

2014 Journal Volume 1 – Reports

PASSION

ignite

IGNITING A PASSION FOR CHRIST
THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEW PEOPLE

IGNITING A PASSION FOR CHRIST
THROUGH WORSHIP

IGNITING A PASSION FOR CHRIST
THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

IGNITING A PASSION FOR CHRIST
THROUGH SERVICE

desert southwest annual conference June 26-29, 2014
Renaissance Glendale Hotel, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd, Glendale, AZ

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Every Board, Commission, Committee and Agency has been assigned an index number for reference. The following numbers represent the various groups:

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CONSENT CALENDARS

The Consent Calendars will be presented daily at each session.

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

The daily proceedings will be posted on the app after the conclusion of Annual Conference.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

This is the Thirtieth Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church since the formation of the Conference by action of the 1984 Western Jurisdictional Conference meeting in Boise, Idaho. The boundaries of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference shall include the State of Arizona, also including that portion of Nevada consisting of Lincoln, Clark, Esmeralda and Nye Counties, and those California cities bordering the Colorado River, namely: Blythe, Needles and Fort Yuma. A complete history of the Conference can be found in the 2000 Journal.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Included within this report are the Program and Official Agenda of the 2014 Annual Conference Session, reports of Boards, Commissions, Committees and Agencies of the Conference along with proposed actions.

Be Advised: “Both Preliminary Reports, as well as supplemental reports, shall be considered preliminary in nature, and the local churches are at liberty to discuss the contents; however, Judicial Ruling No. 109 prohibits any official body of the local church to order or instruct lay or reserve members to vote in any prescribed manner on issues expected to come before the Annual Conference.” (Rule II.c.6, page 96, 2013 Conference Journal)

ALL MATERIALS for distribution on the floor of the Annual Conference shall be distributed **ONLY** by the Conference appointed ushers... (and) shall be limited to that which is pending action of the Conference. ... Individual members of the Conference who desire to have printed material distributed on the floor of the Conference shall submit such material, except resolutions, to the Conference Secretary, who shall be authorized to consider the same, and if approved, shall provide for its distribution at the proper time. ... All material distributed on the floor of the Conference shall contain the name of the individual or organization under whose responsibility it is distributed (Conference Rule III.E, page 103, 2013 Conference Journal).

Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary

**ALSO, YOU WILL WANT TO BRING A 2012 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE
These will be available for sale at Conference**

CONFERENCE SESSIONS COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sessions Committee | Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata |
| Agenda and Orders of the Day | Ann Thomas |
| ARMS Representative | Rev. Dan Turner |
| Board of Lay Ministry Representative | Jim Nibbelink |
| Board of Ordained Ministry | Dan Hurlbert |
| Childcare Coordinator | Rose Ann Chapman |
| Communications | Christina Dillabough |
| Conference Displays | Janet Keffer |
| Conference Secretary | Nancy Cushman |
| Courtesies | Dee Hicks |
| Facilities Coordinator | Cynthia Satchel |
| Registrar | Patsy Soto |
| Staff | All District Superintendents |
| Treasurer | Randy Bowman |
| Young Adult Representative | Glen Simpson |
| Worship | Susan Brims |

CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

Below is a listing of rooms assigned to various Conference groups in the **Renaissance Hotel, Glendale**. This is from Thursday through Sunday. If you want to reserve a meeting room, please contact Cynthia Satchel at the Conference office (602-266-6956, Extension 214) or by e-mail; csatchel@dscumc.org.

| OFFICE | ROOM NAME |
|--|---|
| Bishop/Cabinet | Coat Room |
| Bishop's Assistant | Coat Room |
| CFA | Annex 1-3 |
| Child Care | Downstairs—Cascade A-G |
| Clergy Session | Cira A, B, C Rooms |
| Clergymates Coffee Break | Cira C |
| Cokesbury | Solana E |
| Conference Secretary and Staff | Coat Room |
| Communications | Coat Room/Media Center |
| Displays | Solana E |
| Laity Meeting | Media Center |
| Message/Information Center | Rear of Media Center |
| United Methodist Federal Credit Union | Solana E |
| Nurse | Rear of Media Center |
| Ordinands/Consecrands/Clergy Assemble | Cira A, B, C Rooms |
| Ordination and Consecration | Media Center |
| Pensions | Annex 1-3 |
| Registration | Registration Desk—East NOT Hotel Reg. Area |
| Treasurer's Office | Annex 1-3 |
| Tellers | Coat Room |
| Ushers | Coat Room |

GLOSSARY OF UNITED METHODIST LINGO AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Ad Council | Administrative Council: a blending of the Administrative Board and Council on Ministries in the local church |
| Advance | Or Advance Special: second mile giving to an approved ministry through your local church |
| AEC | Arizona Ecumenical Council |
| Apportionment | An amount assigned to a local church, Annual Conference, or other United Methodist body by a proper church authority to be raised as its share of a church fund. Each Annual Conference uses its own approved formula |
| Asbury, Francis | Started the Methodist church in the US along with Thomas Cooke |
| Benevolences | Gifts to causes that carry out United Methodist mission, ministry and program around the world |
| Bishop | The Episcopal leader of each Conference |
| Cabinet | The meeting of the Bishop and the Superintendents |
| CCYM | Conference Council on Youth Ministries |
| CEF | Christian Educators Fellowship |
| CFA | Conference Committee on Finance and Administration |
| Chancellor | Or Conference Chancellor: the attorney that handles legal work for the Annual Conference |
| Charge | A term for the local church |
| Charge Conference | Annual meeting of members of the local church with the superintendent to elect officers, report and conduct other church business |
| Circle | Name used for small groups organized by United Methodist Women |
| Coke, Thomas | Started the Methodist church in the US along with Francis Asbury |
| Cokesbury | The United Methodist bookstore and church supply house |
| Congregational Development | Another term for new church starts |
| COM | Council on Ministries: a form of governance used by some of our local churches |
| Commissioned | A person who has been approved on probation by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and is working towards Elder Orders |

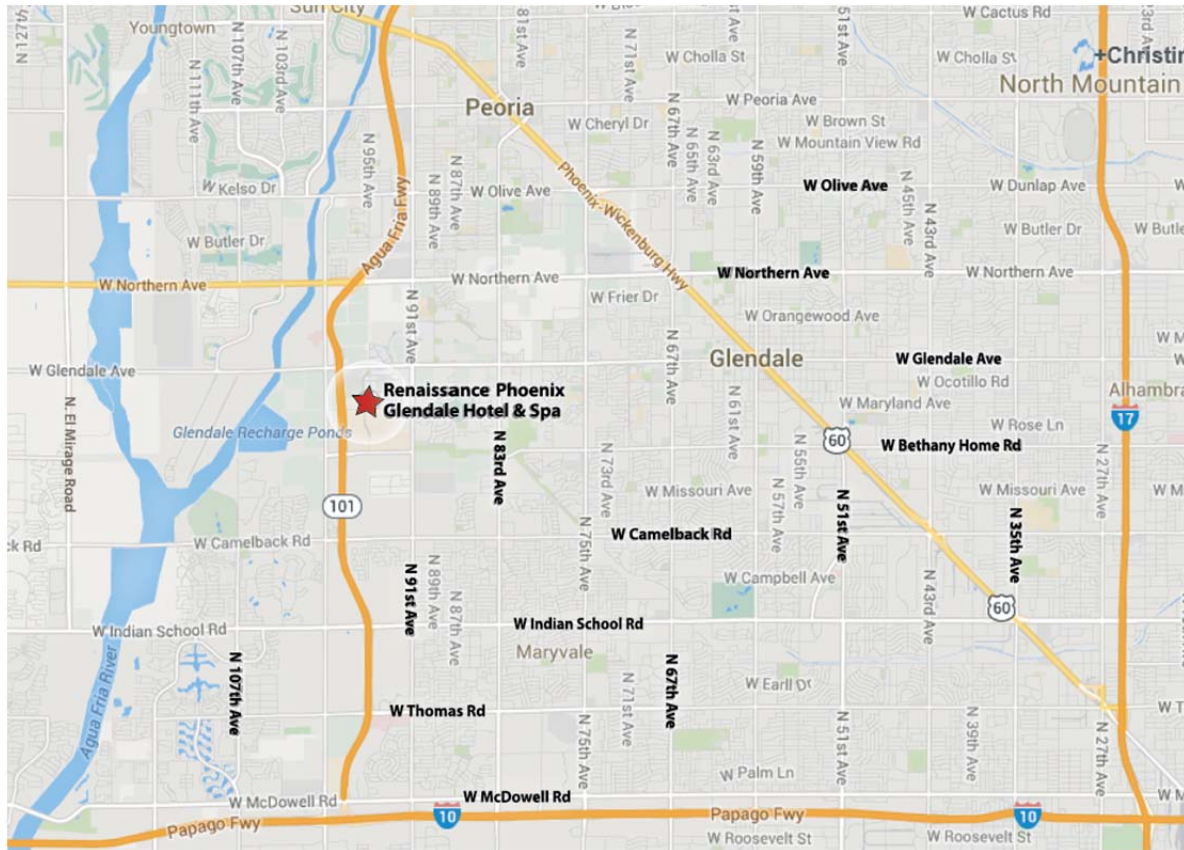
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| Connection, Connectional | Adjectives that describe the networked nature and commitments of the UMC |
| COSROW | Committee on the Status and Role of Women |
| Covenant Council | A structure of our Annual Conference to gather leaders of our ministry teams for reporting and decision making. Replaced the previous, CCOM, or Conference Council on Ministries |
| Cross and Flame | The UMC logo, representing the Holy Spirit with the cross of Christ. It reflects the words of our founder, John Wesley, when he said “I felt my heart strangely warmed” |
| CRSP | Clergy Retirement Security Program: clergy retirement plan |
| Deacon | A person consecrated and hired by the local church to be in ministry (does not itinerate) |
| DCOM | District Council on Ministries |
| DCYM | District Council on Youth Ministries |
| Desert Southwest Conference | The geographical area that makes up our Conference—Arizona, parts of Utah, Southern Nevada and a few churches in California along the Colorado River |
| Discipline | <i>The Book of Discipline</i> contains the laws that govern our church. These laws may be adopted, amended or discarded during the meeting of the General Conference |
| DS | District Superintendent (see below) |
| DSC | Desert Southwest Annual Conference |
| District | A sub-region of the Annual Conference |
| District Superintendent | Superintendent of the pastors and churches of a given district |
| Elder | A clergy person ordained for ministries of Service, Word, Sacrament and Order |
| Equitable Comp | Equitable Compensation provides salary support to clergy whose churches are unable to provide a full salary and benefit package |
| ESL | English as a Second Language |
| EUB | Evangelical United Brethren, a predecessor denomination to the United Methodist Church |
| Fellowship | A new church start that has not yet chartered as a church |
| Full Member | A Deacon or Elder who is a full member of the Annual Conference |
| GBCS | General Board of Church & Society |
| GBGM | General Board of Global Ministries |
| GBHEM | General Board of Higher Education and Ministries |
| GBOD | General Board of Discipleship |
| GBPHB | General Board of Pension and Health Benefits |

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| GCF&A | General Committee on Finance and Administration |
| GCORR | General Commission on Religion and Race |
| General | Refers to national/international level of the Church |
| General Conference | The national/worldwide meeting of the Church; General Conference meets every four years |
| Grade figure Formula | The formula by which apportionments are arrived |
| Igniting Ministry | The television and welcoming ministry of the UMC |
| Itinerancy | The system of The United Methodist Church by which clergy are appointed to their charges by the bishop and are under discipline to accept such appointments |
| JHC | Junior High Convention |
| Journal or Conference Journal | A record of the meeting of the Annual Conference; includes a directory of clergy and lay leadership and of local churches (CD or printed versions available) |
| Jurisdictional | Refers to the regional level of the church |
| Jurisdictional Conference | The Jurisdictional meeting of the church; Jurisdictional Conference meets every four years. An important function of the Jurisdictional Conference is to elect Bishops. |
| Laity | Members of a congregation; literally “people of God” |
| Lay Leader | The lay person elected to provide lay leadership at the local church, district or Conference level |
| Local Pastor | A non-ordained clergy member approved by the District and licensed by the Bishop to perform pastoral duties, including the Sacraments in the church to which they have been appointed |
| MARCHA | Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa de los Hispano Americanos (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans) |
| Mingus | Mingus Mountain Camp, located near Prescott Valley, AZ |
| MPP | Ministerial Pension Plan |
| New Day Center | Transitional housing for homeless families offered by UMOM |
| NCC | National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. |
| NCJ | North Central Jurisdiction |
| NEJ | Northeastern Jurisdiction |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| Parsonage | The name of the house provided to clergy by the local church; many churches in our Conference provide a housing allowance rather than a parsonage |
| PAUMCS | Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries |

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| Potosi | Potosi Pines Camp, located near Las Vegas, NV |
| PPR | Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (See SPRC) |
| SCJ | South Central Jurisdiction |
| SEJ | Southeastern Jurisdiction |
| SFTJ | Strength for the Journey: a three day retreat for HIV+/AIDS campers and their care givers |
| Sessions | The Committee that plans the meeting of the Annual Conference |
| Sidewalk | Sidewalk Sunday School, an urban ministry for children |
| Social Principles | Statements decided at General Conference that declare our position on a number of issues and areas that relate to our church and our world |
| SPRC | Staff-Parish Relations Committee (see PPR): The church's personnel committee |
| Strategic Design/Direction | Formerly Strategic Planning: the committee that recommends future direction and plans for the ministries of the Annual Conference |
| TMM Family Services | Tucson Family Services; formerly known as Tucson Metropolitan Ministries |
| Trust Clause | A denominational law that says that all local church holdings belong to the Annual Conference |
| Trustees | The group that oversee the property of the local church. There is also an Annual Conference Trustees Committee. |
| UMC | The United Methodist Church |
| UMCOR | The United Methodist Committee on Relief |
| UMDF | The United Methodist Development Fund: a source of loans for new church starts |
| UMF | The United Methodist Foundation |
| UMFCU | The United Methodist Federal Credit Union |
| UMFSA | The United Methodist Federation for Social Action |
| UMCOM | The United Methodist Communications |
| UMM | The United Methodist Men |
| UMNS | The United Methodist News Service |
| UMOM | The United Methodist Outreach Ministries based in Phoenix. |
| UMPH | The United Methodist Publishing House |
| UMSM | The United Methodist Social Ministries in Las Vegas |
| UMW | The United Methodist Women |
| UMYF | United Methodist Youth Fellowship |
| US-2 | A person who serves a 2 year term in a United States mission |

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| | project |
| VBS | Vacation Bible School |
| VIM | Also UMVIM: United Methodist Volunteers in Mission |
| WCC | World Council of Churches |
| Wesley Center | An Urban mission in central Phoenix operated by the General Church |
| Wesley Foundation | College Campus Ministries |
| Wesley, John | An Anglican priest, the founder of Methodism |
| Western Jurisdiction | The region which encompasses seven Annual Conferences in the western part of the United States |
| WJ | Western Jurisdiction |
| World Service Fund | The primary source of support for ministry through the general agencies. The World Service apportionment allows United Methodists to participate in God's global mission. |
| World Service and Conf. Benevolences | The Annual Conference's share of the total World Service Fund and its approved Annual Conference benevolences |
| YA | Young adults |
| YPC | Young People's Convention |
| YSF | Youth Service Fund |

STREET MAP



The Renaissance-Glendale Hotel
9495 W. Coyotes Blvd.
Glendale, AZ 85305
(623) 937-3700

Take the Arizona I-10 West toward Los Angeles
Take the AZ-101-Loop—North, Exit 133B
Merge onto AZ-101 Loop North
Take the GLENDALE AVE, Exit 7
Merge onto W. GLENDALE AVE.
Turn Right onto North 95th AVE.
Turn Left onto W. COYOTES BLVD.
End at 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd. Glendale, AZ.

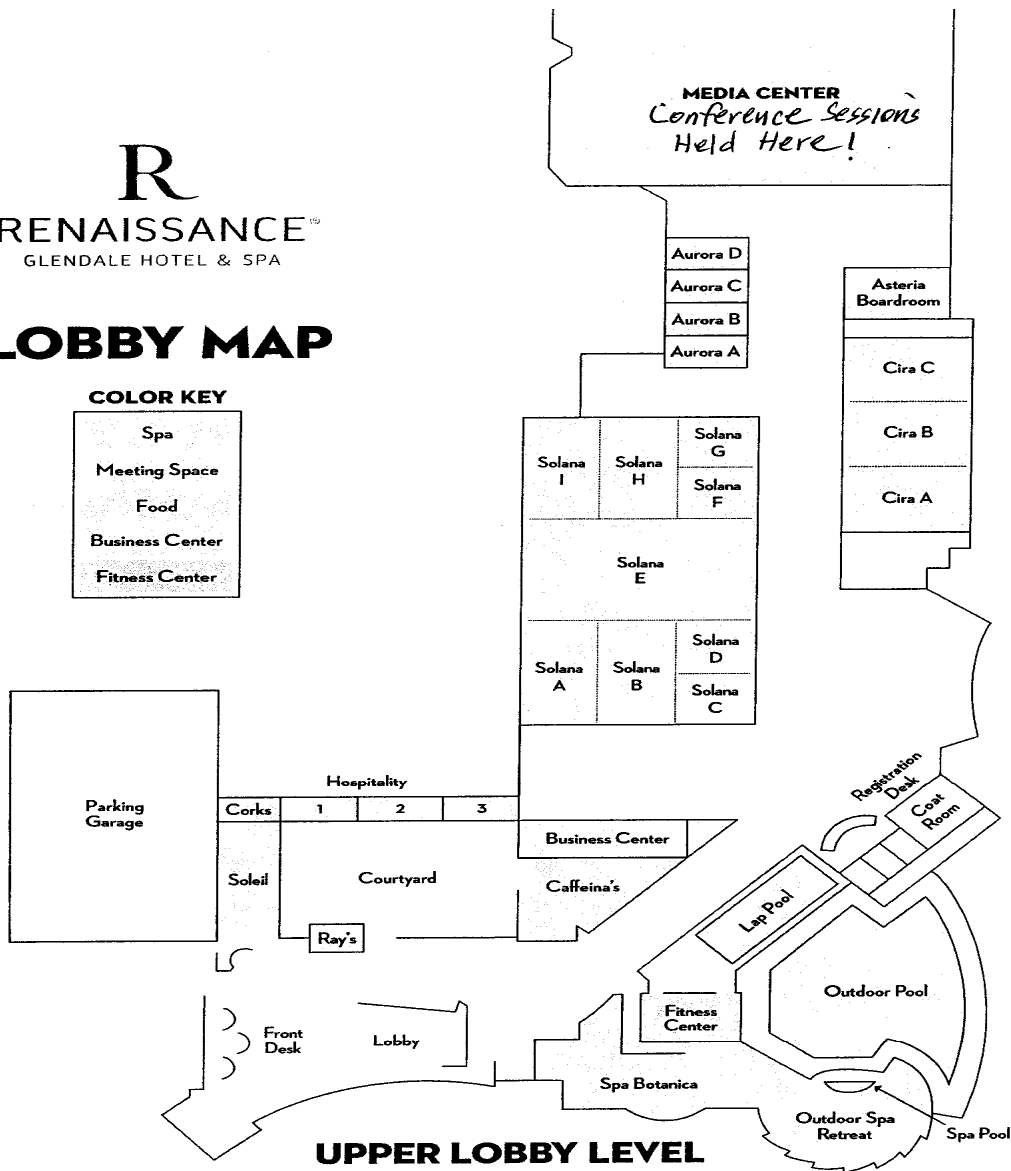
HOTEL MAP

R
RENAISSANCE™
 GLENDALE HOTEL & SPA

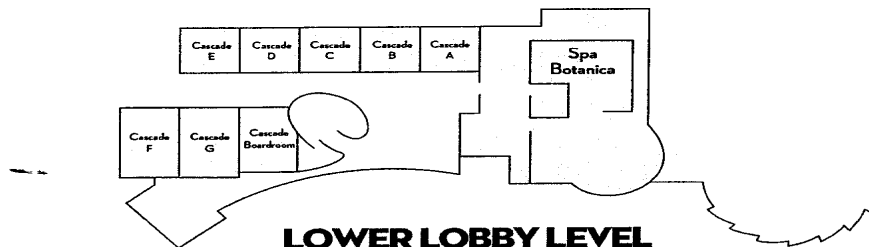
LOBBY MAP

COLOR KEY

| |
|-----------------|
| Spa |
| Meeting Space |
| Food |
| Business Center |
| Fitness Center |



UPPER LOBBY LEVEL



LOWER LOBBY LEVEL

RULES OF ORDER

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- A. When a vote is being taken, only members who are within the area of the Conference shall be entitled to vote.
 - B. All motions must be reduced to writing at the request of the Presiding Officer or the Secretary of the Conference.
 - C. All motions which affect budgetary matters in any way shall be in the hands of the Conference in electronic form not later than the close of the plenary session the day prior to action. Motions made on the floor of the Conference which affect budgetary matters which have not been in the hands of the Conference in accordance with the foregoing shall not be acted upon until the next regular plenary session of this session of the Annual Conference.
 - D. Resolutions by individual members of the Annual Conference must be in the hands of the Conference in electronic form not later than the close of the business session of the day preceding their presentation for consideration and must carry the signatures of at least five (5) members of the Annual Conference.
 - E. All material for distribution on the floor of the Conference shall be distributed only by the Conference appointed ushers. All material distributed on the floor of the Conference shall be limited to that which is pending action of the Conference. Any other material which may be of special interest to the Conference but does not pertain to pending action may be placed in the displays area so that interested parties may obtain copies. Individual members of the Conference who desire to have printed material distributed on the floor of the Conference shall submit such material, except resolutions, to the Conference Secretary, who shall be authorized to consider the same, and if approved, shall provide for its distribution at the proper time.
- No nonmember or organization or institution unrelated to the Annual Conference shall be permitted to distribute printed material without prior consent of the Conference Session Committee. All material distributed on the floor of the Conference shall contain the name of the individual or organization under whose responsibility it is distributed.
- F. After recognition by the Presiding Officer, but prior to speaking, each Conference member shall identify himself/herself by name and church or other Conference affiliation.
 - G. No member shall speak on any question more than once, until all who wish to do so have spoken, nor shall any member speak more than three (3) minutes, except by permission of the Conference; nor shall it be in order to move the "previous question" until each side of the question before the house has had equal opportunity to be heard, the Presiding Officer to decide when that has occurred.
 - H. When a layperson serving a Board, Commission, Committee or Society is not a member of the Conference, said layperson shall be entitled to the privilege of the floor without vote, on matters relating to the report of such Board, Commission, Committee or Society. Laypersons employed by the Covenant Council as staff persons and laypersons serving as officers of the Conference shall be entitled to the privilege of the floor, without vote.
 - I. The maker of the main motion or resolution shall have a maximum of three (3) minutes to close the debate. This right shall not be forfeited by a motion ordering the "previous question" or to "lay on the table."

- 1 J. Order of Precedence of Motions
- 2 1. Undebatable (as though privileged)
- 3 a. Fix the time at which to adjourn
- 4 b. Adjourn
- 5 c. Take a recess
- 6 d. Raise a Question of Privilege
- 7 e. Call for the Orders of the Day
- 8 f. Raise a Point of Order
- 9 g. Lay on the Table
- 10 h. Previous Question(2/3 vote)
- 11 i. Limit or Extend Limits of Debate(2/3 vote)
- 12 j. Suspend the Rules(2/3 vote and specify exact rule)
- 13 2. Debatable
- 14 a. Postpone to a certain time
- 15 b. Commit or refer
- 16 c. Amend,(deletion, addition, substitution)
- 17 d. Postpone indefinitely
- 18 e. Main Motion
- 19 K. Consent Calendar
- 20 1. Non-amended matters
- 21 a. All consent Calendars shall be posted, printed, and distributed by the next
- 22 plenary session.
- 23 b. Those non-amended matters voted to the consent calendar by a Legislative
- 24 Committee shall be presented at the next Plenary Session. The consent
- 25 calendar shall be adopted by simple majority.
- 26 c. Any matter on the consent calendar can be removed by vote of 30 members
- 27 of the Annual Conference.
- 28 d. Those matters that pertain to budgetary matters and nominations shall not be
- 29 part of the consent calendar.
- 30 2. Amended matters
- 31 a. Printing and Distribution: Any amended matters shall be posted
- 32 electronically on the Conference “app” for the membership in accordance
- 33 with Rule III.D. amended matters from Legislative Committees become the
- 34 main motion.
- 35 b. Those amended matters voted to the consent calendar by a Legislative
- 36 Committee shall be presented at the next Plenary Session following
- 37 distribution. The consent calendar shall be adopted by simple majority.
- 38 c. Any matter on the consent calendar can be removed by vote of 30 members
- 39 of the Annual Conference.
- 40 d. Those matters that pertain to budgetary matters and nominations shall not be
- 41 part of the consent calendar.
- 42 L. Action Matters from Legislative Committees
- 43 1. Any matter from Legislative Committees reporting a simple majority will be dealt
- 44 with at the scheduled time.
- 45 M. The Rules Committee shall be responsible for all Conference Rules. Each organization
- 46 or agency in the Conference wishing to change its own rules shall submit those changes
- 47 to the Rules Committee for its consideration and recommendation before action by the
- 48 Annual Conference. Submissions shall be made electronically and refer explicitly to the
- 49 rule to be changed (Journal page, exact and complete reference, line in the paragraph or

- 1 subparagraph). Words to be deleted or added shall be exactly located in each line.
- 2 N. Whenever the Annual Conference adopts a change in the procedure of any Board,
3 Commission, or Agency which necessitates a change in the existing rules, said Board,
4 Commission, Agency or Corporate Organization shall, during the session of the Annual
5 Conference submit a copy of the necessary change in rules to the Rules Committee for
6 presentation to the Annual Conference for final adoption.
- 7 O. The Rules Committee shall meet following the reception of proposed changes no later
8 than the 15th of March of each year to examine the proposals submitted before February
9 20; and immediately after reception for those proposals that are made during the session
10 of the Annual Conference. The Rules Committee shall recommend 1) Concurrence and
11 Adoption, 2) Amendment and Adoption, 3) Non-concurrence. Notification of the action
12 of the Rules Committee shall be made without delay to the group having proposed the
13 changes and to the Conference Secretary. The Rules Committee may take the initiative
14 to propose changes or new rules and call the attention of the Annual Conference or
15 Conference groups on points needing clarification.
- 16 P. Any of the above rules may be changed or amended in any session of the Annual
17 Conference provided such changes or amendments are in the hands of the Conference in
18 electronic form not later than the close of the business session of the day preceding their
19 presentation for consideration.

DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES REPORT

Rev. David McPherson

The office of Connectional Ministries cares for the vision of the Conference and oversees all programs. It's been a year of transition! Just as the local church must adapt, so must Conference staff. If the local churches' mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," then what is the mission of the Conference in this important work? Last year the Annual Conference answered this question by saying that the mission of The Desert Southwest Conference is to "empower leaders who create vital congregations." This statement has guided the work we have done during this Conference year.

The Strategic Direction presented at this Annual Conference is a tool for helping churches focus on at least three key areas for shifting culture: Creating new faith communities, leadership development and transformational worship. Starting new faith communities is still at the top of our Conference's priorities. We want to help every church start at least one new faith community a year. Who is in your church's community and how are you in relationship with them? Churches need to adapt to their changing community if we are to be relevant with the good news of Jesus. Some of our new faith communities will also be new church starts. We've been told over and over that the fastest way to reach new people, younger people and more diverse people is by starting new churches. We have some of the best new church planters. We need more and are working to find and to grow them.

Revitalization of churches is also important and it's the hardest work for church leaders because it demands that we focus not on what current members need but on how we can best bring the hope and love of Christ to the people in our community who have different needs than the current members. The Conference has tools that can help in this work. Currently, we are finishing the final year of our three-year revitalization work with Don Nations (DNA). Some churches seemed to benefit more than others. To measure the impact of the work, a survey went out this spring to all Desert Southwest churches that measures vitality. The same survey was sent to DSC churches at the start of the DNA work. Once the surveys have been received and calculated by the Conference, then we can compare this year's results with the surveys taken three years ago. The data will tell us if our efforts helped move churches who were in DNA toward greater health for ministry compared to the rest of the DSC churches.

We are blessed to have dedicated people who make up our Conference staff! Every one of them tries to help strengthen the local church. They have worked faithfully this year, staffing all of our committees/boards/commissions. Please read the reports that follow and celebrate with us the great ministries that are happening within the bounds of the Desert Southwest Conference, but also how we are helping transform the world as United Methodists!

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Christina Dillabough, Director of Communications
Daniel Gomez, Communications Commission Chair

Over the past year The Desert Southwest Conference Communications department has experienced many dramatic changes in staffing, media resources, and communication channels. These changes are in part due to new developments in communications strategy and a dedication to model what all churches and committees are asked to do – review, assess, and measure the current practices/procedures/programming and try something new to increase leadership development, reach new people in new places, and create transformational worship experiences.

After an extensive national search and interview process, Christina Dillabough was selected as Steve Hustedt’s successor as Director of Communications and heads the department with a team approach making sure each individual has ample opportunities to use their gifts and passion to take the lead in their combined efforts of serving the local church. David Topping, Computer Systems Manager is leading the Western Jurisdiction’s website re-launch efforts and is supporting more local churches in creating and improving their web presence using easy and affordable methods. He has worked tirelessly to transition the Conference office to a new e-mail provider utilizing virtual server space to cut down on expenses and increase security. Colin Noonan joined the team from October 2013-May 2014 and in that time helped to heighten the Communications ministry through his passion of video production and his keen sense for simplicity and clarity. His departure opens up two part-time positions within the department: a Writer/Editor position and a Digital Media Producer. Both of the new positions will work closely with the local churches.

This new team model will focus on building fruitful, connectional relationships with leaders from the General Church and leaders from the local church in order to bridge the knowledge that each side has to offer. At a recent gathering in Nashville, United Methodist Communications led multiple training sessions and assessments of the Conference Communicators. Christina Dillabough was selected to join the Global Training Team of the General Church. This translates into a new way for the General Church to meet the needs of local church leaders in which The Desert Southwest Conference will benefit greatly from the added training materials and resources. The change in staffing provided a fresh perspective as survey results and analytic reports on the various communication channels were being reviewed.

Transformation magazine was the first channel that was identified as an opportunity for something new. A final issue was published in early 2014 as a digital magazine and will remain available online along with the rest of the previous issues at <http://issuu.com/dscumc>. The dollars that were freed up allowed Communications to fund a partnership with the Pacific Northwest Conference, making their English and Spanish media resources available to the churches of The Desert Southwest Conference. New training opportunities, small group and bible study resources, VBS packages, and sermon starters are among the multitude of media that are now part of every church’s Christian education and leadership development tool box without a hit to the local church budget.

1 The Conference newsletter and other communication channels were transformed out of
2 that same change. The Desert Connection has a new look, a new focus, and a new audience.
3 The newsletter website and pdf is now designed solely with the church leader in mind to
4 support them in their ministry efforts. Every article in this publication is written in a way that
5 demonstrates one of the priorities of the Strategic Direction and offers DVD or video
6 recommendations from the new media center to help the reader start or join the ministry that is
7 described in each article. Subscribe to this ministry resource utilizing the “Subscribe” box on
8 the home page of <http://desertconnection.org> then check your e-mails and click on the
9 confirmation link sent to your designated e-mail address immediately afterwards. To receive a
10 PDF once a month e-mail communications@dscumc.org and ask to be added to the Desert
11 Connection subscriber list.

12
13 An online survey revealed that Our Conference, a monthly bulletin insert is no longer
14 an essential publication. Canceling its production has opened up time and resources to give
15 more attention to our social media presence. The Conference Facebook Page, Pinterest, and two
16 Twitter handles are consistently buzzing with new information, new followers, and engaging
17 people in conversation around the ministry and leaders of The Desert Southwest Conference
18 and General Church. Like or follow these offerings at the following:

19
20 <http://facebook.com/dscumc>
21 <http://www.pinterest.com/dscumc>
22 <http://twitter.com/dscumc>
23 <http://twitter.com/dsccomm>
24

25 This year Conference Communications took a bold leap and partnered with Guidebook,
26 Inc. to develop a new Annual Conference app that will raise the bar exponentially for Annual
27 Conference participants. The Pre-Conference documents, exhibit information, surveys, table
28 discussions, social media integration, interactive mapping both inside and outside of the hotel,
29 and so much more are all part of this useful tool. The Guidebook App is available for Apple
30 and Android smartphones and tablets in the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. Laptops,
31 Blackberry devices, and Windows smartphones and tablets should use the following web
32 address to access the information online. <http://m.guidebook.com/guide/17454/> .
33

34 Although the staff and channels of the Conference Communications department have
35 changed significantly over the year it is important to note that these changes have been
36 implemented to support the local church and empower leaders so that they have the tools
37 necessary to create vital congregations. Be sure to tune in or subscribe to the various
38 communications channels to find out what other changes are in store.

COVENANT COUNCIL REPORT

Rev. Anthony Tang, Chair

A Conference Covenant Council is filled with representatives from a variety of ministries with attention given to diversity of representation and opinion which has (historically across the denomination) struggled over a question of déjà vu: “Have we repeated this same conversation before?” The tendency to do this can be strengthened by a culture of folks working in competitive silos.

In order to more intentionally align our efforts and energy with our mission to “empower leaders who create vital congregations” we knew that we would first have to work not as a conglomeration of individuals, but as a unified team where each person present embraced being a leader of the whole Annual Conference.

Second, we started building an environment where we could nurture the free flow of ideas, honest sharing, personal responsibility, and a renewed commitment to see our mission through.

Third, we explored if it is possible to make the shift from “my ministry” to “our ministry” and from “this is how my church does it” to “this is how we can help all of our churches.” This step seems to be particularly essential for our shared future. It means letting go of comparing our attendance and budgets and instead rooting for each other’s successes. Shifting from competition between ourselves to collaboration with each other and learning from each other.

In his book, *Seven Layers: Missional Strategies for Conferences*, Bishop Robert Schnase says:

In a technically elegant administrative system, people are clear about who does what, and they operate without undue territoriality or defensiveness. People know what resources are available to them and to whom they are accountable. People important for a decision aren’t left out of the loop, and projects don’t get stuck by an expectation of complete consensus.¹

We have more work that must be done, but we believe we are moving in the right direction.

In the coming year, we will need to focus our attention and efforts in the following areas:

- (a) Leadership development that identifies *new* persons who are spiritually mature, committed, and have gifts to offer; equips them; and frees them to experiment boldly in ministry.
- (b) Leadership development that supports, equips, and inspires clergy, lay, and churches based on a willingness to collaborate, to experiment, to risk failure, and to try again.

¹ Schnase, Robert. *Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences*. 2014. Nashville: Abingdon Press. Kindle Location 2505 of 3413.

1 (c) Leadership development that networks us together.

2

3 May Christ bless our efforts as we learn to empower leaders who create vital congregations!

STRATEGIC DIRECTION REPORT

Rev. Dave Summers, Chairperson

The Strategic Direction Team works to foster an intentional focus on our Conference Mission: to empower leaders who create vital congregations. Our work is to help move this mission and its meaning forward into God's future.

Last year we adopted this mission statement as an Annual Conference. We are laboring to implement this mission and move it through the culture of our Annual Conference. Our focus on empowering leaders, both clergy and lay will make the difference in continuing the culture change in our Conference and congregations. It is through the work of empowered and committed leaders, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that vitality will grow in our congregations and Conference. We would ask each of us: what can YOU do as a leader to make change happen in and across our church here in the Desert Southwest.

