Susquehanna Annual Conference

PROGRAM & REPORTS

May 30-June 1, 2019
Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Bring a new back pack on Thursday, May 30th as it will be packed for Mission Central during part of the Leadership Experience.
Christian Conferencing

Listed below are two examples of how Christians need to relate to one another as we engage in serious dialogue, particularly over issues that often divide us. In a world and in a time where the manner in which we address one another is significant, it is critical that we in the church find ways to dialogue with each other as people of faith.

Holy Conferencing Principles

- Every person is a child of God.
- Listen before speaking.
- Strive to understand from another’s point of view.
- Speak about issues, do not defame persons. Disagree without being disagreeable.
- Pray, in silence or aloud, about decisions. Let prayer interrupt your busy-ness.

Strive to accurately reflect the views of others.

“[Make] every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

– Ephesians 4:3 NRSV

“RESPECT” – Eric H. F. Law

- Responsibility for what you say and feel without blaming others
- Empathetic listening
- Sensitive to different communication styles
- Ponder what you hear and feel before you speak
- Examine your own assumptions and perceptions
- Confidentiality when requested or appropriate
- Tolerate ambiguity
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MISSION/VISION STATEMENT
The Mission of the Susquehanna Annual Conference is to equip local churches to fulfill their mission as we:

- Grow spiritual, transformational leaders
- Equip congregations for vitality and create new places for new people
- Connect with each other and the world

So that:
- Alive in Christ together, the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple-making congregations.
Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Susquehanna Conference,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness and Hope of the World!

I am looking forward to our time together, gathering as God's people to worship and do the administrative work of God's church for such a time as this.

You may remember that last year our theme was Better Together: One with Christ. We focused on being in tune with Christ by fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

This year we keep the quadrennial theme of Better Together and continue into the communion prayer with “make us One with Each Other”. You will notice the visual representation of this theme is the hands of a conductor. We are all called to play the same “song of Christian faith,” but we are playing different instruments and with diverse voices. Our parts may be different, our sounds may be different, but we are working as one group to play one song led by the Conductor. A Cabinet member recently told me they thought the theme could be explained as, "Relationships with others (both inside and outside the church) who have different understandings and perspectives allow me to gain greater awareness of our individual and collective frames of reference. As the body of Christ, when we work together towards Kingdom priorities we are truly better together - even with our differences." Truly the “song of Christian faith” sounds better when all the different instruments and voices, no matter what they sound like, play the same song led by the Conductor of all.

I am excited to see what wonderful things will come out of our three days together. Let us expectantly look for the Holy Spirit here with us, guiding our words and actions if we will let the Spirit move. May it be so!

In Christ's Ministry with You,
Jeremiah Park

On behalf of the Sessions Committee of the Susquehanna Conference, I would like to personally welcome each of you to this year's Annual Conference gathering at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

I purposely have chosen the word "gathering" because what we do in these days together is more than a meeting. We gather from places throughout our Conference to be a living part of the worship and work of the Susquehanna Conference. I invite you to faithfully invest all that you are not only into the worship and work but also the fellowship. Please be open to the idea that a new friend can be made over a shared meal or a spontaneous meeting in the hallway.

Over the next several days we will gather as laity and clergy with the theme of Better Together, One with Each Other. As our days together conclude I truly hope that we will understand those words to be more than a theme for our days in Hershey but that we would see the words as both a faithful challenge and a spiritual promise.

Before I close, I would like to thank each of you for attending Annual Conference this year and bringing your spirit to this place and time. Throughout this conference, I ask you to stay engaged and help shape ministry and mission for our Conference for the years to come.

My personal respect and thanks go out to all of you.

Be blessed,
Rev. Gary Weaver
## Organization

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Conference Officers, Cabinet, and Connecting Ministries Staff

Conference Officers:

Resident Bishop
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2019 Conference Sessions Committee

**Committee on Conference Sessions:** Gary Weaver, Chair; Jeremiah Park, Bishop; Cindy Weaver, Conference Secretary; Joni Way, Conference Treasurer; John Konieczny, Conference Lay Leader; Lori Steffensen, Dean of Cabinet; Cheryl House, Memoirs; Jason Mackey, Agenda; Jennifer Williams, Arrangements; Janet Durrwachter, Worship; Diane Konieczny, Lay Equalization; Judi Herrold, Clergy Head Teller; Sandi Tobias, Lay Head Teller; Sarah Filizzi, Registration; Shawn Gilgore and Janelle Walker, Communications/Media Ministries; David Stough, Ordained Ministry; Eric Funk, Stage Manager; Sue Barnes, Hospitality; Mark Terwilliger, Member-at-Large.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clergy</th>
<th>Laity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Tellers</td>
<td>Judi Herrold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altoona District</td>
<td>Rebecca Cutchall</td>
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<td>Kevin Locker</td>
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<td>Harrisburg District</td>
<td>Arun Andrews</td>
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<td>Laura Minnella</td>
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<td>Lewisburg District</td>
<td>Deborah Harvey</td>
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<td>Kelly Kocher-Ross</td>
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<td>Brian Lucas</td>
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<td>Robert Strozyk</td>
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<td>Scranton/ Wilkes Barre District</td>
<td>Janelle Moser</td>
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<td>Donald Perry</td>
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<td>Lori Robinson</td>
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<td>State College District</td>
<td>Richard Conklin</td>
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<td>Laura King</td>
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<td>John Saldana</td>
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<td>Elizabeth R Taylor</td>
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<td>Williamsport District</td>
<td>Kevin Brophy</td>
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<td>Lenore Hosier</td>
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<td>Richard Waters</td>
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<td>York District</td>
<td>Kenneth Aker</td>
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<td>Donna Hiledbrand</td>
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<td>Sandra Kraft</td>
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Important Information

1. WHAT TO BRING
   A. This workbook and other reports which may be distributed online, or at Conference
   B. The 2018 Journal
   C. The 2016 Book of Discipline
   D. Bible
   E. Bring a New back-pack on Thursday, May 30th as it will be packed for Mission Central during part of the Leadership Experience.

2. CHECK-IN ON MAY 30 – Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday morning.
   Registration will be located in The Great Lobby in the Hershey Lodge. At registration, you will receive your name tag/meal ticket. Registration is alphabetical for clergy and lay members together.
   HERSHEY LODGE CHECK-IN WILL BEGIN AT 4:00 PM THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MESSAGES – Urgent or Emergency messages may be given to the Conference Secretary at any time. Meeting notices may be printed in the Daily Link if they are received the previous day.

4. OFFERINGS – Offerings will be taken at the Holy Communion/Memorial Service, Celebration of Ministry Service and at the Ordination Service.

5. PROTOCOL FOR SPEAKING ON THE CONFERENCE FLOOR
   A. Walk to a microphone and stand until you are recognized by the Chair (Bishop Park). Note the number of the microphone where you are because you will be recognized by this number.
   B. When recognized, speak directly into the microphone:
      1) Address the chair “Mr. Chair” or “Bishop Park.”
      2) Speak your name and identify your local church affiliation or other affiliation as applicable.
      3) Speak clearly and concisely.
      4) Watch the ‘traffic’ light. Yellow is a 30-second warning of the end of your time. Red indicates that your time has expired, conclude immediately.

6. MOTIONS – All motions require the use of the triplicate forms provided by the Secretary. An assistant to the Secretary will collect two copies of a motion from the motion maker. The maker will keep the third copy. This must be done whether the motion passes or fails. Motions should be turned in to the Secretary prior to presentation at the microphone.

7. DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS – Materials shall be distributed only under the direction of a Head Teller after approval by the Conference Secretary, and such materials shall be limited to information pending by the Conference.

8. VOTING MEMBERS
   A. Clergy Eligible to Vote:
      Deacons and Elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge, clergy from other denominations upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Only Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the annual conference. Clergy in other categories can vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy. In order to vote for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, provisional members must have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors must have completed Course of Study or an M DIV degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.
   B. Lay Persons Eligible to Vote:
      2) Changes in Lay Voting Members: Only the approved lay representatives may sit in the voting area during the plenary sessions. Alternate Lay Members who are present in addition to the Lay Member are visitors and must sit in the section for visitors. Alternate Lay Members present in place of the Lay Member must complete the registration process before being seated in the voting area. Changes in Lay Member or Alternates since the initial Charge Conference election must be certified to the Conference Secretary by the district superintendent on a card provided by his/her office.

9. DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE JOURNALS – The 2019 Journal will be posted on the Susquehanna Conference website. Opportunity will also be made available to order a paper copy directly from the website at the individual’s expense.

10. ATTENDANCE – It is the duty of every member, all provisional members, and all local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions. Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the Conference Secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister in active service be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory reason for the absence, or excused by the Bishop, the matter shall be referred by the Conference Secretary to the Board of Ordained Ministry. (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶602.8)
### Overview of 2019 Annual Conference Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30-10:00 AM</td>
<td>Health Screening (by appt., Cocoa Suite 3)</td>
<td>Health Screening (by appt., Cocoa Suite 3)</td>
<td>Health Screening (by appt., Cocoa Suite 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-8:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast (only for Wednesday over-night-Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)</td>
<td>Breakfast (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)</td>
<td>Breakfast (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Registration Begins&lt;br&gt;Lobby by Convention Center Entrance</td>
<td>Plenary 2 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Ballot (Blue and White Room)</td>
<td>Plenary 4 (Blue and White Room)</td>
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<td>9:00-10:00 AM</td>
<td>Pre-AC Workshops&lt;br&gt;White/Blue Rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Clergy Session (Blue Room)</td>
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<td>Laity Session (White Room)</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)</td>
<td>Lunch (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)</td>
<td>Lunch (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room) 11:30-12:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Pre-Conference Workshops&lt;br&gt;1:00-4:30PM&lt;br&gt;Hershey Lodge &amp; Convention Center (Empire-A,B,C,D)</td>
<td>United Seminary Lunch (Cocoa 1 by Invitation Only)</td>
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<td>Preachers' Aid Society (Wild Rose A)</td>
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<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Opening Worship Celebration (Blue &amp; White Room)</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary 1 1st &amp; 2nd Ballot (Blue and White Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>Early Lodge Check-In Early Registration 4:00 – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Lodge Check-In (all day as rooms become available)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Dinner (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)&lt;br&gt;FLPAM Dinner (Magnolia A,B,C,D)&lt;br&gt;Memorial Dinner (Cocoa Suite 1/Cocoa Terrace by Invitation Only)</td>
<td>Dinner (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Innovators 20/20 Dinner (Cocoa Terrace 1 by Invitation Only)</td>
<td>Dinner (Chocolate Ballroom &amp; Red Room)</td>
<td>Ministry Dinner (Cocoa Suite 1/Cocoa Terrace by Invitation Only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Memorial Service (Blue &amp; White Room)</td>
<td>Celebration of Ministry (Blue &amp; White Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>Ordination Rehearsal</td>
<td>Extra Plenary if needed (Blue &amp; White Room)</td>
<td></td>
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Rules of Procedure
(Supplemental to the Conference Standing Rules)

Please read these Rules of Procedure before Conference begins.

1. The Voting Area shall be the burgundy chairs in the White & Blue Room. This is for clergy and lay Conference members who are eligible to vote.

2. ALL OTHERS: VISITORS, GUESTS, CLERGY AND LAITY NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE shall sit in taupe/gold chairs at the rear “stage left” side of the bar.

3. The first row in front of the stage with tables shall be reserved for the Bishop and Cabinet.
   (NOTE: the above seating arrangements are subject to reconfiguration as announced during plenary sessions.)

4. Doors to The Great American Hall shall be closed during Worship/Bible Study, and latecomers shall not be admitted until the end of the service.

5. The printed schedule in the workbook, with such changes as may be determined by the agenda sub-committee, by the presiding bishop or by conference action, shall be the official schedule of the current session.

6. Reports, recommendations or resolutions not printed in the workbook or having been otherwise provided prior to Conference or in the packet, shall be given to the Conference Secretary for approval by the agenda sub-committee to be included in the agenda or on the consent calendar. Contingent upon approval by the agenda sub-committee, persons submitting reports, recommendations or resolutions must prepare 1500 copies for distribution to conference members at least twenty-four hours in advance of presentation.

7. Materials approved by the agenda sub-committee for action by the Conference shall be distributed under the direction of the head tellers.

8. All reports without recommendations shall be placed on the consent calendar. Upon proper motion from the floor, any report may be lifted from the consent calendar and placed on the agenda by a one-third vote of the Conference. The State of the Church message by the Bishop, and the District Superintendents’ report, are exempt from this rule.

9. Reports with recommendations and resolutions, shall be presented by name and number by the Conference Secretary. If the report or resolution is not referred to the agenda sub-committee for inclusion in the agenda, the report/resolution shall be considered approved and placed on the consent calendar.

10. Presenters of reports shall, first, present the recommendations for action, and second, make additional remarks if time remains within their assigned timeframe.

11. All motions shall be in writing on forms provided by the Conference Secretary. The original and one copy shall be given to the Secretary or an assistant to the Secretary prior to presentation of the motion to the body. Exact wording of the motion on the form is imperative. The form shall be signed by the maker of the motion.

12. Agency chairpersons shall be responsible that the Conference Secretary receives, before adjournment of the Conference session, if possible, and no later than July 1, a corrected copy of any report or recommendations in which changes were made.

13. All material to be printed in the 2019 Journal shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary no later than July 1, 2019.

14. Display space shall be limited to UM affiliated and non-affiliated organizations that can demonstrate a benefit to the mission and ministries of the churches of the Susquehanna Conference. Qualifications are determined by the Director of Connecting Ministries, the Rev. Jason Mackey.

15. Speeches shall be limited to two minutes during debate on recommendations, reports and motions before the Conference. The time shall be kept by the presiding officer or designate, using a lighted device to track the time. Speeches shall be limited to three in favor and three in opposition.

16. The conference session will be guided by policies previously adopted by the Susquehanna Conference. In the case when no policy is in place to cover a particular situation, the Bishop or body, may request that the Policies and Procedures Task Force consider the need, and if necessary, develop a policy to be reviewed and brought to the next annual session for adoption.
Consent Calendar

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Conference Offerings
10th Session of the Susquehanna Annual Conference
May 30 - June 1, 2019

Memorial Service, Thursday, May 30, 2019:
The Cup of Water Fund (8160) is a fund which is available to lay persons in our conference who are facing difficult financial hardship. These donations provide emergency grants to families or individuals who are recommended by pastors to the Cabinet. In these difficult economic times your generosity provides needed help to our brothers and sisters.

Celebration of Ministry, Friday, May 31, 2019:
The Preachers’ Aid Society (9035) has existed since 1869 to provide aid to clergy of our Conference, their spouses, and children in times of emergencies. In 2015 a Seminary Debt Program was initiated because we became aware of the number of clergy, especially younger ones, who had substantial debts related to their seminary work. The Society offers annual grants as funds are available to help reduce these debts and help clergy pay them off more quickly. This offering will support the Society’s ministry.

Ordination Service, Saturday, June 1, 2019:
Bishop’s Partners in Mission (7090) calls us to Imagine No Malaria and Imagine No More Debt! 100% of the proceeds from this fund go to Imagine No Malaria (the UMC’s global campaign to fight malaria) and paying down the debt of Mission Central so they can focus on their core mission of connecting God’s resources with human need. Bishop Park is inviting individuals, congregations and church groups to join him be Partners in Mission, committing to $100 or more a year. Whatever you can give helps the lives of those locally and around the world. God is still calling us to imagine great things, he is calling us to Imagine What We Can Do Together!

Please make checks payable to Susquehanna Conference and include your church number and the advance number (listed after the name above) on the memo line of the check.
### Recommendations

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RECOMMENDATIONS

REC-1 Advance Specials for 2019/2020

ACTION:

The purpose of this Conference Advance list is to promote mission within the structure or bounds of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. These groups have been reviewed by the Missional Board as worthy ministries for second mile giving consideration by the local congregations. These “Advances” are given access to the addresses and contact information for our congregations and are authorized to solicit funds from all United Methodist congregations within this Conference. No other groups are given such access.

1.1 Neighborhood Center, Harrisburg, PA (# 7000)
   Contact: Kris Sledge ksledge@susumc.org
   Neighborhood Center serves at risk, low-income, and inner-city children, youth, and families with educational, cultural, human service, basic needs, and recreational programs in the name of Jesus Christ.

1.2 Conference Work Camps (materials) Advance special (# 7010)
   Contact: Michelle Schwartzman 717-766-7871 mschwartzman@susumc.org
   This ministry helps with the costs of materials for work camps organized by the Conference VIM Council. These work camps have included work with congregations within the borders of Susquehanna Conference and our Camping and Retreat Centers.

1.3 Dental and Health Care for Seasonal Workers (# 7025)
   Contact: Jay Zimmerman gettysburgumc@gmail.com
   This ministry was expanded to provide assistance to seasonal workers for their dental and health needs. Partnering with local care providers in Adams County and surrounding areas the seasonal worker population is cared for in the name of Christ.

1.4 Prison Ministries within Susquehanna Conference (# 7035)
   Contact: Kris Sledge ksledge@susumc.org
   This ministry has expanded to include Exodus Ministry. The Prison Ministries has provided camp scholarships to children of those incarcerated within our congregations, has provided counseling to inmates re-entering the community, and supports local congregations and other ministries to those imprisoned.

1.5 The Center for Spiritual Formation (# 7040)
   Contact: Rev. Kathy Harvey Nelson 717-240-0678 centerdirectorokhn@gmail.com
   The Center for Spiritual Formation seeks to advocate and demonstrate the disciplines of Christian Spiritual Formation through retreats, seminars, continuing education events, a two-year Ministry of Spiritual Direction Course, a two-year Lay Seminary, and a family-systems tutorial for active clergy. The Center includes a retreat center where events are held as well as the ability to bring workshops to churches located throughout the Conference.

1.6 Daystar Center for Spiritual Recovery (# 7030)
   Contact: Fern Wilcox, Executive Director, 125 N. 18th Street Harrisburg, PA 17106 717-230-9898 admin@daystarrecovery.com
   This ministry provides addiction recovery services and requires clients to connect with the spiritual community. They offer daily devotions, individual and group counseling, life-skills training, case management, weekly Bible studies and small group ministries.

1.7 Endless Mountain Mission Center (# 7020)
   Contact: Tammie Storrs, PO Box 201 Troy, PA 16947 570-596-2039 tstorrs@npacc.net
   Physical site address: 81 Mission Center Lane, Troy, PA
   The EMMC reaches out to people in need in the Bradford County region and is committed to sharing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. Through creating an atmosphere of trust and compassion people are ministered to in all areas of need.

1.8 Mission Central (# 7050)
   Contact: 5 Pleasant View Drive Mechanicsburg PA 17050 Phone: 717-766-1533 Email: missioncentral@susumc.org
   Since 2002, thousands of volunteers have come in service to “connect God’s resources with human need.” We process UMCOR "Relief Kits" for use around the world, provide all types of needed supplies for local and national ministries, and assist many projects that are sending God’s love, locally, nationally, and around the world.

1.9 Camp Curtin Memorial Mitchell Soup Kitchen (# 7065)
   Contact: Lynida Hudson 717-233-0335 (cell) 717-421-3774 PO Box 5034 Harrisburg PA 17110 cm2umc@comcast.net
   The Soup Kitchen ministers to the neighborhood by offering a noon-time meal on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

1.10 Join Hands Ministry (# 7045)
   Contact: Director Michael Burns or Sheree Seifert Ass’t. Director 717-582-7844 joinhands@pa.net
   Join Hands assists with those in times of financial hardship or distress and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ with clients. Join Hands started as a cooperative among Perry County and is a ministry for congregations to refer people in need.

1.11 Haiti Partnership (# 8035)
   Contact: Barbara Gay 331 Stinson Lane Tunkhannock PA 18657 570-836-3884 email: skyhaven@epix.net Haiti Partnership
   Website: www.haitipartnership.com
   The Haiti Partnership’s mission is with the people of Haiti to form relationships with them based on mutual respect and love in Christ. VIM Teams are regularly sent and updated information is available through the website above.
1.12 Sierra Leone Initiative (# 8030)
Contact: Pam Perna pam04sierra@gmail.com
SLI provides financial assistance to clergy in Sierra Leone through an affirmed covenant relationship between the Susquehanna and Sierra Leone Conferences and the General Board of Global Ministries.

1.13 Bolivia Mission Initiative (# 8105)
Contact: Rev. Jennett Wertz, jwertz@susumc.org 1127 Louise St Williamsport PA 17701 570-326-3218 (h); 570-322-5054 (w)
The Bolivia Mission Initiative is a multi-faceted connection with our brothers and sisters in the vicinity of Cochabamba in central Bolivia and also with the medical clinic in the La Paz/El Alto area. Children’s, Medical, Evangelism, and Community developments programs are all a part of this ministry.

1.14 York City Day Camp (# 8140)
Contact: Tanya Brubaker, tbrubaker@susumc.org
The York City Day Camp is a 4-week summer day camp for York City children entering grades 1 through 6. The vision of the Christian-based camp program is to share Jesus with children from York City while providing them with a structured and nurturing environment for 7 hours each weekday. The goals of the day camp are to develop a Christian community among the campers, to experience weekly field trips to community parks and public places for recreation and to learn life and leadership skills that will serve them throughout their live.

1.15 Wesley Foundation (# 7100)
Contact: St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, State College PA 814-237-2163 Jen Gruendler jen.wesley.psu@gmail.com
St. Paul’s UMC & Wesley Foundation serves all students at Penn State University Park. The Abba Java Coffeehouse, a mission of campus ministry, serves an aggregate average of 700 students a week, providing free Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and tea as well as snacks. The Wesley Foundation also provides students a space for internship opportunities, for leadership and mission, faith exploration and worship. The Wesley Foundation at Penn State depends on Conference and Congregational support. Thank you in advance for helping us nurture and care for the students at Penn State. Please use #7100 in the memo for any donations coming through the conference.

1.16 Bishop’s Partners In Mission (# 7090)
The Partners In Mission Fund will be used for local and global ministries supported by the United Methodist Church under the direction of the presiding Bishop of the Susquehanna Annual Conference. To be a part of the Bishop’s Partners In Mission, please send a gift of $100.00 to this fund.

District Advance Projects for special promotion and support within those districts (2012 Book of Discipline para.655).

2.1 ALTOONA DISTRICT

- Breezewood Trucker’s Ministry (# 8195)
  Contact: Bruce Maxwell, Chaplain: 814-735-4011 ext. 463 or 814-977-6964 (cell)
  Mission Outreach Team for truckers and travelers, through a Chaplaincy Program at Breezewood. “A Friend on the Road” newsletter is available through Bruce Maxwell, Chaplain. Personal, hands-on, opportunities are available.

- Faith Break Media Ministry (# 8085)
  Contact: Rev. Carol Gathagan, producer 814-742-8209 or rvcarol@verizon.net
  Mission Outreach Team for the Radio/TV Ministry. This ministry began in October 1997. The goal is to reach those people who are un-churched or who have drifted away from church. The radio ministry is heard on Q94 - 94.3 FM and 94.7 FM at 10:40am and 3:40 pm (or close to it) Monday thru Friday and WKMC Music of Your Life 1370 AM at 10:20am and 3:20pm (or close to it) Monday thru Friday.

- Altoona District Volunteers in Mission Team (# 4060)
  Contact: Joy Shields at bass8765@verizon.net
  The Altoona District Mission Team has assisted disaster victims on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the states of Kansas, Georgia, Indiana, New York and West Virginia plus several local mission projects since 2006. This volunteers-in-mission (VIM) experience has also developed a capability to work with the Blair County Emergency Management Office in response to local disasters should they occur. Donations to the "Altoona District VIM" can be made directly through the district office at 1381 Plank Road, Suite 104, Duncansville, PA 16635. Please help support this dedicated team of volunteers.

- Altoona District Mission Central HUB (# 8235)
  The Altoona District Mission Central HUB works as a local division of Mission Central. Our focus is on assembling cleaning buckets, school kits, layette kits, and health kits. We strive to share with our local outreach programs as well supporting Teen, Family and Women’s Shelters, Precious Life, LOVE. INC, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities and others. Our work is supported by our annual blueberry sale and the donations from local churches and volunteers. See us on Facebook at Altoona District Mission Central or at http://missioncentralaltoonahub.weebly.com/ The Altoona District Mission Central HUB is located at 1738 N Branch Avenue, Altoona. We are open Mondays & Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm.
2.2 HARRISBURG DISTRICT
- Daystar Center for Spiritual Recovery (#7030)
  Contact: Fern Wilcox, Executive Director, 125 N. 18th Street Harrisburg, PA 17106 717-230-9898
  This ministry provides addiction recovery services and requires clients to connect with the spiritual community. They offer daily devotions, individual and group counseling, life-skills training, case management, weekly Bible studies and small group ministries.
- Neighborhood Center, Harrisburg, PA (#7000)
  Contact: Kyla Harvey 717-233-6541 Ext 301; kharvey@neighborhoodcenterumc.org
  Neighborhood Center serves at risk, low-income, and inner-city children, youth, and families with educational, cultural, human service, basic needs, and recreational programs in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Join Hands Ministry (#7045)
  Contact: Michael Burns, Director or Sheree Seifert, Assistant Director, 25 E. McClure St., Suite 6, PO Box 335, New Bloomfield PA 17068, 717-582-7844 info@joinhands.help
  Join Hands provides assistance for those in times of financial hardship or distress and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ with clients.
  Join Hands started as a cooperative among churches in Perry County and is a ministry for congregations to refer people in need.
- Camp Curtin Memorial Mitchell Soup Kitchen (#7065)
  Contact: Lynida Hudson, PO Box 5034, Harrisburg PA 17110 717-421-3774 ccm2munc@comcast.net
  The Soup Kitchen ministers to the neighborhood by offering a noon-time meal on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope (#7300)
  Contact: Ruth I Stoll, Development Committee, 248 Seneca Street, PO BOX 5870, Harrisburg, PA 17110 717-775-1111
  Beacon Clinic is a not-for-profit, free, faith-based primary healthcare clinic serving adults ages 18-65 living in the Greater Harrisburg Community, including the working poor, homeless, prisoners-in-transition, diverse immigrant groups, unemployed and others.

2.3 LEWISBURG DISTRICT
- The Gate House (#8145):
  Contact: 21 Gate House Drive, Danville PA 17821, 570-275-6766, gatehouse5@verizon.net
  Since 1997, the Gate House has provided shelter for residents of Montour and Columbia Counties who find themselves without a home. Gate House residents are often facing personal crises – such as unemployment, death in the family, abandonment, divorce, illness, or accident – or have been victims of misfortunes such as fire, flood, rent increases, or evictions. The Gate House provides shelter for both homeless men and women, along with their children. Located on East Market Street in Danville, it sits at the southern entrance to the State Hospital.
- Haven Ministries, Inc. (#8130):
  Contact: Christy Zeigler, Director, 1043 S. Front Street, Sunbury PA 17801, 570-286-1672, havenministry@gmail.com
  Haven Ministry is a non-profit organization guided by a Board of Directors composed of both clergy and lay people. The mission of Haven Ministry is to respond, through faith in God's covenantal relationship with us, to the basic needs of God's people by providing emergency shelter, nurturing, and advocacy for individuals and families in the Central Susquehanna Valley Area.
- Heart to Hand Ministries (#8110):
  Contact: Woody Wolfe, 799 E Front St, Danville PA 17821, 570-271-0622, www.hearttohandministries.com
  Heart to Hand Ministries, Inc. was started in November 1992 by Woody Wolfe Jr. and a few friends, after Woody had spent nearly eleven years visiting hospitalized children in a children’s hospital in his home town. Woody now ministers weekly in four Pennsylvania hospitals. Two in the Susquehanna Conference are: The Janet Weis Children’s Hospital, Danville and Penn State Children’s Hospital, Hershey. He also visits hospitals in other states. In addition to hospital outreach, Heart to Hand has been involved in outreach to the orphaned children, and those with special medial needs, of Ukraine since Woody’s first visit there in 1998.
- R.B. Winter/Pine Valley Parks Chaplaincy Program (#8150):
  Contact: Rev. Larry Sitkanen, lsitkanen@susumc.org
  Their mission is of providing the opportunity for campers to worship in the outdoors. The Lewisburg District has supported this outreach for many years by providing logistical support and housing for the chaplain who serves R.B. Winter State Park and Pine Valley State Park. Sunday Morning services are provided from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This ministry provides pastoral support, care and visitation to campers and their families while they are vacationing at both R.B. Winter State Park and Pine Valley State Park.
2.4 SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE DISTRICT:

- **Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE)** (# 2375):
  
  GYTTE was founded in 1977 as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church of Mexico to combat hunger and poverty in the rural sector. The purpose of the "Give Ye Them to Eat" program (GYTTE) is to strengthen the capabilities of marginalized people and communities to meet their basic needs, and to determine and sustain a just and integrated development process. Participatory methods and development tools are used to create conditions in which change can take place from within the communities. The “Tree of Life” training center in Tlancersualcan conducts workshops and hands-on opportunities in the areas of health, sanitation, animal care and breeding, agricultural methods such as terracing, composting and irrigation. Workshops also go “on the road” for VBS, Holy Week and Advent resources. The Susquehanna Conference has been sending work teams for over 20 years. Rev. Marian Hartman will lead several trips in 2019-2020.

- **Shoemaker Mission Central HUB:** (# 8210)
  
  Contact: HUB Coordinators: Kristi Lyons (kristiship@hotmail.com or 570-262-0382) and Sally Kennard (570-333-4218) for furniture needs

  The former Shoemaker Memorial Church, West Eighth Street, Wyoming, has been transformed into a Mission Central HUB of Mission Central, located in Mechanicsburg, PA. Under the leadership of the Kristi Lyons and the local Board of Directors, the Mission Central HUB will be a place where groups can come to assemble various types of health kits, provide resources for persons in need, and eventually offer places to study and worship for folks who traditionally find it hard to enter the doors of our churches.

- **Elm Park Congolese Ministry:** (# 8230)
  
  Contact: Rev. Mike Bealla, mbealla@susumc.org, 570-342-8263

  With a growing number of Congolese and Central African families finding homes in the Scranton Area, Elm Park has been blessed in its ministry with this community. This ministry came to Elm Park following the closing of St. Paul’s UMC last year. Your gifts to this Advance Special will help support the worship service led by the Congolese each Sunday, English as a Second Language group tutoring for the children, Leadership Training and education for the adults, and the support of a Congolese M. Div. Drew University intern arriving in August 2019 to work closely with the families and grow this ministry.

- **Greater Scranton Homeless Coalition:** (#7305)
  
  The coalition provides engaged, directed, informed, and coordinated interfaith-based, community-action to address social justice in Scranton-area communities. The mission involves a fundamentally ecumenical and interfaith response to economic and social challenges in our communities. By fostering collaboration, using information, developing relationships, and coordinating with other entities working on these issues, the Greater Scranton Homeless Coalition seeks to develop working and replicable models, drawing on common faith traditions, for reducing poverty, addressing systemic issues that lead to poverty and homelessness, minimizing dependence on social services, enhancing community identity, and supporting personal and family dignity.

2.5 STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT

- **Wesley Foundation** (# 7100)
  
  Contact: St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, State College PA 814-237-2163 Jen Gruendl jen.wesley.psu@gmail.com

  St. Paul’s UMC & Wesley Foundation serves all students at Penn State University Park. The Abba Java Coffeehouse, a mission of campus ministry, serves an aggregate average of 700 students a week, providing free Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and tea as well as snacks. The Wesley Foundation also provides students a space for internship opportunities, for leadership and mission, faith exploration and worship. The Wesley Foundation at Penn State depends on Conference and Congregational support. Thank you in advance for helping us nurture and care for the students at Penn State. Please use #7100 in the memo for any donations coming through the conference.

- **State College Mission Field – Church Planter** (# 8240)
  
  Contact: Timothy Parker, tparker@susumc.org, Kay Kotan, kkotan@susumc.org

  The State College area is booming with growth. New people are moving in all the time and these new people need a new place to worship.

2.6 WILLIAMSPORT DISTRICT

- **Sierra Leone Initiative** (# 8030):
  
  Funds provide financial assistance to clergy in Sierra Leone through an affirmed covenant relationship between the Susquehanna and Sierra Leone conferences and the General Board of Global Ministries.

- **Sojourner Truth Ministries** (# 8070):
  
  STM is a district mission into God's Frontier to build bridges between the traditional church and those disenfranchised and alienated by it. The initial portal is the Sojourner Café where Christ centered fellowship is shared around a table of food and drink. Touching lives with the love and care of Christ is our mission and vision.

- **Good Samaritan Fund (GSF)** (# 9060):
  
  Founded in 1988, the former Wellsboro District GSF allows churches across our district to respond to the financial crises of our community members. Disbursements from the fund are made from the district office, upon request by pastors and laity. Send contributions to the conference treasurer's office # 9060 marked "Good Samaritan Fund".
• Kasambira Scholarship Fund (KSF) (# 9055):
Mercy Kasambira was an African pastor in our conference who was both recommended out of the former Wellsboro District and also served within its bounds twice before dying in an automobile accident in 1995. Mercy was born in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The Kasambira Scholarship Fund continues her legacy at Mansfield University. Churches of the district can support the GSF by sending contributions to the conference treasurer’s # 9055 marked “Kasambira Scholarship Fund”

2.7 YORK DISTRICT
• York City Day Camp (# 8140)
Contact: Tanya Brubaker, tbrubaker@susumc.org
The York City Day Camp is a 4-week summer day camp for York City children entering grades 1 through 6. The vision of the Christian-based camp program is to share Jesus with children from York City while providing them with a structured and nurturing environment for 7 hours each weekday. The goals of the day camp are to develop a Christian community among the campers, to experience weekly field trips to community parks and public places for recreation and to learn life and leadership skills that will serve them throughout their live.

Submitted by Conference Missional Board

REC-2 Board of Pensions

ACTION:

1. The Annuity rate for pre-January 1, 1982 service be set at $638.00 for the calendar year 2020.
2. That the following ministers who will be granted retirement status as of July 1, 2019 (unless otherwise indicated) be credited for these years of service rendered to this Annual Conference:

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<th>Age</th>
<th>Years with Pension Credit</th>
<th>Years of Service without Pension Credit</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Wood, Bethany P.</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>32.75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>32.75</td>
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<td>Wood, Robert G.</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>39</td>
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3. Resolutions relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergy persons of the Susquehanna Conference:

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

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

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

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and
WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Conference (or its predecessors) is the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

3.1 THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespath, during the year 2019 by each retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

3.2 THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

2020 Comprehensive Funding Plan

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the plan sponsor’s obligations and funding of the benefits provided to clergy and laity, as noted below.

It is understood by the signees that defined benefit plan liabilities [Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB) and other sponsored defined benefit plans] continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the plan sponsor still has a liability (obligation) and potential future contribution due to the plan.

REC-3 Commission On Equitable Compensation

Mission

The Commission on Equitable Compensation is to support full-time clergy serving as pastors and those clergy members appointed to less than full-time serving charges of the Susquehanna Conference by:

1. Recommending standards for pastoral support.
2. Administering funds for pastoral support.
3. Providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support.
4. Arrearage Policy Adopted by Annual Conference

Pastoral Support & Compensation Recommendations - 2020

1. That the minimum salary in 2020 for full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the Annual Conference shall be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Minimum Salary Years of Service</th>
<th>Full Members and In-Service Provisionals</th>
<th>Associate Members</th>
<th>Full-Time Local Pastors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 3</td>
<td>$45,484.00</td>
<td>$43,468.00</td>
<td>$41,455.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 3</td>
<td>$46,407.00</td>
<td>$44,435.00</td>
<td>$42,284.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 6</td>
<td>$47,328.00</td>
<td>$45,164.00</td>
<td>$43,113.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 9</td>
<td>$48,260.00</td>
<td>$46,098.00</td>
<td>$43,943.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 12</td>
<td>$49,177.00</td>
<td>$46,979.00</td>
<td>$44,779.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 15</td>
<td>$50,078.00</td>
<td>$47,853.00</td>
<td>$45,593.00</td>
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</table>

Note: The years of service of a pastor are to be computed not only on the service in the Conference, but rather on the total full-time service in the United Methodist Church or its antecedents. The 2020 Minimum Salary reflects a 3% increase over 2019. We encourage additional compensation for those with advanced degrees in ministry.

2. That the compensation for all part-time pastors and less than full-time appointments shall be negotiated by the Staff-Parish Committee and the District Superintendent.
3. That in addition to the cash salary paid to each full-time pastor, an amount equal to one half of the current Self-Employment tax as determined by the Internal Revenue Service shall be paid by the local church to offset the difference between self-employed and employee Social Security tax rates. Such amount shall be identified in local church and conference reports as a separate line item under pastoral compensation. All pastors are encouraged to participate in the Social Security Program. This supplemental amount is only available to those participating in the Social Security Program.

4. That pastors supplying a pulpit on a temporary basis shall receive at least $75 per single church charge, at least $15 additional per church or service in a multiple church charge, plus mileage reimbursement, at current Internal Revenue Service rates, in each instance.

5. That travel provisions shall be made for all full-time pastors and student pastors and shall be considered as part of the local church/charge budget under administrative expenses. The local church/charge, after consultation with the pastor, shall select one of the following options to insure adequate travel provisions for the pastor while involved in church business:

Option 1: The local church/charge shall rent or purchase a vehicle for the pastor and shall be responsible for all ownership and operating costs of the vehicle. Ownership costs shall include gasoline, oil, tires, maintenance and repair of the vehicle. It shall be understood that the vehicle is to be available to the pastor at all times, with the cost of personal use being reimbursed at current Internal Revenue Service rates.

Option 2: The local church/charge shall pay the pastor an annual amount of at least $1,700 for ownership costs and reimburse the pastor for operating costs at the minimum rate of 14 cents per mile which is the current IRS rate, both payable at least monthly upon the submission of travel vouchers. The $1,700 will be considered as salary for tax purposes.

Option 3: The local church/charge shall reimburse its pastors for vouched travel expenses at Internal Revenue Service rates, as defined by current IRS regulations. This may be contained within an Accountable Reimbursement Policy.

6. That travel expenses for pastors under special appointment shall be negotiated with the agency to which they are assigned. Travel expenses of pastors in less than full-time appointments shall be negotiated between the District Superintendent and the Staff-Parish Committee.

7. That a parsonage shall be provided for the appointed pastor and his/her family and furnished according to the standard adopted in the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

a. That utilities, which include gas, electricity, TV antenna or basic cable installation, high speed Internet service, water, sewer, basic private telephone bill and equipment, heat, refuse collection, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors shall be furnished and paid for by the local church/charge.

b. Each pastor shall report the fair rental value of the parsonage as income for Social Security purposes. The fair rental value of the parsonage shall be negotiated by the pastor and the Staff-Parish Committee and approved by the appropriate Church/Charge Conference.

c. That each charge is encouraged to designate, each year, at the Church/Charge Conference, a portion of the pastor’s cash salary as parsonage exclusion for use as the pastor sees fit for the purchase of furnishings for the church/charge owned parsonage.

d. When a housing allowance is granted in lieu of a parsonage, it shall be done only by approved Conference policy.

