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Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of local congregations of The United Methodist Church. Thank you to the leaders and members of the Memphis Conference for prioritizing Africa University with the contribution of 80 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018. The students, faculty, and staff value every gift. For the university community, the 3.37 percent increase in support in 2018 is especially encouraging and indicative of the sacrifices that are being made as the Memphis Conference strives to achieve 100 percent support for the AUF.

Through its investment in the Africa University Fund, the Memphis Conference continues to affirm the university’s core mission of nurturing leaders who help communities to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health. Thank you, Memphis United Methodists, for your steadfast commitment and strong support.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions. Africa University’s women graduates are emerging as the change leaders of their generation, whether empowering victims of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo or working alongside rural women to establish and operate community-based telecommunications infrastructure and provide internet connectivity to underserved communities across Africa.

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

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

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

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

The students, faculty, administrators and trustees of Africa University thank the members of the Memphis Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain this ministry. Thank you for all that you have sown into Africa University over the past 27 years. As Africa University and the Memphis Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God’s unending grace for the increase.
Bethel Wesley Foundation  
LaTricia Trull Campus Minister  

Student Council Board  
Brooke Cagle - President  
Ashley Powers - Vice President  
Brooke Cagle & Ashley Powers - Worship Leaders

Thank you, Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, for your support, encouragement and guidance. The 2018-2019 academic year has been a great time of growth for the Bethel Wesley Foundation and your willingness to walk beside us has played a tremendous part. This year God truly revealed to our Bethel Wesley Family who we are and what we are called to do.

A very special thank you to Brooke Cagle and Ashley Powers. Your leadership in this ministry continues to shape us into a God centered ministry focused on what it means to serve Christ in the world around us. Brooke and Ashley are both seniors this year and will be leaving us soon. They have sought the Lord and prayed faithfully to equip and encourage leadership for the next year and for that I also give thanks. You have left a living legacy in our Wesley family and trust that we will continue to see you as Wesley Alumni.

The Bethel Wesley Foundation continues to grow in number and in service to the church and community. In the Fall Semester of 2018 we were blessed with the opportunity to serve as missionaries, led by Dr. Joe Geary and Mrs Elyse Bell, to Mexico. We had 9 members participate and this experience has changed the future of many. Upon returning one of our students joined McKenzie First United Methodist Church.
Currently we have another student exploring the call to ministry in the United Methodist Church. All praise to God!!

Our commitment to Bethel University continues to provide opportunities to be in ministry and to be present on campus. Bethel Wesley Foundation hosted several events on campus to reach new students.

In just a few short weeks we will end this semester together with a short term mission trip to the Red Bird Mission in the Red Bird Conference. We currently have 13 students that will be joining with us to serve in our greater area.

I close by giving thanks to God and to each of you for allowing me the opportunity to play a small part in what God is doing at Bethel Wesley Foundation. As we look to the future we covet the prayers of the members of the Memphis Annual conference. Pray with us that we will continue to find ways to Discover, Equip, Connect and Send students in ministry to serve the world in Christ’s name and for his sake.

In his service,

Sis. LaTricia Trull
Campus Minister
Bethel Wesley Foundation
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, 2016, 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 has two regular meetings each year, spring and fall. The board also routinely conducts business via e-mail and phone conferences in order to minimize the impact of time and travel on the board members as well as to be effective and timely in its work.

The Board of Trustees oversees and/or contributes to the maintenance of four 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.

The Trustees voted to approve a property management and brokerage program with A. Anthony Corporation to effectively manage discontinued and abandoned churches across the Conference.

The Trustees budget proposal of $71,000 for 2020 was submitted to CF&A.
Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

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

**BREAKING NEWS:**

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

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

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

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

**TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

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

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

**COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE**: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

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

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

**OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:**

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

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

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

Blessings and gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean
Candler School of Theology—2019 UMC Annual Conference Report

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current uncertainty in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward from the Special Session of General Conference, we will continue to invite and welcome wholeheartedly those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

Candler is also privileged to be one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University in Atlanta. With the resources of a top-tier research institution and the reach of a global city, our students benefit from a rich academic and hands-on learning environment: The General Board of Global Ministries is in Atlanta, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Candler’s intentional involvement with our surrounding community has contributed to our inclusion on a list of “Seminaries that Change the World” for six years running. In short, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they’re enrolled—they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDIVs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.
Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded $5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100 percent of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

—Jan Love
Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology
I. The Council on Finance and Administration concurs with the Connectional Ministries Team regarding conference and general church special day observances. We also concur with the special day designated offerings.

II. We recommend that only under emergency conditions, as determined by the CFA in consultation with the bishop and the cabinet, shall funds be borrowed from an outside lender for current expenses. The maximum such borrowing shall be $250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand dollars).

III. The CFA recommends that it be authorized to act on requests for funds in those situations in which budgeted funds, as approved by the conference, are inadequate to meet emerging missional needs or unforeseen circumstances. Those requests which are approved shall be funded from the Conference Reserve Fund, and the amounts of the funding shall be reported to the conference (2016 Discipline p.612.7).

IV. We advise all agencies that the conference treasurer will be instructed to issue funds only up to the amount of the projected income for each fund for the year. Salary items shall be paid at full budgeted amounts, but the amounts remaining in the budgets after salaries are funded will be expended only up to the projected percentage of apportioned amounts that will be collected. Each group is responsible for proper allocation of its funds for the year, and no funds will be issued when the projected income ceiling has been reached, without prior approval of the Council on Finance and Administration.

V. We recommend approval of the Reserve Fund report of the Council on Finance and Administration. We further recommend acceptance of the audit report from the conference’s certified public accountant for 2018, and that the audit for 2019 be submitted no later than May 31, 2020.

VI. We recommend that all conference-authorized travel be reimbursed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claimant</th>
<th>IRS Rate (2019 .14 per mile)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Conference Staff/Conference Lay Leader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. Boards and agencies requesting funds must have their vouchers approved administratively as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claimant</th>
<th>Approving Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. District Superintendent</td>
<td>A. Bishop or CFA President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. CMT Staff and employees</td>
<td>B. CMT Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. CMT Committees</td>
<td>C. CMT Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Committee, Commission and Board members</td>
<td>D. Committee, Commission and Board Chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Treasurer</td>
<td>E. Bishop or CFA President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. CMT Director</td>
<td>F. Bishop or CFA President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. CFA President</td>
<td>G. Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. All others</td>
<td>H. Treasurer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9
VIII. All who are requesting funds of the conference for 2021 are asked to have their requests, in writing, to the conference treasurer by March 1, 2020. We request full disclosure of the income & expenses of the entities for 2019, along with a Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet) as of 12/31/19. Budget request for 2021 funds should also include detailed listing of reserve funds with & without donor restrictions and their application to current ministry needs.

IX. We request that each district submit to the CFA by March 1st, 2020, the budget request for 2021 funding. We request full disclosure of the income & expenses of the districts for 2019, along with a Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet) as of 12/31/19. An audit of the funds handled during the year 2019 is also requested before annual conference. Budget request for 2021 funds should also include detailed listing of reserve funds with & without donor restrictions and their application to current ministry needs. In order to continue the practice of alignment between the Tennessee and Memphis conference particularly within the cabinet, we recommend the districts work with the Episcopal Office to develop the same reserve policy adopted within the Tennessee Conference districts.

X. We would remind all conference entities of the provision in the 2016 Discipline, paragraph 614.5.a, which disallows special conference-wide funds appeals without prior approval of the Annual Conference upon CFA's recommendation.

XI. All items added to the conference budget at the annual conference session will become a part of the year’s budget under consideration, and will not be taken from the Conference Reserve Fund.

XII. The Director of the Conference Connectional Ministries Team and/or the Annual Conference Treasurer or their assigns shall serve as an ex-officio member of all special study committees authorized by the annual conference session.

XIII. The Conference Treasurer shall execute the policies established by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and in consultation with the Conference Investment Coordinating Committee, regarding the investment of funds and the regulation of cash flow.

a. All funds shall be invested following the Guidelines of the General Council on Finance and Administration wherever they may be relevant or applicable.

b. The objectives for the investment of conference funds shall include:
   (1) The preservation of the principal value of the investment
   (2) The investment should provide a reasonable rate of return
   (3) The investment should be invested, so far as is practical, with those agencies whose management policies are consistent with the Social Creed of the United Methodist Church.

c. The Treasurer shall report annually to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration the location and amounts of invested funds, and the earnings gained.

XIV. Moving expenses for those hired or appointed as district superintendents, CMT staff members, campus ministers, or CFA staff members will be paid by the conference. These payments will not include amounts for storage, packing materials or labor to pack.
a. Local churches may not reimburse a minister's professional expenses more than two months ahead of the prorated budget amount at any given time.

b. Expenses from January 1 to June 30 in any given year may not exceed 1/2 of the total annual budget amount for reimbursable expenses.

**BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

I. We recommend that the 2020 salary of each district superintendent, the program ministries director, and the conference treasurer be $85,000. (Treasurer salary will also include an amount equal to DS housing). We recommend that travel expenses for these positions be reported monthly by voucher for reimbursement. The Superintendent’s housing allowance shall be $30,000, an additional amount may be excluded from salary with CFA approval.

III. We recommend that the budget as presented in the “CFA Recommendation” column on the budget summary page of this document be approved, and that the fiscal year be designated as 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2020.

**TITHING/DIRECT BILL RECOMMENDATIONS**

I. We recommend the conference budget for 2020 be based on 10% Line 52t of the 2018 statistical report.

II. We recommend that all churches remit 10% of annual budget income as defined by line 52t which includes: Payment of pledges toward budget/annual spending plan
- Receipts in support of the annual budget/spending plan
- Interest on accounts used to support annual budget
- Funds received from facility rental or sale of church owned assets (i.e. furniture)
- Funds received from fundraisers used in support of annual budget

III. Income for the tithe formula does not include:
- Receipts from capital campaigns or interest from previous years’ campaign
- Receipts from memorials, endowments or bequest
- Receipts from sale of church owned land
- Receipts for benevolent causes such as Special Sunday offerings or designated donations given by individuals (pass through donations)

IV. To be considered a Titheing church, churches must remit their tithe monthly and remit at least 10% of line 52t on the 2019 statistical report.

