L. REPORTS

Office of Connectional Ministries

Mission & Purpose



The Office of Connectional Ministries coordinates and aligns ministries that connect local churches, leaders, and partners across the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Through collaboration, leadership development, faithful stewardship, and clear communication, we strengthen the church's capacity to live out the gospel with justice, humility, and hope in diverse communities.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:12

Our work is guided by the Conference Ministry Priorities and *Bishop Bridgeforth's* M.I.L.E., with a focus on deepening discipleship, developing leaders across generations, dismantling racism, honoring cultural and contextual realities, and strengthening sustainable connectional systems that support faithful ministry in every setting.

What we have been doing

The Office of Connectional Ministries coordinates, supports, and aligns a broad range of ministries that serve congregations and individuals across the Conference, including:

- **Youth, Young Adult, and Emerging Leader Ministries**, such as Christmas Institute, SLAM trips, and other leadership formation pathways.
- **Leadership development and onboarding** for clergy and superintendents.
- **Native American Ministries**, supporting relationships with Native communities, honoring Indigenous leadership and spiritual wisdom, and engaging the church in truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.
- **Ethnic Ministries**, including Pacific Islander, Korean, Hispanic/Latinx, and other immigrant communities, are strengthening culturally responsive leadership, discipleship, and pastoral care.
- **Disaster Response**, working with our Disaster Response Coordinators, the OCM helps in equipping congregations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters through training, coordination, and connectional support.

"When our community was impacted by disaster, the connectional support we received reminded us that we were not alone and gave us the capacity to respond with compassion and hope."

- **Creation care and community** witness initiatives and training events.
- **Certified Lay Ministry**, focused on lay leadership formation and discipleship.

- **Annual Conference Session** and other connectional gatherings.
- **Communications**, providing a trusted hub for information, storytelling, and technology—using current and emerging tools to help congregations live out their ministries, share their stories, and stay connected across distance and difference.
- **Ecumenical and United Methodist partnerships** that advance justice, reconciliation, and shared mission. Sending and receiving opportunities and resources to serve and thrive beyond the UMC connection and structure.

Partnering with local churches

Through connectional support, local churches gain access to resources, relationships, training, and communication tools that no single congregation could provide on its own. Our work helps congregations respond faithfully to their communities by addressing issues such as disaster recovery, poverty, housing insecurity, racism, and environmental stewardship, while honoring cultural context and strengthening shared identity across the Conference.

Connectional ministry shapes the faith of individuals across the Pacific Northwest. Youth and young adults find spaces of belonging and discernment. Lay members are equipped for leadership and service. Clergy and leaders from Native American, ethnic, and immigrant communities are supported in ways that honor their identities, contexts, and callings. Through shared platforms and storytelling, individuals remain connected to the wider church and inspired by the witness unfolding across the Conference.

Why the office of Connectional Ministries is staff-focused

The Office of Connectional Ministries' primary investment is in people. Much of the funding that supports OCM is dedicated to program and ministry staff who walk alongside congregations, leaders, and communities across the Pacific Northwest.

These staff serve as connectors, coaches, and companions in ministry. They provide guidance to local churches, support leadership formation, helping coordinate and communicate disaster response, strengthen ethnic and Native American ministries, equip ministries with, for and by youth and young adults, steward creation care initiatives, and ensure that Annual Conference Session and connectional gatherings are meaningful and accessible. They also maintain communication systems and technology that help the church stay informed, connected, and able to tell its story.

Because connectional ministry is relational by nature, it cannot be fully outsourced or automated. Investing in staff allows the Conference to respond quickly in times of crisis, build trust across cultures and communities, and sustain ministries over time rather than relying solely on short-term programs or volunteers.

In this way, funding the Office of Connectional Ministries is an investment in capacity, the capacity of local churches and individual disciples to live out their calling, supported by skilled leaders who help translate shared vision into faithful action.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, we will continue investing in leadership formation across generations, deepening our commitment to anti-racism, equity, reconciliation, disaster preparedness, and strengthening our communications capacity so that connectional ministry is not only lived but clearly seen, shared, and sustained, together serving with courage, creativity, and hope.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David Valera
Executive Director Connectional Ministries

Communications



The Office of Connectional Ministries Communications Team supports and guides the communications efforts of the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Greater Northwest Area (GNW Area) of The United Methodist Church. We regularly publish stories on our news blog featuring original content and timely news items across the United Methodist connection.

Additionally, our communications team designs and supports the web ministry of the groups mentioned above, including their official websites and social media. We produce a weekly News Digest (bi-weekly in the summer) to help share information and support the different projects of our annual conference ministry areas. Submissions for this newsletter are due on Tuesday by noon to communications@pnwumc.org and are subject to approval.

Our work in supporting the communications needs of our annual conference also extends to supporting the local church's work. Through training and consultation, we assist local churches looking to expand or perfect their capacity to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are partners with United Methodist Communications – https://umcom.org – in supporting the local church.

Finally, the conference supports local churches during times of crisis, providing communications support when situations emerge that require additional care and coordination. In this work, we coordinate with superintendents, local church leadership, and other involved persons to ensure that our response is faithful and helpful.

Communications Policy

The Pacific Northwest Conference Office of Connectional Ministries works collaboratively and creatively to serve the missional needs of United Methodist ministries in Washington State, Northern Idaho, and Southwest British Columbia. We welcome the submission of news and requests (job openings, ministry materials) that benefit the local church and serve the mission of our larger connection. Space limitations and other considerations may prevent your material from being printed or posted.

Any fundraising events or requests should be for official United Methodist projects, most typically denoted with a conference or general church Advance Number. Publication of causes, events, or job postings by partnered agencies, outside groups, and unofficial organizations within shall be at the discretion of the Director of Communications as guided by denominational policy and practice.

While we occasionally share information about ministry materials (books, curricula, etc.) and training opportunities that may benefit leaders in our local churches, we reserve the right to use our sole discretion in making such decisions.

- To submit a story or press release, use the following form – https://gnw-reg.brtapp.com/PNWStory

- To submit other items for the News Digest, Greater NW News Blog, or PNW Website, contact Patrick Scriven, pscriven@pnwumc.org
- To submit items for distribution in your District, contact your District Service Center Staff.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. If submitting photos or artwork, please ensure that it is high-resolution and that you have attained any copyright and permissions that may apply.

To sign up for our PNW Conference newsletter, visit https://gnw-email.brtapp.com/subscribe and select "PNW News Digest."

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Scriven,
Director of Communications, PNW Conference

Hispanic/Latinx Ministries

Events and Projects



- **"Viva La Church" Event (Western Jurisdiction Developers)**: Participated in a collaborative gathering focused on innovation and vitality in ministry development.
- **Earthkeepers in Spanish (Des Moines)**: Supported creation spaces for environmental justice and stewardship within Spanish-speaking communities.
- **Website Redesign:** Redesigned and improved the Hispanic/Latinx Ministry website to increase accessibility and resource sharing. https://www.pnwumc.org/ministries/ethnic-ministries/hispanic-ministry/
- **PNW AC 2025 Report – *Serving Together***: Led the production of the 2025 Annual Conference report, highlighting ministry impact.
- **Ministry Portfolio Development:** Created a comprehensive portfolio to strengthen visibility and sustainability of Hispanic/Latinx ministries.
- **Grant Consultation Program:** Developed a program to assist churches and leaders in identifying and applying for grants.
- **Mentoring Program**: Established a mentoring initiative to support candidates pursuing ministry within the conference.
- **Facebook Page Launch**: Created a social media presence to expand communication and engagement.
- **Immigration Tools Package for Local Churches:** Developed practical resources to equip congregations:

  Rapid Response

  Know Your Rights

  Accompaniment Program
- **CWJFON Board Membership:** Served as a board member supporting immigration legal services and advocacy.
- **Family Day for Pastors and Leaders:** Organized a gathering at Fairwood UMC focused on mental health and self-care.
- **Charge Conferences**: Led charge conferences for Palabra Viviente UMC and El Dios Viviente UMC.
- **Día de los Muertos Celebration:** Participated in a community celebration at Blaine Memorial UMC.
- **AETH Webinar Participation:** Engaged in "La Iglesia que acompaña al inmigrante."

- **Pastoral Advocacy Video:** Contributed to "We Can't Be Silent."
- **Roots and Wings Event Workshop:** Led a workshop at Puget Sound District (Sedro-Woolley UMC).
- **Faith Action Network Dinner:** Participated in advocacy and networking efforts.
- **Strategic Meetings:** Met with the Office of the Plan and Rev. Dr. Lydia Muñoz for ministry alignment and strategy.
- **District Strategy Conversation:** Led a discussion on Hispanic/Latinx ministry strategy in the Puget Sound District.
- **Spiritual Resource:** Created 30 Días de Oración en los Salmos.
- **Sanctuary Everywhere Workshop:** Equipped communities with tools for compassion and justice.
- **Immigration Task Force (WJ):** Participated in leadership and celebrated Know Your Rights training for leaders.
- **"Firmes y Adelante" Pastoral Gathering**: Strengthened connections among Hispanic/Latinx leaders.
- **WJ Hispanic/Latinx Council:** Provided leadership and coordination.
- **National Association of Camp Directors:** Led a conversation on "Welcoming the Stranger."

Articles and Publications

- *Why Hispanic/Latinx Ministry in the UMC Struggles—and How Faith Can Respond to Fear and Division*
- *An Immigrant with Papers*

Grants Awarded

- **Food Insecurity Grant –** General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM)
- **Mustard Seed Grant –** UMCOR
- **RELCC Grant –** Palabra Viviente UMC
- **CORR Action Fund Grant –** Asylum Ministry at Fairwood UMC
- **FTE Mentor Program Grant**

Report on Church Visists and Preaching Engagements

Church Visits and Preached at:

- Mercer Island UMC
- Blaine Memorial UMC
- La Conner UMC
- Des Moines UMC

- Fairwood UMC
- Haller Lake UMC
- Aloha UMC (Beaverton, OR)
- Vashon UMC

Impact and Observations

These engagements strengthened relationships with congregations and created opportunities to share the vision of Hispanic/Latinx ministry. Churches continue to show openness to deeper engagement, especially in areas of immigration support, community outreach, and leadership development.

Key Learnings and Priorities

- Resource Development: Expanding accessible tools for local churches remains essential.
- Leadership Formation: Mentoring and supporting new candidates is critical for long-term sustainability.
- Digital Engagement: Strengthening online presence increases connection and visibility.
- Immigration Ministry: Continued prioritization of advocacy, education, and accompaniment.
- Grant Strategy: Equipping ministries with funding resources enhances impact and growth.
- Well-being of Leaders: Intentional spaces for rest and mental health are necessary for sustainable ministry.

Strategic Direction

The Hispanic/Latinx Ministry continues aligning with the Bishop's M.I.L.E. initiative through:

- Ministries that Matter: Addressing urgent community needs, especially immigration and food insecurity.
- Itineration and Location: Supporting strategic placement and development of leaders.
- Lay Leadership Development: Providing tools and mentoring opportunities.
- Eliminating Racism: Advocating for justice, equity, and inclusion across ministries.

Gratitude

Deep gratitude to all pastors, leaders, congregations, and partners who continue to support and collaborate in this ministry. Special appreciation to the Hispanic/Latinx leadership across the conference and the Western Jurisdiction for their shared vision and

commitment.

Closing

We continue to witness God's movement through the resilience, faith, and leadership of Hispanic/Latinx communities across the Pacific Northwest. This work remains a collective effort—rooted in justice, guided by faith, and sustained through connection.

¡Muchas bendiciones!

Rev. Cruz Edwin Santos
Director of Hispanic/Latinx Ministry

Connectional Ministries (Eastern WA & Beyond)

I began this appointment nearly five years ago as the Associate for Connectional Ministries in the Inland and Seven Rivers Districts, my job description was very vague. While a lack of clarity had its downsides, it also allowed me to explore opportunities as they emerged. As I represented Connectional Ministries in my first two years, and assisted the Inland and Seven Rivers District Superintendent, I had the opportunity to visit and preach at churches, lead some Charge Conferences, connect with UMCOR and UMVIM work in disaster relief and home rebuilds, serve as Presiding Pastor of the Okanogan Cohort, work on the new Lay Servant Ministries Guidelines, and build relationships with Mending Wings, a native faith-based non-profit on the Yakama Reservation.

When *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* introduced the M.I.L.E., I found that much of the work of my first years fell within the "L" and the "E" categories. With this more specific guidance, I leaned into Lay Servant Ministries (Lay Ministry Enhancement) and SLAM Trips (Eliminating Racism). The work that I, along with many collaborators, have done over the past four years has brought these two programs from nothing to thriving, growing programs making a difference in the lives of individual church members, their churches, and communities, and has worked toward justice with our Native American siblings.

Bishop Cedrick's emphasis on Lay Leadership Empowerment was very timely for the revival of the Lay Servant Ministries program. Under the guidance of my colleague, *Rev. Kathy Neary*, the Guidelines for Lay Servant Ministries were revised (in 2022) to provide a foundation for LSM work. Since then, the program has blossomed:

- LSM classes began three years ago in the PNW. We also collaborate with OR-ID, Mt Sky, and Alaska Conferences. With this partnership, our conferences can offer a wide variety of LSM classes.
- PNW courses now include the Basic Course, Spiritual Gifts, Preaching, Leading Public Prayer, Leading Worship, Lay Pastoral Care Giving, and Life in the UM Connection (Polity), with more courses coming in Fall 2026.
- A core Committee on Certified Lay Ministries is functioning. The committee carefully reviews all LSM Annual reports (73 in 2025). The past three years have seen certification of 30 new Lay Servants, 6 new Lay Speakers, and 1 new CLM (with 5 more in process). The Committee also oversees the renewal of certifications, including continuing education requirements.
- New record-keeping and updating records are in progress.

About the "E", Eliminating Racing, my work with SLAM Trips has included:

- Building relationships with Native American leaders and youth on the Yakama Reservation.
- Co-coordinating the GNW Collaborative youth service and cultural learning SLAM Trips hosted by Mending Wings. Over 300 youth, leaders, and chaperones have participated in a SLAM Trip over the past three years, with up to 50 more expected to attend in summer 2026.



- Assisting with coordination of Dancing Our Prayers presentations in eastside churches.
- Providing foundational relationships for our Clergy Cultural Competency experience with Mending Wings, fall of 2024.
- My SLAM Trip colleague, Rev. Drew Hogan, wrote and secured a TenX10 grant supporting the work of Mending Wings and UM Discipleship Ministries. This grant program was designed to fund two organizations that could do more together than apart. This funding will allow our United Methodist relation with Mending Wings to broaden beyond the GNW to the WJ and even globally. The grant will fund Mending Wings for SLAM Trip staff and provide scholarships for United Methodist BIPOC students to attend SLAM Trips this summer. It will also underwrite Dancing Our Prayers' attendance and participation in the United Methodist Global Young People's Convocation in Dublin, Ireland, in July 2026, to bring awareness of culturally diverse faith expressions. Funding will also support the creation of a culturally sensitive curriculum for Discipleship Ministries.

As I officially retire June 30, 2026, from my half-time position as Associate for Connectional Ministries, I am not leaving all my work behind. I feel blessed to have been asked to continue in a quarter-time capacity, specifically to work with Lay Servants Ministries and SLAM trips. Over the next two or three years, I will continue to work with these two programs, during which time it is planned to identify and train my successor for these ongoing ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sheila Miranda
Associate for Connectional Ministries

Archives and History

The conference year 2025 – 2026 has seen a transition. The Commission continues to meet via Zoom about every 6 weeks. Our agenda this year has been to research best practices for Archives and History as we move forward. It is our responsibility to find the location for the Annual Conference Archives and Historical documents. We have chosen to locate items in two locations:

The conference office will house materials related to the General Conference and Western Jurisdiction. We are in conversation with Des Moines United Methodist Church as our main location. Over the next year, items will be moved from the west and east sides. Plus, we are researching software to provide more access to our materials.

The Commission's job is focused on the Annual Conference's work and history. This task is different from local church history. Yet we support the work of the local church. This year, we launched a Zoom gathering for local church historians to answer questions and support their work. The gathering was held on March 31st with 18 participants. This gathering will be once a quarter throughout the year. Check the conference announcements for future dates.

