

Reports & Resolutions

Enabling Motion of the 2013 Annual Conference

Kim Dickerson-Oard, Sessions Planning Chairperson

1. That the written materials covering this Session of the Kansas West Conference that were available at www.kswestumc.org and through the mail and those supplemental documents received at the 2013 Annual Conference Session become the official agenda.
2. That the bar of the Conference will be at the tables on the arena floor of the Meadowlark Building. Visitors are invited to the Conference and are requested to sit in the chairs located at the back of the area.
3. That the Minutes Committee will review each day's minutes and recommend adoption by the Annual Conference
4. That the privilege of the floor be given to the Chief Executive Officer of each Institution/Agency of the Kansas West Annual Conference who is not a member of the Annual conference, to members of other conferences serving churches in Kansas West, to District Superintendent Assignment persons serving in Kansas West and to any person designated by an official body of this Annual Conference in order that agenda items may be presented.
5. That the Marketing, Communications Director, Lisa Elliott Diehl; the Treasurer, Gary Beach; the Director of Congregational Excellence, Evelyn Fisher; and lay members of the Council on Administrative Ministries, Connectional Ministries Council, and Marketing and Communications Council be allowed the privilege of the floor.
6. That Mary Lou Reece, wife of Bishop Jones, be granted honorary membership in the Kansas West Annual Conference.
7. That the rules of order governing floor procedures of the Annual Conference shall be *Roberts Rules of Order* unless modified by action of the Annual Conference. The following modifications were accepted by the Annual Conference in 1992.
 - a. The Chairperson shall open each Session at the appointed time. The roll shall be taken at the direction of the Chairperson.
 - b. The Chairperson shall decide all questions of order. In case of an appeal of the Chair's decision, a vote shall be taken without debate.
 - c. Any member who wishes to speak shall rise and address the Chairperson and be recognized. Any member speaking on the floor shall use a microphone, and identify him/herself by name, local church or appointment. **A member shall not speak more than twice on a given subject or speak longer than three (3) minutes at a given time without special permission of the Chairperson.** The Chairperson and/or a member of the Conference Secretary's office may be designated to call time on a speech or debate. A member shall not be interrupted while speaking unless declared out of order. All members shall have the privilege of explanation when they believe their remarks have been misunderstood or misinterpreted.
8. That all resolutions, motions and reports to be presented to the Conference for consideration shall be given to the Secretary **in writing**.
9. That the following persons be elected Associate Secretaries for the 2013 Annual Conference session:

Andrew Conard	Cindy Kelly	Penney Schwab
Kirstie Garnes	Ann Manske	Bev Weber
10. That those persons who register their roll call card by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday will be considered to have answered roll call. Those received after that time will be considered tardy or absent.
11. That appointments shall be effective upon being fixed by the Presiding Bishop, but that the pastors who are moving shall be responsible for their new assignment beginning July 1, 2013.
12. Salary will be paid by the "old appointment" through June 30, 2013. The "new appointment" will pay starting July 1, 2013.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The following constitutional amendments were adopted at the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. They are now being presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On April 30, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 865 Yes, 50 No (Calendar Item 211, DCA p. 2340). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 6, *Article VI*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 6, *Article VI*)) amend by addition as follows:

After “it will” add “pray”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 6 (¶ 6) would read:

Ecumenical Relations—As part of the church universal, The United Methodist Church believes that the Lord of the church is calling Christians everywhere to strive toward unity; and therefore it will pray, seek, and work for unity at all levels of church life: through world relationships with other Methodist churches and united churches related to The Methodist Church or The Evangelical United Brethren Church, through councils of churches, and through plans of union and covenantal relationships with churches of Methodist or other denominational traditions.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 731 Yes, 181 No (Calendar Item 205, DCA p. 2430). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, *Article II*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 14, *Article II*)) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “shall meet” delete “in the month of April or May” and after “duly authorized committees.” add a new sentence, “The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 14 (¶ 14) would read:

The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016.

A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the General Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

AND

Rationale: (¶ 6) The proposed amendment acknowledges God’s action in conferring the gift of the Church by including praying for unity among the tasks of the Church.

Rationale: (¶ 14) The proposed amendment would allow the General Conference to meet at other times during the calendar year on dates better suited for younger delegates and those with parenting responsibilities.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

On May 3, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 618 Yes, 306 No (Calendar Item 54, DCA pp. 2672-73). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “director of Lay” delete “Speaking” and add “Servant”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the central conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

Rationale: (¶ 32) The proposed amendment removes the connotation that leadership training is only about preaching in order to develop skills and enhance the

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 1, 2012, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Tampa, Florida, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 848 Yes, 57 No (Calendar Item 207, DCA p. 2431). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article I*, (2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete the first two words, “Changes in” and following “episcopal areas” delete “may be effected” and add “shall be determined” and after “and the central conferences” add “The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 40 (¶ 40) would read:

The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

Rationale: (¶ 40) The proposed amendment gives the power of boundary decisions to jurisdictional and central conferences, bodies that include lay persons.

Administrative Ministries

Board of Trustees

Pete Marcus, President

The Kansas West Annual Conference owns the following list of properties. Legal descriptions are available from the Conference Administrative Ministries office.

1. Conference Office Building, 9440 E Boston, Wichita, KS
2. Dodge City District Parsonage, 504 Annette, Dodge City, KS
3. Hays District Parsonage, 4109 Fillmore Dr., Hays, KS
4. Hutchinson District Parsonage, 2702 Pama Lou, Hutchinson, KS
5. Salina District Parsonage, 903 Mellinger Drive, Salina, KS
6. Wichita East District Parsonage, 7817 Oakmount, Wichita, KS
7. Wichita West District Parsonage, 12509 W Rolling Hills, Wichita, KS
8. Kansas Area Episcopal Residence*, 2441 Plumthicket, Wichita, KS *1/2-interest. Property jointly owned with Kansas East Annual Conference.
9. Evangelica Mission Church, 614 N 13th St, Garden City, KS
10. Evangelica Parsonage, 1505 E Laurel, Garden City, KS

Closed church properties transferred to the Board of Trustees as a result of votes of discontinuance at the 2012 session of Annual Conference:

1. Alexander UMC
2. Herington UMC and parsonage
3. Linn UMC

Actions of the Board regarding closed church properties have been as follows:

- **Former Weskan UMC (closed in 2011):** The building has been leased to a community church.
- **Former Liberal: St. Paul UMC building and parsonage (closed in 2011):** The parsonage has been sold and the church is under contract for sale contingent upon the buyer obtaining a zoning variance from the city of Liberal.
- **Former Alexander UMC:** has been sold.
- **Former Herington UMC and parsonage:** have been sold.
- **Former Linn UMC:** has been sold.

Kansas West Conference Office Building:

The Trustees have been investigating why walls are cracking in the building, particularly in the west wing. Investigation has shown that the foundation work done after the fire along the west wall has remained stable. We are still looking at potential sources for the heaving and settling that seems to be occurring.

On May 19, 2009, the Conference suffered a significant loss as the result of a fire at the Conference Office building in Wichita. Fortunately, we were adequately insured, and the insurance company, Church Mutual paid for the loss, less our deductible and a few other miscellaneous expenses. In cooperation with Church Mutual, under the terms of the insurance policy, the Conference filed a lawsuit against the manufacturer of an electrical power strip that is believed to be the cause of the fire, in an effort to recover the amounts paid by the insurance company, together with the Conference's deductible and some related expenses. The expenses of the lawsuit were paid by Church Mutual. Following mediation a settlement was reached that enabled both Church Mutual and the conference to recoup a portion of their and our losses.

District properties:

The Board budgets for annual repairs and maintenance on all properties. Condition of the properties varies. After reviewing the Dodge City District parsonage the Board determined that the current home should be sold and a new home purchased since the DS is transitioning this year. After examining options for purchase it was determined that we should instead build a new parsonage which is currently under

construction and is to be completed soon after the transition to a new DS. Since there will be an approximately two month delay in completion compared to when the new DS arrives we have negotiated temporary housing in a situation that attempts to keep the inconvenience to the new DS and family to a minimum.

Receipts and Disbursements:

In accordance with the Book of Discipline, the following is our report of receipts and disbursements for calendar year 2012.

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
District Parsonages	\$ 35,833	\$ 38,901	\$ 43,201	\$ 31,533
Parsonage Replacement Fund	58,442	45,303	0	103,745
Fire Loss Reserve	90,869	0	3,284	87,585
Evangelica UMC Property	23,359	4,158	11,082	16,435
Trustee Reserve	102,749	131,982	35,474	199,257
Auto Reserve	133,462	25,247	41,436	117,273

Commission on Equitable Compensation
Jo Eva McClellan, Chairperson

See the 2012 Official Journal of the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church for current programs and guidelines to support ordained and/or pastoral ministry in the charges of the Annual Conference. Rules and policies to govern this ministry will be acted on at the Uniting Conference in August.

Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Michael Shockley, Chairperson & Carol Jackson, Benefits Officer

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Philosophy of Pensions

The United Methodist Church acknowledges that pensions are “Deferred Compensation” earned at the same time and in the same manner as salary. Of the total compensation package, the purpose of a pension is to assure retirement with dignity in an often unpredictable future.

Goals of Kansas West Conference Board of Pensions

- To appropriately fund the Kansas West Conference benefits programs.
- To maintain the pension Past Service Annuity Rate for pre-1982 service equal to or above 1.0% of the Conference Average Salary (CAC) as recommended by the *Book of Discipline*.
- To responsibly maintain the annuity rate so that Remembrance, Honor and Protection for our retired clergy is a reality, not just a motto.
- To balance the needs of the participant with the needs of the local churches.
- To maximize the return on monies for which we are responsible.

II. ACCOUNTS HELD AT THE GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION

Accounts Held at General Board of Pension: The Board maintains the following accounts at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) that may be used to fund benefits. Balances as of January 1, 2013 were:

Deposit Account	\$22,526,620
Endowed Pension Fund – permanently restricted	\$2,240,326
Endowed Pension Fund – earnings	\$1,072,203
Health Insurance Reserve	\$2,044,318
CRSP/CPP pass-thru billing (MDB)	\$4,426,947

The Deposit Account is the reserve that is used to fund the benefits of clergy on incapacity leave, operating expenses of the Board, unexpected liabilities created by the investment markets and provide support of the Conference annual budget. The Board is working with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefit to determine the appropriate level of reserves needed to cover these responsibilities. The CRSP/CPP pass thru billing account is used to collect and remit the CRSP/CPP contributions required for active clergy.

Other expenses to be funded by Health Insurance Reserve in 2013

2013 Health insurance premium holiday (June & July)	\$667,488
Health insurance for clergy receiving CPP disability	\$135,900
Subsidize Health Insurance Blended Rate	\$55,600
Short-Term Disability for Clergy	\$15,000
Subtotal Health Insurance Reserve	\$873,988

III. HEALTH INSURANCE REPORT

In order to assist clergy and church workers maintain optimal health, the conference continued to participate in the United Methodist health insurance plan known as HealthFlex in 2013. Benefits include coverage for major medical expenses, prescription drugs, dental services, mental/nervous services, an Employee Assistance Plan, a wellness plan, medical reimbursement account and dependent care reimbursement account.

The local churches did not have an increase in their blended rate for clergy medical insurance from 2012 to 2013. The Board has used health insurance reserve funds to give the local churches premium holidays for their health insurance for the last five years. The following premium holidays have been given back to the churches since 2008:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
2008	\$254,952	
2009	\$253,751	
2010	\$280,104	
2011	\$320,414	
2012	<u>\$665,312</u>	
Subtotal	\$1,774,533	
2013 est	<u>\$667,488</u>	June and July
Total	\$2,442,021	

IV. SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE FOR LAY EMPLOYEES

During 2012, we jointly purchased short-term and long-term disability benefits for lay Conference employees in Kansas East and Kansas West. Previously lay employees had no short-term disability benefits.

V. SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE FOR CLERGY

Prior to September 15, 2012, when a pastor had a medical leave, the local churches paid the full salary of the pastor for up to six months and also paid the interim clergy as well. Although this does not happen frequently, it is a significant hardship for the local church when it does happen.

Effective September 15, 2012, the Kansas West Conference Board of Pension will reimburse a local church for the cost of interim pastoral services when a full-time or part-time (1/2 time or more) clergy or district superintendent assignment (DSA) is unable to perform the duties of their appointment due to a documented medical disability when the period of the clergy's absence exceeds 30 days but is anticipated to be less than 180 days.

During the period of a pastor's disability covered by this policy (30 days to 180 days), the local church will continue to provide full compensation to the appointed individual.

If the member church elects to obtain interim clergy services for clergy disability past 30 days, the Kansas West Conference Board of Pension will reimburse the local church the cost of the interim

clergy up to an amount equal to one half of the total of the last approved clergy or DSA's compensation package of the disabled clergy person.

VI. RETIREMENT BENEFITS

In 2013 because of reserve funding we were able to reduce our pension billing to the local churches. See the breakdown below:

Billing to local churches	2012	2013
CPP Death and Disability	3%	3%
CRSP-Defined Contribution (DC)	3%	3%
CRSP-Defined Benefit (DB)	<u>10.65%</u>	<u>8%</u>
TOTAL	16.65%	14%

VII. OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Board sponsored one clergy pre-retiree seminar providing information on pension benefits, social security benefits, and financial planning. This educational seminar is well received and appreciated.

The Board has received and approved one Farmer's Fund Grant as of the end of March.

VIII. MATERIAL RELEVANT TO 2014

Material that would normally appear in this report regarding the upcoming year appears instead in the Organization Plan for the creation of the Great Plains Conference. A draft of that plan is in your Annual Conference material. A final version will appear in material for the Uniting Conference and will be acted on at that time.

Council on Finance & Administration

Carl Nord, President

The Conference Council on Finance & Administration expresses its thanks and appreciation to the conference Agencies in the responsible planning and management of all funds. We would also like to thank the local churches in all districts for their dedication in supporting the Conference ministries.

See the 2012 Official Journal of the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church for current Administrative Operating Procedures. Proposals for these items for 2014 will be acted on at the Uniting Conference in August.

Certified United Methodist Church Administrator:

Christina Allen, Wichita West Heights United Methodist Church

Resolution to Manage Carryover Accounts as of December 31, 2013

WHEREAS, in accordance with approved Operating Procedures Rule XI. H., funds for designated purposes have been allowed to carry over balances from year to year to allow cross-year funding for these purposes.

WHEREAS, in keeping with the goal to establish a new Great Plains United Methodist Conference that is open to new thinking and new ways of doing ministry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

As of December 31, 2013, the Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to close the balances of all carryover accounts to the Operating Reserve account except as hereafter provided:

- A. Funds that have been set aside for specific and identifiable purposes shall be retained in the account.
- B. Funds that are permanently restricted shall be returned to the account.