V. Pension responsibility for a those who are serving in a clergy appointment whether fulltime or part-time, shall be allocated to the church, board, institution, or agency for which he or she is serving. The Direct Bill amounts for 2020 are:
- Fulltime 14% of plan compensation (Salary plus Housing)
- Part-time 6% of plan compensation
- Unpaid balances will be carried over at the end of the year

VI. We remind all pastors that the 2016 Discipline (par. 340.2(c)(2)(f) requires that all finances of the local church are to be reported to the conference

VII. The Conference Treasurer will close the 2019 books on by close of business on January 10th 2020.
## Memphis Conference Budget Summary

**2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Controlling Unit Summary</th>
<th>2018 Actual Expenditure</th>
<th>2018 Conference Approved</th>
<th>2019 Conference Approved</th>
<th>2020 CFA Recommendation</th>
<th>Amounts Dictated by General Ch. Jurisdiction Area</th>
<th>Amounts Over Which the Memphis Conference Has Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Service</td>
<td>686,587</td>
<td>858,234</td>
<td>823,522</td>
<td>835,775</td>
<td>835,775</td>
<td>372,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Outreach Ministries</td>
<td>261,440</td>
<td>326,800</td>
<td>306,100</td>
<td>275,400</td>
<td>275,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecional Ministries Team</td>
<td>374,495</td>
<td>421,977</td>
<td>432,101</td>
<td>372,850</td>
<td>372,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total WS &amp; CB</td>
<td>1,322,522</td>
<td>1,607,011</td>
<td>1,561,723</td>
<td>1,484,025</td>
<td>1,019,513</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. Leadership &amp; Resourcing</td>
<td>898,879</td>
<td>1,012,055</td>
<td>1,038,798</td>
<td>1,019,613</td>
<td>1,019,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>254,158</td>
<td>254,158</td>
<td>243,878</td>
<td>247,507</td>
<td>247,507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Episcopal Residence</td>
<td>19,072</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>7,850</td>
<td>7,850</td>
<td>7,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equitable Compensation Comm.</td>
<td>83,950</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>85,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Pensions &amp; Health Benefits</td>
<td>388,054</td>
<td>475,000</td>
<td>138,460</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total CMS</td>
<td>1,544,113</td>
<td>1,839,213</td>
<td>1,511,986</td>
<td>1,359,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Church Administration</td>
<td>81,526</td>
<td>101,903</td>
<td>97,786</td>
<td>99,241</td>
<td>99,241</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jurisdictional Askins</td>
<td>13,252</td>
<td>13,252</td>
<td>13,252</td>
<td>13,252</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Executive Assistant</td>
<td>58,904</td>
<td>59,904</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Administration</td>
<td>509,231</td>
<td>475,961</td>
<td>613,448</td>
<td>509,978</td>
<td>509,978</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Admin.</td>
<td>562,913</td>
<td>650,025</td>
<td>724,486</td>
<td>622,471</td>
<td>622,471</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>230,380</td>
<td>299,872</td>
<td>273,147</td>
<td>282,286</td>
<td>282,286</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa University Fund</td>
<td>20,702</td>
<td>25,877</td>
<td>24,830</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black College Fund</td>
<td>92,502</td>
<td>115,627</td>
<td>110,950</td>
<td>112,601</td>
<td>112,601</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Ministries</td>
<td>266,103</td>
<td>319,376</td>
<td>337,026</td>
<td>282,905</td>
<td>282,905</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Higher Educ.</td>
<td>509,887</td>
<td>750,752</td>
<td>750,953</td>
<td>702,992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interdenominational Cooperation</td>
<td>18,136</td>
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<td>21,753</td>
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<td>District Fund</td>
<td>588,915</td>
<td>737,400</td>
<td>757,608</td>
<td>739,998</td>
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<td>Missional Salary Support</td>
<td>213,740</td>
<td>170,600</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>192,000</td>
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<td>Missional Grants</td>
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<td>Total District</td>
<td>802,655</td>
<td>1,189,000</td>
<td>927,608</td>
<td>931,998</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUDGET TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,060,026</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,058,671</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,493,509</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,123,533</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,645,739</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
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**Budget Increase or (decrease):**

- **(580,163)**
- **(374,976)**

**Percent of **$5,123,533** requested:**

- 32.12%
- 0.00%
- 67.88%

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**Notes to conference Funding Plan**

- Direct Bill Benefits
  - Pension: 1,614,081
  - Health Insurance: 2,650,000
The purpose of the Discipleship Team is to seek effective ways to increase the capacity of local churches and extension ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Over the last several years, the work of the Discipleship Team has centered on aligning our efforts, training events, and resources with the mission, values, and four areas of focus of the Memphis Annual Conference.

We are tremendously blessed to have excellent leadership in ministry with young people, including: the Rev. Amanda Crice, who is the Conference Youth Coordinator; Allison Doyle, who is the program director at Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly; Kristy Richardson, who is the point person for ministry to children in the Conference; Dwight Davis of Golden UMC, who represents Family Ministries resources; and Tom Beasley, who is the new Scouting Coordinator for the Annual Conference.

A strong connection has developed among youth workers throughout the Memphis Conference and among youth themselves. The youth in the Conference continue to take part in the fall and spring retreats, 30-hour famine, and the Youth Annual Gathering (formerly, Youth Annual Conference), which leads up to the Annual Conference in June. Prompted by last year’s Annual Conference of “See All The People,” the youth council partnered with Lakeshore UMA to have a “See All The People” retreat at Lakeshore, which brought in over 200 youth throughout the conference!

Since 2013, the Generative Leadership Academy (GLA) has shown tremendous fruit in developing lay and clergy leaders in congregations, increasing their capacity to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to engage the mission field. In 2017, GLA launched at a new location in West Tennessee at the Natchez Trace State Park. In 2018, there were 50 participants for GLA and there are 42 taking part in this year’s (2019) academy.

The new Conference Coordinator for Scouting Ministries for the Memphis Conference is Tom Beasley, who is bringing a great deal of energy for a renewed emphasis in strengthening existing scouting troops and packs as well as beginning new ones. Additionally, Tom is assembling a team with representative from each district and leaders with spiritual formation emphasis to enhance scouting communities in partnership with our churches.

The makeup of the Discipleship Team is more extensive than those mentioned herein, and the impact of the various leaders on this team extends further than the work of this team I am honored to lead. The process of discipleship, ideally, infects all aspects of our Conference’s work, since the work of making “disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” is the mission of the Church. Still, as we move forward in seeking for innovative, fruitful, and tangible expressions of making disciples, we invite your prayers for discernment and participation to these ends.
Drew University Theological School continued its multi-year self-transformation by launching its new curriculum for the Master of Divinity in the fall of 2018. This entirely reconceived degree seeks to form graduates that are rooted in the Christian story and traditions, capable of effective and creative leadership, and spiritually and socially resourceful for cultivating the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ in, with and for the church and the world. A new two-year degree, the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry also launched, and offers students the opportunity to prepare for public leadership or a specialized vocation through deep theological and ethical reflection informed by biblical, historical, theological and practical sources. New pathways in the Master of Arts, the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry were also created as part of the curriculum transformation process which seeks to more intentionally focus the school’s service to the church, as well as to the academy and civil society.

Drew welcomed 145 entering students this academic year, its largest entering class in over a decade, with an overall enrollment of 350 for the current academic year. In the coming year a new 5-year strategic plan will be developed, new degree delivery options that increase accessibility and affordability for prospective students, as well as new partnerships with annual conferences, other church bodies, and values-based organizations that share and strengthen Drew’s mission to advance peace, justice, love of God, neighbor, and the earth.
Equitable Compensation Commission Narrative

Martha Dell King, Chair

The purpose of the Equitable Compensation Commission (ECC) is to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation, and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference. This purpose is consistent with the provision of ¶ 625 of The Book of Discipline, 2016.

Given these primary efforts of the Equitable Compensation Commission, the use of conference tithes assists the Equitable Compensation Commission to achieve its purpose by having funds available to address and support issues of equitable compensation as related to full-time clergy serving as pastors in the Memphis Conference. Funds are disbursed to each pastor to provide sufficient compensation, in addition to supplemental aid/income, to ensure that the minimum base salary be met for all eligible clergy. In short, the conference tithes allotted to assist the Commission in addressing issues of equity and fairness without penalty to the pastor or pastoral charge. These actions directly link the basic concepts of the mission statement, “...to discover, equip, connect and send lay and clergy leaders...” to the approved and adopted practices of the Equitable Compensation Commission. Specifically, clergy are financially equipped to eliminate any related pressure that might distract from the primary focus of offering Christ to a hurting world.

An integral part of this process is to assure that our pastors and churches in the mission field are not forgotten or denied adequate support. The ECC strives to financially support those churches and charges that are engaging the areas of the mission field that are not able to financially sustain them at this time.

With all these elements being a critical part of what we believe, clergy who are supported through equitable compensation would serve as living proof of what God’s grace looks like when there is respect for each individual’s dignity and self-worth. The outcome could very well be fruitful and faithful churches. And, with this, we will be the recipients of pastoral, missional, and congregational excellence.
The purpose of the Equitable Compensation Commission (ECC) is to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation, and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference. This purpose is consistent with the provision of ¶ 625 of The Book of Discipline, 2016.

1) Types of Equitable Compensation Support
   a) Minimum Compensation Support
      The Commission annually proposes to the Annual Conference a schedule of minimum compensation for ministers in the various categories of Conference relationship. In approving this schedule, the Conference guarantees each of its itinerant ministers a certain minimum compensation. Unless a minister voluntarily waives this right, s/he is entitled to an appointment where the compensation, including increments, will be at least the minimum of his/her category.

   b) Minimum Compensation Levels for 2020 defined salary plus housing allowance or parsonage (plan compensation as defined by Wespath)
      $42,422 Full Conference Members and Probationary members with seminary degree
      $41,137 Associate Members
      $40,066 Full-time Local Pastors

   c) Years of Service Program
      In order to provide further incentives for pastors receiving Equitable Compensation support, the Commission will provide an increment for past years of full-time service within The United Methodist Church. (Years of service shall be the same as pension service credit. See pastoral records for approved years of service.) Beginning after 5 years of service, the pastor will receive $100 for each year of service; those having served 5 years will receive $500; 6 years $600; 7 years $700; and so on.

2) Eligibility for Equitable Compensation Program
   a) Only those appointed to a pastoral charge within the Memphis Annual Conference, and meeting the requirements of The Book of Discipline shall be eligible for compensation support.

   b) A claimant must complete and submit in full, all application forms as necessitated by the Commission. The forms include 1) a signed application, 2) a financial reduction plan for the church/charge which indicates a lessening dependence upon ECC funding to support the pastor and a church audit or finance report. Additionally, the church must show compliance with their direct bill responsibilities.
c) A claimant must live within the bounds of the pastoral charge to which he/she is appointed if no parsonage is provided, or in the parsonage (if provided.) Clergy couples shall be an exception.

3) How Applications are Submitted
   a) All applications shall be submitted on forms provided by the Commission, signed by the applicant and the district superintendent.
   b) Signed applications should be submitted to the chairperson on the Equitable Compensation Commission on or before the fifteenth day of December of each year or the fifteenth day of May for the conference year.
   c) Applications shall not be taken at any other time unless approved by the bishop, cabinet, and the Chairperson of the Commission.
   d) District superintendents shall furnish the Commission with requested data for determining eligibility for equitable compensation support.

4) Payments to Claimants
   Each month, the Treasurer of the Memphis Annual Conference shall make payments to the Charge/Church Treasurer, upon request from the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

5) Financial Reports
   At each session of the Annual Conference, financial statements shall be filed as follows:
   a) Basic Compensation Program payments (including bonuses) made to the various charges of the Conference.
   b) Supplemental Compensation Aid payments made to the various charges.
   c) Grants from the Emergency Fund (to be shown by district.)
   d) Administrative expenses of the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

6) Recommendations to the Memphis Annual Conference
   Charges receiving support from the Equitable Compensation Commission are encouraged to take steps regularly toward becoming self-supporting and toward the increasing of the total level of support of their ministers. The following actions should encourage these steps:
   a) The district superintendent will annually review each application for equitable compensation with the appropriate Charge Conference.
   b) If after four consecutive years of receiving equitable compensation support, the church or charge shows little or no interest in becoming self-supporting, it is recommended that the cabinet look at the possibility of filling that appointment with a less than full-time person.
   c) Exceptions to the phasing-out support must be approved after careful annual review by the bishop and cabinet, and must involve clear missional reasons for maintaining the United Methodist witness in the parish of such a charge.
   d) The Commission encourages each church or charge in setting their minister’s compensation to consider an annual cost of living increase, in addition to any appropriate merit increases.
   e) It is expected that any church or charge that receives equitable compensation support shall pay their conference tithes in full.
   f) The Commission encourages the bishop and district superintendents to be creative in the appointive process; however, it is recommended that no church or charge be allowed to become a station appointment unless that church or charge has the potential to become self-supporting within four years during which time Equitable
Compensation will be decreased by one-fourth each year.

