



PROGRAM & REPORTS

Annual Conference

May 30-June 1, 2024

Community Arts Center Williamsport, PA



Christian Conferencing

Listed below are some examples of how Christians need to relate to one another as we engage in serious dialogue, particularly over issues that often divide us. In a world and in a time where the manner in which we address one another is significant, it is critical that we in the church find ways to dialogue with each other as people of faith.

Holy Conferencing Principles

- Every person is a child of God.
- Listen before speaking.
- Strive to understand from another's point of view.
- Speak about issues, do not defame persons. Disagree without being disagreeable.
- Pray, in silence or aloud, about decisions. Let prayer interrupt your busy-ness.

Strive to accurately reflect the views of others.

“[Make] every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

– Ephesians 4:3 NRSV

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Susquehanna Annual Conference is to equip local churches to fulfill their mission as we:

Grow spiritual, transformational leaders
Equip congregations for vitality and create new places for new people
Connect with each other and the world

So that:

Alive in Christ together, the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple-making congregations.

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CYNTHIA MOORE-KOIKOI
Harrisburg Area Bishop



SANDRA STEINER BALL
Harrisburg Area Bishop

Dear Colleagues in the ministry of the Susquehanna Conference,

We are looking forward with joy to be with you for the convening of the 15th session as we celebrate the ministries of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is with excitement that we will greet you once again at the Community Arts Theater in Williamsport, PA.

This year we will gather under the theme, **"The Harvest is Plentiful"**. Matthew 9: 37-38 both reminds and challenges us with the words, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

With those words as a banner over us we will gather in prayer, in worship and in singing. We will praise God for the work that we are called to do, and we will trust God that God will lead us into wise and fruitful discussion and decisions for God's ministry in the future.

Our agenda will include not only reports, but important decisions that need to be made. The decisions that we make must always be with an eye to what is God calling us to do and be in the future. Making decisions while looking back is not spirit-called work. Through all our discussions we trust that the harvest is in front of us, and our best days are yet to be.

Together during this 15th session, we will celebrate as people are commissioned and ordained to ministry. We will give God glory for all those who are serving in so many ways. And, as a community of faith we celebrate those saints that in this past year have gone on to God's glory.

As your Bishops, we look forward to being in ministry with you through this Annual Conference session. In collaboration with each of you, we look forward not only seeing you, but being in mission and ministry with you during our time in Williamsport. Being a part of the sessions of Annual Conference is one of the many ways the body of Christ can make a difference in the decisions we make.

As we prepare for Annual Conference, 2024 we would ask you to:

- Spend time in prayer, praying that God's spirit will fall on the Community Arts Center and on each lay and clergy member who will attend.
- Spend time in prayer over the agenda and the work that must be done, asking God to use each one of us to fulfill God's purpose and God's ministry in the Susquehanna Conference.
- Pray without ceasing for General Conference and the delegation that will travel from Susquehanna Conference to Charlotte. Pray that they will have a spirit of calm and eyes and hearts that are open for God's leading and God's Will.
- Pray for us, your Bishops as we prepare to preside over this 15th Session.
- Pray that in everything we do, we make decisions with eyes that look toward the harvest that is plentiful.

In Ministry with You,
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball



KATHLEEN E. KIND
Chair,
Annual Conference Sessions
Committee

Welcome back friends to Williamsport and the beautiful Community Arts Center!

Last year was a year full of firsts as we navigated a new space and explored the Williamsport community that provided meals and our lodging. This year as we return to Williamsport, for those of us for whom this is not our first Annual Conference, we come in having a better sense of what to expect.

Our theme, *The Harvest Is Plentiful*, reminds us of the many ways in which we experience God's abundance and our role in sharing God's abundant love, grace, peace, hope, and goodness. As we move into the Williamsport community for a few days, we each have the opportunity to embody this very message. As we enjoy the hospitality of the local hotels and have meals in the local restaurants or shop at the local markets, we are ambassadors of the United Methodist Church and represent Christ and God's abundant love, grace, peace, hope, and goodness.

As we gather, we will begin our days with Bible Study, pause for opportunities to pray, express our faith through song, and engage in holy conferencing as we care for the work that is before us at this Annual Conference session.

Additionally, we will have exhibitors in the Grand Ballroom of the Genetti. And, if you are looking for a place to hang out and catch up with friends, brainstorm ministry ideas with one another, or play games, the Grand

Ballroom will have lots of space with tables and chairs. Please take advantage of not only the information that can be gleaned from the exhibits but also the space to gather with one another.

My hope and prayer is that as we meet we will experience God's presence, live in God's grace, and share Christ with those whom we meet- at the Community Arts Center, in the hotels, at the restaurants, throughout the community of Williamsport, and with one another. I look forward to seeing you in Williamsport.

On the Journey Together,
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Kind

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Conference Officers, Cabinet, Connecting Ministries Staff

Conference Officers:

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2024 Conference Sessions Committee

Committee on Conference Sessions: Kathleen Kind, *Chair*; Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, *Bishop*; Sandra Steiner Ball, *Bishop*; Cindy Weaver, *Conference Secretary*; Mark Knecht, *Conference Treasurer*; Joyce Davis, *Conference Lay Leader*; Gary Weaver, *Dean of the Cabinet*; Tom Salsgiver, *Assistant to the Bishop & Agenda*; Jennifer Williams, *Arrangements*; Chuck Kaufman, *Arrangements*; Mindi Gochaur, *Worship*; Daniel Wilt, *Worship Assistant*; Kelly Kocher-Ross, *Clergy Head Teller*; Marsha Curry Nixon, *Lay Head Teller*; Liz Lennox, *Communications*; Nate Smith, *IT*; Christine Sims, *Registrar*; Mira Hewlett, *Board of Ordained Ministry*; Steven Salisbury, *Board of Ordained Ministry*; Eric Funk, *Stage Manager*; Sue Barnes, *Hospitality*; Carrie Granche, *Young Peoples Ministry*; Paul McReynolds, *Member-at-Large*, Amy Wynn, *Connectional Ministry Staff*

	Clergy	Laity
Head Tellers	Kelly Kocher Ross	Marsha Curry Nixon
Altoona District	Barbara Servello	Jacqueline Clabaugh
		Anna Spangler
Harrisburg District	Benjamin Scholl	Shari Bellish
		Margaret Bosley-Brightbill
Lewisburg District	Eric Shafer	Robert Hess
	Mary Forshey	Brenda Shultz
	Margie McCarty	
	Robert Strozyk	
Scranton/ Wilkes Barre District	Jeffrey Holland	Thomas Meyer
	Robin Fillmore	Patricia Purdy
State College District	Richard Conklin	Jennifer Lynch
		Helen Meyer
Williamsport District	Jennifer Jones	Barbara Doan
	Nathaniel Reeve	
York District	Brian Lucas	Ralph Brandt
	Jennett Wertz	Joseph Olah
	Randall Zeiler	Beth Zeiler

Important Information

1. **CHECK-IN FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE** will open at 8am on Thursday, May 30th for the Annual Conference Session. Check in for lay members will be located in the Community Arts Center, Williamsport. Check in for clergy will be at Pine Street UMC prior to clergy session. You will receive your name tag and pre-ordered boxed lunch ticket(s) during the time of check-in. Registration is alphabetical for clergy and lay members together.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MESSAGES** – Urgent or Emergency messages may be given to the Conference Secretary at any time. Meeting notices may be printed in the *Daily Link* if they are received the previous day.
3. **OFFERINGS** – Offerings will be taken at the Opening Worship Celebration, at the Memorial Worship and at the Celebration of Ministry Service.
4. **PROTOCOL FOR SPEAKING ON THE CONFERENCE FLOOR**
 - A. Walk to a microphone and stand until you are recognized by the Chair (Bishop Moore-Koikoi or Bishop Steiner Ball). Note the number of the microphone where you are because you will be recognized by this number.
 - B. When recognized, speak directly into the microphone:
 - 1) Address the chair “Ms. Chair” or “Bishop Moore-Koikoi or Bishop Steiner Ball.”
 - 2) Speak your name and identify your local church affiliation or other affiliation as applicable.
 - 3) Speak clearly and concisely.
 - 4) Watch the timer on the screen. **Yellow** is a 30-second warning of the end of your time. **Red** indicates that your time has expired, conclude immediately.
5. **MOTIONS – All** motions require the use of the triplicate forms provided by the Secretary. An assistant to the Secretary will collect two copies of a motion from the motion maker. The maker will keep the third copy. This must be done whether the motion passes or fails. Motions should be turned in to the Secretary prior to presentation at the microphone.
6. **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS** – Materials shall be distributed only under the direction of a Head Teller after approval by the Conference Secretary, and such materials shall be limited to information pending by the Conference.
7. **DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE JOURNALS** – The 2024 Journal will be posted on the Susquehanna Conference on a secure section of the website. Opportunity will also be made available to order a paper copy at the purchaser’s expense. Please contact the conference secretary to obtain the link to purchase a paper copy.
8. **ATTENDANCE** – It is the duty of every member, all provisional members, and all local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions. Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the Conference Secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister in active service be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory reason for the absence, or excused by the Bishops, the matter shall be referred by the Conference Secretary to the Board of Ordained Ministry. (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶602.8)
9. **BEVERAGES IN THE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER THEATER AREA**- Only water in spill proof containers is permitted inside the theater area of The Community Arts Center.
10. **VOTING MEMBERS**
 - A. **Clergy Eligible to Vote:**
Deacons and Elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge, clergy from other denominations upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry and retired local pastors serving.
 - a) Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the annual conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central

conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

b) Provisional clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences.

c) Associate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (§ 635.1). Affiliate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

d) Full-time and part-time local pastors shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments; election of delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (§ 635.1). Local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences.

B. Lay Persons Eligible to Vote:

1) Those persons in accordance with Section IX, ¶602, of the 2016 Book of Discipline and the Lay Equalization Policy of the Annual Conference in the Policies, Procedures, Guidelines handbook.

2) Changes in Lay Voting Members: Only the approved lay representatives may sit in the voting area during the plenary sessions. Alternate Lay Members who are present in addition to the Lay Member are visitors and must sit in the section for visitors. Alternate Lay Members present in place of the Lay Member must complete the registration process before being seated in the voting area. Changes in Lay Member or Alternates since the initial Charge Conference election must be certified to the Conference Secretary by the district superintendent on a card provided by his/her office.

2024 Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Voting (FAQ's)

Q: During regular sessions of Annual Conference (attended by clergy and lay delegates) who can vote on the business of the Annual Conference?

A: These persons are eligible to vote on all matters brought to the floor of Annual Conference

- Lay members who are elected from their church
- Lay members at large (§602.4 specifies persons who shall be included in the lay members at large such as youth representative, Conference Lay Leader, etc. as well as those chosen to equalize the number of clergy and laity)
- Clergy in full connection (Elders and Deacons), Provisional Clergy members, Associate Members, Full and Part-time local pastors
- The Annual Conference may vote to grant voice and vote to clergy in good standing of other (non-Methodist related) denominations who are serving under appointment within the bounds of the Annual Conference. This is granted by a motion at the beginning of business sessions.

Q: Is there anything that Lay Members cannot vote on?

A: Lay members cannot vote on matters pertaining to licensed or ordained ministry such as granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full membership or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers (except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and committee on investigation). These votes are primarily taken at Clergy session. Lay members of the Board of Ordained ministry are allowed to attend and vote at Clergy Session.

Lay members may not vote for *clergy* delegates to General or Jurisdictional Conference.

Q: There are different categories of clergy – do they all vote on everything?

A: During the general business of the conference, deacons, elders, associate members, and local pastors under appointment may vote on reports, amendments, resolutions and all the other business that comes to the floor. Constitutional Amendments (which occasionally come after a General Conference) have some restrictions, but we won't be seeing any this year.

During Clergy Session, only clergy in full connection – Deacons and Elders who hold full membership in the Annual Conference – may vote on matters of license, ordination, character and conference relations of clergy along with all members of the Board of Ordained ministry which includes laity, associate members and local pastors. See the next question on delegates for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate.

Q. Which clergy categories can vote for *clergy* General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates?

A. These clergy members may vote for clergy delegates

- Full members – Deacons and Elders
- Provisional Members who have completed Seminary (all our provisional members have done so)
- Associate Members
- Local Pastors (full or part time) who have completed the Course of Study or and M. Div. AND served at least two consecutive years under appointment (it doesn't have to be the same appointment) in the Annual Conference

Q. Are Retired Local Pastors allowed to vote?

A: Local Pastors who have made satisfactory process in the Course of Study (or completed seminary) may be recognized as Retired Local Pastors and are listed in the Clergy Report that can be found in the Journal. Those who are listed as such may attend annual conference with voice but not vote. They are not eligible to be elected as lay members. However, if the person is serving and is appointed in retirement, they would have the appropriate voting privileges.

Local Restaurants and Coffee Shops

Within Walking Distance of Community Arts Center (220 W 4th Street)

- Bullfrog Brewery – 229 W. 4th Street – pub lunch and dinner options
- Moon and Raven Public House – 155 W 4th Street – classic pub with Irish and English food
- Wegman's – 201 William St. – grocery store with hot and cold food options and seating
- Stonehouse Wood Fired Pizza – 343 Pine St. #2 – Italian
- The Brickyard – 343 Pine St. #3 - Pub food – burgers, salads, etc.
- Vinnie's Italian Eatery – 44 W. 4th Street – Pizza joint
- Ozzie and Mae's – 36 W. 4th Street – Mexican food
- Joy Thai Cuisine – 15 W. 4th Street – Thai food
- Long Island Pizza – 435 Hepburn St. – Pizza and sandwiches
- Laziza Cuisine – 427 W. 3rd St. – Indian/Pakistani food
- Boom City Brewing Co. – 317 Pine St – Pub fare
- Barrel 135 – 135 W 3rd St. - American gastropub with large patio
- Julie's Café – 33 W 3rd St. – Coffee, sandwiches and salads – lunch only
- Windows on 4th – 200 W 4th St. – in Genetti Hotel
- The James – An American Kitchen and Bar – 100 Pine St – in Holiday Inn
- Perkins – 160 Via Bella St – traditional chain

Within Easy Driving Distance

(East on Washington Boulevard/3rd St – AKA The Golden Strip)

Take 3rd Street or Washington Boulevard East for 2.5 miles, and you'll hit "the Strip" with all of these options.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • Don Patron – 1503 E. 3 rd St – Mexican food | • Olive Garden |
| • Buffalo Wild Wings | • Texas Roadhouse |
| • Qdoba | • Dunkin |
| • Denny's | • Mr. Sticky's |
| • Popeye's Chicken | • Chipotle |
| • Pizza Hut | • Ichiban Japanese Restaurant |
| • Five Guys Burgers n Fries | • Taco Bell |
| • Long John Silvers | • Dolly's Diner |
| • Red Lobster | • McDonald's |
| • TGI Fridays | • Hoss's |
| • Venice Pizza | |

Annual Conference Parking

Link to the Williamsport Parking Authority

<https://parkwilliamsport.com/facilities/#1644979982344-14099c8a-6704>

For those staying in hotels within walking distance to the Community Arts Center, please consider remaining parked at the hotel and walk or request the hotel shuttle to bring you to the Community Arts Center.

Near the Community Arts Center there are many spaces for permit holders. These are not available for parking during the day.

There are metered spaces nearby with varying time limits. Many of the meters will take coins and credit cards for payment.

Third Street Parking Garage is located at 115 West Third Street.

The Third Street Garage is a fully automated parking facility that offers 300 monthly permits and 200 daily parking spaces.

Daily rates are \$2.00 for the first hour, and \$1.00 for each additional half hour, with a \$15.00 daily maximum charge.

Daily rates are in effect Monday-Thursday; 9:00am- 7:00pm, Friday; 9:00am-8:00pm.

Upon entering the deck, daily parkers will receive a time stamped ticket that must be presented at the cashier booth when leaving the deck. The Third Street Garage consists of 7 levels with levels 1-3 designated for daily parking and levels 4-7 designated for permit parking.

Per the Williamsport Parking Authority

Lot L (30 metered spaces)

Located at 100 block of West Fourth Street

Lot E 116 permit spaces (Mon. – Fri. 9 am – 4 pm) and 19 metered spaces

116 additional metered spaces available Mon. – Friday 4 pm – 9 pm, all day Sat. & Sun

Located at Hepburn and West Fourth Streets

Lot R 19 metered spaces

Located in the 100 block of West Fourth Street

Lot B 50 metered spaces 4 hour limit

Located at Market and Edwin Streets

Lot F 110 permit spaces and 13 metered spaces

Located in the 400 Block of Pine Street

Hotel Shuttle Service Available

The following hotels are offering shuttle service to be available between the hotel and The Community Arts Center during Annual Conference.

Hampton Inn (.5 mile, 7 minute walk to CAC)

Shuttle service available from 7am to 5pm. Please inform front desk of your information.

Holiday Inn (.6 mile, 8 minute walk to CAC)

Holiday Inn Express (.5 mile, 7 minute walk to CAC)

TownePlace Suites (.6 mile, 8 minute walk to CAC)

Shuttle service available from these locations.

Information about shuttle will be available at front desk.

Note: They will have a rolling shuttle between these 3 sister locations during prime times according to the conference schedule.

Residence Inn (.3 miles, 4 minute walk to CAC, 3 blocks away)

No shuttle service. They are 3 blocks from the Community Arts Center.

Schedule of 2024 Annual Conference Session

THURSDAY MAY 30, 2024

8:00-9:30 **LAITY CHECK-IN** (Community Arts Center)
 8:00-9:30 **CLERGY CHECK-IN** (Pine Street UMC)
 7:30 AM **Teller Swearing In** (Community Arts Center-Lounge)
 8:30 AM **Childcare Opens**
 9:30 AM **LAITY/CLERGY SESSIONS** (Community Arts Center/Pine Street UMC)
 11:30 AM **PLENARY I** (Organizing of the Annual Conference)
 12:00 PM **Oral Histories** (Community Arts Center-Mezzanine Level)
 12:00 PM **LUNCH** (Those who purchased bagged lunches-pick up at Pine Street UMC)
 Preachers/Aid Society Meeting (12:15; Pine Street UMC, Chapel)
 1:30 PM **OPENING WORSHIP**
 3:00 PM **PLENARY SESSION II** (Community Arts Center)
 5:00 PM **DINNER** (Enjoy the local cuisine of your choice)
 5:15 PM **Memorial Dinner** (Genetti Hotel; *by invitation only*)
 7:15 PM **MEMORIAL WORSHIP** (Community Arts Center)

FRIDAY MAY 31, 2024

6:00 AM **Health Screenings** (Genetti Hotel)
 8:00 AM **Childcare Opens**
 8:00 AM **GATHERING MUSIC** (Community Arts Center)
 8:15 AM **BIBLE STUDY** (Community Arts Center)
 9:15 AM **Oral Histories** (Community Arts Center-Mezzanine Level)
 9:15 AM **PLENARY SESSION III** (Community Arts Center)
 12:00 PM **LUNCH** (Those who purchased bagged lunches-pick up at Pine Street UMC)
 Awards Lunch (Genetti Hotel; *by invitation only*)
 1:30PM **GATHERING MUSIC & PRAYER**
 1:45 PM **PLENARY SESSION IV** (Community Arts Center)
 5:00 PM **DINNER** (Enjoy the local cuisine of your choice)
 5:15 PM **Ministry Dinner** (Genetti Hotel; *by invitation only*)
 6:45 PM **CLERGY ROBING & PROCESSIONAL**
 7:00 PM **CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY WORSHIP** (Community Arts Center)
 8:45 PM **APPRECIATION RECEPTION** (Genetti Hotel)

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024

8:00 AM **Childcare Opens**
 8:00 AM **GATHERING MUSIC** (Community Arts Center)
 8:15 AM **BIBLE STUDY**
 9:15 AM **Oral Histories** (Community Arts Center-Mezzanine Level)
 9:15 AM **PLENARY V** (Community Arts Center)
 12:00PM **Dismantle Display/Vendor Tables** (Displays to be removed by Noon)
 12:15 PM **CLOSING WORSHIP**
 1:00 PM **ADJOURNMENT**

Please note: The Community Arts Center opens each day at 8:00am and doors close immediately following each worship service on Thursday and Friday.

Rules of Procedure

(Supplemental to the Conference Standing Rules)

Please read these Rules of Procedure before the Conference sessions begin.

1. The **Voting Area/bar of the conference** will be in the orchestra section (first floor of The Community Arts Center). This is for clergy and lay Conference members who are eligible to vote.
2. All others: visitors, guests, clergy and laity not eligible to vote shall sit in the balcony.
3. Seats will be available in the front house left section and the rear of the orchestra section for visitors in need of accessible seating.
4. The first row in front of the stage with tables shall be reserved for the Bishop, Cabinet, assistant secretaries, and head tellers. **(NOTE: the above seating arrangements are subject to reconfiguration as announced during plenary sessions.)**
5. Attendance shall be taken from the registration and given to the Conference Secretary or designated assistant.
6. The printed schedule in the workbook, with such changes as may be determined by the agenda sub-committee, by the presiding bishop or by conference action, shall be the official schedule of the current session.
7. Reports, recommendations, or resolutions not printed in the workbook or having been otherwise provided prior to Conference or in the packet, shall be given to the Conference Secretary for approval by the agenda sub-committee to be included in the agenda or on the consent calendar. All petitions/resolutions to be considered during Annual Conference must first be submitted to the Board of Global Ministries who then submits them to the Annual Conference. Contingent upon approval by the agenda sub-committee, persons submitting reports, recommendations or resolutions must prepare it for email distribution or prepare 1300 copies to conference members at least twenty-four hours in advance of presentation.
8. Standing count votes shall be taken by the tellers. Written ballots shall be tallied by tellers (appointed by the bishop/assigned by the secretary and elected by the body).
9. Materials approved by the agenda sub-committee for action by the Conference shall be distributed under the direction of the head tellers.
10. All reports without recommendations shall be placed on the consent calendar. Upon proper motion from the floor, any report may be lifted from the consent calendar and placed on the agenda by a one-third vote of the Conference. The State of the Church message by the bishop, and the Leadership Report, are exempt from this rule.
11. Reports with recommendations, and resolutions, shall be presented by name and number by the Conference Secretary. If the report or resolution is not referred to the agenda sub-committee for inclusion in the agenda, the report/resolution shall be considered approved and placed on the consent calendar.
12. Resolutions that are not submitted by Annual Conference Boards and Agencies must come through the Conference Board of Global Ministries (or successor groups). Resolutions must contain factual information. No proposed resolution or petition which seeks, in substance, conference approval of any provision of The Book of Discipline or The Book of Resolutions, shall be considered or acted upon by the conference. The Conference Board of Global Ministries (or successor groups) set the deadline for submission of resolutions.
13. Presenters of reports shall, first, present the recommendations for action, and second, make additional remarks if time remains within their assigned timeframe.

14. Speeches shall be limited to two minutes during debate on recommendations, reports, and motions before the Conference. The time shall be kept by the presiding officer or designate, using a lighted device to track the time. Speeches shall be limited to three in favor and three in opposition.
15. All motions shall be in writing on forms provided by the Conference Secretary. The original and one copy shall be given to the Secretary or an assistant to the Secretary prior to presentation of the motion to the body. Exact wording of the motion on the form is imperative. The form shall be signed by the maker of the motion.
16. After the presentation of the budget with a funding plan (via pre-conference documents), and formula for Shares of Ministry, any motion from the floor of the Susquehanna Annual Conference to increase spending in any area of the budget must include an equal or greater corresponding reduction in spending from non-General Apportioned items as part of the same motion.
17. Agency chairpersons shall be responsible for ensuring that the Conference Secretary receives, before adjournment of the Conference session, if possible, and no later than July 1, a corrected copy of any report or recommendations in which changes were made.
18. All material to be printed in the 2024 Journal shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary no later than July 1, 2024.
19. All references for printing by the Conference official publication shall be subject to editing and condensing by the editor.
20. Nominations Policy and Practices to Serve on Conference Boards, Agencies and Committees
 - a. Reflect inclusivity and diversity (gender, geography, age, race/ethnicity, church size)
 - b. Midyear vacancies- filled by the Cabinet (with input from the Board/ Agency/ Committee chair/ designee)
 - c. Term limits- 2 terms of 4 years (completing unfulfilled terms for two years or less would not count against the 2 term limit) unless Com on Nominations and Cabinet would – The standard term limit would be 2 terms of 4 years except in circumstances that would benefit a committee/ board/ agency by a 3rd and final term contingent upon the support of the Nominations Committee and Cabinet.
 - d. When appropriate to be organized into classes, each Board/ Agency/ Committee will be organized so that there is an intentional rotation of members
 - e. Nomination Committee is made of one clergy person and lay person from each district named by the Cabinet
 - f. Attention should be given to the positions that Conference Staff fulfill on boards/ agencies/ committees, aligning with Book of Discipline requirements, and needs of board/ agencies/ committees.
 - g. Priority should be given to populating boards/ committees/ agencies with the appropriate number of members while being sensitive to diversity and aligning with any Book of Discipline requirements (in other words, because a committee has 24 members now does not necessarily mean it needs 24 members in the next term- what is the correct size in order to do the work faithfully and fruitfully)
 - h. Missing meetings- If a member misses more than 2 unexcused meetings, the person is eligible to be removed in consultation with the chair of the committee and Cabinet
 - i. Active season for Nominations Committee is Jan 1 through Annual Conference
 - j. Prior to the start of each Nominations season, the chairs of each committee/ board/ agency will communicate with the Nominations chair the needs of their entity
 - k. Nominations process- complete online form, if unable to access online form contact chair of nominations. In order to be certain your form is before the Nom committee please complete by January 1. The Nominations Committee will receive forms throughout the year.
 - l. It is to be understood that each person shall be contacted in advance of nomination to any conference board or agency to ascertain whether he/she is willing to serve. No name shall be presented of any person who has not indicated willingness to accept election.
 - m. Individual clergy and laity will typically limit their service to no more than two Conference wide boards/ committees/ agencies and no more than two District boards/ committees/ agencies (provided not in conflict with the Book of Discipline). This does not include a temporary task force/ study group/ or other limited time assignment.
 - n. Terms begin at the close of the Annual Conference session

- o. Clergy should be understood as Elders, Deacons, and Local Pastors serving in an appointment unless otherwise stipulated by the Book of Discipline.
 - p. Laity should be understood as members in good standing in their local United Methodist Church unless otherwise stipulated by the Book of Discipline.
21. Display space shall be limited to UM affiliated and non-affiliated organizations that can demonstrate a benefit to the mission and ministries of the churches of the Susquehanna Conference. Qualifications are determined by the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Kind.
22. The conference session will be guided by policies previously adopted by the Susquehanna Conference. In the case when no policy is in place to cover a particular situation, the bishop or body, may request that the Policies and Procedures Task Force consider the need, and if necessary, develop a policy to be reviewed and brought to the next annual session for adoption.
23. Annual Conference meeting by Telephone or Online Conference: When the Bishops, the Cabinet and the Sessions Committee are in agreement, the Bishops may call for a meeting of the Annual Conference by telephone, online conferencing or meeting in person. Notification of such meetings shall be subject to the requirements for Annual Conference meetings specified in The Book of Discipline. The conferencing platform must ensure that all clergy and duly elected or chosen lay members of conference session can hear each other and vote and that their presence can be recorded. The Sessions Committee shall recommend the method of voting and/or balloting to the Bishops and the Conference Secretary. Voting/balloting may be by electronic, telephone, or written means. The voting area (bar) will be clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference who have been provided a voter ID.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS

15th Session of the Susquehanna Annual Conference

May 30-June 1, 2024

There will be three offerings received at Annual Conference. There will be an opportunity for people to give online or checks may be sent into the Conference Office or churches can submit with their remittance report.

CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRY - #8050

You may give online at: <https://susumc.org/donations/crm/>

This offering will be received during the Opening Worship Service.

The Susquehanna Conference camp and retreat ministries serve as a crossroads of meeting in the wider world and an oasis away from distraction. Guests and participants can focus on valuing each other, hearing the voice of God in new ways, and discerning fresh possibilities for their giftedness and leadership. They then go forth far and wide embodying greater awareness, gratitude, and hearts for love and justice. This is just one aspect of what the Susquehanna Conference does to participate with God in the transformation of the world.



AFRICA UNIVERSITY - #8025

You may give online at: <https://susumc.org/donations/africa/>

This offering will be received during the Memorial Service.

Africa University, guided by its visionary commitment, aspires to position itself as a Student-centered University dedicated to leadership transformation across the African continent. With a mission firmly rooted in providing high-quality, pan-African-centered higher education infused with Christian values, the institution seeks to cultivate transformative leadership competencies in its students that align with the developmental needs of Africa. The vision is to position the University as a Student centered University for leadership transformation in Africa through their values of academic excellence, God-fearing integrity professionalism, diversity and ubuntu.



BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY FUND (BBCF) - #9300

You may give online at: <https://susumc.org/donations/bbcf/>

The Beloved Community Fund is a ministry to help our Susquehanna Conference to:

- resist racism
- promote diversity
- connect churches to their neighbors
- support cross-racial appointments
- build strong race relations



The money received from our people, our pastors and our churches help to fund projects by churches and conference organizations to accomplish these goals. This offering will be received during our Celebration of Ministry Service.

Scripture reminds us that to those who much has been given, much is expected. We, the people and churches of the Susquehanna Conference, have been given much. May we be a blessing as together we are generous in supporting these three Annual Conference Offerings.

Please make checks payable to the Susquehanna Conference and mail to:
Susquehanna Conference, Attn: Finance Office, 303 Mulberry Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
On the memo line please indicate the offering to which you are giving along
with the Advance special number as given above.

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SECTION IV-A

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Recommendations

REC-1 Clergy Moving Policy

ACTION:

1 Scheduling | Arrangements

2 The committee of the moving coordinators shall arrange and schedule the moving of pastors to new appointments
3 by engaging a professional mover. In special circumstances, a pastor may elect to move via truck rental; however,
4 these “self-move” arrangements must be coordinated through the committee of the moving coordinators and are
5 not encouraged. In the case of a self-move, a waiver of liability must be obtained from the pastor, and persons
6 assisting with the move.