As we examine our progress and the work ahead, we are reminded of God's word spoken through Isaiah:

God is doing something new in us and through us. Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18-20)

God is breathing a new spirit of vitality and an abundant faithfulness that brings our priorities to fruition. We believe God is calling us to refashion our priorities as a Conference and propose the following areas of strategic focus:

- Creating an ongoing culture of starting New Faith Communities
- Creating an ongoing culture of Leadership Development
- Creating an ongoing culture of Transformational Worship

We propose moving our former priority of creating a culture of social holiness into the above three priorities. They will be lived and strengthened as our ministries of mercy and social justice are both an expectation and a visible dimension of our leadership culture, our fundamental understanding of what leaders do and provide. We see our work in social holiness lived in the ways we start and nurture our new faith communities so that mission and ministries of justice and advocacy are part of the DNA of new faith groups and congregations from birth. We believe that worship is vital and transformational when we are challenged, inspired and led to live out God's commitment to engage and change the world around us to reflect God's concern for righteousness, love and justice.

Typically, when we inquire on how churches are making progress on our Strategic Direction, we hear leaders and clergy report and reflect on their work in mission, acts of mercy and compassion and advocacy. We recognize attention to social holiness is a part of our spiritual identity as United Methodists; it is who we are and what we do to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We see this as critical to focus even greater attention on the remaining priorities for our Conference to assure faithful progress in accomplishing them.

1 We believe infusing our work in social holiness into our three priorities will ensure their
2 strength and demonstrate the vital relationship between how we live our faith and practice our
3 leadership, launch new faith communities and worship God, all in the service of Jesus Christ.

4
5 We seek your help to ignite passion for these priorities so they will be visible and
6 known in the ministries you lead.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

Rev. Fred Baum, Chairperson

This has been a year of exploration for the team as we have sought to find out how best to work together for “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We cover diverse related areas: Christian Education, Camping and Retreat Ministries, Spiritual Formation, Worship, and Older Adult Ministries. This follows the Disciplinary requirements for this work area of our Annual Conference.

In the next year the Bishop and Cabinet will be looking at all the teams as to purpose and overlap once Rev. Anthony Tang steps into his new position. An example of this is the Youth area of our Annual Conference. We think it would be more productive to having this team area under the Discipleship Team umbrella but it is in another work area in our Annual Conference. Each area is doing good work on its own. The challenge we face on the Conference level as well as the local church level is how we can work in a better fashion together.

DIRECTOR OF CAMPING MINISTRIES REPORT

Rev. Ron Bartlow, Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries; rbartlow@dscumc.org
Katharine Keller, Chair, Board of Camping; ladiebug1214@gmail.com

In early 2013, after several months working together, the Board of Camping adopted an updated vision for Camping and Retreat Ministries (the full version is in the 2013 Journal, vol. 1.):

Camping and Retreat Ministries exist as an extension of, and resource to, the ministries of local United Methodist Churches of the Desert Southwest Conference... The Camping and Retreat Ministries of the Desert Southwest Conference will work both to (1) directly provide and (2) resource local churches to provide uniquely immersive experiences designed to nurture Christian faith.

Our Board and ministry volunteers continue to return to this vision, and its interconnectedness with our Annual Conference's areas of focus, as we plan ministries and initiatives.

The ensuing year since our report for the 2013 Annual Conference has been full of "new" things, including:

- Following news of the retirement of Brandon and Chris Hill, long time camp and kitchen managers at Mingus; we redeveloped the existing role of Camp Manager to that of Site Director. We subsequently advertised, interviewed, and hired Mike Crevelt for this new position, and he began on March 1.
- In November, Bishop Bob Hoshibata discerned that it would be helpful for there to be a quarter-time Conference-level position to oversee Camping and Retreat Ministries, and appointed Rev. Ron Bartlow to that role.
- In January, our Board elected Katharine Keller the new chair for the Board.
- In early March, five members of our ministry area – Rev. Ron Bartlow, director; Katharine Keller, Board chair; Tracey Brown and Mike Crevelt, site directors; and Rev. Dan Morley, Site Advisory Chair for Potosi Pines Camp – attended the Western Jurisdiction Camping Network event in Oregon for training. The group found many elements of the training to be helpful and will be bringing in some future training for our Board and Site Advisory Committee members.

Financial Situation: After showing financial improvement in 2012 (with a year-end deficit of \$3,000), revenue dropped in 2013, and leading to an overall deficit of \$40,138.

Slightly over one-quarter of this year's deficit was the result of unpaid summer camp commitments, some of which have begun to be paid this year (2014) following communications from our camp office. Another quarter of the loss was a result of our decision to lower the cost of 2013 Conference-sponsored summer camps. While based on the upward trend of the time, this move did not correspond to any increase in overall attendance, and the Board of Camping will be reviewing the decision and future fee levels at their Fall 2014 meeting.

1 Our staff at both campsites recognizes the necessary challenge to increase revenues, and
2 are evaluating and instituting means to continue progress toward financial self-sufficiency.
3

4 **Volunteer-Led Organization:** Camping and retreat ministries developed and offered
5 by our Annual Conference, as well as the Board and the Site Committees related to their
6 oversight, are dependent upon the involvement and leadership of volunteers from within our
7 Conference. Our volunteers and leaders continue to develop systems to effectively lead these
8 ministries.
9

10 As we move into the New Year, both our Board and Site Advisory Committees will
11 undergo training to continue to strengthen our leadership of this ministry.
12

13 As a volunteer-heavy ministry, we want to invite and encourage your participation.
14 There are a variety of ways you can be involved, from financial support to giving your time as
15 a camp leader. We would also invite each church to consider hosting a Camping Sunday to
16 highlight the ministries of camp and how our churches' members can support it. Resources for
17 hosting a Camp Sunday to support ministries at our campsites are loaded on the camp's
18 individual websites.
19

20 **For More Information:** Thanks to the wonders of modern technology, you should be
21 able to click the following links in your .pdf reading device to find out more:

- 22 • [Desert Southwest Conference Camps \(DSC Camps\)](#): The purpose of this new site,
23 which is clearly linked to from our Desert Southwest Conference site, is to share
24 information about any and all camps and retreats held within our Annual Conference.
- 25 • [Mingus Mountain Camp](#) website highlights the camp's amenities, programs, and history
26 and also includes information about group use of the site
- 27 • [Potosi Pines Camp](#) website highlights the camp's amenities, programs, and history and
28 also includes information about group use of the site
- 29 • ["Because of camp..."](#) Potosi's website includes statements from children and youth
30 about the impact camp had for them. Check it out!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM REPORT

Rev. Wendy Bryant, Chairperson

*“Everyone is in a process of spiritual formation. We are being shaped into either the wholeness of the image of Christ or a horribly destructive caricature of that image-- destructive not only to ourselves but also to others, for we inflict our brokenness upon them . . . The direction of our spiritual growth infuses all we do with intimations of either **Life or Death.**” — M. Robert Mulholland Jr., Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*

Providing tools to help us move toward “Life” in our relationship with God and with others is the goal of the Spiritual Formation Team. By integrating spiritual formation with our Conference Strategic Direction of Making Disciples of Jesus Christ, we believe that Jesus calls us to incorporate spiritual formation into every aspect of our lives both inside and outside the church.

Our Team’s first response is to model spiritual formation in our own lives and ministry in our churches. Our second response is to create resources that support spiritual formation at all levels within our Conference, specifically the local church. We continue to work with the Conference Discipleship Team in developing a model of intentional spiritual formation and growth that incorporates Education, Worship, Camping and Retreat Ministries, and Older Adult Ministries.

In an effort to offer more “user friendly” tools to the entire Conference, we are creating lists of resources and examples on the DSC website:
<http://desertsouthwestconference.org/spiritual-formation>. Our team members are currently writing devotions for use by “busy” pastors and lay members.

We are actively engaged in working with the Academy for Spiritual Formation, sponsored by The Upper Room, by providing scholarships and financial support for participants at both the 5-day and 2-year academies.

At Annual Conference this year, we have created a Chapel for individuals and small groups to meet, pray, rest, renew your spirit, and listen to God. This is a designated space in Cira A for quiet individual prayer, with a Prayer Intercessor, or with others each morning for Morning Watch. We will offer devotions at Annual Conference after each Plenary Session. Finally, we realize that we all stand in the need of prayer, so we have over 50+ volunteer Prayer Intercessors wearing buttons identifying themselves. They are eager to pray with you!

The greatest need you and I have – the greatest need of collective humanity – is renovation of the heart. (Dallas Willard)

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. David K. Devereaux, Chairperson

1
2
3
4
5
6 The Conference Worship Team has spent this past year working directly with worship
7 consultant Rev. Teresa Angle-Young. The training was intended to prepare the team to be able
8 to effectively assist local churches in developing vital worship experiences. Our work with
9 Rev. Teresa Angle Young came to an end in May. Additional training, specific to worship
10 consultation, is being developed--with a training workshop scheduled for team members in
11 September of 2014. Once this workshop is completed, team members will be available to work
12 one on one with pastors in developing worship skills and improving worship experiences
13 within local church settings. We look forward to being utilized as worship consultants in the
14 coming year.

NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES TEAM REPORT

Rev. Michael Pearson

The New Faith Team continues to seek to support the Desert Southwest Annual Conference Strategic Direction, in particular: *Develop and encourage an ongoing culture of starting New Faith Communities.*

We do this by supporting the vision of the Conference in starting new churches through a variety of models. We work with the Cabinet and the Director of Connectional Ministries in offering counsel as they seek to start several new churches (two per year for the next four years). We approve funding requests from the Cabinet. We provide the funds to support training and coaching for our planters and potential planters. We have been a sounding board for The DCM and District Superintendents.

The model of “multiplication,” the starting of new churches through our existing churches, is still seen as a promising model. This was demonstrated two years ago with the new church start “City Square” From the beginning those two clergy were asked to start “multiple” new churches instead of just one. This summer they will be on track for the first multiplication site. As of now they are still on track with their benchmarks and have started several small groups and are developing several new leaders.

This coming year we hope to see the Conference start at least two new Hispanic/Latino churches. Our area is rich in opportunities for Hispanic Ministry. We also anticipate a new suburban church plant. The creativity of the Cabinet in looking at the potential of Legacy Churches is another encouraging development.

We are excited by the appointment of Rev. David McPherson to the position of Director of New Faith and Vital Faith Ministries.

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC MINISTRIES REPORT

Rev. Javier Olivares, Chair

A few years ago when I was in seminary, I had the opportunity to do a cross cultural trip to India. The first week was terrible as my stomach did not tolerate the different spices. After several students got sick as I did, my roommate joked that INDIA stood for "I'll Never Do It Again." As time progressed I felt better, however it took a long time for me to eat foreign spices. I made a great effort and mostly because of my spouse. I didn't want to accompany her to a Thai restaurant with an Arby's sandwich under my arm but mostly I wanted to share with her the joy of eating a similar meal, of tasting those spices that once made me sick and it was alright! It took me to step out of my comfort zone, patience and support from her.

I share this story because when it comes to Hispanic Ministry in our conference there are many stories of non-Hispanic churches that tried doing Hispanic ministry and failed and the "I will never do it again" thought has been lingering in their minds for quite some time. Yet, as a committee we believe one of the main reasons we fail is because we have tried to do Hispanic ministry as we think we should or to put it in biblical terms, "every man (sic) did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

Yet, as always in Christ, there is hope and we have been able to be encouraged with the leadership of Bishop Bob to have a better communication between cabinet and the Hispanic committee in a way that we can be a resource for the cabinet. We have also developed a resource list that can help pastors, district superintendents and our laity concerning Hispanic ministries. It is available now through our conference website.

On February 6-7, 2014, I represented our Conference to our first Western Jurisdiction Hispanic Ministries Council in Sacramento, CA. During this meeting we reviewed the strategic plan and through a discernment process discussed any additions or changes. This plan has been adopted by our Annual Conference and it is comprised of 3 areas with its own commitments, goals and strategies:

PLANTING NEW HISPANIC CONGREGATIONS

20 new Hispanic/Latino churches will be planted in each of the following conferences: California/Nevada, Desert Southwest, California/Pacific, and Pacific Northwest

NEW LEADERS BOTH CLERGY AND LAY

Our commitment is to develop a strong cadre of clergy and lay leaders for the Western Jurisdiction who can contribute to a culture shift in Hispanic/Latino ministry. Our vision is that this cadre of leaders will be able to infuse our jurisdiction with a confidence that we can indeed effectively reach out to Hispanic/Latino persons with the good news of Jesus Christ. This cadre of leaders will be well-trained, and will help lead the Western Jurisdiction in growing the church and transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE FOR HISPANIC/LATINO COMMUNITIES

We are committed to transforming the world with the mercy and grace of Christ Jesus through advocacy in and through the Hispanic/Latino church and community.

1 On May 8, 2014 during our last meeting, we had the visit of Rev. Brenda Vaca,
2 Missionary for Western Jurisdiction Hispanic/Latino Plan. She shared about her role and how
3 she can help us to develop our strategic plan. Our plans for this next year is to develop our own
4 strategic plan where we can include those 3 areas of the WJ plan and focus on the development
5 of leaders. We believe we can have successful Hispanic ministries with the support of agencies
6 and mentors that will effectively walk with us in our journey. Agencies like the National Plan,
7 Path 1, and GBOD among others. However, we need patience and understand that at times it is
8 a long process. It takes everyone from the pastor to the laity to agree that they want to do
9 Hispanic ministry.

10
11 During May 23-25, 2014 we had our annual Hispanic Family Camp with Pastor
12 Eugenio Romero from El Mesias Nogales UMC, as the main speaker. It was a blessed time of
13 fellowship, networking and learning.

COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES REPORT

Gary Long, Chairperson

Currently there are two Native American churches in the DSC, the Ft. Yuma UMC and the Native American United Methodist Fellowship (NAUMF), in Phoenix, and there is a budding Native American ministry, through Linda Israel & Frank Morris, coming from the Page Community UMC. Also, it is significant to mention the Ft. Yuma UMC celebrated a 110-year anniversary on November 17, 2013. This is quite an accomplishment!

The first time I ever attended the Ft. Yuma UMC was way back in the early 1970's. At that time, the Reverend Bud Sullivan, was serving the church and then later from '77-'79, my father, the Reverend Harry Long served this same church. Back then it was a very well attended church. I can still easily recall the February camp meetings, the large visiting groups and choirs from other reservations and of course, the outstanding food.

The NAUMF is going into our second year at Central UMC. Our congregation is very blessed to have partnered with the Central UMC. It is through this partnership that we have been able to utilize a "retired" clergy, Reverend Floy Scott, whom has graced us with her many gifts and certainly teaching the Word every Sunday morning is a proven one. Pastor Floy is also a descendant of a Choctaw grandmother. It has been a huge joy and blessing to have her leading us in worship. Our church has been busy. Three members of our congregation took the Walk to Emmaus, while, two of our young men left to attend college out of state. Also, now that our location is highly visible and centered in an area where Native people live, we have been getting homeless Native Americans and impromptu visits from Native American passer-byes.

In an effort to support the Native American churches, this committee decided to hold the meetings at the church sites on a rotation basis and on Saturdays with a stay overnight to attend the church on Sunday. The decision to do this has been eye-opener; we have been able to fellowship, see what is working for others, share the ups and downs of each of the church's efforts and become more cohesive in our goals and objectives.

CONAM Meeting dates:

September 7, 2013, held at the UMC Conference Office

November 9, 2013; held at Ft. Yuma UMC

January 25, 2014; held at Central UMC

April 26, 2014; held at the Page Community UMC

Other Meetings Attended by the Chairperson:

November 14 – 16, 2013, Native American International Caucus, Divide, CO

March 14, 2014; Strategic planning with Bishop Hoshibata

March 26 – 30, 2014, Native American International Caucus, St. Louis, MO

June 20, 2014, Rocky Mountain Conference, Pueblo, CO (invited)

CONAM Projects

1 Growth & Outreach Grants

2 Offering \$1000 to existing Native American ministries to assist in growing ministries to
3 targeting natives people not currently connected to the faith community. To date, one church,
4 Ft. Yuma UMC has been a recipient. Funds were used to assist with the 110 year anniversary
5 and the women determined that the oven needed to be replaced in the Fellowship Hall. A
6 second congregation in Page, AZ, will also be a recipient soon; the funds will be utilized to
7 hold a vacation bible school directly on the Navajo Reservation, located about 30 miles from
8 Page. Taking the UMC to the reservation is important here, as many on the reservation do not
9 have transportation to Page.

10
11 Act of Repentance

12 The Committee has been strategizing and planning on behalf of the DSC to address this
13 issue over the next two years and leading into the year 2015. The Committee will bring cultural
14 sensitivity training into the DS for clergy and perhaps others (yet to be identified) to gain
15 knowledge and understanding of the issues of the Native American and how these historical
16 injustices have impacted Native American communities.

17
18 Other Issues

19 A \$500 donation was made by the Reverend Gary Simons to be used by CONAM.
20 These funds remain undesignated.

21
22 The Native American ministry within the UMC is no different than other Native
23 American ministries and perhaps all congregations. We are all struggling and we share the
24 same issues. It is good to know that we are not alone; we have common struggles. Finding a
25 way to reach more people and keep the one we have, minister with our brothers and sisters;
26 build the love of Jesus Christ, develop & promote leadership and to know that our ministries
27 are important to us and to our Native American communities.

28
29 I am thankful for the core group of Committee members that have been loyal attendees
30 to CONAM. And, a special thank you to Rev. David McPherson for his guidance, support and
31 encouragement. It is this core group that has been the backbone and conducted the work for
32 CONAM.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Rev. Dr. Ed Bonneau

With the guidance and inspiration of Bishop Bob, the leadership team continues to work toward more cohesive and effective leadership for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

One of the areas we have identified is what we call “leadership gaps.” These are places where the Conference needs stronger presence by both lay and clergy to fill in areas that are identified as priority needs, but have not been met. The Conference committee on laity and the lay leadership group are working hard to recruit new people to help fill in these “gaps.” New training opportunities will be needed to equip those whom God has called.

Bishop Bob provided a great venue for developing leadership. He called together the clergy leadership of the largest churches in the Conference, and led us in a day of sharing and learning ways we can become better leaders, not only in the local church, but Conference and system-wide. In order to achieve goals such as our Imagine No Malaria campaign takes both vision and strong leadership among both clergy and laity.

But Leadership is not only about large churches. Smaller churches also yearn for solid and effective leaders. The RIM program (Residency in Ministry) provides training and support for the new clergy in our Conference. Many of these Provisional Members are serving churches with smaller membership, but are becoming more effective through the RIM process. We thank John Flowers who has led this process, but is now retiring. Mary Bullis will take over as coordinator this year.

Recruiting pastors to serve our local churches is also an identified priority. This not only includes attracting folks here from other Conferences, but identifying and developing effective leaders in our midst. This is something every local church, every clergy and lay person, can participate in. Help us encourage young folks for ministry!

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTRY REPORT

Greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry! In 2014, GBHEM staff have been busy with two initiatives assigned to the Board by the General Conference 2012 — the **Young Clergy Initiative** and the **Central Conference Theological Education Fund**.

- Ninety-one applications were submitted in the first round of grants from the **Young Clergy Initiative**. The second round deadline is July 2, 2014. First-round awards will be made in May.
- Proposals for solar electrification of a rural theological school and training teams of pastors to mobilize people to change their communities were among 57 grants for more than \$1 million awarded from the \$5 million **Central Conference Theological Education Fund** for Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.
- We hope you will visit our redesigned website (www.gbhem.org). The new site features an enhanced search engine, new content, and a user-friendly reorganization.
- GBHEM has expanded our use of social media. In addition to our new website, we have more than 4,800 followers on Twitter and more than 1,500 like our Facebook page. We've added Google+, Linked In, and Pinterest, and have beefed up our YouTube channel.
- Technology has enabled us to make our training and resources more readily available to the church. The UMC Cyber Campus and Online Consortium (www.umccybercampus.com) provide free video training sessions and lectures, as well as an online listing of continuing education courses.
- Our Division of Ordained Ministry's 2013 training events, retreats, and webinars reached more than 700 district superintendents, elders, chaplains, clergywomen, deacons, candidates, and Annual Conference staff.
- The GBHEM and Africa University Boards met jointly on the AU campus in March and witnessed the dedication of the Ubuntu Retreat Center, funded by the West Michigan Conference. The AU Board elected Dr. Munashe Furusa as the new vice chancellor.
- Close to 5,000 AU graduates are changing the African continent. Enrollment in 2013 was 1,480 full-time students from 25 African countries. Women now account for 53% of the student body.
- The Collegiate Ministry office is planning their student gathering, **Imagine What's NEXT 2014**. **NEXT** will be held November 7-9 in Denver, Colo.
- Collegiate Ministry supported the training of 500 campus ministers through **LEAD, Prepare / Shared Space, UM Campus Ministry Association, Exploration, and Refresh**.
- In 2013-2014, GBHEM's Loans and Scholarships office awarded \$5.5 million in loans and scholarships to 2,442 students. L&S also partnered in the creation of a **UM scholarships portal** offering one-stop-shopping for students and their parents. View the portal at <http://scholarship.umc.org>.

- 1 • At **Exploration 2013**, 152 young adults signed commitment cards saying they felt the
2 call to ordained ministry. Plans are already underway for **Exploration 2015**.
- 3 • A pilot project sponsored by GBHEM and GBOD to provide e-readers for the Gbarnga
4 School of Theology in Liberia has proved so successful that additional funding is being
5 sought to expand the project to other seminaries in Africa. To give online, go to
6 <http://drint.org/donate>.
- 7 • For the first time, an entire issue of *Interpreter* magazine (March / April 2014) was
8 devoted to a single issue — United Methodist higher education.
- 9 • *The Christian as Minister: An Exploration into the Meaning of God's Call* was
10 published last summer and will soon be published as an e-book through a partnership
11 with Abingdon Press. Our first foray into digital publishing was in 2013 with *Breaking*
12 *Through the Stained Glass Ceiling: Women Pastoring Large Churches*. We are now
13 publishing a printed version of this title.
- 14 • The **Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development** established
15 five regional offices: Methodist University, São Paulo, Brazil; Yonsei University,
16 Seoul, Korea; Reutlingen School, Germany; Methodist University of Cote d'Ivoire; and
17 GBHEM, Nashville, Tenn.

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Robert G. Rynders, Chair

This past year was an exciting one for all of our campus ministries as our Conference continues to have very strong programs at Arizona State, University of Arizona/Tucson, Northern Arizona University and The University of Nevada Las Vegas. Campus ministry remains a vital part of our UM presence and witness on our college campuses. Our campus ministries not only maintain relationships with our United Methodist students, but year after year they reach new students, staff, and faculty with the love of Jesus Christ. Two of our campus ministries (ASU and Tucson) have been operating full-time but only with less than half of their funding coming from Annual Conference support. This has meant our campus ministers are spending as much as 50% of their time in development and fundraising. While our campus ministers have done excellent jobs at covering their funding gaps to cover minimum staffing, this has left very little funding for programing and additional staffing needs. With these realities in mind, the Desert Southwest BHECM has proposed a five-year plan to fully fund the ASU and Tucson executive director positions and to fully fund, at half-time, the ecumenical NAO position. We believe this will allow our campus ministers to spend more time in outreach, discipleship development, and leadership development on the campuses they serve. This investment can help us not only retain, but grow our relationship with college students and young adults, the least represented demographic in our denomination. With an increased request for funding, we've also added additional accountability measures for our campus ministries. We've asked all of our campus ministries to fill-out annual profiles and in-depth evaluations of their programs. We will use these profiles and evaluations to help provide resources and training where needed, in order to further strengthen and grow our ministry programs. Finally, we are excited about the possibility of adding a half-time campus ministry position at UNLV for the 2014-2015 school year, in addition to the current presence of A Grain of Mustard Seed UMF's student outreach. UNLV is a growing campus and has added a significant on-campus residential program for students over the past couple of years. We look forward to a renewed and additional UMC presence on UNLV's campus! For more specific details on all of our campus ministry programs please review the following reports for each ministry program:

The Wesley Student Foundation at Arizona State University

In the Fall semester we began to extend our ministry to Grand Canyon University. We reached around 9 new students at Grand Canyon University who came to our weekly worship on Sundays. One of those students, Amanda, expressed a call to ministry and we were able to send her to Exploration 2013, where she began the process of becoming an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. We ask for your prayers that as she continues her Bachelor's degree at GCU that she will be nurtured and guided in the process. As we have gained some students at GCU, we will be starting a small group that meets in the Phoenix area, since our home site in Tempe is quite a distance away. We plan on starting this in the 2014-2015 academic year.

1 At the Tempe campus of Arizona State University we continue to worship on
2 Wednesday nights and have gained eight new students this semester. Our presence at the
3 university is growing and word is spreading about our activities. Arizona State University is
4 sent one of our students, Katie, to the Interfaith Young Peoples Conference in Los Angeles to
5 represent United Methodism in interfaith efforts at ASU. Selected by ASU, she is a part of
6 Better Together, which promotes interfaith dialogue and service. We are very proud of Katie
7 and her representation of our campus ministry.
8

9 Some of the highlights of this year have been attending a Shabbat with Hillel Jewish
10 Center, hosting games at a carnival for the mentally disabled in partnership with The Center for
11 Habilitation, Interfaith Sabbath, rallying with other faith communities in support of
12 inclusiveness and civility on campus, and working on a house with Habitat for Humanity.
13

14 In addition we have grown in our faith and in community with each other by celebrating
15 Christmas and Easter together, planning and hosting a Good Friday service, having two retreats
16 this year, and engaging in a memorial against racism.
17

18 These plans and activities meet our goal of having at least one fellowship activity and
19 one service activity per month during the academic year. These activities allow us to reach out
20 to students who may otherwise not be a part of our ministry. In this way, we are endeavoring to
21 reach more students with the Good News of Christ our Lord. Thank you for your ongoing
22 support. - Rev. Jeri Wilkerson, Director
23

24 **A Grain of Mustard Seed UMF Campus Ministry** 25 **at The University of Las Vegas Nevada** 26

27 Our campus ministries have many young adults who find a vision for God because we
28 spend a lot of time sharing the Bible and praying for each other. Through campus ministry, we
29 teach students that God is alive and God is always near them. We also spend a lot of time on
30 evangelism. On UNLV's campus, our student's organization goes to the spring and fall
31 semester orientations in addition to the involvement fair for student organizations. At that time,
32 organizations give students information and academic counseling for UNLV and CSN.
33 Through evangelism, we talk about God and share about God's Work every week meeting in
34 UNLV's student union building on Fridays at 6 p.m. Before they interacted with us, most
35 students didn't believe in God, but after worship, they are curious about God and ask many
36 questions. Pastor Daniel is always able to answer those questions. Secondly, once or twice per
37 week our student organization participates in activities such as bowling, hiking, etc. Finally,
38 our young adults are involved in social ministry every Thursday. Through social ministry,
39 students begin to realize God's meaning. After that, they are changing their life styles from
40 being self-centered to being truly altruistic. When they do this, students realize what they have
41 from God and they are inspired to help the homeless and other people. Our campus ministry
42 has a vision and passion for God. In the future, we know that many new students will continue
43 to enter into a relationship with God and then they will do God's work.
44

45 **The Wesley Foundation - Tucson** 46 **2013-2014 Ministry Report** 47

48 The Wesley Foundation -Tucson continues its strong tradition of campus ministry with
49 many great experiences to share. To begin our student leadership team has done a remarkable

1 job in leading Wesley during a time of transition with the Wesley Director position. Their
2 stepping up to insure planning and execution of events allowed many other students to grow
3 and flourish in both relationships with one another as well as diving deeper into their own faith.
4

5 Some of the events of this past year include San Diego Retreat, Flagstaff Retreat,
6 Wesley Worship on Wednesday nights, hiking get-a-ways, scavenger hunts, and a trip to
7 Wilcox to enjoy the pumpkin patch. Wesley has also been able to experience some wonderful
8 missional opportunities: we have prepared and served food in homeless kitchens, carried out
9 both a Halloween party and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of TMM, we have done
10 Habitat for Humanity builds this year as well as an amazing trip to Alabama last May to help
11 rebuild homes after tornadoes ripped through a community. This year Wesley will be traveling
12 to Portland, Oregon to work within impoverished communities.
13

14 Wesley-Tucson also continues to reach lives through our various events, worship
15 services, and life groups. We have several students who are looking into full-time ministry, one
16 who has a desire to be a missionary for the UMC. We have also been blessed to have students
17 take communion for the first time at a Wesley Service. We have seen several students who
18 have never been to church of any kind worship with us on Wednesday nights. God is certainly
19 working with Wesley-Tucson by allowing us to have so many opportunities to transform lives
20 and share the message of Jesus Christ!
21

22 **NAU Campus Ministry Report**

23

24 United Christian Ministry at NAU (UCM) enjoyed a year of deepening and growth. We
25 kicked off the year inviting students to explore the “wildlife” of Northern Arizona with several
26 hikes and outings. One of our favorite Welcome Week events is Elk Watching on Labor Day
27 weekend, when we are able to see, with the help of AZ Game and Fish, 500 plus elk grazing at
28 Lake Mary. We also hosted the campus “foodies” and gardeners for a harvest dinner,
29 celebrating the end of our gardening season with dishes made from our shared community
30 gardens. Gathering weekly for a home-cooked and healthy meal that also utilizes vegetables
31 from our garden, and simple organic foods—we try to bring food justice to the table as one of
32 our expressions of caring for God’s people and creation. Highlights this year included our
33 weekend trip to Yarnell to help with their rebuilding efforts and community garden. This was
34 such an inspiring trip with so many points of connection between our communities and stories
35 of hope and renewal; we plan to make it an annual fall and spring trip. We are a community
36 mindful of reaching out to the world with love and sharing the Good News of God’s grace.
37 During Lent, our worship team connected with Marcia McFee to brain storm ideas for a Lenten
38 series: “Get Unbusy and Reconnect with an Unhurried God.” We invited students to not simply
39 give something up, but to “let go” during Lent—let go of things that separate them from God.
40 Finally, we began making sandwiches for the Flagstaff Food Kitchen every other week. Each
41 month we make about 300 sandwiches for Flagstaff Food Kitchen.
42

43 UCM continues to be involved in peace and justice work. Rev. Kathleen Day, our
44 campus minister, represents campus ministry in many community peace-wide events. Following
45 up on a student-led initiative to explore issues of peace in the Middle East, Rev. Day spent two
46 weeks with the Interfaith Peacebuilders in Israel and Palestine in January, and continues to host
47 community dinner discussions at the Campus Ministry Center on issues of peace and justice.
48 Plans are underway for a campus ministry trip to the Holy Land in May 2015. This year,
49 UCM’s campus minister is also the chair of the Flagstaff Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. Campus

- 1 Ministry fills a spiritual hunger among college age adults and is active in the wider community.
- 2 In our DSC campus ministries, young adults are fed by God's grace and then equipped to go
- 3 out and serve and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP REPORT

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The Nominations and Leadership Report will be posted on the “app” sometime during the Annual Conference Session.

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY REPORT

Jim Nibbelink, Conference Lay Leader

Our Board of Lay Ministry is responsible for advocating for the ministry of the laity throughout the DSC and in the communities in which we work. The Board provides support and direction for laity in ministry on the congregational, District and Conference levels.

During 2013, our District Lay Leader Team has been Laurie Lineberry in the Central West District, Marjie Hrabe in the South District, and Jerry McGuire in the North District. During the year, Paul Browning came on board following Ron Walker in the Central East District. Our District Lay Leaders serve as partners in ministry with our District Superintendents. These leaders are working hard to be in regular contact with the Lay Leaders in our congregations, keeping everyone informed about opportunities for training and ministry and inviting feedback about District and Conference activities. The Board of Lay Ministry has continued to recommend that each congregation follow a schedule of praying for other congregations in their District. Improved communications will continue to be a priority in the coming year.

We have a new name! For years, we've been known as the Board of Laity, a title that frankly, is somewhat boring and doesn't say much about what our task really is. Now, we are the Board of Lay Ministry, declaring to everyone that we are in the business of empowering lay people to take an active role in the ministry of the church.

As noted in The UMC's Call to Action, every congregation is encouraged to have a formal process for leadership training and deployment. Such a process is key in the life of vital congregations. Last year, we provided an outline of what such a process could look like, with a variety of possible "menu" selections that congregations might use in developing their own plans. We are recommending that any congregation interested in beginning or enhancing their leadership preparation process take a look at our listing of best practices that have been proven in congregations of various sizes and selecting one or two programs to explore. Access to the BOLM Leadership Development listing is through the Desert Southwest Conference web site.

The Board is in the process of planning a visit to each District by Bishop Hoshibata and Jim Nibbelink which will be hosted by each District Lay Leader. We will be meeting with all congregational Lay Leaders and their pastors to discuss how we can help them as they partner to serve their congregations and move towards enhancing their ministries. Our goal is helping leaders to improve congregational vitality. The Board of Lay Ministry is ready to be a resource to everyone who is working on leadership development, developing a comprehensive purpose for their congregation or living into the Conference Strategic Direction.

The Board of Lay Ministry continues to live into its mission, as we increase our support for lay leadership in every venue of the DSC and offer leaders across the Conference whatever assistance they may require to help their congregations become more vital.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES REPORT

William Price, Conference Director

The purpose of Lay Servant Ministries is to encourage and empower lay people to seek opportunities for service in active ministries in support of their local congregations and beyond. LSM directly contributes to the achievement of the Strategic Direction of the Desert Southwest Conference and local churches.

In order to achieve our purpose, we recruit and train current and emerging leaders among the laity, foster partnerships between lay and clergy leaders, network among and between Districts to provide quality training, and serve as a resource for Conference and District lay and clergy leaders to promote understanding and effective utilization of the Ministries of Lay Servants.

There are two ways to be in ministry as a Lay Servant: (1) Local church lay servants, who serve in and through their local congregations, and (2) Certified lay servants, who serve in their own congregations, in other churches, through District and Conference projects and programs and in the community beyond the church.

In addition, there is now a specialized designation as Lay Speaker. Lay Speakers will have specific training in accordance and compliance with *The Book of Discipline*. The Lay Speaker must complete a course of study to include: Discovering Spiritual Gifts, Leading Worship, Leading Prayer, Preaching, United Methodist Heritage and Polity, and/or other courses as may be determined by the Annual Conference.

This year will welcome two new Districts Directors: Carol Armstrong of the Central West district, and David Chevalier of the North District. The Central East Directors are Susan and John Bowers, and the South Directors are Kelly Deyoe and Gretchen Lofgren. I am grateful and appreciative for their willingness to serve in this important ministry of the United Methodist Church.

We have trained hundreds of Lay Servants within our Conference and will continue to offer classes in both the basic and advanced levels to ensure that our Conference has well equipped Lay Servants serving as effective leaders and faithful disciples within their churches and the Desert Southwest Annual Conference.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, Chair

The Board of Ordained Ministry is tasked with matters of Conference relations and clergy membership. This year the board, at the direction of the clergy session, has sponsored boundary training events throughout the Annual Conference. These trainings were mandatory and covered issues of sexual ethics, mandatory reporting, and appropriate social media behaviors.

We sponsored the annual “gathering of the orders” at Picture Rocks retreat center North of Tucson. Our speaker this year was our own Bishop Bob. Members of the orders and fellowship were drawn closer together by guided dialogue. There was also ample free time for recreation.

We were also pleased to offer a new orientation to ministry event prior to the session of Annual Conference. Attendance at the orientation to ministry event is required of all candidates regardless of track or order.

This year the board has recommended two candidates for provisional membership and two candidates for ordination. We also recommended eleven clergy members enter into retired relationship. Found in this previous statement is one of the biggest issues before us as a Conference. If this year is any indication, and I believe it is, we will continue to have more appointments than pastors available to fill them into the near future.

The Board of Ordained Ministry wishes to enlist the help of every local church in recruiting new clergy. We call on each pastor and Staff Parish Relations Committee to familiarize themselves with their roles in the candidacy process, to scour the congregation for potential candidates, and encourage such candidates along the road that is our ordination process. For further information on our process please visit us on the web at www.dswboom.org.