Final approval for the closing of the accounts shall be made by the Focus Team.

Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

Kirkpatrick, Sprecker & Company, LLP

July 23, 2013

To the Audit Committee and Council on Finance and Administration of The Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of The Kansas West Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

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

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

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

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Kansas West Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedules of Analysis of Fund Balances, Analysis of Board of Global Ministries Notes Receivable, Bishop's Schedule of Activities and Area Marketing and Communication Schedule of Activities starting on page 24 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
of the Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
December 31, 2012 and 2011

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,063,966	\$3,874,291
Certificates of deposit	662,580	853,597
Accrued interest receivable	13,788	15,401
Accounts receivable		
Church apportionments	213,434	252,248
Special giving remittances	83,458	93,836
CRSP/PPP remittances	24,325	40,867
Miscellaneous	44,921	61,553
Expense advance	50	2,970
Notes receivable, current portion	503,935	68,297
Pledges receivable, current portion	750,506	811,087
Prepaid expense	109,162	72,016
Other assets	<u>1,125</u>	<u>1,125</u>
Total current assets	6,471,250	6,147,288
Property assets		
Land	593,671	465,871
Buildings	2,579,042	2,278,604
Office furnishings and equipment	174,617	165,431
Parsonage appliances and furniture	9,931	9,931
Automobiles	221,386	258,577
Computer hardware and software	<u>98,582</u>	<u>103,258</u>
	3,677,229	3,281,672
Less - accumulated depreciation	<u>1,012,641</u>	<u>922,024</u>
Total property assets	2,664,588	2,359,648
Other assets		
Investments	33,395,219	29,877,914
Notes receivable, long term	764,988	888,367
Pledges receivable, long term	<u>-</u>	<u>323,201</u>
Total other assets	34,160,207	31,089,482
Total Assets	<u>\$ 43,296,045</u>	<u>\$ 39,596,418</u>
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable		
Gen Council Fnc & Admn apportionments	\$ 367,985	\$286,836
South Central Jurisdiction apportionments	14,261	11,350
Special giving	135,212	134,821
Miscellaneous	75,515	149,173
Continuing education funds payable	30,098	36,530
Other payables	12,435	14,744
Accrued payroll expense	33,718	43,757
Other contingent liabilities	29,437	35,981
Deferred income	51,105	10,113
Notes payable - short term portion	<u>20,711</u>	<u>10,685</u>
Total current liabilities	770,477	733,990
Long-term liability		
Notes payable - long term portion	628,352	337,628
Total liabilities	1,398,829	1,071,618
Net assets		
Unrestricted		
Conference designated	34,115,602	30,691,513
Other unrestricted	<u>1,600,582</u>	<u>1,567,580</u>
Total unrestricted	35,716,184	32,259,093
Temporarily restricted	3,890,706	3,975,381
Permanently restricted	<u>2,290,326</u>	<u>2,290,326</u>
Total net assets	41,897,216	38,524,800
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 43,296,045</u>	<u>\$ 39,596,418</u>

Consolidated Statement of Activities
of the Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support, revenues and gains				
Apportionments				
Ministerial services and support	\$ 1,046,198	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,046,198
Administrative services and support	778,428	-	-	778,428
Connectional ministries	1,285,356	-	-	1,285,356
General church apportionment	1,130,869	-	-	1,130,869
Jurisdictional support	42,388	-	-	42,388
Special giving				
Connectional ministries	1,350	-	-	1,350
Non-budget funds	52,503	33,279	-	85,782
Net pension revenue	1,718,473	-	-	1,718,473
Donations	38,742	74,481	-	113,223
Grants	5,000	11,130	-	16,130
Other Annual Conferences	277,262	33,364	-	310,626
Investment income	3,435,967	373,748	-	3,809,715
Net gain from disposition of assets	4,281	-	-	4,281
Other income	<u>464,241</u>	<u>843</u>	-	<u>465,084</u>
Total support, revenues and gains	10,281,058	526,845	-	10,807,903
Net assets released from restrictions				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	611,520	(611,520)	-	-
Expenses				
Program services				
Conference ministerial support	1,715,493	-	-	1,715,493
Conference benevolence	1,255,076	-	-	1,255,076
General and jurisdictional ministries	1,570,633	-	-	1,570,633
Other conference ministries	<u>829,611</u>	-	-	<u>829,611</u>
Total program services	5,370,813	-	-	5,370,813
Supporting activities				
Administrative expense	2,060,090	-	-	2,060,090
Fund-raising expense	<u>4,584</u>	-	-	<u>4,584</u>
Total supporting activities	2,064,674	-	-	2,064,674
Total expenses	<u>7,435,487</u>	-	-	<u>7,435,487</u>
Change in net assets	3,457,091	(84,675)	-	3,372,416
Net assets beginning of year	<u>32,259,093</u>	<u>3,975,381</u>	<u>2,290,326</u>	<u>38,524,800</u>
Net assets end of year	<u>\$ 35,716,184</u>	<u>\$ 3,890,706</u>	<u>\$2,290,326</u>	<u>\$41,897,216</u>

These financial statements are derived from the audit performed on the 2011 financial records. The complete audit with the accompanying notes that are an integral part of the financial statements may be reviewed at the Administrative Ministries office of the Kansas West Conference of The United Methodist Church, 9440 E Boston, Wichita KS or on the website, kswestumc.org.

Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses
of the Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
For the Year Ended December 31, 2012

	Program Services					Supporting Activities			Total
	Conference Ministerial Support	Conference Benevolence	General & Jurisdictional Ministries	Other Conference Ministries	Total Program Services	Administrative Services	Fund- raising Activities	Supporting Activities	
Salaries and wages	\$ 721,325	\$ 247,182	\$ -	\$ 75,205	\$ 1,043,712	\$ 377,160	\$ -	\$ 377,160	\$ 1,420,872
Benefits	250,505	58,758	-	24,192	333,455	97,254	-	97,254	430,709
Payroll taxes	<u>15,684</u>	<u>10,841</u>	=	<u>894</u>	<u>27,419</u>	<u>28,114</u>	=	<u>28,114</u>	<u>55,533</u>
Total compensation	987,514	316,781	-	100,291	1,404,586	502,528	-	502,528	1,907,114
Contract services	12,240	113,315	-	122,875	248,430	108,346	-	108,346	356,776
Professional fees	33,283	-	-	17,415	50,698	35,300	-	35,300	85,998
Meetings and retreats	85,724	81,221	-	107,766	274,711	119,437	-	119,437	394,148
Conference vehicles	22,629	8,312	-	4,759	35,700	21,702	-	21,702	57,402
Occupancy	125,678	-	-	75,407	201,085	63,471	-	63,471	264,556
Multi-peril insurance	9,563	-	-	3,360	12,923	13,982	-	13,982	26,905
Office supplies	8,079	639	-	378	9,096	55,454	76	55,530	64,626
Printing and publications	13,509	1,234	-	-	14,743	36,990	560	37,550	52,293
Postage and shipping	3,191	187	-	143	3,521	11,320	-	11,320	14,841
Telephone and internet	14,376	2,609	-	1,200	18,185	30,440	-	30,440	48,625
Program materials	7,120	4,575	-	7,378	19,073	8,204	3,004	11,208	30,281
Equipment	7,262	-	-	22,392	29,654	36,365	-	36,365	66,019
Grants	194,701	711,137	1,570,633	354,016	2,830,487	21,172	870	22,042	2,852,529
Clergy recruitment	183,317	-	-	-	183,317	-	-	-	183,317
Miscellaneous	6,060	15,066	-	1,293	22,419	495	74	569	22,988
Net pension, group health, other benefits	<u>1,247</u>	=	=	=	<u>1,247</u>	<u>840,339</u>	=	<u>840,339</u>	<u>841,586</u>
Total expenses before depreciation	1,715,493	1,255,076	1,570,633	818,673	5,359,875	1,905,545	4,584	1,910,129	7,270,004
Depreciation	=	=	=	<u>10,938</u>	<u>10,938</u>	<u>154,545</u>	=	<u>154,545</u>	<u>165,483</u>
Total functional expenses	<u>1,715,493</u>	<u>1,255,076</u>	<u>1,570,633</u>	<u>829,611</u>	<u>5,370,813</u>	<u>2,060,090</u>	<u>4,584</u>	<u>2,064,674</u>	<u>7,435,487</u>

Special Giving
Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Year ended December 31, 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Conference Advance Specials:			General Church Advance Specials:		
Bridges To The Future Capital Campaign	\$ 448,283	\$ 532,922	GBGM National Advance Specials - Miscellaneous	9,318	41,551
Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund	9,353	12,630	World Advance Specials - Miscellaneous	9,375	13,278
Lakeside UM Center	12,400	15,806	Lynn & Sharon Fogleman	-	3,485
Horizon UM Center	2,798	1,750	McCurdy School	2,980	7,746
GraceMed Health Clinic Inc	12,782	8,911	Redbird Med Center	-	115
UM Open Door	39,136	36,982	Redbird Mission	3,091	6,684
UM Youthville	48,604	49,659	RedBird School, Tuition	1,000	315
Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries	18,541	37,249	Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference	-	170
First UMC Wichita TV Ministry	-	1,325	Church World Service (Blankets)	5,371	9,766
Kansas Wesleyan, Salina	242	369	UM Global AIDS Fund	-	2,746
Southwestern College	17	238	Heifer Project International	6,169	4,935
Fort Hays Campus Ministry	1,477	1,968	Imagine No Malaria	24,632	-
Kansas State Campus Ministry	639	1,196	UMCOR Haiti Emergency	-	1,251
KU Campus Ministry	27	41	UMCOR US Disaster Response	9,131	-
UM Campus Ministry in Kansas	478	-	UMCOR Advance Specials - Miscellaneous	62,772	95,578
Asbury Park, Newton	1,242	1,852	UMCOR 2012 Hurricanes	44,364	-
Wesley Towers, Hutchinson	158	300	UMCOR Spring Storms 2011	-	103,358
Retirement Home Recognition Sunday	33	102	Africa University Endowment Fund	1,115	354
Camp Scholarships / Camping Sunday	126	174	Youth Service Fund	1,534	1,270
Hunger Sunday	6,386	8,561	Human Relations Sunday	15,696	12,471
One Field - One Round	11,547	11,857	One Great Hour of Sharing	46,262	43,254
David Upp - Missionary	4,174	150	U.M. Student Day	11,720	11,303
KWC Church Growth & Development	2,449	3,805	World Communion Sunday	15,905	16,310
Evangelica UMC, Garden City	1,350	1,350	Peace with Justice Sunday	10,334	9,935
Kansas Area Disaster Fund	14,269	2,697	Native American Day	13,234	10,519
Youth in Mission	1,615	-	Rural Life Sunday	1,185	1,279
VIM Project Funds	500	3,310	Lydia Patterson Institute	2,238	2,478
Zimbabwe Initiative	11,531	600	Mt. Sequoyah, Fayetteville	-	461
Zimbabwe - Chabadza Project	38,199	17,358	Other Benevolences:		
Zimbabwe - Mutambara Mission Hospital	1,300	-	Wichita District Habitat For Humanity	544	-
UM Open Door - Bishop's Bicycle Challenge	31,441	25,294	Hays District Eldercare Disaster Program	950	-
			Youth Development Services	-	1,961
			Miscellaneous	9,560.00	12,209.00
			TOTAL SPECIAL GIVING	<u>\$ 1,029,577</u>	<u>\$ 1,193,238</u>

Kansas Area Episcopal Residence Committee **Brad Kirk, Episcopal Residence Chairperson**

The Area Episcopal Residence Committee is happy to report that in 2012 the upstairs air conditioning unit was replaced at the Episcopal Residence in Wichita. Additionally, a large amount of landscaping was done around the home. Bishop and Mary Lou also have access to an apartment in Lincoln, NE which has been a great asset during this time of transition. The cost of the Lincoln apartment has been partially paid by funds from the sale of the former Episcopal Residence in Lincoln and also through a reimbursement agreement with GCFA. The plans are to keep the Lincoln apartment for another year to aid our Bishop in his work.

Kansas Area Commission on Archives and History **Rev. Charles L. Danforth, Chairperson**

During the 2012 session of the Southwest Jurisdictional Conference, conference delegates voted for the establishment of the Great Plains Annual Conference for Kansas and Nebraska. As we prepare to usher in this new era, we must close out the previous chapter of our ministry for Christ. Therefore, we come to the 2012 Kansas West Annual Conference to close this conference in preparation for the new ministry. Let us then take this moment to remember what we have done and to look forward as we reach for new heights.

One of the wonderful things we get to do on the commission is to remember the service of the congregations in our conferences. Each year, the commission looks to celebrate with churches that have been in ministry for 150 years. This year we celebrate 150 years of ministry with the Salina First United Methodist Church. We are so glad to celebrate with them in their efforts.

One of the ministries that we remember is our annual workshop for local church historians. We had scheduled our annual history workshop on November 3 of last year. Due to low enrollment, however; we had to cancel the history workshop. We are undaunted though and hoping to attempt our workshop again this year. We also hope to possibly plan this workshop with the Nebraska Commission.

The commission closely followed the discussions and actions surrounding the creation of a new annual conference. The 2012 Jurisdictional Conference voted to create the Great Plains Annual Conference. With that, the Kansas Area Commission has been in touch with the Nebraska Archives and History Commission via telephone and email about becoming one commission for the Great Plains Conference. As discussions proceeded, we decided to hold a couple of face to face meetings at both the Kansas and Nebraska archives. This would give us the ability to see our facilities and discuss our ministries. We decided that it was best to have our first face to face meeting on March 12 at the Nebraska archives.

The Nebraska archives are located at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. We met the Nebraska Commission members, toured the Nebraska archives and proceeded to discuss what ministry would look like in the new Great Plains conference. We decided to make the following recommendations to the Transition Team. First, we recommend that the Great Plains Annual Conference should follow standardized records retention procedures. Second, we recommend that two directors should be retained for the two archives at Nebraska Wesleyan University and Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. Third, we recommend that the new commission consist of ten voting members with two members from each region of the former Kansas conferences, eastern Nebraska and western Nebraska, plus two at large members. Finally, we recommended that there be a representative of the commission serving on the new connecting council to advocate for the operations and ministries of the commission.

The two commissions will meet again at the Kansas Archives at Baker University on May 2. We hope to offer further recommendations and to explore new ways to do ministry as the ministers of our history.

Moving Committee **John Paul Jones, Chairperson**

2012 Moving Season Recap

Number Moves paid in 2012:	43
Amount Paid:	\$95,160.74

See the 2012 Official Journal of the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church for current policies and rules governing clergy moves. Policies and rules governing clergy moves in 2014 will be a part of the agenda at the Uniting Conference in August.

