

# Preconference Reports

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## 2021 CONFERENCE SESSIONS COMMITTEE

Sessions Committee Chair .....	Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata
Agenda and Orders of the Day Coordinator (Outgoing).....	Rev. Ann Lyter
Agenda and Orders of the Day Coordinator (Incoming) .....	Rev. Diamond Pate
ARMS Representative .....	Rev. Louie Lyon
Board of Ordained Ministry Representative .....	Rev. Melissa Rynders
Cabinet Representative .....	Rev. N. Susan Brims
Committee on Religion and Race Representative .....	Rev. Javier Olivares
Communications, Director .....	Christina Dillabough
Conference Lay Leader .....	Laurie Lineberry
Conference Lay Leader, Associate .....	Regina Walker
Conference Secretary .....	Rev. Jennifer Lambert
Conference Treasurer .....	Randy Bowman
Connectional Ministries, Director .....	
Courtesies Coordinator .....	Rev. Michael Patzloff
Ethnic and Local Church Concerns Representative .....	Rev. Khalif Smith
Executive Assistant to the Bishop .....	Julie O'Neal
Hospitality .....	Rev. Michael Patzloff
Legislative Coordinator .....	Trinity Donovan
New & Vital Faith Development, Director .....	Rev. David McPherson
Outreach Ministries, Director .....	Billie Fidlin
Registrar .....	Lori Davalos
Facilities Coordinator .....	Cynthia Satchel
Worship Coordinator .....	Pastor Christopher Wurpts

The Sessions Committee plans, arranges, and hosts the Annual Conference each year. At the beginning of 2021, it was determined that we would again hold Annual Conference online in response to the pandemic. At the time of the decision, vaccines were just being introduced, and there many unknowns regarding the rollout for our communities. It takes creativity and many voices at the virtual table to assemble such an event, thus the theme, "Many Gifts, One Spirit." From the way we provide reports to how we vote, Bishop Hoshibata facilitated preparations for this unique set of circumstances. Thank you to the members of the Sessions Committee for their commitment and dedication in sharing their gifts for the 37<sup>th</sup> session of Annual Conference.

All information related to this session of Annual Conference will be on the Desert Southwest Conference website: <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/>. All information related to this session of Annual Conference will be on the Desert Southwest Conference website: <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/>.

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Jonathan Arnpriester, President*

The Conference Board of Trustees worked on several projects this last year.

#### INSURANCE

- Based on approval received at the 2020 session of Annual Conference, your Desert Southwest Conference Board of Trustees began providing the mandatory insurance program through Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company for the 4-year period of 2021-2024. Brotherhood Mutual is committed to outstanding customer service and regular interaction with church leaders across our conference.

#### PROPERTY

- We closed on sale of the parsonage and church property of the former Camp Verde UMC.
- We closed on sale of the former Youngtown UMC property.
- These property sales and good investment returns through the year raised the balance of the New Church-Start endowment fund at the Foundation to \$6.7 million as of December 31, 2020.

#### OTHER

- We are in the early stages of the legal process related to lawsuits against the Boy Scouts for claims of sexual abuse which occurred in that late 1980's. Two of our churches, as chartering organizations, have been named as defendants.
- We generated a small deficit of \$1,169 in our 2020 operating budget. We remain committed to fiscal responsibility.
- We have no recommendations to come before the annual conference this year.

It has been our pleasure to do the necessary Trustees work over the past year. We look forward to serving the Conference again in the year ahead.

### CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

*Catherine "Cat" Holbert*

Desert Southwest Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries exists to provide immersive experiences that nurture Christian faith. Our vision is that we form people of all ages as disciples of Jesus Christ who work for positive transformation in the world. We value inclusion, love of all, and experiential learning within our communities where we emphasize creation care and personal growth.

Throughout the unprecedented year of COVID-19, the ministries at Mingus Mountain and Potosi Pines have remained active through both virtual and safer in-person means. Our staff team was instrumental in creating a nation-wide virtual camp opportunity, launched by the larger United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries Association. Additionally, we stretched and found new ways to bring ministry to our communities through a variety of zoom camp sessions and a virtual talent show for all in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. We contributed children's moments to churches, provided support to parents, and when we finally could we offered modified in-person opportunities. These projects have kept our campfires stoked and ministries blooming.

All are invited to join in this exciting and unique ministry as a retreat guest, a camper, volunteer, donor, or supporter by checking us out at [www.mingusmountaincamp.org](http://www.mingusmountaincamp.org) or [www.potosipinescamp.org](http://www.potosipinescamp.org) and on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Mark your calendars for next March 6, 2022 to be a part of our campership fundraiser so that all who want to attend camp can attend camp, after all, we know that camp does people a world of good!

### COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

*Katie Tay, Chairperson*

*Jennifer Barber, Conference Archivist*

Archives & History is responsible for collecting, preserving, and making accessible the historically significant records of the Desert Southwest Conference, its districts, agencies, and committees, as well as predecessor

conferences, and closed churches. We encourage and assist the local churches in preserving their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their heritage.

We invite you to visit our new and improved webpage: [www.dscumc.org/archiveshistory](http://www.dscumc.org/archiveshistory).

New items include resources for the local church, a listing of what is available in the Conference Archives, and a new Digital Archive section. We are in the process of digitizing and making available the last 150 years of Conference Journals for our current and 24 predecessor Conferences (that is a *lot* of Journals). You will also find inventories of records of closed churches, historical records of local churches, and personal papers that have been donated and are housed at the Conference Archives. Highlights of the collections are shared on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Archives.History/>

In 2020, the oldest church in the Conference, Prescott UMC celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a year-long celebration. Central UMC of Phoenix will be holding a delayed celebration in 2021 in observation of their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many of our Conference-wide plans to celebrate 150 years of Methodism in Arizona and 115 years of Methodism in Nevada have been delayed. We recognize that many of us have had to delay, postpone, and/or cancel many things over the last year. One day soon we may gather to celebrate and worship. It is our hope that you as a church are documenting how the last year has, and continues to, affect your congregation. History is just something that happened long ago, and it is important to remember and record what is happening today.

Desert Southwest Conference will host the Western Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History meeting in Phoenix in February 2022. Everyone is invited to attend. Look for more information this fall.

### **EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE**

*Rev. Gary Kennedy, Chair*

The Episcopacy Committee of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference has been busy during the past annual conference year. The nature of suspended worship throughout the annual conference in 2020 and the development of the Zoom call culture actually assisted us in being able to have more meetings than the customary one or two in person meeting that we have had in past years. Transitioning from live to zoom meetings gave us greater flexibility and more “face to face” zoom meetings.

The work of the Episcopacy Committee is in large part confidential (somewhat like the work of the local church Staff Parish Relations Committee) with specific duties as described in ¶637 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*. Our committee has faithfully executed those duties and remain ready whenever called upon by the Bishop or need.

Our committee faces considerable work ahead during time of Episcopal transition. The work we do is important to the annual conference and important to the work of the Bishop. We have enjoyed a good working relationship with Bishop Robert Hoshibata and Julie O’Neal.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

*Rev. Jim Wallasky, Chair*

During the past year, the Personnel Committee met to address a number of issues and develop several recommendations. We developed recommendations for 2021 compensation increases for Conference employees (other than Exempt Level One employees, which are approved by the Annual Conference itself). Based on consideration of changes in the consumer price index, changes in average compensation for clergy in our conference and across the denomination, Social Security increases, and available funds in the conference budget, we recommended cost-of-living increases for Conference staff for 2021 of 1.3%.

Based on the same considerations, the committee is recommending to the 2021 Annual Conference the 2022 salary ranges shown in the Personnel Committee recommendation legislation. These ranges represent a 1.5% increase from the 2021 salary ranges for Exempt employees (other than Exempt Level One employees) and Non-Exempt employees approved by last year’s Annual Conference. The Committee requests your approval of these 2022 salary range recommendations.

All members of the Committee are proud to serve this Conference.

## STATISTICAL REPORT

*Randy Bowman, Statistician*

The 2020 statistics for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference were significantly skewed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many measures declined, some by quite a bit. A few measures (such as online worship participation) improved dramatically. Overall, though, the pandemic made analysis of 2020 statistics a difficult and largely futile exercise. So, with little interpretation, following are descriptions of some traditional statistical metrics. (Note that this report is prepared as of March 2021. Minor adjustments may subsequently occur in some figures as a few more churches' statistical tables trickle in.)

### Churches

One church (Youngtown UMC) was closed in 2020, and two fellowships (Orontes and Maranatha UMF) ceased operating as United Methodist worshipping congregations. Therefore, so we had 116 churches and ten fellowships in the Conference as of December 31, 2020.

The composition of churches and fellowships in the Conference at December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
Churches increased in size	14	4	2	6	2
Churches decreased in size	86	16	21	23	26
Churches unchanged in size	26	8	6	7	5
	126	28	29	36	33

The median size of churches/fellowships in the Conference at December 31, 2020 was 115 (down from 116 at December 31, 2019). The average church/fellowship size was 195 (down from 203 at December 31, 2019).

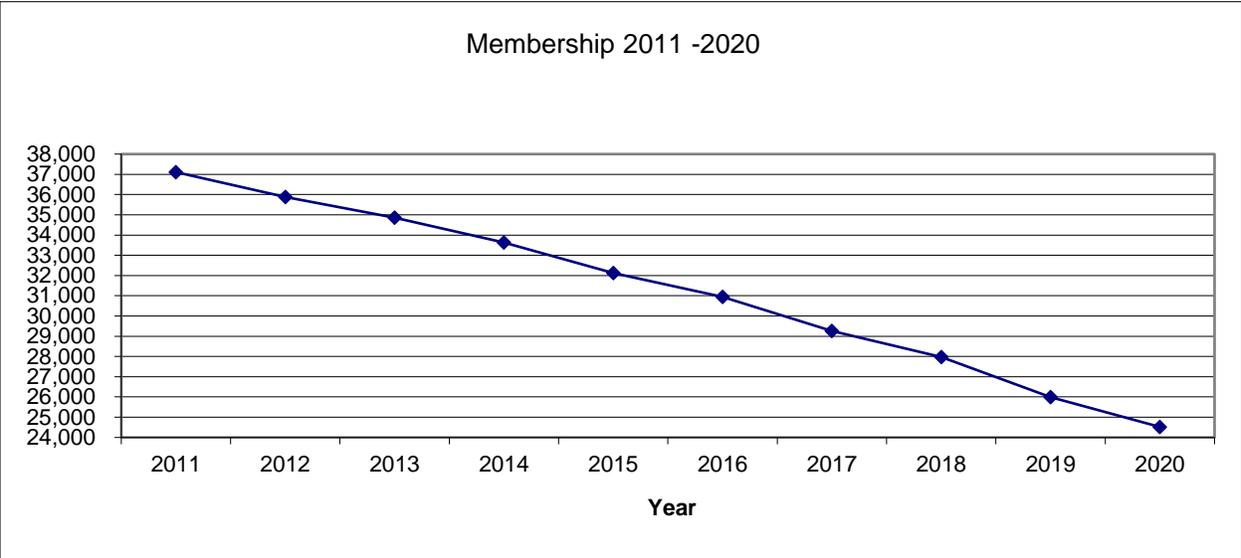
### Membership

The number of members in the Conference decreased 5.7% from 25,990 at December 31, 2019 to 24,519 at December 31, 2020 as follows:

Added:	Profession of faith	268	
	Affirmation	98	
	Corrections	123	
	Transfers	260	749
Removed:	Charge Conference action	674	
	Withdrawn	287	
	Corrections	161	
	Transfers	340	
	Death	758	(2,220)-1301
Net Change			(1,471)

Demographically, 2.8% of members at December 31, 2020 were Asian, 3.0% were African American, 3.7% were Hispanic, 0.5% were Native American, 1.6% were Pacific Islander, 85.5% were White, and 2.9% were Multi Racial. Females represented 61.2% of members at December 31, 2019, while males made up 38.8% of members.

In the past decade, our total number of members has declined steadily as demonstrated in the following graph.



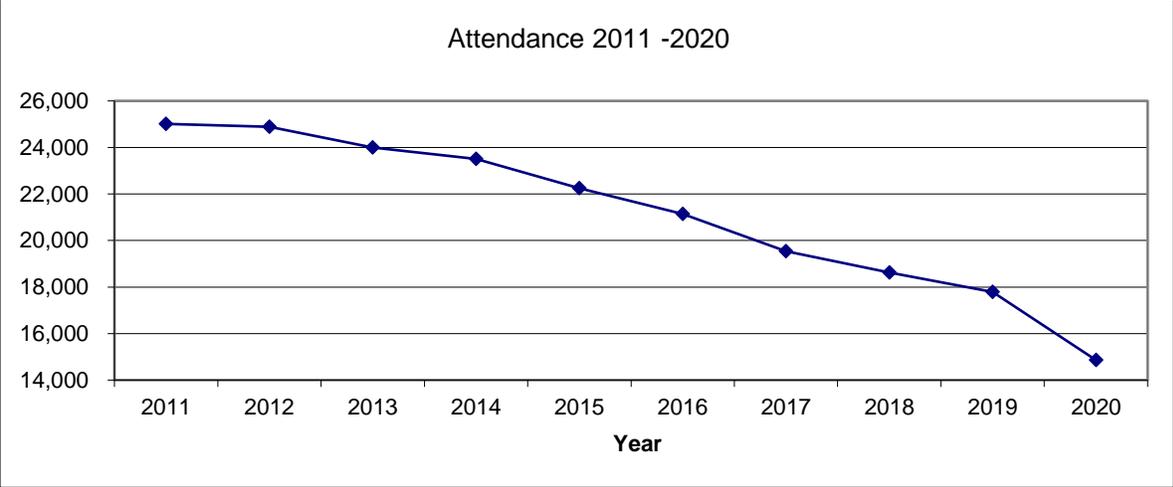
Attendance

On an average Sunday there were 14,859 United Methodists in church at worship in 2020, down 16.5% from 2019. 2020 attendance was dramatically impacted by COVID-19 and represents averages for only the brief time periods when in-person worship was permitted. Average attendance in 2020 represented 60.6% of membership, down from 68.5% in 2019. On the positive side, COVID-19 caused online worship to dramatically increase to 28,577 persons in 2020 from just 3,127 persons in 2019.

The composition of churches/fellowships in the Conference at December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
Churches with greater attendance	29	3	9	9	8
Churches with lower attendance	72	19	18	19	16
Churches with same attendance	25	6	2	8	9
	<u>126</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>

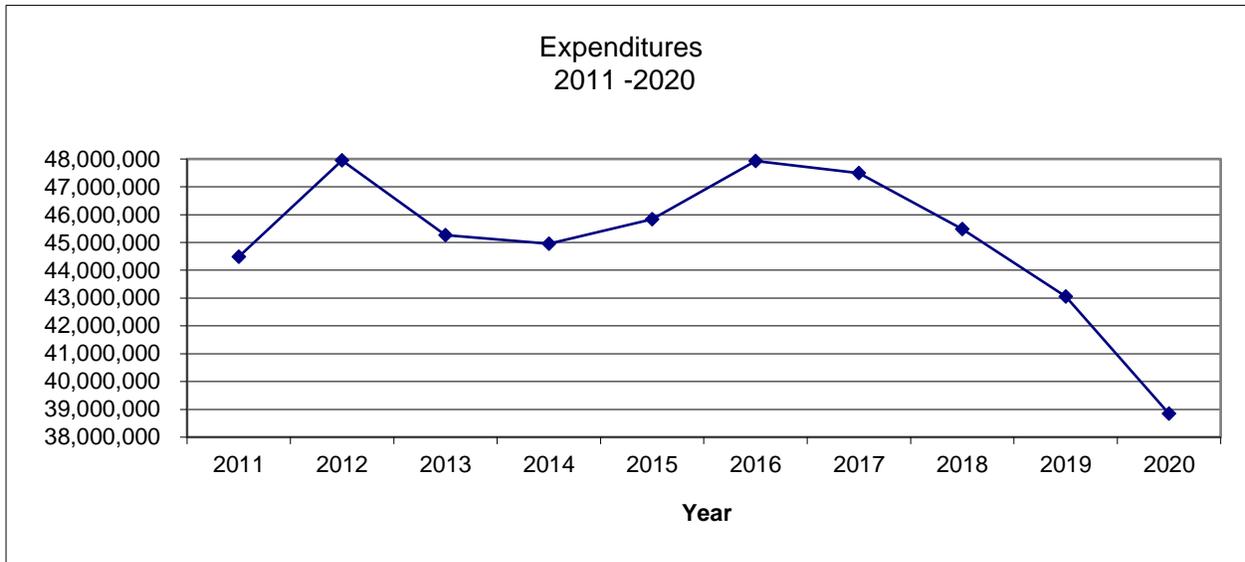
Our conference’s attendance has declined steadily for the past 10 years as demonstrated in the following graph.