The board continues to be a thrilling and challenging experience during which our members give much of their time. Our decisions are often difficult and sometimes life altering for all involved. After nine years of service I continue to be impressed with the devotion of our membership and their willingness to wrestle with tough issues. I have also learned over that time that no vote is a foregone conclusion.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Mary Elizabeth Moore
Dean, Boston University School of Theology

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! Thank you for your prayers and support for United Methodist theological education. This has been a bountiful year for Boston University School of Theology, beginning with the arrival of a passionate community of students from 35 states and 16 countries. The year has had many highlights.

BREAKING NEWS:

- **Doctor of Ministry:** The School has unfolded a new Doctor of Ministry program designed to enrich church leaders in traditional and non-traditional settings and to deepen their theological understanding and commitment to the practice of ministry. The DMin focuses on transformational leadership. It includes four intensive seminars on campus in August and January, a series of online courses, and opportunities for students to work closely with faculty as they research their own unique questions and visions.
- **Community Center:** The School's renovated Community Center has become a favorite gathering space – sustainable, hospitable, and accessible. It is the welcoming home for weekly community lunches, study, conversation, play, seminars, retreats, and parties.
- **Religion and Conflict Transformation (RCT) Clinic:** The RCT Clinic sponsors projects to address conflict in congregations, interfaith peacebuilding, restorative justice, and mediation.
- **Expanded Scholarship Options:** The School has expanded its scholarship options to include full tuition scholarships for UMC certified candidates for ordained ministry, African American Thurman scholars, Latino/a Raices scholars, and School of the Prophets scholars.

DEEPENING SPIRITUAL LIFE: The community enhances spiritual growth in many ways.

- **Building intentional living communities:** The School sponsors and helps support Theology House, Green House, and Beane House of Study, where students live with intentional and communal practices.
- **Enhancing spiritual life** through weekly worship, reading retreats, winter retreat, daily morning prayer, and small groups.
- **Offering spiritual journeys,** including the Vocations Vacation to ministry and service sites and the Seminary Singers tour to local churches.

ENGAGING THE WORLD: BU School of Theology students and faculty have traveled and served extensively in the world during the past year:

- **Giving** hundreds of volunteer hours across the Boston region, U.S. and world in church camps, homeless shelters, peace organizations, global United Methodist programs, and other settings.
- **Traveling** in study groups to Turkey (Ephesus), Israel & Palestine, Cuba, rural and urban ministry sites, and churches and service organizations across the US
- **Sponsoring** Conferences on global Christianity and the Dictionary of African Christian Biography
- **Serving** in local churches and community agencies in contextual education placements,

1 courses, and special internships.

2

3 **PONDERING CRITICAL ISSUES:** The School’s annual theme was “Free at Last,” to honor
4 Martin Luther King, Jr. and his immortal “I Have a Dream” speech. The community engaged in
5 urgent questions regarding race, sexual orientation and gender identity, and poverty, creating
6 open and respectful spaces to discuss themes that are important to and controversial in, the
7 church and larger society.

8

9 The ministry of the Boston University School of Theology is to partner with you in
10 serving the church and in caring for the larger human family and God’s precious creation.

11

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

Candler School of Theology prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the real world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. As one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Candler offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. 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.

Candler celebrates its Centennial in 2014, marking our 100th anniversary with commemorative events that reflect on our past and a conference on theology and the church that envisions the future. The yearlong celebration begins in August with the opening of the second phase of Candler's new 128,600-square-foot, LEED-certified building, seven years in the making.

Not only is Candler expanding its physical space this year—it is expanding degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler is introducing five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Religious Leadership, the Master of Religion and Public Life, and two dual degrees pairing divinity and social work and divinity and development practice. With these newest additions to our degree programs, Candler graduates truly will be ready to lead wherever God calls.

Candler's student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 441, with 340 seeking the Master of Divinity, 47 the Master of Theological Studies, 21 the Master of Theology, 15 the Doctor of Theology and 18 enrolled as Non-Degree students. The student population is 32 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 49 percent women, and the median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 39 denominations, with half identifying as United Methodist.

We continue to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context, and now offer 14 academic exchanges with theology schools in 12 countries across five continents. In addition, Candler has an ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, and participates each year in travel seminars to the Middle East and in World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars, traveling in 2014 to Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Brazil.

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*

1 *leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers.
2 Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our
3 denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at <http://candler.emory.edu> to see
4 firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a *real* difference in the real world.

CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

There have been exciting changes and developments at Claremont School of Theology (CST) over the past year and we are pleased to bring these updates to our Annual Conferences.

In July of 2013, CST welcomed the Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan as our seventh president. His inauguration took place in October with over 300 guests from around the world participating. Dr. Kuan comes to us after more than two years as Dean at Drew Theological School and more than nineteen years on the faculty of the Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union. His areas of scholarship include Hebrew Bible as well as Asian and Asian-American hermeneutics. “Dr. Kuan is a distinguished educator, scholar, and minister who is deeply committed to the vibrant future of theological education,” said the Rev. Dr. David Richardson, Chair of CST’s Board of Trustees. “His arrival at [CST] is well-timed for the continued development of this school and the vitality of the church in an increasingly globalized age.”

Another highlight of the past year was the appointment by the board and faculty of the Rev. Dr. Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook, Ed.D, Ph.D, as CST’s Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the. Kujawa-Holbrook is a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, an historian of religion, and practical theologian. She concurrently serves as Professor of Practical Theology and Religious Education at CST.

CST is pleased to inform the Annual Conferences of the launch of two online/hybrid degrees—the Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Ministry, Leadership and Service. Our world-class faculty has designed curricula to support these degrees that blend online teaching with intensive in-person meetings. These programs offer opportunity for distance learning students who are unable to relocate a unique opportunity to receive a high quality theological education – one that will allow them to participate in an interreligious community and experience a process of deep spiritual and vocational formation that opens the door to a wide range of potential ministries. The first cohort of students in these programs will enroll this September. Thus far the interest in this new degree program has been high. To learn more about these programs please visit our website, cst.edu.

Interreligious education remains a fundamental value to which CST is completely committed. That value is being lived out through the deepening of relationships with our Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist and Dharmic partners throughout Southern California. Our students live, learn and relax side-by-side with students of all religious backgrounds, all while deepening their understanding and appreciation for the Christian traditions from which they come. It is our firm belief that today’s increasingly pluralistic religious environment demands that we prepare Christian leaders who are capable of speaking across faith traditions from a position of deep-rootedness within their own.

In pursuit of this mission CST is profoundly grateful for the continuing support of the United Methodist community around the world. Without the generosity of United Methodist donors, alumni/ae, general boards, and local churches it would not be possible to provide our students with such a high level of theological education. Thank you for helping us to train the next generation of Christian leaders.

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Lallene J. Rector, President

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary continues its commitment to develop and nurture skilled, bold and articulate leaders for the church, the academy and the world. Since our founding 161 years ago, we have articulated and lived our core purpose: to know God in Christ and, through preparing spiritual leaders, help others know God in Christ.

Last fall, we welcomed 171 new students, bringing the fall Master of Divinity enrollment to 399. The gender/ethnic profile is: 51% female; 55% white; 20% Black; 5% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino/a. Fourteen percent of the student body is international. Thirty-five denominations, four continents, thirteen countries and thirty-three states are represented in the student body.

Seventy-percent of the students in all degree programs are United Methodist. Currently, 5 students from the Detroit Annual Conference are enrolled in the various degree programs at the seminary.

Garrett-Evangelical is committed to making seminary education affordable, and easing the financial stress on students. This academic year, the seminary awarded over 2.5 million dollars in financial aid, offered numerous federal work-study positions, and assisted with paid internship opportunities in diverse settings through field education.

In fall 2014, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary begins a guaranteed tuition rate initiative for master's level students. Students are guaranteed the same tuition rate for two or three years, depending on the program in which they enroll. Tuition rates for new Master of Divinity students will be guaranteed through the Summer 2017 Term. Tuition rates for new Master of Arts or Master of Theological Studies students will be guaranteed through Summer 2016 Term. This initiative is yet another step in insuring students enter the world of ministry with as little student debt as possible.

Last September, the seminary celebrated the establishment of the fully-endowed Rueben P. Job Chair of Spiritual Formation. At the same time, we installed Dr. Frederick W. Schmidt as the Rueben P. Job Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation. Garrett-Evangelical is the first among Protestant seminaries in the United States to have a fully funded chair in spiritual formation.

Two revered faculty retired this past year. Larry Murphy, professor of the history of Christianity, retired after 39 years of service. He was a key individual in developing the seminary's Center for the Church and the Black Experience.

Ruth Duck, professor of Christian worship, retired in December. A world-renowned hymnist, her most recent book, *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21st Century* was published in October 2013.

Several initiatives to support clergy and lay education are under way. During the spring

1 semester, fifteen academic classes were offered in an online format, some with a continuing
2 education option. Among the options are:

- 3 • Plus, a first-of-its-kind cooperative executive education program of Garrett-Evangelical
4 and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, involving two-years of
5 seminars led by experts in non-profit and church leadership for professionals in
6 ministry;
- 7 • Intersection, an online continuing education opportunity, incorporating readings, online
8 presentations by seminary faculty, and reflection on contemporary issues of life and
9 ministry. Topics range from theology, biblical interpretation, and church history to
10 ethics and the church in society. Continuing education credit is available. Additional
11 information is available at <http://www.garrett.edu/intersection>.
- 12 • A Doctor of Ministry program offering five tracks of study: Congregational Leadership;
13 African American Congregational Leadership; Spiritual Direction; and Mission in the
14 Contemporary United States; and the Association of Chicago Theological School's
15 (ACTS) D.Min. program in preaching.

16
17 In the coming months, Garrett-Evangelical will roll out new programs online, in
18 Evanston, in congregational settings, and on the campuses of select United Methodist-related
19 colleges.

20 Garrett-Evangelical serves over 550 students in degree-related courses, certificate
21 programs and the summer Course of Study School.

22
23 We encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus. We
24 are grateful to serve The United Methodist Church and the church at large.

25
26 On January 1, 2014, I became president of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. I
27 am grateful for the opportunity to serve the seminary and the church in this capacity. Garrett-
28 Evangelical is blessed with a great heritage and a strong future. Please let us know if there are
29 ways we can work with you as we continue to seek to be a seminary for the church and the
30 world. Thank you for your prayers and support.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

William B. Lawrence
Dean and Professor of American Church History

Perkins School of Theology is thankful for our historic connections with the Desert Southwest Conference and for the faithful service of Perkins alumni/ae that have served and continued to serve with you through the years.

Perkins celebrated a record spring 2014 enrollment of 24 new students, in addition to 81 new students who enrolled in fall 2013. Among all Perkins students, approximately two-thirds are United Methodist and more than one-third are ethnic minority students. Our gender balance between male and female students in Master's degree programs remains almost exactly 50%. The Doctor of Ministry program continues to grow with students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program includes two Latino Ph.D. students supported through a grant from the Luce Foundation to Perkins' Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions.

Rev. Jeannie Treviño-Teddle was honored for faithful service as director of the Mexican American Program and UM Regional Course of Study School from 2002 until her retirement in 2013. Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo, currently professor of Religion at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, has been named new director of the Mexican American and Hispanic-Latino/a Church Ministries Program, effective June 1, 2014. Dr. Wingeier-Rayo also will be nominated to serve as director of the regional Course of Study School, and will hold the title "Professor of Christian Mission and Intercultural Studies."

Perkins was excited to welcome two new faculty members in fall 2013: Tamara Lewis (Ph.D., Vanderbilt, 2014), instructor, History of Christianity; and Natalia Marandiuc (Ph.D., Yale, 2013), assistant professor of Christian Theology.

Perkins recently received two significant grants from the Lilly Endowment. A \$500,000 grant will support our newly established Center for Preaching Excellence, with Alyce McKenzie, Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship, serving as director. A second grant of \$249,981 will support research to study the indebtedness of theological students and help improve the economic well-being of future ministers.

Perkins is blessed with gifted faculty and staff members, inspiring students, beautiful facilities, and vibrant ministries. We thank our many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for continuing generous support, including referrals of prospective students.

Perkins asks for your prayers and support as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Oklahoma City University
2501 North Blackwelder
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Saint Paul School of Theology
www.spst.edu

Kansas City Campus
5123 East Truman Road
Kansas City, MO 64127

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of The United Methodist Church that educates leaders to make disciples for Jesus Christ, renew the Church, and transform the world. We are one institution with two campuses, in Oklahoma City and the Greater Kansas City area.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, 201 students from 23 Annual Conferences and 4 countries were enrolled in degree programs at Saint Paul School of Theology on both campuses. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 216 students the Overland Park, Kansas, Springfield, Missouri, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma locations.

Twenty master's degree students and twenty-three doctoral students graduated from the Kansas City campus in May 2013. Six master of divinity students graduated at the 3rd Commencement Convocation in Oklahoma in August 2013. Laity from the Seminary Lite program in Oklahoma also received certificates.

Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University (OCU) began its 6th year in September. Dr. Amy Oden came to the Oklahoma City campus as Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality. The Association of Theological Schools authorized the campus to offer all courses leading to the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Master of Arts (Theological Studies), and Doctor of Ministry Degrees. They also lifted the residency requirement to complete one-third of the courses on the Kansas City campus. This is a major step in the development of Saint Paul at OCU. The success of Saint Paul in Oklahoma City has been a collaborative effort, strengthened by the support of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church and United Methodist-related Oklahoma City University.

The seminary sold its Truman Road campus in Kansas City, Missouri to Guadalupe Centers, Inc. Guadalupe Centers, Inc. is the longest continuously operating organization serving Latinos in the United States. They provide early childhood, secondary, preparatory and adult educational programs; facilitate access to health and social services for all ages; promote and provide Latino cultural enrichment events; and sponsor social activities for diverse communities.

Students and faculty began classes on the Greater Kansas City (GKC) campus located in the East Wing of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas, in September. Classes continue to be video-linked with the Oklahoma City campus. The seminary's staff and faculty offices are located under a mile away from the classroom location.

Saint Paul will launch three new masters' curricula in the fall of 2014. For the M.Div. students, the new curriculum marks a return to a more praxis-based, integrated curriculum. The curriculum is grounded in spiritual formation with numerous practicums and faculty-led small groups to integrate seminary studies with vocational formation. Students will reflect upon their work during two intentional assessments mid-way through the degree and near the end of their studies.

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The degree programs will require fewer hours which will mean less debt for Saint Paul graduates. The M.Div. will require 79 credit hours for the degree rather than the 90 credit hours now required. The Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry and Masters of Arts (Theological Studies) will also be completed in fewer hours--54 credit hours for the MACM vs. 60 now and 49 for the MA(TS) vs. 60 now.

The trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Paul thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

R. Gerald Turner, President
Southern Methodist University

SMU is commemorating a major milestone as the University celebrates the centennial of its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and its opening in 1915.

SMU's total fall 2013 enrollment was 10,929, including 6,357 undergraduates and 4,572 graduate students. Enrollment continues to increase in ethnic, socio-economic and geographic diversity. Ethnic minority students made up 25 percent of total enrollment in fall 2013. A record international enrollment of 1,445 students represented 97 foreign countries, with the largest numbers coming from China, India, and Saudi Arabia.

SMU consistently ranks in the top one-fourth of "best national universities" in *U.S. News & World Report*. In 2014, SMU ranks 60th among 281 national universities.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies SMU as a "high research activity" university. During 2012-13, SMU received \$19.9 million in external funding for research and sponsored projects worldwide. Current research subjects include natural hazards, water quality, cyber security and treatments for cancer and diabetes.

Because of the early success of SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign, the campaign goal was raised from \$750 million to \$1 billion. To date, SMU has received more than \$844 million in gifts and pledges for scholarships, academic programs, endowed faculty positions and campus improvements and facilities.

Campaign gifts are helping to fund renovations of existing facilities and new construction. Moody Coliseum reopened in December 2013 after extensive renovation and expansion.

SMU's new Residential Commons complex, to open in fall 2014, consists of five new residence halls and a dining facility. The complex will enable SMU to implement a residency requirement for sophomores along with first-year students. The new halls will include classrooms and accommodations for live-in faculty. Six other SMU residence halls are being modified as Residential Commons.

The year 2013 was designated the Year of the Library, marking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of SMU's library collections, which recently passed the four-million-volume mark. Major renovations are planned for Fondren Library Center and Bridwell Library of Perkins School of Theology.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center, consisting of Library, Museum and independent Institute, was dedicated at SMU in April 2013, with all five living U.S. presidents participating. Under sponsorship of the Bush Institute, symposia have been conducted on subjects that promote economic growth, education reform,

1 global health and human freedom. Dr. Eric Bing, a renowned expert on global health issues,
2 is the first to hold concurrent appointments as a new SMU faculty member and
3 senior fellow of the Bush Institute.

4

5 SMU treasures its Methodist heritage, and we ask for your continued prayers and
6 support.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wendy J. Deichmann, President

Is God calling you or someone you know to the ministry of Jesus Christ? If so, we invite you to explore how United can assist you in fulfilling God's purposes for your life and how you can help others in this journey. Come and check us out in person or online at www.united.edu!

United is one of the fastest growing, accredited seminaries in North America. Why are Christian disciples and leaders signing up for our traditional and online programs? They are doing so because United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. What could be more important or exciting?

In addition to expanding our service in the Midwestern US, United will continue to enhance its use of technology to deliver theological education in underserved regions in North America and beyond. United's hybrid/online UMC FLEX Master of Divinity degree was designed specifically to meet the requirements of the UMC for ordination and it is accessible anywhere with good Internet service. Our hybrid/online UM Course of Study is expanding each semester, along with UM Certification offerings.

What's new at United? Three new professors joined our excellent team of faculty in 2012 and a search is underway for yet another. United and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries have developed a new partnership, and we have piloted a new certification program focused upon ministries with persons with disabilities. Each year, United's doctoral program adds new mentors and focus groups for advanced ministry study.

Please let us know if you have questions about how we can best assist you or, if you would like to help make it possible for an American or international student to study at United.

Enrollment at United continues to grow, and we invite you to call or visit soon! For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu. Thank you for your prayers, partnership, service and support in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

www.united.edu

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

David McAllister-Wilson, President

The past year has brought many blessings, change and growth to Wesley Theological Seminary. We continue to focus our work on preparing our students for leading churches that go out into the world and moving people to live the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Here are a few of the newest developments at Wesley:

- The Rev. Dr. **Robert K. Martin** joined the seminary as Dean and Professor of Christian Formation and Leadership.
- The Rev. Dr. **F. Douglas Powe** joined Wesley as the James C. Logan Professor of Evangelism and Urban Ministry. He directs the Urban Ministry program and Course of Study. Paul Kang-Kul Cho is serving as assistant professor of Hebrew Bible. The Rev. Dr. Doug Tzan is now teaching Church History part-time and is mentor to United Methodist students.
- **Mike McCurry** (former press secretary in the Clinton presidency) has been named Distinguished Professor of Public Theology and co-director of the National Capital Semester for Seminarians. The Rev. Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, senior minister of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Largo, Maryland, will serve as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Homiletics. With support from Lilly Endowment Inc., the Rev. Dr. James P. Wind (former president of the Alban Institute) has joined the faculty as Visiting Distinguished Professor. He joins our faculty for three years to lead a research project studying large congregations and the leadership they and their pastors wield in church and society.
- Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded Wesley a grant to research and develop a program to strengthen United Methodist elders' and future elders' financial literacy and financial-management skills.
- The Lewis Center for Church Leadership celebrated ten years of offering resources to help congregations reach more people and fund their ministry. See www.ChurchLeadership.com.
- Our Heal the Sick Initiative has graduated its inaugural classes for the Health Minister certificate and the Faith Community Nurse Certificate. The initiative is a unique program at Wesley to help congregations become involved in public health initiatives in their parish, part of our Center for the Missional Church.
- Lewis Center director the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems and Wesley Board of Governors Chairman the Rev. Tom Berlin released the book *Overflow: Increase Worship Attendance & Bear More Fruit*.
- Completed construction of a new, LEED-certified residence hall.
- Now offers course auditing for \$100 per credit hour and CEUs for \$100 per unit.
- Five pastors from Beijing, China, joined us for the spring semester in a special program of study through the work of the Rev. Dr. Kyunglim Shin Lee, Vice President of International Relations.
- Wesley was named to Faith3.org's list, Seminaries that Change the World. This list was announced in the Huffington Post on November 12, 2013. One of the several reasons for the attribute was Wesley's Center for the Missional Church, which is headquartered at Wesley Downtown, in the heart of Washington, D.C.

1 Please be in prayer for Wesley Theological Seminary. We cannot do our ministry alone,
2 and your participation with us in the greater mission of God enhances us mightily. We are
3 striving to provide you with the kinds of educational opportunities that will take your ministry
4 to the next level. In turn, we depend upon your participation in and contribution to our ministry
5 as well. So, pray for us often, avail yourself of the school's offerings, give to Wesley, and
6 identify and send us persons who are called and who have a high capacity for fruitful ministry.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Africa University is grateful to the local congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference for their contributions to a wonderful investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2013!

The Desert Southwest Conference was one of 25 Annual Conferences to invest in the AUF at 100% or higher in 2013. Your investment helped overall giving to the AUF to reach 91.7% last year, the highest level of any of the general church funds.

Thank you, Desert Southwest, for your very passionate commitment to this shared, transformative ministry. Africa University owes its growing impact and vitality to local congregations such as yours.

2013 Highlights:

- **Enrollment:** Sustained by the steadfast investment of Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church, Africa University's enrollment grew to 1,480 full-time students from 25 African countries in 2013. Female students now account for 53% of that total enrollment.
- **Scholarships:** Second mile giving by individuals and churches enabled Africa University to distribute more than \$1.8 million in scholarships and financial aid to its students. Africa University also launched the Girl Child Scholarship Fund in order to help more African women to gain access to higher education.
- **Resources:** Through new initiatives that include a "\$50 million Campaign for Endowment" and outreach to increase financial contributions from its alumni and others in Africa, the institution is working towards greater sustainability.
- **Graduates:** 450 students were awarded degree certificates in June 2013, growing the number of Africa University graduates currently at work in communities to around 5,000. Every day, these graduates manifest the promise and power of the Gospel to bring light and hope to a troubled world.
- **Discipleship:** In August, three 2013 graduates were commissioned as young adult missionaries by the General Board of Global Ministries, pushing the total number of Africa University alumni serving internationally as mission interns to seven in just two years.

"The church has a tremendous role to play in the transformation of the world," said Jacques Kazemb, an AU graduate and mission intern who worked in outreach to at-risk children and youth in Brazil. "Through a project like the Shade and Fresh Water in Brazil, the Methodist Church is contributing to a positive change in many children's lives."

Kazemb has returned to his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a plan to start a similar initiative for marginalized children and youth.

1 In Mozambique, where recent political violence has destroyed homes, displaced
2 thousands and claimed many lives, two Africa University graduates are in the forefront of
3 caring for the victims and healing the rifts behind the conflict. Rev. Joao Sambo coordinates
4 humanitarian relief in the Mozambique Conference and Rev. Anastacio Chembeze is mediating
5 talks between the parties to the conflict to help them to resolve their differences peacefully.
6

7 The Africa University community—the students, faculty, staff and trustees—thanks you
8 and celebrates your ongoing investment in changing lives for the better. This work of making
9 disciples of Jesus Christ—change agents—for the realization of more hope-filled, just, healthy,
10 and peaceful African nations cannot exist without the generosity and prayers of the members of
11 the Desert Southwest Conference. We pray that you will:

- 12 • **Continue to invest in the AUF at 100% of the asking or higher.**
- 13 • **Encourage your local church to become an annual scholarship donor.**
- 14 • **Consider leading an effort to have your district invest in an endowed scholarship**
15 **which can support one student a year in perpetuity.**
- 16 • **Take advantage of our new Dream Insurance program**, which allows individuals to
17 donate all or a portion of the proceeds of an affordable Term Life Insurance plan to
18 Africa University.
- 19 • **Remember to include Africa University in your will** when you make your estate
20 plans.
- 21 • **Pray without ceasing** for the ongoing success of this important effort to equip disciples
22 to contribute to a rich, impactful and vibrant future for their nations and for our global
23 church.

24
25 Thank you and God bless you.

26
27 **Together, we are changing Africa: Learning here. Living here. Leading here.**
28 **Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.**

29
30 Africa University Development Office
31 P O Box 340007
32 Nashville, TN 37203-0007
33 Tel: (615) 340-7438
34 Fax: (615) 340-7290
35 Email: audevoffice@gbhem.org
36 www.support-africauniversity.org

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REPORT

Alice Brown, President

Our Purpose

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

My theme for 2014 is *Who Moved My Cheese*. This is a title of a book I read many years ago written by Spencer Johnson, M.D. It's about an A-Mazing Way to Deal with Change in your Work and in Your Life. The book *Who Moved My Cheese?* is a simple parable that reveals profound truths about change. It is an amusing and enlightening story of four characters that live in a "Maze" and look for "Cheese" to nourish them and make them happy. As you read about all the changes you will understand why this is my theme. Our cheese is getting moved a lot in 2014.

United Methodist Women in the Desert Southwest Conference total more than 3,000 members. I'm proud to report we were once again recognized by United Methodist Women National for paying our Pledge to Mission over and above the amount pledged. Our Total Pledge to Mission in 2013 was \$75,079. Amount paid \$87,329 Add to that the \$18,323 that we gave in addition to our pledge in the form of Special Giving in Gift to Mission in Honor of or Gift in Memory of a loved one, Special Mission Recognition and the World Thank Offering. This brought our total Mission Giving to a grand total of \$105,652. Our women in the Desert SW Conference see the need for all our Mission Projects and they continue to step up to the plate and give their all in support of Women, Children and Youth here and abroad.

The Leadership Team, after many hours of facilitating led by Judi Nibbelink in November and Deb Williams in February, voted to reorganize as follows: In addition to the required offices of: president, secretary, treasurer and chairperson of the committee on nominations, we voted to keep our vice president of program planning. Under the vice president's leadership will be a mission outreach committee, which will consist of: spiritual growth; social action; education & interpretation, which will now be called education for mission; membership nurture & outreach, which will now be called membership care. We also decided to keep the secretary of program resources, which will be revisited in a couple of years as this position evolves, and communications coordinator.

The women of this organization have continued effective resolution towards the issues of Immigration Reform, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking in 2013. In March of this year the Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women sponsored a social action event in our four districts with Central East & West a joint event that addressed Violence against Women.

Of course, we will continue to focus on protecting our environment through recycling and using non-disposable items whenever possible. We continue to encourage our women to

1 recycle paper by printing on both sides.
2

3 Thirty-six women from The Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women
4 attended ASSEMBLY theme “Make it Happen” in Louisville, Kentucky and over 8,000 women
5 from all of the jurisdictions attended this event. Former Secretary of State and First Lady
6 Hillary Rodham Clinton was the keynote speaker. Ms. Clinton said The United Methodist
7 Church has played a pivotal role in shaping who she is. She encouraged United Methodist
8 Women to “wake up our world” during her rousing keynote address April 26 at Assembly in
9 Louisville, Ky.

10
11 Also twenty-six women from 18 Conferences were consecrated as United Methodist
12 deaconesses during the closing plenary worship of the United Methodist Women’s “Make It
13 Happen!” Assembly in Louisville, Ky., April 27.

14
15 Deaconesses and Home Missioners are women and men called by God to lay vocations
16 in a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church. Their work alleviates suffering,
17 eradicates causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth, facilitates the
18 development of full human potential, and shares in building global community through the
19 church universal.

20
21 This year our annual “Mission U” will be July 17-20 at St. Matthew United Methodist
22 Church in Mesa. We moved our event from the college to St. Matthew UMC for economic
23 reasons and to allow more people to participate. The three studies in 2014 are 1) “How is it
24 With Your Soul?” our Spiritual Growth study, 2) “The Church and People with Disabilities,”
25 our Issue study, and 3) The Roma of Europe, our Geographic mission study. This year’s theme
26 is “Learning Together for the Transformation of the World.” Our Dean of School of Missions is
27 Sharon Scobie and our Assistant Dean is Sharon Carla Whitmire.

28
29 In October as I complete my 1st year as president of this wonderful organization we
30 will celebrate our 30th anniversary and United Methodist Women National’s 145th anniversary.
31 When we meet for our Annual Celebration October 25 in Lake Havasu at St. Michaels UMC
32 we have some big things planned to celebrate these events. I will continue to assist each unit
33 and district in the Desert SW Conference to fulfill the PURPOSE of the United Methodist
34 Women. The challenges will be many, I’m sure, but as always....with the challenges our Lord
35 also gives us the chance to learn and experience new things, new people, hear new ideas and
36 watch the results just flow. Through it all, our Lord and Savior will be walking with me and
37 you and the DSC team.

38
39 To follow our exciting changes in 2014 and find out how we are putting our Faith, Hope
40 and Love in Action, how our cheese is moving and find out about our events go to the
41 Conference website and click on the ministries tab and go to United Methodist Women and
42 read our newsletter articles.

UNITED METHODIST MEN REPORT

Howard G. Guetherman, UM Men President

The United Methodist Men are blessed to have two men in key positions within our Conference who are dedicated and hard-working for Christ. Mr. Jamie Harwick, a man in the South District who has taken the position of South District President. Also, Mr. Douglas Wright has been the Conference Scouting Coordinator for some time now. Douglas is in the process of putting together three Bishop Dinners for Scouting throughout the Conference to be held later this year. Both of these men are available for consultations and just plain old advice-giving. At this time we are in desperate need of leadership in the North, Central East, and Central West Districts.

A thank you goes out to Mr. Conrad Menconi, the immediate past Conference UM Men President, who led the men for a number of years. Under his leadership we had numerous Renewal/Retreats held at the United Christian Youth Camp on Hassayampa Village Lane in Prescott, Arizona. Also a big thank-you goes out to the current Men's Executive Board who are planning the Renewal/Retreat for this year to be held October 3rd, 4th, 5th, at the same location. We will host three different speakers as well as do a hands-on service project in Prescott, AZ. The theme for the 2014 Renewal/Retreat is entitled; Created by God...Scarred by Man...Forgiven by Grace. One speaker, Brian Benally, is a Navajo Native American. He will help us understand the Native American culture. One is Oskar Knoblauch, who is a Jewish Holocaust survivor, and Professor Gershom Williams who is an African American, and will speak about America's Slave Trade.

Be sure to stop by the UM Men Display Table set up during the Annual Conference, where you will find brochures about the Renewal/Retreat as well as participate in a fun game.

There are currently twenty-three Chartered United Methodist Men's Units within the Desert Southwest Conference. Along with that there are numerous "Men's Fellowships," which are groups of men meeting together but do not belong to the National Movement of Ministry to Men. One of my goals is to help churches realize the value in connecting with the UM Men as a Chartered Congregation. Together we will find ways to address the concerns and re-connect those congregations whose charters have lapsed.

OUTREACH MINISTRY, DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Billie K. Fidlin, Director of Outreach Ministries

Outreach Ministries experienced another year of exciting opportunities for mission and justice in the Desert Southwest Conference. We experienced some leadership transition this past year, and ministry of impact continues to occur. All areas continue their ministry work on behalf of the vulnerable. The Outreach teams consist of the following groups: AIDS Task Force – chaired by Joshua Warner, Conference Task Force on Children & Poverty –chaired this year by Rev. Pam Wagner and co-chair Ginny Hildebrand, Conference Commission on Religion & Race chaired by Dr. Marion Bell as well as Rev. Bev Ritland while Dr. Bell served at Africa University for part of the year, Conference Commission on the Status & Role of Women – chaired by Rev. Katherine Tang, Conference Board of Church & Society, chaired by Glenda Hill, Health & Welfare newly chaired by Rev. Ross Parrott, Sidewalk Ministries led by Rev. Sherry Brady, Churches United in Interreligious Concerns led by chair Dr. Carolyn Redmore, and Conference Board of Global Ministries, newly chaired by Rev. Kathleen Athey. As you can see, no matter how it is phrased Outreach is blessed to have many innovative leaders at the table. The Director of Outreach also staffs Christian Education led by Paulette Burns and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries – led by Don Campbell. The Outreach area also works with Young Adult ministries.

Exciting efforts continue in Outreach with the work of our subgroups which undergird the larger Conference Board of Church & Society. Current subgroups include the Prison Reform Group (Rev. Bob Holliday), which evolved in response to a resolution from Annual Conference 2012 to address concerns in this area. We also have the additional subgroups of Environmental Concerns (Sarah King), Conference Task Force on Immigration (Rev. Sherry Brady), Welcoming & Reconciling Ministries (Rev. Stephen Govett), & Justice (Dan Sagramoso) and the newly formed Economic Concerns subgroup led by Kent Olson. Please let the Director of Outreach at bfidlin@dscumc.org know if you are interested in serving on any of these subgroups as we welcome all volunteers to these areas – and need your help!

We were delighted to have our churches participate in Outreach activities. A sampling of these include but not limited to: Family Unity Prayer Vigils, LEAD/ Relevance X, HIV/AIDS Healing services, Blessing of All Unions events, Parish Nurse & Health Ministry Conference at Camp Mingus, In Her Shoes trainings and state capitol presence on various social justice issues. All Conference clergy and laity are encouraged to know the justice issues facing our respective state legislatures, know *The Book of Discipline* and “Social Principles of the United Methodist Church,” and be a voice of faith and presence.

All in all, a year of blessings, a year of new leadership, a year of impact. If there are areas of interest to you, know we have a place for you to serve.

OUTREACH TEAM REPORT

Rev. George Cushman, Team Leader

Our Staff representative Billie Fidin has provided a wonderful overview of the many committees that are charged with bringing the good news of Christ's love to the world entrusted to us. I would highlight several new ministries that we have accomplished this year.

The first is the implementation of our Early Response (ER) Team ministry, led and organized by Rev. Robert Cutlipp, Dr. Polly Turner and the Rev. Dan Turner. ER Teams are the second line of response in a disaster area. After the first responders enter to save lives and stop the devastation, then ER Teams are sent. Their first goal is to be the presence of Christ to those whose lives have been turned upside down, providing encouragement and compassion and a renewed sense of hope. The second responsibility is to limit or stop any further damage to homes and businesses so that rebuilding structures and lives can be more quickly achieved.

There have been several trainings this year with over 200 people being certified. We have begun equipping our first Tool Trailer so when we get the call we are ready to respond immediately. This year, several groups were able to travel to Colorado to help in the clean up after the floods. It was exciting for those who went to be able to tow the trailer with the huge Cross and Flame upon it saying, "The United Methodists are here and ready to help rebuild."

The second ministry I want to share is the receiving of a \$10,000 grant from the General Board of Global Ministries to respond to the issue of AIDS in Ethiopia. This grant will be used to write a curriculum and do a "Training the Trainers" event entitled, "The Church's Compassionate Response to AIDS." The project will be under the supervision of one of our local advance specials, Hope for the Hopeless. Hope is a ministry that reaches street children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. By last count this is somewhere between 100,000-200,000 children. This training is to help stop needless deaths from AIDS and other diseases keeping parents alive and families intact, as well as overcoming stigmas that have prevented the churches from responding fully and compassionately to this crisis. The training is scheduled for next February, 2015.

There is much to celebrate as we continue to reach out to those around us in God's love. Yet, there is still much more to do. Outreach is committed to helping, empowering and working with anyone who has a dream or vision of serving the world. Please let us know how we may serve you.

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES REPORT

Kathleen Athey, Chair

The Conference Board of Global Ministries is the Desert Southwest Conference link to the work of the General Board of Global Ministries. GBGM brings news of the work of the General Board and offers opportunities to assist GBGM in its work to follow the path of Christ in reaching out to those in need. It offers support to related task forces and has been active this Conference year in the following ways.

