The Bishop continues to talk about the “Big Three” – Christ at the Center, a focus on the local church as the place where discipleship happens, and the need to develop lay and clergy leaders.

Effective clergy leadership is vital to the success of the local church. While the most healthy, vital churches have a strong partnership between the clergy and laity, the reality is that without a transforming clergy leader shaping the vision and motivating, directing, and resourcing laity so that they are able to fulfill the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” the laity will struggle to move beyond the status quo. The shepherd must lead the flock.

Effective clergy leaders of strong, vital congregations come in all varieties, but they share some common characteristics:

- A strong, personal spiritual core and daily prayer practices
- An ability to lead people to Jesus
- A vision for growth of the local church that they can clearly share with the laity
- A desire for (and willingness to set) measurable goals for the local church and themselves
- Strong support for metrics as one of the measures of progress against the goals
- A willingness to keep learning and exploring in new ways (not just going to the same seminars over and over)
- An ability to deal openly, fairly and decisively with difficult situations and people
- An ability to move the local church from an inward focus to an outward focus
- An attitude of risk-taking and experimenting
- A noticeable sense of urgency and willingness to work hard
- A clear self-awareness of strengths and weaknesses

An honest assessment of our Conference is that we do not have enough effective clergy leaders, as reflected in our continuing decline as measured by average weekly worship attendance and professions of faith, even as the population in our Conference area has grown almost 10% over the last five years. We must do better, not because we simply want to be happy with ourselves over better numbers or...
because we want to ensure that Connectional Mission Giving is paid. Rather, we need more effective clergy leaders in order to fulfill our mission – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Center for Leadership is working with the Dr. Lamar Smith Center for Evangelism and Church Growth, the Center for Mission Support and the rest of the Cabinet to increase leadership capabilities in the following ways:

- **Clergy leadership development**
  - Working with district superintendents to help the clergy create learning plans to improve their leadership capabilities
  - Working with the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth to create on-boarding and transition approaches to help our clergy as they take on a new appointment
  - Evaluating coaching to determine the best approach for supporting our clergy
  - Working with the Core Team to create a “market share” goal for our conference which can be implemented at the local church level
  - Working with the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth to help churches understand the power of setting measurable goals as they envision their future

- **Lay leadership development (see report below)**

- **Campus ministry (see report below)**

- **Seminary recruiting**
  - Working with the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet to create a Seminary Recruiting Team to visit seminaries. The visits are both to support and encourage people from our Conference attending seminaries, as well as to identify other promising young leaders who may be interested in coming to our Conference (including from other denominations).
  - We conducted eight visits to seven seminaries this past year and plan to expand both the recruiting team and the seminaries to be visited in the next year.

Identifying, developing, supporting and challenging clergy leaders to become more effective in the local churches in our Conference will not be an easy task. It will take prayer, focus, hard work and a willingness to be brutally honest with ourselves and others. But we must do it because the mission of the Church demands it.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**ROBERTS CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP**

**DR. KEVIN WALTERS**

**Lay Leadership Development**

Partnering with the Conference Laity Team, the Roberts Center for Leadership seeks to identify and develop new leaders and support existing leaders so they can guide their churches in the mission to make disciples.

~ 186 ~
The **Vital Leadership Academy** (VLA) welcomed its second cohort in the fall of 2016. (See list, below). The VLA seeks to connect with people who are active in a local church though not yet serving key leadership positions. VLA participants meet as a large group for a series of four overnight retreats. In between, they meet in small groups to discuss practical leadership case studies. Participants are in covenant to engage in a daily spiritual discipline. Presenters at this year's VLA retreats included Dr. Amber Esping (First UMC, Euless), a professor of educational psychology at TCU, and Dr. Clifton Howard, South District superintendent. Through the VLA, participants learn foundational leadership principles that will help them become better leaders in their churches.

Since the VLA is designed for those with leadership potential rather than established leaders, we depend on clergy and existing lay leaders to invite people to apply ([www.ctcumc.org/vla](http://www.ctcumc.org/vla)). Please consider who from your church might benefit from the VLA and encourage them to apply.

**Lay Servant Ministries** (LSM) continues to prepare lay people to minister in many ways in our conference ([www.ctcumc.org/lsm](http://www.ctcumc.org/lsm)). Courses in such subjects as leading prayer and recognizing spiritual gifts are offered across the conference. Our goal is to offer at least four LSM classes in each district each year.

After four years as the conference director of LSM, Pam Dieckert (First UMC, Belton) requested to pass the baton to a new leader. In December 2016, the Conference Laity Team selected Pam Phinney (Saginaw UMC) as the new conference director of LSM. In the past year, several districts also selected new district directors of LSM. These are the current district directors:

- Central: Larry Ketcham (Covington UMC)
- East: Chris Buse (Ferris Heights UMC, Waxahachie)
- North: Mariney Shackelford (Springtown UMC)
- South: Barbara Foster (First UMC, Temple) and Bill Johnson (Grace UMC, Copperas Cove)
- West: Bonita Horton (First UMC, Cross Plains)

In July 2016, Pam Phinney coordinated a jurisdictional gathering of directors of Lay Servant Ministries from neighboring conferences. Hosted by FUMC Hurst, the event carried the theme, “Into the Community: Stepping out to Bring the Church into our Neighborhoods.” One of the highlights was a panel presentation featuring outreach ministries from First Joshua, First Fort Worth and St. Luke UMC (Fort Worth).
COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
VANCE MORTON, DIRECTOR

The Communications & IT team has enjoyed a time of change, growth and broadened horizons since the close of Annual Conference 2016. While our efforts to energize and equip the local churches of the Central Texas Conference remained the team’s primary focus, the challenges that come with the quadrennial meetings of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church and the South Central Jurisdictional Conference provided rare opportunities to collaborate with, learn from and help lead other conference communications teams in ways of effectively and positively sharing narratives and news with our local churches.

Perhaps the most unique way the CTC Communications & IT team engaged in energizing and equipping the local churches, especially their clergy and lay leadership, was via the 2016 Evangelism Summit, www.ctcumc.org/EvangelismSummit2016. From conceptualization to post-production, the communications team was intimately involved in this event, designed to build upon the momentum begun at AC16 towards recapturing the spirit of Wesleyan Evangelism. The event featured four expert speakers on evangelism, several videos, a program/workbook and myriad levels of follow-up communications.

~ 188 ~
Some of the more notable highlights from the Communications & IT team’s past year include…

- Production of several CTC Emergency Response videos – two of which were employed by UMCOR and other Emergency Response organizations in their training and promotional materials
- Increased live webstreaming capabilities – produced 2016 Bishop Brown Bag Book Study Series, GC16 Prayer Vigil, GC16 Delegation Listening Posts, 2016 Evangelism Summit and more
- Vastly increased social media presence on Facebook and Twitter
- Enhanced ctcumc.org’s photo, registration, classified and emailer capabilities
- Created a new conference logo, including an accompanying style usage guide
- Increased the backup and scalability of in-house servers
- Upgraded 40 percent of the CTCSC hardware, while lowering the cost per system
- Moved all conference email off in-house servers and out on the cloud to increase productivity and reliability

As mentioned, 2016 provided excellent opportunities to serve and grow beyond the conference. The CTC Communications team led the way for a first-ever active partnership between four of the five UMC conferences in Texas (Central Texas, Northwest Texas, Rio Texas and Texas) to provide coverage of the 2016 General Conference. The Texas Conference Comms Coalition (TCCC) split duties and resources so that none of the conference communicators had to be in Portland, Oregon for the entire conference, yet allowing for a broader amount of coverage from the quadrennial meeting. A similar coalition was employed during the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in July; however, this time conferences from around the jurisdiction – primarily Central Texas, Great Plains, Northwest Texas and Rio Texas – collaborated to provide as wide-ranging coverage of the meeting as possible. During these collaborative times, best practices were shared and gleaned that will allow the conference communications teams to more effectively support the local church going forward.

While we are pleased with what was accomplished in support of the local churches and other CTC organizations, we are far from satisfied. We know there is much more to be done in support of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In 2017 and beyond, the team will continue to enhance and improve its communications offerings in support of the local churches of the CTC. The main transformation will occur in a more proactive focus on messaging and narratives in support of the CTC Core Team’s Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to increase the percentage of the conference’s overall population who attend a United Methodist Church. (Read more about the WIG at www.ctcumc.org/WIG). Other tweaks will include an even greater emphasis on growing our social media presence, updated staffing positions and more targeted, audience-specific communications.
Of all the projects undertaken in the past year, the ones the team enjoyed most were those that allowed for direct collaboration with the local churches. We’d like to thank all of you for your support and comradery, especially those with whom we worked side-by side, as those are the projects – the projects conceived and executed as part of a team effort with colleagues across the conference and connection – that truly serve to energize us.

The Communications & IT team is made up of J. Vance Morton, director of Communications & IT (vance@ctcumc.org); Julian Hobdy, digital media coordinator (julian@ctcumc.org); and Calvin Scott, IT coordinator (calvin@ctcumc.org). Please reach out to any or all of us at any time. We relish your suggestions, questions, comments, concerns and (most importantly) prayers.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT**

**JOSEPH NADER, COORDINATOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**

The campus ministries of the Central Texas Conference are missional outposts established to reach the college and university campuses in our conference. We are on each campus for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven and for the future of the Church. Through the support of the local churches of our conference, we are making disciples of Jesus Christ and raising up a new generation of leaders for the sake of the Church and the world.

This has been a great year of disciple-making for our campus ministries! We have seen growth across our campuses in worship attendance, missional engagement in the world and the fruitful sending of our alumni into the larger Church and world. Please take the time to read the reports from each of our campus ministries as they have worked so hard to amplify their presence on their campuses.

As the Center for Leadership, we have continued to work towards equipping and energizing our campus ministers in their work on campus. Our primary means of doing that is through one-on-one coaching and bi-annual Campus Ministers’ Retreats focused on learning and collaboration.

At the Summer 2016 retreat, we heard from different presenters on various topics of concern on college campuses. We heard a presentation on “The Problem of Porn” and learned ways to deal with the rapid increase of porn addiction among college students. Also, we were trained in suicide prevention techniques, and learned about the prevalence of death by suicide as the number two cause of death among people under the age of 35.

The Spring 2017 Retreat focused on some learnings with Dr. William Abraham on developing a catechetical structure for campus ministry. We began to collaborate on developing some level of structure to our discipleship process so we can be confident that our students are leaving our campus ministries prepared for leadership in the local church.
With an eye to the future, we have sensed a call to expand our reach to the 20 or more campuses within CTC borders which currently lack a United Methodist presence. We want to create some level of campus ministry on those campuses, while being realistic about our resources. This work will take collaboration between local churches and the CTC Campus Ministries, including an enormous amount of prayer. I hope you will join us in praying that God would open ways for us to reach EVERY campus in the CTC.

As always we are grateful for the support of the churches of the Central Texas Conference. These are your missional outposts onto the campuses of our conference, and we are thankful for the ways you help sustain our work and encourage us in reaching more and more students.

If you want to learn more about campus ministry and the importance of our work, here are a few, short articles to help your understanding:

The End Game of College Ministry
http://campusministry.org/article/end-game-college-ministry
This is a great basic overview of our purposes and vision for campus ministry.

3 Reasons Why It's Critical to Start New Campus Ministries

White Paper on Reaching the Missing Generation
https://www.dropbox.com/s/gywnfolfh5jsosl/Whitepaper-Reaching%20the%20missing%20generation%20in%20an%20age%20of%20optio nal%20discipleship.pdf?dl=0
3DM is focused on training and supporting churches in their discipleship-making ministries. They have created a missional arm called TOM (The Order of Mission), and they have been planting campus ministries throughout Western Europe and now the U.S.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY
DR. CHRIS HAYES, CHAIRPERSON

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the Central Texas Annual Conference exists to enlist, evaluate, equip and sustain leadership for the current and future ministries of Jesus Christ in The United Methodist Church. We have three areas of focus for the new quadrennium: a deepening of our commitment to offer opportunities for spiritual formation for our clergy, a strengthening of our partnership with the Cabinet and a renewed focus on the District Committees on Ministry.