We added a form to the conference website for contacting us about a research request. Plus, we continue to add documents to help the local church. Research into baptismal and death records continues as requested.

The General Commission on Archives and History offers two courses. One is the course on becoming a local church historian. The second concerns the Lay Servant Program: Certified Lay Minister - Ministry of Memory.

This year, at the Annual Conference, the Commission will present certificates honoring *Bishop Mary Ann Swenson* and *Paul Walker* for the 50th anniversary of their ordination as Elders in The United Methodist Church; both ordained by *Bishop Wilbur Choy* and *Bishop James Mathews.*and *Leon Alden* for the 60th anniversary of his ordination as Elder in The Methodist Church; ordained by *Bishop Everett Palmer* .

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

Please check the conference website for details, or email for more information.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Pamela Osborne
Chair, PNW Commission on Archives and History

Camping Board of Stewards

The Camping Board of Stewards (CBS) is honored to serve alongside the churches and individuals of the Pacific Northwest Conference. Your support is vital to our mission, and we would like to share updates on the ministries of our camps over the past year.

Camp Indianola

In 2025, Camp Indianola successfully hosted its first Rainbow Camp for LGBTQI+ youth, with another session scheduled for 2026. Staff retention remains strong, and we are welcoming new leaders who have risen through our camper and LIT programs. We are also seeing increased engagement from United Methodist congregations, which are sponsoring campers and providing volunteers for facility improvements. This collaboration strengthens the connection between the camp experience and the local church.

Ocean Park Camp & Retreat

Ocean Park continues to serve as a community resource. Highlights from 2025 include:

- Providing short-term housing for 13 individuals experiencing displacement.
- Donating 401 pounds of fresh produce from our garden to the local food bank.
- Partnering with community centers and libraries for youth programming.
- Offering non-gendered cabins and serving as a designated warming shelter.

In 2026, we are expanding our reach through partnerships with the Migrant Program and the Chinook Tribe to offer educational and cultural programming.

Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center

Lazy F is experiencing significant growth. Our 2025 day camp operated at full capacity, and guest group reservations are projected to increase revenue by 12.5% in the coming year. We are also preparing for a major renovation of the Ponderosa dining hall beginning in August. This project includes structural upgrades, a new coffee lounge, and a camp store to better serve our guests.

Twinlow

Under the leadership of our new director, Tyler, Twinlow is focused on strengthening church partnerships and facility improvements. Following a successful summer of youth and water sports camps, we have completed dining hall remodels. Our next priority is a capital campaign for a new bath and shower house.

Looking Ahead

The CBS board is currently developing new initiatives, including retreats for the children of pastors and missionaries, as well as programs tailored for young adults.

We also want to honor the memory of Al Meeds, who served this ministry for over 40 years. While we miss his leadership, we are pleased to welcome Sharon Meeds to the board to continue his legacy.

Our theme for the upcoming year is "Into the Wilderness."

This ministry requires a diverse "village" of supporters, including prayer warriors, musicians, planners, and builders. If you feel called to serve locally or regionally, please reach out to me, Alan Rogstad, or any CBS board member. We are eager to help you find a place where your heart for ministry can make an impact.

We look forward to what God has in store for the coming year.

In His Grip,

Richard Sperry
Chair - Camping Board of Stewards

Environmental Stewardship

About the Commission

Creation Care and Justice in the Pacific Northwest Conference means tending to the health of the environment, including all places where we live, work, play and pray and all who are affected by the upkeep or degradation of the environment. The 2024 session of the PNW Annual Conference established the Commission on Environmental Stewardship to accomplish several tasks related to achieving the net-zero emission goals it set for 2040 and to address the intersectional relationship between faith, race, and the environment. Our Commission meets monthly by Zoom to continue our work, and anyone is invited to attend and participate in these meetings. Weaving together racial, environmental, health, and housing justice, the Commission seeks to align the work of local churches, conference staff, boards, and agencies, and the Annual Conference with the goals adopted at Annual Conference 2023, 2024, and 2025, with the adopted ministry priorities, and Ministries that Matter.

Highlights from this Year

Earthkeeper training in PNW

In October of 2025, the General Board of Global Ministries held their fall Earthkeeper training in the Pacific Northwest Conference, with support from members of the PNW Environmental Stewardship Commission. The training included a site visit to Vashon UMC to learn how congregations can partner with the communities where they are located to become community resiliency hubs.

Annual Conference mission table

At the 2025 Annual Conference, the commission provided a table at the ministry fair, providing information and resources for our congregations on addressing Climate Change in their communities, and working towards climate goals for their facilities.



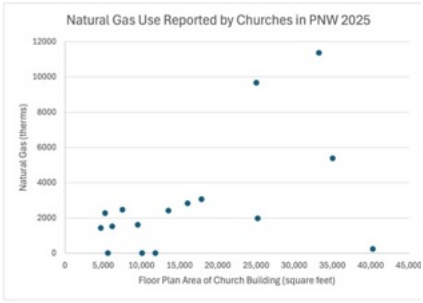


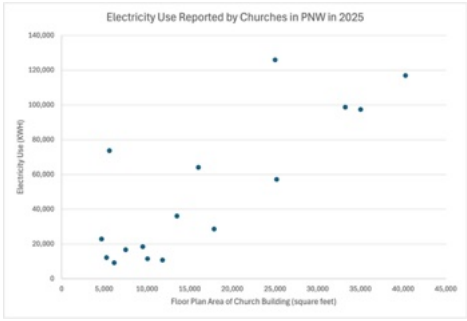
New Initiatives - Charge Conference Forms

In 2025, the first year congregations were asked to submit greenhouse gas audits and checklists about environmental justice activities in the local church, 98 congregations,

making up half of the Annual Conference, submitted responses. These responses provide a baseline of information about how church buildings are responding to climate constraints, what efficiency measures are in widespread use already, and where there is interest and capacity for doing more environmental stewardship and environmental justice work.

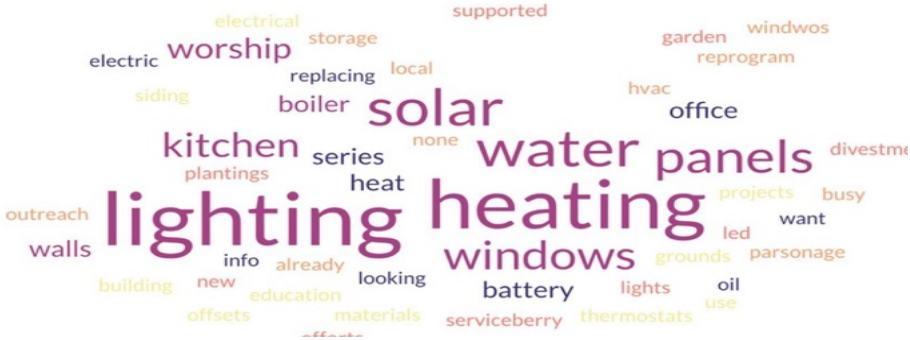
One thing that churches identified was their energy sources for heat and lighting. Not surprisingly, churches use primarily electricity and natural gas, and the larger the church building, the more energy it takes to heat and light the facility. A plot of building area vs. energy use shows some predictable trends and a few outliers. Churches whose data is above the majority of other data on the graph represent those whose energy use is higher than others using similar fuels. Those whose data appears below most other data on the graph are generally those with solar panels, which decrease the need for electrical energy and/or natural gas.





This type of information may be helpful as the Commission works with churches where efficiency measures and alternative energy sources may make a significant difference in the church budget.

In addition, congregations reported efficiency measures they are already taking, such as replacing incandescent or fluorescent light bulbs with LED bulbs or transitioning to more efficient heating sources. While there are measures being taken throughout our church buildings, light and heat were the most often reported.



When asked what they would like to learn more about, more churches said EV chargers than any other response.



Commission activities in coming months will be largely directed by responses to these forms. Anticipate more resources and links on the conference website (https://www.pnwumc.org/creation-care/) about grant programs, worship materials, audit ideas, and more.

Resources Shared and Support to Local Congregations

In its first full year of existence, the Commission on Environmental Stewardship was able to partner with the Faith Foundation NW to resource local congregations through grants to replace aging furnaces, water heaters, and clothes dryers in parsonages. In 2025, Faith Foundation Northwest distributed a total of $289,180.99 in rebates funded by Washington's Climate Commitment Act for heat pumps and other high-efficiency electric equipment in parsonages and camp residences. Across 2024/25, this grant put half a million dollars of state money to work improving the real property of faith communities!

The Commission also encourages and supports local churches in applying for clean energy grants through various funding sources. Below is a list of churches and camps that recently applied for grants, many of which received funding.

Over the past 24-36 months, 11 PNW churches have applied for 15 grants totaling $4,373,925 for solar panel and battery storage systems. Of these 15 proposals, 11 were awarded - for a total of $3,989,018 or 91% of dollars applied for. The sources of funding were WA Commerce Clean Energy Grants (85%), WSU Community Solar (13%) and Puget Sound Energy (3%). Most grant requests were for actual system installation and some were for design assistance. We hope to help equip and resource many more congregations and communities in the next year as we continue working towards meeting net-zero goals across our conference.

Churches/Camps receiving grants in 2025 from Faith Foundation Northwest for heat pumps and other high-efficiency electric equipment:

Prosser UMC, Coupeville UMC, Edmonds UMC, United in Grace ELCA/UMC (Monroe), Pioneer UMC (Walla Walla), Highline UMC (Burien), Shoreline UMC (Seattle), Bethlehem Baptist (Tacoma), Alder Street Baptist (Centralia), Haller Lake UMC (Seattle), Queen Anne UMC (Seattle), Morton UMC, Brownsville UMC (Bremerton), Camp Indianola, Ocean Park Camp

Churches that applied for solar panel and battery storage grants through the last 24-36 months (most of which were awarded):

Federal Way UMC, Methow Valley UMC, Edmonds UMC, Vashon UMC, Kent UMC, Langley UMC, Blaine Memorial UMC, Vancouver 1st UMC, Snohomish UMC, Seattle 1st UMC, Marysville UMC

You can read about the success of one of these solar projects at this news article link shared recently in the conference newsletter, with leadership and involvement in the project by a youth in our conference and a member of this commission, Juliana Robinson, at Methow Valley United Methodist Church. https://favs.news/methow-valley-church-solar-resilience-hub-ev-charging/

If your church has installed solar panels and/or battery storage and you are not listed above, please let us know.

The Commission maintains an email PNW Grant Seekers Update Newsletter that is published quarterly with the latest news about green energy grants with 90 subscribers so far. This newsletter is available to anyone interested so please let us know if you would like to subscribe. Send a request to egwalker72@gmail.com, the newsletter editor.

In addition, Commission members led workshops at District and Conference events, such as at the Gathering of the Orders and at Roots and Wings, to help local congregations become aware of grants as well as worship and educational materials they can put to use immediately. Annual Conference legislation, put forward by the Commission, advanced efforts to meet net-zero goals and connect those separated by geography with others who have shared vision and values for the hope of all Creation.

Currently, our Commission does not receive direct funding for the work we have been called to do or the work we are called to invite local congregations to do. We do appreciate the staff support (from many in the Conference office and the administrative support for our) meetings. In an effort to grow our capacity, we applied for a grant from the Ministry Opportunity Fund earlier this year to launch an Energy Audit Initiative and provide resources to local congregations. However this grant was denied because there is still ongoing debate about how the work of our Commission will be supported monetarily. At this time, we continue to move forward as volunteers with no budget.

Next Steps

Commission members hope to become more relevant and more accessible in our work at the local level. We see a major priority, moving forward, in strengthening our efforts by partnering with communities most affected by climate change to amplify their witness and

prioritize justice for those on the margins.

In the 2026-27 Annual Conference year, we are streamlining our work into three categories: Modeling Environmental Justice, Empowering Others, and Developing Resources. In addition to these three priorities, some of our work will also be internal to growing our team and the capacity of our team members. Our meetings are always open to anyone who wishes to attend, and all attending have a voice and the opportunity to share in the decision-making process on most matters. We operate by consensus, led by rotating chairpeople.

Related to all of our priorities, we will be sharing more through the summer and fall about a new Feast Day that ecumenical bodies around the world have been developing for several years, which will be added to the calendar this year on September 1. It will be called the Feast of Creation and is the first Feast Day to be added to the liturgical calendar since 1925, so this is a once-in-a-lifetime event. Watch for legislation encouraging participation in local churches, and for worship, educational materials, and webinars coming soon from the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement and Discipleship Ministries for more information.

If you are interested in our work and would like to be in touch, we will have a table at the Ministry Fair during Annual Conference and will host a table at dinner one evening. We hope to meet you and learn more about your interests in this important work.

Submitted by,

Deaconess Sophia Agtarap and *Rev. Paul Mitchell,* *Co-Chairs*
Rev. Jackie Celin and *Rev. Laura Baumgartner*, *Caretaker of God's Creation Co-coordinators*

Congregational Development

The Board of Congregational Developmen (BOCD) offers financial support to innovative ministry projects throughout the conference, both within existing congregations and for new church starts. Currently, our team supports the following projects:

- First UMC Canada, Multiplication Project, led by Pastor *Norman Feliciano*
- Federal Way UMC, Community Engagement Project, led by Pastor Caleb Encinas Cortés
- Fowler UMC/New Day Ministries, led by Pastor René Devantier
- Mount Vernon UMC, Latinx Ministry, led by Pastor Zulma Tifre
- Tacoma Multicultural Hub, led by Pastor *Shalom Agtarap*
- Vashon UMC, Vitality Project, led by Pastor *Pat Longstroth*

Many of these projects are aimed at lessening housing, hunger, and health disparities, as well as standing for equity and justice and against racism. Some projects are also working ecumenically, with support coming from the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a model for which we are deeply grateful.

In describing the work they do with BOCD support, one innovator writes:

"I was able to plan and put on an Adventure Camp with a community organization and other local churches to provide an inclusive summer day camp experience for children who are currently transitioning out of homelessness, recruiting an expert facilitator to train volunteers to use more trauma-informed approaches with vulnerable children."

The conference staff person supporting our team is ministry consultant Teri Watanabe. With her support and the cabinet's support, we were able to send several innovators to Viva La Church, a Western Jurisdiction conference focused on revitalization, innovation, property redevelopment, Latinx ministry, and fresh expressions of church in a post-Christendom context. Teri's support has been invaluable in helping the team negotiate agreements with our innovators and in developing a streamlined grant process for emerging projects across the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area.

Every day, our innovators and the leaders they work with are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In such a time as this, they continue to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. We are grateful to be a small part of their work.

As a board, we continue to explore ways to equip our leaders better to do the work they have been called to do in the world. In 2026-2027, we hope to visit more sites in person, to establish equitable processes for accessing funding, and to continue developing transparent processes for accountability and reflection.

Submitted by,

Rev. Meredith Dodd
Chair, Board of Congregational Development

Board of Church and Society

The Mission of the Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Church and Society mirrors that of the General Board of Church and Society to live faith, seek justice, and pursue peace by translating Christian social concerns into action. Our Purpose is to be a conduit between the General Board and Districts and Local Churches within our Conference, providing education, resources, and advocacy opportunities relevant to our area and the world based on the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

Our 2025 issue priorities have aligned with those of the Conference: Climate Care, Hunger and Health, and Standing for Equity and Justice Against Racism, specifically through our grants and awards, action alerts sent to Local Church Social Justice Advocates, Annual Conference Petitions, and collaborative work with United Women in Faith and the Commission on Environmental Stewardship and EarthKeepers. Reflecting the M.I.L.E., we have Board representation from all Districts who keep us informed of social justice issues in their Districts and who relay Action Alerts, including from the General Board, and Faith Action Network, to Local Church Social Justice Advocates. Our Board is inclusive with lay and clergy members, and racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, and age diversity.

Highlights of our year include:

- Participation in the Annual Conference Ministry Fair with a display of resources for local churches, an opportunity to sign up to be a Local Church Social Justice Advocate, and Board member presence to field questions
- Having a member of the General Board of Church and Society on our Board
- Addition of the role of Commission on Environmental Stewardship to our Board
- Annual Conference support of two petitions we co-sponsored with the Commission on Environmental Stewardship: "Encouraging Fossil Fuel Divestment for Denominational Funds" and "Affirming General Conference Decisions About Creation Care."
- Awarding two Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards for their exceptional work reflecting the principles of Dr. King:

  *Amy Gates was recognized for her work developing the Prayer Group for Racial Justice at Gig Harbor UMC.

