ThereforeGo 2019
Serve Others
Seek Justice
Know God
Proclaim Christ

Great Plains Annual Conference
May 29-June 1 ● Topeka, KS
Kansas Expocentre

Workbook
## 2019 Annual Conference Session Schedule

**May 29 – June 1, 2019**  
**Kansas Expocentre, Topeka KS**

### Wednesday, May 29, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ERT Training - River Room-Capitol Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Open – Atrium-Expocentre</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Secretary &amp; Teller Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Meet and Greet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy - Emerald II - Capitol Plaza</td>
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<td>Laity - Emerald I - Capitol Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Service of Celebration and Table - Landon Arena</td>
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<td>Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. Preaching</td>
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### Thursday, May 30, 2019

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration – Atrium-Expocentre</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Clergy Session – Sunflower Ballroom-Capitol Plaza</td>
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<td>Laity Session – Landon Arena-Expocentre</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:25 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening of Great Plains Annual Conference – Landon Arena</td>
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<td>Call to Order and Enabling Motions</td>
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<td>Approval of Standing Rules</td>
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<td>Laity Address</td>
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<td>Episcopal Address</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Ballot for Election</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Adjournment for Lunch</td>
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### Thursday, May 30, 2019

**Emphasis on leadership development**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Report of the GC Delegation</td>
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<td>Board of Ordained Ministry Report</td>
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<td>Introduction of Retirees</td>
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<td>Executive Team Report</td>
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<td>Congregational Excellence Report</td>
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<td>Clergy Excellence Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:50 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Commissioning of Interns</td>
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<td>Lay Leadership Development</td>
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<td>Camping Ministry</td>
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<td>Campus Ministry</td>
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<td>Saint Paul School of Theology Report</td>
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<td>Treasurers Report</td>
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<td>Council on Finance and Administration Report</td>
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<td>Pension and Health Benefits Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m</td>
<td>Retirement Dinner and Celebration – Sunflower Ballroom-Capitol Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Memorial Service – First United Methodist – Topeka-600 SW Topeka Blvd.</td>
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<td><em>Rev. Chris Jorgensen Preaching</em></td>
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### Friday, May 31, 2019

**Emphasis on vitality of congregations**

#### 8:15 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
- Youth-led Worship – Landon Arena
- Reports from Nebraska and Kansas Foundations
- Resolution on Kansas Area Foundation Inclusive Scope pg. 12
- Nominations Report
- Possibility Conversations

#### 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Break

#### 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Plenary Speaker-Landon Arena
  - Rev. Mike Mather, Broadway UMC
  - “Ministry as if the Gospel is True”

#### 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Adjournment for Lunch

### Friday, May 31, 2019

#### 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- United Methodist Women
- United Methodist Men
- Church Closings
- Congregational Excellence
- Mercy and Justice
- Trustees Report
- History and Archives (150 year anniversaries)

#### 3:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.
- Break

#### 3:25 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Lydia Paterson Institute
  - Resolutions
  - Renewal Leave for Clergy
  - Amendment to Safe Gatherings
  - Change to Clergy Health Benefits

#### 5:00 p.m.
**Adjournment for Dinner**

#### 7:00 p.m.
**Ordination Service – Landon Arena**
- *Rev. Adam Hamilton Preaching*

### Saturday, June 1, 2019

#### 8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
- Gathering Music

#### 8:45 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
- Resolutions and Petitions
  - Resolution for Creation Care
  - Response to Climate Change
  - Conscientious Dissent of the Traditional Plan
- Science of Sexual Orientation Study Guide
- Council on Finance and Administration Report

#### 9:50 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.
- Break

#### 10:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Closing Motions
- Introduction of Delegation
- Introduction of Extended Cabinet
- Closing Worship and Fixing of Appointments

#### 12:00 p.m.
**Adjournment of Annual Conference**

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**Other room information:**

- Prayer Room – Wheat B-Capitol Plaza
- Parents/Lactation room – Star A – Behind the stage
Meals during Annual Conference:

*All meals require pre-registration

**Wednesday, May 29**
5:00 p.m.  United Methodist Men Dinner and Auction-Countryside UMC

**Thursday, May 30**
7:00 a.m.  Missouri River District Breakfast-Shawnee A
7:00 a.m.  Kansas City District Breakfast-Bison Room
7:00 a.m.  Extension Ministry Breakfast-River Room
12:00 p.m. No Program Lunch-Expo Hall
12:00 p.m. Mission Partnership Lunch-Shawnee Room
12:00 p.m. Wesley Seminary Theological Gathering
               Countryside UMC – 3221 SW Burlingame Rd., Topeka, KS  66611
5:00 p.m.  Retiree Dinner-Sunflower Ballroom

**Friday, May 31**
6:45 a.m.  Elkhorn Valley District Breakfast-River Room
7:00 a.m.  Blue River District Breakfast-Bison Room
12:00 p.m. No Program Lunch-Expo Hall
12:00 p.m. Youth & Campus Ministry Lunch-Shawnee Room
12:00 p.m. United Methodist Women Lunch-Emerald Ballroom III-IV
12:00 p.m. Saint Paul School of Theology Alumni Lunch-Falling Water Grille, Capitol Plaza Hotel
5:00 p.m.  No Program Dinner-Expo Hall
5:00 p.m.  Ordination Dinner-Shawnee B&C
May 1, 2019

Dear Conference Members:

Welcome to the sixth annual meeting of the Great Plains Annual Conference. It is always exciting to have United Methodists from Nebraska and Kansas gathering together. The Sessions planning team is working on the last details to help you have the best experience possible. This workbook contains most of the information you will need to be informed prior to coming to annual conference. Be sure to pay attention to the schedule in the packet you receive at registration as there may be some changes.

We hope you will take the time to view the video about what to expect at annual conference at https://vimeo.com/333387897.

This year, our theme is “Therefore Go: Serve Others,” helping us to focus on how we engage in ministry that affirms the dignity and giftedness of all persons, especially those whom we do not know and who might live in the same neighborhood as our church. Rev. Mike Mather, currently serving Broadway UMC in Indianapolis, will be the plenary speaker Friday morning, sharing with us how members of his congregation have transformed the way they interact with their neighbors and been change agents to lift people out of poverty.

Annual Conference opens with a Service of Celebration and Communion on Wednesday, May 29. But don’t forget to arrive in time to make connections at the “Meet and Greet” reception from 4:00 – 5:30 on Wednesday. I hope you are like me, and find you know more people each year we gather as the Great Plains Annual Conference. You will be able to register Wednesday afternoon if you would like.

Other happenings through the week include a pre-conference ERT training, retirement celebration, memorial service, ordination worship service, and a 5K run. We’ll also learn more about what is happening across our conference and make decisions about how we live and work together.

Together we will work to spread the Wesleyan witness in the communities where we live as we make decisions about how we will be The United Methodist Church. See you in Topeka!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Nancy Lambert
Director of Clergy Excellence/Assistant to the Bishop
Greetings Laity of the Great Plains!

Thank you for representing your congregation and serving as a member of the 2019 Great Plains Annual Conference. Your representation, voice and leadership are vital to the process as we explore the theme “Therefore Go: Serve Others,” May 29 to June 1 at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka, Kansas.

As your Conference Lay Leader, I look forward to meeting with you, having conversations, brainstorming ideas for new mission and ministries and most importantly celebrating with you the ministry successes your congregations and communities have experience this past year. Our congregations and our laity are doing amazing work around our conference and I can’t wait to take moments with you to honor that work. I encourage you to introduce yourself to me at any time during the Annual Conference session. Come prepared with your mission and ministries stories!

For those of you attending as a lay member to Annual Conference for the first time, I know that it can feel like an overwhelming process. The Conference Lay Leadership team is here for you! Please do not hesitate to ask questions or clarifications from any one of us. We all remember our first time at Annual Conference want to see you be successful in your leadership role.

If you are a new lay member or even a returning member, see below for helpful tips to maximize your experience at the Annual Conference session.

- Before you arrive: print off and review the pre-conference workbook materials from the conference website. A limited amount of copies will be available for sale at registration when you check in. The workbook materials will be available in May on the conference website.
- Inform and discuss the issues that will be voted on at Annual Conference with members of your church.
- Other items you may need: a copy of the Laity Delegate profiles, the 2016 Book of Discipline (optional), comfortable shoes (a must) and your Bible.

Laity are important to the life and breath of the church. Our presence and leadership at Annual Conference is our opportunity to lend our voice and perspective to the decision making and foundational work of the Great Plains United Methodist Annual Conference. Your time, commitment and preparation is appreciated and recognized.

Thank you for answering the call to lead and serve!

Blessings,

Lisa Maupin
Great Plains Conference Lay Leader
TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Conference Action
   1. Standing Rules for Sessions of the Great Plains Annual Conference ........................................... 1
      a. Voice and Vote Table ......................................................................................................................... 5
      b. Election Process ................................................................................................................................. 6
   2. Fast Facts ............................................................................................................................................ 7
   3. Budget Summary Statement .............................................................................................................. 8
   4. Pensions and Health Benefits Items for Action .............................................................................. 8
   5. Personnel Items for Action ............................................................................................................... 11
   6. Church Closings & Resolutions
      RESOLUTION #1 - Kansas Area foundation Inclusive Scope ................................................................. 12
      RESOLUTION #2 - Kilgore UMC ............................................................................................................ 15
      RESOLUTION #3 - Trinity Community Church ................................................................................... 16
      RESOLUTION #4 - Valley View UMC ................................................................................................... 16
      RESOLUTION #5 - Chetopa-St. Paul UMC .......................................................................................... 17
      RESOLUTION #6 - Ada UMC ............................................................................................................... 17
      RESOLUTION #7 - Delphos UMC ........................................................................................................ 18
      RESOLUTION #8 - Portis UMC ............................................................................................................. 19
      RESOLUTION #9 - Robinson UMC ...................................................................................................... 20
      RESOLUTION #10- Hicks Chapel UMC .............................................................................................. 20
      RESOLUTION #11- Renewal Leave ..................................................................................................... 21
      RESOLUTION #12- Amendment to Safe Gatherings ........................................................................... 22
      RESOLUTION #13- Change to Clergy Health Benefits ................................................................. 22
      RESOLUTION #14- Creation Care ...................................................................................................... 23
      RESOLUTION #15- Response to Climate Change ............................................................................. 24
      RESOLUTION #16- Conscientious Dissent to the Traditional Plan ..................................................... 25
      PETITION #1 - Science of Sexual Orientation Study Guide ................................................................. 25
   7. Nominations Committee .................................................................................................................. 27

B. Conference Reports
   1. Administrative services
      a. Commission on Archives and History ............................................................................................. 42
      c. Board of Pension and Health Benefits .......................................................................................... 42
      d. Board of Trustees ............................................................................................................................ 46
      e. Episcopacy Committee ..................................................................................................................... 47
   2. Connecting Council Report .............................................................................................................. 48
   3. Clergy Excellence
      a. Great Plains Board of Ordained Ministry ...................................................................................... 49
      b. Transition into Ministry ................................................................................................................... 49
   4. Congregational Excellence
      a. Congregational Excellence ........................................................................................................... 50
      b. Vital Congregations Team .............................................................................................................. 51
      c. New Church Development ............................................................................................................. 52
      d. Great Plains United Methodist Camps, Inc. .................................................................................. 52
      e. United Methodist Campus Ministry, Inc. ........................................................................................ 54
   5. Mercy and Justice
      a. Mercy and Justice Team .................................................................................................................. 56
      b. Disaster Response Team ................................................................................................................. 56
      c. Peace with Justice Ministries ......................................................................................................... 57
      d. Holy Land Task Force .................................................................................................................... 58
   6. Miscellaneous
      a. Lay Servant Ministries ..................................................................................................................... 59
      b. United Methodist Women .............................................................................................................. 59
C. Mission Agencies

1. Universities
   a. Baker University ............................................................... 60
   b. Kansas Wesleyan University ............................................. 60
   c. Nebraska Wesleyan University ........................................ 62
   d. Southwestern College ..................................................... 62

2. Health and Welfare Institutions
   a. Aldersgate Village .......................................................... 63
   b. E.C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic .................................... 65
   c. Ember Hope ................................................................. 65
   d. Epworth Village ............................................................ 66
   e. Gracemed Health Clinic, Inc. .......................................... 67

3. Ministries with the Poor
   a. Friendship House United Methodist Church and the House of Hope-Ogden .......... 68
   b. Immigrant Legal Center (JFON) ....................................... 69
   c. United Methodist Open Door, Inc. .................................. 70
   d. Big Garden/United Methodist Ministries, Missouri River District ..................... 70
   e. Wesley House ............................................................. 71
   f. Rural Response Hotline .................................................. 72

D. South Central Jurisdiction
   1. Lydia Patterson Institute .................................................. 74

E. University & Seminary Reports
   1. Africa University .......................................................... 75
   2. Boston University ......................................................... 75
   3. Candler School of Theology ............................................. 77
   4. Drew Theological Seminary ............................................ 77
   5. Saint Paul School of Theology ....................................... 78
   6. United Theological Seminary ......................................... 79
   7. Wesley Theological Seminary ........................................ 80

F. Miscellaneous
   1. United Methodist Health Ministry Fund ................................ 82
   2. General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM) ......................... 83
   3. Kansas Area Foundation .................................................. 83
   4. Nebraska Area Foundation ............................................. 85
   5. Fellowship and Faith Ministry, Inc. ................................... 86
A. Conference Action

1. Standing Rules for Sessions of the Great Plains Annual Conference

A. Rules of order and parliamentary procedures. The current Book of Discipline and the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the guides and authority for parliamentary procedure in the conduct of all session business.

1. These rules may be suspended or amended by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
2. No decisions of the conference may be overturned on procedural grounds after the adjournment of the conference.
3. The agenda shall be the final distributed form at the beginning of the session. In the interest of efficiency, the chair may adjust agenda items as necessary.
4. The Bar of the Conference shall be as designated in the Enabling Motions adopted at the beginning of the session. Only members within the Bar may vote. However, a member outside the Bar, absent on conference business at the conference venue and approved by conference order, may vote by absentee ballot.

B. Membership, Privilege of the Floor, and Attendance.

1. Privilege of the Floor: All lay and clergy members of the Great Plains Annual Conference, as well as clergy from other conferences or denominations serving churches within the Great Plains Annual Conference, shall have privilege of the floor and may address the session on any issue before the body. Persons serving as District Superintendent Assignees (DA) or Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) shall have voice as lay members of the Conference. This privilege shall be extended as well to the spouse of the Bishop; to any members of Conference, General or Jurisdictional boards, agencies or institutions who are not otherwise members of the annual conference; to all members of the extended cabinet; and to anyone else presenting items on the agenda.

2. Lay Equalization Plan for Annual Conference Membership: The formula for lay/clergy equalization was determined at Uniting Conference. For purposes of this formula, the numbers used shall be those in the official Journal of the previous Annual Conference as submitted to the General Council on Finance and Administration.

a. Consistent with the provisions of ¶32 and 602.4 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church-2012, the basic lay membership of the annual conference shall include:
   (a) Churches with more than one appointed clergy will receive an additional lay member for each clergy appointed to the church.
   (b) All deaconesses, diaconal ministers and home missioners who are serving within bounds of the annual conference.
   (c) The conference president of United Methodist Women.
   (d) The conference president of United Methodist Men.
   (e) The conference lay leader.
   (f) One young person between the ages of 12 and 17 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Youth Ministry (or equivalent structure).
   (g) One young person between the ages of 18 and 30 from each district, to be selected by the District Council on Ministry (or equivalent structure).
   (h) Each district lay leader.
   (i) Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries.
   (j) Conference Secretary of Global Ministries.
   (k) The president of the conference young adult organization.
   (l) The president of the conference youth organization.
   (m) The chair of the conference college student organization.
   (n) All lay campus ministers, chaplains and Wesley Foundation directors serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference.
(o) For each clergy campus minister, chaplain and Wesley Foundation director, there
shall be a lay board member or student from the ministry.

(b) In addition to the lay members of annual conference mandated by The Book of Discipline
¶32 and 602.4), the first priority in equalizing the number of lay and clergy members will
be to grant a lay member from each local church.

c. If, after meeting the requirements of 1 and 2 above, additional lay membership positions
are available, lay people assigned by district superintendents to serve as pastors of local
churches District Superintendent Assignment (DA) and Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) will
be seated as lay members.

d. If, after meeting the requirements of 1, 2 and 3 above, additional lay membership positions
are still available, they will be filled in the following order of priority:

(a) An additional youth from each district, to be selected by the District Council on
Youth Ministry (or equivalent structure).

(b) Associate conference lay leader(s)

(c) Chairpersons of conference boards and teams and the Conference Secretary,
Conference Treasurer and Peace with Justice Coordinator (if laity).

(d) One person of color from each district, selected by the District Council on Ministry
(or equivalent structure).

(e) All elected lay members of general boards and agencies from our Conference.

(f) All delegates and reserve delegates elected to the General and Jurisdictional
Conferences.

(g) Five lay members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (to be selected
by the lay members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry).

(h) District directors of Lay Servant Ministries.

(i) An additional young adult (ages 18‑30) from each district to be selected by the
District Council on Ministry (or equivalent structure).

(j) Seventeen additional youth as determined by the Conference Council on Youth
Ministries.

(k) Additional lay members as chosen by the conference secretary.

3. Roll Call: Roll will be taken by the signing of attendance cards. Cards not submitted by
the end if the session will not be accepted. Members shall be responsible for indicating
which days they will be in attendance. If changes in attendance become necessary for lay
members, the alternate lay member shall report to the secretarial staff to be seated.

4. Excuses for Pastoral Absences: Excuses for pastoral absence for cause during the session
shall be secured from the respective district superintendents, rather than from the floor of
the conference. The clergy person must also send written notification (by letter or email) to
the conference secretary setting forth the reason (¶602.8).

5. Addressing the Body:
a. Those who wish to address the body shall move in an orderly manner to a microphone and
wait to be called upon by the chair.

b. When addressing the body, members shall identify themselves by name, church or current
appointment and district. This practice may be relaxed at the chair’s discretion, such as
when a particular individual by virtue of office or role addresses the conference multiple
times in a single plenary session.

C. Conference Secretary: Proceedings of the session shall be recorded in a manner determined by the
secretary and staff. The secretary shall daily review and consolidate records of the session to ensure
accuracy of the official record and recommend adoption by the annual conference. The secretary shall edit
and publish the minutes and reports, which when published, shall be the official report of the conference.

D. Items in Writing:
a. Any matter requiring action by the annual conference shall be printed and in the hands of the
members of the conference at least four session hours prior to action or overnight for action the
following day, to be monitored by the conference secretary. Such items for general distribution shall
be prepared and distributed by the sponsoring person or agency at their own expense.

b. All reports and main motions must be submitted to the conference secretary on paper or in an
electronic format determined by the secretary. All motions to amend shall be committed to writing
and submitted either when being moved or immediately afterward.
c. Privileged and subsidiary motions other than motions to amend shall be recorded by the
conference secretary and secretarial staff and need not be submitted in writing. (Privileged
motions include Adjournment, Recess, Question of Privilege, and Order of the Day.
Subsidiary motions include Lay on the Table, Previous Question, Limit or Extend the Limits of
Debate, Postpone to a Certain Time and Refer.)

E. Debate:
a. Members shall speak no more than twice on a given item nor longer than three (3) minutes at
a given time without special permission from the chair.
b. Limitation of Debate:
   (a) When the chair determines the agenda to be 30 minutes behind schedule or at
       his/her discretion, the chair may declare that debate on motions shall be limited to two
       speeches for and two speeches against, not to exceed two minutes per speech. This
       limitation shall include allowing any member to speak only once on a given item. If the
       chair determines the conference agenda has returned to schedule, the chair
       may declare the limit on debate to be lifted.
   (b) At any time when this limitation is in effect, any member of the body may move to
       suspend the limitation for a particular item or series of items. Such a motion is not
       debatable and requires a two-thirds majority.
   (c) This limitation of debate shall not apply to sub-groups or any other committee
   (d) With Respect in Debate:
       (a) In accordance with John Wesley’s general rules to do all the good that you can and
           to do no harm, debate is to be conducted in an atmosphere of respect in listening and
           speaking, including refraining from applause during debate.
       (b) Certain rules of respect are already addressed in Robert’s Rules of Order; the
           extra mile of respect may be done in the model of Holy Conferencing or
           other communication models.

F. Voting Matters:
1. When balloting for representatives delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, any
individual’s ballot shall be invalid in any of the following instances:
   (a) Fewer or more names are marked than are needed for that round.
   (b) A lay person is selected on a clergy ballot or a clergy person is selected on a lay
       ballot.
   (c) A person already elected or an ineligible name is selected on the ballot.
   (d) A person is selected twice on a single ballot.

2. There shall be no voting by proxy for delegates.

3. Between sessions, when the bishop, in consultation with the Connecting Council, determines
that a matter of the annual conference cannot wait until the next regular session, a vote may
be taken by email and/or mail ballot.
   (a) The members of the annual conference (lay and clergy) who are eligible to vote will
       be notified that a vote will be taken and informed of the issue via electronic and
       written methods.
   (b) Ballots shall be sent out via written and electronic means by the Conference
       Secretary in coordination with the office of the Bishop. Ballots will be received and
       counted by the conference secretary.
   (c) Reasonable time will be given for the body to respond and a deadline for response
       announced.
   (d) A two-thirds majority of the respondents must affirm the motion for the vote to be
       binding.
   (e) The members of the annual conference will receive notification of the results of the
       vote as soon as possible after the deadline for voting.

G. Financial matters:
1. Revenue neutrality: After adoption of a funding plan and formula for mission shares, any
motion from the floor to increase spending in any area of the budget must include an equal or
greater corresponding reduction in spending as part of the same motion.

2. Referrals to CFA: All items with financial implications will be referred to the Council on
Finance and Administration (CFA) before final adoption. Such referral, at the chair’s discretion, may be before or after discussion and refinement by the body.

H. Resolutions:

1. For the purposes of the Great Plains Annual Conference, a resolution asks the annual conference to take a stand on a particular issue or to direct somebody within the conference to consider a specific action.

2. Submissions: All professing members of local churches within the boundaries of the Great Plains Annual Conference, and all clergy members of the Great Plains Annual Conference, shall have the right to submit resolutions for consideration by the annual conference session.

3. Submission Deadline: All resolutions to the annual conference must be submitted by April 15 to be included in the Annual Conference Workbook. To be included in the Conference Workbook, resolutions and petitions must be submitted by the date specified by the Sessions Planning Team. (For purposes of planning, this will be earlier than April 15)

4. Late Submissions: All late items for action may be included in the packet distributed at registration if approved by the Annual Conference Sessions Planning Team. The person or group submitting the late item shall supply 1,800 copies printed on 8 ½ x 11” paper and punched with three holes and mailed to a location designated by the Secretary. Late resolutions should be placed in the mail no later than 14 days prior to the opening of Annual Conference. In addition, the person or group must submit an electronic file to the conference secretary prior to the beginning of the annual conference session.

5. Format: Resolutions shall be submitted in accordance with formatting guidelines established by the Annual Conference Session Planning Team.

6. Editorial Revision: The Secretary shall have the right to review and revise resolutions for purpose of spelling, grammar and formatting. In cases where there is more than one signatory of a resolution, only the first signer’s name shall be listed, followed by the number of additional signatories indicated in the conference workbook. The names of all signatories will be provided on the annual conference website.

7. Resolutions: When a resolution is adopted that calls for the Conference Secretary to communicate with less than five persons or entities, pertinent contact information shall be provided by the maker of the motion. When a resolution is adopted that calls for the Conference Secretary to communicate with five or more persons or entities, the maker of the motion shall be responsible for the distribution.
### Voice and Vote

Your name tag indicates your voice and vote status at plenary sessions. **Please wear your name tag in a visible location during these sessions.** Voice (meaning they can speak in plenary sessions) and vote (meaning they can make and amend motions and vote on motions) privileges are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Recommendation &amp; Conference Business</th>
<th>Elections for clergy delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s)</th>
<th>Elections for lay delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s)</th>
<th>Constitutional Amendments</th>
<th>Matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy</th>
<th>Voice without Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Members in full connection (¶ 602.1.a)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Clergy Members who have completed all of their educational requirements (¶ 602.1.b errata)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Clergy Members (¶ 602.1.c)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years (since July 1, 2013) under appointment before the election (¶602.1.d errata)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Clergy Members (¶602.1.b)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full- and Part-time Local Pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge, COS or MDiV not completed (¶ 602.1.d)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elders or Ordained Clergy from other denominations serving under appointment within the Annual Conference (¶346.2)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Members: Elected Members representing congregations, Members by Virtue of Office, At-large Members as designated by districts, Youth Members (¶602.4)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSA/CLM according to number three of the Lay Equilization Plan</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Chancellor if not otherwise a voting member (¶ 602.10)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordained Clergy or Provisional Members from other Annual Conferences and other Methodist Denominations (¶346.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Other Denomination without voting rights.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors, Spouses of Clergy &amp; Great Plains Conference Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

♦ If also a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they may vote at Clergy Session

• If also a lay member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and/or Committee on Investigation (¶ 602.6)
Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Delegates  
Great Plains Conference in May 29 – June 1, 2019

Overview of Election Process

1. Forms for Delegate profiles will be on the conference website by February 1, 2019. Those who are lay members of annual conference who do not have an email address will be mailed information about submitting a profile. Persons may complete the profile and submit it either online or by U.S. Mail by March 15.

2. Lay and clergy profiles will be compiled and made available with the pre-conference workbook in early May 2019. Profiles will also be posted on the Great Plains conference website. The profiles in the pre-conference workbook will include the number assigned to each person.

3. Submitting a profile is not required for eligibility to be elected.

4. Lay and clergy voting members will be given an electronic voting device after they have checked in at the registration tables at annual conference. Each unit will have a number assigned to it. Voting members will be responsible for the device the entire time they are at Conference. If not returned, delegates will be billed $75 for the cost of the unit.

5. Conference name badges will be color coded to distinguish who may vote for the lay delegates, and who may vote for clergy delegates. Clergy not eligible to vote for the delegation but eligible to vote for the business of the annual conference will be given an electronic device that can be used for votes on other conference business.

6. Guests and others without voice or vote will have no color coding on their name badge.

7. The organizing motion will specify how many alternate Jurisdictional delegates will be elected. It will also specify that we will put on the screen only those persons who receive 25 votes or more.

8. On Thursday morning, May 30, we will take the first lay and clergy ballots during the plenary session. Laity and clergy will each be voting for seven persons.

9. There will be at least one practice vote taken Thursday morning to give instructions on how to use the voting devices, and to be sure they are working.

10. Voting will alternate between laity and clergy until all delegates have been elected. We will elect 7 laity and 7 clergy as General Conference delegates; 7 laity and 7 clergy as Jurisdictional delegates; and 3 alternate laity and clergy. Votes will be invalid if the number voted for is different than the specified number as stated in the Standing Rules.

11. Results of each ballot will be posted on the screen, but only those persons receiving 25 votes or more will be listed. If necessary, the names will be scrolled continuously.

12. The leader of the delegation for General Conference 2020 will be the first clergy elected. The delegation will meet before adjournment for a picture.