Our commitment to offer spiritual formation opportunities for our clergy began with the creation of an executive committee position to concentrate on this important aspect of our lives. Dr. Will Cotton was chosen to serve in this newly created position. As one of his first initiatives, Dr. Cotton created prayer partnerships for all clergy of the conference to strengthen their connection with each other through prayer. Also, Dr. Cotton has committed to work with the chairs of the orders to
redesign Clergy Time Apart. This year’s Clergy Time Apart was scheduled for April 27-28 at Glen Lake Camp. The purpose of this event is to strengthen our Clergy Covenant through praying and playing together and was built around the theme of Sabbath.

The Board has enjoyed a synergetic working relationship with the Cabinet and looks forward to the continuation of this partnership. In an effort to be proactive concerning changes to the Discipline, which will affect the work of both the Board and the Cabinet, Dr. Hayes has requested a joint meeting of the two groups, which is scheduled to take place in October, 2017. The agenda will include discussions around the eight-year clergy evaluation that is to be implemented by January 2020 and the Bishop’s WIG (Wildly Important Goal) of increasing the worship attendance market share of the conference (which is currently 1% of the population) to 1.25% by 2026. In addition, Dr. Hayes and the Board are exploring ways to work in connection with Jeff Roper, executive director of the Roberts Center for Leadership, to see how we can all focus on clergy excellence together. Our hope is for some common language and focal points as we recruit, credential and deploy fruitful clergy into our mission field.

In his role as candidacy registrar, Rev. Chris Mesa is responsible for oversight of the District Committees on Ministry, which are sub-committees of the board. Rev. Mesa’s goal is to standardize the experience our candidates have with DCOM across district lines. Rev. Mesa plans to have an annual meeting of the district superintendents, district administrators and DCOM chairpersons to foster communication, share best practices and explain board policies and expectations. The next such meeting is scheduled for October, 2017. We believe this is a crucial component of the credentialing process and needs to be unified and strengthened across the annual conference.

Rev. Lee Trigg is responsible for Local Pastor’s Licensing School, which was held July 29-31 and August 7-11, 2016. The change to a restructured format with a shorter residential component continues to be well received. We anticipate a smaller than normal group this year because of the lower number of candidates who were certified in January, 2017. To make licensing school the best experience it can be, Rev. Trigg has formed a committee to review the format and presenters and to report back to the Board at its next meeting.

The Orientation to Ministry Summit was held on Aug. 6, 2016, and 26 candidates attended. The summit is an exploration and discernment event and the entry point to candidacy. The group learning environment has allowed candidates to feel connected, provided mutual discernment and created community among those going through the early stages of the candidacy process. Eight of the 26 candidates expressed an interest in licensed ministry, which corresponds to trends cited by The Lewis Center for Church Leadership in its most recent report on clergy trends. We give God thanks for these new people exploring a call into ministry in The United Methodist Church through the Central Texas Conference.
Professional credentialing interviews were held March 20-22, 2017 at Glen Lake Camp. This is the second year that the Board has used the three-team rotation consisting of focus areas of theology and emotional intelligence; practical ministry and polity; and preaching and teaching to interview candidates for commissioning and ordination. The new format has been well received both by candidates and board members. Several changes were made to interviews this year based on feedback from the candidates and best practices shared at the October 2016 GBHEM quadrennial training in Chicago. Desiring to increase the spiritual component of interviews, the Board added a chaplain position to provide pastoral care to the candidates. Rev. Brenda Wier, former board member, served in this role. Also, each candidate received an email of encouragement from the board chair prior to interviews.

Due to the large number of candidates coming for interviews (48 total), which is viewed as a very positive trend, the Board voted to move the continuation interviews (16 candidates) to another day and time. The continuation interviews were April 6, 2017. At the March interviews 11 candidates were approved for ordination, and 16 were approved for commissioning. We will continue to evaluate our interview process and look for ways to ensure that we are discerning and equipping the best and most fruitful for ordained ministry in our annual conference.

The Central Texas Conference was the first conference in the country to make the transition from the Pathways to Ministry file maintenance system to UMCARES, the GCFA-owned file maintenance system. The transition began in September 2016 and was completed in April, 2017. UMCARES will link our candidates’ records to both GBHEM and EZRA with the goal of data sharing. The Board is very grateful for the work of our district administrators, and especially our associate director, Kathy Ezell, for their work in this process.

This year we have a record number of clergy retiring. As has been our tradition for the last two years, our retirees are being honored with video tributes. The video format allows the retirees to recall their experience of ministry and offer reflections on the Church’s past and future. The videos are available to share with family and friends unable to attend the retirement service. We celebrate the ministries of these amazing people, and we pray that God will continue to use their gifts and graces in new ways in retirement. Please join the Board in finding ways to express appreciation for all who are retiring this year from faithful service in the Central Texas Conference.

As I complete my first year as chair of the Board, I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Board for their faithful service and to the Annual Conference for the privilege of serving in this position. The dedication and time that each member offers to this important work often goes un-noticed. I am very grateful for the way they strive to fulfill our mission and purpose. None of our work would be possible without Kathy Ezell, associate director of the Board. Thank you, Cathy, for all that you do for our annual conference to ensure that we recruit, enlist, evaluate, equip and sustain the best and brightest for ministry in our annual conference.
Proclaiming the Good News revealed in Jesus Christ was the beginning, middle, and end of John Wesley’s life’s work. He reminded others of this passion repeatedly. You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore, be spent in this work.

The Central Texas Conference Bishop’s Preaching Excellence Award is presented at Annual Conference in recognition of a pastor with a demonstrated pattern of excellence as a communicator of the Gospel. Deeply biblical preaching proclaims a transcendent and divine Word from the Lord. In a secular world that believes it can live without God, preaching brings radical news about a bigger world, a new world, the real world.

Christian preaching deals with profound, life-and-death matters with eternal consequences. It is momentous. Excellent preaching is biblical, authentic, contextual and life-changing. By the power of the Holy Spirit, preaching moves from the text through the preacher into a specific situation toward the Gospel’s goal. Preaching is always connected with the Church but ultimately goes beyond the Church itself and proclaims the kingdom rule of God over all things and the mission of God “to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven” (Col. 1:20).

The 2017 award went to Rev. Philip Rhodes, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church Hurst.

Established by Bishop Lowry in 2010, the award’s first recipient was Dr. Mike McKee, who was then the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Hurst and is now the Bishop presiding over the North Texas Conference. Subsequent awards were presented to:

- 2011 – Dr. John McKellar, co-pastor of White’s Chapel in Southlake
- 2012 – Rev. Quinton J. Gibson, senior pastor of St. James/Kell’s Branch
- 2013 – Rev. David Alexander, pastor of First UMC Mansfield
- 2014 – Dr. Will Cotton, senior pastor of St. Barnabas UMC in Arlington
- 2015 – Rev. Estee Valendy, co-pastor of Saginaw UMC
- 2016 – Rev. Ben Disney, senior pastor of Arborlawn UMC in Fort Worth

Bishop Lowry, after consultation with the Cabinet, determines who receives the award. Recipients are listed on a plaque displayed in the Central Texas Conference Service Center. Each honoree also receives $1,000 to be used for further personal ministry development. There may be years when no award is presented.
THE FRANCIS ASUSBURY AWARD

The Frances Asbury Award offers recognition to individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the Church's ministries in higher education at the local, district or annual conference level. It is named for Bishop Asbury, based on his admonition to the people called Methodist to erect a school near every church. “We must,” he said, “. . . give the key of knowledge to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages.” The 2017 award went to Rev. David McMinn, director of campus ministry at the Tarleton State University Wesley Foundation. In a letter of nomination, Rev. Howard Martin described Rev. McMinn as a “game-changer” who leads passionate worship and engages students in life-changing missions.

In 2015, Rev. Joseph Nader was selected as our conference's first recipient of the award, in honor of his outstanding work in campus ministry. Rev. Nader is director of campus ministry at the University of Texas at Arlington Wesley Foundation. He doubles as coordinator of campus ministry for the Central Texas Conference.

The award is given to one person selected by the annual conference board of higher education of ministry (or its equivalent). There may be years when no recipient is selected; and that was the case in 2016.

Criteria for the award specifies that the recipient must be:

1. A United Methodist;
2. Active in supporting, strengthening, and promoting the Church's work in higher education ministries (schools, colleges, campus ministries, scholarships, Black College Fund, Africa University, etc.) at the annual conference, district or local church level;
3. Offering outstanding leadership, above and beyond basic responsibilities, to help bring heightened awareness to the significance of the church's higher education ministries;
4. Involved in efforts in agreement with the concerns of the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry and the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

MORRIS WALKER AWARD

IN MEMORY OF MORRIS DELANEY WALKER, 1909-1972

The Morris Walker Award was established in 1973 to recognize Morris DeLaney Walker's distinguished and exemplary service to The United Methodist Church as a conference lay leader. Mr. Morris was outstanding, not only in the way he worked tirelessly for the church, but in the standard he set as a role model for laity throughout the conference.

Ed Komandosky is the recipient of the 2017 award. Mr. Komandosky has serve as a district lay leader, conference lay leader, conference parlementarian and chair of
the conference archives and history team. In 2008 he represented the CTC as a lay delegate to General Conference and hosted the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. This is in addition to the numerous offices he has held in his church, Tenth Street UMC in Taylor and in his local city council and chamber of commerce, the United Way and Kiwanis Club.

The original intent of the Morris Walker Award was to honor laypersons who, like Mr. Walker, exemplify the same kind of “above and beyond” service to their local church, community and conference. For a number of years, the award went to both clergy and laity; however, in 2014 the decision was made to reserve the honor for laity. The distinction includes a $500 award for continuing spiritual education.

Mr. Walker credited his parents with teaching him to tithe his abilities, his time and his income for the benefit of the church. “I have found the opportunity of being some small service to the church most gratifying,” he is remembered as saying.

Mr. Walker was president of the District Board of Missions and president of the Protestant Men’s Council of Tarrant County. He was one of the initial 24 directors of the Metropolitan Board of Missions and one of its three incorporators. From the time of his youth, he was a member of Meadowbrook [United] Methodist Church. He served as lay leader, district lay leader for what was then known as the Fort Worth East District, and conference lay leader. He was an exemplary witness in his local church, even as his efforts extended farther afield. In 1963, Mr. Walker represented the Methodist Church in Denmark through a six-week United Nations cultural and spiritual exchange. He had the opportunity to meet Bishop Desmond Tutu when he was a Methodist representative to the United Nations Conference. A true disciple of Jesus Christ, Mr. Walker left a legacy of faith and service.