  *Karina O'Malley was recognized for her leadership as Safe Parking Coordinator at Lake Washington UMC's Safe Parking program.

- Awarding two Peace with Justice grants to:

  * Boundary County Victim Services will support staff attending advanced training to better support survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

* The Abundant Grace Free Market, in partnership with Federal Way UMC, helps distribute new and gently used clothing, sharing and redistributing the community's abundance.

The Board has been committed to our outreach to local churches. Members are available to provide resources and to learn about the social concerns they are experiencing in their communities. We encourage applications for Peace with Justice Grants to help establish a needed program for justice work relevant to their community, or that enhances the work of an ongoing program. Local Church Social Justice Advocates are important partners with our Board in achieving our Mission, as we resource them with timely opportunities for legislative action aligned with our Social Principles.

As we look ahead, we hope to send two young clergy to the 2026 Young Adult Clergy Forum in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the General Board of Church and Society. This event immerses the participants in social justice advocacy right on Capitol Hill, equipping them for a lifetime of ministry that incorporates John Wesley's "social holiness." A second goal is to continue and strengthen our collaboration with the Environmental Stewardship Commission and United Women in Faith to provide education and resources for our local churches, knowing that together we will be stronger and more effective in our mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Dirks
Convenor, Conference Board of Church and Society

Board of Ordained Ministry

The mission and purpose of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM), which is composed of clergy and laity, is to nurture, discern, and faithfully recommend clergy for ministry within the local church and in the world. We believe that true formation happens within the grace of community and the faithfulness of accountability. Our ministry lives at the sacred intersection where both are held together in trust and care.

The following areas signify the overarching ministry of the BOM:

- evaluation of clergy readiness for ministry and support of their continued effectiveness.
- ongoing evaluation of our policies, processes, and practices to make them equitable.
- implementation and alignment of our work with the M.I.L.E. and other ministry priorities of our annual conference, as they pertain to ordained ministry.

These areas then inform the respective work of our sub-teams that meet throughout the year:

- The Conference Relations Committee's (CRC) work involves ensuring that all clergy related to our annual conference have the appropriate status. This includes making leave recommendations, validating extension ministry sites, working with ministers from other denominations, and celebrating retirements. CRC journeys alongside clergy, helping them to navigate their transitions. It is a privilege to be trusted with and to be a holding place for our colleagues' stories.
- The Formation Team invests in our pastoral leaders' wellness, spiritual formation, and ongoing professional education. Formation includes training mentors who help candidates explore and understand their call to ministry. Formation oversees quadrennial continuing education requirements, such as Boundaries, Anti-Racism, and Cultural Competency training. They also administer Continuing Formation Grants, which are available to all appointed or assigned pastoral leaders in our conference. These leaders are eligible for $3,500 per quadrennium. In 2025, Formation awarded $2,500 in seminary scholarships and $11,000 in Continuing Formation Grants.
- The Interview Team meets with candidates and discerns their readiness for provisional and ordained ministry. In advance of the interview week, the team prays for candidates and reviews their submitted written and recorded materials. This year, the interview team participated in two trainings to make their interviews more equitable: one from GCORR on anti-racism, and one from our disability ministry awareness team. After interview week, the team evaluates their process through the lens of equity and candidate experiences. This year, that evaluation resulted in a new resource to clarify the metrics for readiness and effectiveness for clergy candidates.
- At the January 2026 interviews, the team met with 15 candidates at varying stages of applying for provisional membership, maintaining provisional membership, or applying for ordination and full membership. The Interview Team recommends 1 elder

candidate for commissioning and provisional membership. The team recommends 1 deacon and 4 elders for ordination and full membership.

- The Orders Team is led by the elected clergy Orders chairs (chairs of the Licensed Local Pastors, Deacons, and Elders). In the fall of 2025, the Orders team hosted a Gathering of the Orders in Wenatchee with singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer as the guest speaker. Ongoing support for clergy is available through the Caring Colleagues program that the Orders team put together.
- The Order of Deacons: We celebrate with our deacons the 30th anniversary of the Order of Deacons. We will mark this celebration, in part, with a video at Annual Conference and a specially commissioned song for this anniversary. The Order of Deacons also highlights milestones in the commissioning and ordination of new deacons in our PNW and Alaska areas. We extend gratitude to the Annual Conference 2025 worship team for including deacon, *Rev. Rachel Byers*, in the consecration of Holy Communion with *Bishop Bridgeforth* as part of worship. The Order of Deacons continues to work closely with GBHEM to understand the new paragraph in the Book of Discipline, which gives deacons sacramental authority in their context.
- Thresholds: A Residence in Ministry Program serves newly commissioned clergy. The new name, "Thresholds," reflects an intentional re-design of this program to honor the threshold between what has been and what is yet to come for provisional clergy. Thresholds is an intentional invitation into on-going formation and discernment. Provisional clergy are welcomed into a rhythm of learning sessions, listening circles, and retreats designed to nurture deep roots, encourage courageous boundaries, and help participants claim their calling as bearers of new life in our Wesleyan tradition.
- We also acknowledge and give thanks to our District Committees on Ministry, who interview and walk alongside candidates who are exploring a call to ministry. In addition, the transcript review committee works hard to ensure that our candidates are supported in relation to their educational requirements. Finally, we are thankful for the work of Stephanie Franklin, our BOM administrator.

Our focus for 2026 is to work collaboratively with other boards, agencies, and conference staff to steward the shared responsibility of supporting and equipping pastoral leaders to be effective in their ministry. Some areas of collaboration include: how Safe Harbor functions in light of denominational changes; how to train and equip clergy on ethical considerations for the use of AI in ministry; and cultural competency training under the new convener model of ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janelle Kurtz
Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Report of the Order of Deaconess/Home Missioner (DHM)

Celebrating 138 Years of Love, Justice & Service

Our Movement

The key biblical text for the deaconess movement as it emerged in the nineteenth century was Romans 16:1–2: "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon (diakonos) of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well."

The Methodist deaconess movement in the United States began when Lucy Rider Meyer and her husband started the first deaconess training school in Chicago in 1885. In 1888, the Office of Deaconess was officially recognized by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the office has remained active ever since. Early deaconesses "lived in community with other deaconesses and devoted themselves to service (diakonia in Greek, hence the term deaconess), particularly with the urban poor, as teachers, nurses, evangelists, pastors, administrators, missionaries, and social service workers." Methodist deaconesses in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are credited with starting schools and hospitals in communities where they did not previously exist, and the need for such ministries was great. Deaconesses often worked under harsh conditions and in cutting-edge ministries of social service on behalf of women, children, and youth. They were courageous and set the path for many social service institutions across the country today. Deaconesses and Home Missioners continue this legacy of serving in cutting-edge ministries of love, justice, and service today. We serve in a variety of ministry settings, including health/wellness, law, education, advocacy, and social services.

At the General Conference in 1988, when the category of home missionary was eliminated in The United Methodist Church, there was no place for laity who identify as men to live out a recognized calling to lifetime service. This led to the establishment of the home missioner category of service, the equivalent of deaconesses, at the 2004 General Conference. Legislation was passed at the 2016 General Conference to make the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner an official order within The United Methodist Church. The Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner is one of three orders of ministry in The United Methodist Church, serving alongside the orders of Elder and Deacon, and is the only order for laity. Deaconesses and Home Missioners feel called by God to a full-time vocation in service with those who are marginalized and in need in the world today.

Deaconesses and Home Missioners function through diverse forms of service directed toward the world to make Jesus Christ known in the fullness of God's ministry and mission, which mandate followers to:

a) Alleviate suffering

---

[1]Priscilla Pope-Levison, *No Man's Land: The International Methodist Deaconess Movement,* 1874–1918 (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2025), 15.[2]Ibid.

b) Eradicate causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth

c) Facilitate the development of full human potential

d) "Share in the building of a global community through the universal church."

Our Ministries Vary. Our Call to Service Binds Us.

The Pacific Northwest Conference has six active Deaconesses/Home Missioners serving under appointment and one Deaconess/Home Missioner in a retired relationship. We serve in a variety of ministry settings, including health/wellness, law, education, advocacy, and social services. Our ministries vary, but our call to love, justice, and service binds us as a covenant community.

The United Methodist Deaconess movement is a founding member of the worldwide ecumenical diaconal movement called DIAKONIA. DIAKONIA offers an international and ecumenical community of diaconal friendship, connecting us in diversity and commonality. DIAKONIA broadens our worldview and deepens our sense of diaconal vocation. DIAKONIA reminds the church of God's call to service, justice, compassion, and peace for creation, and assists us in living out our ministries in the world with vision and hope. In July 2025, DIAKONIA World Federation gathered for a worldwide assembly in Tanzania. At this event, we also celebrated the consecration of 15 Africa Region deaconesses/home missioners at the first-ever United Methodist Consecration Service in Africa.

The order of Deaconesses and Home Missioners meets virtually weekly for spiritual support, holds virtual discernment events for those interested in joining the Order, and facilitates intersectional justice education training events.

We are celebrating the consecration of 22 new deaconesses and home missioners at the United Women in Faith Assembly in Indianapolis, IN, on May 15, 2026. In September of 2026, members of our community will gather virtually as an Order through our association (The National Association of Deaconesses, Home Missioners and Home Missionaries - NADHM) to learn, dream, worship, and advocate in community.

Is this the Call for you?

Is this a Call for you? If so, there is an opportunity to be a part of a supportive community in relationship with The United Methodist Church as a deaconess or home missioner. Discernment Events are held at various times throughout the year. The Deaconess/Home Missioner Discernment event is an opportunity to explore God's call to vocational ministry. If this calling is for you or someone you know, we want to hear from you!

Website: https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/deaconess-and-home-missioner/

Email: deaconess@uwfaith.org , **Call:** 1-332-240-3898

Respectfully Submitted,

Deaconesses Sophia Agtarap, Melissa Bortnick, Ronda Cordill, Lisa Holyfield, Myra Salapang-Duncan, and Lynn Swedburg,

Board of Laity

The Board of Laity has been determined to collaborate with one another to envision and strengthen the board's role in empowering laity. Although our lives have been filled with different obstacles, milestones, and responsibilities, the board continues to be committed to advancing the work we are called to.

As a board, we've taken time to have important conversations about our ministry. As we collaborate with one another, each member continues diligently in the ministries they are called to and are passionate about what the future of our church and conference will look like. Over the past year, the Board of Laity has met two times. Both meetings have been via Zoom. We further plan to meet a few more times as we prepare for Annual Conference and continue to collaborate and envision the future of the Board of Laity. With plans to meet in-person for further collaboration efforts. It has been an honor to serve alongside the board, as they continue to provide insights in understanding the dynamics that exist within our Annual Conference.

As a board, we hope to envision opportunities for laity to feel empowered and guided to step into new roles and embrace the different ministries they are called to within the church. Uplifting laity voices continues to be at the core of our work. We continue to ask ourselves how we can support the laity of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, bringing them together to spaces and tables that lack the representation of laity voices.

With current events, it is important now more than ever to continue inviting people into these spaces, whether it's through workshops, meetings, or even local church potlucks. We must continue to create accessible opportunities that can allow laity to be visionaries, build community, and feel confident that they are receiving the resources they need. While also creating more accessible and digestible content to provide laity with more clarity when navigating complex information and structures. This shared goal continues to fuel our work, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to empower the laity of our conference.

As we move forward, we hope to have more engagement opportunities with laity across the conference. We hope to provide space for laity to feel invited to be curious and ask questions. We will continue to seize the opportunity and time now to support our laity to the best of our abilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Falisha Hola
Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Lay Leader

The Faith Foundation Northwest

The Foundation's mission is to support the long-term financial health of faith communities.

As of December 31st, 2025, we managed $119M on behalf of 199 churches, agencies, and camps. 2025 year-end net returns were 14.20% for our Diversified Moderate Portfolio, 16.61% for our Fossil Free Moderate Portfolio, 17.31% for our Fossil Free Aggressive Portfolio, and 4.08% for our Stable Value Portfolio.

In 2025, Faith Foundation Northwest:

- Processed $7.48M in withdrawals for ministry and received and invested $11.67M in deposits
- Taught 19 planned giving workshops
- Launched a free, online Clergy Financial Education tool
- Originated 3 new loans, bringing our total loan program to $2.18M loaned out to 16 congregations
- Transferred more than $1.3M in stock gifts to local churches, free of charge
- Awarded mini grants to 4 congregations, totaling $13.4K

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Frisbie

Executive Director

Statement of Financial Position

	Un-Audited 12/31/25	Audited
	2025	**2023**
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,177,533	1,081,748
Marketable Securities	113,580,773	97,174,696
Loans Receivable	2,052,796	1,460,183
Property Held	34,226	28,475
TOTAL ASSETS	**118,969,329**	**99,869,102**
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	55,199	1,561
Accrued Liabilities	-	-
Due to Others	108,083,099	89,790,415

Reserve Value Trust & Annuities	453,410	1,062,548.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**108,591,709**	**90,854,524**
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	3,221,114	2,906,881
Temporarily Restricted	830,768	837,340
Permanently Restricted	6,325,737	5,270,357
TOTAL NET ASSETS	10,337,620	9,014,578
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**118,969,329**	**99,869,102**

Circle of Indigenous Ministries

The GNW Circle of Indigenous Ministries (CIM) is rooted in relationships. Over the past year, staff and volunteers have continued building trust with Tribes and Indigenous communities across the GNW and beyond. This work includes implementation of the WJ Plan for Indigenous Ministries, including the on-going Truth Telling Team's efforts. (We encourage engagement with the Doe-Kag-Wats/Indianola and Jason Lee Truth Telling Team's reports from last year, available on our website - greaternw.org/circle/) and attention to this year's - Kalapulyan Removal and Father Wilbur team's presentations.

Sarah Augustine and *Allen Buck* continue to meet monthly with members of the six Truth Telling Teams (TTTs), who then also gather in their smaller groups to deepen the team's work. All teams have now participated in Intercultural Development through the GNW Equity Team. Two TTTs reported during the last Annual Conference season, two are scheduled to report in 2026, and two more in 2027, culminating in a collective report for the 2028 Jurisdictional Conference. Teams that have already reported continue their research and writing while also contributing to guided relational work with tribes/tribal members, discernment, and conversations around repair and meaningful action.

The Doe-Kag-Wats Team (Indianola) presented at Seattle First in November 2025, met with the Suquamish Tribal Council, and later shared research with the Tribe's Cultural Committee. Approximately twenty Tribal members, including three Council members, offered valuable feedback that is shaping the next phase of the work. The Father Wilbur Team conducted extensive archival research across regional institutions, uncovering previously uncatalogued materials. Their work renewed relationships with the Confederated Bands and Tribes of Yakama, including conversations involving Wilbur Memorial Mission.

In 2025-26 the Circle has also supported our WJ DCMs by contributing to the Association of DCMs (Director of Connectional Ministries) event at Great Spirit UMC, where the CIM work was featured prominently. Additional engagements including 2 of the Puget Sound District's Roots and Wings events, United Women in Faith gatherings, the General Church Communicators event, and national Native American Comprehensive Plan conversations.

As Truth Telling, Land Genealogy, and Land Acknowledgement efforts deepen, they invite an essential question: So what? We are inviting the broader community into collective discernment. This PNW Annual Conference's "So What?"conversations will center on the Truth Telling work shared so far, particularly in Indianola, so we might seek faithful next steps together internally and also in relationship with indigenous relatives.

It was recently announced that beginning July 1, 2026, the CIM Director position will become full-time. We are also creating an official CIM Board to help guide this work and ensure it is led by Indigenous Native American and Alaskan Natives to support the priorities and values they discern with the Spirit. Wado (thank you).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Allen Buck
Director, Circle of Indigenous Ministries

Commission on Ethnic Ministries (COEM)

Mission and Purpose

The Commission on Ethnic Ministries (COEM) is called to advocate for, support, and empower ethnic clergy across the Greater Northwest Area. We strive to ensure that the diverse voices of our connection are not only heard but are deeply integrated into the life and leadership of the Annual Conference.

Ministry Priorities and the M.I.L.E.