Expenditures

Total local church expenditures decreased 9.8% from \$43.1 million in 2020 to \$38.8 million in 2019. Total local church expenditures were broken down as follows: 51% staff (clergy/lay compensation and benefits), 20% operating

expenses, 16% apportionments and other benevolences, 6% capital expenditures, 4% debt service, and 3% program. Total local church expenditures trends for the past ten years are demonstrated in the following graph.



**Summary**

The Conference in 2020 continued the trends of declines in churches (1.6%), membership (5.7%), attendance (16.5%), and expenditures (9.8%), although many of these metrics were undoubtedly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2. CABINET REPORT**

- Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent*
- Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent*
- Rev. Matt Ashley, South District Superintendent*
- Rev. Dan Morley, North District Superintendent*

**How Long, O Lord, How Long?**

Last year’s Cabinet report was a review of how our church had moved through Uncharted Territory. We were in the early months on the pandemic when those words were written. We had no idea of what lay ahead of us. In the year since that time, we have heard the cry, “How long, O Lord, how long,” loud and clear.

Our church and our nation cried: How long, O Lord, before we figure out how to dismantle systemic racism and discover the ways of love, equity, and justice. We look for this not simply in words alone, but in the policies and practices of our communal lives.

Our church and our nation cried: How long, O Lord, before we learn that when the Bible teaches us that God loves all people, that all means all, calling us to create a church where we discover and use the gifts God has given to all people.

Our church and our nation cried: How long, O Lord, will it be before the pandemic ends and life returns to more familiar patterns. The stress of all that has happened during the pandemic has left our clergy and our churches stressed, exhausted and at the same time experiencing something of a renewal.

We listened to the cry and, in the midst of listening, we discovered ways that God is present. Our pastors, churches and ministries have been resilient in the face of all that has come before us in this last year. Yes, it has been a year of challenges, but it has also been a year of unexpected wonder and excitement as we have watched the ways that God is moving. As District Superintendents we found ourselves turning to the Psalms for inspiration and found that when

the people of God meditate on God's ways that they are like trees planted by streams of water, which do indeed yield good fruit.

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.  
They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

### **Commitment to Walk in New Paths**

As we entered Annual Conference 2020, we were witnesses to the horrific deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many others whose names we were just beginning to pay attention to. As an Appointive Cabinet we made a commitment to walk in the waters of our baptism, seeking God's direction how to become new people. We have learned that addressing racism is a difficult matter. Together we, with the entire appointive cabinet, engaged with in-depth book studies, completed and discussed our learnings from the Implicit Bias Workbook and the Intercultural Development Inventory, participated in the Conference 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge, learned from watching *The Long Shadow* and watched webinars hosted by The Race Coalition. At times our discussions were difficult. We did not rush through them for the sake of checking off a list. Instead, we committed ourselves to learning, self-reflection, engaging in difficult discussions, and leaning into what needs to change, in ourselves and in the systems of our Conference.

We have discovered the ways that our language revealed our growing awareness. We moved from thinking and speaking in theoretical ways, to thinking and speaking in more personal ways. Language that began as "this is what they (the government, systems, others, etc.) need to recognize or do," changed to "this is what I (no ambiguity here) need to do, or this is what we, as church leaders, need to do." Listening to our own language taught us humility and revealed to us the ignorance in so much of what we had been taught, and therefore taught others. Listening to our own language caused us to confess our own sin of complicity in supporting and sustaining systemic racism.

The Wesleyan way of discipleship has its strong foundation in personal holiness. Personal holiness asks each one of us to consider how we live and work together as the people of God. Personal holiness grows through continuing study of all of scripture, not just the parts we want to hold onto. It means praying together, talking, and listening to one another. We discovered ways in which the presence and power of this foundational tenet was challenged as people, even people in our churches, grew upset at discussions that addressed racism, or as decisions were made for the care of one another during the pandemic.

In a time when some churches have deemphasized the liturgical practice of confession, even the confession found in the communion liturgy, we have rediscovered a call to renew the practice of confession in our communal lives. Confession holds us accountable to one another for the ways we live and work together as disciples of Christ.

As we reclaim and refocus on confession what we have been reminded of is just how the Imago Dei, the image of God, is present in every person. This spiritual practice empowers us to value each culture and every person.

### **Many Gifts**

Through our prayerful discussions and learnings, we are committed to continue to better prepare pastors and Staff Parish Relations Committees for Cross Cultural/Cross Racial (CC/CR) appointments. This is a growing edge for our churches. SPRC teams often feel they are open to Cross Cultural/Cross Racial appointments. When we have engaged in study and preparation together, we have found the outcome to be fruitful for the appointment, the pastor, and for the congregation. It is our hope that all our church SPRC teams, pastors, and congregations would engage in

Cross Cultural/Cross Racial studies long before receiving a CC/CR appointment. Our Conference is becoming more diverse in many ways, and we need to be ready for this wonderful movement of God's Spirit.

We continue to work with our district committees to increase diversity and therefore enhance all that we do together.

When we, as District Superintendents, Appointive Cabinet, pastors, and churches engaged in discussions and plans to dismantle racism; we were encouraged by the gifts the church has to offer for the transformational work that is needed. If we will find courageous ways to live our faith, then we believe the church is uniquely positioned to dismantle racism and build a more loving and just world.

### **Delight is in the Law of the Lord**

You might think that California's giant redwood trees would have roots that grow deep into the ground. But it is not so - redwood roots are quite shallow, typically growing only five or six feet under the soil. Nonetheless redwoods can stand for well over a thousand years because the trees grow near one another; the roots of each tree reach out to meet and grow around the roots of the other trees so that all the trees are holding one another up, helping one another to withstand the storms that might otherwise knock them to the ground.

Our United Methodist tradition teaches that the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation, and so we are people who delight in the Law of the Lord. We experience the richness of Christian fellowship when we engage in Bible Study together, and we meet God in the silence of our meditations upon the Scriptures. On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus shared a commandment with his disciples, the Law of Love, that we should 'Love one another as I have loved you.' (John 15:12) We walk with one another and support one another through all the storms that life sends our way.

Scripture teaches us what it means to love God and to love one another, but that is not always easy. Over the last year and a half, we have lived through a pandemic and we have not always had a common mind about how to approach it. Our local churches developed reopening plans with well-researched safety protocols because we want to love one another and love our neighbors by keeping everyone safe and healthy. But not everyone agreed with suspending in-person gatherings or wearing masks or not singing in worship, and at times our conversations have been difficult. *We confess that it is not always easy to love one another in the midst of disagreements.*

In the midst of those challenges, our nation has been divided over politics, over race, over law enforcement, over immigration, over many challenging issues. People feel strongly about their points of view, and at times talking together in grace-filled and respectful ways has been challenging. *We confess that it is not always easy to love one another in the midst of disagreements.*

We are also challenged by a second rescheduling of the 2020 General Conference, delaying a possible resolution of our denominational conflicts over human sexuality. Persevering through this pause has given us the opportunity to reprioritize, to rethink possibilities, to allow new opportunities to emerge. It may be that when General Conference finally does meet, United Methodists will be in a better place to resolve our disagreements amicably and find a path forward. Nonetheless, the delay has been hard on everyone. *We confess that it is not always easy to love one another in the midst of disagreements.*

Yet we are called to be a courageous Church – loving like Jesus, acting for justice, united in hope. Jesus challenges us to love one another as Jesus loves us, even when loving one another is difficult. We are called to be those who love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength. We are called to be those who show what it is to love one another even when we disagree with one another.

John Wesley once asked, "If we cannot think alike, can we not love alike?" We are grateful for all the ways the people of the Desert Southwest Conference have demonstrated in a difficult year that we can, indeed. Thank you for all the ways you hold one another up through difficult times.

### **Like Trees Planted by Streams of Water**

Out of the stress and "dryness" of this COVID pandemic, our churches drew from the Living Water and have engaged in new ministries to connect with people. The result of these efforts has not only reached the people inside the church, but it has reached many people beyond the church. Homebound folks have been able to worship and participate in small groups again. Folks from the neighborhoods around the church have connected with churches

through drive-in worship or through the online services. People from outside the state and even outside the country have connected with our churches through worship primarily but some have joined Zoom small groups.

Even in this time of isolation during COVID, we have learned to intentionally care for one another and lean on each other for support. New small groups of clergy formed and started meeting regularly to offer support and encouragement to each other. Laity volunteered to call members of the congregation regularly to offer a loving voice in the midst of isolation. Folks who normally did not interact got to know each other over Zoom and through phone calls.

In the midst of the financial stress and fear caused by the pandemic, many of our faithful flock continued to financially support their local churches as well as offer outreach to essential workers and those suffering hardships from the pandemic. Many of our churches in turn continued to faithfully pay their apportionments so that our combined ministries continued. Through the generosity of our churches, the conference was able to draw from our resources to offer additional support through technology grants, training seminars, COVID loans/grants, and the apportionment dividend.

In this most challenging time, we have been like trees planted by streams of water drawing deeply from our faith in Jesus Christ and our community with each other to continue to be in ministry.

### **Yielding Fruit in Season**

It is said that trees need stressors like strong winds to mature and strengthen. Biosphere 2, the protected eco-bubble outside of Tucson proved that theory, which Jean Giono wrote of in his 1953 book, *The Man Who Planted Trees*. Without the stress of the winds, a tree becomes weak and vulnerable. As in Psalm 1:4, the wind is needed to cleanse and strengthen.

Even now, and during real losses, we have seen fruitfulness which has come through these months of pandemic. We have learned new ways to connect with one another. It was impressive how quickly people “tooled-up” with technologies to connect over the World Wide Web. The basic email connection went to the next level with virtual meetings of video conferencing and worshiping. We became proficient to the degree we no longer experienced such meetings as virtual, but very authentic and real. Though we are re-engaging with in-person gatherings, the online gatherings have become a permanent part of our connection options.

The local church connection has not only been within the congregation, but also between congregations. Leaders have connected with one another from church to church to learn and share ideas and practices. In many ways this has been facilitated through our Conference connections of vital faith, communications, superintendents, and many more. However, church leaders have also taken opportunity to create the connection from church-to-church and leader-to-leader on their own initiative. Our United Methodist theology and practice of connectionalism has been at its best through these months of pandemic.

Most of our churches have received grants and support through our Conference ministries. These grants and loans have enabled churches to make it through difficult and lean times, but also to invest in technologies as they adapt to new ways of connecting with one another and new people.

When the pandemic resulted in a necessity to isolate, we needed to move out of the building of the church. In many places, it was initially stated that the church was “closed.” However, it was soon evident that church had taken on new forms. New ways to be the church without a building emerged. This was especially realized with online, conference-call, and at-home forms of gathering for worship. At first these offerings were often bumpy and clunky, but then they became refined and meaningful. A direct fruitfulness became reaching more people who were not able or comfortable to enter through the doors of a church.

It is usually necessity or difficult times which bring about lasting change. Even when the change results in fruitfulness, we often resist it. Yet as we reflect upon this past conference year, may we have eyes to see a season of fruitfulness which the Spirit has led us into.

We are aware that there are more challenges ahead of us. As the pandemic subsides, the issues confronting our church will continue to arise. Through everything we have learned and from all we have experienced, we are strengthened in our faith and resolve to be a courageous church- loving like Jesus, acting for justice, and united in hope.

As Psalm 1 calls us, when we meditate on God’s ways and courageously live our faith, then we believe that together we will be like trees planted by streams of water. We will yield the fruit of vital and transformational ministry, creating a more loving and just world.

#### **4. CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES TEAM**

*Rev Nancy Cushman, Chair*

Bishop Bob Hoshibata formed the Connectional Ministries Team after Annual Conference 2020. With the uncertainty of the conference’s finances due to the stresses caused by the COVID pandemic and the change in travel demands on the Appointive Cabinet, he decided to create a team with existing staff rather than appointing a new person to the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM). The four District Superintendents, the Director of New and Vital Faith, the Director of Outreach, and the Conference Lay Leader make up the Connectional Ministries Team.

The work of the team is summarized by the three C’s- Collaborating, Coordinating, and Cooperating. Each person on the team provides essential support and serves as a connector for the ministries of different conference committees, task forces, and teams that fall under Connectional Ministries. The team members then collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate with the other team members and conference staff.



*Collaborating, Coordinating,  
Cooperating*

The Bishop and team began by assessing the many tasks of the DCM and assigning them to team members. These assignments were considered carefully and adjusted over the first few months. The team members worked with the committees to find areas that needed additional support, those that were functioning well, and those that were not functioning; then moved to collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate to support their work.

The team coordinated and collaborated to support the year-long Western Jurisdiction media campaign called Where Love Lives. Different people and groups prepared supplemental material related to the monthly theme while the Communications Commission developed the materials for the jurisdiction’s theme in April. The team also addressed safety concerns at our churches who served as polling sites during the election. They coordinated between teams working on support for our churches and clergy as they meet the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the year the team has been finding ways to collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate between and among committees to support vital fruitful ministry across our conference ministries. The Connectional Ministries Team will continue this important work until the DCM position refilled or a new structure is envisioned.

The work of the Connectional Ministries Teams is dependent on the active fruitful ministry of our conference committees. Our Clergy and Lay Leadership Development Committee is always looking for people with a passion for ministry. We are making an intentional effort to include people who represent the different voices in our Annual Conference. If you are ready and willing to serve, please contact us at <https://dscumc.org/conference-service-and-leadership-application/> and we will match you with ministry.

#### **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY**

*Rev. Dr. Brooke Isingoma, Chair*

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM) supports the work of four campus ministries within the Desert Southwest Conference: in the Las Vegas area, at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, at Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, and at the University of Arizona & Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ. Each of these ministries has adapted to the challenges of this last year, continuing to find courageous and creative ways to engage students in community, faith formation, service, and justice work. BHECM hosted the Conference Campus Ministries Sunday on February 21, 2021 (or on a date selected by pastors and congregations) that connected local congregations with our campus ministries through stories, photos, prayer, preaching, and an invitation to give financial support. Our campus ministries have noted increased food insecurity among students across the campuses, and BHECM is grateful that student hunger is the focus of our Annual Conference Mission Project this year. Thank you for promoting the Mission Project in your congregations. For information about our campus ministries, to volunteer to provide a meal for students, or just to offer a word of thanks or encouragement, you can reach our campus ministries here:

ASU: [director@valleywesley.com](mailto:director@valleywesley.com) [www.ValleyWesley.com](http://www.ValleyWesley.com)

NAU: [ucm.nau@gmail.com](mailto:ucm.nau@gmail.com) <https://www.facebook.com/ucmnau/>

Las Vegas area: [campusministry@universityumc.org](mailto:campusministry@universityumc.org) <http://universityumc.org/unlv-students/meal-volunteers>

U of A: [fronterawesley@gmail.com](mailto:fronterawesley@gmail.com) [www.FronteraWesley.org](http://www.FronteraWesley.org), instagram @frontera\_wesley

[www.facebook.com/FronteraWesley](https://www.facebook.com/FronteraWesley), <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC52VbyCFhPStt4WQWASyYxw>

## CLERGY AND LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*Judy Martin, Chair*

This team develops and pioneers leadership practices, seminars, and culture for the church today, additionally this team facilitates the annual conference nominations process.

In the effort to live into the theme of "Many Gifts, One Spirit" through the vision that "God calls us to be a courageous church: loving like Jesus, acting for justice, united in hope", your Clergy and Lay Leadership Development team has:

- Held monthly meetings to review and update the current nomination list.
- To enhance reporting, we changed the "Nominations File" from one single list to four distinct lists (Conference, Exempt, District, Taskforce).
- Contacted top diverse churches throughout the conference to request nominations for open positions. Not contacted? Please help us by submitting an application below or emailing Judy Martin at the email below.
- Assigned liaisons to each committee to improve connection and service.
- Developed a Leadership Development opportunity for the coming year in the form of one-hour virtual sessions (to be presented at Annual Conference).

You can join us on this journey of opportunity and promise by submitting an application through the conference website at <https://dscumc.org/conference-service-and-leadership-application/>. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Judy Martin at [stilljudymartin@gmail.com](mailto:stilljudymartin@gmail.com).

## CLERGY WELLNESS TEAM

*Kimber Govett, Chair*

This recently formed team is in response to the growing need for wellness and care of our Desert Southwest Conference clergy. Due to the ongoing pandemic and uncertainties regarding the future of our denomination, many of our clergy have expressed grievances due to loss and the state of the church. The purpose of our Clergy Wellness Team is to address these needs and provide opportunities for our clergy to work through their feelings.

We have just begun this work and we have several opportunities before us. We are currently offering a four-week grief workshop led by Gina Pollard. We are also offering a 13-week book study, *One Day at a Time* by Trevor Hudson using the 12 steps of recovery to work through a variety of struggles. Rev. Mike Kerr-Osman and Pastor Kimber Govett will co-lead this class. We have met with a spiritual coaching organization, Shepherd Heart Ministry Consulting, to possibly partner with their pastoral coaching services.