8. That continuing education shall be provided for all full-time and part-time pastors under appointment. It shall be cumulative and used only during the current assignment. It shall be payable upon submission of vouchers. It shall be payable at the minimum rate of $750 per year for full-time pastors and $500 per year for part-time pastors. Other educational assistance may be available through the Board of Ordained Ministry.

9. That vacations and time away from the parish be granted on the following basis:

a. Vacation time shall be granted based on the Conference year (July 1 - June 30th) and negotiated with the Staff-Parish Committee.

b. Full-time service: Minimum of four weeks of vacation, which shall include four Sundays.

c. Less than full-time pastors: Minimum of two weeks, which shall include two Sundays.

d. Pulpit supply during vacation periods shall be arranged by the Staff-Parish Committee and paid for by the local church/charge.

e. All Staff-Parish committees shall encourage their pastors to take a minimum of one day off a week.

f. Some involvement of pastors in ministries beyond the local church is expected as an aspect of our connectional ministry, e.g. evangelistic missions, camping program, work camps, etc. Such time is not to be considered as vacation. However, the extent of such involvement is to be negotiated by the pastor and the Staff-Parish Committee.

g. Staff-Parish Committees are encouraged to pay special attention to the recommendations of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Study Leave, Sabbatical Leaves, and Short-Term educational opportunities.

10. That the church’s portion of health insurance for clergy couples will continue to be paid by their respective churches/charges for their full requested contribution for each pastor. Only one clergy in the clergy couple will have the clergy portion of health insurance deducted and billed to the church. Each full-time pastor will contribute the difference between the actual cost of the plan selected and the premium credit provided by the Conference. This contribution will be a payroll deduction by the local church.

11. That the primary responsibility for pastoral base compensation, subject to the above minimum recommendations, remains with the individual pastoral charge. Special assistance is available to congregations unable to pay the pastor’s minimum base compensation by application to their District Superintendent and through the resources of the Equitable Compensation Commission.
Recommendations for New Parsonage Standards/Assessments

Rationale for a New Focus/Change:

1) Many parsonages do not meet current design/standards, with little evidence for hope of doing so.

2) Given the significant costs/challenges of new construction, improvement to parsonages sometimes actually is inhibited.

3) If the aim is to ensure that parsonages are the best “home” for clergy/clergy families, a new focus is needed to bring about realistic action through respectful and open communication.

4) Many clergy AND laity who have overseen parsonage inspections have found:
   a. Current Parsonage Standards are unrealistic both contextually and financially, and are “check-list” heavy, often failing to lead to action or improvements.
   b. Current Parsonage Standards/ checklists steer toward a cumbersome and growing checklist to be completed as task rather than a guide for relational action.

5) This proposal asserts that standards for existing parsonages should be a totally separate conversation from “new construction” standards to ensure the best possible residence for clergy/clergy families. (Conversations and standards/action insofar as new construction or the purchase of a parsonage would involve be the responsibility of the District Superintendent, the District Building of Church Location and Building, and Conference Trustees.)

6) “Housing Allowances” – Parsonages are the “norm” in The Susquehanna Conference. Accordingly, authority for any exception to this SUSUMC norm rests with the resident Bishop and Cabinet in accordance with The Book of Discipline.

7) FINALLY – ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES/NEEDS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS: Clergy/clergy family accessibility issues have been respectfully and caringly handled in many contexts by congregations in concert with the Conference connection. Thus, this policy advocates response to such accessibility issues on a case-by-case basis. This approach would maximize resources in all contexts and better assure the best possible parsonage housing for clergy residence.

Rev. William Pipp, Chair

REC-4 Council on Finance and Administration

ACTION:

Susquehanna Conference – PLAN FOR FUNDING MINISTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross Shares of Ministry</td>
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<td>12,496,621</td>
<td>12,402,664</td>
<td>12,934,654</td>
<td>12,272,084</td>
<td>(662,570)</td>
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<td>Deficit</td>
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<td>(749,797)</td>
<td>(744,160)</td>
<td>(646,733)</td>
<td>(613,604)</td>
<td>33,129</td>
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<td>Percent Paid</td>
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<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.95</td>
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<td>Net Income</td>
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<td>11,746,824</td>
<td>11,658,504</td>
<td>12,287,921</td>
<td>11,658,480</td>
<td>(629,441)</td>
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BENEVOLENCE BUDGET

A. World Service Fund
   - 1,629,796

B. Africa University
   - 49,141

C. Black College Fund
   - 52,500

D. Conference Program * See Detail
   - 450,043

E. Missional Board
   - 1. Parish Development
     a. Parish Development Projects
     b. Multi/Cultural/Urban Ministry
   - 50,000

F. Benevolent Care
   - 1. UM Home for Children and Family Services
   - 100,000

G. Equipping Vital Congregations
   - 1. Multicultural/Urban Ministry
   - 52,500

TOTAL BENEVOLENCE BUDGET
- 2,858,722

General Church Apportionment Increase (Decrease)
- (39,152)
- 2.07%
## Susquehanna Conference 26

### Connections and Resolutions

#### A. General Administration Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<td>196,143</td>
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<td>188,994</td>
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#### B. Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

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<td>43,633</td>
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<td>42,043</td>
<td>42,043</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Council of Churches</td>
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<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>(5,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Park Ministry</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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#### C. Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference Apportionment

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Office Administration</td>
<td>44,617</td>
<td>36,137</td>
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#### D. Finance Office Administration Fund

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Finance Office Staff Salaries</td>
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<td>Staff Administrative Expenses</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Audit</td>
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<td>Council on Finance &amp; Administration</td>
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<td>Meetings</td>
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<td>Interpretative Materials</td>
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<td>1,500</td>
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<td>Accounting Computer Service</td>
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#### E. Connectional Ministries Administration Fund

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Insurance, FICA &amp; Lay Pension</td>
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<td>430,000</td>
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<td>Facilities Expenses</td>
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<td>224,550</td>
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<td>Social Security Supplement</td>
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<td>Pension - Current Funding</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Staff Administrative Expense</td>
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<td>Computer Ed for Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Funds for Camp Properties</td>
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#### F. Stewardship Foundation

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finance/Connectional Ministry Office Expenses</td>
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<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Salaries</td>
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<td>124,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Administration</td>
<td>12,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>16,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>7,842</td>
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#### G. Finance/Connectional Ministry Office Expenses

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Item</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology (NES Information Tech)</td>
<td>172,008</td>
<td>172,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Peripheral Supplies</td>
<td>42,986</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Equipment/Maintenance</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT Support</td>
<td>172,956</td>
<td>322,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>39,035</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>12,273</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>16,725</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>7,842</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>10,933</td>
<td>11,600</td>
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#### H. Conference Computer/Service Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT Support (NES Information Tech)</td>
<td>172,008</td>
<td>172,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Peripheral Supplies</td>
<td>42,986</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<td>Office Equipment/Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
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<td>172,956</td>
<td>322,360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>39,035</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>12,273</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>16,725</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<td>Printing</td>
<td>7,842</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>10,933</td>
<td>11,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### I. General and Jurisdictional Delegates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General and Jurisdictional Delegates</td>
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<td>10,000</td>
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#### J. AC Conference Honoraria/Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Conference Secretary Expense</td>
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<td>Conference Archivist</td>
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<td>Conference Archivist Expense</td>
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<td>Conference Lay Leadership Expense</td>
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<td>Conference Journal and Report Book</td>
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<td>Annual Conference Session Expense</td>
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#### K. Episcopal Area Administration

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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### L. District Superintendents' Office Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>71,337</td>
<td>85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>69,125</td>
<td>61,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary Fund</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>10,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistants</td>
<td>172,271</td>
<td>159,950</td>
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<td>Office Services</td>
<td>50,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>23,552</td>
<td>24,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stationary, Postage &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>12,429</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Equipment</td>
<td>13,034</td>
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<td>Employer FICA &amp; Pensions</td>
<td>25,749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assisting Elder Expense</td>
<td>114,914</td>
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#### M. Risk Management

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Legal Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop's Intervention and Recovery Team</td>
<td>3,204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Sanctuaries Program</td>
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#### N. Authorized Boards and Agency Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Ordained Ministry</td>
<td>27,821</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
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<td>41,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Services</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE 27 RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

| 1 | 2. Commission on Archives & History | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2 | 3. Commission on Equitable Salaries | 20,000 | 20,000 | 15,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 5,000 |
| 3 | 4. Conference Board of Pensions | 1,418 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 4 | 5. Other Authorized Conference Boards & Agencies | 107 |
| 5 | 6. Authorized District Committees |

### O. Board of Trustees

1. Parsonages
   - a. Maintenance | 35,812 | 36,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 |
   - b. Taxes | 47,669 | 50,000 | 52,000 | 52,000 |
   - c. Utilities | 40,412 | 50,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 |
   - d. Capital Improvements | 29,253 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
2. Conf Ctr Cap Asset Replacement | 50,000 |
3. Capital Reserve for Conference Center | 25,000 |
4. Administration | 1,512 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
5. Workers Compensation Insurance | 489,765 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 521,441 |
6. Liability and Fire Insurance
   - a. Conference Properties | 66,410 | 70,000 | 67,400 | 52,500 |
   - b. Conference Camps | 76,305 | 80,000 | 78,000 | 75,000 |
   - c. Historical Properties | 3,752 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 3,400 |
7. Trustees Legal Expense | 4,432 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
8. Archive & History Rent | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 |

### P. Equipping Vital Congregations

1. Salaries/Benefits/Professional Development | 162,000 | 164,700 | 164,700 |
2. Travel & Administration | 20,000 | 20,000 |
3. Facilities/Equipment/Supplies | 17,200 | 17,200 |
4. Mission Insight | - | - | - |

### TOTAL CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES BUDGET
3,700,097 | 4,046,851 | 4,102,496 | 4,187,490 | 4,055,049 | (47,447)

### General Church Apportionment Increase (Decrease)
(4,877.00) | -2.07%

### CLERGY SUPPORT BUDGET

**A. Episcopal Fund** | 482,656 | 489,177 | 481,301 | 471,350 | 471,350 | (9,951)

**B. Ministerial Education Fund**
1. General Church (75% General Apportionment Total) | 412,859 | 418,436 | 411,699 | 403,187 |
2. E4OM - MEF (25% of General MEF Apportionment total) | 137,691 | 139,479 | 137,233 | 134,396 |

**C. District Superintendents' Fund**
1. Salaries | 665,688 | 591,449 | 603,278 | 612,327 |
2. FICA Supplement | 50,696 | 45,246 | 46,151 | 46,843 |
3. Pension - Current Funding | 68,207 | 57,994 | 56,486 | 58,620 |
4. Continuing Education | 6,996 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
5. Health Insurance | 81,178 | 80,000 | 75,000 | 98,000 |

**D. Salary Support**
1. Equitable/Salary Assistance | 94,278 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
2. Small Membership Fund | 52,698 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
3. Sustentation Fund | 15,034 | 14,000 | 14,000 |

**E. Pensions**
1. Special Grants/Emergency Fund | 79,750 | 97,750 | 63,250 | 63,250 |
2. Pension for Incapacity Leave | - | - | - |


**G. Health Insurance - Other**
1. Retirees Supplemental Health Insurance | 1,545,500 | 1,545,500 | 1,400,000 |
2. Seminary Student Health Insurance | 19,200 | 19,200 | 9,600 | 9,600 |
3. Persons on Medical Leave Health Insurance | 150,000 | 150,000 | 154,000 | 154,000 |
4. Retiree Health Insurance Grants | 93,000 | 93,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 |
5. Retirees Insurance Administration | 23,050 | 23,050 | 23,000 | 23,000 |

**H. Clergy Moving Expense** | 225,687 | 235,000 | 235,000 | 235,000 |

### TOTAL CLERGY SUPPORT BUDGET
4,957,168 | 4,666,281 | 4,486,998 | 4,871,073 | 4,255,573 | (61,425)

### General Church Apportionment Increase (Decrease)
(21,300.00) | -2.07%

### TOTALS

**Beneficence** | 2,858,722 | 3,033,692 | 3,069,010 | 3,229,358 | 3,177,858 | 108,848

**Connectional Church Ministries** | 3,700,097 | 4,046,851 | 4,102,496 | 4,187,490 | 4,055,049 | (47,447)

**Clergy Support** | 4,957,168 | 4,666,281 | 4,486,998 | 4,871,073 | 4,255,573 | (61,425)

### GRAND TOTAL FUNDING MINISTRY PLAN
11,515,987 | 11,746,824 | 11,658,504 | 12,287,921 | 11,658,480 | (24)

### Total General Church Apportionment Increase (Decrease)
(65,329.00) | -2.07%

### The 2020 Plan for Funding Ministry reflects a overall increase/decrease of
(24.00) | 0.00%
This 2020 Annual Conference “PLAN FOR FUNDING MINISTRY” reflects a total spending plan essentially the same as the 2019 “Plan” (a $24 decrease). Given our churches in recent years have been supporting Shares of Ministry at a collective higher percentage, the 2020 “Plan” seeks to raise the expected receipt percentage by 1% (94% to 95%). This effectively lowers the actual apportioned Shares of Ministry by $130,580. While the goal of your Council of Finance and Administration is to pay all of the funding items at 100%, in the years when we don’t receive 100% of our spending budget, our goal is to pay 100% of Benevolence Funding with the Conference Program Funding paid out at the percentage received. If and when money is available from other sources, the Conference Program Funding will be increased up to 100%. The Conference Treasurer in discussion with the Executive Committee of C F & A will make the decision as remitted funds allow.

I. BENEVOLENT GOALS

Those churches, which have paid their Shares of Ministry in full, are encouraged to support the following benevolent goals:

A. General Advance Specials. All churches, having paid their full shares of ministry, are urged to participate in some phase of second mile support for missionary programs of the United Methodist Church.

B. Benevolent Institutions. A goal of $5.00 per member is recommended to each local church. Offerings will be received on Golden Cross Sunday and the Advent/Christmas seasons for these ministries. The offerings will be distributed on the following percentage basis:
   1. United Methodist Home for Children – 30%
   2. Remaining 70% distributed to four benevolent entities (Albright, Quincy, Bethany Village and United Methodist Homes) historically related to the Susquehanna Conference, according to the formula previously developed by the Commission on Health Ministries and based on Medical Assistance Days.

C. Youth Service Fund. At least $1.75 per youth member and constituent of the church and the church school be the goal of the Youth Service Fund.

D. Higher Education. Those churches which have paid their Shares of Ministries in full are encouraged to fulfill the General Conference intent of giving $1.00 per member. These additional gifts (beyond the conference plan for funding ministry) may be designated for “Higher Education” and used as scholarship aid to schools related to the United Methodist Church.

E. World Hunger Sunday (At least $1.00 per member).

F. U. M. Student Day (At least $0.25 per member).

G. Global AIDS Fund (At least $1.00 per member)

H. Bishop’s Partnership in Mission

II. SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS (As directed by the General Conference)

A. Human Relations Day (Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday) - January 19th

B. UMCOR Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Lent) – March 22nd

C. Native American Ministries Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter) – April 26th

D. Peace With Justice and Prison Awareness Sunday (Second Sunday after Pentecost) – June 7th

E. World Communion (First Sunday in October) – October 4th

F. United Methodist Student Day (Last Sunday in November) – November 29th

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS (As directed by the Annual Conference)

A. Golden Cross Sunday (Sunday in May)

B. Rural Life Sunday (First Sunday in August) – August 2nd

C. Christian Education Sunday (Third Sunday in September) – September 20th

D. Harvest Home Offering for World Hunger (Third Sunday in November) – November 15th

E. Christmas Offering for Benevolent Homes (During Advent Season)

F. Youth/Children Offering (First Sunday in February) – February 2nd

G. Mental Health Awareness Sunday (Third Sunday in May) May 17th

H. Volunteers in Mission Sunday (Labor Day Sunday) – September 6th

I. *Mission Central Awareness Sunday (Sunday in April or May, date to be determined by the local church)

*This is a Sunday with no designated offering

III. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council on Finance and Administration makes the following recommendations to the Annual Conference for consideration and action:

A. Recommended appeals for the 2019-2020 Conference year are as follows:
   Preachers Aid Society
   The Center for Spiritual Formation
   Mission Central
   Task Force on Student Indebtedness

B. The 2019 Journal will be posted on the Susquehanna Conference website. Opportunity will also be made available to order a paper copy directly from the website at the individual’s expense.

C. The Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church authorizes the Council on Finance and Administration to prevent large fluctuations in 2020 Shares of Ministry for local churches by limiting a local church’s increase in Shares of Ministry to no more than 20% and limiting a local church’s decrease in Shares of Ministry to no more than 20%.

D. The Council on Finance and Administration will consider and recommend to the Susquehanna Conference any changes in the Shares of Ministry formula which would address our goals of equitable distribution of Shares of Ministry while decreasing the burden of Shares of Ministry on local churches.
E. Those churches which do not submit End of Year Statistical Reports as required by the General Church and the Susquehanna Conference, will receive a 25% increase in Shares of Ministry.

General Policy Council on Finance and Administration

The Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) makes the following recommendations to the Annual Conference for consideration and action: (Please note: These policies are compiled and updated from policies previously approved in 1997, 2012, and 2018.

1. All pastors/lay members shall call to the attention of their local administrative body (ex. Church Council, Administrative Board, Leadership Team, etc.) and local church treasurers that Shares of Ministry shall be remitted at least monthly to the Conference Treasurer along with the church’s premiums for Property and Casualty Insurance, Health Insurance and Pension Payments.
   - Contributions to benevolences shall not be used for any causes other than that for which they were given.
   - In order that all phases of our church administration be conducted with good business procedure, it is expected that each local church pay their Shares of Ministry, insurance responsibilities and pension payments in full. Failure to complete these connectional responsibilities will require that the local church prepare a remedial plan to address its financial situation. This plan will be shared by the pastor with the District Superintendent and with the CF&A and will be reviewed at the church’s annual church conference until the church is 100% in compliance.

2. In the event payments of Shares of Ministry fall short of the Budget, the CF&A shall determine where to adjust the Budget.

3. In the event that funds received in the Benevolence Budget exceed actual expenditures, then the additional funds shall be distributed within Conference Benevolence as determined by CF&A.

4. The line items for Social Ministries and Health Care Ministries will be administered by a grant process by the Missional Board.

5. All requests for conference funds for inclusion in the Conference’s Annual Budget shall be submitted to the CF&A for review and recommendation, as according to the CF&A’s budget proceedings, before being presented to the Annual Conference for adoption. Failure to submit a request may necessitate the proposed ministry being removed for consideration from the conference budget for that year. In order to be good stewards of God’s resources, all requests for funds will include an evaluation of past and current ministries, and the missional reasons for new ministries. CF&A will encourage all agencies, committees, boards, and commissions to begin work on a quadrennial budget plan in order to be more financially responsible and to be better stewards of God’s resources.

6. In case of oversight of any essential budgetary item, the CF&A is authorized to make such adjustments as necessary.

7. In compliance with the 2016 Book of Discipline, the Council draws attention to disciplinary paragraph 614.5.a and b, regarding conference-wide appeals. Appeals approved by the Annual Conference must be implemented within the next conference year.
   a. No Annual Conference agency or interest, including any related agency or institution such as a school, college, university, hospital, home, housing project, or other service institution, shall make a special Conference-wide appeal to the local churches for funds without the approval of the Annual Conference upon recommendation of the CF&A, except in case of an extreme emergency, when such approval may be given by a two-thirds vote of the District Superintendents and of the CF&A, acting jointly. Neither shall special Conference-wide appeals to local churches for funds be made by such boards, interests, agencies, or institutions that are not related to the Annual Conference in which the appeal is to be made, unless approval for such an appeal is granted by the Annual Conference upon recommendation of the CF&A.
   b. When application is made to the Council for the privilege of a special Conference-wide financial appeal, whether by special collections, campaigns, or otherwise, the CF&A shall investigate the application and its possible relation to other obligations of the Conference, and in the light of the facts, make recommendations to the Conference for its action and determination. If application for privilege of a special appeal is made directly to the Conference, the application shall be referred to the CF&A before final action is taken.

8. No board, commission or committee shall be entitled to payment of a deficit not previously authorized or as approved by CF&A.

9. No unused funds of any budgetary line item (unless specifically permitted by the Discipline, or action of the Annual Conference, or exempted by CF&A) can be carried over from one year to the next. Funds are only available for the budgeted year.

10. Funding for any task force established in the Annual Conference without funding from their own administrative account must be authorized by CF&A.

11. In compliance with auditing procedures recommended by the Auditor of our Conference funds, all vouchers presented to the Treasurer, including miscellaneous items, shall include the date of purchase, the name of the item or service purchased, and required signature(s).
12. Mileage for conference employees for reimbursement shall be paid at the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. Expenses will be reimbursed only upon submission of a travel voucher.

13. Volunteers eligible for travel reimbursement for official meetings of Annual Conference agencies shall be paid at the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. Expenses will be reimbursed only upon submission of a travel voucher. The Council strongly urges carpooling when practical.

14. Pastors shall be compensated for services rendered. Pastors shall not receive salary payments in advance.

15. The Annual Conference through Shares of Ministry shall pay for the cost of a pastor’s move according to the moving policy of the Annual Conference.

16. Retired clergy or the surviving spouse of clergy shall be eligible to receive one retirement move as according to the moving policy of the Annual Conference. This retirement move unrelated to an appointment must occur within five years of the annual conference at which their retirement was recognized. When a pastor is going to or returning from sabbatical leave, leave of absence, retirement, special assignment, or incapacity leave, the cabinet shall be authorized to negotiate the amount of reimbursement for the cost of the move.

17. In keeping with good business procedure and the 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 258.4a, all financial income in the local church shall be counted by two or more unrelated persons.

18. Each local church will conduct an Annual Audit that will be shared with the District Superintendent and at the church’s next annual charge conference for adoption and review.

19. All statistical reports shall be submitted to the Conference Finance Office by January 31. Shares of Ministry are calculated using selected statistical data submitted by each pastor on these End-of-Year reports.

20. Expenses associated with church-provided pre-school, day-care, elder-care, and college campus ministries under direct, complete and active control of the local church shall be included in statistical information. Exemptions for these expenses from the calculations for Shares of Ministry must be included in the designated section of the statistical report.

21. The formula for calculating Shares of Ministry shall be recommended by the CF&A and approved by the Annual Conference.

22. In recognition that members attending the Annual Conference sessions receive some financial support through the Conference Budget, each member shall be required to pay the additional costs to attend Annual Conference at the time of the pre-registration application. This fee will be calculated annually by the Conference Sessions Committee.

23. The CF&A encourages all conference committees, agencies, boards, and committees to move to electronic forms of communication whenever possible.

24. New Church Starts and New Sites/Fresh Expressions: Over the decades of our history, we know starting new congregations that flourished and became active participants in the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church (and its antecedents) was and continues to be a blessing, not only to our journey together, but also to the entire world. As we look to the future, it is incumbent on us to encourage, start, and support new opportunities to grow communities of faith. In order to accomplish this, and over a period of years enable these new opportunities to flourish and in turn support the shared ministry and mission of the Annual Conference, the following will guide churches in how new beginnings will figure into the calculations of the Annual Conference Financial Plan and shared by all through Shares of Ministry:

   A. New Church Starts - New Church starts will have no Shares of Ministry for the first year. After one year, they will tithe their offerings (with the exceptions of restricted endowments and missional money going outside church expenses) to the Annual Conference until they are chartered. After chartering, they will be phased in to paying their full Shares of Ministry starting at 25% and increasing 25% over the following three years until their Shares of Ministry are being paid in full.

   B. New Sites and Fresh Expressions - New Sites and Fresh Expressions approved by and through the local congregation and approved by the Full Cabinet; new site/fresh expression costs in the first year will be exempted from church expenses and considered a missional expense. For the next two years, they will tithe the income of the site/fresh expression to the Conference. Following the second year, the costs associated with the new site/fresh expression will be phased into the base church’s yearly expense at a rate of 25% per year until all expenses of the new site/fresh expressions is considered part of the base church’s financial calculations. (Please note: The full cost of the base church appointed pastor will be considered part of the base church’s calculations.)
Connecting Ministries requests and receives a block grant from the Conference Council on Finance and Administration via the Plan for Funding Ministry. This block grant is created with the vision of:

- Growing spiritual, transformational leaders
- Equipping vital congregations and creating new places for new people
- And Connecting congregations with each other and the world

Over the past several years, Conference leadership has been working to realign resources in the pursuit of this vision. In this year’s budget, the Office of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders and Connecting Ministries have worked together to compile this Block Grant and next year we hope to further align and distinguish the important work of these two groups.

*The Book of Discipline* requires several areas be funded as specified or to fund equivalent structures. These specific ministries are marked with “+”

### STAFF OPERATIONS

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<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director and Associate Directors’ Training</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director’s Contingency Fund</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Staff Resources</td>
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### DIRECT MINISTRIES

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Mission U (formerly School of Christian Mission)</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Place Resource Center</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>UM Advocacy in PA</td>
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### GROW MINISTRY TEAMS

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<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camping and Retreat Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Ed &amp; Campus Ministry</td>
<td>$93,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young People’s Ministry Council</td>
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### CONNECTING MINISTRY TEAMS

<table>
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</thead>
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<td>Commission on Inclusiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Response Preparedness</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Leading Through Transitions $10,000
Pastoral moves are hard, on the pastor and the church. This training helps educate pastors and congregational leaders on self-care and how to get the most out of *The First 90 Days*.

**+ Missional Board** $30,000
This line supports work in missions pertaining to grants for Community Development, Church & Society, Hunger Ministries, and the Secretary of Missions.

**NEJ Call to Action for Racial Equality** $4,000
We have a mandate from the jurisdiction to move the church and community forward in addressing institutional racism, white privilege, cultural conflicts and cultural competency.

**Training/Webinar Events** $5,000
This funding helps deliver staff persons and resources to each of our districts.

**Volunteers in Mission Funding** $3,000
We are creating a network of trainers that will foster a culture for missions locally, nationally, and internationally.

**OTHER CONNECTING MINISTRIES SUPPORT**

**+ Commission on Native American Ministries (CoNAM)** $2,000
Used to support awareness and education regarding Native American concerns.

**Commission on Child Advocacy** $500
Funds local church children’s initiatives, Safe Sanctuaries, and the promotion of children’s issues throughout the Annual Conference.

**DIRECT BLOCK PROGRAM GRANTS TO 7 DISTRICTS:**
Through Connectional Ministries and ultimately Shares of Ministry, districts are provided block grants. These grants are the only program monies available to the districts. The money is used by the districts in a variety of ways to support and enhance ministries in congregations and districts. Districts are allowed to carry-over their block grant money up to $10,000.

- Altoona $6,500
- Harrisburg $6,500
- Lewisburg $6,500
- Scranton/Wilkes-Barre $6,500
- State College $6,500
- Williamsport $6,500
- York $6,500

**TOTAL 2019 CONNECTING MINISTRIES BLOCK GRANT REQUEST - $484,800**

**TOTAL 2020 CONNECTING MINISTRIES BLOCK GRANT REQUEST - $476,800**
RESOLUTIONS

RES-1 Mental Health

ACTION:

WHEREAS the members of the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference are guided by the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church and
WHEREAS ¶162X of the Social Principles states that those with mental illness and their families “have a right to be treated with respect” and “have a right and responsibility to obtain care appropriate to their condition, and
WHEREAS like physical health, mental health is important at every stage of one’s life as it determines how we cope with stress, relate to others, make choices and is an integral and essential component of all persons; and
WHEREAS according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide was the eleventh leading cause of death in Pennsylvania; and
WHEREAS suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, suicide and the impact of these affect individuals, families, and congregations in the Susquehanna Conference; and
WHEREAS suicide is permitted by people of all ages and genders; and
WHEREAS the Nation recognizes the month of May as Mental Health Awareness month, the month of September as Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month, and the first full week of October as Mental Illness Awareness week;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month on the third Sunday in May by special offering Sunday #4050 to benefit the ongoing efforts of educating members and the public, helping someone in need, and encouraging the resources necessary for early detection and appropriate treatment of a mental health problem; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that September be recognized as Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month by encouraging members to become involved in community and/or local and state activities; and
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the first week of October be celebrated as Mental Illness Awareness Week by holding a day of prayer on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, for prevention and early intervention, for those who suffer from mental problems, their families, and those professionals who care for them and for a cure for all mental illnesses.

Rev. Evelyn Madison
Mission and Outreach Team
Susquehanna Conference Mental Health Task Force

RES-2 Disability Ministries Task Force and Disability Awareness Sunday

ACTION:

WHEREAS The Book of Discipline 2016, ¶653, states, "There shall be in each annual conference a committee on disability concerns or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry and maintain the connectional relationship;” and
WHEREAS ¶162I of The Social Principles states that, “We recognize and affirm the full humanity and personhood of all individuals with mental, physical, developmental, neurological, and psychological conditions or disabilities as full members of the family of God,”
WHEREAS ¶162I of The Social Principles also affirms that people with disabilities have a “rightful place in both the Church and society,” and the need for the church to be in ministry with “children, youth, and adults,” who have “mental, physical, developmental, and/or psychological and neurological conditions,” or other disabilities that might make it more challenging for them to participate “in the life of the Church and the community,” and calls for the church to empower people with disabilities as well as advocate for programs that serve the various needs of persons with disabilities; and
WHEREAS The Book of Discipline ¶653.1 states that membership of the committee on disability concerns, “shall include persons with physical disabilities and persons with mental disabilities;” and
WHEREAS recent statistics show that 15.9% of children in Pennsylvania have a disability (Kids Count Data Center) and children with disabilities are some of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our communities; and
WHEREAS the Chair of the Susquehanna Conference Commission on Child Advocacy, Rev. Dr. Ed Zeiders, has agreed to advise and assist the prospective task force, especially on issues relating to children with disabilities; and
WHEREAS studies have shown that people with disabilities face many unique problems and challenges which may place them at increased risk for depression and the chair of the Mental Health Task Force of the Susquehanna Conference, Rev. Evelyn Madison, has agreed to advise and assist the prospective task force regarding issues related to mental health and their intersection with disability; and
WHEREAS ¶265.4 of The Social Principles states that annual conferences shall designate a special Sunday of the year to be observed as “Disability Awareness Sunday;” and
WHEREAS ¶265.4 calls for the church to use this special Sunday designated for Disability Awareness in order to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities, as well as to “promote the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community;” and
WHEREAS the nation recognizes October as National Disabilities Awareness Month;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Susquehanna Conference affirm their support for the newly established (as of January 18, 2019) Disability Ministries Task Force in order to serve the needs of clergy, laity, and the people in our communities that have disabilities; and
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that members of the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday as the second Sunday in October by promoting awareness about issues related to disabilities, providing a space for people with disabilities to participate in worship leadership, and participating (if churches choose to do so) in a special offering for Advanced Special #3021054 to benefit The United Methodist DisAbility Ministry Committee; this special offering will support the ongoing efforts of disabilities ministries throughout the global United Methodist connection.

Rev. Rebecca L., Holland, Disability Ministries Task Force, Chair
Rev. Mitch Galloway, Retired Elder
Rev. Craig Gommer, Dallas & Firwood UMC –Scranton/ Wilkes Barre
Rev. James C. House, Simpson Temple Parish- Altoona
Rev. Jennett Wertz, Lewisberry UMC- York
Rev. Robert Stump, Duboistown, Third St. & Trinity- Williamsport
Rev. Carol Gathagan, Retired Elder
The People of Christ Community United Methodist Church

RES 3- Sustainable and Socially Responsible Investments

ACTION:

Total number of pages: 1
Suggested Title: Sustainable and Socially Responsible Investments
Discipline Paragraph: Discipline ¶ 717
General Church Budget Implications: None
Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 717: In the investment of money, it shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, governments, or funds with policies and practices that are socially responsible, consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles. All United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to seek investments in institutions, companies, corporations, governments, or funds that promote racial and gender justice, protect human rights, prevent the use of sweatshop or forced labor, avoid human suffering, and preserve the natural world, including mitigating the effects of climate change. In addition, United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to avoid investments in companies engaged in core business activities that are not aligned with the Social Principles through their direct or indirect involvement with the production of anti-personnel weapons and armaments (both nuclear and conventional weapons), alcoholic beverages or tobacco; or that are involved in privately operated correctional facilities, gambling, pornography or other forms of exploitative adult entertainment. United Methodist institutions should similarly not hold sovereign or government debt in states conducting prolonged military occupations as they violate international law and human rights standards. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to environmental, social, and governance factors when making investment decisions and actively exercise their responsibility as owners of the companies in which they invest. This includes engaging with companies to create positive change and hold them accountable for their actions, while also considering exclusion if companies fail to act responsibly.

Date: February 1, 2019
Signature of the Petitioner: Rev. Paul Amara, Lisa Bender, Rev. Wayne Bender, Allison Francesco, Becca Hosier, Rev. Lenore Hosier, Rev. Sue Jamison, Rev. Dorothy Killebrew, Georgeanne “Dusty” Knisely, Rev. Mark Terwilliger, Rev. Patrick Walker
Identification of the Petitioner: members of Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church.
Phone: 717-215-4210
Fax Number: NA
Email Address: lisabenderumkr@gmail.com

Rationale: When we buy sovereign debt (government bonds) we are lending our funds to governments without any formal mechanism for advocacy. Governments conducting prolonged military occupations are violating international law and human rights standards. Such investments are morally wrong and financially risky.
RES-4 Transferring Title of and Responsibility for All Real and Personal, Tangible and Intangible Property of the Former Grace United Methodist Church to The Journey United Methodist Church

ACTION:

WHEREAS the congregation of Grace United Methodist Church, located at 25 South 28th Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and located in the borough of Penbrook, on October 28, 2018, at a duly and properly called Church Conference meeting, voted unanimously to close effective December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS on Thursday, November 29, 2018, Bishop Jeremiah Park and the Susquehanna Conference Cabinet affirmed the de-commissioning of said Grace United Methodist Church effective December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS paragraph 2549.2 c) of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016, grants authority to the annual conference board of trustees to “…retain, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the property of a closed local church in accordance with the discretion of the annual conference, if any”; and

WHEREAS paragraph 2549.3 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016, in the description of the Ad Interim Procedures between sessions of annual conference, grants authority to the annual conference board of trustees to “…hold or dispose of such property in its sole discretion, subject to any standing rule of the annual conference”; and

WHEREAS paragraph 2549.7 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016, stipulates that the proceeds of the sale of the property of any closed local church in an urban center with more than 50,000 population must be used for new and/or existing ministries within urban transitional communities; and

WHEREAS the aforementioned former Grace United Methodist Church was located in an urban center of more than 50,000 population; and

WHEREAS the former Grace United Methodist Church was one of ten churches included in an urban initiative entitled Impact! Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS the Impact! Harrisburg initiative calls for a new United Methodist faith community be organized; and

WHEREAS such faith community is currently in process of being organized

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Susquehanna Annual Conference transfer title of and responsibility for all real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the former Grace United Methodist Church, located at 25 South 28th Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, located in the borough of Penbrook, to The Journey United Methodist Church, 750 S. 29th Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Journey UMC shall have authority to hold or dispose of such property at its sole discretion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any and all proceeds of the sale of this property be used for the The Journey UMC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, should any issues with the title of the property during the sale or disposition of the property, the Board of Trustees of the Susquehanna Annual Conference will execute and documents or help in any way to facilitate the sale or disposition.

RES 5- CLOSING OF WHITES VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ACTION:

The Whites Valley United Methodist Church, located on the Belmont Turnpike in Pleasant Mount, PA has served God and the people of that area for many years. With dwindling resources, needed repairs to the bell tower and a small worshipping congregation with no pastoral leadership, the church is not able to fulfill the purpose for which it was intended.

WHEREAS the attendance at Whites Valley has averaged below 12 each year from 2012-2018

WHEREAS there is no missional reason for the church to remain open,

WHEREAS the church members have declared themselves closed

WHEREAS the Whites Valley UM Church no longer serves the purpose for which it was assigned and incorporated (¶¶201-204),

WHEREAS there are 8 United Methodist Churches within 12 miles of driving distance,

WHEREAS the Equipping Vital Congregations Office and the Appointive Cabinet (¶2549.2) agree that the church is not able to fulfill the purpose for which it was intended and recommend closure,

AND WHEREAS the District Board of Church Location and Building (¶ 2549.2.b) agrees that the church is not able to fulfill the purpose for which it was intended and recommend closure,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whites Valley United Methodist Church be closed as of May 31, 2019, all memberships not otherwise designated will be transferred to Pleasant Mount UMC, that all real and personal, tangible and intangible property be disposed of by the Conference Board of Trustees in keeping with any deed restrictions.
RES R12A- The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation Serving the Susquehanna Conference Board Resolution Bylaws Proposed Amendment

ACTION:

THE UNITED METHODIST STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION SERVING THE SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

BOARD RESOLUTION – R12A
BYLAWS
Proposed Amendment

WHEREAS, the board of directors (the "Board") of THE UNITED METHODIST STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION serving the Susquehanna Conference (the "Foundation") has determined that it is in the best interests of the Foundation to amend its Bylaws (the "Bylaws") to allow the Foundation to serve the greatest number of organizations whose purpose and mission are consistent with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (the "Amendment");

WHEREAS, the Board may amend the Bylaws only with the consent of the Members of the Foundation;

WHEREAS, the next meeting of the Members is scheduled to take place during the Susquehanna Conference’s 2019 Annual Conference to be held from May 30 – June 1, 2019;

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved, that the Board submits and recommends for approval by the Members at their next scheduled meeting, that Article II and Article III of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “The Stewardship Foundation”) established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides a structure for the people of God to make contributions or gifts from whatever source whether unrestricted or for designated purposes and hold the same for such designated purposes or subject to any conditions specified in the terms of the gift or grant and in furtherance of the purposes of The Stewardship Foundation which includes the current and future ministry and mission of: (i) the Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church (the “Conference”) and its local churches, (ii) organizations that are controlled by or are associated with The United Methodist Church, (iii) organizations that share either current or historical common bonds and connections with The United Methodist Church that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), or corresponding section of any federal tax code, and (iv) any other charitable, religious or educational organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Code, or corresponding section of any federal tax code, provided that such organizations’ purpose and mission are consistent with The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. The Stewardship Foundation shall promote, receive, manage and distribute such contributions and gifts or the income therefrom. The Stewardship Foundation shall also conduct programs of Christian stewardship education on behalf of the Connectional Ministries of the Conference. The Stewardship Foundation shall operate exclusively for charitable and religious purposes within
the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and solely for such purposes exercise all rights and powers conferred by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania upon nonprofit corporations.

The Stewardship Foundation shall not carry on any other activity not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Code (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Sections 170, 2055, and 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). No part of the net earnings of The Stewardship Foundation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, directors or other private persons except that The Stewardship Foundation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

No substantial part of the activities of The Stewardship Foundation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and The Stewardship Foundation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

**ARTICLE III -- LOCATION**

The principal office of The Stewardship Foundation shall be located at 3901 Hartzdale Dr., Suite 110, Camp Hill, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (which is located in Lower Allen Township, Cumberland County), zip code is 17011, or at such other location as the Board of Directors of The Stewardship Foundation may subsequently determine. The Stewardship Foundation may have such other office within the bounds of the Conference as the activities of The Stewardship Foundation may require and as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time.