Connectional Ministries

Board of Discipleship

Patrick Broz, Interim Chair

Over the last year, the Board of Discipleship has been revitalized by several new members and the energy they have brought. Additionally, early on we decided to focus on a core function to equip churches to make disciples for the transformation of the world. The Board defined our work in this area could best be served by continuing to implement, train, and assist laity and clergy in local churches with *Guest Quest*, an all church evangelism resource materials developed by the Board in 2011-12. Booths at both the Kansas West and East Annual Conferences yielded more than 60 potential churches that expressed an interest in obtaining more information about *Guest Quest*. To that end, training sessions were held at the Kansas East Conference Office in Topeka, and in the Hutchinson and Hays districts in the West. Several churches successfully concluded their *Quest*. One church doubled their attendance on that Sunday and continues to the time of this writing to have experienced a 20% increase in worship attendance over before *Guest Quest*. Several more churches are in the process of discernment of how *Guest Quest* can be a part of the revitalization efforts in their local church.

In addition to the trainings done in the districts, much effort and focus has been made on making the training module for *Guest Quest* available remotely through Moodle technology. The Board contracted with a couple of vendors to produce videos and place them online and that effort is nearing fruition. (This will hopefully be a reality by the time of Annual Conference.) Several churches shared their experiences as a part of this electronic training tool. The Board felt that online training was the next logical step to extend the abilities of *Guest Quest* to be effective and readily available to churches of all sizes and locations throughout the Great Plains Area.

The Board looks forward to continuing offering *Guest Quest* in the new Great Plains Annual Conference and to continue journeying with local churches to be more invitational, hospitable, and missional as they become more vital. Through the wise stewardship of our apportioned dollars, the training costs to local churches for *Guest Quest* remains at zero. It is our vision that this should continue with the new Annual Conference.

In addition to *Guest Quest*, the Board was asked to consult with a church by its leadership, to help walk them through the Vital Congregations materials, with an emphasis on sections 1 and 2. In this way, Board members could act as an impartial and unbiased party to help this church work through some of their entrenched and submerged issues so that they could begin the process of developing healthier communication and ministerial patterns.

It has been a pleasure being a part of making our Annual Conference more disciple-focused this past year.

Board of Laity

Carolyn May, Conference Lay Leader

Lay persons are very involved in fulfilling the Church's mission and are transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ at the local level and beyond. According to the 2012 edition of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, paragraph 127, "Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission."

The Book of Discipline also states in paragraph 120, "Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs." The Board of Laity strives to help equip laypersons as disciples of Jesus Christ and to strengthen the connection among lay persons at the local, district and conference levels.

Examples of laypersons helping to fulfill the Church's mission this past year in the Kansas West Conference are as follows:

As of January 1, 2013, the Kansas West Conference raised more than \$62,000 to eradicate malaria in Africa. Congregations raised monies in creative ways and will continue to raise funds this year during the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Some of our lay persons also helped distribute mosquito nets in Zimbabwe.

Forty-seven congregations are committed to covenant relationships with local churches (or circuits) in the Zimbabwe East Conference praying for one another and guided by the Holy Spirit in a supportive and mutual relationship.

Lay Servant trainings are held throughout the year to help equip local church servants and certified lay servants (formally called local lay speakers and certified lay speakers). Lay servants use their gifts and talents in witnessing to others, in leadership positions, and in service.

District lay leaders and other laypersons work closely with clergy in facilitating trainings, workshops and seminars that help equip laity. *Takin' It to the Streets – A Training on Disciple-Making and Outreach* for laity and clergy was taught in every district in the Kansas West Conference by pastors who had participated in aggressive witnessing programs in their communities. Opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship are also available for lay persons through many other programs and ministries that are offered at the local, district, conference levels and beyond.

The Red Ribbon Campaign is a visible way for congregations in the Kansas West Conference to unite and take a stand against substance abuse. In the Resolution to Recognize National Red Ribbon Week, the Board of Laity encourages lay persons and clergy to pick up free ribbons at the Board of Laity booth and disseminate them to your congregations and in your communities. We also encourage people to wear the ribbons during Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, in support of having safe, healthy and drug-free communities. Additional information about the Red Ribbon Campaign may be found at www.kansasfamily.com and www.nfp.org.

In the Resolution to Celebrate Clergy Appointments in the Local Church, the Board of Laity encourages local congregations to welcome and celebrate new and returning pastors to their churches. Celebrations at the district level are also occurring. Suggestions for lifting up clergy are found in the document *20 Ways to Lift Up Clergy*.

In the Resolution to Celebrate Laity and Lay Servants in the local Church, the Board of Laity encourages celebration of lay persons in the local congregations and encourages the observance of Laity Sunday scheduled for October 20, 2013.

During annual conference, the members of the Board of Laity wear vests that will easily identify us. Please feel free to ask us for assistance. The Board of Laity also facilitates the Laity Session on Tuesday at 8:15 a.m., Clergy-Laity Celebration Luncheon on Wednesday at noon and the Fun Run/Walk at 6:15 a.m. on Friday. We extend a warm welcome to you at these events and also invite you to the Board of Laity booth to enjoy free snacks, to ask questions and to pick up materials and ribbons.

As the Kansas West Conference is preparing to unite with the Kansas East and Nebraska conferences to become the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church, we are to be in prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit, in becoming the disciples that Jesus calls us to be. God bless us and God bless our congregations.

Resolution to Celebrate Clergy Appointments in the Local Church

**United Methodist Kansas West Conference Board of Laity
Carolyn May, Kansas West Conference Lay Leader**

Explanation: The Board of Laity wishes to lift up the Clergy of our conference and ask each local church to actively participate in welcoming new clergy or celebrating the return of their current pastor.

WHEREAS, the median age of elders has increased in the last 39 years (55 in 2012, 50 in 2000 and 45 in 1973). (*A Lewis Center Report on Clergy Age Trends in the United Methodist Church 2012 Report*, [http: www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org))

WHEREAS, Peter spoke to the elders of the church to “shepherd the flock of God”

(I Peter 5:2-4) and “be examples to the flock in your charge.” We must care for our clergy, as they are tending the flock. In I Thessalonians 5:12-13 Paul tell us “... that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work ... “

WHEREAS, if our clergy attitudes are positive, a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes throughout the laity will occur, and it will be an opportunity for extraordinary results for God’s Kingdom.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Pastor Parish Relations or Staff-Parish Relations Committees will organize a “Clergy Celebration” for welcoming the new or returning pastor to the congregation. The months of July or October are recommended for this celebration, and we encourage all churches to use the *20 Ways to Lift Up Clergy* throughout the year.

Resolution to Celebrate Laity and Lay Servants in the Local Church

Carolyn May, Kansas West Conference Lay Leader

Phyllis Stoppel, Kansas West Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries

WHEREAS, the Discipline provides for the observance of a Laity Sunday to celebrate the ministry of all lay Christians on October 20, 2013.

WHEREAS, Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 12 that “to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” He also tells us that each person is a part of the body of Christ. Knowing that all gifts and all parts of the body are important to make the Church whole, we encourage all churches to celebrate all laity gifts and parts of the body on Laity Sunday.

WHEREAS, the Kansas West Conference has 191 Certified Lay Speakers in the 2012 Annual Conference Journal, as well as other Local Lay Servants, we would encourage the recognition of their gifts not only on Laity Sunday, but throughout the year with opportunities to participate in worship services through liturgy or lay speaking. These Lay Servants are committed to the Scriptures, doctrine, heritage and organization of the United Methodist Church. They take training at least every three years to keep their certification current. Many of them serve not only their local churches, but also the District and the Conference on committees and boards.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that each local congregation will actively participate in the recognition of the Laity and Lay Servants, especially on Laity Sunday, October 20, 2013, and with opportunities for Lay Servants throughout the year in their worship services, group studies, and other activities to enable them to employ their gifts.

Resolution to Recognize National Red Ribbon Week

October 23-31, 2013

United Methodist Kansas West Conference Board of Laity

Carolyn May, Kansas West Conference Lay Leader

History: Red Ribbon Week began in response to the death of Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in 1985. Members of the National Family Partnership and other nonprofit organizations began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of drugs. This movement is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country.

WHEREAS, members of Kansas West Conference are concerned for our youth and society and recognize the illegal use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco as serious problems.

WHEREAS, the congregations of the Kansas West Conference wish to express love and care for the well-being of our youth and society through the Red Ribbon campaign.

WHEREAS, we, the Kansas West Conference, can make a difference in the lives of our youth and society by specifically recognizing and supporting the Red Ribbon campaign.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the churches of the Kansas West Conference shall recognize the Red Ribbon campaign, including but not limited to Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, 2013.

Information and Red Ribbon resources are available from:

www.kansasfamily.com

www.nfp.org

www.facebook.com/RedRibbonWeek

Kansas Family Partnership

2209 SW 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66611

785.266.6161 or 1.800.206.7231

Red ribbons may be obtained at the Board of Laity booth at Annual Conference. The National Guard provides these ribbons for our conference at no cost.

Commission on Camping Ministries

Ben Wheeler, Chairman

CCM exists to champion (support the cause of/defend) Christian camping in the Kansas West Conference through the following three areas.

1. Inspiring people go to camp.
2. Providing incredible Christian camping experiences.
3. Following up and evaluating after camp to continue a tradition of excellence in Christian Camping.

This year the CCM has been wrestling with the question: "What does successful Christian camping look like and how do we measure it?" We determined that there were four key "markers" to a successful Christian camping experience:

1. God-Honoring Decisions
2. Increased Participation by Churches
3. Returning Campers
4. Friends Inviting Friends

In order to address those four "markers," the CCM has created four "inputs" that we're asking each camp to work on improving for the upcoming summer camping season. These four "inputs" are:

1. Improve Faith Talks and Worship
2. Something New and Memorable
3. One-on-Ones with Leaders
4. Time for Personal Reflection

The CCM has also updated its evaluation tools to include opportunities to gather both empirical and anecdotal data. These tools are called the "Decision Tracker" and the "Story Tracker." These new and improved evaluation tools will allow the CCM to determine whether we've been successful in reaching our goals.

Beyond our goals are our dreams. The CCM has three dreams for the future of camping in our annual conference:

1. Every church will send someone to camp.
2. Every church has a camping scholarship program.
3. Our future pastors and leaders are hearing God's call and having that call nurtured at camp.

Thank you for supporting camping ministries in the Kansas West Conference!

Commission on Global Ministries

Paul Burger, Chairperson

The Commission on Global Ministries has been at work, through the grace of God, to expand the mission involvement of our members. This work has been progressing in 4 areas:

1. **Mission Education and Mission Events:**
 - a. A conference wide "Mission Fest" was held November 11, 2012 in Newton. The mission event was well attended and very inspirational from Dr. Thomas Kemper our keynote speaker and many workshops to the displays presented by different mission agencies.
 - b. More resources are now available on the conference website for our churches to use in their mission involvement. This includes a PowerPoint presentation, informational videos, and a list of United Methodist resources. This will assist mission committees in creating a culture of mission at their church.
2. **Support Conference Mission Committees:** (Each of these will have their own reports about how they are assisting United Methodists to be involved in missions.)
 - a. Volunteers in Mission
 - b. Disaster Response
 - c. Hunger Committee
 - d. Chabadza
3. **Global Ministries' budget:**
 - a. Conference M&M funds for many years have supported United Methodist Open Door, Western Kansas Mexican American Ministries, and GraceMed. This year we have expanded to also support the Haiti hot lunch program, Chabadza partnership, and the Zimbabwe CCIP School.
4. **Revolving Loan Fund:**
 - a. The fund currently has about \$821,000 loaned to 12 churches to assist them with the mission of the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The fund has another \$341,000 available for loans to United Methodist churches in the Kansas West Conference.

College Advocacy Committee

Marshall Stanton, Chairperson

The prime responsibility of the College Advocacy Committee is to create inter-relationships among the Annual Conference, Kansas Wesleyan University and Southwestern College.

The CAC also awards scholarships to members of United Methodist Churches from the Conference who enroll in United Methodist related colleges within the Conference. Funds come from the Conference Churches' offerings taken on Methodist Student Day. The Conference sends those funds to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry which rebates 10% of those funds back to the Conference. For two years, 2011 and 2012 only about \$1,500 were available to awarding scholarships.

Even though a small amount of money is available to award to students, it is worthwhile for students to apply through their church for the scholarship.

With the advent of the Great Plains Conference, the future of the CAC is uncertain inasmuch as neither the Nebraska nor Kansas East Conference has a similar committee.

Another major financial task is to request and to advocate for Conference funds to support both Kansas Wesleyan and Southwestern. Each college has church-related projects for which funds will support.

Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM)

Daniel Reffner, President

This past summer, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries put on two incredible summer camps. These youth planned, youth led camps (LEAD for middle school and LDW for high school) attracted over 250 youth from across the conference for five days of fun, worship, and community building. At these two camps combined, 25 students gave their life to Christ for the first time! On top of that, 109 made an important decision about living for God, and 129 spent time praying about something important in their lives. Ministry is never about the numbers, but I look at that and can't help but smile when I can see how God's spirit was at work those two weeks!

In January, high school students participated in MidWinter, a retreat designed to spiritually refresh students. This year, students were challenged to Collide with real life questions and issues. It wasn't

always easy to hear, but the messages were extremely meaningful and proved to be impactful. We tried something new this year, we set up a booth where students could share their testimony about how their walk with Christ had been impacted by CCYM events, such as MidWinter. We received many submissions, including one salvation experience from that weekend! 2012 was also the last year for MidWinter. Next January it will be replaced by the One Event where youth from all three conferences will converge in Topeka for a conference similar in purpose to MidWinter. It's going to be an extraordinary event your youth will not want to miss!

In 2011, the CCYM decided to be intentional about getting more middle school leaders on the team. This past year our middle school participant numbers have increased by six. This is promising and provides the CCYM with a young crop of faithful leaders to carry on the ministry in the future years.

We are entering in to a time of transition, and the structure of what CCYM will look like in the Great Plains Conference is largely undecided (as of April 9th). We will be losing Justin Lefto as the Conference Youth Coordinator, but I am extremely confident in the abilities of the individual taking his place to carry on successful youth ministry for our new conference. This transition will be the beginning of a new chapter for many of us, and I am excited to see the new things God leads us into.

As I look back at this previous year of ministry, my heart is warmed because I know for a fact that lives were changed in the name of Jesus. That's a beautiful thing, and I am humbled and grateful to have been able to be a part of God's work through CCYM and the Kansas West Conference. Thank you for your support of us and what we do to reach youth and youth workers. I pray the Spirit of our God bless you and be amongst you as we move forward in ministry to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Connectional Ministries Council

Bev Weber, Assoc. Director of Connectional Ministries

The Connectional Ministries Council began 2012 as usual, supporting Kansas West agencies and institutions with funding, maintaining ministry and visioning and dreaming as we began the transition to being a part of the Great Plains Annual Conference in 2014.