General Instructions for Laity

1. All laypersons who submit a profile will be assigned a number in alphabetical order by last name. Numbers will be assigned to all other laypersons who receive at least one vote on the first ballot.

2. All voting for those already assigned a number will be done electronically.

3. Laity will have the option to write in names of persons who did not submit a profile. If an individual wants to write-in the name of someone, instructions will be given for how to indicate that electronically and the individual must complete a write-in ballot with only the names of the write-ins.

4. Those counting these ballots will cross-match them with the electronic vote cast by each individual to assure that the ballot was valid with the correct number of votes. Any ballot or ballot+write-in with more or less than seven votes will be invalid. The write-in ballot will include space to indicate where church membership is held.

5. Counters will tally and verify the write-in ballots for laity as quickly as possible. When the count is complete, a document will be printed listing the numbers and names of all laypersons receiving one vote, whether write-in or from the pre-conference workbook. The numbers for those in the pre-conference workbook will not change. The printed lists will be distributed when the bishop is ready to give the report from the first ballot.

6. Following the distribution of the additional names, persons will vote using the number that has been assigned to all laity who received a vote. However, write-in ballots for laity will be accepted for each ballot. A form for write-in ballots will be available from the tellers for each ballot.

7. No additional documents will be printed and provided even if there are write-in votes on subsequent ballots.
General Instructions for Clergy

1. Every eligible clergy member (FE or FD) will be assigned a number and listed on one document. Those who have submitted profiles will be listed first, in alphabetical order, and assigned an appropriate number. Remaining eligible clergy will be listed in alphabetical order and numbered consecutively.

2. This information will be made available with the Clergy Profiles and also in the conference workbook. Clergy are responsible for printing the list for their use at annual conference.

3. Clergy will vote for seven persons by number on the first ballot, using the numbered list provided in the workbook. No write in ballots will be allowed as all clergy are assigned a number.

4. A list of clergy who received at least one vote will be printed following the first ballot and distributed at the time the bishop is ready to report on the results of the first ballot.

General Conference will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 5-15, 2020. The South-Central Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 15-18, 2020 in Houston, Texas.

There is no campaigning, speeches, buttons, flyers, etc. allowed either prior to Annual Conference or during Annual Conference.

2. Fast Facts
3. Budgetary Statement

Great Plains Conference 2020 Budget and list of Conference Advances will be available after May 15, 2019 at https://www.greatplainsumc.org/conferencebudget and also included in the packets provided on site.

4. Pensions and Health Benefits Items for Action

- **Past Service Rate (PSR)**
  
  The past service rate is a defined benefit based upon years of service through December 31, 1981. This is the rate received by those that have vested years of service in the Pre-82 Pension Plan.

  The board set a projected goal of an annual increase of 2% or COLA which is reflected in the Comprehensive Funding Plan.

  2019 PSR is $791.00. An increase of 2% ($16.00) for 2020 would bring the PSR up to $807.00. Any increases to the annuity PSR shall be funded immediately in the year in which the increase occurs.

- **Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CAP)**
  
  The CAP is the rate of pension that surviving spouses shall receive from the Pre-82 Pension Plan.

  The current rate is 85% for the former Nebraska and Kansas East conferences, and the rate for the former Kansas West conference is at 100%.

  The board set the goal to review the rates annually with the possibility of moving the rate to 100% sometime in the future.

  The current funding level in the Pre-82 Pension Plan will not allow for an increase at this time.

- **Retirement Benefits/Funding Percentage/Use of Reserves**
  
  The conference has maintained an over-funded position in the Pre-82 Pension Plan and substantial pension reserves. The board’s funding level for the Pre-82 Pension Plan is not to be reduced below 120%.

  The market changes for 2018 will decrease the funding in the Pre-82 Pension Plan. The Board has recommended to increase the CRSP Defined Benefit billing to the church by 1% for 2020, noting that the Board will still be covering the additional cost of 6.2% with any Pre-82 Pension funding over 120% and with pension reserves.

  **Recommendation local church funding is as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPP death and disability</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRSP defined contributions</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRSP defined benefit</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  Members serving (1/4) 25% appointment with the local churches will fund 10% into the members UMPIP account. The 2% balance required will be funded from the pension reserves if needed.
• Health Allowance
The board has recommended that the health allowance will continue to be $15,850 annually for 2020 and the expectation is that clergy will maintain no less than an ACA Bronze Plan. Emergency Health Grants will continue to ensure that all clergy can have ACA coverage.

Clergy appointed to churches with 50 employees or more shall be provided coverage by their church in accordance with ACA Guidelines and are not eligible for the $15,850.

• 2020 Comprehensive Funding Plan
The board is required to submit a comprehensive funding plan each year to Wespath Benefits and Investments. (Wespath Opinion on Great Plains Conference 2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan).

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

• Housing Resolution
In order to meet federal guidelines, an annual housing resolution must be approved at Annual Conference and printed in the journal. (See attached resolution).

Resolution on Rental/Housing/Household Expense Allowance, in accordance with Federal Guidelines for clergy housing, the following resolution is recommended:

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist (the Discipline), which includes all such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 by each active, retired, terminated or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plan, annuities, of funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath Benefits and Investments plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergyperson rendered to this conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated or a
Incapacity Leave Health Care Allowance

Those receiving CPP medical leave benefits will receive a health care allowance with the following schedule:
First 24 months the health care allowance will be $14,232 annually.
After the first 24 months payments for the clergyperson will be $300.00 monthly, along with
$300.00 monthly for the spouse and dependents until the age of 26 for 3 years. After the
completion of 3 years the allowance will be discontinued for the spouse and any eligible
dependents.

CPP eligibility is as follows:
All three-quarter time ordained pastors, all three-quarter time student local pastors and all
three-quarter time local pastors will be covered by the CPP. Costs to the local church are 3% of
plan compensation.
Ordained clergy members serving one-half time will receive benefits through UMLife Options
with the actual cost being paid by the local church.

Special Pension Grants
Currently we have two dependent children receiving a grant.

Virgin Pulse Health Miles
This program is available to active clergypersons serving three-quarter time or more along with
the spouse, retired Clergypersons/spouse, and the conference lay staff/spouse. The participant
can earn actual dollars by completing their activity goals.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
This program is available to active clergypersons serving three-quarter time or more for local
churches or the conference, plus their dependents and lay conference staff working 30 hours or
more and their dependents.

Optional Benefits
The conference provides group plans for dental, vision, accidental, critical illness and life
insurance that active clergypersons serving three-quarter time or more may participate along
with conference lay staff. Cost for the plans are 100% paid by the participant.

Short-term Disability
Short-term disability funding is available to assist member churches in the event 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 or
DSA's absence exceeds 30 days but is anticipated to be less than 180 days. A statement from the treating physician
with the estimated duration of absence is required.

Note: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal (and,
in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulation thereun-
der, to the least of: (a) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other
appropriate body of the church (such as this conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the amount actually
expended by the clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home, including furn-
ishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergyperson or former clergyperson
is urged to consult with his or her own tax adviser to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as
a housing allowance exclusion.

REVIEW OF BENEFITS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)
INFORMATIONAL ONLY
The local church is required to submit monthly statements to the Conference Benefits Officer that documents the name of the interim pastor, dates served, and amounts paid.

- **Retiree Health Insurance**
  The Conference partners with Via Benefits through Wespath Benefits and Investments, for Retiree Health Insurance. Via Benefits is an exchange that will assist each retiree in selecting the private Medicare plan that best meets their medical needs and budget. Nebraska retirees that retired before December 31, 2019, will continue to receive their allotted HRA if they continue to utilize Via Benefits for their private Medicare plan. Securing coverage outside Via Benefits will cancel their HRA and it cannot be re-instated.

  Wespath Benefits and Investment requires a valuation every two years on the Retiree Health Reimbursement program.

- **Farmer Fund Emergency Grants**
  A request for assistance from the Farmer Fund Grant Program (Program) is made through the Board on an application form provided by Wespath Benefits and Investments. Distressed clergy members or former clergy members of the annual conference, their spouses, former spouses, former surviving spouses; or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children) are eligible to apply for a grant. An application for benefits requires the member to substantiate financial resources by completing the income and expenditures statement and submitting coverage of an ACA Healthcare (Bronze) Plan. Maximum available through the grant is $4,000.00. The clergy member can only receive one grant per calendar year.

  Written guidelines and applications are available from the benefits department.

- **Crounse Fund Grants**
  Crounse Funds Grants are for critical/emergency needs for which the Farmer Fund is unable to provide a grant. Request will be submitted to the District Superintendent (DS) by the Conference Benefits Officer if a Farmer Fund Grant cannot be approved. The DS will take the request to the Cabinet for approval. Maximum available through the grant is $3,000.00.

  Written guidelines are available from the benefits department.

- **Use of Reserves**
  Upon a request from the Mission Alignment team, the Board continues to draw 5% of pension-designated reserves to help pay for Conference Staff benefits. The Board established a 5% fund spending of the pension reserves to be utilized to offset Conference Staff benefit cost, with health insurance benefits coming from the share of unrestricted funds.

5. **Personnel Items for Action**

6. **MINIMUM COMPENSATION PROPOSAL**

7. Each year, the Personnel Committee is called upon to make a recommendation concerning where minimum compensation levels should be set for the coming year. We weigh cost of living adjustments, inflation rates, and the welfare of local churches and clergy.

8. Beginning January 1, 2020, it is the Personnel Committee’s recommendation for minimum cash compensation be raised by 2%.

9. A comparison chart is provided to see the financial result of the increase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Local Pastor</td>
<td>36,879</td>
<td>37,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Member</td>
<td>39,266</td>
<td>40,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional Member</td>
<td>41,653</td>
<td>42,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Member</td>
<td>44,040</td>
<td>44,921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Church Closings and Resolutions

Resolution #1 Kansas Area Foundation Inclusive Scope

RESOLUTION: KANSAS AREA FOUNDATION INCLUSIVE SCOPE

Financial Implications: None

RATIONALE: To allow the Foundation to have an inclusive scope of ministry to continue serving all of the current United Methodist churches, affiliate organizations, and members in the connection, and to make the Foundation self-sustaining and autonomous, like the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, to ensure its stability and fiduciary commitments.

WHEREAS, the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation is currently only allowed to serve United Methodist churches, affiliate organizations, and members, and is not allowed to serve a church or affiliate organization if it disaffiliated from the denomination; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation seeks to position the Foundation to serve all current United Methodist and formerly United Methodist churches, affiliate organizations, and members, helping to cultivate generosity to change lives across our connection; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation has set a precedence to be inclusive for all such churches, as well as to become self-sustaining and autonomous from the Great Plains Conference; and

WHEREAS, the current anxiety within the denomination is causing faithful and generous people unnecessary concern about the stability and fiduciary commitments of the Foundation because of the legal connections to the Great Plains Conference.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Plains Conference approves the following changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, so that the Foundation is inclusive in its scope of ministry, as well as organizationally self-sustaining and autonomous from the Great Plains Conference.

IMPLEMENTED BY: Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, in conjunction with the Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services and the Conference Chancellor(s).

SUBMITTED: Rev. Dr. Dustin D. Petz, Clergy
President and CEO of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation

Restated Articles of Incorporation of Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, INC.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A., 17-6605, hereby restate the Articles of Incorporation of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc. This Restatement integrates the original Articles of Incorporation and amendments to those Articles adopted prior to the date hereof, and further amends the Articles of Incorporation. This Restatement was authorized by the Great Plains Conference.

ARTICLE FIRST

The name of this corporation is KANSAS AREA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.

ARTICLE SECOND

The location of its registered office in this state is 100 East First Avenue, in the City of Hutchinson, County of Reno, Kansas, 67504. 9440 East Boston, in the City of Wichita, County of Sedgwick, Kansas 67207. This corporation shall be its own resident agent at this address.

ARTICLE THIRD

This corporation is organized NOT FOR PROFIT, and the objects and purposes to be transacted and carried on are:

3-1 The general objects and purposes of the corporation are to operate solely and exclusively as a charitable, religious, literary, and educational organization to help maintain and further the programs and missions of The United Methodist Church, ministries of churches, affiliated organizations, and members of The United Methodist Church in Kansas and Nebraska, and of the churches, affiliated organizations, and members which may have been formerly associated with or part of The United Methodist Church located in Kansas and Nebraska; provided, however, that nothing herein shall restrict the ability of the corporation to accept gifts that provide benefits to other not for profit, tax exempt organizations.

ARTICLE FIFTH

5-1 The affairs of the corporation shall be conducted by a Board of Trustees consisting of twenty-one (21) members. The composition of the Board of Trustees shall be as follows: The Bishop of the Kansas Area United Methodist Church and ten (10) persons elected by each of the two Annual Conferences of the Kansas Area United Methodist Church, The Bishop of The Great Plains Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church, fifteen (15) lay members of United Methodist churches and churches formerly associated with or part of The United Methodist Church located in the State of Kansas, and five (5) clergy members of The Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church serving in Kansas. At least a majority of the Trustees shall be laypersons. At least 51% of the Board of Trustees will be members of United Methodist Churches. The Board of Trustees shall have the authority to create an Executive Committee, not to exceed nine (9) persons, from its own
PREAMBLE

The Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Foundation does hereby adopt the following Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc. hereinafter referred to as Bylaws. It is the purpose of these Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc. to amend the previous Bylaws and all amendments thereto of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc. and to repeal all provisions of the previous Bylaws and all amendments thereto of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc. in conflict herewith.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

2.1 Not for Profit. This corporation is organized not for profit and shall have no authority to issue capital stock.

2.2 Objects and Purposes. This corporation is organized to operate solely and exclusively as a charitable, religious, literary and educational organization to help maintain and further the programs and missions of The United Methodist Church, ministries of churches, affiliated organizations, and members of The United Methodist Church in Kansas and Nebraska, and of the churches, affiliated organizations, and members which may have been formerly associated with or part of The United Methodist Church located in Kansas and Nebraska; provided, however, that nothing herein shall restrict the ability of the corporation to accept gifts that provide benefits to other not for profit, tax exempt organizations.

ARTICLE V

TRUSTEES

5.1 Number. The Board of Trustees shall consist of twenty-one (21) voting-members.

5.2 Qualification. Trustees shall be selected from persons at least twenty one (21) years of age who accept in principle the purposes of this corporation, are deemed qualified to meet the responsibilities of serving as a Trustee and who otherwise meet the membership requirements provided herein and as stated in the Articles of Incorporation. A Trustee shall be deemed qualified as such when they have been duly elected as a Trustee as provided herein.

5.3 Trustee Nomination-Election. The Trustees are to be chosen nominated and elected by the current Trustees from among lay members of The United Methodist Church in the state of Kansas United Methodist churches and churches formerly associated with or part of The United Methodist Church located in the state of Kansas, and clergy members of The Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church serving in Kansas. At least a majority of the Trustees shall be lay persons. At least 51% of the Board of Trustees will be members of United Methodist Churches. A slate of nominees shall be forwarded to The Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church by the Board of Trustees for election by the annual conference.

5.4 Conference Geographical Representation. The geographical representation from across the state of Kansas The geographical representations of the Kansas area of The Great Plains Annual Conference should be included in the consideration of Trustees when they meet the other criteria for membership.

5.5 Ex Officio Trustee. The Bishop of The Great Plains Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church shall be an ex officio Trustee of the corporation, in addition to the twenty (20) elected Trustees. Each ex officio Trustee shall serve as
ARTICLE VIII

8. COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

8.1 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of nine members of the Board of Trustees, and shall include ex officio the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and chairpersons of the standing committees of the Board of Trustees, except as stated hereafter. The remaining members of the Executive Committee and any vacancies thereof shall be elected at large from the Board of Trustees by the Board of Trustees. If the Secretary and/or Treasurer of the corporation are not members of the Board of Trustees, then they shall not qualify to serve in such ex officio positions on the Executive Committee.

8.1.1 Ad Interim Powers. Unless the Board of Trustees specifically direct otherwise, during the intervals between meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee shall have, and may exercise, all the powers of the Board of Trustees in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation in such manner as such committee shall deem in the best interests of the corporation, except that the Executive Committee may not amend or repeal the Articles of Incorporation or bylaws of the corporation, or as restricted by policies of the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee shall report its actions to the Board of Trustees no later than the next Board of Trustees’ meeting.

8.1.2 Quorum. The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be a majority, being fifty one percent (51%), of the members of the committee for the transaction of business.

8.1.3 Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet as needed, but not less than two times each calendar year.

8.1.4 Special Called Meetings. Special called meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairperson or upon request of any three members of the Executive Committee, with at least ten (10) days written notice to all members of the Executive Committee.

8.2 Additional Committees and Organizations. The Board of Trustees may establish and elect other committees, councils or other groups and designate their specific tasks and duties, and shall designate the chairperson of such committee or other groups.

8.3 Rules and Quorum. All committees, unless otherwise provided in these bylaws or by direction of the Board of Trustees from time to time, shall adopt their own rules of procedure. At all meetings of committees, except the Executive Committee, those members present shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum shall control for the transaction of business.

8.4 Non-Trustee Members. Additional members of any committees other than the Executive Committee may be elected by the Board of Trustees, and such members are not required to be a Trustee of the corporation. Such non-Trustee committee members shall have the right of voice and vote in such committee deliberations.
8.5 **Staff Support.** The President and CEO, ex officio, shall attend all meetings of the committees of the corporation, and provide staff and administrative support for the work of the various committees at the direction of the chairperson of each committee.

**ARTICLE XIII**

13. **AMENDMENTS**

13.1 These bylaws may be altered, repealed or amended in whole or in part by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Trustees present and voting at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Trustees, provided that all Trustees have received at least ten (10) days written notice of the proposed amendments. Any amendments to the bylaws shall be subject to the approval of the Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, except as provided for hereafter.

13.2 The Trustees of the corporation shall have authority at any time and from time to time at any annual, regular or special meeting to make such amendments to or revision of these bylaws if such amendment or revision is necessary or proper to secure, maintain or expand the status of the corporation as a not for profit, tax-exempt organization under the laws of the State of Kansas and the Internal Revenue laws of the United States.

**ARTICLE XIV**

14. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

14.1 These bylaws shall be effective from and after ____________.

ADOPTED by the members of the corporation on the ________________.

_____________________________________
Lenard Maxwell, Secretary
Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

APPROVED BY THE GREAT PLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THIS ________________.

___________________________  __________________________
Presiding Bishop  	 Conference Secretary

**RESOLUTION #2 - Kilgore Closing**

WHEREAS, the Kilgore United Methodist Church located in Kilgore, Nebraska was founded in 1909 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Kilgore United Methodist Church voted on November 2, 2018 to close the church; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. Cindy Karges, the District Superintendent of the Great West District, has recommended that the church be closed; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Great West District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Kilgore United Methodist Church in Cherry County, Nebraska, is hereby declared closed as of June 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Kilgore United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to closing, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Valentine United Methodist Church.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Kilgore United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference be hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Kilgore United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.
RESOLUTION #3 - Closing of Trinity Community Church, A United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the Trinity Community Church, a United Methodist Church located in Wyandotte County, Kansas, was founded in April 1961 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Trinity Community Church, a United Methodist Church voted on April 14, 2019, to close the church; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Anne Gatobu, the District Superintendent of the Kansas City District, has recommended that the church be closed; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Kansas City District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Trinity Community Church, a United Methodist Church in Wyandotte County, Kansas, is hereby declared closed as of June 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Trinity Community Church, a United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to closing, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Wyandotte United Methodist Church.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets and liabilities] held by Trinity Community Church, a United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference be hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Trinity Community Church, a United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

RESOLUTION #4 - Closing of Valley View United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the Valley View United Methodist Church located in Johnson County, Kansas, was founded in 1959 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Valley View United Methodist Church voted on December 2, 2018, to close the church; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Anne Gatobu, the District Superintendent of the Kansas City District, has recommended that the church be closed; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Kansas City District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Valley View United Methodist Church in Overland Park in Johnson County, Kansas, is hereby declared closed as of April 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Valley View United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to closing, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Church of
The Resurrection United Methodist Church.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets and liabilities] held by Valley View United Methodist Church be transferred to the Church of the Resurrection United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Church of the Resurrection be hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Valley View United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

RESOLUTION #5 Closing of Chetopa St. Paul United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the St. Paul United Methodist Church located in Chetopa, Kansas, has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the St. Paul United Methodist Church voted on October 11, 2018, to close the church; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. David E. Watson, the District Superintendent of the Parsons District, has recommended that the church be closed; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Parsons District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the St. Paul United Methodist Church in Labette County, Kansas, is hereby declared closed as of June 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the St. Paul United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to closing, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Chetopa United Methodist Church.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by St. Paul United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference be hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the St. Paul United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

RESOLUTION #6 Closing of Ada United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the Ada United Methodist Church located in Ada, Kansas, was founded August 10, 1886 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Ada United Methodist Church voted on May 10, 2019, to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, - The Reverend Delores J. Williamston, the District Superintendent of the Salina District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and
WHEREAS, the consent of the Salina District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Ada United Methodist Church in Ottawa County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of June 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Ada United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Minneapolis United Methodist Church in Minneapolis Kansas.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Ada United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Ada United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safe keeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

RESOLUTION #7 Closing of Delphos United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the Delphos United Methodist Church located in Delphos, Kansas was founded March 5t, 1877, and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Delphos United Methodist Church voted on February 4th, 2018 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Delores Williamston, the District Superintendent of the Salina District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Salina District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Delphos United Methodist Church in Ottawa County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of June 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Delphos United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Minneapolis First United Methodist Church.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Delphos United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Delphos United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.
RESOLUTION #8 - Closing of Portis United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the Portis United Methodist Church located in Portis, Kansas, was founded May 8, 1897, and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Portis United Methodist Church voted on March 24, 2019 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. Delores J. Williamston, the District Superintendent of the Hays District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Hays District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Portis United Methodist Church in Osborne County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of June 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Portis United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the Downs United Methodist Church in Downs Kansas.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Portis United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Portis United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.
RESOLUTION #9 Closing of Robinson United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, the Robinson United Methodist Church located in Brown County, Kansas, was founded in 1879 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Robinson United Methodist Church voted on March 31, 2019, to close the church; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Kay Scarbrough, District Superintendent of the Topeka District, has recommended that the church be closed; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Topeka District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Robinson United Methodist Church in Brown County, Kansas, is hereby declared closed as of July 30, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.

2. That the membership of the Robinson United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to closing, and that any memberships not so designated be transferred to the First United Methodist Church of Hiawatha.

3. That title to the real property [and other assets] held by Robinson United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference be hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease, or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Robinson United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

RESOLUTION #10 Discontinuance of Hicks Chapel United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, Hicks Chapel Episcopal Methodist Church, commonly known as Hicks Chapel United Methodist Church, located in rural Cowley County, Kansas, in the Wichita East District of the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, was founded in 1909 and has had a long and faithful history of serving Jesus Christ and its community;

WHEREAS, the church conference of the Hicks Chapel United Methodist Church voted on February 24, 2019, to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Mitch Reece, the District Superintendent of the Wichita East District, has recommended that the church be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the consent of the Wichita East District Board of Church Location, the Cabinet, and Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. has been granted; and

WHEREAS, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. That the Hicks Chapel United Methodist Church in Cowley County, Kansas, is hereby declared discontinued as of April 28, 2019, with appreciation for its years of faithfulness and service.
2. That the membership of the Hicks Chapel United Methodist Church be transferred as determined by each member prior to discontinuance, and that any memberships not so designated by transferred to the Tisdale United Methodist Church in Winfield, Kansas.

3. That title to the real property and other assets held by Hicks Chapel United Methodist Church be transferred to the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is hereby authorized and directed to hold, sell, lease or dispose of such assets upon such terms as they deem adequate, and to incur any reasonable expenses in connection therewith.

4. That the official records and papers of the Hicks Chapel United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History.

RESOLUTION #11 - Renewal Leave for Clergy
Financial Implications: YES

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church recognizes the need for clergy to take a respite from the normal exercise of pastoral ministry; and

WHEREAS, Clergy serving local churches need times of refreshment that often go beyond the disciplinary requirements for continuing education and spiritual growth, and Renewal Time is desired for clergy who need time for rest and reflection making for growth in ways other than those defined by The Book of Discipline (¶350); and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline provides the instrument for Renewal Leave for Bishops (¶410.2) and District Superintendents (¶420) but not specifically for clergy under appointment; and

WHEREAS, Renewal Time is not “empty” or unstructured time but fits the guidelines of the early church as reflected in the Gospel of Mark where, after returning from their missionary journey, Jesus invited the disciples to “come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.” We believe that the renewal time was not intended to be task oriented; and

WHEREAS, Renewal Time is needed to allow clergy the rest from normal duties in order that they may regain a lost or fading perspective on ministry; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Great Plains Annual Conference (GPAC) shall adopt a policy and procedure to allow all clergy members of the conference (¶602.1, The Book of Discipline), who have served six (6) consecutive years under full-time appointment (or less than full-time appointment equivalent to 6 consecutive years of full-time appointment) to take up to three months’ leave from his or her normal responsibilities for purposes of reflection and self-renewal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that adequate funding shall be made by the local church/charge to pay the pastor’s salary during the period of time she or he is on Renewal Time. The Great Plains Annual Conference shall provide an amount at least equal to the minimum compensation of a full member, associate member, or full time local pastor, as listed in the report of the Personnel Committee in the Conference Journal of the Annual Conference, to an interim pastor for the agreed upon period in which the pastor under appointment is on Renewal Leave; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The District Superintendent of the District in which the local church/charge is located, shall name the interim pastor in consultation with the Pastor Staff Parish Relations Committee of the local church/charge involved. Detailed arrangements of housing, dates, etc., shall be made by the District Superintendent, the pastor who is on Renewal Leave, the local church/charge, and in consultation with the interim pastor.

Implemented by Clergy Excellence, Board of Ordained Ministry
Submitted by Rev. Lenard Maxwell
RESOLUTION #12 - Amendment to Safe Gatherings

Financial Implications: None

RATIONALE: We commend the efforts and actions of the Great Plains Safe Gatherings policy. We agree wholeheartedly with the intent and wording of the Introduction and Policy lines 8-25. We do not question the need for training, certification and monitoring of persons working with children and other vulnerable populations.

The intention of this resolution is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the screening process while honoring and maintaining the spirit and intent of the current policy. Alternative training and screening procedures, as long as they do not compromise the effectiveness of the current policy, will allow congregations to train more volunteers in a more timely and cost-effective manner.

WHEREAS, while Safe Gatherings training is well-done, it is also a very expensive, cumbersome, and lengthy process, and

WHEREAS, it is true that some congregations do not have the resources to develop their own training program, other congregations do. The congregations that are able to do so should have the option create their own so long as the background check and reference provisions are included, and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment will allow for a local church to train and field more volunteers to the mission field while still doing everything possible to protect vulnerable populations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the current Great Plains Safe Gatherings Policy be amended as follows:

Line 58: The Certification Authority (insert) of the Great Plains Annual Conference

Line 60: (insert) The Certification Authority of a local church or charge shall be the Senior Pastor, Director of Children’s Ministry, the Administrative Board and the Trustees.