Currently, to help with confidentiality, we chose not to advertise the upcoming book study in our Conference newsletter. We chose to announce the study through our time at the Gathering which was successful for everyone.

### **Clergy Wellness Team:**

Billie Fidlin

Cynthia Satchel

Rev. Matt Ashley

Rev. Tom Mattick

Rev. Mike Kerr-Osman

Rev. Melissa Rynders

Pastor Kimber Govett, chair

## **DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE**

*Rev. Tom Mattick, Coordinator*

As with many ministries during the pandemic, the disaster response activities were modified. Although there were hurricanes, floods, and wildfires; the Early Response Teams did not deploy as the conferences where incidents occurred determined it was not safe to receive teams. While teams from our conference did not deploy out of state, there were several other notable activities.

- Early in the pandemic, Polly Turner became aware of a desperate need on the Navajo Nation for personal protection equipment at the hospital in Shiprock, New Mexico. Thirty N-95 masks and 175 TyVek suits were donated from our supplies meeting a critical need.
- Since its inception, Rev. Tom Mattick has participated on the Conference COVID-19 Response Team developing guidelines and best practices for local churches.
- Polly Turner and Jo Robinson coordinated receiving and modifying bed sheets from the Hotel Coronado in San Diego, California. The surplus sheets were cut and hemmed to fit twin size beds and given to our outreach ministries with housing capabilities.
- In May, Billie Fidlin was notified of the availability of cloth masks available through UMCOR for extension ministries. ASU Campus Ministry, NAU Campus Ministry, U of A Campus Ministry, UMOM New Day Center, Justa Center, Wesley Community Centers, and TMM each received a case of 500 masks for distribution.
- In October, it was announced the UMCOR Depot West (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in Salt Lake City was closing effective December 31, 2020. All materials from the depot were relocated to other locations and warehouses. Mattick, in collaboration with the Western Jurisdiction Disaster Response Coordinators and Bishops, developed a plan for conference-based storage of disaster supplies with cross-conference distribution as needed in a disaster. This will require us to identify a location and storage facility within our conference to equip with relief supplies. We can still receive and send supplies to UMCOR.
- With in-person gathering for training limited by the pandemic, UMCOR developed an online module for recertifying ERTs. In November, Turner and Mattick co-taught the course recertifying seven persons from our conference and six from other conferences in the Western Jurisdiction.

As we look to 2021, the Disaster Response Committee will examine our needs for storing flood buckets, personal hygiene kits, fire buckets, and other supplies locally. We will remain ready to respond when called to service.

## **ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS**

*Rev. Khalif A. Smith, Sr., Chair*

### **Mission:**

The Ethnic and Local Church Concerns (ELCC) committee is committed to maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference local churches by seeking equity and equality for all persons without regard to race, gender, place of origin, sexual orientation, social status, economic status, sexual identity, age, or creed.

### **Summary of Activities:**

The 2020-2021 conference year has been a year of particular interest to our ethnic local churches and our communities of color. The ethnic disparity which has been revealed due to the pandemic, as well as the systemic racism that has been brought to light in the wake of the George Floyd killing, have inspired the collaborative ministries of Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) and the Commission on Religion and Race (CORR).

This year the ELCC has been in contact and checked in with ethnic churches throughout the Conference assisting with transportation, food, clothing, and storage needs. The committee also collaborated with CORR to plan a strategy for providing critical racial equity training to the leadership and local churches of the Conference.

The two committees were also responsible with the assistance of Bishop Hoshibata, for forming the DSC RACE Coalition (Reflection, Action, Courageous Dialog, Engagement), which provided a number of webinars, educational materials, worship materials, online resources, and open forum conversations. We have hosted Frances Causey, Miguel De la Torre, and Rudy Rasmus. The coalition has also offered a 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building

Challenge to all members of the Conference and facilitated workshops at The Gathering and RIM (Residency In Ministry).

**Future Planning:**

- ELCC is currently working with CORR to assist the Conference by creating Inclusion and Diversity training opportunities.
- The DSC RACE Coalition has created an Action Team of those interested in joining the ministry of racial equity, equality, and justice.
- ELCC will meet with the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Coordinating Committee (WJIECC)

Those interested in this ministry can get connected by contacting the chair.

Contact:

Rev. Khalif A. Smith Sr.

[pastor@firstchurchofmesa.com](mailto:pastor@firstchurchofmesa.com)

**HISPANIC MINISTRIES**

*Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Chair*

Meeting dates: August 6, 2020, October 8, 2020, January 7, 2021, and March 4, 2021

Technology & social media training provided support for some Hispanic pastors in August 2020. Many thanks to Christina Dillabough, Director of Communications.

MARCHA was online this year in November 2020. The event was attended by Pastor Raul Velazquez and Rev. Jaime Vazquez.

During the pandemic shutdown, the Hispanic Ministries Committee provided assistance to Hispanic churches including cleaning supplies, projector, camera, microphones, internet support & connections, stands, and lighting for online worship.

The committee provided an Advanced Preaching Course in Spanish, led by Rev. David Rangel, Perkins School of Theology, in April 2021.

**Conference Strategic Plan for Hispanic Ministry** was developed. In summary:

1. Engage in 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Work, including: Spanish language resources; Immigrant/Asylee engagement and support; social and legislative reform; tell the story of the joys and struggles.
2. Engage in 2+ Generation Work. Recognizing many Latinx have been in the U.S. territories prior to the formation of the USA, some Latinx have long-standing history and context. We will grow multi-ethnic communities of faith, and model reflecting the demographics of the local community. Develop worship and educational resources for multi-ethnic communities. Encourage multi-ethnic leadership in churches. Take the lead on messaging for the Hispanic/Latinx population for the conference and UMC.
3. Work with Religion and Race Committee to address racism and social justice in our conference and in the United Methodist Church.
4. Provide Leadership Development for Latinx pastors and Lay Leaders.
5. Propose a Hispanic/Latino Coordinator on DSC Conference Staff.

Thank you to all the committee members who worked diligently to support and plan for the Hispanic/Latinx people in our conference and communities.

**LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES**

*Sheryl McKinney, Director*

Lay Servant Ministries is a leadership development program in The United Methodist Church focused on equipping and empowering laypersons who have responded to the call of God to serve in mission and ministry.

As Conference Director, I work with four district directors: East, West, North and South. These directors hold classes to help persons who wish to be certified as Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Lay Ministers. To become a Certified Lay Servant, one must take the Basic Course and one Advanced Course. They can go on and become a

Certified Lay Speaker by taking the required six classes. To become a Certified Lay Minister, one must be a Certified Lay Servant and finish four learning modules and be approved by their District Committee Ordained Ministers (DCOM) with final approval coming from the Conference Director Lay Servant Ministries.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

*Alberta Farnsworth, President*

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.

United Methodist Women began using zoom several years ago as a cost saving measure. We used zoom for one or two of our quarterly meetings each year so, as a group, we were familiar with using the basic technology. We have been thankful for that knowledge this past year as we transitioned into using Zoom for all our team meetings. We even held our Annual Celebration in 2020 via Zoom. We know that not everyone is able to access this technology and continue to work to find ways to include more members. Many of our units also are using zoom or other virtual platforms to connect with one another, but most are looking forward to being able to meet again in person as meeting spaces begin to open.

Believing that Jesus taught us to love one another, and knowing that all persons are people of worth in God's eyes, this spring we had a Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat on zoom led by Rev. Ann Lyter. Our topic was Holy Humor. It was a wonderful way to combat our feelings of isolation.

United Methodist Women offers Mission u events each summer. Mission u is an educational opportunity that can be attended by anyone, whether a United Methodist Women member or not and whether you are male or female, youth, young adult, or even older adult! This year our studies will be on zoom. June 25-26, 2021, Rachel Mosher will lead **Becoming Peacemakers**, a study for youth and anyone who is interested in youth (an opportunity for some of us who were youth some time ago to see how the youth are learning – blackboards are a thing of the past!). July 23-24, 2021, Billie Fidlin will lead a study called **Pushout** about the school to prison pipeline. August 13-14, 2021, Dior DeSormeau will lead **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom**.

You can find out more about these and other United Methodist Women activities at:

<http://dscumc.org/united-methodist-women>

Sign up for our e-news: [dscumwomen@gmail.com](mailto:dscumwomen@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/UMWDSC>

## VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY

*Mike Eyer*

The purpose of the United Methodist Volunteers in Ministry (UMVIM) committee is to promote mission activities in local congregations and to equip mission leaders to engage groups in safe, effective, and engaging mission trips and activities locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

The circumstances of 2020-2021 have had a significant impact on UMVIM activities in all theaters – local, regional, national, and international. In most years dozens of congregations in the Desert Southwest Conference have conducted and participated in mission trips – Disaster Response, Long Term Recovery, medical missions, construction, youth trips. Churches have been encouraged to continue in local ministry and service activities and to assist groups and facilities in need. Virtual mission experiences developed by dozens of ministries have informed, challenged, and encouraged participation through financial support, prayer, and encouragement.

As the restrictions of the COVID pandemic hopefully are lessened, churches, and individuals are eager to resume travel, service, and ministry in areas affected by fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods and also to build houses and improve living circumstances. With the closure of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) West Depot in Salt Lake City, several conferences in the Western Jurisdiction are in the process of developing and supplying depots. Those depots will be asking for supplies – flood buckets, fire buckets, cleaning buckets, ash sifters – and encouraging local groups to fill that need. Mission trips will resume as well as team leader training opportunities. Virtual mission experiences will continue. Churches are invited to promote those trips and to celebrate them on the Conference's media resources.

## 5. FINANCE

### BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

*Mickey Price, Chair*

Following are updates for 2020 for the various areas of CBOPHB responsibility.

#### Retiree Health Insurance

Again in 2020, our CBOPHB offered access to individual Medicare supplement health insurance plans for all retired participants through an organization called Via Benefits. Via Benefits works with each retired participant on a detailed, individual basis to select the Medicare supplement health insurance plan that works best for them where they live. The CBOPHB currently provides up to a \$208 subsidy per person per month into a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for qualifying retired participants. Participants use the subsidy provided to them to pay their insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs based on the plan they choose. As of 12/31/2020, we were more than fully funded on our actuarial liability for these retiree health insurance subsidies, and we expect to remain so for the foreseeable future. We are continuing the Via Benefits health insurance program for our retirees in 2022, and we do not currently anticipate any future changes.

#### Active Participant Health Insurance

For the past 6 years, we have provided health insurance to our active participants through a private “exchange” offered by Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) through their denominational plan, HealthFlex. In 2022, we are continuing our provider network coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS). BCBS rates allowed us to reduce our 2021 health insurance premiums by 5%, and we only project a 1% increase for 2022.

HealthFlex Exchange will again allow participants to select from six different BCBS health insurance plans. Although the HealthFlex offering is called an “exchange”, it is not part of the federal government’s Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange, so it will not be impacted by any changes to ACA. Similar to previous years, Wespath will manage the Exchange. There will be no changes in the plan design structure for the coming year.

As indicated above, we have good news for health insurance costs in 2022. The utilization of BCBS will result in only a 1% increase in the costs to be paid by the Conference for all HealthFlex Exchange plans in 2021. The CBOPHB again feels that the fair thing is to ask the Conference to pay 1% more, the churches to pay 1% more, and the participants (if their church is not covering those costs for them) to pay 1% more as their fair share. We certainly hope that any rate increases for 2023 and beyond will continue to be low as we live even more into the HealthFlex Exchange.

Based on this nominal cost increase in health insurance costs within the HealthFlex Exchange, the CBOPHB is recommending that for 2022 each church will be billed a blended rate of \$14,940 (which is only 1% higher than the blended rate for 2021). Churches whose clergy have opted out of HealthFlex Exchange coverage for an approved reason will again not be billed for their opted-out participants in 2022.

These church funds will allow each participant to be provided a contribution toward the cost of the plan they choose. Those recommended contribution levels are also 1% higher than they are for 2021. Recommended 2022 contribution levels are \$10,680 for single coverage, \$17,796 for couple coverage, and \$21,336 for family coverage. Participants (or their churches) will pay any difference between the premium costs for the plan they select and their applicable contribution level. If participants pay, it will be done on a pre-tax basis through payroll deductions by their church treasurer. The CBOPHB will continue in 2022 to offer financial assistance grants of up to \$1,186 (again 1% higher) for participants that have to pay their portion of health insurance premiums themselves.

Again, participants will make their 2022 health insurance plan selections in November’s open enrollment period.

#### Pension Plan

Per General Conference changes made to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) pension plan in 2012, the defined benefit portion of CRSP for participants was set at 1.00% of denominational average compensation (DAC) per year of service as of 01/01/2014.

Participants also receive a 2% of total compensation non-matched contribution in CRSP. In addition, participants receive a 1% of total compensation defined contribution match in CRSP if they personally contribute at least 1% of their compensation to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). This requires active clergy to personally contribute to their retirement by having at least 1% withheld from their paycheck. As of 01/01/2019, participants automatically contribute to UMPIP at a level of 3% of their compensation unless they choose to opt out or contribute at a different level.

#### Other

Again this year, Wespath is requiring all conferences to submit a Comprehensive Benefits Funding Plan (CBFP) that addresses the financial viability and sustainability of all pension, health insurance and other benefit plans for that conference. We have submitted our 2022 CBFP to Wespath and have received their approval. Our CBFP was also approved by the CBOPHB for inclusion in our 2021 annual conference journal.

In 2020, we generated a large operating surplus of over \$600,000, primarily as a result of substantial market gains on our investments with Wespath, our Conference Foundation, and our interest in one trust. As of 12/31/2020, we had \$10.1 million of CBOPHB assets and \$7.9 million of related liabilities – a 128% funded ratio.

For pension costs, we billed churches 13% of compensation for clergy pensions in 2020. Actual costs to the Conference were 12.6% of compensation, so we generate a small surplus that helps offset a shortfall in health insurance billing. We recommend leaving the billing rate at 13% for 2022.

The CBOPHB acknowledges its indebtedness to Peter Hang, our Conference liaison from Wespath. His knowledge and insight have been invaluable to our Board. We are also grateful to Randy Bowman and Cynthia Satchel who serve as Conference staff to the Board. These two dedicated and talented individuals are a valuable resource to our Conference.

During Annual Conference and beyond, feel free to bring any questions or concerns regarding pensions or health benefits to any member of the CBOPHB, or any staff member associated with the CBOPHB. We will be happy to assist you or bring your concerns and questions to our next meeting for appropriate discussion and action. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

### **COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION**

*David Decker, Chair*

The Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation worked diligently this past year with the Appointive Cabinet to ensure that each pastor serving an Equitable Compensation church was compensated at the levels established by the Annual Conference. Our expenditures were under budget again in 2020. Our annual projected needs for equitable compensation and mission church support remain at \$190,400 in the 2022 budget as we try to do our part in helping to keep expenditures in check at the conference level.

The Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation have assessed the status and potential of each church receiving equitable compensation, and, while dealing with each church with sensitivity and care, subsidies have been reduced where possible. In many cases, churches have accepted less than full time appointments and are looking forward to having their respective congregations be more self-sustaining.

The Commission will continue enforcing conference rules stating that churches must contribute 100% of their apportionments to be eligible for equitable compensation subsidies, and that churches generally don't receive equitable compensation subsidies for more than five consecutive years.

Some churches in our Conference are in declining or depressed locations and face lower membership, attendance, and income. Although the churches outside of equitable compensation are not under our jurisdiction, we keep a keen eye on them as churches that may possibly need financial help in the future.

Some of our churches have viable ministries within communities that struggle with geographical isolation, have unique demographic challenges, and/or provide significant outreach ministries. The Cabinet and Commission have designated several such churches as mission churches. These churches are reviewed annually to ensure that they still qualify for subsidies as mission churches. These mission churches are expected to continue to receive equitable compensation support as long as their ministries are considered fruitful and necessary in their locations.

Accordingly, the Commission has broken down its annual budget into two categories – equitable compensation and mission church support. The Commission has worked with the Appointive Cabinet to develop an application form for use by both equitable compensation and mission churches in requesting subsidies for 2022.

Following is the breakdown of churches receiving equitable compensation/mission church support for their pastor for the year 2020:

**North District**

Boulder City UMC	\$8,000
Community UMC-Caliente **	\$8,000
Page Community UMC **	\$18,000
First UMC-Winslow	\$5,000
Holbrook UMC	\$5,000
Advent UMC-Las Vegas	\$15,000

**South District**

El Mesias UMC-Nogales **	\$6,000
First UMC-Bisbee **	\$3,333
First UMC-Eloy **	\$4,000
Menlo Park UMC-Tucson	\$5,000
Patagonia UMC	\$10,000
St. James UMC-Tucson	\$4,000
UMC of the Good Shepherd-Kearny	\$5,000
Community UMC-Bowie**	\$5,000

**East District**

Cross in the Desert UMC-Phoenix	\$5,000
The Bridge UMC-Phoenix	\$25,000

**West District**

Shepherd of the Valley UMC-Phoenix	\$12,000
Fort Yuma UMC **	\$6,700

\*\* *designated as a mission church*

The Commission continues to monitor the churches under our care and prayerfully examines their needs as we work closely with the Cabinet. The recommendation for minimum clergy compensation for the year 2022 is presented as Commission on Equitable Compensation Recommendation 1. It reflects a 1.4% increase from the 2021 schedule. This recommended increase is based on consideration of many factors, including changes in the consumer price index, changes in average compensation for clergy in our conference, changes in compensation for lay employees of the conference, and available funds in the conference budget. We encourage your careful consideration and approval of this new minimum clergy compensation schedule.