7 Funding

- 8 1. The Annual Conference shall pay the full cost of a pastor’s move up to 16,000 pounds, not including the
9 cost of packing. In all moves the pastor shall be responsible for weight in excess of 16,000 pounds. Clergy
10 couples shall be responsible for weight in excess of 20,000 pounds.
- 11 2. The Annual Conference shall pay for the cost of moving one piano, one flat screen television, and will
12 provide \$260 for boxes and packing materials, which may be provided by the mover or purchased by the
13 pastor. Clergy couples shall be responsible for the cost of packing materials in excess of \$370. The
14 conference will pay for items that must be packed by the mover, for example, mattresses, mirrors, etc.
- 15 3. The above provisions shall include seminarians and local pastors entering their first appointment within the
16 annual conference.
- 17 4. Payment for pastors who are outside the bounds of the Annual Conference and who have sought and
18 received an appointment in the Susquehanna Conference will be limited to 16,000 pounds or \$4,500. The
19 pastor shall be responsible for charges in excess of these amounts. Susquehanna Conference member
20 clergy serving on loan to another annual conference, serving in extension ministry, or a general board of
21 agency prior to June 30, 2024, shall have their move paid in full upon their return to serve an appointment
22 in the Susquehanna Conference.
- 23 5. If a pastor outside the bounds of the Annual Conference is recruited by the Cabinet and the Bishop(s) and
24 receives an appointment at the request of the Bishop(s) and Cabinet, the Annual Conference shall pay the
25 full cost of a pastor’s move up to 16,000 pounds, not including the cost of packing. In all moves the pastor
26 shall be responsible for weight in excess of 16,000 pounds. Clergy couples shall be responsible for weight
27 in excess of 20,000 pounds.
- 28 6. When a pastor is going into or returning from sabbatical leave, leave of absence, retirement, special
29 assignment, or incapacity leave the cabinet shall be empowered to negotiate the amount of reimbursement
30 for the cost of the move.
- 31 7. Retired clergy and surviving spouses of clergy shall be eligible to receive one retirement move. The Annual
32 Conference will assume the expense of pastors moving into retirement or surviving spouses up to a
33 maximum of \$4,500. Retiring clergy and surviving spouses must request a retirement move that is unrelated
34 to appointment within five years of the annual conference at which their retirement was recognized.
35

36 Payment Procedures

- 37 1. For a professional move, the mover engaged by the Conference shall submit an invoice directly to the
38 Conference Treasurer. The Conference Treasurer will pay the mover’s total fee. If any additional or special
39 charges are involved, the Conference Treasurer will request payment from the pastor to the Conference.
- 40 2. For a self-move, the pastor may submit billed charges, such as the use of a truck or van, to the Conference
41 Treasurer for approval and reimbursement within the above provisions.

1 3. Pastors who purchase packing materials and boxes may be reimbursed upon submission of receipts to the
2 Annual Conference.

3 This policy shall apply to all moves arranged within and subsequent to the calendar year of its approval by the
4 annual conference.

Norman E. "Skip" Spangler, *Chair*

Rec-2 Board of Pensions**ACTION:**

- 1 **1.** The Annuity rate for pre-January 1, 1982 service be set at \$711.00 for the calendar year 2025.
- 2
- 3 **2.** That the following ministers who will be granted retirement status as of July 1, 2024 (unless otherwise indicated)
- 4 be credited for these years of service rendered to this Annual Conference:

Name	Age	Years with Pension Credit	Years of Service without Pension Credit	Total Years of Service	Interim Retirement Date
Blanca N. Baker	72	0	7.5	7.5	
Jean M. Blackie	66	17	6	23	
Mark S. Brower	66	27	0	27	
William Caraballo-Lopez, Jr.	61	27	5.5	32.5	7/1/2023
Carol J. Folk	71	0	13.5	13.5	
Judi A Herrold	57	28.5	0	28.5	1/1/2024
Mitchell C. Hescocx	66	29	2	31	9/1/2023
Mark D. Johnson	59	10.5	8.5	19	
Jay E. Jones	61	36	0	36	
Dennis R. Keller	66	44	0	44	
Sarah H. Kim	68	8	10.5	18.5	1/1/2024
Laura E. King	67	17	0	17	
Steven M. Livermore	66	40.5	2.5	43	
Karen L. McCachren	71	21	0	21	
James F. McGee	63	0	0	10	
Gloria J. Montgomery	68	3.5	6	9.5	1/1/2024
Harold C. Schorr	63	0	10	10	
Michael L. Stine	65	34	0	34	
Robert E. Stump	63	39	2	41	
Robert A. Vizthum	66	32	0	32	
Jennett Wertz	72	16	5	21	

5 **3.** Resolutions relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergy persons of the Susquehanna

6 Conference:

7 The Susquehanna Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing

8 allowances for retired or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

9 WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this

10 Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within

11 the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed

12 ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

13 WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a

14 parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

15 WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred

16 compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

17 WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Conference (or its predecessors) is the

18 appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are

19 or were members of this Conference;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

2 SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

3 **3.1**

4 THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The
5 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from
6 Wespath, during the year 2024 by each retired or disabled Clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference,
7 or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergy person; and

8 **3.2**

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

19
20 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any year for
21 federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to
22 the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other
23 appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount
24 actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the
25 home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

26
27 **4. Susquehanna Conference 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (continued on the following pages)**

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the plan sponsor's obligations and funding of the benefits provided to clergy and laity, as noted below.

It is understood by the signees that defined benefit plan liabilities [Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB) and other sponsored defined benefit plans] continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the plan sponsor still has a liability (obligation) and potential future contribution due to the plan.

Benefit Obligations Summary

Plan Contributions for 2024

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DB	\$1,708,388
Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DC	\$528,015
Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)	\$0
Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)	\$0
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay	\$116,284
United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy	\$773,000
Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations	\$9,364
Other Defined Benefit (DB) Obligations	\$0
Health—Active Participants	\$3,964,760
Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage	\$133,953
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$725,537
Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)	\$499,978
Ongoing Funding Contributions	
Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)	\$648,863

Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent)
 Conference Treasurer
 Conference Board of Pension Chair
 Council on Finance and Administration Chair

Mark Knecht 10/23/2023
 Mark Knecht 10/23/2023
 Michelle Bodle 10/18/2023



Opinion on **Susquehanna Conference 2024** Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan
 The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments. However, the funding plan does not meet the favorable opinion requirements.

Wespath Benefits and Investments

1901 W Chestnut Ave., Glenview, IL 60025

Accounts

Wespath Accounts		Market Value as of 12/31/2021	Market Value as of 12/31/2022
CAMPAIGN FUND 02		\$11,593,439	\$9,665,402
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		\$1,046,017	\$874,587
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 37.23%
			Fixed 20.05%
			Short-term 42.72%
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT #2		\$11,621,509	\$9,688,804
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Intermediate term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT		\$3,569,619	\$2,975,977
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 65.00%
			Fixed 35.00%
			Short-term 0.00%
HEALTH INSURANCE RESERVE		\$853,259	\$712,309
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Target Allocation	Equity 64.51%
			Fixed 34.74%
			Short-term 0.75%
PASTORAL CARE FUND		\$183,622	\$154,099
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 62.58%
			Fixed 33.69%
			Short-term 3.73%
PENSION RESERVE		\$1,603,126	\$1,602,987
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Long-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 64.38%
			Fixed 34.67%
			Short-term 0.95%
Non-Wespath Accounts			
Mid-Penn		\$331,030	\$461,338
Pre-82 designated assets	\$0	Investment Objective	Short-term
PRM designated assets	\$0	Actual Allocation	Equity 0.00%
			Fixed 0.00%
			Short-term 100.00%

\$ A portion of this account has been designated as plan assets. The allocated amounts will be shown separately on the Allocation screen and will not be included in the Market Value for this account.

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Incoming Money

Primary Sources

Estimated amount for 2024

Apportionments

\$1,623,394

Annual Apportionment \$1,623,394
x Expected Collection Percentage 100%

Direct Billing

Refer to the following “Allocate Funding Sources” pages for actual amounts allocated from the above funding sources.

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Campaign Fund 02	Deposit Account	Deposit Account #2	Endowment Account	Health Insurance Reserve	Pastoral Care Fund
Available Balance		\$9,665,402	\$874,587	\$9,688,804	\$2,975,977	\$712,309	\$154,099
Total Allocated		\$0	\$0	\$822,589	\$0	\$0	\$0
Remaining Balance		\$9,665,402	\$874,587	\$9,688,804	\$2,975,977	\$712,309	\$154,099
Plan Contributions for 2024							
CRSP DB	\$1,708,388						
CRSP DC	\$528,015						
MPP							
Pre-82							
UMPIP Lay	\$116,284						
UMPIP Clergy	\$773,000						
UNUM Life & Disability	\$9,364						
Health Active	\$3,964,760						
Health Additional	\$133,953						
Post-Retirement Medical	\$725,537						
CPP	\$499,978						
Ongoing Funding Contributions							
Pre-82							
Post-Retirement Medical	\$648,863						

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

Funding Sources		Pension Reserve	Mid-Penn	Apportionments	Direct Billing	Pre-82 Surplus	PRM In-Plan & Outside Assets
Available Balance		\$1,602,987	\$461,338	\$1,623,394		\$17,632,088	
Total Allocated		\$0	\$0	\$1,419,468	\$7,039,811	\$0	
Remaining Balance		\$1,602,987	\$461,338	\$203,926		\$17,632,088	
Plan Contributions for 2024							
CRSP DB	\$1,708,388			\$60,000	\$1,648,388		
CRSP DC	\$528,015				\$528,015		
MPP							
Pre-82							
UMPIP Lay	\$116,284				\$116,284		
UMPIP Clergy	\$773,000				\$773,000		
UNUM Life & Disability	\$9,364				\$9,364		
Health Active	\$3,964,760				\$3,964,760		
Health Additional	\$133,953			\$133,953			
Post-Retirement Medical	\$725,537			\$725,537			
CPP	\$499,978			\$499,978			
Ongoing Funding Contributions							
Pre-82							
Post-Retirement Medical	\$648,863						

Plan Contributions for 2024		Funding Needed
CRSP DB	\$1,708,388	\$0
CRSP DC	\$528,015	\$0
MPP		\$0
Pre-82		\$0
UMPIP Lay	\$116,284	\$0
UMPIP Clergy	773,000	\$0
UNUM Life & Disability	\$9,364	\$0
Health Active	\$3,964,760	\$0
Health Additional	\$133,953	\$0
Post-Retirement Medical	\$725,537	\$0
CPP	\$499,978	\$0
Ongoing Funding Contribution for 2024		Funding Needed
Pre-82		
Post-Retirement Medical	\$648,863	\$648,863

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

Plan Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007.

CRSP consists of two components:

- A defined benefit (DB) plan--provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church
- A defined contribution (DC) plan--provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Eligibility requirement	50%+
Conference Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	326.50
CRSP Defined Benefit (DB)	
Required contribution for 2023	\$1,708,388
CRSP Defined Contribution (DC)	
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2024	\$528,015

Rationale for each change

DC based on July 1 DC along with 3% increase. Our Clergy count is reduced because of Withdrawals. FTE=240

CRSP DB Denominational Information as of 1/1/2022

Total plan liability	\$(2,285,443,615)
Total plan assets	\$2,829,122,591
Total plan funded status	\$543,678,976
Total plan funded ratio	124%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.2386%

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in CRSP DB Cost Calculations

Discount rate	7.00%
Future Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) increases	2.00%
COLA increases for actives	2.00%
Mortality	Pri-2012 TQ Adj, generational projection using MP2020

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September 2022.

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Required contribution for 2024	\$0

MPP Denominational Annuities Information as of 1/1/2022

Total MPP annuities liability	\$(3,665,135,772)
Total plan assets	\$4,758,759,842
Total plan funded status	\$1,093,624,070
Total plan funded ratio	130%
Plan sponsor's liability percentage	2.1941%

Future MPP Denominational Annuitants Information as of 1/1/2022

Total participant account balances	\$3,172,631,225
Plan sponsor's participant account balances	\$65,567,130

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used MPP Annuities Cost Calculations

Discount rate	6.25%
Benefit increases	Based on increases selected by participant
Mortality	Pri-2012 TQ Adj. generational projection using MP2020

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September 2022.

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit--approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and The Book of Discipline.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate) -- the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however, the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Past Service Rate (PSR)	702
Estimated PSR cost-of-living increase	1.14%
Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CA%)	75%
Discount rate	5.5000%
Minimum contribution for 2024	\$0
Advanced funding contribution for 2024 payable in 2023	\$0

Rationale for each change-PSR increased by Board and AC vote.

Funding Plan Contribution

Funding plan liability as of 1/1/2022	\$(36,931,460)
Total of in-plan and outside assets	\$51,536,611
Funded status	\$14,605,151
Funded ratio	140%
Funded status projection as of 12/31/2023	\$16,255,898
Proposed ongoing funding contribution for 2024	\$0

Funding Strategy-No contributions needed at this time.

Pre-82 Denominational information as of 1/1/2022

Total plan liability	\$(1,654,956,622)
Total plan assets	\$1,987,198,636
Total plan funded status	\$332,242,014
Total plan funded ratio	120%

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September 2022.

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Health—Active Participants

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Health plan offered to actives	Self-Funded - HealthFlex
Actual annual plan benefit cost paid in 2022	\$4,758,236
Budgeted annual plan benefit cost for 2023	\$4,231,019
Projected annual plan benefit cost for 2024	\$3,964,760
Expected average future annual increases	7.00%

Rationale for each change

Based on remaining active clergy on July 1, 2023.

Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage

Categories of participants who are provided health benefit coverage during periods of non-employment. Without plan sponsor-funded premiums, these participants would not be provided coverage or benefits.

☒ Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability) ☒ Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants

Coverage Obligations

Covered Category	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2021	Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2022
Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability)	\$980,100	510,300
Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants	\$36,000	3,600
Total	\$1,016,100	513,900

Annual cost calculation

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Total estimated obligation as of 12/31/2022		\$513,900
Average number of years of remaining coverage	÷	4.3923
Estimated annual cost as of 12/31/2022	=	\$117,000
Expected average future annual increases	x	7.00%
Projected annual cost as of 12/31/2024	=	\$133,953

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)

Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation was provided by Towers Watson as of 12/31/2022.

Per *The Book of Discipline*, your next PRM biennial actuarial valuation is required as of 12/31/2024.

PRM Actuarial Valuation as of 12/31/2022

Valuation report (in-plan) assets	\$0
EPBO net plan sponsor cost	\$12,307,707
APBO net plan sponsor cost	\$11,524,774
Service cost net plan sponsor cost	\$72,624
Annual plan benefit cost	\$1,289,844
Intention regarding PRM	Change plan benefit

Participant counts by category		Key actuarial assumptions	
Active participants	264	Census date	01/01/2023
Active dependents	193	Discount rate	4.85%
Retirees	298	Expected return on assets	0.00%
Surviving spouses	92	Valuation year medical trend or inflation rate	7.00%
Dependents of retired participants	179	Ultimate medical trend or inflation rate	5.00%
Total participants	1,026	Fiscal year for ultimate medical trend	2031

Elections and Estimates

Description of Benefit

HRA by years of service.

	Final
Health plan benefit offered to retirees	Via Benefits
Expected average future annual increases	-25.0%
Projected annual plan benefit cost as of 2024	\$725,537

Rationale for each change

Reducing the Benefit beginning 1/1/2024 by 25%. Also, clergy who withdraw will lose eligibility.

Funding Plan Contribution

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

Net PRM assets		\$0
APBO net plan sponsor cost	-	\$11,524,774
Funded status	=	\$(11,524,774)
Number of annual payments	÷	20
Portion of funded status payable (\$0 if Funded status ≥ \$0)	=	\$576,239
Funding Plan Service cost (\$0 if Net PRM assets ≥ EPBO)	+	\$72,624
Ongoing funding contribution for 2024	=	\$648,863

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) “church plan” funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the SUSQUEHANNA contains its elections to cover or not to cover categories mentioned above.

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	6.00%
Estimated premium for 2024	\$499,978

Rationale for each change

Based on CPP billing for remaining clergy as of July 1, 2023

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2024	\$116,284

Rationale for each change

Based on contributions as of July 1, 2023.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy

Elections and Estimates

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2024	\$773,000

Rationale for each change

Based on clergy contributions as of July 1, 2023 along with 3% increase.

Susquehanna Conference (321) – 2024 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

Name		Estimated annual contribution
UNUM Life & Disability		\$9,364
Description		
UNUM Life & Disability		

	Final
Expected average future annual increases	2.00%
Estimated contribution for 2024	\$9,364

Michelle Bodle, Chair of Board of Pensions and Health

Rec-3 Commission on Equitable Compensation
ACTION:

Mission

- The Commission on Equitable Compensation supports full-time clergy serving as pastors and those clergy members appointed to less than full-time serving charges of the Susquehanna conference by:
- 1. Recommending standards for pastoral support.
 - 2. Administering funds for pastoral support.
 - 3. Providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support.
 - 4. Arrearage Policy Adopted by Annual Conference.

Pastoral Support & Compensation Recommendations-2024

1. That the **minimum** salary in 2025 for full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the Annual Conference shall be:

2025 Minimum Salary Years of Service	Full Members & In-Service Provisionals	Associate Members	Full-Time Local Pastors
Less than 3	52,173	49,859	47,551
After 3	53,230	50,866	48,503
After 6	54,288	51,805	49,452
After 9	55,356	52,876	50,404
After 12	56,409	53,888	51,364
After 15	57,442	54,890	52,297

- Note: The years of service of a pastor are to be computed not only on the service in the Conference, but rather on the total full-time service in the United Methodist Church or its antecedents. **The 2025 Minimum Salary reflects a 3% increase over 2024.** The Commission strongly encourages merit-based increases and for those with advanced degrees in ministry.
- 2. That the compensation for all part-time pastors and less than full-time appointments shall be negotiated by the Staff-Parish Committee and the District Superintendent.
 - 3. That in addition to the cash salary paid to each full-time pastor, an amount equal to one half of the current Self-Employment tax as determined by the Internal Revenue Service shall be paid by the local church to offset the difference between self-employed and employee Social Security Tax rates. Such amount shall be identified in

local church and conference reports as a separate line item under pastoral compensation. All pastors are encouraged to participate in the Social Security Program. ***This supplemental amount is only available to those participating in the Social Security Program.***

4. That pastors supplying a pulpit on a temporary basis shall receive at least \$100 per single church charge, at least \$25 additional per church or service in a multiple church charge, plus mileage reimbursement, at current Internal Revenue Service rates, in each instance.
5. That travel provisions shall be made for all full-time pastors and student pastors and shall be considered as part of the local church/charge budget under administrative expenses. The local church/charge, after consultation with the pastor, shall select one of the following options to ensure adequate travel provisions for the pastor while involved in church business:
 - Option 1:** The local church/charge shall rent or purchase a vehicle for the pastor and shall be responsible for all ownership and operating costs of the vehicle. Ownership costs shall include gasoline, oil, tires, maintenance and repair of the vehicle. It shall be understood that the vehicle is to be available to the pastor at all times, with the cost of personal use being reimbursed at current Internal Revenue Service rates.
 - Option 2:** The local church/charge shall pay the pastor an annual amount of at least \$1,700 for ownership costs, and reimburse the pastor for operating costs at the minimum rate of 14 cents per mile which is the current IRS rate, both payable at least monthly upon the submission of travel vouchers. The \$1,700 will be considered as salary for tax purposes.
 - Option 3:** The local church/charge shall reimburse its pastors for vouchered travel expenses at Internal Revenue Service rates, as defined by current IRS regulations. **Reimbursement for mileage of an electric vehicle shall be at 80% of IRS rate for petroleum fueled vehicles.** This may be contained within an Accountable Reimbursement Policy.
6. That travel expenses for pastors under special appointment shall be negotiated with the agency to which they are assigned. Travel expenses of pastors in less than full-time appointments shall be negotiated between the District Superintendent and the Staff-Parish Committee.
7. That a parsonage shall be provided for the appointed pastor and his/her family and furnished according to the standard adopted in the *2016 Book of Discipline of the Untried Methodist Church*.
 - a. That utilities, which include gas, electricity, TV antenna or basic cable installation, high speed Internet service, water, sewer, basic private telephone bill and equipment, heat, refuse collection, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors shall be furnished and paid for by the local church/charge. **Pastors may negotiate the installation of a 110 or 220 volt outlet or charging device for Electric Vehicles. Vehicle specific smart charging stations may be purchased and added at the expense of the parsonage family and may be taken with them when they move.**
 - b. Each pastor shall report the fair rental value of the parsonage as income for Social Security purposes. The fair rental value of the parsonage shall be negotiated by the pastor and the Staff-Parish Committee and approved by the appropriate Church/Charge Conference.
 - c. That each charge is encouraged to designate, each year, at the Church/Charge Conference, a portion of the pastor's cash salary as parsonage exclusion for use as the pastor sees fit for the purchase of furnishings for the church/charge owned parsonage.
 - d. When a housing allowance is granted in lieu of a parsonage, it shall be done only by approved Conference policy.
8. That continuing education shall be provided for all full-time and part-time pastors under appointment. It shall be cumulative and used only during the current assignment. It shall be payable upon submission of vouchers. It shall be payable at the minimum rate of \$750 per year for full-time pastors and \$500 per year for part-time pastors. Other educational assistance may be available through the Board of Ordained Ministry.
9. That vacations and time away from the parish be granted on the following basis:
 - a. Vacation time shall be granted based on the Conference year (July 1-June 30) and negotiated with the Staff-Parish Committee.
 - b. Full-time service: Minimum of four weeks of vacation, which shall include four Sundays.
 - c. Less than full-time pastors: Minimum of two weeks, which shall include two Sundays.
 - d. Pulpit supply during vacation periods shall be arranged by the Staff-Parish Committee and paid for by the local church/charge.
 - e. All Staff-Parish committees shall encourage their pastors to take a minimum of one day off a week.

- f. Some involvement of pastors in ministries beyond the local church is expected as an aspect of our connectional ministry, e.g. evangelistic missions, camping programs, work camps, etc. Such time is not to be considered as vacation. However, the extent of such involvement is to be negotiated by the pastor and the Staff-Parish Committee.
- g. Staff-Parish Committees are encouraged to pay special attention to the recommendations of the Board of Ordained Ministry and Study Leave, Sabbatical Leaves and Short-Term educational opportunities.
10. That the church portion of health insurance for clergy couples will continue to be paid by their respective churches/charges for their full requested contribution for each pastor. Only one clergy in the clergy couple will have the clergy portion of health insurance deducted and billed to the church. Each full-time pastor will contribute the difference between the actual cost of the plan selected and the premium credit provided by the Conference. This contribution will be a payroll deduction by the local church.
11. That the primary responsibility for pastoral base compensation, subject to the above minimum recommendations, remains with the individual pastoral charge. Special assistance is available to congregations unable to pay the pastor's minimum base compensation by application to their District Superintendent and through the resources of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

Rev. John Overman, *Chair*

Rec-4 Council on Finance and Administration

ACTION:

**This recommendation of the Council on Finance & Administration
will be distributed as an addendum prior to the Annual Conference meeting.**

Rec-5 Camp & Retreat Ministry

ACTION:

The Susquehanna Camp and Retreat Board has prayerfully discerned God's leading for this important connectional ministry of the Conference. We are called to engage ever-expanding circles of youth, families, individuals, and groups who will journey together into intentional faith forming community. These experiences will be characterized by the joy of friendships, creativity, and fun where the way of love shapes and infuses everything. The purpose is deepening connections with God, each other, and the whole creation. Persons will grow in confidence and discover new abilities to lead in ways that can literally help transform the wider world. All participants will identify specific actions they can take to continue loving God, loving others, and loving themselves as they return to their daily lives. We will follow the lead of the Spirit and design our programs to foster these outcomes for all whom we meet and serve.

The Mission:

We nurture disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Vision:

Communities of Caring Connection Inspire a More Loving World

The Impacts:

- Camps and retreats of the Susquehanna Conference provide unparalleled journeys into living experiences of Christian discipleship, community, and the way of love. Many young people and adults regularly respond to this love in action by making decisions of faith that shape their entire lives.
- Individuals and groups engage in intentional opportunities to explore their giftedness and grow in servant leadership, which inspire important calls to ministry for both laity and clergy.
- Camps and Retreats provide places of gathering and programs that encourage congregations and a host of nonprofits for the good they do in the world. People return to embody love and justice in their communities in ways that help transform the wider world.
- People find vital rest, renewal, and re-connection with the Creator through time spent in the natural world and time for deeper contemplation, reflection, and Sabbath.

- Camps and Retreats are a creative doorway that United Methodist Congregations can utilize to reach out and engage new families and individuals in joyful, meaningful chances to grow in their faith while expanding and deepening relationships and friendships within their wider communities.

Pathways to an abundant and fruitful future within a rapidly changing landscape for this valued Susquehanna Conference ministry and our shared mission.

Pathway One: Reach New People and New Places

Develop new, dynamic approaches to camp and retreat ministry that will also reach children, youth, and families not currently active in a faith community. **Working in collaboration with our United Methodist congregations and community partners we will be an intentional avenue of new relationships and connections, including Beloved Community Camp Initiatives that specifically collaborate with people and communities of color.**

Why is this vitally important?

- A. The neighbors Christ calls us to love and be in relationship with are growing more diverse in Pennsylvania. In Central Pennsylvania the landscape has and will continue to change significantly. 25 years ago in our region, about 1 in 20 persons were people of color. Today it is 1 in 8 persons and soon to be 1 in 7 persons. State-wide 1 in 3 persons under the age of 20 are people of color. **A task force is actively studying models from across the country that have been successful in engaging with communities of color and new Beloved Community Camps will be implemented.**
- B. Barna research studies reveal that most persons who make life-long commitments to Jesus and a life of Christian love do so before the age of 20. We are amid a nationwide trend, however, where an increasing number of families and individuals have no active connection with a faith community. Youth have narrowing access to faith forming opportunities. Studies also show that the majority of U.S. parents still indicate that Spiritual development for their children is important. Our exciting and challenging call as congregations and connectional ministries with you is to follow Jesus to new places and ways of being in relationship with persons more broadly. **We will work with congregations and community partners on new intentional strategies of outreach.**

The combined reports of our own churches reveal the timeliness for new visions within a changing landscape. From 2010 to 2021, the submitted local church reports show a 56% decrease in active participation of children, 58% among youth, and 62% among young adults. We have faced unique challenges due to COVID and disaffiliations. This of course has had a ripple effect within our camp and retreat programs. It is beneficial for us to clearly see the changes, because once understood we can unite to respond creatively and faithfully. The good news is that many children, youth, and young adults still live in our wider communities and God will move in their lives. **Camps and Retreats are very transformative ways for all of us to engage young people in milestone, experiential faith formation which families in the community will value.**

Pathway Two: Align Leadership and Resources for Growth and Long-Term Vitality

The Board of Camp and Retreat Ministry has undertaken a two-year study and prayerful discernment focused on how to best steward the gifts, graces, and resources of Camp Retreat Ministry for a strong future and missional impact. We were blessed to receive a grant that has helped us examine the breadth of factors that are important to consider. We examined key markers of Christian camp and retreat ministries that thrive and that are equipped to meet the challenges of the changing landscape within the church and wider society. We recognized how hard our staff and leaders have worked to steward the ministry despite all that has confronted them in recent years. **A fundamental determination is that managing less properties and reinvesting in the remaining locations will provide the very best avenue to multiply faith forming opportunities for our children, youth and families, while reaching a greater diversity of people.**

Why is this vitally important?

- A. All our Camp and Retreat Centers currently have camper, guest, and participation levels below norms for long-term viability and vitality. Our facilities, also, need significant capital investment improvements to enhance growth and meet the facility and programmatic quality and breadth expected by today's families and nonprofit groups. New construction and major renovations require funding investment far beyond

typical operating funds. **We can make vital strides in accomplishing this if we manage fewer centers and reapply resources to the remaining centers.**

Current annual operating budgets, also, allow only for limited staffing levels. Our dedicated leaders and staff are beyond fully occupied with management of the present operations. This leaves very little capacity for the essential work to be done on mission expansion and growth, developing new programs, etc. **By consolidating our staffing and combining our programs, we will free people up to specifically lead growth and mission expansion efforts.**

- B. Generous support from donors, local churches, and the conference play a critical role every year in supplying essential financial support to supplement operational income. Without it, the ministry as currently designed in multiple locations will quickly experience budgetary deficits and debt. Disaffiliations and other factors make a reduction in available Conference funds highly likely, even though the ministry continues to be deeply valued by the Conference and the congregations. Wise and prudent stewardship is the pathway to create a vibrant, abundant future, in contrast to impending decline across the entire ministry if we are not proactive. **God provides us a way forward to a different, abundant, and blessed future, while we incorporate and honor the best of who we have been with who we are becoming together with God.**

Pathway Three: Enhance Ministry Impact through Clear, Shared Outcomes

Leadership and resources will be intentionally aligned to fulfill our mission, vision, and core values through clear, shared outcomes for every camper and guest group. This unified direction for the overall ministry will ensure focus on transformative opportunities that are well prepared and more consistent across every event and experience we provide.

Why is this vitally important?

Christian and faith-based camp and retreat ministries make unique contributions not provided by many other forms of camps and other types of children and youth programs. It is important to recognize and value who we are and the activities we provide based on core values that are fun, challenging, and energizing while at the same time very intentionally contributing to a better world. The following reflect some of the core elements of the Susquehanna Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry.

- **LOVE:** We believe all are made in God's image. The best way to celebrate and value God and each other is through relationships of genuine love and mutual encouragement.
- **ACCEPTANCE:** We extend radical hospitality and acceptance by welcoming every person into caring community regardless of their background or identity.
- **TIME AWAY:** We affirm the healing, restorative power of time away in the natural world for rest, reconnection, and well-being.
- **BRAVE SPACES:** We value brave spaces where individuals can take creative risks and grow in confidence and leadership.
- **YOUNG VOICES:** We prioritize the voices, giftedness, and development of young people as a core aspect of summer camp.
- **BELOVED COMMUNITY:** We commit ourselves to ongoing learning and action to dismantle racism and create a more just and equitable society.
- **SAFETY:** We believe persons can become the best version of themselves in environments of spiritual, emotional, and physical safety.
- **DOING GOOD:** We encourage leaders and participants from many nonprofit groups who come to our centers, so they are renewed and inspired for the good they also do in the world.