Line 73: training and certification, and it shall (insert) may also be the training and certification...

Line 77: Safe Gatherings Coordinator (insert) of the conference or the local church or charge

Line 79: The Safe Gatherings Coordinator (insert) of the conference or the local church or charge

Line 92: The Great Plains Annual Conference (insert) or the local church

Line 106: serve with the Great Plains Annual Conference (insert) or a local church or charge.

Implemented by the Annual Conference and the effected local church or charge.

Submitted by St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church – Omaha, Nebraska

You may find the Conference Safe Gatherings policy found at www.greatplainsumc.org/safegatheringsbestpractices.

RESOLUTION #13 - Change to Clergy Health Benefits

Financial Implications: None

RATIONALE: This policy change will accomplish several things:

1. The local church will only pay the actual cost of the health insurance for their pastor. While this may have some minor effect on appointments, it is really a fairness issue for the local church and the clergy. A pastor who is using spousal insurance, Medicare Supplement, or other benefit insurance should not receive payment designated as health insurance when, in fact, that amount is actually part of the salary since it is not used as a reimbursement.

2. For tax purposes, health insurance payment becomes an Accountable Plan according to the IRS and is therefore tax deductible. Technically, according to current CPA guidelines, paying a lump sum to the pastor without receipts is Non-Accountable and should be considered part of taxable income.

3. This change provides greater clarity in what pastoral compensation actually is for a local church by not disguising salary as health insurance compensation.

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Annual Conference voted to continue the plan of clergy obtaining their own health insurance with the amount of the local church obligation to be kept at $15,800 per year; and

WHEREAS, this amount is paid to the clergy member regardless of the actual cost of their insurance, which creates an inequality among the clergy as some are only purchasing Medicare’s Supplemental Insurance, using a spouse or
other retiree benefit to cover insurance, while others are paying family plans all at the same rate of compensation;

and

WHEREAS, this also creates an issue for the local church, as they may be paying a sum to the pastor that may be more than the actual cost of the insurance, or paying when there is no cost, creating a false impression of what the actual pastoral salary is for that appointment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Great Plains Annual Conference directs local churches to pay the actual premium amount of the pastors' Health Insurance up to $15,800.

Implemented by The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Submitted by Mary L. Brooks, Lay Member of the Lyndon, Kansas, United Methodist Church

RESOLUTION #14 - Creation Care

Financial implications: None

RATIONALE: “The earth is heating up at an accelerating rate. Climate change poses a … threat.” God’s Renewed Creation document by UM Council of Bishops

WHEREAS Job 12: 7-8 instructs us to learn from God’s creation: “But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you”; and

WHEREAS God’s creation is suffering as new research shows that surveyed animal populations have declined by more than 50 percent on average in the last two generations (Source: National Geographic); and

WHEREAS the UM Council of Bishops offered these challenging words from God’s Renewed Creation a decade ago: “Today, the human family is awakening to alarming news: after several thousand years of a stable climate that enabled us to thrive, the earth is heating up at an accelerating rate. Climate change poses a particular threat to the world’s poor because it increases the spread of diseases like malaria and causes conflicts over dwindling natural resources”; and

WHEREAS the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report in October 2018 which indicates that we have a window of 12 years in which to keep to a minimum of 1.5 C, change beyond which the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people will increase to catastrophic proportions; and

WHEREAS the Fourth National Climate Assessment issued November 23, 2018, by 13 federal agencies has concluded that human health and safety, our quality of life, and the rate of economic growth in communities across the U.S. are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; the cascading impacts of climate change threaten the natural, built, and social systems we rely on, both within and beyond the nation’s borders; societal efforts to respond to climate change have expanded in the last five years, but not at the scale needed to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; rising temperatures, extreme heat, drought, wildfire on range lands, and heavy down pours are expected to increasingly challenge the quality and quantity of U.S. crop yields, livestock health, price stability and rural livelihoods. This reality was brought close to home as 65 of 93 counties, 74 cities and four tribal areas in Nebraska were in states of emergency in March 2019 due to catastrophic blizzards, wind and flooding; and

WHEREAS climate change is impacting our global partners in the mission field and will only increase if significant actions are not taken. (According to a World Bank report, climate change will transform more than 143 million people into “climate migrants” escaping crop failure, water, scarcity, and sea-level rise); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the conference secretary send the following message to our state and national representatives no later than June 14, 2019: “Members of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference are urging you to acknowledge the urgency of climate change and support policies that promote renewable energy, reducing emissions, and providing adaptation assistance for those struggling to survive in a changing climate”; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, with the assistance of the conference Creation Care Team, the Great Plains Disaster Response Ministries will incorporate climate change mitigation into their responsibilities so that the church can become more proactive as well as reactive to increasing catastrophic climate events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Great Plains Conference reduce our carbon footprint through specific measurable actions such as:
• becoming a Great Plains Creation Care Church https://www.greatplainsumc.org/creationcare
• becoming involved and take actions promoted by United Methodist Women in their Be Green program https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice
• conducting an energy audit of church property to identify ways in which to reduce nonrenewable resources
• banning the use of disposable dinnerware in church kitchens
• planting community and pollinator gardens on church property
• planting native plants and grasses on church property that don’t need as much water
• installing solar on church property
• installing electric charging stations on church property
• installing bike racks on church property
• divest from the fossil fuel industry
• promoting nonpartisan public policies that address reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable energy

Submitted by the Great Plains Conference Creation Care Team

RESOLUTION #15 - Response to Climate Change
Stewardship Response to Climate Change
Financial Implication: small

RATIONALE: In response to the severe floods that wreaked so much destruction this spring—and remembering the scriptural mandate to be good stewards of God’s Creation—this Resolution calls Great Plains churches to become better informed about global climate change and set goals for reducing their carbon footprint.

WHEREAS, the Bible clearly states that all humans are created in God’s image and that God calls all persons to be stewards and caretakers of God’s good Creation; and

WHEREAS, flooding in Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota and other parts of the Upper Midwest caused devastating losses of property, which are estimated to exceed $1 billion. In addition, the flooding caused the deaths of thousands of livestock; and

WHEREAS, some human lives were also lost due to the flooding and 4,400 families had to be evacuated. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts called the flooding the “most widespread destruction we’ve ever seen in in our state’s history”; and

WHEREAS, there is broad consensus among scientists that the flooding severity this spring was a consequence of climate change, caused by increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases over the past 150 years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns that in the future Nebraska, Kansas and other Midwest states will experience heavier rain storms and increased average precipitation during the winters and springs, leading to an increased likelihood of flooding, such as was experienced this spring. Again, the projected increase in flooding will be due to climate change, caused by the increase of greenhouse gases in the environment, especially carbon dioxide, which the EPA says has increased by 40% since the late 1700s;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Great Plains churches calculate their buildings’ carbon footprint, using information and metrics provided by the Great Plains Mercy and Justice Team; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Great Plains churches, using their calculated carbon footprint as a point of reference, set goals for carbon reduction over the following three years. These goals would take the form of reductions in electricity and petroleum consumption, which would be discussed and approved at their annual church/charge conference in 2020; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the next three years, each church report on progress made to reduce their carbon footprint and reach their goals as part of the annual church/charge conference reports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Great Plains church be encouraged to offer its members educational programs on stewardship of Creation, with some discussion of climate change, using educational materials suggested by the Great Plains Mercy and Justice Team; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Plains Annual Conference encourage all members to calculate their own individual carbon footprint—using information and metrics provided by the Great Plains Mercy and Justice Team—and set personal goals for carbon reduction.

Implemented by Great Plains Annual Conference churches and members as well as the Great Plains Mercy and Justice Team. Submitted by the Rev. Richard O. Randolph, clergy member of the Conference

RESOLUTION #16 - A Conscientious Dissent from the Traditional Plan

Financial Implications: NO

WHEREAS, using appropriate, quality biblical scholarship, there is no biblical mandate to discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons and relationships.

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is capable of great nuance in the matter of biblical interpretation as displayed in its treatment of issues such as divorce and the ordination of women, but reverts to simplistic literalism when it comes to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in its life and ministry.

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has singled out LGBTQ+ persons for special punitive action while ignoring the “clear biblical teaching” on other matters such as pensions (Matthew 6:19-20).

WHEREAS, much of the Traditional Plan had already been ruled unconstitutional before it was voted upon.

WHEREAS, the first general rule that John Wesley gave the people called Methodists concerns “doing no harm.”

WHEREAS, United Methodists promise “to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.”

WHEREAS, by passing the Traditional Plan, the denomination has done great, and perhaps irreparable harm to our LGBTQ+ siblings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Great Plains Annual Conference (GPAC) condemns the decision of the 2019 General Conference to pass the Traditional Plan and apologizes for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, their friends, and the body of Christ. “We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God,” but we also assert and affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.

Submitted by the Rev. John R. Collins, Clergy Member of the Conference, and the Rev. Jennifer K. Collins, Clergy Member of the Conference (A complete list of co-submitters can be found at: https://revcollins.com/gpac-petition/)

PETITION # 1 -Science of Sexual Orientation Study Guide

Financial Implications: Yes

The purpose of this petition is to promote the understanding of reliable, current scientific information regarding the determinants of sexual orientation.

Scientific information, which has been ignored in our discussion of human sexuality, provides the “Reason” portion of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral which traditionally guides our denomination’s search for Truth.

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church (UMC) has been torn apart by the debate over the relationship of the UMC to
LGBTQ+ persons.

WHEREAS an understanding of sexuality is essential for a rational discussion of this issue.

WHEREAS a study of the scientific understanding of the elements determining sexual orientation was not a part of the deliberations of the Commission on the Way Forward nor a part of the discussion at the Council of Bishops or the General Conference.

WHEREAS the body of knowledge related to the biology of homosexuality has expanded significantly in the last 3 decades, and evidence is no longer “inconclusive” as stated in the 1992 study on homosexuality commissioned by the General Conference.

WHEREAS our Wesleyan tradition encourages us to include Scripture, tradition, experience and reason in our search for Truth, and scientific discovery contributes the “reason” part of this Quadrilateral.

WHEREAS the reports of scientific discoveries related to sexuality are published in scientific journals which are not read by the general public but are thoroughly reviewed by scientists with expertise in the field.

WHEREAS sexual orientation is part of God’s creation, we are obligated by our Wesleyan heritage to seek a better understanding of sexuality and the determinates of sexual orientation.

WHEREAS the church, having placed so much emphasis on sexuality, has a responsibility for making available well-documented scientific information about sexuality,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the UMC will charge the General Board of Church and Society with the task of appointing a commission which will identify reliable, peerreviewed information regarding what is known about the factors influencing the development of sexual orientation, and assemble a study guide which will be distributed to local churches by January, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Conference be charged with encouraging and facilitating the organization of opportunities for the scientific study of sexuality within each district and by local churches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Conference avoid voting on matters related to sexual orientation until efforts have been made to understand the biology of the factors determining sexual orientation.

April 19, 2019 Church & Society Committee, Asbury UMC, Prairie Village, Kansas
Barbara Lukert, Asbury UMC, Prairie Village, Kansas
7. Nominations Committee

Nominations Report for Annual Conference 2019

Connecting Council

Chair: Bishop Ruben Saenz
Directors:
Scott Brewer, Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services
Topeka, KS
Nathan Stanton, Director of Congregational Excellence
Wichita, KS
Nancy Lambert, Assistant to Bishop/Director of Clergy Exceller
Lincoln, NE
Todd Seifert, Director of Communications
Lincoln, NE

District Superintendents:
Bill Ritter
Lincoln, NE
Dennis Livingston
Hutchinson, KS
Lance Clay
Grand Island, NE
Kay Scarbrough
Topeka, KS

Conference Lay Leader: Lisa Maupin
Lincoln, NE

Associate Conference Lay Leaders:
Randall Hodkinson
Topeka, KS
Robin Bock
Belpre, KS
Keith Olsen
Grant, NE

District Lay Leaders:
Blue River: Jean Pancharoen
Lincoln, NE
Dodge City: Don Schwab
Copeland, KS
Elkhorn Valley: Virginia Piper
Dakota City, NE
Five Rivers: Mary Brooks
Lyndon, KS
Flint Hills: Sandy Kramer
Emporia, KS
Gateway: Kathy Pierce
Gibbon, NE
Great West: Darlene Hall
Mullen, NE
Hays: Roger Kingsley
Ellis, KS
Hutchinson: Evy Hoyt
Lyons, KS
Kansas City: Greg Laaser
Overland Park, KS
Missouri River: Steve Bell
Elkhorn, NE
Parsons: TBD
Prairie Rivers: Kathy Uldrich
Juniata, NE
Salina: Susan Higbee
Lindsborg, KS
Topeka: Randall Hodgkinson
Topeka, KS
Wichita East: Ron Holt
Wichita, KS
Wichita West: Larry Harris
Wichita, KS

Representatives from Teams: (named by teams)
Archives and History: Disaster Response
Board of Ordained Ministry
Board of Trustees
Camping
Campus Ministry
CCYM
CF&A
Great Plains United Methodist Women President (or designee)
Karen Dunlap, Derby, KS
Great Plains United Methodist Men President (or designee)
Charles File, Beloit, KS
At Large Members:
Class of 2020
Mary Scott, York, NE
Sang Hak Lee, Belleville, KS
Marsha Ector-Haney, Wichita, KS
Dirk Hutchinson, Salina, KS
Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Overland Park, KS
Tom Watson, Kearney, NE
Class of 2022
Richard Fitzgerald, Salina, KS
Rapondzil Drake, Norfolk, NE
Amanda Guiterrez, Salina, KS
Jesi Lipp, Kansas City, MO
TBD
TBD

Three youth selected by Conference Council on Youth Ministry

Small Membership Church representatives:
2020 Kathy Symes, Clearfield, KS
2022 Judy Attebery, Murray, NE

Episcopacy Team
Chair: Maria Campbell, Kansas City, KS
Staff Liaison: Nancy Lambert, Assistant to Bishop/Director of Clergy Excellency, Topeka, KS
Conference Lay Leader: Lisa Maupin, Lincoln, NE
Maria Campbell, Topeka, KS
Marilyn Moore, Lincoln, NE
Jose Olivas, Ulysses, KS
Michael Tomson-DeGreeff, Wamego, KS
Marilyn Zehring, Columbus, NE
Gary Brooks, Wichita, KS
Kathy Williams, Holton, KS
David Lux, Lincoln, NE
Brad Kirk, Leoti, KS

Members of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Lippolt</td>
<td>Basehor, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Green</td>
<td>Topeka, KS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Board of Ordained Ministry**

**Chair**
- Galen Wray
  - Springfield, NE

**Staff Liaisons:**
- Karen Jeffcoat, Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) Registrar
  - Lincoln, NE
- Nancy Lambert, Assistant to Bishop/Director of Clergy Exceller
  - Topeka, KS
- Ashlee Alley, Clergy Recruitment and Development
  - Lincoln, NE

**Class of 2020**
- Kim Burnett
  - Wichita, KS
- Jenny Collins
  - Abilene, KS
- Dennis Carter
  - Ellsworth, KS
- Kurt Cooper
  - Emporia, KS
- Deanna Holland
  - Filley, NE
- Ji-Seok Ju
  - Valley Center, KS
- Shelly Petz
  - Hutchinson, KS
- Nora Mendyk
  - Holdrege, NE
- Jerry Brabec
  - Omaha, NE
- Warren Schoming
  - Red Cloud, NE
- Amanda Baker
  - Baldwin City, KS
- David Smith
  - Winfield, KS
- Byoung Lee
  - Winfield, KS
- Charles Murithi
  - Nebraska City, NE
- Gary Main
  - Elkhorn, NE
- Dee Williamston (DS Rep)
  - Salina, KS

**Class of 2024**
- Troy Bowers
  - Mahattan, KS
- Barbara Burns
  - Lincoln, NE
- Ashley Barlow Thompson
  - Wichita, KS
- Wendy Chrostek
  - Leawood, KS
- Brenda Davids
  - Council Grove, KS
- Craig Finnested
  - Omaha, NE
- Kirstie Engel
  - Lincoln, NE
- Kevass Harding
  - Wichita, KS
- Margaret Johnson
  - Kiowa, KS
- Hyun Jung Choi
  - Eureka, KS
- Robert Perry
  - Seward, NE
- Roy Ramsey
  - Leavenworth, KS
- Gary Robbins
  - Topeka, KS
- Peter Hedstrom
  - Hastings, NE
- Sandy Simmons
  - Leavenworth, KS
- Mitch Todd
  - Mulvane, KS
- Michael Tomson-DeGreeff
  - Wamego, KS
- Galen Wray
  - Springfield, NE
- Mary Meckenstock
  - Hays, KS
Class of 2028
Andrew Conard Berryton, KS
Chuck Rager Ogallala, NE
Jose’ Miranda South Sioux City, NE
Becky Davison Hugoton, KS
Aaron Duell Lakin, KS
Glenn Fogo Manhattan, KS
Corey Jenkins Sidney, NE
Changsu Kim Tonganoxie, KS
Ezekiel Koech Russell, KS
Jerry Nolte Dodge City, KS
Nancy Richwine Stark, KS
Faye Thornton Valley Center, KS

Administrative Review Committee (nominated by bishop)
Chair: Michael Keating Cimarron, KS
       Nancy Lambert, Assistant to Bishop/Director of Clergy Excellence Topeka, KS
Staff Liaison: Charlotte Abram Omaha, NE
               Michael Keating Cimarron, KS
               Alice Purvis Fredonia, KS
               Brian Kottas (alt) Ceresco, NE

Investigation For Diaconal Ministry (nominated by bishop)
Chair: Sheran Cramer Omaha, NE
       Oliver Green Topeka, KS
       Linda Louderback Leawood, KS
       Carolyn May Colby, KS
       Tom Watson Kearney, NE
       Lew Van der Wege Phillipsburg, KS
Alternates: Nancy Brown Stanley, KS
            Bob Cox Hays, KS
            Dennis Livingston Hutchinson, KS
            Matt Fowler Broken Bow, NE
            Brian Kottas Ceresco, NE
            Elizabeth Lippoldt Wichita, KS
            David Livingston Shawnee, KS
            Jan Todd Mulvane, KS

Committee on Investigation (nominated by bishop)
Chair: Michael Gardner Leawood, KS
       Penney Schwab Copeland, KS
       Tom Watson Kearney, NE
       Loyd Hamrick Wichita, KS
       Rick Just Wichita, KS
       Javier Rios Yates Center, KS
       Bonnie McCord Chadron, NE
Alternates: Thaine Hoffman  Topeka, KS
Lori Smith  Springfield, NE
Linda Redfern  Scottsbluff, NE
Bridget Gately  Overland Park, KS
Kennedy Mukwindidza  Minneapolis, KS
Gary Main  Elkhorn, NE

**Transition into Ministry (TIM)**

Bishop Ruben Saenz  Topeka, KS
Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Clergy Excellence: Nancy Lambert  Topeka, KS
Hutchinson District DS Dennis Livingston  Hutchinson, KS
Staff Liaison: Ashlee Alley, TiM Coordinator  Lincoln, NE
2020 Martha Kessler  Benton, KS
2020 Ryan Lynch  Andover, KS
2021 Lori Smith  Springfield, NE
2021 Wayne Alloway Jr.  Lincoln, NE
2022 TBD
2023 TBD

**Vital Congregations Team**

Chair: Trudy Kenyon Anderson  Grand Island, NE
Staff Liaisons: Nathan Stanton, Director of Congregational Excellence ex offic Wichita, KS
Coordinator of Lay Leadership
Conference lay leader or designee: Lisa Maupin  Lincoln, NE
Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries
Mary Feit  Lincoln, NE
Noni Cambridge  Omaha, NE
Cathy Fitzgerald  Johnson, KS
Haran Gatabu  Overland Park, KS
Gina Tyler  Valley Falls, KS
Brad Wheeler  Louisburg, KS
Nathan Gift  Stafford, KS

Class of 2022
Trudy Kenyon Anderson  Grand Island, NE
Jeff Clinger  Topeka, KS
Ryong Jae Jung  Pittsburg, KS
Sharon (Sheri) Lambrecht  McCool Junction, NE
Juan Carolos Veloso  Bellevue, NE
TBD

**Great Plains New Church Development, Inc.**

Chair: Lorna Geist  Bel Aire, KS
Staff Liaison: Nathan Stanton, Director of Congregational Excellence  Wichita, KS

The treasurer of the GPUMC will serve as the treasurer of the corporation
District Superintendent: Mitch Reece  
Wichita, KS

Class of 2020
Alan Gager  
Hutchinson, KS
Lorna Geist  
Bel Aire, KS
Dennis Ackerman  
Manhattan, KS

Class of 2021
Ken Parker  
Meriden, KS
Mandy Barkhaus  
Omaha, NE
Curt Magelky  
Lincoln, NE

Class of 2022
Kim Whitehouse  
Papillion, NE
TBD
TBD

Class of 2023
TBD
TBD
TBD

Conference Council on Youth Ministry
Will be shared at Annual Conference

Great Plains United Methodist Camps, Inc. ("Great Plains Camps")

Chair: TBD

Staff Liaison: Sara Shaw, Coordinator of Camping Ministry  
ex officio (without vote)  
Wichita, KS

Site Directors:  
ex officio (without vote)
Chippewa  
James Rickner  
Ottawa, KS
Comeca  
Justin Hoehner  
Cozad, NE
Fontanelle  
Trent Meyer  
Nickerson, NE
Horizon  
Joel Wilke  
Arkansas City, KS
Norwesca  
Meg Mayle  
Chadron, NE
Lakeside  
Meg Anderson  
Scott City, KS

Local site council chairs and Reps:
Chippewa  
Jonathan Harnden  
Waverly, KS 66871
Chippewa  
Donna Voteau  
Council Grove, KS 66846
Comeca  
Dick Trail  
McCook, NE 69001
Fontanelle  
Kristine Roberts  
Elkhorn, NE 68022
Horizon  
Dennis Artz  
Wichita, KS 67209
Horizon  
Quentin Bennett  
Winfield, KS
Lakeside  
Dan Hutton  
Scott City KS 67871
Lakeside  
Jan Barnum  
Colby, KS 67701
Norwesca  
Paul Smith  
Hay Springs, NE 69347
Norwesca  
Kris House  
Rushville, NE 69360

At-large directors:

Class of 2020
TBD
TBD
Seth Leypoldt  
Gering, NE

Class of 2021
Randy Quinn  
Wichita, KS
Great Plains United Methodist Campus Ministry, Inc. (“Great Plains Campus Ministry”)

Chair- April Wegehaupt Chanute, KS
Vice-Chair Lora Andrews Winfield, KS
Staff Liaison: Nicole Conard, Young Adult Leadership Coordinator ex officio Wichita, KS

The treasurer of the GPU MC shall serve as treasurer of the corporation.

Campus Pastors, ex officio:
Baker University Kevin Hopkins Baldwin City, KS
Creighton University/Universisty of NE Sierra Pirigyi Omaha, NE
Emporia State University Kurt Cooper Emporia, KS
Fort Hays State University Kathy Bannister Hays KS
Kansas State University: Chelsea Shrack Manhattan, KS
KS Wesleyan University: Scott Jagodzinske Salina, KS
NE Wesleyan University: Eduardo Bousson Lincoln, NE
Southwestern College Ben Hanne Winfield, KS
University of Kansas Susan Mercer Lawrence, KS
University of NE Lincoln Michelle Chesnut Lincoln, NE
University of NE Kearney: Laura Stubblefield Kearney, NE
Washburn University: Cherie Baker Topeka, KS
Wichita State University: Jonathan Flesher Wichita, KS

Directors
Class of 2020 Linda Kastning Ponca, NE
Steve Talbott Stockton, KS
Karelle Leaper TBD

Class of 2021 Julie King Colby, KS
Stefanie Hayes Ord, NE
Lora Andrews Winfield, KS
Docia Johnson Franklin, KS

Class of 2022 John Collins Abilene, KS
Pat Norris Denton, NE
TBD
TBD

Class of 2023 TBD
TBD
TBD
TBD

**Mercy and Justice Team**

Chair: Sarah Marsh  
*Manhattan, KS*

Staff Liaison: Kalaba Chali, Mercy and Justice Coordinator ex-officio (without)  
*Wichita, KS*

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries: Carol Eckdahl-Garwood  
*Dakota City, NE*

Peace and Justice Coordinator: Andrea Paret  
*Norfolk, NE*

District Superintendent: Cindy Karges  
*Kearney, NE*

Representative to Committee on Native American Ministries:  
DeLynn Hay  
*Waverly, NE*

Class of 2020:  
Marcee Binder  
*Pittsburg, KS*

DeLynn Hay  
*Waverly, NE*

Loren Drummond  
*Salina, KS*

Jerry Feese  
*Lawrence, KS*

Katie Lamb  
*Lincoln, NE*

Michael Ricci-Roberts  
*Smith Center, KS*

JoAnn Smith  
*Topeka, KS*

Class of 2022:  
Sarah Marsh  
*Manhattan, KS*

Louise Niemann  
*David City, NE*

Glory Kathurima  
*Omaha, NE*

Maria Penrod  
*Overbook, KS*

Jeanne Koontz  
*Hutchinson, KS*

Lyn Lamberty  
*Topeka, KS*

Oliver Green  
*Topeka, KS*

**General Agency Directors:**

**Board of Church & Society**  
Cindy Karges  
*Hastings, NE*

**General Board of Race and Religion**  
Zach Anderson  
*Goodland, KS*

**Disaster Response Team**

Chair: Kerry Herkelman  
*Cimarron, KS*

Vice-Chair: TBD

Staff Liaison: Hollie Tapley, Disaster Response Coordinator ex officio (without)  
*Topeka, KS*

Rose Roberts, Hot Foods Ministry ex officio (with vote)  
*Newton, KS*

Class of 2020:  
TBD

Barb Lenz  
*Omaha, NE*

David Baltzell  
*Ogallala, NE*

Martin Leeper  
*Shickley, NE*

Don Schaeffer  
*Ozawkie KS*

Jeff Goetzinger  
*Hutchinson, KS*
Class of 2022
D.R. "Buck" Linton-Hendrick  Chapman, NE
Aaron Johnson  Ithaca, NE
Kerry Herkelman  Cimarron, KS
David Rayson  Wichita, KS
TBD

Annual Conference Session Planning Team
Chair: Ross Baker  Baldwin City, KS
Vice Chair: Debi Nixon  Olathe, KS
Staff Liaison: Nancy Lambert, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Clergy Excellence  Topeka, KS
Todd Seifert, Director of Communications  Topeka, KS
Scott Brewer, Director of Administrative Services  Topeka, KS
Nathan Stanton, Director of Congregational Excellence  Wichita, KS
Conference Secretary: Nan Kaye-Skinner  Lincoln, NE
Lay Leader (or associate): Lisa Maupin  Lincoln, NE
Class of 2020
Emily Spearman Cannon  Auburn, NE
Debi Nixon  Olathe, KS
Lew Kaye Skinner  Lincoln, NE
Ross Baker  Baldwin City, KS
Class of 2022
Melinda Harwood  McLouth, KS
Dixie Brewster  Milton, KS
Berniece Ludlum  Dighton, KS