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

*Scott Whitmire, Chair*

The COVID-19 pandemic certainly caused our churches, our conference, and our world to be disrupted in many ways this past year. From a financial perspective, however, the faithfulness of our churches helped it to be a solid year. Apportionment receipts in 2020 declined only 0.7% from 2019. With the \$464,900 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan the Conference received in 2020 (and which was also forgiven and recorded as income in 2020), our total income actually increased for the year. Additionally, COVID-19 resulted in a significant decrease in expenses as in-person gatherings and meetings were not held. Accordingly, our available cash at December 31, 2020 was the highest it has ever been. This allowed our Council on Finance & Administration (CFA) to declare an apportionment dividend and cover one month’s apportionment payment for all churches at the beginning of 2021.

CFA is truly honored to work with the generous and faithful people of the Desert Southwest Conference. As noted above, this faithfulness and generosity resulted in solid 2020 apportionment receipts. For the year, our churches contributed 78.7% of their apportionments. This was 0.7% below last year and 7.7% below our average

apportionment contributions for the last ten years, but it was well above the 75% that we budgeted to receive for the year. The West District apportionments were up 2.2% from last year, the East District improved 0.9%, the North District declined 2.0%, and the South District was down 7.2%.

The proposed 2022 Conference apportioned budget was developed in cooperation with all of the Conference ministry teams and the Covenant Council. In November and December 2020, the ministry teams of the Conference developed plans for ministries and programs along with requests for funding in keeping with our initiative for growth and vitality. These ministry funding requests were reviewed and approved by the Covenant Council Cabinet in February 2021. That proposed budget from the Covenant Council totaled \$5,626,735. In March 2021, CFA voted to propose utilization of \$66,120 in cash reserves to keep the proposed 2022 Conference budget at \$5,560,615, the same as for 2021. It is this budget that we offer to the annual conference for final approval.

We also note that the proposed 2022 budgets for Ethnic Local Church Concerns and Religion & Race remain at the levels to which they were increased for 2021. The proposed 2022 budgets for Hispanic Ministries and Higher Education & Campus Ministries have been increased based on their requests for greater ministry activities. No other program ministry requested an increase in their 2022 budget.

CFA extends its appreciation to Bishop Robert Hoshibata and to Randy Bowman, Treasurer, and Dale Cook, Assistant Treasurer. Most especially, CFA extends much credit and gratitude to all of you in the local congregation who faithfully support the connexional system of The United Methodist Church through this Conference and its extension of Christ's ministry.

### 2022 GRADE FIGURE

Date: March 18, 2021  
 To: Members of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference  
 of The United Methodist Church  
 From: Randy Bowman, Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer  
 Subject: 2022 Grade Figure and Grade Figure Formula

The Grade Figure Formula can be found on page 161 of the 2020 Annual Conference Journal. A more detailed outline of the calculation is on the next page.

If you multiply the proposed total budget of the Annual Conference by the grade figure of your local church, you will get an idea of what your local church's apportionments for 2022 may be. The grade figure can also be used to determine the effect that changes to the Annual Conference budget will have on your local church's apportionments.

Remember, the calculation for the 2022 grade figure is based on the data received from the local churches on their 2020 Statistical Tables. The grade figures as shown may not be final depending on possible actions of the Annual Conference.

This year, we anticipate publication on our website of the local church apportionments for 2022 within two months after the close of the 2022 Annual Conference Session.

### 2022 Grade Figure Formula Calculation Worksheet

#### FIGURES TO BE USED IN CALCULATIONS:

Total Membership of All Conference Churches as of 12/31/2020	24,114
Conference Average Compensation ("CAC")	\$74,352
Total Net Expenses of All Conference Churches for 2020	\$21,584,515
Total Conference 2022 CF&A Proposed Budget	\$5,560,615

#### LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSE FACTOR (80% WEIGHT FACTOR):

1. Local church expenses (add lines 39 through 47 of Table 2 of the 2020 Statistical Tables) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Senior pastor compensation adjustment (enter the sum of lines 41a and 42a of Table 2 or the above CAC of \$74,352, whichever is smaller) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Total net local church expenditures (subtract line 2 from 1) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Local church expense decimal (line 3 divided by All Churches Net Expenses of \$21,584,515 (carry out to five decimal places) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Grade figure for local church expenditures (line 4 x .80) (carry out to five decimal places) \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP FACTOR (20% WEIGHT FACTOR):**

6. Local church membership (line 4, Table 1 of 2020 Statistical Tables) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Membership decimal (line 6 divided by Total Conference Membership of All Churches of 24,114) (carry out to five decimal places) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Grade figure for membership (line 7 x .20) (carry out to five decimal places) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:**

9. Total grade figure (line 5 + line 8 church membership) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Apportionment calculation (line 9 x Conference Budget \$5,560,615) \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade Figure Tables for 2022 (Churches)**

Church Name	2019 Membership	2020 Membership	2022 Membership Decimal	20% of Grade Figure		80% of Grade Figure			
				2019 Net Total Expenses	2020 Net Total Expenses	2022 Expense Decimal	2021 Grade Figure	2022 Grade Figure	
NORTH DISTRICT									
Advent UMC	134	126	0.00105	\$ 79,992	\$ 87,468	0.00324	0.00373	0.00429	
Boulder City UMC	89	89	0.00074	51,040	38,941	0.00144	0.00241	0.00218	
Community UMC of Caliente	43	43	0.00036	20,201	23,380	0.00087	0.00101	0.00122	
Community UMC of Williams	48	48	0.00040	23,449	14,439	0.00054	0.00116	0.00093	
Desert Spring UMC	778	809	0.00671	758,439	667,779	0.02475	0.03151	0.03146	
Federated Community Church	58	57	0.00047	58,166	56,219	0.00208	0.00240	0.00256	
First Henderson UMC	200	181	0.00150	121,514	108,999	0.00404	0.00564	0.00554	
First UMC of Winslow	36	33	0.00027	37,658	38,106	0.00141	0.00154	0.00169	
Green Valley UMC of Henderson	282	279	0.00231	410,404	408,000	0.01512	0.01596	0.01744	
Holbrook UMC	26	26	0.00022	13,965	12,842	0.00048	0.00067	0.00069	
Hope UMC of Bullhead City	104	99	0.00082	71,228	75,685	0.00281	0.00320	0.00363	
Journey UMC	110	120	0.00100	112,678	81,137	0.00301	0.00464	0.00400	
Korean UMC of Las Vegas	67	67	0.00056	10,930	11,208	0.00042	0.00089	0.00097	
Mesquite UMC	167	167	0.00139	92,303	87,668	0.00325	0.00440	0.00463	
Mohave Valley UMC	239	228	0.00189	45,775	45,217	0.00168	0.00341	0.00357	
Page Community UMC	35	30	0.00025	46,746	34,885	0.00129	0.00184	0.00154	
Pahrump Valley UMC	87	83	0.00069	69,701	74,990	0.00278	0.00302	0.00347	
Parker UMC	66	77	0.00064	17,871	26,509	0.00098	0.00112	0.00162	
St John's UMC of Kingman	299	264	0.00219	189,331	196,277	0.00727	0.00869	0.00946	
St Michael's UMC	118	118	0.00098	121,011	109,595	0.00406	0.00498	0.00504	
Trinity Heights UMC	285	274	0.00227	292,769	326,649	0.01211	0.01204	0.01438	
Trinity UMC of Las Vegas	193	185	0.00153	287,339	223,945	0.00830	0.01114	0.00983	
University UMC	231	202	0.00168	378,071	315,295	0.01169	0.01447	0.01336	
Zion UMC	71	84	0.00070	138,141	177,173	0.00657	0.00518	0.00726	
	3,766	3,689	0.03060	\$ 3,448,722	\$ 3,242,406	0.12018	0.14507	0.15077	

Church Name	2019 Membership	2020 Membership	2022 Membership Decimal	20% of Grade Figure		80% of Grade Figure		2021 Grade Figure	2022 Grade Figure
				2019 Net Total Expenses	2020 Net Total Expenses	2022 Expense Decimal	2021 Grade Figure		
Catalina UMC	471	456	0.00378	\$ 451,814	\$ 385,207	0.01428	0.01883	0.01806	
Christ Church UM of Tucson	232	214	0.00177	320,090	240,065	0.00890	0.01254	0.01067	
Community UMC of Bowie	7	8	0.00007	6,000	7,568	0.00028	0.00026	0.00035	
Desert Skies UMC	361	338	0.00280	353,466	328,834	0.01219	0.01467	0.01499	
Duncan UMC	7	6	0.00005	-	3,000	0.00011	0.00005	0.00016	
El Mesias UMC	76	76	0.00063	9,915	9,915	0.00037	0.00093	0.00100	
First UMC of Bisbee	19	19	0.00016	6,563	7,316	0.00027	0.00037	0.00043	
First UMC of Eloy	25	21	0.00017	12,585	16,053	0.00059	0.00062	0.00077	
First UMC of Safford	200	200	0.00166	130,570	98,537	0.00365	0.00594	0.00531	
First UMC of Tucson	169	141	0.00117	202,927	140,265	0.00520	0.00812	0.00637	
Grace UMC of Douglas	25	25	0.00021	11,004	15,364	0.00057	0.00056	0.00078	
Huachuca UMC	25	22	0.00018	4,698	4,698	0.00017	0.00035	0.00036	
Menlo Park UMC	29	28	0.00023	7,326	11,500	0.00043	0.00047	0.00066	
New Hope/Nueva Esperanza UMC	32	32	0.00027	42,520	43,575	0.00162	0.00168	0.00188	
Patagonia Community Church	44	43	0.00036	40,635	20,402	0.00076	0.00171	0.00111	
San Pedro Valley UMC	24	15	0.00012	15,864	12,200	0.00045	0.00072	0.00058	
Sanctuary UMC	148	147	0.00122	77,193	72,757	0.00270	0.00375	0.00392	
Santa Cruz Valley UMC	73	71	0.00059	41,543	30,024	0.00111	0.00196	0.00170	
Sierra Vista UMC	373	335	0.00278	229,393	142,828	0.00529	0.01061	0.00807	
St Francis in the Foothills UMC	303	293	0.00243	318,863	308,840	0.01145	0.01306	0.01388	
St James UMC	55	59	0.00049	66,576	49,340	0.00183	0.00266	0.00232	
St John's UMC of Tucson	37	37	0.00031	24,992	27,057	0.00100	0.00113	0.00131	
St Mark's UMC	990	970	0.00805	812,837	779,384	0.02889	0.03500	0.03693	
St Paul's UMC of Tucson	447	408	0.00338	545,052	462,426	0.01714	0.02176	0.02052	
Trinity UMC of Bisbee	19	17	0.00014	18,749	12,610	0.00047	0.00078	0.00061	
UMC of Green Valley	439	378	0.00314	350,482	319,019	0.01182	0.01518	0.01496	
UMC of the Good Shepherd	38	26	0.00022	24,828	877	0.00003	0.00113	0.00025	
Vista De La Montaña UMC	336	313	0.00260	241,216	246,867	0.00915	0.01072	0.01175	
Willcox UMC	197	195	0.00162	52,415	52,415	0.00194	0.00330	0.00356	
	5,201	4,893	0.04058	\$ 4,420,116	\$ 3,848,943	0.14266	0.18887	0.18324	

Church Name	2019 Membership	2020 Membership	2022 Membership Decimal	20% of Grade Figure		80% of Grade Figure		2021 Grade Figure	2022 Grade Figure
				2019 Net Total Expenses	2020 Net Total Expenses	2022 Expense Decimal	2021 Grade Figure		
EAST DISTRICT									
Aldersgate UMC	46	37	0.00031	\$ 120,039	\$ 96,414	0.00357	0.00438	0.00388	
Central UMC	233	233	0.00193	446,440	272,928	0.01012	0.01678	0.01205	
Chandler UMC	459	464	0.00385	318,230	307,438	0.01139	0.01426	0.01524	
Cross in the Desert UMC	276	266	0.00221	212,678	195,553	0.00725	0.00929	0.00945	
Cross Roads UMC	117	104	0.00086	140,655	125,454	0.00465	0.00563	0.00551	
Dayspring UMC	965	903	0.00749	659,040	680,216	0.02521	0.02965	0.03270	
Desert Chapel UMC	100	100	0.00083	127,290	132,807	0.00492	0.00505	0.00575	
Desert Foothills UMC	185	193	0.00160	154,686	149,048	0.00552	0.00663	0.00712	
Desert Mission UMC	173	180	0.00149	154,185	144,977	0.00537	0.00652	0.00687	
First UMC of Gilbert	510	504	0.00418	574,259	515,312	0.01910	0.02324	0.02328	
First UMC of Mesa	424	396	0.00328	478,391	492,587	0.01826	0.01935	0.02154	
First UMC of Tempe	436	363	0.00301	360,162	353,065	0.01309	0.01549	0.01610	
Gold Canyon UMC	888	830	0.00688	862,241	831,374	0.03081	0.03585	0.03770	
Grace UMC of Mesa	166	152	0.00126	176,116	182,455	0.00676	0.00720	0.00802	
North Scottsdale UMC	579	578	0.00479	404,024	342,161	0.01268	0.01808	0.01748	
Paradise Valley UMC	1,096	1,090	0.00904	1,505,735	1,246,882	0.04621	0.05903	0.05525	
Payson UMC	134	122	0.00101	118,249	110,009	0.00408	0.00501	0.00509	
Red Mountain UMC	607	483	0.00401	521,959	486,708	0.01804	0.02225	0.02205	
Scottsdale UMC	271	259	0.00215	194,272	196,033	0.00727	0.00863	0.00941	
Shepherd of the Pines UMC	111	113	0.00094	47,669	33,409	0.00124	0.00247	0.00218	
Song of Life UMC	191	187	0.00155	125,534	116,052	0.00430	0.00570	0.00585	
Spirit of Joy UMC	43	44	0.00036	24,264	16,661	0.00062	0.00115	0.00098	
St Matthew UMC	424	421	0.00349	309,540	237,765	0.00881	0.01370	0.01230	
St Paul's UMC of Globe	38	38	0.00032	34,642	30,700	0.00114	0.00146	0.00145	
Sun Lakes UMC	698	663	0.00550	709,915	557,872	0.02068	0.02926	0.02618	
The Bridge UMC	64	63	0.00052	160,761	128,551	0.00476	0.00589	0.00529	
The Fountains UMC	229	223	0.00185	266,381	226,665	0.00840	0.01072	0.01025	
Tongan UMC	106	106	0.00088	39,018	39,018	0.00145	0.00214	0.00233	
UMC of Casa Grande	140	126	0.00105	90,819	58,919	0.00218	0.00414	0.00323	
Velda Rose UMC	291	289	0.00240	533,426	439,887	0.01630	0.02015	0.01870	
Wesley UMC of Phoenix	69	68	0.00056	56,894	45,170	0.00167	0.00245	0.00224	
White Mountain UMC	102	82	0.00068	84,680	73,152	0.00271	0.00364	0.00339	
	10,171	9,680	0.08029	\$ 10,012,194	\$ 8,865,242	0.32858	0.41517	0.40886	