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

DATE: 11/14/18

SIGNED: [Signature]

Corporate Secretary

**CORPORATE SEAL:**
RES RO2B - The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation Serving the Susquehanna Conference Board Resolution Articles of Incorporation Proposed Amendment

ACTION:

THE UNITED METHODIST STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION SERVING THE SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

BOARD RESOLUTION – RO2-B
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
Proposed Amendment

WHEREAS, the board of directors (the "Board") of THE UNITED METHODIST STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION serving the Susquehanna Conference (the "Foundation") has determined that it is in the best interests of the Foundation to amend the Articles of Incorporation (the "Articles") to allow the Foundation to serve the greatest number of organizations whose purpose and mission are consistent with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (the "Amendment");

WHEREAS, the Board may not amend the Articles without the approval of the Members of the Foundation;

WHEREAS, the next meeting of the Members is scheduled to take place during the Susquehanna Conference’s 2019 Annual Conference to be held from May 30 – June 1, 2019;

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved, that the Board submits and recommends for approval by the Members at their next scheduled meeting, that Paragraph 3(a) of the Article of Incorporation be amended as follows:

Paragraph 3(a)

to provide a structure for the people of God to make contributions or gifts from whatever source whether unrestricted or for designated purposes and hold the same for such designated purposes or subject to any conditions specified in the terms of the gift or grant and in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation which includes the current and future ministry and mission of: (i) the Susquehanna Conference The United Methodist Church (the “Conference”) and its local churches, (ii) organizations that are controlled by or are associated with The United Methodist Church, (iii) organizations that share either current or historical common bonds and connections with the United Methodist Church that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3)
of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), or corresponding section of any federal tax code, and (iv) any other charitable, religious or educational organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Code, or corresponding section of any federal tax code, provided that such organizations’ purpose and mission are consistent with The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church;

APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

DATE: 11/14/18  
SIGNED:

Corporate Secretary

CORPORATE SEAL:
SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

SECTION IV-B

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1. Growing Spiritual and Transformational Leaders

Ministries and staff are aligning around the three strategic visions of the Susquehanna Conference highlighted as Grow, Equip, and Connect. These areas of priority work hand in hand while each has distinct emphases. GSTL is responsible for facilitating Grow. The Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders Team invigorates leaders to creatively grow expansive discipling relationships. Lay leadership and Clergy leadership play big roles in equipping people in congregations for intentional leadership that moves out into expanded discipling relationships with individuals, families and communities. As a new team we not only have the responsibility for envisioning fresh pathways for Spiritual leadership development, we will also work in tandem with other groups who prepare persons for Christian leadership to create a network of opportunities for growth in leadership.

The following are a few examples of groups and ministries that fulfill aspects of the Grow vision for developing Spiritual Transformation Leaders as a core element of what they do: Local Churches, Lay Servant Ministries, Camp and Retreat Ministries, Campus Ministries, Young People’s Ministries, The Board of Ordained Ministry, Seminaries, Colleges, Emmaus and Chrysalis, The Center for Spiritual Formation, Salt and Light, and others. We will collaborate, as well as establish new events, processes and opportunities for laity and clergy called to deeper and more expansive leadership.

Implementation is underway. Staffing is shifting to give greater attention to this vital vision. Kevin Witt is now the Director of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders in addition to Camp Retreat Ministries. The former position Coordinator of Young People’s Ministry will now become the Coordinator of Pathways of Spiritual Leadership which will include Young’s People’s Ministry along with other emerging initiatives. The new Growing Spiritual Transformational Team has been established with lay and clergy members with passion and gifts for adaptive Christian leadership development.

Steps are already underway. Continuous learning groups and processes for both laity and clergy are being designed. We have applied for a significant grant through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry related to the Young Clergy Initiative to increase the exploration of call for both laity and those called to ordained ministry. We will be asking local churches and extension ministries, such as Camp Retreat Ministry and Campus Ministry to help identify youth and young adults with gifts and graces for leadership so they can move onto an intentional Pathway of Leadership Development.

We look forward to partnering with you as together we invite persons to go deeper in Spiritual Transformational Leadership as we grow in the love of Christ.

Kevin Witt, Director

2. Equipping Vital Congregations

The Office of Equipping Vital Congregations has been busy aligning to the Conference’s mission and vision in the specific fulfillment of “equipping vital congregations” and creating new places for new people. In 2018 the office made the followed strides in its fulfillment of the mission and vision:

1. All grants now on benchmarks
2. Launched two new faith communities: The Valley and the Open Door
3. Shifted a part time Hispanic planter to full time
4. Greater Coaching, Accountability, & Training
5. Conducted four church consultations
6. Hosted Navigate with 350 attendees
7. Hosted Pre-Conference workshops with 225 registrations
8. Conducted ten Vitality Team training opportunities
9. Presented at least one new equipping opportunity in each District
10. Branded the office, launched new website, and launched new Facebook Page
11. Worked with a Path One Vision Team to identify four strategies for new places for new people: Fresh Expressions, Re-Start, Multi-Site, & Vital Mergers
12. Presented the vision and strategies during Annual Conference 2018
13. Hired and trained a new administrative assistant
14. Began collaborating with two other Directors: Growing and Connecting
15. Conducted Spark Starter (grant preparation workshop) and Spark Tank (grant requests)
16. Launched IMPACT! Harrisburg to reach new people in and around Harrisburg

While there is much ministry to still be done, God is moving in mighty ways in the Susquehanna Conference to shift towards a culture of being innovative and open to reach new people in new ways through both church revitalization and creating new places for new people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Kay Kotan, Director
3. Connecting Ministries

The last year has been marked by significant change in the Office of Connecting Ministries. Not only do we have a new director, but we have had many other staffing changes and realignments. We have spent a great deal of time laying a foundation of trust and communication amongst the staff and we have worked with all of our partners in ministry to be mission and vision focused in establishing our values and priorities. Our vision is that we might help congregations foster collaborative relationships with one another and the world.

We primarily work in three categories:

1. Communications – there are many layers to our connection, from the local church, to the District, to the Conference, to the Jurisdiction, to the General Church. Within those layers are countless teams who strive to help congregations make disciples in new and different ways. Our job is to communicate all of these possibilities. Not only do we tell the success stories to inspire creativity, but we also serve as a point of contact between these layers, helping to find solutions for all sort of challenging problems.

2. Missions – our first order of business in making disciples is to introduce people to Jesus. This happens especially well through Missions and Disaster Response. We build life changing relationships when we are able to serve others in their time of need. Our Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response Teams are committed to creating a culture of mission across the Susquehanna Conference that can reach new people for Jesus.

3. Administration – the church of the 21st century faces legal and administrative challenges like never before. Following tax laws, Safe Sanctuaries Policies, Safety Plans for Worker’s Compensation, and other best financial practices is essential. We want to help churches be faithful with little that they might be worthy of being trusted with much.

Jason Mackey, Director

4. Board of Ordained Ministry

The Board of Ordained Ministry is a part of the entire life cycle of ministry - from creating a culture of call to celebrating retirement. Our work among you is varied and requires the time and gifts of many individuals. We are on the front lines of the work to raise up transformational leaders. We do this by encouraging, challenging, and equipping those who serve in ministry.

The bulk of our work centers around raising up transformational leaders who serve local churches and ministry settings. God's Call events begin the journey by exploring various ways to be in service. Each District Committee on Ministry discerns with prayer and encourages spiritual growth in those who sense a call to ministry. Our Local Pastor Licensing School educates and empowers those who will serve as Local Pastors and CLMs. The Conference Board examines those who wish to be Commissioned and Ordained. We expect a high level of excellence from all who seek these credentials.

It is also our privilege to be stewards of funds which equip continuing education. We support individual and Conference wide educational opportunities to further empower our leaders.

We celebrate the equipping of the Holy Spirit every time we see a candidate grow in his or her leadership. When a candidate moves from "readiness" to "effectiveness" to a goal of "fruitfulness," we rejoice in what God can do in the life of a willing leader! In every category of service, God is continuing to call gifted and deeply spiritual leaders. It's a privilege to be a part of equipping people for ministry.

Rev. Suzanne A. Elliott
Chair, Susquehanna Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

5. Board of Pensions

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of the Susquehanna Conference are tasked with caring for the benefit needs of the clergy and retirees throughout the annual conference. In 2018, after over a year and a half of research and discussion, the Board led our active clergy through a transition onto HealthFlex Exchange, an internal marketplace for a variety of healthcare insurance needs maintained by WesPath. The Board provided training to all seven districts as well as an online recording of the information. We hope that as we live into this transition together, that the clergy will feel equipped to make informed decisions regarding their healthcare needs.

Regarding clergy healthcare, the Board would like to offer a correction to the report presented in the journal from last year. This correction is regarding page 185, item #10. Please note that the church portion of health insurance for clergy couples will continue to be paid by their respective churches/charges for their full requested contribution for each pastor. Only 1 clergy in the clergy couple will have the clergy portion of health insurance deducted and billed to the church. Each full-time pastor will contribute the difference between the actual cost of the plan selected and the premium credit provided by the Conference. This contribution will be a payroll deduction by the local church.

Over the past year, the Board has also been busy updating our policies, with the guidance of WesPath, and creating spaces to learn about all of the benefits offered to our clergy. To that end, the Board has also established scholarships to aid with the registration fees for WesPath benefit events.

The Board greatly appreciates everyone’s understanding with the transitions that have been made in the last year.

Rev. Michelle R Bodle
Chair, Board of Pension
6. Board of Trustees

Part I. Main Actions of the Board

1. The Annual Corporation meeting of the Susquehanna Conference was held on June 1, 2018 during the Sessions of the Annual Conference. The following were elected as members of the Board of Trustees in the Class of 2022: Mr. Mike Crawford (Harrisburg) Rev. Laura Minnella (Harrisburg) Mr. Steve Shadeck (State College).

2. At the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 1, 2018 the following officers were elected for 2018-2019: Rev. Mark Shover, President, Mrs. Mary Jane Mitterling, 1st Vice-President, Mr. Chris Young, 2nd Vice-President, Rev. Laura Minnella, Secretary.

3. The Board oversaw the maintenance of (7) district parsonages and (2) staff parsonages, expending a total of $157,509 allocated as follows: $44,328 for maintenance, $24,833 for capital improvements, $49,393 for taxes and $38,955 for utilities. This total was $6,811 more than the $150,698 spent in 2017.

4. The Board oversaw the completion of the construction of the Scranton-Wilkes Barre District Parsonage at 48 South Pioneer Ave. Shavertown, PA a cost of $423,533. The parsonage was consecrated on May 12, 2018.

5. The Board purchased a staff parsonage for the Director of Connectional Ministries at 1788 Empress Drive, Mechanicsburg PA for $370,000. The parsonage was consecrated on May 13, 2018.

6. The Board oversees the physical plant needs of the Conference Center. In 2018 the following maintenance and capital improvement projects were begun: More visible and welcoming main entrance, improved handicap accessibility and visibility at main entrance. Improved energy efficiency at the main entrance. The Bishop’s entrance security was improved. In the Bishop’s secretary’s office a reduction in glass improved energy efficiency. The restrooms were updated for handicap accessibility. Repair to the damage from a vehicle that hit the building was included. A budget of $221,000 was approved and a claim from the insurance provided $19,968.88. Decimler Family Construction was contracted to do the work.

7. The Board approved the 2018 Offering Circular for the Loan Committee on August 23, 2018.

8. The Board continues to oversee the work of the Property and Casualty Insurance Committee. A report from this committee is attached to this report. Engle-Hambright & Davies is our Insurance Broker and Philadelphia Insurance Company is the Insurance Carrier.

9. The Board elects the Conference’s voting representative on the United Methodist Workers’ Compensation Trust that we participate in with several other Conference-related United Methodist Corporations. The Board receives regular reports from this representative.

10. The Board accepted the resignation of two board members, Mrs. Suzette Meyer, Williamsport District and Mr. Steve Shadeck State College District, in September of 2018.

11. On December 31, 2018 the Board held $101,912 in its Property Fund; $0 in the Bequest Fund; $97,968 in the Trustees Reserve Fund; $231,229 in the District/Staff Parsonage Capital ; $235,220 in the Worker’s Compensation Fund; $114,257 in the Closed Church Reserve. The Board of Trustees also holds $1,829,139 in the Property and Casualty Insurance Fund.

12. The Board of Trustees has three Loan Fund Investments: $302,756 in the District/Staff Parsonage Capital Reserve; $99,196 in the Board of Trustees Fund, and $412,386 in the Property and Casualty Insurance SAM Reserve. Reflected in the Loan Fund investments is interest earned on these accounts and reinvested totaling $9879.

13. On December 31, 2018 the Board has three Investments with the Stewardship Foundation: Crane Trust with a market value of $1,185,582; Snyder Trust with a market value of $786,177 and Kanarr/Gouldin Endowment Fund with a market value of $99,710. 4% of the average income from the Crane and Snyder Trusts is distributed to designated Benevolent Homes. In the year when the market value of the Kanarr/Gouldin reaches $100,000 on December 31 the following year income will be made available to the Appointive/Program Cabinet of the Susquehanna Conference for creative ministry projects.

14. The Board of Trustees distributed proceeds from the sale of Closed Churches into the following accounts with the balances indicated at the end of 2018:

(This Report is not available due to the resignation of the Conference Treasurer in February 2019.)

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Respective District Emerging Ministry Restricted Urban

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<th>Beginning Balance</th>
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Altoona
Harrisburg
Scranton/Wilkes Barre

Congregational Development: New Church Starts/Congregational Vitalization

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<th>Beginning Balance</th>
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Part II: Schedule of Property

1. Conference Center: 303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055-2053
2. Mission Central: 5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055
3. Episcopal Residence: 805 Sawgrass Lane, Mechanicsburg 17050
4. Staff Parsonage: 214 Hope Drive, Boiling Springs 17007
5. Staff Parsonage: 1788 Empress Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055
6. District Parsonage: 1029 Penn View Lane, Duncansville 16635
7. District Parsonage: 31 Baylor Boulevard, Lewisburg 17837
8. District Parsonage: 238 Highland Terrace Way, Boiling Springs 17007
9. District Parsonage: 45 South Pioneer Ave., Shavertown 18708
10. District Parsonage: 1200 Haymaker Road, State College 16801
11. District Parsonage: 2420 Nottingham Road, Williamsport 17701
12. District Parsonage: 638 Fox Tail Drive, York 17404
13. Camp: Greene Hills, Barree Road, 5125 Manor Drive, Alexandria 16611
14. Camp: Mount Asbury, 1310 Centerville Road, Newville 17241
15. Camp: Wesley Forest, White Mountain Road, PO Box 35, Weikert 17885
16. Shoemaker Mission Central Hub 571 West 8th St., West Wyoming 18644
17. Historical Church: Old Burlington, US 6, East Smithfield 18817
18. Historical Church: Old Stone, PA 93, west of Berwick, 18603
19. Historical Church: Rock Chapel, Old Oxford Road, Heidlersburg

Note: Camp Penn is not owned by the Susquehanna Conference but is leased from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Part III: Sale of Property

Dymond Hollow: Transferred to Dymond Hollow Church Cemetery and Preservation Association. Sold June 7, 2018 $1
District Parsonage: 64 Green Briar Drive, Springbrook Township, PA 18444; $260,000. Sold October 19, 2018.
Bigler Church and Parsonage: 311 and 319 Bigler Road, Bigler, PA. 16825, $72, 500.00. Sold November 5, 2018.
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and Parsonage: 611 Birch St/ 729 Prospect Ave. Scranton, PA 18505
$90,000 Sold November 29, 2018

Part IV: Closed Churches
1. Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Route 274, Blain, Jackson Twp. Perry Count, Harrisburg District
2. Forest Emmanuel Cemetery 4604 Winburne/Munson Road, Morrisdale, State College District
3. Little Marsh Church Blair Creek Road, Westfield, Williamsport District
4. Blair’s Valley Church and Cemetery Blair’s Valley Road, (Montgomery Twp. Franklin County), York District
5. Green Village Cemetery Greenvillage Road, (Greene Twp. Franklin County), York District
6. Bloomingdale Church, 85 Silo Road, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621
7. Royalton Church, 500 Penn Street, Middletown, PA
8. Penbrook Grace Church, 25 South 28th St. Harrisburg, PA 17103
9. Ashley-Centenary Church, 26 N. Main St. Ashley, PA 18706
10. Bethany-Tusseyville Church, 208 Church Hill Rd. Centre Hall. PA
Chronological Record of Properties Sold
July 1, 2010-2018

2018

Dymond Hollow: Transferred to Dymond Hollow Church Cemetery and Preservation Association. June 7, 2018 $1
District Parsonage: 64 Green Briar Drive, Springbrook Township, PA 18444; $260,000. Sold October 19, 2018.
Bigler Church and Parsonage: 311 and 319 Bigler Road, Bigler, PA. 16825, $72, 500.00. Sold November 5, 2018.
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and Parsonage: 611 Birch St/729 Prospect Ave. Scranton, PA 18505
$90,000 Sold November 29, 2018

2017

Mt. Moriah Church and Cemetery RD 2 Blue Knob, Rt. 164, Portage, Blair County, Altoona District, sold to
Mt. Moriah Cemetery Association of Blue Knob $500, 02/14/2017
Forest Emmanuel Church 4046 Winburne Munson Rd., Morrisdale, Clearfield County, State College District,
sold to Truth and Grace Free Church, $29,500, 03/03/2017
Harris Street Church 250 Harris Street Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Harrisburg District, sold to Trinity
Church of God, $200,000, 03/06/2017
Warren Center Parsonage and Church 2796 Jackson Valley Road, Warren Center, Williamsport District, sold to
Hope Community Church of Warren Center, $120,000, 03/30/2017
Ebenezer Church and Cemetery Ebenezer Church Road, Rt. 75 Port Royal, Juniata County, State College
District, sold to Ebenezer Cemetery of Juniata County, Inc., $500, 04/11/2017

2016

St. Peter’s Church and Parsonage 241 and 237 Hepburn Street, Milton, Lewisburg District, sold to Hepburn Street
Mennonite Church, $107,000, 02/05/2016
East Freedom Church Rt. 164 & Everett Rd. East Freedom, Altoona District, sold to Edward W. Jeliff and Cheryl J. Jeliff,
$40,000, 04/14/2016
Conference Staff Parsonage 3920 Woodvale Road Harrisburg, sold to Paxton United Methodist Church, $195,000,
09/19/2016
Newport Church Parsonage, 29 E. Kirmar Ave. Nanticoke, Lewisburg District, sold to Alyssa Waugh and Robert Antinozzi,
$51,000, 12/22/2016

2015

Myrtle Street Church 840 Harrison Ave. Scranton, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to New Life Baptist Church,
$79,900, 04/30/2015

2014

Centennial Church 627 Main Street, Forest City, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to Forest City Area Historical Society,
$5, 02/03/2014
Blain Church 56 Church Road, Blain, Harrisburg District, sold to Christopher E. Boyer, Sr., $10,000, 03/17/2014
St. John’s Glencoe Church and Cemetery 6890 St. John’s Road, Glencoe, York District, sold to St. John’s Cemetery
Association of Glencoe, $500, 05/07/2014
Bidwell Hill Church 186 Ledgedale Road, Hamlin, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to Maple Properties Association,
$96,000, 08/06/2014
Ruggles Church 99 Spruce Tree Road, Noxen, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to Linda Bryan, $2,000, 08/18/2014
Asbury Church 27A North High Street, Duncannon, Harrisburg District, sold to Duncannon Presbyterian Church, $5,000
09/25/2014
Centennial Parsonage 61 Dundaff Street, Forest City, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to Anthony T. Sakevich and
Tammy L. Sakevich, $67,900, 09/29/2014
Salem Church 8929 Moreland Baptist Road, Unityville, Williamsport District, sold to Unityville Community Fire
Company, $20,000, 10/23/2014

2013

Wellsboro District Parsonage and Office 35 Fairview Acres Road, Wellsboro, sold to Nathan and Kourtney Babcock,
$255,000, 03/15/2013
Millmont Church 1005 Cold Spring Road, Millmont, Lewisburg District, sold to Gabriel J. Morley, $20,000, 05/22/2013
Jacob’s Church and Cemetery 36 Jacob’s Church Road, Halifax, Harrisburg District, sold to Isaiah 61, $5, 06/25/2013
Steven’s Emmanuel Church and Parking Lot 113 S. 13th Street and 1308 Vernon Street, Harrisburg, Harrisburg District,
sold to True Worshippers Ministries, $55,000, 09/18/2013
Orson Church Oxbow Road, Orson, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to Karen O’Connor, $30,000, 10/23/2013
Jacob’s Church and Cemetery Rt. 25 Killinger, Harrisburg District, sold to Dennis and Geraldine Wert, $5, 10/24/2013
Foundryville Church 124 Foundryville Road, Berwick, Lewisburg District, sold to Dean Youlls, Jr., $5,001, 10/28/2013
Christ Hope House 215 Chestnut Street, York, York District, sold to Northeast Neighborhood Association, Inc. $1,
12/18/2013
2012

Rupert Church Lot, Lewisburg District, sold to Rollin Mosteller, $2,600, 01/2012
Salem Church and Parking Lot, Route 104, Lewisburg District, sold to Karl and Carolyn Zimmerman, $35,000, 03/14/2012
Asaph Church 80 Asaph Run Road, Wellsboro, Wellsboro District, sold to J. Scott Turner, $29,000, 04/06/2012
Mountain Green Church 15291 Mountain Green Road, Willow Hill, Chambersburg District, sold to Simon and Delores Neil, $10,000, 04/10/2012
Mountain Green Additional Building and 1/2 acre lot Mountain Green road, Willow Hill, Chambersburg District, sold to Donald and Mary Jo Dail, $4,000.00, 04/10/2012
Wilkes Barre District Parsonage 556 Charles Ave., Kingston, sold to Michael Polgar and Michelle Schasberger, $199,675, 04/10/12, (Deed transferred by Methodist Episcopal Superintendent’s Home Corporation of Kingston)
Newburg Church route 994, Huntingdon County, Altoona District, sold to William and Boneta Hall, $10,500, 04/13/2012
Pleasant Hill Church and Cemetery 4610 Kylerstown Drifting Highway, Morrisdale, State College District, sold to Mary J. Snook, $8,000, 05/04/2012
First Church and Parsonage, West Nanticoke, Wilkes Barre District, Quit Claim Deed with property reverting to the Susquehanna Coal Company, 05/2012
Chambersburg District Parsonage 3287 St. Andrews Drive, Scot-Green Estates, Chambersburg, sold to Grant and Meghan Ausherman, $239,000, 06/12/2012
Providence Church 1926 N. Main Avenue, Scranton, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to City Lights Church, $110,000, 07/02/2012
Torrey Church 837 Torrey Road, Honesdale, Scranton/Wilkes Barre District, sold to Torrey Cemetery Association, $1, 07/13/2012
McKendree Church 20586 McKendree Church Road, Rock Hill Furnace, Chambersburg District, sold to Fred and Shirley Rogers, $1,200, 08/24/2012
Garden Heights Church 109 Bellview Street, Altoona, Altoona District, sold to Sovereign Grace Church of Central PA, $120,000, 08/24/2012
Harrisburg District Parsonage 1326 Monfort Drive, Harrisburg, sold to Justin and Janna Mason, $194,200, 10/22/2012
St. Paul’s Church Corner of Front and Locust Streets, Wornleysburg, Harrisburg District, sold to Cornerstone Fellowship Assembly of God Church, $10,00, 10/22/2012

2011

Rupert Church 245 Rupert Drive, Rupert, Lewisburg District, sold to Santo Lanzafame, $33,900, 04/29/2011
Bittersville Church 1943 Craley Road, Lower Windsor Township, York District, sold to St. Michael The Archangel Roman Catholic Church, $100,000, 06/13/2011
Troxelville Church Route 235 Troxelville, Lewisburg District, sold to Hope Mennonite Church, $75,000, 06/13/2011
Otterbein Church 9 Park Street, Mt. Alto, Chambersburg District, sold to John F. and Kay L. Kohler, $40,000, 08/12/2011
Monroe Church Huntington County, Chambersburg District, sold to Monroe Valley Cemetery Association, $1, 12/19/2011

2010

5th Avenue Church 401 5th Avenue, Altoona District, sold to Property Express, LLC Altoona, $50,000, 09/17/2010
Heart Lake Church Heart Lake, Scranton District, sold to Little White Community Church, Montrose, $1, 12/10/2010

PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Property and Casualty Committee (PCIC) is to protect our tools of ministry: persons, property, and assets. If the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world, the work of this committee is to ensure that the mission goes forward in spite of the vicissitudes of nature and the actions or inactions of fallible humans. The committee adopts a posture of being alert and responsive to present realities while at the same time trying to anticipate emerging needs.

The PCIC meets five or more times a year with a broad agenda of activities. Some are of a routine nature, e.g., reviewing the budget, receiving claims reports, monitoring arraignment of premiums. Some are taken up only occasionally, e.g., revising policies, placing the program out to bid, addressing emerging issues of safety.

The following items absorbed much of the committee’s meeting time in 2018-2019… (1) Premium payments. Support for the program seems strong as evidenced by the fact that at the end of 2018 only one church paid nothing toward their premium; 863 paid 89% or more; and 770 paid 100%. (2) Fire at Otterbein, Duncannon. The fire that occurred June 14, 2018 was the conference’s largest single loss in eight years. The church is well on its way to housing anew its worship and ministries to the community. (3) Critical Risk Recommendations. The PCIC instructs the insurance company to inspect about 35-40 aging buildings. These inspections generate a critical risk protocol that usually leads to acts of addressing critical safety issues. Sometime the protocol will lead to more drastic measures such as limiting access to a building until repairs are made or permanently closing a building… (4) Conference Safety Committee. The PCIC applauds the re-formation of this committee that will combine the resources and perspectives from several conference programs and agencies and pledges our active participation… (5) Auto Insurance. In the coming year the PCIC will promote the benefits of auto coverage in the conference program and survey the level of the participation of congregations in that program. A motion to mandate participation in the conference’s program may be presented to the 2020 session of annual conference.
Again, this year PCIC has been supported, serviced, educated, and represented most effectively by Ed Eshleman and his colleagues at Engle–Hambright & Davies, Tom Getz, Julia Secrist, and Baronny Bora. We are grateful for their professional attentiveness and collegial ways.

Lew Parks, Chair PCIC

7. Camp & Retreat Ministry

Focus and growth best describes this year within Camp and Retreat Ministries. Great intentionality is being given to shape the 70 plus summer camps and retreats as genuine Pathways of Christian Discipleship and growth in Spiritual Transformational Leadership. In 2018, participation rose from 1274 individuals in 2017 to 1511 individuals in 2018, which is an increase of 239 persons or 18.7%. We are deeply grateful to Deans, Center Directors, Campers and many others who widened the circle of their invitations and creative collaborations with congregations. 103 of the 239-person growth reflects our innovative partnership with Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center and the Upper New York Conference to better serve our Northern tier Susquehanna Conference congregations.

We now have 5 centers dedicated to spiritual practice, Christian hospitality and inspiration, which are an oasis in the busyness of life where people find deeper connection with God, renewal, support and vision for doing good and inviting others into discipleship. Close to 400 dedicated volunteers make possible the life transforming experiences, as they live out their call to leadership through camp and retreat ministry. Others join in as mission volunteers doing service projects along with generous donors who contribute to the impact through their gifts.

Our Conference Camp Retreat Centers, also, serve many religiously affiliated retreat groups and nonprofit groups committed to doing good and helping to transform the society in ways that make life more abundant for all. This dimension of our retreat ministry grew from 4,600 guest days to 6045 guest days. These persons journeyed to grow and then return to their local communities to embody love and service. In this way, our camp and retreat centers create connections at the crossroads of the church with the wider society.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to three new members of the staff team: Matt Williams - Center Director of Sky Lake Camp Retreat Centers, Sam Richardson – Center Director at Camp Penn, and Sara Richardson – Reservations and Donor Relations Specialist. They join Emily Sliksi – Center Director at Wesley Forest, Charlie Renner – Center Director at Greene Hills, Patty Weidman – Center Director at Mount Asbury, Tricia Frye - Administrative Assistant & Registrar, and Joni Robison - CR Ministry Assistant. We are very blessed to have such a gifted, dedicated team along with many others serving in other roles.

We continue to make progress toward the current shared visions of Camp Retreat Ministry.

New Horizons and Visions for CR Ministry

The Board of Camp Retreat Ministries and Staff have prayerfully discerned 4 horizons and faith next steps to expand the mission impact and long-term vitality and sustainability of the ministry.

1. Develop Fresh Partnerships with Congregations to Help Enhance Relationships and Missional Outreach within their Local Communities. This year we are partnering with Mount Union UMC to pilot Camp in the Community. The purpose of this new type of camp and retreat opportunity is to help a local church meet new families and young people within their communities by holding a day camp in the community where the congregation is located. We bring camp to you, so the children and youth can engage with experiential faith formation and be deeply loved as a bridge to new friendships and connections with the congregation. This is just one possibility of what new partnerships might look like. Perhaps your congregation wants to do a summer camp geared specifically to you fulfill your congregations’ Pathway of Discipleship. Let’s talk and dream together.

2. Extend the Wide Embrace of God Among Underserved Persons and Communities. We will remove barriers and deepen relationships so those who participate and lead within our camp and retreat ministries more fully reflect the diversity of people and families living in our communities. In 2018, we had collaborative connections with the York City Day Camp, The Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg, and are looking for more ways to meet and serve a wide diversity of people. Major renovations of White Pine lodge at Wesley Forest are underway to make it completely handicapped accessible along with accessibility upgrades for the dining hall and pathways to the lake. This will make that facility nicer for all guests, but especially for those who otherwise would be prevented from participation. Please, contact Emily at Wesley Forest because many volunteers are needed to help with the upgrades – esliksi@susumc.org

3. Steward the Ministry to Healthy Growth and Vitality in order to Establish Greater Long-Term Capacity to Fulfill our Mission. Over the next 2-3 years we will work diligently to expand our collaborations and grow the ministry by 20%, which will bring us closer to alignment with other UM Camp and Retreat Ministries that have reached a level that enables long-term health and vitality of the ministry as we reach more people in the fulfillment of our important mission. In addition, we will engage generous donors who care about the ministry and find meaning in supporting its impact. We are making progress with growth and will be reaching out to those who understand the power of camp and retreat experiences to expand giving partners. This is crucial to make it possible to serve all people regardless of family income.

4. Excel at Inspiring, Developing, and Renewing Christian Servant Leaders Especially Those New to Their Roles. Camps and retreats have long been one of the milestone experiences for laity
8. Commission on Archives and History

The mission of the Conference Commission on Archives and History is to collect, preserve, and make available the material history of the Conference. This includes all Conference publications, the minutes of Conference commissions and committees, and the records of churches when they close. It also includes oversight of the historic sites within the bounds of the Conference. The Conference Archives are housed in the Snowden Library at Lycoming College, with an Annex for some artifacts and closed church materials in a building near the College on West Fourth Street.

This has been a successful year for the Commission. Conference Archivist, Milton Loyer, has continued to work through the large amount of material the Commission has received from closed churches. He has sorted and catalogued it. He has also worked on other materials in the Annex, including artifacts which he is putting in several large display cases. He also attends the meetings of the Conference Board of Trustees to offer advice on property issues as they relate to closed churches. He is also responsible for extending the various electronic databases the Commission has developed and maintaining them. These databases can be accessed from the Conference Website. He serves as Editor of the Conference Historical Society journal, The Chronicle.

The Commission had continued to give oversight to the numerous Conference historic sites. The Rev. Rodney Miller has done yeoman service in his work with these sites and those local persons who take care of them. The past three years, including this past year, work has continued on the Old Stone Church near Berwick and Rock Chapel near York Springs. In each of these sites projects have been continuing to shore up the buildings and to restore them for preservation and occasional use. The Commission thanks the local leaders and the teams they have gathered to do the work. The Commission shares a portion of its annual budget with the projects.

The Commission has an oral history project which involves interviewing pastors who are retiring and then transcribing the interviews and placing them in the archives. At last Annual Conference the Commission members interviewed 18 retiring pastors. Many thanks to the interviewers and transcribers which include Rodney Miller, Cheryl Houser, and Carolyn Carroll.

The Commission could not do its work without dedicated members, persons who are deeply interested in the Annual Conference, people who want to answer the question: “How did we get here?” Three of those people are leaving the Commission this year. Many thanks to Fern Boyer, Howard Woodruff, and Ron French.

John F. Piper, Jr., Chair

9. Commission on Child Advocacy

The Commission on Child Advocacy is pleased to welcome our clergy and laity to the Annual Conference Session, 2019. We look forward to opportunities to celebrate the work of the Conference and the Commission. While the Commission is not a program agency of the Annual Conference, it has been given resources and opportunities to conduct research about the well-being of the children and young people on the margins of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This research has provided information and opportunities for local congregations to address the anecdotal and systemic problems facing Pennsylvania’s kids and their families. The work is daunting and difficult, but it remains the passion for the Church ever since Jesus invited the children to come to him and not be hindered.

The research component assigned to the Commission was completed in the 2014-2015 Conference years. Subsequently, and until through the early months of 2018, the Commission conducted five equipping and training events for those persons and congregations called to be advocates for the children and young people within the thirty-two counties of the Conference. More than 120 people have attended those training opportunities. Now the Commission is moving forward with the third, and final expression of its work.

The Commission is ready to engage our seven districts, the Superintendents, Conference staff, and Cluster Leaders across the Conference to establish advocacy groups within each district and our strategically located clusters. The purpose of these teams is...
to continually do research and then address the issues related to the hundreds of thousands of young people and their families on the margins. All of these families are located within easy reach of our current congregations.

The work of the Commission will equip and empower those who are already dedicated to Christ and who long to serve the poor and marginalized. At the same time, the people we are trying to reach are the very ones we long to enlist in the life of the Gospel and the Church. With district and cluster teams in place, the mission of advocacy and intervention is much more likely to become a reality. Please continue to pray for the Commission and all those who answer the call to engage our contexts for Christ and the ones who are to be entrusted to our care. More to come….

Respectfully submitted,
The Commission on Child Advocacy

10. Commission on Native American Ministries

Greetings in the name of God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are excited to report on the progress of your Susquehanna United Methodist Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM). In 2008, the General Conference mandated that each Annual Conference would appoint a CONAM in order that ministries and connectional relationships could be made, and maintained, with Indigenous People. It is our pleasure to report that we have been working hard to see this come to fruition. We have endeavored to do this through support and encouragement of Native Peoples with the love of Jesus Christ through advocacy, service, and the education of non-native people. We do this so that we might make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As you can imagine, this is no small task. The efforts of the Church have not always been beneficial to the Native Peoples of the United States. We have powerful evidence of this in our own backyard. The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was the flagship Indian boarding school from 1879 – 1918. In the name of God and America, 10,000 Native American Children were removed from their homes, shipped across the United States, and were forced to assimilate into White American culture. They were forced to give up every part of their own culture through a program exemplified through the motto, “Kill the Indian; Save the Man.” Only 140 of those 10,000 graduated. Many of the rest died on the long and arduous journey to Carlisle, or from “white” diseases their immune systems could not tolerate after arriving at the school. We knew that any ministry to our Native sisters and brothers would have to take all of this into account.

Consequently, we began with an Act of Repentance at the 2016 Annual Conference. The purpose was twofold: 1) To lead the Annual Conference through a liturgy of repentance in which we all felt our hearts break over the atrocities done to our indigenous sisters and brothers, and 2) We made the promise to do everything in our power to make sure that those terrible things never happen again.

To that end, our next step was to work on plans for the annual meeting of the North Eastern Jurisdictional Native American Ministry Committee in 2018. All ten Annual Conferences of our Jurisdiction came together in Carlisle, PA to not only talk and plan for future ministries, but also to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the closing of the Carlisle Indian School.

We are pleased to say that these two events have paved the way to a hopeful future. We remain committed to seeing that promises made at the Act of Repentance are not forgotten. We have been, and continue to be, active in Native American affairs. We have worked and continue to work for the repatriation of the Native children who were buried at the Carlisle Indian School. We work closely with the Circle Legacy Native American Museum and Education Center. We have plans to offer small scholarships to Native American ministerial students. Our hope is to provide litanies and prayers for Native American Sunday, and the education of non-native peoples concerning the plight of our indigenous sisters and brothers.