7) Emergency Fund
   This is administered by the Chairperson of the Commission, upon recommendation of the bishop and the cabinet, for the purpose of meeting emergency needs arising among the pastoral members of the Conference. The Secretary of the cabinet is to notify the Chairperson of the Commission by letter to requisition funds.

8) Funding Program
   Based on the projected program for 2020, we request funding from the Annual Conference in the amount of $85,000, reflecting no change in funding from the previous year.
2019 Annual Conference Report

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of historically African-American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world’s premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman’s Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of the United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world’s largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Christian Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women of the United Methodist Church.

The support of this Annual Conference helps Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition, and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development, and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry.

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God’s church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Grace and Peace,

Ken J. Walden, Ph.D.
As the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) builds capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ’s calling in their lives. The agency creates connections and provides resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation. Every elder, deacon and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs. Many young adults find help in clarifying God’s call in their lives through our discernment opportunities.

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

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

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

The Office of Loans and Scholarships announced an increase in the maximum amount of money United Methodist students can borrow to pursue their education. The annual maximum is $10,000, with a lifetime maximum of $40,000. On average, the agency distributes $5.5 million in scholarships annually.
Partnering with churches and institutions, GBHEM has promoted projects, programs, initiatives, education and leadership development in various cultural contexts within United Methodism and in pan-Methodist relationships. The agency expanded the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, supported the work of regional networks with the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and established Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development. In 2018, hubs were active in nations in Africa, Asia, Europe and England, North America and South America.

[END]
Dear Friends of the Memphis Annual Conference,

I bring you this report on behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees of Hannah’s Hope as we wrap up our 16th year of ministry with pregnant women in crisis and their vulnerable children and prospective adoptive families.

The past year has been filled with challenges as we have found ourselves on the front lines of our nation’s opioid crisis as we served pregnant women who were addicted and cared for their very sick babies after delivery. Each of these cases demanded extraordinary time and resources. We are grateful for the new connections we have made with community resources to assist women in the crisis of addiction. Additional challenges have resulted from losing approx. 75% of our grant monies from the Memphis Annual Conference just as we were required to assume financial responsibility for clergy pension costs. Our Board of Trustees is diligently working to increase fundraising efforts to reduce the budget shortfall so that we do not have to cut client services. We are so grateful for each individual, small group, UMW Circle and congregation who provides financial support to the ministry of Hannah’s Hope so that we can continue serving pregnant women in crisis all over West Tennessee.

Last November, we were pleased to host our 1st Annual Hannah’s Hope Family Day where we enjoyed catching up with over 75 folks and their precious Hannah’s Hope kiddos on the grounds of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Memphis. It was such a joy for all of us to see these beautiful children thriving in homes filled with love. We were thrilled that a couple of our birth mothers joined their adoptive family in attending the event and look forward to doing it again this fall.

We are proud to be 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 ministry is focused on “Engaging the Mission Field” and we live out the mission statement of the Annual Conference as well by “offering Jesus Christ to a hurting world” on a daily basis.

We are so thankful for the individuals, UMW Circles, Sunday school classes, and congregations who support the ministry of Hannah’s Hope through contributions to the Circle of Hope initiative and by filling Baby Bottles of Hope. It is only with this support that we are able to provide birth mother care bags for our clients after they give birth, provide free counseling to pregnant women in crisis situations, offer free consultations to couples seeking to discern whether God is calling them to adopt and stand in the gap for children in need of a new, forever home. We also appreciate each one of you who has taken the time to add a link to the Hannah’s Hope website (www.hannahs-hope.org) to your church website to that we may better connect with those who need us around the conference.

May the Grace and Peace of Christ be with you all…
HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER
Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb, President and CEO
Hayesville, NC; 828-389-8336

Hinton Center is a retreat and missions outreach agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, with the mission statement: Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Rural Life Center's purpose is to engage individuals, congregations, and communities in transformation through retreat ministry and missional outreach.

Don’t just go to church. Be the Church. Like a church, Hinton Center’s campus is a physical place where people come to worship, learn, and serve, as well as retreat, reflect, and renew. But, Hinton is more than just a place. Through our ministries and missions outreach opportunities, we engage individuals, groups, churches, and organizations – both local and from across the jurisdiction -- in ways that impact our rural Appalachian community, improve quality of life, and give hope. We focus on loving God and loving neighbor, and our prayer is that everyone who connects with Hinton – guest, volunteer, workshop participant, local homeowner, or business owner – experiences God’s transforming love.

Guided by our Quality of Life Study, Hinton Center has been making homes safer and healthier, encouraged understanding of mental health and substance use, and promoted community-wide volunteer opportunities. We’ve been awarded numerous grants and have continued to strengthen our ministries both on and off campus. Our 2018 ministry highlights include:

- Received over $575,000 in grants, including funding for:
  - Youth and adult leadership programs, grant funded by The Duke Endowment
  - Mental Health First Aid training, through the Evergreen Foundation; our staff has trained educators in the Clay County and Cherokee County school systems
  - Young Clergy Initiative funding, from the UM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; this funding supported a leadership training event for high school youth interested in serving as future summer mission outreach staff.
- Served 334 families through our Firewood, Christmas Cares, and Home Repair ministries
- Completed 237 home repair projects for 29 homes
- Hosted 51 church mission teams, with 46 from the SEJ
- Completed our Lakeside Worship Center, with significant help from the NOMADS team led by Jim and Mary Jo Reeves; began hosting our annual Easter Sunrise Service there
- Launched a regional Volunteer Center promoting ministry through service in the community, with over 25,000 volunteer hours in 2018
- Produced 785 pounds of food from the Hinton garden, used in our dining services and distributed to food programs in our community

In 2019 we launched two initiatives to promote, throughout the SEJ, our resources and missions opportunities:

- The Hinton Ambassadors Ministry equips ten clergy from different annual conferences in the jurisdiction to represent Hinton and serve as an information resource in his/her annual conference. They include: David Fuquay (FL); Laura Plaster (Holston); Ed Trimmer (TN); Adlene Kufarimai (N AL); Shannon Boaz (KY); Joshua Goocey (NC); Rebekah Ralph (WNC); Ed Archer (N GA); Bill Culpepper (S GA); Jonathan Tompkins (SC).
- Hinton is helping to sponsor FCF Confirm confirmation retreats at Lake Junaluska. Our presence at these retreats is introducing a new generation of United Methodists to Hinton Rural Life Center as a place where they can go to retreat and serve . . . and BE the Church!
Lakeshore Camp and Retreat Center
The Rev. Gary D. Lawson, Sr., Executive Director

94% Capacity! Let me say that again. The 2018 Summer Camp season was at 94% capacity. That is a remarkable statistic. Our DayShore program grew by 40% and, unless you can host us on the week of Memorial Day, we are completely booked for the 2019 season and considering adding a 3rd team for the 2020 season.

Continuing with some crazy good statistics, our commitment to reach out to offer the love of Christ to poor and marginalized communities led to over $108,000 in camperships. Because of the generosity of Lakeshore’s many friends and supporters, we were able to fully fund our campership offerings. OK, one more amazing stat – Lakeshore was able to offer over 30,000 volunteer hours last year. We have often said that we are a laboratory for developing Christian Spiritual Leaders. With most of our volunteer hours involving older teens and college level young persons, we believe we continue to be a leadership lab that is making a huge difference in the lives of exceptional young people.

We remain committed to functioning in a Christ-centered manner while bearing witness through word and deed to the love and grace of our truly remarkable God. That commitment keeps our programs open to ALL persons regardless of race, ethnic origin, socio-economic status, and gender. As our mission statement reads, “Lakeshore offers ways for ALL to encounter life, love and the God of Grace.

We continue to renovate and remodel existing facilities to meet demand. During the winter and spring, Lakeshore has removed the non-load bearing wall between both the upper and lower sunrooms and the main areas of the conference center. A sound tampering panel wall will be installed on the top level so that the Sunroom can continue to be used as meeting space for groups under 200 guests while allowing us to open it to allow for a meeting of up to 300. Downstairs will have attractive accordion style panels that can be opened and closed based on dining needs.

Lakeshore is also looking at plans to build a multi-purpose building at the site of the Alford Recreation Center basketball area. This facility will be able to be opened for large meetings of 300 persons around tables and serve as a recreation area during the heat and cold of our unpredictable seasons.

The continued support of the Memphis Annual Conference is vital to our ministry and mission. We will continue to work hard to be the most we can be for the sake of Christ Jesus.

June 2019
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE DISASTER RESPONSE
Robert Craig, Nashville Episcopal Area Coordinator

The mission of United Methodist Disaster Response is to offer a caring Christian presence to communities that have experienced disaster. The purpose of disaster response in the Memphis Conference is to live into that mission in our local communities. While partnering in other conferences is sometimes necessary, our primary focus is to prepare churches and individuals to respond to their neighbors in time of need.

Disaster response ministry in the Memphis Conference is vital for a number of reasons. Obviously, it is an important ministry in times of relief and recovery for people affected by disaster. This ministry is also important for the health of the local church. When a church is spiritually and physically prepared to respond to and engage the surrounding community that church grows stronger and it is more effective in sharing the love of Christ to its community.

One of the most important aspects of disaster response is preparation, and that means training. We will focus on training individuals and churches in the different areas of preparation and response. There is a place for everyone in disaster response. All age and skill levels are needed. We will offer trainings in churches, cooperative parishes, or districts to help educate and train people for the work of offering hope in trying times of disaster. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to schedule a training for your community. Likewise, watch for conference news that will communicate when trainings will be available in your area. I believe our goal should be at least one Early Response Team training and one Connecting Neighbors training in each district annually.

The ministry of disaster response touches on all four focus areas of ministry in the Memphis Conference. Disaster response invests in young people by offering opportunities for them to be involved. In fact, people of all ages are encouraged to share in this ministry of hope. Churches and families are urged to include children in assembling supplies for times of response. Additionally, older youth work alongside adults in cleanup and repair efforts for neighbors affected by disaster. These are all opportunities that help connect young people into the life and mission of the church.

Engaging in the mission field is at the very core of disaster response ministry. Local congregations, districts, and conferences should be present when the community around them has been impacted by disaster. This connects the church with her neighbors, expresses the concern of the church for her community, and illustrates the love of Christ for the world. The work of offering a caring Christian presence cannot be attained without engaging the mission field in authentic and relational ways.
Disaster response ministry has the potential to create and transform lay and clergy leaders when people truly engage in this work. The submission of one's self in loving service to others produces spiritual maturation. Disaster response and preparation involves this kind of submission. Lay and clergy transformation takes place when self-giving is paired with the power of the Holy Spirit.

When congregations are prepared to respond to the needs of their community, growth takes place. This is how disaster response ministry assists in growing fruitful and faithful churches. As churches help their membership find ways to be involved in ministry, spiritual growth happens. Growth leads to a higher level of involvement in all aspects of worship life together. Increased discipleship allows a church to become more highly involved in the surrounding community. Finally, increased community involvement can result in a realization of the love of Christ present with them.

This year has proven successful in a number of ways. One such success involves work of the Nashville Episcopal Area as we rallied in the collection of much needed supplies for our neighboring conferences in times of need. Another success is the current response to our own neighbors’ need following historic flooding in our conferences. Thank you for your continued participation in this important ministry.
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Paul H. Mullikin, MCRA Chair

For 38 years, the Memphis Conference Relief Association has provided a way for the clergy in our conference to offer love and support to the families of our colleagues when one of our members dies. Since our last annual conference, we have been able to express our concern through a love offering on six (six) occasions to the families of the following:

Thomas Small, Don Barnett, Joseph A. Walker, Sr., Johnnie Arnold, Ronnie Cunningham and Marvin Jones

Our association always strives to be prompt in sending out any death notifications of one of our members. Therefore, every member is encouraged to keep their membership information up-to-date, especially in regard to one’s designated beneficiary and one’s current contact information. If you are a member and have not been receiving any notices from our treasurer, you need to check with one of the members of our Board immediately.

