consultations with Hispanic/Latinx Pastors
- Providing resources for our BOOM and DBOM
- Providing leadership and resources in the design team of our 2022 and 2023 local church leadership

- Training for laity in the GNW. Leading the workshop with the Spanish speaking participants (Church Council, Committee on Pastor Parish Relations, Board of Trustees, Committee on Finances, and Nominations and Leadership Development)
- Providing leadership and resources for our 2022 GNW Ethnic Clergy Retreat
- Providing support and help to our churches applying for the RELC Grant
- Providing coaching and mentoring services
- Leading and coordinating the production of our Hispanic/Latinx Ministry video for our 2022 and 2023 AC
- Participating in the PNW Connectional Table
- Participating in the BOTH/AND Event (workshop about hybrid worship experience)
- Providing support and resources to Faith Action Network (FAN)
- Providing leadership and resources to the OR-ID leaders to develop a strategic plan for the Hispanic/Latinx ministry
- Providing leadership in the GNW Residence in Ministry retreat
- Providing leadership to the construction of our new building in Everett
- Providing leadership and resources to the PNW Board of Congregational Development
- Providing resources to the “Love Beyond Borders” learning curriculum with the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, Idaho
- Providing resources and leadership to the OR-ID CORR

Aspirations for 2023-2024

- To coordinate with CWJFON on a round table in the fall of 2023
- To coordinate with CWJFON a Gala to fundraise donations in the west part of the state
- To coordinate a webinar about how to embrace multiculturalism in the local church
- To continue providing leadership formation webinars for our leaders and communities
- To continue providing coaching, mentoring and translation services for our connection
- To coordinate an encounter #1 with the National Plan
- To continue offering the Safe Sanctuaries workshop in Spanish
- To coordinate a workshop for children Ministries

Key Learning

- National Plan and conference resources and funds that we are receiving are crucial to continue strengthening the Latinx ministry in our episcopal area
- We need to be better connected to every church planting in the Latinx community

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- We need to incorporate more young and young adult leaders into our ministry
- We need to be more proactive in discovering new places for Latinx ministry
- We need more participation of our Latinx community at the conference level
- We need to evaluate the criteria and the process to select and recruit Latinx Pastoral leadership
- We need to continue our efforts to integrate the Latinx from the GNW

And by working with the best Hispanic Latino Ministry committee to become the best it can be at coordinating all of this work.

Central Washington Justice for our Neighbors

Since Central Washington Justice For Our Neighbors began in 2018, we have worked to provide meaningful support to our most vulnerable immigrant community members through organizing, advocacy, supporting pro-immigrant policy change and offering free immigration legal services. What began as a group of local community members, brought initially together through the Pastor at our local church focused on establishing much needed support for neighbors throughout the most rural areas of our state, in the midst of raids and courthouse apprehensions, has grown to a immigration law and advocacy organization that has provided support and resources, collaboratively, to thousands across our state.

Our legal team has served over 175 individuals and families, support around U-Visas, asylum cases, removal defense, DACA renewals, naturalization supports, work permits and more, not including legal advice and counsel which everyone gets. Many of the clients we serve have multiple cases or legal issues we are helping them with.

A Few More Specific Examples Include:

- Successfully stopped the immigration court from removing a family of five.
- Contracted with a young student for TPS and asylum.
- Helped stop the removal of a young man with a wife and young child and helped get a minor conviction vacated so he can pursue an adjustment of status and get his green card.
- Through federal litigation, successfully compelled USCIS to issue a much-needed work permit and social security card for a young client who needed the documents to work and receive some basic government benefits.
- Serving individuals from Afghanistan, Gambia, Somalia, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia and more.

Through Our Advocacy Efforts

- At a time when threats of ICE arrests were rampant at courthouses across our state, we provided over 100 accompaniments to courthouse and USCIS appearances. Our accompaniment protocol became the statewide standard.

- From March 2020 through December 2021, we moved over \$250,000.00 out in direct fund support for varied status and undocumented worker relief funds through our Mutual Aid Program.
- We were the first organization to secure administrative bonds from ICE holding in Yakima which led to a multi-year and multi organization effort to secure such bonds to release people detained before they were transferred to the Tacoma Detention Center.
- We participated in weekly meetings with the state Attorney General's Office, the Governor's Office, met with statewide representatives, local police departments and sheriffs offices, spoke at conferences and before our state's Supreme Court Justices.
- We protested the ICE flights out of Yakima, held weekly vigils and protests in Ellensburg, multiple protests in Walla Walla, all in support of our immigrant communities. Many of which were rapid response protests during the Trump administration to oppose anti-immigrant policy changes.
- And we are committed to our Board reflecting the communities we serve, making sure our bylaws provide space for younger immigrant voices, low-income representation, and a broader spectrum of diversity to insure that at our core, in leadership roles, that we collectively live the values we believe.

This is just a small snapshot view of what we have been able to accomplish with the support of the United Methodist Church, family and organizational funders, private and individual donors, committed volunteers and the collaborations with other social justice organizations across the state committed to a world where immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees are welcomed, supported and able to live without fear.

For donations through the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church used the Advance Special Account #339 Central Washington Justice for our Neighbors.

¡Muchas bendiciones!

Rev. Cruz Edwin Santos

Director of Hispanic/Latinx Ministry, PNW Conference

Transitional Ministry Development

I work with the district superintendents to help small churches discern their next steps in ministry. Almost half of our churches in the PNW Conference have an average Sunday worship attendance of 25 people or less. These churches are not alike. There is a great variety in terms of types of ministries occurring in small churches. Some have very vibrant ministries that feed the souls of their congregations and neighbors, while others function solely as social groups that happen to gather on Sunday mornings. Still, small churches share a few common characteristics and trajectories toward the future:

- Most churches of this size (with fewer than 25 people in worship) have about 2-3 years left to experience vital ministry, through which people grow closer to God, and help build the kingdom of God.
- Many of these churches will keep their doors open long past the time when they are experiencing vital ministry.

Local congregations need to get over their reluctance to close their churches when their ability to sustain a vital ministry is over. All churches have a life cycle, and there is nothing wrong with accepting the end of a wonderful ministry and leaving a legacy of faith and service to the community. Often the gifts given at the end of a ministry spark renewed ideas of service in a community. Church buildings have become community centers, senior centers, arts spaces, food banks and historical society homes. Gifts of money to our camps, to UMCOR, and to local charities have multiplied the good work of the congregations. When members of a closed church continue their faith journeys in other congregations, they bring the gifts of experience and wisdom to the new church. Of course, the sadness and grief that accompanies the end of a ministry can be overwhelming sometimes. Church members need to both celebrate their ministries and support one another through this grieving process. We know God travels with us through these difficult times and shows us the way to new life in new places.

Many small churches still have the capacity for more years of vital ministry IF they actively and prayerfully choose this path. This starts with having an all-church conversation on the preferred future of the church ministry. Close or transform, those are the two faithful options to choose from. Here are a couple of necessary steps to take on the path of transformation:

- Find and develop ministry partnerships. It is almost impossible for a very small church to sustain a vital ministry on its own. Vital small churches partner with other UM churches, other non-UM churches, or non-profit organizations that share their values and goals to create new ministries. These partnerships take time to develop but the impact on both sides can be life-giving.
- Know your purpose and pursue it. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we do what Jesus did. We grow and deepen our relationship to God, and we proclaim, in word and deed, the coming reign of God. Evaluate everything you do in light of this purpose.
- Be open to the work of the Holy Spirit. By listening closely to one another and

your neighbors, you will begin to hear what God has planned for you. Say yes! Figure out the details later.

Summary of My Work in 2022

Small Churches: I worked with 14 UM churches in the PNW Conference and 2 UM churches in the Oregon-Idaho Conference to discern their next steps for ministry. Four of these churches closed, and the rest are working on next steps for transforming their ministries.

Lay-Led Congregations: Working with District Superintendents Kathleen Weber and Daniel Miranda, we revised the Covenant for Lay Led Ministry to emphasize growing relationships with God and developing relational on-ongoing mission work. The lay-led congregations in the Crest-to-Coast district met by Zoom to share ministry ideas and to keep up to date on new administrative changes for all churches. The lay-led congregations in the Inland and Seven Rivers districts are all part of ministry cohorts and receive their support from these cohorts.

Certified Lay Ministries: I serve as the Conference staff support person for the Conference Committee on Certified Lay Ministries. This committee has developed an “operations manual” for their work, outlining the processes for becoming a certified lay servant, lay speaker, or lay minister. People who desire to learn more about these programs should speak to their pastor, district superintendent, or Rev. Sheila Miranda.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kathy Neary
Transitional Ministry Developer

Communications Report

If there were a single word to summarize the past year, that word would be ‘transition.’ In 2022, most of our local churches fully transitioned to in-person worship while maintaining new online worship offerings. The connectional structures of United Methodism sprung back to life as the next General Conference dates were scheduled, and jurisdictions were permitted to meet to retire and elect new bishops. And some churches and individuals grappled with questions about disaffiliation as the Global Methodist Church launched in May.

Each of these transitions would have been plenty for United Methodists in the Pacific Northwest to navigate in 2022. However, piling them up left many exhausted, especially as they followed several difficult years. Yet, closing in on the other side of these transitions now, it is also possible to begin to see new visions for what the church can do to positively impact the lives of our neighbors and others, near and far.

Throughout the year, staff from our PNW Office of Connectional Ministries (OCM) have continued to focus on resourcing local churches in the growing edge of online worship. Following well-attended workshops on online worship practices by Jason Moore and a technology granting program that delivered over \$100k in grants to churches late in 2021, we’ve continued to help churches to take their next best step in this area. This has taken the form of online and in-person consultations, advising churches on new purchases of AV gear, developing, and offering guidance and training for tech team members, and troubleshooting technical and organizational challenges.

Through our Regional Media Center, we continued to offer support for churches by extending group CCLI licensing for livestreaming. Additionally, we regularly assist congregations and leaders in understanding the ins and outs of copyright to mitigate infringement risks and help churches honor the work of creatives.

We have also continued to offer subsidized Zoom licenses, supporting churches across the Greater Northwest Area. Over the past year, 365 licensed users have hosted over 23,500 Zoom meetings and 214 webinars. Our account’s five most active local churches each hosted over 300 Zoom meetings last year. As strange as it might sound, these numbers are down around 20% year-to-year, which is a good thing! As the impacts of the pandemic on gatherings have lessened, Zoom continues to be a tool used to include people, but that usage is driven less by necessity.

Last year, I shared that I was responsible for convening the Greater Northwest’s COVID-19 Response Team through the back half of the pandemic. As local churches and ministries made their final, God-willing, pivot toward their new normal; the team also wound its support work down early last fall. While this disease continues to impact us, local churches and ministries are adapting to something that will be with us for a while, mainly in ways that balance the real physical and spiritual needs of the people they serve and the Wesleyan value of doing no harm.

Most years, much of the Spring is consumed with preparation for the annual conference session; 2022 was no exception. This year, the OCM welcomed the addition of Kathy

Hogg as our new administrative assistant as we began to process reports, legislation, and registrations for annual conference. After the session met, she continued helping us to organize the Conference Journal even as she was meeting new people and getting to know a new system. Her addition to the staff has been a blessing, and we look forward to her contributions in 2023!

In June, our PNW OCM staff had the opportunity to help provide technical and communications support for the PNW Annual Conference Session and the shared sessions of the Greater Northwest Area. Working with our technology partners GNTV and with staff and talented lay and clergy volunteers, we supported these mostly online sessions and celebrated the retirement of Bishop Elaine Stanovsky. We were blessed again to have the hospitality of Des Moines UMC, its staff, and Rev. Pam Osborne in providing a place for plenary and worship. Kent UMC and its staff welcomed us again to celebrate the commissioning and ordination of new clergy members. With increased confidence in gathering in person, we held this service indoors this year, whereas the same service was held on Kent UMC's lawn in 2021.

In the Fall, a newly formed Communications Commission held its first meeting. With members from the Alaska and Pacific Northwest Conferences, one area of focus it has identified is the need to be very intentional in managing the communications-related elements of the coming transition of Alaska to being a Mission District within the PNW Conference. I appreciate Rev. Jim Doeppen for his deep knowledge of ministry in Alaska and his willingness to serve as the convener for this commission. This is just one place where we are starting to live into the transitioning relationship between the two conferences structurally.

In November, United Methodist delegations from the West gathered in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the Western Jurisdictional Conference. Preparation for the gathering picked up steam in the months preceding it, and again, the jurisdictional communicators worked collaboratively to support the event. During and after the jurisdictional conference, our communications team delivered several resources to help to introduce three newly elected bishops, including Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, who was assigned to our Greater Northwest Area. Videos produced by Rev. David Valera were released just as the new episcopal assignments began. We also supported the first shared message of the new WJ College of Bishops offered for Epiphany, with the PNW Conference taking the lead on the video production.

As I write, our new bishop is still getting to know the 400+ churches and ministries of the Greater Northwest Area, as we are getting to know him. Recently, we've launched a new series of short videos where Bishop Cedrick answers questions from lay and clergy members. We are also scheduling small Zoom gatherings where he can connect with active leaders across the region before his installation service in Juneau, Alaska, in May. Much of this work is done collaboratively by the GNW Area's communicators; we continue to work closely together as we have during the pandemic.

Through much of 2022, conversations about the future of United Methodism persisted, with tensions rising when the Commission on the General Conference announced a

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further delay of the next General Conference until 2024. The formal launch of the Global Methodist Church initiated conversations about staying or going across the connection, with a fair amount of disinformation in its wake. While their campaign to persuade congregations to leave the church has been more successful in other regions of the church, its impact in the PNW Conference has been muted in comparison. However, with sorrow, we anticipate feeling a transition of our own as a small number of congregations leave our conference after special sessions expected this year. The temporary Disciplinary provision allowing disaffiliations closes at the end of 2023.

Over the past several years, we have all learned to expect the unexpected. With that acknowledged, we can hope this year will provide ample time and opportunity for us to transition into the church and connection that God is calling us to be. May we listen carefully for all the Spirit seeks to communicate to us, so we may go and do.

Patrick Scriven*Director of Communications, PNW Conference*

Connectional Ministries Associate

Because my position as Associate for Connectional Ministries in the Inland and Seven Rivers Districts was new in July 2021, I sometimes am asked questions about what exactly it is that I do in the Conference. I work under Rev. David Valera who is the Executive Director for Connectional Ministries in the Des Moines office. When my husband, Rev. Daniel Miranda, was appointed as DS of two districts, both Inland and Seven Rivers, there was concern that the job was too much for one person. To ease this workload, I was appointed half-time to serve as “conference staff on the field” serving the eastside churches. Much of my work focuses on the collaborative work of Connectional Ministries and our newly created Missional Cohorts.