Our work directly advances the Bishop's M.I.L.E. by focusing on Leading with Integrity and Engaging in Ministry that honors our diverse cultural landscapes. By providing specialized resources for ethnic clergy and youth, we align with the PNW Conference's priorities to dismantle systemic barriers and promote a truly inclusive connectional church.

Highlights from the Year

This year has been a season of deep connection and tangible support for our ethnic leaders. We have focused on moving from isolation to community through several key initiatives:

- **Investing in Clergy Leadership:** We funded attendance for African American clergy to participate in Lead-Well, a vital Western Jurisdiction partnership with Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. Additionally, we supported the Lead-Well Retreat, which promoted essential peer connections and wellness across the jurisdiction.
- **National & Cultural Representation:** We empowered clergy to represent our area at the National Association of Filipino American United Methodists and sent a delegation to the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) national meeting in Los Angeles.
- **Educational & Civic Partnerships:** We partnered with Hispanic Ministries to provide financial support for a local leader's seminary education and collaborated with the League of Women Voters to support an ethnic clergy person's civic engagement in their local county.
- **Empowering the Next Generation:** Through our camp ministry grants, we have expanded opportunities for ethnic youth to lead and grow. This year, our funding facilitated transformative camp experiences and supported a local camp in hiring an ethnic student staff member, ensuring diverse representation in leadership roles. Our support of **S.L.A.M. (Students Learning About Mission)** youth on the Yakama Nation provided an immersive, faith-based service experience centered on cultural learning and spiritual growth. Furthermore, we expanded our reach by supporting the **Christmas Institute (CI-PNW)** and its new Canadian chapter, helping Filipino and Filipino American/Canadian youth and young adults connect their unique cultural identities with faith in action, while building a stronger, cross-border, connectional fellowship.

Impact on Local Churches

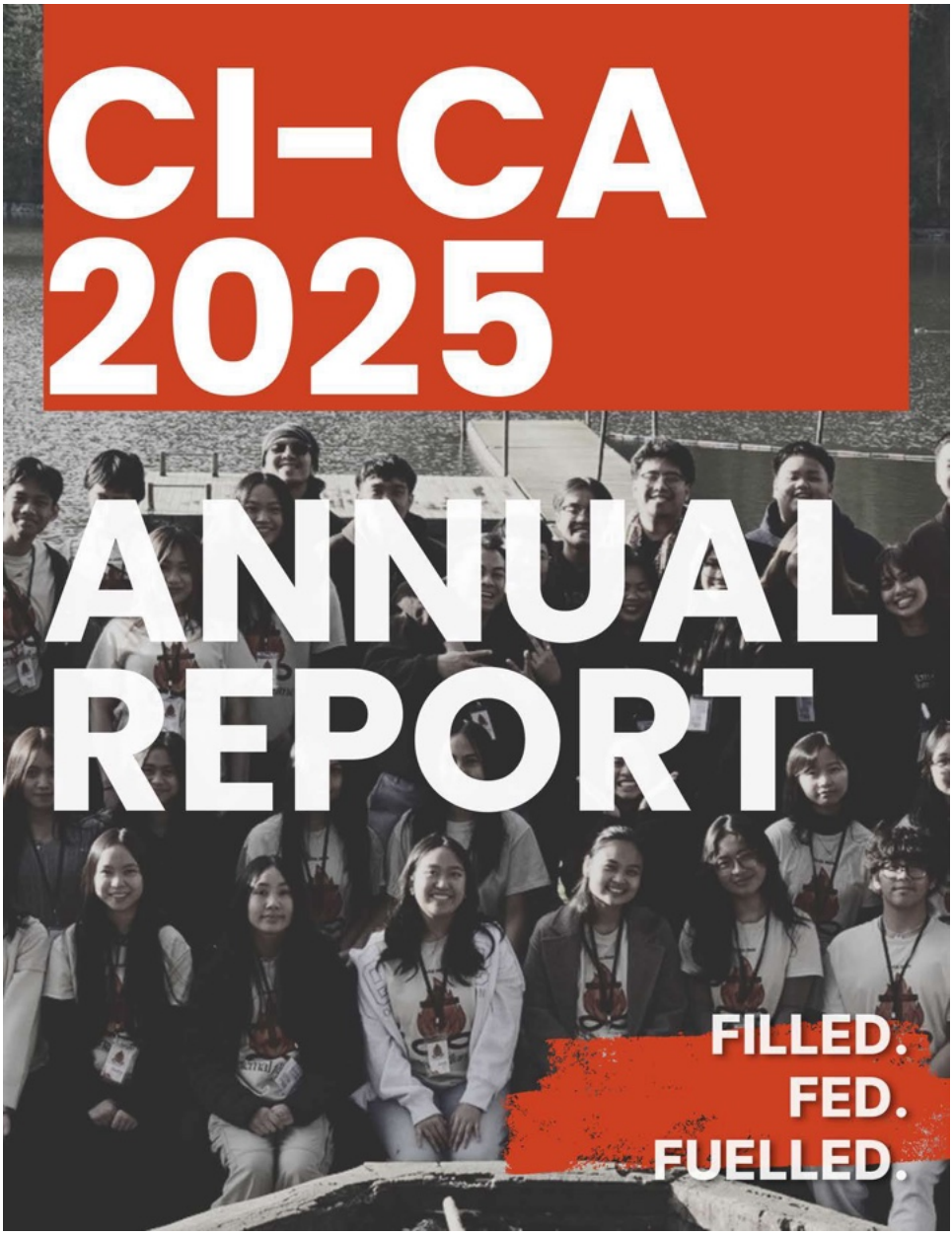
The COEM serves as a bridge, ensuring that clergy in cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments do not feel isolated but are instead resourced and encouraged. By investing in seminary education, S.L.A.M. youth leadership, and professional retreats like Lead-Well, we help local congregations benefit from healthy, well-equipped, and spiritually renewed leaders. Our work extends the reach of the local church by promoting a sense of belonging for immigrant families and ensuring that our youth see themselves as the current and future leaders of the United Methodist connection.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, we are excited to partner with the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee to host an Ethnic Summit in Portland, Oregon, this April. This inaugural gathering will focus on mental health, unity as resistance, and spiritual renewal for ethnic clergy across the jurisdiction. We continue to lean into the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5–6: "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track." -MSG.

Respectively Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Troy Lynn Carr
Chair, Commission on Ethnic Ministries


CI-CA
2025
ANNUAL
REPORT
FILLED.
FED.
FUELLED.

The Fire We Chose to Keep

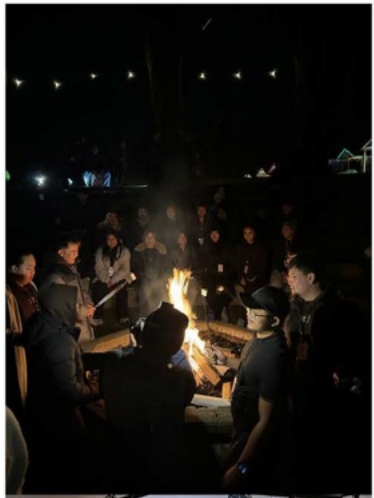
In December 2025, the First United Methodist Church of Canada joyfully hosted its second Christmas Institute.

In the months following the first CI in 2024, a shared reflection emerged among campers and leaders alike: a "fire" had been ignited or rekindled within them. This image became a powerful thread woven through testimonies, capturing a renewed passion, deepened faith, and a strengthened sense of purpose.

During the leaders' post-retreat gathering to close CI-CA 2024, they took time to reflect on what they had experienced, what lingered with them, and what they hoped to carry into their daily lives. From these reflections, the idea of an "eternal flame" began to take shape, a hope that the fire within would not fade after camp, but continue to burn steadily long after.

Throughout 2025, this vision came to life in meaningful ways. Leaders remained actively engaged in the life of the church, inspiring others to step in and grow, while campers were encouraged to nurture and sustain the flame within them. By the time planning began for CI-CA 2025, the theme had already taken root in both heart and practice.

"Eternal Flame" was not just a concept; it had become a shared experience, a living testimony, and a natural choice for the year ahead.







Camp Summary

CI-CA 2025 took place from **December 27 to 30, 2025,** at **Camp Luther** in Mission, BC, spanning four days and three nights. Previously held as a three-day, two-night gathering, the extended schedule came in response to a popular request from campers. The added day was met with great enthusiasm, as many were excited to experience more time together at camp.



Called from Many Places

CI-CA 2025 welcomed campers, leaders and pastors from all around the world.

Campers:
British Columbia: 16
Alberta: 9
Manitoba: 15

Leaders:
British Columbia: 12
Alberta: 1
Manitoba: 1
Toronto: 1

Pastors:
Canada: 2
US: 3

LOGO RATIONALE



eternal *flame*

In the heart of our logo stands a wooden cross, defying flames with unwavering grace.

A steadfast symbol, it echoes that Christ is the rock-solid core of our faith.

The infinity sign snuggling under the flame whispers tales of endless campfire nights reminding us of God's eternal love, ever-giving nature, and unwavering presence.

eternal *flame*

Eternal Flame is a picture of God's presence: a fire that never burns out. Through every high and low, in both the laughter and the ache, this flame continues to burn, lighting the dark, warming the weary, and renewing hearts that have grown cold.

Even when our own spark feels small, God's flame surrounds us, lifts us, and whispers truth into our hearts: You are seen. You are held. You are never alone.

At CI, we make space to rest in that light, to feel its warmth, to notice its gentle glow, and to carry that same glow into the world around us.

A flame that comforts.
A flame that guides.
A flame that shines wherever we go.

Your laughter, your stories, your questions, your pain, your heart.

There's room for it all in the glow of God's everlasting love.



FILLED *(John 4:13–14)*

Centered on the story of the woman at the well, we reflected on Jesus as the source of living water. We talked about spiritual thirst, the search for meaning, and how only God can truly fill the emptiness within us. In Him, we are renewed, restored, and deeply satisfied.

FED *(John 6:35)*

Through Jesus' words, "I am the bread of life," we explored what it means to be spiritually nourished. We discussed the importance of staying rooted in God through His Word, prayer, and community, recognizing that our faith must be continually fed to grow strong and steady.

FUELLED *(Genesis 37–41)*

Looking at the life of Joseph, we reflected on trusting God through every season. We talked about perseverance, purpose, and how even in waiting or hardship, God is at work. Our faith is fuelled when we hold on to His promises and continue forward with hope.

THE ETERNAL FLAME

Across all three subthemes, we were reminded of one truth: God is our eternal flame. He is the One who fills us when we are empty, feeds us when we are weak, and fuels us when we feel weary. He rekindles what feels dim, gives us warmth in every season, and lights our world with His constant and unchanging presence.



CI-CA 2025 Leaders

They were the ones who stayed up the latest and woke up the earliest, giving of themselves in ways that often went unseen. Their servant hearts never seemed to run dry, constantly pouring out time, energy, and care for everyone around them.

They were called Ate and Kuya, Filipino terms meaning older sister and older brother, and a sign of deep respect. More than titles, these names reflected who they truly were to us, guiding, protecting, and caring with both warmth and sincerity.

AJ Balacua	Operations Coordinator, 12 Family Group
Anfer Tagao	Praise band, YA-2 Family Group
Charis Navarro	Worship Coordinator, 10-11 Family Group
Elisha Aquino	Creative Writing, 10-11 Family Group
Ian Bautista	Dance, 8-9 Family Group
Jay Pacamarra	AV Tech, YA-1 Family Group
Jessika Valera	Registrations Coordinator, YA-1 Family Group
Jonah Papilla	Media & Content, YA-2 Family Group
Josh Valera	Activities Coordinator, 8-9 Family Group
Joy Almeron	Praise band, Craft, 10-11 Family Group
Lovie Santillan	Fitness, 12 Family Group
Mell Julian	Media & Content, Praise band, Craft, 8-9 Family Group
MJ Tabian	Fitness, 12 Family Group
Rem Santiago	AV Tech, YA-2 Family Group
Simba Tagao	Praise band, 10-11 Family Group



CI-CA 2025 Deans, Pastors and Parents

The pastors who guided us throughout the planning and during CI who faithfully prayed over us and ensured our cups were full even as we poured into others. They offered wisdom in moments of uncertainty, spoke encouragement when we felt stretched, and reminded us to stay grounded in our purpose. With patience and discernment, they helped shape not only the flow of the event but also the hearts of those leading it. Their presence brought peace, their counsel brought clarity, and their unwavering support created a space where both leaders and campers could grow, serve, and encounter God more deeply.

We are also deeply grateful for the parents, whose great support meant so much throughout the journey. Through their trust, encouragement, prayers, and willingness to help in countless ways, they played an essential role in making CI possible. Their partnership and belief in the value of this experience gave both leaders and campers the confidence to participate fully, knowing they were being supported every step of the way.

Pastor Norrman Feliciano	Dean, Dec. 29 Morning Worship
Pastor Dave Valera	Dean, Dec. 29 Evening Worship
Pastor Art Razon	Dec. 28, Morning Worship
Pastor bing Canlas	Dec. 28, Afternoon Worship
Pastor Mark Galang	Dec. 27, Opening Worship
Mr. Milmar Abella	Parent/ Guardian





Camp Preparation

The planning for CI-CA 2025 started in the summer of 2025, where leaders gathered both in person and online for training sessions to brainstorm, suggest ideas, and go over even the tiniest details to ensure that CI-CA remained safe, welcoming, and fun.

Some challenges were faced along the way, as availability often clashed with other commitments and the time differences across Canada. Leadership care was also initiated by Pastor Norman and the four Core Leads, AJ Balacua, Josh Valera, Jessika Valera, and Charis Navarro, to ensure that the bond between the leaders remained strong. We met online for Bible studies, played games, and had meaningful life discussions as well.

On top of that, the leaders worked hard to make CI-CA accessible for everyone. We acknowledged the added financial expenditures for those flying in from other provinces. Our goal was to provide scholarships and financial assistance for those who reached out. Many efforts were made to support this, including a Valentine's Concert Fundraiser, Christmas caroling, and monetary support from parents.







FINANCIAL REPORT — CI-CA2025

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Amount (CAD)	Amount (USD)
PNW Grant	7,840.00	
Registration Fee (Non-FUMCC Members)		
Pacific Community Methodist Church	3,006.00	
Edmonton Filipino UMC	668	
Donation	1,250.00	
Registration Fee (FUMCC Members)		
Squamish Christian Fellowship	260	
Vancouver Fellowship	1,300.00	
Fraser Valley Fellowship	1,300.00	
Burnaby Fellowship	5,200.00	
TOTAL	**20,824.00**	**15,116.87**
EXPENSES		
Campsite	16,175.00	
T-Shirts	1,454.44	
Materials (booklet, name tags)	81.06	
TOTAL	**17,710.50**	**12,856.67**
Excess of Receipts over Expenses	**3,113.50**	**2,260.20**

TESTIMONIES FROM CAMPERS

OWEN MALTO



My whole experience on CI-25 felt like I was hiking a hill. Before CI, my goal was to build my relationship with God because I felt like I wasn't putting effort into building that relationship. I wanted guidance from the pastors and the leaders, I wanted to learn their relationship with God and how it changed their lives.

I got really invested in the story of Joseph the Dreamer and it taught me that whatever challenges and problems that I may have in the future, God is always there to make the path for me and I am willing to accept the challenges and hardships that may come. All the leaders and campers that I met at the camp were genuine, funny, talented, and kind. By listening to their stories and experiences, I got to learn more about them and having to put their faith in God in their life was inspiring. It made me realise that I am blessed with what I have right now and will continue to be humble about it. The praise and worship team were very talented and passionate, I truly respect them for putting in the effort to perform 2-3 times a day for us. I liked how they were very engaging towards the campers and watching the campers sing their hearts out was inspiring, which made me sing my heart out too and I haven't felt like that in a long time.

When I heard that the theme of the CI was ***'Eternal Flame'*** my first thought was that the Eternal Flame represents oneself's faith in God but the real meaning was that the "Eternal Flame is a picture of God's presence: a fire that never burns out, a flame that comforts, guides, and shines where we go." The bonfire night was probably the most memorable moment in the whole camp because everyone was there to praise and worship in front of the bonfire, which was fitting to the theme of "Eternal Flame".

The act of faith night was for me the 'peak of the mountain' for me because I finally had the courage to tell someone what I have been going through last year. It was hard and I was vulnerable but it felt good to let it out and to have someone tell me that God is always there for me. I am truly grateful that I went to the CI because I felt that I mended my relationship with God and I felt that the flame that was fading away has grown into a bigger one.