We owe a debt of deep appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Michael Blake who has served as our treasurer for the last three years and has given countless hours to getting our financial records in order. This year, Rev. Larry Chitwood has graciously accepted the position as our new treasurer. Therefore, following this year’s Annual Conference any love offering payments need to be sent to: Rev. Larry Chitwood, 6054 Armistead; Arlington, TN 38002 and add the following email address to your contacts so that you will be sure to receive information from your MCRA treasurer: lmchitwood@gmail.com

The MCRA Board of Directors are recommending that the love offering for this new conference year remain at $1,800. When a member of the MCRA dies, all the members will be asked to contribute ten dollars ($10) each.

All clergy who are moving this year especially need to turn in a new form updating all their contact information. Members can speak to any MCRA representative at our display table to check on the status of their account and/or make a contribution. New members are always welcome to join us as we seek to offer our love and support to the families of our colleagues in ministry. Applications for membership can also be found on our display table.

The following persons have been nominated to serve as our Board of Directors and Officers:

Class of 2020:
Dan Tilley (MS River) (18); Gary D. Lawson, Sr. (TN River) (07); Paul H. Mullikin (Stones River) (11)

Class of 2021:
Dean Emerson (Purchase) (15); Bill Lawson (Purchase) (18); Joseph Moseley (Metro) (18)

Class of 2022:
Michael Blake (MS River) (16); Larry Chitwood (Metro) (16); Deb Christiansen (Metro) (16)

Officers: Chair – Paul H. Mullikin
Vice-Chair – Gary D. Lawson
Treasurer – Larry Chitwood
Assistant Treasurer – Bill Lawson
Recording Secretary – Dean Emerson
Memphis Theological Seminary
Report to the Memphis Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
2019

Submitted by:
Michael K. Turner, Director of Methodist House of Studies
mturner@memphisseminary.edu

For nearly four decades, Memphis Theological Seminary has been a leading institution in the Mid-South for producing graduates who are commissioned as elders or deacons in The United Methodist Church. MTS also has the largest Master of Arts in Youth Ministry program in the country. The majority of the students enrolled in that program are UMC. United Methodist students continue to be the largest denomination represented at our school and approximately 50% of our full-time faculty are from a Pan-Methodist tradition.

It has been an eventful and exciting year at the Seminary. In August 2018, Rev. Dr. Susan Parker became the Interim President. Dr. Parker, who is ordained in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, served in two elected offices for the state of Alabama, Stated Auditor and Public Service Commissioner. She also worked as the Vice President for Advancement for Athens State University. Dr. Parker replaced Dr. Jay Earheart-Brown, who left the Seminary in July to become the lead pastor at Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Bartlett, Tennessee.

Thanks to a generous donation by Mrs. Barbara Hamilton and her late husband, Dr. Ralph Hamilton, MTS is in the process of expanding and renovating the existing chapel. Her gift to the Seminary is also helping endow the Methodist House of Studies Chair. The Seminary family is very grateful to the Hamiltons and all the other supporters who have made this possible.

With the help of a $1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment’s Thriving in Ministry program, the Center for Faith and Imagination at MTS was launched in August 2018, and will offer a variety of resources and opportunities to help faith leaders live and lead with vitality and imagination. Martha Lyle Ford and Billy Vaughan are co-directors of the Center, with Martha Park serving as Program Coordinator. At the end of April, CFI will hold its first leader training for leaders of both Formation for Ministry groups within the seminary and Faith Formation groups outside the seminary. By the fall of 2019, CFI’s first five Faith Formation groups will begin meeting across the Mid-South
Wesleyan Studies continues to be a strength of the Seminary. Dr. Michael Turner, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Wesleyan Studies, teaches the required classes in UMC history, doctrine, and polity each academic year. Dr. Turner, along with his colleagues Dr. Lee Ramsey, Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield, and Rev. Billy Vaughan also offer a number of electives in the field of Wesleyan Studies. Students that take a minimum of five courses in Wesleyan studies electives have the opportunity to earn the Certificate in Wesleyan Studies.

One of the most dynamic programs at MTS is our Methodist House of Studies. It serves as a community within a community for students from Methodist backgrounds. Recent student gatherings have focused on topics that include General Conference 2019, rural ministry, and hospital chaplaincy. We also co-sponsored a lecture from the well-known UMC Civil Rights leader, Rev. James Lawson.

The MHOS has also been active in providing continuing education events for clergy and lay people. Recently, we led a workshop for local pastor in the Metro District of the Memphis Annual Conference. Dr. Turner regularly leads workshops on Wesleyan theology and heritage at congregations in the greater Memphis area. In partnership with the Turner Center for Church Leadership and the Center for Faith and Imagination, the Methodist House of Studies recently hosted three retreats called At Table: United Methodists Seeking a Way Forward. The goal of these retreats was to prepare United Methodist pastors and lay people for difficult conversations around human sexuality and the work of the Commission on a Way Forward in anticipation of the 2019 General Conference. At these retreats, we provided models for conversations that engage in difference without resorting to argument. Participants practiced engaging in these conversation models with the guidance of trained facilitators. As part of the work of these retreats, Dr. Turner gave presentations on the various ways that our Wesleyan theological heritage can serve as a guide to these types of conversation.

Looking toward the next academic year, the MHOS plans to offer retreats focusing on creating a shared vision among young people for the future of Methodism in the Mid-South, navigating conversations about divisive topics in church settings, and finding tools for spiritual and ecclesial renewal in our shared Wesleyan heritage.

We are grateful for the support of the Memphis Annual Conference and for the many fine students who have attended MTS from the Memphis area over the years. We appreciate the confidence the Conference places in MTS for preparation of United Methodist women and men for Christian ministry, and we welcome your ongoing involvement and prayers for the Seminary. For ongoing information about the Methodist House of Studies, we invite you to visit us at www.MethodistHouse.org.

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MEMPHIS WESLEY FOUNDATION
Morgan Stafford, Executive Director

The vision of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Memphis is to be a diverse and inclusive faith community for all students. This new vision statement was created by our student leadership team and approved by our board of directors. The following paragraphs will describe how the ministries of Wesley at Memphis align with the four areas of focus of the Memphis Conference.

Wesley at Memphis is investing in more college students and young adults. 25 students are now engaged in leading ministries at Wesley on a daily basis. With the covenant discipleship framework as our guide for structuring ministry, our students lead ministries in the areas of compassion, devotion, justice, and worship. Our students created a fifth team focused on outreach in order to include more students from the University of Memphis campus and the city of Memphis. This season of growth has empowered students to take increased ownership of the campus ministry as a student-led ministry.

Our students have consistently engaged the mission field over the past school year. While we seek to increase use of our facility by students and other partner organizations such as Project Transformation Tennessee, we also seek to empower our students to serve beyond the walls of our facility and to become more engaged in the city of Memphis. We have partnered with Longstreet UMC to launch a new after school program coordinated by a Wesley intern and student volunteers. Our students have also served with community outreach ministries of St. John’s UMC and St. Luke’s UMC. By partnering with other churches and ministries, we have increased our impact in the community.

Wesley at Memphis is creating transforming leaders each day, particularly through our expanded student leadership team. We hired five student leadership interns in the fall semester and we expanded the team to eight interns in the spring semester. Our team is diverse and inclusive, empowering young women and men to lead the ministries of Wesley while discovering their gifts and talents for a life of ministry of service. Several students are discerning a call to either lay or ordained ministry. With the help of faithful partner churches in the Metro District and Memphis Conference, we plan to continue to expand our student leadership team through paid student internships.

As the Memphis Conference seeks to grow fruitful and faithful churches, Wesley at Memphis has strengthened connections and partnerships with a number of churches and organizations in the Metro District. Our expanded board of directors of 15 leaders now has more churches represented at our table. Through our Tuesday community nights this school year, 20 churches have partnered with Wesley to provide dinner and hospitality to our students along with guest speakers for our program. We look forward to expanding this number in the year to come, and we give thanks for the churches and leaders who have invested in our ministries during the past school year!

Wesley at Memphis celebrates an energizing year of ministry, and we look forward to continued growth and impact with your support. If you have ideas for partnership and investment in our ministries, please contact us so that we may seek God’s vision for faithful and fruitful ministry together. May God continue to lead us forward!
MS RIVER DISTRICT LAY RESOURCE LEADER REPORT
Susan Davidson

We have had a very busy year. I have been working with laity all over the district by promoting “lifetime learning”. This has proven to be a fruitful time for us.

We have had 2 Basic Lay Servant trainings. It’s always exciting to have new people step up and want to engage in the ministry of our church. We had 4 Advanced Lay Servant trainings. We are providing training in Brownsville and in Troy so that people can attend the training closer to them.

This year, we had 38 youth at the Youth Lay Servant Training at Reelfoot Rural Ministry. This was a mini-mission trip. It was held President’s Day weekend. This group, with the help of a team of 10 adults, built 2 ramps, made and distributed 30 gallons of stew, made a hundred bags of groceries for pick up and bagged hundreds of pounds of sausage for pick up. What an amazing group of kids!

We have six new Certified Lay Ministers. They completed a training which spanned several weeks. Clergy and laity taught classes in this training. I have trained the Safe Sanctuaries 4 times this year. This training will be incorporated in the Certified Lay Minister curriculum for the upcoming year. We had two District Leadership trainings. We had over 55 people attend. This training was set up so that laity could ask questions about the leadership positions in our church. It was quite successful. It was led by our District Lay Leader, Justin Crice.
At Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH), our mission is to collaborate with patients and their families to be the leader in providing high quality, cost-effective patient and family-centered care. Services are provided in a manner which supports the health ministries and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church to benefit the communities we serve.

MLH continues to make an impact on the health of the Mid-South, both inside and outside of hospital walls. Leading MLH in that effort is our President and Chief Executive Officer Michael Ugwueke, who is driving the organization to new heights, clinically, financially, and faithfully. As part of that work in 2018, Michael appointed Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley to be the new Senior Vice President of Faith and Health, which oversees all of our clinical chaplaincy work, Volunteer Services, the Employee Assistance Program and Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network, the Clergy Coaching Network, Clinical Pastoral Education, the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health, the Humanitarian Fund, United Methodist Annual Conference connections, and many other initiatives and projects. That body of work is already growing, as Dr. Mosley announced early in 2019 that the Faith and Health Division will be renamed the Office of Mission Integration, and Dr. Mosley will assume the title of Chief Mission Integration Officer. These new emphases for the division and its leadership represent an exciting innovation in all facets of MLH’s work, its clinical excellence, its community engagement, and its faith-based foundations. Mission Integration will offer guidance and direction for the integration of MLH’s mission, vision, values and guiding behaviors, especially from the perspective of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. Additionally, Mission Integration will ensure that the relationship with the United Methodist Church, and relevant social, ethical, and pastoral teachings, are understood and integrated appropriately and consistently across the entire system.

Last year, MLH celebrated its Centennial, having first opened its doors to patients in 1918. We recognized the Centennial in many ways, including with our first ever “MLH Sunday”! In honor of the 100 years since the United Methodist Church started a healthcare organization in Memphis, we joined congregations all throughout the area to worship, pray, and give thanks together, remembering all that God is doing through MLH. We are continuing that practice with MLH Sunday 2019, which we want to celebrate with you on Sunday, June 23, 2019, coinciding with our system’s birthday. We will also be visiting and speaking to congregations on other dates throughout the year. Additionally, our associates also connect with the UMC through connectional boards and agencies, campus ministry work at the UT Health Science Center, and through free health screenings that we offer throughout the year to conferences, congregations, and community events.