Here are some of the responsibilities and activities I carried out in 2022:

- I visited with churches and talked with pastors and church leaders to build relationships and help district staff learn of the blessings, challenges, and needs of the churches. I have been available to answer a variety of resourcing questions from churches by phone, email and Zoom.
- Along with the DS, I helped design and set up the Missional Cohort system and met monthly with presiding pastors as they learned about their administrative responsibilities within each cohort. Cohort Lay Leaders will be added to the system in January 2023 to discern collaborative cohort ministries or projects.
- I participated in monthly Zoom gatherings, one for pastors and another for Lay Leaders, along with the DS. These meetings have proved to be helpful for churches to learn from one another and to provide encouragement and support during the challenges brought about by COVID.
- As Presiding Pastor of the Okanogan Cohort, I met with pastors and lay leaders monthly via Zoom.
- In May, I conducted an in-person workshop with the six small Okanogan Cohort churches. Topics addressed were: Lay Leadership Development, Alternatives to Every Sunday Traditional Worship, and Engaging Millennials.
- Bi-weekly OCM Zoom meetings allowed me to learn about the work and ministries of my OCM colleagues. This knowledge helped me better understand resources that are available to our churches.
- In May and June, at the request of the DS, I conducted Laity Transition Workshops for 12 eastside churches receiving new pastors in July.
- Along with DS Daniel Miranda, I attended the DS/DCM training in Lake Junaluska in July. This event helped me better understand the work of Connectional Ministries and gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues from across the country.
- I partner with Rev. Dr. Allen Buck, director of the GNW Circle of Indigenous Ministries, to build relationships with Native American ministries in our districts,

one in White Swan (Yakama) and the other in Lapwai (Nez Perce). On the Yakama reservation, we have connected with a Native American faith-based non-profit organization called Mending Wings. As well as serving high school students on the Yakama reservation, the organization offers training for cultural understanding through their Dancing Our Prayers troupe and week-long S.L.A.M. (Students Learning About Missions) Trips. In August, I participated in the Cultural Day of a SLAM Trip, along with three other representatives of the PNW. Focusing on the Yakama value of respect, our hosts shared insights into their culture as we visited cultural sites in the area. We toured Fort Simcoe (site of an Indian Agency boarding school) and stories were told about the mistreatment of native children at that school. Native music and dance was shared by the our hosts and a Salmon Bake was enjoyed by all. The young people participating in the SLAM Trip carried out several work projects on the homes of elders in the community during the week, all the while learning about Yakama culture. Mending Wings works for conciliation and seeks partners who will advocate for justice to native people. In 2023, we will seek scholarship money for 50 PNW youth to participate in a SLAM Trip.

- Throughout the year, I worked with Lay Servant Ministries to help potential Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers discern their call to ministry and navigate the required courses and certification process. In the fall, I was invited to join the team (headed by Rev. Kathy Neary) which is revamping the PNW Lay Servant Ministries program.
- I am an advocate for Connectional Ministries' organizations like UMVIM & UMCOR, and the Early Response Team and Long-Term Recovery Groups which serve in emergency situations. The 8 home rebuilds in Malden (in the Inland District) and the 42 Okanogan home rebuilds (in Seven Rivers District) have been major projects in eastern Washington over the past several years. In November, I had the privilege of representing the PNW at the dedication of three new homes in Okanogan County.
- As an advocate for United Women of Faith, I was guest speaker at the Inland District Fall Conference at Spokane Valley UMC.
- As Presiding Pastor of the Okanogan Cohort, I conducted Charge Conferences in October and November with the six churches in the cohort. I also attended several additional Charge Conferences in our districts representing Connectional Ministries.
- Communicating the ministry work of our districts through our monthly district newsletters is an important, ongoing part of my job. Our churches and connectional organizations do many amazing things, and we can learn much from one another. One of my articles was republished in our GNW newsletter.
- I serve on the Board of Trustees of Spokane United Methodist Home (now doing business as Rockwood Retirement Communities); my subcommittee assignment is with the Appleway Court Apartments which offers low income and affordable housing units.

- I provided pulpit supply to six churches, and often brought greetings or played a special piano piece when I visited churches in our districts.
- I have traveled with the DS to many of the disaffiliation Charge Conferences to be of support.
- As we neared the end of 2022, the Presiding Pastors and Lay Leaders from Inland and Seven Rivers Districts began to look at topics for training events in 2023, hopefully using both Zoom and in-person formats. It is likely that our first training will be on Congregational Care in April 2023.
- While COVID limited our ability to be out with district congregations when we first came on board in July of 2021, DS Daniel Miranda and I were still able to get to know pastors and church leaders on Zoom or in small groups. As restrictions lessened throughout 2022, we have visited 90% of our 72 churches in person.

I am pleased to represent the Connectional Ministries team as I serve on the eastside of the PNW Annual Conference. Working with the other Spokane-based conference staff, DS Daniel Miranda and Administrative Assistant, Laura Velonza, we feel the blessing of being able to collaborate in person, as well as working remotely with our Conference staff colleagues based in other places. One of the hallmarks of Methodism is our connectional work; together we can accomplish more than when we work alone. I look forward to more ministry collaboration as we move forward in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Shiela Miranda

Assistant for Connectional Ministries

Young People's Ministries

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCOYM) team consists of youth and adult volunteers from across the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference selected to be on this volunteer team. They represent youth on wider boards and committees of the annual conference, share information about district and conference youth events, and typically plan a conference-wide youth event called Convo. This event did not happen in 2022 due to the continuing Conference efforts to avoid large in person regional gatherings. The team has begun the planning to relaunch the team and organize conference-wide youth events in the 2023-2024 school year.

Weekly we offered a digital Young People's Ministry Check-in opportunity for those working with youth and children on Zoom. This provided space for fellowship, sharing ideas, praying for each other, and asking questions. This digital meeting has been a beneficial and life-giving time for the youth workers.

The Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries (YAM) struggled to find young adults willing to step into leadership on the team and therefore did not meet in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Tobey

Program Associate for Young People's Ministries

Regional Media Center

There can be no doubt that the last few years have been unique. Whether we're talking about the Regional Media Center, the United Methodist Church, or even the world in general. In 2019, before the pandemic hit, we still felt this way. In the United Methodist Church, we were already feeling like our structure was crumbling, and then the pandemic hit.

For context, in my 2019 report, I wrote:

"As a denomination, we are facing a massive change, the result of which none of us knows. How will it affect us financially? How will it affect the way that we are seen in our communities? How will it affect my livelihood? We know it will split our global church, but how will it affect our local churches? Will they be split too, in this era of already declining attendance? These are questions that many are asking.

With their financial, even foundational, future in question, local churches have had to make some important decisions. These decisions have affected the Regional Media Center. Since the Council of Bishop's announcement of the 2019 Special Session on April 24, 2017, the Regional Media Center has either lost by cancellation or lapse of membership 50 former-member churches, with the biggest drop-off happening in 2018.

The big change from 2017 to 2018 included the loss of our Desert Southwest Conference Member account (they decided to leave it up to each individual local church, whereas previously they were paying on behalf of their churches). Our total income from RMC Memberships in 2017 was \$13,056, and in 2018, it had dropped to \$6,436. In 2019, it was \$5,006."

So, before this pandemic ever hit us, we were seeing churches make hard financial decisions that affected the Regional Media Center.

Shortly after the pandemic began, we offered to all churches free RMC Membership, to potentially encourage usage, but also because we recognized a need. But the way we gather has changed dramatically, and that changes everything for the RMC.

Primarily, even before the pandemic hit, the practice of churches having in-person small groups was on the decline. Once the pandemic hit us, at least for the first while, those gatherings stopped almost completely. For the Regional Media Center, this impacted us greatly, since many of our offerings are meant for small in-person gatherings around media resources. As an example of how usage has dropped, here is the number of DVD Resources we've checked out over time:

2009: 538

2010: 697

2011: 734

2012: 777

2013: 732

2014: 606

2015: 357

2016: 270

2017: 159

2018: 150

2019: 110 (in 73 transactions)

2020: 20 (in 20 transactions)

2021: 35 (in 14 transactions)

2022: 15 (in 10 transactions)

2023, so far in only 2 months: 7 (in 7 transactions)

The beginning of 2023 has felt promising, both for how the world feels in general related to COVID, and in how folks are utilizing the RMC. It does feel like things might be starting to swing back up.

And secondly, before the pandemic even hit, the RMC had started to become a knowledge base for copyright information. With my personal experience working in theatres, schools, and churches, I had already been educated in many of the things I needed to know to help folks out in this manner. When the pandemic hit, this became infinitely more important work. As churches began to gather online, they also started falling outside of the Religious Service Exemption Clause of Copyright law, and so that part of the Regional Media Center became a big part of what we do.

We also assist folks to figure out which copyright blanket licenses might work for them. And this ties into the work that we still regularly do and have for some time now. The Regional Media Center handles our Group Copyright Licenses, which are for both our CCLI Basic and Streaming Licenses and for our CVLI Licenses. Our CCLI Licenses cover all churches in the PNW and AK (OR-ID opted out), and our CVLI License is an opt-in program, and we currently cover 49 churches. The CVLI License saves each church that opts-in to it \$125 per year, more than 50% of it's cost as an individual license.

In addition, with my background as a stage technician, a big part of what the RMC does lately is work with churches and their equipment. Whether that be the recommendation of new equipment or helping to guide them in use of equipment they already own. Going online added to complications for most, and things that folks didn't have to pay attention to before (like lighting and sound) were now very important; the need to move online, in many cases, forced folks to use equipment they already had in their church better than they were using it before. Of course, it forced a lot of churches to buy a lot of new equipment also, and we are ready to assist with that in the RMC.

I shouldn't fail to mention that, since 2020, the Regional Media Center website also hosts many valuable online resources. This online media library is regularly used, and we will strive for it to continue to grow.

The Regional Media Center provided equipment for various Conference events throughout the year, from BOOM meetings to Charge conferences. The RMC staff also assisted on events with various outside groups, such as FAN-WA and CWJFON.

Moving forward, we have many projects in the Regional Media Center, especially after receiving a very large donation of resources. Some of those things include transitioning the media in the RMC to begin using the Print room as an additional Resource space, getting rid of VHS tapes, and going through old resources to see if they still have any value.

With your permission, I would like to promote the RMC at AC more than in years past, with a promising beginning to 2023 for resources usage, I feel that this is the time to make a small push.

The nature of work in the Regional Media Center means that we are constantly shifting to best resource churches, and we will continue to adapt as the world shapes around us.

The work of the Regional Media Center has gotten lighter in physical resource checkouts over the pandemic, but only heavier in most other things. There is crucial, Christ-driven work happening all around us, and we enjoy being a part of it.

Ian Patrick McKnight

Regional Medial Center Manager

Archives and History

The conference year 2022 – 2023 has again been a quiet one for the Pacific Northwest United Methodist Church (PNWUMC) archives. A few inquiries into baptismal and marriage records have been able to be researched. A list of pastors assigned to the now closed McCleary Methodist church, requested by the local historical society, was compiled. Archive material has been donated to/received by the archives through the mail. The commission has not met during the year.

This year, at Annual Conference, the commission will present certificates honoring Thomas H. Albright and Richard G. Coghill for the 50th anniversary of their ordination as Elder in The United Methodist Church; and Donald G. Cramer for the 60th anniversary of his ordination as Elder in The Methodist Church. Also, this year will be the One Hundred Fiftieth Annual Session of Churches and Ministry Settings in Washington, Northern Idaho, and British Columbia. Prior to 1874 Methodist Episcopal churches in this area were part of the Oregon Conference, and Methodist Episcopal South churches were part of the Northwest Conference, which included Oregon, Montana, all of Idaho, and Eastern Washington. In September of 1874 the Columbia River Conference met for the first time, composed of M. E. churches from Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Northeastern Oregon. The conference headquarters were in The Dalles, Oregon. In 1884, the M. E. churches in Western Washington were split off from the Oregon Conference to form the Puget Sound Conference. In 1929 the Pacific Northwest Conference was formed, composed of M. E. churches in Washington, Alaska, and Northern Idaho, with a “Swedish District” comprised of the Swedish M. E. churches in the Puget Sound, Vancouver/Portland, and Spokane areas.

The official records and archives of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are located at the conference office in Des Moines, Washington, at The Bridge in Tacoma, Washington, and at Central Church in Richland, Washington.

Rev. William M. Bryan, Jr.
Chair, PNW Commission on Archives and History

Camping Board of Stewards

What We Do

The Camping Board of Stewards (CBS) mission statement is “Forming and renewing spiritual life through gracious hospitality in inspiring places, empowered leadership, effective management and resources, and broad connections.” CBS currently oversees 4 camps in the PNW Conference: Indianola, Lazy F, Ocean Park and Twinlow. We are happy to share some highlights of how we have worked to live into our mission over this past year in hopes that you will feel connected to this mission and ministry.

Formong and renewing spiritual life

We are excited that guest groups are feeling comfortable returning to gathering together at our Camp and Retreat Ministry centers. In 2022 we hosted a total of 14,098 overnight guest stays. This is about 65% of our pre-pandemic utilization, however we are hopeful that 2023 may see pre-pandemic numbers. Usage includes church retreats, special interest groups, personal retreats for pastoral staff as well as hosting a number of groups from outside of the United Methodist church.



In summer of 2022, we offered a total of 51 separate programs over the course of 9 weeks across our camps; serving 1289 campers! For 2023, we have 60 summer events planned.

Gracious hospitality in inspiring places

Twinlow made Newsweek's list of one of America's Best Summer Camps of 2023. We believe that all of our summer camps are awesome - and it is great to have this national recognition for one of them!

Our camps are adapting to serve school age children who benefit from the newly approved Outdoor Education for All in Washington State.

The lands and buildings in our care continue to need repairs to keep them safe and renovations the needs of the groups that use them. Current projects and considerations include:

- finishing the renovations of Madrona lodge at Camp Indianola
- renovation and renaming of the “old dining hall” at Lazy F
- updating the bath houses at Ocean Park and Twinlow
- early planning stages of another adult lodge at Twinlow.

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The Doe-Kag-Wats (the marshy land just north of the camp fire pit) have been known to Camp Indianola as a land Sacred to the Suquamish Tribe. The tribe has shown great interest recently in this land as well as other land that used to belong to the Suquamish, which has prompted social justice and land reclamation discussions that are likely to continue and deepen over the next year.

Empowered leadership

We have been very fortunate to have Greg Clensy and his family at Ocean Park. Greg has jumped right in with camp leadership as well as becoming a part of the local community.

