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Page 1
HANNAH'S HOPE

Rev. Trina Bell Morrison, Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Memphis Annual Conference,

It is my privilege as Executive Director of Hannah's Hope to provide this report. The ministry of Hannah's Hope continues to grow and touch more lives as years go by. We are proud to be an extension of the ministry of every church in Memphis Annual Conference as we bring professional services delivered in a Christ-centered manner to pregnant women, their children and adoptive families.

Our Vision (goals) and Mission (objectives) statements have been newly revised by our Board of Trustees and Staff to reflect the reality and our sense of calling to today's ministry and the future of our ministry. The newly adopted VISION is: ***We are a growing, loving ministry dedicated to the healing of God's children (pregnant women, families seeking to adopt and children who need to be adopted) through adoption and pregnancy counseling.***

Our newly refined MISSION is as follows:

To love God's children by:

- ***Helping pregnant women in crisis explore healthy options***
- ***Providing the option of adoption with a Christian family prepared to parent for a lifetime***
- ***Supporting children, pregnant women and families through the adoption process and beyond.***

When comparing the daily interactions of our ministry with the Conference Mission Statement, it almost feels as though the phrase "offering Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time" was written to describe what we do here at Hannah's Hope. Our work is definitely "in the mission field" as the vast majority of our pregnancy clients are unchurched and living in poverty. The women who come to us seeking counseling for their crisis pregnancies range in age from 14-40 and there is never a charge for this service. Most have other children they are parenting and we have the opportunity to mentor these struggling moms as we assist them in making plans for their current pregnancy. Our "mission field" is all over West Tennessee and includes neighborhoods that are rarely visited by anyone in the name of the church. As we work with our pregnancy clients, we are asked time and again if "those people" (the church groups who provide our birth mother care bags or gift cards for emergency food / diapers) know "WHO" we will be giving those items to because they are certain that anyone associated with a church would not want to be involved in their "messy" story. On a daily basis, we are interacting with the "woman at the well" as Jesus did and are dedicated to sharing with her the love of Christ through every interaction.

The ministry of Hannah's Hope serves a population of God's children that are hurting, who feel rejected and/or unworthy to be received by the church and have needs that are very specific and not well served by the general church leadership. We regularly visit in the homes of clients who are uncertain where their next meal will come from, who lack heat in the cold of winter and air conditioning in the heat of summer, who cannot safely sit on their front porch and have no certainty of what their future will hold. We strive to be the hands and feet and voice of Christ as we quite literally "clothe the naked, feed the hungry and offer shelter to the homeless." Often we are the tiny light of hope at the end of a very dark tunnel in a woman's life and share with them sacred moments as we provide support while they bring new life into the world. It is not uncommon for the Hannah's Hope Social Worker to be the only person who supports her client through labor and delivery. Those of us who are on staff at Hannah's Hope have the privilege of sharing the journeys of our clients, but this ministry is done as an extension of every individual and congregation who provide the resources that sustain our efforts.

May the Grace and Peace of Christ be with you all.

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HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb, President/CEO

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www.hintoncenter.org

Hinton Rural Life Center is a retreat and conference center nestled in the mountains of southwestern North Carolina overlooking breath-taking Lake Chatuge. For over 50 years, Hinton Center, as a mission agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction has provided opportunities for intentional faith development while sharing love for Christ with others through service. Each year, we host individuals and groups for spiritual retreats, group gathering, and service opportunities. We also partner with small and rural congregations in a vitality process, exploring congregational call, encouraging creative missional outreach, and sparking new life.

Together in 2014, we were able to: *Host over 1400 volunteers who worked on campus, in our garden, and in our community to help those in need—*Deliver over 75 loads of firewood to families who could not otherwise afford to heat their home—*Repair 123 homes, making them warmer, drier, and safer—*Provide financial counseling to 50 families; helping two families secure loans to purchase homes—*Host 7 poverty simulations to help the community understand the challenges associated with those living in generational poverty—*Harvest fresh vegetables from our garden for our guests and donate excess vegetables to Clay County Food Pantry and Matt's Ministry, a weekend meal program for children in our rural community—*Host two Duke Divinity School ministerial interns for 10 weeks of Field Education ministry in summer 2014—*Welcome two young adult missionaries from the General Board of Global Ministries through Generation Transformation for 18 months of ministry service at Hinton—*Lead 18 small and rural churches through Next Step Vitality Ministry—*Engage in 81 worship services with mission volunteers to reflect upon their service in this rural Appalachian community—*Increase Hinton's presence throughout the Southeastern Jurisdiction, with increased web presence moving from 6,000 website hits in 2010 to 60,909 website hits in 2014—*Increase connections through social media from 358 Facebook friends in 2012 to over 1200 in 2014—*Raise over \$100,000, which is two-thirds of our way to our initial goal of \$150,000 in our Capital Campaign

What can we do together in 2015? *Foster Relationships—*Empower People—*Build Community

But, we need your help: *Pray for Hinton—*Support Hinton Financially—*Participate in Hinton's Ministries

We look forward to serving alongside you in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, and we hope that you will be a part of Hinton's ministry, as we make disciples, serve our neighbors, and share God's love.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES

Cathy Burkhead, Chair

cjburkhead@att.net

The purpose of the Western Kentucky United Methodist Family Services is to offer services for the care and maintenance, support and education of children, youth and their families needing its services and care, and do all things which may be necessary, proper or pertinent in the operation and conduct of such an institution and agency. The mission of the agency is to provide Christian ministry through prevention, support, education and rehabilitation for children and families.

Our **mission** aligns with the Memphis Annual Conferences by discovering, equipping, connecting, and sending our services to our foster children in foster care. WKUMFS discover those foster children in need and provide foster parents, as well as providing extra necessities to make them feel accepted and not any different from other children. We **equip** the funds needed for providing the extras for our foster children. Our agency has fundraisers, write nonprofit grants, and gets needed provision of funds from the Memphis Conference. WKUMFS **connects** with our foster children and families by providing as many necessities as our budget will allow supporting the needs of our foster children. By sending professionals with the ability to provide our services, we feel we are giving the children in the foster care system an opportunity to experience the love of Jesus Christ through our efforts.

The **values** of WKUMFS Board of Trustees and others involved with our services, aid with **love** through dedicating and volunteering our time/service and by budgeting our finances to meet the needs of our foster children. **Integrity** is built with grace, compassion, accountability and providing the resources that our foster children so badly need. Our **faithfulness and fruitfulness** are established by prayers for our foster children, establishing relationships with social workers, foster families and foster children. Our actions and decisions are measured by the success of meeting our foster children's needs in in our care.

Through whatever change is needed, we are **innovated** to change our structure and ourselves to give our foster children an opportunity to experience the love of Jesus though our efforts in our mission.

WKUMFS **four areas of focus** with our mission and the Memphis Conference mission in mind are:

- **Investing** time, talent, and resources so that our foster children will become good citizens in the community and experience the love of Jesus through their foster care.
- **Engaging** in the foster care mission through our beliefs, we will provide those needs to assist in the well-being, love and care of our foster children.
- **Create transforming** opportunities for foster children to know that they are loved because they will always be a child of God.
- With God's help, our foster children will grow into **fruitful and faithful Christians** because we were blessed to touch their lives with love, care, and The Word.

With your support, fundraisers, and grants, WKUMFS will continue to provide Christian ministry through prevention, support, education and rehabilitation for children and families

REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES, Inc.

Rev. Robert Craig, Executive Director

executive@reelfootruralministries.org

Mission Statement: In Christian love, we seek to provide personal encouragement, material assistance, helpful training, and spiritual guidance to children, the elderly, and low-income families in the rural Northwest Tennessee counties of Dyer, Lake, and Obion and Fulton County in Southwest Kentucky, in a manner that enhances self-esteem and encourages self-support.

In Matthew's account of the feeding of the multitude, Jesus had compassion on the crowd and offered healing to those in need of wholeness before providing a meal of abundance to thousands from a small offering of five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:13-21 paraphrased). Reelfoot Rural Ministries seeks to be an extension of Christ's compassion, healing, and provision to the multitude in Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky. Without fail, God takes the offerings of our volunteers, staff, and donors to restore hope, offer healing, and provide for needs. Just like in Matthew's story of the multitude, God seems to always make our offering enough.

We have witnessed countless moments of hope restored during the last year. A coffee mug caused abundant joy for a single gentleman who did not own one. He shared with us, through his tears, that prior to this gift he drank his coffee from an old green bean can. A homebound neighbor received the gift of a washcloth and wept with joy because it was an answer to a prayer the gentleman had prayed just that morning! A single working mother was overwhelmed when she was made aware that she qualified for the RRM grocery ministry. She initially came to RRM when she learned she could possibly receive help with school supplies. When she was offered groceries too, her response was, "I had no idea how I would provide for my kids this week, because their school clothes (which came from a thrift store) took most of my grocery money."

These are just a few examples of how we seek to live into the statement of purpose at Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Inc. That purpose statement is; ***"Restoring Hope, One Relationship at a Time."*** Jesus' example of ministry was relational; therefore we at RRM seek to be engaged in relational ministry as we offer Christ to a hurting world. There are thirteen areas of ministry in which we are engaged in this task. Those ministry areas include; Tenne Butler Day Care, Christmas Toy Store, School Supplies, Lake County Imagination Library sponsorship, Homebound Meal Delivery, Senior Center and Meal Program, Food Distribution Center (Grocery Ministry), Emergency Services, Dental and Oral Hygiene Clinic, Vision Clinic, Special Needs Home, Work Camp Ministry/Home Repairs, and the RRM Thrift Store.

While monetary and material donations are of incredible importance to this ministry, volunteers are an absolute necessity as well. Without volunteers, we could not possibly be as effective in ministry to thousands of households each year. In the past year, we have hosted volunteers from every district in the Memphis Annual Conference, multiple denominations in the service area, as well as several surrounding states. Volunteers are welcome to work on the ministry site for day projects or be hosted for several days at RRM to work in the surrounding community. These volunteer opportunities strengthen individuals in their faith journeys and the teamwork draws groups and churches closer together in relationship with one another for ministry opportunities in their church's neighborhood

LAKESHORE UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY

The Reverend Gary D. Lawson, Sr, Executive Director
Ms. Joyce Wiggins, Chair, Board of Directors

Lakeshore is proud to be the Camp and Retreat Center of the Memphis Annual Conference. The fiscal year 2016 will mark the fifth straight in which we have decreased our request for funding from apportionment giving. We recognize the struggle our local churches face in funding our conference and are committed to doing our part in easing that burden. It is our ultimate goal, as an organization, to become self-sustaining through fees and the faithful and generous giving of our donor base and guests.