Church Name	2019 Membership	2020 Membership	2022 Membership Decimal	20% of Grade Figure		80% of Grade Figure		
				2019 Net Total Expenses	2020 Net Total Expenses	2022 Expense Decimal	2021 Grade Figure	2022 Grade Figure
WEST DISTRICT								
Ajo Federated	53	52	0.00043	\$ 22,608	\$ 13,031	0.00048	0.00117	0.00091
Calvary UMC	33	31	0.00026	89,696	79,031	0.00293	0.00326	0.00319
Chino Valley UMC	101	96	0.00080	60,950	63,681	0.00236	0.00283	0.00316
Christ Community UMC of Avondale	220	214	0.00177	160,503	158,913	0.00589	0.00710	0.00766
Community Church of Buckeye	72	70	0.00058	65,150	65,215	0.00242	0.00275	0.00300
Dove of the Desert UMC	629	615	0.00510	462,911	452,809	0.01678	0.02044	0.02188
Epworth UMC	66	76	0.00063	131,621	105,664	0.00392	0.00493	0.00455
Faith UMC	75	59	0.00049	72,731	81,515	0.00302	0.00302	0.00351
First UMC of Glendale	205	197	0.00163	221,391	154,433	0.00572	0.00902	0.00736
First UMC of Phoenix	712	695	0.00576	822,134	814,345	0.03018	0.03312	0.03595
First UMC of Sun City	162	151	0.00125	163,010	169,444	0.00628	0.00673	0.00753
First UMC of Yuma	113	105	0.00087	119,537	90,823	0.00337	0.00489	0.00424
Fort Yuma UMC	22	21	0.00017	11,760	9,997	0.00037	0.00057	0.00054
Gila Mountain UMC	296	173	0.00143	134,855	150,090	0.00556	0.00684	0.00700
Haven UMC	28	26	0.00022	20,956	20,222	0.00075	0.00092	0.00097
Lakeview UMC	370	325	0.00270	542,879	522,137	0.01935	0.02109	0.02205
Liberty UMC	93	90	0.00075	29,683	24,168	0.00090	0.00172	0.00164
Mission Bell UMC	94	92	0.00076	80,846	67,794	0.00251	0.00345	0.00328
Mountain View UMC	153	139	0.00115	152,403	127,462	0.00472	0.00631	0.00588
New Song UMC	275	275	0.00228	258,462	246,526	0.00914	0.01082	0.01142
Prescott UMC	702	642	0.00532	559,112	567,873	0.02105	0.02424	0.02637
Prescott Valley UMC	116	116	0.00096	78,602	79,048	0.00293	0.00354	0.00389
Sedona UMC	140	125	0.00104	175,027	175,594	0.00651	0.00696	0.00754
Shepherd of the Hills UMC	489	450	0.00373	571,279	587,583	0.02178	0.02297	0.02551
Shepherd of the Valley UMC	149	115	0.00095	89,352	46,257	0.00171	0.00416	0.00267
Spirit of Hope UMC	115	115	0.00095	126,512	92,559	0.00343	0.00514	0.00438
Sunrise UMC	73	73	0.00061	26,749	28,807	0.00107	0.00147	0.00167
Trinity UMC of Phoenix	191	187	0.00155	126,628	81,270	0.00301	0.00574	0.00456
Trinity UMC of Yuma	134	127	0.00105	132,908	106,766	0.00396	0.00550	0.00501
Willowbrook UMC	447	400	0.00332	498,037	444,867	0.01649	0.02019	0.01981
Youngtown UMC	20	0	0.00000	14,896	-	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
	6,348	5,852	0.04854	\$ 6,023,188	\$ 5,627,924	0.20859	0.25090	0.25713
Conference Totals	25,486	24,114	0.20000	\$ 23,904,220	\$ 21,584,515	0.80000	1.00000	1.00000

### Grade Figure Tables for 2022 (Fellowships)

Church Name	2019 Membership	2020 Membership	2022 Membership Decimal	20% of Grade Figure		80% of Grade Figure		
				2019 Net Total Expenses	2020 Net Total Expenses	2022 Expense Decimal	2021 Grade Figure	2022 Grade Figure
FELLOWSHIPS								
A Grain of Mustard Seed UMF	89	81	0.00053	\$ 90,174	\$ 56,050	0.00181	0.00349	0.00234
First Tongan UMF	0	0	0.00000	-	-	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Global Community UMF	85	83	0.00054	2,880	600	0.00002	0.00065	0.00056
Grace Fil-Am Ministry	83	49	0.00032	10,873	14,018	0.00045	0.00090	0.00077
Arizona Korean UMF - Phoenix	30	40	0.00026	8,371	5,718	0.00018	0.00047	0.00045
Journey UMF	0	0	0.00000	17,308	3,367	0.00011	0.00056	0.00011
Orontes UMF	0	0	0.00000	79,684	-	0.00000	0.00257	0.00000
Phoenix Native American UMF	15	15	0.00010	2,467	2,467	0.00008	0.00018	0.00018
City Square UMF	30	30	0.00020	57,242	53,131	0.00171	0.00204	0.00191
Maranatha UMF	91	0	0.00000	112,478	2,725	0.00009	0.00422	0.00009
Nuevo Pacto UMF	44	71	0.00047	5,262	655	0.00002	0.00046	0.00049
Spirit Song UMF	37	36	0.00024	50,065	48,628	0.00157	0.00186	0.00180
	504	405	0.00266	\$ 436,804	\$ 187,359	0.00604	0.01739	0.00870

## PROPOSED 2022 CONFERENCE BUDGET

	2021 Budget	2022 Proposed Budget	Footnotes	2022 % Change from 2021 Budget
<b>I. World Service and Conference Benev</b>				
World Service Fund	\$ 444,258	\$ 444,258	(2)	0.00%
	\$ 444,258	\$ 444,258		0.00%
<b>Connectional Ministries</b>	\$ 236,700	\$ 237,700		0.42%
<b>Faith Communities Team</b>				
New Faith Communities	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000		0.00%
Vital Faith Communities	30,000	30,000		0.00%
Hispanic Ministry Committee	2,400	11,000	(5)	358.33%
Native American Ministries	2,000	2,000		0.00%
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	11,000	11,000		0.00%
Strengthening the Black Church	400	400		0.00%
Evangelism	400	400		0.00%
Small Church Membership	400	400		0.00%
	\$ 226,600	\$ 235,200		3.80%
<b>Outreach Team</b>				
Christian Unity/Interreligious Relations	\$ 500	\$ 500		0.00%
Arizona Faith Network	6,000	6,000		0.00%
Church and Society	2,000	2,000		0.00%
HIV Caring Ministries	1,000	1,000		0.00%
Global Ministries	144,000	144,000		0.00%
Religion and Race	46,288	46,288		0.00%
Status and Role of Women	1,000	1,000		0.00%
Outreach Administration	142,000	142,000		0.00%
	\$ 342,788	\$ 342,788		0.00%
<b>Discipleship Team</b>				
Camping and Outdoor Ministry Team	\$ 172,000	\$ 172,000		0.00%
Worship Committee	500	0	(4)	-100.00%
Older Adult Ministries	500	500		0.00%
Education for All Ages	400	400		0.00%
Spiritual Formation	2,700	2,700		0.00%
	\$ 176,100	\$ 175,600		-0.28%
<b>Jurisdictional Funds</b>				
Western Jurisdiction Admin	\$ 28,260	\$ 28,260	(3)	0.00%
	\$ 28,260	\$ 28,260		0.00%
Unpaid Apportionments Allowance	\$ 336,816	\$ 339,849	(1)	0.90%
<b>Total World Service and Conf Benev</b>	\$ 1,791,522	\$ 1,803,655		0.68%

	2021 Budget	2022 Proposed Budget	Footnotes	2022 % Change from 2021 Budget
<b>II. Support Ministry Team</b>				
Archives and History	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,128		0.56%
Equitable Compensation	140,000	140,000		0.00%
Mission Church Support	50,400	50,400		0.00%
Finance and Administration	263,000	262,000		-0.38%
U. M. Center Support Services	15,000	15,000		0.00%
Pension and Health Benefits	370,000	370,000		0.00%
Communications	234,600	238,650		1.73%
Personnel Committee	1,500	1,500		0.00%
Rules	200	200		0.00%
Trustees	21,500	21,500		0.00%
Sessions	79,500	79,500		0.00%
Conference Secretary	8,500	8,500		0.00%
Moving Expense Fund	120,000	120,000		0.00%
Contingency Reserve	64,500	64,500		0.00%
Utilization of Cash Reserves	0	(66,120)	(7)	0.00%
General Church Administration Fund	54,710	54,710	(2)	0.00%
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	1,923	1,923	(2)	0.00%
Unpaid Apportionments Allowance	463,900	464,959	(1)	0.23%
	<b>\$ 1,912,233</b>	<b>\$ 1,850,350</b>		<b>-3.24%</b>
<b>III. Leadership Team</b>				
District Superintendent Fund	\$ 767,300	\$ 763,940		-0.44%
Association of Retired Ministers	1,000	1,000		0.00%
Board of Laity	6,500	7,500		15.38%
Youth and Young Adult	5,000	5,000		0.00%
Nominations & Leadership Development	1,000	1,000		0.00%
Higher Education and Campus Ministry	143,200	180,686	(6)	26.18%
Board of Ordained Ministry	36,000	36,536		1.49%
District Leadership Teams	4,300	4,300		0.00%
Delegate Support-Gen & Juris Conf	2,580	2,580		0.00%
Claremont School of Theology	33,750	33,750		0.00%
Conference Episcopal Fund	94,800	96,450		1.74%
General Church Episcopal Fund	178,386	178,386	(2)	0.00%
Unpaid Apportionments Allowance	365,143	377,581	(1)	3.41%
	<b>\$ 1,638,959</b>	<b>\$ 1,688,709</b>		<b>3.04%</b>
<b>IV. Other Gen/Juris Conf Benevolences</b>				
Ministerial Education	\$ 139,143	\$ 139,143	(2)	0.00%
Black College Fund	64,302	64,302	(2)	0.00%
Africa University	14,456	14,456	(2)	0.00%
	<b>\$ 217,901</b>	<b>\$ 217,901</b>		<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Apportioned Conference Budget</b>	<b>\$ 5,560,615</b>	<b>\$ 5,560,615</b>		<b>0.00%</b>

Footnotes:

- (1) 2022 budget reflects uncollected apportionment allowance of 25% for all budget lines except general church apportionments (same as for 2021 budget).
- (2) 2022 general church apportionments kept the same as 2021 budget pending General Conference adoption of new 2020 quadrennial budget. Total is \$897,178 compared to GCFA figure of \$1,041,594 for 2022 based on 2016 quadrennial budget
- (3) 2022 jurisdictional apportionments assumed to remain the same as the 2021 proposed jurisdictional apportionments received from WJ Treasurer.
- (4) Committee is no longer active so no budget is requested for 2022.
- (5) 2022 proposed budget increase for first/second generation work, racism/social justice work, and leadership development.
- (6) 2022 proposed budget restores funding at 2020 level to maintain current effectiveness of 4 campus ministries.
- (7) 2022 proposed budget includes use of cash reserves to keep total conference budget the same as for 2021.

## **6. NEW AND VITAL FAITH COMMUNITIES**

*Pastor Wendy Swanson, Chair of Vital Faith Communities Team*  
*Rev. Dave McPherson, Director of New and Vital Faith Communities*

The office of New and Vital Faith Communities' role is to resource churches and new faith communities so they can reach new people in a way that will give people purpose for their lives and compassion for their communities in the spirit of Christ.

The year 2020 was more than challenging for our church leaders, but we saw so many of them step forward in a courageous way exploring new possibilities for offering worship and doing ministry. If "Zoom" was an unknown word before 2020, it is no longer! We have found ways to meet with one another virtually for meetings, counseling, fellowship, VBS, and so much more.

Both New Faith and Vital Faith Communities teams saw a way to help worshippers shift to online. Rev. Rob Rynders, a member of New Faith, put together a plan that would free up \$500,000 and provide up to \$10,000 grants to help churches cover operating expenses. New Faith and Vital Faith approved it, as did the Appointive Cabinet and Covenant Council. To date, 47 churches have received funding.

Because the pandemic continued longer than anyone first expected, Vital Faith saw a way to provide additional funding for churches who needed tech equipment and support. Vital Faith set aside the majority of their budget and designated account to provide financial assistance to 15 churches. Vital Faith also hosted a webinar called "Both/And" by Jason Moore. He was recommended to the Conference by Rev. Candace Lansberry and Rev. Michael Patzloff. Moore worked with 54 participants from 28 churches, explaining best practices for both in-person and online worship, and how we can and must offer both even after the pandemic.

Vital Faith and New Faith collaborated with the Appointive Cabinet and the leaders of Central United Methodist Church to try something bold that we hope will enhance the United Methodist presence in the central part of Phoenix. Two gifted pastors from outside the Conference became available. Rev. Rachel Gilmore will complete her work with Path 1 by the end of June 2021. Path 1 is the denomination's agency that helps Conferences start new churches and reach new people. She will be appointed to Central UMC as their Community Outreach Consultant. Rev. Brandon Gilmore will be appointed as Central UMC's pastor and will work with church leaders and Conference staff to develop and implement a turnaround strategy.

We are also working with 12 other ongoing new faith community projects.

Like most Conference teams, we are mindful of the need to deal with systemic racism in our Conference and in our communities. We are looking at ways to resource the Conference, but many of us are also working on our own biases and racism through small group study.

If you want to partner with the Conference on a project or need some extra help strengthening the church in a particular area, click on the link [New & Vital Faith Communities](#) it will take you to our website. You can also email

Pastor Wendy Swanson, [was0424@hotmail.com](mailto:was0424@hotmail.com), Rev. Dave McPherson, [dmcpherson@dscumc.org](mailto:dmcpherson@dscumc.org), or Lori Davalos, [ldavalos@dscumc.org](mailto:ldavalos@dscumc.org).

## **7. OUTREACH & JUSTICE MINISTRIES**

*Billie Fidlin, Director of Outreach & Justice Ministries*

First and foremost, you all continue to be in our prayers during these difficult days of pandemic. This has been hard on our churches and our constituents. But so much has happened that we see evidence of God's greatness among us.

This year the entire Conference staff pulled together to make sure that our churches were able to hold worship. Worship is not a building. We celebrate all that you have done. Outreach and Justice teams continued to hold events throughout the past year - we are now all Zoom experts - right?! Book studies, panel discussions, guest speakers to the Conference - we did it all!

All Outreach & Justice teams continued to function during this time, meetings & events via Zoom, writing for Conference communication pieces. We placed a good deal of emphasis on increasing our social media presence for the many teams that comprise the area I staff. Over 2,800 people follow the many Justice and Outreach sites on Facebook. We publish everything from events in the news to what you want to share. Thank you. If you are not a part of groups that interest you, please let me know.

Several new teams were birthed or began ministry in earnest during this time. The DSC RACE Coalition (as well as its support Action Team) co-chaired by Revs. Javier Olivares and Khalif Smith; Veterans Ministry chaired by Bryan Ruth; a revived Asylum/Refugee Ministry chaired by Rev. Stephen Govett; Clergy Wellness team chaired by Pastor Kimber Govett. Multiple teams would like to have additional members: Children & Poverty / Anti-Human Trafficking, Veterans Ministry, Economic Inequality, Prison Reform, Health & Caring, Gun Violence Awareness, RACE Action Team and Status & Role of Women. We are looking to revive the interfaith arm of our conference - Churches United in Interreligious Relations. If you have interest in any of these, please contact me at [bfidlin@dscumc.org](mailto:bfidlin@dscumc.org). Blessings and peace! Stay healthy!

## **ARIZONA JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS**

*Chris Spencer, Chair*

### **Mission:**

Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors (AZJFON) is a hospitality ministry that welcomes immigrants by providing affordable, high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, engaging in advocacy for immigrant rights, and offering education to communities of faith and to the public.

### **Summary of Activities:**

In the past year we served 335 immigrants. We provided case-specific legal services to 93 low-income immigrants. We provided 14 legal clinics. We provided legal services to 31 asylum seekers in Nogales through our Caminamos Juntos Asylum Program. We assisted 17 immigrant victims of gender-based violence with their immigration cases so they could flee their abusers.

In partnership with the City of Tucson-Ward 1, AJFON founded the "Immigrant Empowerment Task Force," a coalition of 14 immigrant rights groups that advocated for the creation of an immigrant relief fund and COVID-19 services for the immigrant community. AZJFON served on the advisory board for the City of Tucson Somos Uno/We Are One Immigrant Relief Fund, a fund that was specifically created to provide cash assistance to immigrants who did not benefit from the federal stimulus package. AJFON was one of the organizations selected to distribute the funds and provided cash assistance to 242 immigrants for a total of \$145,200 of financial aid that benefited low-income immigrants.

Lastly, 103 people received education about the impact of anti-immigration policies through our community education and advocacy programs and our virtual Border Education Tours.

We could not have done this work without your support. Thank you for supporting our mission during this difficult year.

### **Ways to Become Engaged:**

- Host an AZJFON educational and/or advocacy program at your church
- Participate in an Educational Border Tour
- Follow us on our website <https://www.azjfon.org/> or on [Facebook](#)
- Donate at <https://www.azjfon.org/> or mail check to AZJFON, P.O. Box 11181, Tucson AZ 85734-1181
- Welcome immigrants to your church and community

### **Contact Information:**

Rev. Diamond Pate, Board Chair – [dapate91@gmail.com](mailto:dapate91@gmail.com) 704-322-7503

Alba Jaramillo, J.D., Executive Director – [alba@azjfon.org](mailto:alba@azjfon.org) 520-488-3201

### **CHILDREN & POVERTY TASK FORCE**

*Carolyn Blaney Arndt, Chair*

The big project from 2020 was our request for information from all churches in Desert Southwest Conference about their programs and service that address Children and/or Poverty. We created a summary list from all churches who responded with contact information to be included on the conference website late spring 2020. In this way, those with a need or wanting to be involved in a specific Children & Poverty action might find information, join and/or learn from other churches with active programs and service for Children and/or Poverty in the Conference. The data list with contact information is available on our conference website.