Pete Simpson has agreed to stay on through this summer as interim director at Indianola - we will be looking for a new director soon.

We are thrilled that Kristen (Moonie) Moon and Dave Burfeind continue to serve at Twinlow and Lazy F, and that Alan Rogstad continues to support all of our camps as the Executive Director.

This year, Rick Sperry will be stepping in as Chairperson for CBS as Sandi rotates off the board.

Effective management and resources and broad connections

Overall, our camps are in relatively good shape financially due to careful attention to expenses and the final benefits from COVID benefits.

In 2022, the balance of the dining hall loan was reduced from \$738,973 to \$283,114, as a result of the "Debt Reduction Plan". This represents a huge savings in interest paid on this loan as well as putting Lazy F on a trajectory to retire the loan much sooner than expected.

CBS is actively updating strategic planning for our Camping and Retreat Ministry as we continue to evaluate and respond to how we can be the best stewards of the camps we are charged to manage.

Our greatest resource is YOU - the people of the United Methodist Conference who uphold Camp and Retreat Ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts and their service. It is not too late! Several of the camps are still looking for volunteers for a variety of positions at our summer camps. If you are looking for something to fill your spirit, remind you of the wonder of God's glorious creation, an opportunity to connect with and make the difference in a child's life, or just for a fun change of pace - please contact any one of our camp directors to get connected.

Sandi Miller

Chairperson, Camping Board of Stewards

Board of Church and Society

Meetings of the board were held by Zoom to address current justice and societal issues that were and continue to be top priorities previously identified by the board. These included poverty, climate change and care, health, peace, racism, civil and human rights. The board has spent significant time discussing creation care and intends to pursue this area vigorously in the coming year plus.

Homelessness has been a growing concern for persons throughout Washington State and Northern Idaho in addition to United Methodists, including Lutheran organizations. As we note the leadership given to this concern by the Faith Action Network, we note how collaboration on this issue and others is needed and a coordinated effort through FAN is not only possible, but desired. We are highly interested in exploring how to combine energies to be involved in the creation justice movement

We lift up the work of FAN positively and invite our congregations to become knowledgeable of their critical, effective advocacy work through FAN at the Washington state legislature. Our Conference strongly contributes funding to FAN and has an active presence on its advisory committee. Several board members already attend the annual Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia and members of our churches have been encouraged to attend.

The CBCS has also pursued awareness and action to address systemic racism in our society. We are aware of and positive note that a number of our congregations have been actively involved in group discussions of white supremacy through book discussions and have expressed the necessity of addressing racism at the root of the increasing number of deaths of persons of color in America. We value the work of the General Board of Church and Society as an invaluable resource to not only our board, but as an active presence in society and our denomination in revealing and addressing the negative ways that racism is a root cause of violence perpetrated upon African American, Native American, and Asian American members of our society. We seek to find collaborative ways to effectively work together to eliminate racism as we know it now. We must learn, listen, and act to address root causes of violence and prejudice. We call upon all members of our Conference ministries and churches to act through affirmation of our faith and call to justice as shown through the person, ministry and example of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

We applaud collaboration to address injustice not only through FAN but also within our structures such as the recently renamed United Methodist Women, now called United Women of Faith. We cherish the interface of representatives of the PNW UWF as members of our Board who seek to work together as organizations committed to faith and justice.

We warmly welcome Jackie Celin as a committed United Methodist assigned by the GBCS to work with our board as a presence and link between the general church and our Conference. Jackie is GBCS's Theological Intern from our Conference and an active justice advocate who attends First UMC of Seattle. As an effort to increase communication

and awareness of issues of injustice in our society the CBCS has continued to urge each of our Conference local congregations to elect a member to serve as its social justice advocate and contact person and identified in its annual charge conference reporting process.

We give thanks for the many congregations and individuals who have pursued peace and justice as part of their ministry in community and through the connections of the United Methodist Church. As Covid 19 has created challenges for some of the board's programs in the past year, we intend to resume making awards to persons embodying the spirit and ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and congregations offering outstanding ministries of peace and justice.

Jim Davis

Vice Chair and Convenor Pro Temp

Ethnic Ministries Report

I am happy to report on behalf of the Commission on Ethnic Ministry (COEM) of the PNW Conference. The COEM successfully supported and created vital ministries, and it was well on its way into programming amid the second year of the pandemic when I became the chair. With my transition geographically which included time zone changes, we were challenged with coordinating our calendars, but we stayed connected. Below are a couple of highlights from the projects for this past conference year.

Christmas Institute

The Christmas Institute is a thriving ministry of the conference, comprised of Filipino-American and Filipino- Canadian youth and young adult campers. The institute was able to return to in-person gathering and they had a meaningful fellowship. The cost of the in-person gathering doubled and COEM was able to provide a generous grant for the institute in 2022.

Facing the Future 2022

COEM was able to generously support all CRCC ministers in the Greater Northwest by paying the registration fees for our clergy to attend GCORR's Facing the Future virtual conference. Facing the Future is designed to resource ministers serving Cross-Racial Cross-Cultural appointments.



Due to transitions, we postponed the winter retreat and are planning an in-person event this upcoming summer. We received positive feedback about the virtual minister's retreat and are responding to the request for a summer fellowship from participants of the virtual retreat who completed the survey.

Here's a reminder of last year's event: The minister's retreat met for the first time since March 2020, which was the onset of the pandemic. We held a virtual retreat, and the PNW COEM extended the invitation to the Greater Northwest Area. The retreat was spiritual and informative, and the ethnic ministers reconnected and made new connections during the one-day event. The attendance was robust. The COEM provided significant funding for the event and was able to provide swag gift bags to all the active Ethnic Ministers in the Greater Northwest as an expression of mutual care and compassion.

COEM is committed to providing mutual care and compassion to our ethnic clergy by offering opportunities for fellowship, storytelling, education, and financial assistance. We welcome ideas from ethnic ministers about future programming that COEM can provide.

Rev. Dr. Troy Lynn Carr

Chair, PNW Commission on Ethnic Ministry

Faith Foundation

Greetings from Faith Foundation Northwest!

Although 2022 brought us a bear market, we saw unprecedented growth in our stock gifts program, and received more deposits than withdrawals from our partners in ministry. We also strengthened our internal accounting systems. We remain financially strong even as our assets under management fluctuate with the market. As long term investors, we trust that the market will reward our patience. Over the course of our organization’s history, this has always been the case.

2023 is a year of transition at the Foundation. Bob Ives, who has served as president of our Board since 2013, turns his role over to Dr. LaVerne Lewis. Tom Wilson, who has served as Executive Director of the Foundation since 1991, turns his role over to Julia Frisbie. LaVerne and Julia are already known and respected throughout the area we serve, and they will be supported by Bob and Tom through the transition and beyond. We anticipate no interruptions to the Foundation’s ministry. We give thanks for the gift of leadership, both that which brought us to this point, and that which will take us forward.

Our mission to support the long-term financial health of faith communities remains unchanged. Email staff@faith.foundation or call 1(800)488-4179 if your church could benefit from socially responsible financial management, church loans, endowment consultation, stock gift pass-throughs, or planned giving education. In faith and gratitude, we will continue to steward God’s gifts to serve all of God’s people.

Statement of Financial Position

| | 2022 Un-Audited* | 2021 Audited |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | 3,234,575.22 | 3,735,308.00 |
| Marketable Securities | 70,984,827.32 | 83,247,876.00 |
| Loans Receivable | 2,589,851.17 | 3,395,791.13 |
| Property Held | 124,000.00 | 124,000.00 |
| Office Furnishings, net of dep | 1,403.83 | 2,272.75 |
| Accrued Interest | - | - |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 76,934,657.54 | 90,505,247.88 |
| | | |
| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,462.41 | 800.66 |
| Accrued Liabilities | 14,250.00 | 14,250.00 |
| Due to Others | 68,144,670.57 | 78,980,245.90 |
| Gift Annuities | 472,645.14 | 660,109.89 |
| Managed Trusts | 723,369.29 | 1,313,467.63 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 69,356,397.41 | 80,968,874.08 |
| | | |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted | 2,195,110.44 | 2,712,687.00 |
| Temporarily Restricted | 421,909.50 | 564,179.73 |
| Permanently Restricted | 4,961,240.19 | 6,259,507.07 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 7,578,260.13 | 9,536,373.80 |
| | | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | 76,934,657.54 | 90,505,247.88 |

Partnerships across the Northwest



*Audited 2022 financials will be available by request upon their publication in mid-2023.

Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson, *Executive Director*

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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, often in coordination with the other conferences in our Greater NW Episcopal Area. 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?"

Our work is focused into two main areas: Disaster Response, which will include Connecting Neighbors, Emergency Response and UM Volunteers in Mission; and Mission Involvement, Leadership and Training, including the work of the Conference Mission Secretary, Hispanic Ministries, Global Mission Fellows, and our collaboration with UMW such as Mission u. In addition to the programming, our budget provides money from apportionments to support: Justice for our Neighbors, Tacoma Community House and Atlantic Street Center:

PNW Conference Disaster Response, 2022 Accomplishments - Dana & Kathy Bryson

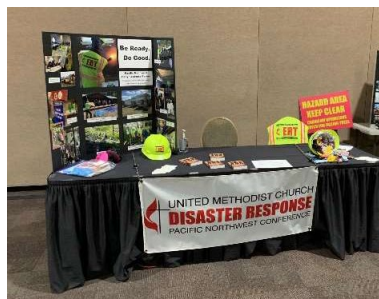
Response Coordinator Highlights

2022 was a turning point in returning to in field service missions. Disaster response volunteers traveled to Alaska, Kentucky, Maryland and served within the Conference in multiple ways. The new normal including virtual meetings that allowed PNW Conference disaster response leadership and UMCOR to serve three long term recovery groups through funding, training and mentoring. We see this trend continuing as the frequency and intensity of natural disasters continues to grow.

- On invitation and behalf of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Kathy and Dana deployed to Hazard, Kentucky for three weeks in August as UMCOR mentors for the Central Appalachian Conference (formerly the Red Bird Missional Conference) and Disaster Response Coordinator in response to the East Kentucky flooding in the Appalachian areas. They served as interim ERT Coordinators leading logistics discussions with eight Eastern Kentucky churches for potential team housing; interfaced with multiple Kentucky disaster response and relief organizations; engaged and represented UMCOR capabilities with six developing long term recovery groups (LTRGs); started the UMCOR Case Work and Disaster Case Manager concepts with the Conference and each of the LTRGs; mentored the UMCOR recovery grant processes with the Conference leadership and Disaster Response Coordinator.
- Facilitated the deployment of a two-person, highly experienced PNW ERT assessment team that spent seven days in the Alaska villages of Hooper Bay and Chevak evaluating property damage as a result of September's Typhoon Merbok. The team created, with assistance from an Alaska State representative, an "AppSheet" application then populated it with photos, location and detailed damage information of the affected homes in both villages to support future recovery teams. They

also developed detailed materials and tools list that the State of Alaska and Alaska VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) used for subsequent supplies acquisition to support repair activities.

- Successfully re-launched the PNW Conference ERT mission through an eight-member ERT serving in Whatcom County on June 25-29 assessing, cleaning/hauling debris and “mold fogging” for an at-risk neighborhood impacted by the November 2021 floods.
- Developed a protocol to blend Early Response Team (ERT)-qualified and temporarily qualified “ERT Volunteers” to facilitate a broader and more diverse participation in disaster response missions.
- Requalified both PNW and OR-ID Conference ERTs during a December 7 cross-Conference remote four-hour ERT UMCOR recertification class.
- Reached out to multiple UMC pastors in September that were affected by active wildfires with information on how to be a cooling/respite center plus providing fan filter kit instructions.
- Represented the PNWUMC Disaster Response mission and volunteer opportunities at the Washington State Veterans Service Fair on May 21 (photo) interfacing with active and retired military members along with their families.
- Attended the May week-long National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) 2022 Conference in Baltimore, MD along with 700 other member organizations and participants. They interfaced with leadership from multiple faith-based organizations and government agencies, including Mennonite Disaster Services, World Renew, Adventist Disaster Assistance, FEMA Region 9 and 10 Voluntary Agency Liaisons and Washington State Emergency Management Division representatives.
- Washington State Congressman Dan Newhouse recognized Kathy on the U.S. House of Representatives floor as one of three outstanding women leaders from Central Washington in a salute for her United Methodist Church disaster response volunteer efforts during March’s Women’s History Month: Rep. Newhouse Honors Central Washington Women in Recognition of Women’s History Month - YouTube
- Participated in the District Superintendent disaster response orientation during the May GNW Cabinet meeting.
- Participated in the Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IDAVOAD) August 15 all-day Multi Agency Response Center planning exercise. She will represent the only faith-based volunteer organization during this exercise.



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Long Term Recovery

Okanogan County (September 2020 wildfires)

- Managed \$333,000 in UMCOR Wildfire Rebuild Grant funds and \$60,000 in PNW conference Disaster funds to support wildfire survivor recovery. A total of \$238,351 was spent in 2022.
- Actively participated in the Unmet Needs Roundtable to support 203 survivor families through the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group.
- Thanks to the UMCOR/PNW Conference funding along with multiple United Methodist Volunteer in Mission teams, four homes were rebuilt for survivors with an additional four homes under construction.

Pine Creek Community Restoration (September 2020 wildfire)

- Seven UMCOR-trained disaster case managers took the case management process to closure in June after 18 months of serving 34 survivor families displaced or impacted by the 2020 Babb Road Fire. PNW Conference funds, combined with a 2020 UMCOR Solidarity Grant, brought the total to almost \$25,000 to support the case management process, survivor unmet needs, relief supplies and facilitated six “volunteer-build homes” that were completed late Spring.

Whatcom County 2021 Flood Recovery

- Survivor recovery efforts ramped up early in the year thanks to the efforts of 13 UMCOR-trained Disaster Case Managers serving over 600 survivor families.
- A \$100,000 recovery grant to the PNW Conference was awarded in September to support more than 575 survivor families. An additional \$10,000 in matching PNW Conference Disaster Response donated funds plus the initial UMCOR Solidarity Grant, brings the total to \$120,000 directed towards recovery support, construction supplies and survivor unmet needs.

Other Highlights

- The PNW Disaster Response Regional Supplies and Storage mission continued to expand with eight churches now serving as relief supply storage centers (photo is at the Mt Vernon UMC center).
- PNW Disaster Response/UMCOR continues an active high profile among disaster-related volunteer organizations as Kathy continues her second year serving as Vice President of the Washington Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WaVOAD).
- She also continues to serve as Co-Chair of the PNW Conference Board of Global Ministries.