It is our prayer and dream that, while our efforts will never make up for what has been done to our Native sisters and brothers, those efforts will, in some small way, hasten the day when all racist activity has ceased from this earth. Moreover, we do all of this to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully submitted
The Susquehanna United Methodist Conference Committee on Native American Ministries.
The Rev. Rick Robinson (Chair), Ruby Olson (Secretary), Jack Richardson, Charles Frank, Alice Baer, Hannah Keller, Wanda Lewis, The Rev. James Lewis
11. Committee on Nominations

REPORT 11-A: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES NOMINATIONS

Key:
Name = To be elected this year  AL = At Large  x = Elected Position  (00) = Yr. first elected/appointed  * = Laity
A = Altoona District  H = Harrisburg District  L = Lewisburg District
SWB = Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District  SC = State College District  W = Williamsport District
Y = York District

1. COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (2016 Book of Discipline ¶612.2)

1.1 Officers: Chair: Timothy Baer

1.2 Voting Members Elected for the Quadrennium (2016-2020):

1.2.1 Lay:
   - x*Robert Bittenbender  H  (12)
   - x*Kelly Grimes  SC  (16)
   - x*Alan Larson  SWB  (16)
   - x*Marvin Meteer  W  (16)
   - x*Michael Ogden  H  (12)
   - x*Fred Ralston  A  (15)
   - x*Glenda Shepherd  SWB  (19)

1.2.2 Clergy:
   - x Karen Atanasoff  H  (16)
   - x Timothy Baer  H  (12)
   - x James (JP) Bohanan  L  (16)
   - x Craig Gommer  SWB  (19)
   - x Deborah Heisley-Cato  Y  (16)
   - x Robert Kazinski  H  (15)
   - x Charles Sprenkle  Y  (16)

1.2.3 Elected Member of GCF & A, if any:

1.2.4 Elected Member of NEJCF & A, if any:

1.3 Non-Voting Members

1.3.1 Conference Treasurer: *Joni Way (Interim)

1.3.2 District Superintendent appointed by Cabinet: Barry Robison  H  (18)

1.3.3 Director of Connecting Ministries or Representative: Jason Mackey  H  (18)

1.3.4 Resident Bishop: Jeremiah J. Park  (12)

2. BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY (2016 Book of Discipline ¶635.1)

2.1 Officers: Chair: Suzanne Elliott

2.2 Voting Members nominated by Bishop and elected for the Quadrennium (2016-2020):

   - x Paul Amara  SWB  (16)
   - x Miguel Arenas  SWB  (17)
   - x Jean Blackie  SWB  (15)
   - x*Jerry Bowman  Y  (13)
   - x Audrey Brosius  L  (19)
   - x*John Crouse  SWB  (16)
   - x Suzanne Elliott  Y  (10)
   - x Ryan Gephart  L  (16)
   - x Rick Grazzini  SC  (16)
   - x Pamela Gudeman  SC  (12)
   - x*Katie Guise  A  (17)
   - x Mira Hewlett  H  (13)
   - x Lenore Hosier  W  (16)
   - x Jan Hughes  H  (16)
   - x Randy Hughes  SC  (16)
   - x Jay Jones  SWB  (13)
   - x Nicholas Keeney  H  (10)
   - x Dennis Keller  H  (11)
   - x*John Konieczny  H  (16)
   - x Ryan Krauss  L  (16)
   - x Matthew Lake  W  (10)
   - x Brenda Leigey  SC  (19)
   - x Larry Leland  L  (16)
   - x Kenneth Loyer  Y  (12)
   - x Brian Lucas  L  (16)
   - x Evelyn Madison  A  (11)
   - x?Karen McCachren  SC  (10)
   - x*Christina McDermott  L  (17)
   - x*Calvin Miller  SC  (17)
   - x Kathy Harvey Nelson  Y  (10)
   - x John Overman  H  (10)
   - x Julia Piper  A  (15)
   - x Charles Salisbury  Y  (15)
   - x Stephen Salisbury  Y  (16)
   - x Vernon Shenberger  Y  (10)
   - x David Stough  Y  (12)
   - x*Ronald Swift  Y  (10)
   - x Samuel Velez-Irizarry  Y  (13)
   - x*David Walker  SWB  (16)
   - x*Audrey Wilder  H  (12)
   - x*Cynthia Willis  L  (17)
   - x Randy Willis  A  (16)
   - x Rachel Wong  H  (18)

† Chair, Order of Deacons; ‡ Chair, Order of Elders
+ Chair, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members
3. STUDENT AID FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS

3.1 Officers: President: Richard Smith

3.2 Voting Members elected for the Quadrennium (2016-2020):

3.2.1 Laity, after consultation with President of Board of Managers and Chair of BOOM:

- Bill Bachman SWB (12)
- Ann Butcher Y (19)
- Jennifer Greundler SC (16)
- Denise McConahy A (17)
- Susan Pigott H (18)

3.2.2 Ministerial Members, after consultation with President of Board of Managers and Chair of BOOM:

- Miguel Arenas SWB (17)
- Candace Arnold L (17)
- Terence Brosius SC (18)
- Mark Brower A (17)
- Robert Cook H (13)

3.2.3 District Superintendent appointed by Cabinet: Barry Robison H (16)

3.2.4 Executive Secretary: Nicholas Keeney H (13)

3.2.5 BOOM Representative, appointed by BOOM: Nicholas Keeney H (13)

4. BOARD OF PENSIONS (2016 Book of Discipline ¶639.2)

4.1 Officers: Chair: Michelle Bodle

4.2 Voting Members elected for eight-year terms in classes:

- Class of 2020
  - Laymen
    - Phil Reid SWB (18)
    - Janice Dreese L (12)
  - Clergymen and Clergywomen
    - Richard Conklin SC (12)
    - G Edward Corcelius SC (10)
    - H Douglas Posegate SWB (16)
    - Keith Rockwell H (12)

- Class of 2024
  - Laymen
    - John Konieczny H (16)
    - William Mackey L (10)
  - Clergymen and Clergywomen
    - Michelle Bodle SC (16)
    - Stephanie Rupert SC (16)
    - Thomas Sanagorski Y (10)
    - Samuel Velez-Irizarry Y (11)

4.2.4 Elected Member of General Board of Pensions, if any: Glenn Heisey H (19)

4.3 Non-Voting Members

4.3.1 Conference Treasurer: Joni Way (Interim)

4.3.2 District Superintendent appointed by Cabinet: Kathleen Kind A (16), Larry Leland L (16)

5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2016 Book of Discipline ¶2512.1)

5.1 Officers: President: Mark Shover

5.2 Voting Members elected for four-year terms in classes:

- Class of 2020
  - Margaret Daub A (15)
  - Richard Felty H (10)
  - William Keiser W (19)

- Class of 2021
  - Dale Chomas L (17)
  - Terry Hughes SWB (17)
  - Barbara Mark SWB (17)

- Class of 2022
  - Mike Crawford H (18)
  - Laura Minnella H (16)
  - Chris Young W (15)

- Class of 2023
  - John Saldana SC (19)
  - Mark Shover Y (16)
  - Judy Walker SWB (19)

5.3 Non-Voting Members

5.3.1 Conference Treasurer: Joni Way (Interim)

5.3.2 District Superintendent appointed by Cabinet: Judy Walker SWB (19)
6. COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY (2016 Book of Discipline ¶641.1)

6.1 Officers: Chair: John Piper

6.2 Voting Members elected for four-year terms in classes:

6.2.1 Clergy and Laity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
<th>Class of 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x*Carolyn Carroll A (10)</td>
<td>x*Jennifer Gleim H (17)</td>
<td>x*Bill Bachman SWB (10)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>x Robert Harris SWB (14)</td>
<td>x Cheryl Houser W (10)</td>
<td>x Bruce Gearhart Y (19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x*Mary Louise Macarchick SWB (10)</td>
<td>x Lewis Parks H (19)</td>
<td>x Rodney Miller H (14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x*Barbara Miller A (10)</td>
<td>x*John Parson SWB (10)</td>
<td>x*Cindy Sowers Y (19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


6.2.3 Members, NEJ Commission on Archives and History, if any:

6.3 Non-Voting Members

6.3.1 President of Conference Historical Society: Brand Eaton H (11)

6.3.2 District Superintendent appointed by Cabinet: Charles Salisbury Y (16)

7. COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (2016 Book of Discipline ¶625.1)

7.1 Officers: Chair: William Pipp

7.2 Voting Members elected for three-year terms in classes:

7.2.1 Laity from each district at time of election from churches of fewer than 200 members (each designated by “SM”):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x*Deb Deubler SWB (11)</td>
<td>x*Paul Carr SM SC (12)</td>
<td>x*David Deatrich Y (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x*Robin Fisher H (11)</td>
<td>x*William Lowe Y (10)</td>
<td>x*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x*Brian Greenough SM W (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>x*Charles Salter A (10)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.2.2 Clergy from each district at time of election from churches of fewer than 200 members (each designated by “SM”):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x William Pipp SM H (16)</td>
<td>x Kevin Hughes H (18)</td>
<td>x Michael Langford H (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Stephen Portner L (17)</td>
<td>x George Price L (16)</td>
<td>x Eric Luczak SM SWB (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Robert Rupp A (10)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.2.3 District Superintendent CLERGY appointed by Cabinet: Troy Howell W (18)

7.3 Non-Voting Members

7.3.1 Conference Treasurer: *Joni Way (Interim)

8. JOINT COMMITTEE ON CLERGY MEDICAL LEAVE (2016 Book of Discipline ¶652)

8.1 Officers: Chair: Dennis Keller

8.2 Voting Members elected for the Quadrennium (2016-2020):

8.2.1 Representatives from Conference Board of Ordained Ministry:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x Dennis Keller H (16)</td>
<td>x Michael Langford H (18)</td>
<td>x Eric Luczak SM SWB (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Stephen Salisbury Y (19)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2.2 Representatives from Conference Board of Pensions:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x G Edward Corcelius SC (18)</td>
<td>x H Douglas Posegate SWB (17)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2.3 District Superintendent appointed by Bishop: Kathleen Kind A (19)
9. COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY  (2016 Book of Discipline ¶637.1)
9.1 Officers: Chair: *Lisa Bender
9.2 Voting Members elected for the Quadrennium (2016-2020):
9.2.1 Clergy
   x Jane Pykus          SWB (16) x Jacob Waybright  W (10)
9.2.2 Laymen
   x*Joe Popp                   H (16)  x*Jason Robinson  Y (16)
9.2.3 Laywomen
   x*Jean Chirpas               SC (19) x*Cindy Weaver   H (16)
9.2.4 Conference Lay Leader: *John Konieczny   H (12)
9.2.5 Persons appointed by Bishop (including at least one clergy): Paul Amara  SWB (16), *Alison Hastings  SWB (16)
9.2.6 Members of Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy: *Lisa Bender  H (16), Larry Leland  L (16)

10. AREA EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE  (2016 Book of Discipline ¶638.2).
10.1 Officers: Chair: Chair or designate of Committee on Episcopacy: Larry Leland  L (16)
10.2 Voting Members as designated:
10.2.1 Chair or designate of Committee on Episcopacy: *Lisa Bender  H (16)
10.2.2 President or designate of Conference CF & A: Charles Sprenkle  Y (16)
10.2.3 President or designate of Conference Board of Trustees: Dale Chomas  L (17)

11. COMMITTEE ON SESSIONS
11.1 Officers: Chair appointed by Bishop: Gary Weaver  H (12)
11.2 Voting Members appointed by Bishop for the Quadrennium (2016-2020):
Presiding Bishop  Bishop Jeremiah Park  (12)
Conference Lay Leader  *John Konieczny  H (12)
Conference Secretary  *Cindy Weaver  H (18)
Current Dean of Cabinet  TBA
Conference Treasurer  *Joni Way (Interim)  (19)
Director of Connecting Ministries  Jason Mackey  H (18)
Coordinator of Arrangements  Jennifer Williams  H (16)
Coordinator of Memoirs  Cheryl Houser  W (12)
Coordinator of Lay Equality  *Diane Konieczny  H (19)
Clergy Head Teller  Judi Herrold  H (12)
Laity Head Teller  *Sandi Tobias  H (16)
Member of Conference BOOM  David Stough  Y (17)
Coordinator of Worship  Janet Durrwachter  W (16)
Communications Staff Member  *Shawn Gilgore  Y (18)
Coordinator of Media  *Janelle Walker  H (18)
Stage Manager  Eric Funk  H (12)
Registrar  *Sarah Filizzi  H (19)
Hospitality  *Sue Barnes  H (18)
Member-at-large  Mark Terwilliger  SWB (10)

12. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
12.1 Officers: Chair nominated by Cabinet: Judi Herrold
12.2 Voting Members nominated by respective district superintendents and elected for three year terms in classes:
12.2.1 One layperson and one clergyperson from each district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Layperson</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>x*Candi Shaffer (17)</td>
<td>x Stevan Atanasoff (16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsport</td>
<td>x*Darlene Smith (17)</td>
<td>x Heather Baker-McAllister (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>x*Beth Zeiler (13)</td>
<td>x Daniel Kerlin (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State College</td>
<td>x*Sarah Swenson (19)</td>
<td>x Eric Shafer (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altoona</td>
<td>x*Debbie Ackley (15)</td>
<td>x Susan Knorr (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewisburg</td>
<td>x*Ginger McCabe (19)</td>
<td>x Thomas Taylor (15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.2.2 Conference Secretary: *Cindy Weaver  H (18)

12.2.3 Secretary of Cabinet or Designate: Larry Leland  L (18)
12.2.4 Conference Lay Leader: *John Konieczny H (12)
12.2.5 Chair of Committee nominated by Cabinet: Judi Herrold H (16)
12.3 Non-Voting Member
12.3.1 Director of Connecting Ministries: Jason Mackey H (18)

13. COMMITTEE OF THE MOVING COORDINATORS
13.1 Officers: Chair appointed by Cabinet: Norman “Skip” Spangler Y (10)
13.2 Members appointed annually (no tenure limitation)
13.2.1 Appointed by the respective district superintendent:
Altoona: Joey Fleck (11)
Harrisburg East Shore: JoAnn Darrow (16)
Harrisburg West Shore: Richard Noggle (18)
Lewisburg: Ronald French (12)
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre: Terry Hughes (17)
State College: Ronald Baker (14)
Williamsport: Mark Brumbach (10)
York East: David Brenneman (18)
York West: Brent Stouffer (18)
13.2.2 Appointed by Cabinet as Chair: Norman “Skip” Spangler Y (10)

14. COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (2016 Book of Discipline ¶2703.2)
14A. Committee on Investigation (appointed by the Bishop for the Quadrennium, 2016-2020)
14.A.1 Clergy in Full Connection:
Stevan Atanasoff H
Keith Schmuck Y
Timothy Baer H
Joleen Willis A
14.A.2 Professing Members:
*Frank Derby SWB
*William Kieser W
*Mary Henry SC
14.A.3 Clergy in Full Connection Alternates:
Bradley Brown Y
Judy Strayer H
Jennifer Parks Snyder L
14.A.4 Professing Members Alternates:
*Diane Konieczny H
*W Larry Speer Y
*Sue Ellen Nesbitt A
14B. Administrative Review Committee (2016 Book of Discipline 636)
14.B.1 Clergy:
Helen Learm W
Mark Shover Y
Jay E Zimmerman Y
14.B 2 Alternates:
Thomas Maurer H
Jennifer Williams H

15. SEEDLING FINANCIAL MINISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(formerly LOAN COMMITTEE)
(amenable to Conference Council on Finance and Administration based on 2012 Annual Conference decision)
15.1 Officers: Chair: *Robert Forse Y; Vice-Chair: Brian Wallace SWB
15.2 Voting Members
Class of 2020: x*Martha Baird SWB, x Ronald Baker SC, x*Len Beasom H
Class of 2021: x*Robert Vizthum Y, x Brian Wallace SWB, x*Patricia Wendt L
Class of 2022: x Duane Coy A, x*Larry Foor W, x*Robert Forse Y
15.3 Non-Voting Ex Officio Members
15.3.1 Executive Director: Lauren Hokamp
15.3.2 District Superintendent appointed by Bishop: Charles Salisbury Y (12)
15.3.3 Conference Treasurer: *Joni Way (Interim)
15.3.4 Conference Director of Connecting Ministries/Administrative Services: Jason Mackey H (18)
16. BISHOP’S COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

Jeremiah J Park, Bishop
(2016 Book of Discipline ¶6412.2)

Dai Morgan, PA Advocacy Coord.
(x) Alice Baer    Y
(x) G Edward Corcelius    SC
(x) Sandra Detweiler    A
(x) Stephen Drachler    H
(x) Renee Ford    SC
(x) Robert Ford    A
(x) Bruce Gowe    SWB
(x) Jennifer Haines    L

17. ADDITIONAL OFFICERS (2016 Book of Discipline ¶607.9, ¶603.7)

Lay Leader: (x) John Konieczny   (H)   (12)
Asst. Lay Leader: (x) Frank Derby   (SWB)   (15)
Secretary: (x) Cindy Weaver   (H)   (18)
Statistician: (x) Joni Way (Interim Conference Treasurer)
Treasurer: (x) Joni Way (Interim Conference Treasurer)

18. MISSION CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors:
President: Robert Ryder   H
Vice-President:
Communications Committee Chair: (x) Noah Snyder   H
Facilities Committee Chair:
Financial Committee Chair: (x) Rick Herring   H
HUB Committee Chair: (x) Jean Norris   Y

Susquehanna Conference Director of Connecting Ministries: Jason Mackey   H
At Large: (x) Melanie Feldner   H
At Large: (x) Jim Foster   H
At Large: (x) Deb Michalski   H

Ex-Officio Members:
Susquehanna Conference of UMC Bishop or designate: Bishop Jeremiah J. Park / Gregory Myers
Executive Director: (x) Hope Harrison
Secretary: (x) Lisa Bender
REPORT 11-B: PROGRAM AGENCIES

CONFERENCE MINISTRIES STAFF:
Director of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders
and Camp and Retreats ................................. Kevin Witt
Director of Equipping Vital Congregations .................. *Kay Kotan
Director of Connecting Ministries and Administrative Services.... Jason Mackey
Executive Administrative Assistant ........................... *Amy Wynn
Director of Communications .................................. *Shawn Gilgore
Associate Director of Communications ........................ *Janelle Walker
Director of Disaster Response.................................. *Douglas Hoy
Director of VIM ................................................... *Michelle Schwartzman
Discovery Place .................................................. *Joni Robison

GROWING SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS TEAM
Dilip Abayasekara
Todd Christine
*Melanie Feldner
*Kathryn Heaps
*Kayt Hughes
*Taylor Johnston
*Nicole Kirksey
Kathy Harvey Nelson
*Ron Swift
Elizabeth R Taylor

Ex-Officio
*John Konieczny, Conference Lay Leader
Kevin Witt, Director of Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders
TBA, Coordinator of Pathways of Spiritual Leadership

CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY BOARD
*Mark Compton
*Jean Cox
Ryan Gephart
Beth Jones
Michael Minnix
*Jodie Potter
*Kelly Price
*Danny Robison, Cabinet
Jason Schwartzman, Chair
*Beth Teeter
Kevin Witt, Director

YOUNG PEOPLES MINISTRY COUNCIL
*Julia Briselli
*Melissa DeFelice
*Jacob Drexler
*Lydia Zarefo

*Hannah Carter
*Alex Clark
*Evanmichael Drexler
*Kyle Gorin
*Breanne Brunner
*Robin Correll
*Ryan Craig
*Rod Donaldson
*Christine Drexler
Bruce Gowe
*Christina McDermott
Scott Miller
*Sharon Williams
*Melissa Yusinski

Young Adults
*Katrina Hocker
*Robbie Jenkins
*Danny McClure
*Jessi McClure
*Kati McClure
*Morgan Robinette
*Brittany Schlesser

Youth
*Jodi Poter
*Kyle Price

Youth Adult Workers
*Danny Robison, Cabinet

EQUIPPING VITAL CONGREGATIONS TEAM
*George Baird
M Edwin Green III
*Charlie Gudeman
Jan Hughes
Anna Layman Knox
*Diane Konieczny
*Kay Kotan, Director
Ryan Krauss
Hannah Sledge
Jennifer Williams, Chair

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
Paul Amara
*Lisa Bender,
*Cathy Berkey, UMW Rep
Andrew Burd-Harris, EDUCATE Committee Chair
Pamela Ford
*Grace Hanft, GRANT Committee Chair
Joe Hopkins
*Douglas Hoy, Disaster Response Director
*Bill Klebe
*Dusty Knisely
Anna Layman Knox
*Paul Kreisher
Jason Mackey, Staff
*Ken Mengel, ENGAGE Committee Chair
Mark Messner, Chair
*Dave Pugh
Brent Salsgiver, EMPOWER Committee Chair

*Michelle Schwartzman, VIM Director
*Joy Shields
Robert Strozyk
*Phyllis Terwilliger
*Flo Waybright, Secretary
Jacob Waybright

DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRY TEAM

*Douglas Hoy, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator
*William Toner, Early Response Team Coordinator
Serving Opportunity, Spiritual/Emotional Care Coordinator

District Disaster Response Coordinators
Altoona – Serving Opportunity
Harrisburg – Serving Opportunity
Lewisburg – Kelly Kocher-Ross
Scranton/Wilkes - Barre - *Ron Lucas
State College – Serving Opportunity
Williamsport – Serving Opportunity
York – Serving Opportunity

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION COUNCIL

Richard Bender
*John Best
*Carl Koch
*Paul Kreisher

*Ron Lucas
*Michelle Schwartzman, VIM Director
*Joy Shields
Chuck Steele
*Bill Toner

COMMISSION ON INCLUSIVENESS

Paul Amara
Miguel Arenas
Alice Baer
*Cathy Berkey
*Frank Derby

Mitchell Galloway
Nancy Goff
Sarah Kim
Anna Layman Knox
*Milton Loyer

COMMISSION ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

*Alice Baer
*Charles Frank
*Hannah Keller
James Lewis
*Wanda Lewis

*Ruby Olson, Secretary
Bishop Jeremiah J. Park, Cabinet
*Jack Richardson
Richard Robinson, Chair

COMMISSION ON CHILD ADVOCACY

Phyllis Bowers
*Carol Brown
*Janet Fischer Byers
*Malinda Davidson
Therese Finney

*Susan Forney
*Pepper Hewes
*Lisa Hopkins
*Kayt Hughes
*Mary Ellen Kauffman

*Lucie Pentz
*Thom Pentz
*Ronda Peters
*Heather Tebeau
G Edwin Zeiders, Chair

SAFE SANCTUARIES TEAM

*Nancy Cartwright
Denise Haskins

*Louise Rynd
Les Towsey

William Westbrook Sr
Jason Mackey, DCM
REPORT 11-C: DISTRICT NOMINATIONS

Board of Church Location and Building
Committee on Ordained Ministry
Committee on Superintendency

ALTOONA DISTRICT

BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING
*J Richard Fruth
Myron Jones, Chair
*Chris Pyles
*Robert Refiner

COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
Jim House
Kevin Locker
Julia Piper, Chair
*Sylvia Smith
*Beth Taylor
Joleen Willis

COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY
Tina Hawkins, Chair
*William Hine
*Scott McClelland
*Sue O’Brien
*Sandy Steele
*Sallie Swenson
Randy Willis

HARRISBURG DISTRICT

BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING
Richard Denison Jr, Chair
*Kathleen Hoover
James Lewis
*Kathleen Hoover
*Shelly Lilly
*Susan Pigott
Leslie Towsey
*Randy Umberger
*Edward Wagner

COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
Dennis Adams
Karen Atanasoff, Registrar
Duane Bardo
Lori Betsworth
*Carol Diffenbaugh
Adam Estep
*Donna Friedrich
Mindi Gochnauer
Judi Herrold
Mira Hewlett, Chair
Lisa Klinger, Secretary
Steve Livermore
John Overman
Patricia Woolever

COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY
*Michael Brubaker
*Jefferson Davenport
Therese Finney
Jan Hughes, Chair
*Shawn Klinger
Kenneth Kitzmiller
*Joe Popp
*Barbara Servellos
*Kenneth Slippery
*Pamela Wolfersperger

LEWISBURG DISTRICT

BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING
R Kenneth Gunter
Howard Leh, Chair
*Thomas Long
Jennifer Parks-Snyder
*Ron Pope
Robert Rice
*Ned Weaver
*Sam Wood

COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
Candace Arnold
Randall Bennett Jr
JP Bohanan
Audrey Brosious, Chair
David Dearing
Joan Dodson, Registrar
Jennifer Heikes
Carvel May
*Pam Perna
Michael Swimley, Secretary
*John Trathen
COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY
Randall Bennett Jr, Chair
*Andy Bucke
*Jaime Carpenter
*Robert Hess
Daniel Hicks
Kelly Kocher-Ross
Paul Kreisher
*Jessica Olenginski
Matthew Verstraeten

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE DISTRICT
*Conrad Bosley, Chair
William Lewis
*Miguel Arenas
Robin Baer
Michael Bealla
Jon Buxton
*Allison Hastings
Jay Jones, Vice-chair
Donald Olsommer Sr
*Barbara Mark
Scott Ryan
*Nancy Trimm

COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY
George Baird, Chair
Wesley Bealla
Ian Hastings
Robert Kidder
*Jennifer Lucas
Karen McCachren
Rebecca McGee
*Faye Maring

STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT
Ronald Baker
Terence Brosius
*Philip DeHaas
Mark Johnson, Chair
*Ray Hazel
James Hollister
*Joyce Kerr
Eugene McCallips
Calvin Miller
*Stanley Sones
*Donald Spackman
*Grant Walk

COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
Ronald Baker
Michelle Bodle
Andrew Bard-Harris
Pamela Ford
Alison Grove
*Ray Hazel
*Steven Bainbridge
*Blannie Bowen
Deb Dailey
*Robert Kidder
Rachel Horst
Randy Hughes
Mark Johnson
Laura King
Karen McCachren
Greg Milinovich, Chair
Andrew Morgan
Jeffrey Mugridge
*Kari Swigart
Beth Stutler
Elizabeth R Taylor
Karen Weiss
Richard Williams

COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY
*Steven Bainbridge
*Blannie Bowen
Deb Dailey
*Robert Kidder
*Jennifer Lucas
Karen McCachren
Rebecca McGee
*Faye Maring

WILLIAMSPORT DISTRICT
*Dawn Blanchard
*Shirley Crawley
*Larry Foor, Chair
*Robert Franklin
*Arthur Gladfelter
*Meda Hilfiger
*Carl Koch
*Randall Mills
*Liston Pepper
*Hugh Seeley
COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY

*Candice Chase
Michael Gardy
Rich Hanlon
Thomas Harmic
*Susan Heyler, CLM Registrar

Lenore Hosier, Chair
*Randall Laird
Helen Learr, Secretary
Scott Ogden
John Piper Jr, Registrar

Edward Prowant
*Perry Reed
David Simon
*Gail Vaughan
*Alene York

COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY

*Robert Bauder
*Candice Chase
Josh Davinsizer
*Elaine Gustafson

Joe Hopkins, Chair
Kathleen Keller
*Gerald “Arnie” Kriner

*Mary Richart
*Darlene Smith
*Patricia Wittig

YORK DISTRICT

BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING

*Marie Arcuri
Grant Brouse
Dennis Hummel, Chair

*Paul Ilyes
*Kenton McGinnis
*Paula Shearer

Mack Smith
Charles Sprenkle
*David Tostle

COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY

*Alice Baer
Michael Baughman, Chair
Dianne Bentley
*Gerald Bowman
Sal Buonocore

Jane Harrison
Beth Holz
Albert Horst
John Kratz
*William Leight

Brian Lucas
Keith Schmuck
*Betsy Speer
Jennett Wert

COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY

*Mark Burkhart
Ronald Doverspike, Chair
Trisha Guise
*Matthew Hartman

Donna Hildebrand
*William Ingram
*Maurice Kaiser
Richard Robinson

Richard Smith
*Larry Speer
*Marty Wagner

REPORT 11-D: CONFERENCE-RELATED INSTITUTIONS

1. LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Bishop Jeremiah J Park

2. NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Neighborhood (four members)

*Margaret Carrow
*Ellis Roy

Greater Harrisburg (five members)

*Cheryl Akers
Karen Atanasoff
*Andrea Beck
*Atiya Brown
*Tressa Thomas

United Methodist Women (four members)

*Lenny Baumbaugh
*Cathy Berkey
*Ann Huff

Members-at-Large (four members)

*Ilecia Bukner
*Jimetta Colston
*NaTasha Lewis
*Liann Migash

Bishop’s Representative
Thomas Salsgiver

Staff

*Kyla Harvey, Executive Director

Officers for 2019:
President: Cheryl Akers
Vice President:
Secretary: NaTasha Lewis
Treasurer:
3. THE UNITED METHODIST STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION

Officers: President: Miguel Arenas
Voting Members of the Board of Directors

Members elected by Annual Conference for three-year terms in classes:

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<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>x Miguel Arenas</td>
<td>x* Brenda Hoerner</td>
<td>x** Matt Hartman</td>
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<td>x Richard Berg</td>
<td>x Kevin Locker</td>
<td>x* Rebecca Holland</td>
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<td>x* Ann Carney</td>
<td>x* Mark Reimard</td>
<td>x* Ray Sandy</td>
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<td>x* Ernest Mellinger</td>
<td>x* Ed Trainor</td>
<td>x David Simon</td>
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Ex-Officio Members
Resident Bishop or designate: Gregory Myers
President Conference Board of Trustees or designate: TBD
DCM or designate: Jason Mackey

Non-Voting Members
Chair, CF & A or designate: Robert Kazinski
Conference Treasurer or designate: *Joni Way (Interim)
Executive Director of Stewardship Foundation: Phyllis Bowers

4. WESLEY FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP TEAM
(Articles of Incorporation - Article 9 - Section 3)
* Derondah Boothe
* Louis Geschwindner
* Robert Nystrom
* Jean Chirpas
* Jennifer Gruendler
* Taylor Pawlik
* Rebecca Connelly
* Susan Justice
* Lori Steffensen
* Karen Eklund
Gregory Milinovich
Debra Young
* Steve Falke, Chair

5. WYOMING SEMINARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Seminary officers are reported by virtue of its historical relationship with the Annual Conference.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Leslie Bullock</td>
<td>* Stephen Killian</td>
<td>* Lisa Baker</td>
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12. Communications Ministry

In 2018, the Communications Ministry of the Susquehanna Conference has undergone changes in personnel as well as vision, in order to looking toward the future of the Annual Conference. Our work has supported the ministries and organizations of the Conference, delivered stories and developments at all levels of the United Methodist Church, from General Conference to our local churches, and we have worked to equip congregations to fulfill their mission by:

- **Growing Spiritual and Transformational Leaders** by supporting the ministry offices of the Annual Conference, building graphic elements and a new web presence, telling the stories of our Camp and Retreat Ministries, producing videos from various workshops, and creating written and video stories of the ministries of local churches to be shared with the membership of the annual conference.

- **Equipping Congregations for Vitality** through promotional, audio/visual and media relations work in the Impact! Harrisburg initiative; Supporting the first Navigate conference in audio/visual needs and video coverage of all workshops; and produced a variety of printed and digital resource material for the Equipping Vital Congregations office, including a new website and social media presence.

- **Creating New Places for New People**, the Communications Ministry produced marketing materials through each of the stages of the Impact! Harrisburg, Fresh Expressions, and New Places for New People initiatives.

- **Connecting with each other and to the world** by utilizing social media, a web presence, a library of video content, the Susquehanna LINK news publication, and the QuikLink email system. We helped relay the stories and developments of the 2019 Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri back to the Conference as delegates from around the world met to debate and discern the United Methodist Church’s way forward. The Communications Ministry looks forward to the coming year of the annual conference and supporting local churches and ministries in a variety of ways.

Shawn Gilgore and Janelle Walker,
Director and Associate Director of Communications Ministry
13. Conference Lay Leader and Laity Leadership

Laity continue to work in a variety of ways at all levels of the Susquehanna Conference to advance lay ministry and make disciples of Jesus Christ in Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania, and throughout the world.

At the local and district levels, laity continue to be equipped within Lay Speaking Ministries and Lay Servant Ministries. Many laity initiatives, specific to the local churches and districts, have been reported on the Conference website and QuikLINK, as well as within the newsletters and websites of the Districts. All these initiatives as well as the ones below, continue to reflect the historical strength of the local laity within the Susquehanna Conference.

Lay volunteer teams from churches are continually serving here and abroad: they continue to assist areas in recovery or with rehabilitation projects, or with services within local communities. Laity from various churches within each District provide specific assistance outside their church walls to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Some specific District-level leadership items worth noting include the following:

- District Lay Leaders serve as members of the Lay Servant Ministries Teams/Committees within Districts for planning and organizing Lay Servant and Lay Speaker trainings, thereby growing spiritual, transformational leaders.
- District Lay Leaders serve on District Superintendency Committees, carrying out the Discipline responsibilities in partnership with the District Superintendent, insuring that the Districts’ needs are addressed, and conducting annual inspections of the parsonage.
- District Lay Leaders serve on District Vitality Teams, partnering with other laity and clergy to provide greater impacts in the areas of leadership development, revitalization, creating new places for new people, and coaching/accountability, all for the equipping of vital congregations.

The Conference, Associate Conference and District Lay Leaders also serve in many other capacities at local churches, Conference Camps, Conference Committees and Boards and at other locations and events within and outside the Susquehanna Annual Conference.

During this past year throughout the Conference, District Lay Servant Ministry Teams/Committees have continued to sponsor sessions of “Equipping God’s People”. This initiative is designed to assist laity in local churches grow in leadership and guide their congregations to greater effectiveness in disciple making. In addition to helping to prepare leadership for churches, the completed course (24 hours in length) fulfills the training requirements for Certified Lay Servants.

The Conference Lay Leader (CLL) continues to actively participate within Full Cabinet and several Committees (Episcopacy, Nominations, and Sessions), Boards (Ordained Ministry and Pensions), as well as the Leadership Development and Executive Leadership Teams of the Conference. The respective reports from these entities cover their achievements and recommendations for this past year and will not be repeated in this report. The CLL also serves on the Jurisdictional Vision Table, representing the Conference Lay Leaders of the Jurisdiction, and he chairs the Jurisdictional Conference Lay Leaders’ Association. The CLL participated in the Jurisdictional Lay Leadership training and annual meeting held in Springfield, MA and the national training and annual meeting held in Santa Fe, NM.

The CLL also organized and led the Laity Session at 2018 Annual Conference, including a community building activity during the Session.

The CLL continues to work with Conference staff to maintain lay ministry web pages on the Conference website. At http://susumc.org/layministry/ , the reader will find lay ministry resources that are available within each of the Districts.

Thanks be to God, and for His love for each one of us, making us alive with Christ. It is with this life and love that we listen for God, listen to one another, and change the world … together.

John Konieczny
Conference Lay Leader
14. Council on Finance & Administration

Each year the financial books of the Annual Conference are audited. The 2018 financials have been audited by Kern and Company, PC located in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Given the whole report is quite lengthy, what follows is the “Independent Auditors’ Report” which is the copied opening pages of detailed report. Please note the auditors’ unqualified opinion in regard to our financials.

Independent Auditors’ Report

Rev. Dr. Timothy Baer, President of CF&A and
Conference Treasurer
Susquehanna Conference of
the United Methodist Church
303 Mulberry Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3141

Dear Rev. Dr. Baer and Conference Treasurer:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church (the Conference), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2018, and the related statement of activities, statement of changes in net assets, statement of functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the
effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church as of December 31, 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 16 to the financial statements, in 2018, the Conference adopted new accounting guidance under FASB Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2016-14. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matter

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The financial summary of the Conference’s Loan Fund on page 33 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We have previously audited the Conference’s 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our reports dated May 4, 2018, April 21, 2017, March 31, 2016 and July 24, 2015, respectively. In our opinion, the summarized information of the Conference’s Loan Fund presented herein as of and for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, is consistent in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

March 8, 2019

KERN AND COMPANY, PC
15. Disabilities Awareness Task Force

Our Mission—Our Mission is to lead the Susquehanna Conference in creating a culture where people with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of worship, leadership, ministry, and mission. We will work to advocate for the needs of people with disabilities, empower people with disabilities, and educate members of our churches and communities about issues related to disabilities and disability awareness.


Our History—On January 18 2019, the Susquehanna Conference established a Disabilities Ministries Task Force. The task force comes under the umbrella of Inclusiveness and Connecting Ministries. We also work in close connection with the DisAbility Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church and the Association of United Methodist Ministers with Disabilities, an official caucus group within the greater United Methodist Church.

We also work in close partnership with the Mental Health Task Force of the Susquehanna Conference (Rev. Evelyn Madison, Chair) and Child Advocacy (Rev. Ed Zeiders, Chair).

How We Are Making Disciples—In order for us to be a make disciples, it is important for us to consider how we can fully integrate people from all marginalized groups into the Body of Christ. This includes people with disabilities.

The Disability Ministries Task Force recognizes that people with disabilities are less likely to attend worship services (Grevich, 2016). Furthermore, one study found that more than half of parents with children with special needs reported that their child had been excluded from a worship service (ibid).

The Disability Ministry Task force is a grassroots movement of laity and clergy who believe in the importance of fully incorporating all people into the Body of Christ. The Disability Ministry Task force seeks to not only minister to people with disabilities, but to be in ministry with people with disabilities.

As our congregations continue to age throughout the conference, many more people will develop disabilities over the coming years. The Disability Ministry Task Force seeks to empower the people with disabilities who are already connected to our churches for leadership, provide radical hospitality to people in our communities who have disabilities, and advocate for the needs of both clergy and laity with disabilities in the Susquehanna Conference.

The Book of Discipline 2016, ¶653, states, "There shall be in each annual conference a committee on disability concerns or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry and maintain the connectional relationship." It also states that, "The basic membership of the committee shall be nominated and elected by established procedures of the respective annual conference. Each annual conference shall determine the number and composition of the total membership."

The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that, “We recognize and affirm the full humanity and personhood of all individuals with mental, physical, developmental, neurological, and psychological conditions or disabilities as full members of the family of God (¶162I).”

The Social Principles also affirms that people with disabilities have a “rightful place in both the Church and society,” and the need for the church to be in ministry with "children, youth, and adults," who have "mental, physical, developmental, and/or psychological and neurological conditions," or other disabilities that might make it more challenging for them to participate “in the life of the Church and the community."

Furthermore, The Social Principles urges the church, “to recognize and receive the gifts of persons with disabilities to enable them to be full participants in the community of faith.”

Concern for people with disabilities is rooted in our Biblical call as Christians as well as in the church polity of the United Methodist Church. Jesus himself gave us a mandate to serve, “the least of these. (Matthew 25:40).”

What We Have Accomplished—Since our inception on January 18, 2019 we have completed the following tasks;

1. We have offered to pay for an ASL Interpreter for Annual Conference 2019: In order to make disciples, all people must be able to “hear,” the Good News in their own language; therefore, we have worked to an ASL Interpreter for the 2019 Annual Conference. Due to budgetary constraints, as well as other complications, Annual Conference 2019 was not going to have our regularly scheduled ASL interpreter.
The Disability Ministry Task Force believes that it is of the utmost importance to have worship accessible for all people. People who are deaf are children of God and therefore deserve to be fully integrated into worship. We believe that this is especially true at the ordination service because many guests are visiting and we do not know who has a friend or family member who is deaf or hard of hearing.

After checking with the Annual Conference worship committee, we were told that our regularly scheduled ASL interpreter cost $300.00. The Disability Ministry Task Force has offered to donate the necessary funds in order to pay the annual conference to provide for an ASL interpreter. At this point, we have been told by the conference worship committee that they need to check to make sure that they can accept this donation and that they will need to check to see if this donation is an acceptable arrangement.

At the time of the preparation of this report (March 15, 2019) we are still waiting for a response from the worship committee. Rev. Jenett Wertz has graciously offered to volunteer her time in order to interpret any written portions of the worship services, including prayers and hymns; however, she requests that she be provided with these materials in advance. We are grateful for Rev. Wertz’s service. However, it is our hope to pay for an ASL Interpreter so that the homily can be translated.

The ASL Interpreter was not only an accommodation- she was a symbol. Her presence at Annual Conference was a clear display that our conference was making an effort to include all people in the family of God.

2. We conducted a Worship Accessibility Survey of the entire conference: In order to make disciples, all people must be able to fully participate in worship; therefore, we conducted a conference wide survey on accessibility needs for inclusive worship. The survey can be found on our website (DisabilityUMC.org). The most requested accommodations were:

-That we keep the ASL Interpreter
-That we provide bulletins and worship materials in a digital format so that they can be accessed by people with print disabilities
-That we provide bulletins and worship materials in large print
-That we make the stage accessible for people who use wheelchairs. At this point, a person in a wheelchair would not be able to access the stage. This could be a problem for an ordination service or for a retirement service.

3. We created a website and purchased a unique domain name (DisabilityUMC.org): In order to make disciples, we have worked to communicate the fact that God loves all people and that all people are of sacred worth; therefore, we have created a website to communicate this message. Our website includes resources, news, and a weekly blog.

Our website will be used as a way to collect resources and information that will be helpful to the people of the Susquehanna Conference. The website will include a curated group of resources that relate to issues of disability, advocacy, outreach, empowerment, and awareness. You can find our website at: DisabilityUMC.org

4. We created a Facebook Page. Our Facebook Page has over two hundred “likes” and continues to grow. We post regularly to the Facebook Page in order to continue to raise awareness and communicate disability related news. You can find us at @SUSUMCDisability.

