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HISTORICAL REPORTS
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DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT REPORT

The ANN ARBOR DISTRICT continues to grow in membership and worship attendance. There is a strong partnership of the clergy and laity in making disciples for Jesus Christ. The High Five program continues to emphasize growth, both spiritual and numerical. Goals include:
1) To show a 5% growth in membership each year (began in 2011).
2) To have a 5% jump in your annual conference and general conference apportionment giving.
3) To show a 5% growth in Sunday morning attendance in Sunday school and worship.
4) Become a praying and word driven church carrying out its witness and ministry.

Our DS, Rev. Mark Spaw says “If you are doing things to reach your goal and they are not working, stop doing them and try something else.”

This year we had 100% participation and report submission. The churches with the highest increase in each area this year were:
- Membership Change: Dexter UMC
- Membership Change by Percentage: Wellsville
- Worship Attendance Change by Percentage: Monroe Heritage UMC
- Change in Giving by Percentage: Ann Arbor Calvary
- Change in Worship Attendance and Giving: Ann Arbor First UMC

AA DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY was held on Feb 27 at First UMC of Howell with six workshops. Over 250 people attended. Melanie Carey gave an inspiring and touching keynote address, encouraging us to care for the young people in our churches and giving us ideas for doing it. The six workshops were engaging and educational, inspiring some participants to plan extended programs. The hallways were buzzing with conversations and happy greetings. Planning is well underway for the 2017 Leadership Training Day to be held at Northville UMC on Feb 25. The Keynote Speaker will be Bishop David Bard and six workshops will be offered:
- Essential Skills for Building Relationships
- Making the Welcome Real
- Connecting with the Unchurched and De-churched
- Bridges out of Poverty
- Built for Groups
- Building Relationships Across Cultural Boundaries

The Ann Arbor District continues to have a strong LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES program (formerly called LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES) with courses offered twice a year. The Spring 2016 School was held Mar 5 and Mar 19 with over 50 people taking basic and advanced classes. The Fall 2016 Classes were held Oct 29 and Nov 12 at Saline First UMC. In addition to the basic class and the refresher class, two advanced classes were offered: God’s Mission…Our Journey and Living Our United Methodist Beliefs. Over 55 people attended.

UNITED METHODIST MEN - The Detroit Conference United Methodist Men met on April 30, 2016 at West Branch UMC. This meeting featured Gil Hanke, General Secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN are very active in the Ann Arbor District, furthering the mission work of UMW and supporting their local congregations and communities.
ANN ARBOR DISTRICT PICNIC was held on Aug 13th at Tecumseh UMC. Everyone brought a dish to share and our own District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Spaw, cooked hot dogs. We welcomed five new clergy appointments in the district.

The ANN ARBOR DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING was held on Monday, Oct 17th at Westside UMC. Over 150 people attended, sharing, learning, and enjoying fellowship together; the evening started with fellowship and a meal, followed by reports from the District.

An informational meeting was held on June 16 at Ann Arbor Westside UMC with Gary Step, the Director of Congregational Excellence, who spoke on the Vital Church Initiative (VCI), a process for transforming existing congregations in exciting ways. VCI includes a developmental process for both larger and smaller congregations. Phase I is a voluntary, nine month, small-group, continuous learning community of peers, in-depth reading, and mutual support for pastors and laity teams together.

We said farewell to Jane Pollock, who retired as our outstanding district administrative assistant. Jane has been the cheerful voice responding to phone calls and requests for help, as well as assisting DS Rev. Mark Spaw in the activities of the district. While we will miss Jane, we welcome Darlene McGee as our new district administrative assistant. We also welcome Ken Kneisel as the new Ann Arbor district lay leader.

Churches within the Ann Arbor district are creative and outgoing in reaching disciples for Jesus Christ in their area. To learn more about the ministries occurring in the Ann Arbor District, check the monthly newsletter at the district website: AADistrict.org

John Wharton, Lay Leader

BLUE WATER DISTRICT

“Where visions are cast, objectives are defined and Christ is honored!”

The Blue Water District continues to carry out its vision and mission for our laity and clergy. We began 2016 with our annual Clergy Retreat. Our speaker was Dirk Elliott, who helped the clergy become familiar with MissionInsight. Those attending the Retreat were able to ask questions, navigate the website, and learn more about the demographics surrounding their faith communities.

On Saturday, September 17th, over 75 church leaders from across the Blue Water District gathered for our annual District Training Day and Charge Conference. Five training classes were taught by clergy and laity, including a young adult. Topics offered were: grants and loans, conflict management, personal Sabbath time, MissionInsight and Mission Interns. We held our first District Mission & Ministry Fair. The theme was Ministries Reaching Into our Communities. 22 churches participated in the event.
Our day was capped off by a discussion on “Connecting the Church and Community” led by Rev. Paul Perez, Conference Director of Mission and Justice Engagement and Leadership Recruitment and Rev. John Ball, Associate Pastor of Lake Orion UMC. This time was devoted to how the local church can build stronger and more meaningful relationships outside of church walls in order to bring more hope and relief to those who need it.

Our event could not have occurred without the hospitality of Rev. Matt Osbourne and his staff at Sandusky First: UMC. They were wonderful hosts and went out of their way to make the day a success. The Training Team is very thankful for the all the hard work offered by the instructors, the District office and our hosts and we look forward for the opportunity to serve the district again.

2016 was an uplifting year for United Methodist Women of the Blue Water District. We held mission team meetings at Marysville, Sebewaing, and Kingston, along with our first ever conference call meeting in January. We were able to conduct several cluster meetings throughout the year, sharing our mission and goals for 2016. We also had the thrill of adding a new unit in Romeo, with discussion about another new unit forming in 2017. The Spiritual Growth Retreat was held at the Lions’ Bear Lake Camp. We had the good fortune of having Rev. Carol Abbott of Kingston, UMC proceed with the program – The Power of a Praying Woman, where we were introduced to new ways to pray and be lead in prayer. Rev. Beth Librande was our speaker in Marysville for the Prayer Breakfast. Our District Annual meeting in October was held at Sebewaing: Trinity, UMC. Rose Simmons, director of programs for the United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids, was our speaker. Truly inspirational were the givings from our units – both for Rev. Faith Fowler’s Dress for Success program and for the Community House, where the request was for personal care items. Monies were raised to help us meet our pledge, and for repairs at the Community House, and again our ladies rose to the challenge!

Michigan was honored to host the UMW Quadrennial Jurisdictional Meeting in Grand Rapids. The Blue Water District had over 10 people in attendance at this event, including our District Superintendent Rev. Elizabeth Hill. We had a great time! Worship was awe-inspiring, as was the presence of several Bishops from our Jurisdiction. We saw the voting for new National Officers, including Shannon Priddy from Indiana, the new president of National UMW! Ruby Anderson and Taylorie Bailey, longtime Detroit Conference United Methodist Women, were also elected to the national board, a wonderful experience for all of us! We thank God for his patience and encouragement as we seek to inspire our local units to be all they can be for women, children and youth. Their faithful giving has been an added source of inspiration to all on the mission team.

The Blue Water District Lay Servant program continues to offer a wide variety of Lay Servant classes at various times and locations making classes very accessible. In 2016, 108 servants were commissioned. The Blue Water District has 134 Certified Lay Servants 2 Lay Speakers, and 73 persons who have completed the basic course.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Blue Water District Missional Leadership Team, Rev. Dr. Margie R. Crawford

CROSSROADS DISTRICT BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION

The Crossroads District Board of Missions supports numerous mission/evangelism projects throughout the Crossroads District and the world and assists local churches in serving their communities and providing worldwide outreach. The Board also provides low cost loans to District Churches. Some of the many projects supported in 2016 included:

- Support to the Flint community during the Water crisis including filtration systems for the Flint city churches and parsonages
- Urban ministry initiatives in the Flint and Pontiac areas including home repair, tutoring, water crisis support, children and youth meals, etc.
- Connectional grants to local churches to support various outreach ministries and mission trips to Henderson Settlement, the Dominican Republic and Honduras.
- Support for children and families through “Family Promise of Genesee County”
- Campus ministry through the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship
- Support for rural churches with fewer than 100 members with things like Vacation Bible School, summer music program, Rally Day, minor repairs, etc.
- Community ministry projects as part of the District’s “Taking It To The Streets” initiative
- Bishop Craig Children’s Village
- Liberia Pastor Salary Support
- Haiti Hot Lunch Program

Through these and other efforts the Crossroads District Board of Missions endeavors to fulfill God’s call to ministry, meeting needs, changing lives and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Paul Tiedeman, President, Crossroads District Board of Missions and Church Extension of the United Methodist Church

CROSSROADS DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM - The Crossroads District envisions a transformed network of connected spiritual leaders and churches fully reflecting the Kingdom of God. This year we welcomed Rev. John Hice as our District Superintendent. He brings a strategy for living into this vision by establishing mission zones throughout the district. The District Leadership Team has formed a task force to work with Rev. Hice in developing these zones and implementing a plan to connect congregations and assess vitality for fruitful ministry. The first zone will begin to work in the city of Flint.

The Flint churches have already connected in meaningful ways to support one another through the water recovery process. Each congregation affected has developed a unique response according to the needs of their community and the gifts of their people. It has been a blessing to see response efforts bearing good fruit as people are connected through our local churches. As the response has shifted from water crisis mode to ongoing recovery effort, leadership for the recovery projects has transferred from Pete Plum to Greg Timmons. Greg continues to connect with the HUB centers and remains involved with the larger community. Rev. Paul Perez coordinates with UMCOR and the Flint Water Board has been established to manage the funds generously contributed to support ongoing relief for the people of Flint related to the water emergency.

Our District Board of Laity continues to offer quality training and renewal opportunities under the leadership of Bonnie Potter and her team. Tools for Ministry is the yearly training event to equip and encourage persons for the work of ministry. A workshop on using prayer beads led by Rev. Karen Williams was well received. Claudia Bowers leads the Lay Servant Ministries training program. Each year in March a large gathering offers opportunities for basic as well as advanced training. In the fall a second opportunity for advanced courses is offered, and the youth have a lock-in in the spring to complete specialized training.

Our district signature ministry “Taking it to the Streets” has continued to gain momentum. Owosso area churches caught the vision and mission / service opportunities were set up in Owosso as well as Flint in 2016. We built on this mission passion to offer 4 opportunities to pack food for Kids Against Hunger in the spring of 2016. It is a blessing to see so many people engaged in mission opportunities. In 2017 the vision expands further as local churches or groups of churches will be encouraged to offer mission and service in their own communities as we call congregations to “Take it to YOUR Streets.”

We are excited to welcome a new staff person, Rev. Christina Miller-Black as our district coordinator of discipleship and youth ministries. She comes to us with many gifts and we look forward to working with her as she is integrated into the current ministry flow. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will work transformation among us through her ministry. The District Youth continue to share in fun times at the winter lock-in we call U-NITE, and the spring mission skate-a-thon.

At the helm in the district office, Cheryl Rentschler continues to keep us all on the same page. We are grateful for her service. The Crossroads District is a good place to grow. I pray that continued awareness of the presence of
God with us will move us to bold courageous steps toward vitality and deep connection with God and one another. May we make the most of every opportunity as we spread everywhere the fragrance of Christ (2 Cor. 2:15).

In Grace and Peace, Rev. LuAnn Rourke – Chairperson

DETROIT RENAISSANCE DISTRICT

The Detroit Renaissance District consists of 69 congregations spread across the Detroit metropolitan area with a diverse population consisting of persons from most parts of the world, a robust economy, great arts, cultural and scientific centers, many colleges and universities, and congregations representing Korean, Vietnamese, Latino/Hispanic, African American, Caucasian and multicultural backgrounds. Our commitment to personal piety and social holiness weaves into the fabric of our connectional life and witness, many interesting initiatives: 3 new church starts (Birmingham First’s second campus at Berkeley First, Friendship UMC’s second campus at Shelby Township, and a contemporary service at Rochester St. Paul’s), celebration of the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., UM Tiger Night, and District Conference, Hands4Detroit, and District Christmas Party.

Our annual Martin Luther King celebration on January 10, 2016 featured awards and recognition for outstanding contributions for peace and justice. Rev. Rebecca Wilson has been our Director of Missions and Justice Engagement. She has been fully engaged with the Northwest Detroit Flood Recovery effort after the August 2014 floods hit our District heavily. Partnering with UMCOR and other agencies the recovery has continued. She has moved onto other mission fields and Audrey Mangum became our Director of Mission and Justice Engagement on January 1, 2017. We celebrated United Methodist Tiger Night at Comerica Park on July 29th. This event brings together hundreds of Ums from across the state. The Detroit Renaissance District celebrated our District Conference on September 10th, featuring Congregational Development, Youth Ministry, Mission & Justice, and New Church Start presentations. Approximately 500 persons attended from our congregations. Thanks to Metropolitan UMC for their gracious hosting.

On October 1st, our District hosted the fifth annual Hands4Detroit mission initiative, a ReThink Church project. Hundreds of volunteers from the district and other churches came out to serve. Brightmoor Community Center hosted. Hands4Detroit collaborated with Gleaners Community Food Bank to collect over 25,000 pounds of food and worked with other agencies on service projects in Northwest Detroit. On December 3rd, the District celebrated our Christmas party at Farmington Nardin Park UMC. Under the leadership of our district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr., and administrative assistant, Mrs. Dwanda Ashford-Jones, our district is addressing the issues of ministry and mission with determination.

Bill Arendall, DLT Chair

MARQUETTE DISTRICT

The hope of Christ is alive and well in the Marquette District! 2016 was a year to celebrate and rejoice. The highlights include:

The birth of a new ministry- Marquette Hope! This is a multi-site United Methodist faith community with three campuses to engage in mission and ministry. Locations include First Campus, Skandia Campus, and the Connection Center, which is located adjacent to Northern Michigan University, and is working cooperatively with the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry to engage college students in an active faith life. This is the first new start in the Marquette District since 1978.

A New Executive Director for Camp Michigamme- Erica Thomas! Erica is a California native who found her way to Michigan through camping ministry. She has over 10 years of experience in summer camping and 3 years in outdoor education and retreats. Her passion for camping ministry stems from her love of nature and the unique environment that camp creates that allows individuals to have life changing experiences. We look forward to the gifts and graces that Erica will bring to Camp Michigamme. We also give thanks for
our previous director, Renée Deroche, who led the camp through many needed upgrades and changes in order to ensure that children and adults will be able to enjoy the camp for years to come!

**A New District Lay Leader- Vicky Prewitt!**  Vicky has been active in the ministries of Ishpeming Wesley UMC for over 25 years. She has been both a radio and television personality in Northern Michigan. As District Lay Leader, Vicky will work to improve communication and connectionism across our vast district. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Alan Nelson who has served as our District Lay Leader for a number of years. Al has shared his gifts and passion for Jesus in so many ways and we are grateful for his ministry!

**God’s Country Cooperative Parish (GCCP) - focused on mission and ministry!**  GCCP saw increased needs in there are this year and they rose to the challenge. They served over 500 food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. They were awarded a Health Endowment Grant by the General Board of Global Ministry that empowered them to help more people gain access to mental health counseling, physical health care, and other health-related needs. They also continued their Swim Bus Ministry which served over 80 children for two weeks in the summer. The children were bussed in each day from the areas of the seven parishes (a 2500 square mile area), served lunch each day, and got two swim in beautiful Round Lake. Three interns, all of whom were Water Safety Instructor certified, served in this ministry as well. GCCP continues to look for a building to purchase that is capable of housing all of their equipment, materials, and offices so they can become a more streamlined operation.

**District Learning Fair- Incredible worship with Dr. Marcia McFee!**  This years’ district-wide education opportunity consisted of workshops on creating memorable worship experiences. Participants were treated to Dr. McFee’s wealth of knowledge and insight into creating worship experiences in small and large congregations. We were challenged by Dr. McFee to incorporate these experiences and create some of our own in our congregations and many were inspired!