Mission u 2022 - Carol Mariano, Dean

The transition to holding Mission u in Yakima at Wesley UMC went smoothly and seemed to be a great move. Participants stayed in motels close to the church so they could

be transported easily to the classes and events that were all at the church. There were 68 adults, six children, and two youth, for a total of 76 participants. A Zoom option covering the plenary sessions was also available, but we don't know how many took advantage of that.

The theme, "Who Can We Be Together: Building Communities of Hope and Joy," was presented in three adult classes lead by Yvonne Agduyeng, Ron and Lois Hines and Nica Sy. Youth leaders were Golden Neal and Danielle Ramsay. The children's program was led by Sue and Terry Raymond and Lyn Rush. The music team included John and Gloria Go and Cheryl Dyson. A major element of the presentations this year was the name and logo change of United Methodist Women. Their new name is United Women In Faith.

Hands-on mission projects were well attended. More than 200 Freedom Kits for Girls were made to be delivered to the Philippines. Several people braved the hot afternoon temperatures to help sort contributions to the Wesley UMC recycling center. Others made sandwiches for a feeding program.

When Dean Carol Mariano was rushed to the hospital in Yakima for a three day stay the night before Mission u was to begin, Assistant Dean Marilyn Reid stepped to run the program. Wesley UMC Pastor Shane Moore and the church staff were very helpful and hospitable and invited Mission u to return next year, July 21-23, 2023.

Conference Mission Secretary Of Global Ministries - Marilyn Sanchez Reid

As the mission and humanitarian assistance agency of The United Methodist Church, Global Ministries leads The United Methodist Church in equipping, strengthening and transforming people and communities for God's mission around the world. In its work of making disciples for Jesus Christ, Global Ministries envisions and facilitates mission so that churches and faith communities grow and flourish; justice, freedom, peace, health and well-being prevail across racial, cultural, national and political boundaries; and people of all faiths live in dignity and security, even when they face humanitarian disasters and aftermath.

Through mission, The United Methodist Church realizes its greatest unity through mission and being in mission together, society achieves its greatest potential.

The Conference Board of Global Ministries is a program committee, the Mission 'arm' of our conference, and consists of representatives from many areas of activity. Mission is what helps our churches grow and reach out to others. This may be local, conference wide, jurisdiction wide, or globally. All programming and spending is done with the question: "How does this educate, enable, and empower the local church to be in mission?" We are humbled by all the ways churches serve in the community, be it local or global. Through feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, making quilts, helping local families repair or build their homes, cleaning yards for the elderly, serving as disaster shelters – or gathering socks, hats and mittens for those who are cold, traveling with mission teams, or advocating for those with no voice – we are the United Methodist Church in action!

Conference Secretaries for Global Ministries from the Western Jurisdiction gathered

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2023 PNWAC

together February 28-March 1, in Mill Valley, California, along with Cal-Nev Conference and Global Ministries staff members. Thanks for the technology and was able to attend in zoom while I was in the Philippines. The Conference Secretary for Global Ministries (CSGM) are lay and clergy who promote relationships between annual conferences and Global Ministries. The CSGM has the important role of educating, connecting, and partnering with local churches to share information about missionaries and mission projects through the General Board of Global Ministries. The goal of the relationships is to garner support through prayer, emotional support, and donations. Global Ministries is the United Methodist Church's Mission Agency which focuses on four main areas: missionaries, global health, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and evangelism and church growth.

Topics Covered in the Retreat Included:

- Missio Dei (Latin for Mission of God) is invitational, God invites the church to be in mission and ministry as part of God's work in this world.
- Recognizing churches for their ongoing support is an important element in mission education.
- CSGMs are most successful when working on conference wide committees or task force.
- Supporters of Global Ministries make an incredible difference in the lives of people living in locations all over the world.
- Covenant Partnership is a powerful way local churches can be invited into arelationship with a missionary.

CSGMs are currently working on missionary itineration. There are over 40 missionaries from Global Ministries traveling to the United States to connect and to share with the local churches this year. This year Katherine Parker from Nepal will be here in July and one of the adult study leaders for mission u, Joy Prim from Hongkong in April, Helen Camarce in Cambodia in June. I also met Ronald Julian missionary in Japan and his wife Debbie in the Philippines.

Board of Laity

There are several trends occurring within the Pacific Northwest Conference over the last several years. The COVID Pandemic has temporarily closed many churches to in-person worship transitioning to a variety of technological options, Zoom, and other formats. While laity, for a time, lost the personal gathering, they have gained skills in using the technology to connect online. A new skill was needed from each congregation to manage the sound, visuals, and video of online worship. Choirs have reconvened, and churches are coming alive again. While online worship was vital during the isolation, it has introduced the blended worship concept ushering in a new way of doing church.

Disaffiliation has dominated the conversation in the UMC for the last 5 years. Congregations are now discerning whether the UMC is the right place for them. This liminal time has us all, clergy and laity, waiting to see the outcome.

Many churches have experienced a loss of members, financial restraints, reduction from full time pastors to part time, and the increased use of Certified Lay Ministers and Lay Lead Churches. While change is constant, the last few years have been uniquely intense.

While the Board of Laity has little impact on the financial or disaffiliation issues, we can focus on the role and capacity of laity. Several developments are underway including the establishment of the Conference Committee on Certified Lay Ministries led by the Rev. Kathy Neary. This team is made up of clergy and laity to revive both Certified Lay Ministers and Certified Lay Servant Leadership. John Townsend, the Inland District Lay Leader has been assigned to work with Kathy to build this team and Andy O'Donnell our new Associate Lay Leader is focusing on laity leadership development, encouraging learning both on and off the certification path. This effort is building a learning network within the Greater Northwest and the Western Jurisdiction to share training and learning resources.

There have been several changes on the Board. First is the stepping down of Angelina Goldwell the Associate Lay Leader of the conference and the election of Andy O'Donnell, the Sea Tac District Lay leader into the Associate Lay Leader of the Conference. We are also pleased to welcome Billie Fitzsimmons as the 7 Rivers District Lay Leader and Lyn Rush, sharing leadership of the Coast to Crest district. We also welcome Deb Avery as the new chair from United Women of Faith. It's a dynamic team committed to the continuous development of Laity.

Of significant note is the continuance of the SeaTac District networking meeting for Sea Tac Congregational Lay Leaders. This has become a valued and strong network that gathers to learn and share with one another. We are hoping to spread this program to other districts. Also, as cluster ministries are forming in our two eastern districts, it opens a chance for church lay leaders to step into a new partnership with clergy.

Nancy Tam Davis

PNW Conference Lay Leader

United Women in Faith

Moving into our Future with a “New Normal”

Impact...Influence...Inspire

During 2022 we continued to launch into our new branding...United Women in Faith. There has been so much “thinking outside the box” to continue to connect women of faith in their various passions and callings to make an impact in our world, provide leadership opportunities to assure ongoing diversity within our organization and to inspire women in their own spiritual journey. We have branched out in programming and learning opportunities such as “Faith Talks”; “Voices from the Field”; Mighty Networks; online “Author Talks” which are only some of the ways we, as United Women in Faith, are able to expand our concepts of Mission, Faith Development, Supportive Community and Educating for the Transformation of our world. We were so thrilled to, once again, hold our Cooperative Mission event in person as we gathered at Wesley UMC in Yakima in July. We held class sessions for adults, children and youth and we were also able to participate in some “hands on community mission work” that Wesley UMC is involved within their community. The Conference officers were also able to gather in person at “Lazy F” in April 2022 for planning and sharing.



**United
Women
in Faith**

Reading Program 2022

One of the many ways that education for transformation is impacted is by our United Women in Faith Reading Program. Books selected cover the categories of Leadership Development, Nurturing Community, Mission Education, Social Action, Spiritual Growth and includes books for children and youth. For 2022, throughout our conference it was reported that a total of 129 readers read a total of 650 books. There have been a variety of formats of book studies both in person and via zoom, as well as participation in Author Talks through National Division.

Mission Giving

Through our Five Channels of Mission Giving (Pledge, Thank Offering, Mission Recognition, Gift and Memory, Gift in Mission) our National Organization of United Women in Faith supports over 226 programs in 34 countries with 121 mission institutions within the United States. In 2022 our total mission giving amounted to \$78,225.56.

The Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith Endowment Fund

Established in 1997 the total fund balance is now \$93,000.25 thanks to generous donors. The interest is used for scholarships and special grants. Since January 2019 funds are invested in a Diversified Moderate Portfolio.

Legacy Fund

This fund is an investment (managed by Wespeth) to assure ongoing leadership development for the organization of United Women in Faith. A highlight for building this fund is our Annual Day of Giving on March 23. This honors the original date that a small group of women gathered in 1869 to plan to financially support women missionaries. Donations are received to honor and memorialize, and included in planned giving by individuals who believe in our Purpose of Mission and Ministry with Women, Children and Youth for the next 150 years! In 2022 our donation from Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith was \$1331.65. Many of our sisters attended Assembly 2022 in Orlando and one of the highlights was being able to attend the Legacy Banquet at which our beloved, Noriko Lao, was honored.

Mission Agencies

The Atlantic Street Center in Seattle and Tacoma Community House are the two national mission institutes in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Both receive support from United Women in Faith throughout the conference and National Division. We have representatives from our Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith working with both national mission institutions in various ways. Our conference also helped with financial support for a project called: La Posada Providencia. This is emergency living quarters being constructed on the Texas/Mexican border for migrants coordinated by Cindy Andrade Johnson.

The Conference UMW Annual Meeting

This was held on October 15, 2022, via zoom with a theme of climate care. I was elected to serve as president at this meeting and I have been able to attend a variety of planning meetings of various committees of our conference and look forward to moving into our future to assure that we continue to be open to our Creator's Call of direction for our organization.

Deb Avery,

President, PNW United Women in Faith

Innovation and Vitality

Statement of the Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality

On May 10, 2022, Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky announced that I would step into the role of Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality for the Greater Northwest Area (GNW Area) of The UMC, leading the work of the Innovation Vitality Team (IV Team). In my 20+ years as a conference staff member, I have led or intersected the work of congregational development and renewal, even as I honed skills to support our Episcopal area in valuing and practicing intercultural competency. For many years, I have believed that the work of inclusion is foundational to birthing new expressions of faith in the Wesleyan tradition and supporting our existing congregations to better engage their ministry contexts. Too often, the demographics around our churches change and too often, our congregations do not reflect those changes.

The IV Team posits that the practice of inclusion is foundational to our relevance in the world, and is theologically grounded. If we are better able to be in relationship with our neighbors, we will find the spark that God is tending in our various contexts, and join with God in fanning the flame that can enliven our work inside and outside of our church buildings. This is the movement of inclusion, innovation, and multiplication that you have heard me speak about in the past.

The team is smaller, comprising 3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions, down from a height of 5.5 FTE. For these last months, I have tended the important administrative and relational issues that had to be cared for as we moved into the next iteration of IV work. Honestly, it has taken longer than I expected. But I think we are in a good place now to advance this work.

Please pray with me that our efforts are pleasing to God, and that they bear good fruit.

Kristina Gonzalez
Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality

(Inclusion) If **WE** - our ministries, leaders and members - become more interculturally competent, then we will learn to welcome, include and partner with diverse neighbors.

(Innovation) If **WE** reach out to our neighbors with more openness to encounter what God is doing there and join or create the spark that comes at the intersection of difference - if we innovate - then

(Multiplication) **WE** will engage more new people, and multiply our impact through new relationships, partnerships, opportunities, and expressions, following the example of Jesus.

2022 Summary

GNW Area Innovation Projects

Below is a list of projects active in 2022. While under the care of the GNW IV Team, the projects are funded by their respective conference boards. Those boards are Vitality Team (VT) in Alaska; Congregational Development Team (CDT) in Oregon-Idaho; and Board of Congregational Development (BOCD) in Pacific Northwest. While the boards have responsibility for funding, the GNW Area Cabinet has responsibility for discerning and deploying leaders. The Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality serves on the GNW Area Cabinet.

Most projects were funded on a 5-year cycle that looks like a bell curve, with lesser funding in years 1 and 2 and the highest level of funding allocated in Year 3. The funding declines sharply in Years 4 and 5. This places significant stress on leaders (planter/innovators) as they must develop external sources of revenue to sustain the new ministry beyond Year 3, when the most significant allocation is distributed. Most projects have had difficulty garnering enough outside support by Year 3. Evaluation of this model is a top priority for 2023.

COVID took a significant toll on the projects and planters. Many were poised to move forward with their visions when COVID hit, restricting the relational aspects of new ministry work. The funding boards in all conferences modified their allocations somewhat to acknowledge the ways that COVID slowed progress. For the projects that were in their highest funding year (Year 3) in 2021-2022, the boards requested self-evaluations of the projects and, in most cases, granted Year 3-level funding (highest level) in Year 4. This relieved some pressure on planters; however, these planters are about to enter Year 5, and the drop in funding is significant.

For those projects that lived through the pandemic but were not in Year 3 of their funding cycle, the boards worked together to develop the Pivot Grant program. Pivot grants were to provide some support to mitigate for the effects of COVID for the projects that were in Year 4 or 5 of their funding cycle.

In all cases, the allocations on the table below include modifications to funding based on pandemic relief or other significant changes in the projects. If projects were extended beyond year 5, you will see that indicated in the column titled Project Year.

We celebrate that two projects moved into ‘multiplication’ status in 2022. These projects are Valley & Mountain in the SeaTac District and First United Methodist Church of Canada in the Puget Sound District, both in PNW. These projects are multiplying their reach, and warranted additional funding to expand.

It takes courage to do something new. According to church planting literature, most church planting efforts fail. We are blessed with planters who are resilient and able; even then, not all ideas take hold. We, as an institution have had mixed success in offering supportive structures and resources to aid these efforts. Please pray for these ongoing planting efforts and for the leaders that commit to them.