5. We have developed a monthly newsletter and mailing list: The Disability Ministries Task Force of the Susquehanna Conference has created a monthly newsletter which will be sent to individuals and local churches who are interested in receiving news, worship resources, and other information that relates specifically to issues of disability and disability awareness. If you would like to sign up for our mailing list, please visit DisabilityUMC.org

Our Future Plans for 2019-2020-

16. Pray for the life of the church and especially for the needs of clergy and laity with disabilities.
17. Create a List of Available Accommodations: The Disability Ministries Task Force will work to compile a list which will be maintained on our website in which any church in the Susquehanna Conference that has accommodations available (such as hearing assistive devices or an elevator) can choose to be listed in order to make it easier for people in the conference with disabilities to find places where they can worship.
18. Educate & Advise: The Disability Ministries Task Force will make themselves available to speak with and advise local churches if a local church has questions about ways in which they can become more accessible. The Disability Ministries Task Force will also provide seminars, webinars, workshops, and other educational opportunities for individuals and local churches who are interested in learning more about accessibility issues, disability awareness, and empowering people with disabilities. Our goal is to have at least one resource person in each district.
19. Advocate for the needs of clergy and laity with disabilities.
20. **Offer support** to conference boards of Discipleship (camping, Christian education), Global Ministries (disaster and mission programs, health-care institutions), and Older Adult Ministries to help them ensure that their ministries promote full participation for persons with disabilities.

21. **Raise Awareness**: Members of the Disability Ministries Task force will work to raise awareness that the committee exists and wants to help churches and individuals.

22. Establish a **Disability Awareness Sunday for the Susquehanna Conference** as the second Sunday in October by promoting awareness about issues related to disabilities, providing a space for people with disabilities to participate in worship leadership, and participating (if churches choose to do so) in a special offering for Advanced Special #3021054 to benefit The United Methodist Disability Ministry Committee; this special offering will support the ongoing efforts of disabilities ministries throughout the global United Methodist connection. (*Note: Disability Awareness Sunday is part of a resolution which we have currently sent to annual conference).*

**Where Do I Begin?** - If you are looking for easy ways to make your church more accessible, we recommend the article, "**16 Easy the Church Can Be More Accessible to People with Disabilities.**" This article was written by the chair of our task force and can be found for free on her website at BeckieWrites.com.

You can also find an abundance of great resources at the website for the Disability Ministries of the United Methodist Church located at UMCDMC.org.

Are you a clergy person with a disability? We encourage you to view the work of The United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities at UMDisabledMinisters.org and to consider joining our caucus.

**Serve With Us-Is God calling you to serve on the Disabilities Ministries Task Force?** We are especially looking for laity to serve with us. If you are interested in joining the Task Force, please contact Rev. Rebecca Holland at RHolland@ssume.org You can also contact us for questions or other inquiries at our website at DisabilityUMC.org. We would love to hear from you!


### 16. Disaster Response

**In October 2018, Douglas Hoy was hired as the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator after the position had been vacant for nearly a year. After reviewing the Disaster Response Ministry, the following goals were established.**

1. **Growing**
   a. Increase involvement in the Disaster Response Ministry.
   i. Current ministry needs include:
      1. Supporting more laity and/or clergy with a call to serve as Disaster Response Coordinators in the following Districts: Altoona, Harrisburg, State College, Williamsport, and York.
         a. Thank you to Pastors Kelly Kocher-Ross and Brian Lucas for your willingness to serve in the Lewisburg District.
         b. Thank you to Reverend Doug Sivers and Ron Lucas for serving the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District.
      2. Enlisting representatives to participate in local disaster recovery committees and organizations.
         a. Thank you to Ron Salsman for serving with the North Central Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (NCVOAD) and the Bradford-Sullivan Long Term Flood Recovery Coalition (B-S LTFRC).
         b. Thank you to Ron Lucas for representing the Conference on the Susquehanna County Long Term Recovery Committee (SCLTRC).
   2. Partnering with more congregations to provide trained volunteers to support disaster relief/recovery efforts, when necessary.

2. **Equipping**
   a. Update the Conference Disaster Response Plan to better equip congregations with the tools necessary to prepare for, respond to, and recover from various types of disasters.
      i. An ongoing process with an expected introduction during 2019 Annual Conference.
      b. Provide and attend training and seminars related to emergency management, disaster response, and health and safety to improve ministry and volunteer preparedness.
         i. Attended UMCOR Conference Disaster Response Coordinators Fall Academy at the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana.
         ii. Attended PA South Central Task Force Annual Health and Safety Workshop at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.
         iii. Working to coordinate and provide active shooter training opportunities as well as Early Response Team (ERT) training, ERT Train-the-Trainer course, and first aid/CPR training.
c. Establish a Disaster Response Grant program to assist with Conference disaster fund management and distribution as well as equip congregations with the resources they need to provide disaster support to the community.
   i. Developed a grant program to identify and aid local congregations as they reach out to a community facing hardships and provide spiritual support and material resources during the response, relief, and recovery phases of a disaster.
   ii. Awarded grants to multiple churches to aid in flood relief and recovery.
   d. Secure outside emergency assistance to aid in disaster relief and recovery efforts, as necessary.
      i. Obtained an UMCOR Solidarity Grant to assist with the flood relief efforts of the SCLTRC in Susquehanna County, through the First UMC, New Milford.
         1. Thanks to Reverend Jane Pykus and Tom Meyer for their leadership as co-chairs of the SCLTRC.
   e. Expand ministry capabilities
      i. Supported completion of construction for a fourth volunteers-in-mission/disaster response trailer.
         1. Partnering with local congregations to outfit this trailer with the necessary supplies and equipment to make it operational.
         2. Specifically, ongoing planning to develop an “Adopt-A-Trailer” or “Fill-the-Trailer” campaign to achieve this goal.
      ii. Establish a disaster response spiritual care/emotional support program and enlist/train a Spiritual Care Coordinator and team members.
         1. Special thanks to Karen Harvey Nelson and Debbie Heisley-Cato of the Center for Spiritual Formation for your continued assistance.

3. Connecting
   a. Expanding the presence of the Disaster Response Ministry into communities and providing opportunities to share love of Jesus through disaster response.
      i. The ministry is moving in a positive direction within this area through participation, membership, and/or representation in, or collaboration with, organizations such as the PA Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (PA VOAD), NCVOAD, B-S LTFRC, and SCLTRC.
      ii. Furthermore, the ministry is currently active in flood relief/recovery efforts in Susquehanna County, ministering to the residents by conducting debris removal, minor home repair, appliance repair/replacement, and roofing, electrical, and plumbing services. Additionally, the financial support received from congregations through the Disaster Response Advance (#8055) and UMCOR Sunday giving has allowed this ministry to provide temporary housing, cover medical expenses, and address the immediate needs of those affected.

Doug Hoy
Disaster Response Coordinator

17. Discovery Place

Since the summer of 1997 Discovery Place has been resourcing local churches of the Susquehanna Conference as they fulfill their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are the embodiment of how we can be “better together” in our connectional system. Discovery Place is fully funded by your shares of ministry, so these are YOUR resources to use!

In 2018 we added over 40 new resources to our library, many of them with multiple copies. We sent out nearly 800 resources to churches across the Susquehanna Conference. In 2019 we will continue to order materials on a variety of topics as they are published, or as we receive recommendations of exceptional resources. Sunday School teachers and small group leaders will especially want to check out what we offer. Our resources will help grow spiritual transformational leaders, equip congregations for vital ministries in their communities and the world, and connect with each other and the world to be alive in Christ together.

Our website is www.discovery-place.org, and we have an online catalog containing an up-to-date list of the resources available in Discovery Place. You can place an order directly through the online catalog, email discovery@sumc.org, or call us at 717-766-7968. Orders can be picked up or mailed to you, in a bag that you will use to return the materials. (We even give you mailing instructions and an address card!) The only cost to you is the return postage.

Please help us spread the word that we are here! We are located at the Conference Center, 303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. Our hours are 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (summer hours: close at noon on Fridays). Other hours, including evenings and Saturdays, can be arranged. We look forward to serving you.

Joni Robison, Director

18. Historical Society of the Susquehanna Conference

The Historical Society of the Susquehanna Conference promotes the study of the history of The Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies. The Society also serves to resource local churches in the preservation and dissemination of their particular histories. It works with the Conference Commission on Archives and History in collecting and preserving documents, artifacts, stories and other data relating to the organization and history of the Annual Conference and its local churches.

With the support of the Conference Commission on Archives and History, the Historical Society annually publishes its journal, The Chronicle. Single copies of The Chronicle are provided without cost to the Society’s membership and to each pastoral charge in the Annual Conference. The Chronicle is also available for purchase by others through the Conference Archives and History table at the meeting of the Annual Conference. The Society periodically publishes its newsletter, “Susquehanna Scrabble,” promoting events and learning opportunities to our membership and to others with an interest in the history of the Annual Conference.
The Historical Society held its 2018 Annual Meeting on September 28, 2018 at Historic Salem Chapel in Mechanicsburg. The Meeting was held in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of the founding of Salem Meeting House on the former Stayman family farm. Deeded to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1882, Salem Chapel is the oldest Methodist church building in regular use in the Cumberland Valley. The Society wishes to express its gratitude for the gracious hospitality received from Salem Chapel and Hope United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg.

The Historical Society remains committed to providing all its publications and events without additional cost to members. It likewise remains committed to resourcing all interested parties in the study of the history of Susquehanna Conference.

Rev. Dr. Brand Eaton, President

19. Loan Committee (Seedling Financial Ministry)

This year has seen great changes. We changed our name from Loan Fund to Seedling Financial Ministry. Seedling Financial Ministry, which was formerly known as the Loan Fund (“Seedling”), is a separate designated account within the Conference. The Conference’s Loan committee is tasked with administering Seedling.

Seedling exists primarily to extend loans to United Methodists Churches within the Conference to acquire, construct, renovate and repair church property (including Parsonages). All loans must meet certain specified criteria. In order to fund these loans, Seedling offers and sells a limited class of investors certain non-transferable unsecured investment certificates, which are unsecured debt obligations of the Conference.

Seedling Financial Ministry has helped hundreds of churches acquire, construct, renovate and repair church property. Over the past year, we have equipped churches to become handicapped accessible, purchase adjacent buildings to grow their ministry, replace roofs, repair and/or replace heating and air conditioning units and build additions to house growing ministries. In order to continue to fulfill the needs of our churches, we have a continual need for more investors.

20. Mission U

The purpose of Mission u is “to provide opportunities for persons to grow in understanding of the mission of the church, which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, in the current world context and to initiate opportunities for spiritual and educational experiences, especially in preparation for leadership roles in the United Methodist Women, the church, and the world.”

Our Mission u team works to develop a Conference school for mission education which includes three-day training opportunities for adults, youth, and children as well as two Express Days, one-day events, for teens and adults, during July. The three-day school was held at Bucknell University, and the one-day trainings were offered in Muncy and Chambers Hill. Each year, the school offers a spiritual growth, social issue and geographic study facilitated by United Methodist Women Mission u trained study leaders and support staff. This past year, each adult participant took two eight-hour studies of Covenantal Communities and Missionary Conferences. Mini sessions ranged from topics such as Climate Justice to Mental Health First Aid; a broad array of mission displays, some staffed and others just for exhibit, were also available to attendees.

Our team has focused on equipping pupils, who are both laity and clergy alike, to bring home the information to their communities. Our worship services are printed in our program booklet, and study leaders share notes and presentation materials. We equip attendees to communicate and become involved in mission with the goal to be inspired and challenged to a deeper commitment to Christian service in both local and global communities.

The funding we receive through the Connectional Ministries budget along with funds from United Methodist Women was used to train study leaders and over 250 persons coming from every district of our conference. Many took study information back to their local congregations, United Methodist Women groups, and UMW District members at Spiritual Enrichment Events held throughout the conference. Mission u has also been instrumental in spiritual formation which has led many past and present attendees into the field of mission, ministry, and service. Several have heeded the call to enter ministry and mission full time; Fawn McAllister and I will be the first two Deaconesses in the Susquehanna Conference. Many youth and adult attendees have become active in conference, jurisdictional, and national events. God is most certainly at work through Mission u.

Our main concern lies within the conference itself: how can we attract our Connectional Ministries staff and more people in our community and church, meaning non-UMW members, to attend this exceptional learning opportunity? We are indeed a cooperative school between the Susquehanna Conference and UMW. We do offer CEU’s and publicize through QuikLINK and pastoral and conference mailings, but we would like to see more of a conference presence at our events and in taking an active role on our planning committee. We shifted our three-day school from Friday-Sunday to Thursday-Saturday with the hope of attracting more clergy, and that did improve attendance slightly; however, there is a noticeable absence of staff and men in attendance.

This year, we are excited to offer the studies “Seeking Health and Wholeness” and “What About Our Money?” at our three-day school, July 12-14, 2018, at Bucknell University. We will again have two one-day Express offerings: July 13 at Bucknell, and July 28 at Chambers Hill in the Harrisburg area. Won’t you consider joining us for this unique mission and training event?

Allison Kahn Francesco, Dean
Susquehanna Mission U
21. Preachers’ Aid Society

In 2018 The Preachers’ Aid Society continued its core ministry of aiding pastoral families of the Conference in responding to financial emergencies by distributing $18,731.79 to nine (9) clergy, active or retired. These gifts were almost matched by clergy, lay and congregational membership donations of $17,860.58. Thank you for your support.

2018 also marked the third year of our addressing of seminary debt among our clergy under appointment (who are current in their repayment programs). Here our resources were not as large as in our first two years; nonetheless we were able to reduce the debt of the seven (7) applicants by 10%, paying out $21,279 directly to the lenders. This brings the 2016-2018 distributions toward seminary debt to a total of $875,960, assisting 58 clergy. This was 54% of the seminary debt reported to us by these applicants.

As we mark our 150th year in 2019, we look forward to continuing to aid “preachers” of the Susquehanna Conference. Aid requests are to be requested through the office of a District Superintendent; Seminary Debt assistance requests may be directed to Dr. John Piper at piper@Lycoming.edu. Gifts to support our ministry may be mailed to PAS, P.O. Box 24, Williamsport, PA 17703.

Rev. Myron R. Jones
President, Board of Managers

Financial Report for 2018

Balance on January 1, 2018………………………………………………….. $ 6,651.72

Income
Donations from clergy, laity, and churches........ $ 20,405.58
Withdrawn from investments.............................. $ 62,000.00
Funds deposited.................................................. $ 82,405.58
Funds Available.......................................................... $ 91,017.30

Disbursements
Seminary Debt Program.............................................. $ 67,645.00
Assistance to clergy…(9)........................................... $ 18,731.79

Operating Expenses:
Annual Membership Recruitment expenses........ $ 277.86
Postage..................................................................... $ 340.21
Treasurer’s compensation...................................... $ 1,200.00
United States Postal Service(PO Box rent)............ $ 120.00
G. A. Deck & Associates(2017 audit/asset statement) $ 625.00
Insurance (Officers Bond)........................................ $ 126.00
UM Home for Children (Board meeting gratuity)… $ 150.00
Bank Charges.......................................................... $ 68.00
Printing................................................................. $ 204.00
Total Operating Expenses...................................... $ 3,111.07
Total Disbursements.............................................. $ 89,487.86
Balance on December 31, 2018............................... $ 1,529.44

22. Safe Sanctuaries

Introduction

Heeding Christ’s call to all people to love and serve one another (John 13:15,34); to serve those most vulnerable in his name, even the “least of these” (Matthew 25:40); and to welcome children and youth in Christ’s name (Matthew 18:5), the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church has developed this Safe Sanctuaries Policies with accompanying procedures to reduce the risks of abuse to children, youth and vulnerable adults in the ministries of the local churches and the annual conference. This Safe Sanctuaries Policies comes out of the guiding covenant of the Susquehanna Conference, “…acknowledging that it is by God’s grace that we live together in covenant agreement”, and focuses on the following covenant agreements:

We covenant together as a conference to diligently seek God’s will as we endeavor to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and,

We covenant to do no harm by words or actions.¹

The physical and emotional safety, as well as the spiritual growth of all God’s children is a priority of the Susquehanna Conference whereby we embrace a commitment to the holistic well-being of each child, youth and adult entrusted to us in ministry through our Conference organization and individual congregations.

As recognized in the 1996 General Conference resolution: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church:

Tragically, churches have not always been safe places for children. Child sexual abuse and exploitation, and ritual abuse occur in churches, both large and small, urban and rural. The problem cuts across all economic, cultural, and racial lines. It is real, and it appears to be increasing. Most annual conferences can cite specific incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation within churches. Virtually every congregation has among its members adult survivors of early sexual trauma. Such incidents are devastating to all who are involved: the child, the family, the local church, and its leaders. Increasingly, churches are torn apart by the legal, emotional, and monetary consequences of litigation following allegations of abuse.²

The Susquehanna Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policies seeks to provide a framework for local churches and the annual conference to practice cyber-safety in computer, internet, cell phone and other evolving cyber technologies to reduce the risk of abuse in our ministries to children, youth and vulnerable adults. United Methodists are a connectional people. As we work to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19), we use the ever-changing cyber technologies available to us to teach about God’s love and to strengthen our connections as the Body of Christ in the world.

In our covenant together to do no harm by word or action, and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we outline in these Policies, a set of minimum standards and suggested procedures for local churches and the annual conference that is in keeping with the 1996 General Conference Safe Sanctuaries resolution, which was reaffirmed in 2004 and 2008, expanded to include abuse risk reduction for vulnerable adults and cyber safety considerations.

The Susquehanna Conference shall:

- develop safety and risk-reducing policies and procedures for Conference-sponsored events such as camps, retreats, youth gatherings, childcare at conference events, mission trips, and other events for which the Conference or its agency or program is the sponsor;
- approve Safe Sanctuaries Policy and assign the Discipleship Resources Team for implementation. The Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policies shall be posted on the Conference website, circulated in Conference publications, and shared with lay professionals and clergy at district or Conference seminars; and
- develop training opportunities to help local church leaders know the importance and understanding of creating a Safe Sanctuaries Policies for the local church.

Local churches in the Susquehanna Conference shall:

- develop a Safe Sanctuaries Policies for their church;
- develop and implement an ongoing education plan for the congregation and its leaders on the reality of child abuse, risk factors leading to child abuse, and strategies for prevention;
- adopt screening procedures (use of application forms, interviews, reference checks, background clearances, and so forth) for staff, volunteers, employees, and helpers (paid and unpaid) directly or indirectly involved in the care of children, youth, and vulnerable adults;
- develop and implement safety procedures for church activities such as having two or more nonrelated adults present in classroom or activity; leaving doors open and installing half-doors or windows in doors or halls; providing hall monitors; instituting sign-in and sign-out procedures for children ages ten or younger; cyber safety for e-mail, internet, and cell phone use, and appropriate abuse allegation or Policies violation reporting procedures.
- become informed as to who are mandatory reporters; may use this website for free training with mandatory reporting. www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu.
- advise children, youth, and vulnerable adults of ChildLine or a person outside as well as within the local church whom they can contact for advice and help if they have suffered abuse;
- become informed about any liability coverage carried by the Conference applicable to child safety;
- assist the development of awareness and self-protection skills for children, youth, and vulnerable adults through special curriculum and activities;
- be familiar with Annual Conference and other church policies regarding clergy and lay leader sexual misconduct; and
- designate the appropriate person/group within the local church to fulfill these (e.g. Safe Sanctuaries coordinator, task force, etc.).

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¹ Ibid
² The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church, 1996 (p.384); 2004 (p.201). The United Methodist Publishing House: Nashville, TN
This Susquehanna Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policies, with its minimum standards and recommended procedures, seeks to assist local churches and conference ministries in their covenant commitments to reduce the risk of abuse in ministries with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

What is Safe Sanctuaries?
In 1996, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted the resolution, Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church. This resolution, reaffirmed at every General Conference since then, became the impetus for annual conferences and congregations to develop and implement abuse risk reduction policies. The General Board of Discipleship has identified Safe Sanctuaries as reducing the risk of abuse in the church for children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

What is abuse?
“Child Abuse” is defined under Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Services Law 23 Pa.C.S. A §6303(b)(1) to mean any of the following:

(i) any recent act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes nonaccidental serious physical injury to a child under 18 years of age.
(ii) an act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes nonaccidental serious mental injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.
(iii) any recent act, failure to act, or series of acts or failures to act by a perpetrator which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.
(iv) serious physical neglect by a perpetrator constituting prolonged or repeated lack of supervision or the failure to provide essentials of life, including adequate medical care, which endangers a child’s life or development or impairs the child’s functioning.

Section 6303(b)(2) No child shall be deemed to be physically or mentally abused based on injuries that result solely from environmental factors that are beyond the control of the parent or person responsible for the child’s welfare, such as inadequate housing, furnishings, income, clothing, and medical care.

Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law 23 Pa.C.S.A.§6303(b)(3) also provides that, “If, upon investigation, the county agency determines that a child has not been provided needed medical or surgical care because of seriously held religious beliefs of the child’s parents, guardian, or person responsible for the child’s welfare, which beliefs are consistent with those of a bona fide religion, the child shall not be deemed to be physically or mentally abused. The county agency shall closely monitor the child and shall seek court-ordered medical intervention when the lack of medical or surgical care threatens the child’s life or long-term health.”

In Safe Sanctuaries, Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth, 2008, Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN, Joy Thornsburg Melton defines and describes five types of abuse:

1. **Physical Abuse** is “abuse in which a person deliberately and intentionally causes bodily harm to a child. Examples may include violent battery with a weapon (knife, belt, strap, etc), burning, shaking, kicking, choking, fracturing bones, and any of a wide variety of non-accidental injuries to a child’s body.” (Melton 2008, pg. 29-30)
2. **Emotional Abuse** is “abuse in which a person exposes a child to spoken and/or unspoken violence or emotional cruelty. Emotional abuse sends a message to the child of worthlessness, badness, and being not only unloved but undeserving of love and care. Children exposed to emotional abuse may have experienced being locked in a closet, being deprived of any sign of parental affection, being constantly told they are bad or stupid, or being allowed or forced to abuse alcohol or drugs. Emotional abuse is often very difficult to prove and devastating to the victim.” (Melton, 2008, pp 30)
3. **Neglect** is “abuse in which a person endangers a child’s health, safety, or welfare through negligence. Neglect may include withholding food, clothing, medical care, education, and even affection and affirmation of the child’s self-worth.” (Melton, 2008, pp 30) If a parent cannot provide adequate care for a child due to poverty, infirmity, or other disability, their negligence is not legally categorized as abuse, although the neglected person still needs to be cared for.
4. **Sexual Abuse** is “abuse in which sexual contact between a child and an adult (or another older and more powerful youth) occurs. The child is never truly capable of consenting to or resisting such contact and/or such sexual acts. Often, the child is physically and psychologically dependent upon the perpetrator of the abuse. Examples of sexual abuse may include fondling, intercourse, incest, and the exploitation of and exposure to child pornography or prostitution.” (Melton, 2008, pp 30)
5. **Ritual Abuse** is “abuse in which physical, sexual, or psychological violations of a child are inflicted regularly, intentionally, and in a stylized way by a person or persons responsible for the child’s welfare. The abuser may appeal to some higher authority or power to justify the abuse. The abuse may include cruel treatment of animals or repeated threats of harm to the child, other persons, and animals. Reports of ritual abuse are often extremely horrifying and may seem too grim to be true. Children making such reports must not be ignored.” (Melton, 2008, pp 30)

**Definitions**
1. A **child** is anyone under the age of 18 years.
2. A **youth** is a child in the age range of 12 to 18 years, and is a colloquial term used in ministries to mean junior and senior high school age groups.
3. A **vulnerable adult** is any person, 18 years and older, who might fit in the following three categories:
a. **Persons with Special Needs** – those who because of physical or mental infirmity or emotional disability or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunctions may be vulnerable to maltreatment.

b. **Former Victims or Offenders** – those who have experienced physical, sexual, mental, or emotional abuse will always carry those scars and special care should be taken in the course of ministry. Similarly, those who have committed such offences may still seek a discipling relationship and special arrangements may need to be made to keep them away from children, but also keep them safe from further accusations.

c. **Elders** – older adults are especially vulnerable to abuse in many forms. As they may be reliant on their care givers, with limited mobility and limited communication, special care must be taken to look out for all forms of abuse, as well as financial exploitation.

4. **Staff Person** – a person engaged in ministry to children, youth, or vulnerable adults through the Conference or Local Church who:
   a. has been screened and trained in Safe Sanctuaries Policies; performs tasks specified in a mutually agreed upon job description;
   b. and is accountable to a supervisor for work habits and products.

5. **Helper** – a person engaged in ministry to children, youth, or vulnerable adults through the Conference or Local Church who has been screened and trained in Safe Sanctuaries Policies, but who works only in an assisting role under supervision of a staff person.

6. **Employee** – a person who works in ministry to children, youth, or vulnerable adults either as a staff person or a helper for compensation.

7. **Volunteer** – a person who works in ministry to children, youth, or vulnerable adults either as a supervisor or a helper without compensation.

8. **Conference Response Team** – a group of people trained in handling situations of abuse. They assist congregations, camps, and events in dealing with the recovery process.

9. **Mandated Reporter** - any individual paid or unpaid, who, on the bases of the individual’s role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity or service, accepts responsibility for a child. A clergyperson, priest, rabbi, minister, Christian Science practitioner, religious healer or spiritual leader of any regularly established church or other religious organization is always a mandated reporter.

**What are the “children, youth, and vulnerable adult ministries and/or activities” covered under this Policies?**

The Conference referred to in this Policies is the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Ministries and/or activities are defined as any ministries to children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults that include any programming or activities in which children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults are under the supervision of the Conference through its staff persons or volunteers.

**Cyber Space and Cyber Safety.** While ministries and activities take place in a variety of venues, new forms of communication via the Internet and wireless cell-phones and other hand-held devices constitute a new space for ministry and activities for children, youth, and vulnerable adults. **Cyber Space** includes: communications via email, instant messaging, and cell phone (speaking and texting), and other devices; communicating on social networking sites such as Facebook; web-surfing and downloading of materials from the Internet; and gaming. **Cyber Space** is a fluid space which changes more and more as communications become more portable and websites change with increasing frequency.

**Cyber Safety** is the part of our Safe Sanctuaries policies that seeks to encourage those in ministry with children, youth, and vulnerable adults to update their knowledge of Cyber Space; provide ground rules for ministries and activities in Cyber Space; encourage critical thinking among those ministered to for posting, reading, and seeing; encourage good sense and safety in Cyber Space; and, model appropriate Cyber Space behaviors. The dangers of direct access to age-inappropriate content, risky social contacts, intimidation, threats, bullying, remade and/or inappropriate photos, information that could increase risks for abuse, and more in Cyber Space make Cyber Safety an important part of Safe Sanctuaries.

**Supervision**

Every ministry or event of the Susquehanna Conference that relates to children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults in its programming or oversight shall provide conscientious supervision. These procedures are designed to reduce the risk of abuse to children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults, and to protect the staff persons and volunteers from unwarranted accusations. These are the MINIMUM standards, and each event may adopt more stringent requirements as deemed reasonably appropriate.

1. Two non-related Adult Rule – Minimum supervisory standards will include the “Two non-related Adult Rule” The Two non-related Adult Rule requires that adults be 18 years of age or older. No matter the size of the group, two non-related adults (defined as two adults not residing in the same household) shall be present with participants at all times. These adults shall have completed the ministry screening process.

2. Five-Years-Older Rule – Every adult responsible for supervision shall be at least 18 years of age and at least five years older than the oldest child or youth event participant.

3. Constant Coverage – No child, youth, or vulnerable adult will be left unsupervised while attending a Susquehanna Conference sponsored event. In the event that child care/infant services are not provided by the conference for a conference sponsored ministry or event (i.e. retreats, small groups, worship services, etc.), the parent or legal guardian shall be fully responsible for their child(ren) during the event. In the event that supervised programming for youth/vulnerable adults is not provided by the conference for any conference sponsored ministry or event (i.e. retreats, small groups, worship services, etc.), the parent or legal guardian shall be fully responsible for the supervision of their youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s) during the event. Said child(ren)/youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s) shall remain in the presence of their parent or legal guardian, and at no time be left alone and unsupervised. Should the parent or legal guardian arrange for their own child care/infant supervision of their child(ren)/youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s) for the Conference sponsored ministry event to occur within the event facility, said child care/youth/vulnerable adult supervision shall be in compliance with the Safe Sanctuaries policies. If parents/legal guardians
refuse to comply with Safe Sanctuaries policies, they and their child(ren)/youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s) will be asked to leave the event.

4. Open Doors/Windows – All activities should occur in open view. Each room or space where activities involving children, youth or vulnerable adults occur shall have visibility from an interior hallway or a connecting room by means of a window, a door with an uncovered window, or an open door.

5. For outdoor programs or programs which occur in non-traditional settings that makes supervision challenging, the staff person or volunteer in charge of the event shall take extra appropriate measures to make sure that the setting is free of obvious safety hazards and suits the event and that the children, youth, and/or vulnerable adult are properly supervised.

6. Bathroom Needs. When possible, children will be encouraged to take care of their own bathroom needs, but should a child require assistance, the outer bathroom door will remain open while a volunteer or staff person assists the child, with an additional volunteer being present. For younger children, assistance will be provided. For elementary-age children, assistance should be limited to unfastening and fastening clothing. If more assistance is needed, parental permission should be received in advance. When accompanying a child to take care of his/her own bathroom needs, the volunteer or staff person will check the bathroom and stalls prior to the child entering the bathroom. Again, the outer bathroom door should be left open. A volunteer (who has not completed the screening process) should never provide assistance with bathroom needs. It is encouraged that with youth that there be a buddy system created to help ensure safety.

7. Event records for activities in which participants are outside of the direct supervision of their parents/legal guardians shall require the following:
   a. Activity Registration, Parental/Legal Guardian Permission, and Signed Emergency Medical Release – including the participant’s name, address, birthday, parent/legal guardian information, telephone number, emergency contact information, pertinent information about the participant such as medical history and insurance information, are required. Permission for pictures to be taken and used in promotional material. These forms will be maintained and secured in a designated folder by the staff person or volunteer in charge of the ministry or event.
   b. All participants who can understand a covenant shall enter into a signed Participation Covenant. In a facility or site that has continuous care, clear, posted rules shall be explained to the participants and their parents/legal guardians at the outset of the program.
   c. Off-Site Activities – Persons coordinating off-site events will assure every participant has completed the appropriate forms and will take copies of these forms along on the event in a folder marked “Emergency Forms.”
   d. Accurate participation records shall be maintained for all conference events or events involving children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults by the staff person or volunteer supervising the event. At a minimum, these records will list the date and hours of the event, its location, the names of the participants as they sign in and out of an event (including whether any were dismissed early and the times of such dismissals), and the names of all adults directly involved in the ministry or event, as well as any other volunteers on site that day.

8. Staff/Leader Supervision – the following minimum ratios will be maintained for on-site activities (in addition to the Two Non-related Adult Rule – see #1, Two Non-related Adult Rule):
   a. Nursery through children two years old – 1:4 (one adult to every four children).
   b. Children 3-4 years-old activities – 1:6 (one adult to every six children).
   c. Kindergarten through grade 6 – 1:8 (one adult to every eight children).
   d. Youth 7-12 grade – 1:10 (one adult to every ten youth).
   e. Special Needs – 1:2 (one adult to every two persons).
   f. Vulnerable adults – 1:2 (one adult to every two persons).
   
   Note: Helpers are not included in computing the ratio.

9. Media – Written permission must be obtained from a parent/legal guardian prior to posting photos of children, youth, or vulnerable adults on a website or in other public locations, and names will not be included. This permission may be obtained as part of the Event Registration form (see 7a., Activity Registration).

10. If a participant requests to speak privately with an adult, the adult will ensure that the adult and the participant are visible to others while talking, even though they may not be heard.

11. Off-Site and Overnight Events/Activities
   a. The following minimum ratios will be maintained for off-site events (in addition to the Two Non-related Adult Rule – see #1, above): In co-ed groups, both male and female adults must be present.
      i. Nursery through 2 years old – 1:3 (one adult to every three children).
      ii. Children 3-4 years-old – 1:3 (one adult to every three children).
      iii. Kindergarten through grade 6 – 1:5 (one adult to every five children).
      iv. Youth 7-12 grade – 1:8 (one adult to every eight youth).
      v. Special needs – 1:2 (one adult to every two persons).
      vi. Vulnerable adults – 1:2 (one adult to every two persons).
   
   Note: Helpers are not included in computing the ratio.

   b. Advance notice will be given to parents/legal guardians prior to events, and will include: date, time, and location, the means of transportation, and a summary of activities and events. Specific parental/legal guardians’ approval for off-site / overnight events is required. Should details of an event’s start/end time change (or other pertinent information change), the event’s coordinator is to have a plan for notifying parents/legal guardians. Changes in transportation plans should be communicated with parents as well.

   c. Events attended by child(ren)/youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s) of both genders must be adequately chaperoned by adults of both genders.
d. All medications and medication instructions shall be given to a designated adult prior to the trip for disbursement as appropriate and will be enclosed in its original container (including prescription medications). [Exception: EpiPens and inhalers may be carried by child(ren)/youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s), with the understanding that they will be secured and out of sight unless needed. Due to the nature of these medications, adult leaders will be aware that the child(ren)/youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s) is carrying medication, and will be familiar with how to use an EpiPen and inhaler in case of emergency]

e. Appropriate buddy systems, check-in times, and appropriate male and female adult supervision need to be established for each ministry or event. The staff person or volunteer in charge of the ministry or event will assure the setting (and any equipment used) is appropriate for the event, and by implementing the above-named measures, will minimize risk of incident or injury to all participants. Events where direct adult supervision of child(ren)/youth(s)/vulnerable adult(s) is not feasible (e.g. Creation, amusement parks, youth rallies and other large-group public events) will, at the minimum, incorporate a 3-5-person buddy system and check-in for all participants as part of appropriate adult supervision.

f. Drivers to and from events must have completed the appropriate forms (see “Screening Procedures” section for details). Drivers must be a minimum of 25 years of age or older. If the Two Non-related Adult Rule is not feasible to maintain, drivers will make reasonable effort to not transport less than two (2) participants at a time. Each vehicle should have a first aid kit, and one (1) seatbelt per occupant. Drivers will practice safe driving procedures such as ensuring that all passengers remain properly secured throughout the trip, and by obeying all posted speed laws and regulations. The event’s coordinator should provide as necessary any appropriate maps, directions, and emergency contact numbers to each driver, as well as a communication plan for contacting assistance should an emergency arise.

g. It is recommended that event coordinators attempt to secure at least one (1) adult with current certification in First Aid and CPR for each trip or event, and that all adult leadership participating in the trip or event is aware of the identity of such person(s).

h. For overnight children/youth/vulnerable adult events:
   i. There will be separate sleeping areas for males and females.
   ii. At least two adults will be present in each sleeping area and will be of the same gender as the children/youth/vulnerable adult in that area.
   iii. Sleeping areas should be pre-arranged by staff person or event coordinator prior to event.
   iv. Random and regular rounds will be conducted by two (2) adult leaders (of the opposite sex) throughout the nighttime sleeping hours of all sleeping areas.
   v. Separate shower and bathrooms facilities are highly encouraged. When separate facilities are not possible, procedures for use of the facility will be conveyed to all event participants by the staff person or event coordinator.
   vi. If children/youth/vulnerable adults are found to be in violation of the Participation Covenant, the situation will be handled by the staff person or event coordinator as deemed appropriate. Said action may result in the parent/legal guardian(s) of the participant being notified regardless of the time of day/night, and the participant may be required to leave the event.

Adults must respect the privacy of children/youth/vulnerable adult, during such situations as changing, showering, etc., and should intrude only to the extent that health or safety may require. Adults must protect their own privacy in similar situations as well.

**Screening, Recruiting and Selecting Procedures**

Every ministry of the Susquehanna Conference that relates to children, youth, and vulnerable adults in its programming or oversight shall create procedures for implementing the Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policies. Administrative teams of Local Churches and Conference ministries and programs who give oversight to these ministries shall be responsible for implementing and monitoring the compliance of these minimum standard policies and its related procedures.

1. Every ministry and/or program of the Susquehanna Conference that relates to children, youth, or vulnerable adults shall have a Safe Sanctuaries Policies. These policies and procedures are required for Annual Conference ministries and shall include:
   a. Reasonable safety measures and procedures in the selection and recruitment of both paid and volunteer workers who come in contact with children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults, which shall include:
      - Written application (sample provided).
      - Experience and qualification for the position.
      - Voluntary disclosure of past criminal history, allegations of criminal history, and driver history.
      - Waiver of confidentiality allowing the conference to secure the background checks necessary for the position being applied for.
      - Listing of three non-related references. This list shall have complete contact information for all references. This portion of the application process is considered incomplete if full contact information for the references is not provided.
      - An interview process.
   - All employees (paid) need to complete the following background clearance:
      o Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report.
      o Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance.
      o FBI Criminal History Report (Fingerprint-based background check).
   - All volunteers need to complete the following background clearances:
      o Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Report
      o Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
      o FBI Criminal History Report (fingerprint-based background check)
NOTE: The FBI Criminal History Report is not required for incumbent or prospective volunteers: (i) who have resided in Pennsylvania continuously for a period of 10 years prior to becoming a volunteer or applying for volunteer status and who sign a Volunteer Affidavit affirming that they have not committed certain crimes that otherwise would prohibit them from being a volunteer responsible for the welfare of a child or having direct contact with children; or (ii) who have received such Report at any time since establishing residency in Pennsylvania and provide a copy of the Report to the person responsible for the selection of volunteers.

- Background clearances are valid for 60 months and must be obtained again after every 60-month period.
- A current driver’s license, registration, insurance, and completed Pennsylvania or state of residency, driving record, when transporting children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults.
- Demonstration of an active relationship with a local church of at least six (6) months before being allowed to be in a supervisory role in children, youth, and/or vulnerable adult activities.
- Use of age and developmentally appropriate language in educating children, youth, and vulnerable adults regarding definitions of abuse and procedures for reporting.

b. All forms and reference reports shall be uploaded to Ministry Safe as a part of the person’s file.

c. There shall be a specific person designated to be responsible for reviewing and following up on each application prior to service. All applications and related forms must be completed.

d. In the event that a reference follow-up is accomplished by phone, use of the Reference Check Form is recommended and should be included in the persons file.

e. All records shall be kept in a locked file within the Conference Office. Access will be authorized by the chairs of the Response Team, Safe Sanctuaries Team, and the Cabinet.

f. When the Conference is hosting an event for which the local church is responsible for chaperones, the church shall provide the necessary paperwork listed above.

g. A method for reporting incidents of child, youth, and vulnerable adult abuse in accordance with the State Laws of Pennsylvania and/or New York and Maryland; the written guidelines of the Susquehanna Conference, and the written guidelines of the local United Methodist Church.

h. Measures to deal with the safety, protection, and ongoing emotional support of those who may have been abused.

i. Guidelines for communication with family members, the congregation, the district, the conference, and the public media.