Rev. Mel Munchinsky was named the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries. His responsibilities include, but are not limited to, interpreting the work and outreach programs of our global agency located in New York, connecting with DSC missionaries, helping with the itineration of missionaries within our Annual Conference, and providing information about *The Advance*. Additionally, Mel presented a workshop at the February Central East District Training Event.

Actions taken by the board this year are:

- Identifying DSC Advance Specials for the Conference year.
- Relating to the AIDS TASK FORCE and supporting *Strength for the Journey* camp scheduled for May 15 – 18 at Pine Canyon.
- Establishing a new Sidewalk Sunday School site at Zion UMC in Las Vegas, overseeing the Sidewalk ministry, and coordinating the Christmas gift bag collection and distribution to the children.
- Identifying logistics and actions needed to implement the Annual Conference Mission Project of collecting socks for men, women, and children.
- Board members brainstormed many possible activities for the “hands-one outreach opportunity to be incorporated into Annual Conference. They also brainstormed and suggested outreach support activities for those who are unable to leave the building.
- Representatives of the DSC attended the Western Jurisdiction Disaster Response Academy in Seattle.

The annual Roland Brammeier Award was received by two individuals in the summer of 2013. Rev. David Devine received the award for his work in collecting, repairing, and sending computers to an impoverished area in Hawaii so that young people could learn computer skills in order to make a living. Jane Peterson, member of Desert Foothills UMC, was recognized for her extensive work reaching out to those in need in the community by collecting used furniture for those establishing households, helping the hungry, and volunteering at UMOM.

Financial gifts were given to the Agua Prieta and Fuente de Vida Church community in Mexico in memory of Doris Long and in memory of Chester Parks.

The Board greatly appreciates the tireless work and passion of staff liaison Billie Fidlin.

CONFERENCE SECRETARY OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Rev. Mel Munchinsky

World Malaria Day, April 25th, received a lot of attention of the Methodist Twittiverse; only second to Easter just a few days prior to the event. Never in the history of the denomination have we accepted a challenge of \$75 million to help eradicate a disease which kills a child every 60 seconds! Progress has already been made since only a few months ago this was every 30 seconds. The Desert Southwest Annual Conference is committed to save 200,000 lives by raising \$2 million towards this effort over a three year period. Bishop Hoshibata reported that at the end of April that \$1,424,771 was committed in goals, pledges and receipts (visit <http://vimeo.com/dscumc/inm-update>) This project has wide-ranging implications for ministry as well. On June 5th nearly 400,000 life-saving insecticide-treated bed nets will be distributed in Sierra Leone April 25, 2014. Trained volunteers will be distributing nets and also educating people how to use and maintain them properly, a key factor in the whole process. Not only is the project saving lives but it's also contributing to church growth! After a similar distribution of nets in 2010, Bishop John Yambasu in Sierra Leone reported that several tribal chiefs requested help in creating United Methodist churches where none had previously existed. So far \$60 million has been donated towards the goal. You are encouraged to visit the website to learn more: <http://www.imagenomalaria.org/>.

Global Ministries over the last few years has become much more diverse and even decentralized. At present 27 different nations are represented with the average staff member having lived in three different countries. Thirty-eight languages are spoken which certainly makes it one of the most diverse agencies in the United Methodist Church. Missionaries now are "From Everywhere to Everywhere," which means that the United States is not the primary missionary sending country anymore. We work or have partnerships in about 130 countries throughout the world. Traditionally, the majority of Christians were viewed to live in North or South America and even Europe but if present projections hold up China will have the largest number of Christians in the world by 2020, more than any other nation. In 2013 it was reported that 574 new churches were started among United Methodists through the Board's Mission Initiatives (those outside the United States) in the last quadrennium, exceeding the goal of 400 churches (source: Sandra Brands, *ConnectNmission*, February 2013, issue 2) which included 192 in Vietnam and 65 in Malawi. Total church plants in Central Conferences numbered 1,917 with the largest number in East Africa (442), North Katanga, Congo (402) and the Philippines, Baguio District (388). Although Americans might often focus on dwindling numbers, the global United Methodist Church is growing with 12.5 million members at the present time!

The Advance provides for voluntary, designated, second-mile giving. Congregations, individuals or families can choose to support mission programs or mission personnel with their financial gifts. You are encouraged to gift through the website <http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects> to make donations for faster processing. Your donation (not your name, address, etc.) will be shared with the Conference Treasurer as well as your local church if you so provide such information. If gifts are made through the local church then donations are forwarded to the Conference Treasurer which can delay your gift up to two months, possibly longer depending upon when forwarded from one source to another. UMCOR ranked the highest in giving in the Desert Southwest Annual

1 Conference in 2013 with 165 giving units totaling \$52,260.75. As of April 30th, 2014, a total
2 \$33,730.83 gifts were received from 51 donors. The second largest amount for *The Advance* is
3 also connected with UMCOR, with a total of \$79,680 from 218 donors for Disaster response in
4 the United States. The third largest amount received for *The Advance* was for “Imagine No
5 Malaria” for a total of \$12,160 received from 24 donors in 2013. Please note that not all
6 “Imagine No Malaria” gifts are channeled through Global Ministries since this is an Inter-
7 agency endeavor. There were 804 gifts made in 2013 for all projects and missionary support,
8 totaling \$294,817.

9
10 As Conference Mission Secretary, I met with Becky Harrell, who worked at the
11 Seminary in Costa Rica but recently has retired. She also met with other local churches and
12 now has been assigned as the Mission Interpreter for the South Central Jurisdiction. Mission
13 Interpreters in Residence (MIIRs) are missionaries assigned to assist Annual Conferences,
14 districts, and local churches in the United States to understand and participate in global
15 mission. I also met with two missionary couples who were in covenant with many of our
16 churches and now have retired at the end of 2013. Lori and David Persons worked for forty
17 years at Mulungwishi Theological Seminary, Congo to train pastors for the expanding church.
18 They now serve as *Individual Volunteer in Mission* personnel in Congo.

19
20 <http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/982465>.

21 Muriel and Terry Henderson also retired from “Give Ye Them to Eat,” a program which
22 trains villagers to become self-sustaining through agriculture

23 <http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/07629A> .

24
25 It is my desire in the future to be able to coordinate or enable missionary itineration
26 from one local church to another in our Annual Conference. I hope to start enabling this
27 process in the fall of 2014.

28
29 The Mission Interpreter for the Western Jurisdiction, James Dwyer, who resides in
30 Claremont, CA will be retiring at the end of June. A replacement has not yet been named.

31
32 I provided Training on how to connect and use *The Advance* at the Central-East District
33 Training on February 8th, 2014 as well as in small groups or Mission Committees.

34
35 At present I’m also engaged with the *In Mission Together* program of Global Ministries
36 and specifically with our oldest mission initiative, Eurasia which began in 1991. However other
37 initiatives include Cambodia, Cameroon, Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and
38 Uzbekistan), Honduras, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mongolia, Russia, Senegal, and Southeast
39 Asia (Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam). These Mission Initiatives are unique in many ways, but
40 mostly because they are places where The United Methodist Church is new to the population.
41 Local churches can be a part of this movement by supporting and learning from these vibrant
42 congregations through a *church-to-church partnership* with the *In Mission Together* program.
43 As a partnership coordinator, part of my task is to bring congregations together in a partnership
44 covenant which fosters mutuality and respect for one other. Local congregations and
45 individuals can be transformed and energized by this faith-building experience!

46
47 <http://www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Europe-and-Eurasia/europe-and-eurasia>

SIDEWALK SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Rev. Sherry Brady, Chair

Sidewalk Ministries remained an exciting outreach for our Conference this past year. Under the leadership of Chair Rev. Sherry Brady, site directors had the opportunity to share about their respective ministries. The Christmas bag program was a tremendous success again this year, thanks to the generosity of our churches. Beverly Secrist led this effort, providing churches with a Power-Point explaining all about our Christmas promotion, such a blessing to almost 1,000 children this past year. Sidewalk sites continued to benefit from the Christopher R. Beal Memorial Fund. This fund was created to help Sidewalk families in need, and did so aiding in payments for rent and utilities. Donations are always welcomed in this area, as well as for camping scholarships for Sidewalk kids.

We are grateful to the Desert Southwest Conference for its generosity and continued enthusiasm for Sidewalk Ministries.

U. M. VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION REPORT

Co-Chairs – Chris Spencer and Bill Sanford

Christian Love In Action.-that’s what service is all about. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is a long standing grassroots movement within the UMC that provides an official channel whereby Christians, both lay and clergy, may offer their skills and talents for Christian service at home and abroad on short term assignments at their own expense.

UMVIM opportunities include construction and renewing mission facilities, teaching, witnessing, conducting medical clinics, leading Bible study activities for children, and serving in disaster relief efforts around the world. Following are just a few examples of the many UMVIM activities within our Conference during the past year.

In June 2013, Red Mountain UMC (Mesa) dispatched a youth group of active missionaries to Belmar, New Jersey to render much needed construction support to the damages created when Super Storm Sandy went marching through the east coast. In August, Jim Nibbelink and Chris Spencer traveled to Belmar to meet with the Greater New Jersey Conference and congregational leaders and view the progress being made with the \$70,000 sent for their recovery efforts from Desert Southwest Conference’s partnership with Belmar.

In July 2013, Rev. Mel Munchinsky and Cross in the Desert UMC team established and operated spoken English (language) Camps in Litomerice, Czechoslovakia. In October 2013, Payson UMC sent a construction team to San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico to provide some essential support to on-going ministries and experience cultural opportunities in this border community.

In March 2014, two UMVIM teams from Paradise Valley UMC traveled to Central America to do God’s work. A construction team traveled to Costa Rica to continue construction of dormitory space at the Universidad Biblica Latino Americana (UBL), and a medical team traveled to Guatemala to provide clinic services in remote areas near Quetzatenango.

On March 1, 2014 your Conference UMVIM coordinators led a one-day team leadership event to prepare Conference members to lead UMVIM teams into the world. The recently completed manual written by the General Board of Global Ministries “A Mission Journey – A Handbook for Volunteers” was used in the training and copies were provided to attendees.

And lastly, Flagstaff-based FaithWorks has continued to be one of the most active VIM components within the DSC. FaithWorks provides significant opportunities for education, information, and practical mission experiences locally, nationally, and internationally. Since its inception in June 2000, 26 cooperating churches and businesses in Arizona have sent 2,765 short-term voluntary missionaries to 154 different local, national, and international destinations and contributed resources totaling nearly \$1.5 million in services, labor, materials and medicines.

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM REPORT

Rev. Bob Cutlipp, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

This past year has been one of great accomplishment and also tragic loss. We made great gains in Disaster Preparedness as we now have 166 people trained to participate in Early Response Teams as we have opportunities to respond to disasters within the bounds of our Annual Conference and outside to other Annual Conferences as well.

This past year we saw team members partnering up with other teams to go to Oklahoma and Colorado. We also had our first Chainsaw Training up at Camp Mingus. Some of those trained in chainsaw operation and safety will be going to Colorado to work in areas that have been inaccessible up to now due to heavy snow pack and impassable roads.

This year also brought to us a much needed "Tool Trailer" which will be used here and outside our Conference meeting the needs of carrying tools and equipment to the disaster sites where there are no tools available. We now have a logo to go on the Tool Trailer and also lime green shirts that the ERT members will wear on-site to enable easy recognition of our team members. Look for team members at Conference wearing their shirts and our Tool Trailer.

We need donations of tools for the trailer as well as monetary donations to enable us to buy needed tools and equipment which we do not at present have.

The new ERT project tool trailer is beautiful - AND EMPTY. We have some donated tools and are pursuing more; however, we need some way to contain them in the trailer. In order to proceed from air-shelves (like guitars) to reality, we have to go through a green phase, estimated to be about \$400. Can you help?

The trailer will be available for both Disaster Response, rebuild/rehab teams, and local church projects in our Conference. Contact Roger Harlow (captntop@msn.com) to schedule usage. The trailer is currently stored in Chino Valley, near the I-17.

The lime green ERT t-shirts are now available for \$10 each M-L-XL, \$12 2X, \$13 for 3X (includes tax). Order your shirts at polly@ix.netcom.com, but send the payment to ERT Shirts, 2426 S. Catarina, Mesa, AZ 85202. (Usually 2 is adequate, as these shirts drip dry beautifully overnight or after spending the night in the dryer.) The startup loan from the Annual Conference will need to be repaid quickly. We anticipate ERTs will pick up their purchased shirts at their own church office.

The logos on the next page were designed by ERT Christina Dillabough, the DS Conference Communications Director.



DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

(front pocket)

(back)

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On a very sad note we lost one of our ERT members to a tragic senseless car crash. Linda Chevalier was returning home from helping a shut in when she was hit by two people fleeing police. She was a longtime mission leader and went to Oklahoma in response to the tornados this past year. She will be sorely missed.

As of July 1, 2014 John Fairchild will take the responsibilities as the Disaster Response Coordinator (DRC). I will remain active in the South District as one of the District Coordinators. We look forward to helping people in need when disaster strikes.

CHILDREN & POVERTY TASK FORCE REPORT

Ginny Hildebrand, Interim Chairperson, Children and Poverty Task Force

The Children and Poverty Task Force, comprised of 13 members of the clergy and laity of the Desert Southwest Conference, spent 2013-14 identifying available resources and building awareness of issues surrounding child welfare and the ravages of poverty for the people and churches of the Conference to utilize in their commitment to Social Holiness.

Following the creation of www.welseylist.org in 2013, the Task Force enhanced this website with articles written by Task Force members about hunger, poverty, child abuse, homelessness, human trafficking, and navigating the juvenile justice system, in addition to posting links to media articles on these same subjects. Resource links for child welfare and poverty statistics were expanded to reflect the three states touched by the Conference: Arizona, California and Nevada. This resources will be displayed again at the Annual Conference in June 2014.

The Pan Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty, an international effort to engage more congregations in social justice on behalf of children by sharing best practices, was also a focus of the Task Force. Articles were submitted to the Pan Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty by the Task Force regarding Sidewalk Ministry, and other ministries in the Desert Southwest Conference. More information on this campaign can be found at <http://www.panmethodistcampaignforchildren.org>

Utilizing *The Desert Connection* and other DSC communication tools, articles were presented Conference-wide on resources including a list of 11 speakers for the Children's Sabbath, the Pan Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty and how to engage with it, and an invitation to Conference congregations to take-up the SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) Challenge of living on a food budget of \$4 per person per day for one week during Lent and then share their feelings about the Challenge on the Conference Facebook page.

Throughout the year, members of the Task Force and others throughout the Conference were kept up- to- date on child and poverty public policy issues at the State and National levels. Billie Fidlin, who staffs the Task Force, also expressed the views of the Task Force regarding the lack of comprehensive immigration policy reform on children of undocumented immigrants to the US, to members of Congress and local state legislators. Rev. Pam Wagner, Chairperson of the Task Force was invited to participate in an Arizona Congressional delegation hearing on child well-being, early childhood education and childcare.

A special thanks to Rev. Pam Wagner who has chaired the Task Force for several years and provided expert leadership. She announced her retirement this year and asked to be relieved of this responsibility. Ginny Hildebrand, a lay member of the Task Force was appointed as Interim Chairperson in February. There are several members leaving the Task Force at the end of this year. We are seeking new members who possess passion to help channel Conference efforts to reduce poverty for children and persons of all ages. Those willing to direct their time, energy and talents to accomplish this good work are asked to communicate their interest to Billie Fidlin, Outreach Coordinator for the Desert Southwest Conference.

HEALTH & CARING MINISTRIES REPORT

Rev. Ross Parrott, Chairperson

The Health & Caring Ministries Committee involves a group of talented and committed individuals to serve as a resource and a stimulus for churches and districts to reach individuals in need with the practical and spiritual love of Jesus Christ! Each committee member brings unique gifts and experience to share.

Our mission combines the call to nurture and to equip members of the Desert Southwest Conference in various forms of caring ministries with discipleship for the transformation of the world through the power of the Holy Spirit of our God!

This committee planned and led a “Health and Caring Nurture Workshop” at Mingus Mountain Camp on September 13-14, 2013 with 20 participants from every district in our Conference. The practical topics presented awareness and valuable resources for those in attendance from highly experienced leaders. All members of this are members of the Conference Health & Caring Ministries Committee. They will soon become a resource team available to the entire Conference to equip the caring ministries volunteers and staff of every church. These are the team members and their areas of expertise:

Ross Parrott, MSW (chair) Ministries with Aging Persons and Community Resources
Associate Pastor of Caring Ministries, Lakeview UMC, Sun City, AZ

Therese Pineda, RN Health Education and Church Based Health Ministries, Parish Nurse, and Caring Ministries Coordinator, First UMC, Gilbert, AZ

Gail Davis, RN, Health Outreach Ministries, Parish Nurse, Central UMC, Phoenix

Howard Guetherman, Disability Concerns Ministries, Spirit of Hope UMC

Willi Wheeler, RN, Stephen Ministries, Health & Community, Dove of the Desert

Don & Velma Trotter, Senior Adult & Lay Caring Ministries, Dove of the Desert

Tina Marie Rees, LCC, Mental Health & Counseling Ministries, First UMC, Gilbert

Kim Summers, Open Table & Lay Caring Ministries, Paradise Valley UMC

Billie Fidlin and Cynthia Satchel serve as advisors and staff support to round out an active and productive group working to provide practical resources to reach people in our communities with a tangible taste of the love of Jesus Christ!

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS REPORT

Rev. George Cushman

This ministry, started by Pastor Surafel Gebretsadik, was to find safety and shelter for young girls living on the streets of Addis Ababa, some as young as 3-4 years of age. From this original goal the ministry has and still continues to grow.

Presently, Hope has placed and supports almost 400 children in foster homes. This is extremely important, as children who had no modeling or very little if any experience of being in a family now receive the nurture and understanding of caring relationships. Plus, with the poverty in Ethiopia, the funds support not only the child, but help with food for the whole family unit.

Sadly, it does not take a life on the street very long to teach a child a survival mentality and instill a lack of trust in others. We have a drop-in-center in the heart of Addis Ababa that can take about 14-16 children directly from the streets and begin to work on their socialization skills. If and when these children are able to function in a healthy way with their peers, we can then move them to our dorms in a suburb of Addis. Here we are able to provide shelter and food for about 50 children. The children also are transported to school, are involved in a faith community, and receive the support and encouragement they need to prepare them for their futures. Our goal is always to have the children move from this campus to a foster home and family.



Rachel Cushman with Drop-In
Center children March 2014

We have experienced several huge successes for our ministry this year. On the campus outside of Addis Ababa, we have built a boarding school that will be complete and ready to receive students this fall. This school will not only serve our orphans, but is deeply needed in the larger community itself. Our ultimate goal is to educate 500 students.

The other celebration is we received a \$10,000 grant from the General Board of Global Ministries to write a curriculum entitled, "The Church's Compassionate Response to A.I.D.S." Rev. George Cushman met with Ethiopian church leaders in March to begin designing the curriculum. It will be a resource for a training event in Ethiopia next February where a team from the US and local leaders will train the trainers. Using the curriculum, these future trainers, pastors and other church leaders, will learn how to help local churches move from the stigma associated with A.I.D.S. and help them see the ways they can be in ministry to a large population that needs their compassion and presence.

What is very exciting is Hope is working with the Evangelical Fellowship of Ethiopia to organize this training and future trainings that will be conducted throughout the whole country over the next 3-5 years. In Ethiopia, Evangelical means Protestant. This group is the central organization for the Protestant churches, representing 41,000 congregations and 27 million

1 people. This is a very exciting time for us at Hope for the Hopeless. We are helping many
2 children but are also working to reduce the number of abandoned and orphaned children.

TMM FAMILY SERVICES REPORT

Report to DSC Board of Global Ministries for 2013

As 2013 closes, TMM (formerly Tucson Metropolitan Ministry) approaches forty (40) years of service to and with thousands of very low income individuals and families in the greater Tucson area and throughout Southern Arizona. The ongoing, critical support received from the DSC and dozens of local churches continues to be a key to TMM's success and influence for positive change in the lives of children, single adults, and families struggling with a multitude of financial, emotional, educational and social issues far beyond a level that most citizens experience.

Throughout its core programs, these are the number of persons served in 2013:

1. Family Journey, with up to two years of transitional housing residency and casework services, enrolled thirty-three (33) single Moms and their fifty (50) children. Most of these families lived on TMM's main 7 acre campus, though an increasing number are participating in off-campus housing with the same level of casework support.

2. Children's Village, our agency's unique professional foster care group home model, grew to include a ninth (9) group home, and the beginning construction of a tenth group home set to open in early 2014. All Children's Village group homes are on its main campus. Throughout all areas of Arizona, there has been an increase in the number of children removed from homes of origin due to serious incidences of abuse and neglect. As 2013 ended, there were over 100 children in Pima County alone who had to be placed outside of the County due to a lack of licensed beds and skilled facilities. Thus, TMM's response to this very real human need has been to add quality bed space for such children traumatized by removal from their homes.

In 2013, Children's Village served 106 displaced children that included 22 sibling groups. The occupancy rate for the total of forty-six (46) licensed beds was 96%.

3. The Community Closet, our agency's response to individuals who literally have little and in some cases, no clothing & bedding, provided free clothing to a registered 865 children and 1,038 adults. Persons are referred to the Closet thru our agency's unique "voucher" referral system, meaning that a local church or service agency screened and referred the person(s) prior to receiving the free items.

4. Home Repair in 2013 had a total of 16 area-families received up to \$5,000 each to assist with modest or emergency home repairs. Typical repairs included new roofs, furnace/cooling systems, and major plumbing systems overhaul. 90% of the funding for this program comes from federal and City of Tucson contract dollars.

Volunteers from local churches, high schools, established service groups and, individuals locating our agency on the TMM.org internet website, continue to provide fresh and unique levels of support and opportunities for individuals and families to connect with those who have not received a proportionate share of life's blessings & opportunities for

1 even modest success toward living independently. Some of the new volunteer groups and
2 businesses in 2013 included: Iron Ridge High School, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Tucson
3 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, University of Arizona Schools of Retail and Business, Our
4 Savior's Lutheran Church, Brookline College and Shalom Mennonite Fellowship. These
5 groups are, of course, in addition to the churches of the South District, and our DSC
6

7 Conference, who continue to find ways to support our outreach efforts to the least of
8 those amongst us!!!!

WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT

Betty Mathis, Executive Director
 602-252-5624 (direct line) bmathis@wccphx.net
 Mission: Together We Empower Positive Change

*To learn more about the center and how you may help, see <http://www.wesleycenterphx.org>.
 Access through computer or smartphone also at wccphx.net or wccphx.com.*

During 2013, the staff and volunteers with **Wesley Center** provided programs, services, and projects for families and individuals, patients and clients through the priorities of Family and Youth Services, the Amigos Center, and the Federally Qualified Community Health Center, Wesley Health Center.

Since 1950, **Wesley Community Center (WCC)** has addressed the ever-changing needs and priorities of the families and residents of *Nuestro Barrio* (AKA *Cuatro Milpas*) in the shadow of downtown urban Phoenix. North of the Center are Chase Field and the US Airways Arena; to the east is the Sky Harbor International Airport. As a result of the continuing 14 year voluntary neighborhood relocation partnership with the airport, city of Phoenix, and the FAA, the neighborhood is now home to an unknown number of renters and homeowners occupying the remaining 300+ homes. (As a comparison, in 1994, approximately 12,000 individuals occupied at least 1,800 homes in these south-central Phoenix neighborhoods.)

From August – November 2012, the Wesley Community Center, was a major renovation project in partnership among the FAA, Sky Harbor International Airport, and the City of Phoenix. Two of the main buildings received new windows, doors, lighting, ceiling, roofing, painting, gym air-conditioning, etc., as a result of the final “sound mitigation project” in the south-central Phoenix noise reduction area. (The building housing the clinic was rebuilt to FAA and city codes following the 2006 fire that destroyed the original WCC building site.)

Having the organizational goals of 1) addressing the uniqueness of each family unit, and 2) maintaining healthy families, Wesley Center’s vision is to enable all families to become productive members of the society/neighborhood—wherever that may be.

Although the former primary “service area” for the Wesley Community Center no longer has the vitality of the significant Phoenix neighborhood that began in the 1920s, the Center continues to provide after-school and summer youth programs-- representing 21 zip codes. (Note: these students attend the contiguous Herrera Magnet School for Dual Language and Fine Arts.) The Wesley Health Center provides family practice healthcare for representatives from 70+ zip codes. Thus the term “neighborhood community center” for WCC has evolved greatly.

Wesley Community Center, 1300 S. 10th St. @ Buckeye Rd. is one of 98 National Mission Institutions (NMI) of the United Methodist Church—the only one located in Arizona and the Desert Southwest Conference—and a primary partner of the Valley of the Sun United Way. Thus significant funding is not only received from this Conference but also the United Methodist Women National Office (which owns the WCC property); United Methodist

1 congregations; Valley of the Sun United Way; the federal government (Health Resource
2 Services Administration for the health center); corporate and foundation grants; clients;
3 patients; and many other caring and supportive individuals. The primary location for services is
4 at 1300 South 10th Street (south of Buckeye Rd.); Family and Youth Services and the Wesley
5 Health Center are located at that site. The Amigos Center, a satellite adult education and
6 community development programs site, is located in west Phoenix at W. Indian School/79th
7 Drive at the Calvary UMC.
8

9 **2013 priorities:**

- 10 • **Family and Youth Services**—48 weeks of activities for after-school and summer
11 programs (ages 5-15); senior women's group; sewing (at a nearby offsite location);
12 exercise, nutrition, and behavioral health classes; Christmas Adopt-a- Family; Back-to-
13 School assistance; emergency food.
- 14 • **Amigos Center**—ESOL, GED, and basic computer classes for 200 students, Levels 1-
15 5,; soccer, kickball, and football teams,; neighborhood development programs; and a
16 large community garden. From 2009 - 2013, the Amigos Center/Wesley Community
17 Center began a four-year commitment, in partnership with St. Luke's Health Initiatives,
18 ASU, Golden Gate Community Center, and Rehobeth Development Corporation, to
19 address childhood obesity, family nutrition, and better use of neighborhood spaces
20 through generous support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Having
21 significant collective impact, Maryvale on the Move (MTM), was an extraordinary
22 success in west Phoenix. One result of neighborhood involvement is *Desierto Verde*, a
23 1,000 sq. ft. garden on the Calvary UMC property.
- 24 • **Wesley Health Center (WHC)**- a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), primary
25 and family practice healthcare clinic, having three (3) fulltime medical providers,
26 numerous volunteers, medical students and residents from UA Phoenix Medical School.
27 Additionally, many volunteers assist with interpretation/translation, at the clinic during
28 the M-F day and evening clinics. In 2013, the clinic's professionals and volunteers
29 provided services to 6,700 uninsured and insured, unduplicated patients. (Duplicated
30 services: 15, 600).
- 31 • **Community Development**—A priority for the west Phoenix Maryvale community
32 residents (see Golden Gate Community Center under 2014 priorities).
- 33 • **Volunteer Resource Management**— 35,000 individual volunteer hours, annual
34 NOMADS support, and many congregational mission projects throughout all of the
35 agencies programs and at three(3) sites.

36 37 **2014 Priorities:**

- 38
39 • ***Effective May 1, 2014, Wesley Community Center will add 20 new employees and
40 more volunteers as a result of the acquisition/merger with the Golden Gate
41 Community Center.** These two community centers began in 1950 and 1942
42 respectively, providing programs, services, community development with and among
43 the residents of the south-central Phoenix contiguous neighborhoods: Golden Gate,
44 *Nuestro Barrio*, and *Cuatro Milpas*. [The Golden Gate residents were relocated to
45 Maryvale (west Phoenix) as a result of the addition of a third runway to the Sky Harbor
46 Airport. Wesley Center's neighborhoods were relocated between 2000-2013 as a result
47 of the FAA/City of Phoenix/Sky Harbor and the nationwide relocation of
48 neighborhoods "under" the airports' flight patterns.]

- 1 • Continuing **Wesley Health Center's** primary healthcare clinic and program expansion
2 for uninsured and insured patients through AHCCCS, Medicare, United Healthcare,
3 Cigna, Aetna, BlueCross/Blue Shield as well as many other insurance plans through the
4 implementation of the Affordable Care Act; Patient Centered Medical Home (#2 rating)
5 designation; 3) Strategic Planning and Corporate Compliance priorities;
- 6 • Planning for an additional FQHC health center site at the Golden Gate site; potential
7 expansion of the Wesley Health Center site.
- 8 • Ongoing programs at the **Amigos Center**, a collaborative partnership among Calvary
9 UMC and three west Phoenix neighborhood associations;
- 10 • Continuing to **develop funding and scholarship sources** for our youth (now at two
11 sites); and
- 12 • Addressing the impact of the federal, state legislature budgets, as well as the reality of
13 economic impacts with all not-for-profit organizations..

14
15 **You continue make a difference at the Wesley Community Center--that now**
16 ***includes the Golden Gate Community Center, 1625 N. 39th Ave. @ W. McDowell! Come visit***
17 **both locations!**

UMOM NEW DAY CENTERS REPORT

Darlene Newsom, CEO



Fifty years ago, a group of United Methodists came together to address the issues of poverty and hunger. Today, UMOM New Day Centers celebrates its 50 year anniversary of service! Our deepest gratitude goes out to The Desert Southwest Annual Conference, its churches and members for your part in our past, present, and future. With your help, UMOM continues to strive forward as an Urban Ministry to be a leader in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Our mission was updated this year *to prevent and end homelessness with innovative strategies and housing solutions that meet the unique needs of each family and individual.* For a detailed look at UMOM’s historical timeline, please visit www.umom.org/50years/

2014: Our 50th Anniversary
A Community Legacy. A Home for Everyone.

1964
A group of United Methodists began an urban ministries program.

1973
The Metropolitan Phoenix Council was created to expand the program to address the problems of hunger & as a result established a food bank.

1985
The Metropolitan Phoenix Council was dissolved and United Methodist Outreach Ministries, Inc. was incorporated as an independent, nonprofit agency.

1987
On Christmas Eve UMOM began managing an overflow shelter.

1992
Shelter for homeless families began at the New Day Center at the former Sands Motel.

2004
United Methodist Outreach Ministries became UMOM New Day Centers, Inc.

2005
A capital campaign began to expand shelter capacity.

2007
UMOM opened a 56 bed domestic violence shelter for victims and their children. The following year, YWCA's Haven House merged with UMOM to expand the number of families served.

2009
More than 500 volunteers throughout the community gathered to move all families from the old Sands Motel to the new Van Buren campus across the street.
- Helping Hands Housing Services merges with UMOM to expand affordable & low-income housing.

2011
UMOM began providing services to veteran families including transitional housing and rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention.

2012
With generous support from the community a \$24 million capital campaign was completed.

2014
UMOM's 50th Anniversary; acknowledging a commitment to serving homeless individuals and families in our community.

Visit www.umom.org for more historical highlights

Highlights

Over the years, UMOM has identified the barriers preventing families from ending their homelessness and created and advocated for a service system to provide a lasting solution. Some of those services include the expansion of affordable housing, workforce creation, healthcare, and childcare services. As a result, last year, 93% of our resident’s maintained permanent housing and did not return to shelter programs.

One of the most significant highlights during our milestone anniversary year has been the part-time appointment of Rev. Dr. Kelly Bender as Chaplain to UMOM effective January 1, 2014 as a retired pastor in an extension ministry. Special thanks for the "seed money" received from Annual Conference funds and an offering taken at Annual Conference last June to help start the funding for this position. UMOM is committed to raising the additional private dollars to fund this position. We thank God in advance for the generous gifts from individuals and churches that will support this life changing ministry. A separate fund at UMOM has been created for donations that are given for this purpose. This is a position that fulfills a vision of

1 partnering with the Conference to more fully utilize the Zimmerman Chapel of Hope. The
2 chapel is named in honor of Rev. DeWane Zimmerman and was dedicated as in interfaith space
3 for the spiritual support and nurturing of the UMOM community.
4

5 Most recently, UMOM's dream of having a social enterprise on campus is now a reality
6 with the opening of Helpings Café, Market, & Catering. The grand opening took place April
7 10th. Helpings Café, Market and Catering serves made-from-scratch muffins, gourmet salads
8 and sandwiches and Starbucks coffee drinks, smoothies and refreshers. The Helpings Barista
9 Training program launched this spring and the trainees are creating specialty drinks from the
10 Starbucks menu. This training, along with the customer service and food preparation training,
11 provides vital job skills and confidence to the community's most vulnerable population.
12

13 The Helpings Market offers fresh, healthy food choices in what is considered a food
14 desert. Along with staples like rice and cereal, Helpings Market provides fresh produce, grab-
15 and-go sandwiches and salads. The market accepts WIC vouchers and SNAP benefits. Proceeds
16 from Helpings Café, Market and Catering are directly re-invested into UMOM programs to end
17 homelessness. "Helpings" is located at UMOM's 3333 Van Buren campus in Phoenix. Hours
18 are Monday – Friday, 7:00am-3:00pm.
19

20 Lastly, UMOM would like to thank all of the congregations who have invited us to
21 come and share about our mission. Our staff was honored to send a representative to speak at
22 the Violence Against Women Conference sponsored by the United Methodist Women. We also
23 thank those of you who scheduled tours of our campus and programs. Join us in celebrating our
24 50 year anniversary by coming for a tour to see our ministry firsthand. Contact Nichole Barnes,
25 Faith Based Services Coordinator for additional information at nbarnes@umom.org 602-889-
26 0686.
27

28 **FY2013 Statistics of Impact**

- 29 • UMOM served 6,536 people.
- 30 • Volunteer hours contributed by individuals, organizations and faith based groups totaled
31 29,315.
- 32 • 190,000 meals were provided to homeless individuals.
- 33 • 3,053 children and youth were served by UMOM programs.
- 34 • UMOM partnered with more than 40 other agencies to provide health care, education
35 and supportive services.
- 36 • 851 Families were sheltered in Emergency, Extended, and Domestic Violence Shelter
37 programs.
- 38 • 388 households secured permanent housing with assistance from UMOM.
- 39 • 1,714 single women were served at the Watkins Basic Needs Shelter.
- 40 • 173 Veterans served through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
41 Program.
- 42 • Good stewardship - 86 cents out of every dollar went to Programs.

UM SOCIAL MINISTRIES, LAS VEGAS REPORT

Peggy Morache, Chair

United Methodist Social Ministries is an outreach ministry of the Desert Southwest Conference's North District. For 26 years it has offered the only weekend client-choice food pantry in Southern Nevada and through those services has provided nearly 100,000 meals each year to families throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

United Methodist Social Ministries coordinates a summer food program through a grant from the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Children who are on the school lunch program are given breakfast or lunch at a United Methodist Church in their neighborhood helping to assure at least one nutritious meal when school is not in session. This year, a mobile food pantry is being added to this service. The mobile pantry will be available on the days the summer food program is in operation. Parents will be able to "shop" the mobile pantry while the children are given a meal.

In addition to the Family Food Pantry, United Methodist Social Ministries collaborates with the Clark County (NV) Department of Social Services and some Nevada State agencies to support the needs of children in the foster care system. Through *Fostering in Faith*, the organization helps recruit, train and support foster parents. It also staffs a satellite Visitation Center with trained volunteers who supervise visits between biological parents and their children who are currently in the foster care system. United Methodist Social Ministries sponsors trainers who lead educational programs ranging from topics such as "ABCs of Parenting" to "ParenTeen Connections." The goals of this entire program are to strengthen and, where possible, reunify families.

United Methodist Social Ministries and the Department of Family Services are about to announce a new program that will support foster parents and families who have a need for babysitters or respite care. Foster Friends will recruit volunteers and facilitate their clearances and training so that they can be available when in-home care is needed for foster children. Quite often foster children are forbidden by the courts to leave the state. Foster Friends will help eliminate the child care problem that many foster parents face when an emergency or a work commitment causes them to travel. It will also give them a much needed break from time to time for a "date night" for foster parents.