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| Project Name | Planter(s)/Innovator(s) | Year Initiated | Project Year* | Funding 2022 | Status |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---|
| Alaska | | | | | |
| Every Nation | Murray Crookes | 2018 | Yr 4-5 | \$98,624 | Continuing beyond IV with Alaska special funding |
| Oregon-Idaho | | | | | |
| Southeast Portland Parish | Eilidh Lowery | 2017 | Yr 5+ | \$8,700 | Continuing with Sellwood Community |
| Great Spirit UMC | Allen Buck | 2017 | Yr 5+ | \$30,000 | Continuing as Great Spirit and Circle of Indigenous Ministries |
| Storydwelling | Erika Spaet | 2017 | Yr 5+ | \$45,000 | Continuing beyond IV with ecumenical partners & potential O-I support |
| Bold New Season/Wesley UMC | Nicole Berry | 2018 | Yr 4-5 | \$50,000 | Continuing |
| Twin Falls UMC | Buddy Gharring | 2018 | Yr 4-5 | \$25,000 | Continuing |
| Portland Multicultural HUB-Cultural Soul Project | Daymond Glenn | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$280,500 | Includes COVID relief. Continuing |
| Sunnyside/Groves | Sunia Gibbs | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$46,900 | Includes COVID relief. Continuing |
| Beloved Community PDX | Karen Ward | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$100,000 | Includes COVID relief. Continuing |
| East Portland New Start | Nicholle Ortiz and Forrest Nameniuk | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$100,000 | Includes COVID relief. Continuing |
| Formerly Parkrose | Andru Morgan and Regina Morgan | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$100,000 | Includes COVID relief. Closed. Ministries continue as non-profits. |
| Wakeup Beaverton | Jefferson Chao | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$100,000 | Includes COVID relief. Continuing |
| Storyline | Anna Hoesly | 2021 | Yr 1-2 | \$20,000 | Continuing. Ecumenical partnership |
| Coburg Commons | Brandon Rhodes | 2022 | Yr 1 | \$47,000 | Continuing |
| Central OR Connectional Ministry (grant) | Jill Plant | NA | NA | \$6,000 | Continuing |
| Total Project Funding O-I | | | | \$959,100 | |

*The project year is typically July-June, matching the appointment year. Disbursements are reported on a calendar year; therefore, projects typically span two project years.

| Project Name | Planter(s)/Innovator(s) | Year Initiated | Project Year* | Funding 2022 | Status |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| Pacific Northwest | | | | | |
| Sunnyside Hispanic | Joel Rodriguez | 2017 | Yr 5+ | \$30,000 | Continuing. Delayed due to immigration |
| Redeemer UMC | Shelia Marie | 2016 | Yr 5+ | \$46,750 | Continuing |
| Creators' Table | Katy Shedlock | 2017 | Yr 5+ | \$48,000 | Continuing. Includes sustaining grant. Ecumenical partnership |
| Steamboat Island New Start Fellowship | Heather Sparkman | 2018 | Yr 4-5 | \$35,000 | Subsumed by Olympia First |
| Better Together | Kate Kilroy | 2018 | Yr 4-5 | \$50,000 | Continuing |
| Squamish Fellowship | Norman Feliciano | 2018 | Yr 4-5 | \$35,000 | Continuing as part of First UMC of Canada Multisite (see below) |
| Tacoma First Multicultural HUB | Shalom Agtarap | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$161,000 | Includes COVID relief. Continuing |
| Orting Repurpose | Alexa Eisenbarth | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$25,000 | Closed. Recovery Café continues as non-profit |
| Seattle Creative Communities | Danielle Elliott | 2019 | Yr 3-4 | \$125,000 | Includes COVID relief. Continuing |
| ACTS On Stage Multicultural HUB | Michelle Lang-Raymond | 2020 | Yr 2-3 | \$205,000 | Continuing |
| South Park Neighborhood Church | Maria-José (Coté) Soerens | 2020 | Yr 2-3 | \$107,650 | Continuing |
| Yesler Neighborhood New Project | Troy Lynn Carr/Caleb Encinas | 2020 | Yr 2-3 | \$90,772 | Continuing |
| Vashon UMC Vitality Project | Mark Wagner | 2021 | Yr 1-2 | \$37,500 | Continuing |
| First UMC of Canada Multisite | Norman Feliciano | 2022 | Yr 1 of 5 | \$65,000 | Multiplication Project |
| Valley & Mountain Theologian in Residence | Osagyefo Sekou | 2020 | Yr 2-3 | \$118,500 | Continuing |
| Valley & Mountain Multiplication | Osagyefo Sekou | 2022 | Yr 1 of 3 | \$333,334 | Multiplication Project |
| Latinx: Mt. Vernon First UMC | Zulma Tifre | 2022 | Yr 1 | \$12,500 | Continuing |
| Total Project Funding PNW | | | | \$1,526,006 | |

**The project year is typically July-June, matching the appointment year. Disbursements are reported on a calendar year; therefore, projects typically span two project years.*

Some Highlights

Below are highlights of innovation projects that have been the subjects of recent news coverage. They represent the practices of inclusion, innovation and multiplication, lived out in their unique contexts. We celebrate these plants and planters, and all who make their ministry possible among us.

- Storydwelling (Bend, OR) – Rev. Erika Spaet and her team received a \$350K grant from Deschutes County to expand the childcare cooperative that grew out of the Storydwelling faith community. ReVillage addresses the economic stresses of living in Bend, OR. The childcare cooperative serves mostly middle-income families with young children who could not afford or could not find options for infant and toddler care. Pastor Erika spends significant time supporting ReVillage, which may become a social enterprise aspect of Pastor Erika's ministry. A social enterprise is a for-profit or non-profit venture that has a positive impact on the community and may be mutually beneficial to the ministry from which it is birthed. ReVillage is committed to advocating for equity in childcare, and will expand soon to a second location. Storydwelling is a joint ministry of UMC and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Check out the [story](#) by Kristen Caldwell.
- First United Methodist Church of Canada Multisite –First UMC of Canada Multisite supports four sites with average worship attendance of 230 persons, under the leadership of Rev. Norman Feliciano. The ministry was known as 'Samahan' when it was birthed at the request of Filipino-Canadians in the early 2000s. Attendance is growing steadily. Pastor Norman is expanding the leadership team for each site while keeping the sites connected across the Greater Vancouver BC metropolitan area. As an ordained elder in the Middle Philippines Annual Conference, Pastor Norman came out of a tradition of church planting. The project is one of two 'multiplication' projects, where a single project multiplies beyond its original vision and often with additional sites. GNW News interviewed Pastor Norman recently and expanded this [story](#).
- Every Nation (Anchorage, Alaska) – Rev. Murray Crookes is an Alaska Native and provisional elder who has been approved for ordination at the 2023 PNW annual conference. Pastor Murray returned to Alaska after finishing his seminary education. Having spent much of his childhood away from traditional community, Pastor Murray cultivated relationships with Alaska Native siblings on his return to Anchorage and sensed a call to minister in this context. Every Nation has a small worshipping community that meets on Sundays and a larger community that gathers for meals on Tuesday evenings. COVID might have closed this relational ministry had it not been for the creativity of Pastor Murray and his community. UMC News Service visited Alaska recently and interviewed Pastor Murray about his ministry. We celebrate that Every Nation continues with the support of the Alaska Vitality and Leadership Teams. Here is their [story](#).

We have many stories to tell! We are beginning to work closely with our GNW Communicators to offer these stories as inspiration for our common work and for connection with the planters and projects. Watch for more opportunities in the coming months.

Administrative Modifications

Over these past months, the team has prioritized administrative issues that have drawn precious time from the central work of resourcing existing congregations, new starts, and planters. Managing the differences in policies and procedures across conferences has siphoned precious time from important work. The IV Team represents an experiment in area-wide work. Like every experiment, we discover the difficulties, roadblocks, and systems modifications necessary to do the work with transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness.

In the last 11 months, the IV Team has prioritized the following:

- **Funding Model:** Staff and funding boards are beginning to assess the efficacy of the 5 Year funding model from financial and programmatic perspectives to inform future project support (length of support and distribution).
- **Fiscal Management of Projects:** In 2023, the conference treasurers agreed to act as fiscal agents for the projects and planters until they have developed adequate administrative structures (congregation or non-profit). Centralizing the fiscal agent work allows for consistency in administration and ease in problem-solving.
- **Personnel:** Planters, IV Team and district superintendents are now supported by an HR professional who is working across the area. This support is invaluable and ensures accurate and timely support for HR issues, whether they be salary and benefits related or relational.
- **Relationship:** IV Team has prioritized intentional listening to planters, often in the company of their district superintendent and a member of the appropriate funding board. Exit interviews have given us important information for building or rebuilding relationships moving forward.
- **Funding Boards:** IV Team has worked closely with funding boards in providing appropriate information for transparency in decision-making, and in providing greater access of boards to planters and planters to boards.
- **Area-wide Initiative:** Funding boards collaborated to develop the Pivot Grant program. This was the first collaborative effort of funding boards in developing a common strategy and process across the area. Many thanks to the funding boards for taking this step into area-wide strategy and programming. The funding boards made their decisions separately, but the funding criteria and application were developed in common.
- **Project Development:** As we move forward, the IV Team is front-loading project planning and support of planters.
- **Budgeting and Financial Management:** The financial support for projects in the Oregon-Idaho and PNW Conferences comes from the sales of closed church properties. The Alaska Conference has established funds that support this work. While some sources of income are common, the ways these funds are administered differ among conferences. Oregon-Idaho funding is subject to market fluctuations. This became clear as the economy dipped in late 2022. In the next few months, we

will work across the area to ensure that funds committed for personnel (planters and staff), are insulated from market swings, and that reserves are identified appropriate to this purpose. This discussion will be important across the area, but particularly in the Oregon-Idaho Conference. As staffing and programmatic expenses are shared area-wide, diminished funding capacity in any one conference limits the staffing and programmatic capacity of all. It is for this reason that staffing will remain at its current level for the foreseeable future. When funding is replenished, it will be appropriate to develop a staffing model that meets the future needs.

Hope and Grace

Ultimately, the work of innovation and vitality is about culture change – culture change that compels us to engage our context as Jesus engaged his context. Jesus’ modeling requires that we engage in equity; be willing to allow our differences to inform our creativity; and partner with others in ways that multiply our reach. As Wesleyan Christians, we do this as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ to make positive and lasting change in the world. As Methodists, we must pay attention to the systems we are creating such that they are methodical and flexible; relational and accountable; challenging and supportive. This is our work as we hone this system, and as we look to sustainability of new faith community development and congregational renewal.

Many thanks to all – past and present – who pray for and support this work.

Kristina Gonzalez, *Executive Director for Innovation and Vitality on behalf of the IV Team,*

Rev. Dr. Jess Bielman, *Associate Director of Innovation for an Engaged Church*

Mr. Patrick Ferguson, *Administrative Coordinator for IV Team*

Vitality Commission

The Report, A Plain Account of the Strategy, Work and Processes of the Innovation Vitality Team, published in March 2021 called for the creation of a single area-wide governance structure called the GNW Vitality Council to begin the next phase of more productive, oversight, ownership, and strategic development. Subsequently the Vitality Commission constituted by Bishop Stanovsky in December 2021 was charged with exploring “the institutional and legal requirements for merging existing conference-level governance bodies into a single Greater Northwest Vitality Council.

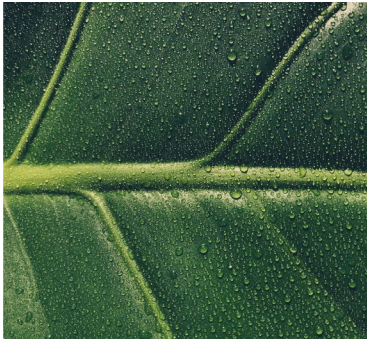
The Vitality Commission began meeting twice a month in January 2022-April 2023 to review relevant documents such as Northwest Adventure, the September Letter Response to the 2020 Annual Report to the Annual Conference, Book of Discipline 2016, and relevant legal resources. The Vitality Commission process consisted of document reviews, and conversations with planters and innovators, Innovation and Vitality leadership, GNW leadership and many in-depth discussions within the Vitality Commission.

The gathering, review, and discussion of the various resources to explore the institutional and legal requirements for a single Northwest Vitality Council was challenging for the Commission. During the tenure of the Commission, there were changes within the leadership of Innovation and Vitality. It was also challenging to align the perspectives and lived experiences of planters, conference leaders, clergy, and laity members of the Commission. We did not come to unanimous agreement that the single governance model was the best way forward for Innovation and Vitality. Our discussions lead to the realization that in addition to exploring the feasibility of the single governance model, recommendations for strategic changes to address the current and future experiences of planters and innovators were important to include. It is our belief that single governance alone may not address all the challenges facing planters and innovators. Our exploration identified six areas for Recommendations to Support Planters.

Recommendations to Support Planters

Detailed recommendations were made in the following areas:

- Funding
- Planter Support and Selection
- New Start Projects
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Planters of Color in established white congregations
- Racial Consciousness and Cultural Competency development in white congrega-



tions and the UMC system

- Support of Executive Director

Recommendations for a Single Governance Model

- Stabilize salaries and differentiate funding
- Create conference wide vision
- Establish metrics for project evaluation
- Determine racial consciousness of congregations

See the attached documents for the full list of the recommendations to support planters and for the single governance model.

As a result of the Vitality Commission's exploration, we separately submit legislation that combines the authority, funding, and accountability models under one area-wide Greater Northwest Vitality Council. By nurturing a shared vision (from the Wesleyan expression of theology), and by practicing the tenets of inclusion, innovation and multiplication drawn from Change Theory, we believe we can have a single board governing body that can standardize policies, share staff, share funding, and collaborate to embed the practices of vitality in the culture of every church and faith community. The Vitality Council is but one part of this call on every member of the Greater Northwest people called United Methodists.

Recommendations

1. Funding:

- Continue funding current Planters for a second cycle to maximize the success of their projects.
- Ensure and secure long-term funds that take into account a more realistic timeline for developing cross-cultural relationships and different types of innovation projects.
- Define sustainability. Right now, that seems to be five years of decreasing funding.
- Consider ten years, with key milestones delineated, including relationships built.

2. Planter Support and Selection:

- Develop a strong internal system for selecting and onboarding new Planters, with a dedicated focus on historically underrepresented groups within the UMC.
- Develop a strong internal infrastructure for supporting current Planters and the communities they serve. If the expertise doesn't exist internally, work with Planters on developing a professional development plan where they can outsource the needed support and find innovative ways for professional development related to their projects.
- Enable access to information even in other languages, especially for Planters who

do not speak English as their first language.

3. New Start Projects:

- Only bring in new Planters who are focused on starting a new church or building a new congregation with a focus on historically underserved and underrepresented groups with the UMC.
- Develop new Planters within congregations of color.
- Determine church/congregation characteristics that set Planters up for success. Prioritize churches that have these characteristics for Planters.
- Every Planter should have behavior, practice, and a high awareness of the fight against racism, xenophobia, lgbtq+ phobia, and discrimination.

4. Assessment and Evaluation:

- Define what success looks like for each project. Include Planters and churches in defining success at the outset.
- Since much of the work is local, organic, evolving, iterative, and building relationships, decide how accountability will be structured.
- Conduct a concrete evaluation of each planter's short, medium, and long-term results. It is crucial to remember the main objective is the mission, and therefore we want to see those results reflected in the consciousness and practice of the Planter.
- Work with the Planters to define success and these milestones.
- Define the values, constructs, criteria, and training that allows this work to thrive and set a different kind of table. Set it up in such a way that Planters and congregations could share their learnings with each other and with other churches.
- If most church plants and innovations fail, consider a new model for sustainability.