The people of the Marquette District of the United Methodist Church look forward to the many new opportunities we are being blessed with in the coming year as we seek new ways of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Susanne Hierholzer, Chair, District Executive Coordinating Council

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**SAGINAW BAY DISTRICT**

The **Children's Ministry** committee underwent a transition in 2016 to build a strong foundation in 2017. A strong foundation will be the basis for many big changes coming to the Saginaw Bay District children's ministry including resources and training for disciples as they bring children to Jesus.

- Tina Karnath

**District Board of Missions**

We give thanks for the continued support by the churches in the Saginaw Bay District. Their faithfulness is a part of our seeking to make disciples for Christ. The support allowed us to distribute over $26,950 in grants to eight churches and $183,880 of outstanding loans to six district churches.  The loans and grants allowed us to

- Begin new programs
- Enhance worship experiences
- Perform counseling
- Connect churches and people in our district, communities, Haiti and Liberia
- Complete mission trips, and
- Complete needed church capital improvements.

In 2017, we want to further enhance our youth connections, support the local churches and faithfully support our urban ministries.  We look forward to continuing to support our district churches in their witness to the glory of God.

-Prepared by Roger L. Yerion, President
Saginaw Bay District Young Disciples

2016 was a year of continued growth for the Saginaw Bay District Young Disciples. In January, the Team began their 5th year of Snow Kidding the last Saturday of the month. 80 students and adults came out for the event, and we leveraged momentum from the Star Wars movie that was released at the end of 2015. We gathered together at a sledding hill and then for pizza, worship and prizes at Oscoda UMC. It was a wonderful time and the best turn-out ever that we had for Snow Kidding.

The second big event that we planned in 2016 was in conjunction with the district, our fourth annual tailgate party. This year the District Committee on Ministries took over the tailgate party and stepped it up. The tailgate party was moved from Emerson Park to the lawn of the Loons Stadium. Over 1,200 people from across the Saginaw Bay District were present for the afternoons festivities. Following the game, we hosted an after party at Midland First UMC where over 100 students and leaders showed up to wind-down the evening with snacks, music and games. It was a wonderful time!

As 2016 came to a close, we made a decision to commit to taking 80 students and leaders to Loveland, Colorado through Group Missions. By the end of the year we had 30 students signed up. We are excited for the unity that this will bring the youth groups in our churches and amongst the youth that will be joining us as we serve the people in Loveland.

- Pastor Kayla Roosa

TASC (Training And Supporting Congregations) continues to provide training (methods) and opportunities, which are timely, relevant, innovative, out of the box, and immediately applicable.

The featured speaker at our Spring leadership develop day was Bob Farr. He walked us through ideas which will cause us to see the need for change, and offered real solutions in how to equip each of us and our congregations to share their faith in a way that is effective, biblical, and transformational.

Our lunch theme was “won’t you be my neighbor”. We enjoyed a neighborhood block party. We walked down and up our block meeting and greeting our very diverse neighbors. We dined on a variety of foods demonstrating the diversity of the neighbors around us.

TASC is also TASC To Go. We produce, and schedule training events for all persons in or exploring leadership roles in their congregations. Churches select the date, and the training topic/s. They are able to select from our menu of 17 topics. TASC To Go provides the session leader for each topic. Each event day is a 3-hour fellowship, learning and interactive time. You can learn more about TASC on our web page at saginawbaydistrict.org or check out our video: written, produced and starring member of the TASC Force. You can find the video on UTube.

This year the TASC team welcomed Pastor Penny Parkin as co- chairwoman and leader of Legacy 213.

- TASC chairwoman, Mary Fox

District Council on Ministries

The Saginaw Bay District conference held at Tawas UMC on October 27, 2016 was attended by more than 400 church leaders & clergy. Upon entering the church everyone was able to learn about our DCOM activities from information tables set up. These included T.A.S.C. (Training & Supporting Congregations), Lay Servant Ministries, Vacation Bible School, Youth and Children’s Ministries, Legacy 213 (more commonly referred to as Paragraph 213), and an early sign-up for our 2017 Loons baseball family fun day. Supper was followed by a fund raiser ‘throw a pie at your pastor’ that was lots of fun & profitable for our youth mission to Loveland CO in 2017. Churches within the District were connected with another church. Each took home a framed picture of another church, and will pray for that church’s ministries and its people until the next church conference. The meeting celebration included more than three praise bands & choirs, emotionally charged faith stories and wise words of inspiration by District Superintendent David Kim.

-Submitted, Merry Henderson DCOM Chair

This year 42 lay servants participated in four advanced courses. Advanced courses offered this year were Afir with God, Start Here: Teach Adults, United Methodist Polity and Lay Servants Lead Prayer. The Basic Lay Servant courses were also offered at each session. All but one Basic course was canceled due to lack of participation.

In addition, a youth Lay Servant weekend was held at West Michigan Avenue UMC. During this weekend 5 advanced students participated in a course on Evangelism. As part of their studies they went out into the community
delivering care bags and sharing the Gospel message with the residents of a low income housing unit. During this same weekend 14 students joined the Lay Servant Ministries taking their first Basic course. It is the hope of the Lay Servant board that some of these students will return in 2017 to further their studies in the next advanced course. The 2017 Youth Lay Servant weekend will be held the last weekend in March at Oscoda UMC and the advanced students will be learning how to plan worship.

The Lay Servant Ministries has been working to bring consistency to the course offerings in hope to make it easier for lay servants to better plan to take the courses. Currently, winter courses are held the last Saturday in January and second Saturday in February and the fall courses are held the last Saturday in October and second Saturday in November. The classes are held in two locations and the Basic course and an Advanced course are offered at each location. In the coming year the board will be discussing different ways to get more participation in the classes being offered and focusing on attending to the needs of those wishing to become certified Lay Speakers.

-Respectfully submitted, Joan Tucker

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM/DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

“Jesus woke up …, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’” (Mark 4:39)

If you have ever stepped onto or off of a boat from a dock, you know the distinct and high probability that the boat will move as you embark or disembark. Having someone that steadies that movement as you transition can make the movement much less disruptive along the way. In many ways, the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) has fulfilled that function as we moved toward creating the new Michigan Conference over this past year. The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) continues to steward the vision of the conference by examining the work of the Design Team, and considering how this work will look moving forward.

The actions of the annual conference set in motion the creation of the Design Team, empowering that body to do much of the exploration and innovating design work to create a new conference. This work has been creative and demanding for the members of that body, as well as for those existing agencies doing a lot of the background work at the request of the Design Team. Many ideas have gotten “on the boat” and “off the boat” along the way. In the midst of that, the CLT and DCM play a pivotal role of steadying the ongoing program and equipping work of the annual conference. The day-to-day operations and fruitful ministries of the conference continue even as a new conference is being designed in detail.

As part of this season of transition, the Detroit Conference CLT, DCM and staff have been working fluidly with their West Michigan counterparts in order to begin aligning with the new Michigan Conference vision of equipping and connecting our local churches for Christ-Centered Mission and Ministry, Bold and Effective Leaders, and Vibrant Congregations. A few examples would be:

- Support for HYLA (Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy)
- Planning for Multicultural Church Growth Training Event
- Expansion of Network for Adults Working with Youth
- Launching of 16 New Faith Gatherings in 2016
- Financial Support for Training Healthy Church and Conflict Mediation Team
- Coordination of Faith Community Response to Refugee and Immigration Concerns
- Financial Support for Campus Ministry Capacity Building Initiative
- Ongoing Administrative Support of the Protection Policy Work

The task of creating an ongoing process of visioning for the conference has shifted from the CLT to the Design Team for this brief time period. However, the responsibility of realigning the resources of the annual conference toward the vision is ongoing and intentional by the collaboration of the CLT and DCM. The 2018 budget process was an open conversation between the DAC and WMC teams, though each CLT submitted their respective budgets to their conference Councils on Finance and Administration. The CLT budget continues to reflect a deep commitment to: young people through leadership development; new church starts and revitalization of existing congregations; and mission and just engagement locally, regionally and globally. The two CLT teams will continue their collaboration over the year ahead as details of the new Michigan Conference become affirmed and set in motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Jerome R. DeVine, DCM
Rev. Amy Mayo-Moyle, CLT Chair

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

In 2016, The New Church Development Team’s (NCDT) in the West Michigan and Detroit Conferences began an intentional process to function as a Michigan Area team. Through prayer and discernment, the NCDT’s in both conferences crafted the following purpose statement:

*The Michigan Area New Church Development Team is launched to create and multiply new faith communities and disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.*

The NCDT collaborates with the Cabinet Representative, the Conference Director of New Church Development, the Conference Staff, the Directors of Connectional Ministries, and both Conference Leadership Teams to create new congregations; to promote, encourage and resource healthy congregations to multiply their impact. The goal of the NCDT is not only to create and nurture new faith communities that reflect the diverse ministry settings of the Michigan Area, but also to offer adequate training and support to sustain these ministries. By training church planters (and those ready to multiply to reach new people), the NCDT seeks to equip the Michigan Area to reach the UMC’s quadrennial goals of reaching one million new people by 2020.

In 2016, the NCDT offered leadership support and financial grants to establish the following new ethnic congregations: The Vietnamese United Methodist Fellowship of Detroit and Centro Familiar Cristiano UMC. We assisted two church adoptions: Bay City Grace adoption of the former Fremont Ave UMC, and Sycamore Creek adoption of Potterville UMC. The NCDT also provided grants and coaching for several churches to launch multisite campuses: Canton Friendship UMC: Shelby Township Campus, Birmingham First: Berkley Campus, and Marquette Hope: Connections Campus. The NCDT provided a number of smaller grants to assist churches in launching small-venue new faith communities, such as: The Connections Cooperative Parish launch of a worshipping community in the Dansville Community Center (the former Dansville UMC), Sycamore Creek launching “Church in a Pub” at Buddies Grill, and seed-money, training, support, and coaching for churches launching new worship services to meet new mission-fields.
In addition, the NCDT of both conferences sponsored the 2016 REACH Summit. Over 150 people attended the Reach Summit which offered multiple pathways to enhance clergy leadership, create new faith communities, small groups, and worship services. Reach Network Groups are what makes the Reach Summit unique. These Network Groups offer participants an intense year-long immersion in a specific pathway. Through the Reach Summit and Network Groups, we are equipping clergy and lay to create “new places for new faces.”

In 2017, the NCDT will offer grants to congregations launching new faith communities as well as begin offering micro grants to congregations who launch new small groups which reach out to new people and, while continuing to fund our existing new churches including: Redford/Aldersgate UMC Brightmoor Campus, DownRiver UMC, Bay City: Grace UMC, and the launch of a new church in Traverse City. The NCDT is committed to establishing new faith communities that reflect the diversity of the Michigan Area. The NCDT will continue to identify and train church planters and assist in establishing new churches, new faith communities, and new small groups.

2017 Detroit Annual Conference HISTORICAL REPORTS –
– Rev. Dr. Anthony R. Hood, chairperson

2017 West Michigan Conference HISTORICAL REPORTS
- Rev. Matt Stoll, Interim Chairperson
- Rev. Dirk Elliott, Director of New Church Development, Michigan Area

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRY (CCYM)

In 2016, CCYM members participated in a Spring Retreat, Annual Conference and THRIVE Youth Leadership Academy. Members also help conference calls and oversaw the distribution of Youth Service Fund money. In 2016, $7,800 was given to 7 churches offering young people mission and service opportunities. In 2017, we will be repeating all of these activities and seeking to grow participation in THRIVE Youth Leadership Academy.

CONFERENCE COUNCIL OF YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITIES (CCYAC)

In 2016, CCYAC has been fairly inactive. Members of this group come together for Annual Conference but have not gathered otherwise. In 2017, we will be changing leadership and generating some activity around college aged young adults who have recently been active with CCYM.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - UMW

The National Office of the United Methodist Women, Inc. again presented a “2016 Voices: A Transformative Leadership Event” February 26-28, 2016 at Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, TN. The purpose of this event was to address the needs and resources in order to strengthen the mission with our sisters whose preferred or primary language is other than English. The event also explored ways of working together in carrying out the Purpose and the Vision of United Methodist Women.

The 2nd Annual UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DAY OF GIVING to the Legacy Fund was on March 23, 2016. This is a Manet Endowment to support the work of future generations of United Methodist Women. The Legacy Fund, an initiative created to celebrate the 150 years of mission work of the United Methodist Women, will culminate in 2019.
The General Conference of the United Methodist Church met in Portland OR in May. At the Conference, May 16, 2016 was designated as United Methodist Women’s Day, in celebration of UMW’s mission work. During the Conference, the United Methodist Women petitioned to continue our mission work and focus on the Racial Justice subjects of Climate Justice, Maternal and Child Health, Ending Mass Incarceration, and Economic Inequality for this quadrennium (2016-2020).

June was a busy month for the church and the United Methodist Women. First, we met on the Michigan State University Campus in East Lansing, from June 8th through June 12th, and experienced our historic joint Church Annual Conference with the members and leadership teams from the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences.

June 24 - June 26, 2016, the United Methodist Women met again in Grand Rapids, MI for the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) Conference. At the NCJ Conference, we began the process of selecting the new United Methodist Women National Officers for the quadrennium (2016-2020). At the conclusion of the selection process, the Detroit Conference was well represented by three (3) new National UMW Officers and one (1) North Central Jurisdiction Nominations Committee member. They are:

**UMW National Directors:**
Ruby Anderson from Detroit: Scott Memorial UMW and UMC, and
Taylorie Bailey from Detroit: Trinity Faith UMW and UMC

**Program Advisory Group (Youth Member):**
Ciere Fremon Turner, II (Mr.) from Detroit: Conant Avenue UMC

**North Central Jurisdiction Nominations Committee:**
Mildred Braddock from Southfield: Hope UMW and UMC

Prior to the NCJ Conference, there was a tour of the United Methodist Community House (UMCH). The UMCH is located in the heart of Grand Rapids, Michigan is one of the 98 United Methodist Women’s National Mission Institutions in the United States. In 2015, the UMW Detroit and West Michigan Conferences began conversations and developed funding ideas for ongoing repairs and the general upkeep of the physical structure of the UMCH. The ongoing campaign to repair the "UMCH" is called the "Special Maintenance Fund Program". As of the end of 2016, the program completed repairs and maintenance projects that totaled $66,106.70. Of that amount, the Detroit Conference donated a total of $22,642.24 between September 2015 – November 2016.

Mission u events for 2016 were: a one-day session on July 16th at Erie United Methodist Church; a Mission u Sampler, August 18th at the Lake Huron Retreat Center (LHRC); Hands On Mission Experience (H.O.M.E.), August 18th in the Port Huron area; a two-day Mission u by the Lake at LHRC, August 19th-20th, (with a concurrent children’s study at no charge); and, Mission u of the North October 17th-18th, at Gaylord UMC. Mission u topics were; Spiritual Growth: The Bible and Human Sexuality; Issue Study: Climate Justice; a second year of the Geographic Study: Latin America-People and Faith; Children's Study: God's Extravagant Garden: Climate Justice; Youth Study: Joining Voices for Climate Justice. Our study leaders were Michelle Aultman, Rev. Faith Fowler, Sonya Luna, and Rev. Rebecca Wilson.