Nominations
Chair: Tessa Zehring  Doniphan, NE
Vice-Chair: Esther Hay  Waverly, NE
Staff Liaison: Nathan Stanton, Director of Congregational Excellence  Wichita, KS
Lisa Maupin, Conference Lay Leader ex officio (with vote)  Lincoln, NE
Class of 2020
Bruce Draper  Shawnee, KS
Donna Voteau  Newton, KS
Tessa Zehring  Doniphan, NE
Class of 2022
Sheran Cramer  Omaha, NE
Larry Moffett  Lincoln, NE
Esther Hay  Waverly, NE

Archives and History Team
Chair: Melinda Ritgers  Olathe, KS
Kansas Archivist: Sara DeCaro  Baldwin City, KS
Nebraska Archivist: Christy Hyman  Lincoln, NE
Class of 2020
Mik King  El Dorado, KS
Mark Howard Schulze Omaha, NE
Jodie Liess Imperial, NE
Doris Wills Topeka, KS

Class of 2022
Dave Webb Protection, KS
Don Everhart Olathe, KS
Mel Luetchens Murdock, NE
Melinda Ritgers Olathe, KS

Personnel Team
Chair: Craig Hauschild Wichita, KS
Staff Liaison: Scott Brewer, Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services ex Topeka, KS
Carole Fusaro, Human Resources Officer/Senior Benefits Office Topeka, KS

DS Rep
Class of 2020
David Livingston Lenexa, KS
Bob Cox Hays, KS
Julie Bickel Overland Park, KS

Class of 2022
Sara Boatman Lincoln, NE
Mary Brooks Lyndon, KS
Craig Hauschild Wichita, KS

Pensions and Health Benefits Team
Chair: Mike Shockley Wichita, KS
Staff Liaison: Scott Brewer, treasurer/director of administrative services ex Topeka, KS
Peggy Mihoover, Benefits Officer Topeka, KS

DS Rep
Class of 2020
Chad Anglemyer Omaha, NE
Kim Moore Hutchinson, KS
Laura Laughlin Chapman, KS
Mike Shockley Wichita, KS
Doug Griger Fairbury, NE
Dwight Trumble Springfield, NE
Charles Spence Omaha, NE

Class of 2022
Janet Claassen Beatrice, NE
Ron Harris Emporia, KS
Ron Kite Newton, KS
Kim Dickerson Ord Wichita, KS
Jeff Prothro DeSoto, KS
Janelle Gregory Olathe, KS

Council on Finance and Administration
Chair: Zach Anderson Goodland, KS
Staff Liaison: Scott Brewer, treasurer/director of administrative services ex Topeka, KS
Bishop Ruben Saenz ex officio (without vote)
Nathan Stanton, Director of Congregational Excellence *ex officio*  
*Wichita, KS*

District Superintendent  
(without vote)  
Kay Scarbrough  
*Topeka, KS*

Class of 2020:  
Lloyd Ambrosius  
*Lincoln, NE*
Stephan Cannon  
*Auburn, NE*
Dave Platt  
*Shawnee, KS*
Katherine Whitmore  
*Ottowa, KS*

Class of 2022:  
Zach Anderson  
*Goodland, KS*
Steve Baccus  
*Minneapolis, KS*
Bill Sedgwick  
*DeSoto, KS*
Karla Sheffy  
*Emporia, KS*
Kelly Williams  
*Overland Park, KS*

GCF&A  
Dustin Petz  
*Hutchinson, KS*

**Board of Trustees**  
President: Loyd Hamrick  
*Wichita, KS*
Staff Liaison: Scott Brewer, treasurer/director of administrative services *ex officio*  
*Topeka, KS*
Patrick McKaig, Property Manager *ex officio* (without vote)  
*Topeka, KS*

DS Rep: (without vote)  
Class of 2020:  
James Griffith  
*Abilene, KS*
Loyd Hamrick  
*Wichita, KS*
Jenell Erb  
*Orchard, NE*

Class of 2021:  
Kent Rogers  
*Hastings, NE*
Michael Jones  
*David City, NE*
Darlene Hall  
*Mullen, NE*

Class of 2022:  
Stephanie Ahlschwede  
*Lincoln, NE*
Scott Barnum  
*Colby, KS*
TBD

Class of 2023:  
TBD
TBD
TBD

**Conference Chancellors**  
Brett Ebert (new)  
Patricia Reeder  
Dave Seely

**Institutions/Agencies for Elections**  
**2019-2020 Board of Trustees/Directors/Governors for GP Nominating Report**

**Aldersgate Village 2019-2020**  
Executive Board Members:

**Board Chair**  
Jim Rinner
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vice-Chair</th>
<th>Carol Wheeler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>Daniel Lehman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Kevin Brunton, Topeka, KS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2021</td>
<td>Deborah Sheehy, Topeka, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Kossler, Topeka, KS</td>
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<td>Daniel Lehman, Topeka, KS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mark Young, Topeka, KS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Rinner, Topeka, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2022</td>
<td>Carol Wheeler, Topeka, KS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Visitors/Staff:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UMC DS Rep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Plains Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President &amp; CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bree Rogers, Chief Fina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Asbury Board of Trustees - Listing by Class**

**CLASS OF 2019-term runs July 2016 through June 2019**

- Immediate Past Chair: Sally Chesser, Wichita, KS
- Secretary: Dee Donatelli-Reber, Newton, KS
- Chair: William (Bill) Young, Wichita, KS
- Vallarie Gleason, Newton, KS
- Brad Koehn, Wichita, KS

**CLASS OF 2020 - term runs July 2017 through June 2020**

- Chair of Finance: Rod Kreie, Newton, KS
- President Elect: Sue Dondlinger, Wichita, KS
- Scott Metzler, Newton, KS
- Larry Krueger, Bentley, KS
- Rev. Butch Lambert, Marion, KS

**CLASS OF 2021 - term runs July 1 2018 through June 2021**

- Janice Buselt, Wichita, KS
- Gary Denny, Newton, KS
- Steve Kelly, Newton, KS
- Vacancy
- Vacancy

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS AND LIAISON MEMBERS**

- **LIAISON MEMBER**
  - Asbury Park Resident Activity Association

- **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**
  - Bishop Ruben Saenz, Topeka, KS
  - Rev. Dennis Livingston, Hutchinson, KS

- Legal Counsel: Tom Adrian, Newton, KS

**BAKER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- TBD
Class of 2021
- Jeff Horlacher, Colby, KS
- Kendal Kay, Ashland, KS
- Morita Truman, Hillsboro, KS
- Erick Nordling, Hugoton
- Terri Rice, Wichita, KS
- Susan Evans, Colby, KS

Class of 2022
- Robert Cox, Hays, KS
- Lori Hartnett, Hutchinson, KS
- Lynette Juresic, Andover, KS
- Monte Wentz, Concordia, KS

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr. – ex-officio (with vote)

**Wesley Towers Board of Trustees--2018-19**

- Carol Berger, Hutchinson, KS
- Bill (Phyllis) Binford, Hutchinson, KS
- Patty Crews, Hutchinson, KS
- Jack (Bonnie) Diekman, Hutchinson, KS
- Lisa (Lee) Gleason, Hutchinson, KS
- Shannon Holmberg, Hutchinson, KS
- Ed (Marge) Johnson, Hutchinson, KS
- Randy (Debra) Myers, Hutchinson, KS
- Carolyn (Michael) Patterson, Hutchinson, KS
- Greg (Paula) Payton, Hutchinson, KS
- Ron (Marilyn) Salyer, Hutchinson, KS
- Steve (Judy) Seltzer, Pretty Prairie, KS
- Garth (Pamalee) Strand, Buhler, KS
- Mary (Merlin) Trock, Hutchinson, KS
- Mark Mains, Hutchinson, KS
- Bishop Ruben Saenz, Topeka, KS
- Wendling, Noe, Nelson, and Johi, Topeka, KS

**Agencies to be Confirmed**

**Genesis Family Health--Board of Directors**

- Elizabeth Irby-Chair
- Elizabeth Scheopner-Vice Chair
- Debra Brock-Secretary
- Callie Dyer-Treasurer
- Rev. Don Hasty-District Superintendent

**Members**

- Ryan Ausmus
- Mitch DeLoach
- Sonia Hernandez
- Hortencia Torres

**GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc.--Board of Directors**

- Class of 2018
  - Fred Ervin, Wichita, KS
- Class of 2019
  - Marc Minnis-President, Wichita, KS
  - Rob Dakin-Vice-President, Wichita, KS
  - Laurie Labarca, Wichita, KS
  - Myron Leinwetter, Wichita, KS
  - Garold Minns, Wichita, KS
  - Rick Woods, Topeka, KS
- Class of 2020
  - Julie Hedrick, Wichita, KS
  - Marlon King, Wichita, KS
Kansas Wesleyan University Board of Trustees 2019
Board Officers
Ms. Emily May Richards, Chair
Dr. Charles Grimwood, Immediate Past Chair
Mr. Jeff Bieber, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jon Starks, Treasurer
Ms. Jane Philbrick, Secretary
President & CEO of Kansas Wesleyan University
Dr. Matthew R. Thompson
Mr. Charlie Ault-Duell* Mr. Rafael Mendez* Mr. Jon Starks
Mr. Jeff Bieber* Ms. Julie Sager Miller Rev. Glenn F. Tombaugh*
Ms. Debora L. Cox Mr. Byron K. Norris* Mrs. Mary Quinley*
Dr. Charles G. Grimwood Mr. Jerry E. Norton* Mr. Jeremiah Webb*
Dr. Sean M. Herrington Ms. Jane D. Philbrick* Mr. Barry D. Weis*
Dr. David B. Laha* Mr. John M. Redding* Rev. Delores J. Williamston
Mr. D. Kent Lambert* Ms. Emily May Richards
Mr. Robert A. Loyd Rev. Nathan Stanton*

Nebraska Wesleyan Board of Governors 2019-2020
Julie M. Anderson Stephanie Howland-Moline Bill White
Rev. Chad Anglemyer Dr. Tamra Llewellyn
Robert F. Bartle Kim S. Moore Governors Emeriti:
Kevin Boatright Smantha Mosser B. Keith Heuermann
Scott Brewer Shawn Peed Gordon Hull
Steven Brugman Sheryl Rinkol James R. Kruse
Kevin E. Cook Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr. Angie Muhleisen
D. Todd Duncan Mark A. Schulze Linda Mullin
Richard Galyen Jeff Schumacher Richard A. Peterson
Hon. John M. Gerrard Hunter Smith Larry L. Ruth
Dr. Darrin S Good, Suzanne Sughrue Dr. F. Thomas Waring
Daphne Hall Frank Svoboda
David G. Hansen Samuel Trofholz
Dr. Patty Hawk Cori Vokoun
L. Bradley Hurrell Mark T. Walz

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Mitch Reece, District Superintendent Rep
Diane Thompson, UMW Representative
B. Conference Reports

1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

a. COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
Mik King, Chairperson

The Great Plains Annual Conference owns and maintains archival collections at two facilities and provides funding for two half-time archivists. Christy Hyman is director of the Nebraska United Methodist Historical Center/Archives at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Sara DeCaro is archivist of the Kansas United Methodist Archives at Baker University.

The Kansas United Methodist Archives had a busy year. Approximately 45 cubic feet of records were received from the merger of the Topeka, Lincoln and Wichita conference offices, and another 16 cubic feet came to the archives after the closure of the Gove United Methodist Church. There were also 113 requests from researchers, mostly via email and telephone. At least six researchers visited the archives in person, including multiple visits from the staff of Lenexa UMC as they researched their church’s anniversary. Well over 100 books on Methodist topics were added to the library catalog.

In addition to responding to requests from researchers, Kansas United Methodist Archivist Sara DeCaro added 9 cubic feet of processed records to Archon, the archives’ searchable database of archival materials. A survey of the 45 cubic feet of records from the merger of offices and several finding aids were completed by intern Sarah St. John, and intern Anna Gordon arranged and described the records of Hyde Park United Methodist Church.

The Nebraska United Methodist Historical Center/Archives at Nebraska Wesleyan University has also had busy year. There have been over 118 phone requests, and 51 by email. Processing and researching these requests takes up the bulk of the archivist’s time. Additionally, there have been over 16 visitors. As Nebraska has had inclement weather this year there have been less visitors during the winter. August had the most. Archivist Christy Human has also scanned 15 images and has driven to different places in Nebraska to acquire boxes and records. Presently, there has been 14 cubic feet of boxes acquired including baptismal and marriage records.

NWU is making some changes both in physical structure and in personnel structure. On a structural side, an egress hallway has been in development. This disrupted operations during the month of July for a bit. Hyman and her son as volunteer were required to move materials six feet out of the way. On the personnel side, NWU has a new president, Darrin Good, as Frank Ohls is stepping down. The new president is a STEM Professor involved in healthcare initiatives and more.

b. BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
Michael Shockley, Chairperson

The Pension and Health Benefits Team currently has two laity positions and a retired clergy position open to meet the need of six laity, one retired clergy member and five active clergy members. Ex-officio members include Conference Treasurer Scott Brewer, Conference Benefits Officer Peggy Mihoover, and Cabinet Rep, the Rev. Chad Anglemyer.

For providing advice and guidance regarding the investment of discretionary funds, the Team along with CFA has an Investment Committee.

It remains the desire of the team to continue using the resources of Wespath Benefits and Investments for the investment of our discretionary funds until such time the Investment Committee deems it necessary to move the funds.

The following represents benefits and other programs managed and reviewed annually by the Board:

- Health Insurance/Health Insurance Allowance

In 2018, the annual conference voted to continue the current health allowance system with an annual allowance of $15,850 for every eligible clergy person serving three-quarter to full-time. The Pension and Health Benefits Team continued the Emergency Health Insurance Grant which provides up to $15,000 in additional support to families who have seen their
for every eligible clergy person serving three-quarter to full-time. The Pension and Health Benefits Team continued the Emergency Health Insurance Grant which provides up to $15,000 in additional support to families who have seen their premiums exceed the annual health allowance of $15,850.

We have received grant requests from families who are facing huge premium costs simply for a base-level bronze plan, not at the levels we had expected. In fact, for this year (2019), we have approved five grants so far for a total amount of $52,324. This is a decrease from 2018, we are seeing a decline in the cost of premiums. Please note: these health insurance grants are still available to clergy, including those who might face large increases with mid-year 2019 changes in appointment.

In the event we see coverage health coverage no longer being offered through healthcare.gov in either Kansas or Nebraska, the Pension and Health Benefits Team will request a special session of the annual conference to address the situation at that time.

- **Past Service Rate (PSR)**

The past service rate is a defined benefit based upon years of service through December 31, 1981. This is the rate received by those that have vested years of service in the Pre-82 Pension Plan.

The Team set a projected goal of an annual increase of two percent or COLA which is reflected in the Comprehensive Funding Plan.

2019 PSR is $791.00. An increase of two percent ($16.00) for 2020 would bring the PSR up to $807.00. Any increases to the annuity PSR shall be funded immediately in the year in which the increase occurs.

- **Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CAP)**

The CAP is the rate of pension that surviving spouses shall receive from the Pre-82 Pension Plan.

The current rate is 85% for the former Nebraska and Kansas East conferences, and 100% for the former Kansas West conference.

The Team having set the goal of reviewing the rates annually, did review for the possibility of increasing to 100% for 2020. The current funding level in the Pre-82 Pension Plan will not allow for an increase at this time. The Team will continue to review yearly with the possibility of moving the rate to 100% sometime in the future.

- **Retirement Benefits/Funding Percentage/Use of Reserves**

The Conference has an over-funded position in the Pre-82 Pension Plan and substantial pension reserves. In the past, the Team has used the over-funding and reserves to reduce the overall cost of the pension benefits to the local churches. The over-funding of the Pre-82 Pension Plan is used first with the pension reserves used as a backup if needed.

The over-funding in the Pre-82 Pension Plan has been used while maintaining a funding balance more than 120%. The Team’s funding level for the Pre-82 Pension Plan is not to be reduced below 120%.

Recommendation for the 2020 local church funding is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPP death and disability</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRSP defined contributions</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRSP defined benefit</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Full-funding for the clergy pension plan and CPP is 15.2%. The difference between the amount the local church’s pay (9 percent) and the full-funding cost (15.2 percent) is subsidized by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Team. Members serving 25%, the local churches will fund 10% into the members UMPIP account. The two percent balance required to meet the full funding level of 12 percent will be funded from the Pre-82 Pension Plan over-funding, and then out of the pension reserves, if needed.

- **Funding Percentage**
The Team’s funding level for the Pre-82 Pension Plan is not to be reduced below 120 percent.

- **Special Pension Grants**
Currently we have two dependent children receiving a grant.

- **Incapacity Leave Health Care Allowance**
Effective January 1, 2017, those receiving CPP medical leave benefits will receive a health care allowance with the following schedule:
  - First 24 months-the health care allowance will be $14,232 annually.
  - After the first 24 months payments-the Clergyperson will receive $300.00 monthly, along with $300.00 monthly for the spouse (three-year term) and $300.00 monthly for dependents until the age of 26 (three-year term). After the completion of three years, the allowance will be discontinued for the spouse and any eligible dependents.

- **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)**
Effective January 1, 2017, eligibility is as follows:
  - All three-quarter time ordained, student local pastors and local pastors will be covered by the CPP. Costs to the local church are 3% of plan compensation.
  - Ordained clergy members serving one-half time will receive benefits through UMLife Options with the actual cost being paid by the local church.

- **Virgin Pulse Health Miles**
This program is available to active clergypersons serving three-quarter time or more along with the spouse, retired clergyperson/spouse, and the conference lay staff/spouse. The participant can earn actual dollars by completing their activity goals.

- **Short-term Disability**
Short-term disability funding is available to assist member churches in the event a full-time or part-time (half-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 or DSA’s absence exceeds 30 days but is anticipated to be less than 180 days.

A statement from the treating physician with the estimated duration of absence is required. The local church is required to submit monthly statements to the Conference Benefits Officer that documents the name of the interim pastor, dates interim pastor served in some capacity and amounts paid.

- **Retiree Health Insurance**
The Conference partners with Via Benefits through Wespath Benefits and Investments for Retiree Health Insurance. Via Benefits is an exchange that will assist each retiree in selecting the private Medicare plan that best meets their medical needs and budget.

Nebraska retirees retiring through December 31, 2019, that meet the eligibility requirements will receive a health reimbursement account (HRA) providing they use Via Benefits in securing their coverage. The coverage must continue
Farmer Fund Emergency Grants

A request for assistance from the Farmer Fund Grant is made through the Board on an application form provided by Wespath Benefits and Investments. Distressed clergy members or former clergy members of the annual conference, their spouses, former spouses, former surviving spouses or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children) are eligible to apply for a grant. An application for benefits requires the member to substantiate financial resources by completing the income and expenditures statement. Maximum available through the grant is $4,000.00. The clergy member can only receive one grant Farmer Fund Grant per calendar year and must have no less than an ACA Bronze Healthcare Plan.

A statement of approval/acknowledgement of circumstances is required by the District Superintendent.

Written guidelines and applications are available from the benefits department.

Crouse Fund Grants

Crouse Fund Grants are submitted to the Cabinet by the District Superintendent (DS) for approval once the DS has determined the need. Funds can only be used for critical/emergency needs for which the Farmer Fund is unable to provide a grant. Maximum available through the grant is $3,000.00.

Written guidelines are available from the benefits department.

Use of Reserves

Upon a request from the Mission Alignment team, the team continues to draw 5% of pension-designated reserves to help pay for Conference Staff benefits.

The Team established a 5% fund spending of the pension reserves to be utilized to offset conference staff benefit cost, with health insurance benefits coming from the share of unrestricted funds.

Life Insurance

We continue to offer affordable voluntary life insurance. This benefit is available to clergy members and conference lay staff members who work at least 30 hours per week. The benefits can be portable when employees terminate.

Vision and Dental

We continue to offer affordable vision and dental insurance. This benefit is available to clergy members and conference lay staff members who work at least 30 hours per week. These benefits are optional coverages and the costs are to be paid by the participant on a pre-tax basis.

Critical Illness and Accident

These optional benefit coverages are available for clergy members and conference lay staff members who work at least 30 hours per week.

Lockton Consultant Services

The board continues a contractual relationship with Lockton. As our broker, we are provided updates/reporting requirements related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Lockton also conducts the bidding processes on all benefits made available to conference members and staff. Lockton provides a variety of training webcasts and meetings at no cost.

2020 Comprehensive Funding Plan

The Board is required to submit a comprehensive funding plan each year to Wespath Benefits and Investments. Wespath Opinion on Great Plains Conference 2020 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan.
The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

**Housing Resolution**

To meet Federal Guidelines, an annual housing resolution must be approved at Annual Conference and printed in the journal.

**c. BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Loyd Hamrick, President

The Great Plains Conference Board of Trustees continues to evaluate, maintain and protect conference-owned properties over the two-state areas of Kansas and Nebraska. Since the last Annual Conference in Wichita, the board has continued to have meetings and teleconferences to accomplish the task at hand.

Since the last Annual Conference the CBOT has:

- Sold the conference offices in Wichita and Topeka.
- The Lincoln Office remains marketed for lease or sale following a last-minute cancellation by the buyer due to its state contract falling through.
- The CBOT is beginning talks and actively looking at planning for a building or purchasing a new permanent conference office in Topeka.
- The CBOT has sold property of five closed churches.
- The CBOT has sold four District Parsonages and an Episcopal residence.

**District Parsonages/Episcopal Residence:**

- Elkhorn Valley district parsonage, in Nolfork, Nebraska – listed for sale with realtor and sold to a private individual – closed on the parsonage August 31, 2018.
- No other D/S parsonages to be sold this year, currently the conference owns seven parsonages:
- On the Episcopal Residence in Topeka the CBOT approved door replacement and window repairs – approved October 26, 2018 – work scheduled for April 23, 2019.

In the aftermath of the 2019 General Conference, in St. Louis, Mo., the Trustees continue to work on establishing clear protocols and guidelines for congregations choosing to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

- We have developed protocols with the Appointive Cabinet for the disaffiliation of churches should the legislation passed by General Conference be ruled unconstitutional.
- We have established an exit price of one year mission shares and the congregation’s pro rata share of unfunded pension liabilities based upon a market-based valuation.

The Trustees work on property issues related to the discontinued local churches – here are the church closures we worked on last year and now:

- Cedar Vale UMC, Cedar Vale, Kansas – This church property was sold to the Caney River Cowboy Church on April 26, 2018, and the parsonage was sold by the church with final installment to be received April 2027. This was reported last year, but this is a clearer picture of the sell.
- Glade UMC, Glade, Kansas. – we finally worked through the closing and a group of pastors are trying to put together a community organization to use the property.
- Gove UMC, Gove, Kansas. – church closed and property was sold to Gove Community Bible Church on March 13, 2019.
• Scranton UMC, Scranton, Kansas. – property sold to an individual September 26, 2018.
• Delphos UMC, Delphos, Kansas – this was a continuation from 2018, the property sold April 10, 2019 to another church group.

The following is a report of Conference vehicle pool:

Vehicles sold: (4)
• 2011 Chevrolet Equinox from Missouri River August 9, 2018
• 2011 Honda CR-V from Gateway September 18, 2018
• 2009 Honda Accord from Topeka Pool December 24, 2018
• 2013 Toyota Sienna from Topeka Pool April 12, 2019

Vehicles transferred: (4)
• 2016 Ford Fusion transferred from Elkhorn Valley to Topeka pool July 1, 2018
• 2015 Toyota RAV4 transferred from Lincoln to Missouri River July 1, 2018

d. EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE
Maria T. Campbell, chair

The Episcopacy Committee (as per paragraph 637.3 in BOD), supports the bishop in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church, with special reference to presidential responsibilities; is available to the bishop for counsel; and keeps the bishop advised concerning conditions within the area as they affect relationships between the bishop and the people of the conference agencies. The committee has held two meetings with Bishop Saenz and seeks to encourage and support his leadership of our conference and his witness in the world.

This was a critical year in the life of the United Methodist Church as we prepared for 2019 Special General Conference which was held in February in St. Louis, Missouri. Bishop Saenz determined that every district needed to have the opportunity to meet with him, so he conducted listening events in the 17 districts. The events were very well-attended and the response was great. The bishop chose not to make public his personal preference of the three proposed plans, so that he could pastorally care for all members of our conference. The Episcopacy Committee prayerfully supported and was grateful for his wisdom and discernment in making this choice. While many would have encouraged him to be an outspoken proponent of a particular plan, the committee was supportive of his stance to be the bishop to the whole conference which positioned him to care for everyone on the other side of the results of the Special Conference.

As of this writing, Bishop Saenz is having gatherings across our conference to be with our members in prayer and conversation. Our bishop feels the weight of the Traditional Plan which was chosen at GC 2019. As we journey through these difficult times, the Episcopacy Committee is grateful for a bishop who has a deep faith and relies upon God for empowerment and guidance to navigate uncertain waters.

The committee encourages the conference to be prayerful in its discernment as we take steps into the future of the United Methodist Church. We ask for prayerful support for Bishop Saenz and the Council of Bishops. We also pray God’s grace to shower upon all of us as we walk into the future that God is still creating.
2. CONNECTING COUNCIL

Rev. Nancy Lambert, Director of Clergy Excellence/Assistant to the Bishop

The Connecting Council meets twice a year to align conference initiatives with the missional priorities of the conference, to act as a decision-making body between Annual Conference sessions as permitted in the Plan of Organization, and to develop communication across the conference. Membership consists of the Bishop, Cabinet, Directors, Conference and district lay leaders, chairpersons of many conference teams and committees, as well as clergy and lay at-large members.

At the October meeting, the Council discussed a summary of Generating Buy-In and then had dialogue about what our strategic story as a conference is. The story line that emerged from the conversation is that “our churches are places where people matter and where lives are changed through life with Christ.” We also had discussion to identify core behaviors of leaders of the conference, and the vision for the Connecting Council.

Cabinet members shared about their work of establishing district strategies for focus the work of the districts. Congregational Excellence and Clergy Excellence staff are working collaboratively with the districts to equip networks to develop specific programs and strategy.

The cabinet and treasurer have redesigned the weekly metrics that are reported with the hope that online worship and Fresh Expressions groups are reported consistently across the conference.

The Communications Team has been working with the Nominations team to develop a way to determine the gifts and talents among lay people in the conference. They hope to match people’s gifts with the needs of their church or even other local churches.

Members of the Mission Alignment Team were elected. The Mission Alignment Team is a sub-team of the Connecting Council with the responsibility of reviewing the budget requests submitted by Directors or committee chairs each January to align the budget presented to the annual conference with the missional priorities adopted by the conference.

The Mission Alignment Team met February – April. They reviewed the budget requests and sent questions about the requests to each director or team leader. They also scheduled time for conversation with the directors to further understand the work of each team and the requested funding. The Mission Alignment adjusted the budget requests and then sent a balanced budget to Council of Finance and Administration.

At the April meeting, Connecting Council members had discussions on two chapters from the book “Community: The Structure of Belonging” by Peter Block.

Updates were given by directors and staff on: Readiness 360; Fresh Expressions; Clergy retreats; Mission share receipts; Nebraska flooding relief efforts; and the Regional Gatherings.