TESTIMONIES FROM CAMPERS



CHRISTIAN GANADIN

Many are picked, but few are chosen. CI-CA was first introduced to me back in August during the Summer Institute of FUMCO. They said that it will be held in Vancouver and has an age limit of 12. I didn't think much of it because, in my mind, it's so far away and the expenses are too much. Not until I moved to Calgary, where once again CI-CA was brought up on a random day and they were already sending forms. But I have not signed up yet till the last few weeks before the CI, probably. I wouldn't have signed up if it weren't for Pastor Rjohn, who kept asking me if I signed up already.

After everyone registered, we thought about the expenses because the flights are like 700 dollars, and we planned to just have our own CI. Days passed. I was at T&T, and Pastor Rjohn called asking for my full name. He said they were booking tickets for the CI. I was shocked. It was unexpected, but I said to myself, "you know what okay I'm going then!". God always has a way for you, and that time I knew that was my calling. As I said earlier, "many are picked but few are chosen," I always keep this phrase in my mind whenever I'm in any situation.

From the book of Isaiah 6:8, saying, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am Lord. Send me!'" Many people wanted to attend this Christmas Institute. For me, I wanted to go, but not that badly. What I didn't see coming was that I was chosen by God to go to the CI and show me. It doesn't mean you won't have fun because there are very few people, but it's not all about the fun. It's about getting close to Jesus, strengthening your faith in Him, and for Him to keep burning in our hearts.

I've made unexpected friends, and to the leaders, they were so nice that they don't feel like leaders at all. They were like campers, just like us. Well, I hope to be a leader someday, but maybe that someday will be the next CI-CA. You never know! God was already burning inside me, but after the CI, He seemed to radiate even more light. At this point forward, I've learned many things in the CI, especially how to embrace a different way of doing a CI! To Know Christ And to Make Him Known!

TESTIMONIES FROM CAMPERS



ELISHA ABELLA

Ever since I was born, I was taught to believe in God, but CI gave me a new understanding of faith which really touched a deep part of my heart. Many people know that I'm the type of person who strives for perfection. I have this need to always meet the expectations people put on me because they tell me how impressed they are with all my capabilities. I don't understand why I'm so driven to show up how people expect me to be. It's like I put myself in these situations where it's too much for me to handle, just because I want to meet everyone's expectations of me. There were many times where I burned myself out trying to meet those expectations.

CI taught me a lesson that really touched me, like it was meant for me to hear it. The words, "You are loved, you are accepted, and you don't need to earn your place." CI taught me that I don't need to be perfect to be loved by God, that God loves me as I am and invited me into His arms because of my imperfections. That made me accept myself as I am too.

I came to realize that it doesn't matter what others think of me, or what the world thinks of me. I have a Father in heaven who loves me for who I am now and welcomes me into His love with open arms, no matter what. From a girl who was broken by the world, I found my place in Christ's arms. Now I not only call myself a believer, but a follower, a child of God.
CI made me realize and let go of all of the burdens my heart was carrying that I didn't even know about. It's an experience that you would have to go through to understand, but after CI my heart truly feels much lighter than when I first walked in.

CI-CA 2026 Planning Timeline & To-Do List

Note: This timeline is subject to change as planning progresses.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY
Review post-treat survey, set camp dates, identify venues, and finalize the 2025 budget.

MARCH
Confirm venue, define camp theme and goals, estimate budget, and form the core team.

APRIL - MAY
Confirm leaders, plan Summer Institute, and check venue requirements.

JUNE
Summer Institute, assign small group leaders, and start training.

JULY
Design camp materials, buy initial supplies, and begin content planning.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
Promotion starts, Pre-registration begins

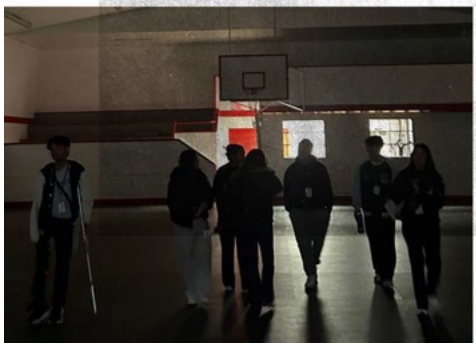
OCTOBER
Official registration begins

NOVEMBER
Confirm attendance and collect final payments

DECEMBER
CI-CA 2026 happens!































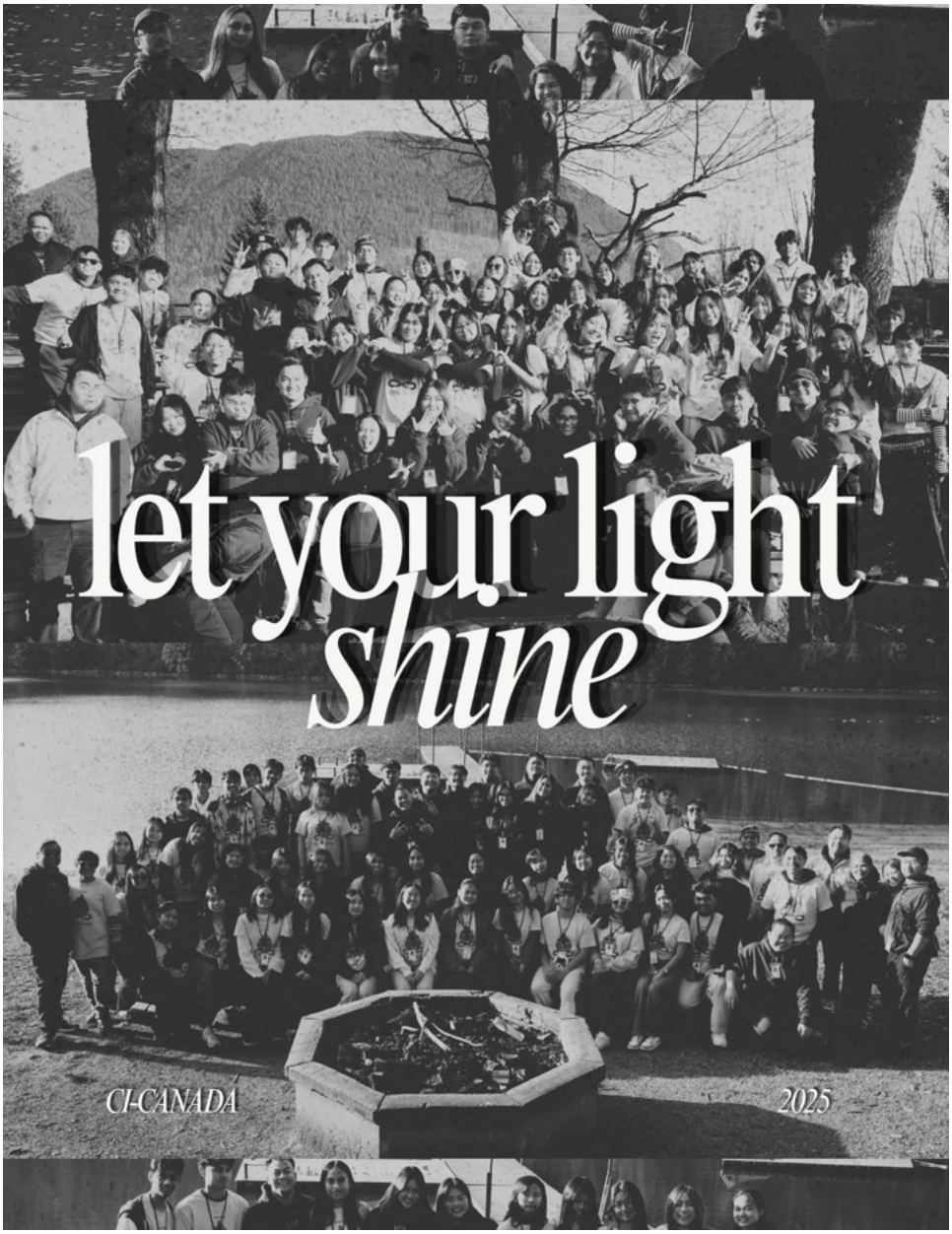











let your light
shine
CI-CANADA
2025



CI-PNW

M N N W

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Christmas Institute

the PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ci PNW

PROGRAM AND AGENDA

CI-PNW's 2025 theme of **"Balikbayan"** comes from the Filipino language meaning *balik* = "return" and *bayan* = "home." Home is a place of formation. The people of faith who were always on a journey always longed for home — until they realized God made a home in them and the people made their home in God. It doesn't matter if we can't get back home (in a physical sense) — we have a home in God.

CI-PNW hosted a **5-day, 4-night** camp near the greater Seattle-area. Continued financial support from the **Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church** and local fundraising and sponsorship efforts enabled us to **keep registration costs lower** for all participants and help subsidize the costs of our volunteer leaders and campers most in need who otherwise would not be able to participate due to rising costs. We hope to continue finding more ways to keep registration costs more affordable for everyone.

CI-PNW 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

67 total attendees

- 13 first-time campers (Grades 6-12)
- 14 returning campers (Grades 7-12)
- 10 Leaders-In-Training / LITs (Post-HS)
- 12 full-time leaders and clergy (deans)
- 16 additional support staff, workshop leaders, and clergy support
- 2 future CI campers (family members)
- Plus multiple visitors and guests during morning/evening worship sessions and MTV talent night (over 50 guests!)

Relevant Activities and Programming

- Age-specific small group discussions
- Special Topics Forum: Poetry Workshop
- Spiritual act of faith (self-reflection, preparation/journey, sharing stories)
- Interest/Passion Group workshops: Tinikling (Filipino dance), Youth Praise Band, Health & Wellness, Grounding Skills, Home Architecture, Sounds and Smells of Home, Taking Care of a Home Emergency, Balik-Volleyball, and more!

Christmas Institute is an ethnically relevant ministry supported through the **PNWUMC Commission on Ethnic Ministries (COEM)** and is designed to nurture our young people in their spiritual faith and call to ministry, inspiring great leaders throughout our global church and community. In addition to supporting the CI-PNW team, we continued to uplift and pray for the leaders of CI-Canada in their second year of running their own camp. More efforts to fellowship together and consider some combined mid-year gatherings are in the works.

2025 DESIGN TEAM

Sarah Agtarap	Pastor Dione Corsilles	*Lawrence Paltep
#Pastor Shalom Agtarap	+BJ Martinez	^EJ Ragual
#Sophia Agtarap	^Jun Navarro	+Nica Sy
+Gelo Andres	^Rachel Navarro	+Pastor Riva Tabelisma

*+Beacon UMC | *Blaine Memorial UMC | #First UMC of Tacoma | ^Kent UMC*

Christmas Institute

the PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ci PNW

THEME AND BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

CI-PNW 2025 THEME: "BALIKBAYAN"

Bible Study Overview prepared by Pastor Shalom Agtarap
in collaboration with the CI-PNW Design Team

In the Filipino language, the word "balikbayan" means "return home." This year at Christmas Institute, we explored our relationship with home — as young people, as Christians, and as Filipinos. As overseas Filipinos, many of our campers may have a complicated relationship with the idea of "home," especially as it relates to seeing the Philippines or Filipino identity as home when growing up in the US. Through camp, we acknowledged the complexity of home. Through taking up the call of Jesus, we are called out to places that are uncomfortable and unfamiliar, and we are called back to make a difference at home.



SUB-THEME #1: WHERE IS HOME?
Psalm 90:1-2; Genesis 1 from First Nations Translation

SUB-THEME #2: HOME SHAPES YOU
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23; Luke 4:14-24

SUB-THEME #3: YOU SHAPE HOME
Luke 4:14-24; Luke 12:49-53

Together, we encouraged and reflected upon stories of migration, how God has been home for generation upon generations, and we took part in collecting items (canned goods, supplies for medical missions) for packing balikbayan boxes that will be sent to the Philippines, especially those who have been impacted by recent floods.

CI-PNW MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

The theme for 2025 was steadfast, building upon the historical knowledge and integrity of almost 30 years of the CI-PNW ministry (and over 100 years of CI ministry in the Philippines) as it remains in alignment with our United Methodist beliefs, our Wesleyan heritage, our Filipino heritage and cultural values, and informed by our Social Principles.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

CI-PNW is open to ALL who are seeking Jesus Christ, spiritual guidance, acceptance, and fellowship. Our target population includes youth and young adults of immigrant Filipino and Filipino American/Canadian families within The United Methodist Church — to strengthen and support our youth as they become leaders.

OUR VISION

To know Jesus Christ, and make Him known... | To fellowship with other believers...
To mature in our faith... | To link our cultural identities with faith in action...

Christmas Institute

the PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ci PNW

CI-PNW CORE LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION



CI-PNW COLLECTIVE + DEANS 2025

LEADERSHIP DEV COORD
Nette Sanchez

CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR
Gelo Andres

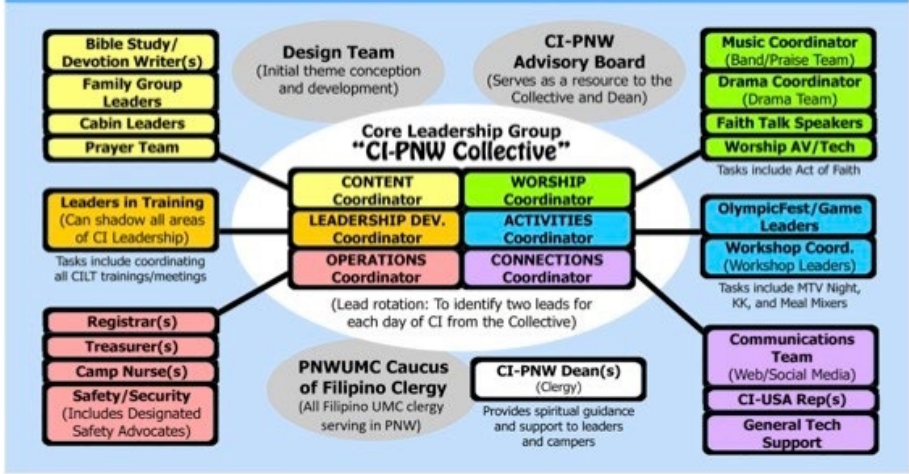
CONTENT COORDINATOR
Nica Sy

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
EJ Ragual

WORSHIP COORDINATOR
Lawrence Paltep

ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR
BJ Martinez

CI-PNW DEANS
Pastor Dione Corsilles, Pastor Riva Tabelisma





CI-PNW 2025 SCHEDULE

	SATURDAY Dec 27	SUNDAY Dec 28	MONDAY Dec 29	TUESDAY Dec 30	WEDNESDAY Dec 31
7:30 AM		Optional Morning Stretch	Optional Morning Stretch	Optional Morning Stretch	CAMPER CLEAN UP
8:00 AM		Morning Devotion	Morning Devotion	Morning Devotion	Pack and clean
8:30 AM		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 AM		8:30 - 9:30 AM	8:30 - 9:30 AM	8:30 - 9:30 AM	8:30 - 9:30 AM
9:30 AM		Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Vacate rooms by 9:45 AM
10:00 AM		9:30 - 10:30 AM	9:30 - 10:30 AM	9:30 - 10:30 AM	Family Groups 10:00 AM
10:30 AM		Family Groups	Family Groups	Family Groups	Closing Worship
11:00 AM		10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	and Communion
11:30 AM					10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM		Break	Break	Break	Campers depart by 12pm
12:30 PM		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	LEADERS ONLY
1:00 PM		12:30 - 1:30 PM	12:30 - 1:30 PM	12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch and clean-up
1:30 PM	No leaders before 2pm	Siesta	Siesta 1:30 - 2:00 PM	Siesta 1:30 - 2:00 PM	LEADERS ONLY
2:00 PM	LEADERS ONLY 2-4 PM	1:30 - 2:30 PM	Camp Photos 2:00 PM	OlympicFest Games	Load equipment and depart
2:30 PM	Set-up and general prep	OlympicFest Games	OlympicFest Games	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Leaders depart by 2:30pm
3:00 PM	prior to camper arrival	2:30 - 4:00 PM	2:30 - 3:30 PM	OPEN FORUM	
3:30 PM	No campers before 4pm		Passion Groups	3:00 - 4:00 PM	
4:00 PM	ALL CAMPERS ARRIVE AT 4PM	Passion Groups	3:30 - 4:30 PM	Passion Groups	
4:30 PM	required check in / locate rooms	4:00 - 5:00 PM	MTV Practice / Break	4:00 - 5:00 PM	
5:00 PM	Get ready for dinner	MTV Practice / Break 5PM	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Get ready for dinner	
5:30 PM	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Final Dinner (CI Banquet)	
6:00 PM	5:30 - 6:30 PM	5:30 - 6:30 PM	5:30 - 6:30 PM	5:30 - 6:30 PM	
6:30 PM	CI-PNW Orientation and Intros	Family Groups	* GUESTS ARE WELCOME! *	Break	
7:00 PM	6:30 - 7:30 PM	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Evening Worship	Family Groups	
7:30 PM	Family Groups 7:30 PM	Evening Worship	followed by	7:00 - 8:00 PM	
8:00 PM	Evening Worship	7:30 - 8:30 PM	MTV Night (Talent Night)	KK Revelations 8:00 PM	
8:30 PM	8:00 - 9:00 PM	Faith Families	6:30 - 9:00 PM	Evening Worship and	
9:00 PM	Bonfire / Free Time	8:30 - 9:30 PM	Free Time	Act of Faith	
9:30 PM	9:00 - 10:00 PM	Free Time 9:30 - 10:00 PM	9:00 - 10:00 PM	8:30 - 10:30 PM	
10:00 PM	NOISE CURFEW 10PM	NOISE CURFEW 10PM	NOISE CURFEW 10PM	(10PM noise curfew still in effect)	
10:30 PM	Quiet hours in assigned rooms	Quiet hours in assigned rooms	Quiet hours in assigned rooms	Quiet hours in assigned spaces	Schedule subject to change.
11:00 PM	Lights out 11pm	Lights out 11pm	Lights out 11pm	Let your light shine bright!	Last Updated 11/8/2025