In August, our Children & Poverty “Human Trafficking Facebook Page” unfortunately became misconnected as a QAnon anti-child trafficking page during the Presidential campaign, and we decided to stop all posts at that time.

### **CHURCH & SOCIETY**

*Gerry, Hills Chair*

#### **Mission:**

To coordinate and leverage the work of Desert Southwest Conference task forces, missions, and initiatives to increase the impact of our social justice work.

#### **Summary of Activities:**

In the past year Church & Society drafted and adopted a new logic model plan which clearly outlined goals and priorities for the next two years. These goals include:

- Integrate Race and Religion Task Force goals into Church and Society projects and activities.
- Host at least one Church and Society online event per quarter to educate and engage the Conference on social justice issues.
- Develop and implement a social media plan to leverage task force Facebook pages in order to educate and activate people on social justice issues.
- Church & Society Board retreat.

Task Force members have participated in Race and Religion programs and integrated those goals into individual task force logic models. Quarterly programs have been scheduled throughout 2021. Last fall a social media campaign was implemented to increase each task force Facebook followers and regularly post content to engage a wider community.

In 2021 Church & Society will continue to hold educational and engagement events via virtual platforms such as Zoom. We are exploring ways to record on post programs on YouTube to increase reach. We will begin planning for a retreat in the Spring 2021 for an event in late Fall 2021.

### **Ways to Become Engaged:**

- Host a Church & Society program at your church.
- Follow Church & Society and the other task forces on Facebook.
- Join one of the Conference task forces.

**Contact Information:**

Gerry, Hills Chair  
[g.hills1962@gmail.com](mailto:g.hills1962@gmail.com)  
480-221-5074

**COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE**

*Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair*

CCORR- Conference Commission on Religion and Race  
I&D Task Force- Inclusion and Diversity Task Force  
ELCC- Ethnic Local Church Concerns  
R.A.C.E.- Reflection, Action, Courageous Dialogue and Engagement  
DSC - Desert Southwest Conference  
CRCC- Cross Racial and Cross Cultural

The purpose of the CCORR shall be to challenge, lead, and equip the people of the Desert Southwest Conference to become interculturally competent, to ensure institutional equity and to facilitate vital conversations about religion, race, and culture.

Throughout this year CCORR has worked intensely in partnership with ELCC to address racism and Cultural Competency in our conference. Because of our commitment last year during Annual Conference, in August of 2020 the R.A.C.E. coalition was formed and later a support group called Action Team was created. In the fall of 2020, we began to be in conversation with Dr. Grace Pak a consultant from Shalom I.D.E.A. The result of this led to have a Cultural Competency and CRCC Strategy Consultation with Dr. Pak where the objective would be for her to help us facilitate a process to create an effective and sustainable system/structure to increase cultural competency and support CRCC ministry for the sake of the mission of making disciples for Christ that is inclusive of all people. For this an I&D Task Force was created, with 15 people in key positions of leadership in our Conference and from the four districts. This group met for five sessions and three goals were identified: (1) Provide learning opportunities to increase Intercultural Competency at all levels of the Conference, (2) Increase diversity in the leadership at all levels of the Conference and (3) Promote equity through reviewing & adjusting policies, procedures and practices throughout the Conference with focus on power dynamics.

Because of our commitment as a conference to this work of dismantling racism and to Cultural Competency, CCORR will bring a legislation to this Annual Conference where the above goals are reflected in the legislation.

CCORR has worked on contextualizing and editing the Foundations for Cultural Competency and Cross-Cultural and Cross-Racial Appointments document which you can find in our CCORR website.

If you would like to know more about CCORR you can visit us at: <https://dscumc.org/religion-and-race/> or visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCORR>.

**GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS TASK FORCE**

*Geraldine Hills, Acting Chair*

**Mission:**

To engage the church in education, public policy, and safety campaigns that will reduce gun deaths and injuries throughout the Conference.

**Summary of Activities:**

In the past year, the Gun Violence Awareness (GVA) Task Force was able to redesign our Guns Over America community education and engagement workshop which facilitates conversations among congregations and communities about gun violence and social justice-based solutions. Task force members hosted sessions for congregations and in partnership with community organizations including Arizona Faith Network, League of Women Voters, Arizona State University, and Moms Demand Action.

In the coming year, the task force plans to host community civil dialogues which will focus on building common ground with responsible gun owners and a new virtually based gun violence victim memorial project being

developed by Arizona State University. The GVA Task Force member Dr. Jessina Pizzato is leading the project team for Arizona State University.

**Ways to Become Engaged:**

- Volunteer to serve on the GVA-Task Force.
- Host a Gun Violence Conversations program at your church.
- Join the Gun Violence Awareness Task Force group on Facebook.

**Contact Information:**

Gerry Hills, Acting Chair  
[g.hills1962@gmail.com](mailto:g.hills1962@gmail.com)  
480-221-5074

**PRISON REFORM TASK FORCE**

*Paul Bullis, Chair*

**Mission:**

The purpose of the Prison Reform Task Force is two-fold: 1) to garner knowledge and information on prison system actions, facilities, and legislative activity, and 2) to disseminate that knowledge and information in such a manner that our conference clergy and lay persons are inspired to act for prison justice.

**Summary of Activities:**

In the past year, the Prison Reform Task Force has presented an online webinar on Private Prisons which included a discussion of why the United Methodist church and other denominations oppose the use of private prisons, and what steps can be taken to eliminate private prisons. The task force has also developed and implemented an awareness campaign on the push in Arizona to begin executing death row prisoners and has provided sample letters to send to the Governor and Attorney General. The task force will also work to schedule a tour of Arizona's Death Row.

In the coming year, the task force will continue to monitor criminal justice legislation at the state and federal levels and provide input where appropriate. The Task Force will also participate in the Conference Task Force on Economic Inequality's ZOOM presentation on Economic Inequality and Criminal Justice.

This is an exciting time to be involved in prison and criminal justice reform. There is a need for more members for the task force to be as effective as possible in dealing with these issues.

**Contact Information:**

Paul Bullis, Chair  
[bullisaz@yahoo.com](mailto:bullisaz@yahoo.com)  
480-323-8960

**URBAN MINISTRIES**

**UMOM NEW DAY CENTERS**

*Pastor Patricia Magyar*

**Mission:**

To prevent and end homelessness with innovative strategies and housing solutions that meet the unique needs of each family and individual.

**UMOM's Slogan:**

Restore hope, rebuild lives, and end homelessness.

**Summary of Activities:**

Last year, UMOM New Day Centers was able to provide hope and help to over 15,000 people. We serve nearly 800 people every day – 155 families at the New Day Center emergency shelter, 130 single women at the Halle Women's Center, and 60 young people at our youth transitional living and crisis shelter sites.

Our goal is to first provide a safe place to sleep, hot meals, and all essential items needed. We then provide supportive services to help families mitigate their current crisis and transition to a life of stability with gainful employment and housing they can afford.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted our community as people continue to experience job loss and the inability to secure affordable housing. Despite the economic condition, UMOM's employment center works diligently to identify current employers and venues for jobs and place our clients into well-paying positions.

UMOM New Day Center continues to accept donations of hygiene items, clothing, and furniture. The spiritual care program welcomes new and gently used Bibles and other spiritual resources for the clients. Although in-person volunteer activities continue to be paused, there are numerous ways to serve and act for justice, uniting in hope and help for the future.

Please visit our website at <https://umom.org> to learn more, donate, volunteer from home, or join one of our online groups.

## **WESLEY COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTERS**

*Blaine Bandi, Chief Executive Officer*

2020 will forever be remembered as the year of Covid-19. Amidst all these challenges it was a remarkably successful year of service to our community.

- Remodeled Golden Gate kitchen to become commercially licensed (completely paid for by grant of \$180,000 from Virginia G. Piper).
- Gained Arizona Department of Health Services childcare licensing at Golden Gate.
- Became contracted with DES for childcare reimbursement meaning we now collect \$20 daily per child for a half day of after-school care rather than \$20 weekly per child. That's a difference of +\$80 weekly per DES child.
- With school cancelled there was no after-school program and with Covid-19 there was no summer program. So, Wesley shifted to accommodate online learners who were not able to attend in person school and/or could not stay at home because there was no supervision (parents had to work, no option to work from home) or the parents could not afford increased internet costs to accommodate all day Zoom meetings for children. Wesley provided this space for children to conduct their online schooling. Turned the program into an all-day program, found funding to increase internet bandwidth to accommodate 35 kids daily online at Golden Gate, provided each child with one meal and two snacks daily. We have been doing this for one whole year now.
- NOMADS painted exterior of building, gym, and replaced flooring in childcare room.
- Remained open and provided childcare to children of First Responders during the Governor's Executive Stay at Home order.
- Started a to go meal program for families who were faced with increased food costs due to children being at home and children not able to utilize free school meal program. Ninety-eight percent of children in the area around Golden Gate qualify for the free school lunch program so not being in school increased food costs and insecurity for many families. On average, Wesley provides 45 to go meals daily.
- Wesley gained status of Sponsor for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), this program provides free meals and snacks to children who are low-income. Previously Wesley was a "site" for this program and received free snacks and meals to serve for our children through St. Mary's Food Bank. As a sponsor, Wesley now gets to create its own menu and cook fresh and nutritious snacks and meals in house for our children.
- Reinvested in the community garden thanks to Fry's and their initiative of "Zero Waste, Zero Hunger." The vegetables grown in the garden are used in the meals and snacks we provide the children. The children in our program get to prepare the soil, plant the seeds, and now get to taste the food. This is the best way to change attitudes and behaviors to healthy eating. In my opinion, the garden has never looked so good.
- We have provided more than 8,606 free healthy nutritious meals to the community.
- Ninety-eight unduplicated children have benefited from the free meal program.

- We partnered with Local First and local restaurants to get 200 meals a day out to families in need at our Golden Gate site. These were professionally made meals from great local restaurants.
- We had a Turkey Roll Thru event for Thanksgiving. We received 70 donated turkeys and then fundraised for 70 more that were all given away for free.
- Provided free breast cancer screening and diagnostic services for 451 women and achieved a screening rate of 34%.
- Provided more than 2300 Covid-19 tests and administered 1216 Vaccines, fully vaccinating 404 people by year end.
- Provided health care visits to nearly 6,400 patients from 59 different zip codes.
- Nearly 75% of whom have incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Nearly 68% are uninsured.
- Provided over 13,000 medical visits either face to face or virtual.
- Quickly evolved within a new Covid-19 world to develop creative ways to provide health care services. These included drive-up health fairs, flu immunization, and Covid-19 testing and vaccines.

Our successful year in delivering services has not reduced our needs for donations and support. We are still challenged to cover the cost of programs and services our low-income community cannot afford such as tuition assistance for after-school and summer care. Donations support health care services for low-income uninsured patients. Wesley serves the largest percentage of uninsured patients among any Federally Qualified Health Center in Phoenix. We consistently are forced to delay repairs and heavy maintenance that include painting and replacement of flooring and refurbishing the restrooms. These repairs are decades overdue and in great need. There are no grants for these things so we must rely on donations.

Our year end message to staff, friends and supporters perhaps best summarizes 2020 and are hopes for 2021:

“We are grateful for the opportunity to make a daily difference in our community. From newborns to seniors; from meals to healthcare, to counseling, to virtual schools; from South Central Phoenix to Maryvale; from screening, to immunizations, to wellness, to family planning and managing chronic conditions, we make lives just a little better. In a world apart, we are grateful for the opportunity to be six feet together.”

### **VETERANS MINISTRY**

*C. Bryan Ruth, Chair*

The purpose of this ministry is to honor and offer support to those who have served honorably as well as offer their families Spiritual Care.

A “Veterans Ministry Guide” has been developed and an article, with a link to the guide, appeared in the February Conference Newsletter (available on the Conference Website at <https://dscumc.org/?s=veterans+ministry+guide> <https://dscumc.org/blog/2021/02/22/honoring-those-who-served/>). The program has been introduced to the Fountains United Methodist Men who expressed some interest in organizing a team.

The program is designed for each church to have a team which will initially honor veterans within the congregation and then reach out to the community to identify, recognize, honor, and offer spiritual care to veterans and their families.

## **8. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND SEMINARIES**

### **AFRICA UNIVERSITY**

*James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*

Thank you to the members of the Desert Southwest Conference for helping to prepare young leaders to be “an aroma that brings life” to a world that is crying out for justice, compassion, healing, and wholeness (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). Through its prayers and gifts, the Desert Southwest Conference participates in disciple-making by example, alongside the students, faculty, administrators, and alumni of Africa University.

Africa University is grateful to the local congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference for investing 100 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund in 2020. Thank you for staying the course in supporting the

ministry of Africa University with faithfulness and generosity. By giving, Desert Southwest United Methodist congregations are sources of inspiration and transformation, especially in times of uncertainty.

The spread of COVID-19 and the resulting public health crisis has brought about profound and lasting adjustments to how we live, work, serve, and connect. For Africa University, these include:

- A shift to online only teaching and learning from late March through December 2020: Africa University had the infrastructure and expertise to transition smoothly and break new ground with competency-based student assessment tools.
- United Methodists provided more than \$300,000 for COVID-19 relief efforts. These second-mile gifts enabled Africa University to care for about 300 stranded international students between March and late July 2020 and extend assistance to students whose families were experiencing financial hardships.
- Excellent student retention and modest enrollment growth, with 99 percent of students embracing online learning: More than 3,000 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 academic year—16 percent more than the previous year—with 2,395 studying full-time. Fifty-seven percent of full-time students were female, and 24 percent were international.
- Innovation, outreach, and service through:
  - Masks and hand sanitizer liquid, developed by Africa University, are being produced commercially.
  - The launch, via a web application, of farm to household delivery of fresh produce, meat, poultry, and milk products by the Africa University Dream Farm Trust.
  - Two student-led initiatives—"Feed a Family" and "Ben Hill UMC Women's Residence Girl Child Support Program"—provided medical care, food, and school fees assistance to vulnerable families in the wider community. Campus and home-based students gave up meals, raised additional resources, procured supplies, and organized safe distribution to families.
- The successful completion of two new buildings—the Highland Park UMC-funded student union facility and a dormitory for female students. A new solar farm powers the Highland Park women's dormitory.

Africa University's online campus is here to stay, thanks to infrastructure upgrades and the lessons learned in 2020. The university is ranked number one in Zimbabwe and 39<sup>th</sup> among the top 200 universities in Africa, having moved up 59 spots in 2020. Africa University's top priority for 2021-2022 is to grow its impact through innovation—offering sustainable solutions to persistent community challenges. The university's growth strategy also includes expanding continent-wide student recruitment, launching new programs and partnerships, and delivering blended learning options.

In a fragile and interconnected world and family of faith, the deep commitment, loving concern, and steadfast support of United Methodist congregations matter greatly. The Africa University continues to rely on the Desert Southwest Conference to help bring to life the dreams of young people who would otherwise never have the chance to acquire a college education.

In journeying alongside Africa University in ministry, Desert Southwest United Methodists are the church in the world—seeding hope and sharing the love of Christ. You affirm that when we are all in it together, God's grace is indeed sufficient. To God be the glory.

### **ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK**

*Rev. Katie Sexton-Wood, Executive Director*

The mission of Arizona Faith Network (AFN) is to invite people into meaningful relationships, shared prayer, and dialogue rooted in our faith traditions, and actions that influence public awareness, engagement, and policy. We are people of faith uniting to create positive change for the common good.

As a nonprofit, we work to engage, educate and empower the faith-based community. We do this work through interfaith relationship building, dialogue, and social justice action. AFN works with diverse religious traditions and United Methodist churches throughout Arizona to advocate for issues surrounding racism, economic inequality, climate change, asylum or immigration concerns, mass incarceration, and religious intolerance or other hatred or systemic injustice. AFN has worked hard to establish authentic, trustworthy interfaith relationships that lead to action to make Arizona stronger. Since 1948 we have impacted the Arizona community by providing the opportunity for local collaboration, theological dialogue, learning opportunities, and social justice advocacy.

You are invited to become a partner of Arizona Faith Network and become active in the work of social justice, activism, interfaith dialogue, and community building. Join today by visiting [www.arizonafaitnetwork.org](http://www.arizonafaitnetwork.org).

## **DESERT SOUTHWEST UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION**

*Rev. Steve Ziegler, President*

*Tim Metzger, Vice-President*

*Christy Ziegler, Secretary-Treasurer*

2020 certainly was a year for the history books. A worldwide pandemic impacted our outreach efforts, but financially, we had another exceptional year with 19.1% in returns. Our Executive Director, Anne Green, continues to grow the Foundation, both in square footage and financially. The Foundation was blessed with a wonderful home, provided to us by the Conference, for many years. In 2020, the decision was made to relocate our offices and make the move out to Goodyear, Arizona. This move will allow us to increase our staff and functionality. We hope that you will come visit us this year! Kelley Tetzlaff continues to work with us as our Planned Giving Consultant. Kelley and Anne participated in several virtual Planned Giving/Estate Planning seminars over the year.