Imagine ever-expanding circles of youth, families, individuals, and groups having access to these intentional experiences characterized by the joy of friendships, creativity, and fun available in a community experience where the way of love shapes and infuses everything. Imagine the deepening connections with God, each other, and the whole creation. Imagine the growth in confidence and new abilities to lead in ways that can literally help transform the wider world. Imagine every person identifying specific ways in which they will continue to love God, love others, and love themselves as they return to their daily lives. This is the unique focus of faith-based camp and retreat communities. **In order to provide these blessings consistently and effectively within every event and experience we offer, it will require a coordinated commitment, focus, and enhanced preparation of all our volunteers, staff, and leaders.**

Recommended Future Locations of Camp and Retreat Ministry

- Wesley Forest, Weikert, PA
 - This site and ministry is best equipped to be a primary camp and retreat center offering year-round opportunities and facilities near the center of the Conference. It has the largest year-round capacity for camp and retreat groups of any of our centers.
- Camp Penn, Waynesboro, PA
 - This forest service leased site and ministry will serve as a seasonal program for summer camp and guest groups in the Southern section of the Conference. Seasonal ministry coincides with the non-winterized facility designs, which require far less capital investment and many necessary repairs and upgrades have been accomplished in recent years. Seasonal operation will free up the staff during other parts of the year to help grow and enhance the overall ministry. As a leased site, this center would not provide resources for upgrading and enhancing other centers if sold.
- Beloved Community Models of Camp, done in partnership with churches and communities across the conference.
 - With local community leaders and congregations, we will develop community models of summer camp that intentionally create new relationships and collaborations with persons and leaders from communities of color along with other underserved populations. They will be shaped by the people's needs in the local settings where the programs are held. This will also expand diversity of leadership within our Camp and Retreat Ministry.
- Sky Lake, Windsor, NY (collaboration with Upper NY Annual Conference)
 - Continue to strengthen collaborative connections with Sky Lake UM Camp and Retreat Center that give greater access and encourage churches and communities in the Northeastern part of the Conference to participate in opportunities close by. Sky Lake UM Camp and Retreat Center of the Upper New York Conference who provides financial support there, however, Sky Lake has strong historic ties to our churches, too. The collaboration as ministry partners is to encourage participation in summer camp programs with similar missions, core values, and goals as we work together to serve every region of our Conference.

Therefore, the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries Recommends:**Consolidate Programs and Resources from Mount Asbury and Greene Hills to Other Centers**

The Camp and Retreat Ministry Board recommends the sale of Mount Asbury and Greene Hills. The Camp and Retreat Ministry strongly recommends to the Board of Trustees that all financial proceeds be reinvested in Camp and Retreat Ministry to grow and enhance the ministry and its missional impact.

Submitted by:

Camp and Retreat Ministry Board

Supported by the Coordinating Cabinet of the Susquehanna Conference

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Resolutions

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Resolutions

RES-1 Mental Health

ACTION:

WHEREAS the members of the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference adhere to the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the World Health Organization characterizes mental health as a state of well-being wherein individuals recognize their own abilities, manage the normal stresses of life, engage productively and fruitfully, and contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS mental health, akin to physical health, is crucial at every life stage and ranges from optimal well-being to conditions requiring medical intervention; and

WHEREAS approximately 1 in 5 adults in the United States experience mental illness each year and there has been a noticeable escalation in the incidence of mental health diagnoses, a trend particularly exacerbated by the challenges and stresses associated with the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS a significant number of people with mental health concerns often seek guidance from spiritual leaders initially and the Social Principles affirm the rights of those with mental illnesses and their families to be treated with dignity and to pursue appropriate care; and

WHEREAS our faith communities are called to be sanctuaries of support for individuals affected by mental illness and their families; and

WHEREAS national observances include Mental Wellness Month in January, Mental Health Awareness Month in May, Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month in September, and Mental Illness Awareness Week in the first full week of October;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference will observe Mental Health Awareness Month by dedicating the third Sunday in May for a special offering (#4050). This initiative is designed to enhance educational efforts for our members, clergy, and the wider community, emphasizing the church's commitment to mental health and wellness. It aims to guide individuals towards professional resources and organizations that are equipped to facilitate early detection and appropriate management of mental health and wellness concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that September be recognized as both Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month, encouraging participation in related community, local, and state initiatives; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Mental Health Awareness Week be marked by a day of prayer on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, focusing on prevention, early intervention, support for those affected by mental health issues, their families, caregivers, and the pursuit of a cure for all mental illnesses.

Citations:

1. The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church — 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House, ¶162.X. pp. 130-131.
2. "Five Surprising Mental Health Statistics," Mental Health First Aid USA, February 6, 2019.
3. The Book of Discipline, op. cit.

Submitted by:

Rev. Evelyn Madison, LCSW, Chair

Rev. Renee Ford, Ph.D., Co-Chair

The Conference Board of Global Ministries recommends concurrence.

RES-2 Disability Awareness Sunday

ACTION:

WHEREAS ¶265.4 of The Social Principles states that annual conferences shall designate a special Sunday of the year to be observed as “**Disability Awareness Sunday**,” and

WHEREAS ¶265.4 calls for the church to use this special Sunday designated for Disability Awareness to recognize the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities, as well as to “promote the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community;” and

WHEREAS the nation recognizes October as National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church recognize Disability Awareness Sunday as the second Sunday in October (October 13, 2024) by promoting awareness about issues related to disabilities, providing a space for people with disabilities to participate in worship leadership, and participating (if churches choose to do so) in a special offering for Advanced Special #3021054 to benefit Disability Ministries of the United Methodist Church. This special offering will support the ongoing efforts of disabilities ministries throughout the worldwide United Methodist connection.

Rev. Rebecca L. Holland, Disability Awareness Task Force of the Susquehanna Conference (Chair)
and Disability Ministry Committee of the United Methodist Church (chair of communications),
serving Hawley United Methodist Church in the Scranton Wilkes-Barre District

The Conference Board of Global Ministries recommends concurrence.

RES-3 Resolution of Acknowledgment of Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation as a Mission of Individuals and Congregations of the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

ACTION:

WHEREAS acknowledging the commitment and humanitarian efforts of Hope Made Real (the U.S. entity) /Urukundo Foundation (the Rwandan entity), begun in 2002 by Arlene D. Brown, a laity member of St. Johns United Methodist Church, Williamsport, aimed at providing a home for girls and fostering their education and well-being.

WHEREAS acknowledging the significant growth and impact of Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation, which has evolved into a comprehensive institution of the Urukundo Learning Center with over 1200 students, Community Daycare, Sewing Technical Center, Dental Clinic, Mama-Baby Outreach, Community Worship Center, and Guest House showcasing its dedication to education, healthcare, and vocational training.

WHEREAS the importance of collaboration and support from congregations and members towards Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation's noble cause reflects the shared values of compassion, education, and community service.

WHEREAS affirming the commitment of congregations and members of the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to extend its support and partnership with Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation and recognizing the alignment of their mission and the potential for greater collective impact.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we The Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church

- acknowledge Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation as a commendable initiative that started in 2002, and incorporated in 2006, to provide a home for girls and has since grown into a multifaceted institution supporting education, healthcare, and vocational training.
- commend Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation for its substantial growth and impact, having expanded to accommodate over 1200 students, established a Community Daycare, Sewing Technical Center, Dental Clinic, Mama-Baby Outreach, Community Worship Center, and Guest House showcasing its commitment to holistic development.
- express appreciation for the congregations and members who have supported Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the success and sustainability of its mission.
- recognize the collaborative efforts between its members and congregations and Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation recognizing the potential for enhanced collective impact in fostering education, healthcare, and vocational training.

- call upon the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to acknowledge the mission of Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation.
- encourage its members and congregations to continue strengthening its partnership with the Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation fostering a shared commitment to humanitarian values, education, and community development.
- encourage its congregations and members along with other international organizations to provide support, resources, and expertise to facilitate the endeavors of the Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation.
- call upon a board members of Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation to report annually on the progress and outcomes with the Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries, thereby promoting transparency and accountability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we affirm the support by United Methodist members and congregations of the Hope Made Real/Urukundo Foundation mission and acknowledge this collaboration, fostering a commitment to humanitarian values, education, and community development.

Submitted by:

Saint John's-Newberry Church Council, Williamsport District

Mr. Jean Marie Ntwari, Executive Director, The Urukundo Foundation

Ms. Carol Falke, President, U.S. Board of Directors of Hope Made Real, Inc., Saint Paul's UMC, State College

District

The Rev. Lori Betsworth, St. Johns-Newberry United Methodist Church, Williamsport District

The Conference Board of Global Ministries recommends concurrence.

RES-4 Church and Land Use

ACTION:

Whereas God created the heavens and the earth, putting into place systems and cycles that would be life promoting and sustaining and charged humans to be caretakers of all life on earth, and

Whereas God gave the earth water, soil--filled with microorganisms vital to the health and fertility of the soil and plants, and

Whereas God created humans, animals, creatures of the sea, and birds of the air, to live together upon the earth, and

Whereas we are in the midst of a biodiversity and wildlife crisis that is so extreme that more than 30,000 species go extinct annually, nearly three billion North American birds have vanished since 1970, and two thirds of the birds that remain are at an increasing risk of extinction due to global temperature rise, and

Whereas much of this crisis is being caused by humans through land conversion, habitat destruction, use of chemical pesticides and biocides, as well as other harmful synthetic chemicals that persist in the environment known as "forever chemicals," water pollution, and air pollution, including excessive release of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we United Methodists follow God's intended order and commit ourselves to renewing Earth's life-giving abilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our local churches, camps and retreat centers, as well as conference offices and district locations, consider actions to bring their land back in harmony with God's intention and systems.

The following are suggested possibilities:

- Upgrade old toilets with water-saving toilets
- Change out old light fixtures and bulbs to energy savers.
- Discontinue using synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and biocides in order to promote soil health.
- Plant native species.

- Work with an agricultural extension agency to create a teaching garden or farm if the church has sufficient acreage. Restoring the land by using regenerative agricultural techniques provides education and is a witness to congregation and community.
- Plant a rain garden in areas where water runoff from hard surfaces flows into storm drains or nearby creeks and rivers. A rain garden will serve to absorb some of the runoff, slow down the flow, and even clean the water before it hits the storm drain or closest stream.
- Convert to renewable energy for some or all of the facility's energy needs. Often the change will be financially beneficial, as well. Install charging stations in the church so folks can charge their vehicles while they worship. Look for grants to help with up-front costs.
- Avoid purchases that contribute to deforestation. Commit to purchasing lumber, food, building materials, and paper products that are sustainably sourced and produced,
- Avoid use of plastic and reduce the use of paper products by using real plates, cutlery and tablecloths for church events.

Submitted by:

York District Creation Care Team

Kendra Mabon, David Norris, Mark Terwilliger, Phyllis Terwilliger, Judy Young

The Conference Board of Global Ministries recommends concurrence.

RES-5 A Resolution to Declare Gun Violence a Public Health Emergency in Our Annual Conference

ACTION:

WHEREAS, as followers of Jesus, called to live into the reality of God's dream of shalom as described by Micah, we must address the epidemic of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9 NRSV); and

WHEREAS, The United States has endured over 604 mass shooting incidents in 2023, accounting for 754 fatalities and 2,443 other people injured; and

WHEREAS, The United States has, since 1999 to early 2022, suffered over 550 separate school shooting incidents with at least 185 fatalities and over 311,000 children exposed to gun violence at school during that time (Washington Post); and

WHEREAS, Our Book of Resolutions calls upon United Methodists to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context" (2016 Book of Resolutions, #3428, "Our Call to End Gun Violence"), in an effort to help quell the gun violence that is killing and maiming a growing number of children, youth, men and women in our communities and causing ongoing trauma to families, friends, witnesses, and co-workers who are also impacted; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Social Principles demand that, "Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril"; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that every congregation in the Susquehanna Conference be encouraged to respond to gun violence as a community-wide health care emergency by entering into courageous conversation on the causes and effects of gun violence and by taking steps to prevent violence. One such way of entering into the conversation would be by doing *The General Board of Church & Society's* 3-week Small Group Bible Study entitled Kingdom Dreams Violent Realities: Reflections on gun violence from Micah 4:1-4 found at

<http://www.umcjustice.org/documents/37>; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, as an Annual Conference, encourage all lawful gun owners to properly store their guns in a safe manner especially when children, youth, and young adults are in their domiciles; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, as an Annual Conference, affirm "Our Call to End Gun Violence" (2016 UM Book of Resolutions #3428) and will prioritize advocating that our state and federal legislators do the following where it has not already been done:

1. universal background checks on all gun purchases hence ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers;

2. prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing a gun;
3. prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun;
4. ensuring greater access to services for those who have mental illness;
5. banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled;
6. and promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and promote public safety.¹

Submitted by

Rev. Ryan K. Gephart, Peace with Justice Coordinator for the Susquehanna Annual Conference

The Conference Board of Global Ministries recommends concurrence.

¹ Many thanks to the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, the Arkansas Annual Conference, and the General Board of Church Society for allowing the use of their language in the crafting of this resolution.

SECTION IV-B

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1. Connectional Ministries

The mission of the Susquehanna Conference is to: **grow spiritual transformational leaders, equip vital congregations and create new places for new people, and connect with each other and the world so that alive in Christ together, the Susquehanna Conference will embody the beloved community of disciple-making congregations.**

Connectional Ministries, Equipping Vital Congregations and Growing Spiritual Transformational Leaders staff and teams of the Annual Conference exist to resource, equip, and support the churches, clergy, and laity of the Annual Conference to live into the mission to which Jesus calls all of us, to make new disciples of Jesus as we continue to grow in our own relationship with Jesus.

One of the best resources that we have to offer to the Annual Conference is Portico which is an online learning platform. Portico can be found on the Conference website or at this address <https://susumc.org/portico/>. Once you register on Portico you will find a catalog with a variety of courses that will benefit both lay and clergy in our shared ministries. I urge all of us to become regular learners on Portico!

This past year the Equip and Grow teams rolled out the Refresh series. We are excited for that to continue this year offering opportunities to come together and Refresh our Stewardship and our Innovation.

I am also very excited for the shared work with West Virginia and Western PA. Together, last year we hosted Level Up- New Places New People at Christ UMC in Bethel Park. We are delighted that we are able to return this year with a focus on church vitality. Our keynote speakers are Michael Bowie, Rosario Picardo and Sue Nilson Kibbey, and Kenda Creasy Dean. There will be workshops including pre Conference workshops, opportunities for teams to dream and scheme together, worship, and an online participant option with an online host at the site.

The Program Ministries staff of the Annual Conference-Communications, Volunteers in Mission, Discovery Place, Disaster Response, Lay Excellence, Age-Level Ministries remain committed to connecting the Church with the World. Each of the members of the Connectional Ministries staff look forward to our work together with individuals and faith communities in order to encourage our growth as spiritual, transformational leaders and to help equip congregations for vitality and create new places for new people.

As we move forward as the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Connectional Ministries is committed to resource laity, clergy, the Church, Districts, and the Conference in whatever ways we can so that we can faithfully live into our mission to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Kathleen Kind, *Director of Connectional Ministries*

Conference Ministries

2. Advance Specials

The purpose of this Conference Advance list is to promote mission within the structure or bounds of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist church. These groups have been reviewed by the Missional Board as worthy ministries for second mile giving consideration by the local congregations. These "Advances" are given access to the addresses and contact information for our congregations and are authorized to solicit funds from all United Methodist congregations within this Conference. No other groups are given such access.

1.1 Beloved Community Fund (# 9300)

Contact: Kristopher Sledge ksledge@susumc.org or Kevin Witt kwitt@susumc.org

The Beloved Community Fund will help Susquehanna United Methodists connect churches to their neighbors, resist racism, promote diversity, support cross-racial appointments and build strong race relations.

1.2 Bolivia Mission Initiative (# 8105)

Contact: Rev. Jennett Wertz, jwertz@susumc.org 307 South St, Lewisberry, PA 17739 (h)717-212-2550; (w)717-938-2093; (c)570-295-6389

The Bolivia Mission Initiative is a multi-faceted connection with our brothers and sisters in the vicinity of Cochabamba in central Bolivia and also with the medical clinic in the La Paz/El Alto area. Children's, Medical, Evangelism, and Community developments programs are all a part of this ministry.

1.3 Daystar Center for Spiritual Recovery (# 7030)

Contact: Fern Wilcox, Executive Director, 125 N. 18th Street Harrisburg, PA 17106; 717-230-9898
admin@daystarrecovery.com

This ministry provides addiction recovery services and requires clients to connect with the spiritual community. They offer daily devotions, individual and group counseling, life-skills training, case management, weekly Bible studies and small group ministries.

1.4 Disaster Response (# 8055)

Contact: Douglas Hoy 717-766-7441 ext 3402 drc@susumc.org

Through the connectional system of the United Methodist Church and in partnership with UMCOR, the Disaster Response Ministry provides training, assistance, resources, and financial support to the congregations and communities within the Susquehanna Conference to support disaster readiness, relief, recovery, and restoration efforts prior to, during, and after a disaster.

1.5 Endless Mountain Mission Center (# 7020)

Contact: Tammie Storrs, PO Box 201 Troy, PA 16947 570-596-2039 tstorrs@npacc.net

Physical site address: 81 Mission Center Lane, Troy, PA

The EMMC reaches out to people in need in the Bradford County region and is committed to sharing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. Through creating an atmosphere of trust and compassion people are ministered to in all areas of need.

1.6 Give Ye Them to Eat (GYTTE) (# 2375)

Contact: Rev. Marian Hartman, mhartman@susumc.org

GYTTE was founded in 1977 as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church of Mexico to combat hunger and poverty in the rural sector. The purpose of the "Give Ye Them to Eat" program (GYTTE) is to strengthen the capabilities of marginalized people and communities to meet their basic needs, and to determine and sustain a just and integrated development process. Participatory methods and development tools are used to create conditions in which change can take place from within the communities. The "Tree of Life" training center in Tlancualpican conducts workshops and hands-on opportunities in the areas of health, sanitation, animal care and breeding, agricultural methods such as terracing, composting and irrigation. Workshops also go "on the road" for VBS, Holy Week and Advent resources. The Susquehanna Conference has been sending work teams for over 20 years.

1.7 Haiti Partnership (# 8035)

Contact: Barbara Gay 331 Stinson Lane Tunkhannock PA 18657 570-836-3884 email: skyhaven@epix.net

Haiti Partnership Website: www.haitipartnership.com

The Haiti Partnership's mission is with the people of Haiti to form relationships with them based on mutual respect and love in Christ. VIM Teams are regularly sent, and updated information is available through the website above.

1.8 Mission Central (# 7050)

Contact: 5 Pleasant View Drive Mechanicsburg PA 17050 Phone: 717-766-1533

Email: missioncentral@susumc.org

Since 2002, thousands of volunteers have come in service to "connect God's resources with human need." We process UMCOR "Relief Kits" for use around the world, provide all types of needed supplies for local and national ministries, and assist many projects that are sending God's love, locally, nationally, and around the world.

1.9 Neighborhood Center, Harrisburg, PA (# 7000)

Contact: Quetrina Sims-Shelton 717-233-6541; Qsims-shelton@neighborhoodcenter.org

Neighborhood Center serves at risk, low-income, and inner-city children, youth, and families with educational, cultural, human service, basic needs, and recreational programs in the name of Jesus Christ.

1.10 Prison Ministries within Susquehanna Conference (# 7035)

Contact: Kris Sledge ksledge@susumc.org

This ministry has expanded to include Exodus Ministry. The Prison Ministries has provided camp scholarships to children of those incarcerated within our congregations, has provided counseling to inmates re-entering the community, and supports local congregations and other groups ministering to those imprisoned.

1.11 Retreat/Camping Ministries (# 9510)

Contact: Kevin Witt, 717-766-7441 ext 3603, kwitt@susumc.org

The Susquehanna Conference's camp and retreat ministry provides five sacred spaces whose goal is to cultivate authentic connections with Christ, community and creation. These places of holy common ground host our conference's summer camps and many religiously affiliated and nonprofit retreat groups throughout the year who are also doing good in the world. This advance supports the work of the conference at Camp Penn, Mount Asbury, Greene Hills, Wesley Forest and Sky Lake.

1.12 Sierra Leone Initiative (# 8030)

Contact: Pam Perna pam04sierra@gmail.com or James Jacobs jjacobs@susumc.org

SLI provides financial assistance to clergy in Sierra Leone through an affirmed covenant relationship between the Susquehanna and Sierra Leone Conferences and the General Board of Global Ministries.

1.13 The Center for Spiritual Formation (# 7040)

Contact: Rhonda Strauss 717-249-1512 ext. 249 centerformation1@gmail.com

The Center for Spiritual Formation seeks to advocate and demonstrate the disciplines of Christian Spiritual Formation through retreats, seminars, continuing education events, a two-year Ministry of Spiritual Direction Course, a two-year Lay Seminary, and a family-systems tutorial for active clergy. The Center includes a retreat center where events are held as well as the ability to bring workshops to churches located throughout the Conference.

1.14 Volunteers in Mission Advance Special (# 4055)

Contact: Michelle Schwartzman, 717-766-7441 ext 3105, vim@susumc.org

VIM is a grassroots movement of United Methodists who seek to put their "Christian Love in Action." VIM offers a connectional framework through which disciples can engage in short-term mission journeys locally, nationally, and globally. VIM provides training, resources, insurance, and support to our VIM teams.

1.15 Volunteers in Mission Materials Advance Special (# 7010)

Contact: Michelle Schwartzman, 717-766-7441 ext 3105, vim@susumc.org

This ministry helps with the costs of materials for VIM work including local mission, domestic and international VIM journeys.

1.16 Wesley Foundation (# 7100)

Contact: St. Pauls United Methodist Church, State College PA 814-237-2163

Sarah Voigt svoigt.wesley@gmail.com

St. Paul's UMC & Wesley Foundation serves all students at Penn State University Park. The Abba Java Coffeehouse, a mission of campus ministry, serves an aggregate average of 1,000 students a week, providing free Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and tea as well as snacks. The Wesley Foundation also provides students a space for internship opportunities, for leadership and mission, faith exploration and worship. The Wesley Foundation at Penn State depends on Conference and Congregational support. Thank you in advance for helping us nurture and care for the students at Penn State. Please use #7100 in the memo for any donations coming through the conference.

District Advance Projects for special promotion and support within those districts (2016 BOD ¶655).

2.1 ALTOONA SUPERVISORY AREA

- Altoona District Volunteers in Mission Team (# 4060)**

Contact: Joy Shields at vimaltoona@susumc.org

The Altoona District Mission Team began in March 2006 with Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent need for drastic and ongoing aid. Our VIM team continues to assist victims of natural disasters on the eastern side of the USA. Our VIM (volunteers-in-mission) Teams have one common goal to be "God's Builders", reaching out to help neighbors in need after a flood, tornado, or hurricane. VIM Teams have made over 49 trips and traveled to 16 different states. Altoona VIM is also involved with the Blair County Emergency Management Office in response to local disasters should they occur.

- Breezewood Trucker's Ministry (# 8195)**

Contact: Bruce Maxwell, Chaplain 814-977-6964 or maxwell.bruce@gatewaytravelplaza.com

Mission Outreach Team for truckers and travelers, through a Chaplaincy Program at Breezewood. "A Friend on the Road" newsletter is available through Bruce Maxwell, Chaplain. You may reach Bruce at maxwell.bruce@gatewaytravelplaza.com or mobile number 814-977-6964. Personal, hands-on opportunities are available.

- Faith Break Media Ministry (# 8085)**

Contact: Rev. Carol Gathagan 814-742-8209 or cgathagan@susumc.org

Mission Outreach Team for the Radio Ministry. This ministry began in October 1997. The goal is to be a gentle reminder to all people that God loves us and is with us and because of that we have hope for today and the future, no matter what. The radio ministry is heard on Q94 - 94.3 FM, WBRX-Mix- 94.7 FM, WTRN Classic Favorites 96.09, 100.7, 1340am between 10-10:45am and 3-3:35 pm on all three stations. Faith Break is also on the web at myfaithbreak.org and Faith Break on Facebook. The writer and producer of Faith Break, Broadcasting Seeds of Hope, is Rev. Carol Gathagan.

- **Hungry Hearts Ministry (# new)**

Hungry Hearts offers Dinner Church every Thursday with a message, music and prayer, followed by a free hot meal to the diverse community of Chambersburg. This ministry also includes a weekly food pantry and clothing ministry. Hungry Hearts opens their space to social agencies that are not conveniently located for the clientele, to be present at these events.

- **New Hope Ministries (# new)**

New Hope Ministries is an ecumenical Christian social service agency, providing food support to the community, along with other social services, such as job training, education about budgeting and nutrition as well as providing crisis assistance and special programs around back to school, thanksgiving and Christmas. <https://nhm-pa.org/>

- **School of Hope (First UMC Chambersburg) (#8255)**

Contact: The Rev. Steve Livermore, slivemore@susumc.org

School of Hope was formed out of an ecumenical partnership with First UMC and UB Salem Haitienne in Chambersburg. Both churches partner together to provide a school for 209 students in Petit Goave Haiti. The partnership also provides a home for a worshipping congregation in Chambersburg, offering ESL classes and other support for our Haitian community. In regular times, a team travels to Haiti at least once a year.

2.2 HARRISBURG SUPERVISORY AREA

- **Daystar Center for Spiritual Recovery (# 7030)**

Contact: Fern Wilcox, Executive Director, 125 N. 18th Street Harrisburg, PA 17106 717-230-9898
admin@daystarrecovery.com

This ministry provides addiction recovery services and requires clients to connect with the spiritual community. They offer daily devotions, individual and group counseling, life-skills training, case management, weekly Bible studies and small group ministries.

- **Neighborhood Center, Harrisburg, PA (# 7000)**

Contact: Gary Fallings 717-233-6541 ext 301; gfallings@neighborhoodcenterumc.org

Neighborhood Center serves at risk, low-income, and inner-city children, youth, and families with educational, cultural, human service, basic needs, and recreational programs in the name of Jesus Christ.

- **Beacon Clinic for Health and Hope (#7300)**

Contact: Ruth I Stoll, Development Committee, 248 Seneca Street, PO BOX 5870, Harrisburg, PA 17110 717-775-1111

Beacon Clinic is a not-for-profit, free, faith-based primary healthcare clinic serving adults ages 18-65 living in the Greater Harrisburg Community, including the working poor, homeless, prisoners-in-transition, diverse immigrant groups, unemployed and others.

- **Genesis (#8250)**

Contact: Pastor Tanya Brubaker, tbrubaker@susumc.org

Genesis at Calvary UMC reaches the Latino population primarily in the York City area with a variety of high energy and spirit-led worship and Bible study efforts. We offer creative Sunday worship in the building as well as on-line services all in multiple languages--English and various dialects of Spanish to suite those who come from various Latino backgrounds. We have mid-week Bibles studies and Home Church opportunities. This is a great time for families--children, youth, and adults--to be involved together in worship and spiritual development.

2.3 SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE SUPERVISORY AREA

- **Shoemaker Mission Central HUB: (# 8210)**

Contact: HUB Coordinators: Kristi Lyons, kristiliumc@gmail.com or 570-262-0382 and Sally Kennard (570-333-4218) for furniture needs

The former Shoemaker Memorial Church, West Eighth Street, Wyoming, has been transformed into a Mission Central HUB of Mission Central, located in Mechanicsburg, PA. Under the leadership of the Kristi Lyons and the local Board of Directors, the Mission Central HUB will be a place where groups can come to assemble various types of response and relief kits, provide resources and furniture for persons in need, and eventually offer places to study and worship for folks who traditionally find it hard to enter the doors of our churches.

1 • **Elm Park African Ministry: (# 8230)**

2 *Contact: Rev. Mike Bealla, mbealla@susumc.org 570-342-8263*

3 With a growing number of Central African families finding homes in the Scranton Area, Elm Park has been
4 blessed in its ministry with this community. This vital ministry provides for weekly worship services (in
5 Swahili and English), assistance to refugee families, English as a Second Language tutoring as well as
6 providing for a African student intern from Drew Theological School. Your gifts to this Advance Special will
7 help support the current and evolving ministries with this growing local mission opportunity.

8 • **Greenhouse Project: (#7310)**

9 *Contact: Jane Risse 200 Arthur Ave. Scranton, PA 18510 570-344-9186; getGHPinfo@gmail.com*

10 *<https://scrantongreenhouse.org/>*

11 Begun in 2002, The Greenhouse Project (formerly Shalom Scranton) evolved from a Shalom Ministry and
12 is now growing a sustainable community through education, wholesome food and healthy living through
13 programs such as: edible gardening and cooking and focusing on a health and disease prevention through
14 diet and exercise. We operate two community gardens and a 3000 sq. ft. greenhouse in Nay Aug
15 Park. Recipients of the 2019 Environmental Partnership Award and with many programs specially designed
16 to serve senior citizens as well as school field trips, we offer free and low-cost education programs.

17 • **The Nescopeck Area Community Cupboard (NACC) (#new):** Address: 650 Harter Ave, Nescopeck, PA,
18 18635 phone: (570) 752-3502:

19 Provides food to upwards of 200 families who show up at 10 AM on each second Tuesday of each
20 month. NACC gives thousands of pounds of food away with no questions asked of the person, other than
21 proof they are living in the Berwick Area School District.

22 • **The Holy Socks and Shoes Ministry (#new):** Address: Berwick First 200 N Market St, Berwick PA 18603
23 Phone: (570) 752-2591

24 Provides new socks and shoes to the children of the Berwick Area School District. Holy Shoe and Sock
25 bank: We give a new pair of shoes and socks to all children who come in ages 0 to 18.

26 • **Wyoming Valley Habitat for Humanity (#new):** Address: 303 Market Street Kingston, PA 18704 Phone:
27 570-820-8002

28 Building simple, decent homes with families in need. <http://www.wv-hfh.org/> info@wv-hfh.org

29 **2.4 STATE COLLEGE SUPERVISORY AREA**

30 • **Grace Lewistown Kenya Partnership (#new)**

31 *Contact: Grace UMC, Leistown, 101 Logan Street, Lewistown, Pa. 17044, Rev. Stephanie Rupert,*
32 *srupert@susumc.org 717-248-5311*

33 Kenya Partnership with Trinity UMC, Gilgil, Kenya.

34 Trinity UMC in Gilgil, Kenya is transforming their community through several ministries: Trinity UM Boys
35 and Girls High School, a medical clinic, a safe house for abused women and recently has reached out to
36 the Maasai people bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to them as well as helping them during the time of
37 serious famine and drought. Financial support can help purchase Radios which provides a family with a
38 solar radio that also becomes a lantern for their home at night; Motorcycles for pastors and Technical Skills
39 Training to help further educate students after high school. Only the students who pass the national
40 examination after four years of high school have access to free college. 80% of high school students go
41 back to their villages or slums. They do not have access to jobs because they have no qualifications or
42 skills. Prayer support is always welcomed!