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Leaders-in-Training
Reuel Alejo
Bianca Bangayan
Jacob Baradi
Fhaelyn Caoili
Fhedrick Caoili
Gino D'Ambrosio
Sherley Anne Martinez
Julia Nabua
Tim Ninnemann
Jericho Ragual

Leaders
Gelo Andres
Maxwell Colorado
BJ Martinez
Jun Navarro
Rach Navarro
Lawrence Paltep
Lendon Paltep
EJ Ragual
Nette Sanchez
Nica Sy

Workshop Support
Sarah Agtarap
Michael Corsilles
Antonia Derramas
Troy Osaki

Clergy Support
Pastor Fred Agtarap
Pastor Shalom Agtarap
Deaconess Sophia Agtarap
Pastor Dione Corsilles
Pastor John Go
Pastor Jojo Nabua
Pastor Job Pangilinan
Pastor Riva Tabelisma
Pastor Dave Valera

Support Staff
Hazel Rollolazo
Bless Soriano
Belle Tinte
Nicole Vicente



FINANCIAL REPORT

submitted by Rachel Navarro, CI-PNW Treasurer

ASSETS FOR CI-PNW 2025

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT
PNW Commission on Ethnic Ministries (COEM)	$ 8,400.00
Fundraising/Donations/Sponsors	$ 875.00
Registration Fees + Leadership Contributions	$ 8,000.00
TOTAL	**$ 17,275.00**

In-kind donations for CI-PNW 2025 included food/snacks for most of the leadership team meetings, various snacks for the campers/leaders, workshop supplies, and more.

EXPENDITURES FOR CI-PNW 2025

EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
Campsite (lodging and meals)	$ 14,853.00
CI Leadership Development & Trainings	$ 1,074.00
General Materials & Other Operational Costs	$ 1,306.00
TOTAL	**$ 17,233.00**

1/30/2026 ESTIMATED SURPLUS FROM 2025: +$42.00

General Materials and Other Operational Costs included essential first aid supplies, worship resources, camp t-shirts and materials, and the cost to maintain Zoom and our website domain.

*STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES

AVAILABLE FUNDS* (as of 1/30/2026)	**$ 840.00**

2025 – No new expenses incurred

**$1,500.00 was designated back in 2021 to help subsidize and support additional training costs for CI-PNW Leadership, which could include conference registration fees, general trainings, stipends for guest speakers, and potential travel costs to/from an activity.*

We will continue to report back to the Conference on how these particular funds are used until they are fully expended.

Christmas Institute

the PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ci PNW

PLANNING FOR CI-PNW 2026

PROJECTED TIMELINE

(can be modified as needed)

JANUARY - FEBRUARY	• Wrap-up discussions and **evaluations** of the previous year • Confirm/book **campsite** for the upcoming year
MARCH	• **Advisory Board** confirms priorities for the year • Identify new and returning members of **Collective + Deans** • Continue to identify potential new and returning leaders
APRIL - MAY	• **Leadership application period** (new and returning leaders) • **Onboarding** new/returning members of the Collective
JUNE	• **Design Team + Bible Study writers** work to develop theme • **Collective + Deans** continue regular check-ins/conversations
SUMMERTIME	• **Leadership Trainings** begin (Kick-Off + Summer Institute / SI) • **CI theme** and **Bible Study** is finalized for upcoming camp (worship guide, family group discussions, activities, etc.)
SEPTEMBER	• **CI Registration** opens (outreach to local churches) • More **leadership development and trainings** (including background checks and safety awareness trainings) • Reach out to **speakers, support staff, community partners**
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER	• **CI Registration** continues (gradual deadlines) • More **leadership development and trainings**
DECEMBER	• **Final preparations** are completed • **CI camp occurs** end of December



CI-PNW 2025 Annual Report *ci-pnw.org*


Christmas Institute
the PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ci PNW
GW
ITIGIL ANG KORAPSYON

Global Ministries

Connecting the Pacific Northwest Conference with God's global mission through missionary support, partnership, humanitarian service, and opportunities for local churches to engage in mission around the world.

Global Ministries is the international mission, humanitarian relief, and development organization of The United Methodist Church. We connect people within and beyond the church to share God's love and Christ's caring presence throughout the world.

The mission of Global Ministries is to help the whole church participate in God's mission. We answer God's call by sending missionaries, strengthening churches, providing humanitarian relief, and improving community health.

Purpose: To bring United Methodist conferences, churches, and members together to engage in God's mission.

Vision: The vision of Global Ministries is a worldwide church working together and following Christ's example of mission and ministry.

Mission Goals: Global Ministries lives out its purpose and pursues its vision through four historic mission goals:

- Making disciples of Jesus Christ
- Developing and renewing Christian congregations and communities
- Alleviating human suffering
- Seeking justice, freedom, and peace

The Conference Board of Global Ministries serves as a program committee and the mission "arm" of our conference. The Board consists of representatives from many areas of ministry and mission. Our work helps churches grow and reach out in service to others, often in coordination with conferences in our **Greater Northwest Episcopal Area.**

We are the United Methodist Church in action. All programming and spending are guided by the question: How does this educate, enable, and empower the local church to be in mission?

Board Members Include: Conference Secretary for Global Ministries, UWF President, Mission u Dean, Global Mission Fellow Coordinator, UMCOR and Disaster Coordinator, UMVIM Coordinator, Spanish Group Coordinator, UWF Conference Education and Interpretation Coordinator, and Director of Connectional Ministries

We continue to host missionary itineration virtually on the first Thursday of each month through our program "Still in Mission." As of March 5, 2026, we have reached Episode #86.

Pacific Northwest Giving Report for Global Ministries – 2025

Grand Total:	$411,315.61
Church Giving	$349,687.78
Individual Giving	$ 59,627.83
Organization Giving	$ 2,000.00

Missionaries Itinerating in 2026

Alma and Richard Navarro – Taiwan

May 25 – June 7, 2026

Joy Prim – Hong Kong

July 10 – August 2, 2026

Abigayle Bolado – Switzerland

October 3 – 9, 2026

Missionaries Supported by Pacific Northwest Churches

1. Joy Eva Bohol – Switzerland, Advance #3021829
2. Abigayle Bolado – Switzerland, Advance #3022621
3. Helen Camarce – Cambodia, Advance #139537
4. Katherine Parker – Nepal, Advance #15187Z
5. Joy Prim – Hong Kong, Advance #3021344
6. Alma Navarro – Taiwan, Advance #3022029
7. Richard Navarro – Taiwan, Advance #3022030
8. Douglas William – Argentina, Advance #3022122
9. Miriam Safford – Global Mission Fellow, Advance #3022802

You can support missionaries through a **covenant relationship,** donations to their projects, your prayers, and your participation in supporting Christ's work around the world.

As we continue this work together, we give thanks for the faithful generosity, prayers, and commitment of our Pacific Northwest churches and individuals. Through Global Ministries, we remain connected to God's mission across cultures and continents, witnessing Christ's love in action through partnership, service, and justice.

Through our connection in the **Pacific Northwest Conference and the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area**, we join United Methodists around the world in living out God's mission of love, compassion, and hope.

May we continue to respond to God's call to be a church that reaches beyond our walls—sharing hope, healing, and compassion with the world. Together, we remain United Methodists in mission.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

— Matthew 28:19 (NRSV)

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn S. Reid
Conference Mission Secretary – Global Ministries

PNW Conference Disaster Response, 2025 Accomplishments

Overview

The mission of the PNW Disaster Response is to engage church congregations with their communities through volunteer opportunities, UMCOR training, disaster preparedness, relief support during active disasters and long-term recovery engagement. These efforts support the Bishop's M.I.L.E through Missions that Matter, Lay Ministry Engagement and Eliminating Racism by facilitating volunteer efforts that assist the most vulnerable populations.

Highlights

- **LA Wildfire Response.** We teamed with the Cal-Pac Conference and the Cal-Nevada Conference in late January to staff the Eaton Fire Wildfire Resource Hub in Pasadena, benefiting the fire survivors. Twenty volunteers, including two from the PNW Conference, contributed about 1000 hours over a two-week period to serve 872 survivor households.
- **Early Response Team (ERT) Basic Training on March.** 27 volunteers were qualified for UMCOR's Early Response Team badges during a March ERT Basic Training held at Bothell UMC. This was one of the largest training sessions since 2019.
- **Community Support, ERT Mission for the July Burdoin Fire.** At the request of Washington State, we responded to the Burdoin Fire (Columbia Gorge area) by attending public comment meetings, distributing relief supplies and offering clean up support to survivors. A team of seven ERT members deployed for several days cleaning up ashes, hauling debris and being caring listeners for the two survivor families.
- **UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors Preparedness Workshop.** Seven new Connecting Neighbors disaster preparedness Ambassadors were qualified at an October workshop held at Edmonds United Methodist Church. The Ambassadors were among 36 community participants and seven United Methodist churches.
- **UMCOR and the PNWUMC Conference Awarded $300K to the Spokane Region Long Term Recovery Group.** A $275K UMCOR Grant combined with a matching $25,000 commitment of PNWUMC Advance #352 recovery funds is supporting Disaster Case Management and serving the unmet needs of the survivors. We worked with UMCOR to provide four days of Disaster Case Management training for three Disaster Case Managers.
- **LA Wildfire Hazardous Material Awareness Workshop Presentation.** Dana was tapped by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) as a nationally recognized subject matter expert to lead the "Hazardous Materials Awareness" two-hour virtual workshop on May 1 for the Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization benefitting survivors from the Alta Dena and Pacific Palisades wildfires.
- **ERT 200 Wildfire Presentation to the Northeaster Jurisdiction.** Dana and Kathy

presented the UMCOR 200 level ERT Wildfire training course in December to participants from the NE Jurisdiction. This is part of an UMCOR initiative to build capacity within the Conferences.

December 2025 Washington State Floods. In early December, Washington State was struck by a series of atmospheric rivers that severely impacted 16 counties and their communities, public infrastructure and businesses. The PNW Disaster Response mission and volunteers immediately responded by:

- Facilitating an UMCOR $10,000 Solidarity Grant at the request of the Bishop;
- Interfacing with the Washington Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (WaVOAD) and the Washington State Emergency Management Department to share needs and resources on evacuee housing, RV parking, personal care kits, etc community and assistance centers. Coordinated with multiple UMC churches meeting these needs;
- Deploying ERT assessors for three days in Whatcom County assisting with survivor assessment and intake;
- Coordinating volunteers to staff seven county-led Disaster Assistance Centers providing gift/gas cards, personal care kits, flood recovery guides to survivors;
- Recertificating ERT volunteers to be ready for anticipated missions;
- Purchasing and arranging distribution of $1,000 in gas/gift cards for affected families through the UMC in Burnaby, BC.

We'll continue to engage church congregations with mission opportunities such as relief supply storage, building relief kits, staffing disaster assistance centers, hosting ERTs, serving as cooling/warming/clean air centers, preparedness training and engagement with disaster long term recovery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana and Kathy Bryson



PNW ERT in Sumas preparing to spray and fog homes for mold control after the December 2025 floods. Photo by Dana Bryson.



PNW ERT sorting debris near Lyle, Wa after the July Burdoin Fire. Photo by Dana Bryson.



PNW ERT member Keith Skore preparing to fog underneath a home in Sumas after the December 2025 floods. Photo by Dana Bryson



Volunteers from Whatcom County transporting UMCOR clean up kits from the Mount Vernon UMC regional storage center to the Sumas area after the December 2025 floods. Photo by *Rev. Christopher Gudger-Raines.*

Equity and Intercultural Competency Report (GNW)

Last year's Annual Conference theme was "Blessed and Broken," and those words stayed in my heart throughout the year as I took my first steps in this new role and met pastors, laity, churches, boards, and agencies from all around our Area. This report offers a snapshot of how our shared resources are being used to support the Area's commitment to equity, justice, and intercultural competency—and where we are being invited to grow next.

In the midst of the blessing of new friendships with Christian kin, brokenness was revealed—both inside and outside of our system. The pressures of the world around us, including targeted attacks on immigrant and trans siblings, have increased fear and anxiety exponentially for churches and their communities. Our churches are rife with microaggressions and sometimes outright racism. Sexism and transphobia are unfortunately alive and well.

And yet.

And yet the data shows that our churches are also filled with people who are deeply well-meaning.

I say this with confidence because the data consistently shows it. Over and over again, our congregational aggregate scores on the Intercultural Development Continuum reflect a Perceived Orientation in Acceptance. This indicates a genuine desire within the body to be curious about cultural differences, to be open and accepting to others, and to continue learning. This is the intention.

The impact, of course, is different.

Again and again, the data shows that our churches, boards, and agencies are mostly in Minimization—the stage in which we emphasize commonality and comfort. While this often comes from a sincere desire for unity, Minimization can unintentionally erase lived experiences and prevent us from fully seeing and responding to harm. It can sound like "we're all the same," when the reality is that people in our communities are not treated the same.

There are notable exceptions to this pattern, including the Oregon-Idaho Board of Ordained Ministries and the outgoing Greater Northwest Area Cabinet. These groups have committed to intentional, long-term work on intercultural competency and have demonstrated measurable growth over time. This matters because it shows that transformation is possible—and that these practices bear fruit when we engage them with consistency and care.

I feel greatly blessed by the talented team of Intercultural Development Inventory Qualified Administrators with whom I serve—Cynthia MacLeod, *Rev. Karen Hernandez*, *Rev. Brett Pinder*, *Rev. Ethan Gregory*, Rhondalei Gabuat, *Rev. Dr. Troy Carr*, *Rev. Mark Galang*, and *Rev. Julia Nielsen*. Over the past year, this team has provided workshops, IDI interpretations, and follow-up support to:

- 3 churches and 3 events in Alaska
- 7 churches and 4 additional groups or agencies in Oregon-Idaho
- 5 churches and 2 additional groups in the Pacific Northwest

We have also worked with the Greater Northwest Area Cabinet, incoming Superintendency Teams, and the Circle of Indigenous Ministries Truth Telling Project.

In total, we have served 14 churches and 11 boards, agencies, or Area groups, assessed nearly 300 individuals—most of whom are laity—and provided individual interpretation and guidance.

These numbers matter because they represent more than participation; they represent capacity-building. This work equips leaders and congregations to move from good intentions toward more faithful, effective, and just ministry. Because of this investment, leaders are developing greater awareness of cultural difference, congregations are beginning to name and address harm, and people are beginning to see that our systems need to shift toward more equitable practices. This is long-term work, and these are meaningful signs of transformation.