October is always a busy month, as we begin to conclude our yearly United Methodist Women work for the Detroit Conference. From October 1st to 8th, we had all six (6) Detroit Conference Districts’ Annual Celebrations and Business Meetings. We had representatives to attend the West Michigan Conference Leadership Training and Annual Celebration and Business Meeting at Central UMC in Muskegon on October 14 - 15, 2016. Linda Schramm was the West MI Conference Keynote Speaker. Her presentation was on “Climate Justice: UMW Commitment to Mission”. We ended the month with the United Methodist Women Detroit Conference’s Leadership Training and Annual Celebration and Business Meeting with our sisters, and brothers in mission, at the Hope UMC in Marquette. The Leadership Training sessions were on October 21, 2016. Prior to the Training sessions, the UMW National Directors (Ruby Anderson and Taylorie Bailey) gave a joint presentation on the National Office, their new defined responsibilities and duties. They used this occasion to announce the 2018 Assembly date and the location of May 18-20, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. The theme for the Assembly is, “The Power of Bold”. The Annual Celebration and Business Meeting was the next day, October 22, 2016. The Keynote Speaker was Vicki Crystal Prewitt, a broadcaster at WJPD Radio in Marquette. The Annual Celebration topic was “Harvest Your Spiritual Gifts – Healing”. Our ingathering project, donations of cash, checks or gift cards from Gordon’s Food Services, was given to Room at the Inn located in Marquette, MI.

For the fourth year, we sent nine District and Conference officers of United Methodist Women to Leadership Development Days in Tempe, Arizona (November 2016) and Charlotte, NC (January 2017). The training sessions are presented and partially funded by the National Office of United Methodist Women.

Marchelle “Micki” Phelps, President, United Methodist Women Detroit Conference
STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

The Committee on Standing Rules believes it assists conference agencies to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by ordering the life of the annual conference for effective ministry through its continued work of perfecting the conference rules and structure.

The committee met twice during the past year, on November 3rd, 2016 and on March 9th, 2017. Both meetings were in Joint Session with our brothers and sisters on the Rules of Order committee in West Michigan.

The entirety of the work of the committee this year has been the review of the Design Team work on the new Rules of Order and Plan of Organization to be introduced at the 2017 Annual Conference. It has been our goal to work with the Design Team to make these documents the best that they can be while still complying with the mandates of the Discipline.

We anticipate another challenging year ahead, as we begin to live into the creation of our new Michigan Area Conference. Further meeting of the committee in 2017-18 will be in Joint Session with the Rules of Order committee. We will work together to assist in the perfecting of our new Rules and the further development/strengthening of the Plan of Organization. At the end of this next year in June, we will all be part of the Michigan Annual Conference, and look to pass on the torch of our work to the team selected by the Joint Nominations Committee, for 2018 and beyond.

Grace and Peace!

Todd L. Price,
Chairperson, Conference Committee on Standing Rules

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Historical Report -Detroit Annual Conference-Feb. 15, 2017

2016 was a year of difficult questions...Would the UMC schism at General Conference? Who will be our next bishop? How will we create a new conference in the State of Michigan to serve God in this place? We have some answers, and more of the questions are receding as our two Michigan conferences make great progress on designing the new one to come. Some questions still swirl around us as we wait for proposals from the Council of Bishops’ Special Commission. And we have begun to ask...what is the Board’s role in perplexing and divisive issues facing our denomination? What do we do when we continue to lose talented and highly qualified clergy because of our policies? What do we do with LGBTQ candidates coming up through the pipeline? We invited the Reverend Gerald Toshalis to facilitate the beginning of a conversation with the Board this year about homosexuality. Conversation will continue as we work with a public just resolution that involves the Board of Ordained Ministry.

We acknowledge that we live in a time of rapid change and information overload. The Board was grateful to have the Reverend Kennetha Bigham-Tsai come talk to us about adaptive change. Adaptive change is necessary when the problems we face are not easily solved. Learning is required, and, often, loss. How do we move forward? We need to know our values, both written and unwritten, and learn to ask the hard questions. We must decide what we need to jettison; we also need to innovate and risk failure. These skills and tasks are critical as we anticipate becoming one joint Board of Ordained Ministry along with the current West Michigan Board. In the summer of 2016, a task force was formed to begin sorting out the variances as they exist now, and then dreaming forward about the kind of Board we seek for our new Michigan Conference.

Creating a new Board is challenging, but at the same time a perfect opportunity to reconsider strategies, practices, and traditions. We will continue this work, all while doing our normal tasks of recruiting new candidates into ministry; supporting candidates with scholarships for seminary and clergy with continuing education funds; processing and interviewing candidates for commissioning, ordination and associate membership, as well as
certification in specialized ministries; providing mentoring and continuing education during the residency of provisional candidates; training and supporting District Committees; helping pastors, spouses, support staff and SPRC’s transition through new appointments; monitoring clergy relationships with the annual conference; and working with the Bishop, Cabinet, and Program Committee in preparing for Clergy Session, Celebrating the Journey of Ministry, and Ordination at Annual Conference. We have a long list of responsibilities, but we dream about doing more…educating and supporting clergy across the lifespan and helping build meaningful relationships and collaboration across our conference and soon, the whole State. We are anticipating the new eight year assessments that begin in 2020 for all clergy and striving for clergy excellence in every facet of our ministry.

I would like to thank all those who serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry for their tireless work, all volunteer, to accomplish the tasks that are charged to us. In addition, I would like to thank our administrative assistant, Nancy Arnold, for her excellent, efficient work, always done with a smile. We value bold, effective leadership and seek to promote it in all that we do. We are grateful for your prayer support as we do our work.

In Christ, Laura Speiran, Chair

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

I. Pension Apportionments & Health Insurance

2016 was an excellent year for Detroit Conference benefits. Total pension apportionments were received at an overall rate of 98.4%. On behalf of the CBOPHB, thank you to all for your faithfulness in this ministry. 393 of our 417 local churches (94.2%) remitted their pension apportionments at 100%, while an additional 4 churches reached 90%. Seven churches fell at the opposite end of the spectrum at 0%. However, the conference-wide unpaid pension apportionment total of $27,615 was the lowest uncollected dollar since the Angels won their first and only World Series in 2002.

In addition, the following churches reduced and/or paid in full their prior year balances which assisted in containing the cumulative total for all prior years.

Canton Cherry Hill Milan Marble Memorial Samaria Grace
Stony Creek Pontiac Grace & Peace New Baltimore Grace
Detroit Calvary Detroit Peoples Detroit Trinity Faith
Wayne First Davisburg Mt Morris
Ewen Zeba Gagetown
Snover Heritage Unionville Gordonville

Regarding health care, the CBOPHB reaffirms its commitment to providing a comprehensive, sustainable group health care plan while constantly assessing the financial realities for all involved parties. Local churches with subscribers in the conference health care plan, overall are staying current with the monthly premium payments which is helpful to everyone. The good news is that 2017 will mark the fourth year in a row without an increase in health insurance premiums.

As required, permanent records of outstanding balances for both pension apportionments and health insurance balances are kept on file by the CBOPHB with the intention to recover the balances. If left unaddressed, these balances must become part of a local church’s financial plan when a local church considers building expansion, merger, or closure. Please contact the Conference Benefits Officer, Rev. Donald Emmert, for further details or to discuss payment options for prior year pension and health insurance balances.

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<td>Total Pension Outstanding</td>
<td>27,615</td>
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## II. 2016 Benefits-Related Special Grants/Payments of the CBOPHB

Grants approved for:

- Prior Year Pension Apportionments: $21,573
- Special Financial Hardship Situations: $12,667
- Medical Leave Compensation:
  - During CPP disability application process: $39,521
  - Less CPP disability reimbursements: $(18,039)

Subtotal: $55,722

Grants to Churches whose clergy were granted Temporary Medical Leave:

- Bergland: $2,000
- Dearborn First: $1,600
- Elkton: $1,100
- Flint Bethel: $800
- Jeddo/reimbursement: $(500)
- Waterford 4 Towns: $1,600
- Wellsville/Deerfield: $1,200

Subtotal: $7,800

Total 2016 Special Grants/Payments from all CBOPHB accounts: $63,522

## III. Clergy Changes in Conference Relationship

Disciplinary Question #22: Who have been discontinued as local pastors (¶320.1)?

- Coon, Joseph: 07/01/16
- Ryan, Mark: 10/13/16
- Toussciuk, John: 09/01/16
- Williams, Courtney: 02/27/17

Disciplinary Question #44: Who have been granted the status of honorable location-retired (¶359.3)?

None

Disciplinary Question #52: Who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions (¶356)?

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Disciplinary Question #53: What members in full connection have been retired (¶357)

A. Deacons
   Miles, Catherine J 07/01/16

B. Elders
   Burdette, Tommy G 12/02/16
   Freeland, David C 07/01/17
   Keyworth, Charles 07/01/17
   Marr, Beverly L 07/01/17
   Miles, Kevin L 07/01/17
   Ness, Lance 07/01/17
   Neumann, Fredrick D 07/01/17
   Strall, Dana R 07/01/17
   Thon, Dorothy J 07/01/17
   Willobee, Sondra B 07/01/17
   Wright, William R 07/01/17

Disciplinary Question #54: What Associate Members have been retired (¶357)?
   Phillips, Harold V 01/01/17

Disciplinary Question #56: Who have been recognized as retired local pastors (¶320.5)?
   Hodges, Jacque 07/01/17
   Kolder, Sandra J 07/01/17

IV. STEPS TO RETIREMENT

The following information should be examined by anyone contemplating retirement within the next five years. Often it takes significant time to correct a special situation or service record error.

1. Attend a pre-retirement seminar within 10 years of retirement.
2. Review the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶357, pertaining to retirement.
3. Notify in writing the following persons by December 1 for the following year’s July retirement season:
   A. Resident Bishop
   B. Your District Superintendent
   C. Rev. Don Emmert, Conference Benefits Officer
   D. Rev. Doug Paterson, Chairperson of Committee on Conference Relations of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM)
   E. Rev. Judy May, BOM Retirement Recognition Coordinator
4. Once a participant’s intention to retire is confirmed in writing by the Office of the Bishop, the Benefits Officer notifies Wespath Benefits & Investments and materials are sent directly to the participant from Wespath detailing pension payment options. A pension projection is available anytime through the Wespath at 800-851-2201 or www.wespath.org (Benefits Access).
5. Health Insurance: At age 65, you are eligible for Medicare. You MUST enroll in Part A and B to qualify for the Conference Retiree Group Coverage. If you opted out of Social Security earlier, you must arrange to purchase Medicare Benefits in order to be eligible for coverage under the Conference Retiree Group Coverage. PLEASE REVIEW THE INSURANCE RULES RELATING TO THE RETIREE GROUP COVERAGE!
6. Send photocopies of Medicare cards for you and your spouse to the Conference Benefits Officer as soon as they become available. This is essential in order to coordinate health care coverage and avoid lengthy delays and/or denials of medical claims.

7. Review and update all beneficiary designations on your Retirement and Welfare Accounts at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

General Information:

1. Each pastor is advised to check with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits periodically to make certain that his/her service record is accurate. This is especially important with respect to pre-1982 service and the post-2006 Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Plans since these benefits are calculated based upon years of service.

2. Each person is encouraged to check his/her own Social Security record every 3 years to be certain that all payments have been properly credited. The Social Security Administration is not required to correct errors over 3 years old.

V. Detroit Conference Group Health Care Policy

The Detroit Annual Conference Group Health Plan is designed to safeguard the health and wellbeing of covered subscribers and their families. Medical coverage is provided through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Dental coverage is provided through Guardian Insurance, with an optional subscriber annual election for vision coverage. Prescription drug coverage is provided through CVS Caremark. A prescription mail order program through Global Health Management is encouraged for recurring/maintenance prescriptions. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements.

Active Plan Benefits: The medical, prescription drug, dental, and vision (optional) plans are designed to cover active subscribers and their eligible dependents during their working years.

Retiree Plan Benefits: Blue Cross/Blue Shield Complementary Medical Coverage is provided for secondary medical expenses of retirees and their eligible dependents as a supplement to Federal Medicare (Part A and Part B). Dental, prescription drug, and vision (optional) coverage is also available to retirees. Full details regarding retiree eligibility, requirements, and funding appear in the Retiree Group Health Care Plan section of this report.

Plan Administration: Both the Active and Retiree plans are centrally administered by BenePro, Inc. 1423 E Eleven Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI, 48067 where enrollment and premium billings are processed. BenePro and/or the Conference Benefits Officer are available to answer questions about the plans.

ACTIVE GROUP HEALTH CARE PLAN

Enrollment/Effective Date of Coverage: Health Care eligibility begins the first day of a new appointment/hire, change in appointment/employment status, or a life-qualifying event (i.e. loss of other health coverage), provided all required submissions, underwriting, and payments have been timely made. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. It is the responsibility of the subscriber to submit enrollment forms in a timely manner. If the enrollment process is not completed within 30 days of eligibility, the subscriber must wait until the next open enrollment period.

Eligible Subscribers: Active Plan eligible classes include the following:

(Full-time for health coverage eligibility is defined as working at least 30 hours per week)

1. Full-time Clergy (Ordained Ministers and Local Pastors) under Episcopal appointment with the Detroit Annual Conference as the responsible agency for providing benefits.

2. Full-time Lay Employees of the Detroit Annual Conference and its approved, related agencies.

3. Full-time Lay Employees of a local church (including District Superintendent Assignments) until the employee turns age 65 provided the local church lay employee policy offers health care to all eligible full-
time lay employees. All conference eligibility requirements must be observed. The local church is the responsible agency for all lay employee health insurance premiums. Premium-sharing schedules may be determined by local church employee policies.

4. Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees on Disability Leave, provided the subscriber was enrolled in the Detroit Conference Group Active Health Care Plan at the time they were granted disability leave.
   a. The subscriber must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B at the date of first eligibility.
   b. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber’s Medicare card to the Conference Benefits Officer at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.

5. Dependents of deceased Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee subscribers provided the dependents were enrolled in the group active health care plan at the time of the subscriber’s death.
   a. Dependents of a retired subscriber will continue health coverage under the same eligibility and funding provisions as the subscriber.
   b. A surviving spouse that remarries will continue to receive the health care benefit. However, the new spouse is not eligible for coverage.

6. Enrolled dependents of deceased Local Church employee subscribers as allowable by the health care plan if continued coverage is a provision of the local church employee policy, and if the local church maintains responsibility for the health insurance premiums.

Eligible Dependents:
1. Spouse.
3. Qualifying Adult Children with disabilities. (Per insurance regulations, Adult Children with disabilities may not continue on the conference plan after the subscriber is deceased.)

Changes in Eligibility: All changes in appointment, employee, or family status that affect eligibility in health coverage must be submitted within 30 days of the date the change occurs, otherwise loss, lapses, or gaps in coverage may occur. Subscribers are responsible for providing family status changes (including marriages, births, adoptions, legal guardianships) in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer. A delay in notification could mean a delay or denial of coverage until the next open enrollment period.

Working Aged 65: Active Clergy under eligible Detroit Conference Appointment and Conference Lay Employees in Conference/Related Agency employment retain eligibility status in the conference active group health care plan.
1. The conference active group plan continues to be the subscriber’s primary coverage.
2. Subscribers and dependents must enroll in Medicare Part A at the time they turn age 65, but are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B until the time of the subscriber’s retirement.
3. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber/dependent Medicare card to the Conference Benefits Officer at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.

Funding of Active Health Care Policies:
1. Active Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Employees: Health insurance premiums are shared by the salary-paying unit (Detroit Conference, Conference Related Agency, or Local Church) and the subscriber according to the contribution schedule established by Detroit Annual Conference action.
2. Disabled Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Employees: Health insurance premiums are paid by the Detroit Annual Conference to the extent established by Detroit Annual Conference action.
3. Dependents of deceased Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee subscribers: Health insurance premiums are paid by the Detroit Annual Conference to the extent established by Detroit Annual Conference action.

Termination:
1. A subscriber may voluntarily terminate a subscriber’s health insurance policy at any time by submitting a request in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer.
2. Health insurance policies are terminated the date of a subscriber’s termination from an eligible Clergy Appointment or Conference/Related Agency employment.
   a. Coverage for terminated employees may be extended up to three months as a severance package provision.
b. Under special provisions of the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits, a policy will be extended for up to one year for a clergyperson subsequently appointed to an eligible leave of absence status.