Rev. Sarah Marsh, Chair of Mercy and Justice, presented a proposal for “Doing Justice Initiative,” a comprehensive program to provide congregations the opportunity to become engaged in effective action to address local needs through justice ministry. This would be in partnership with two organizations: DART and WORC.

John Aeschbury, Executive Director of DART, an urban-based organization, presented a 5-year plan to organize people of faith to collectively act to bring about major, system-wide improvements to the policies, practices, and procedures in the systems that far too often neglect the concerns of the poor,stranger, widow and orphan (criminal justice, education, mental health, housing, etc.).

John Smillie, Executive Director of WORC, presented a 5-year proposal to undertake a rural organizing project in Nebraska and Kansas. WORC - Works toward conservation of land water and energy resources and building healthy local food systems and sustainable local economies.

No action was taken on these proposals, but consideration will be given at the fall 2019 meeting for inclusion in the budget planning for 2020 and 2021.
3. CLERGY EXCELLENCE

a. GREAT PLAINS BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY
Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Chair

There are lot of different ways to tell the story of the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry over the last year. One way is to attend the ordination and commissioning service. There you will see men and women who have been guided by our work and are now launching into their vocation as clergy in the UMC. It will be inspiring and full of joy!

Another way is to ask a BOM member about the hope they felt reading through paperwork, conducting interviews, and creating programs over the last year. The signs of hope we have seen are too many to name here. But trust me when I say God is calling talented and resilient people into ministry and they are saying “yes!” despite the troubles of the church. It gives me, and the BOM, great hope to hear their experiences and see their commitment.

Another way to tell our story is by the numbers. Of course, every number below represents a person, which takes us back to the things I mentioned above.

- 32 attended candidacy summits in 2018-2019 (first steps into vocational ministry)
- 46 current certified candidates by April 26, 2019
- 17 attended licensing school this year
- 9 people to be commissioned at Annual Conference 2018
- 22 people continuing as Provisional Members
- 12 people to be Ordained (and one more welcomed into full membership)
- $149,674 given out in seminary scholarships 2018 (a 70% increase from 2017!)
- $25,638 given out for Course of Study Scholarships in 2018

I really hope that during this week of Annual Conference you will seek out someone currently in the credentialing process and give them a word of encouragement. If they are just starting the process, ask them what dreams they have for the future. If they are in school, ask them what they are learning that excites them. If they are serving a church, ask them what is challenging them at the moment. Your interest and support will not only be a blessing to them, but it could also be the thing that makes the Great Plains feel like home.

Thanks to all the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, members of the 17 District Committees on Ordained Ministry, and the Clergy Excellence Staff for another year of excellent work.

b. TRANSITION INTO MINISTRY (TiM)
Rev. Ashlee Alley Crawford

The Transition into Ministry (TiM) program, established in 2011, seeks to support young clergy, 35 and under, in their first five years of ministry through the network of collegial relationships, mentoring and coaching, and intentional collaboration with lay leaders in their congregations. The vision of the program is as follows:

TiM Pastors will be excellent preachers, collaborative clergy, and confident leaders who will empower the laity and be empowered to flourish in ministry. The TiM program will aid Clergy Excellence staff in identifying best practices for training and developing all Great Plains clergy for excellence in ministry.

In July 2018, we welcomed five new clergy to join 10 others. One of the new TiM Participants had served as a solo appointment for two years post-seminary. The other four graduated from seminary just prior to joining the program.

In July 2018, we welcomed five new clergy to join 10 others. One of the new TiM Participants had served as a solo appointment for two years post-seminary. The other four graduated from seminary just prior to joining the program.

The Phase 1 pastors (those in their first two years of the program) met regularly with a mentor pastor for support and opportunity to reflect on their pastoral role and identity. Each mentoring pair has the opportunity to apply for a continuing education grant for a shared experience within their two years in Phase 1. This year, pairs attended the following conferences: the Exponential Conference, the Festival of Homiletics, and the “Listening to the Heartbeat of God” at Ghost Ranch. TiM Pastors in Phase 1 also met six times throughout the year as a group and were supported in leadership development through the Kansas Leadership Center’s Your Leadership Edge curriculum.
The Phase 2 pastors (those in the last three years of the program) met with the Rev. Nancy Lambert periodically for a Clergy Community of Practice. Additionally, two of the pastors, Rev. Brenda Kostner Johnson at Anthony, Kansas, UMC and Rev. Tyler Kaufmann at Lawrence FUMC—West Campus, received a Fruitfulness Grant to help their congregations grow in fruitfulness. The grant process develops leadership skills in the pastor and congregation as they learn how to assess needs in the church/community that have opportunity for increasing fruitfulness, cultivate a plan for growth, measure progress and tell stories that celebrate fruitfulness. The key marker for fruitfulness is this: inner faithfulness leads to external fruitfulness. Thus, the church is invited to cultivate faithful practices as they grow.

Two pastors, Rev. Kostner Johnson and Rev. Aaron Duell, will graduate from the TiM Program in 2019.

4. CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE

a. CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Rev. Nathan D. Stanton, Director

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead

Since the 2018 Annual Conference, the Department of Congregational Excellence helped shut down operations in Wichita and supported the move of primary operations of the Great Plains UMC to the new conference office space in Topeka. In that transition three members did not continue and the department subsequently added three new members all in less than twelve months. The department remains passionate, committed and open to the Spirit of God, who is leading us to strengthen the churches of the Great Plains one conversation and one resource at a time.

I am deeply grateful for the members of the team who have remained through the transition this year; Rev. Nicole Conard, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Coordinator; the Rev. Hollie Tapley, Disaster Response Coordinator, Sara Shaw, Camping Ministry Coordinator and Rev. Kalaba Chali, Mercy and Justice Coordinator. These individuals have helped provide continuity through a time of transition to engage a deeper level of teamwork within the department as well as a focused effort to provide resources and tools for church vitality across the Great Plains United Methodist Connection.

New staff members have brought new energy, new insights and fresh eyes to the processes we have undertaken. The Rev. Melissa Gepford, Intergenerational Discipleship Coordinator was hired and began the role in early 2019. This role will continue the development of discipleship for all ages with a special emphasis on children and family ministry. Shane Warta, Lay Leadership Development Coordinator was hired in the fall of 2018. He is working with the formal lay leadership of the Great Plains and cultivating connections and processes to raise up lay leadership for the church today. Finally, Donna Ernest, Congregational Excellence Administrative Assistant was hired in 2018 and has almost been with the department for a whole year. She has been a positive and spiritually supportive presence to the work of the whole department. We’re all deeply grateful for her work.

Congregational Excellence exists to support the local churches of the Great Plains by working with all 17 districts in the Great Plains. Each of the staff members of the department has been assigned two to three districts as a representative of the department and as a staff member to that district. Many of our districts do not have budgets nor do they have assigned staff members who have a focus on that district only. Assigning a member of the department to be part of the operations team of the district will ensure closer relationships between conference and district staff and networks of churches. It is believed that these closer relationships will provide a sense of belief that in our collective faith and mission, all things are possible with God’s help and guidance.

Specific goals of the include:

Zero Decline
Resourcing the launch of 50 Fresh Expressions in the Great Plains
50 Churches engaged in the Readiness 360 survey and coaching process
Excellent relationships with key conference stakeholders
Ongoing improvement to be more efficient in our work with districts and networks
100% of the District Ministry Strategies implemented
Zero negative impact to conference resources
a. VITAL CONGREGATIONS TEAM
Rev. Dr. Trudy Kenyon Anderson, Chair

The mission of the Vital Congregations Team is to equip and connect local congregations so that they may become more vital and effective in the mission of the church. Vitality is intrinsically linked to a church’s local context; therefore, to be vital, a church must intentionally be on a journey of learning, growing, and leading as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our vision is to help posture every congregation in the Great Plains Conference as a great church who makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We seek to help put churches in a long-term process of growth and vitality.

By grasping key initiatives of the district superintendents that can be done conference wide, the Vital Congregations Team stewards support for districts; ensuring the most effective and efficient use of resources and tools for local church vitality. The Vital Congregations Team comes alongside innovative and burgeoning ministries, offering support through financial resources.

Fulfilling the purpose of the Board of Discipleship ¶630, Board of Laity ¶631, Disability Concerns ¶653, Parish and Community Development ¶633.5, and Young Adults ¶650 (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016); this team provides special attention to the development of lay leadership, ministries with ethnically diverse people, and ministries of small membership churches as well as ministries with populations of 50,000 or more.

The following highlights our work this year and outlines our 2020 priorities:

Lay Ministries:
We oversee financial support for the development of Lay Servant Ministry training opportunities and congregational and coaching support for Readiness 360.

Ethnic Ministries:
The previous nomenclature of “Hispanic Ministries” has been replaced with “Ethnic Ministries” in order to extend support to all ethnically-diverse communities throughout our conference. Since October 2018, $131,000 has been approved for four diverse mission fields.

Networks:
We are charged with evaluating and supporting the culture of networks which provide spiritual covenants and accountability to groups of churches across the conference.

Fresh Expressions:
One hundred $500 grants will be awarded over 2019-2020 for innovative Fresh Expressions.

Urban Ministry Grants:
Since October 2018, the VCT has reviewed and approved $102,425 to four churches serving mission fields with 50,000-plus populations.
b. NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Rev. Nathan Stanton, Director of Congregational Excellence

The Great Plains New Church Development Board continues to be excited about the purpose of supporting the missional priority of the Great Plains Annual Conference by developing great new faith communities. New Church Development continues to work on this missional priority through the “20 by 2020,” plan which set forth a challenge to start 20 new churches by the year 2020. The process by which NCD is doing this is three-fold.

Great Plains Planter Incubator – Great Plains Laity and Clergy are encouraged to participate in a five retreat process to learn planter competencies and live them out in their current setting of ministry. GP coaches provide check-ins along the way in order to support the accountability and the living out of the competencies. Participants have the opportunity to be assessed for starting a new church in the Great Plains. Participants also have the option to pitch a new plan for ministry at the GP Shark Tank.

Great Plains Core Crucible – Clergy and Laity who are appointed to GP innovations, plants or that have a new idea for ministry participate in a year-long cohort to develop a core team. Each participant in this cohort received monthly walk-alongside coaching to develop their core team, mission, vision and values and a revised plan to launch their new ministry. Participants in the Core Crucible will pitch revised plant plans during the Great Plains Shark Tank.

A third level of the New Church Development process is the, “Church Quest.” Churches that move beyond the first-year launch period are supported by New Church Development Board with five touches per year; two onsite benchmark meetings, one continuing education event, on face to face meeting with New Church Development and one year-end meeting with the DS and congregation.

GP NCD has also supported the development of the Fresh Expressions strategy for the Annual Conference by financially supporting the Vision Days and Roundtables held this past winter. The Board also requested and received $170,000.00 to grant to the 17 districts in the Great Plains in support of Fresh Expressions ministries.

The Great Plains Annual Conference celebrates the chartering of its second new church since the our conference’s inception; Urban Abbey in Omaha, Nebraska, chartered, Sunday, February 17, 2019.

The current Great Plains New Churches:
Neighbors UMC – Lincoln, Launched, January 2017
Aldersgate Renew – Wichita, Launched, September 2016
ConnectionN Point – Lincoln, Launched, July 2017
Olathe Common Grace – Olathe, Launched, July 2017

Expenses for this past year:
• $127,372.39 total new pastor training
• $24,999.96 grants to existing churches (Wichita Saint Mark)
• $546,827.88 paid out in 20 by 2020 grants
• $130,173.10 was paid back by KC Hispanic in 2018, resulting in a net of $416,654.78 in grants

c. GREAT PLAINS UNITED METHODIST CAMPS INC.
Stuart Mack, chair

So what’s the goal of the GP Camps?

Bring children to the faith, also youth and adults and helping to build and strengthen congregations. Our camps create a holy space devoid of cellphones, and video games. A safe place, a place of peace, that brings a respite for God’s people in God’s creation. 2018 was another year of growth for the camps. Although the conference contributed $712,500 to the ministry, insurance costs continue to be a significant expense for the camps. The camps must be diligent at keeping their operating and personnel expense as low as possible.

It must be noted, Camp Comeca remains financially challenged. The director and site council continue to work hard to
increase use at the camp. Camp user fees are an important part of the revenue source. Justin Hoehner, the director, has created a scholarship fund for kids who can’t afford the camp fee. At the end of 2018 Camp Comeca had a yearly negative balance of approximately $50,000. This brings the total net cumulative loss to $231,000. Unfortunately, this is not sustainable. Folks, the number one way to reverse this is for congregations to send kids to camp. Our kids benefit by building their faith and at the same strengthening their congregation.

For 2018 the Great Plains Camping Ministry has had an 8% increase over 2017 in attendance.
5193 Campers (including day campers)
839 Campers who accepted Christ
499 Campers who felt a calling
1192 Campers who desired to be involved in their congregation

Camps continue to monitor this data. The camping ministry continues to try to build relationships with their congregations. This support can come in many forms.

At the 2018 annual conference a delightful 12 year old camper shared how her camping experience effected her. “and I didn’t like church when I first started going because, like, I had to sit for a while and do nothing. I got bored. So then when I went to camp it helped me, like, learn about God better cause I had fun while doing it. So yeah, when I went to camp I thought – I learned more about God and what he does to help people and that made me feel better about my spiritual life and church because it doesn’t have to be boring, it can be fun.”

I asked each camp director to share their excitement for the coming 2019 camping season.
Meg Mayle, Norwesca
Going into 2019 summer camping season, I feel driven to ensure that each camper, retreat group, volunteer and staff member feels valued and cared about so that they feel at home at Norwesca, feel safe growing in their faith at camp, and have the confidence to share their faith in their world outside of camp.

Trent Meyer, Fontenelle
As of 2019, Camp Fontanelle will be celebrating 60 years of service. Camp Fontanelle desires to make disciples of Jesus Christ to help transform the world. In an effort to make an even larger impact, Camp Fontanelle is building for the future by wanting to double the number of lives impacted each summer. To double the 765 campers the camp had in 2018, will require a new retreat center with 60 additional air-conditioned beds, including modern conference/retreat space. Since 2017, $2.12 million has been pledged/raised toward the goal of $2.7 million. We have come along way to help make this vision a reality.

Joel Wilke, Horizon
Camp Horizon is exited for the year ahead. With a new swimming pool and recreation space, our campers have all sorts of new activities to enjoy! With a full summer program, we are beginning to offer more programming in the spring and fall. Be on the look out for some exciting new programs for children, youth and adults.

Kristin Jessop, Lakeside
I am so fortunate to be the new director at Camp Lakeside. Every year I attended summer camps at Lakeside. It shaped my faith and helped to make me the person I am. Starting this summer, having the opportunity to instill that same passion and excitement for Christ to my campers is so special.

Justin Hoehner, Comeca
The thing I am most excited about is our new scholarship program. We understand the incredible testimony of experiencing Christ in a unique way at camp. We also noticed that many people may be limited financially, to the point that regardless of the cost it will always be too expensive. So this year we have been seeking generous donations so that these children can also experience Christ a camp at zero cost to them!

James Rickner, Chippewa
Summer camp, what a great opportunity to immerse ourselves in the outdoors, have great fellowship and share the GOOD NEWS! As of May 1, summer camp registration is up 10% from 2018 and 2018 registration was up 9% from the 2017 camping season. That is almost a 20% increase in registered campers that will have the opportunity to experience Christ in a natural setting! What a special opportunity for campers to experience God’s creation, led by a devoted group of summer staff. Members of the Camp Chippewa and the Institute teams have committed to serving, growing and living out their faith
s they explore the Great Plains Camping theme “Peace Works” for the summer of 2019. Volunteers and generous supporters truly are the backbone of the ministry and continue to bless the camp with their time, talents and treasure, so that Camp Chippewa will continue to be a place where “Faith and Fun Come Together.”

c. GREAT PLAINS UNITED METHODIST CAMPUS MINISTRY, INC.
Rev. April Wegehaupt, Chair

The Great Plains United Methodist Campus Ministry Board (GPUMCM) fulfills missional priorities of the conference under Congregational Excellence in leadership development.

Our continued vision is to develop 2,000 student leaders to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by the year 2020.

Our adopted philosophy for ministry is, “Campus Ministry is a movement of grace empowering students to live transformed lives to transform the world.” We seek to achieve this philosophy by creating spaces where students can encounter grace, experience equipping love, and discover engaging transformation.

Campus Ministries in the Great Plains have three core values.
1. Missional. The campus ministry is a missional outpost to the campus. Colleges are mini-cities with residents who have their own language, rules and values. Our campus ministers, just like any out-of-country missionary, must learn this culture in order to minister to the society in which the college student is immersed. Also, just like an out-of-country missionary, our campus ministries must raise money in order to support themselves. The conference supports only a portion of their budgets and everything else, like, volunteer hours, building needs and ministerial funds come from generous partners who understand the importance of campus ministry to college students.

2. Methodist. Methodists started when John and Charles Wesley and a few of their friends gathered together in a “holy club” at Oxford University. The club met to discuss religious concerns and to help each other lead disciplined, methodical lives of worship, study and service. Because of their method, other students called them “Methodists.” Two hundred years later the United Methodist Church is still on campuses inviting students to gather in worship, service, study and fellowship.

3. Movement. Campus ministries are an extension of the church, reaching students and young adults in this generation. The campus ministries go to students, invest in their lives, invite them to practice their faith, and connect them with a loving God so that they can be sent out in the world with a Christian view of who they are and how God is calling them. Higher education and campus ministries invite and send forth changing campus populations.

The GPUMCM Board has continued to work to ensure improved funding for ministry sites. We also have continued to look into building evaluative measures flexible enough to be applied to each unique campus, determine where support is needed for each ministry, each minister, and each campus ministry local board.

Reports
The following are several steps the GPUMCM Board is taking to live into its 2020 vision, some of these steps have already been put in place:

- We have continued to evaluate and implement a new grant allotments application with detailed narrative assessments of ministry vitality
- We once again are hosting an annual conference dinner to share the story of campus ministry and unique dynamics of doing ministry with students on college campuses
- Developing local church connections is at our focal point along with encouraging local church contributions and fundraising to their unique ministry sites. Again this year we are offering $1,000 grant to churches to help them start or grow a campus ministry with their local college.
- We have conducted site visits in the fall and spring semesters with district superintendents, a GPUMCM board representative, conference staff, a local board representative, the campus minister, and students
- We have offered training for local boards in each state-school or private-school campus ministry
- We are asking our Great Plains churches who know students who may be attending college to share their information
We have restructured the times we meet together as campus ministers and Campus Ministry Board to work towards being the most effective we can be with our time and resources. Last August we held our second retreat together which was highly effective in using the time we had together most effectively.

Lastly, we held our second retreat together.

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The Great Plains has 10 Campus Ministries and 4 United Methodist Schools.

United Methodist Schools –
- Nebraska Wesleyan University (Lincoln),
- Kansas Wesleyan University (Salina),
- Baker University (Baldwin City)
- Southwestern College (Winfield)

Our Great Plains United Methodist Campus Ministries are present at the following campuses:
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln – (Lincoln)
- University of Nebraska – Omaha (Omaha)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (Kearney)
- Creighton University (Omaha)
- Kansas State University (Manhattan)
- University of Kansas (Lawrence)
- Emporia State University (Emporia)
- Fort Hays State University (Hays)
- Washburn University (Topeka)
- Wichita State University (Wichita)

Want to know more? Look us up at www.greatplainsumc.org/campusministries
4. MERCY AND JUSTICE

a. Mercy and Justice Team
Rev. Sarah Marsh

When the Great Plains Conference was born, the Mercy and Justice Team was charged with the purpose of “equipping and empowering local congregations in the work of mercy and justice ministries.” In 2017 we established a five-year plan to focus our work on the area we identified as the greatest need and opportunity in our conference: justice ministry.

The Doing Justice Initiative

In 2018 we completed the “Waves of Justice” framework, a pathway to justice ministry inspired by the words of the prophet Amos, “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.” Each “wave” we have identified in this framework is a step a church will take to move into the work of justice. To equip churches with the resources they will need to advance from wave to wave, we initiated a conversation with two national organizations with extensive track records of engaging people of faith in impactful justice work in local communities, the Direct Action Research and Training (DART) Center and the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC).

At Bishop Saenz’s invitation, 11 leaders from the Great Plains, including seven members of the Cabinet, attended DART’s Clergy Conference in February to explore justice ministry with partners from DART and WORC. This delegation shared our team’s assessment that partnerships with these organizations was well worth exploring.

In response to our invitation, DART and WORC have created a plan to equip every interested United Methodist Church, network, and district with expert assistance in justice ministry over a five year period. This plan, including a projected budget of $2.1 million of seed money for the development of six (non-profit) justice ministry organizations, was presented for exploration at the Connecting Council meeting on April 6, 2019. The executive directors of DART (Rev. John Aeschbury) and WORC (John Smillie) attended the meeting to share information and answer questions from the Council. We anticipate the plan will move to CFA for review sometime this summer. You can read more about the Doing Justice Initiative in the April 10 GPconnect article “Justice ministries may get boost from two proposals for conference.”

Leadership Development and Education

In other efforts, the team continues to support our social justice internship program for young adults, the Micah Corps. This summer, under the direction of returning co-coordinators, Maria Penrod (first year student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary) and Maddi Baugous (second year student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary), half of our interns will be placed with partners in justice ministry in Omaha and Topeka: Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) and Topeka Justice and Unity Ministry Project (Topeka JUMP).

In October 2018, our annual education event For the Transformation of the World focused on gender, sexual violence and faith in the #MeToo era. Bishop Saenz, retired Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson, and Dr. Gerise Herndon of Nebraska Wesleyan University shared in a panel discussion as the highlight of the event.

We are pleased to report as well that we continue our conference financial support for four students from La Gonave, Haiti, in the University at Port-au-Prince, three students from the Jalingo Orphanage in Nigeria at Africa University, and one student from the Fairfield Orphanage at Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, also attending Africa University. These students would be unable to attend college without Great Plains support. It is our prayer and hope that God would richly bless these young adults and call them into servant leadership in Haiti, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

b. Disaster Response
Rev. Dr. Russell Anderson

During this past year, the Great Plains Disaster Response has been busy serving Christ by assisting those who have had their lives disrupted by disaster. It was with much joy that in July of 2018, with the assistance of over 1,000 volunteers, the bulk of the work orders from the Eureka tornado events were completed. Throughout the summer months of 2018 the Great Plains Disaster Response continued working with the Eureka LTRO being the hands and feet of Christ by finishing up the few
remaining homes in Eureka. As the summer of 2018 progressed many more volunteers were called upon to be Christ’s love and grace assisting homeowners with various isolated disasters involving flash flood clean-up in several Nebraska and Kansas counties. Moreover, because of the generous gifts that had been given to the Great Plains Disaster Response over the years, we are able to assist families financially with things such as replacement of clothes and furnishings, and hotel rooms after home fires. Several isolated thunderstorms prompted our financial and personnel assistance from hail damage. A few of the Great Plains ERTs even helped do some much-needed repair work at the Pittsburg State University campus buildings.

The early spring storm of March 2019 that moved across the state of Nebraska caused extensive widespread flooding. All told, there were 53 counties and 54 communities that were declared states of emergency. This is still an on-going response. With much gratitude the Great Plains Disaster Response appreciates the generosity of the its churches and people from around the conference. Over $180,000.00 was raised to assist those affected by the March 2019 Nebraska floods. Numerous volunteers have given their time to muck out homes, build and move cleaning and hygiene kits to where they are needed, and offer prayers and assistance in a multitude of ways.

During the past year, the Great Plains Disaster Response Team has been able to add a few new persons to fill vacant coordinator roles, which helps when disasters come. However, we still have several vacancies to be filled. The Great Plains Disaster Response continues to offer various disaster response trainings but are limited by the number of trained individuals to provide that training. New UMCOR ERT manuals and training videos were released in the summer of 2018. As always, thank you for your support of this vital ministry within the conference.

c. Peace with Justice ministries
Andrea Paret, peace with justice coordinator
http://www.greatplainsumc.org/peacewithjustice; facebook.com/peacewithjusticeministriesgp

“God says: Don’t be afraid. I am with you.” Isaiah 45:5

We are challenged by the brokenness of the world that we experience daily in our own lives, in our neighborhoods, our communities and around the world. So many of God’s children are living in fear, fear of losing their lives to war, violence and hunger, or fear of the unknown, the other, of change, of lacking what might have been available at other times in our lives. Fear often causes us to make bad decisions, to not be able to act with love and compassion and empathy towards our sisters, brothers, our siblings nearby and around the world. And yet God tells us to “fear not” numerous times throughout the bible. God promises abundant life for all (John 10:10). Are we taking God’s promise seriously? If God wants abundant life for all, didn’t God create the world so there is enough for all if we share and use resources responsibly? What role is God calling us to take on in bringing abundant life to all?

William Willimon, a retired United Methodist Bishop and professor at Duke University Divinity School, writes in his book “Fear of the Other, No Fear in Love”: “Our problem, in regard to fear, is that we fear the Others more than we fear the God who commands, ‘Love each other.’” (p. 39)

“It is the nature of the body of Christ that locked doors are ultimately more costly to the survival of the church than open doors. There is a high price to be paid for fearing the threat of the Other more than we fear disappointing Jesus.” (p.19)

Across the Great Plains Conference many work tirelessly for peace with justice, not an uneasy peace of keeping conflicts and injustices hidden and suppressed but true peace aimed at changing unjust structures and circumstances. Church members reach out to others to get to know them and their situations and develop relationships and friendships. They organize visits with legislators at the state and the federal level, they participate in letter-writing campaigns advocating for better laws or they contact their legislators regularly and faithfully by phone. They attend vigils and marches. In her book, “Raise your voice” author Kathy Khang encourages us to ask ourselves the question: “How did God design you to communicate with others? Not everyone is called to be a writer or community developer, but everyone is called to do something and be present.” (p. 60) And reflecting on the story of Moses being called by God to confront Pharaoh, she says, “We don’t know the power of our voices until we try it.” (p. 33) How can we invite more people to join us on the journey of working for peace with justice? To use our voices?

In 2018, many churches in the Great Plains Conference supported Peace with Justice Sunday with their prayers and offerings. As always, 50% of the offerings go to the General Board of Church and Society for peace and justice projects around the world. Fifty percent stay in our conference. During the last year, PWJ funds helped support the following:

- Scholarships for seven people to attend 2018 Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C., and make congressional visits advocating for immigration reform treating each human being as a child of God.
• The Micah Corps internship ministry in a variety of ways.
• Immigration events in collaboration with the Omaha Area Sanctuary Network and the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice at Creighton University in Omaha with a variety of speakers and activities.
• United Methodists for Kairos Response in their work for peace with justice for all who live in the Holy Land.
• Peace organizations in Kansas and Nebraska who do excellent work: Nebraskans For Peace, the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, and the South Central Peace and Social Justice Center in Wichita.

The PWJ Coordinator activities throughout the year included speaking at several events and sharing in worship, working with the Holy Land Task Force in support of an educational speaking tour last fall, and being active with the Great Plains Immigration Rapid Response Team and the South Central Jurisdictional Immigration Task Force. Resources are shared when requested or through Facebook and articles in GPconnect.