43 • **The Mommy Shoppe (#7315)**

44 *Contact: Amy Ritter, Executive Director, amemorysaved@hotmail.com, 814-499-2287*

45 The Mommy Shoppe began as a vision to help pregnant mothers who needed a hand with essentials for
46 their baby, up to kindergarten age, and to offer items free of charge. Soon after it began, the age limit was
47 quickly increased to include older children and pre-teens up to age 18. The Shoppe is open every Tuesday
48 from 7 – 9 p.m., every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again at 7 – 9 p.m. for buy only shopping and
49 volunteers. They are also open for free bag shopping every third Saturday each month from 10 a.m. to 2
50 p.m. and the Monday after that from 6 – 8 p.m.

51 Currently, the average attendance for shopping is 65-90 families a month with 150-200+ children served a
52 month. There are over 700 registered families. Clients include single mothers, fathers, grandparents raising
53 grandchildren and foster parents, as well as two parent families who struggle with unemployment or under-
54 employment. In February of 2017, The Shoppe applied for 501(c)3 status and was approved.

The Shoppe is a store, with all clothing tagged and sized. The families registered for free items can choose up to a bag of clothes, per child per month at no cost. The volunteers with The Mommy Shoppe are excited and humbled in realizing that this is making a difference in the community.

- **Wesley Foundation (# 7100)**

Contact: St. Pauls United Methodist Church, State College PA 814-237-2163

Sarah Voigt svoigt.wesley@gmail.com

St. Paul's UMC & Wesley Foundation serves all students at Penn State University Park. The Abba Java Coffeehouse, a mission of campus ministry, serves an aggregate average of 1,000 students a week, providing free Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and tea as well as snacks. The Wesley Foundation also provides students a space for internship opportunities, for leadership and mission, faith exploration and worship. The Wesley Foundation at Penn State depends on Conference and Congregational support. Thank you in advance for helping us nurture and care for the students at Penn State. Please use #7100 in the memo for any donations coming through the conference.

- **Promise Ranch Ministries (#new):** Address: 106 Meadow Lane, McAlisterville PA 17049" Phone: (717) 463-0113

Mission: To spur children and their families to find their identity in Christ. Vision: to create an opportunity for families to experience the gospel, be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and connect with the outdoors and ranch life. <https://www.promiseranchministries.com/>

2.5 WILLIAMSPORT SUPERVISORY AREA

- **Sierra Leone Initiative (# 8030):**

Funds provide financial assistance to clergy in Sierra Leone through an affirmed covenant relationship between the Susquehanna and Sierra Leone conferences and the General Board of Global Ministries.

- **Sojourner Truth Ministries (# 8070):**

STM is a district mission into God's Frontier to build bridges between the traditional church and those disenfranchised and alienated by it. The initial portal is the Sojourner Cafe where Christ centered fellowship is shared around a table of food and drink. Touching lives with the love and care of Christ is our mission and vision.

- **Good Samaritan Fund (GSF) (# 9060):**

Founded in 1988, the former Wellsboro District GSF allows churches across our district to respond to the financial crises of our community members. Disbursements from the fund are made from the district office, upon request by pastors and laity. Send contributions to the conference treasurer's office # 9060 marked "Good Samaritan Fund".

- **Danville-Northumberland-Sunbury Cluster Food Banks/Food Pantries (#new)**

Supports Food Banks and Food Pantries in the Danville, Northumberland, and Sunbury areas. Support goes to each of the established and well-recognized food banks serving their respective communities, as well as the smaller food pantries that reach people who might not be connected to the larger food banks. Reaching out and supporting the need for food and most importantly food security.

- **Dwell Orphan Care of Columbia/Montour Counties (#new):** Address: 1157 Market St, Williamsport, PA 17701 Phone: (814) 330-6804

We exist to support and encourage foster and adoptive families in Central PA. While mobilizing and equipping the community and local churches so that children have a safe, loving, forever home in which to DWELL:

website: <https://www.dwellorphanicare.org/>

- **Kingdom Kidz Puppet Ministry (#new):** Address: 11 East Third St. Watsontown, PA 17777 (570) 838-3133

A volunteer ministry, mission is "Presenting quality programs through excellent puppetry and providing educational experiences to foster individual creativity in order to encourage others to make a difference and to help us to show people they matter."

website: <https://hiskingdomkidz.org>

- **Wesley Forest (Camp & Retreat Ministries #9510):** Address: PO Box 35, 58 Wesley Forest Ln, Weikert PA 17885

Wesley Forest Camp & Retreat Center shines upon the western front of our district. Since 1961, it has been a safe haven for kids, teens, and adults of all walks of life to encounter creation, community, and Christ!

3. Board of Global Ministries

The conference board of global ministries functions as the conference equivalent of the conference board of global ministries, the conference board of church and society, the conference board of higher education and ministry, and the conference commission on the status and role of women. We work within the conference to grow our discipleship capacity in relation to loving our neighbor. Our work in disaster relief, volunteers in mission, missions, justice, and advocacy creates opportunities for the churches, laity, and clergy of the Susquehanna Conference to grow, by the grace of God, in their ability to love their neighbor.

One highlight from this year was our seminar to the General Board of Church and Society. 2024 marked for the second year in a row one of our best attended seminars organized by the Rev. Ryan Gephart, our peace with justice coordinator, and me. Our focus was gun violence. Participants learned about the problem of gun violence and how we, as a people of faith, can respond. We met with Senator Casey's office and Senator Fetterman's office to advocate for change. Offering the seminar to the conference gives participants a chance to explore what it means to love our neighbor through the lens of justice.

The board continues to offer grants to help build the discipleship capacity of local congregations. We continue to offer opportunities three times a year to apply for these grants to help fund new ministries or grow the capacity of existing ones. Persons or churches interested in applying for funds should visit our website (susmb.org) and visit the grant section for our current application and instructions.

Our board continues to fund the positions of Disaster Response Coordinator and Volunteers in Mission Coordinator. Doug Hoy and Michelle Schwartzman continue to bless the conference with their hard work and ministry.

As chair of the board, I am thankful for the hard work of our board members. I am also thankful for the generosity and faithfulness of the churches, laity, and pastors in relation to their Shares of Ministry responsibilities, the Special Sunday offerings, and to the Advance Specials-your generous support makes our work possible.

Submitted by the Rev. Andrew Burd-Harris, *Chair*

Peace with Justice Commission Report

Your Peace with Justice Commission had a full conference year of work. The Commission works with and is a part of The Susquehanna Conference Board of Global Ministries helping with justice work through our church and society functions. (CBGM functions as the conference board of church and society, the conference board of global ministries, the conference board of higher education and ministry, and the conference commission on the status and role of women). The Rev. Andrew Burd-Harris and the Rev. Ryan Gephart were trained with other United States UMC Conference Church & Society Chairs and Peace with Justice Coordinators by the General Board of Church and Society this past September 18-20, 2023. During that training, we learned about Grassroots Organizing, Faith-Centered Advocacy, Poverty Issues, and the Racial Wealth Gap. We then continued our advocacy relationship with Regina Brennan, Legislative Correspondent for Senator Bob Casey's Office and began a new relationship with Jason Smith, Chief Counsel for Senator John Fetterman's Office. During our visit to Senator Casey's office, we followed-up with Regina from our 2023 GBCS Seminar work on legislation to study Reparations. In Senator Fetterman's office, we advocated for reparations study committee legislation with Jason. Additionally, we spoke with Regina and Jason about UMC justice positions on Poverty especially in relations to Faith Communities work on the "Grace Over Greed" Campaign.

The focus of your Peace with Justice Commission for the 2023-2024 conference year is Gun Violence Prevention. From February 25 to 28, 2024, twenty lay and clergy members of the conference attended a Gun Violence Prevention Seminar through the Seminar Program at the General Board of Church and Society in The United Methodist Building. There we received instruction from Aimee Hong (GBCS Senior Executive Director of Education & Engagement), Colleen Moore (UMC Director of Peace with Justice), Mark Collins (Director of Federal Policy for United Against Gun Violence for the Brady Organization), Susan Polan (Associate Executive Director for Public Affairs and Advocacy for the American Public Health Association), and Judy Young (Gettysburg for Gun Sense). Four areas of focus came from our trainings: 1) the need for universal background checks legislation, 2) the need for Extreme Risk Protection Orders legislation (ERPO Laws), 3) the need for Community Violence Prevention Programs funding, and 4) renewing Assault Weapons Bans such as ones for AR-15's (there was a ban from 1994 to 2004 and since that ban has been lifted, there has been a 300% increase in mass shooting deaths).

As part of the seminar, we continued our relationships with Senator Casey's Office (Regina) and Senator Fetterman's Office (Jason). In our advocacy with these two offices, we specifically asked for continued or new support for Senate Bills dealing with Secure Firearm Storage and for the Break the Cycle of Violence Act. We also

1 advocated for funding to continue for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) & the National Institute on Health (NIH)
 2 to continue studying the epidemic of gun violence in the United States. We are now calling on all United Methodists
 3 in the Susquehanna Conference to call, email, or write their Pennsylvania State Senator and ask them to support
 4 and pass PA Senate Bill 427 that would require gun owners to safely store firearms when not under direct control
 5 of the owner and PA Senate Bill 204 "Extreme Risk Protection Order" (ERPO Laws) which would allow a family
 6 member or a police officer to petition a court to temporarily remove firearms from a person who has been deemed
 7 a threat to themselves or others. You can find your PA State Senator at the following link:

8 <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>

9 As United Methodists, we are called by Jesus to advocate for justice in a broken world. Jesus stated, "Blessed
 10 are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9 NRSV). The prophet Micah spoke of the
 11 day when "He shall judge between many peoples and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall
 12 beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
 13 neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:3 NRSV). Your Peace with Justice Commission will continue this
 14 work and will continue to make Gun Violence Prevention a priority. We ask that you do advocacy justice work, as
 15 well as pay attention to upcoming GBCS calls to action & seminars and local Pennsylvania Legislature faith
 16 advocacy days. Additionally, please contact Rev. Ryan Gephart (rgephart@susumc.org) to be sent information in
 17 joining the monthly national Gun Violence Prevention ZOOM hosted by our UMC Peace with Justice Coordinator,
 18 Colleen Moore.

19 Submitted by Rev. Ryan Gephart, *Peace with Justice Coordinator*

4. Board of Ordained Ministry

20 The Susquehanna Conference Board of Ordained Ministry serves within our Annual Conference to equip leaders
 21 for the local church. This past year the Board restructured to use resources of funds and leadership in a more
 22 effective and efficient manner. Our work will be within three primary areas: Candidacy, Clergy, Covenant.
 23 Candidacy is walking beside those discerning a call to ministry providing care, support and scholarships for
 24 candidates, and interviews. Clergy looks at clergy excellence, continuing education opportunities and leadership
 25 around areas of ministry for Certified Lay Ministers, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, and
 26 Orders of Deacons and Elders. Covenant will keep in touch with those on Extension Ministries, changes in clergy
 27 membership with the Conference Relations Committee and encouraging plans for renewal and 8 years
 28 assessments.

29 Part of the Board's work is to help distinguish between the various calls, bringing clarity to the faithful work of
 30 each part of the clergy body of Christ so that we all together may accomplish that which Christ desires in our
 31 churches and communities. We will continue to work with the Cabinet and Connectional Ministries Office to
 32 celebrate and equip those called to ministry in early stages of discernment, supports while living out calls of
 33 leadership in and beyond the local church, and celebrating together ministry milestones of certifications, ordinations
 34 and retirements.

35 This past year the Board worked to improve the process for those on paths of ordination with improvements to
 36 the Covenant groups, a new partnership with the United Methodist Foundation for discipleship plans within the
 37 Residency in Ministry program, and service requirement after hearing from candidates and District Committees on
 38 Ministry. We also are making strides to improve the process and communication with the Lay Servant Team and
 39 those seeking to become Certified Lay Ministers. We are aware of the increase of within our Annual Conference
 40 called to serve as Certified Lay Ministers and Local Pastors in leadership in their local churches.

41 We are thankful for the work of those serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry, District Committees on Ministry
 42 and many others who encourage, equip and walk beside those serving in all areas of ministry leadership within the
 43 Susquehanna Annual Conference.

44 Rev. Mira Hewlett
 45 *Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry*

5. Board of Pensions

46 The work of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits is to care for those who care for the church and annual
 47 conference. Our primary task is evaluating and adapting the conference offered healthcare and pension plans to
 48 meet the recipients' needs and plan for the future.

1 Additionally, the board provides educational opportunities within the annual conference supplied by Wespath to
 2 increase every clergy person's knowledge and participation in their pension and healthcare plans so they can
 3 continue to give their lives to Christ for decades to come. This past year, two healthcare workshops were offered
 4 by WesPath and facilitated by the board for active clergy. In the coming year, pending action taken at General
 5 Conference, we foresee offering workshops focused on pensions.

6 This year, the board was presented two opportunities that allowed for freeing up over two-million dollars of pre-
 7 82 monies that are overseen by WesPath. The board, in stewarding these funds, has created a proposal presented
 8 to CF&A to decrease what we request in shares to fund two particular items. First, we have proposed offsetting the
 9 cost of retiree healthcare by \$150,000 per year over 20 years. As the amount of funds needed for this line item
 10 decrease, due to capping new entries into the program, that \$150,000 will continue to go further in decreasing
 11 overall shares. Second, following the lead of other annual conferences, the board would like to pay for the role of
 12 the benefits administrator in the conference, as their primary task is to assist our clergy with pensions and healthcare
 13 and accurately bill local churches. By having the board pay for this position, starting in 2025, shares may further be
 14 decreased.

15 I would again like to express my appreciation for each board member, who has generously given their time, not
 16 just in attending meetings but also in wrestling with weighty decisions in prayer. Thank you for each of your
 17 dedication.

18 Rev. Michelle R. Bodle, *Chair*

6. Board of Trustees

Part I. Main Actions of the Board

- 19 1. The Annual Corporation meeting of the Susquehanna Conference was held on May 19, 2023. The following
 20 were elected as members of the Board of Trustees: Lori Betsworth (Williamsport) and Randall Zeiler (York) in
 21 the class of 2024; Barry Robison (Lewisburg) in the class of 2026; S. Jeffrey Barnes (Harrisburg), Larry Foor
 22 (Williamsport) and James Jacobs (State College) in the class of 2027. The 2023 Annual Conference session
 23 confirmed the other board members from previous elections.
- 24 2. At the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 1, 2023, the following officers were elected for
 25 2023-2024: Barry Robison, President, S. Jeffrey Barnes, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, open,
 26 and Heather Ruoss, Secretary. The Treasurer, Mark Knecht, was elected by the Annual Conference.
- 27 3. The Board oversaw the maintenance of seven district parsonages and one staff parsonage, expending a total
 28 of \$115,436 allocated as follows: \$ 23,980 for maintenance, \$430 for capital improvements, \$53,401 for taxes
 29 and \$37,625 for utilities. This total was \$19,054 less than the \$134,490 spent in 2022.
- 30 4. Following paragraph 2553 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and the protocols and procedures for disaffiliation
 31 approved by the Annual Conference, one hundred forty-one churches were approved for disaffiliation at the
 32 Special Called ecclesiastical session of the Susquehanna Conference on May 17, 2023. All these properties
 33 reached final settlement within sixty days of Annual Conference. For a listing of the churches that disaffiliated,
 34 please refer to the Journal of the Special Called Session of May 17, 2023.
- 35 5. Due to the number of churches that continue to close, the Board continues to work with Compass, formerly the
 36 A. Anthony Corporation, to provide property management services for most of our closed churches.
- 37 6. Facility needs of the Conference Center are also overseen by the Board of Trustees. From March, 2023 through
 38 February, 2024 the only major repair performed was the replacement of a Lennox RoofTop Unit (RTU) #2.
- 39 7. The Board of Trustees worked closely with the cabinet in facilitating the protocols and procedures to be followed
 40 for churches that desired to leave the denomination through closure following the 2016 *Book of Discipline*
 41 paragraph 2549.3.
- 42 8. Attached to this report is the report of the Property and Casualty Insurance Committee, whose work is overseen
 43 by the Board. Graham Company serves as our Insurance Broker and Philadelphia Insurance Company is the
 44 Insurance Carrier. The Board appreciates the work of the members of the Insurance Committee and especially
 45 chairperson Jennifer Parks-Snyder.
- 46
- 47

9. Allan Kinsman was reelected by the Board as the Conference's voting representative to the United Methodist Workers' Compensation Trust in which we participate with several other Conference-related United Methodist Corporations. Regular reports from the Trust are received.
10. The Board of Trustees has three Seedling Investments: \$312,244 in the District/Staff Parsonage Capital Reserve; \$104,727 in the Board of Trustees Fund, and \$399,790 in the Board of Trustees Parsonage Fund. These are 3-year term certificates on which interest is accruing until they are redeemed.
11. On December 31, 2023, the Board also had three Investments with the UM Foundation of PA: Crane Trust with a market value of \$1,436,565; Snyder Trust with a market value of \$940,235; and Kanarr/Gouldin Endowment Fund with a market value of \$144,013. Four percent of the average income from the Crane and Snyder Trusts is distributed to designated Benevolent Homes. In the year when the market value of the Kanarr/Gouldin reaches \$100,000 as of December 31, the following year income will be made available to the Appointive/Coordinating Cabinet of the Susquehanna Conference for creative ministry projects. This last occurred on December 31, 2017.
12. As required in paragraph 1504.23 in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the Board of Trustees continues to pay the unfunded pension liability of our closed churches from the proceeds of the sales of those properties. Those figures are determined by employing the same calculation used in the 2022-2023 disaffiliation process.
13. An Administrative Support Agreement was ratified between the Susquehanna Conference Commission on Archives and History and the Rock Chapel Society to authorize the Society to act on behalf of the Commission in planning and scheduling events, performing routine maintenance and yardwork, and with Commission approval, arrange for restoration projects and other capital improvements on the historic property known as Rock Chapel, 4730 Oxford Rd, York Springs, PA 17372.
14. As recommended by the cabinet, the Board of Trustees took possession of three churches under *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* (2016) paragraph 2549.3b, exigent circumstances:
 - Union Corners United Methodist Church, 1965 Water Road, Towanda PA 18848 is closed and the Board is working to comply with a reversion clause.
 - Girdland United Methodist Church, RR 3, Honesdale PA 18413 has been closed for many years. The local charge caring for the property is no longer willing to do so, and so exigent circumstances were declared to enable the Board to work to comply with a reversion clause.
 - Trinity Bellwood UMC, 533 Main St, Bellwood, PA 16617-1909 is closed and has been sold.
15. \$417,000 from a Board of Trustees and Property and Casualty Insurance Committee reserve fund for Sexual Abuse and Molestation was used as part of the Susquehanna Conference apportioned share of \$494,228 paid to the General Council on Finance and Administration as part of the \$30 million Boy Scouts of America (BSA) bankruptcy settlement agreement negotiated by representatives of The United Methodist Church and victims of BSA sexual abuse.
16. The Board of Trustees is currently involved in the following legal matters:
 - (1) defending a lawsuit brought by the buyer of the former Harris Street United Methodist Church of Harrisburg regarding a sewage issue;
 - (2) filing a lawsuit requesting real estate and three financial accounts of the Breezewood Charge be returned to the Susquehanna Conference (possession of real estate has been obtained);
 - (3) filing a lawsuit requesting property and assets of the Cortez United Methodist Church be returned to the Susquehanna Conference for future United Methodist ministry; and
 - (4) initiating legal procedures to clear up a reverter clause in the chain of title for Columbia Crossroads United Methodist Church so that this closed church property can be sold.
17. The Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Finance office and the Conference's outside audit firm have been tasked with verifying and setting all the Conference Fund balances as of 12/31/2023. The Board of Trustees distributed proceeds from the sale of closed churches into the following accounts:

Trustee Closed Churches Account

Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
\$150,000	\$4,487	\$4,487	\$150,000

Respective District Emerging Ministry, Unrestricted Non-Urban

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
Altoona	\$ 75,778.07	\$ 95,025.63	\$ 2,000.00	\$168,803.70
Harrisburg	\$ 10,811.85	\$ 73,799.63		\$ 84,611.48
Lewisburg	\$ 91,736.34	\$300,969.32	\$ 2,000.00	\$390,705.66
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre	\$ 71,320.21	\$ 56,526.30	\$12,362.55	\$115,483.96
State College	\$ 1,269.57			\$ 1,269.57
Williamsport	\$ 11,348.26	\$ 52,389.68		\$ 63,737.94
York	\$190,887.78	\$ 93,425.11	\$29,078.59	\$255,234.30

Respective District Emerging Ministry, Restricted Urban

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
Altoona	\$ 49,222.90		\$ 5,566.11	\$ 43,656.79
Harrisburg	\$917,404.44		\$85,000.00	\$832,404.44
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre	\$164,534.53		\$ 4,653.66	\$159,880.87

EVC: New Church Starts/Congregational Vitalization

Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
\$276,943.08	\$672,135.61		\$949,078.69

Part II: Schedule of Property

1. Conference Center: 303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055-2053
2. Episcopal Residence: 805 Sawgrass Lane, Mechanicsburg 17050-3701
3. Staff Parsonage: 1788 Empress Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055-6802
4. District Parsonage: 1029 Penn View Lane, Duncansville 16635-7717
5. District Parsonage: 238 Highland Terrace Way, Boiling Springs 17007-9316
6. District Parsonage: 45 South Pioneer Avenue, Shavertown 18708-1323
7. District Parsonage: 1200 Haymaker Road, State College 16801-6943
8. District Parsonage: 2420 Nottingham Road, Williamsport 17701-4057
9. Camp: Greene Hills, 5125 Manor Drive, Alexandria 16611-3035
10. Camp: Mount Asbury, 1310 Centerville Road, Newville 17241-9551
11. Camp: Wesley Forest, White Mountain Road, PO Box 35, Weikert 17885-0035
12. Shoemaker Mission Central Hub: 571 West 8th Street, West Wyoming 18644
13. Historical Church: Old Burlington, US 6, East Smithfield 18817
14. Historical Church: Old Stone, PA 93, west of Berwick, 18603
15. Historical Church: Rock Chapel, 4730 Oxford Road, York Springs 17372

NOTE: Camp Penn is not owned by the Susquehanna Conference but is leased from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Part III: Conveyances of Property**Pending post report deadline of March 15, 2024**

Trinity Bellwood UMC, 533 Main Street, Bellwood, PA 16617-1909 to be auctioned March 16, 2024

Wesley Chapel Breezewood UMC, 1299 E Mattie Road, Breezewood, PA 15533 to be auctioned March 23, 2024

Plains UMC, 133 N Main Street, Plains, PA 18705 to be auctioned April 13, 2024

Trinity Lewistown UMC, 428 S Main Street, Lewistown PA 17044 to be auctioned April 20, 2024

2024

Bethany UMC, 3 Court Street, Bethany, PA 18431-5924. Conveyed on February 9, 2024 for \$60,250.95 to Bethany Community Church (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

Bald Eagle Valley Community Church, 111 Runville Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Conveyed on February 15, 2024 for \$59,878.43 to Wingate Faith: A Global Methodist Community (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

Salem Airville UMC, 5042 Delta Road, Delta, PA 17314. Conveyed on February 15, 2024 for \$17,927.30 to Salem Church of Delta (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

Emanuel Loganville UMC, 40 S Main Street, Loganville, PA 17342. Sold on March 9, 2024 for \$203,000 to W. Scott Wigglesworth, HPW Properties, LLC

Summer Hill UMC, corner of Summer Hill Road and Dairy Road, Berwick, PA 18603. Conveyed on March 13, 2024 for \$17,767.24 to Summer Hill Community Church (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

Lewisburg District Parsonage and Office, 31 Baylor Boulevard, Lewisburg PA 17837. Sold on March 15, 2024 for \$440,000.00 to Jesse R. and Christina L. Scheimreif

2023

Mt. Pleasant UMC, 376 Hoover Lane, Port Matilda, PA 16870. Conveyed to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association

Ramey UMC, 411 Main Street, Ramey, PA 16671. Sold on March 25, 2023 for \$119,900 to Craig E. Hasso, HPW Properties, LLC

Clarence UMC, 751 Clarence Road Clarence PA 16829. Sold on March 25, 2023 for \$51,700 to Samantha A. and Dean H. Gilbert

Franklin Fairview Cemetery, 590 Fairview Road, Unityville, PA 17774. Sold on June 14, 2023 for \$1.00 to Fairview Cemetery Association of Franklin Township

Bethany UMC, 2880 Cambridge Road, York, PA 17402. Conveyed on June 15, 2023 for \$1.00 to Bethany Church of York (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

Bethany UMC properties located at 1401 Mount Rose Avenue, York, PA 17403; 1415 Mount Rose Avenue, York PA 17403; 1417 Mount Rose Avenue, York PA 17403; and 1415 Felty Avenue, York, PA 17403. Conveyed on June 15, 2023 for \$1.00 to Bethany Church of York (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

Salem UMC Marysville, 2465 Valley Road, Marysville PA 17053. Sold on July 28, 2023 for \$104,5000 to Douglas Gibson

York District Parsonage, 638 Foxtail Drive, York PA. Sold on October 3, 2023 for \$445,000 to Lawrence Seibel and Jennifer Skrzypek

Liberty UMC, 637 Island Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745-8844. Sold on October 4, 2023 for \$18,870 to Jeff and Christina Frank, Red Barn Partnership

Coolidge Hollow UMC, 24 Church Road, Wellsboro, PA 16901. Conveyed on December 19, 2023 for \$10,039.50 to Coolidge Hollow Community Church (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

Brush Valley UMC, 123 Madisonburg Pike, Madisonburg, PA 16852. Conveyed on December 21, 2023 for \$15,113.57 to Brush Valley New Life Church (*Book of Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 transfer)

2022

Ross UMC (Extended), 2076 Marengo & Gatesburg Roads, S. of RT 322, Warriors Mark, PA 00001-6877, closed May 25, 2022 - conveyed to cemetery association

NOTE: Until a more permanent and accessible repository is established, the full **Chronological Record of Properties of the Susquehanna Conference Conveyed** from 2010 – 2022 can be accessed on pages 275-280 of the 2023 Journal of the Susquehanna Conference.

Part IV: Closed Churches and CemeteriesCemeteries

1. Methodist Episcopal Cemetery, Route 274, Blain, (Jackson Twp. Perry County), Harrisburg District
2. Forest Emmanuel Cemetery, 4604 Winburne/Munson Road, Morrisdale, State College District
3. Blair's Valley Church and Cemetery, Blair's Valley Road, (Montgomery Twp. Franklin County), York District
4. Green Village Cemetery, Greenvillage Road, (Greene Twp. Franklin County), York District
5. Prattsville Cemetery, 967 Prattsville Road, Middletown Township.

Closed Churches (reversion clauses in effect)

1. Union Corners UMC, 1965 Water Road, Towanda PA 18848 closed under exigent circumstances on November 28, 2022
2. Girdland UMC, RR 3, Honesdale PA 18413 closed under exigent circumstances on October 10, 2023
3. Columbia Crossroads UMC, 6700 Austinville Road, Columbia Cross Roads, PA 16914 closed November 28, 2022

Closed Churches

1. Sanborn UMC, 4611 Sanborn Road, Houtzdale, PA 16651, closed June 12, 2022
2. Wesley Chapel Breezewood, 1299 E Mattie Road, Breezewood, PA 15533 closed under exigent circumstances – to be sold March 23, 2024
3. Liberty UMC, 637 Island Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745-8844 closed June 4, 2023 - sold
4. Trinity Bellwood UMC, 533 Main Street, Bellwood, PA 16617-1909 closed under exigent circumstances, June 23, 2023 – to be sold March 16, 2024
5. Emanuel Loganville UMC, 40 S Main Street, Loganville, PA 17342 closed September 23, 2023 - sold
6. Plains UMC, 133 N Main Street, Plains, PA 18705 closed November 30, 2023 – to be sold April 13, 2024
7. Trinity Lewistown UMC, 428 S Main Street, Lewistown PA 17044 closed December 10, 2023 – to be sold April 20, 2024
8. East End Altoona UMC, 405 E. Hudson Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 closed December 31, 2023
9. Salem Airville UMC, 5042 Delta Road, Delta, PA 17314 closed December 31, 2023 - conveyed

PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMMITTEE

While 2023 brought changes to our conference, the Property and Casualty Insurance Committee continued to provide the most effective and affordable insurance coverage possible to our local church and connectional persons, properties, and programs.

We give thanks to The Graham Company who continue to be an asset as our broker. This year they took on the task of seeking the best possible coverage for the best possible price for our conference. Fortunately, the loss-experience of the conference was better than it had been in previous years, which was to our benefit. The P&C Committee decided to continue with Guide One as our property insurance carrier, whose motto is “you focus on faith; we focus on you” and they have proven this to be so in the past year. Philadelphia Insurance continues to provide our automobile and Directors and Liability coverage. And on the recommendation of Graham, the conference went with Cowbell Insurance for Cyber liability.

As of January 2024, the total losses incurred under Director and Office Liability was \$35,331 with twenty-five claims; \$706,763 for fifty property claims; and \$12,832 for six automobile claims. The top causes of claims were water damage, windstorms, and vehicle impact. We give thanks to those of you who are using the water sensors. Analysis of claims show that congregations with the water sensors on and activated are back in their buildings quicker and with less expense after an incident. Therefore, the P&C committee will continue to endorse that if your water sensors are installed and activated, and if there is a water claim, you will not need to pay the \$2500 deductible.

Beginning this year, Graham will be sending out appraisers to the local churches and parsonages. Please notify your local trustees so that they can cooperate with this vital step of our coverage. And please be sure to share with your trustees the latest Insurance and Safety Manual that is available on the conference website under Finance & Administration, under Trustees: <https://susumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-2025-PCI-Manual.pdf> This manual provides all the information you need regarding a claim, reporting changes, and forms helpful to maintaining the protection of your buildings and property.