The council had several highlights as programs and ministries that had been planned came together:

- The Boundary Awareness protection program became Safe Gatherings and is now an online training program. The annual conference also voted to mandate that local churches have a policy regarding the protection of children, youth and developmentally disabled dependent adult.
- MissionFest was a success as approximately 200 people took part in a celebration and learning event that featured Dr. Thomas Kemper, general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries.
- Ministry grants were given to support the Zimbabwe delegation that visited in May, Imagine No Malaria and other projects.
- GuestQuest and Vital Congregations are poised to make an impact on doing ministry in our local churches and will continue into the new conference.

The council had a change in leadership. We said thank you to Rev. Linda Louderback and welcomed Rev. Evelyn Fisher as the Director of Clergy and Congregational Excellence. Under Evelyn's leadership, the council will continue to vision, dream and do as we move forward in ministry.

Disaster Response Committee

Keith Fink, Chairperson

The thing about disaster response is we do not stop our ministry until we can get everyone moving toward their new normal. That is why we are still working, yet this year, on the last little bits of recovery from the Oaklawn tornado, which happened on April 14, 2012. We have turned most of the heavy rebuilding over to the conference Volunteers in Mission, but we, in Disaster Response, are still here to support their efforts.

Along with making sure that survivors are well ministered to, we continually prepare for the next "Big One" or even the little ones. We have continued our Basic Disaster Response, Early Response Team and

Connecting Neighbors trainings throughout the conference. If your church or district would like to host any or all of these trainings, please let us know.

Another other major thing the Disaster Response committee has been working on is to coordinate with Kansas East and Nebraska Disaster Response committees to be able to seamlessly combine together in the future. We strive to continue to have volunteers close by to help in the case of a disaster and to, hopefully, be better in our ministry as we look to the future as the Great Plains Conference.

Hunger Committee

W. Harlan Rittgers, Chairperson

As I address you in the last year of the Kansas West Conference, I want to lift up what you have done in 2012. You have supported the community food ministry of United Methodist Open Door in Wichita, United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries food banks in Western Kansas and the Hot Lunch Program in Haiti. You have done this by pledging to the ONE FIELD – ONE ROUND PROJECT in April. Some 32 local churches and 1 pastor gave in honor of a lay person a total of \$11,546.82. You gave another \$1501.50 at Annual Conference registration for the UN-Meal. And in November for HUNGER SUNDAY 26 local churches and the Area Rural Fellowship gave another \$4884.55. The GRAND TOTAL was \$17,932.87. Thanks be to God!

However, the percentage of churches responding is miserable at best and disappointing when you realize there are 375 local churches in our Conference. Plus we gave less than in 2011. Yet the NEED continues to INCREASE. Are we satisfied? Does not Christ call us to reach out, especially to the poor and hungry? The challenge is to make our response better! So what can we/you do?

1. PRAY
2. TALK WITH OTHERS IN YOUR CHURCH about the need
3. COMMIT YOURSELF TO RESPOND (personal pledge, work in your community, give your time, effort, and money).
4. WORK WITH THE MISSIONS/OUTREACH COMMITTEE &/OR PASTOR (use the bulletin inserts, flyers from the Conference website and pre-Conference materials to publicize and educate your congregation, and make a church or personal pledge).

The Hunger Committee urges you to GET INVOLVED in your own community as well as within the Conference. As we give ourselves to the never-ending task of being faithful witnesses to our Christian faith, may we look ever OUTWARD to those around us in need? They are there, in your neighborhood, in the next town, in the county seat as well as Wichita and other urban areas of our state. Those in need know no boundaries. They are found in the tent cities of Haiti as well as many other countries across the world. We are called by our Risen Lord to not forget those most vulnerable. The Hunger Committee tries to keep both the need and the avenues for response open for you to help. Our prayer is that you will GIVE FROM YOUR HEART!! Thank you for caring, in the name and power of Christ!

Kansas Area Health and Wellness Committee

John McCabe, Co-Chairperson

Development of resources for use in local congregations to improve health and wellness was the principal activity of the Committee in 2012-2013. A DVD entitled *Clergy Health: Our Ministry Together* was developed by the Committee and provides a three-part learning opportunity especially designed for Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committees. The sessions create awareness of the unique issues clergy face in maintaining and improving their well-being—physical, emotional, social, financial and spiritual. Discussion questions help each local group apply the material directly to its situation and experiences. Almost 400 copies of the DVD have been distributed to local congregations and district superintendents. Free DVDs are available from the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, and additional information about the DVD and the subject of clergy health are available at www.healthierclergy.org. Bulletin inserts on various health and wellness topics were prepared by the Committee and are available for downloading on the Kansas East Conference website at kansaseast.org/pages/detail/1360 or the Kansas West Conference website at www.kswestumc.org/pages/detail/1374.

The Committee continues to encourage local congregations, as part of their normal nominating processes, to designate a *health liaison*. This local congregational representative will be the contact point for the

committee in providing resources and promotion of health and wellness activities, including those offered by the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund. A web-based training was offered last fall for health liaisons and a recording of that training can be accessed on the Health Ministry Fund's website: www.healthfund.org/liaison. A job description and additional materials for new health liaisons can also be provided by contacting the Health Ministry Fund office.

Kansas United Methodist clergy are encouraged to participate in the annual Clergy Wellness Program. The 2012 version attracted 18 clergy (there were unfilled slots!). The 2013 clergy retreat portion of this Program will be held in Wichita on September 24th and 25th. Preceding the retreat, clergy complete an on-line health assessment and their regular annual physical, as well as specific blood work. Participants interact with spiritual counselors, financial advisors, physicians, physical therapists, dieticians, and wellness coaches during the retreat. A wellness plan is developed and on-going follow-up is provided through group and individual wellness coaching sessions. There is no charge for this opportunity of self-care valued at approximately \$2000. Interested clergy, including local pastors—full or part time, provisional members or retirees, should contact Susan Harvey at susan_harvey@cox.net for more information. The registration form and testimonials from prior participants can be viewed at www.clergywellness.org. The 2013 offering may be the final opportunity to participate.

The Kanaska Walking Challenge conducted in mid- 2012 drew 210 participants to a physical and spiritual pilgrimage, with the transition to the Great Plains Conference as the centerpiece of the participants' prayers. This Walking Challenge was facilitated through the technological capabilities of the annual conference website. Devotional guides were provided to participants and are available for congregations undertaking local walking challenges.

The Committee is engaged in contemplating its role in the new Conference structure and looks forward to additional opportunities in the coming year to be a catalyst for health and wellness for the conference and local congregations.

Kansas Area United Methodist Campus Ministry

Jim Reed, Interim Chairperson

Those of us with a commitment to the church's engagement with higher education like to point out that John Wesley was a campus minister. What happened at Christchurch and Lincoln College at Oxford actually birthed the Methodist movement. Your Kansas Area United Methodist Campus Ministry Board has sought to uphold that legacy through the stewardship of the resources provided by the Kansas West and Kansas East Conferences.

I wonder what John Wesley is saying if he knows in his heavenly Methodist group of enthusiasts that his name is attached to a group of gorillas, that is of the Pittsburg State type. Campus Minister Josh Gooding writes: "The future looks bright for Gorilla Wesley, our United Methodist campus ministry at Pittsburg State University. Thanks to facility upgrades made possible through the Bridges to the Future campaign, we will have 6-7 student leaders living in an intercultural Christian community as we seek to reach out to new people, grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, and share Christ's love through local service."

Fort Hays Campus Minister Steve Johnson reports that the United Methodist Campus Ministry at Fort Hays State University on most weeks had nearly 100 students attend one of five Bible studies, two game night socials, a mission project with Kindergarten-2nd graders, or the community meal. Hays UMC provided them with sorely needed new tables and chairs for upstairs and coordinated an extreme makeover deep cleaning event.

Then there is Emporia State where the UMCM continues to focus on worship, study, service, fellowship, leadership and resident life. This past year ESU students at the United Methodist Student Movement Conference NEXT and Campus Minister Kurt Cooper lead a group of ten students on a study tour of the Civil Rights Movement over spring break. Kurt also reports that attendance at the ESU weekly student-centered worship service continues to experience growth.

Campus Ministry at Washburn University continues to impact this municipal university with the love of Jesus Christ. Pastor Eduardo Bousson states that students participated in the biennial UMSM national event NEXT in St. Louis. They began monthly service projects in Topeka, and became a SAFEZone ally on campus. Washburn grows in worship and study as it extends its reach on campus.

Meanwhile, back in Manhattan, Campus Minister Mike Toluba indicates that the United Methodist campus ministry at K-State Wesley continues its growth. At K-State there is a community of 100 young adults, two worship services, many small groups, monthly mission projects, a spring mission trip to the inner city of Dallas, Texas. A new kitchen facility makes for great fellowship around the table. There are 35 students living in the residential community.

And on Mt. Oread, WesleyKU continues its search for property and the ministry is expanding in programming and numbers. Kara Eidson, campus pastor reports an average of 25 in worship for the 2012 year, 19 students participate in two mission trips, and 10 students have completed Disciple Bible Study. (Wesley, whose group was called "Bible Moths, is smiling). God continues work through WesleyKU on the hill in Lawrence!

Christopher Eshelman has been our campus minister at Wichita State. Developing ministries for a commuter campus has always been a challenge. Christopher has helped the Kansas Area UMC Board in looking at various options that are available through local churches. The ECM Office remains at the Rhatigan Student Center and Pastor Eshelman has been leading a contemplative prayer group and regularly meeting with students.

2013 will bring many changes, not the least of which is the transition to the Great Plains Conference. The Kansas Area commitment to campus ministry will find new avenues of expression as we join together with the folks in Nebraska. However we organize, we pray God's blessings on our efforts and we hope to make John Wesley proud.

Peace with Justice Committee

Duane Harms, Coordinator

The Kansas West Peace with Justice Committee administers the Peace with Justice annual offering (half stays in our annual conference and half goes to the General Board of Church and Society for peace with justice ministries.)

Following are projects the Kansas West Conference supports:

- KIPCOR – Kansas Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution. The main work is training people in conflict resolution. They work with churches, business, people in the court system, couples and others. Peace-related lectures are also part of KIPCOR's work. They are located in North Newton, KS.
- Peace & Social Justice Center annual Art/Essay Contest with middle school students in the Wichita area.
- Peace Connections in Newton, KS. Volunteers are trained to work as friends and mentors with persons in poverty as they seek to become trained for better work opportunities and learn how to better manage financial resources. The center also assists in other ways to enable people to break the poverty cycle.

Retirement Homes Committee

Jay Anderson, Chairperson

The Retirement Homes Committee represents Asbury Park in Newton and Wesley Towers in Hutchinson. Those on the committee are Jay Anderson, chairman, and Dennis Livingston, Clyde Woolfolk, Phyllis Schneider, and Bev Weber. Meetings are held in the District Office in Hutchinson.

Our goals are to strengthen the connection between local churches, our Retirement Homes and our Annual Conference; to increase interest in local churches in our Retirement Homes; to help local church members expand their concept in mission by getting involved in volunteering their services at our two Homes; and to encourage local churches to participate in the offerings on Retirement Homes Sunday, the third Sunday in September of each year.

United Methodist Men

Loyd Hamrick – President

This year 2013 Men's Ministry in the Kansas West Conference is fast approaching a cross road in the conference history of becoming a combined conference with the Kansas East and Nebraska Conferences.

As I reflect on Men's Ministry in the Kansas West we have had a vital ministry for men across the conference. We have strived to share ministry with each other and we have always kept our eyes on the central reason why we are UMM. We have in a lot of ways grown spiritually and we will continue to grow by building a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

As I have reported over the years – the Kansas West Conference on UMM has developed several ministries for men across our conference. The Wesleyan Building Brothers continues to grow, to draw more men into a stronger spiritual relationship, our Prison Ministry continues to grow and exceeds many prison ministries in its field, the Men's Ministry Specialist Program continues to provide men specialist to serve congregations by supporting clergy and lay leaders in ministry with men. The Men and Boys Rallies continue to be a vital ministry, by granting scholarships opportunities for students to our Methodist Colleges in the state, and these rallies continue to grow.

However, there is an event and a ministry that I really want to focus on in this year's report:

First, during the last three (3) years, there has been a constant focus on a event coming this July 12-14, 2013; the 11th Gathering of UMM at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. The title of the event is "United Methodist Men 'INSIDE OUT' For the Glory of God." This is the former Men's Gathering, that was held at Purdue University in Indiana.

There has been a tremendous amount of thought put into the planning of this event, to provide for you, an event with the structure and message that has been requested since the last gathering in 2009. The General Commission on UMM has listened and they have taken the advice of hundreds of folk, and have put together a top of the line event that will inspire, instruct and increase your relationship with Jesus Christ. If that appeals to you as a UMM, then Belmont will be the place you to be at. If there is a local church that has the desire to minister with men and boys, but need direction, this is the place for them. If there are men and boys within your church, who feel the church is just not speaking to them - this is the place for them. Pastors, if you want to find new and exciting ways men and boys can be brought to Christ – this is the place for you. If you as a leader want to have a place to bring the men or boys of your church, with assurance that they will be lovingly challenged to become Wesleyan disciples of Jesus Christ – then bring them to Belmont – because this is the place for them.

For more information visit the websites for the gathering: www.kswestumc.org/events/detail/4719 and www.kswestumc.org/videos/detail/148 and ummgathering.org

The ministry that I wanted to highlight is in conjunction with the Gathering, but it is a separate ministry for boys and that is the "Mission Impact Tour" for boys (MITour).

The Kansas West Conference Steering Committee on UMM working with the MITour Committee, is supporting this exciting ministry and we believe that this ministry will make for a wonderful transition with young men, teaching them how to connect with and trust other men and hopefully connect strongly to their local UMC. We know that young men are active in youth ministries and in some form of ministry in the UMC and this ministry introduces young men to ministry possibilities within the community of UMM.

The MITour is a 7-day tour, leaving Wichita on July 7th and returning July 14th, 2013. While on the tour the boys will be a chartered bus – the first leg of the trip, July 8th, they will travel to Christ Church in Fairview Heights, Illinois. On July 9th, the boys will work and serve at a downtown soup kitchen in St. Louis, visit the Gateway Arch, and take in a St. Louis Cardinals game at Busch Stadium. July 10th-11th work and serve at Little Grassy Camp in Illinois. July 12th and 13th, they will attend the 11th Men's Gathering in Nashville, see Don Davis and singer Phil Stacey. Don is a former KU football player and two-time Super Bowl champion for the New England Patriots. Phil Stacey was an American Idol finalist and a former Wichitan. July 14th the boys will return to Wichita.