Even so, we believe the ministry of camps and retreats is a worthy resource for our churches and an accountable partner in the mission of "Making disciples for the transformation of the world". We continue to expand programs, seek new ministries, and develop and maintain a facility that all of us can be proud of for years to come. Just as a reminder, the following list is just the beginning of a long list of the blessings the ministry of camp and retreats offers:

- An experience of true community. Many campers and guests call Lakeshore their home away from home. Here you are accepted for the child of God that you are and are free to grow as you choose to grow.
- Christian education in an action-based format. No rote learning here. At Lakeshore, we want you to experience the love of God as you learn all about it.
- Self-esteem and confidence building. Often campers that are shy and withdrawn at school find the confidence to lead and be an active part of the Lakeshore ministry.
- Empowers open dialogue regarding faith and discipleship. It is safe here. Your hopes, dreams and doubts can be shared without judgment or ridicule.
- Leadership development with hands on experience. Over 39,000 hours (yes, thousands) of volunteer leadership opportunities were enjoyed in 2014 alone.
- Appreciation for creation. We used to be called "Outdoor Ministries." The wonder and awe of the Creator is still experienced out in the wonderful world God made. We still see ourselves as the annual conference leader in doing ministry with ecological integrity.

An Announcement! During the summer of 2016, Lakeshore will be partnering with local churches throughout the geographical boundaries of our conference to bring week long day camps (Mon-Fri). These high energy, Christ-centered programs will happen at a partner church (call us if you want to partner) and be available to the community. We are calling it DayShore. Be looking out for more information.

Thank you Memphis Conference. Your prayers and continued financial support are essential to our being one of the finest camp programs in the United Methodist Church.

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New Church Development
Dr. Rev. Steven Stone, Sr

Church planting is all about new things for new people for Christ's sake. The Memphis Conference New Church Development (NCD) Team has been hard at work on the mission of the conference to discover, equip, connect and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world one neighborhood at a time.

This year we are finding unclaimed people in our area through demographic and anecdotal study, by recruiting outstanding lay and clergy leadership, assessing them to ensure they possess the spiritual and emotional wiring needed for the difficult, specific and deeply rewarding work of raising up a new community of faith, providing them training opportunities for learning and applying church planting skills and providing them a personal coach paid for by the conference for the first two years.

Salary funding for New Church Starts is a cooperative effort which includes the conference through the New Church Development Team, the district in which the new church plant will be located, a partner church or churches, with one fourth of the salary funding in the first year being raised by the planter themselves. In addition, the New Church Development Team provides up to \$55,000 over the first four years for grant requests, and the Clergy Wellness Commission pays for medical, dental and optical insurance on a sliding scale during that same period.

Our efforts this year promises to see four new churches started this July; two in Collierville (one a Hispanic church plant led by a lay woman), and two intentionally multi-cultural churches (one in the Wolfchase area of Memphis and the other in Midtown Memphis).

These are the most exciting developments in new church planting for the Memphis Conference in several decades. We are in a new era of planting churches as many unclaimed people inhabit our geographical area and will most respond to something new that catches their imaginations and meets their conscious or unconscious spiritual needs. What we have done so far is exciting, but it is far from what needs to be done. To adequately reach out the unreached in our area will take concentrated effort by the NCD Team, the bishop and cabinet, partner churches and entrepreneurial Jesus followers who will commit their time, energy, creativity and resources to a Matthew 28:19-20 lifestyle.

UNITED METHODIST NEIGHBOR CENTERS OF MEMPHIS

Fred Vann, Chair of Board of Directors

UMNC falls directly under the mission goals of our Memphis Conference. Our stated mission is “New vision for New days.” Guided by that thrust, we continue to *Discover* critical needs of people in Shelby County and address them as we have the resources to do so. These generational needs include food, clothing, educational assistance, child care, emergency utility and medical assistance (when cash is available), and office space for community assistance agencies. We at UMNC believe our six food pantries demonstrate a passion today that equals the dedication of the founding Methodist Women Auxiliary who founded the agency in 1907.

We believe our 3-Star rated Child Development Center (CDC) with 85 capacity and our newly renovated Shelby County Pre-K center with 15 capacity serve to *Equip* children from low income families with tools to assist their successful integration into public schools as they come of age. Studies are clear that academic achievement of children by the sixth grade determine their chances of success or being caught up in a life of criminal behavior. American job markets and defense agencies are dependent upon physically and mentally strong citizens for future existence.

UMNC was born and bred with *Connections* to our local churches. The critical call to local churches in September 2014 to raise \$50,000 by December 2014 brought in more than \$80,000 to sustain our mission. Another fundraiser on March 1 2015 entitled “The Singing Preachers” raised an additional \$14,000 to further sustain the efforts of our Memphis Conference to continue this vital ministry to our Memphis citizens who need a helping hand. Former Executive Director Dr. Elvernice “Sonny” Davis served as Interim Director for six months free of charge to also assist our recovery. His predecessor Reverend Brent Porterfield also periodically ploughed his salary back into the payroll budget to keep the centers open during his administration.

UMNC is a mission arm of our conference in Shelby County. Our UMNC Key Women, critically essential to UMNC, are representatives of our UMW in our local churches. UMNC is *Connected* to our Memphis Conference by a spiritual umbilical cord.

UMNC’s ownership and on-going support of the Smith Center enables us to admire the work of Reverend James Davis whose work in the Smith Center Food Pantry inspired his own call to ministry. He is now a Local Pastor with a Food Pantry that has revitalized St. Matthew UMC, which was slated for closing. The Smith Center also houses a Food Pantry that serves more than 8000 families per year and Holy Community Church with 60-80 worshippers per Sunday. The Smith Center is also the ministry headquarters for Jacob’s Well with a Saturday evening worship services of 100-150 worshippers.

The Lay Volunteers in the activities of UMNC are extremely strong supporters of their respective local churches offering Christ through their services to people and communities that are hurting financially, socially, educationally, mentally and spiritually. Our former Leggett Center, a food pantry and clothing store building in Frayser is now housing Lifeline to Success, a ministry to former convicted felons and drug addicts. This ministry hopes to one day purchase the property from us. In addition to our CDC and Shelby Pre-K center, we lease office space to Dr. Mark Matheny’s Highland Area Renewal Corporation and his Friendship Center, which provides a successful ministry to the homeless. We also provide meeting space to 100 Black Women, an agency seeking to upgrade the quality of life for African American girls and women. Without reservation, we quote your fourth mission area: *Connect and Send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.*

With the above justification, we thank our conference for its historical support and ask on behalf of a duly elected Board of Directors, the UMNC Key Women, our staff, and volunteers that our conference support will remain at its current level.

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Rev. Robert Craig, Conference Coordinator

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What is UMVIM? United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is the short-term mission arm of the United Methodist Church. Our volunteers are lay and clergy, young and old, with differing abilities, vocations, and at different phases in life. We come together through the United Methodist Church in order that all may offer their skills and talents for Christian service at home and abroad.

Our emphasis is upon matching persons with opportunities so that everyone may participate in mission. After all, mission is not only for those who live in the field full-time. God calls all Christians “to bring good news to the oppressed [and] to bind up the broken-hearted” (Isaiah 61:1). We believe that no matter who you are, no matter the level of your resource, no matter how big or small your church, God is calling you to mission.

UMVIM exists to connect you with mission projects, both in your backyard and across the globe. Within the United Methodist Church, UMVIM relates closely with annual conference UMVIM committees and the General Board of Global Ministries, all of which seek to serve as a source of information for potential volunteers.

What is SEJ? In the United States, the United Methodist Church is divided into five geographical regions; the Southeastern Jurisdiction is one of those five. UMVIM, SEJ is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit ministry of the Southeastern Jurisdiction that facilitates short-term mission in the following annual conferences: Alabama-West Florida, Florida, Holston, Kentucky, Memphis, Mississippi, North Alabama, North Carolina, North Georgia, Red Bird Missionary, South Carolina, South Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and Western North Carolina.

How We Work With Local Churches: UMVIM, SEJ exists to help local churches fulfill the great commission by personifying Christian love in action. Our primary function is to connect churches with appropriate mission projects, both within the United States and abroad. We also provide training materials for churches and mission teams, and we exist as a resource for team leaders. Our website, www.umvim.org, offers information on the process of sending a team, potential project sites, and insurance information. In addition, the staff of UMVIM, SEJ is knowledgeable on all aspects of short-term mission. Contact our office with any questions relating to your local church’s mission experience. If we cannot immediately answer your question, we will connect you with someone who can.

(The preceding is an excerpt from the introduction section of the UMVIM Team Leader Handbook 2015 edition)

As the UMVIM coordinator for the Memphis Annual Conference, I am available to help connect you and your church with short-term mission experiences within our conference, around the United States, and abroad. I am also available to help prepare teams and team leaders through training. Please feel free to contact me or contact the UMVIM, SEJ office with any inquiries about mission.

Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

Susan Davidson, Director

The Lay Servant Ministries are alive and well in the Memphis Conference. This past year has seen a renewal of interest in the districts. The name change from the former Lay Speaker to Lay Servant has been confusing to some and we are trying to clarify the name "Lay Servant Ministries" to include Lay Servants, Lay Speakers and Certified Lay Ministers. Lay Servant Ministries include teaching, leading, guiding, reaching out to others, and other ways to demonstrate and proclaim the love of God in Jesus Christ.

We encourage people to recognize and use their spiritual gifts for work in the Church, helping congregations to become an outpost for mission and transformation. Sessions guide participants through thoughtful reflection on the areas of leading, caring, communicating, and spreading the love of Christ into the world.

In the conference, we have offered 9 training sessions for Lay Servants. We have 26 new Lay Servants. The Brownsville/Dyersburg District held a Youth Lay Servant weekend training and now we have 18 new Youth Lay Servants and 6 new Certified Youth Lay Servants. Our goal is to have a Director of Lay Servant Ministries in every district in the Memphis Conference. We also want to provide ongoing Lay Servant training in every district every year. Our Conference committee met in the Fall of 2014 and will meet Spring of 2015.

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BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT
Susan Davidson, Lay Resource Leader

We have had a very busy year in the Brownsville District. Our priority has been to live into the mission of our Conference by discovering, equipping, connecting and sending lay leaders into the world. The logistical problems of lack of internet access and long driving distances within the district continue to be a challenge for us.

In June, the Brownsville District had a youth mission trip to Gulf Shores, Mississippi. We were a group of 76, who proudly proclaimed on the back of our t-shirts: We are one of the 72. Nine churches were represented. Our goal was to refurbish a United Methodist Church after a homeless shelter, which had been using the church's activity building, moved. This shelter was used at the church since Hurricane Katrina and they finally moved to their remodeled building this summer. We all learned a lot about connection during this week of hard work.

Also in June, youth and adults from the Brownsville District participated in a Youth Summit at Ross United Methodist in Dyersburg. The group spent the day hearing inspirational talks and participating in discussion groups on the very important topic of bullying.

In July, the Brownsville District and Dyersburg District had their very first clergy gathering together. It is exciting to meet new brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as to connect with old friends. We are excited about the opportunities for ministry in our new district to be.

We have had 4 Advanced Lay Servant trainings in the past year. There have been 3 Basic Lay Servant trainings. We had our 4th Youth Lay Servant training in February. A total of 18 youth were trained in the Basic class, and 8 were trained in the Advanced class.