3. Health Insurance policies for a local church employee are terminated effective:
   a. The termination date of local church employment. Coverage may be extended up to three months as a severance package provision.
   b. The first of the month in which the subscriber turns age 65. Existing policies for working aged 65 local church employees as of December 31, 2013 are exempt from this provision.

4. Health Insurance policies will be terminated for non-payment of premiums according to the following schedule:
   a. Health insurance premium payments are due the fifteenth of every month for the current month’s coverage.
   b. A delinquency notice is issued when an account is two months in arrears.
   c. A second delinquency notice is issued at three months in arrears.
   d. A third delinquency and pending termination notice is issued at four months in arrears.
   e. Policy will be terminated at six months in arrears.
      i. Policy may be reinstated within 30 days of termination if the outstanding balance has been remitted in full.
      ii. In a delinquency situation involving a clergyperson appointed to a local church, a repayment plan must be submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee of The Board of Pension & Health Benefits to extend coverage past the six month period.

5. COBRA coverage is not offered through the Detroit Annual Conference.

Waiver of Coverage:
1. Eligible Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees that waive conference health care coverage must have a Waiver of Coverage form on file in the Detroit Conference Benefits Office.
2. Persons waiving coverage have opportunity to enroll themselves and eligible dependents in the conference health care plan annually during open enrollment or at the time of a life-qualifying event.

RETIREE GROUP HEALTH CARE PLAN
Introduction:
This section describes the provisions and requirements of the Detroit Annual Conference group retiree health care plan. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. All required submissions, underwriting, and payments must be timely made. It is the subscriber's responsibility to understand the specific rules relating to eligibility for coverage in retirement prior to the subscriber's retirement date. Questions may be directed to the Conference Benefits Officer or conveyed in writing to the Board of Pension & Health Benefits. Do not rely on verbal responses to general questions raised in informational meetings or provided by representatives other than the Board of Pension & Health Benefits.

It is crucial that clergy who have served appointments during their career in Extension Ministries or another Annual Conference are knowledgeable regarding years of service credit, coverage, and cost sharing in order to effectively plan for retirement.

Definition of Terms:
1. Years of Service Credit for Health Benefits in Retirement: Years of Service in Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointments used to calculate eligibility and funding levels for health benefits in retirement.
2. Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointment: An Episcopal appointment is defined when the Detroit Annual Conference is the responsible agency for the clergyperson’s benefits.
   a. Some Extension Ministry Appointments will be eligible for credit toward health benefits in retirement. Others will not, depending on the agency responsible for the clergyperson’s benefits.
   b. Appointments to other conferences/agencies while maintaining membership in the Detroit Annual Conference are not eligible for credit toward health benefits in retirement.
   c. Reciprocal Agreement with West Michigan Conference
      i. A Detroit Conference clergy member will receive credit toward health benefits in retirement for Eligible Episcopal appointments in the West Michigan Conference.
      ii. A West Michigan Conference Eligible Episcopal Appointment is defined when the West Michigan Conference is the responsible agency for the clergyperson’s benefits.
iii. A Detroit Conference clergy member serving a West Michigan Conference appointment must serve a Detroit Conference Eligible Episcopal Appointment and be enrolled in the Detroit Conference Active Group Health Care Plan immediately preceding retirement in order to be eligible for retiree health benefits. (reference: Eligible Subscribers 1.b. below)

3. Mandatory Retirement: Defined as retirement on July 1 after having attained age 72.
4. Full Retirement: Defined as retirement at age 65 or with 40 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.
5. Early Retirement: Defined as retirement at age 62 or with 30 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.
6. 20 Year Rule: Defined as retirement under age 62 with 20 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.

Medicare Enrollment/Coordination of Benefits:
The retiree medical health care plan is a supplemental plan to Medicare for all eligible subscribers age 65 and over.
   1. In retirement, the subscriber and dependents must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B effective the date of first eligibility.
   2. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber/dependent Medicare cards to the Conference Benefits Officer at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.

Eligible Subscribers:
1. Retired Clergy (Ordained Ministers and Local Pastors):
   a. Subscriber must be a Clergy Member of the Detroit Annual Conference at the date of retirement.
   b. Subscriber must be enrolled in the Detroit Conference Active Group Health Care Plan at the time of their retirement. For clergy not participating in the conference active group health care plan, in most situations the final opportunity for a clergy and/or dependents to enroll will be during the Open Enrollment Period prior to the subscriber’s retirement date. Annual Open Enrollment is in December for a January effective enrollment date.
   c. Subscriber must have served under Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal appointments for the ten years immediately preceding retirement.

1. Retired Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees:
   a. Subscriber must be enrolled in the Detroit Conference Group Active Health Care Plan at the time of their retirement. For employees not participating in the conference active group health care plan, in most situations the final opportunity for an employee and/or dependents to enroll will be during the Open Enrollment Period prior to the subscriber’s retirement date. Annual Open Enrollment is in December for a January effective enrollment date.
   b. Subscriber must have been employed by the Detroit Conference/Related Agency for the ten years immediately preceding retirement.

1. Dependents of deceased Retired Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee Detroit Conference group retiree health care plan subscribers provided the dependents were enrolled in the group retiree health care plan at the time of the subscriber's death.
   a. Dependents of a retired subscriber will continue health coverage under the same eligibility and funding provisions as the subscriber.
   b. A surviving spouse that remarries will continue to receive the health care benefit. However, the new spouse is not eligible for coverage.

2. Retired Local Church Lay Employees are not eligible to enroll in the Detroit Conference Group Retiree Health Care Plan. Existing retiree policies in this category as of December 31, 2013 are exempt from this provision.

Eligible Dependents: Eligible dependents are determined as of the date of the subscriber's retirement. All dependents must be enrolled on the subscriber's group active health care policy at the time of subscriber's retirement date in order to be considered for coverage eligibility. These include:
1. Spouse.
3. Qualifying Adult Children with disabilities. (Per insurance regulations, Adult Children with disabilities may not continue on the conference plan after the subscriber is deceased.)

New dependents through marriage or other family additions subsequent to the subscriber’s date of retirement are not eligible.

**Funding of Retiree Health Insurance Policies:**

1. Clergy that received their first Detroit Conference Appointment prior to 2007:
   a. Retiring under Mandatory, Full, or Early Retirement
      i. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 4% per year of credited service in an Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointment toward the retiree’s health insurance premium (including eligible dependents)
      ii. If the subscriber has less than 25 years of credited service, the subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.
   
   b. Retiring under the 20 Year Rule
      i. The subscriber may retain coverage through the Detroit Conference Health Care Plan if they meet eligibility requirements as applicable from time to time.
      ii. The subscriber is responsible for the entire insurance premium until age 65. At age 65, the Detroit Conference will pay a portion of the health insurance premium according to the funding provisions for mandatory, full, or early retirement.
      iii. If the subscriber terminates their policy prior to age 65, they cannot re-enroll at a future date.

2. Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees hired prior to 2007
   c. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 4% per year of employment toward the subscriber’s health insurance premium (including eligible dependents).
   d. If the subscriber has less than 25 years of employment, the subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.

2. Clergy that received their first Detroit Conference Appointment in or subsequent to 2007:
   a. Retiring under Mandatory, Full, or Early Retirement
      i. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 3% per year of credited service in an Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointment toward the subscriber’s health insurance premium (including eligible dependents).
      ii. The maximum payment by the Detroit Annual Conference is 90%.
      iii. The subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.
   b. Retiring under the 20 Year Rule
      i. The subscriber may retain coverage through the Detroit Conference Health Care Plan if they meet eligibility requirements as applicable from time to time.
      ii. The subscriber is responsible for the entire insurance premium until age 65. At age 65, the Detroit Conference will pay a portion of the health insurance premium according to the funding provisions for mandatory, full, or early retirement.
      iii. If the subscriber terminates their policy prior to age 65, they cannot re-enroll at a future date.

3. Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees hired in or subsequent to 2007:
   a. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 3% per year of employment toward the subscriber’s health insurance premium (including eligible dependents).
   
   b. The maximum payment by the Detroit Annual Conference is 90%.
   c. The subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.

**Termination:**

1. A subscriber may terminate their health insurance policy during retirement at any time. However, the termination is non-revocable and a subscriber cannot re-enroll at a future date.

2. The health insurance policy of a retired ordained minister whose clergy membership is terminated with the Detroit Conference for any reason will be terminated the effective date of the termination of the subscriber’s clergy membership. Existing retiree policies in this category as of December 31, 2013 are exempt from this provision. However, Detroit Conference funding for all such policies will cease December 31, 2013, and the subscriber will become responsible for all premiums.

3. Health insurance policies will be terminated for non-payment of premiums according to the following schedule:
a. Health insurance premium payments are due the fifteenth of every month for the current month's coverage.
b. A delinquency notice is issued at two months in arrears.
c. A second delinquency notice is issued at three months in arrears.
d. A third delinquency and pending termination notice is issued at four months in arrears.
e. Policy will be terminated at six months in arrears.
   i. Policy may be reinstated within 30 days of termination if the outstanding balance has been remitted in full.
   ii. Since termination of a retiree policy is permanent following the 30 day window for reinstatement, subscribers in a delinquency situation are strongly encouraged to initiate communication with the Executive Committee of The Board of Pension & Health Benefits to negotiate a realistic repayment schedule prior to the date of termination.

In the event any of the above provisions need to be interpreted, the Committee on Health Benefits is authorized to make any needed interpretation which will be considered final unless appealed to the full Detroit Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits, which will have the final authority to decide any issue. In the event of any dispute or disagreement by a participant, the Committee on Health Benefits is authorized to negotiate and settle the matter subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriter of the coverage and review by the Board of Pension & Health Benefits.

Presented by The Detroit Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits

Mr. Fred Gray, President

Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Conference Benefits Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The conference board of trustees has held three regular meetings since our last corporate session in 2016. At these meetings, we have discussed matters such as risk management for churches and the conference, the care for our district parsonages, and churches that have closed where the property has been given to the trustees. In most cases the property comes to the trustees to be sold.

In addition to our regular meetings we have met with the board of trustees of the West Michigan Conference as we prepare to become one board assuming the responsibility for all conference owned property in the new conference. Since the two conferences deal with closed churches in different ways, we have been working to develop one policy for the entire area. We have been asked to have this topic on our agenda at our meetings which we have done.

Two members of our board were invited to the Area Office to meet with area leadership and representative of WMUMC trustees to discuss a common policy for handling closed churches and the proceeds from the sale of such property. We expect to have additional meetings as we draw closer to the merger date.

Since our last report to the Corporate Session:

1. We have sold the former Argentine United Methodist Church
2. We have sold the former Peck United Methodist Church
3. We have contacted a realtor to place the former Argyle United Methodist Church for sale
4. We have contacted a realtor to place the former Lakeville United Methodist Church and parsonage for sale

There is the possibility that before we meet in Traverse City in June that we will have other property added to our list. Although we would rather see churches stay open and involved in active ministry, when they do have to close we seek to be as compassionate as possible and work with them as they prepare to turn their sacred property over to the board of trustees.

Rev. Brent L. Webster, Chairperson, Detroit Conference Board of Trustees
For the Board of Justice, Advocacy and Equity, this past year could be described as one of new construction. It has been our pleasure to enter into this “new thing” with our colleagues in the West Michigan Conference, Board of Church and Society. With the bringing together our two boards we are in the process of constructing one new single board. We are centering in on what such a new board can do and how best such a board can operate statewide.

Throughout, our purpose remains the same: to be advocates for social justice within the Conference, to work tirelessly for the full inclusion of all people without regard to race, sex, preference, age, economic status, or disability, and to bear witness to the love of God in Christ in all creation. We seek to accomplish this by calling attention to peace and social justice issues within the church and community, providing workshops, trainings, and resources to the conference, districts, and local congregations. We also serve as a source of funding for projects throughout the conference, being responsible for the local distribution of the Conference's Peace With Justice offering and other designated funds.

Our officers are:

Chairperson Rev. George Covintree Staff Liaison Rev. Paul Perez
Church and Society Liaison Rev. Eric Stone COSROW Liaison Rev. Kristi Hintz, Carol Bouse
Disability Concerns Liaison - OPEN Peace w/Justice Coordinator George Jonte-Crane
General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) Rev. Saul Trinidad

As part of Annual Conference 2016, we sponsored a panel on prison ministry. Our goal was to encourage greater participation by our districts and congregations in this ministry of the church. We provided information and “how to's” on prison ministry, family supportive ministries, prison and incarceration reform for each participant and local congregations. We are thankful to the Rev. Dale Milford for his leadership in pulling together this conference workshop.

Working with the West Michigan Board of Church and Society, the Board of Justice, Advocacy, and Equity has funded:

- The purchase of the UMW study on The Bible and Human Sexuality for distribution at our 2017 Annual Conference
- We the People's Detroit Water Shut Off Research Project
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church
- Sponsorship of the documentary film, Indian Warrior
- Michigan United's Immigrant and Family Defense Fund
- The Michigan Area's Keep Making Peace conference (this year's theme was Climate Change)
- Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

We were pleased to hold a combined Social Justice dinner at Annual Conference with both the West Michigan Board of Church and Society and the Michigan Federation of Social Action (MFSA). The Rev. Jeremy Peters, pastor of Flint: Court Street UMC, was our speaker, presenting three spoken word pieces on the Flint Water Crisis. The Harold Stanton Peace with Justice Award for 2016 was presented to the Rev. Rebecca (Becky) Wilson, director of mission and justice engagement for the Renaissance District of the UMC for her outstanding leadership as the director of the Northwest Detroit Flood Recovery Project. The summer rains and flooding that hit northwest Detroit and the southern parts of Oakland and Macomb counties were the worst federally declared natural disasters of 2014. Becky, with a team of three, assisted close to 200 homeowners through this UMCOR project, restoring homes and communities.
It has been a busy year. Much work looms ahead of us. We are united in our resolve to 'speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers.' (Prov. 31:9, The Message)

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. George Covintree, Chairperson

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Detroit Conference Board of Discipleship has held four meetings since the last Annual Conference in June of 2016. At our October meeting, we approved a change in leadership. Rev. Ken Bryant stepped down as chairperson and Katy Stokes was approved as the new board chair. Rev. Bryant remains a member of the board.

The Board of Discipleship continues to seek innovative ways to strengthen the local church and enable it to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This year we have engaged in fruitful and intentional conversation about the role of the Board of Discipleship, and how to focus our efforts to have an impact through the work we support. We have set goals in the following areas:

**Haiti-related Vacation Bible School (VBS) materials**

With the leadership of board member Rev. Mary Hagley, we are coordinating the creation of a Haiti-related mission focus supplement for 2017 summer VBS curriculums. This mission supplement will fit within mainstream VBS curriculums that local churches may be using, as a way of connecting in a relevant and timely way to the ongoing crisis in Haiti following Hurricane Matthew, and our conference’s commitment to being a partner in the relief effort.

We will also work in parallel to these efforts to create a stand-alone VBS curriculum package with interest in Haiti, to be available next year. Through this, we will be investing in local Michigan-area United Methodists as curriculum developers, as well as continuing our efforts listed above as partners in Haiti. Secondly, this curriculum will provide an affordable alternative for local churches struggling to provide VBS materials to their congregations. Our goal is for this curriculum to fund itself with a price tag of approximately $50 per unit.

**Mission Intern Program**

We continue to support the Mission Intern program which has been fruitful in its effort toward transformational mission engagement. Specifically through transformative experiences for young adult interns, children affected by poverty, and congregations that serve as site locations.

**Grants for local ministries**

The Board is committed to working with the Conference Leadership Team as they continue to shape the structure of our new Michigan-area conference moving forward. In particular, we take our responsibility seriously to be stewards of current grant monies that we have available. We are committed to developing an increasingly transparent and accessible process of grant requesting, to further empower successful discipleship ministries in the local church.