This is to be an exciting trip for the young men of our conference and as we know it the only trip of its kind planned to work on service ministries and attending the Men's Gathering. If you can think of a young man that would like to go on this venture, visit the website at www.MissionImpactTour.org to download the application forms and instructions. Need help with registration? Send an email to JordanMcFall@MissionImpactTour@gmail.com.

So as I close – and as we draw nearer to the cross roads of becoming the Great Plains Conference, it is the prayer of the UMM leadership, in all three conferences, that we take a strong stance for all Men's

Ministries and set goals that will have an effectiveness in our missions and ministries that is not available through any other source. May we continue to do His work by developing ways to grow as men and to show new pathways for men on how they can be Godly men and to have a closer relationship with each other.

Again, I thank God for the opportunity to serve and may God Bless all men in our three conferences, as we become one in 2014.

Volunteers in Mission Committee

Janet Robinson, VIM Coordinator

Keith Fink, Interim Chairperson

Kansas West Volunteers in Mission have answered God's call to cross the street, cross the country or travel to a foreign land sharing God's mercy with those in need. Our missionaries travel with many kinds of tool kits: equipment for painting a UM mission station in Italy, VBS material for a church camp in Alaska, construction tools for tornado disaster response work in Oaklawn or home repair equipment for working in home repair with Native Americans in Cookson Hills, OK.

Of all the tools we carry, the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts is the most important of all. It is Jesus who speaks to us about the needs of the world and it is Jesus who empowers us go in His name. Our "going" is best equipped and most fruitful when our teams are blessed with Certified VIM team leaders. This has been our priority in recent years and we see the results in our Conference. We urge every district and church to seek out training for team leaders, as another way to achieve congregational excellence in mission.

We provided leadership for the MissionFest event in Newton, consulted and provided resources for church's mission planning. Committee members have presented mission programs for Sunday morning pulpit supply, for UMW groups who are mission minded, and for local church mission committee meetings or special events.

The Kansas West Conference missionaries, 870 persons in an average year, serve in about a dozen different states, and a half dozen different countries, with 85 teams at work. Teams provide their own travel and meal money, along with donations for materials at the work site.

We look forward with great anticipation the merging of Kansas East Conference, Kansas West Conference and the Nebraska Conference. Partnering with new Great Plain Conference VIM leaders and team members will enrich our service, and broaden our capabilities.

Volunteers in Mission is encouraging every church to plan an overnight mission that will bless the neighbors you serve and grow your mission outreach. God is already at work, preparing the way for you.

Focus Team

The Focus Team of the Kansas West Conference is responsible for interpreting the conference vision and holding all ministry areas and agencies accountable to that vision. The Bishop is responsible for convening this leadership body that meets to guide and evaluate the work of the ministry areas between sessions of Annual Conference. The Focus Team acts as the executive agency of the Annual Conference, accountable to the Annual Conference and empowered to make decisions between sessions unless prohibited by Judicial Council rulings. The Focus Team meets in March, July and October of each year. The minutes of those meetings are provided here for information only.

Minutes from July 14, 2012

Present: Bishop Scott Jones, Paul Burger, Kent Melcher, Linda Louderback, Carl Nord, Lew Van Der Wege, Jeff Slater, Lisa Diehl, Gary Brooks, Patrick Broz, Richard Walker, Dennis Livingston, Amy Lippoldt, Kendall Utt, Max Clayton, Carolyn May, Evelyn Fisher, Daniel Reffner, and Amy Lippoldt.

Guest: Ashley Gish.

Evelyn Fisher brought the devotion about experiencing new things and how we approach those new things. She suggested going into the wilderness dancing and praising God.

WHERE GOD HAS LED:

Evelyn Fisher reported on the Safe Gatherings certification process. Kansas East is already up and going and Kansas West's official start will be Sept. 1. In the meantime, congregations in Kansas West can choose either to participate in the online training or have in-person training using the former Boundary Awareness Training program. The program has not yet been translated into other languages, but Fisher said she can see a need to translate into Spanish for the Hispanic congregations in both conferences.

WHERE GOD IS LEADING:

RECORDS RETENTION POLICY: Evelyn presented a proposed records retention policy for the Board of Ordained Ministry and Cabinet. She asked that team members review it and provide feedback to Micki McCorkle, BOOM registrar. The final policy will be distributed to the team for approval once refined.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA: Ashley Gish reported on Imagine No Malaria activities, including the upcoming district training events and a steering committee meeting Aug. 9. She also unveiled the idea of a month-long effort to raise funds through basketball-related events in February 2013. The official goal is that every United Methodist congregation in Kansas will do something to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria by Dec. 31, 2013.

Bishop Jones said the unofficial goal for fund raising is \$10 per member in Kansas, which would be \$1.5 million, or Kansas' fair share of the total denominational goal.

Half of the money raised in Kansas West will go to projects in the Zimbabwe episcopal area and the other half will go into the worldwide Imagine No Malaria Fund.

TRANSITION: Bishop Jones reported the Uniting Conference will be Aug. 22-24, 2013, at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. The event was lengthened to enable the conference members to come together in a time of service on one afternoon. Jones said personnel policies, apportionment formula, 2014 budget, benefits packages, and conference structure will be voted on at the August assembly. Draft documents will be presented at the May and June sessions of the three conferences and perfected prior to July 15, 2013.

Working backwards, that means that the documents for review at the May and June sessions should be ready for publication by April 1. Drafts of those should be ready by March 1 so the Focus Team, Leadership Team and Common Table can review them prior to their publication. That means that there are only a few months to deal with both the adaptive and technical issues facing the new conference.

The Focus Team split into smaller groups to discuss their hopes and fears about the new conference.

- HOPE: Address adaptive questions first
- FEAR: Boggled down in technical issues
- HOPE: Annual Conference will empower local church
- HOPE: Uniting youth yearly
- HOPE: AC structure with primary goal to serve the local church
- FEAR: Not relevant to the local church
- HOPE: Set foundation now and trust we will build on it
- HOPE: Recruit new generation of clergy leaders in culture where excellence is rewarded
- HOPE: Opportunity to use the best of each conference
- FEAR: How do we connect – practically and personally – clergy with one another, local church with conference
- HOPE: Opportunity to use technology
- HOPE: Broader vision/awareness of others
- Stewards of connectionalism

BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE REQUESTS: The team considered three requests for funds.

Ft. Hays State University requested \$4,000 for their interior/exterior Extreme Makeover project. The project utilized labor from students, alumni and friends to improve the curb appeal of the building, fix the sign and do small projects inside the building to make it more inviting. It was moved and seconded to approve the request. Motion carried.

Camp Horizon requested the remainder of the funds allotted to them through the campaign to construct a worship center on the site. The request was for \$321,700, which is more than remains in their allotment. The center would seat 300 and include sound equipment, tables, chairs, restrooms and a kitchenette so it could also be used for meetings. There currently is no separate indoor space for worship or meetings outside the Dining Hall. Carl Nord moved and Kendal Utt seconded it to allocate \$307,000, or the funds remaining in the Camp Horizon allotment, toward the construction of a worship center pending a successful campaign by the camp to raise the additional funds needed for the project. Motion carried.

Wichita State University requested \$3,500 from Bridges to the Future for programming and hospitality. WSU's campus ministry did not make a request for funds at the beginning of the Bridges campaign. The request would need to be funded through undesignated funds raised through Bridges. Rev. Gary Brooks reported that the campus ministry is working to re-start itself in a difficult situation. Their space in the student center is under renovation and the non-traditional nature of the campus makes it difficult to attract students. This seems to be the year for the ministry to prove itself and the funds would be used in that effort. Conversations are ongoing between Gary, the WSU campus ministry board, Christopher Eshelman (campus minister) and University UMC. Lew Van Der Wege moved and Amy Lippoldt seconded it to approve the funds pending the outcome of the conversations on the viability of the ministry.

MISSION/DEPOSIT ACCOUNT REQUESTS : Three requests for grants from the deposit account over-funding for missional purposes were considered. A request to support GuestQuest was postponed to a future meeting.

MOODLE Training – Carl Ellis requested \$10,000 to provide training for CLM instructors and others in the use of MOODLE for distance learning. The event will be Aug. 2-3 in Salina. Questions arose over the budget, and the team voted to table consideration of the proposal until more information can be obtained. The proposal will be sent out for consideration via an email ballot.

Taking it to the Streets – The Wichita East District developed a three-part training to help local churches reach beyond the doors of the local church and engage the neighborhoods and communities around them. Since successfully conducting the workshops in their district twice, other districts have started requesting the training. The grant request would cover travel expenses and some costs of hosting the event in the other districts in the conference between July 2012 and July 2013. The Wichita East District Connectional Ministries Council requested \$4,270. Rev. Amy Lippoldt moved to amend the request to add an honorarium for the presenters for each event, bringing the total request to \$6,070. The amendment was adopted. Amy moved and Gary Brooks seconded it to approve the amended request. Motion carried.

Polycom Video Conferencing system for Salina – Lisa presented a proposal to purchase a Polycom video conferencing system for Salina placed at Salina Trinity. The pastor and IT director are very supportive of this and excited to work with the conference. An existing conference room has a monitor mounted, eliminating the need to purchase a monitor and cart for the location. The request was for \$7,272.19, which included the Polycom, purchase of a SonicWALL firewall to control access to the Polycom, and installation expenses. Dennis Livingston moved to approve. It was seconded. The motion carried.

Carl moved to affirm the email ballot approving a \$35,000 disbursement from the deposit account for the downpayment on a building for At The Well Fellowship in northwest Wichita. It was approved.

OTHER:

Carl Nord reported that conference finances are looking good for 2012 and we may end the year at a higher rate of payout than we ended 2011.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Focus Team will next meet Oct. 20 and March 16.

MissionFest will be Nov. 10 in Garden City and Nov. 11 at Trinity Heights in Newton.

EMAIL BALLOT RESULTS:

MOODLE Training Grant – Evelyn Fisher sent out a request for vote on the MOODLE Training Grant request from the Mission/Deposit Account Funds. The \$4,800 in the grant is for ongoing trainer support and posting of course materials into MOODLE for courses. The grant was approved.

Pittsburg State University: The Campus Ministry at Pittsburg State University requested the remainder of its Bridges to the Future funds for the renovation of student residential rooms at the center. The grant was approved.

Minutes from Oct. 20, 2012

Present: Patrick Broz, Evelyn Fisher, Carl Nord, Linda Louderback, Dennis Livingston, Bishop Jones, Gary Beach, Max Clayton, Carolyn May, Kendal Utt, Jeff Slater, Kent Melcher, Lisa Diehl, Amy Lippoldt, Gary Brooks.

Evelyn Fisher led devotions based on Psalm 77. Though God's footsteps are sometimes unseen, God walks with us on the journey. We are on the right road in the transition process, and we will get there eventually.

Imagine No Malaria district trainings are complete, with just over \$15,000 raised in each of the two Kansas Conferences thus far. Cards for Advent donations to INM will be available for distribution.

"Shoot for No Malaria," on February 23, 2013 will feature Bishop Jones shooting 1,000 free throws. Donors may guess his percentage for \$10, and the donor who is the closest will be taken to dinner in his/her town by Bishop Jones. The possibility of cabinet cheerleaders was raised. Other pastors may be invited to participate. Our goal is for each church to provide some opportunity to support INM by December 31, 2013.

Vital Congregations: Next Steps. Evelyn Fisher reported that more than 250 congregations in the Great Plains have been invited to enter a "Next Steps" process. There will be a series of live-stream leadership trainings, beginning in January, followed by coaching for churches who choose to continue in the process. Registration deadline is November 20.

Bishop Jones spoke to the development of a preaching studio, "Great Preaching for the Great Plains," which will be led by Dr. Alyce MacKenzie and Dr. John Holbert, from Perkins. Over a two-year period, 144 pastors will be able to participate.

The Focus Team reviewed the latest draft of the Plan of Organization for the Great Plains Annual Conference.

Carl Nord asked about missional priorities. Bishop Jones said the Transition Team has selected places where we can have the most impact on local churches and communities. That does not mean that some areas will not continue to be important, including Hispanic ministries and new church starts. Gary Beach said he thinks that there might need to be a list of priorities for the conference in addition to the set of priorities set out by the Transition Team already.

Bridges to the Future:

Rev. Kent Melcher presented \$130,000 in requests for 2013 for various New Church Development projects.

- Dodge City First – fourth year grant - \$20,000 request
- Park City – fourth year grant - \$30,000
- At the Well – second year grant - \$45,000
- Director of Hispanic Ministry - \$5,000
- Hispanic Evangelism - \$10,000
- Rosa de Sharon (Liberal) - \$20,000

Cash on hand right now is \$42,671 in undesignated funds.

Dennis Livingston moved and Patrick Broz seconded it to approve the requests from the CNCD. Motion carried.

Deposit Account requests:

Rev. Kent Melcher also presented two requests for Missional Service Grants from the Deposit Account for New Church Development. The grants for CNCD and Hispanic Ministries help balance their budgets for 2013.

The grants are for \$40,000 to CNCD and \$5,000 to Hispanic ministries.

Kent Melcher moved and Carolyn May seconded it to approve the requests from the deposit accounts. Motion carried.

Melcher said he may come back and request additional funds for At the Well, the new church start in northwest Wichita should funds be needed for an addition to the building purchased for the new church start.

Evelyn Fisher presented a request from Transition Into Ministry for \$13,151 to cover the conference's required funding for the TiM program to comply with the Lilly Grant. The motion was approved.

Carl Nord gave the financial report. Giving is up for the year over last year, and up over the several year average percentages paid. September's receipts were down slightly from the month before, but September also ended on a Sunday, meaning contributions from that Sunday would be counted toward October rather than September.

Bishop Jones reported that we have reached a settlement with the company that made the plug strip that caused the fire. The conference is getting a small portion of what the insurance company will receive through the out of court settlement.

Carl and Gary also presented a list of accounts with balances that carry forward after the end of the year. They are beginning to discuss what needs to happen to close out the accounts by the end of 2014. The bishop suggested that all the entities with carry over provide a plan to Carl and Gary by Feb. 15 for how they would spend their carry over funds and then Carl and Gary will bring those forward to the Focus Team at its March building.

Carl and Gary asked the Focus Team to discuss how the deposit account funds might be used in the budget for the new Great Plains area. The consensus is that we are open to using those funds but cautious about how they are used in the new conference budget.