We also have pursued several grants to expand our work in the community, partnering with the Urban Child Institute, the Christian Community Foundation, CIGNA, the Tennessee Department of Health, and others. As a result, MLH launched “My Sister’s Keeper” in 2018 as a way of expanding the capacity of identified and designated black women leaders and increasing knowledge of accessible health services that positively impact health outcomes for black women in the Mid-South region. MLH also established a partnership with BookNook Learning in 2018 in order to provide literacy education to 800 at-risk and underserved students in Shelby County, leveraging existing partnerships with local faith communities to implement the literacy program. One of the founding partner congregational sites for that program is Longstreet UMC in south Memphis, also a partner site for Project Transformation Tennessee. Further,
understanding the important role of faith leaders in spiritual, mental, and physical health of our communities, MLH recently launched its first community-based Clinical Pastoral Education program for 13 pastors serving congregations in our most low-income communities.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of the three annual conferences who birthed us and continue to be vital partners. The healing ministry of Christ continues to be at our center.
At Murray State University, we continue to support the faith journeys of students from western Kentucky, southern Illinois, southeast Missouri, many other parts of the United States, and countries around the world. God’s kingdom is inclusive and worldwide, and at Wesley we continue to bring in God’s kingdom by building relationships, encouraging honest conversations about living, and providing safe haven and sanctuary among our college students.

We are blessed by the commitment of our student council to their fall planning retreat in preparation for the academic year ahead and to their leadership of weekly Bible study and corporate worship. Each spring, students interested in council leadership in the coming academic year interview for the positions, sharing not only roles they might play in the ministry but also their struggles, victories, and ambitions as their faith and places of service are developing.

A Murray State faculty member serves our council and all Wesley family as advisor, building their leadership skills as well as helping them maintain high academic standards, and more importantly, providing wise counsel in all areas of their lives, academic, spiritual, emotional, relational. With this advisor and our director and administrative assistant, Wesley students have a supportive community of adults who not only love them but also hold them accountable. It is no wonder that so many of the students consider Wesley their “home” on campus.

One of our graduating seniors will enter seminary in the fall in preparation for a lifetime of Christian service in the ordained ministry. Regular participation in both worship and service throughout the Purchase District and within the Murray-Calloway County community includes a majority of the Wesley students. And with the Wesley students at the University of Tennessee Martin, Murray State students serve with inner city UM churches and community organizations in Memphis in the spring and fall semester breaks. We have faith that our Wesley family will continue to be active members of their communities, wherever they land as they move into professional and family life and higher education.

Consistent commitment is strong among students who become family at MSU Wesley. God is among us, we will continue to grow together for God’s kingdom.
OUTREACH ADVOCACY TEAM

Sandra Burnett, Chair

The Outreach Advocacy Team is charged with providing interpretation, advocacy, coordination, and communication of local, regional, national, and international outreach ministries. Special emphasis is given to interpreting the ministries of conference and district related outreach agencies and enhancing their relationship to the local church. The team serves as a vital link for local churches, clusters, districts, and the annual conference to the global reach of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM).

Areas of focus for the conference are supported by this team. Congregations are more faithful and fruitful when they support and are involved in mission locally, regionally, and worldwide. Laity and clergy have transforming experiences when involved in outreach ministry.

The team for Outreach Advocacy is structured to include members representing outreach agencies and missions of the Memphis Annual Conference. Therefore, this team receives reports from the conference agencies and learns of ways to engage the mission field through missional opportunities.

In 2018, the Outreach Advocacy Team received and reviewed applications from 3 congregations for a grant from the Southeastern Jurisdiction UMC. These congregations had to be located in rural areas and involved in a building project. They also needed to show fruitfulness in their ministry. The jurisdictional committee that approved the grants, selected one from each of the conferences. New Bethel UMC in Bethel Springs, TN was honored to receive a Renfro Grant from this process. Funds will improve their facility and encourage their faithful outreach ministry in their community.

During the last week of March 2019, our conference was visited by an itinerating missionary. Rev. Michael Arteen has been serving at the Bethlehem Bible College in Israel. His witness was shared with the Lone Oak and Calvert City congregations in Kentucky. In Tennessee he met first with a group from Northside in Jackson and then with a group of students from the Wesley Foundation at Bethel University in McKenzie. His visit finished with presentations at Capleville and Bartlett UMCs.

We celebrate the 200th anniversary of Global Ministries in 2019. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1819 to support the work of John Stewart. He was a freeborn African-American doing mission work among the Wyandotte Native Americans in Ohio. The Missionary Society was the forerunner of our current UMC Global Ministries. Their work has been continuous for 200 years.
Part A

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits continues its ministry of serving the clergy and clergy families of the Memphis Conference, and we are grateful for the chance to share together in this work. We are especially delighted to work alongside Larry Davis, our Conference Treasurer, and Clare Wilson, our Assistant Treasurer. They carry a large workload on behalf of the board and conference, and we appreciate their ministry.

The board holds reserves with Wespath and the United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences for pension and benefit purposes only, and we are pleased that the funding status for all pension plans are funded in full. The board monitors our reserves and strives to maintain them at an acceptable level. As with all investments, our reserves are subject to market fluctuations and other variables. Remaining observant and making smart decisions will be key in sustaining proper funding levels, and the board will do all it can to ensure that our pension and benefit plans are financially stable.

We are pleased that our first year of directly billing the pension and insurance obligations has been a success. We received more than 99% of the required payments, and we thank the congregations for their faithfulness. Moving into 2020, as the Comprehensive Protection Plan premium holiday will be over, the direct billing for full-time clergy pension obligations will be 14% of plan compensation (salary and housing), up from the current rate of 11%.

In October, we held a Clergy Benefits Seminar to educate our clergy on available benefits through Wespath as well as other items related to retirement and taxes. There was good attendance, and we anticipate another event in the future.

Lastly, the work of incorporation has been completed, better protecting our assets.

Part B

Allowances to Retirees

Regarding allowances for the benefit of retired ministers, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends the following:

That ministers retired prior to the opening session of a regular annual conference shall receive an allowance at the rate of up to $75.00 per day effective June 3, 2012 for each day in attendance at the conference. Reimbursement shall be authorized by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits upon receipt of a voucher showing the actual expense incurred. This benefit shall be available also to surviving spouses, subject to the same conditions.

That upon retirement, full-time active ministers in regular appointment will receive a one-time retirement stipend in the amount of $1,500 effective January 1, 2011.

That upon retirement, part-time active ministers in regular appointment will receive a one-time retirement stipend proportional to their appointment percentage at retirement in the amount of $1,125 (75%), $750 (50%), and $375 (25%) effective July 1, 2014.

Those full-time, active members in regular appointment may receive the retirement one-time stipend at the time of taking disability leave in lieu of receiving it at the time of retirement.
Beginning January 1, 2017, retirees and spouses on their plan receive a defined contribution of $250 per month ($3000 annually) through a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) and are allowed to participate in the Medicare Supplement program called ViaBenefits. The ViaBenefits program is available through Wespath, though it is operated by Towers-Watson. Retirees/Spouses may use their HRA accounts to pay premiums or help with deductibles or copays. To qualify for the retiree subsidy, the retiree must have served a minimum of 20 years in a full-time appointment (local church, campus ministries, or under appointment to an entity accruing pension benefits) in the Memphis Conference or other conference in the case of one who has transferred from another conference. The retiree subsidy program has been terminated for future retirees. To allow future retirees adequate time to plan for retiree medical expenses the cut-off age is 60. Everyone who was 60 years of age or older as of July 1, 2016, with 20 years of service as defined above would remain eligible for the retiree medical subsidy.

**Part C**

**Incapacity Leave**

In accordance with ¶356.1 of *The Book of Discipline*, 2016, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends the following conference members to be approved for disability benefits:

- Harold Q. Evans, Sr.
- John Jeffery Irwin
- Joe Beal
- Robert Utley

Only pastors granted Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) incapacity leave by Wespath qualify for Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits incapacity leave benefits in the Memphis Conference.

**Part D**

**Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of The Memphis Conference**

(Revision effective January 1, 2014)

The Memphis Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespath during the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and
THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former clergyperson is urged to consult with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

Part E
Current Program/Budget Projection/Funding Request

The Memphis Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits 2020 budget request will be included in the Conference Finance and Administration Report.

Part F
Memphis Annual Conference Funding Plan for Supplement One to the Ministerial Pension Plan

The 2020 Past Service Rate (PSR) is $636, which represents a 1.9% cost of living adjustment. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has adopted the policy to update the PSR based on the rate of change in the Conference Average Compensation.

Wespath’s actuarial valuation of the Pre-82 plan for the Memphis Conference shows more assets than benefit obligations. We anticipate no additional deposits into this account in the near future.

Part G
CRSP Eligibility and UMPIP Contributions for Part-Time Clergy

The Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) is for full time clergy under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of The Memphis Annual Conference. The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is for all clergy, including those serving less than full time, under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of The Memphis Conference.

Effective January 1, 2014, the Memphis Conference has elected to cover only clergy serving full time under the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). The Memphis Conference will contribute to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) on behalf of clergy who are no longer covered under CRSP. Clergy who are serving three-quarter, half-time or one-quarter time will receive a contribution in the amount of 6% of plan compensation to their UMPIP accounts.
Part H
Active Clergy Health Insurance

The Memphis Conference offers two medical plans...the B1000 Gold plan, which is a PPO plan, and the High Deductible Plan (HDHP) H1500. The main difference is the choice between having a lower premium and higher deductibles and paying a little more premium for lower upfront costs. The HDHP allows the participant an opportunity to set up a Health Savings Account which can provide significant tax and retirement benefits. Dental and vision coverage are also available from Health Flex, and these coverages are optional. Each year, the participant must select in which plan they wish to be enrolled. Should no plan be selected, the participant will automatically be enrolled in the HDHP.

Health Flex requires mandatory participation for all full-time clergy appointed to local churches and conference entities (DS, campus ministries, new churches, etc.). Part-time clergy (75% and below) are no longer eligible for conference health insurance. Mandatory requirement simply means that all appointed clergy will be included, and their church will receive a bill for the premium unless the clergyperson chooses to opt-out of the coverage. The individual clergyperson may opt-out for one of the following reasons:
   a. Coverage from a previous employer
   b. Covered by spouse’s plan
   c. Covered under Tricare
   d. Covered by Medicaid
   e. Insurance is deemed unaffordable under ACA rules. That is, if the annual cost of the single rate exceeds 9.56% of the Adjusted Gross Income the coverage is deemed unaffordable. Our insurance is affordable for those making at least minimum compensation.

The cost of the health insurance premiums will be billed to the local church. Churches are billed for 100% of the premiums and are expected pay 80% of those premiums from church budget and collect the 20% balance by withholding from the clergyperson’s salary on a pre-tax basis. Since dental and vision are optional coverages, they may be withheld from the clergyperson’s salary in full or paid at the same rate as the medical premiums on a pre-tax basis.

The due date for submitting premium payments is the 25th of each month, and a 2% late fee will be added for payments received after the due date. Insurance may be subject to cancellation after 90 days of nonpayment.