2. Persons responsible for implementing, monitoring, and reviewing local church polices include but are not limited to: Pastor; Representative of Staff Parish, Representative of Trustees, Youth Leader, Children’s Leader, Nursery Leader.

3. A copy of Local Church Safe Sanctuaries Policies shall be on file in the appropriate District Office or the Conference Office.

4. All Safe Sanctuaries Training shall be administered through Ministry Safe, an online training platform and document database.

The Conference Safe Sanctuaries Team shall oversee this training and provide further resourcing as needed. This team reports to the Annual Conference thru Connecting Ministries Staff.

5. Each conference ministry or program shall submit a yearly review of their implementation of the conference’s Safe Sanctuaries policies. The Conference Safe Sanctuaries Team will be responsible for reviewing these polices and making recommendations.

   - A form will be provided for this purpose by the Safe Sanctuaries Team.

6. The Conference Safe Sanctuaries Team will provide a Facilities Use Agreement for outside groups that gives information about the Safe Sanctuaries Policies for use by the group.

7. Every elder, deacon, or local pastor under appointment, and every retired clergy or lay person assigned to lead a congregation in the Susquehanna Conference, shall:

a. Obtain the background clearances required by the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law every 60 months. The local church is responsible for this process and the report of this background check shall be included with Charge Conference reports.

b. Safe Sanctuaries training is required of all persons serving congregations prior to taking their first appointment or assignment in the conference. The local church is responsible for this process, and the report of this background check shall be included with Charge Conference reports.

c. Clergy and lay persons serving congregations are required to complete Safe Sanctuaries training through Ministry Safe every 60 months, and at least one other training event provided by the Safe Sanctuaries team every three years.

d. Clergy and lay persons serving congregations are required to attend at least one Continuing Education event every quadrennium. These events will cover topics such as: clergy sexual ethics, understanding the use and abuse of power in the ministerial relationship, cyber safety, and/or healthy boundary-setting in the ministerial relationship.

e. All clergy and lay persons in pastoral leadership in a congregation will be encouraged by the District Superintendent (DS) and Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) to practice appropriate self-care.

**Cyber Safety & Electronic Communications**

The internet, apps, social media and portable devices allow people to stay in contact with each other more easily than at any other time in the history of civilization. Excellent ministry can take place using modern technology, but as with all forms of ministry, there are inherent risks involved with the use of electronic communications. Assume anything and everything in cyberspace is public information. Here are some recommendations.

- **Obtain advance written parent/legal guardian permission.** In addition to general permission to participate in a conference ministry or event, obtain written advance parent/legal guardian permission for children and youths, and personal permission from vulnerable adults or their guardian if applicable, for:
1. Taking and using photos or videos of participants, for example, posting on sites, sending by e-mail or by cell phone, reproducing photos in brochures, posters or newspapers.
2. Communicating or transmitting data electronically with children, youths or vulnerable adults sharing any full name or contact information.

- **Never post identifiable information. For example:**
  1. Do not use "broadcast" emails. Use the “Bcc” option (blind carbon copy) so that each recipient sees only his or her address when a message is received.
  2. Be cautious when transmitting easily identifiable information such as event dates, times, locations, or participants.
  3. Limit what is communicated in prayer requests. When placing a child, youth, or vulnerable adult on a prayer list, use only first names and only if you think a name is necessary.

- **Use caution when sharing photos.**
  1. Consider using stock or purchased photos.
  2. Obtain all necessary legal permission to use photos or other content (poems, songs, etc.).
  3. If sharing photos, refrain from using names, and never use last names or other personally identifiable information.
  4. Check photos for vulnerable-compromising situations and to make sure they uphold your mission.
  5. Check to make sure nametags are not distinguishable.
  6. Use low-resolution photos whenever possible and slightly blur/pixelate photos.
  7. Block "save photo as" options on websites.
  8. Limit access to photos by employing the use of a password.

- **Social media sites (Facebook, Blogs etc.)** Do not use your personal social media presence for ministry. Use a group social media site that is monitored by senior leadership, for example a Facebook site for the specific group.
  1. Include a code of conduct/terms and conditions for the site that expressly states expectations for posts and a clear expression of how violations, offensive and objectionable material will be addressed.
  2. Monitor the site and remove inappropriate comments, photos, links, etc.
  3. Restrict who can be a friend.
  4. Do not post anything that you would not want printed in the newspaper, church newsletter or bulletin.
  5. Be familiar with, and comply with, social media provider policies, restrictions and terms and conditions. For example, according to Facebook’s own terms, children under 13 years of age may not sign up for a Facebook account.
  6. Encourage children, youths, and vulnerable adults to follow these same guidelines as appropriate.

- **Do not collect online, or allow third parties to collect online, personal information from children under the age of 13. See Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (“COPPA”) and Federal Trade Commission Rules implementing COPPA (the "Rule"). COPPA and the Rule require specific permissions and privacy policies if a website or online service collects, or allows third parties to collect, personal information if the service is directed to children under the age of 13. Restrictions also apply if the site is directed to a general audience and the organization has actual knowledge that it collects personal information from children under 13 years of age.**

**Responding to and Reporting Abuse**

A quick, compassionate, and unified response to an alleged or actual incident of abuse is necessary and expected. All allegations are to be taken seriously. In all cases of reported or observed abuse in a ministry event, the entire staff of that event, paid and/or volunteer, shall be at the service of all official investigating agencies.

A mandated reporter must make a report of suspected child abuse if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances.

1. The mandated reporter comes into contact with the child in the course of employment, occupation and practice of a profession or through a regularly scheduled program, activity or service.
2. The mandated reporter is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child, or is affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child.
3. A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse.
4. An individual 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that the individual has committed child abuse.

The goal of an immediate response to alleged or known incidents of abuse will be to ensure the safety of the victim and any additional potential victims. In all cases of alleged or actual abuse, professional support is obtained by informing the Police, ChildLine and Abuse Registry, or other appropriate authorities. The parents/legal guardians of the victim will be notified unless they have been named as the alleged perpetrator of the abuse. Pastoral support is sought by informing the Conference Director of Communications, District Superintendent or Pastor, as appropriate.

If the allegation or incident concerns events or persons outside any relationship to a conference and/or local church related event, it is the responsibility of the person who heard the abuse to make the initial contact with ChildLine. The procedures outlined in this section will provide guidance for responses and reporting.
Example: Child, youth, or vulnerable adult telling a camp counselor about abuse by a relative during the prior year. If this report were made to the counselor in the course of his/her duties as a camp counselor, then it is the responsibility of the camp counselor to make the call to ChildLine. The camp counselor may talk with the Camp Dean or Site Director before making the call, asking for support. After making the report to ChildLine, a written report (CY 47 Form) needs to be sent to ChildLine within 48 hours of making the report.

An incident report should be filed with the Site Director as a part of the reporting process.

If the allegation is against or involves a conference staff person, pastor, helper or volunteer, or if it occurred in the course of a conference ministry event, it is still the responsibility of the person who heard the abuse to make the initial contact with ChildLine. Afterward, a report must be made to the staff person in charge of the event, the Conference Director of Communications, the Director of Connecting Ministries, and the Dean of the Cabinet shall be contacted immediately to handle communications. Procedures for responding to and reporting the abuse are contained herein.

The Director of Communications of the Susquehanna Conference or his/her designee is the only person(s) authorized to make statements to representatives of the media. All requests for statements shall be directed to the Director of Communications. Staff persons and volunteers are to be trained in how to handle media requests by referring them to the Director of Communications.

How to respond to allegations of abuse

Care for the alleged victim’s safety. Once a child, youth, or vulnerable adult has disclosed alleged abuse, the one to whom the disclosure has been made should reassure the alleged victim of his or her safety and well-being. They will then make the call to ChildLine. The alleged victim (and any other potential victims if the abuse has allegedly taken place onsite) should be calmly moved to another safe place onsite in view of at least two other non-related adults. Someone safe and familiar should stay with the victim at all times.

Persons who are accused of abuse, if on site, will be immediately and discreetly removed from the ministry setting (both the alleged abuser and the victim to separate locations or areas) until the situation is resolved. This is to protect all persons involved, including the accused. The person to whom the disclosure was made should inform the victim in an age appropriate way that a report will be made to appropriate legal authorities.

Should the victim be in need of immediate medical attention, a call should be made for medical transport by ambulance. The parents/legal guardians of any victim under the age of 18 should be notified. It may not be appropriate to contact the parents/legal guardians if they are the alleged perpetrators of the abuse, in which event the person designated as the reporter should be contacted and should handle contacting the parents/legal guardians when appropriate.

Report the allegations of abuse. The mandated reporter will obtain the information needed for the filing of reports, including, but not limited to, the victim’s name and age, the name of the alleged perpetrator, the alleged facts of the abuse, and physical home addresses for the victim and the perpetrator. It is important to let the victim verbalize the allegations in his or her own words, being careful to limit questions asked of children or youth under the age of 18, or to vulnerable adults. If the victim is under age 18, a report should be made immediately to ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313. If the victim is older than 18 years of age or older, a report should be made to local law enforcement directly. It is the responsibility of the mandated reporter to handle these matters in a professional and caring manner. Once the call is made the mandated reporter needs to immediately notify the Site Director who will notify the Director of Camp & Retreat Ministry who will notify the Conference Director of Communication, Conference Legal Counsel, Conference Insurance Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Dean of the Cabinet.

Maintain confidentiality. Allegations are to be discussed only on a need-to-know basis. The person(s) to whom the allegations were disclosed should immediately contact ChildLine giving the details to that person. Other adults onsite should be alerted to stay with the alleged victim and other potential victims. Once the allegations have been reported, the person to whom the allegations were made should not discuss the matter with other persons except law enforcement or designated state investigators. To do so could cause irreparable harm to the victims, their families, and the community.

Response Team. As directed by the Office of the Bishop, the Conference Response Team may be called upon to assist in a given situation.

Handling calls and questions from the media. If a member of the media – newspaper, TV station, Radio station, Magazine – calls or approaches a staff or volunteer in person and asks about the situation, that person should get their name and phone number and respectfully tell them that the Director of Communications will get back to them with the answer as soon as possible. The following “hold response” can be used:

“I want to make sure we give you the most accurate and up-to-date information. The Director of Communications can best help you. If you give me your contact information, deadline and topic you are calling about, I will have them return your call as soon as possible.” or,

“Here is the phone number/email of the Director of Communications…”

No staff person should answer any questions. The staff person should be polite, but firm. A staff person should never simply tell a reporter, “No Comment,” as this response raises concern that the incident (alleged or known) is not being dealt with or taken seriously by the church. Nothing is assured to be “off the record” when talking to the media. A staff person/volunteer should realize that any statement made to the media can be used publicly, even if the reporter says it is “off the record.”

23. Student Aid Fund

The Student Aid Fund advances the mission of the Susquehanna Conference by providing financial aid for the growth of spiritual, transformational leaders who are equipped to pastor vital congregations and connect with the world to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. It exists “to support the proclamation of the Christian Faith by assisting persons who are preparing through higher education to fulfill their
call to pastoral ministry in the Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church . . . in meeting the financial cost of such
preparations.” (from the Articles of Incorporation of the Student Aid Fund)

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Fund provided seminary service loans to sixteen individuals in the total amount of $97,322.
Students who applied for loans attended Wesley, Evangelical (Myerstown), United, Drew, Methesco, Emory, and Gammon seminaries.
Service loans are reduced by twenty percent per year during the first five years of ministry within the Susquehanna Conference. There
is a total of thirty-seven pastors who are currently serving their five-year service requirement. Seven of these have now completed their
entire five-year service period and their loans are completely forgiven. The total amount forgiven through service in 2018 was $143,147.23.
The Board of Managers partners with several seminaries that provide a 50/50 scholarship match for students from our Conference. The
seminary pays fifty percent of tuition from their own scholarship funds; the Board pays the other fifty percent as a service loan. Wesley,
Drew, United, Garret-Evangelical, Duke, and Lancaster seminaries currently participate in this program.
The Board pursues repayment of delinquent accounts through Peerless Credit Services, Inc. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to
secure repayment of delinquent accounts from individuals who no longer serve in the Conference. In 2018 the Board wrote off $29,360 in
unpaid accounts plus $4,493.61 in accrued interest.
The Board is grateful for gifts and bequests to the work of the Student Aid Fund. In 2018, we received donations of $23,750, including
memorials to the late Rev. Rick Cartwright (a former Executive Secretary of the Board), memorials designated by Board member Joyce
Wert in memory of her son Kevin, and a gift in honor of Rev. Dale Neuf’s ninetieth birthday.
If you wish to make a donation to the Student Aid Fund, or to receive further information about the scholarship application process,
please contact our Executive Secretary, the Rev. Nicholas Keeney. He may be reached at 6300 Chambers Hill Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17111;
(717) 561-0338 (office phone); or nkeeney@susumc.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Richard D. Smith, President
Board of Managers of the Student Aid Fund

24. Volunteers In Mission

In 2018 the VIM Director and Council continued to focus on reaching new people and resourcing both the congregations and
individuals of the Susquehanna Conference as they seek to engage in short term mission. Team leader training was offered in local
churches as requested and open to all in the Conference. The VIM Team Leaders across the Conference are motivated and passionate
about serving where there is need domestically and internationally. The culture of mission continues to spread through our local churches
through our council, team leaders and volunteers encouraging more and more to take on mission as a passion of their own. In 2018 the
local churches in our conference sent out people of all ages with mission focus of education, personal relationships, medical or dental
clinics, long term recovery, and/or new construction.

25. The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation

In 2018, The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation serving the Susquehanna Conference celebrated its 25th anniversary of
incorporation. It is an honor to continue to provide Biblically-based stewardship education, planned-giving, and socially responsible
investments to you so that we are “better together: one with each other.”
To make disciples and grow spiritual, transformational leaders, UMSF presented 2 webinars to promote self-discipline, offered 22
personal financial planning sessions to connect stewardship with faith development, and presented 26 original devotionals encouraging the
practices of generous living and servant leadership. UMSF was also excited to offer 1 scholarship in partnership with the United Methodist
Higher Education Foundation.
To equip churches for the transformation of the world, UMSF offered 6 webinars on practical tools and processes to care for finances
with holistic models of vision and decision-making. UMSF also provided personalized training in budgeting, endowments, and sustaining
stewardship through 51 visits to churches, 4 capital campaign consultations, and 3 New Consecration Sunday services.
To equip churches to manage and share their blessings, UMSF distributed $3,704,888 in funding, supporting these churches’ programs,
scholarships, building improvements, and mission work in the local community and world. To benefit church vitality, UMSF also invested
$1,622,125. As of December 31, 2018, the market value of funds under management was $39,464,622. The Stewardship Foundation is also
the Trustee of one Charitable Remainder Unitrust with a market value of $126,243. From inception to the present, The Stewardship
Foundation has paid $2,598,345 from gift annuities to predominantly United Methodist charitable gift beneficiaries. This represents 49.7 %
of the original gifts of $5,230,869. Funds in the amount of $170,191 were paid to annuitants this past year; annuity agreements outstanding
as of December 31, 2018 have a market value of $741,773.
To connect congregations with one another and the world, UMSF sponsored 2 connecting webinars, participated in 28 connectional
meetings, and offered 4 newsletters. These efforts helped build community by giving the Susquehanna Conference access to the latest and
most effective methods to share and witness from the best stewardship leaders nationwide. Thank you for the confidence and trust that you
have placed with The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation. We seek to offer strategic, focused leadership in stewardship as well as
value-added investment services. We are grateful that our mission is to help and support you and your ministries for God’s glory.
Rev. Phyllis M. Bowers, Executive Director

26. United Methodist Women

2018 was an exciting year for United Methodist Women. In May about 70 people from the conference traveled to Columbus, Ohio, for
Assembly. We met with about 7000 friends from around the world for a time of informative workshops, inspiring presentations, and
exceptional worship. A highlight of Assembly was the consecration of Deaconesses. Allison Francesco and Fawn McCallister from
Susquehanna Annual Conference were among the women consecrated. Just a few weeks later they were commissioned at the Annual
Conference meeting to serve in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and York Districts.

Many of us attended Annual Conference, most as our church’s lay member. Our resolution to form a Creation Care Ministry Team was
approved. Phyllis Terwilliger, the Northeastern Jurisdiction representative on the Be Just, Be Green Team is establishing this team.

In July over 100 women, men, children, and youth attended Mission u three-day school or express events. Through this
transformational learning event we learned to embrace wholeness in “An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living” and a faith response to
“What About Our Money?”

On local, district, and conference levels, the women continue to plan events that serve their churches and communities by supporting
many local, conference, and national missions.

Join us on October 26 at First UMC, Muncy, as we celebrate our 150th birthday!

As always it is my honor to serve as the conference president.

Cathy Berkey, President
United Methodist Women 2016-present

27. Wesley Foundation at Penn State University

Here are some highlights from our year in ministry. We are continually blessed to be in ministry with and for Penn State Students at the
University Park Campus. God continues to show up in surprising ways, students continue to be The Church, and God’s people, at our best,
continue to be the embodiment of God’s love in the world. For all these things we give thanks...

- **Abba Java Coffeehouse:** Abba Java continues to see growth. Normal weeks during the semester we see 900 or more students come in
and out our doors. We continue our partnership with Standing Stone Coffee, as they continue to be committed to just and community
oriented coffee. The mission of the coffeehouse continues to be the roots of all we do: radical hospitality and generosity and relational
evangelism. We work to create a brave space where students from every identity and space can find a safe and loving community
where they can just be and experience a taste of Jesus’ unconditional love. Our over 90 student and congregation volunteers are the
heartbeat of the ministry as they continue to not only make sure we cover 62 hours each week, but also make sure to continue to
provide a community that oozes with grace and generosity and no strings attached love. One of our students said this about Abba Java,
"Shortly after coming to college I abandoned my faith. Thank you Abba Java for giving me a space for the past 4 years to feel the joy,
comfort, and acceptance my faith brought me, at times before. I am grappling with where I stand, but whenever I come here I always
find myself relieved and prayerful."

- **Wesley Fellow Interns and Leaders:** We have 8 students interning with us in our campus ministry and congregational this year and
several more students serving as non-paid student leaders. They are mentored by congregation members, taught vocational
discernment tools, gain hands on ministry and leadership experience, and explore their own faith journey. We have students investing
in our children and youth ministry, serving on our board, working in the coffeehouse, serving in music and worship and pray
ministries and volunteering in our mission and justice ministries-to just name a few. All our leaders, congregation and student, are
offered extra leadership development through retreats, vocational exploration and relationships with each other. Their work continues
to bless our campus ministry, local congregation, and greater State College community.

- **Worship and Faith Formation:** Each Sunday we have students attend worship and Sunday lunch and on Tuesdays who gather for
dinner and prayer. We have other small groups like Bible study, monthly grad student dinners and other faith exploration groups. This
year with our ecumenical partners we have had the opportunity to bring in nationally known speakers such as Nadia Bolz-Weber and
Austin Channing Brown-to be sure we are expanding the Christian voices our students get to hear. We are committed to giving
students space to encounter Jesus, wrestle with their questions and doubt and grow deeper in their worship and faith lives.

- **Service and Justice Work:** We regularly engage in service and justice programs so students can see the church be the love of Jesus in
the world and so they can follow the promptings on the work of the Spirit in their lives. We continue to offer “Wesley’s Closet” to the
State College community. Wesley’s closet gives coats, socks and underwear to those in need in our community. We also provide
meals and treats for local hunger ministries, work with the Muslim Student Association, Hillel, and our ecumenical partners in
interfaith work on campus and in the community, and have students participate in our reconciling community. In spring 2019, we
traveled with 22 students and campus ministers to Douglas, AZ to explore issues of immigration and migration in the border land over
Spring Break.

These are just a few highlights of how we live out being a ministry and church for the Penn State Community. One of our students said this
as they explored the role this ministry has played in their lives... “Wesley has allowed me to be part of something bigger than myself and
given me a place of safety to explore my faith... I will always treasure my time here and always feel connected to this church that has
accepted me, welcomed me, fed me, and becomes family to me.”

28. Young People's Ministry Council

The Young People’s Ministry Council (YPMC) has undergone several changes during 2018. We met as a collective body for a
weekend of intense prayer, planning and fellowship. Out of that weekend came a newly defined focus. While we are still the fun-loving
group responsible for kissing cows and pies in the face on stage, we remain very attentive to the crucial focus of our work. The growth of
young people as Spiritual Transformational Leaders following in the footsteps of Jesus is the number one priority. While student
leadership has always been a component of YPMC, we felt called to do more to help student leaders who will develop other youth as disciples and leaders.

As part of this new intentionality, a spring 2019 leadership retreat is being planned. Several of the YPMC youth are taking leadership roles in this weekend to help mentor other student leaders in the conference. Changes were also made to the guidelines that are considered when awarding Youth Service Fund grants to focus on projects that develop young leaders and have young people in leadership.

A number of events were sponsored by the YPMC team. During 2018 the student leaders of the YPMC created, planned, and led the series of “Recalculating” fellowship and learning days that were held throughout the conference. YPMC also helped host the Perkins School of Youth Ministry and the National UM Young People’s Ministry Office to provide a weekend youth leader training this past fall at Mount Asbury. This provided youth leaders from throughout the conference a chance to come together and learn about the current best practices and methods in youth ministry. Everyone who attended left the weekend feeling better equipped to help lead the youth of the Susquehanna Conference.

The Susquehanna Annual Conference was represented by Taylor Johnston, Alex Clark and Hannah Carter and adult leader Christina McDermott at the Global Young People's Convocation in South Africa in July. In addition to taking part in the legislative by voting on the pieces of legalization that will be brought by the young people before the next general conference, the delegates spent time in worship and fellowship and even were able to enjoy some of the local culture. The delegates reported “being stretched in so many wonderful ways” and “being part of the voice for the young people of the church and make a change”. Taylor Johnston best summed it up: “At the GYPC everyone had a story, and each story provided a means to help me better understand the life of the United Methodist Church in all corners of the globe.”

The members of the Young People’s Ministry Council would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Audrey Wilder for her leadership and wisdom as the Director of Young People’s Ministry. Audrey stepped down from her position in October and is greatly missed.

As we prepare to choose the representation for the 2020 General Conference, the members of the YPMC would like to encourage the Susquehanna Annual Conference to increase the number of young people who are elected as General Conference delegates. To a young person in the conference there are few greater opportunities than to participate as a leader in the church.

The members of the Young Peoples Ministry Council

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29. Center for Spiritual Formation

Tending the Fire

Better Together: One With Each Other is lived out every day at The Center for Spiritual Formation as we offer praise to God as we share with many people around our conference.

The Center has grown from a vision of Bishop Felton May in 1994, taken shape and mission from Russell Hart, to become a ministry Centered on Jesus, focused on grace and spiritual growth that now has offices in Carlisle United Methodist Church and a retreat center, Orchard Hill, in Millerstown.

Programs are varied and many! Ministry of Spiritual Direction has graduated 106 persons since 1998. It now includes an online cohort, a cohort in Kentucky, eight students who meet on Orchard Hill, and this fall a new cohort will join us from Orlando, Florida. We have hosted Tending the Fire, in order to equip pastors to deal with conflict, and have served 113 pastors through this class. Pastors Sabbath, held monthly five times a year, allows pastors to spend a day with colleagues in learning, fellowship and reflection—what a gift to those who attend!

Lives have been transformed and souls have drawn closer to God. As we gather together, whether in retreat at Orchard Hill, or for a one-day workshop at a local church, we continue to grow spiritually and in our sense of holy community. We seek to more deeply connect with the Spirit of God which truly makes us one.

The future is exciting as we continue to live out our ministry:

We have just upgraded our website and invite you to visit us at centerformation.org. You’ll find information about up-coming events, resources, and much more, including ways to register and donate on line. Our email address and phone number have also changed this past year. You may now contact us at: 717-249-1512, x. 249 or at CenterFormation1@gmail.com. Do be sure we have your email address as well; we would love to keep in touch.

This past year has presented challenges as we’ve worked to realign our financial resources and meet the many needs that come to us. We are grateful for what we have received and give God thanks for those who continue to bless others as they bless the ministry of The Center.

Please join us as we pray for more and more lives to be Centered on Jesus, focused on grace and spiritual growth, for that is the foundation of truly being Better Together!

Submitted by:
Rev. Dr. Kathy Harvey Nelson, Center Director

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30. Endless Mountain Mission

2018 was a blessed ministry for the Endless Mountain Mission Center. Housing the homeless, providing food, Christian counseling and agency referrals for over 300 individuals throughout the year. Together the board has grown spiritually by learning thru His word how to be equipped to serve better in the name of God for the less fortunate, being a Godly example and encouragement to those who need to know the saving grace and unconditional love of our Lord Jesus. We are truly blessed to be used as Disciples of Christ.

Thank you,

Sincerely
Tammie Storrs/Director
31. Haiti Partnership

We thank you for your request, the Haiti Partnership is delighted to tell you about our activities from 2018. We have hosted and sponsored a number of opportunities for Volunteers in Mission to travel to Haiti. Each trip is designed to help both our Haitian brothers and sisters and our American travelers to learn more about each other. It is designed for each group to show God’s love by serving each other. We have worked closely with the Minnesota based organization called Healing Haiti. With the leadership of Healing Haiti, our volunteers visit and support orphanages, visit and support an elderly community with prayers and songs, visit and support a children’s hospital by playing with the small children and feed them a meal, visit and support a new bakery business near Port-au-Prince and deliver clean water to the slums of Cité Soleil. This is a time of much reflection and amazement in the realization of grace extended to each person. It is a tremendous opportunity to learn so much.

We have also lead teams of volunteers to help in construction work and community development. The construction was to help a community build a ministry center which will be used by many groups of the community. It will house an apartment that can be used by visiting pastors or small teams, a community meeting room and kitchen for use when events are held. The construction group also offered a well-attended Vacation Bible School time with volunteers and teachers from the local school and church. Included in the VBS time was food for all who helped and learned about the Bible story.

There was even a trip that distributed water filter and Days for Girls kits to community members. Haitian nurses and instructors completely handled the teaching, to the community, for both kinds of kits. 100 water filters were distributed to Local Pastors, an ecumenical family gathering, a group from the local Methodist church and 10 kits were given to the area schools. With each water filter kit, instruction about use of the filter, hygiene and cleanliness, even to the point of instructing about keeping animals out of the small family gardens so as to keep the vegetables free from manure. The Days for Girls kits were given to teenage girls with the goal of keeping them in school during their menstrual cycle time of the month. School is expensive in Haiti and girls need to be encouraged, at every opportunity, to continue to stay in school. So often in developing countries the economy depends on women being the mainstay of small business to support their families. Therefore, school is so very important for young women. The Days for Girls program is 10 years old and started in Africa with great success. Each kit has washable sanitary napkins, to enable the girls to no longer use rags and corn husks as the absorbent material.

Our travel teams have been blessed with many supplies that have been assembled into UMCOR kits for distribution in Haiti. We have delivered hygiene kits (which include soap, toothbrushes, combs and washcloths), birthing kits (that have receiving blankets, small bars of soap, a baby hat, plastic sheeting for delivery and clothes for the newborn baby), school kits (including pencils, test booklets, pencil sharpeners and tablets) and layette kits (cloth diapers, receiving blankets, and clothes for the baby) to Haiti. Each kit has been generously assembled by a group in our conference. We are so thankful for these wonderful connections.

Thru our travel opportunities we offer many people ways to engage with our travel. We depend on fund-raising to help pay for the kits we distribute and the project money that we raise. We have the chance to share the love and grace of God with each group that we can enlist. All this addresses the openings that Americans have and can give to and share with Haitians. However, it does not address the vast amount of love and regard that each Haitian openly shares with us. The love and care and concern, shown to us, is remarkable! Our society is so often based on material wealth. Haitians are very rich in their spiritual development and commitment. Their joy in life and dedication to their church and Savior is clearly remarkable, since many truly do not know where their next meal will come from. Each trip to Haiti, allows each Volunteer In Mission to grow in their faith and faith journey.

32. Mission Central

Mission Central’s overall goal is to connect God’s resources with human need. We do this through numerous avenues, reaching millions of people every year. Over the past year, Mission Central saw a change in leadership, with Hope Harrison assuming the role of Executive Director in November 2018. She, in addition to Conference leadership and Mission Central Board leadership, continue to work to fulfill the resolution from the 2017 Annual Conference to establish Mission Central as a 501c3 incorporated entity, with the goal of completion in 2019.

The future of Mission Central is limitless!

We remain committed and faithful to God’s plan for Mission Central and daily work to discern God’s plan for Mission Central’s expansion. While focused on our future expansion and strategic planning, we are aware of God’s hand in our daily work through frequent “God Moments.” These are moments when it is clearly beyond our power, when for instance, just in time delivery of materials arrive to meet requests made only hours before. These events are transformative to those of us who participate and to those who are benefactors of our work. God is truly revealing an amazing work of grace and transformation through Mission Central.

In 2018, areas of Central Pennsylvania experienced extreme flooding. Mission Central’s partnership with UMCOR allowed us to provide 14,000 people with over $300,000 worth of flood buckets. This was an immeasurable resource for affected families in our local area. We continue to collectively connect millions of dollars’ worth of God’s resources with human need locally, nationally and globally.

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<th>2018 BRIEF OPERATIONAL SUMMARY</th>
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<td>Total Operating Donations:</td>
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<th>2018 WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION TOTALS</th>
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<td>50% Other Partners</td>
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<td>15% Mission Central’s work for UMCOR</td>
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<td>35% Mission Central’s Regional Output</td>
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<td>TOTAL WAREHOUSE MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION:</td>
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As a premier mission response center, we are poised to continue to be able to respond quickly and efficiently to mission needs and disasters here at home and around the globe. Thank you for your support. We are excited for the possibilities of continued collaboration as we respond to the many needs of this world. We are grateful for the financial support of individuals, churches and civic groups like YOU and, of course, that of our beloved volunteers. YOU change lives!

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Harrison
Executive Director

### 33. Sierra Leone Initiative

As of February 2019, the Sierra Leone Initiative connects 62 Susquehanna Conference churches, 2 clusters of over 15 churches, and 2 groups to equip pastors to elect for full time ministry in Sierra Leone (SL), West Africa. This primary goal of the Sierra Leone Initiative currently provides the salaries for 63 full time Sierra Leone pastors. Susquehanna Conference churches covenant to contribute to a collection of salary funds that allow pastors to be stationed throughout SL, in small villages and towns, as well as in larger cities. 27 of the 63 pastors paid by Susquehanna Conference shepherd other pastors as District Superintendents (with full time preaching assignments) or as circuit leaders of 5-15 other churches. Our salary payments provide a vital link in the educational support and transformation of other full-time pastors, evangelists, and lay pastors on these circuits, as well as their congregations.

Covenants for $1,200, $1,500, or $1,800 a year for 5 or 10-year commitment terms support the full-time pastors’ positions. This salary commitment totals over $20,000 a quarter. Due to the growth in the number of full time Sierra Leone pastors, this support does NOT meet the total salary need. A poor economy, lack of jobs, and limited educational opportunities contribute to small church offerings, especially in the villages and towns, therefore making this mission vital to the growth of the Sierra Leone church and its pastors. In addition to covenant holding Susquehanna Conference churches, over 40 Susquehanna Conference churches contributed short term to support pastors’ salaries.

The secondary goal of the Initiative connects churches in SL with churches in Susquehanna Conference providing them with the opportunity to fulfill Jesus command in Acts 1:8 to be witnesses with the help of the Holy Spirit in not only Jerusalem (locally), Judea and Samaria (nationally), but to the ends of the earth (globally/Sierra Leone). The Sierra Leone Annual Conference’s commitment to making new disciples and creating new places for worship allowed for the expansion of the United Methodist Church into Kambia, Pujehun, and Kailahun Districts in recent years. Seven Susquehanna Conference churches currently partner with churches in these new districts.

Churches build relationships with the opportunity of yearly VIM Team visits to SL, yearly Sierra Leone guest visits to the Susquehanna Conference, the establishment of prayer ministries between churches, the exchange of letters, emails, WhatsApp calls and chats, and developmental help as a church’s resources allow. The prayers offered by the SL pastors and congregations provide powerful spiritual support for Susquehanna congregations, as powerful as the financial support Susquehanna churches offer Sierra Leone churches.

Susquehanna Conference covenant churches build churches and parsonages, remodel churches by providing new tiling, roofs, and paint, purchase milling machines allowing increased crop production, provide choir robes, farming tools, school supplies, Bibles, reading glasses, medical supplies for clinics, computers, generators, teachers’ quarters, and scholarships, to name some of the developmental support. Sierra Leone and Susquehanna Conferences are better together...one with each other making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### 34. Africa University

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of the local congregations of The United Methodist Church. The students, faculty, administrators, trustees and graduates are immensely grateful to the members of the Susquehanna Conference for prioritizing Africa University and its ministry with an investment of 100 percent of your 2018 asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment.

In sowing so generously and consistently into the Africa University Fund, the Susquehanna Conference honors its foundational role in the establishment and growth of AU’s ministry. The ongoing support of Susquehanna United Methodists affirms the university’s core mission of nurturing leaders who help people to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health.

**Institutional Update:**

- Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.

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

- With conflict, poverty, and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents and ideas are integrated into the search for solutions.
• Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU’s insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitoes—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

Africa University is deeply indebted to the members of the Susquehanna Conference for their prayers and support, which sustain its ministry. Thank you, Susquehanna Conference, for all that you have invested in mission and ministry through Africa University over the past 27 years. The impact of the generosity of the local congregations of the Susquehanna Conference is a shared story of transformation, hope and realized dreams. As Africa University and the Susquehanna Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God’s unending grace for the increase.

Submitted by:
James H. Salley
Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office
jsalley@gbhem.org
615.340.7438

35. Albright Care Services

Albright Care Services is a not for profit organization affiliated in faith with The United Methodist Church and in a covenant relationship with the Susquehanna Conference. Albright’s mission is to create the highest quality of life for those we serve by encouraging purposeful living through personalized, progressive and compassionate communities deeply rooted in serving others. Albright strives to meet the housing and healthcare needs of seniors in ways that help them age gracefully and with dignity, helping people celebrate their faith and enrich their lives in meaningful ways, including opportunities to engage in service to others. We are very grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the Susquehanna Conference, its member churches and individuals, which helps us to achieve our mission of providing benevolent and charitable care for those we serve who are in financial distress.

Following is a summary of our facilities and their contributions to Albright’s ministry of care given by nearly 575 full and part time employees as we serve more than 1200 seniors annually in eight counties.

Albright operates two senior living communities - RiverWoods in Lewisburg and Normandie Ridge in York. RiverWoods is the cornerstone for Albright Care Services as it represents our humble beginnings as a home for seniors and orphans. The current campus includes independent living, assisted personal care, and full skilled nursing care which includes a Memory Care Residence, and is currently home to 320 residents. Normandie Ridge mirrors RiverWoods in terms of independent living and additional levels of care and is currently home to 270 residents.

Living Independence for the Elderly: LIFE (nationally known as PACE)

Albright’s LIFE program has been described as a ‘nursing home without walls.’ We provide a customized plan of medical and non-medical services for seniors who need daily assistance but have the capacity and family support needed to remain in their homes. Albright LIFE offers medical care, medication, transportation, therapeutic activities and meals. Our three LIFE Centers have the capacity to provide exceptional care, encourage social interaction and fulfill spiritual needs for close to 200 seniors. Current locations are Lancaster, serving Lancaster County and western Chester County; Lebanon, serving Lebanon County; and Williamsport, serving Lycoming County and eastern Clinton County as well as Lewisburg and Watsontown. The Williamsport Center also accepts individuals into a traditional adult day care program, meeting an additional community need. In the fall of 2018, we celebrated the 10-year Anniversaries of our Lancaster and Lycoming LIFE Centers!

Albright continues to manage Warrior Run Manor in Watsontown, a HUD housing facility for low income seniors or those with disabilities age 18 or older, providing social services and programming to serve the varying needs of the residents. Currently there are 80 persons living at Warrior Run Manor.

Benevolent and charitable care remains central to our mission of continuing to provide care to our residents who have outlived their savings and are in financial distress through no fault of their own. It is also an ongoing priority for the LIFE program and assists participants with expenses related to housing, heat and other utilities. In 2018, Albright provided nearly $2.9 million in benevolent and charitable care to residents and participants. We are grateful for your support and ask that it continues, helping us to care for these seniors-in-need.

Shaun T. Smith, President/CEO
Francine B. Ashby, Vice President, Office of Fund Development
Rev. Susan D. Jamison, Director, Annual Fund
Vanessa Hales, Major Gifts Officer

36. Candler School of Theology

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

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

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

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

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded $5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100 percent of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

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

—Jan Love
Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology

37. Drew University

Drew University Theological School continued its multi-year self-transformation by launching its new curriculum for the Master of Divinity in the fall of 2018. This entirely reconceived degree seeks to form graduates that are rooted in the Christian story and traditions, capable of effective and creative leadership, and spiritually and socially resourceful for cultivating the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ in, with and for the church and the world. A new two-year degree, the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry also launched and offers students the opportunity to prepare for public leadership or a specialized vocation through deep theological and ethical reflection informed by biblical, historical, theological and practical sources. New pathways in the Master of Arts, the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry were also created as part of the curriculum transformation process which seeks to more intentionally focus the school’s service to the church, as well as to the academy and civil society. Drew welcomed 145 entering students this academic year, its largest entering class in over a decade, with an overall enrollment of 350 for the current academic year. In the coming year a new 5-year strategic plan will be developed, new degree delivery options that increase accessibility and affordability for prospective students, as well as new partnerships with annual conferences, other church bodies, and values-based organizations that share and strengthen Drew’s mission to advance peace, justice, love of God, neighbor, and the earth.

38. Gammon Theological Seminary

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

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

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

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

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

Grace and Peace,
Ken J. Walden, Ph.D.
President-Dean
39. General Board of Education and Ministries

Report for Year 2018

The United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

1001 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212

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

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

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

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

The Office of Loans and Scholarships announced an increase in the maximum amount of money United Methodist students can borrow to pursue their education. The annual maximum is $10,000, with a lifetime maximum of $40,000. On average, the agency distributes $5.5 million in scholarships annually.

Partnering with churches and institutions, GBHEM has promoted projects, programs, initiatives, education and leadership development in various cultural contexts within United Methodism and in pan-Methodist relationships. The agency expanded the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, supported the work of regional networks with the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and established Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development. In 2018, hubs were active in nations in Africa, Asia, Europe and England, North America and South America.

40. Lycoming College

In fall 2018, Lycoming College welcomed 1,142 students to campus, 796 upperclassmen, 323 freshmen and 23 transfer students. The freshmen class was an academically strong one with 21 percent graduating high school in the top 10 percent of their class and 46 percent in the top quarter. For the first time in several years Lycoming enrolled more new female students (59%) than male (41%). Slightly more than half (53%) of our new students are from outside the state. New students call Pennsylvania and 22 other states home. Our 20 International students represent 10 countries from around the world including: Canada, China, El Salvador, India, Japan, Liberia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sweden and Vietnam. Lycoming continued its ascent in the U.S. News and World Report rankings of national liberal arts colleges jumping 16 spots from 147 to 131. Since 2017 the college has gained 33 places in this widely used resource for college-bound students and their families.