There are still significant gaps that require our collective attention and follow-through. This includes the Action Learning Groups that were intended to be the culmination of the Equity Cohort trainings, as well as continued engagement with churches that participated in the Congregational Cohort. The investment—both in time and in financial resources—has been too great for this learning to be lost or left on a shelf. Strengthening these next steps will be a key focus of my work in the coming year.

I will also prioritize deepening follow-through, strengthening ongoing learning structures, and ensuring that the investment already made leads to sustained and embodied transformation in our churches and leadership.

As an Area, we are broken, and we are blessed. My heart is filled with hope when I hear the enthusiasm and passion of laity who are eager to help their churches become more welcoming and more just, and who are committed to learning how to love their neighbors more boldly.

This is the work of transformation. This is the work of grace. I am grateful that we are called to do this work together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Lisa Talbott
Greater Northwest Assistant to the Bishop
Equity & Intercultural Competency

United Women in Faith

As a conference organization, UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH continues to focus on reaching out to women around our conference who are passionate about mission and ministry with those on the margins, whether or not they are part of a local unit. There has been much "thinking outside the box" to continue connecting women of faith in their various passions and callings to impact our world, to provide leadership and soul-care 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, and 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 Education for the Transformation of our world. We were so thrilled to once again hold our "Cooperative Mission u" event in person, gathering at Wesley UMC in Yakima, July 24-26, 2025. We continued to offer class sessions for adults, children, and youth. We were also able to participate in some "hands-on community mission work" that Wesley UMC was involved in. For the 2024-28 quadrennium, our Missional priorities are "Climate Justice Care" and "Ending the School to Prison Pipeline". Mission u 2026 will move to a "camping environment" as we gather adults, youth, and children at Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg, July 10-12, to come together to come together for "Experiencing Emmanuel". **Registration closes May 20, and scholarships are available.



- **Reading Program 2025**: One of the many ways that education for transformation is impacted is by our United Women in Faith Reading Program. The selected books cover Leadership Development, Nurturing Community, Mission Education, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth, and include books for adults, children, and youth. There have been a variety of book study formats, both in person and via Zoom, as well as participation in Author Talks through the National Division. Our districts present their reader awards at their district events.
- **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 2025, we exceeded our pledge, and for 2026, as a conference, we have pledged $ 75,000 to MISSION GIVING for mission and ministry locally and globally..
- **The Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith Endowment Fund:** Established in 1997, and thanks to generous donors, $1928.05 was contributed in 2025. The interest for 2025 of $4,247.20 will be shared among Mission Giving (25%); $1000 to support Racial Justice Grants in support with PNW Conference Board of Church and Society, $500 each to the two National Mission Institutions located in the PNW and the balance will be used for Scholarship Opportunities. Since January 2019,

funds have been invested in a Diversified Moderate Portfolio.

- **Legacy Fund**: This fund is an investment (managed by Wespath) to ensure ongoing leadership development for United Women in Faith. A highlight of building this fund was our Annual Day of Giving on March 23. For the Day of Giving 2025, nationwide, $404,596 was raised for Legacy. This honors the original date when a small group of women gathered in 1869 to plan to financially support women missionaries. Donations are received to honor, memorialize, and include 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 2026, our Day of Giving is set for March 23 in a virtual/online celebration. In 2025, $1,750 was contributed to the Legacy Fund by our local units in the Pacific Northwest.
- **Mission Agencies**: The Atlantic Street Center in Seattle and the Tacoma Community House are the two national mission institutes in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Both received support from United Women in Faith throughout the conference and the National Division. We have representatives from our Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith working with both national mission institutions in various capacities.
- **The Conference UMWAnnual Meeting:** this was held on October 17-18, 2025, at Bothell UMC, and we were shown amazing hospitality by the lay and clergy there, with a theme "If Not Now, When?" where our *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* spoke along with Jana Jones, our National Board President of United Women in Faith. We also had an empowering panel with Nica Sy, Cecille Corsilles-Sy, and Jana Jones. Our scripture focus was Micah 6:8. In 2026, we look forward to gathering October 23-24 in Bellevue at Hope UMC with the theme: "Dream It, Believe It, Do It!" We plan to build on the excitement that over 50 of us from the Pacific Northwest will gather for Assembly 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana, in May 2026.

In 2026, United Women in Faith wishes to acknowledge the 70th anniversary of the ordination of female clergy within the Methodist system. Over the past 157 years, United Women in Faith (and its 25 predecessor organizations) has worked diligently to provide women the opportunity for leadership, spiritual growth, transformational learning, and passion for justice through bold action, and we say "thank you" to our female clergy sisters for answering the call set before you. We are here for ongoing support.

We encourage you to explore United Women in Faith and the many opportunities for making a difference through the following sites: uwfaith.org and pnwumc.org/uwfaith

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Avery, *President*
PNW Conference United Women in Faith

Africa University

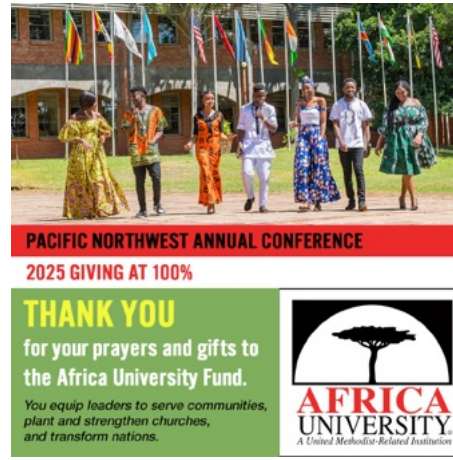
Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

2025 was a year of robust growth and momentum for Africa University (AU). In June, AU graduated its largest class ever—622 students from 20 African countries. In August, the university welcomed its most diverse incoming class, with students from 30 nations. They study in four colleges, a law school, and two institutes on a modern, fully debt-free campus built for learning and community.

Thank you to the congregations of the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church for your faithful and gracious support of Africa University. In 2025, Pacific Northwest Conference congregations generously invested at 100 percent in the Africa University Fund.

Your steadfast commitment is making a profound difference in forming disciples who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously—across Africa and around the world.

2025 Highlights



- A self-funded solar power plant now supplies 100 percent of AU campus electricity, easing pressure on Zimbabwe's national grid and benefiting nearby communities.
- A new collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health advances research in food security, sustainable agriculture, and environmental resilience. Faculty and graduate researchers are developing evidence-based responses to climate stress, water insecurity, and agricultural vulnerability—equipping communities to adapt and thrive.
- An expanded partnership supporting applied research with The United Methodist Church's Global Ministries agency focuses on at-risk agriculture and malaria prevention, strengthening rural communities.
- In partnership with United Methodist Communications, AU is training African church communicators in digital engagement and media strategy—strengthening the Church's witness across diverse contexts.

These milestones are directly connected to your generosity. As this quadrennium continues, Africa University thanks every congregation in the Pacific Northwest Conference for striving to maintain AUF support at 100 percent each year. AU also invites churches to explore becoming "Keystone Congregations" by committing $7,000 annually in direct scholarship support for one undergraduate student—and walking alongside that student

with prayer and encouragement throughout their degree journey.

Africa University remains a living expression of our worldwide connection. Your continual engagement is pivotal. Because you pray, Pacific Northwest United Methodists, leaders are called and formed. Because you give, research advances. Because you believe in Africa University, hope expands across nations.

Thank you for standing with AU across three and a half decades of transformative ministry. Together, we are shaping a generation equipped to lead Africa—and the Church—into a resilient and faithful future.

James H. Salley

President and Chief Executive Officer – Africa University (Tennessee) Inc., and Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement – Africa University (Zimbabwe).

jsalley@africau.org | https://support.africau.org | www.africau.edu

Boston University School of Theology

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as BUSTH seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2025, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

- **Students:** The academic year 2025-26 entering class was among our most diverse, with 106 new students, 40% of whom are international students from 17 different countries.



- **Faculty:** In July, Rebecca Copeland and Luis Menéndez-Antuña were promoted to Associate Professor. In September, Nicolette Manglos-Weber became Associate Dean of Students & Community Life, and Rady Roldán-Figueroa ('05) started as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Timothy Adkins-Jones ('09,'21) joined as Assistant Professor of Homiletics.
- **Expanding Online/Hybrid Programming:** BUSTH launched a fully Online Master of Divinity (OMDiv) program in November and the first cohort is planned for Fall 2026. Learn more at bu.edu/sth/omdiv. In May, the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program graduated its largest class ever, 18.
- **Faculty Research:** Professor Steven Sandage is a co-principal investigator for "Training and Treatment Integration Research for Virtue and Flourishing in Mental Healthcare: A Team Science Project," which received a $5.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to address a growing need among therapists for training on how to integrate relational virtues and human flourishing in clinical practice. Faculty published more than 130 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, presentations, and book reviews during 2025. Many were interviewed by media publications or featured on podcasts for their scholarship in topics such as trauma-informed care, humility among religious leaders, and biblical agriculture. Selected stories: bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.
- **Scholarships:** BUSTH continues to benefit from nearly 125 scholarships overall, donated to by school alumni, other BU alumni, and friends of BU including more than 20 named scholarships from living alumni and/or their family members.
- **Contextual Education**: Funded by the Lilly Endowment, Director of Contextual Education Anastasia Kidd and Director of Enrollment Chad Moore will lead "The New Wineskins Network" $1 million initiative to build sustainable, collaborative infrastructure for student and clergy formation across the Boston region.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include "Digital Ministry as Contemplative Practice." Learn more at bu.edu/sth/oll.

- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include a generous pledge to endow a Praise & Worship Fund as well as some new operating funds including the Manoog C. Peters Chaplaincy Fund to further support the school's chaplaincy curriculum, and the Center for Global Christianity and Mission Film Project Fund to promote the Center's ministry.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH's inaugural Fr. Vincent Machozi ('15) Colloquium will be held in February to honor the life's work of our alumnus, martyred in the DRC for his work advocating for civilian victims of political violence. "Ecologies of Peacemaking" will bring together scholars in the areas of social conflict, economic inequalities, and environmental degradation. Register at bu.edu/sth/machozi-colloquium.
- Our Fall 2025 Lowell Lecture presented the work of Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary, whose topic "Leading Through and Beyond our Wounds" focused on becoming trauma-responsive leaders.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in our 2030 Strategic Plan. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU.

With faith and gratitude,

G. Sujin Pak
Dean, Boston University School of Theology

Candler School of Theology

As Candler School of Theology at Emory University continues in its second century of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world, we are heartened by the work and witness of The United Methodist Church and look forward to our enduring partnership as the denomination moves into its next chapter with a vision to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler has a strong Methodist presence among our students, faculty and staff, while holding true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 507 from 11 countries, 42 states, 45 denominations, 34 UM annual conferences, and 50% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant 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.

Last fall Candler welcomed its largest incoming class in over a decade. This strong enrollment reflects years of intentional work to reimagine programs, continue to invest in faculty excellence, and offer robust scholarship support through the generosity of alumni and friends. And even more importantly, it reflects that God is still calling people to join the holy work of transforming the world in Jesus' name.

Candler offers six degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program, earning course credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a remarkably high 94% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler's recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education remains a top priority at Candler. This year, we are on track to award nearly $8.5 million in scholarship support across degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarships, with those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receiving full tuition.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a true hub of Christian learning. The Candler Foundry, our public theological education initiative, offers in-person and online courses, events, and certificate programs. The United Methodist Course of Study School at Candler worked with 19 annual conferences to educate licensed local pastors in 2025. The Candler Center for Christian Leadership, which trains United Methodist leaders in best business practices, now has certified facilitators in 33 annual conferences. And a recent $10 million grant from Lilly Endowment will further develop Candler's La Mesa Academy, a multicultural, multilingual program dedicated to the theological education of lay ministers.

We are preparing for a leadership transition in summer of 2026, as Jonathan Strom completes his tenure as dean of Candler in July. We invite your prayers as we search for the school's next dean.

When we talk to Candler alumni and students about their call, one thing becomes clear: The specifics may be different, shaped by their unique gifts, contexts, and life experiences, but their drive to join God's work of transforming lives and the world is a constant. We recently launched a series called "Candler Changemakers" highlighting the range of fascinating ways our alumni are leading change as they fulfill their call. Follow along on our website (candler.emory.edu) and social media to see how God is working through them. You'll be inspired!

Office of Communications
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Claremont School of Theology

We remain at the forefront of innovation and creativity in theological education. Our new global Ph.D. program allows students to study in their own country, thus avoiding the "brain drain" that so often robs countries of their best and brightest minds. We send our faculty to teach where they live, enabling a more affordable educational model. We are projecting a new Doctor of Ministry degree that will incorporate innovation and the "Fresh Expressions" movement as a paradigm of what the church might become in the near future. We are also pioneering a new professional doctoral degree concentrating on spirituality and spiritual direction. Students of this program will be steeped in the depths of spirituality and become professional spiritual directors upon graduation.



These highlights stress our new values of "Compassion, Justice, and Belonging. These values will be our North Star and guide and direct all we do now and in the future.

It would be nice if our CST life could end with these highlights, but lived life must embrace sorrows along with joys, setbacks, and failures along with successes, injustices along with righteousness.

Our disappointments and setbacks include a ten-year litigation between the Claremont Colleges and CST over selling our 16.4-acre Claremont property. The civil courts affirmed a historic 1957 agreement that our founders made with the Claremont Colleges over the right of first refusal and an archaic formula that calculates the terms. Neither side could decipher that formula, and the Claremont Colleges insisted on paying only four million dollars for our property, which was conservatively worth ten times that amount.

The final arbitration we went through was binding, and the educational market value of the property was between 40-80 million dollars. However, the Arbitrator decided to calculate the formula and came up with a final price of 7.7 million dollars. We were counting on at least double that price to service our debts and allow us a viable future. You can imagine our shock and disappointment over this ruling. The sting of injustice is that the Claremont Colleges are land-banking the property at the lowest cost, whereas our institutional survival is at stake for CST.

Faced with this setback, we could either give up or find the resiliency to pick up the pieces and move forward. It is much like the decision the Disciples faced upon the death and crucifixion of Jesus. They could either give up in despair or put back their shattered faith and wait for the Lord. Thankfully, for us, they chose the latter, and God provided a new beginning in a resurrected Christ and sending of the Holy Spirit in the creation of the church. We often face these watershed decisions and movements in our own lives, and thanks be to God for giving us the faith and hope to model our move forward. God always provides a new beginning for us, and CST is no different.

This does not mean that our challenges end or everything will turn out like roses. As we

navigate the light and darkness of our lives, the road is never easy. Yet, God never promised us easy. What we have been promised is that we will never be abandoned. That is true of our individual lives and the institutions that we love.

Be the Hope,

Bishop Grant Hagiya
President, Claremont School of Theology

Drew University Theological School

Drew University Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church. Drew Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience, reflecting an ongoing trend among theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry program in South Korea. Regular chapel services are offered in a hybrid way on Tuesdays and Thursdays with people participating from Seminary Hall as well as online. Chapel worship is live-streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate.

In Fall 2025 Drew Theological School welcomed 88 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2025 semester being 365. Enrollment of international students at Drew is very strong at 140 students in Fall 2025. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across in the teaching, learning, and the formation of students. These values are: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School continues to experience an increase in United Methodist students, including United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences of The United Methodist Church across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

Edwin David Aponte, PhD, ThD (honorary)
Dean and Professor of Religion & Culture

Duke Divinity School

Duke Divinity School celebrated its 99th Opening Convocation in August 2025 with a sermon from Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric to begin the Nicene Creed Preaching Series at Duke Divinity School. He emphasized that the Nicene Creed is both a Pentecost profession and a peace proclamation:

"Perhaps this is the season for untangling the Nicene Creed from state theology and church theology. Perhaps this is a task for a divinity school whose mission claims to 'engage in spiritually disciplined and academically rigorous education, in service and witness to the Triune God in the midst of the church, the academy, and the world.' … Christ did not preach peace looking for recognition or awards. His life is a single extended sermon on peace. Peace is believing that our lowest point does not limit our highest hope, because we acknowledge the power of baptism, the possibility of repentance, and the forgiveness of sin. We believe. We believe. This is a Pentecost profession, a peace proclamation, and also a praise pronouncement."