### **MISSION**

As the Foundation for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, our mission is to provide educational, investment and consulting services to your church, agency, or board so you can fulfill your ministries with a secure financial future.

To accomplish its mission, the Foundation operates as a Service Bureau. The Foundation operates three services for the purpose of promoting Stewardship in the local church: 1) The Educational Service Program, 2) The Investment Service Program, and 3) The Consulting Service Program.

**The Educational Service Program** has traditionally provided educational materials and presentations in three areas: 1) Estate Planning, 2) Stewardship and Charitable Giving, and 3) Creating Endowment Funds. Estate Planning Seminars are designed to teach members the importance of becoming good stewards of their own assets. In turn, it is known that members will transfer their new stewardship knowledge to work for the benefit of their church. Since 1995, we estimate that more than 4,000 of our members have created new estate plans and have committed millions of dollars in deferred bequests to their host churches.

The Charitable Giving, aka Planned Giving Seminar is designed to teach members about all of the charitable giving vehicles available, their tax implications, and how the Foundation can assist the local church in promoting a charitable gifting culture for the benefit of the local church. Since 1995, the DSUMF has assisted in the creation of almost 375 deferred gifts designed to support their churches' ministries with gift values over \$3.0 million.

The Permanent Endowment Fund presentation is conducted for a small committee at a local church that wishes to establish a formal Permanent Endowment Fund Program.

The Estate Planning presentation is designed to educate members of the importance of leaving their affairs in order and the importance of remembering their church in their will. This should be of great importance to your church. Keep in mind, if someone else is asking for those charitable dollars and you are not, there is an opportunity missed! We work with local attorneys who are happy to give an Estate Planning presentation at your church. In addition, Kelley Tetzlaff, our Planned Giving Consultant, can give presentations to include estate planning, as well as his standard planned giving presentations.

The Foundation is here to serve the churches, boards, and agencies of the Desert Southwest Conference. Therefore, all seminars and handouts are provided free of charge. We encourage all churches to participate in these free presentations. To schedule a presentation, contact the Foundation at 602-798-8202 or email your request directly to Anne Green at [agreen@dsumf.org](mailto:agreen@dsumf.org) or Kelley Tetzlaff at [ktetzlaff@dsumf.org](mailto:ktetzlaff@dsumf.org).

**The Foundation's Investment Service** is for churches, agencies, or boards of the Annual Conference that have long-term funds to invest. The Investment Service is not for individuals. Our Investment Service is not a free service. It involves an all-inclusive management fee based on the total funds a depositor has under our management. For 2020, the annual fee remained the same at 1.0%. Your fee is further reduced for each additional million dollars you have invested up to \$5 million. At the end of 2020, the Foundation had over \$49 million in assets under management!

We continue to be pleased in our partnership with Wespath Institutional Investments. Wespath Institutional Investments is a branch of Wespath Benefits and Investments, the UM general agency responsible for the pension and health benefits for clergy and lay members within the denomination. They continue to support the Foundation in many ways and can always be relied upon for top-notch service.

Representatives from Wespath report quarterly to the DSUMF Board of Directors regarding the state of the market, current events and their impact on investments, as well as the Foundation's funds' performance specifically. By using Wespath Institutional Investments, we are working hand-in-hand with a United Methodist entity that is part of our connectional system. We are confident that we are always invested according to the Social Principles outlined in the Book of Discipline. It brings us and our churches great peace-of-mind.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND OVERSIGHT**

The goal of the Foundation is to protect our depositors' funds and make them grow. The investment strategy reflects that goal. The process we follow includes oversight, diversification of investments, long term focus, and industry best practices.

The investments of the Foundation are guided by its Investment Committee whose members are appointed by the Board of Directors. These committee members sit in on quarterly webinars hosted by Wespath Institutional Investments explaining the quarter's earnings. While they cover the earning of the funds, they also report on the economy and other important factors that directly relate to those changes. It brings great solace to know that Wespath Institutional Investments has our United Methodist mindset and thus our best interests in mind.

These investments are included in the Foundation's annual audit, thus enabling church endowment fund committees and church foundations that are using our Investment Service to be in compliance with the Desert Southwest Conference rule that all UM entities must have an annual audit.

The Foundation deposits are made up of more than 200 different sub-accounts which fall into four main categories: 1) Endowment Accounts, 2) Charitable Gift Annuity Accounts, 3) Charitable Trust Accounts and 4) Church and Agency Depositor Accounts. We appreciate the continued confidence demonstrated by the Desert Southwest Conference Churches, Boards and Agencies. During 2020, we were blessed to receive over \$3.1 million from both new and existing depositors. Currently, DSUMF manages 143 different investment accounts for various churches, agencies, and boards of the Desert Southwest Conference.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

Another benefit of the Foundation involves our **Gifted Securities Transfer Service**. When a donor gives securities to a church, the **church** is responsible for completing: 1) a properly worded "Donation Letter," if the gift is valued at more than \$250; and 2) an IRS Form 8283 stating the Fair Market Value of the gifted security on the date of receipt. The donor will need these documents if they intend to claim the gift as a deduction on an itemized tax return. DSUMF refers to these documents as the "**Donor Packet**." Preparation of these documents by the church is **required by law**. Therefore, preparation of the Donor Packet requires specialized knowledge that most churches do not have readily available. In addition to preparing and distributing the documentation in a reasonable time, the church is required to produce certain records for permanent files that are required by auditors. If a church is accepting gifted securities and is not producing both the Donor Packet and permanent records of the transactions, it runs the risk of both running into trouble with the IRS and "failing" its professional audit.

When churches encourage their members to transfer their gifts of securities to **DSUMF**, the security comes directly to DSUMF. Therefore, DSUMF is the recipient organization that becomes responsible for producing all the proper documentation required by the IRS. We also keep the permanent records. All the church needs to do to receive the proceeds from a gift of stock from a member is to give the transfer instructions to their member/donor and sit back and wait for a check from DSUMF. We properly prepare the Donor Packet in a timely fashion. **This is a free service offered by DSUMF.**

In 2020, we distributed approximately \$139,000 to various churches as a result of our Gifted Securities Transfer Service. Please contact the Foundation office for more information on Donor Packets and security transfers.

## **GIFT ANNUITIES/TRUSTS**

Approximately \$37,000 was distributed to gift annuitants and beneficiaries of charitable trusts. Moreover, \$35,000 of gift annuity residuals were distributed to churches from gift annuities that matured in 2020.

While promoting gift annuities among your congregation, keep in mind the Foundation will 1) write the contract, 2) assume the liability, 3) make all the annuity payments and 4) provide the proper tax information and upon maturity, deliver the residuum per the annuitant's wishes.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

In 2020, the Foundation distributed \$15,000 in scholarships. Distributions were made to Karen Joubert, St. Paul's UMC, Tucson, AZ; Dorothy Saunders-Perez, Dayspring UMC, Tempe, AZ; and Christopher Wurpts, Paradise Valley UMC, Paradise Valley, AZ.

DSUMF partnered with the Desert Southwest Conference, The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM), the Lilly Foundation and the UM Accredited Seminaries to fund a qualified DSC candidate in their second or third year of seminary who would be funded a \$12,500.00 scholarship if they met all of the application criteria. The name of the program is Excellence in Leadership Scholarship and can be found on the GBHEM website [www.GBHEM.org](http://www.GBHEM.org). DSUMF was proud to fund their share for Karen Joubert from St. Paul's UMC in Tucson, AZ, and Christopher Wurpts from Paradise Valley UMC.

DSUMF is blessed to provide valuable educational, investment and other services for agencies, boards, and churches of the Desert Southwest Conference. The Foundation encourages all members and all churches to use our services. The Foundation believes each of these services is consistent with the priorities of the Desert Southwest Conference and should be incorporated into the daily life of every local church. We appreciate your continued trust and for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.

For more information about the Foundation and its services, contact:

Anne Green, Executive Director, [agreen@dsumf.org](mailto:agreen@dsumf.org)  
1300 S. Litchfield Road, Suite 110-B, Goodyear, AZ 85338  
Phone: 602-798-8202 / 847-778-0556 (cell)  
Web Site: [www.dsumf.org](http://www.dsumf.org)

## **2020 DSUMF Board of Directors**

Paula Adkins, Paradise Valley UMC  
Dr. Paul Hewitt, Green Valley UMC (NV)  
Timothy J. Metzger, North Scottsdale UMC  
J. Dwight Peck, Cross in the Desert UMC  
Lynn Stewart, Sierra Vista UMC  
Frank Tuzzolino, Sun Lakes UMC

Dr. M. Gene Ulrich, United Methodist Church of  
Green Valley  
Christy Ziegler, Dove of the Desert UMC  
Rev. Steve Ziegler, Retired, N. Illinois Conference  
Randy Bowman, Ex-Officio, DSAC

The 2021 Board of Directors voted to approve this report on May 12, 2021. The vote was 10 in favor, 0 against, and 0 members absent.

## **GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY**

### **The United Methodist Church**

*Rev. Greg Bergquist, General Secretary*

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) announced its blueprint for the future, "Our Road Reimagined," in 2020. The plan details the realignment of GBHEM's culture and organizational structure to allow the agency to further its mission in a more effective, innovative, and sustainable way. The creation of the plan was the result of a months-long process to survey and remodel the agency to set a course that is more collaborative, diverse, and equitable at all levels.

While our approach is transforming, GBHEM's mission is not. We remain committed to helping United Methodist lay and clergy leaders discover, claim, and flourish in God's call on their lives.

Over the last quadrennium, the world, The United Methodist Church, and our constituents' needs have changed considerably. To address those shifting needs, we are adapting culturally, strategically, and operationally to successfully carry out our important mission and ministry well into the future. We are developing an innovation mindset we know will be important moving forward.

- Last fall, GBHEM began carefully redesigning our organization to transition to a more cross-functional culture with three primary areas of focus: **Constituent Relations and Services; Product Innovation and Implementation; and Administrative Relations and Services**. This structure is allowing us to be more effective, agile, and sustainable.
- Further, these changes are aligning our Ordained Ministry and Higher Education teams strategically, creating more intentional collaborations, and building greater connections between the Church's pastoral and academic ministries.
- The agency's realignment also includes initiatives to reinvigorate our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and further strengthen our global focus. Our new structure opens the door for fresh opportunities, collaborations and partnerships, and becoming more entrepreneurial and creative in our approach.

GBHEM looks confidently to the future. We are taking bold steps to remain good stewards and evolve in service to Christian leaders in a significant way throughout the Church, the Academy, and the world.

Regardless of the shifts and changes we are all experiencing, the same spirit of service and leadership that first inspired John Wesley lives on in each of us. We have been called in new and transformative ways. GBHEM is excited to share more with you in the months ahead. We invite you to connect and collaborate.

### **BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

*G. Sujin Pak, Dean*

I am grateful for my first opportunity to thank you for your moral, prayerful, and material support of the Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH). Like many institutions, this past year at BUSTH has been largely influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, outrage over enduring racial injustices in our country, and concern over rising white supremacy in our nation. Our work at BUSTH is to prepare religious leaders to encounter and engage complex challenges such as these. A year like 2020 makes the School's historic and ongoing commitments to social justice even more relevant. Below are some BUSTH highlights from 2020. We remain hopeful in our continued partnership with you in the work and witness of the School toward advancing social justice, fostering compassionate communities, and shaping wise leaders for a hurting world.

#### **BREAKING NEWS:**

- **Virtual Learning:** Our faculty, staff, and library successfully pivoted to fully remote learning in Spring 2020 upon the COVID-19 lockdown, which continued through the summer terms. Fall 2020 offered a hybrid approach to learning, due to Boston University's "Learn *from* Anywhere" initiative, which included a comprehensive on-campus testing program and strict COVID-19 precautions to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Students were given the most flexibility, with allowances to learn in-person in socially distanced and masked classes or in the comfort of their own homes via Zoom. The redirection to online learning served as an opportunity for BUSTH faculty to develop new online pedagogical proficiency and positions the School for greater engagement with current conversations concerning best practices in distance, hybrid, and online learning options for students worldwide.
- **Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating opportunities for in-depth exchanges and a rich virtual community life. Our Fall 2020 entering class was among our largest classes ever, with 128 new students enrolling in September, despite the fact that recruitment had to transition to be fully online.
- **Faculty:** We celebrated *dean emerita* Mary Elizabeth Moore's 12-year service to the School as she stepped down on December 31, 2020. The institution will be forever grateful for her historic tenure as its dean. The new dean G. Sujin Pak began her appointment on January 1, 2021. Dean Pak is known for her commitments to academic rigor, social justice, and United Methodism, which made her a wonderful fit for the deanship of BUSTH at this time. In the coming months, the School plans to appoint a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership.

- **Lilly Endowment Grant for Thriving Congregations Initiative:** BUSTH was awarded a nearly \$1 million, four-year grant to work with urban congregations responding to trauma. The project will be focused on responding to congregants who are continually shaped by and reacting to compounding domestic and global traumatic events, such as systemic racism, gun violence, homelessness, or immigration stressors.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to United Methodist Church registered candidates for ordained ministry. Building student scholarships and housing opportunities remain key priorities. BUSTH also offers leadership fellowships to support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies: Raíces Latinas, Sacred Worth, Indigenous Studies, Korean Studies, Women in Leadership, and Black Church Studies.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** Through a generous grant from BU's Digital Education Incubator, BUSTH began to offer online mini-courses, workshops, and reading groups for interested professional and spiritual enrichment of alumni and other religious leaders. Inaugural groups covered topics such as religious Afro-futurism, spirituality through the writings of Howard Thurman, and rituals and practices of grief in a time of pandemic. To learn about or participate in the next BUSTH Lifelong Learning offerings, visit [bu.edu/sth/oll](http://bu.edu/sth/oll).
- **Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our traditional exhibits moved to an online space. The art of John August Swanson is available at <https://butheoartsgallery2020.wordpress.com/john-august-swanson-social-justice-artist>.
- **Development:** BUSTH's "On a Mission" campaign surpassed all expectations when it concluded in September 2019, raising \$29.4 million—well beyond the \$15 million goal set in 2010. These funds reflect broad support from alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, with a far-reaching impact on the School's ability to pursue its mission. More than 2,800 donors, including 1,927 alumni (a 50% alumni participation rate), contributed to our campaign.

#### **PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:**

- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership flourishes with lively student cohorts that are interfaith, broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** We now have four denominational Communities of Learning: Wesleyan/Methodist, Episcopal/Anglican, United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist.
- **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 the *State of Formation* for emerging leaders.
- **Chaplaincy education:** BUSTH and the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab received a grant to support the joint project "Innovations in Chaplaincy Education," which will seek to redesign courses on chaplaincy in higher education, and centralize education for chaplaincy curricula, including competencies needed for chaplains or other professionals in spiritual care.

#### **TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

- **Campus action:** Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.
- **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** Students participate in apprenticeship ministries across the world.

#### **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:**

- Faculty, staff, and students are active in #BlackLivesMatter efforts to seek racial equality, and in collaborative services to support people suffering the consequences of immigration practices or disability inequities.
- In Town Hall meetings, the community has deep conversations on issues that divide, seeking to develop capacities for relating across differences and to create a community based on the dignity of all.

BUSTH celebrates transformational leaders of The United Methodist Church. Your legacy and witness and your partnership give us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude

### **CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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

Since our founding in 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated more than 10,000 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. We continued our work even through this most difficult year, with the coronavirus continuing its march around the world, a reckoning for racial injustice rolling across our nation, and a toxic, divisive political atmosphere challenging our civic life. Perhaps there has been no better year than this to underscore the importance of faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world—the type of leaders we form at Candler.

Though our mission remains unchanged, the pandemic has necessitated many changes in how we undertake that mission: We have shifted classes online, redesigned syllabi to support optimal online learning, developed new ways to worship and experience community together in the virtual sphere, and discerned which new habits and modalities have promise for enriching our work even after the pandemic ends. Through these efforts, we and our students have gained deep experience in being flexible, adaptable, and creative as we respond to the demands of ever-changing contexts—experience that not only serves us well now, but will continue to serve us and our ministries far into the future.

Candler is one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, we enthusiastically welcome students from 44 denominations, with 46% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 483 from 12 countries and 37 states, 44 percent persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. This diversity is a rich blessing, and this year we created a new staff position of assistant director of student life for diversity, equity and inclusion to foster understanding and ensure we are responsive to the needs of our diverse student body.