We are grateful to you the conference for your faithful and fruitful participation in this connectional program.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Parks-Snyder, *Chair*

7. Camp & Retreat Ministries

As we reported last year, the Camp and Retreat Ministry Board has been deeply engaged in a two-year study and prayerful discernment about the most fruitful paths forward to grow the ministry, respond to the changing landscape of our congregations and communities, and to align our resources and staffing for fulfilling our mission in the most impactful way for the long-term future. The Board members take to heart their responsibility to assess

1 and strengthen a ministry that is very important to the people and churches of Susquehanna Conference. Every
2 leader on the Board has been personally involved in the ministry and cherishes the ministry and its profound impact.

3 Your camp and retreat ministries serve as a crossroads of meeting in the wider world and an oasis away from
4 distraction. Guests and participants can focus on valuing each other, hearing the voice of God in new ways, and
5 discerning fresh possibilities for their giftedness and leadership. They then go forth far and wide embodying greater
6 awareness, gratitude, and hearts for love and justice. This is just one aspect of what the Susquehanna Conference
7 does to participate with God in the transformation of the world. Camps and Retreat play a milestone role in the
8 lives of many young people who point to camp and retreat experiences as formative to their Christian discipleship
9 and decisions of faith. Many of our leaders point to Camps and Retreats as important factors in their calls to Spiritual
10 leadership within and beyond the Church. For so many reasons, this ministry remains vitally important.

11 Emerging from this extended season of study, reflection, creative imagination, and prayerful discernment the
12 Board is presenting key recommendations this year centered on aligning our resources and focus to make
13 significant changes to steward the ministry forward wisely. The new directions are exciting and hopeful. At the
14 same time, the Board is keenly sensitive to the loss and grief arising from change and moving in new directions.
15 The Board is recommending the sale of two of our centers in a realignment of our staffing, programs, and facilities
16 in order to establish a more equipped ministry to be in creative partnership with our congregations to reach an
17 expanding circle of people in our communities.

18
19 Kevin Witt, *Director of Camp/Retreat Ministry*

8. Commission on Archives & History

20 The mission of the Conference Commission on Archives and History is to help tell the story of the Annual
21 Conference and its predecessor institutions, to help people understand how we got the way we are. We accomplish
22 this mission by collecting and preserving documents and artifacts which help tell the story. These documents and
23 artifacts are housed in our main office at Lycoming College and in a Annex located near the campus. The College
24 has hosted the Archives since 1907, always free of charge. Much of the daily work is done by our Archivist, Dr.
25 Milton Loyer. He has served in this position part-time since 1989. The Commission has recently begun to describe
26 its holdings as an Archives and Research Center since it now serves many researchers in person and online.

27 A wise man once said, "tell the hard story first." This year the Commission has faced some hard stories which
28 has meant a vast increase in work. The key source of this work has been the disaffiliation of churches and clergy
29 from the Conference. The churches which have left been treated as closed churches. The Commission has between
30 one and three banker boxes of materials for every closed church. In a normal year about ten churches close. This
31 year there were 141. The Archives were overwhelmed with material. It quickly became clear that Dr. Loyer could
32 not do this new work and sustain his normal agenda. An added complexity is that this meant changes in the
33 electronic files as well as sorting and filing the documents. The Commission needed help and funds for this new
34 task and alerted the Council on Finance and Administration of the situation. We thank the Council for a timely grant
35 to help hire persons, for both the general work and with technology experience. We are very happy to report that
36 Dr. Loyer and his new helpers have been able to finish their tasks and the records are all current.

37 Another special event of the year was the annual meeting of the Northeast Jurisdiction Commission on Archives
38 and History which the Susquehanna Conference hosted. Planned by Dr. Loyer and a small committee, including
39 Dr. Lew Parks, the meeting met on the topic: "United Methodism's Evangelical Association Roots." Main meeting
40 sessions were held at Pine Street Church in Williamsport with trips to Central Oak Heights and New Berlin.

41 The Commission has continued its usual programs. The Oral History program under the leadership of Rev. Rod
42 Miller, with help from others including the Rev. Cheryl Houser and Jennifer Eaton, offered to interview retired elders
43 and held a number of interviews. Transcripts of these interviews will be made available for research. The Historic
44 Sites Committee, also under Rev. Rod Miller's oversight, with help from Bill Bachman and others, had contact with
45 three of our sites. The most successful work was done at Rock Chapel with help from a grant from the Commission.
46 Rock Chapel celebrated its 250th Anniversary during the year. Dr. Loyer edited and published *The Chronicle*, the
47 publication of the Conference Historical Society. Dr. Brand Eaton is President of the Society.

48 The Commission thanks the Conference Board of Trustees and the Council on Finance and Administration for
49 their help in providing special support for its work this year.

50 John F. Piper, Jr., *Chair*

9. Commission on the Beloved Community

We live out the call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, including great intentionality in living toward God's vision of Beloved Community represented by those of all tribes, tongues, and nations. We actively work with our Conference, congregations, and communities to establish more inclusive relationships and environments of deep valuing, which includes dismantling racism and the systems that support it. In the end, living as disciples of Jesus Christ will produce mutually fruitful growth in addressing and removing what harms and collaborating in the common good among all who come from diverse backgrounds, races, and cultures. We keep the call of love, societal justice, healing, and dignity for every child of God at the forefront helping to equip faith communities and individuals to take real steps of faith and action that move them forward into Beloved Community together.

This past year, we celebrate several important strides. In collaboration with the Cabinet and others, an intentional process of support for clergy, families, and congregations have been implemented where Cross Cultural/Cross Racial appointments occur. Leaders from across the Conference participated in a Journey of Pain and Hope visiting places of significant importance in the Scranton Wilkes-Barre region related to the movement for love and justice and building relationships with communities of color. We have provided trainings among a wide arena of groups, including district gatherings, Women of Faith, youth ministry, camp and retreat ministry, Cabinet conversations, and more. A number of online educational webinars gave attendees the opportunity to glean new insights and calls to action for a new generation of Beloved Community leaders in our own region and beyond. For more information, please contact Rev. Kris Sledge, Chair of the Beloved Community Commission. ksledge@susumc.org

Rev. Kevin Witt

10. Communications Ministry

The Communications Ministry resources the Susquehanna Conference through effective and consistent communications, witnessing God's work and inspiring new ideas to help us Grow, Equip, and Connect in an ever-changing world.

In 2023, the Communications Ministry settled into a communications strategy of online engagement and outreach. As the conference became more visible to the local media for a variety of reasons, the team crafted responses and worked to provide accurate and positive information. Changes to the website have made conference and local church news more accessible by placing news stories directly on the homepage, and subscribers of the QuikLink continue to receive timely and important information in their email inboxes. Social media continues to connect clergy and laity with the conference and episcopal leadership.

The director of communications continued to learn more about the conference, spending time in the field at local churches, Conference events, and even traveled to Arizona to document a mission journey. Our regular online publication continues to tell stories from around the conference. And finally, the talent of our communication ministry was recognized by the United Methodist Associate for Communicators at their annual meeting when Stacy Eckert won first place in a category for her design work on a camping publicity project.

Future plans for the communications ministry of the Susquehanna Conference include greater collaboration with other conferences, to share resources and stories from around the connection.

Liz Lennox, *Director of Communications*

11. Conference Lay Leader & Laity Leadership

Laity of the Susquehanna Conference have weathered a year of significant trials, challenges, and heartbreak as we faced the stark realities of our new church order. The truth is this year we have often been dismayed at the turmoil within our ranks that seemed to sap our energy and distort our image as followers of Christ to a world desperately in need of salvation. This past year, lay leaders throughout our conference and the United Methodist Church have struggled with how to stay focused on making new disciples for Christ as we grappled with internal divisions and disappointments.

Through it all, we have remained faithful to our calling and trusting in God to be our strength in times of need. True to His word, God has steered us out of a season of turmoil and despair and into a new day of profound hope and possibility.

This past year, the Board of Laity has grown stronger and more confident in its role within our conference. Created only three years ago, the Board of Laity now includes all district lay leaders who have come together to agree on a strategic plan to help us better live out our call to support clergy and strengthen connections among laity. Christina

McDermott continues to serve faithfully as Conference Assistant Lay Leader, as well as Kim Shockley, Director of Lay Servant Ministries. District Lay Leaders include:

- Ken Bodle, Altoona District
- Dennis Helsel, Harrisburg
- Jessica Olenginski, Lewisburg
- John Clary, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre
- Ruth Hocker, State College
- Candice Chase, Williamsport
- Beth Zeiler, York

Each of the district lay leaders have committed to trying to forge connections and support church lay leaders and working to connect them to resources to strengthen their local ministries. During the Christmas holiday season, the Board of Laity issued its first newsletter to connect conference, district, and church lay leaders, and will use emailed newsletters throughout the year to maintain connections and to communicate both information and words of spiritual encouragement.

Despite the uncertainties of the past year, we have worked to maintain connections with lay leaders in both the West Virginia and Western PA conferences, and we already have begun brainstorming plans to sponsor joint online programs for laity from all three conferences.

At the Cabinet level, the conference lay leader has supported several ministries, including GROW, the Beloved Community, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Episcopacy Committee, and the Council of Bishops' United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Trainings (UMEIT), which holds monthly Zoom meetings. Each of these groups is focused on equipping laity for stronger support within our church and for greater outreach into diverse communities close to home as well as around the world.

But the Susquehanna Conference Lay Leader has sought to strengthen community connections by representing the conference at numerous community events and is active in many charitable and nonprofit organizations, including serving as a treasurer of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, a member of the board of directors of The Civic Club of Harrisburg, the Harrisburg Symphony, the governance board of the United Way of the Capital Region, and president/CEO of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg.

The Conference Lay Leader also is a member of the board of directors of The Nativity School of Harrisburg, where she and her husband, retired licensed local Pastor Russell W. Goodman, support the middle school boys through leading a weekly chapel service, mentoring through a Global Scholars program, and monthly free worship dinners held for the community in the school's cafeteria.

In addition to active community engagement, the Conference Lay Leader has sought to connect to local United Methodist congregations by worshipping at different churches in our conference or signing into online services. Online worship has become a vital way to minister and make disciples. It has become an especially important way for people with disabilities and the infirm to stay connected to our church. It is clear that laity must work with clergy to embrace online ministry as a powerful connectional tool that should not be undervalued.

Social media proved vital to keep our churches connected during the COVID shutdown period, and many churches have sought to upgrade their use of platforms like YouTube and Facebook. During that period, the Susquehanna Conference Lay Leaders Facebook page was expanded to serve both West Virginia and Western PA conferences, and laity from all three conferences are able to post information and promote events on the site. It is a way to maintain regular dialogue and share information among laity in the three conferences united by our bishops.

We hope to continue our collaboration with lay leaders of West Virginia and Western PA conferences to strengthen our impact in our region. We are committed to maintaining the strong connections we have made with our sister conferences over the past 3 years through our tri-cabinet meetings and conference lay leader collaboration.

In the coming year, the conference lay leader will work with the Board of Laity and the communications director to strengthen laity's understanding of the potential of social media in ministry and equipping lay leaders at all levels to better use it.

In the coming year, we expect the Board of Laity to increase its outreach to church lay leaders and its impact within the conference. Once again this year, the Board of Laity was called to approve nominations of at-large laity delegates for the 2024 annual conference, a role it will continue to fulfill in coming years in cooperation with the bishops' cabinet.

This year, the Board of Laity has taken an active role in organizing the first in-person Laity Session for the annual conference in three years. The Laity Session will be held at the same time as the Clergy Session during the annual conference, and will focus on the theme, "The Character of a Methodist," as described in a tract written by John Wesley, himself.

Conference and district lay leaders hope to explore the ideals Wesley defined as representative of our denomination, and to inspire laity to spend the year in covenant to living them out as we chart a new course as a smaller but even more committed body of disciples for Christ.

In the coming year, we are calling on laity to strengthen connections among our churches as well as into our communities. We urge laity to be actively engaged and supportive of such ministries as the Beloved Community, to work for a more equal and just society, free of racial inequity and strife. And we urge laity to be open to developing new skills to help us meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Laity must embrace change as essential to ensuring the United Methodist Church remains a vibrant and relevant force within our local communities and in the world at large.

Laity also must work with clergy to better understand the significant demographic changes impacting our communities and the nation at large. Laity must work to break down the barriers that divide people in our communities as we seek to make our churches more welcoming for all. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, modeling kindness, compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, and love.

If our beloved United Methodist Church is to boldly enter a new era as spiritual lights in a world plagued with darkness, laity must be prepared to lead the way. God has given each of us unique talents and gifts. We are called to share them with the world, not to secret them behind our stained-glass windows.

Laity is called to take the lead in forging a new path for the United Methodist Church that will embrace change, unleash the Holy Spirit, and make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Joyce M. Davis

Susquehanna Conference Lay Leader

12. Council on Finance & Administration

This report contains the following items, in order:

1. Audit Opinion Letter
2. General Policy
3. Investment Policy
4. Seedling Financial

Item 1: Audit Opinion Letter

The 2023 audit was performed by McKonly & Asbury, located in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Given the whole report is quite lengthy, what follows is the "Independent Auditors' Report" which is the copied opening pages of the detailed report. Please note the auditors' unqualified opinion in regard to our financials. The full report is available on request through the Treasurer's Office, either digitally or in print, to lay and clergy members of the conference (*See following pages*).



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Rev. Dr. JP Bohanan, President of Council on Finance and Administration and
Mr. Mark Knecht, Conference Treasurer
Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church (the Conference), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The 2023 and 2022 information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the 2023 and 2022 information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

McKonly & Asbury, LLP

Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
March 14, 2024

Item 2: General Policy

At the 2019 Session of the Susquehanna Annual Conference, the following general policies were adopted. (Please note: These policies are compiled and updated from policies previously approved in 1997, 2012, and 2018.) They are provided here for convenience.

**General Policy
Council on Finance and Administration**

The Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) makes the following recommendations to the Annual Conference for consideration and action:

1. All pastors/lay members shall call to the attention of their local administrative body (ex. Church Council, Administrative Board, Leadership Team, etc.) and local church treasurers that Shares of Ministry shall be remitted at least monthly to the Conference Treasurer along with the church's premiums for Property and Casualty Insurance, Health Insurance and Pension Payments.
 - Contributions to benevolences shall not be used for any causes other than that for which they were given.
 - In order that all phases of our church administration be conducted with good business procedure, it is expected that each local church pay their Shares of Ministry, insurance responsibilities and pension payments in full. Failure to complete these connectional responsibilities will require that the local church prepare a remedial plan to address its financial situation. This plan will be shared by the pastor with the District Superintendent and with the CF&A, and will be reviewed at the church's annual church conference until the church is 100% in compliance.

2. In the event payments of Shares of Ministry fall short of the Budget, the CF&A shall determine where to adjust the Budget.
3. In the event that funds received in the Benevolence Budget exceed actual expenditures, then the additional funds shall be distributed within Conference Benevolence as determined by CF&A.
4. The line items for Social Ministries and Health Care Ministries will be administered by a grant process by the Missional Board.
5. All requests for conference funds for inclusion in the Conference's Annual Budget shall be submitted to the CF&A for review and recommendation, as according to the CF&A's budget proceedings, before being presented to the Annual Conference for adoption. Failure to submit a request may necessitate the proposed ministry being removed for consideration from the conference budget for that year. In order to be good stewards of God's resources, all requests for funds will include an evaluation of past and current ministries, and the missional reasons for new ministries. CF&A will encourage all agencies, committees, boards, and commissions to begin to work on a quadrennial budget plan in order to be more financially responsible and to be better stewards of God's resources.
6. In case of oversight of any essential budgetary item, the CF&A is authorized to make such adjustments as necessary.
7. In compliance with the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the Council draws attention to disciplinary paragraph 614.5.a and b, regarding conference-wide appeals. Appeals approved by the Annual Conference must be implemented within the next conference year.
 - a. No Annual Conference agency or interest, including any related agency or institution such as a school, college, university, hospital, home, housing project, or other service institution, shall make a special Conference-wide appeal to the local churches for funds without the approval of the Annual Conference upon recommendation of the CF&A, except in case of an extreme emergency, when such approval may be given by a two-thirds vote of the District Superintendents and of the CF&A, acting jointly. Neither shall special Conference-wide appeals to local churches for funds be made by such boards, interests, agencies, or institutions that are not related to the Annual Conference in which the appeal is to be made, unless approval for such an appeal is granted by the Annual Conference upon recommendation of the CF&A.
 - b. When application is made to the Council for the privilege of a special Conference-wide financial appeal, whether by special collections, campaigns, or otherwise, the CF&A shall investigate the application and its possible relation to other obligations of the Conference, and in the light of the facts, make recommendations to the Conference for its action and determination. If application for privilege of a special appeal is made directly to the Conference, the application shall be referred to the CF&A before final action is taken.
8. No board, commission or committee shall be entitled to payment of a deficit not previously authorized or as approved by CF&A.
9. No unused funds of any budgetary line item (unless specifically permitted by the Discipline, or action of the Annual Conference, or exempted by CF&A) can be carried over from one year to the next. Funds are only available for the budgeted year.
10. Funding for any task force established in the Annual Conference without funding from their own administrative account must be authorized by CF&A.
11. In compliance with auditing procedures recommended by the Auditor of our Conference funds, all vouchers

presented to the Treasurer, including miscellaneous items, shall include the date of purchase, the name of the item or service purchased, and required signature(s).

12. Mileage for conference employees for reimbursement shall be paid at the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. Expenses will be reimbursed only upon submission of a travel voucher.

13. Volunteers eligible for travel reimbursement for official meetings of Annual Conference agencies shall be paid at the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. Expenses will be reimbursed only upon submission of a travel voucher. The Council strongly urges carpooling when practical.

14. Pastors shall be compensated for services rendered. Pastors shall not receive salary payments in advance.

15. The Annual Conference through Shares of Ministry shall pay for the cost of a pastor's move according to the moving policy of the Annual Conference.

16. Retired clergy or the surviving spouse of clergy shall be eligible to receive one retirement move as according to the moving policy of the Annual Conference. This retirement move unrelated to an appointment must occur within five years of the annual conference at which their retirement was recognized. When a pastor is going to or returning from sabbatical leave, leave of absence, retirement, special assignment, or incapacity leave, the cabinet shall be authorized to negotiate the amount of reimbursement for the cost of the move.

17. In keeping with good business procedure and the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 258.4a, all financial income in the local church shall be counted by two or more unrelated persons.

18. Each local church will conduct an Annual Audit that will be shared with the District Superintendent and at the church's next annual charge conference for adoption and review.

19. All statistical reports shall be submitted to the Conference Finance Office by January 31. Shares of Ministry are calculated using selected statistical data submitted by each pastor on these End-of-Year reports.

20. Expenses associated with church-provided pre-school, day-care, elder-care, and college campus ministries under direct, complete and active control of the local church shall be included in statistical information. Exemptions for these expenses from the calculations for Shares of Ministry must be included in the designated section of the statistical report.

21. The formula for calculating Shares of Ministry shall be recommended by the CF&A and approved by the Annual Conference.

22. In recognition that members attending the Annual Conference sessions receive some financial support through the Conference Budget, each member shall be required to pay the additional costs to attend Annual Conference at the time of the pre-registration application. This fee will be calculated annually by the Conference Sessions Committee.

23. The CF&A encourages all conference committees, agencies, boards, and committees to move to electronic forms of communication whenever possible.

24. New Church Starts and New Sites/Fresh Expressions: Over the decades of our history, we know starting new congregations that flourished and became active participants in the ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church (and its antecedents) was and continues to be a blessing, not only to our journey together, but also to the entire world. As we look to the future, it is incumbent on us to encourage, start, and support

new opportunities to grow communities of faith. In order to accomplish this, and over a period of years enable these new opportunities to flourish and in turn support the shared ministry and mission of the Annual Conference, the following will guide churches in how new beginnings will figure into the calculations of the Annual Conference Financial Plan and shared by all through Shares of Ministry:

- A. New Church Starts - New Church starts will have no Shares of Ministry for the first year. After one year, they will tithe their offerings (with the exceptions of restricted endowments and missional money going outside church expenses) to the Annual Conference until they are chartered. After chartering, they will be phased in to paying their full Shares of Ministry starting at 25% and increasing 25% over the following three years until their Shares of Ministry are being paid in full.
- B. New Sites and Fresh Expressions - New Sites and Fresh Expressions approved by and through the local congregation, and approved by the Full Cabinet; new site/fresh expression costs in the first year will be exempted from church expenses and considered a missional expense. For the next two years, they will tithe the income of the site/fresh expression to the Conference. Following the second year, the costs associated with the new site/fresh expression will be phased into the base church's yearly expense at a rate of 25% per year until all expenses of the new site/fresh expressions is considered part of the base church's financial calculations. (Please note: The full cost of the base church appointed pastor will be considered part of the base church's calculations.)

Item 3: Investment Policy

The Council on Finance and Administration has made two changes to the conference investment policy. One is to remove references to Seedling Financial Ministry, which has discontinued operations. The other is to correct typographical errors. This policy rests solely with the Council and is not voted on by the annual conference.

Investment Policy Statement

Susquehanna Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
2024 March 14

Definition and Purpose

In recognition of its fiduciary responsibilities and the mandate of the Book of Discipline (§ 613.5) the **Susquehanna Annual Conference (Conference)** has developed the following Investment Policy Statement (IPS).

This IPS shall comply with the policies related to conflict of interest and investment management of Conference pension and pension related funds under § 1508 of the Book of Discipline. This IPS applies to all of the assets owned by the Susquehanna Annual Conference (Funds) including but not limited to the following entities:

- **Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB); Conference Board of Trustees (CBT); Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA); and other Conference boards and agencies.**
- **Address: 303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17050; and**
- **Contact person authorized to conduct business on behalf of the Investment Committee or Council: Conference Treasurer.**

The purpose of this policy is as follows:

- to establish the responsibilities of the **Investment Committee (Committee)**, as well as those of the service providers hired to help implement the IPS;
- to clearly define investment goals, and other operational guidelines.
- to establish asset allocation parameters, risk tolerance and an investment strategy that is consistent with the investment goals and guidelines.

- to establish effective communication procedures between the Committee and the investment managers;
and
- to create a formal review process for reviewing this IPS.

The intent of this IPS is to provide guidelines that are specific enough to be meaningful but also flexible enough to take into account practical considerations. This IPS should be reviewed by the Committee at least annually, or in circumstances where projected spending needs or investment circumstances change materially.

The standard of care when making decisions is the Prudent Expert Standard, defined as:

“... the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.”

Responsibilities of the Investment Committee

With regards to the Committee's responsibilities as defined in this IPS, no action identified below as a responsibility of the Committee shall be taken by the Committee without first obtaining the approval or designated authority of CFA by resolution. Therefore, the Committee shall make recommendations to CFA based on the responsibilities identified below. CFA will have final approval authority before any action can be taken on behalf of the Committee. The responsibilities of the Committee are including but are not limited to the following:

- (1) to recommend to CFA principles, policies, standards and guidelines for the investment of all monies, assets and properties of the Conference.
- (2) to perform all operational functions and make recommendations for changes to this investment policy to the CFA for approval.
- (3) to define and develop investment goals, and other operational guidelines.
- (4) to designate the investment managers and to discharge investment managers.
- (5) to require all portfolios be managed with appropriate consideration to the social principles of The United Methodist Church.
- (6) to monitor and evaluate the performance results and risk posture of the investment manager(s);
- (7) to establish effective communication procedures between the Committee, CFA, the staff, and the outside service providers.
- (8) to monitor and control investment expenses.
- (9) to delegate the execution and administration of certain Committee responsibilities as appropriate to the Conference Treasurer; and
- (10) to carry out any other duties required for the legal operation of the investments, including but not limited to hiring outside vendors to perform various services.

Statement of Purpose and Financial Requirements

The purpose of Conference investments is to provide financial resources that support the objectives of the Conference for which they were created. The responsible board or agency is accountable for the use of the Funds as designated by the Conference or restricted by the donors. To illustrate:

- the Board of Trustees Funds shall be used to provide for the care, maintenance, insurance or acquisition of the real property of the Conference.
- the Board of Pension and Health Care Funds shall be used to provide for ongoing pension and health benefits obligations of the Conference.
- program Funds shall be used to advance the ministries of the Conference.

Investment Managers and Benchmarks

To achieve its investment objectives and ensure alignment with United Methodist Social Principles, the Funds shall be allocated among one or more funds managed by Wespath, a division of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Other investment managers (Additional Investment Managers) may be considered so long as they maintain the same level of qualifications and commitment to United Methodist Social Principles as Wespath. No Additional Investment Managers other than Wespath and the United Methodist Stewardship Foundation, including any legal successors thereto, (collectively Manager), shall be authorized to engage as investment managers of Conference Funds without prior approval of CFA.

Target Asset Allocations and Rebalancing Guidelines

The purpose of allocating among asset classes is to ensure the proper level of diversification and risk for each portfolio. The primary considerations in the asset allocation decision process are:

- maintaining inflation-adjusted purchasing power.
- growing the corpus of the Funds to meet future obligations.
- achieving a minimum return in excess of inflation but with minimal annual fluctuations in the corpus; and
- maintaining the longevity of the assets and their distributions while taking into consideration that there may be no additional contributions.

The following table outlines the names of the accounts with target allocation and the minimum and maximum allocation limits of each asset class:

General Cash Flow and Operating Account

Target Allocation

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Equities of all types	10%	30%	50%
Fixed Income Securities	30%	60%	70%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0%	10%	55%

Reserves and Restricted Account

Target Allocation

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Equities of all types	40%	65%	70%
Fixed Income Securities	20%	30%	40%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0%	5%	35%

Health and Pension Deposit Account

Target Allocation

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Equities of all types	0%	10%	20%
Fixed Income Securities	10%	20%	90%
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10%	70%	100%

Equities

The Investment Managers and Additional Investment Managers (collectively Manager) should maintain the equity portion of the portfolio at a risk level roughly equivalent to that of the equity market. Equity holdings may be selected from the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, Standard and Poor's 500 Index and the Russell 2000 Stock Index, and other equities listed on the New York Stock Exchange and/or the NASDAQ markets

The securities should be aimed at appreciation potential and/or income generation. The Manager is prohibited from investing in private placements, letter stocks, options, short sales, and margin transactions. No Funds shall be invested in securities whose issuers have filed a petition for bankruptcy or hedge funds.

Fixed Income

Investments in fixed income securities will be managed actively to pursue opportunities from a variety of sources. The Manager may select from appropriate obligations guaranteed by the U.S. government and its agencies, foreign government, utility stocks, preferred stocks, municipal obligations, and corporate obligations. No Funds may be invested in collateralized debt obligations, auction rate securities, or credit default swaps.

Mutual funds, commingled funds, and funds in general

When mutual funds or commingled funds are used as an investment vehicle, then it is understood the Committee has adopted the specific investment policies of the fund.

Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines

As an Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, we are committed to implementation of the socially responsible investment policies in *The Book of Discipline*.

"Socially Responsible Investments—It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general Boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations and local churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the production of nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or companies dealing in pornography. The Boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment."

Communication and Responsibility

The Committee shall provide semi-annually to the CFA, CBOPHB and CBT a written account of the investment results, accounting summary and significant developments, if any.

CFA, CBOPHB and CBT shall at least annually review the IPS, the effectiveness of the Committee and the overall results of the investments and will acknowledge in writing that they have done so.

The Manager shall provide the Committee:

- Quarterly or as necessary:
 - a report of the portfolio's holdings,
 - a review of investment performance.

- a commentary of investment results, in light of the current investment environment and the goals and guidelines.
- a review of the key investment decisions and the rationale for these decisions.
- a discussion of the manager's outlook and what specific decisions this outlook may indicate.
- any recommendations as to changes in goals and guidelines, in light of material and sustained changes in the capital market.
- any significant change in the manager's investment outlook, ownership or key employees.
- A report of current investment mix and variance from target (if any); and
- A report on changes in target allocation.

Records

The CFA, CBOPHB, CBT and the Committee shall keep a proper and prudent record of all important documents, meeting minutes and other information relating to the management of the Funds. They shall be available at:

**Address: 303 Mulberry Drive
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17050**

Custodian of the Records: Conference Treasurer

The recommendations and approved changes to the IPS may be incorporated directly into the IPS as a revision and restatement or noted in the addendum until such time as the IPS is revised and restated.

Revised and approved March 14, 2024

Item 4: Seedling Financial

Seedling Financial Ministries remains on schedule to wrap up at the end of 2024. We will have a full financial report at next year's annual conference.

JP Bohanan, *President*

Susquehanna Conference Council on Finance and Administration

13. Disabilities Awareness Task Force

Our Mission: Our Mission is to lead the Susquehanna Conference in creating a culture where people with disabilities are fully included in all aspects of worship, leadership, ministry, and mission. We work to advocate for the needs of people with disabilities, empower people with disabilities, and educate the church and society about issues related to disabilities and disability awareness.

Our Members: The members of the Disabilities Ministries Task Force:

Clergy: Rev. Rebecca L. Holland (Chair), Rev. Mitch Galloway, Rev. Craig Gommer, Rev. James C. House, Rev. Jennett Wertz, Rev. Robert Stump, Pastor Julie Rosensteel, Pastor Jeffery D. Holland.

Laity: Pamela Harker, Abigail Kane, Jerry Post, Wendy Albright, Lisa Lupold, John Henderson, Alex Ross-Schnaubelt, and Nate-Ross Schnaubelt

How We Are Making Disciples: We work to empower clergy and laity with disabilities to spread the love of Jesus Christ in their local congregations. We strive to educate the church and society about disability awareness and disability theology. We endeavor to connect the people of the Susquehanna Conference with the Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church (the group that represents Disability Ministry concerns for the worldwide United Methodist Connection).

Accomplishments and current ministries:

1. **Disability Ministries Awareness Sunday:** Disability Ministries Awareness Sunday was held on the Second Sunday of October in 2023. Donations from this Special Sunday were used to provide grants to churches for disability ministry. We submitted a resolution to Annual Conference 2024 for Disability Awareness Sunday to be held on the Second Sunday of October on October 13, 2024.