We have approved grants this year for CDF Freedom Schools, West Michigan Ave UMC youth center, and Looking Glass Book Partners Program.

We have increased our publicity regarding the availability of grant money and are creating a process of follow-up with approved ministries, to instill a step of accountability, and to celebrate and share successes of these local ministry programs.

There is a spirit of renewal and excitement within the Board of Discipleship. We look forward to encouraging and educating local church leaders, and to supporting the movement of the Holy Spirit in local, regional, and global ministries. Thanks be to God!

Katy Stokes, Chairperson
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO THE UNITED METHODIST UNION OF GREATER DETROIT

The calendar on my desk reminds me that I have survived my first year as the Executive Director of the United Methodist Union. The transition experience has been a positive one for me as the Union continues to grapple with the challenges and opportunities of supporting the work of the churches of the Detroit Renaissance District and others.

Frankly, I often find that the work reminds me of the challenges and the triumphs of backpacking in the mountains - a favorite hobby of mine!

For most of my life, I have spent part of my summer carrying a backpack or daypack up some mountain trail. I have hiked up more switchbacks and climbed over more rocks than I ever care to remember. But, I will never forget the mountain summits, or glorious peaks that I have reached, or the adventures I’ve shared with hiking groups along the trails.

Many of life’s experiences are similar to climbing a mountain. The journey begins at the bottom, where people often wonder what they've gotten themselves into. Energetic teenagers and inexperienced adults often stand at the trailhead and enthusiastically declare that they are going to reach the summit by noon before they begin the charge up the trail. Seasoned backpackers just smile and hope they have remembered to bring their lunch, water bottle and rain gear.

Experience is a great teacher! Long before lunch, new hikers will have learned how heavy a 50 lb pack can be, and that hiking is hard work. I never knew that ridge lines could go up and down, that 4000 foot mountains could have so many false peaks, nor that I would thank God for a small rip-stop nylon tent, or a wilderness sky, ablaze with thousands of stars. Life, like hiking, is full of surprises and will require more from us than we ever anticipated.

It is amazing how working with the United Methodist Union is like a hiking experience.

Beginnings and Challenges

A hiking trip always begins with choosing a destination. Then, it's on to the research phase, filled with topographical maps, guide books, computer insights and, at long last, the selection of a trail route. A hiker always needs to be aware of the challenges, obstacles and possibilities that lay ahead on the trail. “Be prepared” is more than just a Boy Scout slogan.

In the twenty-first century religious landscape, it's helpful for the Union and our United Methodist Churches to have some similar kinds of information about the challenges our congregations are facing. Peter W. Marty offers some insights into what is happening to churches of every mainline denomination in the United States. In his recent editorial in the Christian Century, he writes:

“On an average day in America, ten churches permanently close their doors. The reasons for closure are often necessary, unavoidable and even healthy. Rural communities dwindle in size. New traffic and mobility patterns leave once vital churches far off the beaten path. Massive capital expenditures overwhelm available resources. Small congregations struggle to afford a pastor. Sometimes, a church will shutter its ministry when an exciting new start-up mission opens nearby.

Often, however, churches close simply because someone missed a window of opportunity years before. Past leadership lacked the will or the nimbleness to flex with changing neighborhood demographics. Nobody put up a basketball hoop that could have formed a beautiful bridge between the congregation and its neighbors. Hosting after school programs and ESL classes never figured into the church board’s imagination. Creative partnerships with area agencies, and/or businesses, went unexplored. Sadly, the nature of some of those opportunities is that they're fleeting; once we’ve missed them, they're gone, never to return…”

Day after day, ten churches across America are closing. What a sobering statistic!!! We have closed the door on our share of United Methodist Churches across the Detroit Metropolitan Area - some of them for the reasons such as the one listed in Marty’s editorial. Detroit area demographics have moved and changed. But I can’t help but wonder what opportunities we might have missed.
No church community wants to miss an opportunity. Our Board of Trustees sincerely believe that the local churches are in the best position to identify and implement the opportunities that will meet the needs of their communities. In the words of my predecessor, the Rev. Dr. Bill Ritter, we want to support, “…programs, pastors and parishioners that offer both promise and potential. I want to do something more than keep further decline at bay.” So do we, Bill!!! In 2016, we awarded 18 Ministry and Mission Initiative Grants to 17 different churches in the Renaissance District. We partner with congregations to share the financial cost for new programs, resources and new personnel. It is always important, as Rev. Dr. Bill Ritter would say, for everyone involved to have some “skin in the game.”

The Hike

The actual trip up a mountain involves taking action, putting your boots on the ground and a 50 lb pack on your back. It’s the moment when dreams, reality and effort come together. Union Trustee Board meetings are where decisions are made and windows of opportunities are opened, but this is just the beginning of the climb.

- This year, we partnered with Metropolitan UMC to provide a Youth and Children’s Worker to expand their emerging Family Ministries.
- Fraser Christ UMC dreamed of extending their active youth programs, (which include Upward Football & Cheerleading) that attract hundreds of community people to their campus each weekend in the fall, into other facets of their ministry. This fall, a grant helped support the hiring of a new part-time Ministry Director.
- A Vital Church Initiative (VCI) experience was the catalyst for pastor, Rev. Susan Youmans and Warren First UMC to begin a new outreach ministry for families and youth. A grant funds half of the cost of a part-time director.
- This summer, the Union provided some financial support for seven summer programs through our United Methodist Churches. Though each program was unique in design, they shared a common commitment to build strong, empowered children and youth through literacy, Christian Education opportunities, enriched mathematics skills, leadership development and a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities. We were pleased to partner with Detroit Centro Familial Cristiano, Detroit Conant Avenue, Detroit Peoples, Detroit Second Grace, Pontiac Grace & Peace, Utica and Westland St. James United Methodist Churches.
- In 2016, we also received a request from our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Charles S.G. Boayue, Jr., to increase our annual grant to the Detroit Renaissance District for pastoral support. Unlike the other districts in the Detroit Annual Conference, most of our district’s pastoral support comes from the Union instead of the Equitable Salary Committee. The cost of providing pastor leadership continues to escalate for congregations, and Dr. Boayue has few resources available to meet any emerging needs. Recognizing that this is a window of opportunity, too, the Union substantially increased this grant.

Our work continues all year long as we engage with congregations in numerous ways. Loans and refinancing were extended to Detroit Ford Memorial, Farmington First, Farmington Hills Nardin Park and Trenton Faith United Methodist Churches.

Again this summer, the Urban Methodist Youth Camp provided a quality experience for youth under the leadership of Cliff Stallings and his special team. We are proud to provide an annual grant for this outstanding outdoor Christian Education opportunity.

Many other wonderful things happened this year, but I wouldn’t want to end our hike without a word about the Canton Friendship UMC/Shelby Township new church start. We have partnered together with the New Church Start Committee of the Detroit Annual Conference and the Ann Arbor Board of Mission & Church Extension to provide financial support for the launch of a new congregation. In preparation, renovations of the former New Hope building in Shelby Township have been completed. A new campus pastor, Travis Davis, has been hired. Former New Hope members, community people and a core group from Canton Friendship have been meeting together for worship and planning. Rev. Mike Norton, pastor of Canton Friendship has been hard at work in every facet of the new church start and his faith and enthusiasm are contagious. Hopefully, the official new church launch will happen before Christmas.

Team Ministry
Yes, that’s me…Rev. Carol…sitting on top of a mountain summit, having lunch with two of my favorite college students. We hiked up several thousand feet for that view. Can you guess our location? The Canadian Rockies, of course - one of my favorite places on earth. We are sitting at the summit of Sentinel Pass in the Valley of the Ten Peaks near Moraine Lake (just south of Lake Louise, Alberta).

It’s always good to hike with younger people, especially as you get older. You can never fully anticipate what obstacles or challenges life will place in your path, but having others to work through them with you, makes all the difference. Whether hiking or serving in the church, I have always been an advocate for team ministry. When you allow people the opportunity to combine their talents, abilities, wisdom, faith and experiences in a positive way, they will create something wonderful.

The United Methodist Union Board of Trustees is a classic example of this principle. Thirty-six trustees, from all over our district, guide our work. In addition, eight Lifetime Trustees (former Board Presidents) and nine Emeritus Trustees assist us in our tasks. Our trustees are lawyers, contractors, architects, bankers, investment professionals, CPA’s, teachers, business women and men, doctors, nurses, insurance agents, ministers, managers and so much more. Their faith, wisdom, experience, talents, leadership and corporate memory shape the ministry of the Union in such a powerful way.

It occurred to me recently that most United Methodists have no idea who is serving as a Trustee. Yes, their pictures can be found on the bulletin board outside of the office at Metropolitan UMC, but how many people have actually seen them? So I decided to add their pictures to this 97th Annual Meeting & Banquet booklet. Please take a moment to look at their faces and the United Methodist Churches they represent. I wish there was some way that I could convey the depth of the faithfulness and commitment of this dynamic team. In short, I can only say that in so many unexpected ways, I have been inspired by their thoughtful leadership as we have worked together through one issue after another. Our district is blessed by their leadership.

I wouldn’t want to close this report without thanking those who are retiring as Trustees from nine years of faithful service: Gloria Alexander, Chris Christopher, Eric Stockwell and Jacquelin Washington. Nor can I forget the leadership of our office staff. The kindness and support of Connie Perrine, Audrey Mangum and our professional consultants make a significant difference in our ministry. It is great to be part of such an effective team.

The work of the United Methodist Union is a journey. Who knows what windows of opportunity God will provide for us in the future. There are always mountains to be climbed. Fortunately, God goes with us every step of the way.

Blessings and Joy,

Rev. Carol Johns, Executive Director

CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES – CBGM

The following reports share some highlights of the work undertaken by the Conference Board of Global Ministries in 2016. Through the efforts highlighted here, the cause of Christ has been furthered as children have been fed, immigrants have found support, mission has been interpreted and engaged in by those who might have not done so otherwise. Beyond the efforts listed here, the leadership of the WMC and DAC CBGMs have faithfully met over 2016 to create a plan to engage our new conference in life-changing mission.
Serving for Christ,

Rev. Don Gotham, Chair

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries - Jacqueline Euper

Our United Methodist denomination offers to its membership so many opportunities to be involved in mission. We can send money to support missionaries or projects all over the world. We can go and serve in mission ourselves for a week, a month, 2 years, or for a lifetime. We can pray and write to those who work in the area of missions. We all play a part in the mission work “From Everywhere, To Everywhere”, and together we make an impact for Christ in our world.

Thanks to our Detroit Conference churches for another year of faithful giving, hosting and believing in our Global Ministries. In a year when Global Ministries has been moving from its longtime headquarters at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City to its new home at Grace UMC in Atlanta, Georgia, you have remained stable in your support of our missionaries & ministries around the world. THANK YOU!

In 2016, we hosted two missionaries. Dr. Pierre Manya, accompanied by his wife, visited 7 churches in August. The Manyas shared their stories of health ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thanks to Clarkston, Millington, Adrian First, Dixboro, Detroit Metropolitan, Cass Community and Dearborn First UMCs for welcoming the Manyas into your homes, at your tables and in your churches. They enjoyed all of those who gathered to hear their stories. The Manyas also joined the North Central Jurisdiction Volunteers in Missions Round-up in Ohio. Around 365 people heard the good news they shared.

In September 2016, we had a visit from Rev. Jose Roberto Pena, Global Ministries missionary in Honduras. Rev. Pena was hosted by Trenton First, Dearborn First, Wayne First, Clarkston, Monroe First and Petersburg UMCs. He also had the opportunity to speak at the Trenton Rotary Club. Thanks to the 112 persons who heard his stories of church growth in Honduras.

As we continue with West Michigan Conference to become the new Michigan Area Conference, we anticipate continued support and doing even greater work for Christ … together!

Conference Mission Personnel Report - Brenda Dupree

The current United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries Conference Mission Personnel continue to serve our conference as compassionate, committed servants of our Lord, who bring his Word and hope to many. Please keep these faithful missionaries in your prayers.

1. Isaac Dunn (2016-2018) serves as a Global Mission Fellow/US-2 assigned to the N.O.A.H. Project in Detroit as a caseworker. [idunn@umcmission.org] Advance #3022220


3. Mary Gladstone-Highland is a Church and Community Worker in the DAC assigned as the Community Outreach Director at Clarkston United Methodist Church, Clarkston. [mgh@clarkstonumc.org] Advance #982022

4. Randy Hildebrant is a Church and Community Worker assigned to God’s Country Cooperative Parish in the DAC. He is based in Newberry. [rhildebrant@umcmission.org] Advance #982961

5. Sonya Luna is a GBGM missionary serving through the National Plan for Hispanic and Latino Ministries in the DAC and is the Michigan Area Conference Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries. [sluna@detroitconference.org] Advance #3019618

Volunteers in Mission Report - Rev. Tom Anderson

Over 10,000 adults and youth served as Volunteers in Mission from the Detroit Annual Conference. Projects included in-state ministries such as Cass Community Social Services and God's Country Cooperative Parish as well as trips abroad to Haiti, Liberia and Mexico. A new VIM site formed in our conference with the creation of the North Country Cooperative Parish consisting of Clare, Grayling, Houghton Lake, Roscommon and West Branch congregations.

Our conference continues to offer $100 scholarships to first-time VIM participants as well as reimbursement for insuring teams during their travel and service time. Team leader training is also available for leaders of VIM teams.

Discussions were held with West Michigan VIM leaders and it was determined our meshing together to be relatively simple. It is recommended that the new conference continue the scholarship and insurance subsidy programs. Praise God for a great year of service and witness for Jesus Christ through our VIM teams!

The Advance – Rev. Karen Williams

The many projects and ministries of The ADVANCE provide opportunity to create, equip, and engage the people of the United Methodist Church for the transformation of the world. Through the generous giving and support of The ADVANCE, communities near and far have experienced the love of Christ in the areas of education, health, justice, and compassionate response and service.

In 2016 $738,390.72 was given to the Advance by the churches in the Detroit Annual Conference.

All of these contributions are in addition to those given by local churches to Apportionments, District Projects, and local projects in our communities.

The following are just a few of the effective ministries supported by the people of the Detroit Annual Conference in 2016: Global Refugee/Migration $3,592.32; Anti-Human Trafficking $11,388.58; Water for Life $75,250.25; Haiti Hot Lunch Program $63,790.26; Pastor & District Superintendent Salary Support $7,769.34; US-2 Program $125. Please check the ADVANCE website and Spotlight Book for Ministries and Projects that best fit with your church mission.

The Spotlight Church program is designed to raise awareness to the many Missions, Ministries, and Missionaries in the DAC. Many of our churches strive to go the extra mile in giving and are designated a Spotlight Church by fulfilling eight steps.

This year 133 churches in the Detroit Annual Conference have been designated as a Spotlight Church.

Thank you for your support to the Mission and Ministries of the Advance, and congratulations to each of the 2016 Spotlight Churches.
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Michigan Area Haiti Task Force – Rev. David F. Hills

2017 marks the Bi-Centennial Year of Methodism in Haiti! By the time this report is published a number of Michigan clergy and laity will have traveled to Haiti to participate in celebration events that begin on Sunday, February 5. Michigan Area Bishop David Bard will be sending a video greeting from the Michigan Area and several members of MAHTF will also be present. In addition, an invitation has been extended to Bishop Gesner Paul of the Methodist Church of Haiti (EMH) to be present with us at the 2017 Annual Conference sessions of the Michigan Area. A Friday Focus Meal has been planned for the 12-2 Lunch Break in Tower B Room for those interested in hearing about our mutual ministry with EMH in Haiti.