Two new small groups were formed this past year. A group women representing churches in Lauderdale County met together for a small group study. A group of approximately 20 youth and adults met together at Alamo First United Methodist Church for a program called Table Talk.

District Superintendent, Harrell Nation, has pulled together a group of 18 experienced Lay Servants and trained them on the 72+U curriculum. These Lay Servants will then go out into the Brownsville and Dyersburg Districts and train this curriculum to Administrative Councils, SRCs, Leadership teams or any other small group in the church.

On November 1, we had our first Laity Gathering for both districts. It was at Medina First United Methodist Church. There were approximately 300 in attendance. This group was excited to be together and talk about ministry in our districts of Brownsville and Dyersburg.

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JACKSON DISTRICT
Delores Smith
Lay Resource Leader

In the Jackson District we continue to live into the call "Expecting Greater Things". Our district wide event, *Living in Touch*, focused on prayer. We had testimonies from lay persons on how you live in touch with Christ, with others, and with the world. Bishop McAlilly spoke to us about living in touch with our communities. This began our district wide prayer emphasis. Each week a church/charge and pastor is intentionally prayed for in each congregation in the district. As we work through the year, we know each church/charge and pastor will be lifted up in prayer.

Our lay servant ministry continues to grow. We are focusing on leadership courses. We have offered "*Afire with God*" and "*Transforming Evangelism*" as advanced courses. "*Afire with God*" focused on stewardship and of course, "*Transforming Evangelism*" focused on evangelism. We also offered the basic course "*Learning and Leading*". Several of our lay leaders have attended these leadership courses and are taking these studies back to the local congregation.

As a district we have discovered our call, connected in prayer, and this year we are equipping our leaders. Our district wide event in 2015 will focus on equipping. Ephesians 4: 11-13 will be our scripture focus for the event. "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

It is exciting to see what God is doing through His disciples in the Jackson District. We are truly living and working as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are family, helping each other as we offer Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.

We will continue to expect greater things as we pray together and listen for God's call on our lives.

PARIS DISTRICT LAY RESOURCE LEADER

Elyse Bell

The responsibility of a Lay Resource Leader is to serve as a liaison between the annual conference and the district, promoting and sharing the vision and priorities of the conference, building relationships with local churches, identifying needs, and offering leadership training and resources.

This is being lived out in the Paris District through the four verbs in the Memphis Conference Mission Statement; discover, equip, connect, and send.

New leadership is being discovered through the building of relationships with local church members, as I attend weekly Sunday worship services, week-day Bible studies, fellowship events, and charge conferences.

Leaders are being equipped through a variety of leadership training opportunities offered during the annual Paris District Training Day Event, participation in the four sessions of the Generative Leadership Academy, monthly coaching calls, a best practices list, and a resource library list of available books and DVD's.

Every congregation is encouraged to connect with their community after studying their Mission Insite demographic report, made available to every church by the district office. The district staff held a morning training session for participants, and personally modeled what it means to walk the streets of the community and connect your neighbors, through a community prayer and share opportunity. This event, entitled Warmth in Winter, was demonstrated at a centrally located church in Paris. The group divided into 7 teams and engaged in 70 neighborhood porch visits, which included the distribution of Bibles, health kits, listening to their concerns and offering prayers, and sharing the items needed for a complete spaghetti dinner. The community was then invited to join in a free lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs at the neighborhood UMC, including activities for the young people. This event engaged 60 members from eight churches representing each of the four counties throughout the district and fed approximately 100 residents of the neighborhood.

Now, a group of members from eight churches have been trained as leaders and have returned to their respective congregations to train others who will be sent out into their local community neighborhoods to share the love of Christ by engaging in mission and ministry. This is one example of what it means to offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time. "And the seventy returned with joy." Luke 10:17

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PADUCAH DISTRICT
KIM MORRISON LAY RESOURCE LEADER

As the new Lay Resource Leader in the Paducah District, I am serving by being a liaison between the Annual Conference and the district. I am available to help with information, training, and support that equips our clergy and laity to serve together to enhance and grow the Kingdom.

Change of focus is what I have seen this year in the Paducah District. There has been a shift from looking at the life “inside” the four walls of the church to looking “outside” to see what the needs of our communities are. Rev. Sky McCracken, DS brought a question to charge conference last year and asked, “If your church ceased to exist, would people outside the church notice?” This really upset some churches in the beginning. It was upsetting because most churches realized that they would not be missed by people outside the four walls. They realized that a lot of their programs were inward focused.

So, as the Resource Leaders, it’s our job to discover what these churches need, equip them with the right resources, connect them with programs, organizations, other churches and then send them out into the community to meet needs such as hunger, clothing, sickness, grace, mercy, or love- those things that Jesus would address if He walked down our streets today.

One way of approaching this is forming and developing groups of laity and clergy that are focused on the mission of “offering Jesus Christ to a hurting world”. We are encouraging small groups within the district that worship, learn, love and covenant together. Through these bonds that are formed, developed and strengthened we have seen mission ideas created and implemented with great success.

Generative Leadership Academy is continuing to be a successful form of this small group technique. Leaders are recognized and encouraged to “step up” and “step out” in the name of Jesus and the mission. These leaders go back to their churches and recognize and encourage other leaders forming a “generative” approach which provides a strong foundation for the church.

I have seen a renewed spark in the eyes of many because of the shift in the Paducah District and the Memphis Conference. People are excited to become more focused on becoming better disciples themselves that go out and make new disciples that address the needs of their community.

Mission Blitz is a product of the type of thinking that sees the hurts of this world and acknowledges the need of a resolution. All the churches in the district came together on one day that was set aside to do mission work in various forms and locations. From this day, new ministries have evolved to address needs throughout the year.

A renewed focus within the churches and communities of the Paducah District is developing. It’s a sending out as Jesus did- “the Lord chose 72 more followers. He sent them in groups of two. He sent them ahead of Him into every town and place where He planned to go.” He told them that the harvest was bigger than they could imagine and that they were only a few but to GO

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Memphis Conference United Methodist Men
Charles Gilliland, MMS, President

A summary of some of the ministries of Memphis Conference United Methodist Men

Investment in young people - Across our conference, dozens of children's fees are paid by our various men's groups to enable them to attend summer camp at Lakeshore. Many of our older youth go, or return, to college with a scholarship or stipend provided by the men of their church. Most of the national or regional spiritual retreats our children and youth attend have at least some of the expense offset by the men of their home church. We continue to be a major supporter of scouting troops for both boys and girls. We provide coaches for sports teams and mentors for confirmation in addition to teaching Sunday School classes and providing adult leadership for UMYF groups across the conference. Additionally each year we assist with dozens of "one of a kind" events: lock ins, Valentine's banquets, Super Bowl parties, family game nights, and numerous other activities.

Engaging the mission field - Reelfoot Rural Ministries is our most common mission activity. We support Reelfoot in numerous ways - from cash contributions to on site work groups. The Christmas Toy Store draws large numbers of new toys, but it also requires workers to set up, assemble bicycles and tricycles, and large numbers of other activities necessary to handle the flow of clients over the days the store is open. The PET Project produces a hundred or more personal transport units each year, and has produced over 400 total units as of this writing. The last three years those units have been personally delivered by our men. We support Disciple Bible Studies in the West Tennessee Penitentiary at Henning as well as several local prison ministries. We host Family Promise clients on a regular basis. Several of our churches pass out Manna Bags, single meals of nutritious nonperishable food similar to what you might pack in a lunch for yourself. We support outreach ministries in several at risk communities in the larger towns of the conference, running the gamut from providing meals to rebuilding housing and cleaning and restoring community common areas in addition to providing mentoring, worship and leadership building events. We are in the process of raising funds to provide transportation for District Superintendents in the East Congo Conference after learning that the best transportation any of the seven had was a bicycle. That conference covers a geographical area roughly equivalent to the Southeast Jurisdiction. We are committed to bringing the Upper Room Prayer Line to a 24/7 operation. We believe that this ministry offers a unique opportunity for older men, worshiping in smaller congregations to engage in meaningful ministry in spite of limitations of age, infirmity or location. We also believe that the very act of engaging in prayer for the benefit of another will nourish a renewed spirit within the congregations that participate.

Creation of transforming lay and clergy leaders - United Methodist Men is about growth in and spreading of our faith in ways that are meaningful to men - not about organizational structure. Too many lay and clergy Methodists think "club" when they think about United Methodist Men. We continue to encourage our men to be involved in opportunities for growth in their faith, in conference wide activities as well as events specifically for men. We still struggle to gain commitment to regular "self-improvement" or educational events. We do feel we are making headway in changing from a "meeting" culture to a "growth" culture in our men's ministries. Our biggest success has come in small groups, but we continue to search for a vehicle for a larger scale session.

Growing fruitful and faithful churches - It is our belief that as we find success in the activities we have listed above, we automatically become more fruitful and faithful in support of our churches. We are firmly committed to the development of our Methodist Manpower in the Memphis Conference believing that is our best contribution to our faith and our Church.

Respectfully submitted, Memphis Conference United Methodist Men

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UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Delores Smith
Conference President

The United Methodist Women of the Memphis Conference are continuing a legacy started in 1869 of offering Christ to a hurting world. Our women have discovered the needs, connected with others to equip ourselves to be sent into the neighborhoods around the world.

We have a unit that has made dresses that went to a community thrift store, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, and as far as Africa with a few other stops along the way. We have a unit that has pledged to raise \$15,000 by 2015 for insecticide-treated nets to reduce the spread of malaria in Africa. We have units reaching out to children through back-pack programs and mentoring programs.

Each year we come together for educational studies at Mission u. Our studies for 2015 are:

- **Spiritual growth:**
Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God
- **Issue study:**
The Church and People with Disabilities
- **Geographic:**
Latin America: People and Faith
- **Children's Study:**
Life and Faith in Latin America
- **Youth Study:**
Latin America: Places, Culture, and Faith

In the spring we come together for Spiritual Growth. This year's retreat will be focused on the 72 sent out by Christ. We will answer the question: "Will you be one of the 72?" Social Action Day will focus on domestic violence. It is a growing concern in our communities. Mission Outreach Retreat will bring us together so we can work on some projects that will reach out to the neighborhoods.

2014 took us to Paris (Tennessee that is) with Bishop McAlilly. We had a wonderful day of celebration as we remembered the women of the Bible and the women in our lives that have led us on this journey of caring and working for justice for women, children and youth around the world. 2015 will take us to Jackson, the Hub City of West Tennessee. As we study domestic violence, we will be supporting the Carl Perkins Exchange Clubs for the Prevention of Child Abuse by bringing items for the centers. We might just have some "blue suede shoes" dancing around. Come and be a part.

2019 will mark the 150th year of women in mission. You will be hearing a lot about that as we strive to set up a Legacy Fund that will sustain the work we do into future generations. We have a legacy of offering Christ to a hurting world and we continue to live into that legacy every day. We are United Methodist Women who believe in Faith, Hope and Love in Action.