Great Plains churches – PLEASE support Peace with Justice Sunday. This year, Peace with Justice Sunday falls on June 16 (it is always the Sunday after Pentecost). Local churches can also choose another Sunday to observe this special Sunday. Resources can be found at http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/peace-with-justice-sunday.

“God says: Don’t be afraid. I am with you.” Isaiah 45:5

d. HOLY LAND TASK FORCE/MERCY & JUSTICE TEAM
Carol Ekdahl Garwood, chairperson

The resolution “Christians in the Holy Land”, passed at the 2015 Annual Conference, called for the creation of a task force to review and research actions that can be taken to respond to requests by our UMC missionaries and our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Christ to formulate recommendations for our Great Plains conference delegates to General Conference. The goal is “to reject all acts of aggression and violence, to respect the equality and dignity of all the region’s people, and to forge solutions based on the principles of international laws and human rights.”

The task force has been offering educational events about the current situation in the Holy Land in the following ways:

• Two resolutions were presented at the 2018 Annual Conference session; “Consider Investing in Wespath’s ‘Social Values Choice’ Suite of Funds,” and “Advocating for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Occupation.” Neither of the resolutions passed, but the conversation and discussion around the resolutions was informational.

• In September, the task force hosted events in Topeka, Salina, Grand Island, and Lincoln Nebraska. The events featured Janet Lahr Lewis, a recently retired commissioned missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

• Lahr-Lewis volunteered as Personal Assistance for H.E. Archbishop Emeritus Elias Chacour in the Galilee at Mar Elias Educations Institutions (a UMC Advance Project) where the campus was still under construction from 1994-1997. During her many years serving as the United Methodist liaison in Palestine and Israel, she has shared her experiences and her knowledge of the region, its history, and the current struggle of the Palestinian people with many Volunteer in Mission Teams.

• In October, I traveled to the Holy Land as a participant on a Living Stones Pilgrimage with “Pilgrims of Ibillin,” which was an Israel/Palestine Study Tour. This trip provided me with an opportunity to meet Pilgrims of Ibillin’s peace-building partners in Ibillin, Zababdeh, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ramle. I was also able to hear from leaders of organizations on both sides of the Green Line that seek a nonviolent path to just peace. One of the highlights of the trip for me was meeting with British journalist, Jonathan Cook.

I continue to serve on the Steering Committee for United Methodists For Kairos Response.

Information is being shared on the “Holy Land Task Force – Great Plains Conference” Facebook page.
OTHER

a. LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES
Mary Feit CLSp, director

The mission of the Great Plains Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministry (GPCCLSM) is to empower and strengthen the role of laity in the missional priorities of the conference. Recognizing that all Christians are called to faith and discipleship, the goal of the Lay Servant Ministries program is to enhance lay person’s leadership and discipleship skills to better equip them to live out their call to mission and ministry.

We did apply for and received a grant from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation to provide financial support for lay persons in leadership positions to attend advanced leadership development at the Leadership Institute, sponsored by the Church of the Resurrection. Applications will be made available this summer.

We continue to record lay persons activity on our database and have made it available to district superintendents and administrative assistants. The database provides a permanent and accessible tool for identifying lay persons and their gifts and talents, plan for training events, and for maintaining up-to-date contact information.

The GPCCLSM is offering for lay leaders through the district networks and strategic planning teams. We believe this will strengthen the clergy/laity partnership and enhance the missional focus of local churches and provide opportunities for lay persons to more fully be involved in discipleship opportunities.

The role of the lay servant in the mission of the conference is supported by offering a wide variety of LSM training throughout the conference which focus on developing leadership as well as discipleship skills. We advocate for laity by identifying the role of the Lay Servant in the conference strategic plan as well as providing informational sessions to district superintendents, district administrative assistants, clergy, as well as laity, on the role of the Lay Servant.

b. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE
Karen Dunlap, conference president UMW

United Methodist Women inherits the vision and toil of women’s missionary societies of eight denominations since 1869. Its 150-year legacy started when the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society first organized in Boston in response to a lack of women’s health in India.

Women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions organized about the same time in history (1869-1893) when women and children were legally classified as “chattel, legally dead, non-persons.” There was little service to women because of prejudice and limitations of cultural attitudes in the church and in society.

In 1869, Mrs. William Butler and Mrs. Edwin Parker, wives of missionaries to India, were home on furlough. They spoke to a group of eight women in Boston. Mrs. Butler told about the desperate spiritual and physical needs of women in India. A male doctor could not treat women. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Single, trained and dedicated women were needed for medical and educational work.

The women who were present called another meeting of women, wrote a constitution, and organized the Methodist Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS). By November 1869, the newly formed organization raised funds and sent Isabella Thoburn, an educator, and Dr. Clara Swain, a doctor, to India.

Ms. Thoburn began a school with six young girls in Lucknow. This school expanded to include Isabella Thoburn College, the first women’s college in Asia. Dr. Swain began her medical work, resulting in the establishment of the first women’s hospital in Asia. Both institutions are still serving the people of India.
C. Mission Agencies

1. Universities

a. Baker University
   Dr. Lynne Murray, president

Since 1858, Baker University has been committed to providing a rigorous, relevant education to generations of students in the United Methodist tradition. The values statement of the university includes these words:

- **Student learning and academic excellence.** We provide quality learning environments promoting intellectual, professional, and personal development resulting in lifelong learning.
- **Critical thinking, inquiry and freedom of expression.** We challenge all participants to think critically using open inquiry and freedom of expression.
- **Integrating learning with faith and values.** We expect all participants to be open to questions of faith and values as part of intellectual inquiry in the United Methodist tradition. In particular, we expect personal and professional responsibility that is based on high standards of ethical conduct.
- **Connections.** We promote a community of belonging and Baker family connections, which result in lifelong associations.
- **Inclusiveness.** We embrace diversity of community, thought and expression.
- **Service to the community.** We address the civic, social, health, and environmental needs of our global community.

We are proud of our strong affiliation with the United Methodist Church.

The current academic year has brought much growth and achievement to Baker, and we are looking forward to the future. As Baker endeavors to develop responsible global citizens who think critically, communicate effectively, act ethically, serve generously, and live fully, two December graduates exhibited these characteristics by participating in an excavation in Israel last summer with Dr. Nicholas Pumphrey. The director of the dig was highly impressed by our students’ desire to work hard and ability to think critically. We also inducted two members to our Faculty Hall of Fame in February: Dr. Peggy Harris, who was active in the education of undergraduate and graduate students during her 30 years of service to Baker, and Prof. Kay Osinski, whose tenure at the School of Nursing started in 1991, the year it was established.

Baker students excel in the classroom and on the playing field. This fall, football and men’s soccer qualified for their national tournaments and three members of the cross country team ran in the national meet. Wrestler Lucas Lovvorn won his second national title, and Moses Watson was the national champion in the indoor 3,000-meter race walk.

The Rev. Kevin Hopkins is completing his fifth year serving as minister to the university. He is the third minister in Baker’s long history. Spiritual life thrives at Baker. Osborne Chapel overflows during Thursday chapel services, which are student-led and spirit-filled. Six Baker students are exploring calls to ministry. The Baker Ambassadors continue to provide a source of spiritual leadership to the university and the surrounding community. Called to Greatness and Fellowship of Christian Athletes also offer spiritual opportunities for our students, and the Chapel Praise Band and BU Concert Choir make weekend visits to area churches.

I am privileged to serve as Baker’s 29th president. We continue to raise funds to support scholarships for students and for academic and faculty excellence. I will continue to build on the foundation of past presidents and faculty members.

b. Kansas Wesleyan University

Kansas Wesleyan University believes in the United Methodist commitment to intellectual and spiritual development occurring together at higher education institutions. We share the common belief that education is a part of the redemptive work of the Church. In the last year, the university focused on blending strategy and spirituality into a singular educational focus centered on student experiential growth and opportunity. President and CEO Dr. Matt Thompson committed to writing that belief in the form of a three-year strategic plan titled “The Power of Kansas Wesleyan,” an adjunct to the oft-heard campus mantra of “The Power of And.”

The plan was developed by faculty and staff over the course of two years, a natural follow-up to a five-year strategic plan.
that had reached its conclusion by January 2018, and takes the unique approach of strategizing for the long-term future with short-term goals. The concept is simple in its philosophy (better serve students and better serve the region), yet detailed in its breadth and execution.

First, it’s a three-year strategic plan rather than the typical five years, a timeline that pays homage to the rapidity of change in today’s scope of higher education, fraught with challenges ranging from changing high school graduate demographics, the role of college degrees in society, and evolving needs and expectations of employers.

With that, “The Power of Kansas Wesleyan” focuses not just on the classroom, but also embraces the concept of holistic, integrated learning experiences (academics, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities) tailored to the needs of our students and our communities.

Holistic education involves every aspect of the student experience so they are developed fully, and prepared upon graduation to march into their new world as freshly minted leaders. The strategy dictates that those experiences be in alignment, including spiritual well-being.

One approach has been the formation of a Campus Ministry Visioning Task Force. This task force has focused on allowing Kansas Wesleyan to strengthen the reach and effectiveness of its Campus Ministry programs for students, faculty, staff and community members. Some early outcomes of the task force are the creation of peer ministers in residence halls, and working in conjunction with faculty and staff to bring a message to local United Methodist Churches to form partnerships with willing congregations. That is in addition to other ministry services, such as Monday Night Alive, a gathering each week of students interested in furthering their spiritual understanding.

Our 3+3 Master of Divinity Program offers students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree with a Christian Leadership major and a Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology in Overland Park, KS, or Oklahoma City, OK. With an accelerated path to a M.Div. upon graduation, students will be ready for ministry in a church setting, chaplaincy, nonprofit or other forms of religious leadership. Students condense the four-year degree requirements for the Christian Leadership major into the first three years, followed by the completion of the three-year Master of Divinity. The first year of the M.Div. courses at Saint Paul count as electives to complete the bachelor’s degree at KWU. Students then continue the final two years at Saint Paul to complete their master’s degree. Especially using the 3+3 program, it is more important than ever in our restless world for persons of faith to step into positions of leadership. Our close local partnerships provide every student with the opportunity to put their faith into action in real-world settings through field placement and meaningful local and regional internships.

The overall Kansas Wesleyan experience prepares students to become liberally educated faith leaders who can think critically, solve complex problems and demonstrate strong communication skills.

Excellence in extracurricular activities is rooted in the plan, as well. Our athletics involvement this past fall was the buzz about campus, the community and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). For the first time in our 132-year history, the football squad advanced to the national semi-final game in the playoffs, while our men’s and women’s soccer teams won division championships and national playoff berths in their own right. The women’s volleyball team had a stellar season that included a playoff spot, and the women’s basketball team earned an invitation to its national tournament.

Off-campus also stands to be a beneficiary of the extensive planning document. KWU believes its mission includes answering the question of how to better serve our local community through a firm and dedicated belief that the community is a significant part of the educational experience for our students.

The proof is in the pudding: Last summer, KWU was named by online media site Thrillist as the best school in Kansas to attend if you wanted to find a job upon graduation. The rankings were based on data collection by Zippia, a career expert company, using the U.S. Department of Education’s Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System.

In final analysis, Kansas Wesleyan charted a course for a bright future for faculty, staff and students. That light continues to shine bright, and the entire campus gets to share in those benefits.

The campus community has concerns related to the recent General Assembly vote for the Traditional Plan. We will watch the outcome of the coming months and the finalization of the plan. This plan is not in alignment with our beliefs. You may read President Thompson’s open letter in the Salina Journal regarding the church’s vote: https://www.salina.com/
We continue to value our relationship with the Great Plains Annual Conference. As you visit with the youth of your congregation, we hope that you are encouraging them to attend one of your United Methodist affiliated colleges and universities as they pursue their degrees. To do so allows them to grow in faith and intellect, which allows them to best be prepared to be successful citizens.

For more information, visit [www.kwu.edu](http://www.kwu.edu). Go Coyotes!

c. Nebraska Wesleyan University

Nebraska Wesleyan University continues to be a community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth within the context of a liberal arts education and in an environment of Christian concern. In this we pursue the educational mission of the United Methodist Church, in partnership with the Great Plains Conference.

One of our greatest accomplishments was the opening of Acklie Hall of Science in January. This is the first academic building constructed at NWU since the 1980s. It houses the biology, chemistry, and psychology departments. We welcomed the largest group of new traditional undergraduates since the university’s founding, with 545 first-year and transfer students. Our retention rate for these students from first to second semester was high at 94%. Students are finding meaning in their education at Nebraska Wesleyan and demonstrate it by the multitude of ways in which they serve in the community.

In August, we invite first-year students along with staff and faculty to participate in a service learning event called “Lend a Hand to Lincoln.” This serves as their introduction to social responsibility. The campus community raises money for Relay for Life, participates in blood drives, and contributes to the United Way. This year we also sent two teams to serve in reconstruction efforts in Puerto Rico. Through UMCOR and the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, we assisted in rebuilding homes of three families devastated by Hurricane Maria. We recently assisted in flood relief efforts in Nebraska by gathering supplies for the Ponca Nation. We look forward to other opportunities to volunteer with flood relief efforts.

This was the first year that NWU’s interfaith student organization, Bridge, had a presence on campus. Bridge students are committed to interfaith cooperation and literacy on campus. They have raised awareness about different religious holy days and have built bridges through dialogue between people of different faith traditions.

In July, we will welcome NWU’s 17th president, Dr. Darrin Good. He comes to us from Whittier College in California. Dr. Good completed his doctoral degree at the University of Kansas. He is committed to NWU’s core values of excellence, diversity, community, stewardship, liberal arts and personal attention to students. We look forward to his leadership in the years to come. Dr. Good will build upon the achievements of our current president, Dr. Fred Ohles, who is retiring after 12 years of devoted service. We are grateful for Dr. Ohles’ mission and ministry at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

As a university, we are committed to our relationship with the United Methodist Church. The decision made by the General Conference in February 2019 was deeply disappointing for us as a campus community. We will continue to work with the United Methodist Church, as we also continue to be in conversation over the best way in which our relationship enables us to prepare young minds for a diverse world.

Finally, our work as a university can only be possible through the support of the churches from the Great Plains Conference. Your support helps provide scholarships to United Methodist students. During 2018-19, 191 United Methodist students received $3,583,938 in scholarships, grants and tuition waivers provided by Nebraska Wesleyan University. This includes 98 students who received $82,250 in need-based Great Plains United Methodist Scholarships and four ministerial dependent students who received $66,504 in ministerial discounts. NWU continues to partner with Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI); in 2018-19, we equipped four students with $150,478 in tuition, fees and other waivers.

Your partnership helps us to be faithful to our mission and to the transformation of the world. Thank you for your support.

d. Southwestern College

Incoming enrollment continues to be high for Southwestern College; athletics playing a large role in that.
Many members of the Great Plains will know Kim Moore – formerly the president of the Kansas United Methodist Health Ministry Fund; he who will serve as chair of the board trustees this coming year.

The campus chaplain, the Rev. Ben Hanne, moved from the Social Sciences division into Student Affairs last summer and now has an office in the student union. He continues to host weekly chapel services on Wednesdays and serve communion every Thursday. [www.facebook.com/ChapelSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChapelSC)

The Discipleship program under the Rev. Molly Just has 37 students in the program, 12 of whom say they are interested in serving in vocational ministry, and six of whom are exploring theological education after college. Last summer, the program took an education and service trip to Portland, Oregon. This summer, they will travel to Belize. [www.facebook.com/DiscipleshipSC](http://www.facebook.com/DiscipleshipSC)

Worship Outreach, directed by Martin Rude, celebrated its 25th anniversary this academic year. The team continues to play in Wednesday chapel services and lead worship at local churches once per month. [www.facebook.com/WorshipOutreach](http://www.facebook.com/WorshipOutreach)

Great Plains elder, the Rev. Wendy Mohler-Seib, will be the visiting scholar for 2019-2020 academic year. She will add that role to her work as director of faith formation for the Institute for Discipleship. Wendy is currently pursuing her doctoral work in practical theology through Nazarene Theological College at the University of Manchester in England.

The college hosted three camps for teens last summer:
- Summit Youth Academy, which explores a faith-filled approach to vocational discernment; especially how that relates to social issues such as poverty.
- Amp It Up worship band camp, which helps young people learn to work together to lead worship music.
- The Wichita East and West Districts’ first confirmation camp, especially geared at churches which don’t host confirmation classes within their church.

The Richard & Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship launched a new series of online ministry certifications this year through BeADisciple.com. Certifications are currently offered in Evangelism, Spiritual Formation, and Children’s Ministry. Certifications in Youth Ministry, Congregational Care, Rural Ministry and Christian Education are planned for later in 2019. [www.beadisciple.com/ifd-certifications/](http://www.beadisciple.com/ifd-certifications/)

The Institute also launched “The Listening Chair” podcast last fall, which focuses on stories of personal vocational discernment. It featured several members of the Great Plains Conference during its first season and recorded several interviews at The OneEvent in January. [www.institutefordiscipleship.org/podcast](http://www.institutefordiscipleship.org/podcast)

Last fall, alumus Charles Kopke donated a 1611 copy of the Geneva Bible to the school. This folio-sized printing is likely one of the last printed before the publication of the Authorized (King James) version. The Bible is on display in Deets Library. The circa 1892 Rev. Augustus Phillips George Victorian-era crazy quilt, gifted to the Kansas West Conference in 2013, was given a new home in Wroten Hall on the Southwestern campus last fall. Rev. A.P. George was on the committee that determined the location of the new “Southwest Kansas Conference College,” served as the first Presiding Elder of the Garden City district, and had a life-long interest in education. We’re so proud to host this artifact from the early days of Methodism in the Great Plains.

2. Health and Welfare Institutions

a. Aldersgate Village

Jerry Ney, President & CEO

Aldersgate Village is a faith-based, senior living neighborhood open to people of all denominations and backgrounds, and our goal is to ensure that seniors receive compassionate, person-centered health care in a warm and welcoming community. Established in 1904, our organization has been fulfilling this mission for 115 years.

Major Accomplishments

Located on a scenic 168-acre campus at 7220 SW Asbury Drive in Topeka, Kansas, Aldersgate Village features 423 total living
units, including 156 maintenance-free, independent living villas, cottages, garden homes and apartments; 12 Home Plus units; 59 licensed assisted living apartments; and a skilled nursing care facility with a 196-bed capacity. One of our most important achievements during 2018 was to add a state-of-the-art Home Plus residential option on our campus. Home Plus is an innovative senior living alternative that marries the comforts of home with individualized levels of care. Aldersgate Village’s Home Plus features 12 private suites with full baths; a staffed kitchen; and shared dining, living, and outdoor areas. Construction of the new facility was completed in December 2018, and 11 of the 12 rooms are now occupied.

While this level of care has traditionally been offered in assisted living facilities, Home Plus enables individualized clinical care to advance into nursing-home-level care if necessary—all in a comfortable, home-like setting. In addition, with Aldergate’s on-site rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities, we are uniquely able to continue serving Home Plus residents as their care needs evolve.

An additional benefit is that revenue generated by the new Home Plus is helping offset the costs of unreimbursed care in the Health Center for the many poor and elderly residents who have exhausted their resources and have nowhere else to turn. This is the heart of our charitable, faith-based mission—providing quality, loving health care for seniors in need.

New Initiatives

To ensure that we remain the region’s leader in senior care, our strategic initiatives continue to take a forward-thinking and trend-setting approach. As a result, we are continuing into 2019 with capital improvements throughout our facility, with a focus on incorporating the latest innovations in aging services.

Renovations are already underway for many of our independent living residences. Remodeled apartments now incorporate modern finishes and a welcoming open floor plan to more easily accommodate seniors with mobility issues, and the exterior of the apartment complex is being aesthetically updated to achieve a new, modern look for our campus. Likewise, our cottages and garden homes are being modernized and attractively enhanced for notable curb appeal.

By keeping our facilities up-to-date and visually appealing, we are maintaining our long-term value and affirming our leadership position in the senior services market. We are also ensuring that our community beautifully represents our residents, our organization, and our extended Methodist family.

In addition to updating current buildings, we will also be completing an analysis of market opportunities for future development on our campus. Stormont Vail Hospital has begun site work for a new medical clinic on seven acres of land near our frontage property, which our organization sold to Stormont Vail in 2016. This development has sparked enthusiasm for additional commercial development, and we look forward to determining the possibilities.

Improving the Lives of Seniors

As a faith-based organization, we provide both health and spiritual care for seniors and are blessed to have a chaplain available for on-site pastoral services. Residents enjoy participating in weekly worship services and Bible studies. They are also grateful to receive prayer, counseling and guidance from trusted clergy.

Caring for seniors, including those who have exhausted their resources and are unable to pay, is also part of Aldersgate’s Christian mission. In response to this calling, we lovingly accept many needy seniors who rely on Medicaid, despite that these services are not financially profitable. As a result of this service, Aldersgate Village provided $3.3 million in uncompensated care in 2018 making us, once again, Kansas’ largest provider of long-term care services under Medicaid.

In addition to the uncompensated care of the Medicaid services we provide, we also offer additional charitable care through our Good Samaritan Fund. Through this fund, which receives some support from the conference, Aldersgate Village provided $190,000 in direct charitable care to frail and needy seniors in 2018.

Strong Ties with our Church Family

Despite all the challenges of fulfilling this difficult mission day after day, we are able to continue fighting the good fight because of the prayerful support of our United Methodist Church family. We especially rely on the wisdom and guidance of the Rev. Kay Scarbrough, Topeka District Superintendent, whose continued service on our board of trustees is highly valuable to our organization – much like the prior clergy who have graciously served.

We have also been blessed to have strong relationships with many local United Methodist churches, and we look forward to
continuing to build relationships throughout the Great Plains Conference. Please hold us up in prayer, so that we may continue fulfilling our mission of faithfully enhancing the lives of seniors.

b. E.C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic
Schaunta James-Boyd

This has been another exciting year for the Tyree Clinic to fill in the gap in care to many throughout our community. The team has continued to work closely together to improve communication, best practices, and visioning for the future of Tyree.

This has been a year full of changes in preparation for submitting our application to become a federally qualified health center look a like. The team has worked with an array of consultants to assist us in pieces of the application. The Clinic has undergone implementing two new electronic health records systems for both our medical and dental components. A variety of new policies and procedures, trainings, and board members. We are almost ready to begin our application. It is our goal to be able to apply before the end of the year.

Tyree has provided care for 4,904 individual patients and 8,056 clinic visits. The Clinic has written off over 436,000 in charitable care for 2018. We have continued working with individuals and families to explore options and enroll in health insurance plans.

The Healthy Smiles Program has maintained partnerships with 12 USD 259 schools. We have added one additional USD 259 school for a total of 13 schools. The dental outreach team continues to work with all three TOPS Learning Centers and continue to work on other organizations to partner with throughout the community. The Healthy Smiles Program brings oral health education, screenings, fluoride varnish, sealants and cleanings to the schools. We refer back to the clinic if patients aren’t connected to a dental home.

A new partnership was started with Open Door at Opportunity Drive. It is our hope to bring both medical and dental services to the facility and be able to refer patients back to the Clinic and connect them to care.

I continue to be amazed at all that God is doing through the clinic and its staff. I request continued prayers for increase in positive publicity, resources in funding, and impactful partnership to take the clinic to a new level of excellence.

c. EmberHope
Nickaila Sandate, President and CEO

This past year, EmberHope Youthville embraced our historical roots in the Kansas Methodist Church and Great Plains Conference with a joyous return to our original home in Newton. At the same time, we set our sights to the future by creating the framework for an alternative school environment for at-risk youth and developing programs to strengthen support for families in need.

Guided with the knowledge that the Methodist church founded our organization to provide aid to children in need and to help parents care for children during times of crisis, our strategic goals remain focused on the physical, emotional and spiritual health of children and families. With 60 percent of the board leadership being United Methodist clergy, a steadfast focus on serving others is of critical importance to EmberHope Youthville.

We are privileged to have served more than 200 females, ages 9 to 18 years of age, in 2019 from our Newton campus. And proud to report a 95 percent success rate in either successfully discharging them from the system or maintaining placement for these fragile girls in one of more than 200 foster care homes.

Each month, approximately 225 EmberHope Youthville foster homes provide a stable, caring environment to an average of 300 children. Guided by EmberHope Youthville staff with a thorough understanding of trauma-informed care, our goal for the coming year is to enhance the support we provide to our foster parents by offering trauma training to them as well. Our Community of Hope initiative provides the opportunity for the church to minister and serve children and families.
Children in care in 2019 have severe emotional and mental health needs. God calls us to support the families that are willing to assume responsibility for care of these youth.

Many have answered the call.

- Cherished are the churches that adopt foster families into a Community of Hope, supporting them with prayers, meals, donations and volunteered time
- We realized a 100% increase in the number of ornaments collected during Christmas Connection, providing foster families much needed resources during the holiday
- Twelve UMC provide office space for EmberHope Youthville workers across the state, allowing critical access to provide service to foster families
- Numerous UMC offer space for training classes for new foster parents and staff
- Many host donation drives, replenishing frequently used items

Opportunity Academy opened with a pilot classroom during January of this year. In partnership with Newton Public Schools, the class consisted of seven female students, all residents of EmberHope Youthville cottages. With the guidance and assistance from a trauma based relational informed (TBRI) instructor from the public-school system, each girl completed online coursework at her own pace. We were proud to celebrate three high school graduates from Opportunity Academy in the first year.

Due to the success of the pilot class, the school will open with an administrative staff and serve 36 to 50 students from the EmberHope Youthville campus and Newton community. Renovations to the school building which was built in 1975 will begin during the summer months.

Opportunity Academy graduates will be armed with the education and workforce skills needed to break the cycle of poverty that exists for so many of the children that age out of the child welfare system. Mission funds from the Great Plains Conference and the numerous Kansas Methodist churches, UMM and UMW assisted with this important project—vital to meeting the needs of today’s children.

We are encouraged by the movement forward over the past year but there is still much to be done. The need for services continues to grow. Renovations to Opportunity Academy and sorely needed updates to the housing for youth living on campus, as well as new programming opportunities to help families stay together bring challenges and exciting new opportunities for the coming year. We continue to rely on clergy as leaders and support on the part of the church to make our work possible.

d. Epworth Village

This year Epworth Village is celebrating 130 years of serving children and families! Join us in celebrating our 130th anniversary October 17, 2019, at our Heart of the Matter fundraiser and anniversary celebration. Visit our website or call for more information: www.epworthvillage.org.

This past year, Epworth Village served a total of 421 people from infants to adults. This was a 24% increase from 2017. We continue to grow our programs and aspire to serve even more families and children with our high impact and quality services this year.

On May 15, 2018, we opened our new program, Little Jewels Child Care & Enrichment Center, and by year-end we served 41 infants through pre-kindergarten, 30 families/households and 49 parents with quality care and early childhood education, parent education and family resources. One of our goals in opening Little Jewels Child Care & Enrichment Center was to make quality care and education accessible, regardless of family income, with a special target population of low-income families—especially single mother head of households. For this group in York County the US Census Bureau estimates 100% poverty when at least one child under the age of 5 is in the household. Forty percent of the families we served last year were low-income and 33% of the families served were single female head of household. We are proud that we are able to do this and provide affordable quality child care and early childhood education for these families and their children.