During 2016 the fourth and final sessions of the Haiti Local Preacher’s Academy were completed, fulfilling one of the Michigan Area’s significant commitments in our Covenant with the Methodist Church of Haiti. Over $100,000 from various sources has been invested in this effort to prepare and equip the more than 300 Local Preacher’s in Haiti who were able to participate. Final courses were held in November 2016, just weeks after Hurricane Matthew devastated much of southwest Haiti. Despite concerns about conditions on the ground, EMH leadership asked, and the teams agreed to go ahead as planned. Though numbers of Michigan Area clergy gave of their time and talents in 2015/2016 to prepare and teach the courses offered during each of the four sessions, we owe much gratitude to Karl and Carmen Ziegler for their passionate commitment to seeing this program through to completion. All of the classes offered over the course of the sessions were recorded in each location so that EMH leadership and Karl Ziegler might select and edit the best videos for future training of Local Preachers in Haiti. During the 200th Anniversary Celebration of Methodism in Haiti those Local Preachers who completed the work will be recognized. Praise God for the faithfulness of all those who gave, led, taught, and participated!
In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the MAHTF held an emergency Conference Call to begin efforts to coordinate a Michigan Area response with EMH, UMCOR, and others. Out of that first meeting a core team was brought together to connect weekly by conference call as further reports of damage emerged and the relief and response efforts moved forward. We are grateful to both AC CF&A's for helping find funds so that we could make the commitment to support needed repairs to the Methodist Guest House in Jeremie. We prioritized that work knowing that future teams planning to travel to Haiti to help restore and rebuild churches, schools, and communities would need a safe place to stay. As Thanksgiving and Christmas approached, we were deeply appreciative of Bishop David Bard’s designation of the Bishop’s Advent Offering to go to the Hurricane Matthew response efforts of MAHTF. As those funds become available they are being used to match project funds for those teams traveling to rebuild and restore EMH facilities impacted by the Hurricane. Thank you to all those individuals and churches who gave in response to the cry for help from our sisters and brothers in Haiti. Please continue to pray for them, and in particular for those who lead and serve the people of Haiti called Methodist who seek daily to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Detroit Conference Liberia Task Force - Kayte Aspray**

The Detroit Conference Liberia Task Force was reconstituted in the fall of 2015 and met quarterly during 2016. The following are key accomplishments for the year.

- The truck for which the Detroit Conference raised funds several years ago was delivered and blessed in November. A team effort, the Rev. William T. (Tom) Robinson and now retired Bishop John G. Innis of Liberia began the process with a dream, followed by fund-raising. The Liberia Task Force, working with Avis Ford in Southfield, completed the process working with the Rev. George Wilson, Director of Connectional Ministry in Liberia. The truck is now being used by the Liberia Annual Conference to support their work throughout Liberia.

- The Rev. Tom Robinson and the Rev. William (Bill) Haggard, District Superintendent of the Grand Rapids District, represented Michigan at the Liberia Annual Conference in February, celebrating the retirement of Bishop John G. Innis. Task Force member Rev. Duane Miller and his wife Diana also attended, representing the Liberia Partner Summit team.

- The Task Force participated in a Michigan Engagement Workshop at Annual Conference in June, with presentations by Tom Robinson, Bill Haggard and Edith Wiarda from the Ann Arbor District.

- The joint Conference Boards of Global Ministry approved expanding the Liberia Task Force to include West Michigan Conference representation. Three new members have joined our team.

- The joint CBGM also recommended an offering at Opening Worship of Annual Conference, to support the Haiti Hot Lunch program and the Liberian Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village. The Program Committee approved this request.

The Rev. Charles Boayue, District Superintendent of the Detroit Renaissance District, attended the West Africa Central Conference in December, at which Bishop Samuel Quire was elected to become Liberia’s Bishop. The Task Force assisted with funding.

**BOARD OF MISSION INTERN PROGRAM**

“He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’” Matthew 25:45 (MSG)

For 18 years, the Mission Intern Program has been transforming lives in the Detroit Annual Conference and around the world. Begun in 1999 by the late Rev. Terry Niles Gladstone, over 150 young adults have served thousands of children
and families every summer in some of Michigan’s most economically and resource-challenged areas, to accomplish the following goals:

- serving economically and socially vulnerable children and families in response to the Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty through disciple-making and kin-dom building ministries;
- facilitating the leadership development of young adults through practical servant ministry opportunities;
- building bridges within urban and rural congregations and the communities they serve; and
- partnering with local churches throughout Michigan to join and expand this outreach ministry.

Mission Interns work in a variety of settings to serve God’s people. Last summer, 5 Interns worked at Mission Team sites where they facilitated volunteer-based home repair and children’s recreation activities at sites in the Upper Peninsula and Detroit. At 7 other Detroit Conference local churches, 21 interns co-led summer faith-based programming for children and youth in local communities. Overall in 2016, 26 interns served over 275 children and families!

The Mission Intern Program gratefully acknowledges the churches and partners-in-faith who hosted Interns and served the children and families of their communities in 2016: Utica UMC, Detroit: Metropolitan UMC, Detroit: Centro Cristiano UMC, Port Huron First UMC, West Branch First UMC, Flint Calvary UMC, Saginaw: West Michigan Avenue UMC, God’s Country Cooperative Parish in Marquette, and Cass Community Social Services in Detroit. We are excited to explore new partnerships with our brothers and sisters throughout the Michigan Area!

The Mission Intern Program also gratefully acknowledges the Detroit Annual Conference who, through the Conference Leadership Team, has invested in the leadership capacity of young people to transform the lives of children and families in poverty. CLT Pathway funds and Mission & Ministry project funds are truly transforming lives and making disciples – not just during the summer, but in ongoing ways throughout the year and over decades. During the 2016 summer, we hit a unique milestone, as children served during the opening years of the Mission Intern program grew up and became Mission Interns themselves! Thanks be to God for the work of the Spirit in nurturing the call ministry across generations of the Mission Intern Program!

The Mission Intern Program is doing the work of the church to create spaces for young people to become disciples and further their discipleship for the transformation of the world. We are pleased to be able to touch the lives of youth and children by hiring, training, and supervising young adults who are making an impact on the lives of those they serve. It is our mission to develop leadership in youth and young adults as they reach out to kids across the conference and truly make a difference!

For more information about the Mission Intern Program, to refer a young person to the application process, or to submit your church’s interest in being a partner site for 2018 or beyond, please visit our website: www.missionintern.org or contact me directly at plumalex@gmail.com.

Faithfully,

Alex Plum
Chairperson, Board of Directors, Mission Intern Program

MICHIGAN AREA LOAN FUND
of the United Methodist Church
Missions & Church Extension Fund

2016 was a productive year for the Michigan Area Loan Funds in spite of pressures from the weak economy and few churches contemplating new buildings. New records were established in amounts invested and millions of dollars were loaned to churches. The Loan Fund operations continued steady and met the challenges of both investor and borrower relationships.
Dr. Wayne Barrrett, CFP®, serves as Resident Agent of the Fund. He serves as Chief Executive of the Fund and brings certification in financial planning and a Series 63 securities license from the State of Michigan. He directs the operations of the Fund from his Grand Rapids office.

Rev. Denny Buwalda serves as Loan Officer. Rev. Buwalda handles all loan inquiries as well as providing the linkage between the several parties involved in processing church loans.

Office operations are directed by Marian Coles from the Grand Rapids office. 2016 saw the retirement of our long-time staff accountant, Kay Yoder. Ms. Yoder served the Fund faithfully for 15 years and will be missed. Ann Buck, well-known to many from her years with the conference treasurer’s office, will assume Kay’s position full-time.

Our website, www.michiganarealoanfund.com, is being used by prospective investors and borrowers alike. You are invited to visit our site for updates on interest rates.

Investors were rewarded during 2016 with a rate of return that was attractive in comparison to many similar investment options. Investors earn 2.75% on their investment accounts. This fund offers investment opportunities for both congregations and individuals within the state of Michigan and a loan source for the 900 congregations of the United Methodist Church in Michigan. Mortgage loans are available with a variety of amortization schedules and a current rate of 4.74%. Promissory notes are also available for smaller funding needs at a rate of 5.24%.

The Fund is registered with the Securities Bureau of the State of Michigan and is managed by its Resident Agent. As of December 2016 the loan portfolio included 35 loans and mortgages with a total value of approximately $10,000,000. Investments burgeoned during 2016 and exceeded $14,000,000, highest level in the fund’s history.

A complete audit of the Fund is available upon request from the administrative office, PO Box 6247, Grand Rapids, MI 49516.

The future of the Fund looks strong in spite of weakened loan demand. The financial strength of the Fund should be secure as the net corpus of Fund assets continues to grow and allow the Fund to serve the needs of Michigan United Methodist congregations. The Board continues to look for ways to expand our fund base so we may be competitive in the broader loan market. Congregations as well as individual United Methodists are invited to invest in our Fund.

The Fund is grateful for the leadership of a fine volunteer Board of Trustees that guides the vision of our ministry.

Charles Veenstra, President  
Dr. Wayne Barrett, Resident Agent

THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is privileged to serve so many congregations and United Methodist organizations throughout the Michigan Area. The Foundation has continued to partner with an ever-growing number of churches. Together with these local churches, we seek to assist and to inspire congregations in fulfilling their ministry. The Foundation offers a variety of programs and services to help your church get the most from available financial resources. From professional, socially responsible fund management, to stewardship education, development of effective capital campaigns, planned giving seminars and more, we are experts with years of experience helping churches just like yours. In fact, the Foundation is the preferred provider of value-aligned investment and financial stewardship services to the vast majority of United Methodist congregations across Michigan. All our ministry with local churches, except investment service, is provided without charge.
We are one of approximately forty-three conference-related foundations. Together, we share a major focus on reducing clergy indebtedness and increasing pastors’ personal financial acumen. One of the means to achieving this later goal is partnering with like-minded organizations. We continue to seek partnerships which will make a major impact on the Church, its clergy and constituents. We partner with Wespath Benefits and Investments to provide grants to younger clergy attending revitup! for a Lifetime in Ministry. We also provide grants to pastors attending the Clergy Benefits Academy.

The Foundation has been a long-time providers of seminary scholarships. We are expanding these scholarship opportunities because of a partnership with Lilly Endowment, Inc., Wespath Benefits and Investments, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church (GBHEM). The purpose of this new scholarship is to minimize the dependency of seminarians on student loans and to create greater personal financial literacy among the recipients.

Finally, we awarded the inaugural Wayne C. Barrett Steward Leader Awards to the following churches:

Mendon United Methodist Church
St. Paul United Methodist Church, Rochester
Swartz Creek United Methodist Church
Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church

We are making a difference! We are impacting local church leaders, congregations, pastors, lay persons, and those called to pastoral ministry. We, as the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, are blessed to be in the nimble position of being able to partner with these and other ministries as together we seek to fulfill the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Respectfully Submitted, David S. Bell, President & Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES (UMRC) AND UMRC FOUNDATION

UMRC celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2016. It was a milestone year for our organization in many ways as we continue to honor our Methodist founders’ vision of providing faithful care and service to older adults and their families. We are thankful for the prayers and support of so many United Methodist churches and affiliates who are helping us provide loving communities and services for seniors.

UMRC provides a continuum of care and services to older adults from eight locations serving 12 Michigan counties, caring for more seniors than ever before. These include market rate and affordable independent and assisted living options, skilled nursing care and rehabilitation, specialized dementia and Alzheimer’s care, cognitive behavioral therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) at locations in Ypsilanti, Jackson, and Lansing.
In embracing our Christian mission and Guiding Beliefs, we are welcoming of ALL, and we reaffirm our commitment to caring for the needs of tomorrow’s expanding senior population.

Michigan currently ranks 10th in the U.S. in terms of the number of older adults living in our state. In fact, 33 Michigan counties already have more seniors than school-aged children! Over the last several years, the UMRC Board and leadership team have taken great strides to strategically position UMRC to meet the needs of a senior population that is expected to double for older adults – and triple for adults 85 and over – by 2030.

UMRC’s Growing to Serve Master Plan is moving forward at our historic Chelsea campus. This plan includes the following capital projects:

- Expanded and renewed Kresge Skilled Care Center
- State-of-the-art Wellness and Aquatic Center
- 41 New Independent Living Prairie Cottages

Construction of these beautiful new Prairie Cottages is well underway, with 28 cottages already “spoken for.” The first cottages will be move-in ready for active adults to enjoy in 2017, with full capacity expected by mid-2018.

Additional Master Plan priorities include strengthening the safety net of our Benevolent Care Fund, enhancing Life Enrichment programming, and creating a Resident Endowment Fund for our residents at Rivertown Assisted Living in Detroit.

Because philanthropy is required to make the Master Plan a success, we are grateful that, thanks to the generosity of so many, 2016 was UMRC Foundation’s best year of fundraising yet. We look forward to reaching our campaign goal in order to begin expansion and renovations to the Kresge Skilled Care Center and construction of the Wellness and Aquatic Center.

UMRC’s Guiding Beliefs of Inclusiveness, Excellence, Stewardship, Our Employees, Integrity, Family, Social Accountability, and Community are each embodied by UMRC’s recent EAGLE Accreditation by the United Methodist Association. Truly a mark of distinction, EAGLE, or Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence, is the only faith-based accrediting body in the world. UMRC is one of only 17 EAGLE-Accredited older adult ministries in the nation, and the first in Michigan. UMRC received one of the highest scores ever for outstanding quality, service, and best practices in caring for older adults.

Chelsea Retirement Community Chaplain Cathy Rafferty has recently been appointed to the UMA EAGLE Commission which reviews the practices of senior communities and service providers across the U.S.

UMRC’s church relationship statement with the Detroit Annual Conference was finalized in 2016. We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Jerry DeVine, Director of Connectional Ministries, for his thoughtful feedback and shepherding of this process.
UMRC was also honored to be a co-sponsor for the first Michigan Area UMC Joint Annual Conference in Lansing last June.

John Thorhauer, UMRC’s President and CEO, was honored as the 2016 Public Trust Award recipient by LeadingAge, a national senior advocacy group representing 6,000 nonprofit aging services organizations nationwide. This award recognizes John’s commitment to quality, leadership excellence, innovations in care and service, and professional contributions to the field of aging.

To culminate our 110th year, recently appointed Bishop of The Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church, Bishop David Bard, and his wife, Julie, visited our Chelsea campus to help us celebrate on February 7, 2017. A packed crowd of well-wishers attended the service in the Chapel, where Bishop Bard dedicated a plaque from the Historical Society of Michigan commemorating UMRC’s 110 years of serving older adults.

UMRC is committed to expanding its programs and services to meet the ever-changing needs of a growing senior population. However, at the heart of each new project and initiative, behind each new renovation and expansion, is the philosophy of our faithful founders who knew that providing for the needs of the elderly was the right and compassionate thing to do.

Thank you very much for your commitment to our mission: to promote the wellness, dignity, and independence of older adults by providing high quality and innovative residential and supportive services. Visit our website at www.umrc.com.

Respectfully submitted,

John Thorhauer
UMRC President and CEO
Ph: 734-475-1020
E-mail: jthorhauer@umrc.com

Wendy Brightman, CFRE, CFRM
UMRC Foundation President
734-475-7209
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BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Purpose:

The purpose of the Detroit Annual Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry will be to raise up the next generation of Christian disciples and leaders who will enliven the United Methodist movement and transform the world.
Our Task:

The Board of Higher Education and Campus ministry will:

1) Strengthen the historic United Methodist connection of the annual conference with United Methodist colleges, campus ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
2) Partner with West Michigan Conference in interpreting and promoting United Methodist colleges and campus ministries with youth and local churches across the state.
3) Initiate new campus ventures in campus ministry and care for the oversight of campus ministries as outlined in the 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶634.4.d.
4) Participate with other conference agencies in fulfilling the Pathway 2 goal of developing effective Christian leaders for the Church and the world, and creating a “culture of call” for ordained ministry within the churches of the annual conference.
5) Encourage support of ministries in higher education through the apportionments and special Sunday offerings of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
6) Fulfill duties as outlined in the 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 634.4.