### MORRIS WALKER AWARD RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Laity</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>J.N. Patterson</td>
<td>Richard W. Jenkins</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Joe Weaver</td>
<td>Bob Briles</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>W.E. Dunn</td>
<td>J.D. Phillips</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Forrest Markward</td>
<td>Uriah Stegman, Jr.</td>
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<td>C.A. Shine</td>
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<td>Charlene Parks</td>
<td>Clyde E. Zellers, Jr.</td>
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<td>J.L. LaGrone</td>
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<td>Warren Green</td>
<td>Reed C. Justus</td>
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<td>Nancy Brown &amp; David Harkrider</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<td>LaFron Thompson</td>
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<td>James R. Emanuel</td>
<td>Louis Shambeck</td>
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<td>Ron Worley</td>
<td>Jerden Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Arch Coleman</td>
<td>Tim Walker</td>
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~ 196 ~
Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

1991 Odessa Weir
1992 E. Dale Herring
1993 Sandi Walter
1994 Elizabeth Lavender
1995 Douglas Benold & Lillie Payne
1996 Leroy Chism
1997 Grant Jacobs
1998 Mildred Townsend
1999 George Brightwell
2000 Michael Springer
2001 Pearl Carpenter
2002 Tom Harkrider
2003 Edna Davis
2004 Martha Harris & Bob Bull
2005 Steve McIver
2006 Sandra Oliver
2007 Troy Chapman
2008 Jack Teddie
2009 Diane Griffin
2010 Reece McIver
2011 Hiram Smith
2012 Bliss Dodd
2013 Darcy Deupree
2014 Pat & Patricia Stroman
2015 Cynthia Rives
2016 Pam Phinney
2017 Ed Komandoski

Ben Disney & Gary Lindley
Georgia Adamson
Robert E. Messer
Stephen Ramsdell
Ken Diehm
Ann Hitt
John E. McKellar
Stephen Schmidt
Jerry Chism
Thomas Childs
John Robbins
Marie Helm
Tom Robbins
Quinton Gibson
Brenda Wier
Brian Young
Raul Gutierrez
Hubert Austin
Mary Gean Cope
Page Hines
Mike Ramsdell
None
Will Cotton

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE MERIT AWARD

These awards are funded by 10 percent of each annual conference’s total receipts to the Student Day Offering for the previous year. Participating annual conferences of the UMC may award one or more scholarships (depending on the total received) to UM students who reside in the conference and who are or will be attending a UM-related college or university. The Central Texas Conference partners with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for this program. All applications are through GBHEM. The 2017 recipients are Karen Garcia, El Buen Samaritano UMC and Meghan Webb, Alliance UMC.

THE UPPER ROOM ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION
DR. BOB HOLLOWAY, RETREAT LEADER

The Academy is an experience of intentional Christian community. The heart of the retreat is the daily rhythm of worship: Morning and Evening Prayer and the Eucharist. Each day two persons known for their spiritual practices, knowledge and experience share with the community. Each evening participants form small covenant groups for sharing the meaning and impact of the day. One of the best
Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

teachers at the Academy is Silence. Spaces of silence throughout the day cultivate time for reflection and listening for God.

In February of 2017, Dr. Joretta Marshall, dean of Brite Divinity School and professor of pastoral theology and care, was presenter. The theme was “The Holy Spirit and Forgiveness.” The Prothro Retreat Center on Lake Texoma was filled to capacity as persons entered into the time of learning, worship and reflection. The sessions centered on the biblical and theological insights, the process of forgiving others and oneself and a forgiving church in the world. Participants reported that not only insights were important, but they also came to new experiences of forgiveness and moments when God’s mercy was present to them.

Those who have been a part of the Academy have enjoyed renewal and rest. They have also shared important times of awareness of God’s presence and both God’s grace and call in their lives. One participant has said, “In worship I sensed a newness growing within my heart and mind.” Many report being new to silence only to discover that it became an important part of their prayer and devotional life. As a result of the Academy, people have started prayer groups and teams in their churches, discipleship groups for accountability and hand-on mission projects through their prayer life. People return year after year for refreshing their daily rhythm of silence and prayer. They are surprised how much they feel a part of a genuine community within the silence.

In 2018 the Five-Day Academy will be Feb. 18-23. Dr. Mary Earle will be our guide through Celtic Spirituality, and Dr. Roger Owen will lead our discoveries into “Addressing Scripture.” The Central Texas Leadership Team is comprised of Dr. Bob Holloway, Rev. Judy Holloway, Rev. Estee Valendy, Rev. Jason Valendy, Kristin Warthen, Rev. Linda Keen and Rev. Jonell Lindh. Information is online at www.upperroom.org or www.5daynorthtexas.com

Higher Education & Campus Ministries

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

The agency launched a new mission and vision at the start of 2017. The updated mission and vision simplify our role as the primary leadership development agency for The United Methodist Church.

MISSION: Our mission is to lead and connect the educational and ministerial life of The United Methodist Church.

VISION: We will continue to transform the world through the power of education and ministry in the Methodist tradition. We will serve God and the worldwide Church.
Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

in recruiting, nurturing, and educating lay and clergy leaders who seek wisdom and live ethically as God’s peacemakers.

EDUCATION: The Collegiate Ministry Office at GBHEM hosted Imagine What’s NEXT, a three-day event for young adults ages 18-26 to discern their call of lay or clergy leadership and learn ways to connect that God-given call through the work of the church. Nearly 700 students participated in NEXT, an increase of nearly 40 percent from prior years.

The Young Clergy Initiative funds innovative projects across the church to attract young people to ordained ministry. The $7 million initiative has funded more than 75 projects. A biennial event, Exploration, provides a platform for young adults ages 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God’s call to ordained ministry. In 2015, 475 attended Exploration. The 2017 event will take place in Portland, Ore., Nov. 3-5.

The agency has a Global Methodist Education Network that includes more than 1,000 institutions of higher education around the world. GBHEM supports schools, colleges and universities across the U.S. The Schools, Colleges, and Universities Office at GBHEM hosted 30 school presidents at the CEO Meeting of the Council of Independent Colleges in Orlando, Fla. in January 2017. In addition, the office hosted 35 presidents at the National Association of Schools & Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC) winter meeting in Washington, D.C.

Global Education and New Initiatives at GBHEM provides technical assistance, financial support, scholarships and recruitment aids for five target regions across the globe: Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, Europe, and U.S. Global Education works with the United Methodist-related schools, particularly institutions of higher education and theology schools. In addition to schools, the office supports international and regional associations, and it oversees the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development.

The Black College Fund invests in the hopes and dreams of those students attending United Methodist-related historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The Black College Fund distributes 95 percent (on average more than $9 million) of all funds received equally to the 11 HBCUs. The fund provides for faculty development, infrastructure maintenance, and for students who need financial support and scholarship, helping the HBCUs to keep tuition and fees competitive. The Black College Fund was pleased to announce that five of its HBCUs enrolled 22 Hispanic students as part of the Latino student access program in 2016.

The agency works with the Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (CCTE) to distribute grants for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the Central Conferences. The 2012 General Conference established a $5 million CCTE fund, and more than 250 grants have been awarded across 22 countries to date. Due to its impact, the fund was doubled at the 2016 General Conference. New grant recipients were announced in March 2017.
In 2016, GBHEM’s Office of Loans and Scholarships awarded 2,025 students with more than $3.1 million in scholarships and 406 students with more than $1.9 million in loans. The loans and scholarships are open to United Methodist students and seminarians who are seeking to further their education.

GBHEM reestablished its publishing ministry in 2016 to engage, nurture, and advocate for the intellectual life of The United Methodist Church. Through this ministry, GBHEM produces academic resources for the constituencies of the agency, including single-author and multi-author works, as well as edited volumes. More than 10 new and revised books have been released under the publishing ministry.

MINISTRY: In partnership with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM provides e-readers to theological schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia, offering access to the latest textbooks and reference books. The E-Reader Project has distributed nearly 1,500 devices to 22 theological seminaries, loaded with publications in English, French, and Portuguese.

Individuals pursuing licensed and ordained ministry find the resources they need to overcome challenges and barriers sometimes encountered when responding to God’s call in GBHEM’s Candidacy Office. The office coordinated a successful Board of Ordained Ministry Quadrennial Leadership Development in fall 2016. In addition, the office revised the BOM Handbook following General Conference, along with the conference relations resources for the 2016 Book of Discipline. The Candidacy Office is also developing an eight-year Clergy Assessment Process and GBHEM’s Effective Ministry Assessment (EMA) leadership development tool.

Course of Study and Specialized Theological Education provides resources for local pastors to gain the education and training needed for service across the church, with courses available in Spanish. The office launched Portuguese Course Study programs in 2016 and will continue to expand. GBHEM launched three new education options for part-time pastors in December 2016: an Extension of the Course of Study School of Ohio (COSSO) located at United Theological Seminary, a satellite Course of Study program with Saint Paul School of Theology in Hays, Kan., and a pilot Escuela de Cursos de Estudios (ECE), a Spanish Course of Study, in Denver, Colo.

Chaplains and pastoral counselors are credentialed through the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, which provides resources for chaplains and counselors serving inside and outside the walls of the church. UMEA supports those working in 25 ministry settings such as health care, military, prison, workplace, marriage and family, and more. The office is completing the second pilot initiative to evaluate the effectiveness of a hybrid Clinical Pastoral Education program sponsored by GBHEM.

GBHEM leads clergy continuing education programs, providing resources for spiritual formation and professional development to help ensure an effective clergy
for the church. **Clergy Lifelong Learning** provides an innovative platform for ministry through the multilingual UMC Cyber Campus. In addition, the office organized the 60th anniversary celebration of full clergy rights for women in August 2016 at the United Methodist Clergywomen gathering, which included 450 attendees from 27 countries, speaking six languages. This office continues to provide guidance in cross-cultural/cross-racial leadership development throughout the denomination.

The agency supports **deacons and diaconal ministers** as they lead the people of God into ministries of compassion and justice, and interpret the needs of the world to the church. The Office of Deacon Ministry Development and Provisional Membership led the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the “recovery” of full-member clergy deacons for the church. In addition, a new certification in parish nursing was created, and the certification in camping and retreat ministries was updated (in collaboration with Discipleship Ministries).

**GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY**

**2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR THE CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE**

The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM) celebrates that the Office of Loans and Scholarships awarded more than 2,300 students a total of $5 million in financial assistance for 2016. The GBHEM thanks you for your support in recognizing United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday and Native American Sunday, which help fund a portion of its scholarships. The remaining funds for these awards come from gifts, annuities and endowments GBHEM has invested and administered for decades. Included here is a list of recipients from the Central Texas Conference, who were awarded $68,550 in scholarships.

1. James Atkins, First UMC Gatesville, United Methodist General Scholarship for $1,500 – attends Candler School of Theology.
2. Kaley Batchlear, First UMC Georgetown, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,775 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
3. Brenna Baugh, First UMC Waxahachie, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $3,000 – attends McMurry University.
5. Jacob Cearley, Holland UMC, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Tarleton State University.
7. Deborah Creagh, White’s Chapel UMC, United Methodist General Scholarship for $1,500 – attends Perkins School of Theology.
8. Joy Dister, First UMC Grapevine, Special Seminary Scholarship for $2,000 – attends Perkins School of Theology.
9. Remy Ditu, St. Luke UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
11. Matthew Frantz, First UMC Joshua, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Oklahoma State University.
12. Kaitlyn Frantz, First UMC Joshua, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Centenary College of Louisiana.
14. Chandler Henderson, St. Luke UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,775 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
15. Julian Hobdy, Grace UMC Arlington, UM Allocation Award for $1,650 and Ethnic Minority Scholarship for $800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
16. Benjamin Huebner, Benbrook UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
17. Blake Janek, Valley Mills UMC, UM Allocation Award for $2,500 and Baxter Roelfson Sands Scholarship for $1,200 – attends McMurry University.
18. Jaclynn Janek, Valley Mills UMC, UM Allocation Award for $2,500 – attends McMurry University.
20. Alyssa Leifeste, Aledo UMC, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Texas Woman’s University.
21. Cassandra Leissler, Saint John the Apostle UMC Arlington, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends University of North Texas.
23. Karissa Means, Central UMC Brownwood, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $3,000 – attends McMurry University.
24. Samuel Moore, First UMC Dublin, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Abilene Christian University.
25. Samantha Moore, White’s Chapel UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
27. Jack Payne, First UMC Glen Rose, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $3,000 – attends McMurry University.
28. Abraham Perez, Western Hills UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
29. Michelle Phillips, First UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
30. Matthew Phillips, First UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
31. Joshua Rhymer, Smithfield UMC North Richland Hills, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Texas Tech University.
32. Christopher Rico, El Buen Samaritano UMC, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends the University of Texas at Arlington.