Memphis Conference United Methodist Women, I thank you for the work you do, for all the lives you touch, and for all the love you give. Continue to live into the legacy of those courageous women of Boston. May 2015 shine brighter because of you.

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY (BOLM)

David R. Reed, Memphis Conference Lay Leader

The purpose of the Board of Lay Ministry is to prepare and encourage all people in a life of Christian discipleship.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012 ¶631 ...the BOLM should:

- Foster an awareness of the role of laity both within the local congregation and through their ministries in the home, work place, community, and world in achieving the mission of the Church.
- Develop and promote stewardship of time, talent, and possessions within the Annual Conference in cooperation with the Conference Council on Ministries.
- Relate to, support, and assist in coordinating the activities of the following organized laity of the conference: Lay Servant Ministries, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Young Adults and United Methodist Youth.

Shortly after the 2014 Memphis Annual Conference, your BOLM spend a Saturday at Jackson FUMC with Bishop Bill McAlilly; the Rev. Tom Hazelwood - CMT Director; Dr. Richard Clark - Jackson D. S. and BOLM Cabinet Representative and the Rev. Sky McCracken - Paducah D. S. and co-founder of the Generative Leadership Academy, for a day of worship, fellowship and strategic planning around our work together for the coming year.

Bishop McAlilly challenged the BOLM to do its part in leading the UMC to reclaim our Culture of Call while we are in this season of rethinking the church. He pointed out that the church is only vital when engaged in mission.

The bishop emphasized the importance of each of us living into our newly adopted **Mission Statement**: *To discover, equip, connect and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.*

He encouraged us to stay grounded in our **Conference Values**: *unrelenting love for all people, integrity, excellence, faithfulness and fruitfulness, and innovation.*

We explored ways to encourage congregations to engage **72+U**, which is based on Luke 10:1-11, the story of Jesus calling 72 disciples, commissioning them and sending them ahead to every town in place of him. Bishop McAlilly asked us, "What are the distractions that are keeping us from our task of being in mission to our neighborhoods and communities?" He emphasized, "Our shared dream for the people called Methodist must be to set aside our fears, petty politics, cynicism and step into the future unafraid; where every congregation is a mission outpost, every pastor is a missionary and every layperson is part of that mission advance."

We agreed that one very important way the BOLM can encourage local churches to engage the children and youth in their mission fields is through **Partner Today**: an initiative introduced by Lynn McAlilly, to serve our neighborhood schools. www.PartnerToday.org

We explored ways we can support the Annual Conference's renewed emphasis on **Youth Activities**, with the Rev. Kristofer and Alyssa Roof from Collierville FUMC serving as Coordinators of Conference Youth Ministries.

We agreed to provide leadership, during the coming year, for the Nashville Episcopal Area goal of raising \$1,000,000 for the **Imagine No Malaria** initiative.

We agreed to help the Annual Conference reach its goal of starting 25 new churches in the next 5 years by promoting and supporting the **2 Benjamins** initiative to generate new funding.

Given the difficulty of having being able to schedule well attended meetings, because of demanding individual schedules and the cost of travel; the BOLM plans to schedule a series of electronic conferences this coming year to improve communications with each other, with Bishop McAlilly, with Dr. Clark and other denominational leaders.

For the **72+U** initiative to be able to transform communities, it must be to a large extent, lay-driven. Your Board of Lay Ministry stands ready to assist you and your local congregation in exploring how to transform your neighborhood, by offering Christ to a hurting world.

David R. Reed

Memphis Conference Lay Leader



Gary Shorb, CEO

Michael Ugwueke, President and COO

During 2014, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare has seen many signs of progress, growth, improvement and recognition through the dedicated work of the 10,000 plus Associates and Physicians. Our faith-based mission and ministry to serve the entire Mid-South Community through committed Patient- and Family-Centered Care principles is not the easy road; however, it is the right road for us to travel. We strive constantly, as we partner with our Physicians, and collaborate with our patients and families, to be the leader in providing high quality, cost-effective Patient and Family Centered Care. We are honored to provide these services in a manner that supports the health ministries and Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. We are grateful for the support of the Arkansas, Memphis and Mississippi Conferences for their on-going support since our very beginning.

- We're continuing to make MLH a very special place to work as measured by our annual Associate Feedback Survey. Our overall System Engagement Score of 4.33 out of 5.0 places MLH in the top 5% of organizations nationally. We were recognized once again by the Commercial Appeal as a Top Work Place.
- The State of Tennessee approved Certificates of Need for our cancer care partner, the West Cancer Center, and a Le Bonheur Outpatient Center, paving the way for expanded cancer care and pediatric access and services.
- We celebrated the completion of renovation projects across the system. We opened our new, expanded Emergency Department at University Hospital. Our South Hospital completed renovation of the Lobby and expansion of the Intensive Care Unit. We made significant improvements in the Emergency Department at Germantown Hospital. Methodist North started expansion of the entrance and lobby along with renovation of the Medical/Surgical area.
- U. S. News and World Report once again recognized Le Bonheur Children's Hospital among the best children's hospitals in the nation and our adult facilities were honored as Best in the Region for the 4th consecutive year.
- MLH's Congregational Health Network reached 580 member congregations, and this partnership allows us to support our patients' well-being long after they're discharged from our care. Our CHN was recently named a Program of Excellence during the Hospital Charitable Services Award by Jackson Healthcare. CHN was recognized for our commitment to the community and our innovative, sustainable and collaborative efforts to improve community health and increase access to healthcare education and services. CHN has grown to 11 Navigators, more than 700 trained Congregational Liaisons and over 20,000 patient members. Almost 1,000 individuals participated in over 30 educational classes offered by CHN.
- MLH received the Lifesaver of the Year Award by Lifeblood for contributing 800 units of blood from across the system in 2014.
- MLH, in partnership with the Arkansas, Memphis and Mississippi Conferences updated and approved a Covenant Relationship Statement with each Conference.
- Our 38109 Project initiative in Southwest Memphis is dedicated to addressing the health disparities for residents in the 38109 zip code area by increasing health awareness and disease prevention. We are providing health screenings, educational materials and related activities through our frequent Wellness Events.
- Our Chaplains made over 85,000 pastoral visits, touching the lives of over 150,000 patients, family members, physicians and staff. Included in these visits were over 6,000 Advance Directive Consultations with patients and family members.
- We were blessed with over 600 Volunteers who contributed over 55,000 hours of service. Each day, our Volunteers directly impacted the lives of our patients, families and staff in a powerful and meaningful way. They helped create a loving and caring atmosphere.
- In the fall of 2014, we re-established our Clinical Pastoral Education Program chaplaincy training program. We currently have 6 full-time Residents and 6 students in our Extended Unit Program.
- Our Employee Assistance Program continues to grow and expand. EAP provides valuable counseling and support services to our own MLH Associates and the employees at 47 additional organizations. We are

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honored to provide EAP counseling services to the Clergy and their family members in the Arkansas, Memphis and Mississippi Conferences. The Living Well Network continues to make a significant difference in helping to address the mental health of the Mid-South.

- Our Associates continue to make a difference in the lives of their fellow Associates through the Humanitarian Fund. This past year saw a record pledge campaign of over \$525,000 which allowed the Humanitarian Fund to assist our Associates with emergency financial assistance with funeral expenses, help when flood waters, fire and/or wind destroyed/damaged the homes of Associates, financial grants to assist when Associates were unable to work due to illness or having to be off work to care for a family member. During 2014, almost 700 Grants assisting over 425 individuals Associates were distributed.
- Finally, our system financial performance exceeded expectations, thanks to teamwork, innovative thinking and market share growth due to the outstanding quality and service we provide to our patients and their families.

Thank you for all you do. We are blessed by your prayers.
1211 Union Avenue, Suite 700
Memphis, Tennessee 38104

www.methodisthealth.org
www.lebonheur.org

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION FOR THE MEMPHIS & TENNESSEE CONFERENCES

Dr. Philip D. Jamieson, President

“For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not ‘Yes and No’; but in him it is always ‘Yes.’ For in him every one of God’s promises is a ‘Yes.’ For this reason it is through him that we say the ‘Amen’, to the glory of God” (II Corinthians 1:19-20). It continues to be my privilege to serve the United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences. This significant ministry in conjunction with the United Methodist Development Fund for Kentucky and Tennessee is helping further the work of God in our communities. And the most important way that we do that is to keep stewardship front and central to our life together in the Church. As a ministry connected to the United Methodist Church structure we take that ministry of stewardship very seriously. In particular, we are committed to being stewards of God’s promises in Christ. We are committed to helping you help others embrace the reality of God’s “yes” in Jesus.

The Foundation is here to help you make faithful responses to God’s “yes”. We do that in several important ways. First, we serve as a custodian for endowed funds on behalf of local churches and other United Methodist ministries. As of March 1, 2015, our holdings are \$56,309,929. Last year, the fund grew by approximately 4%. We are able to help you secure current ministries and to reach out into the new places where Christ is calling you.

We help by means of the United Methodist Development Fund of Tennessee/Kentucky. Accepting investments from individuals, churches and organizations, we are able to loan money at a competitive rate to United Methodist churches and ministries for building projects. Currently, the Development Fund is loaning money at 4.5% and paying 1.75% to shareholders. With \$17,345,233 in assets, the Development Fund is ready to serve you.

Last year we launched a new initiative to help you help others embrace God’s “yes”. In 2014, 23 churches in the Tennessee and Memphis Annual Conferences took advantage of our Stewardship Grant Program. These churches said “yes” to the challenge to embrace best stewardship practices. In doing that, they became eligible for \$1,000 grants. The program is continuing this year and we will make available over 50 \$1,000 grants. Working with the Foundation, we will help you strengthen your stewardship practices in order to help the world better understand the glorious generosity of our Triune God.

If you have questions regarding the work and ministries of the Foundation, the Development Fund, or stewardship; if you would like to have one of us to come to preach and/or speak to a group in your church; or if you would like to learn more about ways to create and leave a financial legacy for your church or ministries, give us a call (615-259-2008) or visit our website at www.umfmtc.org.

WESLEY SENIOR MINISTRIES
WESLEY HOUSING CORPORATION OF MEMPHIS

Jim Nasso, Chief Executive Officer

jim.nasso@wesleyhousing.com – 901.380.4900

Wesley Living is a group of organizations that is essentially about people—elderly residents and at-home clients, hands-on serving staff, pastors, maintenance personnel, service coordinators, community managers and administrators, program managers, corporate staff and executives, boards of directors—all necessary to the mission of enhancing the lives of older generations of the area. We proudly do so in a covenant relationship with the Memphis Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Pastoral care is a key to the lives of our residents and clients. During the past year our staff has worked diligently with the district superintendents to establish relationships with local pastors throughout the annual conference where we serve. Today, every community is being served.

Providing affordable housing for our seniors is a major part of the ministry effort. The demand remains high and the goal is to continually update the existing while expanding the services being provided.