Medical insurance premiums for next year will increase only 2.1%. There will be no change to vision or dental premiums. The tables below list 2020 premiums.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>B1000/P1 PPO Monthly/Annually</th>
<th>HDH 1500 Gold Monthly/Annually</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>$939.32 / $11,271.84</td>
<td>$868.87 / $10,426.45</td>
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<td>Single + One</td>
<td>$1785.73 / $21,428.75</td>
<td>$1650.96 / $19,811.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$2256.41 / $27,076.92</td>
<td>$2085.90 / $25,030.84</td>
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The Board of Pension and Health Benefits will continue to pay 100% of premiums for those who are on CPP approved disability, and we recommend the following premium schedule for new church starts and missional churches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental Tier</th>
<th>Annually</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single + One</td>
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<td>$71</td>
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<tr>
<th>Vision Tier</th>
<th>Annually</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
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<td>Single + One</td>
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<td>Family</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Church</th>
<th>Pastor</th>
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<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PURCHASE DISTRICT
Rev. Samantha Hall, Director of Resource Ministries

We invest in young people. By providing DayShore day camp opportunities during the summer in several communities, we reach students who are unable or not ready to attend overnight camps. Last summer, there were four camps held, and that number is set to increase to five this summer. Many of our churches work together to raise funds so that they can provide free or reduced registration fees for children who would otherwise not be able to attend. The “NEXT: Exploring Your Christian Walk” initiative was launched in April. An innovative, free youth conference geared towards middle school students, it focused on building relationships and making connections among adults and children or youth, stressing that no matter where life may take us in our vocations, we are Christians first and foremost. It featured several different presenters from various vocational paths, ranging from pastors to attorneys to veterinary assistants. Lots of games, food, music, fun, prizes, and worship were enjoyed by all. "NEXT" steps will include building upon the spiritual gifts of the participants to encourage them to serve their churches as NEXT generation leaders.

We engage the mission field. During the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day, Project Christmas House volunteers led by Bill Carr traveled to Hattiesburg, MS. Volunteers were encouraged to come for one day or for the week to help build a house on stilts. The churches in the District provided prayers, money and volunteers to complete this mission. Our District Laity Team, led by Purchase District Lay Leader Jim Capps, raised over $4100 for Reelfoot Rural Ministries through donations collected during Music Fest (formerly Choir Fest). This evening of worship and music featured choirs, praise bands and vocalists, including a mass choir, composed of participants from churches throughout the District. In addition, the District Laity Team sponsored its first Mission Picnic in September, during which participants constructed buckets for people who are struggling with homelessness while enjoying fellowship, food and live music. In response to natural disasters, including a tornado and flooding in our district alone, we collected over 200 Cleaning Kits. The Emergency Relief Team has been busy serving not only in our District but in the region as well.

Third Place Ministries in Marshall County operates a thrift shop and provides crisis services for those in need within the community. This ministry also supports cluster-wide youth activities monthly and a weekly inspirational radio show. The Family Kitchen serves a meal each weekend anyone in need of a meal. Nine United Methodist Churches in the Purchase District, as well as two churches from other denominations, participate in the rotating schedule for this ministry by preparing and serving the meal four to five times per year at the former St. Luke Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Paducah, now Holy House of Prayer. Through the efforts of many churches and groups (including youth groups), those in need can get a hot meal every day of the week, including Sundays at Broadway United Methodist Church and on Saturdays at the Family Kitchen.

We create transformational lay and clergy leaders. By providing and participating in applicable training, and by purchasing and distributing materials through our resource library to match the needs of those in our congregations, the District has been able to certify new Emergency Response Team members and lay servants, and recertify lay servants. Other training that has been offered this year includes Safe Sanctuaries and New Teacher trainings. The District is surveying its churches to determine what training is needed most. Spiritual Leadership Institute training has been completed by the Director of Resource Ministries, and another clergy member has been recertified as a SLI coach.

We cultivate fruitful and faithful churches. Leading up to the historic special-called General Conference in February 2019, the Purchase District provided informational sessions based on the “Courageous Conversations About the Way Forward” material provided by Discipleship Ministries. Rev. Dr. Rob Martin, District Superintendent and Rev. Dr. Ben Boone, Retired District Superintendent, presented three sessions prior to General Conference, and one follow up after its conclusion. The emphasis was on continuing the work at hand, both prior to and after the conference, regardless of the differences we may have among both individuals and congregations. Our mission has not changed. These sessions encouraged participants to continue to be fruitful and faithful by offering Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.
The mission of Reelfoot Rural Ministries (RRM) defines how the staff and volunteers of this organization strive each day to love our neighbor. The mission statement is: "Following Christ in building relationships, we provide resources and offer hope to our Reelfoot Lake neighbors." At the core of our work is relationships. Our reason for existing as a ministry is succinctly defined in this focus statement; "Restoring Hope, One Relationship at a Time." While our neighborhood includes the counties in northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky around Reelfoot Lake, our primary goal is to approach each neighbor, one relationship at a time. This helps us earn trust and discern needs.

There have been several changes "on the hill" at Reelfoot Rural Ministries this year. There have been changes to how we serve school supplies, groceries, and emergency resources. The changes in these areas have made our work a more efficient use of resources and the changes have expanded the impact we have with our neighbors and volunteers. Another area of major change was in the senior center. After the Christmas holiday, the senior day center at RRM ceased operation. This change was made to make personnel and ministry space available to impact more lives of senior citizens in more lasting ways. The dental clinic has been expanded in space and in the number of clinic offerings each month. The dental clinic now has an expanded focus on senior citizens to include annual preventative care as well as a denture lab. The other expansion in the area of senior citizens is with the home repair program known as ReelHOME. This ministry is specifically focused on making the homes of seniors safer, more accessible, and functional. The senior citizen centers in the area are still invited quarterly to the RRM Center for special meals and programs for seniors.

Reelfoot Rural Ministries began by serving children and continues this strong focus today. Each ministry at RRM impacts children and young people in some way. However, we specifically seek to "Invest in Young People" through our day care, school supplies drive, backpack buddies, the annual toy store, and the home rehabilitation work camp. These service projects help young people gain skills for life and an experience in serving the world for Christ. The goal of ministry services focused on children is to ensure that they know that they are beloved children of God.

At RRM, we seek to engage our mission field daily through the 12 ministries in which RRM is involved. These ministries include: Day Care, School Supplies, Christmas Toy Store, Lake County Imagination Library Sponsorship, Food Distribution Center, Emergency Services, Dental and Oral Hygiene Clinic, Vision Clinic, Special Needs Home, Lake County Backpack Buddies, ReelHOME, and the RRM Thrift Store. Some of these ministries require neighbors to come to us and others involve staff and volunteers working in the surrounding communities. The focus for the coming year is a more intentional focus on expanding our impact into the communities we serve.

Creating and transforming lay and clergy leaders along with growing fruitful and faithful churches are both areas of focus that are enhanced through the multiple volunteer opportunities at Reelfoot Rural Ministries. When individuals and groups come to RRM to volunteer, whether for a few hours, for a few days, or for a weeklong work camp, they are changed by the work of the Holy Spirit. This experience allows individuals, groups, and churches to grow closer in relationship with God, one another, and with the neighbors they serve. This causes transformation that strengthens personal relationships with Christ, thereby strengthening the local church in relationship with one another for ministry opportunities in that church’s own neighborhood.
RUST COLLEGE OF HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI

Dr. David L. Beckley, President

Established in 1866 by the Freedmen’s Aid Society of the Methodist Church on a former slave auction site. Rust is the oldest one of 11 Historically Black Colleges and Universities established after the Civil War by the Methodist Church still in existence today serving more than 1,000 students annually from Mississippi, 22 states and 4 foreign countries. Rust’s Mission continues to be in tune with the church’s overall philosophy – doing no harm, doing good and staying in love with Jesus Christ as we serve the young people who look to Rust as their bridge to a better tomorrow through education.

Rust College Religious Life is a diverse community providing the administration, faculty, staff and students sacred space to be fellow travelers on a journey of faith that leads to transformation of the individual and the world. The Office of the Chaplain oversees religious life activities, coordinates training for student ministers, and provides counseling for administration, faculty, staff, and students.

Informed by Christian tradition, Rust College religious life strives to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ to a diverse higher education community. Grounded in the Wesleyan tradition, religious life is the place where “Tomorrow’s Leaders are Students Today.” Students who will be and do “all the good they can, by all the means they can, in all the ways they can, in all the places they can, at all the times they can to all the people they can, for as long as they can.”

Highlights for 2017-2018 year include:
- The College ended the 2017-2018 fiscal year with a balanced budget for the 52nd consecutive year.
- Ms. Irah Gates, a junior Sociology major, Memphis, Tennessee was selected Student Ambassador for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- Rust College received a grant for $80,000 from the Hearin Foundation to support needy students seeking financial aid.
- Dr. Alisea McLeod, Assistant Professor in Humanities, received the Humanities Teacher of the Year award.
- Rust College Mass Communication Instructor, Mrs. Sharon Goodman-Hill, and senior student, Mr. William Robinson were Higher Education Appreciation Day - Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) recipients.
- Our frugal fiscal practices continue to keep us financially sound. For the last 50 years, Rust College has had a policy of only building “debt-free” non-income producing buildings. As a result of this policy, Rust has long term debts less than $1.5 million related to residential hall construction and renovations in 1990. We actively recruit foundations, corporations, alumni and friends for scholarship grants to help underwrite the tuition cost of our students who must have financial support to get and stay in school. Our text book-use-system assists us in keeping our tuition and fees to a minimum. For example, in 2012 tuition, room, board, books and fees totaled $12,150 annually. In 2017 the total cost is $14,200 which amounts to an increase of only $2,050 over a five-year period.

As you, our friends of the United Methodist Church, continue to uphold your promise of educational opportunity established many years ago, we, the members of the Rust College family, will uphold the promise made by our founder, Rev. A. C. McDonald in 1866, “to do not hothouse work” but will work to build men and women morally, spiritually and academically sound. We are thankful to you for your prayers and financial support. Your continued support is essential as we endeavor to build a stronger legacy for this generation and those in years to come who will look to Rust and our great church for higher educational opportunities. The College expresses thanks for the dedication and leadership of the following Trustee from the Memphis Annual Conference: Mr. Gary Shorb, Rev. Dr. Deborah B. Smith, Dr. Cora Norman, Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson, and Bishop William T. McAlilly.
The duties of a Lay Resource Leader are to further the mission of the Memphis 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 includes a multitude of avenues/strategies to provide vital connections and alliances to increase the capacity of the local church to develop disciples, who in turn make additional disciples.

This is being lived out in the 134 churches of the Tennessee River District through the four verbs in the mission statement.

New leadership is being discovered through the relationship building with local church members, as I attend weekly Sunday worship services, week-day Bible studies, fellowship events, and Vacation Bible School sessions.

Leaders are being equipped through a variety of training opportunities, including the expansion of The Generative Leadership Academy and its quarterly sessions: The Nature of God, A Life of Piety, Acts of Mercy, and Gifted, Called and Sent. During this past year, 101 folks attended GLA and are taking their leadership skills back to the local church to generate new leaders. Twelve Lay Servant Ministry classes, both basic and advanced are held each year in three locations throughout the district. Seventy lay servants have received training during the past year. Many are now serving as pulpit supply, as well as becoming Certified Lay Ministers. Leadership training is provided annually to improve the knowledge and skills of lay leaders in each congregation. A resource library located at the district office is maintained with books and DVD’s which are available for clergy and congregational use.

Every local church is encouraged to reach beyond the walls of their church building and form relationships with those in their community or neighborhood.