~ 202 ~
33. Julian Rodriguez, Western Hills UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
34. Kimberlee Sims, Meadowbrook UMC, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
35. Celeste Soto, Western Hills UMC, Ethnic Minority Scholarship for $1,000 – attends Texas A&M University.
36. Stephanie Staton, White’s Chapel UMC, Central Texas Annual Conference Merit Award for $1,175 and Special Seminary Scholarship for $2,000 – attends Perkins Seminary.
37. Michelle Treider, First UMC Midlothian, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends the University of Texas at Arlington.
38. Ximena Villegas Pinzon, El Buen Samaritano, Ethnic Minority Scholarship for $800 – attends Texas Woman’s University.
39. Meghan Webb, Alliance UMC, UM Allocation Award for $1,325 – attends Oklahoma City University.
40. Casey Williams, First UMC Azle, Miriam Hoffman Scholarship for $1,000 and Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,800 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.
41. Madeline Williams, First UMC Waco, Rev. Dr. Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship for $1,000 – attends University of Arkansas.
42. Luke Zrostlik, St. Matthew UMC Fort Worth, Knowles 3 Allocation Award for $1,700 – attends Texas Wesleyan University.

TENNAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
DR. DARRELL LOYLESS, PRESIDENT

“We have not met, but you have played a vital role in my life for a long time…You have affected my family in untold ways. Thanks to you, my fiancé realized her call to ministry and our paths crossed. And now thanks to your generosity, I will continue towards my call.”

While the support from any one congregation may be small, the impact of these funds is enormous. TUMCA students receive hope, affirmation, encouragement, and the development of leadership and servant ministry skills that will serve the church now and in the future. Clergy, laity leaders, teachers, and responsible business and community leaders, once TUMCA scholars, will help chart the course for our church.

Through the funding of scholarships at our United Methodist universities, our students are afforded an opportunity to get an education that offers both intellectual and spiritual development. Our total distribution to TUMCA schools during the year just concluded was $325,000. These funds granted to SMU, Southwestern, Texas
Wesleyan, and McMurry are restricted to scholarships for deserving students from United Methodist congregations in Texas. No funds can be used for bricks and mortar. Many of our scholars have been first generation college students.

Texas United Methodist College Association is our extension of a congregation’s mission, and we are grateful for their support and proud to work with them in the transformation of the world.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scholarship Recipient</th>
<th>Home Church</th>
<th>College or University</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baldwin, KayLyn</td>
<td>Saginaw UMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zrostlik Luke</td>
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The Wesley – where we find our story in God’s narrative for the earth, in gathering as a community, and in scattering like seeds to sow the Kingdom of Christ. Story. Gather. Scatter. The past year at the Wesley can be classified as a year of expanding our reach to the “nones” (didn’t grow up in church) and the “wounded” (those who have left the church after a specific event in their life). The Wesley is becoming known as a safe place to come explore faith anew or for the first time, and in this work the students are engaged in the work of evangelism.

The Wesley is a place of story, where students learn God’s story (Bible/theology) and they are invited to see how their story fits into the grand narrative of God’s work with the earth. Story is our widest reach – from our core students to the students who only come occasionally. The main point of contact for the Wesley is on Tuesday nights, beginning with a free meal (often provided by a local UMC) and followed by worship. Students have the opportunity to engage in Sunday Night Covenant Group or Guys’ Lunch on Fridays.

The Wesley is a place to gather, where we have instilled a hangout culture. Students can come study, watch TV, take a nap, hang in their hammocks, or relax with a group of friends. The community at the Wesley thrives around un-programmed opportunities to come live life together. In gathering there are organic and programmed times of discipleship. The students are often engaged by staff to think of themselves as the missional church (how can I carry the church into my places of study, work, rest, outside of the Wesley/Local Church).

The Wesley is a place where students are sent out to scatter in a variety of forms. We scatter in mission, and we have taken our largest group of students on mission trip thus far. We also scatter when students graduate or transfer, and the hope is for those students to find a Local Church to plug in and continue the work of the church. The Wesley has in the past three years had five students graduate and begin work in professional ministry, three begin seminary, and seven making reaffirmations of faith.

Story. Gather. Scatter.
ethnically diverse student population includes roughly 3,500 individuals. The majority are African American. Most students on our campus come from low income families and attend school through the Pell Grant program. Our student ministry is a resource that helps them with basic needs as well as spiritual needs. Navarro College and the UCF Wesley Foundation are unique due to the positive support of the small community and churches that surround it and the pride they have in their town and school.

Over the past two years we have focused our ministry on raising up Christian leaders in the community to serve and lead others. Since our pilot program began in January 2016, 28 students have completed our Christian Leadership Program. The Christian Leadership Center (CLC) equips students to address 21st century challenges through their faith as they discern their vocational calling in ministry and other disciplines. The center serves as an entry point for students to explore ministry as a vocation.

Opportunities through our Christian Leadership Center include local internships in area businesses and churches. This program provides students exposure to a variety of ministry fields, including ordained ministry and non-profit organizations. Those who enroll in our program examine different topics of study each semester on a rotational basis over four semesters. Topics include Christian Leadership, Christian Service, Spiritual Practices and Christianity in a Global World. Curriculum for this program is developed at the UCF Wesley Foundation and it also includes Clarify for College Ministries.

Some highlights from our CLC this past year include working with Habitat for Humanity and Christmas-in-Action to complete two weekend workdays in Corsicana. Seventeen students attended the All Campus retreat with other Wesley Foundations in February. During the retreat, they were challenged to discern their calling in life and heard from a variety of speakers. Students shared how much fun they had on the retreat and said they enjoyed meeting students from other Wesley Foundations around Texas. During our Tuesday night colloquium sessions at our Wesley Foundation, students focused on Christian service (fall semester) and spiritual practices (spring semester). For the spring semester, students were placed in internships around the community. Settings included Navarro Regional Hospital, Taft Counseling Center, CISD, Heritage Oaks West Retirement Home, Community Bank, Collin Street Bakery, UCF Wesley, First United Methodist Church and Neal Green, Attorney’s Office. They also heard from speakers from the community including the CPD Chief Robert Johnson, Dr. Carey Ford (Philosophy Professor at NC) and Gwen Cook, NP.

In addition to the Christian Leadership Center, we continue to offer Bible Study on Sunday nights with dinner. Our average attendance is 15 students. We offer a free lunch to students and faculty of Navarro College on Mondays, serving anywhere between 30 and 70. Five students joined the CTC Young Adult Mission Trip to Missouri in May, and four participated over the Christmas break in Waco. Three students are working with Project Transformation this summer in Fort Worth.
Navarro College and the UCF Wesley Foundation are set in a unique location in Central Texas. Their partnership has been a positive experience for many years. When students from low-income families become students of Navarro College, our desire is for the UCF Wesley Foundation to be a place where they can gain experience as leaders helping to transform the needs of the community into opportunities to show God’s love, grace and mercy to others.

This is a place where we can pour the vision of God’s church into a new generation ready to make a difference in the world when provided the resources, training and encouragement to do what God has called them to do. In the United Methodist Church, we have all that these students need. Only God knows the positive impact this ministry will have on the students, Navarro College and the community of Corsicana.

**WESLEY FOUNDATION AT TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS**

**DAVID MCMINN, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**

The purpose of the Wesley Foundation is to create a community of faith to develop students of Tarleton State University as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are creating leaders who are desperately needed in order to transform the Church and the world. We do this by providing a community for the students, allowing them to determine their beliefs in a safe space so they can be more like Christ as they love God, serve others and live righteously.

The Wesley has experienced another incredible year in 2016, and we are looking forward to even more excitement in 2017. Once again, we grew in all areas of our ministry in 2016 versus 2015. We have passionate ancient/future worship that combines the traditions of the past with the music of today. This fall we averaged 56, up from 45 the previous year. We achieve this growth through radical hospitality through our team of greeters and by encouraging our students to make friendships with newer students.

We engaged in risk-taking missions through our mission trips and our weekly service opportunities. In 2016 we took 34 students on mission trips to Tennessee and to Corazal, Belize. Students engaged in life-changing work in those local communities, and their own lives were forever changed. More and more students are committing to lifelong service as both lay and clergy because of these trips. I am even more excited about the weekly mission projects that we do. Our students serve locally in places like Tree House, an after-school program for disadvantaged students. We also had 12 students serve at Glen Lake camp this past summer. All together throughout these events, our students served for more than 10,000 hours! We are accomplishing our mission to make disciples through intentional faith development through our small group ministry and one-on-one discipleship. Fifty-five students each week engaged in small groups last fall, plus there is a spirit of discipleship where students are asking to be discipled. We also practice extravagant generosity in our ministry. Twenty percent of our yearly budget goes
towards missions, and our students give each week to create a scholarship for a student to be able to go to high school in Belize.

The result of these practices is that we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, are making disciples who make disciples. Last year we baptized two students and had several reaffirmations of faith. These new believers are already active in leadership and making disciples themselves. It is truly an honor to be a part of such an incredible community and to see the power of how God works in building the Kingdom of God.

The final piece of this picture is that our alumni are now attending local churches, serving in leadership and, in some cases, accepting a call to ministry. Right now we have one former student who is up for commissioning, two students in seminary and one student serving as a missionary with Youth With a Mission! Our alumni are active in local churches, with many of them stepping into leadership. We continue to prioritize and succeed at making disciples of Jesus Christ and raising up a new generation of leaders for the sake of the Church and the world.

**WESLEY FOUNDATION AT TCU**
**FORT WORTH, TEXAS**
**REV. PAUL MASSINGILL, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**

It has been a good year at TCU Wesley! Our numbers are up on all fronts. We have had more students participating in weekly dinner and worship on Wednesday nights. We have had more students involved in small groups and attending retreats. We have had more mission trip opportunities this year, and more students taking advantage of those opportunities. We have connected with more United Methodist students studying at Brite through monthly lunches and other opportunities. We have had more local churches sending volunteers to provide Wednesday night dinners. All of this is good news!

But of course, numbers are never the whole story. There are some important culture shifts happening at TCU Wesley as well. Our Leadership Team is shifting towards deeper discipleship. The team is exploring how to follow Jesus more faithfully by reading books together from authors like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Howard Thurman, Jean Varnier and Tim Keller. We have also been developing “Deeper Life” events each semester for the Leadership Team and the larger Wesley community. Topics for these events include Bible 101, Love and Money, Vocation and Calling, Prayer Life and others.

Our Wesley community is also shifting towards more intentional campus presence and outreach. Early in the fall, we significantly increased efforts to reach new freshmen and connect with new students. Then in November, we co-hosted an event with the TCU Office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services called “The Shout: Amplifying the Cry for Justice.” We invited poets and spoken word artists from Houston to come lead us in a powerful evening of performance and conversation about race on campus. More than 125 students participated, most of
whom were students of color. Then in February, a team from Wesley participated in the SLA “Senorita Stroll-off,” Wesley was the only non-Greek organization to stroll in the event. These are examples of how we are becoming more visible across campus and more engaged with our larger campus community. The result of these efforts is that we not only are reaching a greater number of students, but a greater diversity of students as well. This is an encouraging shift that we hope will continue.

Looking ahead, we are excited about some new initiatives and opportunities in the coming year. We have established a partnership with University UMC that will enable us to use a house on their property for a new Wesley residential discipleship community. In April, we launched a mentoring cohort with undergraduate and graduate students to explore callings to vocational ministry … or callings to be ministers in their chosen vocations. We are also having conversations about what it would look like for TCU Wesley to help establish a Wesley presence on other college campuses in the Fort Worth area.