August of this year marks the 5th anniversary of Wesley Home Services which provides non-medical, in-home assistance services which range from companionship to housekeeping to personal assistance. Serving the broad range of people and locations inherent in this ministry is both a blessing and challenge. The campaign to expand this ministry through a better understanding of those being served hinges on the highest caliber employee possible. This includes their moral, ethical, compassion and skills being one to make Wesley's value unique from others providing this service.

The number of elderly needing quality, affordable housing and services continues to grow as the traditional resources for construction and tenant services become more difficult to access. Last fall a new program was introduced by the State of Tennessee to assist in delivering such services. Wesley Living has positioned itself to be the premier provider in West Tennessee. Other ideas continue to be discussed locally, regionally and nationally and Wesley remains engaged and participative to aid in solving these social issues. A major rehabilitation is beginning at Wesley Highland Meadows, a 200 unit community in the Raleigh area of Memphis utilizing Low Income Housing Tax Credits and other federally insured loans to enhance the resident's lives.

These conditions create a growing demand for assistance to residents from Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation. Food, medicine, rent, medical bills, and furnishings are supplied to those in need. This year, a modified selection policy has provided a larger demand to serve the homeless. The Foundation has continued to grow into a larger part of the answer to resident needs. David Kabakoff, President of the Foundation, and Kristi Owens, Executive Director create a dynamic duo. Please see the report in the Journal.

We sincerely appreciate your support through your giving and your prayers. In all that we do, we measure our effectiveness in how the lives of the elderly and their families are improved relative to our mission. Today, we re-commit ourselves to honor this connection and to live out our mission "In response to the love of God...."

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WESLEY SENIOR MINISTRIES FOUNDATION
David Kabakoff, President
David.kabakoff@goldencrossfund.org

The mission of Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation, through the Golden Cross Senior Residents Fund™, is to provide the resources to enhance the quality of daily life and well-being of the elderly residents of Wesley Living communities.

2014 was a record setting year! A record number of new churches participated financially with Golden Cross offerings. Our Key Women of the United Methodist Women have packed their meetings and donated items like never before. And, the amazing generosity of the Memphis Conference has worked harder than ever towards our goal of *transforming lives, one need at a time!* For example:

There has been an increase in the last year of homeless or nearly homeless senior residents moving into Wesley Living communities. It is very humbling to witness what having nothing really means. Your generosity has enabled residents to be provided "Move In" kits full of household items and in a lot of cases "Move In" kits complete with furniture thanks to our friends at Hollywood Furniture.

One such resident was living at one of our Wesley Living communities and it was discovered that he was sleeping on a pile of blankets. His apartment lacked all the basics you and I take for granted. We went to work immediately obtaining a bed, linens, a sofa, tables and all of the typical things needed to outfit a home.

The day after all these blessings were delivered to him, he had an appointment at the community office. He showed up hours late! Not realizing how late he was, he exclaimed somewhat confused, "that was the best night's sleep I have had in a very long time." It seems, he had slept the entire day away.

Your generosity was turned into our first ever "Bear Your Heart for Art" contest in our communities. Blank teddy bears were decorated and after a winning community was named all of the bears were donated to a local children's charity. Coats were collected and distributed in our communities ahead of the cold weather.

Thank you to all the faithful and generous supporters of the GOLDEN CROSS Senior Residents Fund™ throughout the Memphis Conference. With your blessings lives have been transformed, one need at a time.

It is important to remind at this point, the GOLDEN CROSS Senior Residents Fund™ relies solely on your generosity. No apportionments are received by the Memphis Conference. In addition since our incredible Board of Trustees insures funds are available to operate the Foundation, **100%** of monies donated to GOLDEN CROSS go directly to the benefit of the residents of Wesley Living communities.

Blessings,

David

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Project 20/20
Grace Bonner, Coordinator

Project 20/20 is a mission of the Memphis Conference that has been growing and growing in the last 20 years. It is housed at Emmanuel UMC in Memphis, Tn., but is connected to the Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church and the rest of the world through mission teams that distribute eyeglasses and sunglasses to people in need.

Project 20/20 had a great year in 2014. A group of about 15 volunteers processed at least a ton of donated glasses, finding ones that could be useful to people in need of vision care around the world.

Volunteers sorted, cleaned, checked and bagged 6,400 pairs of prescription glasses and 3,000 pairs of sunglasses. They filled orders from 21 mission teams who took the eyeglasses and sunglasses to 13 countries, reaching over 5,000 people

Donors from all over the country sent in from one to several hundred pairs of glasses and sunglasses. United Methodist churches in Memphis Conference (West Tennessee and Western Kentucky) provided faithful support, mailing directly or sending in glasses via a kind of "pony express" that moves from church to district office to Memphis Conference office to Project 20/20's home at Emmanuel UMC.

The work of Project 20/20 is done on a shoestring. The only expenses are supplies for processing and packaging and shipping costs for getting the glasses to mission teams. Money comes from many sources. Two churches in Georgia sent large donations in 2014. Glasses that can't be used for the missions are recycled and Project 20/20 is paid for that. So every pair of donated glasses is used in one way or another.

2015 is already starting out to be a great year. Five orders of glasses (total of 4,387 pairs) are with mission teams traveling to Haiti, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Belize and Mexico. There is a large order leaving soon for the local student chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists to take to Nicaragua in May. These teams will return the prescription glasses they don't use and they will be available to go out to other mission teams.

If you want to help, you may contact Project 20/20 at info@project2020.org. One current need is for children's sunglasses. Perhaps your Sunday School classes or your Vacation Bible School could start a mission project to collect them for Project 20/20 to send around the world to help other children protect their eyes.



WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WASHINGTON, DC

At Wesley, we are a church-based seminary committed to **multiplying the number of people who love God and love their neighbor** locally, nationally and globally. Our degrees and programs – traditional and new alike – reflect our dedication to the Great Commandment and Great Commission. We ask you to pray for us, hold us accountable, and join us in this Kingdom work.

Equipping Faith Leaders through Degree Programs

In fall 2015, our new master of divinity curriculum launches. We thoroughly **redesigned the M.Div. to prepare leaders for both church and society**. This 81-hour degree offers flexibility and an excellent core curriculum focused on empowering passionate, mission-focused leaders.

Wesley also offers a 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to **equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or a wide range of ministries**.

In our doctor of ministry program, we continue to offer **the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks** in theological education. These include leadership excellence, pastoral counseling, arts, and new mission-focused tracks. Wesley is accepting applications to two tracks based in Cambridge, England. These tracks, *Transformative Leadership in Wesleyan Perspective* and *Creative Ministry for Church Renewal in a Changing World*, are each limited to 20 students.

Wesley provides **more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships** to our students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary.

Talk to someone at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley's degree programs equip people to lead others to loving God and neighbor.

Providing Resources to Faith Communities and Leaders

Wesley's **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be the go-to resource for actionable best-practices for clergy and laity. The center's free *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 15,000 people. Visit www.churchleadership.com for resources in: Taking Church to the Community, Doing Good Well, Funding Your Congregation's Vision, and Reaching New Disciples. Also, learn about the newest book by the Rev. Tom Berlin and the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems Jr., *High Yield: Seven Disciplines of the Fruitful Leader*.

In early 2015, we developed the **Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown** to help the church turn itself inside-out. The institute encompasses the existing Urban Ministry Program and the Missional Church Program, which includes Heal the Sick, an initiative to congregations for public health work in their parishes.

The third component of the Institute for Community Engagement is Wesley's emerging **Center for Public Theology**. Under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology, Mike McCurry, we are developing this center to provide churches and their leaders, and seminary students tools to help navigate the connection between faith and public policy

The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The center celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Dadian Gallery in late 2014.

Wesley faculty members are continually development resources to the faithful, including **books by Drs. Carla Works, Deborah Sokolove, F. Douglas Powe Jr., Cedric Johnson, and Lovett H. Weems Jr.**

Throughout the academic year, Wesley hosts Second Mondays – a series of lectures on campus and streaming live. This year we explored “Living Matthew 25 – Focusing on the Big Things.” In this chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus challenges us to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and welcome the stranger. In their lectures, **Wesley’s faculty unlocked the Holy Scriptures and the church’s history, traditions and theology to clarify these Gospel imperatives.** These presentations are available at www.youtube.com/c/wesleyseminaryedu and via live stream at www.ustream.tv/channel/wesleyseminary. Sign up for the monthly electronic newsletter *eCalling* at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling to be reminded of this opportunity.

Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu about the exciting ways Wesley’s resources are equipping people to spread the love of God and love of neighbor.

--The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

Dear Colleagues in the Memphis Annual Conference:

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! In this anniversary year, Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) celebrates 175 years of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. We especially celebrate our students, alums, and church partners, with whom we seek to serve God as transforming leaders in a multitude of local and global communities.

BREAKING NEWS

- The **Doctor of Ministry in Transformational Leadership** is well underway with outstanding students and eager teachers. In its first year, the program has attracted two cohorts of students from three countries, eight faith traditions, and a variety of church, educational, health care, and other faith-based contexts.
- BUSTH celebrated art and creativity with four major **art exhibits and receptions**: James Crane's *motive* cartoons; Robin Miller's "African America in Art and Poetry"; John August Swanson's poster art; and Beth Neville's paintings.
- The **STEWARDSHIP program**, funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, is preparing students for stewardship of all of life, including spiritual, physical, and financial life.
- **Raices Latinas**, funded in part by the United Methodist Church Young Clergy Initiative, has begun! It invites and supports Latino/a young adults toward a life-giving journey in ministry. BUSTH also works closely with the UMC in leadership of the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy. Both focus on education, mentoring, service learning, and spiritual formation.

MILESTONES

- **175 Years:** The founders of BUSTH were abolitionists, pastors, and lay leaders who envisioned a school to carry the spiritually rich, socially transformative, leadership-forming legacy that centered their own lives. Our annual theme, *Leading in Transformation*, honors that vision and reflects on how to reshape it in response to changing social realities.
- **Women in the World:** This year, the Anna Howard Shaw Center celebrates 30 years of its Women in the World Conference, a witness to women's leadership in the church and a celebration of their brave, audacious ministries.

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

- **Partnering in transformational learning** through courses in congregations with church leaders and students together.
- **Serving the church** through workshops and mutual projects, especially in church renewal, mission, and the cultivation of difficult conversations that enhance dignity and justice.
- **Traveling across the globe** through seminars where students engage with diverse cultures and traditions. In this year, students and faculty have explored the Arizona-Mexico Border, Israel and Palestine, Ephesus, and Mexico.

CELEBRATING JUSTICE: From Selma in 1965 to the Arizona-Mexico border and the streets of U.S. cities, we celebrate transformational leadership and explore paths to just peace.

- **Retracing history** by commemorating civil rights milestones with: Walter Fluker, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership; and a panel of alumni and faculty on "Selma at 50, Ferguson Today."
- **Moving forward** to understand and build justice, engaging with Cornell William Brooks—BUSTH alumnus and President of the NAACP—and with our students, faculty, and alumni who seek to build justice in Boston, Ferguson, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Uganda, and beyond.