This is a time of growth for United Methodist Social Ministries. The Board and Executive Director are studying current ministries and looking at ways to better serve the community. It started with a review and redefinition of mission and vision. The mission of United Methodist Social Ministries is to provide resources and services to vulnerable families and individuals. The vision is to be a leader in making the Las Vegas Valley a healthy and safe community. The organization's goals are targeting ways to make their mission and vision a reality.

CHRISTIAN UNITY & INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

Carolyn D. Redmore, Chairperson

As the Conference voice of the Council of Bishop's Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, the mission of C-CUIR is interpretation, education, and advocacy facilitating ecumenical and interfaith/interreligious engagement for the purpose of:

- Striving for unity of the human community and the renewal of creation,
- Enabling and affirming engagement, whether that be through worship, study, dialogue, or cooperation in mission among churches and across denominations,
- Promoting openness of mind and understanding of other living faiths.

C-CUIR met four times. Spotlighting Conference, district, and local ecumenical and interreligious/interfaith happenings at each meeting continued. Highlights of member leadership during the year include:

- Strategic planning for the future of the Arizona Ecumenical Movement;
- Coordination of interfaith events regarding earth care and sustainability and public policy issues;
- coordination of a Conference table at the Arizona Interfaith Movement's annual Golden Rule Awards banquet with representatives from different Outreach Ministry teams;
- Participation in Church Women United at the state and local levels in board meetings and programs;
- Commitment to annually sponsoring a Conference event, beginning in 2014 with a focus on "Getting to Know American Muslims and Their Faith" (see below).
- Sponsoring the incoming C-CUIR chairperson's attendance at the United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training & National Workshop for Christian Unity in Albuquerque;
- Supporting planning for initiating an Acts of Repentance process in the Conference, beginning with conversation among Outreach leaders, especially Committee on Native American Ministries for the purpose of expanding our awareness of the American Indian's experience and our contribution to that experience. Our prayer being that the AOR process will stimulate deeper and broader engagements before and following a repentance service at Annual Conference.

We benefitted from hearing the stories of a key ecumenical and a key interfaith leader:

- Suanne Ware-Diaz, Executive Director of Cook Native American Ministries (also member of the Conference Committee on Native American Ministries);
- Azra Hussain, founder and director of the Islamic Speaker's Bureau of Arizona.

Goals for the coming year will be: Outreach to the DSC membership re ecumenical and interfaith opportunities and support of the Acts of Repentance process.

C-CUIR Members: Rev. Dr. Robert Burns, rburns@dscumc.org; Billie K. Fidlin, bfidlin@dscumc.org; Howard Guetherman, howardg33@aol.com; Donna Jensen, dgjensen50@msn.com; Sarah King, garbageldy@hotmail.com; Glenda K. O'Hara, glendaohara@hotmail.com; Larry P. Powell; Dr. Carolyn D. Redmore, cdredmore@aol.com; Kathy Schock, kathhuck@aol.com.

ARIZONA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL REPORT

The Arizona Ecumenical Council has been working on re-visioning during this past year. Housed at the Desert Southwest Conference, the Council seeks to bring the various Christian denominations together in theological dialogue and justice issues. Many ecumenical bodies are undergoing similar restructuring efforts across the country, and the AEC is no exception. The Executive Board met with two facilitators this year. Later meetings involved expanding the restructuring team to a diverse group of people. This restructuring process is continuing, and the future looks promising.

The various commissions of the AEC continue their vital work. Two United Methodists chair two of the commissions: Sarah King chairs the Earth Care Commission, and Billie K. Fidlin chairs the Public Policy Commission. Both commissions hold regular events, engaging the public and constituency in their respective commissions. The AEC also has the Theological Dialogue Commission, led by Rev. Al Gephart. A new commission is just getting underway which will address generational faith formation.

As the Council looks forward to completing the re-visioning process, we hope that churches will take part in Arizona Ecumenical events, inquire about speakers to come and share about the Council, and financially support the good work of this important body. All Council members are anxious to share with you about the coming year of ecumenical work.

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aec@aecunity.net • www.aecunity.net • “Like” us on Facebook for daily updates!

BOARD OF CHURCH & SOCIETY REPORT

Submitted by Glenda Hill, chair

Members of the Conference Board of Church and Society care about the issues that face us as a church and in society. Currently we are composed of 5 subgroups. In addition the Peace with Justice Coordinator, Dave Patterson, is a member of the Board of Church and Society. Dave has attended the Coordinators' gathering and brought back several ideas that he will be sharing with us.

A new group is beginning with a consideration of issues of economic insecurity. Prison Reform/Privatization chaired by Rev. Bob Holliday shares information through e-mail and articles in Conference Communications. The Welcoming and Reconciling group is chaired by Rev. Stephen Govett. In addition to individuals, 8 congregations have joined Reconciling Ministries Network.

The Immigration sub-group chair is Rev. Sherry Brady. Her report is below. We shared information through e-mail and notes sent out by Conference Communications.

Care for the Earth chair Sarah King is currently working with the Arizona Ecumenical Council Earth Care Commission and Arizona Interfaith Power and Light and shares information through Conference Communications. See report below.

Board of Church and Society - Immigration Subgroup Submitted

by Rev. Sherry Brady, Immigration subgroup chair

This year the Immigration Task Force worked closely with Bill Mefford, of the General Board of Church and Society. We were on regular Conference calls with Bill, some of which included Bishop Carcaño. Our task force joined nationwide groups to ask local churches to sign the UMC Statement on treatment of all immigrants as neighbors. This letter was hand delivered to our United States Representative to urge them to work for comprehensive immigration reform. Eleven of our churches participated.

On these Conference calls we strategized to organize prayer vigils, called our senators and representatives on upcoming immigration legislation and learned of upcoming acts of civil disobedience. We even participated in a webinar on civil disobedience. On President's Day weekend, we were encouraged to either pray or participate in the protest in front of the White House lead by Bishops Carcaño and Trimble. On the weekend of April 4-6, we were encouraged to register with Not One More Deportations to organize marches or prayer vigils. Three cities in our Conference registered events: Phoenix, Flagstaff and Safford.

Board Of Church And Society - Care For The Earth Subgroup

Submitted by Sarah King, Earth care Subgroup Chair

The Board of Church and Society Care for the Earth Subgroup has been active throughout the year on projects primarily related to action on climate change. Members of the subgroup were actively involved in planning activities to highlight the Great March for Climate

1 Action as the marchers traveled through Arizona in April. We helped to organize a prayer
2 service and welcoming activities for them at the ASU West Campus in Glendale where they
3 camped on Sunday night on April 6 and rally events at Margaret T. Hance Park in Glendale on
4 Monday, April 7.

5
6 The subgroup also helped publicize appearances by author, minister and climate activist
7 Michael Dowd at two United Methodist Churches in the valley and Flagstaff Federated Church
8 in northern Arizona. Dowd and his wife, biologist Connie Barlow, are traveling across the
9 country as the advance guard for the Climate Marchers, preaching in various churches about
10 the need for people of faith to take action on climate change.

11
12 The subgroup's current focus is co-hosting the "Borderlands" photo exhibit at the Olney
13 Gallery located at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in central Phoenix. The photo exhibit is the work
14 of Krista Schlyer, author of "Continental Divide: Wildlife, People and the Border Wall." The
15 book and the exhibit highlights the damages done to the ecosystem by the border wall,
16 including the disruption to human communities in the area. It's a commentary on migration,
17 immigration and how good fences do NOT make for good neighbors. The photo exhibit will be
18 accompanied by a collection of "found objects" gathered from the desert by members of "No
19 More Deaths," an organization that seeks to prevent deaths and injuries to desperate people
20 seeking better lives in the US. The exhibit will be open for public viewing throughout the
21 month of June. Conference participants are urged to attend.

22
23 We have submitted information about the photo exhibit to the communications
24 department of the Desert Southwest Conference and will continue to urge United Methodist
25 Churches in the area to support the event.

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE REPORT

Rev. Bev Ritland, Acting Chair

The Commission on Religion and Race is a voice in helping create and maintain Christian vitality within our churches and Conference through: monitoring, research, examination, training, resourcing, and partnering with other agencies in our Conference.

Our year began with a discussion of obstacles to diversity within our congregations because many of those who stopped by our Display Table at last year's Annual Conference requested help with "diversity awareness development" for the Desert Southwest Conference and for their local churches. Before we could suggest some of the many tools, programs or events that have been successful in stimulating racial equality in other churches, we needed to get a clearer picture of the demographics and impressions of those who might benefit. We had been working on a Survey for the past year and decided to implement it Conference-wide on January 19, 2014. (Martin Luther King Jr Weekend). After the survey was fine-tuned, Dr. Bell was called to teach a semester at Africa University.

To date we have processed 2,678 Surveys from 36 churches with more still being processed. These are some of the general observations from the surveys received:

- "Diversity" appears to be a word that holds particular associations for many people. Although it was a survey about race, a significant number of people interpreted "increasing diversity" with inclusion of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender people.
- Many comments indicate that members equate increasing racial diversity with more involvement with the lower income people of the community.
- Many comments indicate a desire to be more diverse

After we've finished processing the data we will explore ways to utilize and share the results.

CORR gives sincere thanks to all who participated. Your responses will continue to enable us to shape and define what it means to be vital congregations for Jesus Christ.

As CORR continues in our endeavor to encourage and support equity in all forms of our ministry together we welcome your participation.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS & ROLE OF WOMEN

Rev. Katherine Ziegler Tang, Chair

At one of the recent Covenant Council meetings, the question was raised about how each of our distinct areas of ministry was living out the mission of the Annual Conference. One of the foremost questions we have been working to answer is: Within the context of the Commission, what are we doing to empower leaders who create vital congregations? How will we do our work differently? What does it mean to empower leaders? How does the work of the Commission contribute to vitality? How does that present itself in the local congregation?

The past and future work of the Commission has traditionally centered on our Domestic Violence bi-Annual Conferences and Annual Conference monitoring. We believe these are important priorities in the Annual Conference. Domestic violence is a systemic problem which continues to affect women, children, and men throughout Arizona and Southern Nevada. With the advent of the Superbowl in 2015 and the rise of child sex trafficking, it is an important time in our Conference to pay special attention to the needs of those who are vulnerable to these crimes. The Commission will play an important role in creating awareness and resources for the victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking.

The Commission was proud to expand its Domestic Violence Conference to the Las Vegas area this past March, in collaboration with the United Methodist Women and their dedication to the rising problem of Human Trafficking.

As well, we consider Annual Conference monitoring is a necessary tool to create opportunities for improvement in our own self-awareness, and become more attentive to the ways in which we communicate with and about each other. We want to make sure that as much as possible, we are creating an environment of openness and acceptance, of safety and trust.

A final area of focus for the Commission this year has been in not only supporting our rural clergywomen throughout the Conference, but also a rising commitment to our young clergywomen, especially those new to our Annual Conference. Rev. Beth Rambikur and Alberta Farnsworth have been wonderful additions to the Commission, and have provided ideas and insights about how to connect in and support women of all ages. One of our growing priorities for the next year is to encourage women to become active leaders in their local congregations through training and recruitment from both youth and college ministries. We believe this will create empowerment and vitality in the local congregations. Another important priority for the Commission will be to identify women with leadership potential, and find ways to nurture that potential, develop those skills, and finally, implementation: giving women the opportunity to exercise leadership roles.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - TREASURER'S REPORT

Randy Bowman

Financial

After tracking closely with last year and historical averages through the first 11 months of 2013, our apportionment receipts in December were disappointingly low. We finished the year with 87.6% of apportionments being contributed by our churches. This was 3.0% and \$195,000 below 2012. It was also 2.8% below our average apportionment contributions for the last ten years. We congratulate the 71% of our churches that were able to contribute 100% or more of their apportionments in 2013. This was down from 76% in 2012.

On the spending side of things, we did a very good job of controlling expenses. We also benefitted from good investment returns. So, even with paying our general church apportionments at 100% (which used \$130,000), we generated an operating surplus of \$110,000 for the year. At 12/31/13, we had \$1.1 million of available cash reserves, so we are in a solid financial condition that will allow us to move forward with some ministry opportunities as they arise.

The Administrative Services area covers many types of ministry support. The following is a very brief list of some of our activities this past year.

Accounting

Dale Cook, our Assistant Treasurer, headed up this department. Debbie Neuteboom (our Camping Assistant) also provided accounting work with cash receipts and accounts payable. Dale continued to focus on the timeliness, accuracy, and electronic availability of financial reports. Consequently, better and more informed decisions relative to finances were made by the different boards and agencies of the Conference. Apportionment status reports were posted on the Conference web site (www.desertsouthwestconference.org/apportionments) immediately after each month-end.

Pension and Health Benefits

The continuation of rising health care costs presented this department with the challenge to provide affordable health insurance for both our actives and retirees, leading to several changes in 2014. Incentives were again offered to reduce 2014 health insurance premiums for participants getting annual physical examinations from their doctor. Cynthia Satchel provided deeply committed service to our active and retired participants for the pension and health benefit programs of the Conference. She also had the responsibility of coordinating and implementing our moving plan policies for those clergy under appointment.

Property Management

Cynthia coordinated the work in this area. This involved considerable time, effort, and money, particularly on the United Methodist Center, the Episcopal residence, the ASU campus ministry parsonage, and the properties that were held for sale last year.

Other

Lori Davalos has been serving as the Conference Receptionist, but Debbie Neuteboom will assume that roles as of 7/1/14. They both do a great job as the welcoming face and voice of

1 the Conference. They also provide assistance to all departments at the United Methodist Center
2 as time permits.

3

4 We look forward to 2014 and our efforts with all of you to again be fiscally responsible
5 and work closely together. We are hopeful that conditions will continue to improve and our
6 ministry efforts will continue to expand.

ARCHIVES & HISTORY REPORT

Marlene Northup, Chairperson

This annual report really centers on the archive office at the Conference Center and the work of our archivist Jennifer Barber. Jennifer traveled to 3 of our Conference districts to conduct training for historians from their local churches. From the training Jennifer was able to add 2 new members to this committee. The feedback from each district showed this committee that the historians are eager to learn about preserving their church history and ways to preserve the future. This committee has also discussed with Jennifer ways that she can meet with cluster churches in different areas to give more hands-on training and with assistance from Communications, to set up live streaming for those who would like to take part.

Jennifer is in the process of cataloging the Archives and History collections and putting them online at www.librarything.com/catalog/DSC_UMC.

We will have a table in the display room at Conference and hope to interest more people to the importance of archives.

The committee is looking forward to gaining ground in assisting the local church history with their history and preservation and managing the Conference archive office.

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Sharon Ragland, Chairperson
St. Mark's UMC
1431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704

The Conference Committee on the Episcopacy faced a change in leadership with the tragic death in June, 2013, of Rev. Dr. Jane Tews, who had served as chairperson. The Committee met in September to elect a chairperson, and to have conversation with Bishop Hoshibata, and with his assistant, Julie O'Neal. In addition, the Committee met in January, 2014, to conduct a jurisdictional evaluation of the work of our Bishop. This included a review of Bishop Hoshibata's self-evaluation, as well as a committee evaluation, which was then shared with him.

We are extremely grateful for the ministry of Bishop Bob, and the leadership he provides within our Conference and in the greater United Methodist Church. We believe that our Bishop is providing strong spiritual grounding, as well as visionary, inspiring leadership.

We are also grateful for the assistance and work of Julie O'Neal.

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION REPORT

Barbara Davis Hines

The Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation worked diligently this past year with the Appointive Cabinet to ensure that each pastor serving an Equitable Compensation church was compensated at the levels established by the Annual Conference. Our expenditures were under budget again in 2013. Our annual projected needs remain at \$380,000 in the 2014 budget and beyond.

The Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation have assessed the status and potential of each church receiving equitable compensation, and, while dealing with each church with sensitivity and care, subsidies have been reduced where possible. In many cases, churches have accepted less than full time appointments and are looking forward to having their respective congregations be more self-sustaining. Also, the Commission is strictly enforcing the Conference rule that churches must contribute 100% of their apportionments to be eligible for equitable compensation subsidies.

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

Some of our churches have viable ministries within communities that struggle with geographical isolation, have unique demographic challenges, and/or provide significant outreach ministries. The Cabinet and Commission have designated several such churches as mission churches. These churches are reviewed annually to ensure that they still qualify for subsidies as mission churches. These mission churches are expected to continue to receive equitable compensation support as long as their ministries are considered fruitful and necessary in their locations. Accordingly, the Commission has broken down its \$380,000 annual budget into two categories – \$210,000 for equitable compensation and \$170,000 for mission church support.

Following is the breakdown of churches receiving equitable compensation/mission church support for their pastor for the year 2013:

North District

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Community UMC - Blythe | \$12,000 |
| Community UMC - Caliente | \$16,000 |
| Page Community UMC | \$28,000 |
| Heritage UMC | \$8,000 |
| Holbrook UMC | \$12,000 |
| Parker UMC | \$10,000 |

South District

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| El Mesias UMC - Nogales | \$17,500 |
| First UMC - Bisbee | \$8,000 |

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | First UMC - Eloy | \$4,600 |
| 2 | Grace UMC - Douglas | \$5,000 |
| 3 | Huachuca UMC | \$5,000 |
| 4 | Korean UMF - Tucson | \$18,000 |
| 5 | San Pedro Valley UMC | \$4,000 |
| 6 | St. James UMC - Tucson | \$9,500 |
| 7 | St. John's UMC - Tucson | \$3,000 |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | <u>Central East District</u> | |
| 10 | Primera Iglesia | \$10,000 |
| 11 | Arizona Korean UMF | \$28,000 |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | <u>Central West District</u> | |
| 14 | Asbury UMC | \$31,500 |
| 15 | Chino Valley UMC | \$10,000 |
| 16 | Community UMC of Buckeye | \$14,000 |
| 17 | Epworth UMC | \$14,000 |
| 18 | Faith UMC - Phoenix | \$6,000 |
| 19 | Fort Yuma UMC | \$15,400 |
| 20 | Mountain View UMC | \$12,280 |
| 21 | Mission Bell UMC | \$6,500 |
| 22 | Sunrise UMC | \$9,000 |

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The Commission continues to monitor the churches under our care and prayerfully examines their needs as we work closely with the Cabinet. The recommendation for minimum clergy compensation for the year 2015 is presented in the following section. It reflects a 1.5% increase from the previous year's recommendation. This recommended increase is based on consideration of many factors, including changes in the consumer price index, changes in average compensation for clergy in our Conference, Social Security increases, and available funds in the Conference budget. We encourage your careful consideration and approval of this new minimum clergy compensation schedule as detailed in Section 9.10.

Approved February 10, 2014: 100% for, 0% against, 0% didn't vote

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1: What is the 2015 schedule of Equitable Compensation required by ¶342.1, .2 and ¶625.2, .3 of the 2012 *The Book of Discipline*?

I. Base Cash Compensation and Housing - 2015

(Please note: The following schedule is the minimum allowable cash compensation for all pastors and both the minimum and maximum schedules of the cash compensation for churches receiving an equitable compensation subsidy from the Conference.)

| Full Service Years | Elder in Full Connection | Provisional or Associate Member | Full-Time Local Pastor |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 0 years | \$36,475 | \$34,652 | \$32,828 |
| 1 year | \$37,083 | \$35,230 | \$33,375 |
| 2 years | \$37,691 | \$35,807 | \$33,922 |
| 3 years | \$38,299 | \$36,385 | \$34,469 |
| 4 years | \$38,907 | \$36,962 | \$35,016 |
| 5 years | \$39,515 | \$37,540 | \$35,564 |
| 6 years | \$40,123 | \$38,117 | \$36,111 |
| 7 years | \$40,731 | \$38,695 | \$36,658 |
| 8 years | \$41,339 | \$39,272 | \$37,205 |
| 9 years | \$41,947 | \$39,850 | \$37,752 |
| 10 years | \$42,555 | \$40,427 | \$38,299 |
| 11 years | \$43,163 | \$41,004 | \$38,846 |
| 12 years | \$43,771 | \$41,582 | \$39,393 |
| 13 years | \$44,379 | \$42,159 | \$39,940 |
| 14 years | \$44,987 | \$42,737 | \$40,487 |
| 15 years | \$45,594 | \$43,314 | \$41,034 |
| 16 years | \$46,202 | \$43,892 | \$41,582 |
| 17 years | \$46,810 | \$44,469 | \$42,130 |
| 18 years | \$47,418 | \$45,047 | \$42,677 |
| 19 years | \$48,026 | \$45,624 | \$43,224 |
| 20 years | \$48,634 | \$46,202 | \$43,771 |

The above schedule reflects a 1.5% increase from the 2014 schedule. This recommended percentage increase was based on consideration of various data including Social Security increases, inflation rates, changes in denominational and clergy compensation, and changes in Conference employee compensation.

In addition to the cash compensation per the above schedule, the local church will provide housing comparable to the housing standards of the local church community, by means of a parsonage or a housing allowance. If a housing allowance is provided, the amount shall be determined by the local church in consultation with the District Superintendent. If a parsonage is provided, it must meet the standards described in Conference Policy VIII.G, Clergy Housing Policies and Standards. In addition to the housing allowance or parsonage, the congregation

1 shall provide full payment of gas, water, electricity, sewer, trash collection, telephone and other
2 utilities for the residence.

3
4 II. Professional Expenses

5 Business and Transportation: The local church will provide an accountable
6 reimbursement plan for business and transportation expenses incurred by the pastor in the work
7 of the parish in an amount no less than \$2,000 for the year. Reimbursement for auto
8 transportation will be at the IRS allowable standard mileage rate. For all churches receiving
9 equitable compensation subsidies, the accountable reimbursement plan for business and
10 transportation cannot exceed \$4,000 for the year.

11 Continuing Education The local church will provide an accountable reimbursement plan
12 for continuing education expenses incurred by the pastor in the work of the parish in an amount
13 no less than \$500 for the year. For churches receiving equitable compensation subsidies, the
14 accountable reimbursement plan for continuing education cannot exceed \$1,000 for the year.

15
16 III. Benefits

17 *Health/Dental Insurance: The local church will provide payment of premiums for the
18 Annual Conference sponsored health/dental insurance program for the clergy member where
19 required.

20 *Pension: Payment of the local church's contribution to the Clergy Retirement Security
21 Program (CRSP) will be provided by the local church.

22
23 * Note: Conference Rule IV.F.3.f states: "Payment of monthly subsidies will be made by the
24 Conference Treasurer, first to cover health insurance premiums, second to cover pension
25 payments, and third any subsidy balance to the local church."

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Lois Hedden

The Council on Finance and Administration (“CFA”) was busy this past year dealing with the many financial and administrative issues of the Conference.

After tracking closely with last year and historical averages through the first 11 months of 2013, our apportionment receipts in December were disappointingly low. We finished the year with 87.6% of apportionments being contributed by our churches. This was 3.0% and \$195,000 below 2012. It was also 2.8% below our average apportionment contributions for the last ten years. We congratulate the 71% of our churches that were able to contribute 100% or more of their apportionments in 2013. This was down from 76% in 2012.

On the spending side of things, we did a very good job of controlling expenses. We also benefitted from good investment returns. So, even with paying our general church apportionments at 100% (which used \$130,000), we generated an operating surplus of \$110,000 for the year. At 12/31/13, we had \$1.1 million of available cash reserves, so we are in a solid financial condition that will allow us to move forward with some ministry opportunities as they arise.

In fact, we plan on doing something at this June’s Annual Conference session that we hope might help ignite ministries in our Conference. Ignite... is the theme of this year’s Annual Conference session. We feel that the most effective way to do this is at the local church level. So, we came up with an idea that we think is an exciting one. We’ll share it with you in June.

The 2015 Conference apportioned budget was again developed in cooperation with the Covenant Council. In November and December 2013, the ministry teams of the Covenant Council developed plans for ministries and programs along with requests for funding in keeping with our Strategic Direction. These ministry funding requests were shared with the entire Covenant Council in January 2014, and a subcommittee was formed to review the overall 2015 Conference budget request. That subcommittee met in February and proposed some reductions that were subsequently approved by the entire Covenant Council and CFA in March.

In developing the 2015 Conference budget, CFA felt it was important to be in line with what was happening in our local churches. We noted that the level of local church expenses in our Conference, per the 2013 statistical tables, was almost exactly the same as it was for 2012. And more than half of our churches actually showed decreased expenses from 2012 to 2013. Given that, CFA felt strongly that the 2015 Conference budget should be flat compared to 2014. Accordingly, we recommend a 2015 Conference budget that represents a 0.04% decrease from the 2014 budget.

For 2015, we also recommend no change in the level I exempt compensation (after a 1% increase from 2013 to 2014). This recommendation is based on consideration of changes in inflation, Conference clergy compensation, and other Conference staff compensation over the past year.

1 Looking beyond just 2014 and 2015, CFA again asked all ministry teams to project
2 budgets through 2018. Our goal is to better align the budget with our Strategic Direction. We
3 remain committed to the goal of paying 100% payment of our general church and jurisdictional
4 apportionments without using designated funds. We believe this is critical to the mission and
5 success of our connectional church as we head into the future.
6

7 Personally, I want to thank Bishop Bob Hoshibata and the entire Conference for
8 allowing me to serve as CFA President during this current quadrennium. It is a real privilege.
9 As a group, CFA extends its appreciation to our Conference staff members: Randy Bowman,
10 Treasurer; Dale Cook, Assistant Treasurer; Cynthia Satchel, Pension & Health Benefits
11 Assistant; Debbie Neuteboom, Camping Assistant; and Lori Davalos, Receptionist. Most
12 especially, CFA extends much credit and gratitude to all of you in the local congregation who
13 faithfully support the connectional system of the United Methodist Church through this
14 Conference and its extension of Christ's ministry.
15

16 Approved March 15, 2014: 11 for, 0 against, 0 abstained

CONFERENCE BUDGET 2015

| | 2014 Budget | 2015 CF&A Proposed Budget | Footnotes | 2014 vs. 2015 % Change |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| World Service and Conference Benevolences | | | | |
| World Service Fund | \$ 576,274 | \$ 572,614 | (A) | -0.64% |
| | <u>\$ 576,274</u> | <u>\$ 572,614</u> | | <u>-0.64%</u> |
| Covenant Council/Connectional Ministries | \$ 251,200 | \$ 258,800 | | 3.03% |
| Faith Communities Team | | | | |
| New Faith Communities | \$ 600,000 | \$ 600,000 | | 0.00% |
| Vital Faith Communities | 62,000 | 62,000 | | 0.00% |
| Hispanic Ministry Committee | 13,000 | 13,000 | | 0.00% |
| Native American Ministries | 3,000 | 3,000 | | 0.00% |
| Ethnic Local Church Concerns | 1,750 | 1,750 | | 0.00% |
| Strengthening the Black Church | 500 | 500 | | 0.00% |
| Evangelism | 4,000 | 4,000 | | 0.00% |
| Small Church Membership | 500 | 500 | | 0.00% |
| | <u>\$ 684,750</u> | <u>\$ 684,750</u> | | <u>0.00%</u> |
| Outreach Team | | | | |
| Christian Unity/Interreligious Concerns | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,500 | | 0.00% |
| Church and Society | 4,000 | 5,000 | | 25.00% |
| AIDS Taskforce | 1,000 | 1,000 | | 0.00% |
| Global Ministries | 290,100 | 253,700 | (C) | -12.55% |
| Religion and Race | 1,000 | 1,000 | | 0.00% |
| Status and Role of Women | 2,000 | 2,000 | | 0.00% |
| Outreach Administration | 151,800 | 152,400 | | 0.40% |
| | <u>\$ 451,400</u> | <u>\$ 416,600</u> | | <u>-7.71%</u> |
| Discipleship Team | | | | |
| Camping and Outdoor Ministry Team | \$ 210,000 | \$ 250,700 | (D) | 19.38% |
| Worship Committee | 4,000 | 4,000 | | N/A |
| Older Adult Ministries | 1,000 | 1,000 | | N/A |
| Education for All Ages | 15,900 | 8,000 | (D) | -49.69% |
| Worship & Spiritual Growth | 11,800 | 4,000 | (D) | -66.10% |
| | <u>\$ 242,700</u> | <u>\$ 267,700</u> | | <u>10.30%</u> |
| Jurisdictional Funds | | | | |
| Western Jurisdiction Admin | \$ 32,355 | \$ 32,355 | (B) | 0.00% |
| WJ General Conference Host Funding | 3,742 | 3,742 | (B) | 0.00% |
| | <u>\$ 36,097</u> | <u>\$ 36,097</u> | | <u>0.00%</u> |
| Total World Service and Conf Benevolences | \$2,242,421 | \$2,236,561 | | -0.26% |

2014 Conference Budget

| | 2014 Budget | 2015 CF&A Proposed Budget | Footnotes | 2014 vs. 2015 % Change |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Support Ministry Team | | | | |
| I. | | | | |
| Archives and History | \$ 15,000 | \$ 15,500 | | 3.33% |
| Equitable Compensation | 210,000 | 210,000 | | 0.00% |
| Mission Church Support | 170,000 | 170,000 | | 0.00% |
| Finance and Administration | 288,400 | 296,300 | | 2.74% |
| U. M. Center Support Services | 55,800 | 64,000 | (E) | 14.70% |
| Pension and Health Benefits | 825,000 | 775,000 | (F) | -6.06% |
| Communications | 282,000 | 287,400 | | 1.91% |
| Personnel Policies Committee | 750 | 750 | | 0.00% |
| Rules | 500 | 500 | | 0.00% |
| Trustees | 15,000 | 15,300 | | 2.00% |
| Sessions | 53,000 | 76,000 | (G) | 43.40% |
| Conference Secretary | 22,000 | 22,000 | | 0.00% |
| Moving Expense Fund | 94,000 | 94,000 | | 0.00% |
| Contingency Reserve | 94,000 | 75,000 | | -20.21% |
| General Church Administration Fund | 69,545 | 69,118 | (A) | -0.61% |
| Interdenominational Cooperation Fund | 15,465 | 15,382 | (A) | -0.54% |
| | <u>\$2,210,460</u> | <u>\$2,186,250</u> | | <u>-1.10%</u> |
| Leadership Team | | | | |
| II. | | | | |
| District Superintendent Fund | \$ 970,900 | \$ 980,200 | | 0.96% |
| Association of Retired Ministers | 3,000 | 3,000 | | 0.00% |
| Board of Laity | 8,000 | 8,500 | | 6.25% |
| Youth and Young Adult | 13,000 | 13,000 | | 0.00% |
| Nominations & Leadership Development | 1,900 | 1,500 | | -21.05% |
| Higher Education and Campus Ministry | 161,000 | 190,700 | (H) | 18.45% |
| Board of Ordained Ministry | 13,000 | 16,000 | | 23.08% |
| District Leadership Teams | 5,000 | 5,000 | | 0.00% |
| Delegate Support-Gen & Juris Conf | 3,000 | 3,000 | | 0.00% |
| Conference Episcopal Fund | 88,000 | 92,000 | | 4.55% |
| General Church Episcopal Fund | 168,271 | 171,740 | (A) | 2.06% |
| | <u>\$1,435,071</u> | <u>\$1,484,640</u> | | <u>3.45%</u> |
| Other Gen/Juris Conf Benevolences | | | | |
| V. | | | | |
| Claremont School of Theology | \$ 45,000 | \$ 45,000 | (I) | 0.00% |
| Desert Southwest UM Foundation | 40,000 | 20,000 | (I) | -50.00% |
| Arizona Ecumenical Council | 16,025 | 16,025 | (I) | 0.00% |
| Ministerial Education | 197,844 | 196,585 | (A) | -0.64% |
| Black College Fund | 78,914 | 78,420 | (A) | -0.63% |

| | 2014 Conference Budget <i>continued</i> | | | 2014 vs. 2015 % Change |
|--|---|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | 2014 Budget | 2015 CF&A Proposed Budget | Footnotes | |
| Other Gen/Juris Conf Benevolences (<i>continued</i>) | | | | |
| Africa University | 17,660 | 17,547 | (A) | -0.64% |
| | <u>\$ 395,443</u> | <u>\$ 373,577</u> | | <u>-5.53%</u> |
| Total Apportioned Conference Budget | <u>\$ 6,283,395</u> | <u>\$ 6,281,028</u> | | <u>-0.04%</u> |

Footnotes

- (A) General church apportionments set by General Council on Finance and Administration.
- (B) Jurisdictional apportionments and general Conference host funding request are both set by Western Jurisdiction.
- (C) 2015 budget reflects elimination of half-time Conference missionary position.
- (D) 2015 budget reflects increase for additional camp program offerings & transfer of all Discipleship staff expense to Camping.
- (E) 2015 budget reflects increase for including receptionist benefits.
- (F) 2015 budget reflects decrease for retiree health insurance subsidy changes.
- (G) 2015 budget reflects large increase for audio visual services based on actual 2013 expenditures.
- (H) 2015 budget reflects increase to get ASU & U of A fully funded and NAU 50% funded in the next 5 years.
- (I) Support for Arizona Ecumenical Council, Claremont School of Theology, & Desert Southwest UM Foundation moved to Other Benevolences in 2015 budget.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1 – 2015 Apportioned Conference Budget

That the total Apportioned Conference budget for 2015 be \$6,281,028 as follows:

- A World Service and Conference Benevolences budget of \$2,236,561 (including \$572,614 for the World Service Fund)
- A Support Ministry Team budget of \$2,186,250
- A Leadership Team budget of \$1,484,640
- A budget for Other Conference Benevolences of \$373,577

Recommendation No. 2 – Special Days and Causes

That the Special Days and Causes goals be \$210,000 for 2015 as follows:

Day/Cause and Month

| | |
|--|----------|
| Human Relations Day (January)..... | \$10,000 |
| Campus Ministries (February) | \$18,500 |
| One Great Hour (March)..... | \$50,000 |
| Special Needs Awareness (1 st Sunday in April) | \$5,000 |
| Native American Awareness (2 nd Sunday after Easter)..... | \$12,000 |
| Peace with Justice (May) | \$15,000 |
| Youth Service Fund (June) | \$20,000 |
| Golden Cross (July) | \$12,000 |
| Conference Hunger Needs (August)..... | \$25,000 |
| Young Adults (1 st Sunday in September) | \$5,000 |
| Christian Education (September)..... | \$7,500 |
| World Communion (October)..... | \$18,000 |
| Rural Life Sunday (November) | \$6,000 |
| United Methodist Student Day (December) | \$6,000 |

Recommendation No. 3 – Conference Advance and Benevolence Specials

That the following Conference Advance and Benevolence Specials be approved for 2015:

- Arizona Ecumenical Council
- Church to Church Pastor Support
- Conference Missionary (Surafel Gebretsadik)
- Cook Native American Ministries
- El Mesias Iglesia Metodista - Nogales
- Fort Yuma Indian Mission
- General Board of Global Ministries Advance specials
- Hope for the Hopeless Ethiopian Orphanage
- Justa Center
- Methodist Border Mission Network
- Mexico Methodist Ministries
- Mingus Mountain Camp
- Nevadans for the Common Good
- Northern Arizona Native American Ministries
- Phoenix Native American Fellowship
- Potosi Pines Camp
- Religious Alliance in Nevada (RAIN)

1 School of Theology at Claremont
2 Sidewalk Sunday School
3 Sierra Service Project
4 Strength for the Journey
5 TMM Family Services - Tucson
6 United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM/New Day) - Phoenix
7 United Methodist Social Ministries (UMSM) - Las Vegas
8 United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)
9 United Christian Ministry, Northern Arizona University
10 Wesley Foundation, University of Arizona
11 Wesley Community Center - Phoenix
12 Wesley Foundation, Arizona State University

13
14 Recommendation No. 4 – Other Recommendations

15
16 That the 2014 Annual Conference offerings be designated as follows:
17 Thursday Evening Memorial Service – Iskashitaa Refugee Network of Tucson
18 Saturday Evening Ordination Service – Claremont School of Theology
19 Sunday Morning Closing Service – United Methodist Social Ministries of Las Vegas

20
21 That the Level I Exempt Compensation figure be set at \$101,196 for 2015, which reflects no
22 change from 2014.