This academic year 13 students indicated they are United Methodist. The amount of Lycoming College Grant and Scholarship dollars awarded to these students was $312,172 an average of $24,013 per student. One student received a total of $2,000 in funding from the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

There has been a lot of activity in Academic Affairs. The College welcomed five new professors to its faculty in the fall to replace retiring faculty. Several new programs were launched following development in the prior year. These include biochemistry, Anthropology and Entrepreneurship. Supported by an endowed gift, the College officially added a major in biochemistry in the fall of 2017 and is remodeling space for both a biochemistry teaching and research lab in the Heim Science Building. A biochemistry professor has been hired to launch the program. The combined sociology-anthropology department has long had a major in sociology, but this year began a separate major in anthropology. Lastly, supported by an endowed senior lecturer, a new minor in Entrepreneurship was added to support both business-related and nonbusiness-related students who are interested in business ownership and innovation.

In fall of 2018 the Office of Civic Engagement & Personal Development was created. Under this new department, students are working closely with the Director to develop meaningful service experiences through College-wide programming, student clubs and organizations, and through academic coursework. This office continues to work with student organizations, such as United Campus Ministry, Cru, and Play by Faith to provide faith-based opportunities for spiritual growth. The office works with a spiritual life advisory committee comprised of clergy and faith leaders of the Greater Williamsport community to advise and guide spiritual programming and growth opportunities for students. Students now have 3 service-focused Alternative Spring Break options available, each focusing on different areas of need and student development. LACES (Lycoming Advancing Community through Education and Service) sponsored their annual alternative spring break trip to the Dominican Republic, while Habitat for Humanity will trip to New Bern North Carolina to assist with building 2 houses, and a new trip has been developed, taking students to New York City to work with issues of hunger and homelessness.

The Lycoming College Outdoor Leadership & Education (OLE) program is currently in its fourth year of programming. OLE was created with the intention to engage Lycoming students in a nature-based setting centered on expanding the competencies of our students through interacting with experiential based programming. This is accomplished through a variety of adventure-based programming options including canoeing/kayaking, backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, and snow sports. OLE conducts in excess of 30 nature-based trips per
Our aim is to enhance the Lycoming experience through providing students with necessary skills to find success in both their academic and professional careers.

The College will complete its comprehensive campaign, the Campaign for a Greater Lycoming, on June 30, 2019. With a goal of raising $65 million, the campaign is on track to exceed the goal and as of the end of February, has already secured over $70 million in new gifts, commitments and intentions. The campaign will further support institutional priorities aimed at increasing the quality and diversity of the student body, enhancing the academic program through new and innovative majors and minors, building and renovating new academic and learning spaces on campus, and supporting the College annually through the Lycoming Fund. Support for the College in fiscal year 2019 will again reflect a generous community of alumni and friends who will contribute over $10 million to the College this year. In addition, the College has again hosted two major campus events in Homecoming and Alumni & Reunion weekends and over 40 events across the country with over 3,500 alumni and friends in attendance. We remain grateful for the deep and abiding connection with those who continue their lifelong relationship to Lycoming College.

The College’s strong athletic tradition continued through its 17 varsity athletic teams, which compete in NCAA Division III. Men’s soccer won the MAC Commonwealth championship and two teams (men’s soccer and wrestling) reached the NCAA Championships. Three wrestlers qualified for the Division III national meet, and we celebrated a National Champion with senior wrestler Garrett Wesneski, the 10th Lycoming College national champion. In all, 11 squads advanced to postseason play, two student-athletes earned All-American honors, two earned Academic All-American honors and two earned prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarships. Nine teams were honored through their respective organizations for superior academic achievement during the year. The athletic department was also active in the community, raising nearly $1,000 for local charities and dedicating more than 1,400 hours to community service during the academic year.

The broad and deep support Lycoming receives is rooted in our rich heritage as a United Methodist institution committed to providing access to a distinguished education in the liberal arts. On behalf of Lycoming College, I appreciate the support of The United Methodist Church, its pastors and churches.

Kent C. Trachte
President

41. Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Full-tuition pledge extended to those pursuing United Methodist candidacy

MTSO has announced a groundbreaking full-tuition pledge to every prospective student who is pursuing United Methodist candidacy as an elder or deacon. The school’s financial-aid experts will assist the prospective student in locating and applying for scholarships from numerous sources. If scholarships from those sources don’t cover the full tuition, MTSO and its donors will make up the difference, leaving the student with no out-of-pocket tuition expense. This pledge is extended to qualified prospective students who apply by July 1 for the 2019-20 academic year. The MTSO admissions staff is happy to answer questions at 800-333-6876 or admissions@mtso.edu.

Master of Arts in Social Justice program launched

In August of 2019, MTSO will welcome the first students pursuing the school’s new Master of Arts in Social Justice degree. This 39-hour, two-year professional master’s degree takes full advantage of MTSO’s unique ethos. The MASJ offers an interdisciplinary core curriculum combining ethics, theology, public leadership, sacred texts and spirituality. Students also will choose from among social justice-oriented elective courses to sharpen their focus in areas of interest such as race, immigration, human sexuality, climate, disability and labor exploitation. MASJ core classes include on-campus and online learning. All on-campus core classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Coursework includes a cross-cultural immersion trip and a customizable 280-hour internship.

Ohio Northern and MTSO announce 3+3 M.Div. program

Ohio Northern University and MTSO have teamed up to offer incoming college students a unique 3+3 program leading to a Master of Divinity degree. The program is the only one of its kind in Ohio and one of only a few in the country. The typical path to an M.Div. degree requires seven years of undergrad and graduate study. Through the 3+3 program, students will save time and money by completing the degree in six years. Starting the program at ONU in Ada, they may choose one of three majors: religion, youth ministry, or religion and ecology. The next step is three years of study at MTSO. After their first year at MTSO, 3+3 students will complete a Bachelor of Arts degree from ONU. After completion of seminary coursework, they will earn an MTSO M.Div.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Russell, director of communications
42. Pennsylvania Council of Churches

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is church bodies and agencies representing Anabaptist, Episcopal, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Protestant communions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania working together for Christian unity for the sake of the world. [John 17:23]

IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Future Planning Work. The Future Task Group completed its work in 2018. The group recommended changes in the composition of the Council’s Board of Directors to reduce the size of the Board by having a single member representing each member denomination in order to improve efficiency—a model much like the National Council of Churches. The Board voted to make this change in October 2018, effective for meetings beginning in 2019. The group also recommended the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee to lay the foundation for the Council’s future, with consideration to be given to members with the skills needed to address many of the Council’s perceived needs, which might include persons with gifts and experience, such as: similar work working with and coaching other religious organizations; fundraising/development; communications; and legal, among others. The Board will name this group at its first 2019 meeting, with work to be completed by the end of 2020.

Conferences and Meetings. The Council did not hold a single statewide conference in 2018 but conducted workshops around the issues of criminal justice reform and gun violence.

Continuing from 2017, the Council held an event in Lancaster in April 2018 called “Faithful Advocacy for Criminal Justice Reform: Principles and Practice.” This session was designed to educate participants about the criminal justice system/mass incarceration at the federal and state levels, “Clean Slate” legislation (designated to remove a barrier for formerly incarcerated persons for qualified offenses at the state level), and how to advocate effectively for this legislation. Participants were asked/encouraged to participate in advocacy visits with their Pennsylvania representatives with support from the Council’s Public Witness program. This effort was supported in part by funds from the Mennonite Central Committee. The Clean Slate legislation passed in May 2018, supported by these significant efforts by the faith community.

The Council held another session in Pittsburgh in August 2018 called “Faithful Advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention: Principles and Practice.” This session followed the same format of the Clean Slate sessions but focused on gun violence prevention legislation designed to remove guns from domestic abusers and others who could be a danger to themselves or others. Legislation aimed at domestic abusers passed in October 2018, and Clean Slate, was supported by significant efforts by the faith community. More workshops are planned for 2019.

The Council also presented to various congregations seeking to learn more about the Berks County Residential Center, used to detain immigrant families, often for long periods of time. It also presented two sessions on climate change using slides and information provided by the Climate Leadership Program attended by the Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach in 2017.

Finally, the Council conducted a Healing Communities training in Bethlehem in June for over 20 participants from the Lehigh Valley. Healing Communities aims to train congregations to be welcoming and supportive of formerly incarcerated persons.

2018 was a year of gearing up for additional “School-to-Prison Pipeline” sessions around the state, using a trauma-informed lens to help participants understand the role of funding to ensure that all students have the resources they need to overcome barriers to learning, including poverty, race, disabilities, and language, among other things. The newer sessions will focus more on how racism plays a role in the distribution of school funding by the state in Pennsylvania. Given the high correlation between students facing traumatic conditions without sufficient support and those who end up in prison, these sessions will continue to make the case for a fair school funding formula and adequate funding in order to bridge the gap. These sessions are being supported by funds from the William Penn Foundation through a collaborative grant from POWER in Philadelphia (a PICO organizing group).

Support for Collaborative Efforts. The Council has received support from several different sources aimed at supporting collaborative efforts involving the Council and other denominations and coalitions.

- The Mennonite Central Committee’s (MCC) East Coast Office has again reauthorized a $10,000 grant to support advocacy in areas that are particularly important to Anabaptist traditions: criminal justice reform, immigration, gun violence, and education. The grant runs through March 2020. It is the Council’s hope that this funding will continue to be renewed. There has been a continuing focus on building a Healing Communities network in PA, and on calling for closure of the Berks County Family Detention Center that is holding refugee families far in excess of the time they should be held. Additional efforts in 2018 included the “Faithful Advocacy” events described above, continuing to build networks among stakeholders active in work around immigration/immigration reform, conversations with groups involved with reducing gun violence, including Heeding God’s Call and CeaseFirePA.

- A grant of $16,000 from the William Penn Foundation (through POWER; $8,000/year for 2 years—an increase from the previous grant amount) continues to support the Council’s efforts to reform school funding in PA. The funds have been used to do basic education on equity and adequacy of public-school funding in PA, and to support the “school to prison pipeline” sessions described above.

These grants have continued to support part-time efforts by an Advocacy Programs Coordinator, John-Michael Cotignola-Pickens.

During the summer of 2018, the Council was invited to apply for a substantial grant from the Van Ameringen Foundation, in conjunction with the Abolitionist Law Center, to do work in the area of criminal justice reform, particularly with regard to the use of solitary confinement and treatment of incarcerated persons with mental health conditions. While not as much as was hoped, the Foundation awarded a three-year grant to be divided between the two organizations: $75,000 in Year 1, $100,000 in Year 2, and $125,000 in Year 3.

Work will begin in 2019.

Other Activities

- The Board of Directors adopted one resolution on gun violence reduction in October 2018.

- The Council:
  - Issued a public statement: A Statement on Separation of Families at the Border (June 19, 2018); and
  - Offered official greetings to: (1) the Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church; and (2) Church Women United.
43. PA Concerned About Alcohol Problems

I am pleased to report that PCAP continues to reach out to public and private schools with the important message that alcohol and other drugs are dangerous to young people. We also have a strong presentation on opioids. In addition to teaching young people about the harmful effects of drugs upon the human body we have also developed an interactive dialogue regarding decision making. Many young people are greatly influenced by their peers. We want to help them to make good decisions.

One of our biggest needs is for people to tell other people about our services. Will you help us? Many years ago churches would invite us to come to their congregations and tell their people about our work. When we did this many school teachers/administrators would be in the audience and after hearing about PCAP they would invite us to come to their classrooms. Today, fewer and fewer churches are inviting us to their churches and therefore fewer school people hear about us and it becomes difficult to get into schools. Our programs are free to schools and youth programs. Can you help us to get the word out about our programs?

As always, we appreciate the many churches that do support our work. Without you we would cease to exist. Thanks for your help and generosity. Children all over Pennsylvania need our help to make good decisions. Please help us to help them!

Sincerely,

Jodi Murphy, Tom King and I have spoken about this fund and all been engraved and placed. A total of $5,117.81 has been raised (1/1/18 to 12/31/18) and we have agreed that any funds raised from the sale of bricks or benches will go towards the Community Enhancements fund as the Celebration of Life Garden has a sufficient amount of money to meet the needs of this site. This occurred on 1/1/19.

44. Quincy Village

1. Gifts - received (1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018)
   - Quincy - $145,223.00 was donated through the end of December.

2. Activities –
   - 104 visits/contacts made with Quincy donors & prospects between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. Continuous stewardship and cultivation of donors, thanking them for their gifts, reporting back to them what their donations have done for the campus and soliciting new gifts is ongoing.
   - We received seven (7) Celebration of Life Garden brick orders this year. They have all been engraved and placed. A total of $5,117.81 is currently in this fund to be spent for Garden enhancements such as flowers, shrubs, seasonal decorations, etc. A bench was ordered, engraved and placed in the Garden in July. Jodi Murphy, Tom King and I have spoken about this fund and we have agreed that any funds raised from the sale of bricks or benches will go towards the Community Enhancements fund as the Celebration of Life Garden has a sufficient amount of money to meet the needs of this site. This occurred on 1/1/19.
• A discussion continues with potential donors about establishing a staff scholarship fund. This is an ongoing conversation with the goal to create a scholarship for either nursing staff (Florence Nightingale) or all staff at Quincy Village. This has a goal of $10,000 to start and may have additional funds added to it at a later time. There is an interested donor at this time. Potentially will fund it with an IRA distribution with the entire amount to be giving in 2019 for a total gift of $10,000. I will continue to work with this donor.

• Jodi and the QV team held a very successful first annual Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 6. Approximately 160 people attended the event in the Hess Room, Stone House and QV Model Railroad Club. We have placed this event in the Partners In Mission – Catalogue of Giving for 2019. This first event raised $2,114 from business partners and event attendees to cover expenses such as cookies, prizes, etc. Any funds remaining after the event costs were covered went to Project Christmas.

• Sue has been invited by the Rotary Club to do a presentation about PSL’s Office of Resource Development. She will do this in first quarter of 2019.

• Sue has been asked by the Rotary Club to be the club’s exchange student counselor. She has accepted the responsibility of this position and has been working with Andjela Todorovic from Bosnia. Sue will be taking Angee to Gettysburg and Philadelphia during the first half of 2019.

• Sue continues to work with the Quincy Care Auxiliary acting as liaison for the group to Presbyterian Senior Living’s Office of Resource Development and the Accounting Department staff at the Administrative Office. The Auxiliary’s Thrift Shop gave a final 20% of their entire year’s earnings on 12/31/18. That amount was $8,185 and is designated for the Quincy Village benevolent care fund

• Sue submitted the Project Christmas PWO for materials to be produced for the mailing. This was sent to the IL residents and mailed to a list of over 2,000 previous donors in early November. The goal was to raise $7,000 for Christmas presents for the Colestock health center, personal care and Parker House residents with any remainder to go to the benevolent care fund. This final amount raised for Project Christmas was $10,815 from 194 donors.

3. Volunteer Hours –

- 19,601.40 Within QV as of 12/31/2018
- 8,203.75 Outside of QV in the greater community as of 12/31/201
- 27,805.15 Total Hours as of 12/31/2018

Sue Barthalow, Area Director of Resource Development

45. United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania

United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania is dedicated to political and social policy concerns for the three United Methodist Conferences in Pennsylvania. It is a vehicle for engaging lawmakers and governmental officials at an institutional-level, as well encouraging, educating and empowering United Methodist congregations and individuals at a grassroots-level. Rev. Dai Morgan is the Coordinator of UM Advocacy in PA.

We are “Better Together” with UM Advocacy in PA because it is a connectional and cooperative mission. It relates the Church to government. It relates the three Pennsylvania United Methodist Conferences to one another. It relates ecumenically and inter-religiously to other faith-based advocacy efforts. To accomplish its work, UM Advocacy in PA needs to build relationships.

In the past year, UM Advocacy in PA has supported several pieces of state legislation, most notably: Clean Slate—to close misdemeanor criminal records after ten years. Safe Harbor—to aid minors who are victims of human trafficking. Buyer Beware—penalties for buyers of sex trafficking.

Rev. Morgan continues to work and meet with the Interfaith Justice Coalition, other faith-based advocacy groups, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and United Methodist agencies.

At this writing, plans are underway to conduct a state-wide United Methodist conference on faith and politics, in Harrisburg, May 18-20. As always, Rev. Morgan is available to preach, speak or consult with local churches. Contact: daimorgan@comcast.net, or 412-580-9016. Also, check out the UM Advocacy PA website: www.umadvocacypa.blogspot.com

Dai Morgan

46. United Methodist Home for Children

Thank you for your faithfull support of the work of The United Methodist Home for Children (UMHC). We share with you exciting news that The United Methodist Home for Children and the Board of Child Care of The United Methodist Church have merged! Our organizations share a history rooted in faith and both are driven by a passion for serving children and families. Combining the two organizations together enables us to grow and expand our shared mission throughout the Mid-Atlantic, learn best practices from one another, and ultimately impact more lives.

This partnership will enable UMHC to leverage BCC’s scale and deep expertise while continuing UMHC’s rich, 100-year legacy of providing exceptional care to young people and their families in Pennsylvania. The two organizations are excellent partners due to their shared United Methodist history, traditions, core values and methodology for delivering services.
Bishop Jeremiah Park, Bishop Peggy Johnson (Peninsula-Delaware Conference) and Bishop LaTrelle Easterling (Baltimore-Washington Conference), along with the boards of directors of BCC and UMHC, enthusiastically support the new partnership. The Pennsylvania State Attorney General and Cumberland County Orphan’s Court have also approved of the merger.

Over the past 100 years both organizations have transformed from simple room and board orphanages to full service providers grounded by evidence-based therapeutic practices. A great, recent example is the launch of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). UMHC partnered with BCC throughout 2018 to roll out PBIS across its residential program. This was an early indicator that a merger would allow both organizations to share knowledge and become stronger together.

A second opportunity for collaboration came in late 2018 when BCC + UMHC jointly applied and was awarded a Federal grant to expand part of its residential program. Without partnering together, neither provider on its own had enough vacant bed capacity to competitively apply for the grant.

BCC is an active participant in the United Methodist Association (UMA) and last year was reaccredited with UMA’s Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) Commission.

There are opportunities for your congregation to get involved. A realigned and renewed Auxiliary will allow for volunteers and donors to help support the work. Check out the new website for more information. (www.boardofchildcare.org)

Thank you for your support of both organizations as we seek to enrich communities, one family at a time across the mid-Atlantic. We are truly stronger together, and stronger because of your support. Our work as one unified organization is a living illustration of this year’s Conference theme, “Better Together: One with Each Other.”

Warmly,
Laurie Anne Spagnola
BCC President and CEO

47. United Theological Seminary

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

292 Masters Students
167 Doctoral Students

Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Over 30 different denominations
19 international students from 15 different countries
96% of students feel their views are respected in the classroom/seminary community and say they have been taught to respect the views of others.
47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities
We thank God for the men and women coming to United because God has called them to serve the least and the lost. We pray as the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples saying, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2).

Dr. Kent Millard
President
United Theological Seminary

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

48. Wesley Theological Seminary

Fostering wisdom and courage

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

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

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

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

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

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

In our 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program, in partnership with Shenandoah University, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degrees in six years. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees.

Wesley provides more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends. Our new Generacion Latinx Scholarship joins our many merit-based scholarships that enable students to afford seminary education. The Community Engagement Institute at Wesley embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engage their communities. Our Community Engagement Fellows program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their M.Div. degree. Students can focus their fellowship on Public Theology, Urban Ministry or Missional Church. Meet our current Fellows at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/.

Take your ministry to the next level

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

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

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

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/.

Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley’s social media, www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram at wesleyseminary, and on Twitter at WesleyTheoSem or sign up for our electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.

49. Wyoming Seminary

As we continue on our year-long celebration of our 175th anniversary, the Wyoming Seminary community is excited to report that we opened this school year with one of our highest enrollments in decades, and the months have continued with positive experiences, academic and athletic accolades, new beginnings and time-honored traditions.

As one of only 14 Round Square member schools in the United States, and the only member school in Pennsylvania, Wyoming Seminary is proud to be an active member of this prestigious international organization. In late September and early October, four Upper School students, one faculty member and Sem President Kevin Rea represented the school at the Round Square International Conference in Toronto, Canada. Round Square is a world-wide network of more than 160 schools on five continents dedicated to the IDEALS of internationalism, democracy, environmental stewardship, adventure, leadership and service.

This past fall also included Sem’s third annual Day of Service, a huge success with excellent participation from students and faculty. One of the highlights of the fall term was the kick-off celebration of the school’s 175th anniversary year, which featured an all-school photo. More than 1,000 students, faculty and staff formed the numbers 175 and 1844-2019, and both photos and videos were taken by a drone. The Upper School’s Engineering Club did an exceptional job of organizing and managing the project.

The school opened in late August with a total enrollment of 821 students, hailing from 18 states and 35 countries. Sixty-seven percent of our students receive tuition assistance.

We welcomed the start of the 2018-19 academic year with a visit from representatives of Narrative 4, who led the all-school professional day in August. The day was a resounding success with faculty from both divisions working together to share their stories and strengthened bonds while building capacity for empathy. The school will hold an Upper School Narrative 4 Day in April to offer our students and faculty an opportunity to take part in a story exchange. Several faculty members attended the NAIS People of Color Conference in Nashville, accompanying students who attended the Student Diversity Leadership Conference. All attendees returned invigorated to implement strategies to build empathy and appreciation of difference. Wyoming Seminary also has initiated a new Project to Enhance Global Understanding, which in conjunction with other independent schools, brings students from crisis areas in the world to study in the United States.

Sem’s Board of Trustees and the school community are now engaged in a process to complete a strategic campus master plan that will consider important aspects, such as the school’s most advantageous size and which major new building and renovation projects could be carried out.

The Mock Trial team is once again enjoying a successful year, having won several tournaments, including the 2018 Region 5, District 2 High School Mock Trial Competition in the Luzerne County Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre. The team is now looking ahead to this year’s state tournament, hoping to repeat last year’s success in winning the state championship.

Our athletic teams also have had tremendous success on the local, state and national stage. The field hockey team captured the District 2 championship and state championship. Our wrestling team finished second in the team standings at the National Prep Wrestling Championships in February, while three wrestlers earned national championships; all 14 wrestlers earned All-American status. Since 2010, Sem wrestlers have garnered 30 individual national titles. Our boys’ basketball team is again in the running for a state title, and members of our girls and boys swim teams also are hoping to earn state medals.

In addition, we were excited to see our girls wrestling program grow and expand. Sem is the only high school in the country to feature a girls wrestling program that is headed by an Olympic-level coach, as the squad is coached by USA Wrestling’s Assistant National Women’s coach, Erin Tomeo Vandiver. Several members of the team have won medals and accolades in national and international tournaments. Sem also will be hosting a few women’s wrestling camps and tournaments this spring.

We are excited about the coming months on the campuses of both divisions. There’s always something exciting and inviting for our Sem community to attend and interact with staff, faculty, and students. We are looking forward to one of our biggest campus events at the end of March with the annual Sem Dance Marathon. The event is run entirely by the Sem Student Government and last year the Dance Marathon raised an impressive $26,000 for Geisinger’s Janet Weis Children’s Hospital and Children’s Miracle Network. We anticipate it being another well-attended, successful night.
The Sem community is looking forward to year-end arts, musical and dance events as well as our second annual open house that will showcase our Summer at Sem Creative Arts Program. The 175th Anniversary committee also is planning a series of exciting and engaging events, concerts and programs that will celebrate the school’s history, throughout the summer and early fall. Beautiful events and community gatherings are on the horizon! We thank the Susquehanna Conference for its continued material and prayerful support, and we look forward to serving students and the community in the future.

Kevin Rea, President
Wyoming Seminary
Clergy Self Nominees for 2020 General/Jurisdictional Conferences

**Rev. Dr. Paul Amara**  
Church: Plains  
District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

Experience: Serve on DCOM, BOM, Committee on Episcopacy, Missions and Outreach Committee.

Prayerfully considered representing my annual conference at 2020 General Conference. I believe God has called me into ministry beyond local church. We are a global church. Have experiences in global ministry. Feel called to represent my conference. I would like to minister on global stage. I’ve prayerfully considered participating in a broader forum in disciple making. I feel this will be an opportunity to do that. Currently alternate delegate to northeastern jurisdictional conference. Will faithfully exhibit grace if elected. Asking God to continue to guide and direct me. My vision for the church is unity in the midst of diversity.

---

**Rev. Heather Baker-McAllister**  
Church: Wyalusing Charge  
District: Williamsport

Experience: Cluster leader

I have always felt that delegates to General Conference have a special call to fulfill in the life of our denomination. What happens at any one session of General Conference has lasting ramifications. Thus, those who represent our annual conferences need to be able to listen both to the legislation on the page and to conversations with the persons we represent. The listening also needs to occur during the actual General Conference session for the working of the Holy Spirit. I believe that Jesus has formed and shaped me as a listener who is sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit. I have experienced the Holy Spirit's transformation of my own understanding of many issues dividing the church in such a way that I am able to listen to all parties with an aim to understand and represent them well. I feel called to make my listening heart available at General Conference for the work yet to be done.

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**Rev. Randall Bennett, Jr.**  
Church: Christ Community (Hummel's Wharf)  
District: Lewisburg

Experience: Worship Coordinator/Sessions Committee (2012-2016); Facilitator for EGP; Member DCOM, Path 1 Lead Pastors Cohort (2018-2019); and more...

I am a child of God and of our United Methodist Tradition. I love the diversity of our tradition and believe there is a place for Evangelicals, Progressives, and everyone in between! I specifically believe I am being called as a delegate because I see God's Table as a large and welcoming Table (after all, if Judas had a place of honor at Jesus' Table, then who am I to refuse to sit at Jesus' Table with those whom I disagree). Many of my brothers and sisters have aligned themselves with theological tribes; I have not. The United Methodist Church is a mess...it's our mess (and our home), and I feel called to be a part of the clean-up effort. Send me. I want to serve, and believe I can help. Thank-you and God bless you in your discernment.
Pastor David Biser  
Church: CrossPoint Church  
District: Harrisburg  
Experience: Matthew 28, Vital Congregations, Multi-site cohort, coaching and mentoring  

As a follower of Jesus I believe that we are called to give ourselves to causes that are greater than we are. We are to offer Christ to people and situations where the heart of Jesus is broken. There is a need for the Church to be a vibrant force in the world today and serving at the denominational level is one way I can be a part of what God is building on earth - as it is in heaven. Our denomination faces challenges from inside and out. Now, more than ever, I feel the call to serve in a way that will help see the United Methodist Church into the future. I have served the church locally as an innovator and globally as a missional entreprenure because I believe that Jesus has called the Church to bring hope to the world. I believe there are great things the United Methodist Church can do to bring life, change, grace, and God's amazing love to people everywhere. There is much to be done and I have seen the connectional aspect of our Church make an impact on children, adults, entire villages and in lost people. Eternity is in the balance and our Church has the answer for a hurting and broken world. We have the means to spread the message of Jesus through the many systems we've invested in. I feel called to be a part of moving our Church to a new place so that we can better reach the world.

JP Bohanan  
Church: Mountaintop: Christ  
District: Lewisburg  
Experience: Conf Council on Finance and Administration  
District Committee on Ministry (Yrk/Lwsbrg)  
Congregational Vitalization/Growing Effective Churches (past)  

Our church seems to be at a crossroad and my hope is that we can be as United as possible in our shared faith and common commitment to Jesus and his mission. I embraced the UMC as an adult, coming from a Pentecostal, Baptist, and independent background. I graduated from a conservative Bible College and an excellent liberal seminary. My childhood was in southeast Asia and large metropolitan centers and I have traveled internationally on mission. My wife, Robin, is a family nurse practitioner who has served urban and rural poor and HIV-positive persons. She has done HIV work and research in Lesotho, South Africa, and Ghana. Our oldest son, Jesse, has Asperger’s and works in IT. His brother, Caleb, is a music teacher in the Pittsburgh public schools. I have served as a church planter, coached soccer for years, play guitar, and have been deeply involved in the local communities in which I have served. One of my gifts is welcoming and connecting diverse persons to follow and serve Jesus together.
**Rev. Terence Brosius**
Church: Port Royal/Matamoras
District: State College


I am an Ordained Elder (2015) who represents a missing generation (Generation Xers) who are in the middle of generations without a voice. I am also one of the most eclectic educated pastors with various different degrees with various different employment prior to being a pastor. I also have the spiritual gift of leadership and faith. I believe coming into the UMC from outside, and being a UMC member prior to ministry, I can contribute in ways nobody else has contributed yet. I believe being a warehouse worker, as well as being a youth director previously for ten years has some benefit in my leadership. I have done some things in churches I pastor that other pastors could not accomplish.

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**Andrew Burd-Harris**
Church: JAGM Locust Run/Thompsontown
District: State College

Experience: Juniata county cluster leader
GBCS seminar organizer

My vision for the future of the United Methodist Church is that we better live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through becoming more global and inclusive. To realize this vision, the polity of the church needs to change from being U.S. centric to understanding the U.S. as one region amidst many others. As the church around the globe grows, the center of United Methodism is shifting, and our Book of Discipline needs to reflect this reality. The church also needs to be inclusive and create space where different theological positions can be honored and held in tension with each other, while acting together to promote evangelism, mercy, justice, and peace. Disciple making at its best involves acting in love and staying in relationship in the midst of conflict. Our Book of Discipline needs to embody the challenge of Jesus to his disciples: love one another.
Reverend James Copulos
Church: Mt. Calvary, Harrisburg
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Order of Elders, Harrisburg District Vitality Team, Organized Wesleyan Day of Renewal, PLD 1 and 2, School of Prayer, Young Clergy Rep to GBCS Forum

My vision for the United Methodist Church is to be a church that honors Christ first. I believe we accomplish this most effectively by combining Scriptural authority with social justice. Jesus calls us to bring salvation to the lost, to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and fight for those on the margins. The verse which brought me to salvation when I was 18 was Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

I feel called to serve as a delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conferences because I believe that a church centered in Wesleyan theology offers some of the best opportunities to bring renewal to God’s kingdom. I believe that my unique background could offer some different perspectives which could be helpful in the discussions on where our denomination should go in ministry. I spent my formative years living in a half Jewish/half Greek Orthodox household, later became a passionate Atheist only to ultimately be saved in the Southern Baptist Church. In college, through the leadership of Matt Lake, I was blessed to discover Wesleyan theology which helped me to find my home in the UMC.

I would be honored to have your consideration for this opportunity to serve.
Jim Copulos

Joshua Davinsizer
Church: Troy Trinity Parish
District: Williamsport

Experience: Member of the Board of Student Aid, Member of the Williamsport District Superintendency Committee, Speaker at the 2018 Navigate Conference

I am an energetic under thirty year old clergy person who feels called to serve as a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference. I feel a calling to help the United Methodist Church rekindle the revival Spirit that our founder John Wesley originally instilled in our denomination. I believe as a delegate that I can help bring the passion and reminder that we as the church exist not to serve ourselves, but to partner with the Holy Spirit and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28). My vision for the future of the United Methodist Church is to continue to be a global church where we build God’s Kingdom everywhere while we meet the needs of the people through sharing the Gospel, making disciples, and taking care of those who are marginalized. At the same time, my vision for our denomination is that we become a church that brings about a Holy Spirit filled revival that awakens the world to the need of having Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
**Rev. Michael (Mick) Dawes**  
Church: Faith Woodbury  
District: Altoona

Experience: Order of Elders Steering Comm., Altoona Dist. Supportive Fellowship Comm., LLP mentor, Lay Servant Class instructor, Safe Sanctuaries trainer

More than once, I’ve said I would never want to be a delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference. And once again, I’m learning that when it comes to God, never say never. After witnessing the General Conference 2019, and the resulting pain and brokenness, I feel called to be a part of the healing as a delegate. Two passages of scripture came to me, multiple times from various sources, right after GC 2019. They were Philippians 1:15-18a and Isaiah 43:18-19. Like Paul, I believe that UMC can proclaim Christ in different ways for different reasons. I also believe we missed the new thing God was doing when we didn’t consider the Connectional Conference Plan, which would allow the church to remain united in our mission while ministering in different ways. I hope and pray that we would resurrect the CCP. I realize the 2020 General Conference will be more than a continuation of GC 2019, and as a delegate I would work diligently, seeking God’s will, on all matters before me.

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**Rev Dennis Derr**  
Church: Retired  
District: Williamsport

Experience: DCOM; Bishops Retreat Comm.; Lay Servant Instructor; EO Director of Travel Ministry; Bd. Ordained Min.; Div. of Evang.; Exec. Comm.; CCRM

As an active retired elder with 43 years pastoral experience (38 years with pension credit) I have the time to give to General and Jurisdictional responsibilities. Faith UMC, Montoursville is my home church and the Charge Conference to which I report. Prior to answering God's call, I was active in the entertainment industry and taught History in a Middle School. I have a pastors heart. I am a life long United Methodist with a solid Wesleyan theology. My vision for the future of the UMC is one that does not just hold to the outward form of religion; but one that evidences the inner power of it! I desire that the Church proclaim Christ and transform lives. I believe that by the Holy Spirit, the living Christ still changes individuals, religions, and the world. Let's be united in faith, hope, and love; welcoming all persons into a living relationship with God within the UMC. And let us be about the task of making new disciples and transforming the world. Living in coastal Delaware, I have also been active in the Peninsula Delaware Conference. In retirement I have written 5 faith based books and recorded one album. As a Director of Travel Ministry with Educational Opportunities, my world wide travel has given me a broad perspective of Christian faith and practice.

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Rev Craig Gommer
Church: Dallas/Firwood - SWB
District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre
Experience: Board of Pensions/Health Benefits, Student Aid Fund, Cluster Leader-Berwick area & Wilkes Barre area, Safe Sanctuaries trainer, AC Worship: Creative

It seems like ages ago that I got my call but it is as plain and real as it was in 1994. As I prayed about my call, I felt the tapping on my shoulder of my two preacher grandfathers. It wasn’t something I could ignore. Through ministry and mission, I have met people from all walks of life who also have dedicated themselves to making disciples for Jesus Christ to transform the world. Even when we disagree we still are able to say if your heart is as mine let us show each other our zeal for the Lord. For many years I have heard people talk about General and Jurisdictional conferences and wanted to throw my hat in the ring, but didn’t. As we approach 2020, I again have felt a tapping on my shoulder that I can’t ignore. It may be my grandfathers again but I have no doubt that it is the Holy Spirit calling me to represent my brothers and sisters of the Susquehanna Annual Conference. I believe I can represent our Conference well seeking guidance for the future of our beloved UMC. A future that first and foremost makes it a priority to share the love of Jesus Christ with all people. It would be my honor to serve you, our Conference, the UMC and mostly important God, as a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference. Married to former Cathy Dierolf. We each have two children & together have five grandchildren.

Judi Herrold
Church: Newburg
District: Harrisburg
Experience: Conf: Nominations Chair, Head Clergy Teller / Sessions Com., Prev. Camp & Retreat Commission Chair
Dist: Com on Ministry, Previous DCOM Secretary

My willingness to serve as a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference truly has been a call which I have been and continue to discern through the last year. It is a dynamic change of heart for me - having never had interest previously, since others seemed more prepared, better suited and clearly called to this leadership role. While raised in the UMC, I have been growing into the truth that more than half my life has been serving in pastoral ministry: shepherding God's people, making disciples of Jesus and transforming the world. I am humbled to have been led into pastoral ministry, to have had opportunities to serve, standing on the shoulders of others who have gone before, and sense that this is the time to take this step.

While making myself available to serve in this capacity seems a daunting task, I am humbled to sense God's leading to complete this nomination form. I am willing and would be honored to be considered a worthy candidate representing the Susquehanna Conference in a wider denominational gathering.

My vision for the future of the UMC is unclear, and yet wide open. God is the One who creates 'ways where there are no ways.' While I do not yet see specific possibilities, God's vision is unlimited. I have a deep concern for our witness to the world.
Rev. Lenore Hosier
Church: Saint John's-Newberry
District: Williamsport

Experience: Cross cultural/cross racial appointment with Global Ministries; Board of Ordained Ministry; Conference Secretary of Global Ministries; DCOM Chair

As an elder in full connection, I am completely committed to the United Methodist Church as a global community of believers. I make an attempt to closely follow issues that are relevant to our connection in both the church and in the world through both faith-based and secular sources. In my 15 years of pastoral ministry, I have served rural and urban, small and larger, and churches with diverse populations, thus I believe I can represent these congregations accurately in both discussion and vote. With my experience in a cross-racial/cross-cultural appointment, my time working with Global Ministries as the Conference Mission Secretary and my education in my doctoral program specializing in Peacebuilding and Interfaith Dialogue, I bring a very unique, global perspective to the table as we sit with our Methodist brothers and sisters from other places. I have attended both conservative and progressive schools for my theological education, so I have been in intentional dialogue with persons that come from many differing viewpoints from each other and myself. I truly feel as if I can represent the Susquehanna Conference honestly and accurately as we look toward the future in our holy conferencing.

Rev. Jan Hughes
Church: Aldersgate, Mechanicsburg
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair of Superintendency Team for Harrisburg District, Equipping Vital Congregations, Church Coach for EVC

I have a deep love and appreciation for the people of the United Methodist Church and a passion for our beloved church to live into the calling of Christ to make disciples for the transformation of the world. I bear the burden of personal responsibility to be a faithful and fruitful leader guided by the Holy Spirit. Our denomination needs to be united in humility and bound by the love of Christ thereby embracing all of God’s people. I yearn to guide us to the cross where we can be restored in joy to proclaim, In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity (Rupertus Meldenius). I seek to be a humble, Spirit-filled listener and a thoughtful and prayerful contributor to all the issues coming before our Church.
**Rev. Dr. Kathleen Kind**  
Church: Altoona District  
District: Altoona

Experience: Dist/Conf- BoOM, DCoM, Church & Society, Response Team, Pensions Bd, Licensing School, Mentor, GC-12,16alt, JC-12,16. General Agency GBCS Bd & CPPP

I was born into and raised in the United Methodist Church. This is the Church that took my baptismal vows seriously and raised me in faith so that I could have a relationship with Christ and discern God’s call on my life to enter into ordained ministry in the UMC. This Church formed in me a deep concern for social justice as well as a call to fulfill the Great Commission. My depth of appreciation and love for the Church and faith community is profound and I am concerned that we are not fulfilling the mission of the Church- to be disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus who make more disciples of Jesus. The hurt and pain of GC19 still lingers. That was not a positive witness to the watching world and that was not the Church at its best. However, I am convinced that God is yet at work. GC20 is another pivotal gathering for the UMC. It is my desire to be a faithful participant in the work of Christ’s Church, not so that we maintain the institution, rather so that we might have the greatest impact in our local communities, across the nation, and the world.