This year we have joined with Christians around the world to commemorate the 17th centennial of the Council of Nicaea and the Nicene Creed. Duke Divinity scholars and ministry leaders published the book Trinitarian Matters: 1700 Years of Shaping Christian Identity and Practice. The school hosted two conference events to explore and learn from Nicaea: Convocation & Pastors' School, focused for those in church and vocational ministry; and "Visible and Invisible: Surprising Encounters in Theology and the Arts," with musical performances, poetry, and artistic expressions informed by the richness of the Nicene Creed.

Through God's sustaining grace, we continue to welcome students from across the nation and around the world to be trained for faithful ministries serving God in churches, chaplaincy, and community service. In 2025, we were joined by 219 students. The Master of Divinity program gained 120 new students in both residential and hybrid programs, a 10 percent growth over last year. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled six new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 34; Master of Theology, seven; Master of Theological Studies, 32; and the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed 14 students.

Duke Divinity is committed to facilitating clear and supportive pathways into theological education to encourage and equip those who are discerning a call to ministry. We confirmed an MOU with Huntingdon College, reaffirming our mutual dedication to nurturing vocations, strengthening the United Methodist tradition, and investing in the next generation of Christian leaders.

We welcomed four new faculty this year: Jonathan Tran, professor of theological ethics; Natalie Carnes, professor of theology; Matthew Whelan, associate research professor of theology; and Nina Balmaceda, Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of the Practice of Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as we join the leading of God's Spirit in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean, Duke Divinity School

Gammon Theological Seminary

- Gammon Theological Seminary remains the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary's mission is to provide academic and degree-granting programs that help prepare individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all, for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership.

Accreditation

- Launched Gammon's independent Master of Divinity program in 2024 as a key step toward separate accreditation with SACSCOC and ATS.
- Hosted initial SACSCOC site visit in October 2025, received affirmation of 93% compliance on all SACSCOC Standards, final review pending the June 2026 SACSCOC Board meeting. Starting the ATS Accreditation process in 2026 with a goal of full ATS accreditation awarded by December 2027.

Enrollment

- As of Spring 2026, Gammon enrolls 41 students (10 new and 31 continuing), reflecting sustained growth since the Fall 2024 launch of the independent MDiv program.
- Student body includes 30 United Methodist-affiliated students (73.2 percent), with 28 specifically identifying as UMC (68.3 percent), demonstrating Gammon's deep denominational roots.
- More than 70 percent of students are directly engaged in or preparing for ordained and licensed ministry: 42.5 percent actively discerning call and 30 percent already certified candidates or licensed local pastors.
- Student-to-faculty ratios have remained healthy (4:1 to 7:1), with more than 70 percent of students enrolled full-time each term, demonstrating stable instructional capacity and careful scaling.

Fund Development

- Secured a three-year, $975,000 capacity-building grant from GBHEM to underwrite Gammon 3.0 operational expansion and strengthen institutional infrastructure.
- Received a $375,000 grant from the William I. H. and Lula E. Pitts Foundation to support Phase III renovations, modernizing classrooms, offices, and the faculty hub for collaborative learning and academic planning.
- Obtained a $250,000 scholarship grant from The SOMA Foundation to provide current-use aid for students in the 2025–2026 academic year, directly reducing educational debt.

- Launched the "Become 1 of 1 Million" endowed scholarship campaign fund to raise $1 million in scholarship funds for Gammon students, enabling students to answer their call to ministry without incurring significant debt.

We offer profound thanks to God and to the entire United Methodist connection—bishops, cabinets, annual conferences, congregations, alumni, donors, and friends—for your faithful partnership in this season of renewal. Your prayers, apportionment support, special offerings, and generous gifts are establishing the work of our hands and making it possible for the vision of Gammon 3.0 to become a lived reality for current and future students. Together, we are strengthening Gammon as a vital, sustainable, and innovative seminary forming leaders for the church and the world.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis
President-CEO

Saint Paul School of Theology

What does God require of us? To act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with God. At Saint Paul School of Theology, this call from Micah 6:8 shapes everything we do—from preparing pastors to serve rural communities to fostering a beloved community where all belong. Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, we are committed to forming innovative leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A Year of Growth and Vitality

2025 has been marked by remarkable momentum. Our Course of Study School educated 248 students—a 6% increase—with 628 course registrations, representing a 14% growth. These servant leaders are making a tangible difference: 42% serve rural communities with populations under 2,500, and 22 students serve as pastors of three or more churches. We celebrated 21 students completing the 20-course program, equipping them for licensed ministry.

Seminary enrollment grew by 9%, with a 33% increase in new students for Fall 2025. Our commitment to diversity is bearing fruit, with 29% racial diversity among students and almost even gender distribution. Students from 31 states and 220 cities connect with us through flexible online and hybrid learning options, while 16 graduates of the Course of Study School have transitioned into our degree programs.

Living Our Strategic Vision

Our Board of Trustees has recently endorsed a strategic plan that reflects our values and responds to the changing contexts of the church and the world. We are striving to become a beloved community that embodies belonging, justice, equity, and inclusion. Our new Doctor of Ministry track in Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership exemplifies this vision, developing change agents grounded in contemplative spirituality and equipped with emotional intelligence and intercultural competence. These same principles permeate our Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry programs.

Saint Paul remains financially healthy, operating with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment ten times our annual expenses. This sustainability, rooted in community donations, enables us to invest in scholarships, technology, and evolving academic programs that serve our students and the church.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, we are strengthening our foundation and expanding our horizons by cultivating a vibrant alum network—a lifelong professional and spiritual home. Through mentorship, resource sharing, and collaborative ministry, we are building a dynamic ecosystem that empowers graduates from their first day of classes through retirement and beyond.

Saint Paul School of Theology invites you to join us in this journey of formation, innova-

tion, and transformation. Together, we are preparing leaders who embody justice, mercy, and humility as they serve Christ and His church.

Jay K. Simmons
President, Saint Paul School of Theology

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

United Methodist Communications Report

United Methodist Communications embraces our mission of engaging The United Methodist Church through Christ-centered communications.

At UMCom we are focused on denominational communications needs as we support the current and emerging communications needs of The United Methodist Church. We do so, following our strategic goals:

- Engage people with the story of God's work in the world through The UMC
- Foster partnerships throughout the denomination to create a stronger voice for The UMC
- Drive technology innovation to reach people where they are
- Nurture our people and demonstrate good stewardship

The agency's work is structured into three overarching ministry areas:

- **Communications & Marketing**
    - Denominational Content
    - Public Relations
    - Marketing
    - Promotion of Giving
    - Creative Strategy
- **Partnerships, News & Production**
    - UM News
    - Agency Partnerships
    - Regional Conference Partnerships
    - Denominational Partnerships
    - Production
- **Operations, Infrastructure & Innovation**
    - Denominational communications infrastructure
    - Contextual communications technology for regional ministry
    - Innovating processes, culture, learning, and technologies

United Methodist Communications strives to support, inform, and equip annual conferences. Efforts surrounding this partnership include monthly communicator meetings, disaster and crisis communications support, supplying resources for annual conference use or adaptation (such as The UMC vision, #BeUMC campaign, United in Impact, regionalization information and legislation explainers), media pitching and consultation, and sharing stories from within conferences to broader United Methodist audiences. Serving annual conferences is an integral part of our commitment to ensuring that The United Methodist Church remains present and engaged in existing and emerging communication platforms and strategies. UMCom is here to team up with our annual conference ministry partners.

Highlights of resources provided to keep all annual conferences and their members in-

formed, equipped, and inspired include:

- **Resources for church leaders**
  - Discover the latest ministry resources from across our global connec tion at ResourceUMC.org.
  - The Source e-newsletter highlights new ideas and updates for church leaders.
  - The MyCom e-newsletter and podcast offers practical tips about communications, marketing, technology, video production, social media and outreach to help your ministry be more effective.
- **Resources for church members**
  - At UMC.org, find inspirational and informational content to share with your congregation.
  - The United Methodist Now e-newsletter brings United Methodists inspiration for daily living.
  - The Get Your Spirit in Shape podcast will keep your soul as healthy as your body.
  - The Recap video news segments sharing insights into the lives of United Methodists around the world.
- News updates
  - UMNews.org keeps you plugged into the latest news from around the denomination with fair, faithful and trusted reporting.
  - The UM News Digest is a free newsletter, emailed Monday-Wednesday and Friday, that includes news from annual conferences, United Methodist agencies, and other sources.

UMCom is dedicated to creating and sharing stories and messages that highlight God's mission and ministry through The United Methodist Church. Though the topics and needs may shift over time, our commitment to worldwide denominational communications remains.

Dan Krause
General Secretary United Methodist Communications

United Theological Seminary

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the seminary served 642 graduate students, 275 doctoral and 375 masters,* reflecting approximately 30 percent enrollment growth since 2021 and placing United among the largest United Methodist seminaries in the United States.

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 38 states, 24 nations, and 54 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest denominational group within the student body.

Academics

United's academic programs remain grounded in the historic Christian faith, scriptural holiness, and a commitment to the renewal of the church, preparing graduates to serve with wisdom, integrity, and hope.

United introduced a Doctor of Theology in 2024 to support pastor-scholars called to ministry at the intersection of the church and academy. The new degree program welcomed 13 students in its first year.

The seminary's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract experienced ministry leaders seeking advanced professional education focused on faithful leadership. In the 2024-25 school year, 262 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Master's programs include eight houses of study, serving nearly 200 students in the United States and around the world, with programs offered in English, Spanish and Korean. In July 2025, 11 students attended the first Contextual Ministry Retreat for the African House of Study, held at the Kenya Methodist Conference Center in Nairobi. The Hispanic House of Study will celebrate its first class of graduates in May 2026, with candidates from across the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru.

Through rigorous scholarship, intentional mentoring, worship, and community life, as well as practical engagement with the church's needs, academic life at United advances the seminary's vision of Spirit-led leaders, a Christ-like Church, and a transformed world.

Finances

United continues to focus on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind Campaign to raise $10 million for the endowment is expanding scholarship opportunities for current and future students. The campaign has raised more than $9 million toward this goal, by the grace of God and through the generosity of alumni/ae, churches, and friends of the seminary.

Looking Ahead

United enters the coming years with gratitude for God's faithfulness and confidence in God's future. Several senior leaders have answered new calls, and President Dr. Kent Mil

lard has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2026, concluding ten years of service marked by encouragement, vision, and stability. A Presidential Search Committee is at work to identify United's next president, who will begin service on July 1, 2026.

Trusting God's promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19), United remains committed to preparing Christian leaders who boldly proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Dr. Kent Millard
President

**12-month unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2024-25 fiscal year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.*

Wesley Theological Seminary

As I complete my tenure as president of Wesley Theological Seminary, I am confident in handing the leadership to Dr. Carla Works, the 11th President of our school. Dr. Works, Dean and Woodrow and Mildred Miller Professor of Biblical Theology at Wesley DC, is a distinguished New Testament scholar, educator, and church-centered theologian.Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC) remains steadfast in its mission to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square. In a season marked by institutional change, civic uncertainty, and renewed hope for the United Methodist Church, Wesley DC actively forms leaders who are spiritually grounded, intellectually rigorous, and engaged with the world God loves through the following programs.

Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theoligical Studies Degrees:

Wesley DC offers Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theological Studies degrees through residential, hybrid, and fully online formats. Our programs serve a diverse student body representing a wide range of denominations, cultural contexts, and vocational callings. Across all modalities, Wesley DC emphasizes ministerial formation that integrates theological depth, spiritual practice, and contextual engagement. https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/

Doctor of Ministry Degree: Wesley DC remains one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs in the United States and serves experienced ministerial leaders from across the world. In May 2025, ten chaplains from southern Africa graduated through a landmark partnership with Africa University, reflecting Wesley DC's growing global reach Our DMin tracks for military chaplains continue to grow, including through a renewed partnership with the U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership. New tracks in Church Leadership Excellence, Soul Care, Global Church Leadership, and others begin in 2027; learn more about how you can grow in wisdom and leadership at: https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/.

Course of Study: As the regional Course of Study school for the Northeast Jurisdiction, Wesley DC delivers the full Course of Study curriculum online. Scholar-practitioners teach these courses, equipping Local Pastors across the denomination with flexible, high-quality preparation for ministry. https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/degree-programs/course-of-study/ .

Ministry Certificates and Lifelong Learning: Wesley Pathways for Ministry offers online courses and certificates to help you discover your passion for ministry and strengthen your leadership skills, whether you are a layperson or a pastor. Courses and certificates help people gain ministry and leadership skills for church, community, and specialized

ministry settings. Many courses/certificates are stackable for master's or doctoral credit and/or can be taken for CEUs. https://www.wesleypathways.com/

Office of Admissions: Are you ready to explore your next faithful step? The Admissions Office regularly holds in-person and online open houses for potential master's and DMin students, and admissions officers are available to answer your questions and help you discern. https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/explorewesley/

The Hub for Collaboration and Imagination: Is your church ready to engage new generations or journey toward thriving in new ways? The Hub is currently accepting applications for its Engaging Young Adults nationwide, virtual cohort for congregations beginning August 2026, and will be recruiting new cohorts of congregations for Bringing Church Home (helping churches better accompany and support parents/caregivers in sharing their faith) and Children of Faith (helping churches center children in worship and formation) in fall 2026. The Hub is also entering into partnerships with UMC districts and annual conferences, equipping leaders to experiment, learn, and adapt faithfully in their local contexts. . https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/

Lewis Center for Church Leadership: The Lewis Center welcomed Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page as its new Director in 2025. Dr. Page brings deep experience in leadership development across ecclesial and secular contexts and is guiding the Center into its next chapter of service to the Church. Through its widely read Leading Ideas newsletter and the Leading Ideas Talks podcast, the Lewis Center reaches thousands of leaders across the denomination. https://www.churchleadership.com/

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion: The Luce Center welcomed Rev. Timothy Chon, MDiv, MFA as its new Director in 2025. Since Spring 2025, the Luce Center, which serves as a vital intersection of theology, creativity, and public imagination, has presented four exhibitions in the Dadian Gallery. In 2025, the Luce Center completed a major studio renovation that expanded capacity to support multiple artists-in-residence simultaneously. The Center welcomed professional Artist-in-Residence Khaleelah Harris alongside new Student Artists-in-Residence, strengthening its commitment to nurturing artists at every stage of practice. https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/

Center for Public Theology: CPT builds on its nearly fifty-year legacy by equipping faith leaders for thoughtful, courageous public witness. In collaboration with the Florida Annual Conference and with support from Trinity Wall Street, CPT leads a Public Theology Fellowship addressing immigration and public witness in politically diverse congregations. CPT continues to offer its flagship course, Faith and Politics in the Public Square, which remains open to seminarians nationwide. The course brings participants to Washington, DC for sustained engagement with policymakers, journalists, scholars, and activists. This year's cohort engaged leaders including Senator Chris Coons, NPR's Michel Martin, Judge Thomas Griffith, and Tope Folarin of the Institute for Policy Studies-preparing leaders to serve faithfully amid rapidly shifting public realities. https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

Community Engagement Institute: CEI forms leaders for justice-centered, community-rooted ministry. In March 2025, CEI hosted Fostering Urban Vitality and a Heart for the City, a two-day urban ministry conference in Baltimore, with support from City Seminary of New York and the Lilly Endowment. CEI offers traditional courses and immersive travel seminars open to all Master's-level students. With grants from the General Board of Global Ministries, CEI continues to offer the Heal the Sick Health Minister's Certificate. Since its inception, the program has trained more than 500 health ministers across 38 states and seven countries. In Spring 2026, CEI will offer Trauma-Informed Congregations, equipping leaders to address trauma with theological, cultural, and communal wisdom. https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/

Wesley Theological Seminary remains deeply committed to the United Methodist Church and to the formation of leaders who serve with humility, imagination, and courage. As the Church continues to discern its future, Wesley stands ready—faithful to its mission, responsive to the moment, and hopeful in God's ongoing work. For the Church. For the world. For such a time as this.

Call us: (202) 885-8659 Email us: admissions@wesleyseminary.edu

Follow us: Facebook/IG: @WesleySeminary and YouTube/LinkedIn: @WesleyTheologicalSeminary Submitted by Lyvonne Briggs, Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing

Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson

President