Membership:

The Board will be comprised of 12 members nominated by the annual conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference for terms of four years with a maximum of two terms, and members of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for the Detroit Conference. The following will be ex officio with voice but no vote:

1) College students representing Adrian College, Albion College, and the campus ministries of the annual conference.
2) Director of Wesley Foundations and campus ministries.
3) Chaplains of Adrian College and Albion College.
4) District Superintendent assigned by the cabinet.
5) Persons elected by the annual conference as trustees at Adrian College and Albion College.

The Chairperson shall be nominated by the annual conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference. Other officers will be elected by the Board.

Meeting:

The Board will meet at least twice per year. Committees and task forces will meet as necessary to complete the work of the Board.

Accountability:

The Board will be accountable to the Conference Leadership Team in matters of program and budget, and will annual provide a written report to the annual conference.

The Board will continue to review our current commitments to determine the best way to fulfill its purpose and the tasks with the resources available.

In past year The Board has provided funding to support the following:

1) Wesley Foundation at University of Michigan
2) Wesley at Saginaw Valley State University
3) Adrian College pre-seminary program.
4) Northern Michigan University Connection Center.
5) Motor City Wesley

The Board is continuing to seek new campus ministries. Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University, Northwood University, and several Community College through Motor City Wesley have been our target campuses.
The Board has continued to work in conjunction with the West Michigan Board. We have met two times this year and will meet two to three times together in 2017. Our major task this year has been the challenges associated with funding. Through the creative work of several board members we have hired Cora Glass as a Development Director for our combined Boards. Her task is to develop a plan for raising sufficient funds for our local Wesley Foundations as well as our Board. Cora comes to us with great experience through her work at Cass Community Social Services and Garret Evangelical Theological Seminary. We have contracted with DonorPath to guide us through this process and we have found their information and expertise to be invaluable.

We thank you for your prayers and support in the past year and we look forward every day to serving the students on our college campuses.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Richard E. Burstall, Chairperson BHECM

ADRIAN COLLEGE

When the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Wesleyan Theological Society took place, this body of scholars hosted over sixty paper presentations and several panel discussions. Among the presenters was Dr. Christopher P. Momany of Adrian College. Following this milestone event, the Wesleyan Theological Journal published only ten of the presentations, along with three plenary addresses. Dr. Momany’s paper on “The True Nature of Virtue: A Holiness Ethic for the Twenty-First Century” was one of the few selected for publication (WTJ, Volume 51, Number 1, Spring 2016).

Adrian College hosts eight different student spiritual life groups on campus and weekly chapel services. Our staff includes one chaplain and five student ministers. Chaplain Chris Momany teaches as a member of the philosophy/religion department and publishes in both academic and popular church journals.

Dr. Momany is a columnist for The United Methodist Reporter. He continues to write for the United Methodist Publishing House’s Daily Bible Study and for Adult Bible Studies: Teacher. His book on Christian Holiness is used in a variety of classes and workshops. Over the past year, Dr. Momany has served with the National Council of Churches on the “convening table” dedicated to “Joint Action and Advocacy on Issues of Justice and Peace,” and he is serving as a leader among the denominational review of our United Methodist Social Principles.

The Adrian College Chaplaincy is grounded in a theological commitment to the “intrinsic worth” of all people. This conviction guides our approach to campus community and drives our current witness against “human trafficking” or modern-day slavery.

Highlights Include:

- A Wednesday Noon Chapel Series
- A Nationally-Respected Pre-Seminary Program that Unites Student Discernment with Formal Academic Study
- Continued Leadership across the Nation Regarding the Issue of Human Trafficking

You, too, can join our movement. Contact Dr. Chris Momany at 517-265-5161, Ext. 4211.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Dear Colleagues in the Detroit Conference:

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) travels with you in the vital journey of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. We celebrate our students, alums, and church partners, who join hands in serving God and building toward transformed communities.
Breaking News:

- **Congregations**: We welcomed Jonathan Calvillo as a new faculty member in sociology of religion, leading us toward better understanding of congregations and faith identity. See also our website of congregational resources: [http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-2/congregational-research-and-development/](http://www.bu.edu/cpt/current-projects-2/congregational-research-and-development/).
- **Doctor of Ministry**: The DMin program in Transformational Leadership is soaring with deeply committed student cohorts who are widely ecumenical, culturally diverse, and increasingly global. The blended model includes intensives, online courses, and close work with faculty mentors.
- **Scholarships**: We multiplied funding for student scholarships and housing, including the Vincent Machozi Scholarship for African students who seek to cultivate ministries of compassion, justice, & peace in their homelands.
- **Religion and Arts Initiative**: The Initiative sponsored a hymn-writing contest this year, complementing the photography contest last year and STH’s rotating art exhibits. The current exhibit focuses on ecological healing: “Sense of Place” by women print-makers from Ecuador and Maine.

Partnering for Ministry and Transformation: Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

- **Congregational courses**: Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning together.
- **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic**: Internships, workshops, and projects that foster justice and reconciliation.
- **Travel seminars**: Courses engaging local communities on Arizona-Mexican border and in Cuba, Germany, and Indonesia.
- **Ecumenical partnerships**: Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan denominations, while building strong programs with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College**: Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*. The focus is on enriching theological education and developing religious leaders who are faithful and wise.

Taking Action Globally and Locally:

- **Campus action**: Work with Boston University to improve accessibility and sustainability: to provide full access for all persons (a work in progress) and to live sustainably with the planet.
- **Internships in global service and peacemaking**: Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

Renewed Commitment to Justice: Celebrating differences while joining together for action.

- **Standing with Standing Rock**: Several BUSTH students and alums joined indigenous peoples at the Oceti Sakowin Camp in North Dakota to protest the pipeline on sacred Sioux land.
- **Deep conversations**: Faculty, students and administrators have led deep conversations on issues that divide, but with respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

Other Notable Headlines:

- Our own **Associate Dean Pamela Lightsey** was featured in Boston University’s 2016 Annual Report for her pursuit of justice, empowerment, and change.
- Our graduating senior, **Rev. Mariama White-Hammond** (AME) led the Boston Women's March, and some 75 STH faculty and students marched, calling for social and ecological justice as we build new futures in the United States.
- Students of all theological and social orientations are asking and then acting: “What can I do to make this world better?” “How can I witness to my Christian faith?”

As BUSTH looks back on 2016, it celebrates transformational leaders who have loved God and cared mightily for God’s world. Their living legacy gives us hope and courage for the future.
Blessings and gratitude,

Mary Elizabeth Moore

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

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, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous Christian leaders dedicated transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses 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 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 475 students are enrolled, with 51 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 83 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2016-2017, we awarded nearly $5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. 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.

In fall of 2016, Candler welcomed to the faculty Larry Goodpaster as Bishop-in-Residence, and Kendall Soulen as Professor of Systematic Theology. Also this fall, three Candler alumni began their terms as newly elected bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction: David Graves 90T in Alabama-West Florida, R. Lawson Bryan 75T 85T in South Georgia, and Sue Haupert-Johnson 95T in North Georgia.

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 in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta 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

Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics, Candler School of Theology

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL
In the academic year 2016-2017, we have been delighted to welcome our new dean of Duke Divinity School, Elaine A. Heath. Dean Heath also serves as professor of missional and pastoral theology, and her research interests focus on evangelism and spirituality, evangelism and gender, new monasticism, and emergence in church and theological education. Prior to coming to Duke, she was the McCreless Professor of Evangelism at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. Dean Heath is the co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, which provides opportunities for clergy and laity to learn how to live in intentional, missional communities in diverse social contexts, and she is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She has published books for scholars, churches, and laypeople; her most recent book is God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church (Upper Room). She is widely in demand as a speaker and teacher for Annual Conferences, retreats, and leadership training.

Since arriving at Duke in July, Dean Heath has begun work on a new strategic plan for the Divinity School. By the end of 2016, the initial listening and feedback phase had been completed and a task force convened to help guide the process of strategic goal-setting. With Dean Heath’s leadership, Duke Divinity School remains mindful of our mission to train, prepare, and form men and women committed to God and enthusiastic about ministry. We endeavor to prepare leaders for a changing church and world who will have the spiritual formation, theological foundation, and institutional flexibility to serve God in established churches, intentional communities, or missional organizations, as the Holy Spirit guides them.

This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2016, our total enrollment was 641 students: 418 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 52 in the M.T.S.; 8 in the Th.M.; 45 in the Th.D.; 71 in the D.Min.; 16 in the M.A.C.P.; 23 in the M.A.C.S.; and 8 who are special students. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 48 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Eleven percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 11 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 24 other denominations or nondenominational churches.

On April 9, the Divinity School hosted the first annual Hispanic Preaching Festival to celebrate and explore Hispanic homiletics. The event drew 54 participants from 14 different Hispanic congregations across the region. Attendees included pastors, laypeople, and students. The festival featured sermons from local pastors, including Alma Ruiz M.Div.’13 and associate pastor of Fiesta Cristiana, which is affiliated with Apex UMC in Apex, N.C., and Raúl Colón, pastor of Centro Cristiano de Vida in Wake Forest, N.C. The festival was part of the Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative, a Spanish-language program that provides opportunities for Hispanic and Latino/a (H/L) pastors to receive homiletical training in a peer group format. Each year, 10 applicants serving as pastors in the H/L community are chosen to participate as preaching fellows. The peer group begins with a retreat and then meets monthly for 15 months to engage with homiletical, theological, and exegetical resources led by the program coordinator and other invited teachers.

The Clergy Health Initiative published a new report that illuminates how the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving United Methodist congregations in North Carolina are shifting. In an effort to better understand and describe the multiple demands and rewards of clergy life, the Duke Clergy Health Initiative has conducted a longitudinal survey of North Carolina’s United Methodist clergy every two years since 2008. For the report on appointments, the Clergy Health Initiative paired survey findings with publicly available data from the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences. The findings illuminate shifts in the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving congregations.

Our initiatives, centers, and programs are a vital resource for us in connecting the work of Duke Divinity School with other disciplines and constituents. The Center for Reconciliation celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, continuing its work of fostering reconciliation through the Summer Institute, the CFR Justice Fellows, and the Great Lakes Initiative in East Africa. The Office of Black Church Studies, in partnership with the Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, Duke Performances, Duke Dance, and the Duke Department of African and African-American Studies, presented a symposium on African-American Theology and the Arts, featuring the renowned dance company Aliley II. The Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative hosted the event “Practice & Presence: Gathering for Christians in Healthcare,” for healthcare professionals who want to deepen or reimagine the relationship of faith in vocation in community with
likeminded practitioners. *Faith & Leadership*, the online magazine published by LEADD, continues to reach over 300,000 readers and provide a resource for theological reflection and “traditioned innovation” for all in ministry. Their continued excellent work was recognized again this year with awards from the Associated Church Press “Best of the Christian Press” contest.

In partnership with the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences, the Thriving Rural Communities initiative sponsored the 2016 Convocation on the Rural Church, “Apprenticeship with Jesus,” to discuss issues important for transforming rural churches and communities. The Divinity School held a two-day conference titled “Tamar’s Ashes: Pastoral Ministry Amidst Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence” for the school’s students as part of the Mentoring for Ministry program. Duke Divinity School remains committed to supporting local churches and local pastors, particularly in under-resourced communities, and providing pastoral training for our students to allow them to minister to people and in places that are often marginalized or forgotten.

We are delighted to announce the hiring of a new assistant professor of homiletics, Jerusha Neal. She is currently serving as a missionary and lecturer in practical theology at the Davuilevu Theological College of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma in the South Pacific. Her particular interests are formational theological education, teaching preaching in cross-cultural settings, and affirming women in their pastoral call. A native of the U.S. Midwest, Neal has served as co-pastor of the Santee United Methodist Church in Santee, Calif., and been the director of Christian education at the First Presbyterian Church of Fullerton, Calif.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

Respectfully submitted by the Office of Dean Elaine A. Heath

**MICHIGAN AREA UNITED METHODIST CAMPING**

“The mission of the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Board of Directors is to extend, enhance and enable our congregations in the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our focus is providing quality year-round programs with relevant camp and retreat facilities that offer and promote Christian faith for people of diverse backgrounds and ages.”

**Celebration**

We begin this report with a celebration of the 2,019 campers who attended summer church camp last summer and over 22,000 persons we served throughout the year. In addition, we granted 282 scholarships amounting to $36,375. “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.” Thanks to the generosity of many, we were able to share the Gospel of Christ with those who would not have otherwise been able to attend camp.

We also ask you to join us in the celebration of the completion of a new dining hall addition at Wesley Woods Camp and a new climbing wall at Camp Kinawind.
We are thrilled to share that the Changing Lives campaign has received $254,577 in gifts, which will help us move forward in mission and ministry. Our words could never express the thanks we have for all who have given of their time and financial support of this campaign. YOU HAVE BEEN A BLESSING TO MANY!

History and Progress

Our respective annual conferences voted in 2015 to combine camp and retreat ministries into a separate, non-profit organization to create and implement a new camp and retreat ministry. Thus, began a bold new mission to not just keep our camp and retreat ministry but to expand, empower and embolden a new camp and retreat ministry in partnership with United Methodist Churches in making dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ throughout Michigan.

The process of melding together two camp ministries each with its own governance structures, policies, bookkeeping, and even different camper registrations systems has been a momentous challenge. The task of bonding nine camps into a unified non-profit entity is unique in United Methodist Camping. Substantial change has been required to accomplish this task, and change is hard.

Following Annual Conference sessions in 2015 we began the process of building a Board of Directors, discerning our mission, and developing a structure to accomplish our mission. Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and legal documents were filed, and we were approved as a 501c non-profit under the name Michigan Area United Methodist Camping (MAUMC).

This past year has been filled with work building a strong financial footing upon which we can build a ministry that will enable us to nurture existing programs and create new opportunities for making disciples of Christ. A Business Administrator has been hired, and we have significantly improved our capacity to assess and control cash flow as well as make budget adjustments to bring balance to our fiscal condition. The Board of Directors has affirmed a two-year moratorium on the sale of any camp for the next two years, provided we are able to meet our financial responsibilities.

The Board of Directors has decided to establish “Campsite Friends”, volunteers who make themselves available to assist the Campsite Director with tasks related to marketing, programming, site maintenance, and developing supplemental funding for the camp.

Non-profit camps cannot support a fully funded budget on “user fees” alone. (User fees: income generated by the charges to campers and groups who utilize the campground.) In a fully funded budget “user fees” are expected to generate 70% to 80% of the annual income. The remaining 20-30% of income comes from additional or “supplemental funding”. The University of Indiana School of Philanthropy recognizes three sustainable types of “supplemental funding”.

- An Annual Fund
- Capital Campaigns
- Endowments
As annual conference budgets become increasingly constrained, it is vital to MAUMC and the Annual Conference that camping ministry develop "supplemental funding."

With this annual conference MAUMC is launching its Annual Fund entitled Camp Changes Lives. This will be an annual on going effort to provide "supplemental funding" through monetary gifts from individuals, churches and other entities inside and outside our churches.

This year we look forward to:

- Improvement in our marketing through an upgraded website and new printed and digital materials to better tell the life changing stories of our ministry. (If you have a story to share, please contact us at www.umcamping.org, we would love to hear from you.)
- Providing additional levels of support to our program leaders through training and networking.
- We will be identifying, prioritizing, and addressing the significant deferred maintenance that has accrued through years of inadequate income.
- Effectively partnering with local congregations in reaching more people with the "Good News" in a time of so much negativity.

These initiatives are contingent on our ability to generate "supplemental income" through the Camp Changes Lives Annual Fund.

**Staff Updates**
This year we celebrate the ministry of three valued campsite directors who have retired: Ken Brown (Wesley Woods Camp), Fred Elmore (Camp Kinawind) and Debra Steed (Lakeview Family Campground). They in no small way have changed the lives of countless guests and faithfully discharged their duties to make Disciples of Christ.