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**Rev. Laura King**  
Church: Woolrich McElhattan Charge  
District: State College

Experience: Cluster Leader-Altoona and Lewisburg Districts, DCOM-St. College District, Candidate Mentor, Teller

As the youngest of five children and a twin as well, I have read the psychologists who say that I would never amount to anything. Funny thing about God, who uses the weak to show God's strength. Obviously, God had other plans for me. I believe God has other plans for our church as well. I feel called to be a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference because I believe we need to look at the big picture for our denomination and seek God's will for our future path. Time and again God has called the people to care for the widow, the orphan, and the alien living in our midst. Jesus came and ate with sinners and tax collectors because, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." Mark 2.17. And perhaps most importantly I believe the church has a call to spread the good news to the world that God loves them and sent Jesus, not to condemn them, but that the world might be saved. (paraphrase of John3.16-17) We are called to love. We are called to remember whose we are. We are called to follow Jesus. As a delegate to the greater body of our church I would look at all the work we do in light of my basic beliefs as stated.
Matthew Lake
Church: First UMC of Williamsport, PA
District: Williamsport

Experience: General Conference Delegate 2012, 2016, 2019
Jurisdictional Delegate 2012, 2016
Board of Ordained Ministry Team Leader 2014-present

The decision to put my name forward for the 2020 General Conference has been incredibly challenging for me. After seeing the pain firsthand that so many felt after the 2019 specially called General Conference, I was not sure I was willing to experience something like that again. However, I ultimately felt led to submit my name once more because individuals I trust have encouraged me to do so and because I do not believe the conversation of the 2019 General Conference is over. While there is never a guarantee of what will happen, I believe many issues will reach a level of conclusion at the 2020 General Conference. Therefore if I were to be elected to go, I feel that I should go in order to help bring as much resolution to our fractured and hurting church as possible. My greatest desire is to help us move forward in faithfulness, health, and healing... so that we can all be about the business to which we are all ultimately called--to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. If there is any way I can play even a small role in that endeavor, it is my desire to do so.

Rev. Helen Learn
Church: Athens
District: Williamsport

Experience: Member and Secretary of District Committee on Ordained Ministry, past 8 years to current

These are adventurous times for the Body of Christ known as the United Methodist Church. I wish to help the people of the UMC step with boldness wherever Jesus is calling us for I firmly believe there is a purpose and call for the people of the United Methodist Church. I have been Spirit-gifted with an open ear to hear all voices, a caring heart for all persons, and a sense of calm when there are waves. I see the Church needing these gifts as we are moving forward in ministry and mission. I have a sense of call and responsibility to be present as a representative for the people of my local congregation, district, and conference, as well as representing the global church.
**Rev. Dr. Ken Loyer**  
Church: Spry  
District: York

Experience: Board of Ordained Ministry, DCOM, District Lay Servant Ministries  
Instructor, Cluster Leader, Speaker at Annual Conference and District Rallies

I am a young adult (under 40) and lifelong United Methodist who believes our future is hopeful as we share the good news of Jesus with the world around us. During my time as lead pastor of Spry Church, weekly worship attendance has grown from under 90 to over 300 and the congregation's impact on the community has increased dramatically. My Ph.D. is in Theology with a focus on Methodist Studies. I have taught courses in Theology and United Methodist Studies (history, doctrine, and polity) at 4 United Methodist seminaries and have published 2 books and 18 journal articles and essays on such topics as Wesleyan theology, the mission of the church, Holy Communion, and the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. My experience representing the UMC in numerous ecumenical settings (World Methodist Council, National Council of Churches, etc.) has helped me learn to understand and respect a variety of perspectives on issues, including those that differ from my own positions, and to work for the common good. My passion is the renewal of the church for the sake of God’s mission in the world today!

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**Rev. Jason Mackey**  
Church: Director of Connecting Ministries  
District: Harrisburg


As Methodists we are United in our desire to make disciples of Jesus Christ, but in the wake of GC 2019, we have been distracted from that mission. One question has dominated the discipleship dialog and we have become known not by our love, but by our fighting. It’s time to find a new way to walk together that reflects our faith and honors one another’s values. Over the next year, I believe a grassroots effort to create a connectional plan will emerge. I believe this will result in a new sister denomination and such a vision will require action from General Conference. I hope to be a voice and vote that will move us forward in a healthy way, honoring all our values, maintaining discipline, and helping us focus people back on Jesus.
Dr. McElwee Ronald McElwee
Church: Retired
District: York

Experience: I served seven years as pastor or Roxbury and Upper Strasburg United Methodist Churches, York Dist. 18 yrs as Exec. Sec The Student Aid Fund

I really do believe that there needs to be a "living memory" of where we have been and from where we have come from to be the Church we are today and further to use that knowledge and my experiences as pastor and Student Aid Fund Administrator as a background in considering the direction our church needs to consider any direction we may be facing currently and to maintain our sense of mission as the future unfolds. From something of a historical perspective, I believe we need to always keep before us our purpose and to never forget that we are called to serve God in the all we do in ministry. While it is good to be aware of good business practices in much that we do. It is imperative that we never forget that we are not a business, but the Body of Christ at work in all of God's creation, sometimes even rejecting generally accepted business practices for the sake of reaching out to meet the human needs of others. We need to remember and remind ourselves as a church we are called to serve and not to be served.

Rev. Rich Morris
Church: Hicks Memorial Duncansville
District: Altoona


I would like to serve as a delegate to General Conference because I love the Church. I believe the local church is the Body of Christ and the hope of the world. There is nothing quite like the Methodist Church. We have a unique witness and opportunity to make disciples of Jesus in our society today. In fact, I believe we have been called for this purpose. My vision for the Church is a community of grace where everyone is welcome and where the community pursues scriptural holiness together in all matters. Our world needs a place where love and truth go hand in hand, where righteousness and peace are friends. As a delegate I can dialogue with persons who see things differently than I do. I try to model this in my church and I value this among my friends and colleagues. If elected I would strive to faithfully represent the people and churches of the Susquehanna Conference.
**Pastor John Overman**  
Church: Enola, Mt Zion  
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Board of Ordained Ministry (Candidacy Registrar), Commission on Equitable Salaries, Harrisburg DCOM, mentor & mentor trainer, Czech Rep. Mission

I offer myself to serve as your delegate, seeking to bring unity, not uniformity, to the Church.  
If selected, I would want to help us all carefully discern and wisely determine the ways that will make the UMC not merely a viable organization for the future, but a vibrant witness of God’s healing grace in a broken world.  
To find another way forward, I wish to offer a modest and moderate voice that relies not only on scripture, but also the best of our tradition, wisdom, reason, and experience.  
While 2020 will certainly be a watershed year, the church must also grapple with our other issues of vitality of ministry and witness, finances, apportionments and poverty, and the scale and work of our Boards and Agencies.  
The crucial work of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences will demand practical solutions to our social, global, and theological diversity. With patience, listening, learning and discernment I believe we can find God's way forward together.

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**Rev. Dr. Jennifer Parks-Snyder**  
Church: Lightstreet  
District: Lewisburg

Experience: Assisting Elder to Lewisburg Dist, Secretary of Property & Casualty Insur. Com., Candidate Mentor, Cluster Leader, Vital Congregation Lewisburg Dist

I believe I have the experience to be a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference through my education and work in the local churches, the Lewisburg district, and the Conference. My vision and hope for the conference and jurisdiction is to follow John Wesley’s 3 simple rules for faithful living: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. The United Methodist Church has the gifts and abilities to make such living possible as we spread the gospel of Christ in real, tangible ways by our actions and words. We are making the world a better place. We are making the kingdom of God known through love, mission, and grace filled ministry.
Rev. Gregory Rapp  
Church: First UMC Hanover  
District: York

Experience: Wellsboro District Superintendent, Matthew 28/Equipping Vital  
Congregations Coach, Camping Ministry, Candidacy Mentor

I feel called to serve as a delegate to preserve the unity of the Church that introduced me and my family to Jesus Christ. This is not a pursuit of unity at all costs, but a unity that shares a common conviction of both theology and mission. Formed in the Wesleyan Tradition of the United Methodist Church, I believe the Bible is the product of discipleship which is human/divine cooperation. We will see the fingerprints of perfect God and imperfect human beings, thus the need for Tradition, Experience, and God-given Reason to understand and apply the Scriptures in our time. These are the doctrinal standards of the UMC that we must meet as clergy in order to be ordained. I am not a Fundamentalist. I am a Centrist, believing that a movement to the extreme Left or Right would distort who we are as a Church. That being said, I feel called to assist the Church in applying a common theology to a common mission of salvation, mercy and justice for all people based on grace. If unity proves impossible, a negotiated parting should be explored to allow both sides of this issue the freedom to offer Christ according to a different sense of call. All kinds of people need Jesus whether they are liberal or conservative, gay or straight, wealthy or poor, churched or unchurched. This must be our highest priority.

Rev. Mark Reisinger  
Church: Wesley, Bloomsburg  
District: Lewisburg

Experience: Chair, Conference Mission & Outreach Team  
Chair, Harrisburg District DCOM  
Harrisburg District Leadership Team  
Lewisburg District DCOM

Born, baptized, confirmed, and ordained in the UMC, I have a deep love for Methodism and the people called Methodist. As a pastor in the Central PA and Susquehanna Conferences I have had the opportunity to serve congregations of varying sizes and locations across the Conference. I've also been blessed in my ministry to serve in a number of leadership capacities throughout the Annual Conference and larger denomination. All of these experiences and opportunities have deepened my appreciation for the United Methodist Church and led me to feel called to serve as a delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference in 2020. In order to guide our church to a more faithful place, I firmly believe that we need to send new persons, not a part of previous General Conferences, to General Conference 2020. It’s time to allow the Holy Spirit to move in new, bold ways. I would be honored to serve in that capacity.
**George Reynolds**  
Church: Linglestown Life  
District: Harrisburg  
Experience: Coach for Equipping Vital Congregations, Commission on Equitable Compensation  

I feel called to serve as a delegate because I offer a listening ear and thoughtful voice to our deliberations. In the cacophony of voices crying out for this side or that, I believe we need people willing to stand out for their willingness to listen, learn and create God's intended future for the UMC.

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**Rev W. Keith Rockwell**  
Church: Hegins Valley United Methodist Charge  
District: Harrisburg  
Experience: Member of the Board of Pensions- Chair of Education and Benefits  
Trained mentor for the Ordained Ministry  
Trained as a Healthflex Educator  

I feel called to attend the General Conference in 2020 as a delegate from the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference, first by God through prayer. And second because after 33 years in the United Methodist Church as a clergy member, I feel can make a meaningful contribution to the advancement of the realm of God through the United Methodist Church. My 33 years of ministry have allowed me to be well versed in all areas of our Church connection, especially in the areas of pension and health insurance. I was trained in August 2018 by Wespath to educate the clergy for the new rollout of the Healthflex exchanges. I feel 15 years on the Board of Pensions give me insight to the motions sponsored by the General Board of Pensions with empathizes on the conversion from a defined contribution and defined benefit to just a defined contribution. Also, after 8 years on the Board of Global Ministry, I have, insight into the mission and structure within our Church.  

Finally, what is the future of the United Methodist Church? I believe the United Methodist Church’s future is in the hands of God. If elected I will do all in my power to prepare for courageous and difficult votes to advance the will of God and God’s realm in the United Methodist Church. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.
**Rev. Stephen Salisbury**  
Church: Grace Hanover  
District: York  

Experience: Pastor - Grace Hanover (York - 2 years)  
Pastor - Newburg (Harrisburg - 4 years)  
Pastor - Breezewood/Wesley Chapel (Altoona - 2 years)  

After much prayer and discernment, I have decided to submit my name for election to General Conference 2020. Through my life, I have been part of ten different congregations in the Susquehanna Conference, as a child, young adult, and the last eight years as a pastor. I believe this experience has helped me to gain an understanding of the beliefs, hopes, and prayers of this conference. If I am elected, I will take this knowledge with me to the conference; along with prayer, openness, and hope. I am excited about the future of our church and, if I am elected, I will humbly serve. Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you.

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**Brent Salsgiver**  
Church: Paxton United Methodist Church  
District: Harrisburg  

Experience: 22 yr delegate to annual conference currently serves on Conference Mission and Outreach Board  

Throughout my work in the United Methodist church, as a lay member, I have had the privilege to be elected as a delegate to the 2004 General Conference and elected as the secretary of the legislative committee for Church and Society. I have worked on jurisdictional committees such as the connectional table. Now as a clergy member I feel God's push to continue to work for all persons as we face a trying time in the life of our denomination. I submit my name not out my own desire, but out of a desire to be of used by our church in these difficult times.

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**Tom Salsgiver**  
Church: Clergy Assistant to Bishop  
District: Harrisburg  

Experience: Dean of Cabinet (4 years), DS, Director Connectional Ministries, Nominations, CFA, Trustees, Loan Fund, Delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conf  

The UMC is at a crossroads. For the sake of our global and local mission and ministry of making disciples, GC 2020 must address our division and brokenness. Multiple significant issues and proposals are coming before the delegates affecting our unity and future, continued openness to LGBTQ persons, the possible reduction in the World Service budget while funding 8 new African Bishops, funding costs for US Bishops shifted to Jurisdictions and/or ACs, potential reduction of Bishops and/or multiple ACs sharing a Bishop, and other petitions. These have the possibility of significantly changing the landscape of the UMC and our AC.  

Having been an active member of the Commission on Way Forward and part of the writing team for GC, as well as currently serving as VP of UM Publishing House, Secretary of the NEJ and part-time clergy assistant to the Bishop gives me a global and local perspective of the UMC. It is critically important that delegates consider both locally and globally as we plan for the future of our church. As I humbly put my name forward, I believe my skills, variety of ministries served, and experience from the past 6 years equip me to serve as a clergy delegate to GC 2020.
Charles Sprenkle  
Church: AE York District, Forge Hill  
District: York

Experience: CF&A, Chair Board of Ordained Ministry, previously Conference Relation BOM, Board of Trustees, Board of Global Missions, Chair Loan Fund

I have passionately served in many areas of the church - BOOM, Global Ministries, Trustees, Loan Fund, most of which I was in a leadership position.  
I have taught on leading a church, leading by strengths, stress management, and a variety of other topics.  
I completed Beeson Ministry education program, a 3 year study looking at some of the largest churches in the country and have tried to find ways to put those lessons to work in the local church.  
At times, particularly as Conference Relations Chair I have had to challenge Bishops and Supintendents.  
I am not afraid to say what I think or declare why I believe what I believe.  
I believe that in the church that the Bible is our first and greatest source to determine what we believe. Virtually any other source, absent scripture can lead us to a place where authority is invested only in ourselves and not beyond ourselves. When that happens, we honor ourselves while denying the words and wisdom of Jesus.  
I want to see a church that stands fully on scripture, on the love of Christ, knowing fully that love requires us to move those we love closer to the ideals of who God created and called us to be.

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Michael Swimley  
Church: Hope Port Trevorton  
District: Lewisburg

Experience: Lewisburg DCOM, Williamsport DCOM, Order of Elders Steering Committee, Williamsport District Supportive Fellowship Treasurer

I believe that the church continues to need persons at General/Jurisdictional Conference who are willing to listen not only to differing sides of the various issues that face the church, but willing to spend time discerning God's direction and vision for the United Methodist denomination.  
I believe God desires healing and wholeness for the church. If it is God's desire, I would be a part of that healing.

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Rev. Rebecca Torres-Holland  
Church: Christ Community UMC  
District: Altoona

Experience: Disability Ministries Task Force, Chair  
Chi Rho Singers, Vice President  
DCOM, Altoona  
Order of St. Luke

I feel called to offer myself as a willing delegate to serve because I deeply love the United Methodist Church. As a woman of minority descent with a visually disability, I have become more aware of the voices of people who are often forgotten. God has placed a particular call on my life to love and serve people on the margins of both the church and society. I am particularly passionate about serving and empowering people with disabilities and people of color.  
Each day, I do my best to respond to God’s call to use all of my gifts and graces to serve. I was recognized by Discipleship Ministries as an emerging young leader and my writing has been published by numerous sources, including UM Insight. In December of 2018, my first book of poems was published. All profits from this publication were donated to the United Methodist Church.  
I believe that true inclusion and acceptance starts in the heart. I humbly offer my willing heart, hands, and mind in order to serve God and my church in any way the Holy Spirit sees fit to use me.

Jake Waybright  
Church: Montoursville Faith UMC  
District: Williamsport

Experience: Conference Episcopacy Committee, Conference Mission and Outreach Team, Harrisburg DCOM, Williamsport District Network Leader, Dean/Camp Penn

I believe that out of the pain and challenge of the last several General Conferences, there is the potential, by God’s grace, for something new to emerge that will free all United Methodists to more effectively align ourselves for our mission in fresh ways and new forms. I love to build relationships across the lines that often divide us, and to dream of what new things God might do if we are open to it. These have been difficult days for us, but God has a way of bringing life out of death and beauty out of the ashes.
Rev. Gary Weaver
Church: Camp Hill United Methodist Church
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Sessions Committee Chair
Conference Missional Board
Conference Parish Development Committee Chair
Conference Episcopacy Committee
Candidacy Mentor

The words of Ephesians 4:1-3 define my sense of call to serve as delegate at our upcoming 2020 Conferences; I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. I, like many, have loved and continue to love the United Methodist Church and I believe that it holds a missional, ministry, and theological future for all those who need to hear. The United Methodist Church has always faced challenges and still finds ways to continue to spread the gospel in a changing world.

Deep within, I believe we all want to have hope for the United Methodist Church. While we all realize a triumphant hope at the return of Christ, we wonder is there any present hope? I believe there is a future because hope is woven throughout the Scriptures. My hope for the church rests in believing that the church needs to take the time to know who we have been, are, and can be in Jesus Christ.

I would be humbled to serve as one of your delegates serving the Susquehanna Annual Conference as we journey together.

Reverend Karen Weiss
Church: Waterworks Ministries
District: State College

Experience: 2012 Lay Delegate to GC/JC, 2012-16 GBGM IMT Coordinator
Thailand/Mongolia, 2018-pres. DCOM, 2012-16 NEJ Vision Table, 2012-15 Conf Mission & Outreach

I believe strongly that the UMC has much to offer the world. Our polity of connectionalism, theology of social holiness, and passion for mission are deeply needed. As a deacon in specialized ministry, I am a non-anxious and encouraging presence for people every day through spiritual direction, coaching, and advocacy work. I see the many opportunities we have to minister with the marginalized. I want our global church to work together to have as many people as possible encounter the deep, loving, and radically transformative grace of Jesus Christ. Yet when we gather together as the global church, our differences overshadow our denomination's ability to hold many diverse views in connection and relationship. I feel led to attend GC/JC because there needs to be a diversity of clergy (elders and deacons) representing the conference, and we need people who can hold space, listen, and honor others while authentically participating in difficult conversations.
Rev. Michelle Whitlock  
Church: Waverly UMC, Garrett-Evangelical  
District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre  

Experience: Candidacy mentor, Workshop leader, Greene Hills Camp Dean, At-Large Sessions Committee, Annual Conference Visuals, Committee on Superintendency  

I was baptized into the United Methodist Church as an infant. At the baptism of every child and adult, the congregation promises to support and nurture them in the faith. We promise to teach them the story of our faith and welcome them into the story as full participants in the body of Christ. This promise is at the heart of my PhD research on intergenerational liturgy. What does it mean to fully welcome someone into the body of Christ? What does it mean to remove someone from the body of Christ based on their age, race, sexuality, ability, or theology?  

My doctoral research in liturgy and practical theology also focuses on Wesleyan understandings of grace, the way of salvation, and sacramental theology. Wesley also calls us to conversational community, despite our theological differences. I believe I am called to help the denomination with the difficult task to “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.” In my heart, I believe we are called to remain one church that embraces the theological diversity among us. I believe the body of Christ includes progressive, conservatives, and moderates. I have hope in the promise of reconciliation even amid painful divisions and the restrictions of Robert’s Rules. If Joseph can forgive the brothers that sold him into slavery, we too, can forgive each other.  

Rev. Rachel Wong  
Church: Middlesex United Methodist Church  
District: Harrisburg  

Experience: Moving Committee 2017-2018  
Board of Ordained Ministry 2018-present  

The United Methodist Church has been my home for my entire life. It is the church that baptized and confirmed me, commissioned me to be a missionary, and ordained me as an elder in 2017. I have had the privilege to serve the church through grassroots projects in South Africa, a homeless shelter in Seattle, an inner city church in DC, and two wonderful rural churches here in our conference. I love The United Methodist Church, the way we proclaim a gospel for all people, and our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I celebrate our diversity and global reach, but I grieve the current division in our church. I feel called to be a delegate in the 2020 General Conference because I’m passionate about our mission and the great work we do around the world. I believe God can use my gifts and experience in 2020 as we work together to find strength in our diversity and continue to focus on our mission.
Laity Self Nominees for 2020 General/Jurisdictional Conferences

Madisyn Bennett
Church: Christ Community United Methodist Church
District: Lewisburg

Experience: - Active Youth Member and Chior Member
- Been to two annual conferences with the YPMC
- Attend Church services weekly

I believe I should be a delegate to the conference because, as far as a know, there has been a low number of women and youth nominees for the 2020 general conference. Being a pastors kid, I know very well about what has been happening in the United Methodist Church and I think my insights and opinions are important. My generation is the future of the United Methodist Church, without our opinions, we will feel as though you think our decisions are invalid, and then there will be NO future for this church. I want a voice. Please send me.

Mr. Craig BRENNCKE
Church: Hicks United Methodist Church
District: Altoona

Experience: Applying to attend 2019 Susquehanna Conference

I envision a church that’s doctrine is based on the bible and creates disciples to enlighten the world of Christianity. The church should be a welcoming atmosphere that teaches adults and children about Jesus and how to become Christian leading to eternal life with God. In our every changing world, I believe that the church needs to maintain a biblical foundation and not let the social aspects of today’s world pressure the church to change to a non-biblical base. Although I am open to discussion on changes to forward the church, the changes would have to convey traditional biblical teachings and not changes reflected by reinterpreting the bible. After being involved for many years in the Methodist church on many committees, I feel I can be an asset on the sustaining and growing the church, including making more disciples of current members and new members. I have served on many committees and boards throughout my professional and social life that would be an asset to contributing to furthering the Methodist church.
Mr. Alexander Clark  
Church: First United Methodist Church of Mechanicsburg  
District: Harrisburg

Experience: YPMC (2016-2018)  
Annual Conference (2016 + 2017)  
UMC GYP 2018  
Youth Representative on Church Admin. Board (2017 + 2018)

Greetings and Peace to you my Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, my name is Alexander Clark.  
“United We Go”. That was the theme of the UMC’s Global Young People’s Convocation of 2018 (GYPC’18). Having attended the GYP event in Johannesburg, South Africa this past summer that is the slogan I wish to carry with me General Conference 2020 (GC20’20). Even as, and especially as, we the UMC are at our most broken, divided and hurt. I believe I have been called to be a delegate of the Susquehanna Conference to this General Conference. This call came while at GYP, as we closed the final day of legislation. I experienced a clear feeling of incompleteness with the legislation and recommendations that we the GPYC’18 were passing onto GC’20. That by attending this conference I can support the growth of the UMC, and support the work we had accomplished by providing a voice and testimony on the passion from the youth and young people of our church.  
My vision for our church is one that is born out of my Methodist upbringing, as we are called to be “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. I believe I can do this by empowering and representing youth and young adults at this GC. As a youth, you, the Susquehanna conference have shaped and prepared me.  
Thank you and blessings!

Stephen Drachler  
Church: Camp Hill UMC  
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Gen. Conf. delegate 1992, 1996, 2012; Dir. of Communications; Bishops Comm on Ecumenical, Interreligious Concerns. Chair, Communications, Leadership

I believe God is calling me to be part of the solution of the spiritual crisis we are facing as United Methodists, especially in a time where the voice of laity most needs to be heard. I strongly supported the One Church Plan that was considered by the 2019 General Conference. It fit our conference well. Our church, and our commitment to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World, can only be strengthened if we are a church that is truly open to all, and we practice it. I believe in God the Father; Jesus the son of God, who was crucified on the cross, and was resurrected; and God as the Holy Spirit. I try to live out the greatest commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. I have been a Wesley-follower and United Methodist since elementary school days in the former Wyoming Annual Conference in upstate NY. I met Jesus at Sky Lake camp there. I have extensive service on the general church level: lay delegate in 1992, 1996, and 2002; Communications staff at the 2004 and 2008 General Conferences, supervising the newsroom and serving bishops. I served as the media consultant to the Council of Bishops from 2002 to 2007 and was primary consultant to the special general church committee that was named to examine the worldwide nature of the UMC from 2008 to 2012.
**Dr. Kim Garris (LeGore)**

Church: Aldersgate UMC, Mechanicsburg  
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Susquehanna Conference camping program: worship leader and camp dean for many years

I have been blessed with education and career experience that has prepared me to serve as a delegate. I have been a professional communicator for more than 30 years as a television journalist, a doctoral scholar of communications, a college professor and now as the Chief External Relations Officer for Shippensburg University. As a C-suite executive, I have a keen understanding of the unique challenges of balancing policies and practices that keep an organization running smoothly while meeting the needs of its people. I know, the most informed and intelligent solution is often not easy, but I am not swayed to avoid personal discomfort. I am a lifelong Methodist and am actively involved in leadership in my church and am deeply committed to ensuring a bright future for the UMC. Our communities are spiritually undernourished and we face a mental health crisis. I believe our churches are the solution. I envision the UMC stepping in and meeting the people who need us right where they are. Now is the time for courageous leadership. If elected, I commit to intensive study and evaluation to act for the healthiest most love-for-God’s-people centered denomination possible. I will use my experience in communication and administration, but I will rely on prayer, study and discernment to accomplish this work.

**Shawn Gilgore**

Church: Spry Church  
District: York

Experience: 2010/2011 Annual Conference Camera Operator  
2018 York District Rally Workshop Presenter  
2018/2019 Annual Conference Media Director

As someone who has grown up in the United Methodist Church and in the Susquehanna Conference, I have been welcomed, nurtured and sent forth to be in the position I hold today. I began my career in media at my local church, Aldersgate UMC in York, running the sound board as a teen. That piqued my interest in media production, which lead to my studies in audio and video production in high school and my Broadcast degree in college. I went on to work in local television news for years before working on a Master's degree in Digital Media before I joined Conference staff in late 2017. As part of my Conference responsibilities, I attended and reported on the stories that unfolded at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis. Through that experience, literally 'from the rafters' of a former NFL stadium, I watched as the legislative process played out before me. I was struck by the unity, the passion, and the Spirit-breathed debates that the delegates had with one another. Yet, I was also keenly aware that delegates of my generation were few and far between. I want to represent the Susquehanna Conference because I love our church. I love our global church, but truly, I love our Susquehanna Conference. You've raised me to be who I am today. It would be my honor to represent you.
Raymond Hamill  
Church: Central Honesdale UMC  
District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

Experience: Conference Lay Leader (Wyoming), Delegate five General Conferences, General church Connectional Table, presently Chancellor of our Annual Conference.

I strive to follow Jesus Christ and I find that the life and teachings of John Wesley greatly inform that journey. I seek both personal and social holiness. I strive to honor the Three Simple Rules: Do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. I believe that I am called to love God with all my heart, soul and mind and to love my neighbor as myself.

I offer myself as a delegate because of my experience in the General Church and because I hope to make a positive impact for the members of our Annual Conference. I have semi-retired and have time to commit to the effort. My knowledge of the workings of General Conference and the leaders of the General Church will be helpful.

I envision a denomination that is alive with vigor and hopefulness. I envision a denomination where all are welcome and can serve our mission according to their God given gifts and talents. I envision a church that seeks to be global while recognizing that the context for the church may differ significantly throughout the world and there must be flexibility to allow the church to adapt. The Constitution and the Articles of Religion of our denomination must be honored world wide. They are essential. All else is non-essential and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit amongst us.

Glenn Heisey  
Church: Aldersgate UM Church  
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Conference Board of Pensions, ex officio (2018 - )  
Director, Wespath Benefits & Investments (2016 - )

My professional training and leadership opportunities throughout my career will enable me to be an effective advocate for the positions of the Susquehanna Conference. Many of my fellow directors on the Wespath Board also serve as delegates for their respective conferences; this network could be of assistance in building bridges within the denomination. I feel called to use my voice to represent members of my local church who may feel ill-prepared to participate in the legislative work of our church.
Kaytlynn Hughes
Church: Camp Hill
District: Harrisburg

Experience: Young People's Ministry, Commission on Child Advocacy, Young Clergy Initiative Team, Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders Team

2 Timothy 1:7 states "God did not give us a spirit of fear or timidity, but one of power, love, and self-discipline." I feel called to be a delegate because, for too long, I've only watched the proceedings that shape our conference and denomination from afar. I've watched partially out of apathy and partially out of fear to step forward. I find God calling me to trust Him and take a step forward; to be part of the body that will work together to determine the future of our United Methodist Church. I have been United Methodist since birth. I grew up singing "Old Rugged Cross" next to my grandparents in a tiny country church. My father is a UM pastor. I've been serving in UM youth ministries for the last ten years. I want to see the United Methodist Church last. I want to look my students in the eye and know that I did not let my apathy or my fear get in the way of their future. I truly appreciate the opportunity to potentially represent the people of the Susquehanna Conference-- it is an opportunity I will not take lightly. Thank you to all for your consideration.

Mr. William (Bill) Leight
Church: Chapel
District: York

Experience: Lay Member to Annual Conference
York District Committee of Ordained Ministry
Counselor for Conference Camping Program

The deep issues that the United Methodist Church has been facing for years have been tearing at my heart, and I have been waiting for people, more qualified than myself, to bring the church together in unity rather than running the church to fit their own individual desires. The urgings have come to the point where I can no longer sit and let someone else tackle the task. I believe that the United Methodist Church is at a decision point on whether we survive as a true church, making disciples for Jesus for the transformation of the world, or will the UMC become just another social club as we move forward. The General Conference 2019 made a decision and now is the time for us to listen to all sides and enable the healing of the church to begin. The experience that I obtained during my career negotiating with customers from different cultural backgrounds, has given me understanding on what the task is that lies before the church. It is my belief that the church will be able to achieve our mission statement as a united church if we are able to truly listen to all our brothers and sisters. My vision for the church is that we become united with our fellow believers in making disciples of Jesus Christ, and if we can accomplish that, we will not have to worry about the health of our church.
**Dr. Milton Loyer**  
Church: Shepherdstown UMC  
District: Harrisburg

Experience: conference archivist, certified lay speaker, Commission on Archives and History  
counselor at children, youth, adult, and special needs camps

Having served many positions in the local church, from youth leader to  
chairman of the administrative council...  
Having been a counselor at each of our church camps and served as needed  
as a lay pastor on three different charges...  
Having represented our conference at Jurisdictional Conferences and on the executive committee of the Jurisdictional  
Commission on Archives and History...  
Having represented our conference at the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences...  
I believe I am in touch with the Church at the local, conference, jurisdictional and denominational levels.  
Being familiar with the history of the UMC...  
Having personally seen every church building in the conference...  
I know how God has moved in our conference in the past and see the possibilities for the future.  
As we run with patience the race that is set before us...  
As we focus on the Author and Finisher of our faith...  
I believe that God can continue to use the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.

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**Jerod Lycett**  
Church: Summerdale  
District: Harrisburg

Experience: I have been attending Annual Conference since I was thirteen. I have worked on the Native American Ministry  
Committee.

I feel I am called to be a delegate as I am willing to put aside my own personal feelings and do what is best for the United  
Methodist Church as a whole. As I write this I am watching the legislative committee of the Special Called General  
Conference. I feel that we need to work harder to engage those we have not reached, especially the youth and young adults  
missing across much of our connection. Our Annual Conference is one of the few that always pays our apportionment to the  
General Conference, supplying the funds for the works of the world. With our dwindling numbers in the entire Northeast  
Jurisdiction we face losing a Bishop throughout. I feel we need to ensure our money gets spent to help us start to regrow.
**Ms. Christina McDermott**  
Church: Christ Community UMC  
District: Lewisburg

Experience: CCYM as a youth, NEJ CCYM, YPMC Adult Leader, Voting Delegate to the Global Young People’s Convocation 2010 and 2018, Board of Ordained Ministry

I have felt called to be a delegate to General/Jurisdictional conference since attending the Global Young People’s Convocation. I find the process in which the UM Church makes decisions very interesting and I am grateful that everyone has an opportunity to voice their opinion. I believe I bring an interesting perspective as a lay person who works in a church, a younger adult who works with youth and young adults and a woman who has grown up in the United Methodist Church. One of the things I have always loved about the UM church is our global connection. I look forward to being in conversation with people from all over the world. My vision for the future of the United Methodist Church is be a church that is led by the Spirit of God and is filled with the love of God. It is my prayer that the UM church can continue making Disciples and helping God transform the world well into the future.

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**Mr. Laurence Nelson**  
Church: Tompkinsville UMC  
District: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

Experience: Cluster Group Lay Leader, On Track for Ordination

As a certified lay speaker called by God to be on track for ordination in the United Methodist Church, I feel it is my calling to step forward to help where I see the need.  
As a member of the LGBTQIA family, I feel called by God and my siblings in Christ to step forward to support them and everyone where I can.  
As a Child of God, I feel it is my duty to step forward to help all my siblings in Christ by doing whatever I can to protect them and to be the best voice for them in all matters of the United Methodist Church.  
As a member of the United Methodist Church, I feel it is my calling and duty to share with other people in the United Methodist Church the obligation to make our church the best possible place of worship for all people regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other discriminatory factor.  
As a 54 year old sibling, husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, I have the need and desire to make the United Methodist Church the best possible place of worship available to make them all Disciples of Christ for the Transformation of OUR World.  
To keep ALL our United Methodist Churches a loving environment for everyone who chooses to cross our thresholds to join us in worship and mission to our neighbors in our back yards and around the world.
Lucy Obrzut  
Church: Muhlenburg United Methodist Church  
District: Lewisburg

Experience: Member of 2016 NE Jurisdictional Conference Delegation  
Former member of the Property and Casualty Committee  
Lay Speaker for the 5 Mountain Charge  

My vision for the future of the United Methodist Church is that we will do everything in love. I feel called to serve as a delegate because that is where I believe I can make my vision a reality. I would like to help shape the future of the church, a future where we all work together to make disciples for the transformation of the world. I want to be able to share the love of Jesus Christ with everyone I meet. It was an honor and pleasure to serve as a delegate previously and would love the opportunity to serve the great Susquehanna Conference again.

Mrs. Toni Oplinger  
Church: BethlehemUMC (Jefferson/Greenmount Charge)  
District: York

Experience: I have served the District on the former Council on Ministries, UMW officer, immediate past president of Conference UMW and am a certified lay speaker  

I was honored to attend the Special Session of General Conference in February as a second reserve delegate. I came away with a wide range of thoughts as to what I had witnessed as the church at its best and its worst. I feel God is calling me to the 2020 General Conference to help His church to heal and find a path forward as a church united in its mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ. My vision for the UMC is to continue our work of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors" making all to feel welcome in the life of the church. Rest assured that if elected, I am well qualified to serve in this capacity as I have already served the church and community in over 35 leadership positions at all levels. I have served as chair/president, treasurer/business manager, secretary and member, etc of various boards and committees.

Mr. Spencer Ross  
Church: Wesley United Methodist Church Bloomsburg  
District: Lewisburg

Experience: I am involved in my church, camp, youth group, soup kitchen, mission trips, community outreach. Attending the 2019 Annual Conference.

I feel called to be a delegate, because of my heavy involvement in church. I grew up in the United Methodist church and was confirmed at 13 years old. It was a compelling moment that changed my relationship with God. My Mother is a local Pastor in Bloomsburg, and my Father is also a heavily involved laity member at my church. I feel God calling me to General Conference, because I will be able to participate in the future of my Church. The amount of experience and knowledge I will gain being part of the delegates representing my conference will also help my future of becoming an Ordained Pastor. My involvement in the church this past decade has been extremely strong. I am an active member in our youth group; I have served in our soup kitchen; I have traveled to other communities to serve on mission trips; I have served in our worship services with technology, liturgy and drama. I have helped my mom in her churches where she serves and my Dad in the Men of Wesley. I have also helped my grandfather in his outreach organization, our local food pantry and our local missions hub. I strongly feel this calling, not only for the future of the church and my calling as a pastor, but to also serve God's will. If given the opportunity, I would not take this responsibility lightly, but would be humbled to serve.
2019 JOURNAL CORRECTION FORM

To publish a Journal without errors is virtually impossible. Please assist us by notifying us of any errors which should be corrected in the next edition.

Your cooperation in calling this to our attention is appreciated and helpful. Thank you.

CORRECTION NOTATIONS

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RETURN TO:
Susquehanna Conference
The United Methodist Church
303 Mulberry Drive
ATTN: Journal
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-3179
**Pre-Conference Workshops**

(*Held in Empire A, B, C, D*)

*May 29 at 1 p.m.*
- Fresh Expressions
- Simplified Accountable Structure
- Road Map to Successful Growth in Children & Youth Ministries
- When Helping Hurts

*May 29 at 3 p.m.*
- Small Church Check-up
- Creating a Leadership Pathway for Your Church
- Leading a Generosity Revolution
- From Franchise to Local Dive

*May 30 at 9 a.m.*
- Leadership Matters
- Open the Floodgates! The Power of Breakthrough Prayer
Child Care - Tower, Suite 1
Cokesbury - Cocoa Ballroom, Suite 4 & 5
Exhibits - Chocolate, Cocoa & Great Lobbies
Health Screenings - Cocoa Ballroom, Suite 3
Oral Histories - Tower, Suite 3
Prayer Room - Cocoa Ballroom, Suite 2

(In the Great American Hall)
Clergy Session - Blue Room
Laity Session - White Room
Plenary Sessions - Blue & White Rooms
Special Services - Blue & White Rooms

Main Meals - Chocolate Ballroom &
Great American Hall, Red Room

Special Meals
Memorial Dinner - Cocoa Terrace & Cocoa Suite 1
Awards Luncheon - Cocoa Terrace & Cocoa Suite 1
Ministry Dinner - Cocoa Terrace & Cocoa Suite 1
Child Care - Tower, Suite 1
Cokesbury - Cocoa Ballroom, Suite 4 & 5
Exhibits - Chocolate, Cocoa & Great Lobbies
Health Screenings - Cocoa Ballroom, Suite 3
Oral Histories - Tower, Suite 3
Prayer Room - Cocoa Ballroom, Suite 2

*Pre-Conference Workshops
(Wednesday Afternoon & Thursday Morning)
- Empire A, B, C, D

(In the Great American Hall)
Clergy Session - Blue Room
Laity Session - White Room
Plenary Sessions - Blue & White Rooms
Special Services - Blue & White Rooms

Main Meals - Chocolate Ballroom & Great American Hall, Red Room

Special Meals
Memorial Dinner - Cocoa Terrace & Cocoa Suite 1
Awards Luncheon - Cocoa Terrace & Cocoa Suite 1
Ministry Dinner - Cocoa Terrace & Cocoa Suite 1

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