23
24 That the following be adopted regarding employee expenses:
25 A) That the employee reimbursement mileage rate for 2015 shall be at the allowable
26 rate of the Internal Revenue Code.
27 B) That the maximum daily meal allowance for 2015 shall be \$40.00 per person.

28
29 That Annual Conference members of the 2015 Annual Conference Session be reimbursed for
30 travel to and from the Session in excess of 50 miles one way (100 miles both ways) at 22 cents
31 per mile, with an additional 4 cents per mile if one or more additional members travel in the
32 same vehicle. Alternatively, reimbursement shall be made for airfare at the lowest coach air
33 fare available for a 21 day advance purchase. The reimbursement is for miles traveled within
34 the geographical bounds of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. Airfare will be
35 reimbursed on a pro rata basis for miles flown over the geographical bounds of the Annual
36 Conference.

37
38 That members of Conference Boards and Committees be reimbursed for official travel at the
39 rate of 22 cents per mile, with an additional 4 cents per mile if one or more additional members
40 travel in the same vehicle. Alternatively, reimbursement shall be made for airfare at the lowest
41 coach air fare available for a 21 day advance purchase.

42
43 That spending is to be only within budgeted or designated funds. Any exceptions must be
44 presented to the Council on Finance and Administration for consideration.

9.15A

2013 APPORTIONMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Apportionment Contributions by Budget Line Item

| <u>Line Item</u> | 2013 Apportioned | 2013 Contributed | 2013 % Contributed | 2012 % Contributed |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| World Service & Conference Benevolences | \$ 2,247,417 | \$ 1,970,359 | 87.67% | 90.33% |
| Leadership Ministry Team | 1,462,155 | 1,276,652 | 87.31% | 90.39% |
| Support Ministry Team | 2,355,170 | 2,063,356 | 87.61% | 90.61% |
| Ministerial Education Fund | 203,952 | 178,604 | 87.57% | 91.04% |
| Black College Fund | 81,348 | 70,963 | 87.23% | 91.27% |
| Africa University Fund | 18,204 | 16,078 | 88.32% | 112.68% |
| Total | \$ 6,368,247 | \$5,576,012 | 87.56% | 90.55% |

Apportionment Contributions by District

| <u>Line Item</u> | North | South | Central East | Central West | Conference |
|---|------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| No. of Churches Assigned Apportionments | 29 | 31 | 41 | 37 | 138 |
| Total Apportionments | \$ 980,798 | \$ 1,307,074 | \$ 2,468,004 | \$ 1,612,371 | 6,368,247 |
| Total Received | \$ 862,990 | \$ 1,199,780 | \$ 2,016,977 | \$ 1,496,266 | 5,576,012 |
| % Received | 87.99% | 91.79% | 81.73% | 92.80% | 87.56% |
| No. of Churches Paying 100% or More | 20 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 98 |
| % of Churches Paying 100% or More | 68.97% | 77.42% | 63.41% | 75.68% | 71.01% |

2013 APPORTIONMENT REPORT BY DISTRICT

| | Apportionment | Paid | % Paid |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| <u>North District</u> | | | |
| A Grain of Mustard Seed UMF | 4,113.00 | 4,113.00 | 100.00% |
| Advent UMC | 35,031.00 | 25,215.54 | 71.98% |
| First Tongan UMF | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 100.00% |
| Boulder City UMF | 10,055.00 | 10,055.04 | 100.00% |
| Community UMC of Caliente | 6,185.00 | 6,185.00 | 100.00% |
| Community UMC of Blythe | 9,621.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Community UMC of Williams | 11,921.00 | 12,000.01 | 100.66% |
| Desert Spring UMC | 106,985.00 | 107,044.12 | 100.06% |
| Federated Community Church | 17,033.00 | 4,583.00 | 26.91% |
| First Filipino American UMF | 5,360.00 | 5,360.00 | 100.00% |
| First UMC of Henderson | 40,139.00 | 40,139.00 | 100.00% |
| First UMC of Winslow | 6,182.00 | 2,852.00 | 46.13% |
| Green Valley UMC Henderson | 119,556.00 | 119,586.00 | 100.03% |
| Griffith UMC | 19,288.00 | 13,277.00 | 68.84% |
| Heritage UMC | 23,994.00 | 2,200.00 | 9.17% |
| Holbrook UMC | 5,141.00 | 5,141.00 | 100.00% |
| Hope UMC Bullhead City | 21,223.00 | 3,538.00 | 16.67% |
| Korean UMC Las Vegas | 5,448.00 | 5,448.00 | 100.00% |
| Mesquite UMC | 20,828.00 | 13,393.69 | 64.31% |
| Mohave Valley UMC | 17,211.00 | 17,311.00 | 100.58% |
| Page Community UMC | 9,106.00 | 9,106.00 | 100.00% |
| Pahrump Valley UMC | 16,215.00 | 16,303.58 | 100.55% |
| Parker UMC | 7,618.00 | 7,618.00 | 100.00% |
| St John's UMC Kingman | 67,729.00 | 67,729.00 | 100.00% |
| St Michael's UMC | 50,547.00 | 50,547.00 | 100.00% |
| Trinity Heights UMC | 142,867.00 | 142,867.00 | 100.00% |
| Trinity UMC of Las Vegas | 83,706.00 | 83,706.00 | 100.00% |
| University UMC | 78,392.00 | 78,542.00 | 100.19% |
| Zion UMC | 38,304.00 | 8,130.00 | 21.22% |
| | 980,798.00 | 862,989.98 | 87.99% |

2013 Apportionment Report By District

| | Apportionment | Paid | % Paid |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <u>South District</u> | | | |
| Bowie UMC | 2,137.00 | 2,137.00 | 100.00% |
| Catalina UMC | 152,414.00 | 152,414.00 | 100.00% |
| Christ Church UM of Tucson | 93,742.00 | 93,742.00 | 100.00% |
| Desert Skies UMC | 87,275.00 | 87,275.04 | 100.00% |
| Duncan UMC | 664.00 | 664.08 | 100.01% |
| El Mesias UMC | 4,863.00 | 4,526.00 | 93.07% |
| First UMC of Eloy | 5,171.00 | 5,171.00 | 100.00% |
| First UMC of Bisbee | 2,597.00 | 2,597.16 | 100.01% |
| First UMC of Tucson | 52,783.00 | 52,783.00 | 100.00% |
| First UMC of Safford | 34,982.00 | 34,982.00 | 100.00% |
| Grace UMC of Douglas | 5,369.00 | 5,395.34 | 100.49% |
| Green Valley Community Church | 112,220.00 | 112,220.00 | 100.00% |
| Hope UMC of Tucson | 21,647.00 | 5,413.69 | 25.01% |
| Huachuca UMC | 4,614.00 | 4,614.06 | 100.00% |
| Korean UMF | 13,912.00 | 13,519.00 | 97.18% |
| Menlo Park UMC | 1,955.00 | 1,928.00 | 98.62% |
| Patagonia Community Church | 8,587.00 | 8,587.08 | 100.00% |
| San Pedro Valley UMC | 9,503.00 | 7,218.00 | 75.95% |
| San Simon UMC | 817.00 | 817.00 | 100.00% |
| Sanctuary UMC | 28,132.00 | 28,132.00 | 100.00% |
| Santa Cruz Valley UMC | 30,828.00 | 30,828.00 | 100.00% |
| Sierra Vista UMC | 71,040.00 | 71,040.00 | 100.00% |
| St Francis in the Foothills UMC | 97,854.00 | 97,854.00 | 100.00% |
| St James UMC | 16,713.00 | 16,713.00 | 100.00% |
| St John's UMC of Tucson | 3,092.00 | 3,092.00 | 100.00% |
| St Mark's UMC | 173,797.00 | 173,797.00 | 100.00% |
| St Paul's UMC | 157,876.00 | 79,157.08 | 50.14% |
| Trinity UMC of Bisbee | 6,619.00 | 6,619.00 | 100.00% |
| UMC of the Good Shepherd | 5,685.00 | 5,685.00 | 100.00% |
| Vista De La Montaña UMC | 75,582.00 | 75,582.45 | 100.00% |
| Willcox UMC | 24,604.00 | 15,276.53 | 62.09% |
| | <u>1,307,074.00</u> | <u>1,199,779.51</u> | <u>91.79%</u> |

2013 Apportionment Report By District

| | Apportionment | Paid | % Paid |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <u>Central East District</u> | | | |
| Albright UMC | 15,361.00 | 2,478.28 | 16.13% |
| Aldersgate UMC | 32,351.00 | 1,518.94 | 4.70% |
| Arizona Korean UMF | 11,012.00 | 5,186.00 | 47.09% |
| Central UMC | 154,939.00 | 77,469.50 | 50.00% |
| Chandler UMC | 49,478.00 | 12,000.00 | 24.25% |
| Claypool UMC | 4,507.00 | 4,507.00 | 100.00% |
| Creighton UMC | 28,377.00 | 622.91 | 2.20% |
| Cross in the Desert UMC | 60,851.00 | 45,638.28 | 75.00% |
| CrossRoads UMC | 40,077.00 | 9,827.00 | 24.52% |
| Dayspring UMC | 166,707.00 | 166,707.12 | 100.00% |
| Desert Chapel UMC | 31,325.00 | 4,740.50 | 15.13% |
| Desert Foothills UMC | 42,539.00 | 15,000.00 | 35.26% |
| Desert Mission UMC | 19,962.00 | 19,962.00 | 100.00% |
| First UMC of Gilbert | 125,422.00 | 125,422.00 | 100.00% |
| First UMC of Mesa | 122,420.00 | 20,600.00 | 16.83% |
| First UMC of Tempe | 117,673.00 | 117,673.00 | 100.00% |
| Gold Canyon UMC | 136,960.00 | 136,960.00 | 100.00% |
| Grace UMC of Mesa | 53,553.00 | 10,000.00 | 18.67% |
| Jacob's Well UMF | 275.00 | 300.00 | 109.09% |
| Journey UMF | 1,815.00 | 150.00 | 8.26% |
| Living Water UMF | 4,000.00 | 4,289.00 | 107.23% |
| North Scottsdale UMC | 99,278.00 | 99,278.00 | 100.00% |
| Paradise Valley UMC | 365,386.00 | 365,386.00 | 100.00% |
| Payson UMC | 29,519.00 | 29,519.04 | 100.00% |
| Phoenix Native American UMF | 820.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Primera Iglesia | 5,488.00 | 5,488.00 | 100.00% |
| Red Mountain UMC | 94,291.00 | 94,291.00 | 100.00% |
| Scottsdale UMC | 70,046.00 | 70,046.00 | 100.00% |
| Shepherd of the Pines UMC | 10,275.00 | 10,377.87 | 101.00% |
| Song of Life UMC | 17,013.00 | 17,023.00 | 100.06% |
| Spirit of Joy UMC | 12,038.00 | 12,038.24 | 100.00% |
| St Matthew UMC | 105,558.00 | 105,558.00 | 100.00% |
| St. Paul's UMC of Globe | 10,515.00 | 10,515.00 | 100.00% |
| Sun Lakes UMC | 143,341.00 | 143,341.00 | 100.00% |
| The Fountains UMC | 40,310.00 | 40,310.00 | 100.00% |
| Tongan UMC | 11,582.00 | 12,000.00 | 103.61% |
| UMC of Casa Grande | 27,207.00 | 27,207.00 | 100.00% |
| Velda Rose UMC | 157,539.00 | 157,539.00 | 100.00% |
| Via de Cristo UMF | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 100.00% |
| Wesley UMC of Phoenix | 18,199.00 | 6,013.03 | 33.04% |
| White Mountain UMC | 24,995.00 | 24,995.00 | 100.00% |
| | <u>2,468,004.00</u> | <u>2,016,976.71</u> | <u>81.73%</u> |

2013 Apportionment Report By District

| | Apportionment | Paid | % Paid |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <u>Central West District</u> | | | |
| Ajo Federated | 6,753.00 | 2,827.20 | 41.87% |
| Asbury UMC | 27,775.00 | 16,258.32 | 58.54% |
| Calvary UMC | 33,827.00 | 2,850.00 | 8.43% |
| Camp Verde UMC | 14,860.00 | 14,860.00 | 100.00% |
| Chino Valley UMC | 14,665.00 | 14,881.54 | 101.48% |
| Christ Community UMC of Avondale | 37,513.00 | 37,513.00 | 100.00% |
| Community UMC of Buckeye | 13,994.00 | 13,994.00 | 100.00% |
| Dove of the Desert UMC | 136,252.00 | 136,252.00 | 100.00% |
| Epworth UMC | 31,411.00 | 31,800.00 | 101.24% |
| Faith UMC | 21,408.00 | 21,422.99 | 100.07% |
| First UMC of Glendale | 64,559.00 | 43,039.70 | 66.67% |
| First UMC of Phoenix | 180,126.00 | 180,126.00 | 100.00% |
| First UMC of Sun City | 37,737.00 | 38,837.00 | 102.91% |
| First UMC of Yuma | 29,457.00 | 12,234.50 | 41.53% |
| Fort Yuma UMC | 3,258.00 | 3,258.00 | 100.00% |
| Gila Mountain UMC | 50,679.00 | 51,279.12 | 101.18% |
| Haven UMC | 6,509.00 | 6,509.00 | 100.00% |
| Iglesia Metodista Unida de Somerton | 4,027.00 | 500.00 | 12.42% |
| Lakeview UMC | 116,630.00 | 118,630.04 | 101.71% |
| Liberty UMC | 8,337.00 | 8,337.00 | 100.00% |
| Mission Bell UMC | 33,252.00 | 33,252.00 | 100.00% |
| Mountain View UMC | 36,663.00 | 36,663.00 | 100.00% |
| New Song UMC | 49,618.00 | 41,912.78 | 84.47% |
| Pioneer UMF | 4,873.00 | 4,873.00 | 100.00% |
| Prescott UMC | 130,421.00 | 130,421.00 | 100.00% |
| Prescott Valley UMC | 17,028.00 | 17,198.28 | 101.00% |
| Sedona UMC | 36,436.00 | 36,436.08 | 100.00% |
| Shepherd of the Hills UMC | 186,640.00 | 186,640.00 | 100.00% |
| Shepherd of the Valley UMC | 25,589.00 | 13,995.07 | 54.69% |
| South Mountain Community Ch | 4,002.00 | 4,002.00 | 100.00% |
| Spirit of Hope UMC | 28,660.00 | 28,660.00 | 100.00% |
| Spirit Song UMF | 2,218.00 | 2,218.50 | 100.02% |
| Sunrise UMC | 8,971.00 | 8,971.00 | 100.00% |
| Trinity UMC of Phoenix | 49,704.00 | 37,094.61 | 74.63% |
| Trinity UMC of Yuma | 35,190.00 | 35,190.00 | 100.00% |
| Willowbrook UMC | 116,065.00 | 116,065.00 | 100.00% |
| Youngtown UMC | 7,264.00 | 7,264.00 | 100.00% |
| | <u>1,612,371.00</u> | <u>1,496,265.73</u> | <u>92.80%</u> |

2015 GRADE FIGURE

1
2
3
4 Date: March 31, 2014
5
6 To: Members of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference
7 of The United Methodist Church
8
9 From: Randy Bowman
10 Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer
11
12 Subject: 2015 Grade Figure and Grade Figure Formula
13
14

15 The Grade Figure Formula can be found on page 110 of the 2013 Annual Conference
16 Journal, Volume 2. A more detailed outline of the calculation is on the next page.
17

18 If you multiply the total budget of the Annual Conference by the grade figure of your
19 local church, you will get an idea of what your local church's apportionments for 2015 may be.
20 The grade figure can also be used to determine the effect that changes to the Annual
21 Conference budget will have on your local church's apportionments.
22

23 Remember, the calculation for the 2015 grade figure is based on the data received from
24 the local churches on their 2013 Statistical Tables. The grade figures as shown may not be final
25 depending on possible actions of the Annual Conference.
26

27 This year, we anticipate publication on our web site of the local church apportionments
28 for 2015 soon after the close of the 2014 Annual Conference Session.

GRADE FIGURE FORMULA CALCULATION WORKSHEET

FIGURES TO BE USED IN CALCULATIONS:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Total Membership of All Conference <u>Churches</u> as of 12/31/13 | 34,343 |
| Conference Average Compensation ("CAC") | \$65,885 |
| Total Net Expenses of All Conference <u>Churches</u> for 2013 | \$24,633,453 |
| Total Conference 2015 CF&A <i>Proposed Budget</i> | \$6,281,028 |

LOCAL CHURCH EXPENSE FACTOR (80% WEIGHT FACTOR):

1. Local church expenses (add lines 46 through 57 of Table 2 of the 2013 Statistical Tables) _____
2. Senior pastor compensation adjustment (enter the sum of lines 48 and 50 of Table 2 or the above CAC of \$65,885, whichever is smaller) _____
3. Total net local church expenditures (subtract line 2 from 1) _____
4. Local church expense decimal (line 3 divided by All Churches Net Expenses of \$24,633,453 (*carry out to five decimal places*)) _____
5. Grade figure for local church expenditures (line 4 x .80) (*carry out to five decimal places*) _____

MEMBERSHIP FACTOR (20% WEIGHT FACTOR):

6. Local church membership (line 9, Table 1 of 2013 Statistical Tables) _____
7. Membership decimal (line 6 divided by Total Conference Membership of All Churches of 34,343) (*carry out to five decimal places*) _____
8. Grade figure for membership (line 7 x .20) (*carry out to five decimal places*) _____
9. Total grade figure (line 5 + line 8 church membership) _____
10. Apportionment calculation (line 9 x Conference Budget) _____

GRADE FIGURE TABLES FOR 2015

| Church Name | Membership 2012 | Membership 2013 | 2015 Membership Decimal 20% of Grade Figure | 2012 Net Total Expenses | 2013 Net Total Expenses | 2015 Expense Decimal 80% of Grade Figure | 2014 Grade Figure | 2015 Grade Figure |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| NORTH DISTRICT | | | | | | | | |
| Community UMC of Blythe | 38 | 36 | 0.00021 | \$ 41,190 | \$ 18,449 | 0.00060 | 0.00155 | 0.00081 |
| Hope UMC of Bullhead City | 161 | 171 | 0.00100 | 54,102 | 61,159 | 0.00199 | 0.00267 | 0.00298 |
| Community UMC of Caliente | 37 | 43 | 0.00025 | 27,130 | 30,585 | 0.00099 | 0.00109 | 0.00124 |
| Federated Community Church | 86 | 82 | 0.00048 | 68,546 | 66,333 | 0.00215 | 0.00271 | 0.00263 |
| Trinity Heights UMC | 569 | 549 | 0.00320 | 523,054 | 484,383 | 0.01573 | 0.02019 | 0.01893 |
| Green Valley UMC of Henderson | 537 | 518 | 0.00302 | 502,605 | 483,925 | 0.01572 | 0.01934 | 0.01873 |
| First UMC of Henderson | 285 | 273 | 0.00159 | 110,014 | 116,885 | 0.00380 | 0.00518 | 0.00539 |
| Holbrook UMC | 58 | 54 | 0.00031 | 17,786 | 17,420 | 0.00057 | 0.00091 | 0.00088 |
| St John's UMC of Kingman | 387 | 387 | 0.00225 | 255,674 | 205,516 | 0.00667 | 0.01049 | 0.00893 |
| St Michael's UMC | 322 | 321 | 0.00187 | 173,332 | 157,591 | 0.00512 | 0.00745 | 0.00699 |
| Advent UMC | 189 | 199 | 0.00116 | 107,573 | 103,049 | 0.00335 | 0.00456 | 0.00451 |
| Desert Spring UMC | 603 | 638 | 0.00372 | 523,306 | 535,655 | 0.01740 | 0.02039 | 0.02111 |
| Griffith UMC | 87 | 82 | 0.00048 | 72,246 | 71,790 | 0.00233 | 0.00284 | 0.00281 |
| Korean UMC of Las Vegas | 67 | 67 | 0.00039 | 8,935 | 10,183 | 0.00033 | 0.00067 | 0.00072 |
| Heritage UMC | 140 | 136 | 0.00079 | 85,161 | 73,548 | 0.00239 | 0.00356 | 0.00318 |
| Trinity UMC of Las Vegas | 363 | 345 | 0.00201 | 297,546 | 256,599 | 0.00833 | 0.01171 | 0.01034 |
| University UMC | 326 | 318 | 0.00185 | 345,185 | 322,409 | 0.01047 | 0.01304 | 0.01232 |
| Mesquite UMC | 178 | 147 | 0.00086 | 60,352 | 69,383 | 0.00225 | 0.00297 | 0.00311 |
| Mohave Valley UMC | 223 | 229 | 0.00133 | 45,627 | 46,329 | 0.00150 | 0.00274 | 0.00284 |
| Zion UMC | 170 | 165 | 0.00096 | 152,842 | 187,299 | 0.00608 | 0.00592 | 0.00704 |
| Page Community UMC | 86 | 76 | 0.00044 | 31,851 | 35,341 | 0.00115 | 0.00152 | 0.00159 |
| Pahrump Valley UMC | 112 | 119 | 0.00069 | 63,166 | 62,537 | 0.00203 | 0.00268 | 0.00272 |
| Parker UMC | 75 | 74 | 0.00043 | 30,234 | 34,872 | 0.00113 | 0.00141 | 0.00156 |
| Community UMC of Williams | 73 | 68 | 0.00040 | 47,405 | 43,126 | 0.00140 | 0.00195 | 0.00180 |
| First UMC of Winslow | 38 | 37 | 0.00022 | 25,504 | 27,123 | 0.00088 | 0.00104 | 0.00110 |
| | 5,210 | 5,134 | 0.02990 | \$3,670,364 | \$3,521,489 | 0.11436 | 0.14858 | 0.14426 |

| Church Name | 2012 Membership | 2012 Membership | 2015 Membership Decimal | 2012 Net Total Expenses | 2013 Net Total Expenses | 2015 Expense Decimal | 2014 Grade Figure | 2015 Grade Figure |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | 20% of Grade Figure | | | 80% of Grade Figure | | |

SOUTH DISTRICT

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| San Pedro Valley UMC | 77 | 57 | 0.00033 | \$ 21,971 | \$ 18,511 | 0.00060 | 0.00115 | 0.00093 |
| First UMC of Bisbee | 28 | 28 | 0.00016 | 7,499 | 4,642 | 0.00015 | 0.00040 | 0.00031 |
| Trinity UMC of Bisbee | 34 | 30 | 0.00017 | 23,830 | 22,117 | 0.00072 | 0.00097 | 0.00089 |
| Bowie UMC | 12 | 8 | 0.00005 | 7,705 | - | 0.00000 | 0.00032 | 0.00005 |
| Grace UMC of Douglas | 35 | 35 | 0.00020 | 20,782 | 20,782 | 0.00067 | 0.00087 | 0.00088 |
| Duncan UMC | 16 | 8 | 0.00005 | - | - | 0.00000 | 0.00009 | 0.00005 |
| First UMC of Eloy | 27 | 27 | 0.00016 | 14,582 | 14,582 | 0.00047 | 0.00063 | 0.00063 |
| Green Valley Community Church | 658 | 669 | 0.00390 | 437,279 | 409,531 | 0.01330 | 0.01791 | 0.01720 |
| Huachuca UMC | 44 | 42 | 0.00024 | 9,255 | 11,891 | 0.00039 | 0.00055 | 0.00063 |
| UMC of the Good Shepherd | 57 | 62 | 0.00036 | 28,921 | 28,921 | 0.00094 | 0.00126 | 0.00130 |
| El Mesias UMC | 66 | 65 | 0.00038 | 13,925 | 12,412 | 0.00040 | 0.00083 | 0.00078 |
| Patagonia Community Church | 41 | 39 | 0.00023 | 49,001 | 48,512 | 0.00158 | 0.00182 | 0.00180 |
| First UMC of Safford | 271 | 208 | 0.00121 | 112,169 | 112,479 | 0.00365 | 0.00517 | 0.00486 |
| Santa Cruz Valley UMC | 155 | 125 | 0.00073 | 126,053 | 137,080 | 0.00445 | 0.00497 | 0.00518 |
| San Simon UMC | 9 | 9 | 0.00005 | 2,934 | 3,003 | 0.00010 | 0.00015 | 0.00015 |
| Sierra Vista UMC | 433 | 447 | 0.00260 | 268,373 | 311,557 | 0.01012 | 0.01116 | 0.01272 |
| Catalina UMC | 758 | 713 | 0.00415 | 636,265 | 583,583 | 0.01895 | 0.02493 | 0.02310 |
| Sanctuary UMC | 266 | 293 | 0.00171 | 109,182 | 121,173 | 0.00394 | 0.00505 | 0.00564 |
| Christ Church UM of Tucson | 551 | 543 | 0.00316 | 372,864 | 368,111 | 0.01195 | 0.01522 | 0.01512 |
| Desert Skies UMC | 692 | 655 | 0.00381 | 308,556 | 314,649 | 0.01022 | 0.01393 | 0.01403 |
| First UMC of Tucson | 212 | 206 | 0.00120 | 198,978 | 213,334 | 0.00693 | 0.00766 | 0.00813 |
| Hope UMC of Tucson | 79 | 90 | 0.00052 | 91,563 | 83,829 | 0.00272 | 0.00342 | 0.00325 |
| Menlo Park UMC | 22 | 22 | 0.00013 | 5,820 | 5,820 | 0.00019 | 0.00031 | 0.00032 |
| St Francis in the Foothills UMC | 441 | 472 | 0.00275 | 354,050 | 359,078 | 0.01166 | 0.01398 | 0.01441 |
| St James UMC | 76 | 62 | 0.00036 | 79,152 | 72,682 | 0.00236 | 0.00300 | 0.00272 |
| St John's UMC of Tucson | 14 | 11 | 0.00006 | 10,348 | 13,866 | 0.00045 | 0.00041 | 0.00051 |
| St Mark's UMC | 1,026 | 1,009 | 0.00588 | 712,741 | 703,343 | 0.02284 | 0.02893 | 0.02872 |
| St Paul's UMC of Tucson | 1,104 | 1,102 | 0.00642 | 591,673 | 530,122 | 0.01722 | 0.02545 | 0.02363 |
| Vista De La Montaña UMC | 366 | 302 | 0.00176 | 211,693 | 190,503 | 0.00619 | 0.00894 | 0.00795 |
| Willcox UMC | 221 | 213 | 0.00124 | 94,739 | 102,500 | 0.00333 | 0.00433 | 0.00457 |
| | 7,791 | 7,552 | 0.04398 | \$4,921,904 | \$4,818,614 | 0.15649 | 0.20381 | 0.20047 |

| Church Name | 2012 Membership | 2012 Membership | 2015 Membership Decimal | 2012 Net Total Expenses | 2013 Net Total Expenses | 2015 Expense Decimal | 2014 Grade Figure | 2015 Grade Figure |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | 20% of Grade Figure | | | 80% of Grade Figure | | |

CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Desert Chapel UMC | 158 | 158 | 0.00092 | \$ 140,710 | \$ 132,170 | 0.00429 | 0.00546 | 0.00521 |
| Gold Canyon UMC | 800 | 823 | 0.00479 | 623,333 | 636,763 | 0.02068 | 0.02475 | 0.02547 |
| UMC of Casa Grande | 167 | 172 | 0.00100 | 104,584 | 105,334 | 0.00342 | 0.00434 | 0.00442 |
| Chandler UMC | 298 | 306 | 0.00178 | 195,764 | 227,963 | 0.00740 | 0.00804 | 0.00919 |
| Claypool UMC | 37 | 35 | 0.00020 | 14,127 | 15,435 | 0.00050 | 0.00067 | 0.00071 |
| The Fountains UMC | 174 | 198 | 0.00115 | 220,404 | 251,923 | 0.00818 | 0.00813 | 0.00933 |
| Spirit of Joy UMC | 101 | 72 | 0.00042 | 52,186 | 33,546 | 0.00109 | 0.00227 | 0.00151 |
| First UMC of Gilbert | 855 | 884 | 0.00515 | 504,990 | 578,329 | 0.01878 | 0.02123 | 0.02393 |
| St Paul's UMC of Globe | 47 | 42 | 0.00024 | 48,662 | 46,309 | 0.00150 | 0.00184 | 0.00175 |
| First UMC of Mesa | 637 | 657 | 0.00383 | 451,546 | 478,707 | 0.01555 | 0.01826 | 0.01937 |
| Grace UMC of Mesa | 258 | 241 | 0.00140 | 213,377 | 215,014 | 0.00698 | 0.00838 | 0.00839 |
| Red Mountain UMC | 570 | 572 | 0.00333 | 373,985 | 399,631 | 0.01298 | 0.01536 | 0.01631 |
| St Matthew UMC | 721 | 719 | 0.00419 | 374,611 | 351,084 | 0.01140 | 0.01624 | 0.01559 |
| Song of Life UMC | 112 | 118 | 0.00069 | 59,362 | 75,261 | 0.00244 | 0.00256 | 0.00313 |
| Tongan UMC | 82 | 82 | 0.00048 | 42,396 | 40,000 | 0.00130 | 0.00184 | 0.00178 |
| Velda Rose UMC | 843 | 792 | 0.00461 | 625,217 | 610,415 | 0.01982 | 0.02506 | 0.02444 |
| Shepherd of the Pines UMC | 99 | 85 | 0.00050 | 34,954 | 41,887 | 0.00136 | 0.00170 | 0.00186 |
| Paradise Valley UMC | 1,520 | 1,483 | 0.00864 | 1,526,487 | 1,594,868 | 0.05180 | 0.05812 | 0.06043 |
| Payson UMC | 184 | 165 | 0.00096 | 100,593 | 99,485 | 0.00323 | 0.00431 | 0.00419 |
| Albright UMC | 79 | 50 | 0.00029 | 48,286 | 50,991 | 0.00166 | 0.00201 | 0.00195 |
| Aldersgate UMC | 79 | 69 | 0.00040 | 147,377 | 116,734 | 0.00379 | 0.00523 | 0.00419 |
| Central UMC | 392 | 399 | 0.00232 | 668,852 | 667,517 | 0.02168 | 0.02391 | 0.02400 |
| Creighton UMC | 92 | 39 | 0.00023 | 113,304 | 96,222 | 0.00312 | 0.00420 | 0.00335 |
| Cross in the Desert UMC | 269 | 239 | 0.00139 | 260,700 | 247,404 | 0.00803 | 0.00998 | 0.00943 |
| Cross Roads UMC | 280 | 280 | 0.00163 | 75,762 | 148,055 | 0.00481 | 0.00405 | 0.00644 |
| Desert Foothills UMC | 244 | 222 | 0.00129 | 160,128 | 166,290 | 0.00540 | 0.00658 | 0.00669 |
| Desert Mission UMC | 171 | 177 | 0.00103 | 114,355 | 129,065 | 0.00419 | 0.00468 | 0.00522 |
| Primera Iglesia | 49 | 50 | 0.00029 | 25,485 | 21,922 | 0.00071 | 0.00110 | 0.00100 |
| Wesley UMC of Phoenix | 79 | 79 | 0.00046 | 93,104 | 82,036 | 0.00266 | 0.00347 | 0.00312 |
| North Scottsdale UMC | 658 | 689 | 0.00401 | 435,083 | 403,430 | 0.01310 | 0.01784 | 0.01711 |
| Scottsdale UMC | 411 | 358 | 0.00208 | 315,499 | 262,291 | 0.00852 | 0.01256 | 0.01060 |
| White Mountain UMC | 125 | 118 | 0.00069 | 85,241 | 76,549 | 0.00249 | 0.00347 | 0.00317 |
| Sun Lakes UMC | 742 | 746 | 0.00434 | 589,043 | 588,699 | 0.01912 | 0.02331 | 0.02346 |
| Dayspring UMC | 1,318 | 1,322 | 0.00770 | 583,891 | 581,695 | 0.01889 | 0.02641 | 0.02659 |
| First UMC of Tempe | 719 | 700 | 0.00408 | 403,556 | 400,479 | 0.01301 | 0.01717 | 0.01708 |
| | 13,370 | 13,141 | 0.07653 | \$9,826,956 | \$9,973,505 | 0.32390 | 0.39452 | 0.40043 |

1

| Church Name | 2012 Membership | 2012 Membership | 2015 Membership Decimal | 2012 Net Total Expenses | 2013 Net Total Expenses | 2015 Expense Decimal | 2014 Grade Figure | 2015 Grade Figure |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | 20% of Grade Figure | | | 80% of Grade Figure | | |
| CENTRAL WEST DISTRICT | | | | | | | | |
| Ajo Federated | 60 | 56 | 0.00033 | \$ 21,255 | \$ 14,863 | 0.00048 | 0.00103 | 0.00081 |
| Christ Community UMC of Avondale | 265 | 266 | 0.00155 | 123,779 | 133,577 | 0.00434 | 0.00552 | 0.00589 |
| Liberty UMC | 82 | 83 | 0.00048 | 30,491 | 29,820 | 0.00097 | 0.00145 | 0.00145 |
| Community Church of Buckeye | 78 | 74 | 0.00043 | 48,056 | 48,878 | 0.00159 | 0.00200 | 0.00202 |
| Camp Verde UMC | 89 | 96 | 0.00056 | 59,946 | 84,543 | 0.00275 | 0.00245 | 0.00330 |
| Chino Valley UMC | 120 | 119 | 0.00069 | 41,196 | 57,233 | 0.00186 | 0.00202 | 0.00255 |
| Mountain View UMC | 313 | 311 | 0.00181 | 141,518 | 179,675 | 0.00584 | 0.00636 | 0.00765 |
| Dove of the Desert UMC | 779 | 748 | 0.00436 | 509,638 | 508,527 | 0.01651 | 0.02095 | 0.02087 |
| First UMC of Glendale | 330 | 316 | 0.00184 | 259,701 | 225,839 | 0.00733 | 0.01029 | 0.00917 |
| Haven UMC | 46 | 45 | 0.00026 | 12,060 | 23,277 | 0.00076 | 0.00065 | 0.00102 |
| Asbury UMC | 73 | 60 | 0.00035 | 115,489 | 104,355 | 0.00339 | 0.00416 | 0.00374 |
| Calvary UMC | 134 | 127 | 0.00074 | 119,993 | 119,135 | 0.00387 | 0.00465 | 0.00461 |
| Epworth UMC | 141 | 142 | 0.00083 | 113,334 | 116,109 | 0.00377 | 0.00448 | 0.00460 |
| Faith UMC | 89 | 84 | 0.00049 | 85,698 | 80,316 | 0.00261 | 0.00328 | 0.00310 |
| First UMC of Phoenix | 820 | 837 | 0.00487 | 685,226 | 707,018 | 0.02296 | 0.02687 | 0.02784 |
| Mission Bell UMC | 198 | 198 | 0.00115 | 135,389 | 123,676 | 0.00402 | 0.00551 | 0.00517 |
| Shepherd of the Valley UMC | 169 | 167 | 0.00097 | 92,321 | 91,378 | 0.00297 | 0.00395 | 0.00394 |
| South Mountain Community Church | 21 | 20 | 0.00012 | 15,074 | 18,821 | 0.00061 | 0.00061 | 0.00073 |
| Spirit of Hope UMC | 146 | 134 | 0.00078 | 125,961 | 123,232 | 0.00400 | 0.00491 | 0.00478 |
| Sunrise UMC | 111 | 99 | 0.00058 | 49,248 | 57,780 | 0.00188 | 0.00223 | 0.00245 |
| Trinity UMC of Phoenix | 235 | 204 | 0.00119 | 196,394 | 179,231 | 0.00582 | 0.00770 | 0.00701 |
| Prescott UMC | 819 | 794 | 0.00462 | 511,160 | 520,463 | 0.01690 | 0.02122 | 0.02153 |
| Prescott Valley UMC | 127 | 134 | 0.00078 | 45,141 | 57,175 | 0.00186 | 0.00218 | 0.00264 |
| Sedona UMC | 182 | 182 | 0.00106 | 153,825 | 158,174 | 0.00514 | 0.00602 | 0.00620 |
| Gila Mountain UMC | 356 | 361 | 0.00210 | 253,717 | 241,373 | 0.00784 | 0.01025 | 0.00994 |
| Iglesia Metodista Unida de Somerton | 24 | 24 | 0.00014 | 15,586 | 15,586 | 0.00051 | 0.00064 | 0.00065 |
| First UMC of Sun City | 228 | 200 | 0.00116 | 144,374 | 134,314 | 0.00436 | 0.00598 | 0.00553 |
| Lakeview UMC | 515 | 520 | 0.00303 | 463,375 | 489,035 | 0.01588 | 0.01795 | 0.01891 |
| Shepherd of the Hills UMC | 954 | 893 | 0.00520 | 725,155 | 698,319 | 0.02268 | 0.02893 | 0.02788 |
| Willowbrook UMC | 626 | 586 | 0.00341 | 458,091 | 450,724 | 0.01464 | 0.01841 | 0.01805 |
| New Song UMC | 327 | 299 | 0.00174 | 233,397 | 228,005 | 0.00740 | 0.00942 | 0.00915 |
| Youngtown UMC | 34 | 31 | 0.00018 | 25,075 | 28,092 | 0.00091 | 0.00101 | 0.00109 |
| First UMC of Yuma | 191 | 116 | 0.00068 | 110,366 | 121,158 | 0.00393 | 0.00466 | 0.00461 |

| Church Name | <i>2012 Membership</i> | <i>2012 Membership</i> | 2015 Membership Decimal | <i>2012 Net Total Expenses</i> | 2013 Net Total Expenses | 2015 Expense Decimal | <i>2014 Grade Figure</i> | 2015 Grade Figure |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | 20% of Grade Figure | | | 80% of Grade Figure | | |
| CENTRAL WEST DISTRICT continued | | | | | | | | |
| Fort Yuma UMC | 21 | 24 | 0.00014 | 9,627 | 9,748 | 0.00032 | 0.00043 | 0.00046 |
| Trinity UMC of Yuma | 175 | 166 | 0.00097 | 120,840 | 140,398 | 0.00456 | 0.00491 | 0.00553 |
| | 8,878 | 8,516 | 0.04959 | \$ 6,251,498 | \$ 6,319,846 | 0.20524 | 0.25309 | 0.25484 |
| Conference Totals | 35,249 | 34,343 | 0.20000 | \$24,670,721 | \$24,633,453 | 0.80000 | 1.00000 | 1.00000 |