Upcoming dates:

Feb. 22-23 basketball game for Imagine No Malaria

March 16 – Focus Team

April 27 and 28 – Impact Community events

Patrick Broz closed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes from March 16, 2013

Present: Bishop Scott Jones, Max Clayton, Amy Lippoldt, Carl Nord, Lew Van der Wege, Gary Brooks, Linda Louderback, Dennis Livingston, Lisa Diehl, Jeff Slater, Kent Melcher, Kendal Utt, Evelyn Fisher. Carolyn May was present via Polycom.

Evelyn Fisher led the devotion focusing on God's delight in providing us rest as we move through the transitions ahead of us.

Imagine No Malaria – Evelyn Fisher reported February was a busy month. More events are happening than we know about. If your congregation is having an event, be sure to register it on www.shootfornomalaria.net. Ashley Gish has moved to Nashville. April 25 is World Malaria Day. So far, the conference has raised \$47,459.35 since Jan. 1, 2012, for the initiative.

Vital Congregations – Kent Melcher requested a grant of \$125,000 from the Missional Opportunities Fund for At the Well Fellowship to service debt for the addition to their building addition. The request was approved.

Transition Team. Bishop Scott Jones led the discussion of Draft 7.6. Draft 8 will be released between April 15 and April 19.

Amy Lippoldt asked about the size of the Connecting Council. Bishop Jones said the group will not be generative, but rather the point was to get as many voices at the table as possible to ensure the conference moves toward its goals.

Evelyn Fisher said the team leaned more toward creating smaller teams, with notable exceptions for the Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Council on Youth Ministry.

Carolyn May asked how functions of the Board of Laity would be cared for. Evelyn said they would be cared for under Vital Congregations.

Carl Nord asked about the creation of an Audit Review Committee. Bishop Jones said it is not required by the Book of Discipline. Carl suggested it would be needed because of the sizeable increase in the conference budget. Bishop Jones said he would add language under the Council on Finance and Administration that an Audit Review Committee would be formed.

Carolyn asked about the proposed relationship between the new conference and the six camps. She said she was particularly concerned about Camp Lakeside. Evelyn said the Lakeside Board met last week and decided not to decide now if they would be part of the new Great Plains organization. Conversation will be ongoing. A meeting is planned for April 2 and 3 at Camp Comeca.

Bishop Jones said he met with the board for two hours earlier this year, and the current language in the plan is reflective of that conversation. One concern is ownership of the land. Bishop Jones said he is happy for the local site board to continue to own the land. Second, the concern was over who elects the local site board and what they have power to make decisions on. Bishop Jones said in his mind the site director should be a conference hire or appointment at the recommendation of the local site board and the conference camping committee, with the power to hire and fire local staff.

Amy said she was concerned about the Candidacy Summit in early 2014 since the staff person to oversee the event will not come on board until July 1, 2014. She asked that Rev. Carol Roettmer Brewer work on this event as part of her transition responsibilities.

There was much discussion around district superintendent salaries and ways to get all 17 superintendents to an equitable salary level.

The conversation was suspended upon the arrival of Kim Moore from the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund. Kim presented an overview of changes to the organization's articles of incorporation, proposed to bring the articles into alignment with the creation of the Great Plains Conference. The summary of changes is attached at the end of these minutes.

The changes were approved.

Kim reported that the Health Ministry Fund intends to open its programs to the whole area, including Nebraska, but to continue to offer its grants to Kansas churches.

Kim also requested that the Focus Team elect the corrected list of trustees for UM Health Ministry Fund. Gary Brooks moved. Dennis Livingston seconded. Motion carried.

Attention was returned to the Transition Team report.

The team reviewed the Askings, or the list of institutions that would receive funds through the 1-percent asking recommended by the Great Plains CFA. The total allocated is less than can be raised with a 1-percent asking.

Lew Van Der Wege moved to ask the Transition Team to look at the institutions' askings to bring greater equity between institutions related to the three conferences and to address a provision for extra money bringing the total to 1,583,884 (the amount raised with a 1% asking). Gary Brooks seconded it. The motion was approved.

2014 Budget: Carl Nord expressed concern about the use of the Missional Opportunities funds in the budget, reducing the amount from 25 percent for missional opportunities to 10 percent for missional opportunities in the 2014 budget.

Finance Report: Carl Nord reported that receipts had been up this year until the past couple of weeks.

Request from Sessions for contingent funds to cover the expense of the Uniting Conference: Lew moved and Dennis seconded it to refer to CFA the request from the Kansas West Sessions Committee to allocate \$33,000 toward the expense of the Uniting Conference in August. Approved.

CFA took some action at its meeting March 7 in regard to the various accounts that have balances at the end of the year. CFA proposes placing those funds into the deposit account where they can be used for ministry and not just into reserves. Dennis Livingston moved and Max Clayton seconded it to affirm CFA's decision. Approved.

Bishop shared his idea for a capital campaign for leadership development, particularly for Transition Into Ministry and Seminary Scholarship Endowment. Members expressed support for the idea and its power to unite the three conferences and bring focus to efforts to recruit younger clergy. Bishop is going to craft a motion for the three leadership groups to approve recommending the three conferences engage in a feasibility study for a capital campaign for leadership development.

There was support for at least one additional meeting of the Focus Team in 2013.

Meeting was adjourned.

Marketing & Communications Council

Rev. Jeff Slater, Chairperson
Kathie Monroe, Council Secretary

The Kansas West Conference Marketing and Communications Council will end its ministry at the close of 2013. Council members celebrate the work of marketing and communications and offer a short review of the changes in the ways we communicate.

Over the course of the past 44 years, communications has taken many forms. From the 1968 Journal, Mrs. Paul (Marj) Matthaai reports "In these days of uncertainty, frustration, and so much hopelessness, we believe that it is increasingly necessary that people know that the United Methodist Church is at work trying to lift up each individual's importance as a child of God.

"Proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is comparatively easy, but really communicating it to people outside our inner circle of devout Christians is much more difficult. One of the chief ways that we emphasize the Christ-like concern of our church for people is to let them know what we are doing—and thinking—through the public news media, such as newspapers, radio and television."

The methods used in those early years of the Kansas West Conference included telephone, mailings, and 12 annual editions of the TOGETHER Kansas News Inserts. Communications took the lead in obtaining a WATS line for the conference office and was responsible for the Audio Visual Library, now the Kansas Resource Center.

In 1972, the conference approved the creation of a monthly newspaper for United Methodists and selected the name "Crossfire." The Crossfire was published up to 12 times a year from 1973 to 1984, when the Crossfire/United Methodist Reporter edition began, which was published 26 times a year. In 2001, publication of the conference newspaper was brought back to Kansas and the relationship with the United Methodist Reporter ended. Between 1984 and 2013, the paper changed its name to the Kansas West Conference Review, and in 1999 to the Kansas West Connection. The council plans to continue the publication through the end of 2013.

For many years, United Methodists produced radio programs of word and music. In 1985, the focus turned to airing radio advertising during Holy Week and Advent, which continued until funding was no longer available. In 1989, a special Christmas radio program was first produced and continued through 2002.

From 1968 to 1984, the Kansas East and Kansas West conferences shared a part-time communications director. In 1985, a full-time communications specialist was hired to lead communication efforts for the Kansas West Conference. The focus shifted from ensuring United Methodism was prominent in public media to providing training and resources to local churches for better communication practices.

Educational opportunities were provided in person and through participation in national training programs delivered via satellite. Today, many of those training resources have been replaced with online training opportunities.

Video production began in the early 1990s. At the 1992 Annual Conference, a video created by the communications specialist was shown to illustrate the many ministries of the conference. Today, more than 20 videos are produced annually to interpret the ministries of the conference, celebrate the retirement of conference clergy, illustrate the Bridges to the Future capital campaign and share messages from the bishop. Since 2001, the conference has done several live events streamed over the internet, including three of the five Next Steps webinars in 2013 for congregations moving toward vitality through this program.

In 1993, the council started focusing on television advertising, which coincided with a grand experiment by the General Commission on Communications to explore the possibility of increasing awareness of the denomination through TV advertising. Kansas West was fortunate to participate in the pilot project, and received matching grant funds for advertising from 2001 to 2008 through the Igniting Ministry campaign.

The conference had its first website in 1999, hosted for free by the General Board of Global Ministries. Eventually, a unique domain name was purchased, www.kswestumc.org, and the hosting was moved to a paid host in 2001 when the site was significantly redesigned. The site has since been redesigned in 2005, 2007 and 2010. The site went from a handful of pages and only communications information to a robust site with more than 300 pages, online church and clergy directories, and dynamically generated news pages. In 2012, 66,010 people visited the site. In 2005, a weekly electronic newsletter was started to help generate additional traffic to the website. Today, the Weekly Update is delivered to more than 1,400 people each week.

In 2006, the Kansas East and Kansas West Conferences again agreed to share communications staff, which resulted in the hiring of additional staff to carry out the work of producing videos and live broadcasts, generating website content and electronic newsletters, interpreting giving and providing support for public media inquiries and crisis response.

The communications staff has won a number of awards over the past several years for excellence in social media, video production, web design, writing and multi-media presentations. The 2011-2012 Quadrennial Sexual Ethics Training, which included PowerPoint and original videos written and produced by conference staff, received an Award of Excellence by the United Methodist Association of Communicators.

In 2012, Lisa Elliott Diehl, Kansas communications director, and Kathryn Witte, Nebraska communications director, were awarded Communicator of the Year by the United Methodist Association of Communicators. The pair were nominated because they made the most of a difficult situation and covenanted to work together to interpret the work of the Nebraska-Kansas Episcopal Area Transition Team.

Throughout its history, the council and its predecessor committees have sought input from congregations and leaders across the conference to identify needs and ministry opportunities. Most recently, the council participated in an audit of communications in the three conferences of the Great Plains Area.

Two themes were identified in the audit:

- **Stories.** In one way or another, stories were important to the leaders interviewed and those who answered the survey questions. Stories about mission outreach and stories about local churches tied for second (after keeping informed about local church happenings) as the most important reason to read conference newsletters and enewsletters.
- **Changing demographics.** The reality of shrinking communities, and shrinking congregations located there, was mentioned numerous times during the audit process. The needs of these congregations can't be ignored, but they may not have the ability to keep up with the latest communication technologies. The question of where our resources are best used underlies many of the choices before the new Great Plains Conference.

The report also contained recommendations for moving forward into the new Great Plains Conference. Those recommendations are being reviewed and will inform the practices of the communications office for the Great Plains United Methodist Conference.

As the Marketing and Communications Council prepares to hand off responsibilities to the new conference, the future of the UMC Web Press project remains secure through 2014. The model for training

will be one-on-one via online learning tools rather than by bringing a large group together with a trainer at a central location. The one-on-one training has been more effective than the centralized training event due to the varying levels of expertise among the participants.

Other Reports

Great Plains United Methodist Rural Advocates (GPUMRA)

Russell Fincham, President

The Great Plains United Methodist Rural Advocate (GPUMRA) organization, formerly the United Methodist Rural Fellowship (UMRF), is remaking itself as our three conferences are. Already representatives from Nebraska have been elected to and installed onto the Executive Committee. In the last year we have had a visioning conference at which Bishop Jones was one of those addressing the fifty some present from Kansas and Nebraska. We were delighted that Mrs. Jones attended for a period as well. Out of the visioning effort grew many excellent ideas as how the organization might be an advocate for rural and small membership churches. Out of those ideas, three were selected to focus on first:

1. To connect churches that wished to develop a sister relationship with another congregation from a different part of our new conference. This would initially be between congregations that were represented at the conference thereby serving as models for additional congregations.
2. A committee was established to develop community and cooperation among churches and pastors.
3. A committee was established for identifying and development of resources specific to smaller membership churches. In addition to these three areas of new focus, the By-laws have been rewritten and that new document is being presented to membership for their prayerful consideration.

As you may be noticing, there has been a real shift in the new GPUMRA from fellowship to advocacy. This shift is reflected in the new proposed By-laws as well. If approved, among other things, an Advisory Council will be established. This council will consist of one elected person from each district. This person will report to the Executive Board concerns and successes of small membership churches in her/his district. This person will also be responsible for relating in what ways GPUMRA might be an asset to their church in ministry. As you can see, a much more efficient two way communication will be established. An annual gathering of the District Advisory Council members will provide additional opportunity for the district representatives to share news from their corner of the Great Plains Conference and hear from others, listen to an informative speaker brought in to support and challenge, and of course, share in a meaningful worship event together.

This past year a \$1,000 grant was awarded to the Baldwin City UMC for ministry reaching into the community. Grants have been made available for Kansas East and Kansas West small membership churches again this year.

Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

Steven P. Childs, President & Executive Director

INVESTMENTS

The Foundation's investment program is designed to assist churches and church-related agencies in investing for short term and longer term needs. The Foundation offers investment funds that are invested in accordance with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, as well as other investment funds. The total gross value of all assets owned by the Foundation and funds managed by the Foundation as of December 31, 2012 is \$43,981,753, which is the highest value of assets managed by the Foundation in its history.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND

The Foundation administers a Church Development Loan Fund, providing funds for capital improvements and operating expenses for local United Methodist Churches, annual conferences and related agencies. Application forms for these loans are available at the Foundation's office or on the Foundation's website at www.kaumf.org. The Foundation has made loans for \$16,586,577 to 79 churches and related agencies since the inception of the loan fund in 1996. Funds for this loan program are obtained from Certificates of Participation, which are investments made by persons who are members of or participating in a local

United Methodist Church, and by local churches and agencies themselves. The Certificates are currently offered for one and two year maturities, and pay an interest rate higher than the prevailing Certificate of Deposit Rates at area financial institutions. Application forms and disclosure statements are available from the Foundation's office or on the Foundation's website. Certificates of Deposit total \$6,524,489 as of December 31, 2012. Additional funds are always needed, as loan requests consistently exceed the amount of funds on hand to loan to eligible borrowers.

PLANNED GIVING WORKSHOPS

The Foundation conducts workshops in churches on estate planning for individuals, including wills, revocable trusts, durable powers of attorney for health care and for asset management in the event of disability, and tax planning. An emphasis of the workshops is to encourage gifts to churches and church agencies through bequests in wills and revocable trusts, life income trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, pension plans, life estate gifts or other forms of gifts to support the ongoing and future ministries of the donor's church and/or related church agencies. The Foundation will also provide individual estate planning consultation at no cost by John Griffin, J.D. and Steve Childs, J.D. There is no charge to churches for planned giving workshops.

STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

The Foundation continues to expand its stewardship services to United Methodist Churches by providing educational workshops and individual church consultation on stewardship issues by Lee Sankey, Director of Stewardship Services for the Foundation. The Foundation's focus on stewardship is currently in four areas:

Annual Commitment Programs, by assisting churches to understand their need to have an annual commitment program, and helping churches implement a selected annual commitment program;

Capital Campaigns, by serving as campaign consultants on a fee basis for church capital campaigns;

Financial Management Courses for individuals through Good \$ense Life Curriculum by providing leader training for the Freed Up Financial series for churches, and by training individuals to be Good \$ense Budget Counselors for churches or clusters of churches. The Foundation can also assist churches with other financial management courses that are available to churches;

Stewardship consulting, by being available to churches to explore the theology and function of Christian stewardship in a local church setting, and helping churches organize themselves for year round stewardship.

As members of a congregation grow in their understanding of transformational giving through these workshops and consultations, churches can create cultures of generosity where all avenues of giving reinforce one another as they are used to answer God's call for their congregation.

ENDOWMENT FUNDSERVICES

More and more churches are establishing endowment funds to support their ongoing ministries, help fund new ministries and to ensure that these ministries will exist in future years. The Foundation can assist churches in drafting the endowment fund's organizational charter, and establishing the investment policies, administration policies and marketing for the endowment. Assistance in the ongoing work and development of the local church endowment fund is also provided by the Foundation's staff. An endowment fund does not replace regularly budgeted items in a church's operating budget, but seeks to develop funds for ministries that allow for spending over, above and beyond the regular budget needs of churches.

The Foundation provides its endowment fund services free of charge for churches. The Foundation's primary role is to work as a consultant with endowment fund committees of churches as they create the necessary organizational documents and policy statements for new endowment funds, and as they continue to grow the assets in these funds.

TRUSTS

The Foundation serves as Trustee of various charitable trusts and split interest trusts for individuals. The split interest trusts can provide income to a donor for their life, and then to their church and/or other charitable organizations on the death of the donor as determined by the donor.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

The Foundation does issue annuities that provide income to the donor for life, and then upon their death the remaining assets are paid to their church and/or other charitable organizations. There are great tax advantages in charitable gift annuities to help increase income to annuitants as well as charitable deductions for income tax purposes.

LOCAL CHURCH AUDITS

The Foundation's Chief Financial Officer, Michele Ellis, is a CPA, and will provide the annual audit statements as required by The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church for local churches at a negotiated fee.

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

Kim Moore, President

As we close our historic 27-year relationship with the Kansas West Conference, we want to provide some general statistics about our operation. The Health Ministry Fund started with a \$30 million endowment provided by the Conference as part of the sale of Wesley Medical Center in Wichita to Hospital Corporation of America. Our investment fund was \$55 million by the end of 2012. Investments in programs for the full period of operation totaled \$60.5 million at year-end, and awards had gone to more than 900 separate organizations in virtually every corner of Kansas. The transfer of our relationship from Kansas West to the Great Plains Conference will be solidified with amendments made to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, preserving the legal ties and, more importantly, permitting the strong flavor of our work to be United Methodist for the foreseeable future.

In 2012, the Health Ministry Fund awarded more than \$2,142,000 in grant and programming supports.

The focus on young children's mental health, young children's healthy lifestyles and access to primary care for all Kansans was evident in those awards. Five more community collaborations located in Greensburg, Colby, Abilene, Liberal and Salina received significant funding to develop community-level screening, referral and treatment systems for behavioral and emotional health of young children and their families. Existing communities continuing this work include counties in southwest Kansas, Hutchinson, Wichita, Independence and Hays. United Methodist Youthville received \$34,544 to integrate mental health care for young children into medical care delivery in Wichita. Continued support for the endorsement process of the Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Newton, was provided so that broad groups of professional interacting with very young children can improve their abilities to work with the emotional and behavioral health issues of those children and their families.

The focus on young children's healthy lifestyles was developed through new work in breastfeeding, additional child care provider training and incentives, renewal of five community collaborations and start-up of three fetal infant mortality review boards in Junction City, Topeka, and Kansas City. The breastfeeding work—High Five for Mom and Baby—provides training, policy and practice support, and scholarships to Kansas hospitals desiring to adopt five proven practices to improve breastfeeding initiation and duration rates. Already fifteen Kansas hospitals have joined the program and dozens of hospital personnel are receiving in-depth lactation training.

Our work in improving primary access to medical care continued to focus on frontier and rural health systems. An advisory group of 25 Kansans is putting final touches on a request for proposals to engage four communities in analyzing and re-designing their local health systems. This grant opportunity involving several funders should be available by mid-2013. Southwestern College received \$12,000 to support development of a new rural health administrator certificate program. A grant of \$151,542 went to GraceMed to implement expanded young children's health services in Wichita. Advocacy grants continue to support Kansas Action for Children with the registered dental therapist project, Kansas Health Consumer Coalition, Oral Health Kansas and Kansas Center for Economic Growth. We remain interested in developing programs on the Affordable Care Act for interested groups.

Our congregational health ministry work continues to grow with 19 congregations currently in the team training process. We awarded certified team grants of \$1000 to 14 Kansas West congregations: Agenda; Beloit First; Chapel Hill, Wichita; Concordia First; Corbin; Hoisington First; Hutchinson First; Kechi; Kirwin; Mt. Hope; Nickerson; Salina Trinity; Salina University; and Winfield First. Kansas West Churches filing reports or receiving training grants included Aldersgate, Wichita; Augusta First; Bethany, Wichita; College

Hill, Wichita; Dawson, Wichita; Madison Avenue, Derby; and Pratt First. The Self-Care Servant Leadership Training workshops are available in on-line editions (started February 2013) and also can be sponsored by United Methodist groups for on-site delivery at Health Ministry Fund expense. The Health Ministry Fund supported the work of the Area Health and Wellness Committee, including developing of the DVD for Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committees and operation of the Clergy Wellness Program. The annual retreat for Kansas UMC congregational health ministry teams and other local leaders is held in April with approximately 100 in attendance.

The decision about how to use the \$30 million available from the sale of Wesley Medical Center was a hotly debated topic in 1985 for the Kansas West Conference. We suspect not everyone to this day agrees that the investment of those funds in the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund was the best idea. However, we hope that our continuing work has eased the minds of many as we continue to apply this gift from the Kansas West Conference to strategic opportunities to advance health, healing and wholeness for all Kansans.

United Methodist Youthville

Matt Johnson, Director of Church Operations

United Methodist Youthville received notice from the Department for Children and Families, formerly known as SRS, that services involving reintegration, case management and adoption for the Wichita region will be transferred to St. Francis Community Services (SFCS). Youthville will no longer provide these specific services effective July 1, 2013. This notice was a shock to the Youthville staff and many others

United Methodist Youthville, however, is not ending its services to youth and children. Youthville will continue to be an institutional ministry of the Kansas Area United Methodist Church. The agency will provide services to more than 700 children and youth across Kansas through the Dodge City campus, a secure-care facility in Newton, the counseling services in Wichita, Dodge City and Concordia and the foster-care program across the state.

Kansas West United Methodist Churches have stood with Youthville since the agency's beginning in 1927. Thank you for your faithful giving through the Kansas East Conference advanced special and other offerings. Your gifts will continue to serve the needs of children and youth.

Please make a special effort to pray for the Youthville leadership team and board in the days ahead.

Youthville provides volunteer opportunities, on-site tours, mentoring with our kids, gift-in-kind collections, cash offerings, conducting a worship service on a campus (Newton or Dodge City), speakers for your church/group to help the churches of the East Conference to fulfill their mission to connect and empower people and churches in living out the Gospel's call to invite, nurture, equip, and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ.

Youthville is looking to establish a Youthville Ambassador at every church in the Kansas West Conference. A Youthville Ambassador is a liaison between Youthville and their church. This person is passionate about Youthville – many are the mission committee leader or UMW president or pastor or a lay person. Currently, 73 churches have an assigned Ambassador. If you would like more information about how your church can get involved with Youthville, please call Matt Johnson, Director of Church Operations, 316.529.9215 or email mjohnson@youthville.org.

Africa University

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Africa University is profoundly grateful to the churches of the Kansas West Conference for closing the gap in 2012! After two years at between 82% and 85%, the conference took its investment back to what it was in 2009—giving 100% of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF). Thank you, Kansas West, for being one of the 27 annual conferences to invest at 100% or higher in the AUF last year.

By giving generously, you provide financial aid for needy students. Your continuing investment ensures that Africa University has dedicated faculty to inspire, train and nurture a generation of new leaders. Thanks to you, the university can plan with confidence, knowing that it can rely on the church's ongoing investment in the AUF to meet its day-to-day and operational expenses.

We urge you to continue to invest in the AUF at 100% of the asking, or higher. Demand for an Africa University education is growing. More than 1,200 qualified applicants sought admission in August 2012. The university had space for only about 400 freshmen. Currently, women account for 52% of the total enrollment, which stands at 1,386 students. In addition, 25 African nations are represented in the student body.

Scholarships and financial aid grants are vital to access. More than 90% of the students at Africa University need assistance—scholarships, financial aid grants and work study—in order to pay their tuition and other fees. For the vast majority, a direct or endowed scholarship award made possible by your generosity is their only means of attending university.

Throughout 2012, the 20th anniversary celebrations highlighted the crucial role that Africa University is already playing in the life of our global church. The Rev. Dr. Laishi Bwalya, for example, is superintendent of the Zambia Provisional Conference and a member of the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church for 2013-2016. Africa University graduates serve as directors on general agency boards and in regional leadership roles. Across Africa, graduates are helping to eradicate hunger, poverty, disease, conflict and hopelessness. When disaster strikes, they lead the church's efforts to mitigate suffering and help communities rebound.

Africa University's full potential is not yet realized. For every graduate, there are hundreds of gifted persons who are praying for a chance to be equipped to serve. That's why Africa University is doubling its efforts to raise scholarships and develop more online distance learning programs.

We thank you for believing in, praying for and investing in Africa University. With your gifts and prayers, the churches of the Kansas West Conference have helped to establish a life-changing ministry. Please give faithfully. Help us to continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ who bring hope and healing to their communities.

Remember to pray for your Africa University. Changing Africa: Learning here. Living here. Leading here. Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.

Drew University Theological School

Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Dean

Drew Theological School, deeply rooted in its United Methodist heritage, is a place that empowers its students to conceive and implement dynamic ministries. Drew offers the MDiv, MA, MAM, STM, DMin, and PhD degrees, as well as certifications in Camp and Retreat Ministry, and Spiritual Formation. Academically rigorous and spiritually engaging, Drew develops religious leadership prepared for these ever-changing times. Drew welcomes people of all faiths, but we are particularly interested in building up the United Methodist ethos that is part of our historic Wesleyan heritage. **Drew offers 100% tuition scholarships to all United Methodists who meet all admissions requirements and have a 3.2 undergraduate GPA or higher.**

In June 2012, I was pleased to welcome to Drew's campus representatives from 8 of the 13 United Methodist seminaries, staff members from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, one Bishop, and representatives from three annual conferences. We hosted the first annual conference on Theological Education and Clergy Health co-sponsored by the Center for Clergy and Congregational Health and Wholeness at Drew and the Center for Health of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This three-day conference addressed issues of the current poor state of clergy health in relationship to Theological Education in order to begin to understand the impact of seminaries on students' health.

It was also my pleasure to host the September 2012 Theological Conference at Drew entitled, *The Future of Christian Spirituality and Interreligious Interaction* in honor of Dr. Pyun, Sun Hwan. Over the course of the three days, an array of speakers from the U.S., Korea, and other countries engaged attendees and one another on topics such as "Interreligious Dialogue Versus Interreligious Theology," "The Future of Comparative Theology," and "Interreligious Theology, Liberation, and the Church."

It was also a great pleasure to welcome alumni/ae back to campus for the Tipple Vosburgh lectures in the fall. This year's topic was "Faith, Race, and Politics" which provided opportunities to hear the voices and visions of activists, scholars, and church leaders responding to this unique and timely dilemma.

Creative, cutting-edge, inclusive, multi-cultural, social justice ministry is part of the legacy of Drew, and I am proud to be associated with it! Below are just a few other ministries that make me proud to be associated with Drew.

Building up the United Methodist Connection

I have enjoyed meeting Bishops and many Boards of Ordained Ministry to convey our desire at Drew to be a resource to the entire denomination. I am particularly pleased that Drew is hosting a January Term class taught by UM Bishops. This past January, Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Eastern PA and Peninsula Delaware Conference, taught a class entitled, Topics in Pastoral Care: Disabilities and the Church. Her class led worship recently in chapel and shared just how important this course was in forming a compassionate, inclusive and prophetic vision for the church. In January of 2014, Bishop Jane Middleton will teach a class on Ministry and Health.

United Methodist Liaison at Drew

The Rev. Jeff Markay continues to work with our UM students by introducing them to the leaders and resources within our denomination. He helps them navigate the process toward commissioning and ordination as well as with issues of discernment. We have monthly UM Lunches to meet with bishops, and leaders of the general agencies, conferences and connection.

United Methodist Deacon Liaison at Drew

We are also grateful to have the Rev. Susan Worrell as the Deacon Liaison on campus who shares resources and wisdom with those hearing a call to the Ministry of the Deacon in the UMC.

Bishop in Residence: Bishop Ernest Lyght

It was with great joy and excitement that I announced the appointment of Retired Bishop Ernest S. Lyght as the Bishop-in-Residence at the Theological School beginning March 1, 2013. I anticipate this appointment to continue until 2015. In this position, Bishop Lyght will teach and mentor students and be a presence on campus.

National Shalom Ministry of the UMC

Communities of Shalom, now in its 6th year at Drew, completed its curricular redevelopment of ShalomZone Training, which is now available through a cadre of certified national and regional trainers under the leadership of national director, the Rev. Dr. Michael Christensen.

Center for Clergy and Congregational Health and Wholeness

In October 2012 Dean Ginny Samuel made a presentation to members of the AUMTS (Deans and Presidents of the 13 United Methodist Seminaries) about the state of clergy health. She was accompanied by a staff person from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Anne Borish, and together they invited AUMTS members to participate in the longitudinal study. While there was a unanimous support for this study, thus far Drew and Duke Divinity School are the two participating seminaries. We expect that more seminaries will join the study in the coming years. This collaborative effort will support efforts to make needed changes in the structures and programs of an MDiv degree to encourage and support students' attention to their own health and well-being.

In February we launched the Seminary to Ministry longitudinal study in partnership with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. This study will track MDiv students during their time in seminary and for the first five years in ministry. Results of the survey will be helpful to faculty in its revision of the MDiv curriculum as it informs them about the realities of student health and well-being while they are at Drew.

We at Drew look forward to working with the good and faithful people of the UMC as we forge deeper friendships in the shared ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. For more information about Drew, please visit us at: www.drew.edu.