5. Planters of Color in established white congregations:

- Do not place Planters of Color in already established white congregations.
- Focus more on bringing in Planters of Color who can develop and start their own congregations.

6. Work needed for already established white congregations and the UMC system:

- Develop a robust process for determining the racial consciousness of white congregations. This should include a plan for increasing racial consciousness, and ongoing monitoring of this process should be mandatory. As currently structured, white dominant culture and structures of the UMC are getting in the way of innovation and vitality work. We are trying to do a new thing in an old system.
- Create a plan to engage white congregations in learning about and acknowledging their white dominant colonial approach to ministry. This should include strategies for reconciliation.
- Invest in congregational training and development in intercultural ministry for

white congregations.

7. Support of Executive Director:

- Affirm the Executive Director’s leadership and maximize her voice, skillset, expertise, and ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

2022-2023 Vitality Commission Team Members

- Mark Galang
- Daymond Glenn
- Wongee Joh
- Cynthia MacLeod
- Skylar Marston-Bihl
- Elizabeth Ripley
- Jeremy Smith
- Funga Taufouu

“After receiving more feedback from Annual Conference leadership bodies and processes after our legislation was submitted, the Vitality Commission voted on May 18th to withdraw the one-board Vitality Council legislation for 2023 consideration. We lament we did not invest the relational work necessary to effect passage and build support for such a wide-ranging and cross-conference effort.

The will of all three Annual Conferences in 2021 was to effect single board governance and tasked the Vitality Commission to research its viability. The Vitality Commission has proposed a viable path forward, but the proposal does not have the support of all three conferences. We now turn ownership of that decision to the Annual Conference to create a new team focused on building support for a one board model, or to decide its time has passed.

Our Vitality Commission Report stands alone in the conference reports section of the journal, and its recommendations are not contingent on this legislation. Ownership and implementation of those recommendations will now fall not to a new representative cross-conference team, but back to the established Conference teams and the Greater Northwest Cabinet.”

Outside Institution Reports

Africa University

You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. —Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

United Methodists worldwide celebrated an 'Ebenezer' moment in the ministry of Africa University in 2022, marking 30 years of faithfulness, generosity, growth, and impact within and beyond The United Methodist Church.

God's presence and provision in the life of Africa University are evident, thanks to the strong missional engagement of the Pacific Northwest Conference. In 2022, the Pacific Northwest Conference graciously invested 88.34 percent of its share of general church giving to support the day-to-day operations of Africa University.

Supported by Pacific Northwest United Methodists and others across the denomination, Africa University embraced new opportunities as it emerged from pandemic-related restrictions in 2022.

- **Enrollment:** Africa University enrolled a total of 2,791 students from 23 African countries in August 2022. Female students comprised 58 percent of the student population.
- **Academic Growth:** The first new academic unit to open at Africa University in almost twenty years—The School of Law—enrolled a pioneer cohort of 20 students pursuing the Bachelor of Laws (Honors) (LLBS) degree program. Five new undergraduate and graduate programs are in the pipeline for implementation. All five have the approval of the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE), the national accreditation and quality assurance agency.
- **Infrastructure expansion:** Construction of a new residence hall for female students at Africa University is ongoing. Funding to build and equip the facility was provided by the East Ohio Conference (EOC). The EOC's Teach * Reach * Bless residence hall will boost the available on-campus housing for students to around 1200 beds.

Africa University's year-long 30th anniversary program culminated in October 2022 with a gathering of more than 3,000 people at its main campus in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Amidst the commemoration and joyful thanksgiving livestreamed to the world, the Rev. Dr. Peter Mageto was installed as the fifth vice chancellor (president) of the institution.


Mageto, a Kenyan and academician specializing in theological ethics, echoed the gratitude of the students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni of Africa University for the many answered prayers represented in the Africa University story. His inaugural address highlighted the optimism and commitment to purpose that drive the university's unfolding vision.

"Today, Africa University turns thirty. The number 30 is a blessed figure. Thirty was the age of our Lord Jesus Christ when he commenced his ministry here on earth. It gives us great faith to be walking resolutely towards the fourth decade," Mageto said.

Thank you, Pacific Northwest Conference, for nurturing change leaders and building an enduring legacy through the ministry of Africa University. Let us continue to journey together—learning, leading, and serving God, all the time, everywhere.

James H. Salley, *Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office*

REPORTS



**GROWING DEEPER ROOTS...
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Through the Africa University Fund, you are empowering the **next generation of innovators, leaders and dreamers** to transform the church, Africa and the world. **Thank you!**




**AFRICA
UNIVERSITY**
A United Methodist Related Institution

2022 AUF
SUPPORTER:
**THANK
YOU!**

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times. A year like 2022 makes even more relevant BUSTH's historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice in equipping transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

BREAKING NEWS:

- Students: Our academic year 2022-23 entering class was among our most diverse, with 88 new students enrolling, 34% of whom are international students.
- Faculty: In September we welcomed three new faculty members: James McCarty, Assistant Clinical Professor of Religion and Conflict Transformation; Eunil David Cho, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care; and Peng Yin, Assistant Professor of Ethics.  **Boston University** School of Theology
- New Online Degree First Cohort: BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—welcomed its first students in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life. Learn more at bu.edu/sth/marpl.
- Faculty Research: Prof. Filipe Maia was awarded a Louisville Institute book grant in April, and Prof. Luis Menéndez-Antuña was awarded a grant from the Catholic Biblical Association in August. Other large grants continue to move forward, including the Trauma Responsive Congregations Project led by Prof. Shelly Rambo and supported by the Lilly Endowment, and the Positive Psychology and Formation-Based Flourishing grant led by Prof. Steven Sandage and supported by the Peale Foundation.
- Scholarships: This year, we announced free tuition for all residential master's candidates. We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include the Research & Teaching Fund and Affirmation & Empowerment Fund as well as the following endowed funds: DEI, Theology & the Arts, and Doctor of Ministry.
- Accreditation Visit: BUSTH just welcomed the United Methodist University Senate Review team on February 1-3 for our re-accreditation visit.
- Online Lifelong Learning: BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include "Ethics and Video Games," and "Spiritual Mending for Helping Professionals." To learn more, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- Development: Recent accomplishments include endowing the Faith and Ecological Justice Fund, and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as “Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds.”
- This year’s Lowell Lecture topics explore the spiritual dimension of artistic expression. This fall, Dr. Emmett G. Price III highlighted the brilliant resilience and demonstrative hope of Black folk through the lens of two exceptional spiritual beings: Nina Simone and John Coltrane. A diverse panel response fostered rich conversation.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

With faith and gratitude,

G. Sujin Pak, *Dean*

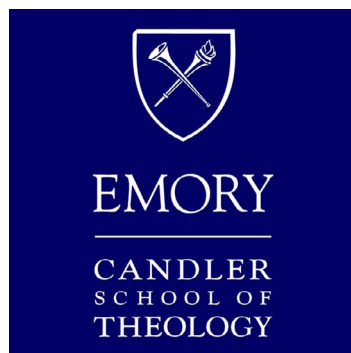
Candler School of Theology

Since 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from more than 42 denominations, with nearly half of Master of Divinity students coming from the Wesleyan tradition, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 417 from 16 countries and 33 states, and 43% persons of color. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our life together and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees and ten dual degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats so students can remain rooted in their home communities as they pursue their degrees. Our new hybrid Master of Divinity blending online classes and in-person intensives launches in Fall 2023, and our successful Doctor of Ministry—with its high 87% completion rate—is 90% online. Hybrid and online options are also available in the Master of Religious Leadership and the Master of Religion and Public Life programs. Plus, Candler's Teaching Parish program allows student pastors to earn contextual education credit as they serve their churches. We are excited that these flexible learning formats make a first-rate Candler education possible for even more people who are called to ministry.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2021-2022, we awarded \$7.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition. MDiv students also complete a financial literacy program to strengthen their financial and budgeting skills and reduce debt.

Candler was recently honored as one of 16 theological schools to receive a "Pathways to Tomorrow" grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The \$5 million grant will support Candler in establishing a set of initiatives to create an interconnected continuum of offerings for the education of pastoral leaders. This will position Candler as a hub of theological learning with multiple entry points, including The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to the public, the United Methodist Course of Study, undergraduate classes, and a new venture, La Mesa Academy for Theological Stud-



ies. Set to launch in Fall 2023, La Mesa Academy will offer diplomas in pastoral leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish and English. An optional third year of study will be offered to those aspiring to continue to a graduate professional degree at Candler.

This year, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski as Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies, a position made available by the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder. Brett is an elder in full connection in the Florida Annual Conference and most recently served for nine years as senior pastor of Christ Church United Methodist in Ft. Lauderdale. In addition to other pastoral appointments, he has held a variety of leadership roles in the Florida Conference, including chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He is deeply committed to working with students in discerning their call, spiritual formation, and guiding them through the commissioning and ordination process.

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

Jan Love

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

Claremont School of Theology

I believe the word that best describes the state of Claremont School of Theology is “transition.” We are experiencing many transitions as a school, and we are challenged to keep up with them. Through it all, God is good, enabling us to move forward in healthy and life-giving ways.

The first transition is the stepping back of our leader and President, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan. One cannot thank Jeffrey enough for his ten years of service as the President of CST. Jeffrey has worked tirelessly to keep CST alive and well. He has given his all to the school, and after such a long and faithful tenure, he felt this was the time for him to engage in much-needed self-care and family time. After his sabbatical this Spring, Jeffrey will step down as president and return as a senior administrator and faculty member of the school. We thank God for Jeffrey’s leadership and celebrate the fact that he will continue to be a vital part of the school for years to come!

Our next transition is a permanent move from our present location in Claremont back to our original roots in Los Angeles. Moving back to Los Angeles allows us to do the type of education and ministry that is vital to our unique commitment to the principles of diversity, inclusion, and interreligious education. This move will enable us to live out our values as we seek to empower underserved communities, conduct intercultural programs, and interface with many different religions and religious movements. We will be located on the Westwood United Methodist Church campus, where we will have our own dedicated area, and we are grateful for the church’s vision and commitment to working with us.

Another of our transitions will soon transpire as we finalize our relationship with the Claremont Colleges in seeking a just arbitration for our Claremont property. The courts have already determined that we must sell our property to the Claremont Colleges, and we are seeking a just and sustainable price for the value of our property. We are hoping for a final court arbitration this coming year.

All these major transitions mean that we can start anew, and we have a grand vision for a reboot of theological education on the West Coast. We are moving toward a robust array of academic offerings, for which a student’s relocation is not required. This aligns with the current life situation for many of our students: the ability to work toward a terminal degree without having to uproot their lives and families and move to a brick-and-mortar school location. It allows the freedom of students to live in their local communities and continue their education with the high standards CST has represented. To be a “seminary without walls” gives us the freedom to move and have our being in a totally new and innovative way.



We call this “Claremont 2.0,” and it is opening up the doors of our imagination and creativity to be something beyond a traditional place of higher learning and growth for the church. Our three principles of “Justice, Compassion, and Belonging” help us recommit ourselves to being an institution that transforms people’s lives so that they can transform others and the world. CST’s great strengths are openness, spirituality, innovation, and interreligious acceptance. We have been at the forefront of Process Theology and a commitment to global and environmental justice. Students come to us longing for the tools to make a difference in the world and leave us ready to make their own mark upon the world.

We continue to create and hone this new vision, and we invite you to join us as we remake theological education for a new world! It is such an exciting time for us here at CST!

One of the inspiring elements of CST is our new and upcoming faculty and staff. We have some of the brightest and most committed faculty, being mentored and supported by our tenured professors. It is a place of safety and support, and we are blessed with both experience and passion.

Some major changes in our wonderful staff include:

- Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan has been appointed President Emeritus and Sr. Advisor to the President.
- Dr. Andrew Dreitcer has been appointed Dean of the Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs, with the “Interim” title removed.
- Dr. Yohana Junker has been appointed “Associate Dean for Strategic Planning” as she continues as Assistant Professor of Art, Religion, and Culture and Project Director / Phase 2 of the Pathways for Tomorrow Lilly Grant.
- Dr. Yuki Schwartz’s title shifts to Assistant Professor of Constructive Theologies, Spirituality, and Decolonial Studies, as she continues as “Associate Dean for Assessment and Academics.”
- Dr. Aizaiah Yong will move from “Interim Associate Dean of Students” to “Associate Dean of Students.”
- Dr. Sharon Jacob’s appointment as “Visiting Professor of New Testament and Postcolonial Studies has been extended.

I ask for your prayers and financial support as we head into the future. CST has been woefully underfunded its entire existence. We will need some extraordinarily good fortune in the coming months and years to have a viable future. We need your help, however small, to invest in our future.

Whatever you can do to help us will be appreciated and cherished. Please reach out to me personally for any questions or commitments. I want to thank you in advance for your consideration.

I end this report by listing our great faculty’s current accomplishments. It is just a short summary, yet it represents how wonderful our faculty is and showcases their accomplishments.

Faculty Accomplishments

Philip Clayton: Ingraham Professor of Theology

Dr. Clayton continues to advise CST MDiv students and mentor Ph.D. and D.Min. candidates, yet the majority of his time has been spent as President of the Institute for Ecological Civilization, EcoCiv.org. EcoCiv grew out of the 2000-person conference, “Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization,” which we co-organized and led in 2015 under the leadership of John Cobb. Since that time EcoCiv has grown to a staff of 15 and has led projects and events in 10 different countries around the world. Dr. Clayton continues to write and produced the following books: *What is Ecological Civilization?* Crisis, Hope, and the Future of the Planet, co-authored with Andrew Schwartz (Process Century Press, 2019), *The New Possible: Visions of our World beyond Crisis*, co-edited with Kelli Archie (Cascade, 2000), *Science and the Sacred: Beyond the Gods in Our Image*, with C. S. Pearce (Cascade, 2023). In preparation is the forthcoming *Hope beyond Belief: Sacred and Secular*, with Steven Knapp.

Andrew Dreitcer: Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dean of the Faculty Professor of Spirituality; Co-Director of The Center for Engaged Compassion

In addition to Dr. Dreitcer’s heavy administrative and supervisorial load as Acting Dean, he was able to: complete a chapter of a festschrift for a dear friend and colleague; published an article in a special edition of *Mindfulness Journal* that described how “skillful means” (a Buddhist notion) appear in compassion-forming practices in Christian traditions, and gave a panel presentation on “contemplative capacities” in Christian compassion formation at the newly-formed International Society for Contemplative Research.