9.18B

GRADE FIGURE TABLES FOR 2015

| Church Name | Membership 2012 | Membership 2013 | 2015 | 2012 | 2013 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | Membership Decimal | <i>Net Total Expenses</i> | Net Total Expenses | Expense Decimal | <i>Grade Figure</i> | Grade Figure |
| | | | 20% of Grade Figure | | | 80% of Grade Figure | | |
| FELLOWSHIPS | | | | | | | | |
| A Grain of Mustard Seed UMF (N) | 83 | 70 | 0.00041 | \$ 29,391 | \$ 35,717 | 0.00116 | 0.00142 | 0.00157 |
| Boulder City UMF (N) | 77 | 75 | 0.00044 | 46,077 | 49,597 | 0.00161 | 0.00193 | 0.00205 |
| First Filipino American UMF (N) | 98 | 0 | 0.00000 | 34,040 | - | 0.00000 | 0.00166 | 0.00000 |
| Needles Community UMF (N) | 39 | 32 | 0.00019 | 6,268 | 2,250 | 0.00007 | 0.00042 | 0.00026 |
| Korean UMF of Tucson (S) | 58 | 62 | 0.00036 | 45,647 | 38,837 | 0.00126 | 0.00181 | 0.00162 |
| Jacob's Well UMF (CE) | 9 | 0 | 0.00000 | 44,008 | 54,693 | 0.00178 | 0.00148 | 0.00178 |
| Maranatha UMF (CE) | 0 | 0 | 0.00000 | - | 58,609 | 0.00190 | 0.00000 | 0.00190 |
| Journey UMF (CE) | 0 | 0 | 0.00000 | 19,027 | 17,932 | 0.00058 | 0.00062 | 0.00058 |
| Phoenix Native American UMF (CE) | 15 | 15 | 0.00009 | 2,467 | 2,467 | 0.00008 | 0.00017 | 0.00017 |
| Arizona Korean UMF - Phoenix (CE) | 30 | 31 | 0.00018 | 75,134 | 12,480 | 0.00041 | 0.00261 | 0.00059 |
| Living Water UMF (CE) | 67 | 48 | 0.00028 | 31,821 | 30,132 | 0.00098 | 0.00141 | 0.00126 |
| Via de Cristo UMF (CE) | 84 | 100 | 0.00058 | 105,208 | 110,326 | 0.00358 | 0.00389 | 0.00417 |
| Spirit Song UMF (CW) | 31 | 31 | 0.00018 | 17,308 | 15,932 | 0.00052 | 0.00074 | 0.00070 |
| City Square UMF (CW) | 0 | 0 | 0.00000 | 10,554 | 92,294 | 0.00300 | 0.00034 | 0.00300 |
| Pioneer UMF (CW) | 43 | 44 | 0.00026 | 26,799 | 24,771 | 0.00080 | 0.00111 | 0.00106 |
| | 634 | 508 | 0.00296 | \$ 493,748 | \$ 546,037 | 0.01773 | 0.01961 | 0.02069 |

PAUMCS

Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries
Sally West, President

Legislation was adopted by the 1988 General Conference of the United Methodist Church which states that The General Council of Finance and Administration (GFCA) shall have the authority and responsibility: (§ 807.19) “to provide guidance and consultation for continuing education of church secretaries, including establishment of training and certification programs, and to provide assistance to the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries.” (*The Book of Discipline*, 2012, Paragraph 807.19, page 545)

The Mission of PAUMCS is to provide a supportive base for the unity and fellowship of its members, to provide individual growth, professional development, continuing education and spiritual enrichment.

The Desert Southwest Chapter of PAUMCS is a part of the National Association of PAUMCS and was chartered in 1997. The Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) is open to all church secretaries and all other paid and volunteer church office workers and volunteers.

THE DESERT SOUTHWEST CHAPTER:

The Desert Southwest Chapter held one event in 2013. April 18-21, 2013, the Desert Southwest Chapter of PAUMCS hosted the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries National Conference. Men & women from around the country came to Phoenix for the 2 1/2 day event.

Outstanding speakers from our Conference led most of the sessions over the two-day event. **Bishop Hoshibata** welcomed and preached at the Thursday evening Memorial Service. **Rev. Mike Pearson** lead a workshop on “Who’s the Number 1 Client?” as he shared why he believes laity and clergy alike need to consider who they are serving as well as why and whether church decisions are being made for those inside the congregation or outside the congregation. **David Topping**, Computer Systems Manager for the Desert Southwest Conference, dealt with copyright issues concerning pictures, music and video resources. **Rev. Mark Maddox** gave the attendees tips on how to promote being a more welcoming, friendly church—after all, most of our initial contacts begin in the church office! And **Pastor Noi Dye** led us through a series of “What Would You Do if . . . ?” scenarios for the purpose of group discussion and solutions. **Linda Gillis**, author and promotional speaker, led us through several workshops which helped us each look at who we truly align ourselves with — Mary or Martha? She offered great resources and a look into how being a “Mary” or “Martha” affects our everyday ministry to others.

Over 150 participants were in attendance. Great information and ideas were shared, fun & fellowship opportunities were included and all were able to network with other secretaries, administrative assistants and volunteers from across the United States.

The Local Chapter Executive Planning Team is working on the plans for an overnighter spiritual renewal “Café Chocolat” retreat in August, 2014 and a Crisis Communication

1 workshop (co-sponsored with the Conference Communications Department) held in each
2 district in the Fall, 2014.

3
4
5 **NATIONAL PAUMCS:**

6 The National PAUMCS sponsors two major events each year:

- 7 1) A yearly Certification Institute held at the National United Methodist
8 headquarters in Nashville, TN and
9 2) A yearly National Conference hosted by various PAUMCS chapters across
10 the United States.

11
12 The United Methodist Church is a connectional denomination. PAUMCS offers a
13 network of resources:

- 14 1) A newsletter, “The Vital Link” is published by the National PAUMCS,
15 2) the PAUMCS “Prayer Net” which offers a prayer connection for healing, job
16 loss or search, house selling or just support through a difficult time; and
17 3) “Linking Hands” which is a connectional e-mail support group of over 800
18 members to ask questions, share experiences and help where help is asked for and
19 needed.

20
21 For more information for your church staff and volunteers, contact Sally West at
22 swest@dscumc.org or at the South District Office — 520-325-2775. You can also encourage
23 your staff and volunteers to visit the national website at www.paumcs.org
24

25 PAUMCS is a “Vital Link” and “Vital Resource” for church staff, volunteers and clergy. It
26 offers support, resource materials, education, fellowship and a system for linking individuals
27 who are in the same ministry around the world. The Professional Association of United
28 Methodist Church Secretaries is an avenue for those working and volunteering in our churches,
29 across the United States and beyond, to support one another in the ministry of the individual
30 local church, district and Conference.

DSCUMC FOUNDATION REPORT

Daryl Johnson, President,
Reed Bowlby, Vice-President, Dave Craytor, Secretary-Treasurer

Mission:

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

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

To further enhance the DSUMF's promotion of Stewardship, the Board of Directors established a Stewardship Committee. The committee has hosted a variety of successful Stewardship Workshops each year since 2010. This year's topic was "Benefits" with speakers addressing Social Security Benefits, Veterans Benefits, Benefits of Estate Planning & Asset Protection and Benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity. The event was well attended and received excellent reviews.

Education:

The Educational Service Program has traditionally provided educational materials and presentations in three areas: 1) Estate Planning, 2) Stewardship & Charitable Giving and 3) Creating Endowment Funds. We have also expanded our educational program to include topics of interest to the people in your pews. Estate Planning Seminars are designed to teach members the importance of becoming good stewards of their own assets. In turn, it is known that members will transfer their new stewardship knowledge to work for the benefit of their church. Since 1995, we estimate that more than 3,500 of our members have created new estate plans and have committed more than \$100 million in deferred bequests to their host churches.

The Charitable Giving, aka Planned Giving Seminar, is designed to teach members about all of the charitable giving vehicles available, their tax implications and how the Foundation can assist the local church in promoting a charitable gifting culture for the benefit of the local church. Since 1995, the DSUMF has assisted in the creation of almost 250 deferred gifts designed to support their churches' ministries with gift values over \$2 million.

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

Topics of Interest include but are not limited to Understanding Social Security, New Laws for Veterans, Dealing with Alzheimer's, Long-Term Care Plans and Bullying.

Because the Foundation is partially funded via the apportionment system of the Annual Conference, the Foundation provides all seminars and handouts free of charge. We encourage all churches to participate in these free presentations. To schedule a presentation, contact the

1 Foundation at 602-266-6956 ext. 202 or lucille@dsumf.org.
2

3 **Investments:**

4 **The Foundation's Investment Service** is for churches, agencies, or boards of the Annual
5 Conference that have long-term funds to invest. The Investment Service is not for individuals.
6 Our Investment Service is not a free service. It involves an all-inclusive management fee based
7 on the total funds a depositor has under our management. As long-term funds under
8 management grow, the Foundation's non-apportionment income grows. It is a goal of the
9 Foundation to be 100% self-sufficient and not need apportionment support for operating
10 expenses.
11

12 **Investment Strategy and Oversight:** The goal of the Foundation is to protect our
13 depositors' funds and make them grow. The investment strategy reflects that goal. The process
14 we follow includes intense oversight, diversification of investments, long term focus and
15 industry best practices.
16

17 The investments of the Foundation are guided by its Investment Committee whose
18 members are appointed by the Board of Directors. Each member of the Investment Committee
19 comes from a church in the DSC who has money on deposit with the Foundation. The
20 committee meets monthly to monitor the portfolio's performance. Any church agency having
21 funds on deposit with the Foundation is welcome to participate in our committee meetings.
22

23 Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC is the financial advisor for the Foundation's portfolio which
24 has its assets allocated to more than a dozen different professional asset management
25 companies, each of which invests in style-specific portfolios, with a variety of risk tolerances.
26 Our portfolio's money managers are selected from a pool of prospects based on proven
27 performance. If a particular manager's performance over time is less than the average of his
28 peer group, the manager is reviewed and may be replaced. All investments are actively
29 managed and screened according to the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.
30 These investments are included in the Foundation's annual audit, thus enabling church
31 endowment fund committees and church foundations that are using our Investment Service to
32 be in compliance with the DSC rule that all UM entities must have an annual audit.
33

34 The Foundation deposits are made up of more than 150 different sub-accounts which fall
35 into 4 main categories: 1) Endowment Accounts, 2) Charitable Gift Annuity Accounts, 3)
36 Charitable Trust Accounts and 4) Church and Agency Depositor Accounts. We appreciate the
37 continued confidence demonstrated by the DSC Churches, Boards and Agencies. During 2013,
38 we were blessed to receive more than \$2,300,000 from both new and existing depositors.
39 Currently, DSUMF manages 64 different investment accounts for 47 different churches,
40 agencies, and boards of the DSC.
41

42 **Other Services**

43 Another benefit of the Foundation involves our **Gifted Securities Transfer Service**. When
44 a donor gives securities to a church, the church is responsible for completing: 1) a properly
45 worded "Donation Letter," if the gift is valued at more than \$250; and 2) an IRS Form 8283
46 stating the Fair Market Value of the gifted security on the date of receipt. The donor will need
47 these documents if they intend to claim the gift as a deduction on an itemized tax return.
48 DSUMF refers to these documents as the "**Donor Packet.**" Preparation of these documents by
49 the church is **required by law**. Therefore, preparation of the Donor Packet requires specialized

1 knowledge that most churches do not have readily available. In addition to preparing and
2 distributing the documentation in a reasonable time, the church is required to produce certain
3 records for permanent files that are required by auditors. If a church is accepting gifted
4 securities and is not producing both the Donor Packet and permanent records of the
5 transactions, it runs the risk of both running into trouble with the IRS and “failing” its
6 professional audit.
7

8 When churches using our investment service encourage their members to transfer their gifts
9 of securities to DSUMF, the security comes directly to DSUMF. Therefore, DSUMF is the
10 recipient organization that becomes responsible for producing all the proper documentation
11 required by the IRS. We also keep the permanent records. All an investment service depositor
12 needs to do to receive the proceeds from a gift of stock from a member is to give the transfer
13 instructions to their member/donor and sit back and wait for a check from DSUMF. We
14 properly prepare the Donor Packet in a timely fashion. In 2013, we distributed \$260,000 to
15 various churches as a result of our Gifted Securities Transfer Service. Please contact the
16 Foundation office for more information on Donor Packets and security transfers.
17

18 **Scholarships:** In 2013, the Foundation distributed \$10,500 in scholarships. Distributions
19 were made to Sandra L. Johnson, Boulder City UMF; Bryanell E. Rop, First UMC Tempe;
20 Kimberly O. Scott, Zion UMC; Tevita M. Tukunga, Advent UMC and Joshua Warner, Dove of
21 the Desert UMC. In addition more than \$115,000 was distributed to gift annuitants and
22 beneficiaries of charitable trusts. Moreover almost \$15,000 of gift annuity residuums were
23 distributed to churches from gift annuities that matured in 2013.
24

25 The Board of Directors and staff of the DSUMF appreciate the apportionment support
26 received in 2013 from the Annual Conference. From that support, the DSUMF was able to
27 continue to provide valuable educational, investment and other services for agencies, boards,
28 and churches of the DSC. The Foundation encourages all members and all churches to use our
29 services. The Foundation believes each of these services is consistent with the priorities of the
30 DSC and should be incorporated into the daily life of every local church. We appreciate your
31 continued trust and for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.
32

33 For more information about the Foundation and its services, contact:
34 Lucille Sterling, Executive Director, lucille@dsumf.org
35 1550 E. Meadowbrook Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85014-4040
36 Phone: 602-266-6956 / 800-229-8622, Ext. 202 Fax: 602-265-1524
37 Web Site: www.dsumf.org
38

39 **2013 – 2014 DSUMF Board of Directors**
40

| | |
|---|---|
| 41 Dr. Bruce Billings, First UMC Tucson | Daryl Johnson, Willowbrook UMC |
| 42 Reed Bowlby, Scottsdale UMC | Rev. Dr. Travis Kendall, Retired, First Phx UMC |
| 43 Dave Craytor, Epworth UMC | Tom Robison, Gold Canyon UMC |
| 44 Alberta Ellis, Boulder City UMF | Dr. Edward H. Stephenson, St. Mark’s UMC |
| 45 Arthur Endres, North Scottsdale UMC | Ronald G. Wilson, First Phoenix UMC |
| 46 Maryann Hawkins, Sun Lakes UMC | Rev. Steve Ziegler, Retired |

47

48 The Board of Directors voted to approve this report on February 27, 2014. The vote was
49 7 in favor, 0 against and 5 member(s) absent.

BOARD OF PENSION & HEALTH BENEFITS REPORT

Rev. Dan Turner

As indicated last year, 2014 is a year of change in your pension and health benefits. The 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church made changes to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP, the denominational pension plan that took effect in 2014). And the health insurance plans in effect for 2013 were no longer be available from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) in 2014. Accordingly, there were changes in health insurance plans for both active and retired participants.

Retiree Health Insurance

Let's look first at health insurance for our retired participants.

As approved at last year's Annual Conference session, our CBOPHB offered, starting January 1, 2014, access to individual Medicare supplement health insurance plans for all retired participants through an organization called ExtendHealth. ExtendHealth worked with each retired participant on a detailed, individual basis to select the Medicare supplement health insurance plan with the price, doctors, and coverage that worked best for them where they live. The CBOPHB provides a \$200 subsidy per person per month into a health reimbursement account for retired participants, and they no longer have to pay the approximately \$100 per person per month to the Conference for their share of the group plan premium as they used to. They simply use the subsidy provided to them to pay their insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs based on the plan they chose (with ExtendHealth's assistance).

With this change, we wanted to make sure we are able to continue to help support retirees with health insurance coverage for generations to come. This change to individual plans through ExtendHealth created greater financial stability for the Conference so we can do that. It also provided greater flexibility and individual choice for retirees rather than utilizing the one-size-fits-all approach of a group plan.

The switch to fixed dollar subsidies rather than percentage subsidies was necessary for ExtendHealth since they utilize individual plans which are different for each participant, meaning that fixed percentages can no longer be applied equitably. With retirees getting a \$200 per person per month subsidy from the Conference, and with them no longer having to pay about \$100 per person per month for their share of health insurance premiums, they essentially receive equal benefit to what they previously got (75% subsidies of previous group plan premiums were approximately \$300 per month).

Underscoring the financial stability gained by the Conference with the switch to fixed dollar subsidies through ExtendHealth, we are saving over \$100,000 per year in subsidy costs. Also note that we had an actuarial liability of \$21.6 million as of 12/31/12 for retiree health insurance subsidies based on the previous percentage subsidy program. And we had only \$6.2 million in assets to fund that liability. The switch to a fixed subsidy reduced our liability to \$6.9 million as of 12/31/13. Our assets also grew a little last year, so we had assets of \$6.7 million at 12/31/13. This means that our liability is almost fully funded and is in a much more manageable range where future investment returns and apportionments should allow us to fully fund this liability in the very near future.

1
2 Active Participant Health Insurance

3 Let's next look at health insurance for our active participants. Our previous Exclusive
4 Provider Organization (EPO) health insurance plan for active participants was eliminated by
5 the GBOPHB for 2014. So, again we had to switch. After extensive review, the CBOPHB
6 decided to offer active participants a choice in 2014 of the following two plans:
7

- 8 • PPO (Preferred Provider Option) - \$1,000/\$2,000 deductible for individual/family; out-
9 of pocket maximums of \$4,000 individual/\$8,000 family. After the deductible, the plan
10 pays 80% and the participant pays 20% up to out-of-pocket maximum.
11
- 12 • CDHP (Consumer Driven Health Plan) - \$2,000 deductible per person, with \$1,000
13 funded into a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The participant pays the full
14 contracted rate until the deductible is reached. Unused HRA funds carry over to the next
15 year.
16

17 The plans continue to be with United Health Care, so there was no need to change doctors.
18 Premiums are the same for both plans. And the good news is that these premiums are about 2%
19 lower than 2013 premiums. So churches, which pay 100% of the participant premiums, see
20 some savings in this year's budgets.
21

22 Pension Plan

23 In April 2012, The United Methodist Church's General Conference made some changes to
24 the CRSP pension plan. Again largely to make the plan more affordable and sustainable, the
25 defined benefit portion of CRSP was reduced from 1.25% of denominational average
26 compensation (DAC) per year of service to 1.00% of DAC per year of service as of 1/1/14.
27

28 Of more direct and immediate impact, participants only receive the full 3% defined
29 contribution match in CRSP if they personally contribute at least 1% of their compensation to
30 the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). Otherwise, they receive only a 2%
31 match in CRSP. Note that this requires active clergy to personally contribute to their retirement
32 by having at least 1% withheld from their pay check. And it requires church treasurers to
33 properly withhold those amounts and remit them to the GBOPHB when they receive their
34 monthly UMPIP bill.
35

36 Other

37 Again this year, the GBOPHB is requiring all Conferences to submit a Comprehensive
38 Benefits Funding Plan (CBFP) that addresses the financial viability and sustainability of all
39 pension, health insurance and other benefit plans for that Conference. We have already
40 submitted our 2015 CBFP to the GBOPHB and received their approval. Our CBFP will now be
41 approved by the CBOPHB for inclusion in our 2013 Annual Conference journal.
42

43 In 2013, we generated an operating surplus of \$464,000. This was mainly due to returns on
44 our investments with the GBOPHB and Conference Foundation, and on our interests in two
45 trusts. This surplus allowed us to reach \$6.7 million in assets available for funding our retiree
46 health insurance liability.

1 Longer term, the CBOPHB continues to promote wellness by offering discounted health
2 insurance premiums for participants that obtain annual physical examinations from their doctor.
3 For 2013, these discounts saved a total of more than \$200,000 for our active and retired clergy.
4

5 For pension costs, we billed churches 13% of compensation for clergy pensions in 2013 and
6 are billing at the same rate in 2014. Actual costs to the Conference in 2013 were 14% of
7 compensation. The General Conference changes to CRSP have reduced pension costs back
8 down to about 13% of compensation, so we no longer have to subsidize clergy pensions.
9 Accordingly, we recommend leaving the billing rate at 13% for 2015.
10

11 During Annual Conference and beyond, feel free to bring any questions or concerns
12 regarding pensions or health benefits to any member of the CBOPHB, or any staff member
13 associated with the CBOPHB. We will be happy to assist you or bring your concerns and
14 questions to our next meeting for appropriate discussion and action. We appreciate the
15 opportunity to serve you.
16

17
18 Approved February 20, 2014: 100% for, 0% against, 0% didn't vote

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PENSION & HEALTH BENEFITS RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1: Annuity Rate and Past Service Obligation

That the pension rate for pre-1982 past service for the calendar year 2015 be set at \$652. This represents a 3.0% increase from the 2014 rate and brings the rate to 0.99% of the Conference Average Compensation. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) is authorized and instructed to distribute this amount to the claimants in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Ministerial Pension Plan and the Comprehensive Protection Plan.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowance for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Desert Southwest Conference

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2015 by each active, retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

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

1 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's
2 gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue
3 Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the
4 rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body
5 of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the
6 amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3)
7 the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage),
8 plus the cost of utilities in such year.
9

10 RECOMMENDATION No. 3: Resolution Relating to Local Church Funding for the
11 Clergy Retirement Security Program in 2015

12 WHEREAS, the Clergy Retirement Security Program ("CRSP") will continue as
13 the denominational pension plan of The United Methodist Church in 2015;

14 WHEREAS, the funding of CRSP in 2015 and each subsequent year by the
15 Desert Southwest Conference ("Conference") will be based mainly on an actuarial
16 determination from the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits and partially on matched
17 participant contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan;

18 WHEREAS, the Conference desires to keep the local churches' funding of
19 clergy pensions as close as possible to the 2014 CRSP funding methodology;

20 WHEREAS, pension amounts will not be equal for all clergy under CRSP (with
21 elements of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan), and

22 WHEREAS, it is reasonable that local churches with the ability to pay their
23 clergy above the denominational average compensation ("DAC") have the ability to pay a
24 larger pension amount for the clergy;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

26 THAT for 2015, CRSP continue to be funded by the local churches to the Conference at
27 the annual rate of 13% of actual plan compensation (cash salary plus housing allowance or
28 imputed parsonage value) with no maximum limit based on DAC.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Peggy Tenney

During the past year, the Committee met to address a number of issues and develop several recommendations. We developed recommendations for 2014 compensation increases for Conference employees (other than Exempt Level One employees, which are approved by the Annual Conference itself). Based on consideration of changes in the consumer price index, changes in average compensation for clergy in our Conference, Social Security increases, and available funds in the Conference budget, we recommended compensation increases for Conference staff for 2014 of 2%.

Based on these same considerations, the Conference Personnel Committee is recommending to the 2014 Annual Conference the 2015 salary ranges shown in the following section. These ranges represent a 1.5% increase from the 2014 salary ranges for Exempt employees (other than Exempt Level One employees) and Non-Exempt employees approved by last year's Annual Conference. The Committee requests your approval of these 2015 salary range increase recommendations.

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

Approved February 11, 2014: 100% for, 0% against, 0% didn't vote

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1 – Changes to Exempt Salary Levels:

| <u>Exempt Salary Level</u> | <u>2014 Salary Ranges</u> | <u>2015 Recommended Salary Ranges</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| I | * | * |
| II | \$63,744 to \$80,672 | \$64,700 to \$81,882 |
| III | \$48,000 to \$66,860 | \$48,720 to \$67,863 |
| IV | \$28,835 to \$47,468 | \$29,268 to \$48,180 |

Recommendation No. 2 – Changes to Non-Exempt Salary Levels:

| <u>Non-Exempt Wage Level</u> | <u>2014 Wage Ranges</u> | <u>2015 Recommended Wage Ranges</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| I | \$16.54 to \$24.47 | \$16.79 to \$24.84 |
| II | \$15.50 to \$20.81 | \$15.73 to \$21.12 |
| III | \$14.01 to \$19.41 | \$14.22 to \$19.70 |
| IV | \$12.48 to \$16.47 | \$12.67 to \$16.72 |
| V | \$11.22 to \$14.81 | \$11.39 to \$15.03 |

Informational notes for recommendations No. 1 and No. 2:

*Each year the Committee reviews ranges of compensation of both exempt and non-exempt staff of the Annual Conference with the exception of Level I positions which are governed by other recommendations. See Conference Rules “Compensation and Expense Policies for District Superintendents and other Level I Exempt Personnel (as defined in the Conference Personnel Policies)” in the 2013 Conference Journal.

The Fair Labor Standards Act provides that all employees who work more than 40 hours in a workweek must be paid at a rate of one and one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay. Certain employees are EXEMPT from these overtime requirements. The major general exemptions to the overtime requirements include individuals who are covered under what are known as the “white collar” exemptions. The white collar exemptions include executive, administrative and professional employees. These exemptions are based on the employee’s actual work activities, not on the employer’s characterization of those activities. All employees within the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church must be placed either within the EXEMPT or NON-EXEMPT categories.

At the present time EXEMPT STAFF are as follows:

- I. District Superintendents, Director of Connectional Ministries, Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer, Director of New Faith/Vital Faith Communities
- II. Director of Outreach Ministries, Director of Communications, Assistant Treasurer/Comptroller, Director of Camping & Retreat Ministries
- III. Camp Site Directors
- IV. Assistant Camp Managers

NON-EXEMPT STAFF – Usually support staff of which the following are examples: administrative assistants, temporary or seasonal workers. Their compensation level is determined by their responsibilities and duties as outlined in their job descriptions.

The Conference Personnel Policies are printed in the 2013 Conference Journal. One of the responsibilities of the Conference Personnel Committee is to recommend increases in Wage

1 or Salary Ranges for the different assigned levels for employment. These are not to be
2 understood as automatic individual pay raises. However, after an annual performance review,
3 an employee is eligible for a salary or wage increase depending upon the performance review,
4 the consumer price index which measures inflation, and other factors. The recommendation for
5 2014 was a 2% increase.

RULES CHANGES & COMMITTEE REPORT

Rule Change 9.26A (CHANGE) Rule IV.H.5 (page 116)

Rule Change 9.26B (CHANGE) Rule IV.J.6.b.1 (page 118)

Key to Deletions and Additions

Deletions: Deletions will be strikeouts

Additions: Additions will be **BOLD**

All page numbers refer to the 2013 Conference Journal.

Editorial Changes are found in Boxes and DO NOT NEED action by the Annual Conference

2014 RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

From Conference Rules Committee

Bruce Houston, Chairperson

The Rules Committee timely received proposed rule changes 9.26B (regarding Rule IV.J.6.b.1) and 9.26A (regarding Rule IV.H.5).

Having reviewed and considered the proposed changes, the Committee recommends concurrence and adoption of both proposals.

April 1, 2014

CONFERENCE RULE — IV.H.5.

Proposed Rule Change – 2013 Conference Journal Vol. 2 – Page 113

IV. CONFERENCE BOARD, COMMITTEES, AND AGENCIES

H. Committee on Clergy and Lay Leadership 5.

5. No person shall serve on more than one Conference group at any given time, except as required by the structure of the Annual Conference and/or provided for in the ~~2008-2012~~ *The Book of Discipline* ¶ ~~609.6~~ **906.1a** & ¶ 710.5. This Rule does not apply to the Committee on Episcopacy, the Strategic Direction Committee, ~~and~~ the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, **and the Committee on Native American Ministries.**

Rationale: The Conference Committee on Native American Ministries is charged with strengthening and supporting the work of the Native American ministries within and outside the bounds of our Annual Conference. To adequately do this work it is necessary that a representative from each of our Conference Native American ministries serve on this committee which effectively prevents them from serving the Annual Conference in other areas and inhibits the Conference's ability to have otherwise qualified Native American representation on other Conference boards, committees and agencies.

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CONFERENCE RULE IV.J.6.B.1

Proposed Rule Change – 2013 Conference Journal Vol. 2 – Page 118
 IV. CONFERENCE BOARD, COMMITTEES, AND AGENCIES
 J. Health Insurance Plan; Eligibility and Participation 6.b.1.

Rationale for Proposed Rule Revisions:

10 Review of this rule was referred to the Conference Board of Pension and Health
 11 Benefits (CBOPHB) at the June 2013 Annual Conference session. Concern was expressed that
 12 health insurance costs could be overly burdensome to some churches if participation in the
 13 Conference health insurance plan (HIP) was required for all clergy in all circumstances.
 14 Accordingly, the CBOPHB recommends the following rule change to conform Conference
 15 rules to current practice. The revised rule would not require participation of clergy in the
 16 Conference health insurance plan if they are appointed to churches on a half-time basis or less.

17
18 Proposed Rule Revisions

19 6. Health Insurance Plan; Eligibility and Participation effective January 1, 2014

20 b. ACTIVE CLERGY MEMBER PARTICIPATION:

21 1) Clergy members under appointment **three-quarter time or full-time**
 22 to ~~the a~~ local church ~~or an agency~~ or staff position of the Conference, must
 23 enroll in the Conference HIP. Each employing local church or ~~agency~~ **the**
 24 **Conference** will be required to pay ~~at a minimum~~, the clergy member's
 25 premium whether **or not** they choose to participate ~~or not~~.

26
27 If the rule revisions are approved, the rule would read as follows:

28
29 6. Health Insurance Plan; Eligibility and Participation effective January 1, 2014

30 b. ACTIVE CLERGY MEMBER PARTICIPATION:

31 1) Clergy members under appointment three-quarter time or full-time to
 32 a local church or staff position of the Conference must enroll in the Conference
 33 HIP. Each employing local church or the Conference will be required to pay the
 34 clergy member's premium whether or not they choose to participate.

CONFERENCE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rev. Nancy Cushman

This has been a year of learning and growing as I assumed the responsibility of being your Conference Secretary. I have enjoyed working with the Bishop, the Conference leadership and the Conference staff.

I would like to extend a special thanks to **Sally West** who has been an invaluable source of support and assistance. I don't know how I would have made this transition without her help. I also thank my predecessor, **Louis Lyon** who has made himself available for questions and guidance. Sally and I have worked closely with **Christina Dillabough** and the Conference Communications throughout the year. I deeply appreciate the collaborative spirit to get the Journals and other documents to you as efficiently as possible. **Patsy Soto** and **Cynthia Satchel** have been invaluable in making arrangements and working through the details of Annual Conference.

There are many people who work diligently during Annual Conference and most of them have served in their positions for years. I thank each of those volunteers for their leadership and service: **Sue Getz** and **Judy Boroto** and their assistants who record our minutes, **Noni Dye** and her team of ushers, **Dee Hicks** and her team who offer hospitality to our guests, **Ann Thomas** who manages the agenda, our nurses **Kim Summers** and **Theresa Pineda**, **Janet Keffer** who manages the displays and the **Conference staff** who do anything necessary to make the Annual Conference run smoothly. When you see these people please thank them for their part in your experience.

I pray that our 2014 Annual Conference will IGNITE your spirit, deepen your connection to Christ and fill you with passion, purpose and plans to share with your churches.

"I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:19-21 NRSV

CONFERENCE SECRETARY'S STAFF 2014

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | <i>Conference Secretary</i> | Nancy Cushman |
| 5 | Associate Secretaries | |
| 6 | Agenda and Orders of the Day | Ann Thomas |
| 7 | <i>Conference Secretary's Office Manager</i> | Sally West |
| 8 | <i>Displays</i> | Janet Keffer |
| 9 | <i>Courtesies</i> | Dee Hicks |
| 10 | <i>Head Usher</i> | Noni Dye |
| 11 | <i>Facilities Coordinator</i> | Cynthia Satchel |
| 12 | <i>Hospitality Assistants</i> | Kathy Epp, John Dunning |
| 13 | <i>Information Desk</i> | Lori Davalos |
| 14 | <i>Journal Editor</i> | Kate Strohmeier |
| 15 | <i>Nurses</i> | Kim Summers |
| 16 | <i>Proceedings Secretaries</i> | Sue Getz and Judy Boroto |
| 17 | Assistants | Barbara Haralson, Cathy Harris, Jim O'Neal |
| 18 | <i>Registrar</i> | Patsy Soto |
| 19 | Tech Booth: | |
| 20 | Computers/Technical Support | David Topping, Haley & Nick Dillabough, Amy Strohmeier |
| 21 | Live Streaming Web Host..... | David Topping |
| 22 | Media Coordinator | Christina Dillabough |
| 23 | Media Coordinator Associate | Daniel Gomez |
| 24 | Sound and Light Techs | Ezekiel Gomez, Paul Gomez |
| 25 | Slide Presentation Techs | Kristin Longnecker, Steve Marshall, Glen Simpson |
| 26 | Stage Manager | Therese Pineda |
| 27 | Video Presentation Tech | Nick Dillabough |
| 28 | Video Recordings | Mike Dillabough, Zack Dillabough, Kate Strohmeier |
| 29 | <i>Treasurer's Office Logistical Coordinator</i> | Cynthia Satchel |

**We thank American Audio Visual Company for being our
Conference Sound, Lights, and Video Company for
the 2014 Session of Annual Conference.**

SESSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Nancy Cushman, Conference Secretary

The Sessions Committee plans, arranges and hosts the Annual Conference each year. Thank you to each person who has dreamed of and brought into reality this gathering.