The 2017-18 academic year marks 70 years of Methodist student ministry on the campus of TCU. Since 1947, a Methodist student community has been following Jesus and sharing the love of Jesus with students on the campus of TCU. Our Board of Directors are marking this anniversary by engaging in a strategic visioning process to identify dreams and plans for moving into the future. We would appreciate your continued prayers and support as we begin to discern what God may have in store for our next 70 years! Thank you for continuing to invest in ministry with young adults!

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
ARLINGTON, TEXAS
REV. JOSEPH NADER, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

The 2016-2017 school year has been a great season of growth and transition for our campus ministry. We have continued to see steady growth of our reach onto campus, while transitioning our leadership to a younger group of students. The constant rhythm of bringing in new students and sending out graduates means that every few years the shape and culture of our leadership team undergoes a transition. This was one of those years. We count this as a blessing; we are grateful to invest in more students and prepare them for leadership in the local church. Our student leaders may change, but we continue to be focused on our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to raise up a new generation of leaders for the sake of the church and the world.

Freshley, our ministry to freshmen, continues to be a great way to connect with incoming first-year students and help them transition into life on campus, through the lens of Jesus. Freshley gives students a place to connect with friends and learn more about God. It also serves as a place of encouragement as students deal with the major adjustments involved with gaining more independence. Thomas Mitchell, associate director, and Cassidy Ball, ministry intern, lead this great ministry.
Our focus continues to be the deeper discipleship and leadership development of our students to prepare them for a Kingdom-oriented life. One way we do this work is by investing in the leadership of the Wesley on Monday nights during our Leadership Discipleship Group. The goal of this time is to invest in our leaders by teaching them what the Kingdom-oriented life looks like, while handing them the keys to teach others the same thing. We want to multiply our discipleship by equipping disciples to make disciples. This is the future of the Church.

We constantly remain grateful for the support of the local churches of the CTC. As a missional outpost to the UTA campus on your behalf, we are grateful for your constant support and encouragement to fulfill our calling to this campus. We are thankful for your prayers, your food, and your gifts.

Thank you for trusting us with this ministry!

**WESLEY FOUNDATION AT WEATHERFORD COLLEGE**

**WEATHERFORD, TEXAS**

**ZACHARY LANGER, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, we’ve had so many meaningful and inspirational times together with our students. We’ve continued searching for the best ways to meet their needs, both with our programs and scheduling, and by helping them find opportunities to be more involved with each other and the community around us. All this, of course, while encouraging them to pursue excellence in school, as in everything.

These needs often speak to some of the challenges of campus ministry at a two-year school: a high population of commuting students, students with many outside commitments such as families or work, and students working to transfer to different universities both near and far. Because of our students’ responsibilities, few can return for events in the evening, and fewer still can commit to recurring programs outside class hours. In fact, many of our students struggle enough to juggle the needs of class with work and family. As in previous semesters, we have continued to emphasize our flexibility and availability. Our computers are used daily for classwork and printing, our TV room is used for games and socializing, and we often have students come in simply to enjoy a meal together during their precious little relaxation time.

We have a few ongoing programs from previous semesters, and they continue to be successful. Our weekly lunch drew more than 100 students several times in the fall – significantly more than in recent memory – and we have seen an increasing number of students staying in the building after the lunch ends to work or spend time together. This lunch represents a wonderful opportunity for local churches to show the students that they support them in an immediate way, as well as a chance for those church members to see and participate in the ministry that is happening at Weatherford College. For nursing, EMT, and police academy students, this lunch...
represents a moment of rest in the middle of a difficult day, while some of our other students would not eat lunch otherwise. Tuesday lunch makes it possible to meet these unique needs in a meaningful and active way.

We hold a lunch Bible study each Monday that draws between three and six attendees, each of whom brings a unique perspective from their various backgrounds. With a variety of theological or denominational backgrounds represented, this Bible study provides a chance for these students to learn from the scriptures and from each other. It is an integral part of the life of the Church. We have also spent time organizing an opportunity to gather on campus to simply eat lunch together in a way that engages campus in our fellowship and provides a link between our community and the school to which we are ministering.

Additionally, we have held several smaller, one-time events, such as the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday and morning devotionals during Holy Week, which may lead to a weekly morning devotional time in the coming semesters. These represent our focus on Holy Time and an ongoing, continuous awareness of the work of God both throughout history and in our lives.

Our Wesley Foundation sits uniquely within our campus and among campus ministries. Our students may need a little hope or already have high ones, may have solid plans or be waiting for something to become clear, may be just out of high school, married, or have children already, but we are striving to build a community that brings all our students together as one body, gathered around something bigger than any of those factors.

This has been another great year, and we are endlessly thankful for the prayers and support of the Central Texas Conference. Without the love that all of you give us, none of this would be possible. As always, we look forward to working with you as together we continue our Methodist ministry at Weatherford College!

COLLEGES & SEMINARIES

AFRICA UNIVERSITY
MUTARE, ZIMBABWE
JAMES H. SALLEY, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR,
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

It is a great joy to recognize and thank the Central Texas Conference for a 100 percent investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016. The commitment of local churches across all five jurisdictions enabled 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States — up from 32 in 2015 — to invest 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF.

~ 211 ~
The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt appreciation, the many ways in which the churches of the Central Texas Conference have been active, faithful, and generous in helping Africa University to realize its mission. Thank you for all that you have contributed to realizing the dream.

Through Africa University, the Central Texas Conference helps young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. As a result of the prayers and contributions of many, the disciple-making mission of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the university’s 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. People who would otherwise be on the margins are actively helping others to experience God’s grace, peace and abundance.

Great things are on the horizon for Africa University in the next quarter century. Your Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by:

- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 26 African countries. (Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represent more than half of the student body.)
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

As part of the observance of AU’s 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members, congregations and districts of the Central Texas Conference to take time out in 2017 to celebrate their journey with Africa University. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University’s honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special “AU@25” event or Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University’s ministry and invite attendees to each give at least $25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary.

Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to active faith, hope, and transformation in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who serve in the Central Texas Conference.

Africa University Development Office
P.O. Box 340007
Nashville, TN 37203-0007
(615) 340-7438
jsalley@gbhem.org
www.support-africauniversity.org
Huston-Tillotson University supports the Central Texas Conference through our mission to provide the university’s diverse student body with an exemplary education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, balanced with professional development and directed to public service and leadership through our mission of nurturing “a legacy of leadership and excellence in education, connecting knowledge, power, passion and values.” HT transforms lives through a dynamic educational experience that values academic excellence and spiritual growth while cultivating democracy and community through outreach and engagement. HT leverages resources to enhance our competitive future in the areas of organizational effectiveness, funding, technology and industry partnerships. We achieve our mission through the diversity of our student body, opportunities for spiritual growth and civic engagement and the global perspective of our educational programs. The core values of HT are represented by IDEAL: Integrity (we believe in honesty, sincerity, and responsibility), Diversity (we recognize and value the differences that enrich our educational environment), Excellence (we are committed to the highest standards of expectation and achievement), Accountability (we believe in taking responsibility for our actions and outcomes), Leadership (we set an example and provide an environment that cultivates tomorrow’s leaders).

Highlights

Huston-Tillotson University celebrated 141 years of providing access to higher education during the Charter Day Convocation celebrating the merger of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College into Huston-Tillotson University. The program included alumnus Rev. G.V. Clark, the HT Concert Choir, the Elite Combo and the recognition of top-ranking students.

Huston-Tillotson University Day at Wesley United Methodist Church was a day of discovery, recognition, and celebration for Huston-Tillotson University with music provided by the HT gospel choir. The HT Concert Choir joined with the church choir. Huston-Tillotson University was once housed in the basement of Wesley.

Built in 2015, the Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center is the newest addition to HT’s campus. The Center is a partnership with HT, CommUnityCare (CUC) a federally qualified health center (FQHC), Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC), and the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. In addition to providing care for HT students, faculty and staff, the center is dedicated to helping underserved residents of Austin gain access to health care and offers both medical and behavioral health care services in a primary care setting.

Green is the New Black (GITNB) continues to participate in sustainability initiatives in the community as well as nationally and internationally. Huston-Tillotson University is the first private historically black institution in the nation to capture renewable energy from one-fourth of its campus buildings. Another effort is the solar-powered electronic device charging station.
Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

The W.E.B. DuBois honors program coordinated the 14th annual DuBois Lecture Series and also managed the third-annual Diversity Hackathon on campus March 11-12. The event's mission is to assist millennials of color in recognizing that they can be more than consumers of technology.

The First-Year Experience is designed to help incoming students learn about the psychology of success and how to implement self-empowerment strategy. Our students also engage in a critical analysis of social and environmental justice issues and proactively apply what they have learned to effectively serve the needs of our east Austin community. Our students engage in tutoring the youth, feeding the hungry, fixing computers and planting trees.

The ACADEMY (Achievement in College Algebra During the Matriculation Year) is Huston-Tillotson’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Its mission is to equip students for success in the foundational mathematics courses.

The Writers’ Studio revised and improved its class presentations. The HT Visiting Writers Series featured Celeste Guzman Mendoza and Ire’ne Lara Silva in a Q&A session and reading.

Huston-Tillotson Space Science Day featured NASA’s return to campus, bringing middle school students to work with HT students and NASA scientists.

The mentoring relationship between the UT Black Graduate Students Association and HT Psychology majors continues to flourish.

Two students made presentations at international conferences: Remy Galan, “A Debate of Science: In a Literary Context,” his theory about whether language is a science, at the Pop Culture/American Culture Conference; and Shannon Breeding plus three English faculty members, a panel discussion, “Cultivation of a Research Culture that Challenges Hegemony at an HBCU” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication.


The Biology Program is offering a new elective for upper level students - molecular bioinformatics. The course was developed by Dr. Amanda Masino of HT and Dr. Harold Zakon of The University of Texas at Austin as part of an ongoing research training collaboration. The bioinformatics field blends biology and computer science.

Each year, students participate in the traditional AusPrEP and Pre-Algebra Institute summer programs. Along with rigorous instruction in the core subjects, students are exposed to a variety of career fields in science and technology.

The Dumpster Project is building a thought-provoking and environmentally healthy home inside a 33-square-foot used trash dumpster. It’s meant to inspire sustainable solutions drawing from science, technology, engineering, design and the arts.

Five students are poised to study summer 2017 at Heilongjiang University in Harbin, China.

In October of 2016, Religious Life and Campus Ministries hosted its annual Civility Week on campus. The Worship through Arts Ministry had its first
collaboration with all the ministries (gospel choir, praise dancers and mime ministry) performing together.

The 2017 spring break mission trip to San Ignacio, Belize provided an opportunity to attend a worship service at Wesley United Methodist Church, partner with the Cornerstone Foundation, work with children who couldn’t afford lunch at school and redo a mural on the wall of St. Andrews Primary School.

Green is the New Black (GITNB) students continue their Green Education Campaign at Blackshear Elementary Fine Arts Academy.

Students from several campus departments were involved in planning Earth Day 2017 observances – interning with Earth Day Austin, running a variety of booths and coordinating other activities expected to draw about 10,000 participants.

The HT Health Connection e-health community empowerment program continues to collaborate with community based organizations to empower our campus and underserved populations in our community with health information from the National Library of Medicine.

HT Volleyball advanced to the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament for the second year in a row. Laycia Robinson received 2016 NAIA All-American Honorable Mention.

**SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**DALLAS, TEXAS**

**R. GERALD TURNER, PRESIDENT**

More than 100 years ago the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had the foresight to understand what a great institution of higher education could mean for the ambitious young city of Dallas. Southern Methodist University continues to mark exciting developments as students and faculty pursue opportunities that provide a platform for making global impact. Recent highlights include:

In fall 2016 SMU’s total enrollment of 11,739 included 6,521 undergraduates and 5,218 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 26 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,719 (more than 14 percent of total enrollment) represented 124 foreign countries.

SMU ranks among the nation’s top universities. In the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* listings, SMU ranks 56th among 310 of the “best national universities.” Several individual schools and academic programs also earned national rankings.

SMU received $26 million in external funding during 2015-16 for research in the U.S. and worldwide. Current research subjects include water quality, natural hazards, cyber security and treatments for cancer and other diseases.

In January, SMU received a $2 million gift from SMU Trustee emeritus and longtime benefactor Cary M. Maguire to endow the directorship of SMU’s Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility. The Maguire Center supports ethics-related education and activities for students and faculty, as well as outreach to
community, private and public institutions. Also in January, SMU received a $2.5 million gift from AT&T to endow the AT&T Center for Virtualization to fund its research to support the fast, reliable cloud-based telecommunications necessary for global connectivity. Announced in October, a $1.7 million grant from the Texas Instruments (TI) Foundation will help fund the STEM Teacher Academy at SMU’s Simmons School of Education and Human Development to help Dallas ISD teachers develop methods for engaging students in science.

In July, Craig C. Hill became the new dean at SMU’s Perkins School of Theology, after the former Dean William B. Lawrence retired in May. Hill came to SMU from Duke University, where he had served as executive director of the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Christian Practice programs and as research professor of theological pedagogy. Also in July, Maria Dixon Hall, associate professor of organizational communication and director of corporate communication and public affairs, was named as the provost’s senior advisor for campus cultural intelligence initiatives. Hall leads the initiative to cultivate a campus culture that equips faculty, staff and students to engage with today’s culturally complex world.

Frederick R. Chang, director of SMU’s Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security in the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and inducted into the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas.

Sabri Ates, associate professor in SMU’s Clements Department of History in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and Zachary Wallmark, assistant professor and chair of music history at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, received fellowship grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities – the only two recipients in North Texas from the current funding cycle.

In fall, SMU opened its new Dr. Bob Smith Health Center, which provides comprehensive medical care to students. The two-story building houses medical and counseling programs, a full-service pharmacy and SMU’s health education program. Students returning to campus also celebrated a transformed Fondren Library, which includes new common spaces, study zones and a Starbucks.

SMU hosted inspirational speakers at its 2016 Commencement ceremonies. In May, Richard Templeton, SMU Board of Trustees member, and Texas Instruments CEO, with his wife, Mary Templeton, philanthropist and community volunteer, shared lessons learned from a swimming accident two and a half years ago that left Mrs. Templeton paralyzed. Mr. Templeton touted resiliency as a critical personal characteristic, and Mrs. Templeton challenged the graduates to jump into opportunities to make a difference as they begin their next life phase. In December, retired Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown, who gained national attention for his handling of a gunman’s July 2016 ambush of five police officers, told the graduates, “you may be the next greatest generation of heroes in this country.”

SMU treasures its Methodist heritage, and we ask for your continued prayers and support.
As I complete my fourth academic year as President of Southwestern University, I marvel at the ways in which our history of “firsts” continues to lead the way for our future. We are the first institution of higher education in Texas, home to the first Rhodes Scholar in Texas, and the first in the nation to honor alumni with a homecoming celebration. This tradition of “firsts” continues as we create new and dynamic educational experiences for today’s young hearts and minds, built on a foundation of strength from our past.

In August, Southwestern welcomed 381 entering students, bringing the total enrollment to 1,486. A total of 73 percent of the new class was in the top 25 percent of their graduating class, and 36 percent were in the top 10 percent. Altogether, 19 states and seven countries are represented in the class. Underrepresented students make up 39 percent of the class, and 15 percent are first-generation students. I was pleased to have the opportunity to visit personally with prospective students and their families at the 21 events hosted on campus this year.

Last year marked the opening of our Phase I renovation of the Fondren-Jones Science Building, which will pave the way for a remarkable future for our students. Southwestern’s annual Research and Creative Works Symposium, “From Every Voice,” continues to yield a high level of participation and offers an undergraduate presentation experience that is second to none; and Paideia Connections invites our campus and local community to think, create, and connect ideas across disciplines in an exercise of reason and problem-solving.

Southwestern also continued the “President’s Thinking Symposium on Living, Learning, and Leading.” As part of my experiential course, “Effective Thinking and Creative Puzzle-Solving,” my class hosted noted guests from around the country who described the “puzzles” of their professional careers, the practices of mind they use to resolve them, and led thought-provoking conversations on the meaningful and life-changing experiences that have shaped their lives.

As I reflect on this past year, I am honored to bear witness to the power of Southwestern: a catalyst of creative thinking and experience that occurs when engaged minds come together. I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit Southwestern and see first-hand the ways in which this intellectual community is thinking, creating and connecting ideas to make meaning and make a difference.

Recent Accolades
USA Today, U.S. News and World Report, and Washington Monthly ranked Southwestern as the top national liberal arts college in Texas. Kiplinger’s Personal Finance named Southwestern a “Best College Value.” Southwestern is one of 47 colleges and universities nationwide to be named.
a “Best Buy” school in the 2017 Fiske Guide to Colleges. Princeton Review accolades: the university’s inclusion in the Top 200 “Colleges that Pay You Back;” Southwestern Career Services named fourth in the nation and No. 1 in Texas; and the university’s inclusion among its Best 380 Colleges, Best Western Colleges, and Best Green Colleges. The university was also named a Military Friendly® School, and for 2015-2016 it was selected – for the sixth year in a row -- the EPA’s College and University Green Power Conference Champion.

Academics

Southwestern’s Paideia curriculum continues to provide students an interdisciplinary educational experience which includes community engaged learning. Eleven clusters have been designed for 1,300 first-year seniors. In addition, 30 students have received support for study abroad programs, and 18 students are participating in a living-learning community in our Global Engagement Hall.

In its 16th consecutive year, the King Creativity Fund supported innovative, visionary student projects across the disciplinary spectrum.

Faculty Achievements

For 2016, seven faculty members received Sam Taylor Fellowship grants from the UMC’s Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Higher Education, providing pivotal support in the early phases of a project. Professors of Biology Maria Todd and Maria Cuevas received a $15,000 grant from the Joe and Jessie Crump Foundation for Medical Research, enabling biology majors to assist them in endometrial cancer research. Jessica Hower, assistant professor of history, received a John Fell Research Fund Grant from Oxford University to present a paper at a conference on Imperial Comparison.

Mike Gesinski, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, was awarded a grant from the Petroleum Research Fund and the American Chemical Society, providing $55,000 for an organic chemistry research program for students. Reggie Byron, associate professor of sociology, was awarded a grant from the Fund for Advancing the Discipline of the American Sociological Association. Deidra McCall ’18 and Madeline Carrola ’18, assist in his project, “Discriminatory Race and Gender Termination from Low Wage Work.”

Student Achievements

Fifty-six students were inducted into Southwestern’s chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi honor societies. Markell Henderson ’19 was one of 16 in the prestigious Kemper Scholars Program’s incoming class. The program supports summer internships. Sophia Anthony, Rachel Arco, Lacey Bowersox and Emilie Fisher of the Class of 2018 received two-year Hatton W. Sumners scholarships from the Dallas Foundation. These awards provide $20,000 in scholarship support each year, as well as financial support to attend trainings, lectures and other events.

Lauren Gillespie ’18 received a Woman Scholar for Computing Research scholarship as one of 60 selected from 600 applicants. It allowed her to attend last October’s Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. Marissa Madrid-Ortega ’17 was awarded an $8,000 Benjamin A. Gilman
International Scholarship, allowing her to continue her language study in China. Physics students Isabella Ferranti ’17 and Yash Gandhi ’17 received National Institute of Standards and Technology Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships to attend the group’s 11-week research program in Boulder, Colo.

Athletics
A third of the student body participated in the University’s 20-sport NCAA Division III Intercollegiate Athletic Program. Highlights: Football’s first Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) championship – four years after its reinstatement in 2013 – its first conference title since the 1946’s Texas Conference co-championship; Volleyball’s first-ever NCAA regional title, its win over Tufts University in the NCAA quarterfinals and its trip to the Final Four, where it bowed out with a loss to Washington University St. Louis; and Men’s Golf’s SCAC title.

Will Cates ’16 and Kaitlyn Foster ’16 were named Kassen/Lowry Athletes of the Year. Second-team All-American honors went to Justin Broussard ’17. Various Academic All-American honors went to Will Cates ’16, baseball; and volleyball players Nikki Welch ’17 and Kate Mitchell ’17. SCAC soccer honors went to Mallory Harkins ’20, Defensive Player of the Year; and Mary Cardone ’20, Newcomer of the Year. Tyler Gammill ’18 won the individual championship and SCAC Golfer of the Year, becoming the first Southwestern male golfer to win the award.

Speakers and Symposia
In the 2016 Roy and Margaret Shilling Lecture Series, Sister Helen Prejean presented Dead Man Walking – The Journey Continues. The 2016 commencement address was delivered by Janet H. Brown, executive director of the Commission on Presidential Debates. The Keynote Colloquium: Language and Revolution featured three speakers on how language changes the world. Race and Ethnicity Studies hosted an interdisciplinary symposium during Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Week. The 2017 Brown Symposium in early March focused on the arts giving voice to issues that spurred revolutions.

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
FREDERICK G. SLABACH, PRESIDENT

Texas Wesleyan University is thriving. New academic programming, a robust Student Life, the continued revitalization of our neighborhood and the rebirth of football after a 75-year hiatus are all key parts of our 2020 Vision strategic plan to develop Texas Wesleyan into its greatest potential. We are dedicated to attracting and retaining motivated students, and preparing students to think critically, ask questions and lead change in their communities and beyond.
Major Highlights

Last fall, Texas Wesleyan unveiled plans for its $20.25 million Nick and Lou Martin University Center, to be located in the heart of campus. The 44,000-square-foot Martin Center is the most significant capital project at Texas Wesleyan in more than a century. For the first time, Texas Wesleyan will have a centrally located hub for student life. The university is currently more than halfway to its fundraising goal.

Texas Wesleyan’s endowment has exceeded the 2020 Vision goal of reaching $50 million. Endowed funds provide permanent support for student scholarships and academic excellence. Continuing to build the endowment is crucially important to the university’s long-term financial strength.

Texas Wesleyan realigned its current health care professional programs to create the School of Health Professions. The new school paves the way for the development of a nurse practitioner program, which the university hopes to launch by 2018.

In the fall, Texas Wesleyan will launch its new, innovative online MBA. The program is 100 percent online and can be completed in as little as one year. Designed with input from area business leaders, the new, “Smaller. Smarter.” MBA is built for working adults.

The university exceeded its goal of recruiting 75 football players to begin its leadership class with a total of 116 football recruits enrolled at Texas Wesleyan in the fall. The team is preparing for spring scrimmage and will take the field in Fall 2017.

Texas Wesleyan’s Graduate Programs of Nurse Anesthesia pass rate for first-time takers of the Nurse Anesthesia Certification Examination was 90 percent. The preferred pass rate is 80 percent of all first-time takers in a testing period, and the national pass rate was 84.5 percent.

Texas Wesleyan’s graduate counseling program joined with UNT Health Science Center (UNTHSC) and the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCBD) to offer counseling services to CCBD patients through UNTHSC’s Institute for Patient Safety.

Last year marked the university’s 17th First Day of College: Science and Reading Camp. This annual event is a collaboration between Texas Wesleyan’s School of Education and Fort Worth ISD elementary schools that educate second language learners from all over the world.