As we look back on the last year—and the last 175 years—we celebrate transformational leaders who have loved God and cared mightily for God's world. Their living legacy gives us hope and courage for the future. Blessings and gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Moore



**Report to Annual Conferences
Of The United Methodist Church**
By Wendy J. Deichmann, President

Is God calling you to the ministry of Jesus Christ? Come and check out amazing opportunities for study and spiritual growth in person or online at www.united.edu!

Why United?

- United offers an excellent, accredited M.Div. degree required for ordination in The United Methodist Church.
- United students participate in a community of deep faith and avid learning.
- Degree programs include traditional and/or online classes.
- United specializes in preparing persons for ordination and pastoral ministry.
- Join our graduates' long track record of successful service!
- United's focus on church renewal will prepare you to become an agent of new life and revitalization, Spirit led, a faithful leader in the mission of Jesus Christ!
- At United you can enroll in a hybrid UM Course of Study program.
- United's D.Min. Program leads the nation through the faithful ministries of its pastoral graduates.
- United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

What could be more interesting, important or exciting?

In addition to expanding residential offerings in Dayton, Ohio, United continues to extend its service across the U.S. and the world. United's degree programs are accessible anywhere with Internet service in conjunction with periodic intensive weeks of class and community activities in Dayton.

Please let us know if you have questions about how United can best assist you.

If you would like to help make it possible for a future pastor to study at United, please let us hear from you.

We invite you to call or visit soon! For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu.

Thank you for your prayers, partnership, service and support in the ministry of Jesus Christ! www.united.edu

ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe, President and Chief Executive Officer

Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

The Iliff School of Theology's commitment to the Wesleyan tradition of providing intellectually alive and spiritually grounded theological education for our students continues. From Tanzania to Texas, Denver to Delhi, Missouri to Mexico, Iliff students and graduates are holding constructive tension with the human condition as it is and courageously standing with those who seek justice.

This past year saw one of Iliff's largest enrollments since its founding by the United Methodist Church in 1892 - 333 students, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist - all actively engaged in both the classroom and a host of ministry contexts. Some are leading congregations toward revitalization while others are doing ministry by establishing new forms of community.

Interest in online and hybrid classes continues to grow from across the nation in our Journey MDIV Program - one of the first to bring quality theological education online. As a concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities, many MDIV students are also participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

We welcomed participants to our first Spanish-Speaking Local Pastors Licensing School hosted in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Conference and participated in healing events for commemoration of the Sand Creek Massacre. In addition, Iliff students participated in an immersion trip to Africa University and are planning an additional experience this year. We look forward to continuing these vital relationships.

Iliff created numerous events for area clergy and supporters. Via forums on leadership, policing, the role of faith in world events, and more, campus speakers included: Amy Goodman, Garry Kasparov, and the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp, this year's Jameson Jones Preacher. Bridging theological education to new arenas was further cultivated through Iliff's Authentic Engagement™ Program with trainings for civic and non-profit groups. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary's Center for Faith and Service when we were named as one of the nation's "Seminaries That Change the World."

We continue to look to the future with courageous theological imagination. We are grateful for our denominational connection.

www.iliff.edu

1-877-887-7822

MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Daniel J. Earheart-Brown, Ph.D., President and Professor of Theology

Memphis Theological Seminary (MTS) is an ecumenical graduate school of religion that provides theological education for 300+ students each semester, representing close to 30 denominations. The seminary is accredited by SACS and ATS and is **approved by the University Senate** to prepare ordained leaders for the United Methodist Church. In any given semester, total enrollment includes 25-35% Methodist students, by far the largest denominational percentage.

Curriculum for United Methodist Students

In addition to the seminary's core curriculum, many courses are offered specifically for Methodist students, such as "Wesleyan Theology of the Means of Grace," "Evangelism and Discipleship in the Wesleyan Tradition," "Women in Methodist History," "Pastoral Care in the Wesleyan Tradition" and "The Practical Theology of John Wesley." MTS also offers the required sequence in United Methodist history, doctrine, & polity on a yearly basis.

New Initiative: The Methodist House of Studies

Over the past 18 months, MTS has been developing a major new initiative – the **Methodist House of Studies**. Under the direction of Dr. Andrew C. Thompson, the Methodist House of Studies serves as a "community within the community" of MTS, where our Methodist students can take advantage of the best in Wesleyan theological formation within the seminary's richly ecumenical context.

New Initiative: Certificate in Wesleyan Studies

A central programmatic element of the Methodist House is the new **Certificate in Wesleyan Studies**, which is available to any student who successfully completes a prescribed curriculum within one of our master's-level degree programs. The certificate is geared towards coursework in Wesleyan theology, history, and pastoral ministry. Students who earn the certificate will have demonstrated a commitment to the study of the Wesleyan tradition at a high level of excellence. At our graduation exercises in May 2015, we anticipate awarding the Certificate in Wesleyan Studies to the first four recipients—all of whom have shown great passion for studying the history and theology of the Wesleyan tradition during their time at MTS.

On-going partnership with the United Methodist Church

Of the full-time teaching faculty of 13, four are United Methodist: Dr. Lee Ramsey, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics; Dr. Andrew C. Thompson, Assistant Professor of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies; Dr. John Kilzer, Director of the Center for Recovery Ministries; and Rev. Billy Vaughan, Director of the Formation for Ministry program.

Our board of trustees has 24 members, three of whom are United Methodist, representing the Annual Conferences we primarily serve: Rev. Rick Kirchoff (Memphis), Rev. Robert Marble (Arkansas), and Mr. Johnnie Coombs (Mississippi).

Jesus taught us the importance of a solid foundation for any building. Here at MTS, we are building faith and skills for ministry in the men and women God is calling to serve the church. It is my prayer and my commitment that we build on the solid foundation of the gospel, staying grounded in tradition and open to the Spirit. We are grateful for your partnership and support in this essential work.

DIVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

B. Andrew Halford, Chair

bandrewhalford@comcast.net and 270.444.6065

The purpose of the Division of Higher Education in the Memphis Annual Conference is to oversee the five campus ministries: Murray State University; University of Memphis; University of Memphis, Lambuth Campus; University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center; University of Tennessee, Martin.

On November 5, 2013, the Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministries met with Bishop McAlilly and representatives from the Tennessee Conference in Nashville as we considered answering God's call as part of campus ministry. Exciting ministry is taking place at the campus ministries in the Memphis Annual Conference.

At Murray State University, Wesley is busy making disciples of Jesus Christ. Worship on Tuesday evenings has brought thirty on average; Wednesday evenings focus on Bible Study. Fall Break took the students to Nashville to work ministries such as Open Table and Thistle Farm. Local missions led to a supply pantry for students with classroom and living needs other than food. Students have for me ASL sign worship team and are responding to God's call to ministry and to share their faith stories.

At University of Memphis, the significant "rebooting" of the program began with the repair of Wesley House inside and outside for welcoming students. Perhaps the most meaningful repair was the transformation of Hampton Chapel from a meditation room into a place of worship. The weekly home cooked meals and the worship each week have once again become the foremost outreach for the predominately commuter students. The fall semester began with Rev. Bridgette Young Ross, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, serving as a consultant. An average of thirty-five students have participated at each the ministries.

At the University of Memphis, Lambuth, over 50 students have regularly participated in the ministries. The historic quadrangle of the Lambuth campus was the focus of the first outdoor worship event. The ministries at Wesley continued with *God's Text*, a study of the Book of Mark; with a discussion group known as "He-Brews;" and with a Fall Retreat, "Reading the Signs of Your Life," at Lakeshore. The spring semester began with the second "Blessing of the Semester" with forty students and twenty faculty and staff. A Spring Break project involved refurbishing a room at Lambuth Memorial used as part of a mentoring program.

The Wesley Foundation at the University of Tennessee at Martin has undergone a transformation from the Interfaith Student Center to Wesley at UT Martin which is part of the programming and ministry through Martin First United Methodist Church (FUMC). The ministries have included Monday evening meal and worship led by resident managers; Table Talk on Tuesdays at lunch with a focus on current issues and the Christian response; a College Wesley Small Group at FUMC; and a Thursday Late Night Bible Study at 9 pm. Wesley took a Christmas Break Mission trip to Memphis for an Urban Immersion Mission Experience. The Spirit is moving through the transformed Wesley Foundation as students have received God's call to ministry and have been involved in the programs.

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
UNITED METHODIST CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Rev. Jonathan C. Lewis, BCC, Chaplain and Campus Minister

jonathan.lewis@mlh.org (901) 516-3735

At the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis, the United Methodist campus ministry continues to grow and explore new opportunities. In March of 2011, Jonathan Lewis started as the campus minister there, and he continues to serve in that position. Jonathan is also a full time staff chaplain with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH) at Methodist South Hospital.

UTHSC is entirely composed of graduate schools, all of them specializing in some form of health science – from dentistry to medicine to nursing to laboratory science and much more. Jonathan relates well to UTHSC because of his own daily immersion in the hospital and healthcare setting, where he ministers to patients, families, and medical professionals of all kinds. Currently, Jonathan is on campus at UTHSC about one afternoon a week. He spends this time walking the campus, visiting with students and staff, and working on a devotional that he sends out by email. Jonathan is also available to UTHSC by email or phone at all times, and he continues to be present at all of the orientation fairs to greet and welcome incoming students each spring and summer.

Other efforts of the campus ministry include...

- **Mission and Service Opportunities** – In the Summer of 2014, Jonathan and several UTHSC students participated in the “Stop Hunger Now” event sponsored by Memphis Interfaith, where thousands of meals were packaged and sent to people in need around the world. Also this year, Jonathan has publicized several United Methodist mission trips going to Kenya and Honduras in the hopes of recruiting students to participate. The Kenya trip in particular presents opportunities for growth and relationship. There are plans to deepen the relationship between the Kenya mission’s team at Germantown United Methodist, the ministries happening on the ground in Kenya, and UTHSC.
- **Crisis Support, Counseling, and Mental Health** – The campus ministry is in partnership with University Health Services to meet the mental and spiritual needs of students, faculty, and staff. This may include pastoral counseling, crisis support, grief intervention, anxiety management, and requests for prayer ministry.
- **Education and Interaction** – Currently, Jonathan is exploring the possibility of connecting UTHSC with the important and exciting work of MLH’s Center of Excellence in Faith and Health. The resources there can be a great asset to the UTHSC community, and this initiative would also offer an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between MLH and UTHSC. Also, the Church Health Center in Memphis offers a series of classes called “Serving The Underserved” that engages UTHSC students about the social determinants of health, community healthcare in impoverished areas, and even self-care practices for healthcare professionals. The Church Health Center has partnered with the United Methodist campus ministry by allowing Jonathan to help organize and facilitate these class sessions, and we help sponsor the operation costs. Additionally, the campus ministry has sponsored students to attend local educational talks and community service celebrations. Also, in December of 2014, Jonathan was invited to deliver the invocation and benediction at UTHSC’s winter commencement ceremonies for the second consecutive year.