2. **We served in local congregations throughout the Susquehanna Conference.** Members of our task force labored to spread the Gospel and promote disability awareness in unique ways in their local congregations. Some exciting ministries' that occurred this year in local congregations were an adapted visit with Santa Claus an adapted Easter Egg Hunt, both organized by Abigail Kane.
3. **We are currently working with the Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church to create an Advent devotional resource.** This resource is entitled "Room at the Inn," and draws connections between disability theology and the story of the Nativity. Proceeds from this resource will benefit the Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church. The anticipated release date is 2024.
4. **We are currently working to compile a list of disability ministries, worship services, and programs that occur throughout our Conference.** If your local congregation has an active disability ministry, please let us know. We plan to publish this list of resources on our website.
5. **We maintained our Facebook Page and used social media to promote disability awareness.** We post regularly to the Facebook Page to continue to raise awareness and communicate disability related news. You can find us at @SUSUMCDisability.
6. **Website:** We maintained our website and renewed our unique domain name (DisabilityUMC.org). The website has resources that relate to issues of disability, advocacy, outreach, empowerment, and awareness. You can find our website at: DisabilityUMC.org.
7. **We strengthened our connection with the Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church.** Rev. Rebecca L. Holland is currently serving as the chair of communications for the United Methodist Disability Committee (UMCDMC). She serves as liaison between our Disability Task Force and the UMCDMC. The UMCDMC provides training, advocacy, and research for the entire United Methodist Church. You can find more information at UMCDMC.org

Respectfully Submitted,

--Rev. Rebecca L. Holland, *Chair of the Disability Ministries Task Force*

14. Disaster Response

Growing – In 2023, the ministry conducted Early Response Team (ERT) training and welcomed seven newly certified volunteers from Charlton UMC in Harrisburg (Harrisburg District) and Lightstreet UMC in Bloomsburg (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District). Additionally, the ministry arranged for CPR, AED, and/or First Aid training to be conducted at Camp Penn. As a result, seven volunteers and staff received certification in these life-saving skills.

Equipping – The ministry continued to collaborate with UMCOR, PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and local disaster response organizations to inform and educate communities about how to prepare for and recover from disasters. The ministry continued in a season of change, partnering with two new response trailer caretakers: CP Foster and Calvary UMC in Lawrenceville (Williamsport District); and Jody Robinson and First UMC in Muncy (Williamsport District).

The continued generosity of many congregations and individuals has allowed the ministry to maintain Disaster Response and VIM response trailers and support response, relief, and recovery work within the Annual Conference as well as nationwide.

Connecting - Volunteers finished a long-term project for a homeowner in Huntingdon County (Altoona District) providing clean up and restoration in a flooded basement. Volunteers also supported a VIM ministry work project at Wesley Forest Camp and Retreat Center (Lewisburg District) to prepare the camp for the season.

Additionally, the ministry partnered with Conference volunteers and other PA VOAD organizations to respond to flooding in the Clarks Summit area (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District) in September. Rev. Mike Bealla and the congregation at Elm Park UMC worked with the American Red Cross to open its doors as a temporary shelter immediately following the flooding. Elis Wetzel of Countryside Community Church volunteered to assist with data collection at the multi-agency resource center. Tom Meyer of South Gibson UMC conducted much needed property assessments in advance of volunteer teams arriving to help with the cleanup. Countryside Community Church graciously hosted Pennsy Waltman and her team from Mt. Calvary UMC (Harrisburg District) and joined that team as they worked to clean up damage and restore homes. Your generous donations throughout the year also enabled the ministry to provide temporary housing for a family that was forced from their home as a result of the flooding.

Finally, the ministry also worked with VIM to support disaster relief, response, and recovery efforts outside the Annual Conference in Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, Upper New York Conference, Kentucky Conference, and Tennessee/Western Kentucky Annual Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Hoy, *Disaster Response Coordinator*

15. Historical Society of the Susquehanna Conference

The Historical Society of the Susquehanna Conference promotes the study of the history of The Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies. The Society also serves to resource local churches in the preservation and dissemination of their particular histories. It works with the Conference Commission on Archives and History in collecting and preserving documents, artifacts, stories, and other data relating to the organization and history of the Annual Conference and its local churches.

With the support of the Conference Commission on Archives and History, the Historical Society annually publishes its journal, *The Chronicle*. Single copies of *The Chronicle* are provided without cost to the Society's membership and to each pastoral charge in the Annual Conference. *The Chronicle* is also available for purchase by others by contacting Dr. Milton Loyer at the Conference Archives. There are sometimes a limited number of back issues available as well.

The Historical Society website can be viewed at <https://susumchistory.org>. The website provides information about the Historical Society and its mission, contact information and information on membership, as well as a blogpost with stories of historical relevance to the Annual Conference and its congregations.

The Historical Society remains committed to providing all its publications and events without additional cost to members. It likewise remains committed to resourcing all interested parties in the study of the history of Susquehanna Conference.

Rev. Dr. Brand Eaton, *President*

16. Lay Servant Ministries

During 2023 and into 2024 our Lay Servant Ministries throughout the Susquehanna Conference has continued transformation work! Each Supervisory area has an active Committee on Lay Servant Ministries that is planning and implementing regular training courses for Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, and Certified Lay Ministers. The Chairpersons of each District Committee continue their work together as the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries, and are responsible for final approvals for Lay Speakers, Certified Lay Ministers, and curriculum development beyond what is offered through Discipleship Ministries.

GROW! Living as Spiritual Transformational Leaders as a basic course requirement for Lay Servants continues to be a fruitful experience as leaders articulate their calling, gain skills in faith sharing, and pay attention to the needs within their communities. "Spiritual Transformational leaders (disciples) engage others in abundant Christian love that transforms lives wherever they go!" Now, in 2024, there are twelve people engaged in CLM School who have said that this course was helpful in growing their capacity for leadership. There are lay people in every Supervisory Area who are stepping up by working toward Lay Speaker certification.

Along with noticing the numbers of lay people who are taking courses, experimenting with ministry options through Fresh Expressions and outreach work, we also notice the number of folks who are now comfortable with taking courses by Zoom within the Susquehanna Conference. Any Zoom class that is offered from a District Lay Servant Committee, is automatically available to every lay person within the Conference. Keep an eye on the Lay Ministry web page to see when new classes are being offered: <https://susumc.org/lay-ministry/>. We offer a special shout out to Rev. Denise Haskins who has taught several high-quality courses in a Zoom format. Thanks, Denise!

The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries looks forward to developing and empowering lay people for ministry opportunities in every community throughout the Susquehanna Conference!

Submitted by Kim Shockley, *Director of Lay Servant Ministries*

17. Mission u

Mission u is a biblically grounded, transformational event devoted to inspiring faithful living and mission. Co-sponsored by the Susquehanna Conference Board of Global Ministries and United Women of Faith, Mission u held an overnight school, two Express or one day in-person events, and an online school in 2023. A VIM Mission u for youth scheduled for Wesley Forest was cancelled due to insufficient registrations.

In 2024, Mission u is will hold an online school in July, and a two day in person school on July 12-13 at Country Cupboard Inn Best Western, Lewisburg. Express events are scheduled on July 11 at Country Cupboard Inn Best Western, Lewisburg and on July 2 at the Chambers Hill United Methodist Church. Mission u for Children is being offered in conjunction with the adult school on July 12 – 13.

In 2023, Mission u continued a curriculum that integrated spiritual growth, justice, national and global social justice issues into one eight hour study that engaged adults with Jesus’ teaching on the kin-dom or reign of God by studying the Lord’s Prayer as a spiritual practice for social transformation. The theme of the children’s school was *We Are the Kin-dom*.

The 2024 Mission u adult study, titled *Welcome Home*, uses the image of home to explore how living in the kin-dom is like making a home with God, and invites participants to develop practices that build healthy, welcoming communities that are anchored in the abiding love of God. The 2024 Mission u children school will use the Lord’s Prayer as a lens to teach the kin-dom is living with Christ and one another on earth as in heaven. The Rev. G. Edwin Zeiders is returning as the study leader for the 2024 in person events, while Rev. Kathy Harvey Nelson is returning as the study leader of the online school.

Event and registration information has been provided to United Women in Faith leaders, local churches, and is available on the conference website.

Norman “Skip” Spangler
Dean, Mission u

18.Preachers’ Aid Society

The Preachers’ Aid Society has been in ministry for 155 years. Its mission is to provide emergency assistance grants to pastors and their families.

The Society is supported by membership donations. In 2023, support was received from 198 clergy, 42 laity and 9 churches. The donations totaled \$14,332.47. Of that total \$3075 was designated for the Seminary Debt Reduction Program.

The Preachers’ Aid Society appreciates the support of The Susquehanna Annual Conference and its members for our continued ministry.

The year 2023 has been an unusual year in that the Society received no requests for emergency assistance grants. In addition, no funds were distributed through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program.

The Board of Managers consists of 7 laypersons and 9 clergy. The Board meets three (3) times per year. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers is open to all supporting members and is held over lunch on the first day of each Annual Conference.

Assistance is available to any pastor or widow/widower of a pastor or assistance for a family member living in a pastor’s household.

If a need arises, contact your District Superintendent for an application.

Flo Waybright, *President of the Board of Managers of the Preachers’ Aid Society*

Preacher’s Aid Society Financial Report for 2023

Balance on January 1, 2023.....	\$ 17,354.10
Income	
Donations from clergy, laity, and churches.....	14,332.47
Interest earned.....	12.22
Total Funds deposited.....	14,344.69
Total Funds Available.....	\$ 31,698.79
Disbursements	
Assistance to clergy.....	\$ 00.00
Annual Membership mailing expenses.....	400.84
Annual mailing printing costs.....	400.85
Brochure printing	127.20
Postage.....	28.65
SUSUMC (annual conference display space)	50.00
Treasurer’s compensation	1,200.00
United States Postal Service (PO Box rent)	226.00
Insurance (Officers Bond)	126.00
Miscellaneous Expense	200.00

<u>Total Disbursements</u>	\$ 2,759.54
Balance on December 31, 2023	\$ 28,939.25

19. Student Aid Fund

The Student Aid Fund advances the mission of the Susquehanna Conference by providing financial aid for the growth of spiritual, transformational leaders who are equipped to pastor vital congregations and connect with the world to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. It exists "to support the proclamation of the Christian Faith by assisting persons who are preparing through higher education to fulfill their call to pastoral ministry in the Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church . . . in meeting the financial cost of such preparations." (from the Articles of Incorporation of the Student Aid Fund)

During 2023 the Board of Managers met on April 25, July 25, and October 10. At the July 25 meeting we evaluated applications for loans for the 2023-2024 school year.

The financial statements and records of the Student Aid Fund for 2022 were independently audited by Barbush, Hoffman, Short LLC, Certified Public Accountants. No discrepancies or concerns were reported.

The Board of Managers partners with several seminaries that provide a 50/50 scholarship match for students from our Conference. The seminary pays fifty percent of tuition from their own scholarship funds; the Board pays the other fifty percent as a service loan. Wesley, Drew, United, Garret-Evangelical, Duke, and Lancaster seminaries currently participate in this program.

During the 2022-2023 academic year the Fund provided seminary service loans to ten individuals. Six requests have been processed for 2023-2024.

Service loans are reduced by twenty percent per year during the first five years of ministry within the Susquehanna Conference under appointment by the Bishop(s) of the Susquehanna Annual Conference. Five pastors completed their entire five-year service period in 2023 and their loans have been completely forgiven. The total amount forgiven through service in 2023 was \$82,810.32 for twenty pastors who were serving within the Conference. Three service loans were converted to regular loans for pastors who are no longer serving under appointment in the Susquehanna Annual Conference due to disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. Regular loans are amortized over a period of ten years.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to secure repayment of delinquent accounts from individuals who no longer serve in the Conference. The Board pursues repayment of delinquent accounts through Peerless Credit Services, Inc. When it is not possible to secure repayment for delinquent loans, they are written off by action of the Board. Two loans were written off in 2023 for a total amount of \$1,767.94. The Executive Secretary is currently following up with seventeen loans where payments are overdue.

All of our funds are currently invested with the United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania, with the exception of an annuity investment which remains with Merrill Lynch along with sufficient cash reserves to pay ongoing fund expenses. The total invested with the United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania as of December 31, 2022 was \$2,827,430. The cash surrender value of the annuity and cash remaining with Merrill Lynch totaled \$579,525. The Board deeply appreciates the assistance and support provided by the staff of the Finance Office and by the Cabinet of the Susquehanna Annual Conference.

The Board is grateful for gifts and bequests to the work of the Student Aid Fund. Gifts may be made in honor of or in memory of an individual if desired.

If you wish to make a donation to the Student Aid Fund, or to receive further information about the scholarship application process, please contact our Executive Secretary, the Rev. Nicholas Keeney. He may be reached at nkeeney@susumc.org.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE ACTION

The Board of Managers respectfully requests approval of the following amendments to the BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT AID FUND OF THE SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (deletions are struck out, additions are underlined). We recommend:

That Article II, section 2.05, be amended as follows:

~~2.05 Meeting Place: Meeting shall be held at such place as may be decided by the Executive Committee.~~ Meeting Format and Location: At the discretion of the Executive Committee, meetings of the Board and Committees may be held in person, by electronic means (with preference given to formats that permit visual representation of attendees), or using a combination of in-person and electronic formats. If a meeting includes an in-person format, the physical location of the meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee. If the meeting includes an electronic

format, information necessary to connect with the meeting shall be provided to all Board members at least two days in advance of the meeting.

That Article VII be completely deleted and subsequent Articles be renumbered accordingly:

~~"ARTICLE VII"~~

~~"INFORMAL ACTION—CONFERENCE CALL"~~

~~"7.01 By Written Consent: Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board or any Committee may be taken without a meeting if prior to such action a written consent thereto is signed by all the members of the Board or of the Committee and such written consent is filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board or Committee. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for implementing the actions consented in this manner."~~

~~"7.02 Meetings Via Conference Call: Any meeting of the Board, except the regular semi-annual meetings, or of any Committee may be held by conference call. The Executive Secretary, or if he or she does not take part, a participating member, shall record the actions taken and within seven [7] days mail copies to all members of the group involved and file a copy of the proceedings with the group."~~

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Richard D. Smith, *President*

Board of Managers of the Student Aid Fund

20. The Bishops' Committee on Interfaith Relationships

The Bishops' Committee on Interfaith Relationships continues to seek ways to inspire and encourage local churches to engage in cooperative, ecumenical, and interfaith ministries. Each year we present the Marty Cox Award to the group or individual that displays excellence in working with other churches in their community. This year's winner is CrossPoint Church and the Evangelical Arabic Congregation of Harrisburg for their their ministry and collaboration of supporting the worship and physical needs of the leaders and members in this shared ecumenical partnership. In addition to being recognized at the Annual Conference Awards Banquet, the group will receive a monetary gift to continue their ministry. In addition to online forums to promote ecumenical and interfaith activities and events, the Committee works to provide resources and share opportunities to foster and grow ecumenical and interfaith relations throughout the Susquehanna Conference. Additionally, the committee strives to send representatives to the National Workshop on Christian Unity each year.

Renee J. Ford, *Committee Chair*

21. United Women in Faith

For 2023, the women of our conference continued to be faithful. United Women in Faith support ministry and service to women, children and youth through our local units, our district teams, our conference team, our connection with Northeast Jurisdiction and with the National Office. These connections help us to spread our ministry from our own localities to extend to our state, our nation and the world.

United Women in Faith support Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg. I have been involved throughout the year on the board. Our local units sent money and other supplies this year including collections at Spiritual Enrichment Days in the spring. I attended in-person meetings at the center and Zoom meetings.

We are still struggling with leadership in our conference and in our districts. We currently have 5 district teams though they are not complete: Altoona, Harrisburg, State College, Williamsport and York. In 2023 our conference team had a president, a treasurer, a spiritual growth person and a chair of nominations with committee members. We shared the secretarial duties for minutes and newsletters. Our executive committee meetings were in-person at Beaver Memorial UMC in Lewisburg or on Zoom.

We stay connected to our local units with district and conference newsletters. We have many members that view our Facebook page. Many links are posted on our page to activities, mission opportunities, Bible Study, etc. The National office offers a podcast called "Faith Talks". The sessions are recorded and available on the United Women in Faith website: uwfaith.org. You may sign up for Just Energy Seminars as well.

We had a very successful conference-wide overnight women's retreat in March (Friday and Saturday) in honor of Delores DJ Spangler. "Seek Ye First" workshop using "The Joy of Seeking God First" with author and speaker, Anita Keagy, Joyshop Ministries

We had a display at Susquehanna annual conference with Mission u in Williamsport.

Women in Faith participated in Mission-u which offered two Saturday express days in the north and south of the conference, an evening study by Zoom over 4 weeks, and the 2-day event at Best Western, Lewisburg on The Lord's Prayer. The children's school also met there and at Central Oak Heights.

Our officers were offered training at Leadership Development Days on Zoom and Bridge training modules. We participated in Spiritual Enrichment Days and Spring events by district. We held our second joint spiritual event at Wesley UMC in Nescopeck with an excellent program on PA native plants with state park educator, Kathy Kelchner. Our Bible Study was "New Growth" led by Barbara Swingle on Luke 13:9-12. Several District retreats and annual meetings were held along with our Conference Annual meeting.

Our conference annual meeting featured Rev. Christopher Sledge of The Journey in Harrisburg speaking on "Jesus and the Beloved Community: An Anti-Racism Conversation". We had attendees from various districts at Faith UMC in Bellefonte. We have a Charter for Racial Justice Committee to include awareness at every event. We raise awareness with Facebook posts and newsletter articles. Our entire theme for annual this year was Racial Justice.

Each year we hold our annual meeting at a different district. In 2024 we will be in Harrisburg District at the First UMC in Hershey. Our theme is "Be Still". WB Music Therapy of Harrisburg will present the program. We are planning for future events to provide fellowship and spiritual growth for the women of the Susquehanna Conference.

Our Northeast Jurisdiction meeting is in Providence, RI in April 2024 preceded by an Ubuntu day of service in the city.

Our next conference-wide retreat will be in 2025 with speaker Tabitha Deiler at Best Western, Lewisburg.

Sue Reisinger

President, Susquehanna United Women in Faith

22. Volunteers In Mission

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) had a great 2023. One gem of the Susquehanna Conference is that they provide free supplemental accident insurance to our domestic Volunteer in Mission teams. In 2023, we rolled out a new insurance policy that provided our teams with better coverage, especially those who were serving less than 100 miles from their home church. Churches/team leaders are only asked to fill out a simple Google form to receive the insurance.

VIM continues to promote Building the Beloved Community. VIM Core Values include Radical Discipleship – our mission relationships are meant to be humble, justice-seeking and radically inclusive. The VIM Coordinator spoke to one group on Serving Compassionately and Valuing Diversity. The coordinator attended the Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Supervisory Area as well as the DC Seminar Program from the General Board of Church and Society on the Beloved Community.

With VIM Training and speaking events, we hope to dispel the old way of thinking about mission where people believe they are "taking Jesus" to a people or a place and replacing it with healthy ideas of partnership in mission, self-awareness, and intercultural competency. There is a higher awareness of intersectionality at play and a need for education in all areas we thought we'd mastered.

2023 brought the first Conference-wide Mission Journey in several years. Often when our Conference talks about VIM it is disaster response or construction related, those are just two of the many ways to be in partnership with others. Another is educational/relational, and this conference-wide mission journey was to Arizona and Mexico for an Immigration Immersion Journey. There we met with many organizations advocating and working alongside immigrants. The coordinator was even able to speak at a local Arizona United Methodist Church on Volunteers in Mission. We met with Arizona Justice for Our Neighbors, Humane Borders, The Inn of Southern Arizona, and the Pima County Medical examiner to name a few. Many of the organizations we visited grew out of the United Methodist Church and their desire to answer the call of Jesus.

Volunteers in Mission is trying to get away from calling what they do "trips" or "events" and define them as "mission journeys". The new language emphasizes that it's not a siloed event/trip, it's about our life's journey - this call of Jesus and how we respond. Once we returned from our flight to Arizona and Mexico, the group took what they learned and began speaking to their churches, their civic groups, writing letters to the editor and so on. John and Charles Wesley had a history of social advocacy, and the United Methodist Church is built on that.

2024 will be a time to reconnect with our churches with the intention of spreading the word on how Volunteers in Mission grows, equips, and connects for the greater mission of the transformation of the world.

Michelle Y. Schwartzman, *Susquehanna Conference VIM Coordinator*

23. The Wesley Foundation at Penn State University

It is our hope that, through the work of the Wesley Foundation at Penn State, students will find and be found by Love, the Divine, God who is WITH us. We believe that we are called to be a place of welcome and love for our student community, a place of belonging and community, a reflection of the love that we know and experience in relationship with the Holy, who is within us and all around us. We believe just as God has welcomed us, with loving arms, so we too are called to welcome our neighbors, our student community, loving others as God loves us.

"Throughout the year, religion and my relationship with God has been redefined. There isn't a specific instance, but more a development throughout the year. My understanding of how religion and faith operated was that it was very formal. You must do "this" and "that" to be faithful. If you can't complete these things, then you aren't. Abba Java and the Wesley Foundation have helped me realize that faith is simpler and can be boiled down to being kind and loving through God. It's not formal. We show God in ourselves through our actions. We speak God's mission through what we do and the words we say. 'They will know we are Christians by our love.'" *Nick, 4th year student*

Because of this holy love, which has called us and shaped us: we open our doors, day after day, through the work of Abba Java Coffeehouse; we gather at tables for weekly student dinners; we meet in circles to share our experiences and our learning; we walk together on forest paths as we seek to see God in the world around us; we travel to other places for better understanding and learning of another person's life and experience; and we remember and practice and question again and again the work of a life of faith.

In our work through the Wesley Foundation, we have the opportunity to come alongside our students as together we learn about our spiritual selves and how that integrates into the whole of our lives. In the winter of 2023, we led a workshop on creating a rule of life.

"I experienced a lot of clarity while creating our "rule of life". I have been going back and forth about where I want to live after graduation, and through brainstorming our "what", "why", and "how", I discovered what I truly wanted to do was return to my hometown. Additionally, I found the words "love", "balance", and "honesty" come up multiple times in my writing over the weekend, and these have become the basis of some guiding principles for my life (right now)." *Rebekah, 2023 graduate*

A large part of our work at the Wesley Foundation at Penn State is in the running of Abba Java Coffeehouse, a free student coffeehouse and study space for our Penn State community. In 2023, we saw over 26,000 students come through our doors. The work of Abba Java helps connect our congregation and students with each other, as they serve alongside of one another; it also provides a space for students to be known, loved, and fed which we continue to hear is a great need among our student community:

"My first day interning at Abba Java, I think I met about 100 people. They all smiled so big, asked my name, and made their best effort to remember it. They do their absolute very best to make me feel welcome and *wanted*. I have been at Penn State for over a year and this was the first group that I have felt a true member of and a connection to. Abba Java, the people who sustain it, has become my safe haven, and I am positive many students agree. The word I think best defines Abba Java is 'community'. I was, and continue to be, welcomed into a safe and inviting environment just off of campus. The coffee house beckons students to collaborate, to come together, and enjoy the beauty in sharing community. The team continuously strives to provide a comfortable space and to be a second home. A family of students, mentors, parishioners, and staff alike make up this space and it would not be possible without the support of all included. A community that encourages growth, fosters new connections, and puts kindness first are the pillars of this association. I am very happy and proud to be a part of it." *Marissa, 2nd year student*

Sarah Voigt, Director of the Wesley Foundation

Julie Simon, Chair of the Wesley Foundation Leadership Team

24. Young Peoples Ministry Council

The Young People's Ministry Council (YPMC) is composed of student and adult youth leaders from around the Susquehanna Conference. The mission of the YPMC is to equip young people as spiritual leaders who do love and justice and empower their peers to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The YPMC has 5 primary areas of focus.

Youth Discipleship—YPMC supports youth and youth ministries by providing Christian faith forming experiences, resources, and practices.

Missions – YPMC provides mission opportunities that include orientation and best practices for youth and youth workers and how to lead their own mission experiences. This is done in collaboration with the Conference VIM Coordinator.

Youth Worker Development – YPMC offers connection, support, and resourcing for youth ministry workers so they can learn from and resource each other, while becoming a community of mutual encouragement.

Lead Now – YPMC partners in this initiative that engages congregations in intentional processes of support for young persons to follow God's call to "Lead Now" within their congregation or local community.

Connectional Leadership – YPMC help young leaders discover and participate in leadership opportunities within the United Methodist Church beyond their local settings. This includes leadership opportunities within the Annual Conference, Jurisdiction and General Church.

A few of highlights for 2023-24 include a Conference-wide mission trip to McCurdy Ministries in New Mexico to serve and learn how to lead mission trips effectively, a Youth Workers Retreat to learn together and support one another, YSF Grants to local churches and groups engaging young people in spiritual leadership, connecting with youth leaders across the Conference to offer resourcing, supporting young people at Annual Conference in their active participation and leadership, etc.

Each of the five focuses will have Youth and Adult Co-Coordinators. We are actively seeking individuals to serve as the Co-Chairs as well as members at large of each focus area. Please, contact Kevin Witt at kwitt@susumc.org if you would like to serve in this way as a youth or adult worker with you.

Kevin Witt

Director, Age Level Ministries

Mission Updates

25. Center for Spiritual formation

From its original inception in 1994, through the vision of Bishop Felton May, the Center for Spiritual Formation Inc. continues to grow in its reach and evolve its offerings on the mountain and beyond. Russell Hart and the Center's founders established a visionary ministry that thrives today, looking forward through a transformational lens of growing, equipping, and connecting in each of its offerings. "*Centered on Jesus, focused on grace and spiritual growth*" is the essence of the Center as an expanding community of spiritual leaders and learners emphasizing prayer, study, and social engagement. The Center's leadership is particularly vested in promoting diverse and inclusive participation and creating space for deep spiritual community. In all the Center does, it strives to create expanding opportunities where the grace of God can be at work to grow, equip, and connect by creating truly invitational and inclusive communities of faith.

The Center continued its' longstanding commitment to provide pastoral leadership offerings including the Pastor's Sabbath Retreats, and Benedictine Silent Retreats. New webinars included, "When Pain Finds You" and supervision retreats for spiritual directors. An emphasis on infusing creative arts and spiritual reflection through the Center's site provided for a guest artist at Easter, and an Advent weekly series in cooperation with CREATE! – a creative expressions group partnership, active online year-round and open to all. The Cross-Cultural Ministry online group also gathered monthly for missionaries serving globally.

A successful leadership and collaborators retreat for "Friends of the Center – Dreaming of a New Eden" in FL, renewed partnerships and relationships with Center alums, and introduced newcomers to the work of the Center. As new connections formed, a prayer and personal retreat initiative committed to the home and teachings of Howard Thurman, is underway in partnership with "Audire" in FL. Another "Friends of the Center" event is planned for August 2024 in Carlisle, PA.

The Center's "Orchard Hill" mountain retreat in Millerstown, hosted personal and group retreats including a new partnership with "Wild Church", the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the annual vespers event for the local community. A major project began last summer to bring full electrical power to the retreat center with anticipated completion in 2024.

The two-year online Ministry of Spiritual Direction (MSD) program has now equipped and graduated 157 participants to date and has an active pool of more than 20 faculty, presenters, and team leaders in this centerpiece offering of the Center. This transformational learning community reflects participants from across the US and beyond. A continuing partnership with United Theological Seminary – Ough Innovation Center, has expanded the Center's reach, deeply enriching the Center's community of teaching, learning, and practice in spiritual direction.

The Center extends an invitation to all who are seeking a space for grace and a place seek the quiet still voice of God in a very noisy and unsettling world. Visit **centerformation.org** or call 717-249-1512 ext. 1006 to learn more about serving with the Center, upcoming retreats, MSD enrollment, and varied offerings committed to bringing God closer and deepen spiritual transformation in the world.

Submitted by:
Rhonda Strouse, *Center Director*

26. Endless Mountain Mission Center

The EMMC Shelter takes in and disciples homeless by holding bible studies, teaching the Holy Bible and its meaning, along with extensive case management. We have several local area Pastors that visit regularly to disciple. We strive to equip the homeless with the truth of the gospel that they may take it into the world as they meet others in like predicaments to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Tammie Storrs
Director EMMC

27. Neighborhood Center

The Neighborhood Center has been operating in the City of Harrisburg to improve the lives of children and families in the community for over 100 years. The Center is a national mission institution of the national organization of United Women in Faith. In 2023 it received support from the Conference, many churches and United Women in Faith organizations throughout the Conference.

We are a licensed childcare facility providing care for toddlers and preschoolers, as well as, before and after school programming for children up to the age of 12. Additionally, operate a summer day camp for school-age children. Most of the families we serve are African American, have limited means and struggle to obtain quality care for their children.

In addition to providing quality childcare, we incorporate Christian principles in all aspects of the services we provide. Readings from scripture and Bible verses are integrated in the lesson plans for all age groups. Christian programming reenforces the connection between the Center, the church and Christ's mission in the world. We also provide programming for families and other members of the community. We hold monthly family nights which include educational and informational segments along with opportunities for recreation and fellowship. We have worked with another partner to make financial literacy classes available.

The Center also helps to meet the basic needs of community members. We have a Caring Closet, where people can obtain gently used clothing at no cost. We also help young mothers by providing formula and diapers for their babies.

The services and programing the Center provides are important because the poverty rate in Harrisburg is over 28%, twice the rate of the entire state. The poverty rate among children is even higher at over 40%. We provide practical help to people in need. In doing so, we are an ongoing demonstration of God's love for all people, particularly the poor and overlooked in our society.

In carrying out its ministry, the Center also helps to connect congregations of the Conference and individual United Methodists to the children, youth, and families that we serve. For example, congregations provide and serve lunch to our summer day camp children. Youth groups and Volunteers in Mission weed and maintain landscaping around the Center. Church groups provide Christmas gifts for children in the community that otherwise would have none. United Women in Faith contribute to and help to organize our Caring Closet. In short, we help to connect the beloved community of disciple-making congregations to people who need help in Harrisburg.

The Center makes a real difference in the lives of people in Harrisburg and in the lives of volunteers who help to make its programs possible. We are blessed to be able to share in Christ's work in this community.