We offer six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees. Our new Chaplaincy concentration is now among our most popular, and our Teaching Parish program enables students to serve as student pastors in local churches throughout the southeast, learning firsthand about shepherding a congregation; this year, there were 36 participants.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid remains among our top priorities. In 2019-2020, we awarded nearly \$6.6 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, and master of religious leadership students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

The demands of the pandemic did not diminish Candler's robust schedule of events. Candler's Black Church Studies program celebrated its 30th anniversary with a yearlong slate of online lectures and panel discussions, now available at [vimeo.com/candler](https://vimeo.com/candler). We also launched The Candler Foundry to make theological education accessible to all, through short and semester-length courses taught by Candler faculty, videos, and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one, and Facebook Live panel discussions connecting theology with current issues in the world. View the latest offerings at [candlerfoundry.emory.edu](https://candlerfoundry.emory.edu).

Candler's 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. We invite you to visit us online at [candler.emory.edu](https://candler.emory.edu).

## **DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL**

*Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean*

As with most other schools in the northeast of the U.S., Drew University evacuated its campus in early spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drew Theological School faculty and staff adapted to this challenge with resilience, compassion, and creativity. The Theological School faculty put their courses all online, led development workshops for faculty across the university, and, in order to accommodate our many international admits who would not be able to enter the United States for fall 2020, designed an asynchronous Master of Divinity program. As a result of this work, the Theological School welcomed 147 new students, its largest entering class in a decade, with an enrollment of 380 for the current academic year. Our chapel team has also led the way in creating online worship experiences that connect the Drew community now across the globe. All degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who go all over the world to take their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents.

### **GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

For 168 years Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary has been in service to the church and the Methodist connection through the formation of Christian leaders in ordained and lay ministries. A result of the union of three historic institutions (Garrett Biblical Institute, Evangelical Theological Seminary, and the Chicago Training School), Garrett-Evangelical is located in the center and at the heart of the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

One of the official 13 seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Garrett-Evangelical is perennially listed as one of the Seminaries that Change the World and boasts one of the finest theological faculties in the world. With a global student body, that also represents every region of the United States, Garrett-Evangelical is proud of its diverse and vibrant community of learning and of its enduring commitment to training skilled, bold, and articulate leaders who share the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Rooted in our Wesleyan, Methodist, and Evangelical United Brethren origins, today's Garrett-Evangelical is also international and ecumenical in spirit and is committed to equipping students to proclaim the good news of the Gospel, to foster deep spirituality in the lives of the communities and persons they serve, to lead with cultural competence and commitment to racial equity and justice, and as agents of transformative change for the wellbeing of all persons and creation.

Garrett-Evangelical continues to offer a broad array of degree programs that equip students for leadership in congregations, healthcare settings, community organizing and public theology, counseling, and scholarship and teaching in the classic theological disciplines and practices. Fifty-seven percent of Garrett-Evangelical students pursue congregational leadership following graduation, and our pastoral care and counseling programs also increasingly attract a large portion of our student body.

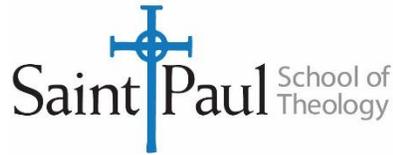
This year Garrett-Evangelical also welcomed a new president. The Reverend Javier A. Viera, an elder in the New York Annual Conference, assumed the presidency on January 1, 2021 after having served six and half years as Dean of Drew University Theological School. Dr. Viera will also serve as professor of Education and Leadership. He succeeds Dr. Lallene Rector, who served as president for seven years, and after a year-long sabbatical she will return to her position on the seminary's faculty as a professor of psychology and religion.

Garrett-Evangelical continues to extend its service to the church through its centers and institutes which are focused on equipping leaders with the resources necessary to thrive in ministry and public leadership, and on influencing the moral, theological, and ethical conversations in the public square. This year we launched the Institute for Ecological Regeneration which seeks to help churches and local communities address the global climate crisis with theological and ethical integrity and creativity. It joins the Styberg Preaching Institute, the Center for the Black Church Experience, the Stead Center for Ethics and Values, the Ruben P. Job Institute for Spiritual Formation, the Hispanic-

Latinx Center, and the Asian/Asian-American Ministry Center as vital hubs of spiritual innovation and theological renewal for the good of the Church and the world.

## SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

[www.spst.edu](http://www.spst.edu)



Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution, online, and on-campus, in Kansas and Oklahoma.

This past year, we have all faced new challenges amid these unsettled times. Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2020-2021 academic year offering students an online option for all courses. With many students choosing to attend class solely online, our Student Council created a monthly “Chat & Chew” where students, faculty, and staff come together to eat lunch and talk about life, seminary, and ministry. In addition, Rev. Rod Newman, our Oklahoma Campus Chapel Coordinator, crafts a weekly Community Prayer to provide encouragement and faithfulness as the school seeks to provide spiritual formation in new ways.

Kansas Campus Chapel Coordinator Dr. Casey Sigmon took worship to new technological levels by introducing our weekly online worship service via Zoom, bringing our separate campus chapel services together for one service where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. Along with our featured alumni worship preachers, the community was blessed this fall by the presence of Musician in Residence Hannah Rand, from The Many, who led the music each week for worship. In Spring 2020, Odell Talley, Director of Music for Swope Parkway United and organist for Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist, served as Musician in Residence. For those who cannot join us live, chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. This year, we have added new adjunct professors, including Rev. Dr. Carol Cook-Moore and Rev. Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe both of the Oklahoma Annual Conference, Rev. Dr. Robert Turner of Vernon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal, United Methodist Deaconess Cindy Johnson of Rio Grande Conference, Rev. Adam Hamilton and Debi Nixon both of Church of the Resurrection, Rev. Chebon Kernell of the United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan, and Rev. Dr. Shannon Fleck of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches.

The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology continue to maintain high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Their many activities and publications over the past year are so numerous that space permits only the sharing of selected highlights.

1. Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology, will publish “Schleiermacher’s Christian Ethics” in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Schleiermacher*, which will appear in 2022 from the Oxford University Press.
2. Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele Professor of Health and Welfare Ministries, continues her service on the Executive Committee of the International Society for Science and Religion, working on several committees advancing the aims of the Society.
3. Rev. Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, will see the publication of his book, *Reading and Interpreting the Bible with Global South Christians: A 21st Century Model for Europe and North America Christendom*, by Wipf and Stock Publishers this summer. He has also written four commentaries on 2 Corinthians and Ephesians which appeared on WorkingPreacher.org in April.
4. Dr. Hal Knight, Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies, continues his work as a contributing writer in The Missouri Methodist magazine.
5. Dr. Kristen E. Kvam, Professor of Theology, serves as co-chair for the American Academy of Religion’s Program Unit “Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions.” Over the last several months, she has conducted invited presentations to the Great Plains Annual Conference Clergy and its Clergy Excellence in Liminal Time Conversations and the Fall Theological Conference of Central States Synod (ELCA) on October 14, 2020.
6. Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, continues to contribute regularly to WorkingPreacher.org and served as the keynote speaker at the

Wesleyan Liturgical Society in Kansas City in March 2020. Her scholarly writing will appear in the *Preaching the Manifold Grace, Vol. 2*, edited by Ronald J. Allen and published by Wipf and Stock.

This year, we have faced several challenges that turned into opportunities for new recruiting spaces and partnerships to enhance students' seminary experience. With the change from in-person to virtual events, Rev. Shannon Hancock, Director of Admissions and Communications, has expanded her reach to prospective students by participating as a virtual exhibitor at online conferences. Rev. Hancock engages with prospective students via apps such as Whova and HopIn to highlight Saint Paul's unique course delivery system and formative community.

In February, Saint Paul held the 2021 Slater-Willson Lecture online featuring Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre. His lecture, "Why Do They Come?" explored the political, economic, and social causes of our current immigration crisis. Before the lecture, Rev. Dr. De La Torre participated in a student-led forum, entering a conversation centering around the practical aspects of ministry and immigration. Later in April, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a lecture given by Dr. Sammy G. Alfaro, Associate Professor of Theology at Grand Canyon University and Pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Dia (New Day Church), on the "Pastoral Strategies for Ministering Among Latinx Immigrant Communities." And for the first time, on May 22, Saint Paul held a virtual commencement celebration with videos, cap and gown photos, online congratulatory messages from friends and family, and a commencement address by Rev. Chebon Kernell. The class of 2021 had 22 graduates, including 16 Master of Divinity and one Doctor of Ministry graduates. Due to the pandemic, for safety concerns, Saint Paul has postponed our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. However, we have rescheduled the event for Friday, October 22 and look forward to coming together as a community for a safe, in-person gathering.

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 255 individual students, 40 of which were new students, with a total registration of 520 classes and offering a total of 51 courses. Due to Covid-19, the school quickly pivoted its course offerings and delivered lessons in both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. In Winter 2019, Saint Paul began a hybrid (online and on-campus) schedule for six courses. Although for 2021, this went fully online, plans to increase the number of hybrid course offerings are in development.

Saint Paul Board of Trustees added three new members to their ranks: Bishop James D. Tindall, Sr., Pastor Emeritus at Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ Kansas City; Ms. Sharon Cleaver, Senior Director of Marketing, Communications, and PR for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City; and Mr. Rogers Strickland, Founder/CEO of Strickland Construction.

Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, Saint Paul created a working group on Native American theology and ministries comprised of Native theologians and church leaders. Their efforts are focused on how the church and academy can work together toward healing generational trauma related to the spread of Christianity and the genocide of Indigenous North Americans.

As we have happily reported in past years, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced budget. The changes made these last years have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability. We continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and emergency assistance to students. Our significant investments in technology have recently allowed our staff, faculty, and students to transition to a fully hybrid educational delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the pandemic. Our faculty was uniquely adept at managing technology in the classroom before the pandemic, making the transition to all online courses a smooth process.

With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission. Our trustees work to continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans in place to guide us into the future. Perhaps most importantly, we have learned much and grown closer as a community due to the pandemic.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking more to answer the call. We are a seminary that offers online and on-campus classes with a flexible schedule to help our students manage pastoral leadership demands in the 21st century. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

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

Kansas Campus  
13720 Roe Avenue, Building C  
Leawood, KS 66224

Oklahoma Campus  
2501 North Blackwelder  
Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

## UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Dr. Kent Millard, President*

*“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:19*

It appears God is doing some new things at United Theological Seminary, even in the midst of health, racial, and political crises.

**God is doing a new thing at United financially.** United continues to make progress toward its goal of becoming debt-free by the Seminary’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of alumni/ae and donors, less than \$1 million remains of the original \$4 million mortgage debt. After the mortgage is paid in full, the Seminary plans to convert those mortgage payments into money for student scholarships.

**God is doing a new thing in enrollment.** Over the last five years, United’s Doctor of Ministry program has grown by 48%, from 170 students in the 2016-17 academic year to 251 in 2020-21. In Fall 2021, Dr. Elvin Sadler, General Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will become the Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies, upon the retirement of Dr. Harold Hudson who has been a vital leader at the Seminary for 17 years.

**God is doing a new thing with partners in church renewal.** In the 2020-21 academic year, United has partnered with Fresh Expressions US and the Mosaix Global Network to introduce two new Houses of Study. These houses oversee specialized tracks in the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity programs. Rev. Dr. Michael Beck is director of the Fresh Expressions House of Studies, and Dr. Harry Li is director of the Mosaix House of Studies.

In collaboration with the Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, United also introduced Rooted/Enraizados, a certificate program for coaches and mentors of Hispanic/Latino church planters. In 2020-21, the program served students from more than five annual conferences.

**God is doing a new thing with the establishment of The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center.** Beginning in 2021, the Innovation Center honors the ministry of Bishop Bruce Ough by providing a hub of learning for church leaders seeking the framework, support, and courage to introduce the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new and creative ways. Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey joins United as the inaugural director of the Innovation Center.

United’s prayer is that United Methodists will perceive the new things that God is doing in our communities, congregations, and ministries as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace

## WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For the world, 2020 was a year like no other. In the midst of a global pandemic, plus resurgent racism, mass unemployment, and politically challenging times in the U.S., Wesley remained committed to fostering wisdom and courage, preparing graduates to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions for the sake of God’s inbreaking kingdom. The mode of educational delivery changed overnight, as we became an all online seminary on March 15, 2020 and have remained so to keep students, faculty, staff, and all members of the Wesley community safe from COVID-19 exposure on campus. This is simply Wesley modelling what we teach our students: to be committed to our God-given mission while being innovative and responsive in the delivery of ministry. Here are some of the ways we are accomplishing that with our many partners in this mission, as we seek to faithfully minister to the world in the future.

### ***Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future ministry***

Wesley is pleased to announce new opportunities for UMC congregations to explore, clarify, and pursue thriving in their communities. Through **The Source Collaborative**, Wesley will work with three cohorts of regional congregations in a two-year process of prayer, community engagement, congregational visioning, and coaching, with the goal of following Jesus in mission and ministry. Interested congregations can contact [innovation@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:innovation@wesleyseminary.edu) for more information. This work, funded by a \$1 million Lilly Endowment, Inc,

grant, raises Wesley's role as a leading research and development seminary for the whole church and complements Wesley's other Lilly Endowment-funded projects focused on congregational vitality.

The **Religious Workforce Project** is an expansive study of the current and future nature of religious work, particularly in local congregations, so as to understand what opportunities and constraints may exist in the future and to adapt resources and training accordingly. Through the **Wesley Innovation Hub**, the seminary has worked with 18 congregations in the greater Washington area to experiment with ministries with young adults outside the church. Together, these projects forge insight into future ministry and local church development, influencing the way students are trained in master's, doctoral, and course of study education, but also informing workshops, podcasts, articles, and training for church leaders working in their communities across the country.

We invite you to discover the latest research and conversations generated by the Wesley community through our new web portal, #EngageInTheseTimes, at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage).

### *Using research and partnerships to reach and equip the next generation of ministers*

Research shows that the primary way people learn about and begin to consider seminary options is through their pastor or an alumnus. Whether you feel called or you know someone who does, **Wesley is ready to work with you** as we make theological education more accessible and relevant to the realities of ministry today—for laity and clergy, for those seeking a degree or certification or continuing education, and for ministry from within or beyond the church.

Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts, and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies, any of which can be focused around specializations in public theology, urban ministry, arts and theology, missional church, children and youth ministry and advocacy, or African American church leadership.

For full-time students, we offer a modern and affordable residential community in the nation's capital. Our **Community Engagement Fellows** program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial, community-based ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their MDiv degree. Our **3+3 Fast Track BA/MDiv program with Shenandoah University** allows students to complete both degrees in six years, entering ministry more quickly and with less debt.

For people with work, ministry, and family commitments, **Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years.** Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2021 at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/>.

Wesley works with each student to make seminary affordable. Thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations, and friends, Wesley provides more than \$2 million annually in scholarships. In addition to our regular merit awards, ranging from 25% to 100% tuition with stipends, Wesley has released special additional scholarships: **full-tuition scholarships** for people recommended by Wesley alumni, campus ministers, or Christian camping or service ministries who feel called to leadership in the church as it is becoming; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students who have worked in a non-ministry setting for at least 10 years; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx/Hispanic leaders for ministries both within and beyond the church.

### *Take your ministry to the next level*

In addition to full master's degrees, Wesley offers graduate certificates for those preparing for specialized ministry! The new **Certificate for Children and Youth Ministry and Advocacy (CYMA)** is designed for people who work with and advocate for children and young people, whether in churches, schools, or non-profit organizations. The **non-residential certificate can be completed in 12 to 15 months** through online coursework and up to two residential sessions. For more information, visit <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3/>. 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 <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/>.

Wesley is a leader in **Doctor of Ministry programs** in specialized tracks that can include international study. Wesley is pleased to announce three new Doctor of Ministry tracks for 2022: Ministry in a Digital Age, a timely new track exploring the new opportunities and challenges of online ministry; Justice, Compassion, and Witness in a Turbulent World, hosted in Cambridge, England; and a program focused on Latinx ministry. As well, new 2022 cohorts for our popular DMin areas of focus will be offered for Military Chaplains and CPE chaplains, our

international mission-focused Global Church Leadership program, and Wesley's premiere DMin program in innovative church administration "**Church Leadership Excellence.**" Find out more or apply at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/>.

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

The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center's **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. Stay on top of their latest developments by subscribing to their podcast or newsletter at <https://www.churchleadership.com/>. Also look for new practical online courses at <https://www.lewisonlinelearning.org/>.

The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online **Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Dr. Tom Pruski at [tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu) for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The **Center for Public Theology** equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. For more information, visit <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

The **Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion** works with students, religious communities, artists, and scholars exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. By engaging in innovative research, staging challenging exhibitions in our Dadian Gallery, and hosting visiting artists in our on-campus studio, the Luce Center seeks to promote dialogue and foster inspired creativity. For information on upcoming workshops and shows at the Dadian Gallery, visit <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>.

***Faculty leading the way***

Our internationally regarded faculty are the heartbeat of transformative education at Wesley. Our faculty continue to advance theological scholarship with new research, publications, and courses. During this past year, we celebrated the ministries of retiring faculty member Dr. Sondra Wheeler. We also welcomed New Testament professor Dr. Laura C. Sweat Holmes to the Wesley community.

***Stay connected***

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

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