Now, disciples can be sent through a variety of avenues into the world, either locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, through school mentoring programs, feeding ministries, community Vacation Bible Schools, Volunteer in Mission Teams, Hispanic enrichment classes, and sheltering ministries. They are engaging through both word and deed to share the love of Jesus.
“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:1-5) To say the least, these are interesting times for the United Methodist Church. There is much speculation about what the future will hold. Nobody can say for sure what will transpire over the next several years. But we do know this: we have access to hope because of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Paul speaks of a peace that may see us through even (and especially) difficult times. In other words, it is not a peace based upon our circumstances, but rather based upon the past and present activity of God. That same work allows us to hope and with the promise that as we do that, we shall never be disappointed. We may live today with a joyful certainty that our future is secure. And that being the case we may also invest and financially plan with hope.

The work of the United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences and the United Methodist Development Fund of Tennessee/Kentucky is future oriented. The Foundation and Development Fund are committed to helping the local churches and extension ministries of the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences to sustain best practices and find new ways to encourage greater generosity while planning for future ministry. We do that in a number of ways.

First, our future orientation is lived out in our work as a custodian for endowed funds on behalf of local churches and other United Methodist ministries. As of December 31, 2018, our holdings were $53,755,839. Last year, a difficult final quarter caused the value of the fund to drop by approximately 5%. However, a solid first quarter in 2019 has more than recouped that loss. In 2018 alone, approximately $3.9 million were distributed for ministries in the two annual conferences. Endowed fund giving truly allows local churches the ability to fund ministry today while growing many monies for future faithfulness!

We also serve 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 3.99% and paying 1.675% to shareholders. Currently, the Fund has $11,675,883 on loan to local churches and ministries. By both loaning for new construction and refinancing existing capital debt, the Development Fund empowers churches to continue to give freely today while planning for the future!

In 2014, we launched a new initiative to help churches and ministries gain greater ability to encourage generosity. Over $75,000 has been given to churches in the Tennessee and Memphis Annual Conferences through the Stewardship Grant Program and by partnering with the Lake Institute’s Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity program. In 2017, the Foundation Board voted to initiate a new grant program. The Foundation works with newly commissioned and ordained clergy to help them find productive ways to retire educational debt. Each participant receives $1,000 for doing so. Once again, all of this is done in order to help churches and individuals give freely and anticipate all that God desires to do through us in the future!

In closing, I am reminded of the words of the old Gospel song: “Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow. And I know who holds my hand.” It is in the light of that knowledge that we can continue to freely give, never forgetting that the hope that we have in Jesus Christ will never disappoint.
If you have questions regarding the work and ministries of the Foundation, the Development Fund, or grant programs; 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 an endowed fund for your church or ministries, give us a call (615-259-2008) or visit our website at www.umfmtc.org.
Our 2018-19 Conference year has been a successful one, with a nearly unprecedented set of changes we have made, by God's Grace. The Vision shared in 2017 for divestiture of expensive properties has been made real. We are now completely out of major debt to the W. TN- W. KY Area Foundation, and that resource ministry worked with us in exemplary fashion.

Thanks to a partnership with Good Shepherd UMC, our Miriam Early Childhood Development Center as well as our administrative office are well located at 6050 Summer Avenue. An after-school ministry, two classes of Shelby County Schools Pre-K and traditional service with 2- to 4-year-olds are at full steam.

In addition, our “5-Star Ministry” plan is working out via partnerships spread around the Metro District. These include Mason Initiative in Mission (MIM) in impoverished Mason, TN, Hunger Ministry in Binghampton, and the new area-wide advocacy mission called Voices For Justice in the Mid-South (VFJM). Also, we are exploring partnership with Longstreet UMC for expanding their after-school program.

Despite the recent reductions, we are grateful for the ongoing support of the Memphis Conference. We are going to assist in the celebration of the life of this conference next year at the time of forming a “New Conference”, including the inspiring story of this mission dating from 1907.

God bless you all!

Mark Matheny, President
Program Director Iletha Washington
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Mary Lou Wurth, President

The Memphis Conference of United Methodist Women is a part of an organized group of women working in the area of mission. Over 800,000 women world wide are part of our organization. The

United Methodist Women is a supportive, inclusive Christian membership organization where women grow spiritually, develop as leaders and serve and work to create a world in which all women, children and youth thrive. United Methodist Women is celebrated as the women’s ministry of The United Methodist Church. Our members nurture one another in community and support U.S. and international projects and partners improving the lives of women, children and youth with their prayers, volunteering, and advocacy efforts, and financial gifts.

Each year we provide opportunities for women to achieve wholeness through Jesus Christ. We do this by planning, organizing, and executing events to aid women on their spiritual journeys:

1. Leadership Development Day. Our newly elected Conference officers attend a multi-day event lead by National Leadership to help develop leadership qualities in our ladies. They bring back information that is shared with the membership in a day long conference wide event.

2. Our Annual Spiritual Growth Retreat is held at Lakeshore Assembly and retreat center each spring. The 2018 Retreat entitled “A Guest of Grace; Cultivating Habits of Hospitality” was lead by Rev. Amanda Westmoreland, Associate Pastor of Bolivar United Methodist Church.

3. May 18-20, 2018 found United Methodist Women from around the world gathered at 2018 Assembly, “The Power of Bold” in Columbus, Ohio. Among the speakers was 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner Lehman Gbowee. Ms. Gbowee was awarded the Peace Prize by helping bring about the end of the Second Liberian War in 2003.

4. Mission of our mission education event included classes for adults, youth, and children. Our studies were “Living as a Covenant Community” (Spiritual Growth), “What about our Money” (current event issue), Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church, (geographic study), and “It’s just money” (youth study).

5. Social Action day is an event for participants to learn more about social issues that women face each day.

6. Each year books from five categories are selected by National UMW as additional reading materials. UMW members are encouraged to complete one of four reading plans. The categories are Education for Mission, Leadership, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. The plans begin with Plan one, reading one book (5 books) from each category and end with Plan four, reading two books from each category and an additional ten books (total 20 books) from the reading list.

Purpose: United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We are the United Methodist Women we put faith, hope, and love into action.
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 Program Manager of UT and Conference Ministries with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH).

UTHSC is composed entirely 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 immersion in the hospital and healthcare setting, where he ministers to patients, families, and medical professionals of all kinds.

The campus ministry student group at UTHSC is called the Faith Health Collaborative (FHC). For more information and partnership opportunities, please visit the student group website at www.faithhealthcollaborative.com. FHC engages the entire UTHSC community – all colleges and programs, all students, faculty, and staff. FHC connects UTHSC to MLH, including its clinical work, its fruitful partnerships with community organizations and congregations, its local and international missions and service opportunities, and its unique educational initiatives through the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health. Since being officially approved as a campus student group in 2016, FHC has recruited student vice presidents from all 6 of the colleges that make up UTHSC and also has an active membership of nearly 50 students.

Specific initiatives for FHC include:

**Connection to United Methodist Congregations and Programs**
Through FHC, students, faculty, and staff connect to Chaplain Lewis and the United Methodist Church. Relationships and partnerships with United Methodist congregations and programs are a significant part of FHC. FHC aims to be an innovative vehicle that increases student exposure to the church and its health ministries.

**Support and Service**
Chaplain Lewis is a Board Certified Chaplain, experienced spiritual caregiver, and currently a candidate for a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Therapy at Memphis Theological Seminary. Jonathan's increased exposure to UTHSC enables him to offer more support and care to the entire UTHSC community, witnessing to the love of Christ that can work through the United Methodist Church and its people, reflecting the call of the Gospel to love God and love our neighbors.

**Education**
In partnership with Church Health, Chaplain Lewis continues to help design and facilitate the “Serving The Underserved” certificate course. Serving The Underserved seeks to create a space for productive dialogue among health science students on the components of healthcare among underserved populations and the ways in which poverty shapes the health lives of people and communities. Each class session focuses on a topic relevant to this overall goal, featuring speakers who are leaders in the Memphis healthcare community and elsewhere. Students have the opportunity to interact and dialogue with these leaders and with each other in the effort to raise awareness, competency, and action for these issues. FHC helps to expand and develop that educational experience, aligning itself with the Wesleyan emphases on health, education, and personal formation. Serving The Underserved received about 200 applications from interested students and faculty persons in 2018. Since starting in 2010, Serving The Underserved has engaged nearly 700 students and faculty, and there are currently another 100 students on a waiting list for the program.
The Wesley Foundation at UT Martin is a ministry of the Memphis Conference of the UMC whose Mission Statement reads: **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.

At UTM Wesley we seek to live into the conference mission statement with our own mission statement: **Offering Christian community that empowers students to explore faith and discover grace in order for all to develop a strong, confident foundation in God’s Kingdom.**

In reports over the last two years we have shared evidence of the places we are investing in young people, engaging the mission field, creating transforming lay and clergy leaders, and growing fruitful and faithful churches in the context of our ministry. As an extension ministry on college campus we have the unique position of being able to contribute to each of those five areas of focus in unique ways that center around young people (a highly underrepresented demographic in the United Methodist Church), but also in ways that dynamically involve local churches. The 2018-2019 year has been no different. We continue to offer space for young people to gather, fellowship and worship. Weekly worship and Bible study continue. Our small groups have changed and shifted, but we are exploring new ways to offer this ministry. We have partnered with the MS River District to offer 9 internships to college students who are serving in ministry roles at UTM Wesley and 5 district churches. We have expanded our regular service opportunities to include an immersion trip to Memphis that focused on engaging diverse populations and understanding systems that create poverty. Other opportunities have arisen organically, such as: participating in childcare at Fulton FUMC’s weekly Celebrate Recovery service and hosting a pet adoption drive. And, we have encouraged participation in summer opportunities like Lakeshore Camp and Retreat Center where we again have UTM Wesley students on summer staff. We have also added an intramural ministry which has been the avenue for several new students. At the end of the school year we will be celebrating the baptism of one student who came through the invitation of a friend and found her faith in Jesus Christ. The 2018-2019 Wesley Student Council has been the most dynamic, mature, and effective group of student leaders we have seen in the past few years. They have cultivated a culture that nurtures care for body, mind, and soul. Good and fruitful things are happening!

As we continue to grow and do ministry, we are becoming increasingly aware of our need to do administrative and structural work to ensure the sustainability of our ministry. Last July we hired an administrative assistant that works 20 hours per week to help with administrative work in the ministry. We thank Martin FUMC for providing the funds that could make that happen. Additionally, our board of directors voted to hire Jennie Dickerson of Cabin 9 Consulting to guide us through the process of developing a strategic plan. As the state of conference funding becomes more and more precarious, we see it is more important than ever to work on ways to be a self-sustaining ministry that engages the churches in the region in joining the mission efforts we are making on the UT Martin campus and the Martin community. The plan lays out in detail a 5 year process for addressing the following strategic goals:

- Create a culture that is conducive to exploring faith and discovering grace.
- Provide tools, resources, & opportunities for students at a variety of levels of discipleship to become confident in their Christian faith.
- Develop Christian spiritual leaders.
- Connect effectively with UTM campus and surrounding community.
- Create covenant relationships with regional churches.
- Provide an inviting facility to build and nurture community

We have high hopes for the ways this plan can help us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to sustain the good work God is doing at UTM Wesley Foundation. Thanks be to God!
WESLEY LIVING
WESLEY SENIOR MINISTRIES
WESLEY MISSION
Jim Nasso, Chief Executive Officer
jnasso@wesleyliving.com – 901.380.4900

Wesley Housing Corporation of Memphis, Inc. d.b.a. Wesley Living, Wesley Senior Ministries and Wesley at Graceland, Inc. d.b.a. Wesley Mission is essentially about people—elderly residents and at-home clients, staff, pastors, executives and 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. Visit our new and updated website at www.wesleyliving.com.