Roland Faber: Kilsby Family/John B. Cobb Jr. Professor of Process Studies

Dr. Faber continued his prodigious scholarly writing by completing two major books: *The Mind of Whitehead: Adventure in Ideas* (Pickwick, 2023), and *Divine Appearances: Transreligious Aspects of the Baha’i Discourse on the Manifestation of God* (Kalimat Press, 2022). He continues to write extensively for Professional Journals and scholarly articles in theology and philosophy.

Lailatul Fitriyah: Assistant Professor of Interreligious Education

Along with numerous journal and professional articles, Dr. Fitriyah contributed to two major book chapters: “Can We Stop Talking About the ‘Hijab’? Islamic Feminism, Intersectionality, and the Indonesian Muslim Female Migrant Workers” In Saraswati, L.A., Barbara Shaw, and Heather Rellihan, eds. *Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Reader: Intersectional and Interdisciplinary Approaches*, Second Edition. Oxford University Press (November, 2020) and “Kata Pengantar (Foreword)” In Coen Husain Pontoh, ed., *Tuhan, Perempuan dan Pasar*. IndoProgress Publisher, 2019. In addition, she continues to be a leading voice at lectures and academic conferences in the area of world religions and interfaith dialogues.

Maggie Froelich: Director of Library Services; Accreditation Liaison; PhD Exams Coordinator; Assistant Professor of New Testament and Christian Identity

In addition to coordinating virtually all of CST’s accreditation processes and documentation, Dr. Froelich is finishing her Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS)

program at the University of Missouri Columbia. Her Ph.D. dissertation was published into her first book: *Jesus and the Empire of God: Royal Language and Imperial Ideology in the Gospel of Mark* by T&T Clark, Publishers.

Lincoln E. Galloway: K. Morgan Edwards Professor of Homiletics; Coordinator of the Mentoring D.Min. Program

Dr. Galloway has been on Research Leave this Spring but continues to be active in the church and academy. He participated in the Planning Committee African American Caucus Meeting, the Academy of Homiletics Annual Meeting, December 2022, and the Academy of Homiletics Annual Meeting, December 2022. He also served as a Panelist – Topic: Deconstructing Whiteness in Preaching. Dr. Galloway recently Chaired and coordinated one of our CST history's best annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations, featuring Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks. He preaches at local churches on a regular basis and was a guest preacher 18 times this past year!

Alecia C. Glaize: Interim Director & Instructor of Field Education

Rev. Alecia Curtis Glaize assumed the position of Interim Director of Field Education on July 1, 2022. In the first few months of being in this position, she has focused on getting to know CST students serving in Field Ed internships and learning how best to support both students and their supervising pastors. She loves being a guide and encourager to seminary students. Alecia holds a BA in Religion from Huntingdon College (Montgomery, AL) and a MA in Religious Education from CST. She is ordained as a Deacon in Full Connection in the United Methodist Church and is certified as a Christian Educator in the United Methodist Church.

Nicholas Grier: Associate Professor of Practical Theology Spiritual Care, and Counseling Dr. Grier, who is on Research Leave this semester, continues to stay very active, regularly counseling clients to receive the highest level of counseling licensure, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) in Illinois and License Professional Counselor (LPC) in Oregon. The additional hours that he is gaining can also be used for licensure in California as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). He continues to write and research and has two books in progress: *Care of the Nation: A Loving Home for the American People & Citizens of the World* and *Working Above Ground: Resources for Healing & Justice from Within African American Communities*, Carroll Watkins Ali and Nicholas Grier, eds.

Grant Hagiya: President Ad Interim; Professor of Leadership and Innovation

President Hagiya recently helped lead the UMC New Bishops Orientation, leading a session on “The First 90 Days Orientation” and “An Introduction to Coaching.” He also coordinated the personal coaching of each of the new Bishops. He will be presenting an innovation lecture at the UMC National Developers and Planters Gathering in Colorado on April 25, 2023. He is presently working on his final professional coaching certification, “Master Certified Coach” (MCC), through the International Coaching Federation.

Sharon Jacob: Visiting Professor of New Testament & Postcolonial Studies

Dr. Jacob has written “One Nation Under God: Teaching Biblical Studies in the era of Nationalism,” in *Pedagogy, Racism, and Biblical Studies*, Society of Biblical Literature

Press, Published 2023. She was also the keynote speaker of a three-part lecture series at All Souls Episcopal Church, Berkeley CA on “Mary, Motherhood, and Surrogacy.”

Yohana A. Junker: Assistant Professor of Art, Religion, and Culture; Associate Dean for Strategic Planning;

Project Director / Phase 2 of the Pathways for Tomorrow Lilly Grant

Dr. Junker published two major book offerings: “Interreligious Pedagogies: Indigenous and Afro-Atlantic Religious Traditions and the Visual Arts,” for the Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies, Georgetown, Spring 2022, and “Decolonizing Landscapes: Artistic Activism and Eco-religious Imagination.” In Religion and Sustainability: Interreligious Resources, Interdisciplinary Responses, edited by Rita D. Sherma & P. Bilimoria, Springer, 2022. She also has two forthcoming book publications: “Imaging Loss and Longing: Doris Salcedo Art and the Power of Collective Testimony,” for In Color: Embodied Approaches to Theopoetics, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Fall 2023, and “Weaving Land and Water: On the Poetics of Diasporic and Indigenous Resistance,” in A Curious Regard: Religion and Contemporary Art, Ron Bernier and Rachel Smith, editors, Routledge, Fall 2023.

Grace Yia-Hei Kao: Professor of Ethics – On leave for 2022-2023; Interim/Inaugural Bishop Roy I. Sano & Kathleen A. Thomas-Sano Professor in Pacific & Asian American Theology

Dr. Kao has been on Sabbatical leave this past semester, but she continues to write and present on a regular basis. Her recent publications include: “Recent Male Circumcision Controversies, Barth, and Infant Baptism,” in Theo-Politics? Conversing with Barth in Western and Asian Contexts, ed. Markus Höfner, 49-68 (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2022) and “Exploring Surrogacy Among Gay Men and as a Theodicy,” Syndicate, Symposium on Danielle Tumminio Hansen’s Conceiving Family: A Practical Theology of Surrogacy and Self (Baylor UP, 2019) [Book review], 2023. Her book, My Body, Their Baby: A Progressive Christian Vision for Surrogacy will be published by Stanford UP on Aug 15, 2023.

Namjoong Kim: Director of Intensive (Korean-language) D.Min. Program

Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry:

Dr. Kim contributed an article to Preaching the Manifold Grace of God, Volume 2: Theologies of Preaching in the Early Twenty-First Century. Furthermore, as part of the Multicultural Worship: Theory and Practice project, his paper entitled “Exploring Inter-generational Worship of Interdependence in a Korean American Context” was published online in Religions in December 2022.

Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan: President (sabbatical leave); Professor of Hebrew Bible

Rev. Dr. Kuan continues to be one of the true experts in the accreditation of institutes of higher education. He also continues to give leadership, either Chairing or serving as a member of almost a dozen higher education organizations and committees. He has found time to write *From Malaysia to the Ends of the Earth: Southeast Asian and Diasporic Contributions to Biblical and Theological Studies* (co-editor with Elaine Wei-Fun Goh, Jonathan Yun-Ka Tan, and Amos Wai-Ming Yong; Claremont, CA: Claremont Press, 2021). Finally, he has Launched the Global Ph.D. program in Contextual Theologies.

Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook: Professor of Practical Theology and Religious Education

Along with dozens of scholarly journal articles and editorial roles, Dr. Kujawa-Holbrook has written the following books: *Injustice and the Care of Souls: Pastoral Care with Marginalized Communities*, with Karen B. Montagno. Augsburg Fortress, 2nd Edition, 2023, and forthcoming *A History of the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity – A Religious Community of the Episcopal Church*, publisher contract pending, 2023.

K. Samuel Lee: Executive Director, The Clinebell Institute; Edna & Lowell Craig Professor of Practical Theology, Spiritual Care, & Counseling

Dr. Lee Co-wrote the book: *Justice Matters: Spiritual Care and Pastoral Theological Imaginations in Times of the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Lee, Kyungsig Samuel and Danjuma Gibson, eds. London: Routledge, 2023. Among his many other accomplishments, Dr. Lee established the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education's Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy certificate training program in Korea in January 2023.

Venu Mehta: Bhagwan Chandraprabhu Postdoctoral Fellow in Jain Studies; Assistant Professor of Jainism and Comparative Spiritualities

In addition to many scholarly journal articles and presentations, Dr. Metha received the Uberoi Foundation Grant Award 2022 with the grant award of \$10,000 for organizing a conference on the theme, *Forgiveness: Jainism and Interreligious Perspectives* during 2022-25 by the Uberoi Foundation for Religious Studies. She also received the Rothman Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities by the Robert and Margaret Rothman Endowment in the Humanities for the PhD dissertation project and research for 2021-2022.

Frank Rogers, Jr.: Muriel Bernice Roberts Professor of Spiritual Formation & Narrative Pedagogy; Co-Director of the Center for Engaged Compassion

Along with many scholarly journal articles and delivering many lectures, talks, and addresses, Dr. Rogers completed the book *My Sister's Pieta: A Spiritual Journey from Trauma to Recovery* Lake Drive Books, September 1, 2023. In addition, his popular book, *Practicing Compassion*, was translated into the Spanish language. Dr. Rogers continues to serve as a Spiritual Practice Supervision for numerous programs and events.

Andrew Schwartz: Executive Director, Center for Process Studies; Assistant Professor of Process and Comparative Theology

In addition to a number of professional journal articles, book chapters, and talks, Dr. Schwartz completed three major books: John B. Cobb, Jr.: Selected Writings From A Christian Theologian, Edited by Wm. Andrew Schwartz and Tripp Fuller. SacraSage Press, 2023, Process Cosmology: New Integrations in Science and Philosophy. Edited by Andrew Schwartz, Andrew M. Davis, and Maria-Teresa Teixeira. Palgrave Macmillan, 2022, And Nature in Process: Organic Proposals in Philosophy, Society, and Religion. Edited by Wm. Andrew Schwartz, Andrew M. Davis, and Maria Teresa Teixeira. Process Century Press, 2022.

B. Yuki Schwartz: Associate Dean of Assessment and Academics; Assistant Professor of Constructive and Political Theologies; Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Scholar

In addition to a heavy administrative load as the Associate Dean of Assessment and Academics, Dr. Schwartz was able to write a chapter for an edited volume on anti-racist work among Asian American Christian communities, titled "The Cosmopolitics of Belonging: Model Minority Superheroes and Theological Imagination," which is currently in peer review and which she also will be presenting at a panel at AAR this fall. She is also working with the Association of Asian North American Educators (AANATE) as a steering committee member and a member of the Pacific Asian North American Asian Women in Theology and Ministry (PANAAWTM) publication and policy boards. Finally, she is working on a proposal to turn her dissertation, which is a political theology on shame and imperialism, into a book.

Marvin A. Sweeney: Professor of Hebrew Bible

Along with dozens of professional articles and journal work, Dr. Sweeney has two major book contributions forth coming: 1 and 2 Samuel. New Cambridge Bible Commentary Series (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press), contract issued, in press, and Visions of the Holy: Studies in Biblical Theology and Literature. (Resources for Biblical Study. 2 vols. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature), Accepted for Publication.

Aizaiah G. Yong: Associate Dean of Students; Assistant Professor of Spirituality; Co-Coordinator of the D. Min in Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Practice and Strategic Leadership Along with many scholarly journal articles and reviews, Dr. Yong completed his book, Multiracial Cosmotheandris: A Practical Theology of Multiracial Experiences. Orbis Books, June 2023. Dr. Yong also delivered a response at our recent CST Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration to Dr. Obery Hendricks lecture: "The Unsung Radicality of Martin Luther King Jr."

Bishop Grant Hagiya

President Ad Interim;

Drew University Theological School

Drew educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents. In Fall 2022 Drew welcomed 77 new students, and as of February 2023 Drew has a total enrollment of 408 students. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with substantial ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. During 2022, Drew classes met on campus in Madison, New Jersey, but also some classes met exclusively online, while other met in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person. This was also the case with chapel worship.



This reflects both our ongoing emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, but also Drew leaning into what it means to be a global school with a global student population. With 35% of students coming from 28 different countries Drew Theological School is truly global and diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs foster out-of-the-box thinking, provide real-world apprenticeships, promotes adaptive leadership skills, and encourages innovation through a team-taught core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith.

The faculty articulated shared values are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation.

The Theological School has seen an increase in United Methodist students. Moreover, Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows who chose to pursue education for ministry at Drew. UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States as well as in our regional conferences in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York Annual Conference.

Edwin David Aponte

Dean

Duke Divinity School

Duke Divinity School has been blessed to be part of the fresh work of the Holy Spirit this year and to participate in “little Pentecost”—signs and foretastes of the hope we profess and the calling we follow.

The school has continued in its commitment to form ministers of the gospel who will seek God’s justice and mercy. Our faculty have been leaders in the Duke Climate Initiative participating with colleagues from the Nicholas School for the Environment in the event “Pastoral Care for Climate Change: Weaving Together Science and Theology for Justice,” at the Duke University Marine Lab. Divinity faculty have also co-taught a university course titled “Let’s Talk about Climate Change,” and welcomed 30 young faith leaders from various religious traditions to understand better how to engage their faith communities in the fight for our climate.



The Office of Black Church Studies, commemorating its 50th anniversary year, hosted “Justice Ministry Re-imagined: Reentry Simulation” for pastors, students, and lay leaders to learn more about how to support people reentering the community after incarceration. We launched the Prison Engagement Initiative with the Kenan Institute for Ethics. Divinity faculty taught a “Trauma Engaged Duke” seminar and led the team Developing Best Practices for Trauma-Informed Teaching and Learning. These programs and events complement the ongoing work of field education and ministerial formation that puts our students in contexts ranging from rural churches to hospital chaplaincy to farm ministry, and more.

We welcomed 226 entering students from 35 different states and eight other countries. The Master of Divinity program gained 88 residential students and 42 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled 13 new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 28; Master of Theology, six; Master of Theological Studies, 22; the Doctor of Theology welcomed six residential, and one special student has enrolled. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed four residential students and 16 in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs, 30 percent of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Latinx students, six percent; Asian students, five percent; and American Indian students, one percent. Fifty-seven percent of students in the incoming class are female.

DDS continued to build on its rich tradition of ecumenical engagement, with Dean Colón-Emeric participating in the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission Dialogue meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican. Student Eliza Love, M.Div.’23, was awarded the \$10,000 Bossey Institute scholarship from the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops to attend the World Council of Church Ecumenical Institute.