There is much excitement about what is possible at UTHSC as God continues to minister there through the United Methodist Church, its ministers, and members.

The Wesley Foundation
University of Memphis, Lambuth Campus
Rev. Steven Fonville, Director
Rev. Dr. Gary C. Morse, Chair

The 2014-2015 academic year has been a time of blessing for the continuing ministry on the U of M Lambuth Campus. During the spring of 2014 we saw our first group of student leaders graduate. With new leadership, we welcomed the largest freshmen class to join the new "Lambuth" campus. As a result we saw 64 students regularly attend our variety of worship events, 30 of those being freshmen. Average worship attendance held steady at 24, and 19 in *God's Text*-Bible Study seeking to equip our students to live out their calling as children of God. During the fall semester we remade our spiritual formation group into a student driven curriculum where students are free to ask any question that relates to faith, life, and God; seeing as many as a dozen students, and regularly hosting students who self-identify as non-Christian and agnostic.

During the spring semester the Wesley Foundation hosted its third annual *Blessing of the Semester* at the R.E. Womack Memorial Chapel on the U of M Lambuth campus. Faculty and staff joined students in worship asking God's blessing on the new academic year, while raising funds for *Imagine No Malaria*. The Wesley Foundation also hosted an Inter-faith discussion between Muslim and Christian students. Students also reached out to Wesley Jackson Highlands providing Easter baskets to residents, and volunteered to do a spring yard clean-up for the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Bill Vaughan, long time Lambuth supporter, and dedicated supporter of the new Methodist presence at "Lambuth." Likewise, students volunteered to join with the Hope Center of Jackson to provide meals in their weekly "The Table" ministry in the Hollywood Street community of Jackson.

As the University of Memphis Lambuth campus anticipates its largest enrollment in the fall of 2015 the Wesley Foundation hopes to continue the long term commitment Methodism has had in the Jackson educational community. Partnered with the Lambuth Memorial Congregation, and the U of M, the Wesley Foundation looks forward to a vibrant future that will continue to shape lives through service and faith in a hurting world.

Murray State Wesley Foundation

Leah Howe, Director

Murray State Wesley Foundation This year at the Murray State Wesley Foundation has been a time of growth for our students as disciples of Christ. This past year we have averaged between thirty and thirty- five students at our worship services, small groups, mission projects, and other fellowship activities. In our worship service, we have seen our students take on more leaderships roles beyond participation in the praise band. We have had students feel call to give their testimony and even have students who have felt called by God to give a message.

Our small groups this year have been influenced by Wesley's class meetings. The groups meet together in groups of seven or eight, and have a series of questions they answer each week and hold each other accountable in love. These groups have built strong relationships and walk with each other through everything that life brings.

Our missions this year have focused on raising money and awareness for the Imagine No Malaria campaign, collecting toilet paper for a local charity called Operation Blessings, and Manna House in Memphis. Our spring break mission trip was to Memphis. We spent the week working with Manna House. It was very eye opening for all the students involved. The students came back with a renew spirit to continue to support Manna House and to look for ways to reach the homeless population within our area.

We are blessed to have seven students participating in the Generative Leadership Academy this year. These students are future strong leaders within our congregations. We look forward to attending the other sessions of the GLA and growing in our leadership abilities.

Overall, it has been a blessed year at Murray State Wesley Foundation. We are excited about what God has done, what God is doing, and what God is going to do.

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Wesley Foundation
University of Tennessee at Martin
A Ministry of Martin First United Methodist Church

Beth Brown, Board Chair, Rebecca Alexander, Director
Rev. Randy Cooper, Pastor of Martin FUMC

The Wesley Foundation is a ministry on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin and a ministry of Martin First United Methodist Church that seeks to provide a place of spiritual growth and community for young adults while striving to produce a culture of call on campus and among this generation.

After we spent last year re-envisioning our ministry on the campus, we began this year with a ministry model that was built primarily on the Memphis Annual Conference's Four Areas of Focus. As the very nature of campus ministry lends itself *to investing in young people*, we went even further to extend our hospitality to the campus. We reached out to every incoming freshman, as well as offering United Methodist students the opportunity to participate in Freshly Wesley. Participants in Freshly Wesley moved into their dorms early and had the opportunity to interact with current Wesley students, with Martin FUMC family, and serve their campus by helping with Freshmen Move In, all before Freshmen Orientation even began. We were pleased to have a great turnout for our first year and half of those students have remained active in campus ministry.

With Census Bureau reporting in 2013 that 51.8% of college students are living in poverty, it has always been clear to the Wesley family that our *engagement in the mission field* begins directly on campus. After paying for books and tuition, many students are left without money to meet their basic needs. Led by the vision of a member of Martin First United Methodist Church, we saw the beginning of the Wesley Clothes Closet in the fall semester. A large vacant closet was redone to handle donations of clothing from the community specifically for college students. Wesley students receive the donations, sort them, hang them, and change them out with the seasons. Everyday clothing is available, as well as business attire that students need for presentations, interviews, internships, student teaching, etc. On top of providing a free meal for students every Monday evening and Martin FUMC providing a free meal for college students on Wednesday evenings, Wesley also provides a food pantry for students to come and get small meals and snacks as needed.

In an effort *to create transforming lay and clergy leaders*, our primary focus of our Monday Night Wesley Worship and Late Night Bible Study this past two semesters has been discipleship. In an effort to faithfully follow Jesus Christ with our whole lives, we have seen a movement of the Holy Spirit in the lives of students who have risen to roles of leadership and Christian service. Spring graduation saw us send off our first student to seminary. Worship is now student led by a newly formed worship band, Students are volunteering in the youth and children ministry department at Martin First United Methodist Church leading small groups and teaching. While one student has recently taken on a youth ministry position in a local United Methodist Church, two other students are currently exploring a call to ministry.

The constant work of campus ministry is to bring students into meaningful relationship with the church, as well as Christ. In a time when young adults are almost expected to fall away from church life, it is imperative the campus ministry be about the work of *growing fruitful and faithful church members*. In order to do this, Wesley is in close relationship with Martin First United Methodist Church making sure that students feel loved and welcomed by the church. This year following a free fellowship meal on Wednesday evening, a college small group is led by a church member, as well as College Sunday School class being led by church members as well. We praise God that this year we witnessed a Wesley Student receive Christian Baptism, another student joining the church, and numerous others faithfully attending services at various churches. It is an exciting time to be in ministry with young adults and we covet your prayers as well strive to do the will of God on the UTM campus.

Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.

Jack Ewing, Executive Director

On February 10, 2015 Lake Junaluska, the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, the United States, and the world lost a great leader. Rev. Dr. R. Wright Spears died at the age of 102. He served as a pastor to multiple churches in South Carolina and as the President of Columbia College for 26 years, a time during which he helped that institution navigate momentous social changes. Dr. Spears and his wife Mary Blue retired to Lake Junaluska in 1977 where he continued to promote social justice in all forms. Few organizations have in their history a person as influential as Dr. Spears. He had a vision for Lake Junaluska, and spent his years here quietly encouraging us all to more fully live into the Kingdom of God through our mission of Christian hospitality. Arguably the most influential person at Lake Junaluska in the last 50 years, in both formal leadership roles and quiet behind the scenes work, he understood the importance of balancing the budget while offering a great experience to our guests. He urged us to offer great programming, and at the age of 95 was instrumental in launching the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference. Dr. Spears understood that offering Christian hospitality goes beyond simply welcoming our paying customers. At our best, we are what he envisioned us to be: a place that welcomes all and provides transforming and renewing spiritual experiences and a place that pays attention to the bottom line and is operated more like a college than a church camp. We have a long way to go to be the perfect fulfillment of Wright's vision for Lake Junaluska, but we are further along that path today and more inspired to fulfill our mission "to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body" than ever thanks to his influence.

For the third year in a row, we ended the year "in the black." We continue to accomplish this without any Operational Apportionment support from the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and we remain committed to always "live within our means." 2014 was a record breaking year for charitable giving. We received \$1,079,994 from 1,257 individuals. This represents a 34.4% increase in total giving over 2013 and a 2.6% increase in number of donors.

We continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our facilities, grounds, and programs. Plans were approved in 2014 to begin an extensive renovation of The Terrace hotel, a project that will have a significant impact on the quality of the guest rooms and public spaces in that facility and will influence the level of service provided to all of our lodging guests. We completed all of the projects planned in 2013 including converting the Jones Dining Hall into a year round facility, renovating the children's playground at the Wilson Children's Building, and numerous improvements to the lake front consisting of a new boat storage area along with a boat dock and fishing pier just to the north of the swimming pool and a beautiful meditation garden to the south. We are working diligently to refine and improve our existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with our mission.

As a member of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction we want you to know that "your" asset, Lake Junaluska, is doing very well. You can be very proud of this important organization within the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church. We are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which you have entrusted us and to carry on the legacy of Dr. Wright Spears.

If you haven't already, please pick up a copy of our 2015 program, *Discover Lake Junaluska*. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of our programs, to learn about new projects we are working on, and to familiarize yourself with our calendar of events. We do hope you can come and visit us this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

Author: Jack Ewing, Executive Director 828-454-6701

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Larry Kaler, Chair

The Purpose of the Board of Trustees is to receive, hold in trust, buy and sell real and personal property and to invest funds, if any, as prescribed in The Book of Discipline, 2012, Section IV. Annual Conference Property, ¶ 2512. 1 – 8, in the name of and on behalf of the Memphis Annual Conference. Additionally, pursuant to ¶2517 *Responsibilities of Annual Conference Trustees Related to Health and Welfare Institutions*, the Conference Trustees have the responsibility of establishing and maintaining statements of relationship between the Conference and related health and welfare organizations within the bounds of the Conference.

The Board of Trustees currently supports the mission of the Memphis Conference in providing for facilities of ministry outreach at three university campuses and the conference office.

The Board of Trustees oversees and/or contributes to the maintenance of six properties on behalf of the conference and provides assistance to the districts in completing property transactions approved by prior Annual Conference resolutions. It provides guidance and information as requested in matters pertaining to the full range of former and current property issues.

The Trustees hold the following campus ministry facilities: Murray State University Wesley Foundation, University of Memphis Wesley Foundation and University of Tennessee-Martin Wesley Foundation and Director's parsonage.

Since last annual conference, the Dyersburg District parsonage was sold to Dyersburg First United Methodist Church; the Communities of Hope (formerly St. Andrews UMC – Jackson) was transferred to Northside United Methodist Church (J); and the conference's interests in Diamond Grove Methodist Episcopal South Church (closed at the 1965 Annual Conference) were sold to a private individual. Sincere thanks to Kevin Floyd, Memphis Conference Chancellor-Tennessee, for his counsel and legal work in these transactions.

The Trustees budget request for 2016 was submitted to CF&A with a decrease of \$24,000 or 23.3% less than the 2015 budget.