The Sessions Committee continues the commitment to go paperless and to use technology to enhance our communications. All materials for the Annual Conference will be available on the new Desert Southwest Annual Conference app. To download the free app search for Guidebook in your app store or play store. Download Guidebook then search for Desert Southwest Annual Conference and choose it for your guidebook. The app includes the schedule, pre-conference reports, online registration, information about the Imagine No Malaria 5K Run, maps, photos, and social media. We highly recommend you use the app for it will have the most current information.

If you prefer having printed reports and materials, you will need to print the Journal yourself or order a Journal from the Desert Southwest Conference website www.desertsouthwestconference.org/annualconference.

The Sessions Committee reminds you that the Conference Journals with the proceedings of our work together and contact information for clergy and lay leaders will be published after the Annual Conference and posted to the Desert Southwest Conference app and website under Annual Conference. A directory (Journal vol. 2b) with the contact information for churches, pastors and members of Conference boards and committees and a CD-ROM with files of all the Journals will be mailed to each conference delegate and church as well.

The Session Committee's prayer for the last year has been that this Annual Conference will IGNITE your passion for Jesus Christ and bring greater vitality to your faith, to your church, to our Conference and to our world.

Looking Ahead: Annual Conference sessions are held at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel and Spa. Our Bishop sets the dates for Annual Conference. Next year Annual Conference will take place on June 18-21, 2015.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Steve Ziegler, President

The Conference Board of Trustees worked on a number of projects this past year.

A new contract with Church Mutual was implemented as of 1/1/14 for multi-peril, workers compensation, directors and officers, employee practices, and umbrella insurance for the Conference and all of its member churches.

A number of additional closed church properties were sold:

- The Light of Hope UMF property (a 3,254 square-foot office condo in Chandler) was deeded to the Conference in 2010 with the closing of that fellowship. The property is currently under lease to the Haitian Christian Church, who is exercising their option to purchase the property for \$244,000. The sale WAS completed ON 3/31/14. Since \$506,000 of the Conference Loan Guarantee Fund (formerly the Pacific Homes Fund) was used for a discounted loan payoff on the property in February 2011, the net proceeds from this sale were deposited back into that fund.
- When Los Arcos UMC was closed in June 2011, their 1,781 square foot parsonage in Scottsdale was deeded to the Conference. This property was sold in June 2013. Net proceeds of \$203,000 were deposited in our new church starts fund at the Foundation.
- The Linda Vista Boulevard land was a 6.7 acre parcel in Pima County (near Tucson) that was deeded to the Conference in 2000 when Fountain of Life UMF closed. This parcel was deeded to Sanctuary UMC in July 2013 as the site for their new church. Sanctuary must build on the property within 3 years and will ultimately pay the Conference \$100,000 for the property (which will be deposited in our new church starts fund at the Foundation).
- The \$900,000 note balance on the previous sale of the Bethel UMC property was collected in May 2013. Those funds were deposited in our new church starts fund at the Foundation.

As a result of property sales the past two years, the new church start endowment fund at the Foundation has grown to a balance of \$3,741,000 at 12/31/13.

With the assistance of Marilee Clark, Conference Chancellor, the Board of Trustees entered into covenant relationship agreements with our five urban ministries in order to comply with ¶ 2517 of the *Book of Discipline*.

Also last year, we resurfaced the rear parking lot at the conference center in Phoenix.

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

Approved February 25, 2014: 9 for, 0 against, 2 didn't vote

STATISTICAL REPORT

The 2013 statistics for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference generally showed a continuation of trends experienced the last several years. Over the last 10 years, membership has shown a steady decline and attendance has also decreased. And local church expenditures (which, over time, should approximate local church income) decreased in 2013 for the fourth time in the last six years.

Some detailed analysis of the 2013 statistics follows. (Note that this report is prepared as of March 2014. Minor adjustments may subsequently occur in some figures as a few more churches' statistical tables trickle in.)

Churches

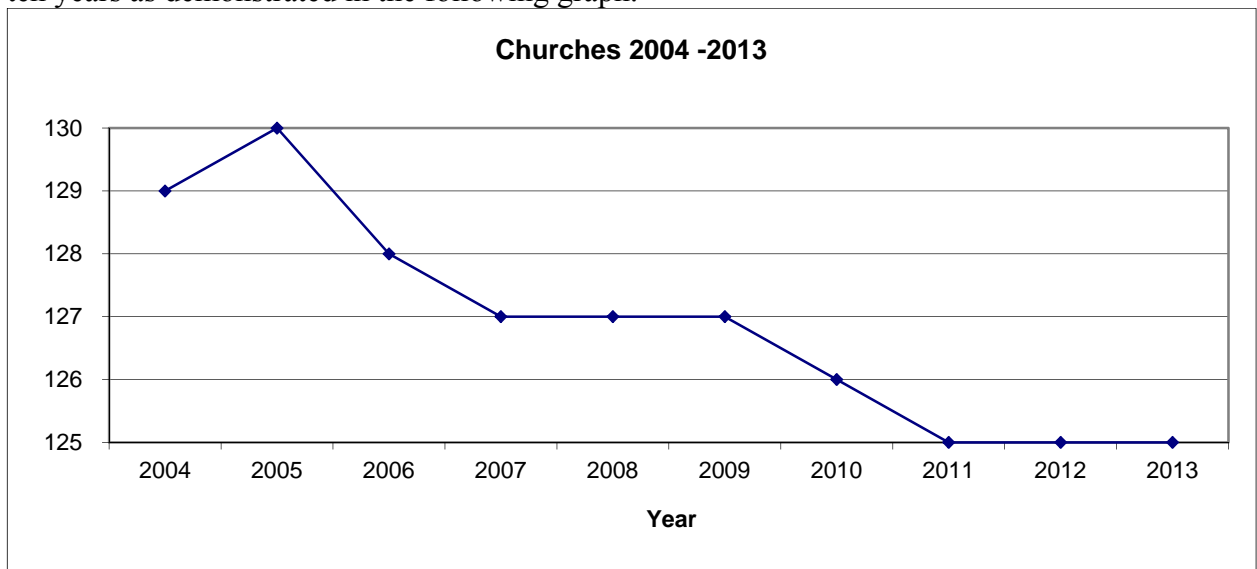
There were no changes in chartered churches in 2013, so that number remained at 125 as of 12/31/13. (There were also 14 unchartered fellowships in the Conference at 12/31/13.)

The composition of chartered churches in the Conference at 12/31/13 was as follows:

| | Conference | North | South | Central East | Central West |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Churches increased in size | 35 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 9 |
| Churches decreased in size | 76 | 17 | 19 | 17 | 23 |
| Churches unchanged in size | 14 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| | <u>125</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>35</u> | <u>35</u> |

The median size of chartered churches in the Conference at 12/31/13 was 166 (down from 170 at 12/31/12). The average church size was 275 (down from 287 at 12/31/12).

The number of chartered churches in the Conference has decreased slightly over the last ten years as demonstrated in the following graph.



1 Membership

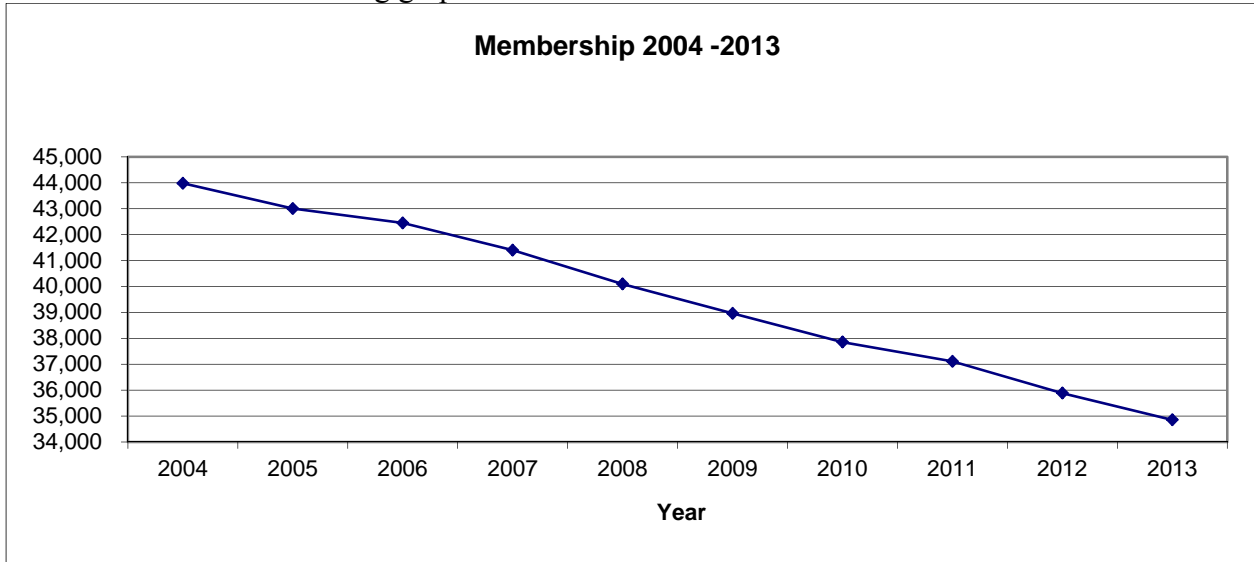
2 The number of members in the Conference decreased 2.9% from 35,883 at 12/31/12 to
 3 34,851 (including 508 from the 14 fellowships) at 12/31/13 as follows:

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Added: | Profession of faith | 987 | |
| | Affirmation | 241 | |
| | Corrections | 111 | |
| | Transfers | 842 | 2,181 |
| | | <hr/> | |
| Removed: | Charge Conference action | 1,099 | |
| | Withdrawn | 448 | |
| | Corrections | 326 | |
| | Transfers | 576 | |
| | Death | 764 | (3,213) |
| | | <hr/> | |

 Net Change (1,032)

4 Demographically, 1.8% (623) of members at 12/31/13 were Asian, 2.6% (908) were
 5 African American, 2.9% (1,013) were Hispanic, 0.5% (172) were Native American, 1.0% (359)
 6 were Pacific Islander, 88.7% (30,916) were White, and 2.5% (860) were Multi Racial. Females
 7 represented 59.9% (20,862) of members at 12/31/13, while males made up 40.1% (13,989) of
 8 members.

9
 10 The total number of members in the Conference has decreased over the last ten years as
 11 demonstrated in the following graph.

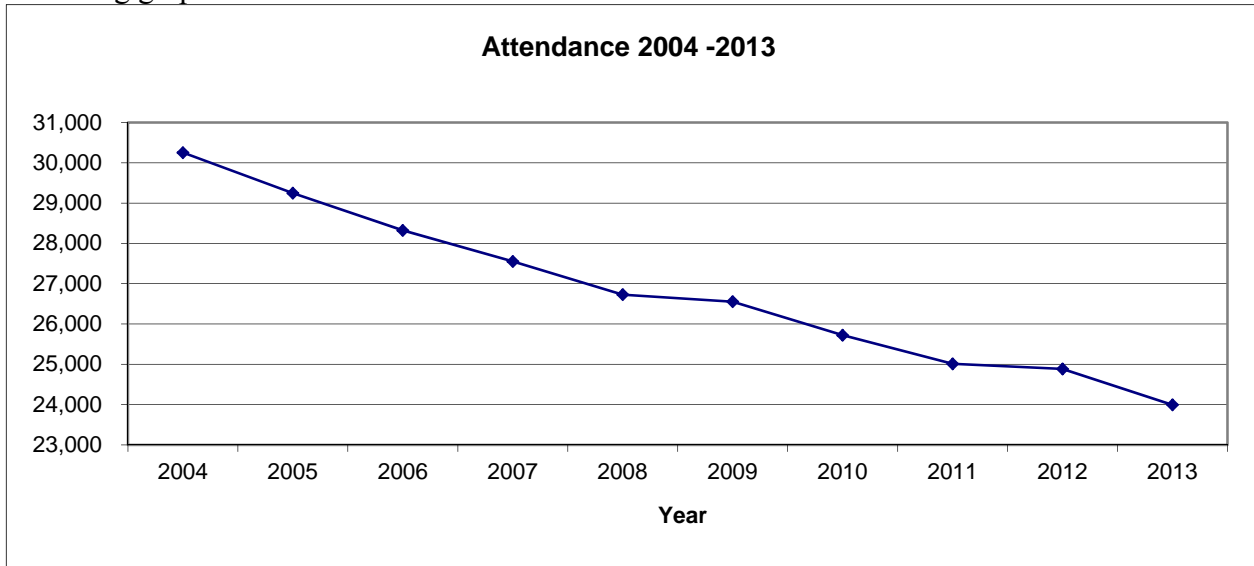


12 Attendance

13 On an average Sunday there were 23,996 United Methodists in church at worship in
 14 2013. (This represented 68.9% of membership.) This was a decrease of 3.6% from 2012 when
 15 there were 24,885 United Methodists in church at worship.

| | <u>Conference</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>Central East</u> | <u>Central West</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Churches with greater attendance | 32 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 11 |
| Churches with lower attendance | 70 | 13 | 20 | 20 | 17 |
| Churches with same attendance | 23 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| | <hr/> | | | | |
| | 125 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 35 |

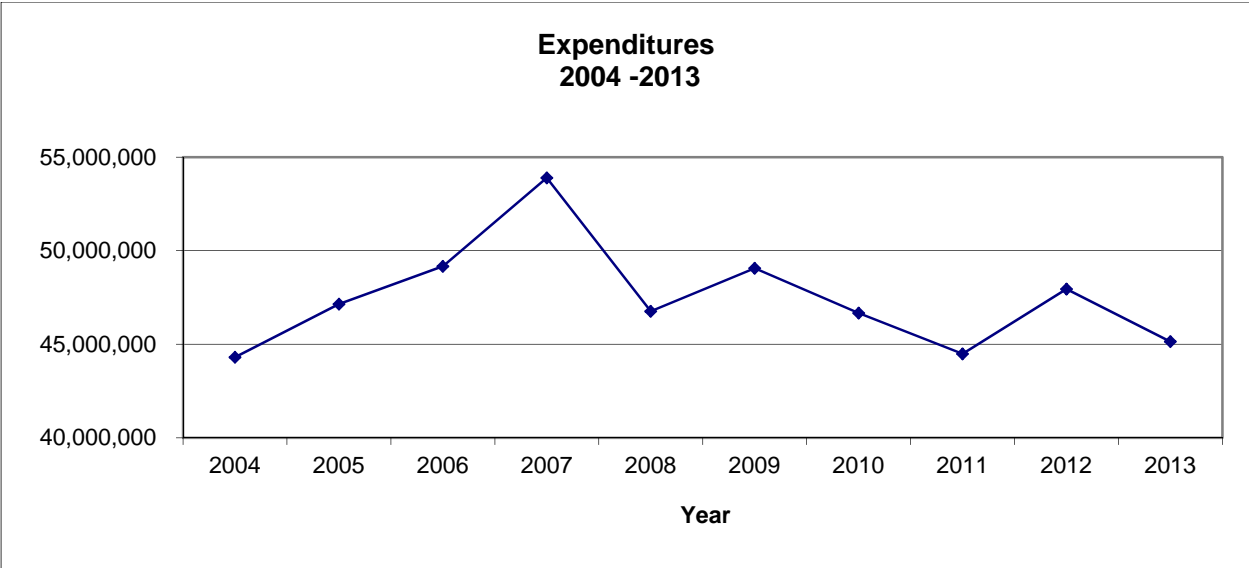
1 Church attendance has decreased over the last ten years as demonstrated in the
2 following graph.



3 Expenditures

4 Based on the statistical reports submitted as of 12/31/13, 45% of our churches and
5 fellowships showed increases in net expenses used for apportionment calculations from 2012 to
6 2013. The other 55% showed decreases or no change in expenses from 2012 to 2013. Overall,
7 the Conference's churches had expenses that were almost exactly the same from 2012 to 2013.
8 (Note that net expenses used for apportionment calculations include senior pastor compensation
9 above the Conference average, other clergy and staff compensation and expenses, program
10 expenses, and operating expenses. They exclude apportionments and other benevolence
11 payments, capital expenditures, and debt service.)
12

13 Total local church expenditures (which, over time, should approximate total local
14 church income) decreased from \$47.9 million in 2012 to \$45.3 million in 2013. These
15 expenditures were broken down as follows: 48% staff (clergy/lay compensation and benefits),
16 19% operating expenses, 17% apportionments and other benevolences, 5% capital
17 expenditures, 7% debt service, and 4% program. In the last six years, total local church
18 expenditures decreased in four of those years. These trends are demonstrated in the following
19 graph.



1 Summary

2
3 The Conference in 2013 continued the trends of declines in membership, attendance,
4 and expenditures. To reverse these long-term trends of decline, we will have to utilize all of our
5 resources and work hard to increase the vitality of all our churches. It's time to begin.

RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

Submitted by the Outreach Team of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference

Whereas, The United Methodist Book of Discipline states, “*We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings... We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable.*” (*The Book of Discipline*, ¶164 G); and

Whereas, the denomination has stated in *The Book of Discipline*: “*When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person’s life ends. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the possibility of reconciliation with Christ comes through repentance. This gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception and gives all life new dignity and sacredness. For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes.*” (*The Book of Discipline*, ¶164 G); and

Whereas, Amnesty International states that the death penalty is riddled with human error and bias, noting that 70% of cases are overturned due to serious legal error, and since 1973, more than 135 people have been exonerated on evidence of their innocence, including 8 exonerations in Arizona, 3 exonerations in California and 1 exoneration in Nevada; therefore

Be it resolved, that the Desert Southwest Conference will work toward abolishing the death penalty in the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and

Be It Further Resolved, that local churches are encouraged to engage in civil dialogue on the issue of the death penalty and participate in activities that promote the abolition of the death penalty.

1
2 **RESOLUTION CONCERNING DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE**
3 **RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
4

5 Submitted by the Board of Church and Society of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference
6

7 **Whereas**, we read in Matthew 25:40 *just as you did it to one of the least of these who are*
8 *members of my family, you did it to me*; and
9

10 **Whereas**, “Human trafficking, as defined by the U.S. Department of State, is the act of
11 recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for labor, services, or
12 commercial sex acts by means of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of exploitation,
13 involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery, or any commercial sex act involving a
14 minor. Trafficking is modern-day slavery that victimizes vulnerable populations including
15 women, children and impoverished individuals” and is contrary to Christian faith practice; and
16

17 **Whereas**, we recognize that human trafficking is a huge problem in the United States. Close to
18 300,000 children are exploited each year in the commercial sex industry. The average age that
19 children are brought into this life is between 12 and 14. 83% of the victims found in the United
20 States are United States citizens. (Department of Justice) The number of children and adults
21 currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 12.3 million globally. (Polaris
22 Project) Globally, labor trafficking is the most severe and extreme, with 80% of trafficking
23 occurring for labor. We recognize that while statistics are difficult to be accurate as this is a
24 crime that occurs underground and in the shadows, we as a people of faith will not tolerate or
25 welcome such actions;
26

27 **Whereas**, we recognize that within the bounds of our Conference human trafficking occurs
28 both in labor and sex trafficking among minors and adults; therefore,
29

30 **Be It Resolved** the Desert Southwest Conference will take a public stand against human
31 trafficking; and
32

33 **Be It Resolved**, a Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society subgroup on
34 Human Trafficking will guide the work of providing educational resources to local churches in
35 order to facilitate understanding of human trafficking and to lead to action; and
36

37 **Be It Further Resolved**, that the subgroup in collaboration with partner organizations will
38 work with the hotels and venues to raise awareness of the issue with their employees; and
39

40 **Be It Further Resolved**, that this subgroup will engage in ecumenical and interfaith
41 partnerships in order to continue a vigilant watch regarding legislation around human
42 trafficking in the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada, as well as at the federal level, and
43 speak as necessary with holy boldness to this issue.

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RESOLUTION TO AGREE TO DISAGREE

For as long as the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church has been in existence (1984) and even before there has been a great divide between church members regarding homosexuality.

Whereas, homosexuality continues to divide our society and the church. All in The United Methodist Church affirm that homosexual persons are people of sacred worth and all are welcome in our churches, but we disagree as a people regarding whether homosexual practices are contrary to the will of God.

Whereas, the Bible is our primary source for discerning God’s will with the help of the thoughtful reflections of Christians throughout the centuries and assisted by our understanding of history, culture and science, and

Whereas, because of this broad biblical and theological diversity within The United Methodist Church, we continue to experience a world-wide rift regarding this critical and divisive issue, with some professing that homosexuality is contrary to biblical teaching and others believing that historical perspectives and interpretations change as cultures embrace new understandings of science, genetics and human behavior, and

Whereas, United Methodists will continue to struggle with this issue in the years ahead as a growing number of young adults identify today with what is the minority view of General Conference. The majority view of the General Conference, and thus the official position of the church, continues to hold out that same-sex intimacy is not God’s will. We recognize, however, that many faithful United Methodists disagree with this view.

Whereas, the Book of Discipline is not of one mind on this issue and is often found to be contradictory in its wording and voice;

Whereas, it is likely that this issue will continue to be a source of conflict within the church, we have a choice: We can divide, or we can commit to disagree with compassion, grace, and love, while continuing to seek to understand the concerns of the other. Given these options, schism or respectful co-existence, we choose the latter.

Therefore be it resolved that we, the members of the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church commit to agree to disagree with respect and love.

Therefore be it further resolved that we commit to love all persons and above all, we pledge to seek God’s will. We will continue to be in serious and meaningful dialogue prayerfully leading us to holy conversation with one another and with our sovereign God.

Therefore be it further resolved that regarding homosexuality, as with so many other issues, The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church adopts the attitude of John Wesley who once said, “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may.”

Signed:

Rev. Sherry Brady; Rev. Janessa Chastain; Rev. Robert R Cutlipp; Roy DeBise; Robbie Dick; Rev. John Fairchild; Rev. Stephen Govett; Gene Hill; Glenda Hill; Rev. Bob Holiday; Winifred Keefer; Rev. Billy Martin; Jim Nibbelink; Rev. Kent Olson; Rev. Carl Peterson; Rev. Beth Rambikur; Jeannine Reynolds; Dan Sagramoso; Rev. Pamela Wagner; Rev. David Wilkinson.

1
2 **RESOLUTION TO STOP CLERGY TRIALS FOR CONDUCTING SAME-**
3 **SEX UNIONS**
4

5 Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society,
6 Welcoming & Reconciling Subgroup
7

8 **Whereas**, according to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church, and according to *The*
9 *Book of Discipline*, “We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the
10 image of God. (*The Book of Discipline* ¶ 161.F), and “All persons, regardless of age, gender,
11 marital status or sexual orientation are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured,”
12 (*The Book of Discipline* ¶161.F), and “We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all
13 persons.” (*The Book of Discipline* ¶161.F); complaints have been written and trials held against
14 ordained clergy for ministering to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) brothers and
15 sisters in Christ by conducting union/marriage ceremonies; and
16

17 **Whereas**, according to The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, “The United
18 Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice
19 incompatible with Christian teaching.” (*The Book of Discipline* ¶ 161.F) and
20

21 **Whereas**, United Methodist Church doctrine calls for inclusiveness in which “all persons are
22 open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all persons, enabling them to participate
23 fully in the life of the Church, the community and the world”; and,
24

25 **Whereas**, the Council of Bishops acknowledged in their report after the November 10-13, 2013
26 Council meeting, as quoted in United Methodist News Connections that, “neither they nor other
27 members of the church they lead are of one mind regarding ministering with gays and lesbians”
28 (*Council of Bishops Requests Complaint Against Talbert*, United Methodist News Connections,
29 United Methodist News Service, November 15, 2013); and
30

31 **Whereas**, Bishops have publically and privately opposed recommendations for such charges,
32 and spoken out against trials and penalties for ministers officiating at these union and
33 marriages; and
34

35 **Whereas**, ordained clergy who are seeking to navigate the inconsistencies within United
36 Methodist Church law face severe penalties for ministering fully to the LGBT children of God;
37 and
38

39 **Whereas**, Scripture teaches us God’s covenant extends to all persons, as made by the living
40 Christ whose command was to love God and neighbor, teaching radical inclusion, and through
41 our Church mandate to gather all persons of faith into the community of the Body of Christ
42 (Mark 12:30-31, Galatians 3:28 , and Matthew 28 :19); and
43

44 **Whereas**, Judicial proceedings should seek a just resolution, which is defined in *The Book of*
45 *Discipline* (¶ 2701 5):

1 *“A just resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities,*
2 *achieving real accountability by making things right in so far as possible and bringing*
3 *healing to all the parties. Special attention should be given to ensuring that cultural,*
4 *racial, ethnic, age and gender contexts are valued throughout the process in terms of*
5 *their understanding of fairness, justice, and restoration...”* and
6

7 **Whereas,** *The Book of Discipline* (§2707) states: *“Church trials are to be regarded as an*
8 *expedient of last resort. Only after every reasonable effort has been made to correct any*
9 *wrong...”*; therefore
10

11 **Be it resolved,** that we implore the Bishops of The United Methodist Church to diligently work
12 to find just alternatives to trials of United Methodist Church clergy for same-sex unions and
13 marriages.

1
2 **RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE SUNDAY PRIOR TO NOVEMBER**
3 **20TH AS TRANSGENDER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
4

5 Submitted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society,
6 Welcoming & Reconciling Subgroup
7

8 **Whereas**, paragraph 162 of *The Book of Discipline* states:

9 *“We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work*
10 *towards societies in which each person’s value is recognized, maintained, and*
11 *strengthened. We support the basic right of all persons to equal access to housing,*
12 *education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievance, and*
13 *physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons*
14 *based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability status, economic*
15 *conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. Our respect for*
16 *the inherent dignity of all persons leads us to call for the recognition, protection, and*
17 *implementation of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so that*
18 *communities and individuals may claim and enjoy their universal, indivisible, and*
19 *inalienable rights;”* and,
20

21 **Whereas**, transgender people are a minority who are victims of verbal and physical abuse
22 which have resulted in cases of murder (1,200 transgender people have been reported killed
23 over the last five years) and suicide (41% of transgender people living in the United States have
24 attempted suicide) out of proportion to their numbers due to ignorance, prejudice, and lack of
25 understanding or education among the majority; and
26

27 **Whereas**, at Annual Conference 2013, a resolution was passed stating that the Desert
28 Southwest Conference and the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference make the public
29 statement that our churches and facilities (buildings, gathering spaces and bathrooms) are safe
30 places for all people regardless of gender identity...”; and
31

32 **Whereas**, November 20th is recognized internationally as Transgender Day of Remembrance;
33 therefore
34

35 **Be it resolved**, that the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference observe annually, for the
36 remainder of this quadrennium, the Sunday prior to November 20th, or another Sunday in
37 November to be Transgender Remembrance Sunday, and mark the occasion within the Desert
38 Southwest Conference and the local church, to memorialize those who have died and to
39 reaffirm our resolve to make this Conference a safe place for all regardless of gender identity.

APPENDIX
Pre-Conference Report Corrections

This Report has been compiled within a very limited period of time and from many different sources and cannot be completely free of errors. Your assistance in detecting these errors and reporting them **in writing** will be much appreciated. **Please use this form, returning it to the Conference Secretary via e-mail by July 4th.**

Page _____ which reads: _____

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Page _____ which reads: _____

Should read: _____

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1
2 **REPORTING GUIDE**

3 Preparing.....

4
5 **Begin to plan now for sharing**
6 **from this Annual Conference experience**
7 **by considering how, when and what to share.....**
8

9 **HOW:**

- 10 Panel with other members attending from your church. Show and tell with slides you took or
- 11 borrowed
- 12 Dialogue between pastor and lay member(s) - Incorporate reporting in sermon (pastor and lay
- 13 member(s))
- 14 Be interviewed by someone from the congregation - Set up a display of materials you received
- 15 at Annual Conference

16
17 **WHEN:**

- 18 Sunday morning worship for 5 minutes - Church Newsletter (One or more articles)
- 19 Administrative Council/Board and individual work areas - Men's & Women's groups
- 20 Adult/youth Sunday School class - During budget planning

21
22 **WHAT:**

- 23 Consider your notes on these pages - pamphlets and pictures you collected
- 24 Resources found for programs in your local church

25
26 **THERE MAY BE CONTROVERSY — HOW WILL YOU DEAL WITH IT?**

27
28 Whenever concerned Christians make corporate decisions - some controversy often occurs

29 Be aware of:

- 30 Are the issues fairly and openly presented? If not, why not?
- 31 Does the controversy center on interpretation of facts?
- 32 Is it an argument of faith or interpretation of facts?
- 33 Can it be resolved to everyone's satisfaction?
- 34 Was the process impartial?
- 35 How do YOU react to the issues and the process?

36 Is either the issue or the process of sufficient concern to report to your congregation?

37 Can you see a creative outcome from the controversy?
38

Day by Day at Annual Conference

If your report of Annual Conference is to be balanced and interesting, it must include facts and "flavor" - so...

SELECT:

Significant events and impressions, making notes in the Official Program, Daily minutes and this booklet.

OBSERVE:

The diversity within our Conference - attitudes, ages, cultures, ethnic representation. What challenges does this present? What benefits does it bring?

CONSIDER:

What is important to ME? ... My Church? ... My Conference?

BE AWARE OF:

The reports given that indicate the state of the church.

The dedication in all levels of leadership.

How is it working?

Where did you see unanimity?

Where did you see disagreement?

Benefits from the Legislative and Plenary Session were....

Our Conference is responding to the call to be in mission when....

Limited funding of the Conference budget will not let us....

The periods of worship helped me.... Helped the Conference....

Times I especially sensed God's presence (in worship, in business, in conversation)....

Fact Finding:

How many attended Annual Conference? _____ Lay _____ Clergy

Age groups included:

Number of Districts? The names of the districts

Ethnic groups represented:

Number of churches in our Conference: _____

Total membership of our Conference: _____

Number of churches organized this year: _____

Largest Church: _____

Smallest Church: _____

Additional facts you discovered: _____

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Saturday, June 28, 2014
What Issues were dealt with....

Reports by: Actions: Remember:

Thoughts about the “Igniting a Passion for Christ
Thorough Reaching Out Into the Community” Plenary Session:

- I had the feeling the Conference....
- The best part of today was....
- My faith was strengthened today when....
- What I learned about the United Methodist Church today was....
- I especially want to report to my church on....

Sunday, June 29, 2014
What Issues were Dealt With....

Reports by: Actions: Remember:

- I had the feeling the Conference....
- The best part of today's business was....
- My faith was strengthened today when....
- What I learned about the United Methodist Church today was....
- I especially want to report to my church on....

1
2 **EMBARKING ON A JOURNEY OF REPENTANCE AND HEALING**
3 **RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLES**
4

5 “When one sits in the Hoop of the People, one must be responsible because all of creation is related.
6 And the hurt of one is the hurt of all. And the honor of one is the honor of all. And whatever we do
7 affects everything in the universe.”

8 *Modern version from the Lakota White Buffalo Calf Woman*
9

10 For a number of years The United Methodist Church has wrestled with how to witness to the good news
11 of the gospel and also acknowledge the church's role in cooperating with and entering into collusive
12 relationships with political forces resulting in indignities, cultural genocide, and atrocities to native
13 peoples. From that wrestling a call to United Methodists has emerged summarized in two resolutions
14 adopted at the 2008 & 2012 General Conferences (3323. Healing Relationships With Indigenous
15 Persons, 2008; 3324. Trail of Repentance and Healing, 2012). One evening at 2012 General Conference
16 was devoted to an Act of Repentance Service to Indigenous Peoples. Within the year, the Council of
17 Bishops issued their own statement of repentance and commitment to the calls to action embodied in
18 Resolutions 3323 & 3324.
19

20 Core components of the calls to action are: to build bridges of respect and understanding with
21 indigenous peoples in our geographic area; to become more aware of the church's role in the deleterious
22 impacts on our Native American brothers and sisters (past and present) and the advantages still accruing
23 to we, the colonizers; to develop means of repentance and ongoing reconciliation.
24

25 Bishop Hoshibata is leading the Desert Southwest Conference in responding to the calls to action. His
26 vision, generally, is to move from past to future in ways that heal and reconcile. Essential specifics of
27 that vision are: Creating places for conversation that nurture the building of relationships with our
28 Native American brothers and sisters. Focusing on listening and learning in the coming year, beginning
29 at the 2014 Annual Conference and continuing at the district and local levels. Plan an Act of Repentance
30 & Healing Service for the 2015 DSC Annual Conference that acknowledges the wrongs of our attitudes
31 and behaviors toward Native Americans, celebrates the gifts they bring to the body of Christ, and
32 commits to reconciling change moving forward. Pray that all that we do heals, strengthens, and has an
33 ongoing impact.
34

35 To implement the process of healing, repentance, and reconciliation, Bishop Bob created an Acts of
36 Repentance (AsOR) Task Force with representatives from three conference Outreach Committees
37 (Christian Unity & Interreligious Relationships; Native American Ministries; Religion & Race). The
38 AsOR Task Force first met with Rev. Chebon Kernell, tasked by the Council of Bishops to facilitate
39 implementation of the Acts of Repentance in the U.S. The three Outreach Committees then met
40 conjointly for the purpose of relationship building and deeper understanding. They hope to meet again
41 and are committed to supporting the acts of repentance process in the conference.
42

43 Gary Long, Chair, DSC Native American Ministries, and Jim Nibbelink, DSC Lay Leader, will take
44 gifts of repentance (two Pendleton blankets) to the Western Jurisdiction, Rocky Mountain Annual
45 Conference 2014 meeting. The RMAC has led in bringing the AsOR into being as repentance for the
46 Sand Creek massacre in the 19th century. Sand Creek, located within the RMC, is where a Methodist
47 pastor led a U.S. Calvary in the massacre of Native Americans, mostly women, children, and old men,
48 after a peace treaty had been signed. Able bodied men of the tribe were away on a hunting trip. An
49 American flag was in view. Twenty minutes into the attack women hoisted a white flag of surrender.
50 The attack continued unabated.
51

52 Going into this process in the DSC, it behooves us to recognize that a good many of our Native
53 American brothers and sisters question whether the church is serious about repentance and healing

1 relationships. It behooves us to know that too many Methodists are unaware of the church's role and
2 complicity in the destruction of Native American culture and identity. We are called now by the UMC
3 (General Conference, 2012) and the Council of Bishops (2014) to enter into this living history: ready to
4 listen and learn, to ask forgiveness, to pledge to work to reverse the damage done in the years to come in
5 the DSC's discourse, programming, and policies. Our work in healing relationships must be specific,
6 actionable, and accountable.

7
8 Next steps: At 2014 Annual Conference part of the Friday morning session will be a presentation
9 leading us into the process of *Acts of Repentance & Healing Relationships with Native Americans*
10 followed by table conversations.

11
12 Looking to the year ahead, the following scripture comes to mind:

13
14 *And God said, "Let there be light." Geneses: 1:3*

15
16 Carolyn D. Redmore, Ph. D., Chairperson
17 Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Relationships

18
19
20 References (*copies to be available at the C-CUIR exhibit table*):

21
22 Resolution 3323: Healing Relationships With Indigenous Peoples, UMC, adopted 2000, revised
23 & adopted 2008.

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25 Resolution 3324: Trail of Repentance and Healing, UMC, adopted 2012.

26
27 "Statement on the doctrine of discovery and its enduring impact on Indigenous Peoples,"
28 Executive Committee, World Council of Churches, 2012.

29
30 "A Statement from the Council of Bishops as We Embark on a Journey Toward Healing
31 Relationships with Indigenous Peoples," 2014.