We are excited to welcome four new staff members, Eric Hoffman (Wesley Woods Site Director), Ryan Culby (Site Director for Lake Michigan Camp and Albright Camp), Sherry Stone (Summer Director at Camp Kinawind), and Tom McComb (Business Administrator for MAUMC).

The Board of Directors wishes to recognize the vital contributions of our site directors, Dan Stuglik (Crystal Springs), Sarah Ratz (Judson Collins), Ann Emerson (Lake Huron), John Lawrence (Myers Lake) and Pam Stewart (Registrar and Administrative Assistant), who have endured with grace the challenges of change. The Board calls out with special appreciation the work of our Interim Executive Director, Reverend George Ayoub, who has worked tirelessly, patiently and most importantly faithfully with the Board of Directors to fulfill our mission, programmatic and fiduciary responsibilities to you, the members of our corporation.

How You Can Help

We need your help to:
1. Send campers and/or visit as a family
2. Promote and participate in the Camp Changes Lives Annual Fund.

Most importantly, we thank you, and we ask for your continued individual and corporate prayers for the ministry through this time of transition.

Paul Cogger, President, Michigan Area United Methodist Camping, Board of Directors

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The laity and clergy persons who make up the DAC Commission on Equitable Compensation takes seriously the charge put before them and are grateful for the opportunity to serve our Church as we serve on this Commission. Salary grant requests for 2017 came in under and did not exceed our budget again for this last calendar year. Mostly this was due to re-assignment of pastors in the July time frame and the Bishops Cabinet being pro-active in recognizing, matching and shifting personnel and finances to better meet the needs of both clergy and congregations.

Grant requests have decreased for this current year. We look forward to merging the Commissions work into one Conference in the year ahead as well. The CEC is blessed and prepared to continue to support the ministry of local congregations and ensure that a Pastor in our Conference receives the minimum salary set forth in our guidelines. The Commission met in December 2016 for grant requests for this upcoming year and approved a total of three grants and January 2017 to recommend the Conference Minimum Salary Guidelines.

Submitted by:
Rev. Mark E. Zender, Chairperson-DAC Commission on Equitable Compensation

MICHIGAN AREA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the 2010 Annual Conference, the Historical Society made presentations to two churches that had reached 200 years - Detroit Central United Methodist Church and Dearborn: First United Methodist Church. That was the last time for several years that the Society contributed to the collective life of the Michigan Area.
In July of 2014 a North Central Jurisdiction Archives and History Convocation was held in Petoskey MI. I, Diana Miller, member of the General Commission on Archives and History, held a late evening meeting with most of the members of both Detroit and West Michigan Commissions on Archives and History. They were interested in reviving the Area Historical Society and agreed to have a joint meeting in November 2014 at the Area Ministry Center in Lansing to further discuss the process needed. And so the revival began.

The Area Historical Society has traditionally been a Board of Directors made up of members from both conferences, the chairs of the Commissions on Archives and History and the Archivists totally 12. Two clergy and two lay members were nominated by the Commissions and added to the Annual Conferences Nominating List to be part of the Historical Society number.

The Society had as their purpose the following:

To compile, edit, publish, and distribute histories of Michigan United Methodism, its predecessor denominations, and any other historical works that may later demand attention; to solicit, acquire, and administer funds to accomplish such purposes and any other acts as may be deemed necessary to carry out such purposes.

Those who met in November 2014 decided they wanted to be more than just a publisher although they had several successful books printed. I had been treasurer in 2010 and as such had kept the records and reporting up to date so we were still an organization. So we moved ahead to discuss what we would be. A by-laws committee was created and some officers were elected.

Meetings were held on April 23 and October 29 in 2015 and April 14, 2016. Bylaws were reviewed and eventually passed. The original purpose was retained with the addition recently of "and promote, support, and nurture the conference archives." (Detroit Conference has a smaller Friends of the Archives that supports the Adrian archives. They are joining the larger Historical Society.)

An additional paragraph was written to help us get closer to our goal of a society with members meeting once or more a year for educational purposes.

"Other purposes may include organizing area-wide celebrations of historical events and convocations which may involve participation beyond the board of directors; digitization and distribution of historical materials; awarding certificates of recognition to local churches that are celebrating important milestones, awarding distinguished service awards to individuals and groups within Michigan; recognizing and promoting United Methodist historic sites in the state; helping conference, district, and local church historians and archivists through workshops and information sharing; and such other activities as are consistent with the by-laws of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church."

Also on April 14, both Commissions on Archives and History met to start discussions about becoming one Commission soon.

On November 3, 2016 the Historical Society met again. This time officers were to be elected for the quadrennium to go along with other area committees. There was a glitch due to wording in the bylaws that had to be adjusted that postponed the vote to a vote by email.

As of January 1, 2017 amendments were voted on and the officers were elected.

The officers are Diana Spitnale Miller - President, Lois Omundsen - Vice President, Sharon Scott - Secretary, and M. Kay Mowery - Treasurer.

An Historical Convocation is planned for Saturday, April 22, at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. The speaker will be Dr. Chris Momany from Adrian College. A workshop will be held by the archivists - Rebecca McNitt (Adrian College) and Justin Seidler (Albion College) on archiving records.

Recognition of churches by the years they have been in existence will happen again. Certificates will be presented to those churches that are celebrating anniversaries beginning this year of 175 years and higher. Then in following years we will recognize the anniversaries from 100 years and up in 25 year increments - 100, 125, 150, 175, 200.
Persons from all over the area - historians of churches, those interested in history and preserving it, clergy, lay - come and join the Society as other goals are worked on.

The Michigan Area United Methodist Church Historical Society is alive and well!

Diana Spitnale Miller, President

BOARD OF LAITY

The purpose of the Board of Laity is to provide an awareness of the role of the laity both with the local congregation and through their ministries; to promote the partnership of laity and clergy; to communicate lay concerns within the conference; and to empower laypersons within the conference.

Thanks to Wayne Bank, who served as conference lay leader from 2012 to 2016. He provided outstanding leadership both with the Board of Laity but also with the Bishop and various conference committees. We welcome two new district lay leaders: Vicky Prewitt for the Marquette District and Ken Kneisel for the Ann Arbor District.

In preparation for becoming one Michigan conference, we have begun meeting jointly with the West Michigan Board of Laity. The two boards have operated differently in the past, and we seek to share best practices in order to be an effective board. We have established goals to guide our work including:

- Provide resources to local churches to make Disciples for Jesus Christ
- Develop training for local church and district lay leaders
- Advocate for lay people needs
- Develop better communications with church lay leaders

To improve communications, we are working to establish better web resources and to write articles of MiConnect. We will develop an improved laity orientation session for annual conference to enhance communication with the laity.

Our Methodist heritage emphasized active lay leadership in working together with the clergy to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We will continue to use our spiritual gifts to love and serve God and neighbor, and transform lives of people in Michigan and beyond.

John Wharton, Conference Lay Leader

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

2016 was a year of discernment on mission and role regarding the Michigan Area Conference design effort. The General Commission on Religion and Race proposed legislation to the 2016 General Conference that would develop vital conversations, programs and policies of racial/institutional equity and intercultural competency at all levels of the church with particular emphasis placed on pastors and congregations involved in cross-racial/cross-cultural ministry. The legislation was adopted in May 2016. DAC Commission on Religion and Race (DAC-CORR) made a proposal to incorporate the approved legislation language into the Michigan Area UMC design team proposed structure.

The DAC-CORR participated in the October 2016 North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Religion and Race (NCJ-CORR) planning event to support annual conference implementation of the mandated local support of pastors and congregations involved in cross-racial/cross-cultural ministry. DAC-CORR plans participation in the three day NCJ-CORR sponsored train-the-trainer event scheduled for May 2017. Those trained from DAC-CORR will be available to support all areas of Michigan.

Ken Dowell, Co-Chair

MICHIGAN AREA COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY
The Michigan Area Committee on the Episcopacy is comprised of members of the Detroit Conference and the West Michigan Conference. Our work in 2016 focused on planning farewells for Bishop Kiesey and welcomes for Bishop Bard.

The work of the Committee is defined by the Book of Discipline. It meets four times a year and seeks to be a support group for Bishop Bard, much as a Staff Parish Relations Committee is for pastors in the local church. The Committee seeks to share the joys and concerns of the Michigan Area. We are blessed by Bishop Bard’s spiritual leadership and for helping to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We also are grateful for the leadership of Reverend John Boley in the role of Clergy Assistant to the Bishop and the support of Deana Nelson as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Jennifer Weaver as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Clergy Assistant to the Bishop.

Jay Hook, chair

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES

The Detroit Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries met jointly this year with the West Michigan Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries, working together as essentially one committee. We worked together on committee business, programs, and supporting the local churches. We also worked on advocacy for the Latino community.

As one committee, we started off by answering the Design Team’s questions addressing the importance of the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries in the new Michigan Conference. We emphasized how the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries aligns with the mission of the new Michigan Conference. We stressed that we are called to help create Hispanic/Latino Christ-centered ministry & mission; Hispanic/Latino bold, effective leaders; and Hispanic/Latino vital congregations.

This year we provided several programs. We provided the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy for the third year at Adrian College. There were 15 youth that participated this year. There was one youth from the Detroit Conference that graduated from the academy this year, as he participated in the academy for all three years. At Annual Conference we provided a workshop about developing Hispanic/Latino Ministries. During the workshop, the steps for developing a Hispanic/Latino Ministry were led out. The three steps are developing relationships, developing leaders, and developing the ministries. We also provided grants for local churches to host Who is My Neighbor? Spanish Language Classes. There were five churches that participated.

This year we supported the Hispanic/Latino ministries and churches. We provided grants to help with the new church start, Centro Familiar Cristiano United Methodist Church in Detroit. One member of the committee also got computers from Ames UMC Drive Ministry for Centro Familiar Cristiano UMC.

The committee also advocates for the Latino/Hispanic community and ministry. Two members of the committee attended the MARCHA (Methodist Associated to Represent the Cause of Hispanic Americans) meeting in Puerto Rico and discussed important issues in the church. The committee also created a statement after the elections in response to the discrimination that was happening against the Hispanic/Latino community in Michigan. The statement is: The Michigan Area Hispanic Latino Committee expresses great concern over the increasing levels of harassment, bullying, and prejudice that continue to occur toward Hispanic/Latinos and other ethnic groups since the presidential election. We are especially concerned for Hispanic/Latino and multi-ethnic/racial children who are the most vulnerable to bullying and harassment. We are asking The United Methodist Church in Michigan to set a priority for caring, advocating and providing a welcoming and safe place for these vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Looking forward in 2017, we will be working on a new strategic plan for the whole Michigan Area. We will be looking for more ways to reach out and be in ministry with Hispanic/Latino youth and young adults. We will be also looking at creative and innovative ways to develop Hispanic/Latino Ministries.
The Committee on Native American Ministry continues to promote recognition of Native American contributions to the culture and society, with emphasis on fostering a cooperative community of acceptance and appreciation for the spiritual gifts we all have to offer. In 2016, the scope of CONAM’s presence expanded to include presentations to local service agency representatives in Arenac County: the Arenac County Multipurpose Collaborative Body and Project CONNECT. In sharing the progress of the Saganing Native American Center our hope is to expand programming and to build awareness. To reach the larger UM connection several CONAM representatives presented to UMM and UMW groups and participated in the Mission Fair at Annual Conference, these efforts assist with the promotion of CONAM and the ministries that are supported.

Our season started with an opening on Memorial Day, where visitors toured the Saganing Native American Center and enjoyed fellowship time following a service lead by local community representatives. A Michigan Council of Arts grant provided funds to host our first Family Theater featuring Joe Reilly, Native American artist, musician and entertainer; this event targeted several hundred school age youth. Father’s Day weekend the local Tribe hosted their annual Traditional powwow. CONAM sponsored a breakfast to serve as a venue to invite the powwow dignitaries’ to visit the Center and learn of programs and services. Over 75 were served a hot breakfast. Following the breakfast we dedicated the new facility sign. July, our second biennial Lay Servant Ministry program was held with 7 participants attending the advanced course program, Let the Whole Church Say Amen!

The Non-food giveaway for Saganing provided “family care” packages for those in need. We filled 57 bags/boxes with such items as dish detergent, shampoo, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, razors, and laundry detergent. This program was accessible based on a word of mouth method of outreach and referral from local social and tribal workers that knew of people in need. In collaboration with the Bay-Arenac Diaper Bank Council, and with the help of a Pathway grant received from the Conference, the weekly Saganing Diaper Pantry distributed 1795 diapers in 2016. Committee members met August 27, a rainy summer day at the Saganing site for the third annual Back-to-School Bonanza and spent the entire morning filling backpacks with school supplies donated by various individuals, churches and organizations. Recipients began lining up at 9 a.m. for the noon-to-2 p.m. event, and 150 school-age children received backpacks during that two-hour period. Clothing provided by Kids’ Klothesline (an outreach program of Community UMC in Standish) was also a popular attraction again this year.

Collection of $8,159.91 for Native American Ministry Sunday in 2015, approved by CONAM to be distributed for use in 2016 as quarter-shares for each ministry, is subject to annual reporting by each of these ministries. This requirement follows the former ruling agreed upon by committee members in 2014. Zeba Indian Mission, Oscoda Indian Mission, and the Saganing Native American Center each received $2,039.98, with the remainder retained in the CONAM fund. Special projects were funded for media improvements at the Oscoda Indian Mission and for insulation and general repairs at the Saganing Native American Center.

2017 activities specific to Saganing Native American Center include continued community outreach through the Diaper Pantry program, Open House offering coffee and donuts for visitors to the cemetery who attend the ceremony honoring veterans on Memorial Day, an Open House in June in conjunction with the local traditional powwow with historical displays and Native art exhibit, in August a mission group from Erie UMC is coming to present 4 days of Bible School, and the fourth annual Back-to-School Bonanza, along with other community-focused events. The site requires specific repairs and regular maintenance, but CONAM yearly identifies and prioritizes those concerns. Opportunities for use of this charming historical facility continue to expand and are explored by various church and community groups.

As for CONAM, the ministries and outreach accomplished through its efforts will be promoted throughout the Conference and Michigan Area. The success of these efforts hinges upon building awareness among those in need of assistance and those capable of providing it. Visit: http://michiganumc.org/ministries/michigan-area/native-american-ministry/ for more information about our mission, ministries, and upcoming activities.

On behalf of the Detroit Conference – Committee on Native American Ministry:

Amy F. Alberts, Chairperson

PROTECTION POLICY COMMITTEE
The Conference Protection Committee administrates and oversees the Detroit Protection Policy of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Persons. The committee works with various groups and events of the Detroit Conference to ensure that proper protection for our members is in place. The committee is responsible to develop and augment training programs that are appropriate to the constant evolving nature of our community. The training provides guidelines of the policy for those who will be working with Children, Youth and Vulnerable persons of our Conference in an effort to equip to reduce the liability of all concerned. The committee trains and authorizes those who complete the training successfully to train others throughout the Conference. These trainers will in turn train those applicants interested in serving as guardians at sanctioned District and Conference events. Due to the formation of the new Conference the training schedule has yet to be established but will be published most likely prior to the publication of this report.

The committee has joined with its West Michigan Conference counterpart to form the Protection Task force Committee. The task force is responsible for updating the policies and training program for the Michigan Conference. These revised programs are currently in the prototype stage and being tested. They will be ready for implementation in the summer of 2017 after approval by the combined conference being held in Traverse city June of 2017. The new policies will provide up to date guidelines for training and authorization.

This vital ministry is only possible due to the dedicated member of the Committee, the support of our conference staff, our trainers and the many local church volunteers who are committed to our District and Conference level ministries. To them we say Thank you!

For the Committee

Michael L. Darby, Chairman Detroit Conference Protection Committee