Susan J. Forney
President, Board of Directors

Addendum to Neighborhood Center-March 2024

On March 22, the Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church announced their decision to pause operations effective close of day on May 3, 2024. During this time, the Board will reevaluate their programming and structure to ensure that they meet the community's needs, align with the mission and values of the center, and are sustainable for years to come.

In the coming weeks and months, the Neighborhood Center will provide updates on their progress through their website and Facebook page.

28. Sierra Leone Initiative

Greetings brothers and sisters of the Susquehanna United Methodist Conference and partners in global ministry. The Sierra Leone initiative continues to fulfill our support to our brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone. Your generous support to the initiative has been able to provide \$80,482 in salary support to 69 full time pastors and partner church support for the building of churches, schools, parsonages and wells for clean water. We thank all who have continued to support this vital work and we continue to need your support. The initiative is proactively addressing the financial impacts of last year's disaffiliating churches and your support or additional support is greatly needed. If your church would like to be involved in this vital global ministry opportunity please contact Pastor James Jacobs at jjacobs@susumc.org and we will be happy to send a team member and provide you information on how you can be a part of such an exciting and far reaching initiative.

Jim Jacobs, *Co-Chair*

Affiliated Ministries

29. Africa University

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.—Philippians 4:9 (NRSV)

Africa University greeted 2024 with bold faith and eager confidence because of the goodness of United Methodists who are faithful, generous, and enthusiastic about instilling hope and bringing about wholeness in communities.

As United Methodists fortify themselves for a vital and vibrant witness beyond the 2020 General Conference in 2024, and its outcomes, Africa University urges the members of the Susquehanna Conference to:

- Support Africa University's effort to secure General Conference approval of Report #4.
- Invest in the Africa University Fund at 100%, using as your goal the amount approved at the 2016 General Conference—\$9,368,872 million for the 2017-2020 quadrennium.
- Help identify at least two (2) churches (keystone congregations) in your conference that will commit to provide second mile gifts of \$6,500 each or \$13,000 in total for annual scholarships for two undergraduate students. *(This will help address any shortfall in giving to the Africa University Fund.)*

In 2023, sustained by the support of The United Methodist Church, Africa University:

- Provided more than \$2M in scholarships and financial aid grants to students who would otherwise fail to access higher education.
- Enrolled 2,219 young women and men from 26 African countries.
- Launched its second new academic unit in less than a year—the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences—with a first cohort of 279 students.
- Saw its alumni swell to more than 12,000 serving in 32 African countries, with the addition of 954 graduates in June.
- Developed new products, such as lozenges made from the indigenous *Zumbani* plant, and IT solutions to reduce food waste and make vital research findings more accessible to those who need the information.

Through faithfulness and generosity, the Susquehanna Conference maintained its investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment at 92.63 percent of the asking for 2023. Thank you for your unwavering support. You have helped Africa University to evolve into the cornerstone institution for The United Methodist Church's mission of disciple-making for transformational impact in Africa and beyond.

Thank you, Susquehanna Conference, for ensuring that Africa University continues to nurture and send forth ethical and effective leaders whose daily efforts increase food security, overall health, good governance, abundance, and peace in their communities.

Africa University is grateful for your support and for your profound commitment to being the church in the world. Let us keep on doing this important work together and may the God of peace be with you!

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Africa University and President/CEO of Africa University (Tennessee) Inc.

30. Board of Child Care-Mechanicsburg

(Formerly the United Methodist Home for Children, A Board of Child Care Program)

We are writing to express our deep gratitude for the ongoing partnership between the Susquehanna Conference and Board of Child Care (BCC). Together, we have been steadfast in our commitment to the well-being of children and youth in Pennsylvania, striving to fulfill our mission of enriching communities, one family at a time.

Jeff Glass, longtime Program Director of BCC's Mechanicsburg programs (formerly United Methodist Home for Children), retired in the Spring of 2023 after 41 years of service. We were thrilled to celebrate Jeff's legacy of love and service to kids and families and wish him a spectacular, hard-earned, and well-deserved retirement. The appointment of new leaders has brought fresh perspectives and expertise, enhancing our capacity to address the complex needs of youth and families facing adversity. These transitions have allowed us to refine our approach and further cultivate a culture of empathy, understanding, and healing.

We are particularly proud of the advancements we have made in trauma-informed care, recognizing the profound impact it has on the lives of those we serve. By prioritizing the well-being and holistic development of each individual, we are better equipped to nurture resilience, foster healing, and promote positive outcomes. Through specialized training and innovative programming, we are dedicated to creating environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to growth and transformation. Additionally, we are proud of the work of our staff in PA to increase the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Collaborative Problem Solving, and the Electronic Health Records (EHR) system.

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in equipping local churches to engage in this mission. Through collaborative efforts with dedicated volunteers, we have provided resources, training, and support to empower congregations to extend their reach and impact within their communities. It is through these collective endeavors that we are able to embody the love and compassion of Christ to those most in need.

In May of 2024, Board of Child Care will celebrate 150 years of caring for children and families. In a momentous celebration of 150 years dedicated to this special work, we will be unveiling a new name, marking a significant milestone in our history. The renaming will further unify the Board of Child Care and the United Methodist Home for Children – and shared history – forging a stronger, more unified presence under one distinguished brand. We look forward to sharing our new name with our dedicated supporters and partners later this Spring!

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our shared mission and the values that unite us. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence in service, advocacy, and partnership, knowing that by working together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, youth, and families across Pennsylvania. Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership in this vital work.

Laurie Anne Spagnola, *BCC President and CEO*

31. Candler School of Theology

Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from more than 40 denominations, with nearly half of Master of Divinity students coming from the Methodist family, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 419 from 12 countries and 38 states, and 44% persons of color. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our life together and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six degrees (Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Religion and Public Life, Master of Religious Leadership, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry) and ten dual degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Response to our new hybrid-format Master of Divinity, which launched in Fall 2023, has been strong: 65% of 2023's MDiv entering class chose the hybrid model, blending online classes and in-person intensives. Plus, around 20% of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program to earn contextual education credit as they serve as student pastors in local churches. Our proven DMin program—with a near 90% completion rate—is 90% online as well. These flexible options plus Candler's recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for even more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Reducing student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2023-2024, we are on track to award \$6.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition. MDiv students also receive financial coaching and complete a financial literacy program to strengthen their budgeting skills and reduce debt. That knowledge will serve them—and the ministries they serve—well into the future.

Candler is growing in exciting directions as it creates avenues to bring high-quality theological education to a wider audience. It is a hub of Christian learning with multiple entry points. Those who aren't seeking an advanced degree can engage in learning through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to the public through short courses, events, and related activities; the United Methodist Course of Study to educate licensed local pastors; the new Candler Center for Christian Leadership to refine business-related skills of United Methodist leaders; and La Mesa Academy, offering diplomas in pastoral leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish, English, and Korean.

One of the biggest news items of the year for Candler is the announcement that after nearly 18 years, Dean Jan Love will step down from Candler's deanship in the summer of 2024. Through Dean Love's transformational leadership, Candler has expanded to offer three new degrees, five new dual degrees, and more online and hybrid options, including the highly successful hybrid MDiv and DMin degrees. She has increased the diversity of Candler's faculty and student body, continued the school's tradition of world-class scholarship in hiring 75% of the current full-time faculty, and grown the number of endowed professorships. Her efforts have enhanced Candler's ability to fulfill its mission in a rapidly changing environment, and she leaves the school in a strong position. The next dean of Candler is expected to be named by early summer.

Candler depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu.

—Office of Communications

Candler School of Theology, Emory University

32. Drew University Theological School

Drew University Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church and society. Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, several classes meet exclusively online, while other meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person. This is also the case with chapel worship which originates in Seminary Hall, but also is live streamed so that students around the world participate. Drew Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church.

In Fall 2023 Drew Theological School welcomed 104 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by head count) growing from 364 students in Fall 2021 to 407 in Fall 2023 semester. Enrollment of international students at Drew increased from 120 students in Fall 2021 to 169 students in Fall 2023. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promotes adaptive leadership skills, and encourages innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across all aspects of the teaching and learning: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School has an increase in United Methodist students, additionally, Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States, and especially within our nearby regional United Methodist conferences of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York Annual Conference.

Edwin David Aponte

Drew University Theological School, Dean and Professor of Religion & Culture

33. Duke University Divinity School

Duke Divinity School can attest to the work of God's Spirit to usher us into a season of hope and continued faithfulness to the mission and calling to serve the church, academy, and the world. In 2023, the Duke University president and provost appointed Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric for a full five-year term.

In the next three years, we will celebrate a number of centennial milestones: Duke University and The Duke Endowment (2024), the 17th centennial of the Council of Nicaea (2025), and Duke Divinity School (2026). As a foretaste of those occasions to reflect and celebrate, we have had two important milestone celebrations in 2023. The Office of Black Church Studies (OBCS) commemorated its 50th anniversary.

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale (D'79) received Duke University's Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions in ministry and service. The Hispanic House of Studies (HHS) celebrated its quinceañera (15th anniversary). HHS was created by the Divinity School, with support from The Duke Endowment, to support the formation of ministers to Hispanic/Latinx congregations and communities in the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Annual Conferences and beyond. These efforts extend throughout our academic and ministerial programs. For instance, we now offer the "Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism" course in Spanish on Divinity+.

This fall, we welcomed 215 entering students from 35 different states and 16 other countries. The Master of Divinity program gained 104 new students, with 54 residential students and 50 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled 13 new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 22; Master of Theology, 11; Master of Theological Studies, 29; the Doctor of Theology welcomed five new students to campus, and five special students enrolled. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed 11 residential students to campus and 15 in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 31 percent of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white.

Duke Divinity School continues to invest in pathways to support Methodist leadership and pastoral formation. Divinity+ launched the Church Administration series focused on developing practical skills for church leaders. More than 1,000 learners have enrolled in the first two courses, "Theology and Time Management" and "Strategic Management." We inaugurated the Certificate in Chaplaincy, designed to prepare students to provide spiritual care in a variety of settings such as hospitals, hospice, prisons, higher education, and the military. The certificate can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Th.M., and M.T.S. degree programs.

The school has also welcomed new leaders who bring their gifts to the work of advancing the mission to serve Christ and the church. The Office of Black Church Studies is led by the Rev. Dr. Eric Lewis Williams (D'05), assistant professor of theology and Black Church Studies; and the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies has named the Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough (D'83), Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of the Practice of Anglican Studies. Key members who have joined our staff team include Anita Lumpkin, executive director of enrollment management; and the Rev. Sarah Belles, a Duke Divinity alumna and ordained elder in full connection with the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, as the director of student life.

With gratitude to funding from the Lilly Endowment, the Divinity School has launched the Transformative Preaching Lab to prepare creative, culturally competent preachers who can reach audiences in effective and engaging ways. It will expand preaching training for students in the hybrid M.Div. program with new courses and preaching laboratories and new capacities to explore and engage digital tools for community worship and preaching. The Transformative Preaching Lab also provides new opportunities for formation in trauma-informed preaching and preaching in immigrant communities.

The Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative has launched the Mental Health Track for Christian mental health practitioners as part of its Certificate in Theology and Health Care. This hybrid certificate program offers spiritual and theological formation for mental health clinicians in a range of disciplines. The research and programming from Duke Divinity initiatives, including Theology, Medicine, and Culture; Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts; Leadership Education at Duke Divinity; and Thriving Rural Communities, continue to provide numerous opportunities to bear witness to God's creativity, compassion, and care for communities and congregations.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference.

Respectfully submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean of Duke Divinity School

34. Gammon Theological Seminary

Gammon Theological Seminary is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member in Atlanta, Georgia. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities. Gammon was founded in 1883, bearing the name of the Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, a generous clergyman, businessman, and philanthropist. Rev. Elijah H. Gammon invested and endowed the founding of Gammon Seminary in partnership with Bishop Henry Warren and the Freedman's Aid Society. Gammon has educated Black Clergy for almost 140 years, with graduates serving every level of the church, including Bishops, Superintendents, General church leaders, Conference staff, and Clergy in every jurisdiction. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. The support given to The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education.

Our 17th President/Dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, and the Gammon staff team continue to lead innovatively in chartering a "Brand New Day" for Gammon's recruitment, retention, research and resources, fund development, and scholarship endowments in her first two years of service.

Our new initiatives and celebrations this year, 2023 – 2024, at Gammon, include:

- In May 2023, Gammon held our 1st Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, receiving \$70,000 in donations to assist students with their tuition, which also helped Gammon build more relationships and partnerships.
- In June 2023, The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship Fund was launched by Dr. Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey) and Dr. Walter Kimbrough with a \$50,000.00 matching gift in partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.
- In June 2023, The Florida Conference raised and donated over \$ 60,000.00 to the Rev. Geraldine McClellan Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is now fully endowed by the Florida United Methodist Foundation.
- In July 2023 and December 2023, Gammon hosted the Ebony Exploration Event for 75 young adults under 35, increasing participation and forming strategic partnerships with external organizations to enhance the program's reach and impact.
- In December 2023, we celebrated our 140th Founders Day Event/Pastors and Leaders Conference, with over two hundred persons attending workshops (in person and virtual) and our Scholarship Gala Dinner, hosted at IMPACT Church in Atlanta, GA.

The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the significant debt our students incur as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is committed to raising a million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students called and committed to full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church. We are grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, *President-Dean*

35. General Board of Higher Education & Ministry

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) embraces the ministry of learning and leadership formation in the Wesleyan and United Methodist tradition and serves Christian leaders who are shaped by a process of intellectual engagement, spiritual and character formation, and leadership development.

In 2023, GBHEM launched a new mission to bring people together to **discern, learn, and lead** for the Church and the Academy. The updated mission reflects GBHEM's desire to create a world where everyone is living fully into God's call on their lives. We strive to equip and empower those who engage with us as we prayerfully make progress toward our shared mission and ministry goals.

GBHEM programs like Exploration, Journey Towards Ordained Ministry (JTOM), and Passage UMC, support the development of Methodist leadership in The United Methodist Church. Passage UMC, a central tracking solution for candidates and clergy, tracks progress toward vocational goals in the United Methodist Church, making the operations and procedures of the ministry credentialing process easier while simultaneously increasing

transparency in the credentialing process. GBHEM spent a tremendous amount of time observing the needs of users of the original UMCares, and then built a user experience that provides clarity and confidence so that the focus can remain not on administration but on the journey.

Education is a core value of The United Methodist Church and one that helped define the Methodist movement in John Wesley's 18th century England. Wesley believed education was the key to a fuller, richer life, and it helped to form leaders within the church. One of the first pronouncements of the first Methodist Education Committee in 1837 was that Methodists should encourage education, which may begin in an infant school and end in Heaven. We continue to discover ways the denomination can advocate and support our United Methodist schools, colleges, and universities across the globe.

Alleviating student debt through financial support remains a priority for GBHEM. The GBHEM Office of Scholarships awarded over \$3.9 million in scholarships to 2,100 students in 2023. Scholarships were awarded to students from all over the world, including fifty-four annual conferences and two central conferences. In addition, GBHEM also stewarded the distribution of \$20,000,000 in grants and scholarships to United Methodist ministries.

Because of your generous support, each year approximately \$10 million is apportioned for the eleven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUS) related to the church through The Black College Fund. The funds are utilized for enhancing capital improvements, providing scholarships to students in need, and providing resources for faculty, staff, and students.

Among its various activities, GBHEM is also responsible for two initiatives approved by General Conference: The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD) – which includes the Grants and Scholarships Program (GRASP) – and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF). The CCTEF helps advance theological education in all central conferences by strengthening theological institutions, creating networks among these schools, and increasing access to theological education.

GBHEM has also deepened its commitment to partner in mission and ministry through our inter-agency partnership work, worldwide associations, and advocacy for equitable funding strategies. As a worldwide agency, we collaborate with key partners, churches, and institutions in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Eurasia, Latin American and the Caribbean, and North America.

We celebrate our partnership with you and express gratitude for your support of Methodist leaders as we continue to collaborate as fruitful partners in developing faithful leaders for the Church and the Academy.

Sincerely,

Greg Bergquist, *General Secretary*

36. Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Curriculum revision offers shorter paths to degrees

Beginning in the fall of 2024, MTSO will offer incoming master's degree students a slate of revised programs offering clear, achievable paths to their vocations. This curriculum revision will give most students the opportunity to complete their degrees in less time. Under the updated curriculum, the Master of Divinity degree requires 75 credit hours and is achievable in three years. The Master of Theological Studies, MA in Public Theology, and MA in Social Justice require 39 hours and are achievable in two years.

The revised curriculum for each master's degree is organized around four cores: the Values Core, Methods Core, Vocational Electives Core and Integrative Core. Detailed information is available at mtso.edu/degreeupdates.

The MA in Public Theology gets a new name and updated focus

MTSO's newly revised MA in Public Theology degree (formerly the MA in Practical Theology) deepens the knowledge and skills of those working to build societal peace, justice and the common good. The MAPT offers formation for the next generation of practical, public theologians by cultivating abilities for negotiating the dynamic interplay in these areas: Christian heritage, congregational culture and contemporary society; theological, educational and social- science disciplines; and the diversities of human and creaturely existence.

Cross-cultural immersion is expanded

Previously required for the Master of Divinity and MA in Social Justice degrees, cross-cultural immersion trips are now required for all MTSO master's degrees and are covered by tuition. Cross-cultural immersion is not a mission trip. Rather, it is an opportunity to learn from and fully experience another culture, rather than attempting to "help" or impact cultures different from one's own. Trips nurture a global perspective and serve as a foundation for learning to respect the rich diversity of beliefs and practices in the wider church.

Participants in the January 2024 cross-cultural trip visited South Africa. Upcoming destinations include Mexico and Italy.

Respectfully submitted
 Danny Russell, *Director of Communications*

37. Mission Central

With the support of churches throughout the Susquehanna Conference, we successfully completed our 21st year of existence. We are grateful that we are still able to achieve our mission of connecting God's resources with human need, despite the changing climate of the world. Needs locally and throughout the world continue to grow, allowing us to meet them in new and expanded ways. Your time, talents, support and generosity have been instrumental in allowing us to assist over 6 million people across the globe during 2023.

Our major programs throughout 2023 were Mission Central kits, international relief and disaster response, Domestic disaster response through our UMCOR affiliate warehouse status (the largest of seven throughout the country), school program, medical program, clothing and shoe program, cleaning/hygiene program, animal food program and more. Additionally, we continue to provide low cost/no cost warehouse space and a wide variety of services to in-house nonprofits that provide assistance to those in need through food, computers, furniture, housewares, linens, diapers, feminine hygiene products, and more.

We remain committed and faithful to God's plan for Mission Central and work daily to discern God's plan for our future. We know that God is leading us to meet needs in ways we never expected, and we are following that guidance in all that we do. In 2023, we implemented a new partner organization application and process in order to better streamline our efforts. This has allowed us to ensure that our resources are reaching people with the most need. We also began the process to create our next strategic plan, which will provide us with a pathway to reach even more people in need.

The "God Moments" we see and experience continue to occur on an almost daily basis. We thank God for allowing us to continue to grow to meet the ever-changing human needs around the world.

2023 WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION TOTALS

TOTAL WAREHOUSE MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION: \$17,425,019

TOTAL LIVES TOUCHED: 6,327,396

All this was achieved with just six staff members and 4,300 volunteers, who donated time valued at over \$496,000. We would not be successful without the help of our wonderful volunteers. Our \$600,000 budget is funded entirely by individuals, churches, organizations, businesses, and grant funders.

Thank you for your support. We are so grateful for the financial support, material donation support and donation of time and talents. You are the hands of feet of Christ, and so many lives have been changed through your support!

Respectfully submitted,
 Hope Harrison
Executive Director

38. Pennsylvania Council of Churches

We celebrate the work of the Susquehanna Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We affirm your commitment to creating spiritual transformational leaders, equipping congregations for vital worship and growth and global ministry.

Addressing the Future

In the past year, the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and I have grown concerned about the future effectiveness of the organization. This has been a particular focus for me as the executive director. This led our leadership to initiate a vision process which included guidance from consultant, Susan Loucks. This was a significant step for the Council of Churches. The executive director has been intentional about reaching out to member churches and constituents to engage in conversations about the future of the Council. We made significant strides in this endeavor.

Reflective Leadership Grant

When I find myself in a frenzy it is important for me to pause, reflect and assess. This has been a time of discernment for me, personally. I decided to also enter a period of discernment about the future of the Council and my leadership role within it. In 2023 I sought and received a Reflective Leadership Grant from the Duke University Divinity School;

1 this grant is designed to create reflection time with respect to the organization and my leadership role moving
 2 forward with the future and objectives of the Council of Churches. I have the conviction that the Pennsylvania
 3 Council of Churches must take a deep dive into the question of who we are and what our future is to be. Integrity
 4 requires me to take a transparent approach to this subject. The Pennsylvania Council of Churches will not have a
 5 future if it is enmeshed in the status quo. For me to equip myself, I am seeking a 30,000-foot view of my work and
 6 the Council of Churches to ascertain the vision steps that must be taken going forward.

7 The Reflective Leadership Grant is an opportunity that can be spread out over an 18-month period. I am availing
 8 myself to learning opportunities to enhance my scope of vision and assist in the formation of strategies for moving
 9 forward personally and as a Council of Churches. The Reflective Leadership Grant also assists in any coverage
 10 needed when I would be traveling. This allows for a stipend for a chief of staff, who is available at times that my
 11 travel would take me away from the Council of Churches for extended periods. The grant allows me to experience
 12 the work of other organizations as we consider best practices that we can implement within the Council of Churches.
 13 I plan to visit the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the New York Council of Churches, the Minnesota Council of
 14 Churches, the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and the New Mexico Council of Churches.

15 **Conversation on Policing**

16 In May of 2023 in partnership with other community advocates we spearheaded a Summit on Policing sponsored
 17 by the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and Penn Live. This
 18 effort was designed to do three things: 1. enter into a scholarly discussion about the policing of Black men, 2.
 19 present the experiences of local citizens and law enforcement and 3. address the development of strategies for
 20 community policing that respects people of color. Our speaker was Mr. Paul Butler, the Albert Brick Professor in
 21 Law at Georgetown University Law Center, and a legal analyst on MSNBC. He is also a contributing opinion writer
 22 for The Washington Post. Professor Butler is a significant contributor on issues of race and criminal justice. His
 23 work has been profiled on 60 Minutes, Nightline, and the ABC, CBS, and NBC Evening News. His book "*Chokehold:
 24 Policing Black Men*" was published in July 2017. W.E.B. Dubois wrote about the double consciousness of being
 25 Black and he asked this question: "How does it feel to be a problem." The essence of this question is grounded in
 26 the Black experience. This served as a backdrop for our conversation on policing in communities of color. Living in
 27 the miasma of the extrajudicial killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tyre Nichols,
 28 and others there is a gap to which our faith communities and people of good will are called to fill. This was a
 29 conversation about public safety, policing, and the culture of law enforcement. We advocate for a policing posture
 30 that is community friendly and does not impose a terroristic threat grounded in violence and brute power over
 31 persons because of the color of their skin.

32 This was a forum that sought problem-solving action. The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is committed to
 33 playing a part in creating policy and solutions whenever possible and needed in relation to criminal justice reform.
 34 This was merely a beginning, and you will be hearing more from us as it relates to this work.

35 **Participation in the GEM School**

36 Co-organized by the World Council of Churches, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Lutheran World
 37 Federation, World Methodist Council, and Council for World Mission, the Ecumenical School for Governance,
 38 Economics and Management responds to recommendations outlined in the "Sao Paulo Statement: International
 39 Financial transformation for an Economy of Life" and in the document "Economy of Life for All Now: An Ecumenical
 40 Action Plan for a New International Financial and Economic Architecture," which identified as a priority the
 41 development of competencies in economics within churches. Presently churches' ethical, moral, and theological
 42 perspectives on the workings of the global economy have minimal impact on financial and economic policies,
 43 business practices and ways of thinking. To address this gap, the GEM School aims to build economic literacy
 44 within churches by equipping participants with the tools and languages to effectively advocate for urgent
 45 transformations in the global financial and economic realm. This was a two-week course that took place in Kuala
 46 Lumpur, Malaysia.

47 **The All Africa Council of Churches General Assembly- 48 Abuja, Nigeria-2023**

49 The executive director participated in the assembly as a guest representing the African diaspora. Ecumenism
 50 involves making connections. With respect to this journey engaging people of the African Diaspora, making the
 51 connections is critical. I attended the 12th All Africa Conference General Assembly in Rwanda in 2018, where
 52 conversations began in about working together on common issues of concerns that we share as Africans and people
 53 of the African Diaspora. This also connects with my participation in the two forums of the United Nation's Permanent
 54 Forum for People of African Descent. I also plan to participate in the third session that will occur in April 2024 in
 55 Geneva, Switzerland. This has provided an important framework for our work as we jointly face the impact of the

trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, and apartheid. Our conversations have included the importance of reparatory justice as it relates to the development needs necessitated by this history of oppression and economic exploitation.

Attending the Ecumenical School for Governance, Economics and Management was also quite pivotal in relation to the All Africa Conference of Churches. This school was held in tandem with the gathering of the New International Financial and Economic Architecture. This work was spawned by the work of the All-Africa Council of Churches. Through the leadership of the All-Africa Conference of Churches the Zacchaeus Tax (ZacTax) campaign, which formed part of the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) initiative was promoted by the All-Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Council for World Mission (CWM), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), World Methodist Council (WMC), and World Council of Churches (WCC). The participation of the executive director was to create mission relationships with United Methodist and other Methodist congregations and leadership in West Africa.

Community Engagement

I took part in the celebration, along with Pastor Dale Snyder (Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church), bishops Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (United Methodist) and Kurt Kusserow (ELCA), of a historic agreement between the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey Club. More than 60 years ago, Bethel Church was forced to give up its sanctuary, compensated for what it says was a fraction of its value, to an urban renewal project that wiped out the heart of an African American neighborhood known as the Hill District. Now, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is poised to recoup some of that loss and reclaim a spot near its former home. It has reached an agreement with the Pittsburgh Penguins — the NHL franchise that now holds development rights to the site near its current arena — for the church to use a 1.5-acre parcel that it envisions using for housing and other revenue-generating development. This is amazing history that is being made. The Council of Churches has been proud to provide accompaniment in this process of reparatory justice.

The executive director also participated in the following events: the annual meeting of the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Saving Lives: Ending Gun Violence Prayer Service and Dialogue held at the St. Stephen Episcopal Cathedral in Harrisburg. The Juneteenth Heart, Love and Action demonstration at the Dauphin County Prison that focused on prisoner treatment and transparency at the institution and the Christian Unity Gathering of the National Council of Churches in Nashville, TN. The executive director attended and gave greetings to the Annual Council of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Conclusion

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches celebrates its partnership with the Susquehanna Annual Conference. We hope that there will be even greater opportunities for collaboration in 2024.

Larry D. Pickens, *Executive Director*

39. Pennsylvanians Concerned About Alcohol Problems

God has blessed us! We are currently scheduled to teach 10 subjects in school districts in several counties. In the 2023-24 school year we taught 265 classes, over 5000 students.

Our newest highlight was our first Homeschool Event. We gathered at Fulton County Library in McConnellsburg. The 40 attendees were parents and children (ages 5-18). The morning session started with a few hymns and then prayer. How refreshing it was to be able to speak directly to the group about God's view of man's freedom to choose. We spoke specifically of the area of drug use for recreational purposes. Since the morning group was for younger children, we used stories to make our point. Ask us about "Sammy the Snake!" We watched a series of cartoon lessons focused on good decision making, especially when peer pressure was involved. Ask us about the "Wise Old Owl". The after-lunch lessons were designed for the older group. We got into the negative effects of substances such as alcohol, marijuana, opioids, tobacco, and other commonly abused drugs. After the event we were approached by a benefactor who expressed interest in funding these types of events in the future!

PCAP offerings:

- For schools: We offer a menu of drug education subjects. We also work diligently to stay up to date on the drug use trends that are influencing teens. Everything is driven by the teachers' expectations and data from reliable reports. We are also scheduled to speak at several churches throughout the state. More to come!
- For churches: We are always interested in speaking the Message of Christ, how the ever-changing world has drawn whole families away from God's teaching and how we can help your ministry best meet the needs of the community in our area of expertise.

Contact us soon and consider how we can help you with the drug education needs of your church families. Our church speaking schedule fills up fast! The Lord has heard our prayers for doors to open and needed finances to be met!

Feel free to call our office with your mail/email information. We also accept donations via PayPal by visiting www.pacap.org. Of course, we thank you in advance for your continued prayers and financial support. As you know, the cost of doing any ministry has not decreased.

We will always need your financial support and are available for all of your questions and concerns.

Thank you,

Rev. Don H. Wert, *PCAP President*

Barry W. Heckman, *Educator, Speaker, PCAP Deacon*

40. Quincy Village-Presbyterian Senior Living

Gifts

During 2023, a total of \$760,400 was donated in support of the ministry of providing housing, personal care and skilled nursing services at Quincy Village Retirement Community.

Activities

Efforts to connect Quincy Village community members with one another and the world continued in 2023. We were blessed by the generosity of many and in a variety of forms of donations throughout the year. A few highlights include:

- Team members of Quincy Village donated through an employee giving campaign to support programs and services, resident activities and events, and a fund established for fellow employees experiencing financial emergencies. In total, over \$4,500 was raised through this effort.
- At a time when volunteer auxiliaries are struggling to maintain membership, Quincy Village's Auxiliary is going strong. Through their fundraising efforts and through the operation of the Village Thrift Shop, they were able to donate over \$82,000 to Quincy Village in 2023. Their support of the skilled nursing program and the personal care and assisted living programs aid Quincy greatly in meeting the needs of those programs.
- A most generous gift of \$40,000 in support from a local church provided support for those in need of financial assistance for their care.
- Estate gifts in 2023 totaled over \$565,000. These gifts, left to Quincy by both Quincy Village residents and community-at-large members provided support for those in personal care, assisted living and skilled nursing who had, through no fault of their own, outlived their resources. Unable to personally provide for their care, these estate gifts contributed greatly to our ability to meet their needs.
- Memorial gifts to Quincy Village in memory of those we lost throughout the year totaled over \$4,600.