The new Marjorie Herrera Lewis Endowed Speakers Series, aimed to support mass communications majors, welcomed former Dallas Cowboy fullback and current NFL analyst Daryl Johnston to Texas Wesleyan to share his stories of college football and success.

The Texas Wesleyan School of Business and the Student Government Association launched a new Women in Leadership Forum, which featured a
Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

panel of women business leaders, followed by lunch, to offer students an opportunity for reflection, learning, discussion, networking and empowerment.

Martha Williams and Joan Trew, co-founders of Williams Trew Real Estate, were honored at the 47th annual Business Hall of Fame. Each year, Texas Wesleyan, the Fort Worth Business Press and the Fort Worth Chamber join forces to present the Fort Worth Business Hall of Fame, which promotes business as a challenging and dynamic profession.

Texas Wesleyan and Fort Worth ISD ignited a grant-funded partnership that provides students at the neighboring Paul Laurence Dunbar High School the opportunity to get a jump start on their college career by enrolling in and attending Texas Wesleyan classes conducted primarily in Dunbar classrooms.

Texas Wesleyan earned Blue Zones Project Approved Worksite status, a city-wide initiative to encourage schools, businesses and individuals to make healthier choices.

Student Life launched an Ally training program for the entire campus community, aimed to create a welcoming environment that challenges oppression and builds a network of allies for LGBT students.

Professor Mark E. Hanshaw, Ph.D., dean of the School of Arts & Letters, was invited to serve as the general editor of a new volume focused on the effect of interfaith engagement within the academy. The volume – Intersections: Faith(s), Church and the Academy – will be published by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, as a part of its Bristol series.

Jim Lewis, Texas Wesleyan’s vice president for advancement, was honored with the Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award at the Greater Dallas Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ 31st Annual National Philanthropy Day Luncheon.

Texas Wesleyan head women's tennis coach, Angel Martinez, was named the United States Professional Tennis Association Texas College Coach of the Year.

Texas Wesleyan Athletics led the Sooner Athletic Conference with 118 student-athletes on the Commission’s Honor Roll.

Media relations efforts continued to impact positive perception and brand awareness locally and throughout the region in the form of coverage from such outlets as the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, the Dallas Morning News, the Golf Channel and every major TV news station in the D-FW market. The revival of Texas Wesleyan football was featured on the front page of USA TODAY with the headline, “At Texas Wesleyan, a football revival 75 years in the making."

The “Smaller. Smarter.” marketing campaign won 12 marketing and advertising awards from regional and national organizations, bringing the total of awards won since the inception of the campaign in 2012, to an astounding 71.

For the seventh year in a row, U.S. News & World Report ranks Texas Wesleyan University in the No. 1 tier of universities in the West. www.txwes.edu

~ 221 ~
Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) travels with you in the vital journey of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. We celebrate our students, alums, and church partners, who join hands in serving God and building toward transformed communities.

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

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

- **Campus action**: Work with Boston University to improve accessibility and sustainability: to provide full access for all persons (a work in progress) and to live sustainably with the planet.

- **Internships in global service and peacemaking**: Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

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

- **Standing with Standing Rock**: Several BUSTH students and alums joined indigenous peoples at the Oceti Sakowin Camp in North Dakota to protest the pipeline on sacred Sioux land.

- **Deep conversations**: Faculty, students and administrators have led deep conversations on issues that divide, but with respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

Other Notable Headlines

- Our own Associate Dean Pamela Lightsey was featured in Boston University’s 2016 Annual Report for her pursuit of justice, empowerment, and change.

- Our graduating senior, Rev. Mariama White-Hammond (AME) led the Boston Women’s March, and some 75 STH faculty and students marched, calling for social and ecological justice as we build new futures in the United States.

- Students of all theological and social orientations are asking and then acting: “What can I do to make this world better?” “How can I witness to my Christian faith?”

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

**CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**JAN LOVE, DEAN & PROF. OF CHRISTIANITY & WORLD POLITICS**

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

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities.
of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and 10 dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

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

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2016-2017, we awarded nearly $5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. In addition, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them – and the churches they lead – well into the future.

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

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.
As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our founding this year, we find ourselves in the unique position of reflecting deeply on our past and, at the same time, looking with confidence and enthusiasm toward the future. Drew Theological School has, throughout its long and distinguished history, fostered a vibrant spirit of learning and community that allows for a rich diversity of both expression and experience. These qualities of inclusion and a steadfast commitment to social justice are what make the Theo School what it is today – and have, in fact, defined it from the beginning of its existence.

In the spirit of our founders, we continue to educate students from all over the United States and throughout the world. We continue to pursue a mission of empowering students to “creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace and love of God, neighbor and the earth.” In the classroom and beyond, we continue to focus on educating and forming rooted, innovative, and bold leaders for the church, the academy, and the world. These are the principles that attract students to our programs, and they guide us in all we do to support them during their time with us.

We have seen the effects of this in our rising enrollment numbers. In the last three semesters, the Theological School has seen a steady growth in both applications and enrollments, and early indications strongly suggest we will continue that trend this year. Our students hail from across the country, represent 21 different denominations, as well as a sturdy non-denominational presence, making Drew a truly ecumenical community. Yet we could not have arrived here on our own: over 30 percent of our applicants come to us through recommendations from our alumni and friends.

We also have a history of great success when we open our doors to prospective students and invite them to explore our programs first-hand. Of the students who attended our Open Doors at Drew event last March, more than 50 percent enrolled. These gatherings are so successful because they offer prospective students an opportunity to see Drew in person – to see Drew in action. We allow them to immerse themselves for the day in dynamic classroom conversations, worship services, and panel discussions with both current students and alumni. These events highlight our efforts to create a truly collaborative, comprehensive, and transformative experience that involves the entire Drew community.

A recent report by the Pew Research Center, “America’s Changing Religious Landscape,” made clear that seminaries and theological schools must reimagine their programs and how they reach students who are seeking out new expressions of Christian theology, ethics, liturgy, and gathered community. In order to accommodate these prospective students and offer them the kind of dynamic and relevant theological training they seek, we embarked on an ambitious transformation of our curriculum, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. This project has been guided by our efforts to address the
changing needs of our students, those who may not choose to pursue a traditional ministerial path, and those who require a more flexible structure to their education.

While our commitment to the Church and to the training of pastoral leaders is unwavering, we have also focused on ensuring that our current curriculum, teaching and student assessment are aligned with more diverse demographics, changes in vocational choices and the need to prepare religious leaders to serve effectively in multi-faith, secular, and even non-religious settings. We aim to serve the students whose vocational goals may include chaplaincy in healthcare settings, the military or corporate venues; those who may seek to work as life coaches; or who may pursue careers in advocacy, social activism, and the non-profit world more generally. The focus is on preparing students for transformational leadership, wherever their vocation is lived out.

Our curriculum transformation project also includes a focus on various modes of delivery – online classes and a flexible course schedule for students who are unable to attend class during the day or those who live too far from campus to attend in person regularly. These changes will expand our sphere of influence and the contexts in which our students serve, inspiring us to think more broadly about what is required for leadership-in-context. It will also hopefully bring us an even more diverse student body, something that Drew values highly. The curriculum we hope to implement will more clearly and intentionally help students root themselves in the cumulative wisdom of their tradition (more Bible and theology) but also prepare them to be adaptive leaders who confidently innovate ancient wisdom and tradition in order to address contemporary needs and challenges. They will do more and sit less. Their mentors in learning and experimenting will extend beyond our residential faculty and draw from the rich resources of partner organizations and networks which can provide the real-world settings for these “experiments in courage,” where the pursuit of wisdom and godly living can be more vigorously pursued.

The majority of our students come to us with experience in ministry, and many are currently exercising some form of public religious leadership. Additionally, an increasing number of students come to us with a wide range of experience in the foundational understanding of basic biblical texts and theological concepts. Furthermore, an emphasis on public theology and the role of the public theologian and leader is an essential aspect of the work of Christian ministry today, and more attention will be paid to helping our students develop this aspect of their ministry.

All these efforts will make it possible to offer our bold vision to a wider audience of students. While these changes will be significant, they will in no way alter the spirit that has distinguished a Drew Theological School education for 150 years. Indeed, these changes have their source and their end in that very spirit, and they will, we are confident, contribute to its continued vitality. We are thrilled by how our vision for the future of the Theo School is unfolding and taking shape. We look forward to our continued work with the entire Drew community – both past and present, on and off-campus – as we transform this center of learning, pastoral formation and
service to respond in relevant and powerful ways to the changing needs of our churches, our communities and the world.

**GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**EVANSTON, ILLINOIS**  
**LALLENE J. RECTOR, PRESIDENT**

In 2016-2017, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is focusing on the following priorities:

- Supporting the local church in addressing economic challenges and engaging young adults as active members of the church.
- Furthering our commitment to public theology with the launch of the Garrett-Evanston Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program and the Hispanic and Latino/a Center’s installation of the Cátedra Paulo Freire.
- Re-imagining lifelong learning as a new “Connectional Learning” program that provides opportunities to meet learners where they are with the type of education they need when they need it.
- Engaging faculty scholarship in the design of new courses for a new MDiv curriculum beginning Fall 2017 and in celebrating faculty publications.

**Supporting the Local Church** in addressing economic challenges and engaging young adults: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary received two Lilly Endowment awards last fall. A $750,000 grant will support clergy education in theologically informed financial and business practices. We believe that strong leadership in the financial health of a congregation is critical to its vitality. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment’s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. To help clergy meet these economic challenges, Garrett-Evangelical has created a multi-dimensional program, “Leading Vibrant Congregations: A Collaboration of Faith and Finance.” To read more about the program, visit: [www.garrett.edu/FaithAndFinance](http://www.garrett.edu/FaithAndFinance). A $1.5 million grant will assist congregations in launching or mentoring new ministries that will attract young adults—a population that congregations today are struggling to reach. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment’s newly announced Young Adult Initiative 2016. With this grant, Garrett-Evangelical becomes one of 12 innovation hubs around the country helping churches create informed and meaningful ministries for millennials. Read more about “Holy Yearnings, Holy Listening, Holy Partnerships: A Peer-to-Peer Young Adult Ministry Initiative” at [www.garrett.edu/YoungAdultInitiative](http://www.garrett.edu/YoungAdultInitiative).

**Public Theology:** This year, Garrett-Evangelical opened the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® program in partnership with the Evanston community. The CDF Freedom Schools program is a six-week, high-quality, literacy rich program free to underserved children. It’s proven to curb summer learning loss and help close achievement gaps. Last summer, 35 children in grades 4, 5 and 6 participated. These scholars were from Evanston’s Fifth Ward, a ward of primarily black and brown people and the only ward in Evanston without its own elementary school. The program was a resounding success. Parents saw their children fall in love with reading and get excited to go to the school each day. And,
we were excited to learn in January, the Garrett-Evanston CDF Freedom Schools Program was approved for summer 2017.

We are driven to increase enrollment of Hispanic and Latina/o students. Dr. Débora Junker, assistant dean of students and director of the Hispanic Center, has revived the work of the center by including new volunteer activities and “lunch and learn” discussions. In 2016, the center installed the Catedra Paulo Freire, which promotes educational events, research activities and the enrichment of dialogue among students, faculty, religious leaders and community members. The Catedra is a resource for Latino/a communities, encouraging their engagement and interaction with the realities and contexts of the Latino/a population in the U.S., and at the same time enhancing relationships with the Garrett-Evangelical community.