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Kim Cape, Office of the General Secretary

Greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry! Since returning from Tampa last May, GBHEM staff has been busy with two initiatives assigned to the Board by the 2012 General Conference — the **Young Clergy Initiative** and the **Central Conference Theological Education Fund**. In addition to these two major new initiatives, here are some other ways GBHEM is working hard to resource our church:

- GBHEM's Division of Ordained Ministry trained Group Candidacy Mentors for 32 annual conferences, and about 1,000 BOM members, BOM staff, dCOM members, and DSEs in ministry legislation for the new quadrennium. Webinars of some trainings are posted at www.gbhem.org/bom/webinars.
- Work began on the **Young Clergy Initiative** with a summit held in Nashville. Staff are surveying data about young clergy, mentoring, and debt; and also considering forming partnerships, sharing best practices, and creating or supporting pilot programs to test what works.
- The **Commission on Central Conference Theological Education** meets August 25-29 in Copenhagen. The commission will set the policies and procedures governing disbursement of funds from the Central Conference Theological Education Fund.
- **Africa University** just celebrated its twentieth anniversary and is launching a major new fundraising campaign to ensure its financial independence. Since its founding, more than 4,000 AU graduates are changing the face of Africa.
- More than 560 college students, campus ministers, and chaplains attended *Imagine What's NEXT* last fall, an event which focused on helping students consider the next faithful steps for their vocations, communities, churches, and the world.
- For the 2012-2013 academic year, GBHEM's Office of Loans and Scholarships awarded 2,204 recipients a total of \$4,803,604, all accomplished while converting to a new loans and collections software. Read more at www.gbhem.org/loansandscholarships.
- For the first time, an issue of *Interpreter* magazine was devoted to a single topic — United Methodist higher education. The March / April 2013 issue chronicles the commitment of the denomination to education, with a special emphasis on students.
- Planning is well underway and registration is open for **Exploration 2013**, a three-day event for young adults age 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. The event will be held in Denver, Colo., on November 15-17. Read more or register at www.gbhem.org/exploration.
- GBHEM is collaborating with GBOD to raise \$30,000 to buy 100 electronic books preloaded with text for professors and students at the Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia. Donate online at www.gbod.org/ereaderproject.
- Training materials for annual conference BOMs, presentations from a church-wide sexual ethics summit, and a lecture by a well-known civil rights activist are among the materials now available through the UMC Cyber Campus, part of the new UMC Learn Portal. See the presentations at www.gbhem.org/umccybercampus

Lydia Patterson Institute

Socorro de Anda, President

In the late 1800's a Methodist woman named Lydia Patterson answered God's call to ministry with the children of immigrant families crossing the US-Mexico border and settling in South El Paso, Texas. In October, 1913, the Methodist Church opened the doors of a school in memory of this woman, Lydia Patterson Institute. In 2013, one hundred years later, we celebrate the thousands of lives that have been touched and changed through the love of Christ and the vision of one Methodist lay woman. We rejoice in the celebration of 100 years of educating thousands of students, forming leaders for the church, breaking the cycle of poverty in countless families, and bringing Jesus Christ to generations of young men and women. Numerous activities are planned in celebration of Lydia Patterson's 100th Anniversary throughout the year, but the most thankful celebration is that of proudly claiming the definition of a true ministry of the United Methodist Church.

In the last few years, Lydia Patterson has seen the pain in the faces of students caught in the rage of drug wars, murder, and instability in their home town. Lydia Patterson has served as their safe haven in a world of violence. By the grace of God, this past year has begun to see a more peaceful neighboring city of Juarez, Mexico. In a U.S. report, Juarez has dropped from being the most dangerous city in the world to number 19 in a list of 50. El Paso, on the other hand, has once more been rated as the 3rd safest city in the country.

As a result, our enrollment is back up to 430 students with a goal of 500 for the next school year. Parents are regaining their confidence, and many are returning to work. The need to continue to help these families more than ever, is evident. The number of scholarship students increased three-fold. We are grateful to the number of churches and friends that have stepped up and supported us with scholarship funds and apportionments for continued operations.

Last May, we graduated 81 students, all of which are in college today. The graduating class received \$1.3 million in scholarships from United Methodist colleges and universities. Ninety-five percent of our graduating students are going to college.

In 1913, when Mr. Patterson gave \$75,000 to the Methodist church to build Lydia Patterson, he asked that boys be trained to lead the Hispanic churches springing along the Rio Grande. The school opened its Ministerial Program. Many of the pastors leading churches in the Rio Grande Conference received their training here, including an Episcopal bishop. Today, Lydia Patterson trains young men and women through its Student Lay Ministry Program. Students serve in internships in local churches while at Lydia Patterson and while attending college. Many have chosen to pursue their calling by moving on to seminary.

Lydia Patterson is looking forward to its second 100 years. In preparation, it is engaged in a capital campaign to renovate its campus and equip it with the latest state of the art technology. Classrooms are being renovated. Student services will be enriched with a new media and research center and computer and science labs. New dining and fine arts facilities will be built, including a new chapel where students will be able to worship together.

The board of trustees has pledged its total commitment to the campaign. One-hundred percent of the faculty and staff have pledged to the campaign and students, alumni and parents are equally committed. The El Paso community has joined the South Central Jurisdiction and will be remembered as the creators of the legacy of the second one hundred years of "La Lydia".

Our appreciation goes out to every member of this conference, the bishop and all those who join us to prepare for the next 100 years and to continue to make a difference as we change lives and form disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc.

Abby Foster, Chief Executive Officer

"Renewal" is the new mantra on the Mountain! Just as the United Methodist Church is taking its rightful place in the worldwide awakening of the Body of Christ so too is the Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center. The year 2012 marked the inaugural year for our transition from a facility that simply emphasizes Christian hospitality to a **Premier United Methodist Conference and Resort Center** that provides **Relevant Training and Networking** for United Methodist clergy and laity, **21st century Functionality and Amenities** in event and lodging facilities, a **Captivating Environment** with walking trails and botanical gardens, and **Purposeful Ownership** driving honor and esteem for our institution.

As we embrace God's Purpose for Mount Sequoyah in the 21st century, we continue to seek, welcome and gather visitors and guests from every generation, race, gender and religion. On the Mountain our guests enjoy an environment where they are both functionally and spiritually connected with God and nature. They come to Mount Sequoyah for lodging, business meetings, educational events, family reunions, weddings, recreation and spiritual growth. The 13,000 guests we served in our United Methodist Environment in 2012 included College Students, United Methodists, Corporate Leaders, Veterans, University Parents, Bikers, Educators and Families. Every guest, without exception, is surrounded by the icons and spiritual disciplines of our faith and with the hospitality we extend, they are introduced to United Methodist practices and principles, most notably John Wesley's three simple rules... Do No Harm. Do Good. Stay in Love With God.

Mount Sequoyah Center ended the year with a substantial net income for the first time since 2006 and we want to thank the Kansas West Conference for the part you are playing in our success. In addition to the apportionments you offered, United Methodist utilization of the facilities provided \$170,000 of our \$1.5M revenue in 2012 with over \$14,000 coming directly from the Kansas Conferences from such groups as The Young Christian Singers from FUMC Leavenworth, Church of the Resurrection, and the Wichita VIM. We send a special thank you to your Young Christian Singers who provided an unplanned performance for the

Mount Sequoyah neighbors during their stay. It was wonderful to watch our neighbors voluntarily interrupt their evening walks to take a seat in our outdoor chapel and listen to your youth witness to them through skit and song. Finally, the state of Kansas provided another \$3,000 from 15 individuals who chose to stay at Mount Sequoyah during their personal travels. And that's not all. The Kansas Conferences are also providing us with tremendous leadership and council from Mrs. Mary Brooks, Mr. Doug Foss and Rev. Julienne Judd who are active, contributing members of the Mount Sequoyah Board of Trustees.

For many years the Kansas Conferences have sent tremendous volunteers to Mount Sequoyah bringing time, energy and a plethora of skills to groom and maintain the Mountain. We are eternally thankful for all you have done and want to impress upon you that if you haven't been to the Mountain lately (or ever), now's the time to engage. With a recently approved \$300,000 matching grant from The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, our fundraising efforts have begun and we are moving forward to repurpose and renew the Mountain. The new vision for Mount Sequoyah is real and achievable and you will want to be a part of reclaiming the Missouri ownership in this phenomenal institution.

Thank you, Kansas West Conference. As we renew our Mountain and transform it into the Premier United Methodist Conference and Resort Center that is our future, your continued engagement will validate the strength of our established presence today and ensure the promise of a powerful future for the United Methodist Church in God's plan for the transformation of the world.

Perkins School of Theology

William B. Lawrence, Dean and Professor of American Church History

Perkins received positive evaluations from all three of our accrediting bodies during the past year: The Association of Theological Schools, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and University Senate of The United Methodist Church.

New faculty and staff members are strengthening our mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry. D. Max Whitfield was named Bishop in Residence for 2012-2016 while Dr. Brad R. Braxton joined our faculty as Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics and Dr. James Kang Hoon Lee joined our faculty as assistant professor of the History of Early Christianity. Dr. Arlene Sánchez Walsh, associate professor in the Graduate School of Theology at Azusa Pacific University, was 2012-2013 visiting professor. Dr. Mark W. Stamm, Christian Worship, and Dr. Rebekah Miles, Ethics and Practical Theology, were promoted to full professor. Rev. Connie Nelson was selected as director of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations, and Dr. Rebecca Frank Bruff became director of our Center for Religious Leadership. Dr. Ruben Habito, professor of World Religions and Spirituality, was named Interim Coordinator of the Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction programs, an administrative transition shifting these important responsibilities to a highly qualified full-time faculty member. Searches for new faculty members in the fields of History of Christianity and Christian Theology have resulted in candidates with exceptional promise, and we anticipate filling those positions for the start of the 2013-2014 academic year.

Our 2012 entering class has a median age of 29 – the first time in nearly a decade that the median age has been under 30. Among all Perkins students, more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than one-third are persons of color. The Doctor of Ministry program continues to grow with new cohorts of students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and in Dallas. Our Ph.D. program, one of only two highly rated doctoral programs among the 15 at SMU, includes two Latino Ph.D. students supported through a grant from the Luce Foundation to Perkins' Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions.

To be sure, Perkins is not immune from the challenges faced by schools of theology and seminaries across the United States. However, we are blessed with gifted faculty and staff members, inspiring students, beautiful facilities, and vibrant ministries. We thank our many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for continuing generous support, including referrals of prospective students.

Saint Paul School of Theology

Dr. Myron F. McCoy, President

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

During the 2012-2013 academic year, 196 students from 12 annual conferences and 9 countries were enrolled in degree programs at Saint Paul School of Theology on both campuses. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 236 students at the Kansas City, Missouri, Springfield, Missouri, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma locations.

In November 2012, the Saint Paul School of Theology Board of Trustees voted to enter into an Agreement for Building Occupancy and Commitment to Collaborate between Saint Paul School of Theology/Kansas City and the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. The agreement concluded a period of study and represents the seminary's vision to create a nationally recognized, vibrant, innovative locus of theological education aimed at preparing leaders for congregations and faith communities in the changing culture and emerging field of mission. It seeks to provide learning in the practice of ministry for both clergy and laity that is characterized by excellence. The Kansas City campus will move to Leawood, KS in the fall of 2013. The Oklahoma campus will remain at Oklahoma City University.

Saint Paul at OCU began its 5th year in September. Two new faculty members have been added in Oklahoma. Bishop Steven Charleston was appointed as Visiting Professor of Native American Ministries, a position funded by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. Dr. Stan Basler, DMin '00, joined the faculty in January 2013 as Visiting Professor of Restorative Justice and Prison Ministry.

Twenty-four master's degree students and three doctoral students graduated from the Kansas City campus in May 2012. Six master of divinity students graduated at the 2nd Commencement Convocation in Oklahoma in August 2012. The first graduates of the Seminary Lite program in Oklahoma also received certificates.

The 3rd Saint Paul Korean Doctor of Ministry cohort began this winter. This program is a partnership with Hyupsung University in Seoul, Korea.

Saint Paul School of Theology will host *A Seminary Celebration: Looking Back, Looking Forward* on April 25-26, 2013 on its Kansas City Truman Road Campus. The event will celebrate the past, present, and future of the seminary. Activities will include a retirement luncheon honoring Dr. Sondra Matthaehi MRE '69, the installation of Dr. Harold Washington as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean, the Cleaver Lecture on Justice featuring Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*, a prayer breakfast, and closing worship service in Kresge Chapel.

The class of 1963 will be the 50 year honor class at the 52nd Commencement Convocation on May 17 for the Kansas City campus. Dr. Sondra Matthaehi '69, retiring Professor of Christian Religious Education, will be the speaker. UMC Arkansas Bishop Gary Mueller will speak at the 3rd Commencement for the Oklahoma City campus.

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

Southern Methodist University

R. Gerald Turner, President

This is an exciting time at SMU, as the University celebrates the centennial of its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and its opening in 1915. Highlights of recent and current developments follow:

- SMU's total fall 2012 enrollment was 10,893, including 6,249 undergraduates and 4,644 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 24.7 percent of total enrollment and 27 percent of undergraduate enrollment. A record number of 1,282 international students came from 89 foreign countries.
- SMU consistently ranks in the top one-fourth of the "best national universities" in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. In the 2013 report, SMU ranks 58 among 280 national universities, an increase of four points from the previous year.
- SMU's external awards for research and sponsored projects have increased significantly. During 2011-12, SMU received \$22.4 million for research and sponsored projects throughout the U.S. and worldwide on six continents.

- SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign, launched in 2008, is the largest fund-raising effort in the University's history, with a goal of \$750 million. At campaign midpoint in 2012, gifts totaling \$664.8 million are providing funds for 231 scholarships; 23 endowed academic positions; 17 academic program endowments, including support for two schools and one academic department; and 16 new or renovated facilities.
- SMU's Residential Commons Complex, currently under construction, includes five new residence halls and a dining facility. Completion in 2014 will enable SMU to implement a residency requirement for sophomores along with first-year students. The halls will include classrooms and faculty accommodations.
- A new general education curriculum for undergraduates, implemented in fall 2012, is designed to prepare students for the demands of an increasingly interconnected global society, with emphasis on ethics and engaged learning programs. Undergraduate students participate in scholarly research, civic engagement, professional internships and creative activity related to education goals.
- The George W. Bush Presidential Center, opening at SMU in April 2013, consists of the Library, Museum and independent Institute. The Center will be a valuable source of research materials and is already sponsoring programs for scholars, students and visitors. Current Bush Institute programming includes a leadership development program for Egyptian women.
- Thomas B. Fomby, professor of economics in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and Marcia K. Armstrong, associate dean for master's programs in Cox School of Business, have been elected to the Economic Advisory Committee of the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration.

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