Since last year’s Annual Conference our organization’s focus has not wavered from its service oriented areas with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for the elderly. These areas are Ministry, Preservation, Staff development and the Future. Ministry is at the heart of our purpose and Pastoral care is a key to the lives of those we serve. We are finding more and more residents wanting one-on-one care requiring more dedication to this and what is sometimes a very specialized service. Every community continues to be served by a United Methodist pastor located close to every community. This would not be possible without the ongoing cooperation of every district superintendent, active clergy and several retired clergy who remain committed to serving.

Providing affordable housing and assisted living is the largest part of the ministry. The goal is to continually update the existing while expanding the services being provided. Beginning in 2019 a Wellness Counselor has been added to the staff to educate our residents in all areas of wellness, fitness and nutrition. And, as reported last year, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency awarded two competitively bid applications to St. Peter Manor, a 283 unit community in the Midtown area of Memphis and St. Joseph Village, a 90 unit community in Dyersburg, TN. The preservation and other construction efforts is now underway. The lives of every resident in these two communities will be greatly enhanced once this effort is complete later this year.

No amount of ministry, preservation or genuine caring can be provided without compassion filled quality staff. Our efforts to provide a living wage and competitive benefits continues again this year with an increase of the minimum starting wage by $1.00 per hour. Careers are to be found at Wesley Living and encourage everyone to inquire if a faith based organization is of interest for their career path.

For the ninth year Wesley Home Services provides non-medical, in-home assistance services which range from companionship to housekeeping to personal assistance. It is proving to be an incredibly rewarding way to serve our seniors when served with an employee possessing the highest moral, ethical and compassionate character.

The number of elderly needing quality, affordable housing and services continues to grow. Wesley Living is a premier provider and remains committed to solving these social issues. Wesley Living also remains committed to expanding the number of elderly served when possible.

Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation of Memphis, Inc. d.b.a. Golden Cross Senior Ministries continues to be a strong partner providing answers to resident needs. Please see their report in the Journal.

We sincerely appreciate your prayerful support. We continue to measure our effectiveness in how the lives of the elderly and their families are improved every day. Today, we re-commit ourselves to honor this connection and to live out our mission “In response to the love of God....”
WESLEY SENIOR MINISTRIES FOUNDATION
David Kabakoff, President
David@goldencross.org

Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation of Memphis, Inc. d.b.a Golden Cross Senior Ministries has a mission, “To enhance the quality of life for all seniors served by Wesley Living.”

Mr. “B” lived an amazing life in the country woods. Fishing, gardening and working around his serene home was how he spent his days. That is, until tragedy hit! A catastrophic house fire burned his home to the ground, wiping out everything! With no insurance and funds to rebuild, Mr. “B” joined the ranks of homeless seniors. Adequate housing now seemed impossible, especially after a cancer diagnosis and related medical expenses. For the next several years, Mr. “B” spent his time between homeless shelters and the couches of generous friends.

Fortunately, Mr. “B” found his way to a Wesley Living community and now is under the caring umbrella of Golden Cross Senior Ministries. After we were able to bless Mr. “B” with the generosity shown to Golden Cross, here is what was reported: “For the first time in years, Mr. “B” was able to sleep in his own bed, sit in his own chair in the quiet of his own home, place his clothing in his own private chest of drawers and choose what he wanted to eat while preparing it in his own kitchen. He felt safe for the first time in a long time and his son expressed that he saw his father smile for the first time in a long while.” Your generosity has resulted in yet another transformed life!

Golden Cross Senior Ministries now serves the needs of almost 2,200 senior residents living in the 29 Wesley Living affordable housing retirement communities in West Tennessee, Murray KY and Jonesboro, AR. Golden Cross Senior Ministries supports those dear residents with daily use items, financial assistance and social activities. That support can’t happen without the generosity of God’s angels throughout the Memphis Conference.

There are four main initiatives undertaken by the mission of Golden Cross Senior Ministries: the Resident Support fund provides material individual support, The Homeless Initiative provides interventions for homeless seniors moving into a Wesley Living community, Personal Support Services Scholarship provides personal care support for the most “frail” residents and the Endowment Fund that represents a “permanent” lasting gift protecting the future.

100% of all monies donated to Golden Cross Senior Ministries go directly to the benefit of the senior residents of Wesley Living communities. Why? Because no senior should ever have to travel life’s journey alone!

A local church had a member who had been living with an extremely abusive caregiver. The physical, mental and financial abuse got so bad that Ms. P fled her living situation. Finding her way to a Wesley Living community her life began to turn around. After a time a loyal Golden Cross supporter sent this email to report on Ms. P: “I wanted to let you know Ms. P is doing well. It was a hard two weeks, but she is settled into her forever home. I now see “first hand” how life changing Golden Cross and Wesley Living are. It is amazing to watch a woman so lost and scared put her faith in God to provide her every need. It has changed her life and mine, too!”

Your support, prayers, encouragement and donations truly transform lives one need at a time.

Blessings,
David

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Wesley Theological Seminary Annual Conference Report 2019

Fostering wisdom and courage

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

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

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

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

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

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

In our 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program, in partnership with Shenandoah University, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degrees in six years. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees.
Wesley provides **more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships** thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends. Our new **Generación Latinx Scholarship** joins our many merit-based scholarships that enable **students to afford seminary education**. The **Community Engagement Institute at Wesley** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engage their communities. Our **Community Engagement Fellows program** prepares students to **engage in entrepreneurial ministry**. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their M.Div. degree. Students can focus their fellowship on Public Theology, Urban Ministry or Missional Church. Meet our current Fellows at [https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/](https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/)

**Take your ministry to the next level**

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

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

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

**Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stay connected

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

Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/. Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley’s social media, www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram at wesleyseminary, and on Twitter at WesleyTheoSem or sign up for our electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.
WESTERN KENTUCKY
UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES
Timm Fair, Chair

Western Kentucky United Methodist Family Services (WKUMFS) is a 501(c)(3) Foster Care Support Agency of The Memphis Conference of The United Methodist Church. Its ministry aligns perfectly with the Memphis Conference Mission; especially offering Jesus Christ to the hurting world, one neighborhood at a time. The Holy Scriptures in Proverbs 31:8-9 NLT says: Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.

The oppression of children entering foster care comes primarily from neglect or drug abuse by their birth parents. There are currently 9,700+ children in foster care in the state of Kentucky. WKUMFS engages this mission field in The Purchase District by establishing connections with social workers and foster parents as it prays for and serves these hurting children.

WKUMFS’ Mission is threefold: 1) Provide for the care and maintenance, support and education of foster children and foster families. 2) Transform local churches by informing them of the ever-present need for foster parents, respite parents, and adoptive parents. 3) Develop foster children into good citizens of the community through experiencing the love of Jesus Christ.

The WKUMFS Board of Trustees consists of volunteer laity and clergy from local area United Methodist Churches along with Purchase District and Memphis Conference Connectional Ministry leaders.

What Are Local United Methodist Churches Doing to Help?
When congregations are inspired and equipped to help foster and adoptive families: Every child is cared for, every family has hope, congregations are strengthened, and communities are healthier and safer.

Trinity UMC (Graves Co.) began, in 2018, hosting a Fall Festival on their grounds for foster children and foster parents; and they will begin hosting an Easter Egg Hunt in 2019. Lone Oak UMC began hosting, in 2018, bi-monthly training meetings for the Paducah area foster children and foster parents. Here are several ways congregations can get involved: begin a Prayer Initiative, start a Supportive Care Group, hold an Adoption/Foster Care Awareness Event, host a Local Child Placing Agency Training or Special Event, begin a Bags of Love ministry, or donate to WKUMFS.

Improving the life of foster children is the measure of success. The Kentucky Foster Care program measures success against its permanency goals. They are 1) return to birth parent, 2) permanent relative placement and 3) adoption. There are currently 200+ children awaiting adoption in Western Kentucky. Fourteen children in foster care, helped by WKUMFS, were eventually adopted in 2018. Jesus described the final judgement in Matthew 25:40 NLT “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!’
United Theological Seminary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Kent Millard
President
United Theological Seminary
GENERAL CONFERENCE AUTHORIZED OBSERVANCES WITH OFFERINGS:
(¶262 AND ¶263 THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

1. Human Relations Day—January 19, 2020
   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.

2. UMCOR Sunday – March 22, 2020
   A special offering for disaster and emergency relief administered by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

3. Native American Ministries Sunday – May 3, 2020
   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.

4. Peace with Justice Sunday – June 7, 2020
   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.

5. World Communion Sunday – October 4, 2020
   Provides support for Crusade Scholarships, Ethnic Scholarship Program, and Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

6. United Methodist Student Day – November 29, 2020
   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.
   a. Conference Special Days Request with Offerings:

7. Sunglasses Sunday – February 2, 2020
   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.

8. Youth Service Fund Sunday – March 1, 2020
   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.

   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”.

10. Lakeshore Giving Sunday – June 7, 2020
    Lakeshore has been blessed with a thriving ministry on the shores of the Tennessee River since 1948. Thousands of campers and guests have experienced the God of Grace on these grounds. Lakeshore is a legacy of this conference, passed down from generation to generation. We are now in our fourth generation of the camp family and intend to have just as vibrant a ministry four generations from now. We would not be where we are today without the support of the local church, and we would like to encourage each congregation to participate in Lakeshore Giving Sunday to raise the funds that will continue this good work.
1. **Project Transformation – June 21, 2020**
   Our mission is to engage young adults in purposeful leadership and ministry, support underserved children and families, and connect churches to communities in need. We provide high-quality, structured after school and summer day camp programs for underserved children and youth.

2. **Christian Education Sunday – August 2, 2020**
   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.

3. **Conference Advance Special Day – September 6, 2020**
   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.

4. **Grace Place Church (Missional Church) – September 20, 2020**
   A vibrant and unique prison ministry for women at the West Tennessee Correctional Facility at Ft. Pillow, TN. 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.

5. **Disability Awareness Sunday – October 11, 2020**
   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.

6. **Reelfoot Rural Ministries Sunday – October 18, 2020**
   Reelfoot Rural Ministries provides numerous spiritual and social services for low-income families, children and the elderly in rural northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky.

7. **Partner’s in Permanency – October 25, 2020**
   **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.

8. **Memphis United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, December 6, 2020**
   Supports the work of the Neighborhood Centers in Memphis – a ministry of presence and support among the poor and marginalized.

9. **Lenten Hunger Offering, February 26 to April 12, 2020**
   Taken during the Lenten season or another time during the year chosen by each congregation. Supports lenten hunger ministries including Mexico feeding ministry, Project Peanut Butter and Our Father’s House. Also provides support for conference hunger projects including United Methodist Neighborhood Centers in Memphis and Reelfoot Rural Ministry, four districts to distribute to local church feeding ministries.
III. GENERAL CONFERENCE AUTHORIZED DAYS WITHOUT OFFERINGS
(¶264 THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

1. Heritage Sunday – May 24, 2020
   To call the church to remember the past by committing itself to God’s continuing call.

2. Laity Sunday – October 18, 2020
   To celebrate the ministry of all Christians as their lives are empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit.

3. Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday – November 8, 2020
   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

1. Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns – January 5, 2020
   To develop Christian unity through prayer and fellowship.

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

3. Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) Awareness Sunday – August 23, 2020
   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.

4. Vocation Day: Hearing God’s Call to Ordained and Licensed Ministry – September 6, 2020
   To celebrate God’s claim on our lives with particular emphasis on being called into the ordained and licensed ministry and hearing clergy share their own call.

5. Drug and Alcohol Concerns Sunday – November 1, 2020
United Theological Seminary endnotes

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