Our In-home Family Services program served a total of 259 people which included 123 adults/parents and 136 children by providing quality services, support and advocacy individualized to meet the needs of each family, parent and child. By
working with the family as a whole we are able to empower the entire family with the tools necessary for long lasting positive impact. This past year, our Foster Care program was consistently the top performer in the state of Nebraska for the highest percentage of foster homes with older youth ages 12 through 19, which the state considers a harder group to find foster placements for. We are blessed with committed, talented, and loving foster families.

Epworth Village is transforming lives through our high quality services that not only improve lives in the short-term but also provide long-term impact whether this is through providing access, regardless of family income, to quality early childhood education which enhances each child’s long-term educational trajectory and provides life lasting impact; through working with the whole family and providing services tailored to each family’s needs in order to provide them with the tools necessary for long-term impact; or through providing 24/7 high quality services, responsiveness and support to our foster families and foster children.

We have several initiatives in 2019. We are initiating a recruitment drive for new foster homes, a plan to increase the number of enhanced level foster homes and enhanced training for foster parents. Our child care center will be partnering with our local public school in the ‘Child Care Partnership’ for teacher training and family engagement/parent education activities.

As a National Mission Institute of the UMW and a ministry and extension of the United Methodist Church, we are a part of a symbiotic relationship and a community of service that serves those in need with God’s love and compassion. We continually strive to provide Epworth volunteer service opportunities for United Methodists to put God’s love in action. Currently, we are able to provide the Prairie Rivers Disaster Response space for Early Response Training and lodging for volunteer groups that will assist in the relief efforts in Nebraska.

The United Methodist Church support, which includes prayers, volunteers, financial and in-kind donations, of our mission and work with children and families truly helps bring hope and healing to the troubled families and children we serve. We are so grateful for all this love and support that has been given to Epworth Village for 130 years.

e. GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc.

2018 was a year of growth and change for the GraceMed health care ministry. First, we served a record number of unduplicated patients, 49,966 to be exact, through 124,215 patient visits. This number reflects the fact that GraceMed touches the lives of one out of every 10 residents of the communities we serve: Wichita, Topeka, McPherson and Clearwater, KS. Services provided included primary medical, preventive and restorative dental, vision, behavioral health and pharmacy services. We expect to increase our services to nearly 55,000 unduplicated patients in 2019.

In 2018, we took a step of faith and assumed responsibility for a clinic in Clearwater, Kansas. And, we are currently remodeling a former Safeway grocery store at 1150 N. Broadway in Wichita to become our administrative center. It is a 20,000 square feet facility and will house our call center, oral health care outreach, Community Cares, Navigators, Referral, Medical Records, IT, Facilities, Development, Marketing, Chaplain and Senior Management staff. This facility will allow us to bring all our administrative staff under one roof rather than leasing four separate offices. We expect to open this new facility by June 2019. Fundraising is underway to cover the remodeling cost.

Once all staff have moved into this new building, our main Helen Galloway Clinic will be remodeled to add six dental and six medical rooms – more capacity to provide quality care for more people.

We have been and continue to advocate for Medicaid expansion in Kansas. In 2018, we provided care for over 17,000 uninsured patients. We estimate that at least 15,000 would qualify for Medicaid if expanded. Can you imagine the day when these people no longer have to be concerned about the overwhelming cost of healthcare and whether they are on accident away from bankruptcy. Everyone should have access to quality healthcare and we will continue to advocate for issue – it should be an issue of justice for the church.

Why do we keep growing, you may ask? First, God has called us to ensure that everyone has access to high-quality, affordable health care. We have a long way to go before that objective is fulfilled. And, secondly (and more importantly), the platform for providing health care is one of the most effective ways to share Christ and the Hope he provides each of us in life. As patients develop professional relationships with their respective medical, dental and/or behavioral health providers as well as our Chaplains, trust is established and with trust, we have the opportunity to pray with our patients and
encourage them in their life journey. As the Spirit of God leads, we often ask patients if they have a personal relationship
with Jesus Christ and, if not, would they consider such a relationship? Our mission is not only to heal the physical body, but
also the mind and the spirit of each person who walks through our doors. We trust the Great Plains Conference recognizes
that GraceMed is one of the most effective evangelical ministries within the conference.

We do appreciate our relationship with the Great Plains Conference and the opportunity we have to enter UMC churches
and share about our ministry. And, we certainly appreciate the prayers and financial support from the conference, individual
church mission committees, women’s groups and individuals. With God’s continued guidance and strength, we will continue
to glorify Christ through our ministry until he comes again. Blessings to all!

3. Ministries with the Poor
   a. Friendship House United Methodist Church and the House of Hope-Ogden

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was
naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” Matthew 25:35-36

With your generous donations of funds, clothing, household goods and food, Ogden Friendship House of Hope provides
for people in need in the small town of Ogden, Kansas. While our church is small, our impact is large in this community of
2,000 residents.

In 2018 we served 3,369 individuals through a mobile food pantry; 428 persons at our in-house food pantry; provided
emergency financial aid for 57 families; hosted an afterschool program for 24 elementary aged children; hosted Narcotics
Anonymous, provided food for community feeding programs and served over 2,500 clients in our thrift store.

However, the assistance we provide goes far beyond providing for the physical needs of our clients. We offer relationships
friendship, emotional support, compassion and a listening ear. We don’t tally the number of these relationships. Nor can
we put a price on these relationships and the impact they have. But God surely knows and rejoices.

Two particular instances stand out. C.T. was released from prison after serving 14 years. C.T. had been mentored by our
church prior to her release. The House of Hope provided almost everything she needed to set up a household. C.T. has
successfully re-integrated into society in Topeka, Kansas, is employed, is involved in her church, and visited our church to tell
her story and give her thanks.

A.M. was a combat veteran who was struggling with PTSD. She came in several times a week to shop - but most often just
to talk about her struggles. She decided to check out the church and was SO excited about what she was learning in Sunday
school and in reading her brand new Bible. On Palm Sunday 2018, she was baptized and joined the church. She had be-
come part of our church family in a very big way.

Six weeks later, A.M. went missing. Church members were part of the search team. After several weeks with no sightings of
A.M. the church held a vigil and her family came from all over the country to be present and to continue the search.

Sadly, A.M.’s remains were found in the fall, and a homicide investigation continues to this day. A.M. was given a beautiful
celebration of life, both in her adopted home of Ogden and her hometown in Indiana. Her family has become our family.
Despite the pain and agony of this situation, her family is comforted that she received Christ in her life just weeks before her
disappearance. We will all see her again.

Friends, these relationships and the resources that are provided through the House of Hope would not be possible without
the over 30 partnerships we have formed with local businesses, civic groups, individuals and most importantly, churches and
church-affiliated groups. We could not do what we do without the support of our conference, our local churches and our
United Methodist Women.

This will be my last report to the conference as director of the Ogden Friendship House of Hope, and it has been a privilege
and blessing to have served in this capacity for the past nine years. We will continue to serve under new leadership and are
blessed to be a blessing to the community of Ogden, Kansas.
b. Immigrant Legal Center (formerly Justice For Our Neighbors-Nebraska)
Emiliano Lerda, J.D., LL.M., Executive Director

The mission of the Immigrant Legal Center (ILC) is to welcome immigrants into our communities by providing high-quality legal services, education, and advocacy. Our organization was started by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and continues its strong connection with the national Justice For Our Neighbors network. In 2019, ILC is proud to celebrate 20 years of service as a Justice For Our Neighbors affiliate.

Last year was an eventful year for ILC. We completed the renovation of our Omaha headquarters at 4223 Center Street and opened five new offices in smaller communities across Nebraska, bringing our statewide total to seven. We are pleased to continue our close relationships with Trinity United Methodist Church in Grand Island and First United Methodist Church in Lexington. We look forward to building relationships with United Methodist Churches and other local community members in Columbus, Crete, Nebraska City, South Sioux City, and Scottsbluff.

ILC is truly grateful for the constancy of the Great Plains Conference’s support throughout our organization’s growth and development. With your support in 2018, we are proud to report ILC staff completed 903 initial client consultations and worked on 3,829 cases. We closed the year with 2,076 open cases among 880 clients. As the immigration policy and enforcement climate has grown more hostile toward the population we serve, ILC recognizes that it is crucial to defend and advance immigrants’ interests through policy and advocacy work, as well as through direct legal services. In 2018 our client service and advocacy work included:

- **Responding to large-scale immigration raids in O’Neill, Nebraska on August 8, 2018**: ILC immediately placed attorneys and paralegals in central Nebraska from Wednesday, August 8 through Tuesday August 14. ILC staff worked tirelessly to coordinate legal services, complete intake forms, locate detained individuals, and meet with or arrange for volunteer attorneys to meet with detained individuals. Once all detainees were identified and located, ILC worked to place those who requested assistance with pro bono attorneys or other nonprofit legal service providers. Out of the 133 individuals detained during the raids, ILC compiled intake information for 85 individuals and worked to secure non profit or pro bono representation for those individuals unable to hire private attorneys. ILC’s legal services would not have been possible without the coordination and commitment of the United Methodist Church in O’Neill, the Mercy and Justice Team, and other community organizations to meet the basic food, shelter, and comfort needs of the individuals and families impacted by the raids.

- **Contributing to national impact litigation related to asylum access for victims of domestic violence.**

- **Providing technical legal trainings to nonprofit legal service providers in Nebraska and Iowa.**

- **Coauthoring Nebraska Legislative Bill 826 (which became an amendment to LB 670)**: The bill ensures Nebraska judges make findings needed for abused, abandoned, and neglected immigrant youth eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Not only was the bill signed into law, the Nebraska Supreme Court issued two favorable decisions, creating statewide precedent protecting vulnerable immigrant youth in Nebraska. See In re Carlos D., 300 Neb. 646 (2018) and In re Luis J. 300 Neb. 659 (2018).

- **Leading education and advocacy efforts regarding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed changes to the public charge test for immigrants**: Until recently, the U.S. government followed the practice of allowing immigrants and their families with certain types of legal status within the United States to seek essential public benefits without fear that it will harm their immigration cases. In 2018, DHS proposed changes to this policy that would make it more difficult for immigrants to maintain or obtain lawful permanent residence in the U.S. The proposal has already created a chilling effect, as some Nebraska families with U.S. citizen children have stopped applying for benefits.

Through all our work, ILC strives to empower the most vulnerable immigrants who have the fewest resources:
- those living in extreme poverty,
- victims fleeing domestic abuse and violent crimes,
- children who have been abused, neglected, and/or abandoned,
- those who would be persecuted if returned to the countries from which they fled.

Together with the compassionate volunteer support of our legal clinics and advocacy efforts, as well as ongoing consultation with the Mercy and Justice Team, the Immigrant Legal Center will continue to serve the mission on which UMCOR founded our organization 20 years ago. We are thankful for the Mission Agency support that we receive from the Great Plains Conference, which helps us fulfill the biblical mission to welcome the stranger as we’re directed in Leviticus 19:34, “The alien (stranger) who resides among you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself for you
c. United Methodist Open Door, Inc.

Open Door is a public charity that provides food, clothing and shelter to those in need in south central Kansas. The agency:

- operates the largest food pantry in the Wichita area;
- distributes government commodities to elders in 11 Kansas counties;
- operates a day shelter for the homeless that serves over 200 a day;
- provides housing to homeless families and the chronically homeless;
- provides intensive home-based case management with low income families to prevent homelessness.
- Operates a free clothing store for anyone who needs all types clothing and small household items

Last year the agency served almost 30,300 unduplicated individuals.

The new Food Distribution Center continues to be a blessing. It allows the agency to more effectively serve not only those in our immediate community but also the other ten counties in south central Kansas that participate in the government food program. The space enables better flow for guests but also for us to appropriately store bulk deliveries for more efficient distribution.

This past year the agency worked with United Way of the Plains to customize a food program workgroup in the existing database (HMIS) used for homeless services. The new workgroup allows Open Door to more accurately track participants in both the Community Food Ministry and Commodity Supplemental Food program and to more efficiently complete reports for both internal and external evaluators and funders. The hope is the customized database workgroup might eventually be used by other food providers so that the community can better understand participant usage county-wide and how to more effectively assist people in the long-term stabilization process.

Another significant change in program occurred within the Homeless Resource Center. Over the past couple of years staff have identified a significant challenge of untreated mental health and substance use disorders among the homeless. Both of these diseases, if untreated, can lead to problematic behavioral side effects. To deal with these behavioral issues, the agency reduced the hours of operation slightly and hired a security firm. To help address the need for longer term solutions, the Executive Director joined the newly formed Mental Health & Substance Use Coalition to look at reducing barriers to treatment, innovative programming and long term stability for people, including the homeless.

Finally, the agency recently completed a new Strategic Plan that will aid us over the next several years as we look toward the future needs and dreams for the agency. The four focus areas are: Talent Development, Financial Sustainability, Marketing Capacity and Innovate Programming. Most of these areas focus on being healthy in our operations so we can provide the best programs and ministry to and with those in need.

One area of transition for the agency is with volunteers. Many of our long term volunteers are now at an age where they are no longer are able to continue serving. We miss them dearly. Each volunteer is key to our having a vibrant work place but also in doing daily ministry with our clients. The agency needs both one-time special project volunteers and those who are willing to give a few hours each week/month. Please pass along this need to anyone who might be willing to be in ministry with us.

Open Door is very thankful for the close connections between our mission and the Great Plains Conference. Together, we are truly United Methodist in action!

For more information of ministries of United Methodist Open Door, visit www.umopendoor.org, email administration@umopendoor.org or call 316-265-9371.

d. Big Garden/United Methodist Ministries, Missouri River District

Nathan Morgan, Executive Director

The Big Garden/UMM’s mission is to cultivate food security by building community gardens, creating opportunities to serve, and providing education about issues related to hunger. The Big Garden was founded in 2005 with a goal of creating 12 community gardens in food-insecure neighborhoods of Omaha. As of 2019 we have planted more than 175 gardens across
Nebraska, Kansas and Southwest Iowa.

In 2018 we reached hundreds of children and youth with our garden based programming. Our Grow Your Own summer program provided eight weeks of garden-based education to approximately 900 low income children and youth each week. Our Farm to School and Garden to Table programs reached nearly 500 children and youth each week with gardening and nutrition education. Our programs are leading to exciting changes in these young people’s eating habits. These students report that they are eating more fresh produce and eating it more often after completing our garden programs. This can lead to improvements in long term health outcomes including improved nutrition and reductions in childhood obesity.

Our Growing Gardeners workshop series is extremely popular with nearly 900 individuals attending workshops on topics ranging from raised garden bed construction to healthy eating habits on a budget. These workshops are offered free to the public and have led to hundreds of residents starting gardens in their back yards.

Our Volunteers in Mission program continues to offer life-changing mission experiences to nearly 200 United Methodist youth from three states. These young people engage in acts of mercy by tending gardens and volunteering in homeless shelters. They also learn about how acts of justice are equally important as we work to alleviate hunger and poverty. Many of the concepts they learn while at The Big Garden they take back with them to their churches and communities.

As always we are grateful for the steady support of the Great Plains Annual Conference and the support of individual United Methodists from across Kansas and Nebraska. Through that support we are able to grow thousands of pounds of fresh produce, teach hundreds of low-income children and youth how to grow their own food and provide life changing mission experiences to hundreds more United Methodist Youth. Thank you.

e. Wesley House
Pastor Marcee Binder, Executive Director

Greetings to the Great Plains Annual Conference:

Grace and peace to you as we come to together imagining a brighter future. Your faithful support has allowed us to serve some of the most vulnerable people in Crawford County. Thank you for your support of Wesley House.

Wesley House is an outreach mission of Pittsburg First United Methodist Church. Our two largest projects are the emergency food pantry and the daytime homeless drop-in center. Last year, over 11,300 people came through our doors utilizing one of our helping programs. We were able to assist over 9,600 clients with emergency food. We also served over 73 homeless people. I am very proud of my staff’s work and commitment to the clients of Wesley House. The mission of Wesley House is to provide a safe, welcoming place for individuals and families of Crawford County to seek assistance, advocacy, education and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

The identification program is in its third year. It continues to help people become employed and housed. Last year over 130 people were served though the identification support program. This program has ballooned into an opportunity to transport qualified individuals to the nearest Social Security Office.

Programs and the availability of emergency assistance are dependent on financial contributions, donations, grants and private foundation support. Volunteers, financial support and donations are provided by a wide variety of organizations, civic groups, area churches and individuals. Funding continues to be a challenge as many financial resources are being cut or decreased because of the overabundance of need. We are very appreciative of the churches who continue to pay their mission shares. Thank you again for your support and prayers. We are blessed to be able to serve in this capacity.
f. Rural Response Hotline
Rev. Jerry D. Albright, Executive Director

OVERVIEW

1. Project Background and Description

The Rural Response Hotline is the only continuing hotline for farmers and ranchers of its kind. It has been in operation since 1982.

2. Project Scope

The rural response hotline provides legal assistance for farmers and ranchers who are distressed. This assistance takes the form of legal counsel, estate planning, leases, mediation, bankruptcy, transfer of property, among other legal matters. The hotline staff also presents clinics for farmers that deal with best practices in farm and ranch operation.

Perhaps the most important facet of counseling is provided through the Counseling Outreach and Mental Health Treatment program (COMHT). The COMHT program provides up to five counseling/therapy visits for each member of a farm or ranch family. These sessions are completely free to the farmer or rancher if they are not otherwise insured for mental health counseling. Treatment is paid for by a contract between Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services: Behavioral Health Division. The rural response hotline provides the referral point and issues vouchers which are paid by Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska and reimbursed by DHHS.

3. Challenges

The Rural Response Hotline has faced a number of challenges in the last three years. The first of these challenges came in a 25% reduction in the budget of the hotline imposed by the Nebraska Legislature and governor.

The second challenge has been the increased number of calls to the hotline by economically distressed farmers in the wake of new tariffs, low market prices, high land prices, and high production costs together with high real estate taxes.

Finally, the hotline is experiencing an increased number of calls from farmers and ranchers who are experiencing family complications from addiction and substance dependency, divorce, PTSD, and potential for suicide and completed suicides. This has resulted in a higher demand for counseling vouchers while the number of vouchers available have been restricted by budget and contractual provisions.

4. Support

From its initial organization in the early 1980s until today, The Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church has been a loyal and generous partner for the Rural Response Hotline. Your generous support has helped the hotline continue in its mission.

I am pleased to report that Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska was awarded a 30-month contract from the Nebraska DHHS helping to ensure that this vital ministry to farmer and ranchers will continue through 2021. But we cannot continue this important mission without the support we receive from the Methodist Church and other partners noted below in the budget review.

5. Budget 2019

Income 2018 FY

Budget 2019
$9,000.00
Income 2018 FY
Great Plains UMC
Farm Aid $4,500.00
Nebraska DHHS Behavioral Health Division $6,492.00
Nebraska State Grange $ 500.00
Nebraska Farmers Union $1,000.00
Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska (Base Budget) $25,063.00
Total Income $51,055.80

Expenses 2018
Hotline Staff (Nebraska Legal Aid) $33,460.80
Staff Attorney (Nebraska Legal Aid) $ 6,240.00
Phone Charges (BOO Number) $5,980.00
Travel to clinics (Hotline staff) $ 625.00
Total Holine Expenses $51,055.80

6. Contracts

The hotline is supported by Nebraska Legal Aid. This contract ($50,000.00 annually) is negotiated between Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska on behalf of the Nebraska Rural Crisis Council.

A separate contract is negotiated between Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services: Behavioral Health Division. This contract is reviewed and negotiated annually. The funding for this contract comes from a Federal Grant/Contract with NE DHHS.

Thank you for your generous support for the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline and the opportunity to report to your conference.
D. South Central Jurisdiction

1. LYDIA PATTERSON

As the only institution related to the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, it is my great honor to render this report to members of your conference. Lydia Patterson Institute prides itself in being the only institution of the United Methodist Church that sits right between three states bordering two countries and serving predominately Hispanics.

In 1913, when Lydia Patterson opened its doors to immigrants looking for a safe place for their families and settling in South El Paso, Mrs. Patterson would not know that more than 100 years later, La Lydia would still be serving in a like manner, but to a much larger degree. Today, students are sheltered from violence, drug wars, and economic distress with the most effective weapon, a superior education. Every year, hundreds of young men and women are led to higher education to change their lives and transform the world.

Lydia Patterson sits amidst the challenges of our times including immigration, walls and fences, and related border issues. Throughout the past century, Lydia Patterson has been that bridge which unites the two countries and brings hope to those in need. No walls or bridges have ever existed for La Lydia nor will they ever will. As the church struggles with critical issues, Lydia Patterson remains that bridge among the denomination that honors the name of United Methodist Church.

This year has been one more year of dealing with the aforementioned challenges, but its mission moves forward and is stronger than ever. Students are getting an excellent education with the latest state-of-the-art technology, thanks to those of you who have supported and shared your resources in our Capital Campaign. Classrooms have been renovated with the latest computer and science labs. With the new changes, La Lydia has moved up to a level of competition with any other school and beyond. Students compete in Robotics, Chemistry Olympiad, Rotary Interact, Ethics Debate, STEAM, Chess, Mini Lyons Tech and many other academic activities. As a result, their academic scores are higher than ever. We pride in that our students are well prepared and are all moving on to higher education.

Education is the means for achieving professionalism, but core values complete the whole body for spiritual and socio-economic success. Through our Student Lay Ministry Program, students are serving churches throughout the jurisdiction and beyond. Many are following their call to ordained ministry. This is Lydia Patterson Institute’s mission—to prepare bilingual leaders for our society and form Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As I write, we are preparing to celebrate the designation of Lydia Patterson Institute as a Historical Site by the General Commission on Archives and History. This is a very deserving honor for over 100 years of service. Thank you for being a part of this God-given ministry.
E. University and Seminary Reports

1. AFRICA UNIVERSITY

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of local congregations of The United Methodist Church. Thank you to the leaders and members of the Great Plains Conference for prioritizing Africa University with the contribution of 90.23% of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018. The students, faculty, and staff value every gift. For the university community, the ongoing strength of this support is encouraging and indicative of the sacrifices that are being made as the Great Plains Conference strives to achieve an investment of 100 percent of the asking to the AUF. Through its generous support for the Africa University Fund, the Great Plains Conference affirms the university’s core mission of nurturing leaders who help communities to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health. Thank you, Great Plains United Methodists, for your gracious and steadfast support.

Institutional Update:

• Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body.

• Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions. Among Africa University’s close to 9,000 alumni, women graduates are emerging as the change leaders of their generation, whether empowering victims of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo or working alongside rural women to establish and operate community-based telecommunications infrastructure and provide internet connectivity to underserved communities across Africa.

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

• For the first time in five years, there is new construction on the Africa University campus thanks to a 25th anniversary gift from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. In December 2018, work began on the foundation for a new residence hall. The university subsequently broke ground for the construction of phase two of its Student Union and Cafeteria building. Both projects are progressing well and are expected to be in use by August 2020.

• With conflict, poverty and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents, and ideas are integrated into the search for sustainable solutions.

• Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU’s insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitoes—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices, and malaria control efforts.

The students, faculty, administrators and trustees of Africa University thank the members of the Great Plains Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain this ministry. Thank you for all that you have sown into Africa University over the past 27 years. As Africa University and the Great Plains Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God’s unending grace for the increase.

2. BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we live together as disciples in uncertain times!

BREAKING NEWS:

• Students: We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchanges and fruitful collaboration.
• Faculty: We welcomed two amazing faculty this year: Shively Smith as assistant professor of New Testament, and Nicolette Manglos-Weber as assistant professor of Religion and Society.
• Online Lifelong Learning: We are launching a new Online Lifelong Learning Program at the School, offering webinars, workshops, and reading groups for professional enrichment.
• Scholarships: We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Korean Student and African Student Scholarships, and leadership fellowships for promising leaders: Raíces Latinas for Latinx leaders, Sacred Worth for leaders in the LGBTQIA+ community, Howard Thurman for African-American leadership, and Indigenous Studies Fellowships.
• Faith and Ecological Justice Program: This new student program undertakes initiatives to increase ecological awareness, education, and activism in ecological justice.
• Theology and the Arts Initiatives: Recent exhibits and events include “Moments in Time” and “Transcending Conflict.”
• Grants: Henry Luce Foundation has awarded a 3-year grant to support the Educating Effective Chaplains Project. The grant supports work with other seminaries to develop models that can better prepare chaplains for effective ministry.
• Website: After several years of planning, a new school website will launch in fall semester 2019.

PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION: Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.
• Creative Callings: Our vocational project is an exciting partnership with local churches, seeking to create “a culture of call.” It is sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment.
• Engagement with the UMC: Many of our students are delegates, project leaders and assistants, and class participants in General Conference 2019.
• Congregational courses: The Continuing Scholar program offers current BUSTH courses to alums and local clergy as continuing education credit for a small fee per course.
• Doctor of Ministry: The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
• Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic: The Clinic provides internships and workshops that foster justice and peace-building.
• Travel seminars: These courses engage students with immersion journeys to the Arizona-Mexico border, Israel and Palestine, Argentina, and other sites of learning and ministry. Attendees from the recent Serbia and Croatia Seminar presented to the 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada.
• Ecumenical partnerships: We continue to build robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ, and to develop new communities with the Unitarian Universalist and Baptist Churches.
• Partnership with Hebrew College: Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor The Journal of Interreligious Studies and State of Formation cohort of emerging leaders.

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:
• Campus action: Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and participates actively in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World” for the second consecutive year.
• Internships in global service and peacemaking: We provide internships that support students who engage in ministry with churches and service organizations across the world.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.
• Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires; protests on behalf of Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida; protests of white supremacist movements; services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
• Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:
2019 marks the 180th year of the School of Theology, originally founded as the Newbury Bible Institute in 1839. Our major development campaign for BUSTH will end in September 2019, and we continue working toward grand success for the future of our School and the vitality of your ministries.

As BUSTH looks to the future, we celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church, who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Your living legacy and faithful witness give us hope and courage for the future.
3. CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Mary Lee Hardin Willard, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

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

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

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

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

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51% women, 39% people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded $5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

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

4. DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Javier A. Viera, Vice Provost - dean of the Theological School

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

5. SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with campuses in Kansas and Oklahoma. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the seminary enrolled 99 students in master and doctoral degree programs.

Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2018-2019 academic year moving its Kansas staff and faculty offices to the Kansas Campus where classes are held. This move was the final step in the process of renovating classrooms with larger spaces as well as bringing Kansas faculty, staff, and students together. A new Common Room equipped with refrigerator, microwave and snacks was added to give students a place to gather for community meals, student forums and study. Enhanced technology upgrades were made on both campuses with the launch of the new FLEX schedule and FOCUS week. We received a $5,000 grant from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation to support our technology program for students. In an ever-increasing digital world, Saint Paul is constantly working to reach beyond its walls.