**Connectional Lifelong Learning:** At Garrett-Evangelical, we understand every person has a unique learning path. Education and training needs vary based on the journeys of the career and vocation in which you may find yourself. Considerations for physical location, ability to travel, learning preferences, time, and budget are important when undertaking learning, whether for degree purposes or for lifelong learning purposes. That’s why we designed “Connectional Learning” to meet you where you are and to connect you with the education you need when you need it. Connectional Learning is our language for building an extended learning community that connects personal learning interests with accessible non-degree educational resources; professional development needs for knowledge and skills with continuing education units; and diversity of learners to a variety of delivery formats (on and off-campus; online; hybrid). Check our Connectional Learning site often for the latest regional offerings, online courses, webinars, and faculty blogs: [www.garrett.edu/ConnectionalLearning](http://www.garrett.edu/ConnectionalLearning).

**Faculty Scholarship:** In light of all that is happening in the world today and our commitment to put faith into action for the wellbeing of all persons and creation, we have redefined the focus, requirements, and targeted outcomes of our Master of Divinity degree. The new MDiv curriculum will begin fall 2017. The faculty has designed a number of new courses for this curriculum to prepare leaders for ministry in contemporary cultural and social realities, including attention to race, gender, class and sexuality, as well as the personal and vocational development of the student. We are also pleased to share the following faculty publications that may be of interest to you:

- Nancy E. Bedford, Georgia Harkness professor of applied theology, *Galatians: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*
- Wonhee Anne Joh, associate professor of systematic theology, *Critical Theology against US Militarism in Asia*
- James L. Papandrea, associate professor of church history: *Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of Early Christians; Seven Revolutions: How Christianity Changed the World and Can Change It Again; The Earliest Christologies: Five Images of Christ in Postapostolic Age*
- Stephen G. Ray, Jr., Neal F. and Ila A. Fisher professor of systematic theology, *Awake to the Moment: An Introduction to Theology*
Central Texas Conference Journal 2017

- Jack L. Seymour, professor emeritus of religious education, *Teaching Biblical Faith*
- Mark R. Teasdale, E. Stanley Jones associate professor of evangelism, *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists*
- Brent P. Waters, Jerre and Mary Joy Stead professor of Christian social ethics: *Just Capitalism; Christian Moral Theology in the Emerging Technoculture*

About us: Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:
- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by some of the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

**ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**  
**DENVER, COLORADO**  
**REV. THOMAS V. WOLFE, PH.D., PRESIDENT & CEO**

Blessings to you as together we continue the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the world. As a United Methodist-related theological school, Iliff is committed to shaping the larger historical arc, which Dr. Martin Luther King reminds us “bends toward justice.” We are mindful of the significance of this as we celebrate this year the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s courageous, “Beyond Vietnam” speech, which was written by our own late Professor Emeritus Dr. Vincent Harding. Our faculty today follow the example set by Dr. Harding – to make our students agents of dialogue within difference.

Our students are diverse, gifted, mindful and courageous. Prior to theological school, they were teachers, counselors, attorneys, social workers, pilots, undergraduate students and much more. They have seen the world. Hungry to engage the moral discourse, they each walked away from their established lives. They learn in community to address their own hungers in a way that will take them with a spirit of dignity into the lives of those who hunger for it.

Our established online and hybrid programs allow our students to build community from anywhere and to honor and maintain their connectional commitments while they learn. They remain rooted in their communities and continue to serve congregations through their degree programs.

~ 229 ~
We make programs to serve our students so they can serve the world, Church and academy. Our cooperative programs with the military have worked to make chaplains who can minister to a wide range of faiths. Care for our active military and veterans of all faiths is an exciting part of what Iliff offers. Our Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency (SOFR) program, funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, has been a leading presence in discovering solutions to crushing student debt. We have successfully supported our students through our scholarship programs, including the Ministerial Education Fund that is a vital part of educating future pastors, chaplains, teachers, spiritual leaders and community organizers.

Iliff listens, and what’s more—we are present to hear. Our community has a 125-year tradition of creating leaders with courageous theological imagination for social justice. In our changing world, we continue to develop our ability to prepare leaders who will walk closer to those places where people are experiencing fractured communities. In this midst of a broken world, we stand in relationship with our students, alumni, board members and you. Blessings as we walk together.

www.iliff.edu

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY -- DALLAS, TEXAS
CRAIG C. HILL, DEAN & PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Central Texas Annual Conference:
- Eighteen students affiliated with the Central Texas Conference are enrolled at Perkins, including: 11 Master of Divinity students, two Master of Theological Studies students, two Master of Arts in Ministry students, two Doctor of Ministry students and one undeclared student.
- Eligible 2016–2017 students from the Central Texas Conference each received a Perkins Annual Conference Endowment (PACE) grant in the amount of $4,200, with qualifying students receiving an additional $6,000 each in need-based aid.
- A total of five Perkins students have been placed as interns within the Central Texas Conference this year in the following settings: Arborlawn UMC, First UMC Hurst, New World UMC, First UMC Colleyville and University UMC.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2016-17 academic year totals 342 students, of which more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than 45 percent are ethnic minority students. Master’s degree programs comprise approximately 51 percent male and 49 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program has 32 students.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS
- Perkins welcomed the appointment of Dr. Craig C. Hill as Dean and Professor of New Testament. Dean Hill most recently served as Executive Director of the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Christian Practice programs at Duke, as well as Research Professor of Theological Pedagogy.
Additionally, he served at, among other institutions, Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; Yale Divinity School; the University of Cambridge, England; and at seminaries in Moscow, Russia; and Seoul, South Korea.

In looking ahead to its exciting and vibrant future, Perkins instituted the first formal market/marketing study undertaken by the school in a decade. Working in conjunction with an external consulting group, the study is an effort to gauge feedback from Perkins alumni, students, faculty, staff and other key constituencies on how best to guide the school during its next phase forward. One essential component of that study was the creation of the Perkins Engagement Team, a group of key staff and faculty who meet every other week to generate ideas, formulate strategy and review progress related to Perkins’ admissions, recruiting and marketing functions.

Renowned biblical scholar N.T. Wright was the featured lecturer as Perkins hosted “Simply Wright: N.T. Wright at Perkins | SMU” on Nov. 15-17, 2016. Wright gave three nightly lectures which were free to the public and drew more than 3,000 attendees, and directed workshops for the 120 conference attendees during the day. To date, videos of the three lectures have garnered more than 35,000 views on the Perkins YouTube channel.

Dr. Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi, professor of world Christianities and mission studies at Perkins, was appointed to serve as the director for the doctor of ministry program at Perkins. He joined the Perkins faculty in July 2010, having previously served as professor of world Christianity at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., from 1994-2010.

Bart Patton, who has nearly 20 years of experience in ministry, joined Perkins as its director of youth and young adult ministry education. He provides oversight and strategic planning for Perkins’ programs for high school youth and their families, young adults, and practitioners who work with these constituencies. Additionally, Patton will be the point person for connecting Perkins and SMU to church and community organizations that work with youth and their families and with young adults.

Perkins, in conjunction with the Houston Methodist Hospital system, began offering seminars and courses to educate hospital staff and personnel on the role of theology and healing.

Perkins thanks our many colleagues, friends and alumni/ae across the connection for generous support in many ways, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DAYTON, OHIO
DR. KENT MILLARD, INTERIM PRESIDENT

Where Dreams Take Flight
United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, was founded in 1871 by Milton Wright, a bishop in The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and father of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. The Wright brothers had a passionate dream...
of developing the first successful “flying machine.” They experienced great
difficulties, hardships and setbacks in achieving their dream. Through their
determination and commitment, however, their dream eventually was fulfilled, and
they were the first human beings to achieve sustained flight.

God often plants a vision or dream in someone's heart to become a full-time servant
of Jesus Christ. In St. Peter's sermon on Pentecost, Peter quotes the prophet Joel
who said, "God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons
and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your
old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:17). When God pours out the Spirit on
someone and calls them into ministry, United seeks to partner with that person in
helping them to grow spiritually and intellectually in achieving their God-given call
and dream.

In the fall of 2016, 418 students enrolled at United to answer God's call and vision
for their lives. Our prayer is that God will use United to prepare these students to
become faithful, fruitful and effective pastors and church leaders who make
disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. According to a recent
survey, 86% of our graduates are either currently serving in local congregations or
are retired from serving in local congregations. United alumni/ae are making an
impact.

On January 1, 2017, United celebrated the beginning of a new partnership in
ministry with Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). United has become
an extension site for the Course of Study School of Ohio located at MTSO, providing
a convenient hybrid program for part-time pastors pursuing a local pastor's license.
Through United's course of study, pastors experience a Friday-Saturday weekend
on campus and finish coursework online over the weeks that follow. Courses are
offered four times per year.

If you feel God calling you to serve in any form of Christian ministry, we encourage
you to go online to united.edu to discover the option that fits your ministry and
calling. May God bless you as you respond to God's dream for your life to serve in
either the ordained, commissioned or lay ministry.

**WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**
**REV. DR. DAVID McALLISTER-WILSON, PRESIDENT**

At Wesley Theological Seminary, we are building on 135 years of faithful
preparation of church- and world-changing leaders by continuing to innovate and
grow. We are excited to partner with you in the ministry to which God has called
you now – and wherever you may be called in the future. Keep reading for good
news that you can use…

**Grow as a leader**
Wesley’s Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to be the internationally
respected go-to resource for actionable best practices for clergy and laity. The
Leading Ideas e-newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 17,000 people. Our new Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy offers 11 online courses covering a variety of topics including Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. Laypeople can earn a certification in Wesleyan Studies by completing six of the courses online, or can choose to take courses individually for personal education and enrichment. Two new certificate programs—Faith and Public Life and African American Church Studies—allow individuals to take specialized classes without pursuing a degree.

Live more fully in God's mission
Wesley has received a grant of $1.5 million from the Lilly Endowment to help congregations design innovative ministries that support and enrich the religious lives of young adults. Through this grant, 20 nearby congregations will be selected to work with Wesley as an innovation hub that brings together church leaders, young adults, experts and practitioners for conversation, education, and exchange of ideas. The ultimate goal will be to help each congregation launch new partnerships with young adults, ages 23 to 29.

The Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown continues to help the church turn itself inside out. It now offers an innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program from Heal the Sick, an initiative to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. The Institute’s newest component is Wesley’s Center for Public Theology, which is designed to equip pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Luce Center for Arts and Religion remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The public is invited to artist talks with each new exhibit; and classes and workshops with visiting artists are offered.

Some of the options for seminarians
- Wesley’s master of divinity (M.Div.) degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive and weeknight courses in five years.
- The new African American Church Studies M.Div. specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges future leaders may encounter in African American churches.
- The Public Theology specialization allows students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy.
- Wesley continues to offer 36-hour Master of Arts degrees and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies degree to equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.
- Wesley’s Doctor of Ministry program continues to offer the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks in theological education. We are excited to announce the launch of our third track based in Cambridge, England: Holiness, Effective Ministry and Engagement with the World, beginning in January 2018. Other 2018 tracks include Art and Theology, Church Leadership Excellence and Soul Care for Pastors, Chaplains and Clinicians.
The Lewis Center for Church Leadership moves to an exciting new phase in its 14-year history with the transition of leadership from founding director Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems Jr., to new director, Wesley faculty member, the Rev. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Weems will continue to be part of the Lewis Center as part-time Senior Consultant, continuing his ground-breaking work in denominational conference resourcing.

Wesley faculty members continually develop resources to advance theological scholarship and help Christians grow. This year we have celebrated new books by Drs. F. Douglas Powe Jr., Eileen Guenther, Shively Smith, Ryan Danker, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, and Joseph Bush. In the past year, we have welcomed a new professor of preaching, the Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles, and a new chapel elder and visiting professor of worship, the Rev. Gina Campbell, and we are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Rick Elgendy as professor of Christian ethics.

Thank you for journeying with us through this update! We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God’s dream together. Blessings to you on a fruitful and faithful annual conference. We thank you for your service and hold you in prayer as you continue in ministry, wherever that may be.