COMMUNICATIONS ACTION TEAM

Carla Taylor, Chair

The Communications Action Team met in October of 2014 to review our current communications and to set goals for the upcoming year. The current vehicles of communications that are working well are the conference website, free weekly eNews, and social media outlets. In early 2015 we have added Instagram to our Facebook and Twitter social media presence.

When we met, we discussed our bimonthly, free printable paper, "Circuit Writer," sent electronically to conference churches. Using feedback from a request for input from readers, it was decided to make the "Circuit Writer" a quarterly paper, beginning in 2015 and to change the focus to stories of mission, ministry and transformation. The paper will no longer include news and events because that information is satisfactorily covered via website, weekly eNews and social media. The revised paper is now more feature-filled. It requires less hours to prepare and less pages.

The Communications Action Team empowered the conference's director of communications to produce an Emergency Response Guide for churches/agencies that was first distributed in August 2013 to district superintendents. The district superintendents were asked to distribute and promote the guide to their churches. When our team met in 2014, we decided no updates were needed to the guide in 2014, but the team agreed the document should be redistributed to district superintendents AND to district lay resource leaders. That occurred on Oct. 30, 2014.

Our staff associate for technical communications continues to review the progress and developments related to technology alignment with Tennessee Conference and General Council on Finance and Administration. As part of the technology vision for the conference, our team voted to proceed with purchasing Zoom meeting software (for the conference) at a cost of approximately \$10 a month to begin setting a good example for cost-effective interaction by conference groups/teams/committees to conduct planning, coordination and training sessions. The team agreed that an meeting format should be considered for purposes of pre-conference briefings for new and returning annual conference delegates.

The team recognized that there are a number of blogs by Memphis Conference clergy that should, in the interest of sharing different faith viewpoints on current events, be shared via conference communications. In February a link to a list of faith-themed blogs by active and retired clergy was placed on the conference website.

The team applauds the districts for their stepped-up regular communications (mostly via eNews), a development of the last few years. While the districts all have different communication content and frequency, their efforts are important for sharing and reinforcing conference news and events.

Our team sponsored a communications clinic for churches (with speaker Scott Vaughan) in April 2014. It was well attended and considered a success! It was decided, however, that the next round of training needs to be district-by-district for church communicators, pastors, and staff to provide a platform for district-specific news from our director of communications, associate for technical communications and district administrative assistants.

Many stories from our conference continue to be picked up by United Methodist News Service and secular media.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE ARCHIVES 2015

Ann Robbins Phillips, Archivist/Historian
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The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2012 states that the Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History's duties are "to collect, preserve, and make accessible the historically significant records of the annual conference and its agencies ...to maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository and to see that all items that obviously will have value for future history are properly preserved therein." [P641.1]

Since last year the Conference Archives has made progress in several areas. Ten new Closed Church boxes have been added or sorted and labeled. The files of Memoirs are up to date and stacks of local church materials have been sorted, photocopied and filed. There have been 38 research questions completed by phone, email, visits or letter. Some required minutes, others were lengthy and required on-site research. We have had one visiting author working on a manuscript and are still in contact with him for ongoing questions.

Our collection of microfilm of *Western Advocate*, *Nashville Christian Advocate* and other publications, manuscripts and histories has been moved to the Tennessee Conference Archives where a full time staff with reader-printers can answer requests quickly. There are numerous requests because the abstracts of our collection are on-line and available to the general public, thanks to a dedicated historian, Jonathan K. Smith, who read and indexed every reel. Search for *Nashville Christian Advocate* to access them.

The Archives has a section on the Memphis Conference web site which contains our brochure listing the major collections of materials available to researchers. At present we are struggling with the new Brick River set up to complete the "archive" of closed and active churches. The historic clergy archive remains a "work in progress" on my computer, but will eventually be added to the web site.

Our digital photo file has increased to 500 ministers, many from the 1875 composite made by the conference plus all of the 1906 autobiographers. Others have been added as we answer requests for *Journal* pictures from churches. There is also a file of pictures of all of our bishops.

The handwritten preacher autobiographies from the 1906 questionnaire have been transcribed into Word documents. There are now computer files for 218 preachers with pictures and obituaries. These are available to anyone by email. Hopefully they will be on-line by next year.

The major announcement from the Archives this year is the addition of the ALL of the *Journals* from 1862 – 2013, professionally scanned and on-line. They are also searchable. On the web site, click on Archives at the bottom. The *Journals* are in the list of contents on the left.

The Archives is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 1:30. Other times can be arranged by appointment. There is no charge for copies to churches or ministers. Volunteers are welcomed and many tasks are available.

Special Day Requests for 2016

General Conference Authorized Observances with Offerings: (§262 and §263 The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church)

Human Relations Day - January 17, 2016

Calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. Receipts shall be divided among Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services Program, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

One Great Hour of Sharing - March 6, 2016

A special offering for disaster and emergency relief administered by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Native American Ministries Sunday - April 10, 2016

Reminds the Church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. One-half of the offering remains in the Annual Conference to be administered by the Committee on Missions with the remainder divided between the Board of Higher Education and Ministry for scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist Schools of Theology and the General Board of Global Ministries for the Native American Urban Initiative.

Peace with Justice Sunday - May 22, 2016

Witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. An offering shall be received for Peace with Justice Ministries, including the education work of the General Board of Church and Society for Peace with Justice ministries; the annual conference treasurer shall divide the receipts, retaining 50% of the offering for Peace with Justice Ministries in the annual conference to be administered by the annual conference Board of Church and Society.

World Communion Sunday - October 2, 2016

Provides support for Crusade Scholarships, Ethnic Scholarship Program, and Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

United Methodist Student Day - November 27, 2016

Calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. Provides support for United Methodist Scholarships and the United Methodist Loan Fund.

Conference Special Days Request with Offerings:

Sunglasses Sunday - February 7, 2016

In support of Project 20/20 local churches will be asked to receive used sunglasses and an offering to be used in processing the glasses and getting them to people in need.

Youth Service Fund Sunday - March 13, 2016

Youth Service Fund is money raised by youth and administered by youth to benefit youth in need. YSF enables youth to be disciples of Christ in helping others. YSF is more than money; it is helping our brothers and sisters in need in our conference, our nation and our world.

Golden Cross Sunday - May 1, 2016

A day that recognizes the conference ministry to the elderly - Wesley Senior Ministries. The Golden Cross Offering provides support for the residents of our Wesley communities throughout the Memphis Annual Conference in the way of rent, food and medical emergencies. Know that 100% of your gift directly touches the lives of our elderly residents, "our greatest generation".

Lakeshore Camping Scholarship Day - June 12, 2016

In an effort to be inclusive across socio-economic and ethnic lines, our Camp and Retreat Ministry program has been opening doors. Approximately 16% of our camper base requires scholarship assistance and that amount is growing annually. All the proceeds for this offering will go directly to provide scholarships. No administrative costs will be assessed. Along with regular camp scholarships, funds will support the following programs: Urban Issues Camp, Developmentally Disabled Camp, Camp Hope, Camp Teen Hope, Camp Grace, Camp Peace, and Camp Love.

Paducah Cooperative Ministry ~ July 24, 2016

seek to do God's Work with Human Hands by drawing together individuals and congregations to respond to basic human needs and conditions by providing programs in the following in the Paducah area: emergency relief, emergency food pantry, commodity supplemental food, emergency meal-on-wheels, homeless shelter and extended care housing programs.

Christian Education Sunday - August 7, 2016

A day to celebrate the Sunday School and small group ministries; recognize leaders and lift up the importance of Christian Education. The offering is used by the Conference Connectional Ministries Office to purchase resource materials for the Conference Resource Center.

Conference Advance Special Day – September 4, 2016

Invites churches in the Memphis Annual Conference to support one or several approved ministries within our conference by taking a special offering on this Sunday. Be sure to include the Conference Advance Number and the offering amount for each contribution.

Grace Place Church (Missional Church) ~ September 25, 2016

A vibrant and unique prison ministry at the Memphis Correctional Facility for Women. It is the embodiment of the Gospel and has experienced steady growth as it empowers those incarcerated to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to live out their call to discipleship in and outside of prison.

Disability Awareness Sunday – October 9, 2016

To celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and to call for full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. Funds donated will go to support – Asbury Communities of Tennessee (ACT) whose mission is to provide a secure living environment for adults with developmental disabilities, regardless of faith or denomination. The group seeks to provide nurturing homes in which these adults may live purposeful and meaningful lives, that their families may know loving persons of faith will always care for them.

Reelfoot Rural Ministries Sunday – October 23, 2016

Reelfoot Rural Ministries provides numerous spiritual and social services for low-income families, children and the elderly in rural northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky.

PARTNER'S IN PERMANENCY – October 30, 2016

Hannah's Hope

A place to belong, to call home, to be loved “no matter what,” is as essential to our emotional well-being as food, water and shelter is for our physical health. With the mission of “promoting permanency for children through strengthening commitment, planning and parenting,” Hannah's Hope is striving to serve those children in the West Tennessee area who suffer from a lack of permanency. Through programs to enrich parenting skills and efforts to raise corporate consciousness to the need for “forever homes,” many children will benefit and thrive.

Western Kentucky Family Services Inc.

A Christian ministry committed to providing a safe haven to foster children until they reach permanency. Both basic and therapeutic (children who are either medically fragile or who have severe acting out behaviors due to abuse and/or neglect) foster care are provided within the Purchase Region. The agency facilitates foster care adoptions and conducts international home studies for persons wanting to adopt children from other countries.

Memphis United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, December 4, 2016

Supports the work of the Neighborhood Centers in Memphis – a ministry of presence and support among the poor and marginalized.

World Hunger Offering February 10 to March 27, 2016

Taken during the Lenten season or another time during the year chosen by each congregation. Supports world hunger ministries including United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Potato Project. Also provides support for conference hunger projects including Hunters for the Hungry, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers in Memphis and Reelfoot Rural Ministry, and district projects and food banks.

III. **General Conference Authorized Days without OFFERINGS (¶264 The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church)**

Heritage Sunday - May 22, 2016

To call the church to remember the past by committing itself to God's continuing call.

Laity Sunday - October 16, 2016

To celebrate the ministry of all Christians as their lives are empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit.

Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday - November 13, 2016

To celebrate the gift of life by including the topic of organ and tissue donation in the worship service.

IV. **Annual Conference Authorized Days Without Offerings**

Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns - January 10, 2016

To develop Christian unity through prayer and fellowship.

African-American Sunday - February 7, 2016

To celebrate the historical contributions of African Americans to the worship life, mission and ministry of the church.

Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) Awareness Sunday – August 28, 2016

To celebrate and confirm the role of women, lay and clergy, in all areas of ministry across the church while embracing their goal of full and equal participation.

Vocation Day: Hearing God’s Call to Ordained Ministry – September 4, 2016

To celebrate God’s claim on our lives with particular emphasis on being called into the ordained ministry and hearing clergy share their own call.

Drug and Alcohol Concerns Sunday - November 6, 2016