Three new associate deans have accepted appointments: Daniel Castelo as associate dean for Academic Formation; Jung Choi as associate dean for Global and Inter-cultural Formation; and Sangwoo Kim as associate dean for Vocational Formation. Linda Coley has

also joined as the executive director for the Ormond Center.

Several new programs demonstrate Duke's sustained commitment to connecting with churches and ministers. The Ormond Center launched the Community Craft Collaborative to create resources for equipping lay and congregational leaders. The Certificate in Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation, facilitated by leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of conflict transformation and reconciliation, provides a learning opportunity for pastors and other church leaders seeking theological and practical skills to foster reconciliation in their congregations and surrounding communities. We celebrate the expansion of our connection to UMC colleges through a partnership with Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., to enable qualified undergraduates to take courses through the Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program.

Convocation & Pastors' School returned to an in-person format for the first time since 2019 with the theme, Creativity & Courage: From Trauma to Tough Hope. Professional dancers, visual artists, musicians, and scholars guided participants in facing brokenness and sin honestly, as they offered glimpses of "the beauty of holiness." NY Times Best Selling Author & Associate Professor of Christian History, Kate Bowler kicked off the event with a live taping of her Everything Happens podcast with over 1000 registered participants.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Hundreds of years before amazon.com, John Wesley stuffed the saddlebags of circuit riders with books of theology and biblical interpretation—selling them to fund the movement while spreading it literally. GBHEM continues this innovative spirit by leveraging social enterprise opportunities and creative partnerships as a way of reducing its reliance on apportionments while continuing to focus on delivering the very best services, products, and programs to United Methodist constituents around the world.

The same spirit of service and leadership that first inspired John Wesley lives on in each of us. Today, GBHEM looks confidently to the future taking bold and creative action, remaining good stewards, and continuing to support The United Methodist Church in innovative and meaningful ways.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edgardo Colón-Emeric

Dean of Duke Divinity School

Saint Paul School of Theology

Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEXible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and in remote spaces. Our contextual curriculum features Ministry Collaboration Groups, Practicums, Spiritual Formation Retreats, and Seminars. Students learn from dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community leaders about best ministry practices leaving our graduates with the tools and first-hand experience necessary to meet the needs of a changing world.

We continue to implement the changes the last few years have integrated into our daily lives. Our weekly chapel service utilizes a hybrid format, where participants may join in-person or online, allowing staff and students to come together as one institution where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. In addition, Saint Paul offers weekly Spiritual Formation allowing students to engage in spiritual practices led by Rev. Jen Logsdon-Kellogg. Some practices will take us outdoors or to other sacred spaces, and others will have us connect with community leaders.



Saint Paul welcomed over 30 new students for the 2022-2023 academic year. Enrollment remained solid for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program with promising growth on our Oklahoma campus. With COVID-19 restrictions lifted yet monitored, prospective students returned to in-person visits on both campuses, experiencing community meals, worship, and the newly implemented "Hammock ministry" on the Oklahoma campus. The Admissions team continues to expand travel to meet new students, including the Carolinas, Washington, D.C., and various parts of Texas.

This year we have focused on strengthening the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry by creating two specializations: Women, Society, and Church; and Social Justice and Advocacy. In each case, the student takes 22 hours of MACM required courses, and then the remaining 12 hours of the degree are comprised of courses focusing upon the specialization. The two existing specializations, Prophetic Witness and Service; and Deacon Ministries, will continue to be offered as well. The Women, Society, and Church Studies specialization is also available in the MDiv program, as is a specialization in Wesleyan Studies.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue contributing to the academy, church, and society. This year, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean and Professor of New Testament. The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and publications have been so numerous that space permits only sharing selected highlights.

- Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth co-authored a journal article with Julie Faith Parker, “Where Have All the Young Girls Gone?’ Discovering the Girls of the Bible through Childist Analysis of Exodus 2 and Mark 5–7,” in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 38, no. 2 (Fall 2022).
- Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, was the keynote speaker for the United Methodist Church Missouri Preaching Academy “Offering the Word to a Digital World.” She published “Failure to Discern the Online/Hybrid Body: A Captivity of the Eucharist” for the special issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission: Eucharist and Online Worship: Toward Extended Theological Reflection*, vol. 50, no. 1 (2023) and published the chapter “Liturgical Authority and the Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)” in *Liturgical Authority in Free Church Traditions*, edited by Sarah Johnson and Andrew Wymer, Calvin Worship and Witness Series.
- Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church, and Society, led a “Race, Liberation, and Political Economics” series at Second Presbyterian. He also spoke at The Open Table KC on “Race, Liberation, and Economics.”
- Dr. Amy Oden, Adjunct Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality, was a guest speaker at numerous events around the country this year, including at a Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Oklahoma, the Beyond Conference in St. Louis, and the Academy for Spiritual Formation in Alabama.

In October, Saint Paul hosted a forum on “Innovative, Creative Ministry” featuring alumni Matt Austin ‘18, Fabian Gonzalez ‘20, Bo Ireland ‘18, Matt Patrick ‘18, & Abby Peper ‘22, with each sharing their personal stories of innovation in ministry. In November, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, hosted a forum given by Rev. Mike Slaughter, former lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church, on “Spiritual Awakening: the here and the not yet.” Later in the year, the Evangelical Society hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns, Visiting Professor of Pentecostal Studies and Director of the Global Pentecostal House of Study at United Theological Seminary. And on May 12, Saint Paul again held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together from both campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. During the ceremony, we honored the 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Bishop Delores J. “Dee” Williamston.

Saint Paul Board of Trustees changed leadership this year as long-time faculty and board member Rev. Dr. Tex Sample concluded his term as chair of the Board. Dr. Amy Hogan, Professor of Education and Dean of the School of Education at Ottawa University, has succeeded him as chair. Dr. Hogan possesses a deep reservoir of experience in teaching, research, and accreditation. In response to President Neil Blair’s announcement that he will retire on December 31, 2023, Dr. Hogan appointed a search committee composed of faculty, staff, students, and trustees charged with identifying Saint Paul’s next president. The search committee is currently conferring with Saint Paul’s constituent groups to prepare the position prospectus that will describe Saint Paul’s needs and aspirations to candidates.

In September 2022, Saint Paul School of Theology hosted a review team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), one of Saint Paul's primary accreditation agencies, as part of the Seminary's regular reaffirmation cycle. On November 18, 2022, the Higher Learning Commission notified Saint Paul that the Commission "continued the accreditation of Saint Paul School of Theology with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2028-2029." The Seminary's Board of Trustees also devoted considerable time to improving its governance capacity. For example, in April 2022, trustees invested a significant portion of their meeting in a facilitated Emotional Intelligence and Trust-Building workshop. The workshop was led by Gail Parker, a noted management consultant who has worked with clients such as KPMG, Goldman Sachs, and Disney, among many others. In October 2022, former executive director of the Association of Theological Schools, Dan Aleshire, offered an overview of demographic and enrollment trends in the nation's seminaries, focusing on how those trends affect institutions' diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. As these activities suggest, the Board remains deeply committed to enhancing its capabilities to guide Saint Paul effectively and knowledgeably.

We are happy to report that Saint Paul School of Theology is financially sound. We operate with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment 9-10 times the size of our annual expenses. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students. As of the close of 2022, over one hundred alumni and friends of Saint Paul contributed more than \$60,000 to create the Tex and Peggy Sample Endowed Scholarship Fund honoring the life and work of Tex and Peggy Sample. Sustainability has been our focus over the past five years, and we have achieved our goal. Investments in our future bring exciting new opportunities for our students, staff, and faculty. Our significant technological investments have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model providing a flexible working arrangement for our students.

We are continuing to enhance our partnership with Zoom and Neat. Late last Spring, in conjunction with our Neat Board electronic whiteboards and Neat Bars, we implemented Neat's newest product, their Neat Bar Pros, in our large classrooms. These new bars are designed to offer a superior video and audio experience in large spaces and the ability to output to multiple large screens to enhance the overall classroom experience significantly. We have rolled out additional Zoom Room Neat Boards in numerous common areas to encourage ad-hoc use of the technology for breakout groups and other miscellaneous meetings between our two campuses and remote students. One of the best features of this technology is its ability to receive automatic real-time over-the-air features upgrades. Several significant enhancements have rolled out this past year, including improved voice cancellation, Zoom Room Breakout Groups, real-time Closed Captions with transcripts, and updated use of AI to split each in-classroom student into their individual zoomed-in Zoom window. In addition, our Neat equipment continuously monitors several environmental factors within our classrooms; air quality, temperature, humidity, VOC, and CO2, as well as being able to tell if the classrooms are occupied and how many individuals are in the room. We can also monitor the audio/video quality and network connectivity in each of our classrooms, as well as the connection quality for all remote students attend-

ing the class. We are excited about the additional enhancements that will come to our classrooms from Neat and Zoom over this next year and look forward to our continued partnership with Neat and Zoom on this groundbreaking technology.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for generations to come.

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

United Theological Seminary

United Theological Seminary celebrated rising enrollment in the 2022-2023 academic year. In the previous year, 464 students were enrolled at United; in 2022-2023, the seminary is serving 541 students, a 17% increase. A diverse community of many denominations, races, and nationalities, United welcomed students from 36 states, 21 countries, and 43 denominations, with 42% of students identifying as United Methodist.* The Seminary prepared 103 Course of Study students** and served 10 students through the Hispanic Christian Academy, a 3-year online course of ministry program for Hispanic/Latino lay pastors and leaders serving United Methodist congregations.



UNITED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE TWIN CITIES

Houses of Study

In large part, this enrollment growth is a result of the seminary's House of Study initiative, which is supported by a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. As of 2022-2023, the Seminary has established five Houses of Study that are equipping master's students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements, and denominations in which they serve:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship, directed by Bishop Lisa Weah;
- Global Methodist, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns; and Hispanic, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa.

The largest of these communities is the Hispanic House of Study (Casa de Estudios Hispana), which is meeting a need for Hispanic/Latino pastors and church leaders ready to pursue a Master of Divinity in their native language. Nearly 50 students from across the United States and Latin America, including students from Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, and Peru, started in the online program in the 2022-2023 academic year.

As United continues to expand its offerings to support church leaders, it is preparing to launch three new Houses of Study in the 2023-2024 academic year: a Korean House of Study, taught 100% in Korean for Korean-speaking students, led by Dr. Seok Jae Jeon; an African Methodist Episcopal Zion House of Study led by Bishop Eric Leake; and a Global Lutheran House of Study led by Dr. Richard Blue, Dr. Tom Thorstad and Dr. Dan Landin.

Doctor of Ministry

The Seminary is also seeing growth in its Doctor of Ministry program. In 2022-2023, the Doctor of Ministry program has grown to 250 students, an increase of 32% over the past five years.* Doctoral students at United are actively engaged in ministry and seeking to become more effective leaders for the Church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. Students identify a need within their congregations or communities, and with the support

of a peer group, mentor, and United faculty, they develop a model of ministry to address the challenge.

Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center

Launched in Fall 2021, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, is connecting with pastors, ministry leaders, and congregational members hungry to bring God’s renewal to their faith communities. In the past year alone, the Innovation Center has engaged more than 1,000 participants through more than 40 live webinars, training events, and courses. The Innovation Center has also partnered with The Center for Spiritual Formation, a connectional ministry of the Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church, to offer a two-year online training course for those called to the ministry of spiritual direction. In addition, the Center is partnering with two United Methodist conferences to provide its Breakthrough Prayer Initiative training for all clergy in these conferences. Through these and other new opportunities, the Innovation Center seeks to set the stage for the increased vitality of leaders and congregations everywhere.

Dr. Kent Millard, *President*

** Student data represent 2022–2023 headcount enrollment, as of March 1, 2023. Denominational figures represent those who responded.*

*** Course of Study figures represent the most recent four terms.*

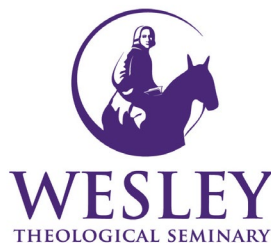
Wesley Theological Seminary

Wesley Theological Seminary continues to grow and thrive through research, innovation, and equipping Christian leaders for real-life ministries.

Course offerings and support that respond to students' needs

Get the education you need in the format you want.

- Pursue your call in a dynamic community within the corridors of power in Washington, DC, or earn a degree through flexible hybrid and online options from your home! Learn more: wesleyseminary.edu/study/
- Our FlexMA is a 36-hour flexible M.A. degree for those preparing for bi-vocational or specialized ministries. Learn more: www.wesleyseminary.edu/flexma/
- Wesley offers specializations in African American church leadership, public theology, military chaplaincy, and certifications in Christian studies, children and youth ministry and advocacy, and health ministry. Learn more: wesleyseminary.edu



Wesley provides \$2 million annually in scholarships, including full-tuition scholarships for master's applicants recommended by alums, campus ministers, or Christian service ministries; Next Call in Ministry scholarships for students working 10+ years in a non-ministry setting; and Generación Latinx Scholarships for emerging Latinx leaders in ministry.

Wesley's Doctor of Ministry programs includes relevant tracks such as Church Leadership Excellence, Soul Care, Global Church Leadership, Howard Thurman, and the ground-breaking track on Trauma, Moral Injury, and Christian Life. Journey with a cohort of leaders with online classes and hybrid week-long intensive sessions. Learn more: wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/

Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future ministry

Over \$11 million in Grants from Lilly Endowment Inc. undergird Wesley's research into and support of congregational thriving and innovation.

- In collaboration with Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary is developing professional courses and certificates for pastors.
- The Wesley Innovation Hub brings together diverse congregational cohorts to learn and practice ministry innovations that engage young adults for social change. Learn more: wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/
- The Wesley Ministry Innovation Fellowship is a one-year, cohort-based experience with community formation, spiritual direction, graduate-level courses, and hands-on experience leading innovation. Each innovator earns a stipend and four

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graduate academic course credits. Learn more: wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/design-fellows/

- The Lewis Center for Church Leadership's Religious Workforce Project offers multi-denominational research into current and future needs. Visit religiousworkforce.com/

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership conducts leading edge research for the local church. The Lewis Center's Leading Ideas e-newsletter and Leading Ideas Talk podcast is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. Subscribe at churchleadership.com.

The Community Engagement Institute embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact: Dr. Tom Pruski, tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu.

The Center for Public Theology equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. Visit wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion works with students, religious communities, artists, and scholars exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. Visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

Stay connected

Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu and join the Wesley Community online via facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram @wesleyseminary, on Twitter @WesTheoSem, or sign up for our electronic newsletter.

The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson

President, Wesley Theological Seminary