A new Doctor of Ministry (DMin) focus, Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled Times, was announced with courses beginning Fall 2019. The new DMin focus is offered in partnership with Church of the Resurrection, Gamaliel Network, and the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity. Students can take a mixture of online and hybrid (blended online and on-campus) courses to complete the required curriculum.

This year marks the celebration of over 10 years in Oklahoma. Since 2008, Saint Paul has prepared Oklahoma-area leaders for ministries that meet the needs of today’s churches and society. In collaboration with Oklahoma City University, students enjoy access to all the resources of a vibrant university, as well as the hospitality and support of a close-knit seminary community.

For Fall 2019, The Oklahoma Foundation, in partnership with Saint Paul School of Theology, is offering a three-year scholarship to educate future church leaders. An Oklahoma Foundation Fellow will receive 3 years of full-tuition and fees (covering 79 credit hours toward the Master of Divinity degree). Foundation Fellows will learn multiple ministry skills in areas such as worship, pastoral care, evangelism, and discipleship.

Saint Paul’s faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. Dr. Elaine Robinson, Professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology, worked along with co-editor Amos Nascimiento to solicit chapters from United Methodist scholars around the globe who could present an indigenous account of the history of Methodism in their own context. These authors include: Fulgence Nyengele (Congo), Julio Vilanculos (Mozambique), Ulrike Schuler (Western Europe), Sergei Nikolaev (Russia), and Luther Oconer (Philippines). The manuscript is now finished and in the process of being published by GBHEM’s Foundry Books under the title, Global United Methodism: Telling the Stories, Living the Realities.

Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology and Director of Contextual Education, wrote the lead article in the recently published book, Schleiermacher and Sustainability: A Theology for Ecological Living. As part of the Columbia Series in Reformed Theology, each chapter deals with a particular locus in Schleiermacher’s systematic theology, focusing on its implications for sustainable living.

Saint Paul’s 2018-2019 Lecture Series boasted several exciting key note speakers from across the United States to speak on a myriad of topics such as “10 Steps on the Path of Moral Leadership” and “Speaking of Jesus: Early Methodist Principles for Bearing Witness to the Christian Story in a Multi-Religious World”. In October, Dr. Luke Bretherton of Duke University was the speaker for the Wayne E. Drake Peace Lecture. In February, the Foundation for Evangelism sponsored Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson of Claremont School of Theology to present this year’s Wallace Chappell Lecture. In March, Rev. Dr. David Gushee of Mercer University was the keynote speaker for the Slater-Wilson Lectureship on Spiritual and Intellectual Life.

For 2018, Saint Paul received a grant from Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita that allowed 20 people to experience KLC programs. Several faculty, staff and alumni were able to practice KLC’s approach to leadership. Those
participants have reported being enriched and inspired by the program. For 2019, Saint Paul received 40 slots for community leaders to attend KLC programs.

Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 299 students in Leawood, Kansas; Hays, Kansas; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Columbia, Missouri; and Springfield, Missouri. Saint Paul launched a part-time, accelerated COS satellite program in Columbia, Missouri this year.

Comprised of nine courses in practical theology, this COS option is designed specifically for part-time local pastors or certified lay ministers entering ministry following completion of the Missouri Conference Licensing School. Like any other COS Satellite, the Columbia satellite is a pilot and collaborative program of Saint Paul Course of Study Regional School in collaboration with the Missouri Conference. Since September 2018, COS has offered two courses and enrolled and registered 23 students in the satellite program.

Saint Paul School of Theology is pleased to report that the Higher Learning Commission has changed the seminary’s status from “Accredited - Probation” to “Accredited.” For 60 years, Saint Paul has supplied excellence in theological education and our previous challenges have inspired us to strive beyond excellence. We are excited about our future and furthering the mission of Saint Paul.

President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

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Leawood, KS  66224

Oklahoma Campus
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Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel
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6. UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Dr. Kent Millard, President United Theological Seminary

459 men and women are being equipped as faithful, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders for the Church:
292 Masters Students
167 Doctoral Students
Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States

Founded nearly 150 years ago by Bishop Milton Wright, father of famed aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright, United has continued that spirit of innovation through:
Online degrees:
98% of master’s students have taken one or more course online while studying at United.
United students live in 39 different states.
Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.
Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):
New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.
Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers.
Doctor of Ministry Degree:
Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community.
Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers.
3-year program that allows you to complete project as you go, leading to a 78% program graduation rate in 2017 (vs. 54% average among other seminaries)
Practical education designed to resource the Church:
The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.
91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom.
A focus on Church Renewal:
42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders)

Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision

Academic AND Spiritual Growth:
95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth.

Diverse Christian Views:
Over 30 different denominations
19 international students from 15 different countries
96% of students feel their views are respected in the classroom/seminary community and say they have been taught to respect the views of others.

47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities

We thank God for the men and women coming to United because God has called them to serve the least and the lost. We pray as the Lord Jesus instructed his disciples saying, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2).

7. WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fostering wisdom and courage

Wesley Theological Seminary, celebrating our 60th year in Washington, D.C., has equipped Christian leadership for nearly 150 years. We prepare students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions. President David McAllister-Wilson writes in his new book, “A New Church and a New Seminary”, “Leadership requires a seminary to foster both wisdom and courage.”

Our faculty is chosen to prepare these kinds of leaders. In the past year, we welcomed Academic Dean Phil Wingeier-Rayo, Ph.D. plus two new faculty, the Rev. Lorena Parrish, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Ministries and Director of the Community Engagement Institute, and the Rev. Anna Petrin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Worship and Chapel Elder. Learn more about all the remarkable scholars on Wesley’s faculty at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/faculty-2/

Whether you are clergy or laity, an alumnum or a prospective student, looking for master’s or doctoral work, or continuing education or simply deeper knowledge, Wesley stands ready to support you in your current and future call to ministry. Here are a few ways Wesley can help you grow in the wisdom of the faith and the courage to lead.

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

Wesley offers a 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies. Wesley equips all those called to serve for ordained Elder and Deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit. Some are able to take advantage of our modern and affordable on-campus housing and food service to be full-time residential students, living in an exciting international capital. But we understand the struggle to balance life, family, ministry, and finances. So, Wesley’s Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years, designed for those with busy ministry, work, and family lives. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2019 at http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/

In our 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program, in partnership with Shenandoah University, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degrees in six years. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees.

Wesley provides more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends. Our new Generation Latinx Scholarship joins our many merit-based scholarships that enable students to afford seminary education. The Community Engagement Institute at Wesley embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engage their communities. Our Community Engagement Fellows program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their M.Div. degree. Students can focus their fellowship on Public Theology, Urban Ministry or Missional Church. Meet our current Fellows at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/

Take your ministry to the next level

Wesley is a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs in specialized tracks that can include INTERnational study. Our 2020
tracks will include Church Leadership Excellence, offered in conjunction with Wesley’s internationally respected Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community, and a track designed for military chaplains. Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

Wesley also offers opportunities for individual study without pursuing a degree. The Certificate in Faith and Public Life explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/

A Certificate in Wesleyan Studies is available online via the Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy. Topics include United Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. The courses can also be taken for personal education and enrichment. More information can be found at www.beadisciple.com/wesley/.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

The Lewis Center continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center’s Leading Ideas e newsletter is now the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. From this we’ve launched a new podcast – Leading Ideas Talk. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/. And look for new practical online courses at lewisonlinelearning.org.

From their new location at The Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, the Center for Public Theology, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. In its second year, the Center’s Faith and Public Life Immersion for undergraduates offers a week-long experience of study and encounters with public theologians and those advocating for justice in Washington. For more information, visit http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

The Luce Center for Arts and Religion is the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit www.luce-artsandreligion.org.

The innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master’s degree students to gain community leadership and advocacy skills. Learn more at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies/ or https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, a research project funded by the Lilly Endowment, we are working with 20 local congregations to design innovative ministries as models for ministry by and for young adults. Follow the work and connect with resources at www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/.

Stay connected

Contact us at 202-885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley’s degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry.

Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/. Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley’s social media, www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram at weseleyseminary, and on Twitter at WesleyTheoSem or sign up for our electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.
The United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, established in 1986 with proceeds from the sale of Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, continues to support the Annual Conference and churches throughout Kansas and Nebraska to be healthy and to positively affect personal health and the health of their communities. The Health Fund provided resources for the keynote speaker, Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell, Associate Professor of Global Health at Duke University, at the January Orders and Fellowship Conference and for Jean Ehrman, a Mind/Body Coach who presented at the April conference Education for all Clergy Life Stages.

Over the last year, the Health Fund completed a strategic planning process. As part of the process we re-affirmed commitment to our mission to support Healthy Kansans through cooperative and strategic philanthropy guided by Christian principles. To achieve our mission, we committed to focusing our time and resources on three strategic areas: access to care, early childhood development and Healthy Congregations. As part of our work, we also updated our logo and website. We encourage you to visit healthfund.org to see our strategic plan and our updated communications tools.

It is important to note that as part of our planning process, the Fund’s Board of Directors approved expansion of the Healthy Congregations program which supports churches to inspire intentional health ministry. In addition to community gardens and summer food programs, Healthy Congregation teams can now access grant funds to support mental health training, community bikes and trail construction, intentional neighboring to reduce isolation, and other programs and interventions to positively affect the health of the congregation and community. At the close of 2018, a record 77 churches were in partnership with the Health Fund.

The Health Fund continued to provide resources to hospitals and communities to increase the initiation and duration of breastfeeding across Kansas. Two excellent programs were recognized. Stormont-Vail HealthCare, Topeka, was honored May 7th with the Janet Sevier Gilbreath Award for their work in establishing and maintaining an Obstetric Care Nurse Navigator position to support expectant and delivering mothers in breastfeeding choices. This award, presented annually since 1988, honors the Fund’s first Board Chair by recognizing a grant project from the prior year that succeeds in improving the health of Kansans.

In October, Michelle Finn, Lactation Program Coordinator for Shawnee Mission Medical Center, was awarded the Kim Moore Visionary Leadership Award which honors the Health Fund’s founding president by recognizing an individual who had a positive health effect on a specific group of persons. Michelle lead her hospital in creating policy and practice changes to support breastfeeding for the 5,000 mothers who deliver annually at the Medical Center.

In other Early Childhood Development work, we have concluded the second year of three-year pilot to reduce toxic stress in children six to twenty-four months of age by supporting the delivery of a ten-week parent coaching program Attachment Bio-Behavior Catch-up. This home visiting program was developed at the University of Delaware and is proven to positively affect children’s ability to exercise executive function and self-control through their early years of school. Pilot sites are in northwest and southwest Kansas and Sedgwick, Reno, and Wyandotte Counties.

Access to care is the Fund’s third strategic area of funding. We focus on opportunities to increase sustainable delivery of health care in rural Kansas. Recently we have funded insurance navigators in all parts of the state to assist persons in obtaining health insurance through the Cover Kansas marketplace and Care Coordination services in southeast Kansas following the closure of hospitals there.

Please stop by the Fund’s booth in the exhibition area of Annual Conference to visit with staff and learn more about Healthy Congregations and other programs designed to support health and wholeness or visit our recently updated website: www.healthfund.org.
2. General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM)

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

Through its Office of Strategic Leadership, GBHEM refined plans for a center for leadership development and spiritual formation. It is drawing on research to plan the expansion of leadership training offerings to churches and communities through a range of means such as face-to-face training, online conferencing, consulting, and recommending resources and experts. The Division of Ordained Ministry (DOM), using extensive research on the components of effective ministry, introduced a new formation process, Effective Ministry 360 (EM360), which guides pastors and congregations to plan and execute mission and ministry objectives. EM360 also offers assessment modules for candidacy, district superintendents, eight-year clergy assessment and Course of Study. DOM provides introduction and orientation sessions about the process.

The Division of Higher Education (DHE) has initiated research to inform a “leadership pipeline” process for university leaders on United Methodist campuses. Among the books GBHEM published this year, “Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness” (book and study guide) exhibits the best of church and academy collaboration. Contributors explore how the church can reengage its Wesleyan heritage as it participates in God’s mission. The Office of Loans and Scholarships announced an increase in the maximum amount of money United Methodist students can borrow to pursue their education. The annual maximum is $10,000, with a lifetime maximum of $40,000. On average, the agency distributes $5.5 million in scholarships annually.

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

3. Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation

The mission of the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation, Inc. is to serve as a catalyst that strengthens and preserves the ministries of our churches and individuals through education, planning, resourcing, and financial management. We seek to Cultivate Generosity to Change Lives!

Thank you to the churches and individuals who have partnered with us. We are excited by the ways God is moving across our connection. A key value for us, is to live out hospitality as we follow our calling to grow in our connections with our partner churches, affiliated organizations, and generous families throughout our conference. If there is a way we can serve you more fully, so that you can give generously to support the causes you are passionate about, please let us know.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Great Plains Association of Retired Clergy and Spouses (GPARCS) use their funds with the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation to award scholarships for seminary and course of study students for the 2018-2019 academic year. The “Pass the Torch” Scholarship has made a difference in the following students’ lives:

Victor Peterson (Asbury Theological Seminary)
Brenda Hogan (Saint Paul School of Theology)
Marcee Binder (Iliff School of Theology)
Yolanda White (United Theological Seminary)

The Board of Ordained Ministry awarded the following students the 2018-2019 Great Plains Seminary Scholarship:

Ronald Bell (Saint Paul)  Allison Marcus (Saint Paul)
Caitlin Bentzinger (Duke)  Michael Marcus (Saint Paul)
Marcee Binder (Iliff)    Elizabeth Menhusen (Iliff)
Shane Britt (Asbury)    Helen Paus (Seattle Pacific)
Seulki Choi (Drew)    Maria Penrod (Garrett-Evangelical)
Julie Freeman (Saint Paul)    Miriam Peralta De Garcia (Asbury)
Jee Gil (Saint Paul)    Victor Peterson (Asbury)
Karissa Heckens (Saint Paul)    Gregory Reffner (Seattle Pacific)
Brenda Hogan (Saint Paul)    Carter Schram (Garrett-Evangelical)
Joshua Johnson (Asbury)    Tony Serbousek (Iliff)
Spencer Johnson (Garrett-Evangelical)    Stephanie Seth (Iliff)
Shayla Jordan (Perkins)    William Stone (Garrett-Evangelical)
Nicholas Kaufman (Saint Paul)    Lacey Wheeler (Saint Paul)
Hyunsook Kim (Saint Paul)    Yolanda White (United)
Julie King (Iliff)    John Young (Asbury)
Jeanne Koontz (Garrett-Evangelical)

The Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation is proud to partner with the Great Plains Conference Board of Ordained Ministry to make a difference in the future clergy leadership for our Conference.

The Rev. Paul Holmes Memorial Scholarship Fund offers Great Plains clergy the opportunity to strengthen their commitment to being life-long learners through continuing education experiences. The following 2018 Rev. Paul Holmes memorial Scholarship for continuing education recipients were:

- Rev. Ashley Crawford, to attend the CLI 1.0 Launch Program
- Rev. Andrew Conard, to attend the CLI 1.0 Launch Program
- Rev. Amy Lippoldt, to attend the CLI 1.0 Launch Program
- Rev. Wendy Crostek, to attend the Catalysts West 2018 Conference
- Rev. Marta K. Wheeler, supporting her in pursuing the Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation Tutorial Program

MANAGED FUND ACCOUNTS

Individuals can establish a Donor Advised Fund with the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation which allows them to give charitably to the causes which they care about. Individuals who desire to give charitably, but are also need income, can create a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Unitrust. Gene and Lynette Saltzman sold their farm and through the sale created a Charitable Remainder Unitrust. The couple is now on the mission field full-time.

This past 2018 the total distributions of $2,853,372.64 made an impact through individual and church scholarships, grants, distributions supporting church mission trips, distributions supporting children, youth and young adult ministries, feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, and ministering to those in their communities so that the United Methodist witness may continue to share God’s love.

These various distributions were possible by the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation’s total assets under management for 2018 of $48,530,116.71. Thank you to the leadership of United Methodist individuals and churches that understand the importance of sustaining the churches witness within our Kansas communities.

Thank you to the following churches who partnered with the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation to create a new managed fund account in 2018:

- Argonia UMC
- Cawker City UMC
- Hoisington First UMC
- Independence First UMC
- Larned UMC
- Meriden UMC
- Winfield Grace UMC

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT LOAN MINISTRY

The Certificate of Participation Program is an investment in which Kansas and Nebraska United Methodist individuals and churches deposit funds that will grow and at the same time participate in the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation’s Church Development Loan Fund that provides competitive loans to our churches.

“It is a way for United Methodists to invest their money in a way that helps other United Methodists Fulfill their mission.” – Bruce Schwyhart, Chairperson Board of Trustees, Winfield, KS.
In 2018, the Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation offered Berryton United Methodist Church in Topeka a church loan. Through the loan, the church repaved and installed new lighting in the parking lot and replaced ceiling tiles in the Children’s Ministry.

The Foundation offers guidance to many churches about annual commitment programs, generosity seminars and year-round stewardship education for clergy and laity. Information on The Certificate of Participations “SPECIAL” monthly rates and on the Church Development Loan Fund may be found online or call the Foundation office. We would be happy to partner with your church!

**PATHWAYS FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

What if you could leave a legacy gift that would serve the needs of ministries all across Kansas?

The Pathways for Discipleship provide such endowed, legacy funds that will go to provide grants to churches and organizations to support ministries in the broader connections of our church. They are gifts that will continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world around us. Your gift can make a lasting difference!

The Pathways for Discipleship Funds are:
- Leadership Education Fund
  Supports leadership development for clergy and laity.
- Children/Youth Program Fund
  Supports all aspects of programming for children, youth, and youth adult ministries.
- Ministry and Outreach Grant Fund
  Supports local churches to expand the missional outreach of the church through programming, outreach ministry and mission trips.
- Foundation Sustaining the Witness Fund
  Supports the vital work of the Foundation to grow and expand its financial and legacy ministries for more families and churches in our connection.

More information about all four of these funds can be found online at www.kaumf.org.

Through the dedicated leadership of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees and staff; the Foundation is committed to cultivate generosity that will change lives!

How will you cultivate generosity that will change lives for future generations?

The Kansas Area United Methodist Foundation will have a resolution presented at Annual Conference to allow the Foundation to have an inclusive scope of ministry to continue serving all of the current United Methodist churches, affiliate organizations, and members in the connection, and to make the Foundation self-sustaining and autonomous, like the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation, to ensure its stability and fiduciary commitments.

4. **Nebraska Area United Methodist Foundation**

Jackie Urkoski, Director of Operations

The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation helps churches, ministries, and individuals be good stewards of the resources to which they have been blessed. The mission of the Foundation is to support the ministries of the local church and the Great Plains United Methodist Conference through the development of gifts and the stewardship of resources entrusted to the Foundation in support of God’s work. From church grant opportunities and seminary scholarships to free estate planning seminars, we work to help the United Methodist people and churches of Nebraska on many different levels. The Foundation is happy to highlight a few of the services we provide to United Methodist churches, ministries and individuals, all at no cost. For detailed information on each of these services, plus our annual report of financial information, please visit our booth.
Church Resources

Take a look at your church’s mission statement. Like every other church mission statement, there is something it does not include: an expiration date. The church is of God and of eternity. In other words, we expect our church to be here forever. However, our approach to giving too often focuses on the here and now, and not on the tomorrow. Many times, the Foundation is asked how a church can even begin considering funds for future use while it is struggling to make ends meet now. Our answer is through careful planning, praying and implementation. We have many resources to help you maintain and then to sustain your church. Please contact us so we can help ensure the future of your church.

Pastor Resources

As a pastor, we understand the enormous responsibility you have and the extremes to which it goes, one moment you are trying to save a soul and the next moment you are trying to maintain a building. The Foundation is here to provide you with necessary tools and resources to assist you in easing the financial worry that can come with maintaining a church and its ministries. Let us help in ensuring the financial growth and sustainability of your church so you can get back to what you love about being a pastor: your people.

Empowering United Methodists

“Today is a critical time for stewardship in the church.” True today and true at nearly any time in the church’s history. The word ‘stewardship’ typically leads the average parishioner to think of the offering plate passing by on a Sunday morning. But comprehensive Christian stewardship is about much more than that. The Foundation is here to help you get creative in your giving. We hope to challenge you to think about stewardship as something that goes beyond our usual understanding of the term. We hope to challenge you to think about stewardship as a lifestyle rather than a check in the offering plate.

Seminary Scholarships and Church Grants

The Foundation hopes to serve as a catalyst that strengthens churches and ministries. We strive to do this through our seminary scholarships, ministry grant program, and our new church start grants. In 2018, we awarded $28,000 in seminary scholarships, $69,000 in ministry grants and $50,000 in new church start grants. The Foundation is able to provide these opportunities through the gracious gifts of fellow United Methodists.

Thank you for allowing us to be Your Partner in Ministry

5. Fellowship and Faith Ministry, Inc.

Fellowship & Faith Ministry provides ministries and services for the community as an expression of Jesus’ love. We help to enrich the lives of the community through the social actions and Christian testimony as a visible expression of our faith. This year our ministry provided food assistance for an average of 14,400 individuals. We provided 42 families with food and toys for Christmas, including 742 individually wrapped gifts. For the Thanks Giving holiday, we provided the fixing for dinner to our families. We gave away over 400 hygiene kits, 300 sets of hats and gloves, 200 containers of our own laundry powder, 25 sets of sheets and blankets, 150 coats, 200 paper product (toilet paper or paper towels), and 200 baby items (Diapers, Layette sets, or Formula).

We had our annual Trunk or Treat where we grilled 200 hotdogs and handed out chips with juice along with plenty of candy to our neighborhood children. In August, the Lord blessed us with over 600 individuals at our annual neighborhood get-together; we had a barbeque, games, music, and gave away school supplies to over 400 of the neighborhood children. We dyed over 550 eggs for the neighborhood Easter egg hunt, along with juice and cookie. With our tutoring program, we were able to help 10 individuals advance in their studies, and further their education. We provided forms and the time to fill them out for over 200 individuals so they can get assistance with utilities, medical, phone, and disability. We provided free bilingual tax assistance for over 120 individuals. We also provided immigration assistance; we helped many of our households renew their Individual Tax Identification Numbers so they can fill out their tax forms.

We had a lot of individual achievement last year; to mention a few there is Enrique Garcia, now a US citizen, he has a good job so he is able to provide for his family and he comes in to volunteer instead of needing help. Maria Bocardo is also a new
US citizen and brings us food from her restaurant when we are working so hard we do not have time to eat. We believe our greatest Joy is Tricia Whitehead, a single mom from the neighborhood who lost her job and was overwhelmed with bills and taking care of her children. She started coming in for help, we helped her fill out job applications, helped her with her education, and she was so appreciative she decided to come in and volunteer while she waited for the Lord to give the right job for her and her family. Today, besides the blessing of a wonderful job, she speaks and request for food donations on behalf of Fellowship & Faith Ministry.

This year we intend to try to get the community more involved with our ministry so we can thrive into the future.
United Methodist Mens 100 Club
Open to Everyone! Men, Women & Children Invited!
Wednesday, May 29th 2019, 5:00 p.m.
Countryside United Methodist Church • 3221 SW Burlingame Rd • Topeka, KS 66611

70% of AUCTION PROCEEDS will go to Scholarships to Young MEN & WOMEN ENTERING FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

Donate today or purchase a meal ticket by calling Randy Fleming at 402-210-4885 or email auctioneer_32@msn.com
Log on to gpsold.com for listing and photos of Auction Items being sold!

The Delicious Buffet Dinner will be $40 per person with parts of dinner costs going to Underwrite Youth Annual Conference meals and scholarship fund. The buffet dinner will be catered by Carlos Rios - Gourmet Chef

BUFFET MENU

Entrée
Barbeque Chicken Breast
Macaroni
Potatoes
Beans
Lettuce Salad

Dessert
Pie

Beverages
Iced Tea

2019 Corporate Sponsors $1,000 Donation
1. Fleming Family Foundation
2. Fleming Rentals
4. Nebraska Conference United Methodist Foundation
5. Randy Fleming

Corporate Table Sponsors $250 Donation

2018 Fund-Raising BBQ Dinner at Bette and Dwight Trumbles - Springfield, NE.

One Hundred Club Board Members
Bette Trumble, Ben Baldwin, Bart Brinkman, Rev. Jim Corson, Bruce Chapman - CPA-Treasurer, Randy Fleming - Exec. Director of Fund Development

United Methodist Mens 100 Club Member - Ardean Ott

Target Allocation

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Performance Summary (as of 12/31/2017)

We Thank You in Advance for supporting Our Mission & Ministry!

OUR MISSION...To Encourage Young Men and Women to Enter Full-Time Christian Service.
Join approximately 60 youths attending Youth Annual Conference and approximately 150 other United Methodist Men and Women for an entertaining night!

Wednesday, May 29th at 5 p.m. Countryside United Methodist Church, Topeka, KS

Help Us Reach Our Goal of $100,000

John Wesley Pillar Revenue of $100,000 to hire a part- or full-time Executive Director

Gifts can be sent to Randy Fleming, PO Box 410, Springfield, NE 67059. Make checks payable to the 100 Club.

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**John Wesley Pillar Builder**

A Gift of Five Thousand Dollars

This money will help assist with hiring a part- or full-time Executive Director.

1. Randy L. Fleming (2017)
2. Bette & Dwight Trumble (2017)
3. United Methodist Men’s 100 Club (2017)
5. Eli Siebert (2017)
10. Craig & Dr. Nancy Baugous (2019)

The 2019 BBQ Fundraising Dinner will be hosted by Bette & Dwight Trumble at their farm at 12400 Buffalo Rd., Springfield, NE on Sunday, June 23th at 5 p.m. We will offer at the auction an opportunity to bid on and buy a seat at this year’s dinner.

If you can’t make it to the auction, you can still attend by letting the auctioneer (Cody Vance & Randy Fleming CAI, NAA Auctioneers) know before the auction. Dinners range in price from $100 to $150 per ticket.

**FEATURED AUCTION ITEMS**

- Barbecue Dinner from We’ll Smoke U BBQ at Dwight & Bette Trumble’s farm at 12400 Buffalo Rd., Springfield, NE 68059 on Sunday, June 23th at 5pm

- **AUCTION DINNER REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Ann Sherer</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Ann Sherer</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Ann Sherer</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Ann Sherer</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$1040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chef/Rev. Chad Anglemyer (Bette &amp; Dwight Trumble)</td>
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<td>$2845</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>$1520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bette &amp; Dwight Trumble (Host)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$1600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bette &amp; Dwight Trumble (Host)</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$1650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bette &amp; Dwight Trumble (Host)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bette &amp; Dwight Trumble (Host)</td>
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**100 CLUB AUCTION REVENUE**

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>2018</td>
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Total of $83,830 Total of $19,755

Total of $50,000
Cokesbury invites you to the Annual Conference

RESOURCE CENTER

- Curriculum for all ages
- Hands-on review of new and popular items
- Bishop’s recommended book
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- Speakers’ books
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As a self-supporting general agency, Cokesbury is grateful for continued support from the annual conference as we work to sustain our ministry through thoughtful stewardship and responsible adaptations.