Quincy Village Retirement Community is richly blessed by the thoughtfulness, prayers and support of many in our Village community and our community-at-large

Volunteer Hours –

A total of 14,073 volunteer hours were donated by Quincy Village residents in 2023 to either Quincy Village programs and services, or within the community at large. This dedication of time and talents has a value of \$447,521 worth of service. *Independent Sector Releases New Value of Volunteer Time of \$31.80 per hour.*

Maggie Bowley

Vice President of Resource Development

41. United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania

The coming year will be one of the most important elections in American history. Americans are preparing for a rematch of President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, who was defeated in the 2020 elections. The candidates have very different world views as well as perspectives on America's place in the world.

The outcome of the 2024 elections could have a profound impact on our communities and on our churches as we are challenged to help bridge the divides that will inevitably deepen no matter who is elected.

It is expected that Pennsylvania voters will play a key role in who walks into the White House in 2025, and it's important to note that Democrats have had some major victories in recent elections, including electing a Democratic governor, rejecting a candidate who supported the former president and lined up with the most conservative members of the Republican party.

Pennsylvanians also will have to decide several congressional races as well as select a new attorney general. As United Methodists, our Social Principles provide some guidance on looking for candidates who support our ideals of creating a more just, equitable, and anti-racist society.

Among the most important issues facing voters and that impact the church include:

- Overturning of Roe v Wade and its impact on women and girls
- Advocating for compassion and support for people suffering from war in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti
- Humane treatment of immigrants
- Protecting the environment and mitigating the disastrous impacts of climate change
- Supporting economic policies that help alleviate poverty
- Supporting the rights of LGBTQ+ people and ensuring laws protect them from violence and abuse
- Ensuring all Americans have access to quality, affordable healthcare, including prescription drugs

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro started his term of office focused on helping women by requiring insurance companies pay for breast screenings for women at high-risk of contracting breast cancer. This year, he also has included in his 2024 budget increases in the pay for workers who provide vital in-home care to people with disabilities. The legislature will need to pass the governor's recommended budget before thousands of people seeking financial relief will get any sign of help.

There are many important issues now developing about which we, as United Methodists, should stay informed. They include:

■ **Gun control:**

As the nation grapples with the increasing tragedies of mass shootings, there are increasing calls for strengthening gun laws as a way to stop them. United Methodists will need to decide if they support what advocates say are sensible gun laws to keep weapons out of the hands of criminals or people with mental health issues. We should expect the pressure from gun control advocates to mount, especially if another mass shooting occurs in our country, or in our region.

■ **Cost of prescription drugs:**

Patient advocates are calling for the state legislature to regulate the practice of Pharmacy Benefits Managers, middle-men companies that control patient access to often life-saving medications. These PBMs, as they are called, are very powerful and focused on ensuring profits for health insurers. Many seriously ill people are worried they are conspiring to make medications too expensive, thus forcing them off the health insurers rolls.

■ **Kids in Prison:**

It's been more than two years since a high-level task force appointed by the state legislature and Gov. Tom Wolf concluded drastic changes were needed in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to ensure children accused of crimes are treated humanely. Since the report from the bipartisan committee, nothing has been done to rectify the horrendous abuses of children placed in adult prisons, many for non-violent offenses.

■ **Education reform:**

Efforts are underway to provide more choice for parents who want to give their children greater opportunities for educational success. Gov. Shapiro had initially indicated support for school choice, but after opposition from unions, he has backed away from his support for allowing state funds to be directed to private, parochial and charter schools. This issue is likely to come to a head this year, and United Methodists will need to decide whether they want to support state funds going exclusively to public schools, or a portion allocated to alternative education models.

■ **Ongoing Mental Health Crisis:**

In all levels of society – from workplaces to schools to churches, people are still suffering emotional and mental distress. Advocates believe there need to be more school counselors trained in how to deal with mental health issues, and there needs to be more outreach to elderly people, many of whom may be feeling alone and isolated. These are all areas our church can impact with the saving message of Jesus Christ.

The current situation in our communities provides significant opportunities for our church to support those in need of compassion, understanding and kindness. It offers an opportunity for spiritual guidance to help those desperate for emotional support. But it also offers an opportunity for advocacy and activism.

1 Mental health professionals need our voices to call for more funding to add school counselors and provide
 2 professional help to those in need. They need people contacting their legislators urging them to include funding for
 3 mental health services in the state budget.

4 There are many ways we can help address the mental health crisis.

5 One example is the chaplaincy program at the Nativity School in Harrisburg, a middle school for African American
 6 and Latino boys. The weekly chapel and monthly dinner service offer spiritual support for students, parents, and
 7 faculty. The monthly community dinners are providing a spiritual haven for those who won't step into a church, but
 8 who will come to their child's school.

9 Similar programs could be started in communities throughout the state, taking the church to those in need rather
 10 than waiting for them to come to us.

11 We will need to stay informed and connected this coming year, we have organized several ways to do so. First,
 12 you should sign up for the United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania blog, where you will find new information
 13 each week about the most important issues in Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world.

14 If you want to stay informed about issues important to Pennsylvania and to United Methodists, please check the PA
 15 Advocacy Facebook page, Twitter/X feeds and the PA Advocacy blog. I am regularly posting information about
 16 developments in the state legislature, important news stories, and of course, links to the editorials I write for
 17 PennLive & the Patriot-News.

18 As a representative of the Pennsylvania UMC, I am actively engaged with the Pennsylvania Council of Churches
 19 as a member of the Executive Committee of its Board of Directors. I have undertaken the role of treasurer for the
 20 organization and am working to unite our Christian churches in a strong voice to influence local, state, and national
 21 affairs.

22 It's important to note again that my work as advocacy coordinator is focused on magnifying the voices of our
 23 clergy and lay leaders in our communities and throughout the state. My position as Opinion Editor for PennLive
 24 enables me to keep close tabs on political developments as well as social issues impacting our communities. I am
 25 in regular contact with many elected officials, and I have helped to publish several op-eds and letters to the editor
 26 from our church leaders.

27 I encourage both laity and clergy to take advantage of the opportunity to influence elected officials and legislation.
 28 I regret to say the voices of too few faith leaders are reflected on newspaper editorial pages throughout the nation.
 29 In Pennsylvania, you have an open door to share your perspectives on everything from gun violence, to banning
 30 books in schools to providing more funding from your tax dollars to help people with disabilities.

31 The United Methodist Church in Pennsylvania can be a powerful force for good with significant influence in the
 32 state legislature and the governor's office -- if we but use our voice for good. When we speak with one voice, when
 33 we are united or a common cause, people listen. Powerful people take note. Doors open easily for us. We only
 34 need to galvanize our power to exert a mighty influence on local, regional, and state affairs.

35 I invite you to engage with us on social media, including on the blog, Facebook, and Twitter. And I encourage
 36 you to help us as advocates for Jesus Christ in our commonwealth and throughout the world.

37 *Joyce M. Davis, Advocacy Coordinator, UMC Pennsylvania*

42. United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania

38 The Board of Directors and Staff of the United Methodist Foundation of Pennsylvania strive to deliver excellent
 39 services and information to support the stewardship ministry of individuals, churches, and organizations that share
 40 common religious bonds and convictions within the Western Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Annual Conferences.

41 In 2023, the Foundation faced challenges due to disaffiliations in both annual conferences. Despite this, the
 42 Foundation experienced net deposits through the 3rd quarter and received additional principal withdrawals in the
 43 fourth quarter. Actual activity showed more principal withdrawals than principal deposits. However, due to market
 44 conditions and cost monitoring, the Foundation was able to generate modest excess revenue over expenses. This
 45 allowed the board of directors to strengthen its operating, annuity, and capital reserves.

46 Throughout the year, the Foundation continued planning and executing the implementation of the October 2021
 47 merger. The migration of assets from the Legacy UMSF outsourced investment office and sub accounting platform
 48 to the Legacy WPA outsourced investment office and sub accounting platform was completed.

49 The Foundation's primary activity is providing professional funds management in adherence to the Social
 50 Principles of the Denomination. With nearly \$165 million under management, the board, through the Investment
 51 Committee, oversees the work of our engaged, outsourced investment office and professional managers to
 52 generate income from these funds. This income supports capital projects, the growth of Christ's ministry, and

ongoing program needs to build the Kingdom of God. The administrative fee charged to the funds also supports the overall ministry of Christ through the Foundation.

Collaboration between board and staff members is a key aspect of the Foundation's work. Together, they design program activities, grant awards, and participate in decision-making processes to expand the church's impact on the Kingdom of God. In 2023, the Foundation provided a grants webinar, other timely webinars, completed its eighth class of the Pastors' Leadership Academy for Stewardship Formation, and finished its second cohort of the Empowered Church Project class. These formative educational experiences positively impacted the nearly 56 participants and the churches they serve. Timely educational events were also offered throughout the year via webinars to support and complement the stewardship ministry of churches and other organizations within both Annual Conferences.

The Foundation awarded a total of 138 grants, amounting to \$672,289, from various funds such as the Stewart Endowment Fund, the Rev. Paul Taylor Ministry Opportunity Fund, the Wesleyan Heritage Fund, and the Smith Charitable Gift Fund. While significant, these grant awards are overshadowed by the Foundation's primary ministry of funds management, which distributed nearly \$6.5 million for mission and ministry to impact the Kingdom of God.

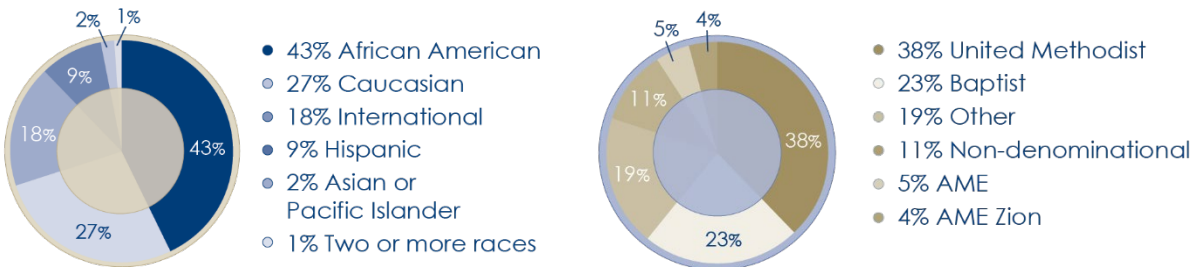
The Foundation's Annual Meeting, held at the Cranberry Twp Marriott in June, provided an opportunity for stakeholders and constituents to celebrate the ministry of Christ through the Foundation. The meeting included a review of financial and investment summaries, as well as highlights of the Foundation's impactful work.

The Foundation is proud to be a supporting organization of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference and to serve the regions of both the WPA and Susquehanna Annual Conferences. Moving forward, we are committed to providing responsible and faithful investment management for churches and agencies, planned giving opportunities for individuals to support Christian ministries, and education and support in financial stewardship and leadership as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. D. Edward Bailey, *Executive Director*

43. United Theological Seminary

For more than 150 years, United Theological Seminary has prepared men and women to serve as faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the seminary served 547 students, representing 36 states, 20 countries, and 43 denominations, with 38% of students identifying as United Methodist. United in Christ, the student body is a multi-ethnic, multi-racial community that is 43% African American, 27% White, 18% international, 9% Hispanic, and 2% Asian or Pacific Islander.* During the 2022-2023 academic year, 120 graduates completed their programs.



Houses of Study

United's academic programs include seven Houses of Study for denominational, church renewal, and/or language- and culture-based ministry, including online Spanish and Korean houses of study. These houses of study have enrolled over 120 new master's students in the United States and around the world.

Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center

In 2023, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, engaged more than 5,000 participants through 64 resourcing events and activities. The Center partnered with the Black Methodists for Church Renewal Laity Advocacy Committee to conduct the 2023 Laity Leadership Institution. The Center also launched a *Dynamite Prayer* movement, based on the guidebook *Dynamite Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment* (Invite Resources, 2022) by Rev. Kibbey and Rev. Dr. Rosario Picardo. Multiple United Methodist conferences and more than 90 congregations across denominations committed to be part of a Dynamite Prayer Wave and received resourcing on the practice of "breakthrough prayer."

1 **New Faces at United**

2 Over the past year, the seminary welcomed several new members to the United community. Bishop James
3 Swanson, most recently bishop of the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church, was installed as
4 United Methodist Bishop-in-Residence. Dr. Pauline Paris Buisch and Rev. Dr. Xavier L. Johnson joined the faculty
5 as Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Assistant Professor of Preaching and Black Church Studies,
6 respectively, and Dr. Eliseo Mejia came on board as the Academic Oversight Officer for the Hispanic House of
7 Study.

8 **Reducing Student Debt**

9 Finances shouldn't stand in the way of a seminary education. That's why United has launched the Fresh Wind:
10 Where the Spirit Takes Flight campaign to add \$10 million to the scholarship endowment, which will dramatically
11 increase the seminary's capacity to provide scholarships to students for many years to come. As of January 2024,
12 the seminary was more than 70% toward the \$10 million goal.

13 Dr. Kent Millard, *President*

14 * Student data represent unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2022-2023 academic year. Demographic
15 figures represent those who responded.

44. Wesley Theological Seminary

16 The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary (WTS) is to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in
17 the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

18 Despite the challenges posed by the global landscape, WTS continues to flourish, driven by our
19 commitment to excellence in theological education and community engagement:

20 **Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees:** We offer pathways to meet the
21 needs of a variety of students. Whether traditional, brick and mortar, in person study or a flexible, online, hybrid
22 model (Wesley FlexMA), WTS is committed to curating space for theological reflection, academic inquiry, and
23 practical application. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>

24 **Doctor of Ministry Degree:** WTS is a leader in DMin education offering specialized tracks of study for scholars
25 going into parish ministry, global missions, or military chaplaincy.
26 <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>

27 **Wesley Innovation Hub:** WTS received a \$1.2M grant from the Lilly Endowment and will embark on
28 groundbreaking initiatives that harness the power of technology, entrepreneurship, and interdisciplinary
29 collaboration. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

30 **Center for Public Theology:** WTS received a generous grant from the Trinity Wall Street Foundation to launch
31 "The Public Theology Fellows Program," an innovative initiative to bridge gaps between faith communities and
32 political action.

33 <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

34 **Community Engagement Institute:** WTS received a generous grant from City Seminary in NYC for the innovative,
35 immersive study and praxis of urban ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/>

36 **The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion:** WTS is thrilled to share two new exhibits, Sacred Ground,
37 which focused on the intersection of community-engaged art and spirituality; and Paradise Lost, a captivating
38 exhibition highlighting transcultural, multicultural, and interreligious narratives. <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>

39 **Lewis Center for Church Leadership:** The Lewis Center conducts leading edge research for the local church.
40 WTS is pleased to report a growing demand for transformative leadership training within religious communities.
41 <https://www.churchleadership.com/>

42 **Call us:** (202) 885-8659 **Email us:** admissions@wesleyseminary.edu. **Follow us:** Facebook/IG:
43 @WesleySeminary and LinkedIn: @WesleyTheologicalSeminary

44 Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, *President*

45 Submitted by Lyvonne Briggs, *Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing*

45. Committee on Nominations

REPORT 4-A: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES NOMINATIONS

x=Elected Position *=Laity (00)=First elected/appointed _____=Newly Considered
 A=Altoona H=Harrisburg L=Lewisburg Y-York
 SWB=Scranton/Wilkes-Barre SC=State College W=Williamsport

1. COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (2016 Book of Discipline ¶612.2)

1.1 **Officers: President:** James P. Bohanan (Y)

1.2 **Voting Members:**

1.2.1 **Lay:**

x*Shari Bellish	H	(24)
x*Darcy Brenner-Smith	H	(23)
x*John Konieczny	H	(20)
x*Alan Larson	SC	(16)
x*Marvin Meteer	W	(16)
x*David Ogden	A	(20)
<u>x*Michelle Williams</u>	H	(24)
x*Open		

1.2.2 **Clergy:**

x Karen Atanasoff	H	(16)
x James P Bohanan	Y	(16)
x Kelly Kocher Ross	L	(20)
x David Kominsky	Y	(23)
x David McElwee	A	(20)
<u>x Rebecca McGee</u>	Y	(24)
<u>x Hannah Sledge</u>	H	(24)
<u>x Thomas Swingle</u>	(SWB)	(24)

1.2.3 **Elected Member of GCF&A, if any:**

1.2.4 **Elected Member of NEJCF&A, if any:**

1.3 **Non-Voting Members**

1.3.1 **Treasurer/Conference Benefits Officer:** *Mark Knecht

1.3.2 **Past President:** Timothy Baer (12)

1.3.3 **Conference Superintendent appointed by Cabinet:** Gary Weaver H (23)

1.3.4 **Director of Connectional Ministries or Representative:** Kathleen Kind H (22)

1.3.5 **Presiding Bishops:** Cynthia Moore-Koikoi; Sandra Steiner Ball

1.3.6 **Representative of the Bishop:** Thomas Salsgiver H (20)

++(Paragraph 612.2 of The Discipline states CFA members are elected at the Annual Conference following the General Conference. Since General Conference has been postponed, voting members remain in place. Names underlined are being nominated to fill current vacancies.)

2. BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY (2016 Book of Discipline ¶635.1)

2.1 **Officers: Chair:** Mira Hewlett

2.2 **Voting Members nominated by Bishop:**

x Robin Baer	Y	(20)	x*Christina McDermott	H	(17)
x Audrey Brosious	L	(19)	x Calvin Miller	SC	(17)
x Rebecca Cuddeback	L	(22)	<u>x Greg Myers</u>	H	(24)
x Ryan Gephart	A	(16)	x Julia Piper	SC	(15)
x Alison Grove	Y	(22)	<u>x Mark Reisinger</u>	L	(24)
x Mira Hewlett, <i>Chair</i>	H	(13)	x Stephanie Rupert	SC	(22)
x Rebecca Holland	SWB	(22)	<u>x Charles Salisbury</u>	H	(24)
x Tenny Hutchinson	SWB	(22)	x Stephen Salisbury, <i>Vice Chair</i>	H	(16)
<u>x Beth Jones</u>	W	(24)	x*Cynthia Willis	L	(17)
x Brenda Leigey	SC	(22)	x Randy Willis	A	(16)
x Larry Leland	W	(16)	<u>x Daniel Wilt</u>	W	(24)
x Brian Lucas	Y	(18)	x Rachel Wong	H	(18)
x John Mackey	SWB	(22)			

3. STUDENT AID FUND BOARD OF MANAGERS3.1 **Officers: President:** Richard Smith3.2 **Voting Members:**3.2.1 **Laity, after consultation with President of Board of Managers and Chair of BOOM:**

x*Bruce Brown	H	(23)	x*Denise McConahy	A	(17)
x*James Hutchison	SWB	(23)	x*Barry Rake	W	(18)
x*Rachel Karwowski	SC	(20)	x*Joyce Wert	H	(16)

3.2.2 **Ministerial Members, after consultation with President of Board of Managers and Chair of BOOM:**

x Candace Arnold	Y	(17)	x Susan Knorr	L	(23)
x Terence Brosius	Y	(18)	x Eric Luczak	SWB	(18)
x Mark Brower	A	(17)	x Rebecca McGee	Y	(23)
x OPEN			x Richard Smith	Y	(18)

3.2.3 **Conference Superintendent appointed by Cabinet:** Lillian Smith A (24)3.2.4 **Executive Secretary:** Nicholas Keeney H (13)**Executive Secretary Emeritus:** Ronald McElwee Y (13)3.2.5 **BOOM Representative, appointed by BOOM:** TBD**4. BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS (2016 Book of Discipline ¶639.2)**4.1 **Officers: Chair:** TBD4.2 **Voting Members:**

	Class of 2028		Class of 2032		
4.2.1 Laymen					
	x*Phil Reid	SWB (18)		x*Randy Weir	A (23)
	x*Dave Jenkins	H (21)		x*Open	Y (21)
4.2.2 Laywomen					
	x*Janice Dreese	L (12)		x*Open	H (16)
	x*Susan Jones	L (21)		x*Open	SWB (10)
4.2.3 Clergymen and Clergywomen					
	x Richard Conklin	SC (12)		x Open	
	x G Edward Corcelius	SC (10)		x Open	
	x John Piper	W (23)		x Thomas Sanagorski	Y (10)
	x H Douglas Posegate	SWB (20)		x Samuel Velez-Irizarry	Y (11)
	x Karen Weiss	SC (23)		x Jennifer Williams	H (23)
4.2.4 Elected Member of General Board of Pensions, if any:					
				*Glenn Heisey	H (19)

4.3 **Non-Voting Members**4.3.1 **Treasurer/Conference Benefits Officer:** *Mark Knecht4.3.2 **Conference Benefits Administrator:** TBD4.3.3 **Conference Superintendent appointed by Cabinet:** Gary Weaver H (20)**5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2016 Book of Discipline ¶2512.1)**5.1 **Officers: President:** TBD5.2 **Voting Members:**

	Class of 2025		Class of 2027		
	x*JoEllen Mingle	A (21)		x*S. Jeffrey Barnes	H (23)
	x*Heather Ruoss	H (22)		x*Larry Foor	W (23)
	x*Barbara Mark	SWB (17)		x James Jacobs	SC (23)
	Class of 2026			Class of 2028	
	x Barry Robison	L (23)		<u>x*John Bodenman</u>	L (24)
	<u>x Ed Seeley</u>	A (24)		<u>x Donald Rowe</u>	Y (24)
	x*Donna Wilson	W (22)		x Randall Zeiler	Y (23)

5.3 **Non-Voting Members:**5.3.1 **Treasurer/Conference Benefits Officer:** *Mark Knecht5.3.2 **Conference Superintendent appointed by Cabinet:** (if not already represented in membership)
Judy Walker SWB (19)5.3.3 **Representative of the Bishop:** Thomas Salsgiver H (20)

6. COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY (2016 Book of Discipline ¶641.1)6.1 **Officers: Chair:** John Piper6.2 **Voting Members:**6.2.1 **Clergy and Laity**

Class of 2025			Class of 2027		
x*Jennifer Eaton	H	(17)	x*Bill Bachman	SWB	(10)
x Cheryl Houser	W	(10)	x Nancy Hale	W	(23)
x Lewis Parks	H	(19)	x Adam Miller	SWB	(23)
x*John Parsons	SWB	(10)	x Rodney Miller	H	(14)
Class of 2026			Class of 2028		
x Travis Allshouse	L	(22)	<u>x Richard Bender</u>	SC	(24)
x Catherine Parsons	SWB	(10)	x David Biser	H	(23)
x John Piper	W	(10)	x Jeffrey Holland	SWB	(22)
x*Luke Strawser	SC	(22)	x Open		

6.2.2 **Ex Officio Members:** *Robert Baker SWB, Brand Eaton H, Matthew Loyer Y, *Milton Loyer H6.2.3 **Members, NEJ Commission on Archives and History, if any:** *Robert Baker SWB, Matthew Loyer Y
Catherine Parsons SWB6.3 **Non-Voting Members**6.3.1 **President of Conference Historical Society:** Brand Eaton H (11)6.3.2 **Cabinet Representative:** Daniel Wilt W (24)**7. COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION** (2016 Book of Discipline ¶625.1)7.1 **Officers: Chair:** John Overman7.2 **Voting Members:**7.2.1 **Laity, including at least one from churches of fewer than 200 members, designated by "SM":**

Class of 2025			Class of 2026			Class of 2027		
x*Cathy Bowen	SC	(23)	x*Robin Fisher	H	(11)	<u>x*Kim Bedford</u>	H	(24)
x*David Deatrich	Y	(15)	x*Brian Greenough SM	W	(10)	x*Suzanne Leshner	H	(23)
x*Evangelos Tsambiras	H	(23)	x*Doug Harbach	Y	(22)	<u>x*Perry Reid</u>	W	(24)

7.2.2 **Clergy, including at least one from churches of fewer than 200 members, designated by "SM":**

Class of 2025			Class of 2026			Class of 2027		
x Eric Luczak	SWB	(18)	x Troy Howell	H	(20)	<u>x Lenore Hosier</u>	A	(24)
x TJ McCabe	A	(16)	x John Overman	H	(20)	<u>x Robert Ludrowsky</u>	SC	(24)
x Stephen Portner	SC	(23)	x Erin Wheeler	L	(23)	x George Price	SWB	(16)

7.2.3 **Conference Superintendent appointed by Cabinet:** Judy Walker SWB (20)7.3 **Non-Voting Members**7.3.1 **Treasurer/Conference Benefits Officer:** *Mark Knecht7.3.2 **Conference Benefits Administrator:** Jason Mackey**8. JOINT COMMITTEE ON CLERGY MEDICAL LEAVE** (2016 Book of Discipline ¶652)8.1 **Officers: Chair:** Dennis Keller8.2 **Voting Members:**8.2.1 **Representatives from Conference Board of Ordained Ministry:**

x Dennis Keller	H	(16)
x Stephen Salisbury	H	(19)

8.2.2 **Representatives from Conference Board of Pensions:**

x G Edward Corcelius	A	(18)
x Thomas Sanagorski	Y	(10)

8.2.3 **Conference Superintendent appointed by Bishop:** Brenda Leigey SC (23)

9. COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY (2016 Book of Discipline ¶637.1)9.1 **Officers: Chair:** Thomas Salsgiver H (23)9.2 **Voting Members:**9.2.1 **Clergy**x Thomas Salsgiver H (23) x Adam Miller SWB (24)9.2.2 **Laymen**

x*Ed Wagoner H (22) x*Jason Robinson Y (16)

9.2.3 **Laywomen**

x*Sarah Cooper SWB (24) x*Christina McDermott H (20)

9.2.4 **Conference Lay Leader:** *Joyce Davis H (20)9.2.5 **Persons appointed by Bishop (includes at least one clergy):** *Jonathan Morningstar A (20),
Brenda Leigey SC (23)9.2.6 **Members of Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy:** Thomas Salsgiver H (23)
Christina McDermott H (23)

(Paragraph 637.1 of The Discipline states: "1. There shall be a conference committee on episcopacy elected quadrennially by the annual conference at the session following the General Conference. Since a new quadrennium has not yet begun, these members and alternates remain in place. Names underlined are being nominated to fill current vacancies.")

10. AREA EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE (2016 Book of Discipline ¶638.2)10.1 **Officers: Chair: Chair or designate of Committee on Episcopacy:** Christina McDermott H (23)10.2 **Voting Members as designated:**10.2.1 **Chair or designate of Committee on Episcopacy:** Thomas Salsgiver H (23)10.2.2 **President or designate of Conference CF & A:** James P Bohanan (L) (23)10.2.3 **President or designate of Conference Board of Trustees:** TBD**11. COMMITTEE ON SESSIONS**11.1 **Officers: Chair appointed by Bishop:** Kathleen Kind H (20)11.2 **Voting Members:**

Presiding Bishop	Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi	H	(22)
Presiding Bishop	Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball	H	(22)
Assistant to the Bishop	Thomas Salsgiver	H	(19)
Conference Lay Leader	*Joyce Davis	H	(20)
Conference Secretary	*Cindy Weaver	H	(18)
Current Dean of Cabinet	Gary Weaver	H	(23)
Treasurer/Conference Benefits Officer	*Mark Knecht	H	(19)
Director of Connectional Ministries	Kathleen Kind	H	(22)
Co-Coordinator of Arrangements	Jennifer Williams	H	(23)
Co-Coordinator of Arrangements	*Charles Kauffman	H	(23)
Coordinator of Memoirs	TBD		
Coordinator of Lay Equality	TBD		
Clergy Head Teller	Kelly Kocher Ross	L	(20)
Laity Head Teller	*Marsha Curry Nixon	H	(23)
Member of Conference BOOM	Mira Hewlett	H	(20)
Member of Conference BOOM	Stephen Salisbury	H	(23)
Coordinator of Worship	Mindi Gochnaur	H	(20)
Coordinator of Media	*Elizabeth Lennox	H	(23)
Stage Manager	Eric Funk	SWB	(23)
Registrar	*Christine Sims	H	(23)
Hospitality	*Sue Barnes	H	(18)
Member At-Large	Paul McReynolds	SC	(20)

12. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

12.1 **Officers:** Chair nominated by Cabinet: Theresa Heiser SC (23)

12.2 **Voting Members nominated by respective Conference Superintendents:**

12.2.1 **One layperson and one clergyperson from each district**

	Layperson		Clergy	
Class of 2025				
Altoona	<u>x*Sue Gingery</u>	(24)	x Robert Ford	(21)
Lewisburg	x*Lauren Miller	(23)	x Eric Shafer	(19)
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre	x*John Clary	(22)	x James Hollister	<u>(23)</u>
Class of 2026				
Harrisburg	x*Vicky Salisbury	(21)	x Bobby Jones	<u>(23)</u>
Williamsport	x*Joshua Forrest	(20)	x Nathaniel Reeve	
Class of 2027				
State College	<u>x*Joe Argogast</u>	(24)	x Theresa Heiser	(20)
York	<u>x*Ron Swift</u>	(24)	x Mark Terwilliger	<u>(23)</u>

12.2.2 **Conference Secretary:** *Cindy Weaver H (18)

12.2.3 **Secretary of Cabinet or Designate:** Judy Walker SWB (20)

12.2.4 **Conference Lay Leader:** *Joyce Davis H (20)

12.2.5 **Chair of Committee nominated by Cabinet:** Theresa Heiser SC (23)

12.3 **Non-Voting Member**

12.3.1 **Director of Connectional Ministries:** Kathleen Kind

13. COMMITTEE OF THE MOVING COORDINATORS

13.1 **Officers:** Chair appointed by Cabinet: Norman "Skip" Spangler Y (10)

13.2 **Members appointed annually** (no tenure limitation)

13.2.1 **Appointed by the respective Conference Superintendents:**

Altoona	Joey Fleck	(11)
Harrisburg East Shore	JoAnn Darrow	(17)
Harrisburg West Shore	Richard Noggle	(18)
Lewisburg	<u>Susan Knorr</u>	(24)
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre	David Walker	(22)
State College	William Klebe	(22)
Williamsport	Mark Brumbach	(10)
York East	Gerald Schmidt, Jr	(23)
York West	Brent Stouffer	(18)

13.2.2 **Appointed by Cabinet as Chair:** Norman "Skip" Spangler Y (10)

14. COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

14.A **Committee on Investigation** (2016 Book of Discipline ¶2703.2)

14.A.1 **Clergy in Full Connection:**

Timothy Baer	H	Keith Schmuck	Y
Jane Pykus	SWB	Lori Steffensen	SC

14.A.2 **Professing Members:**

14.A.3 **Clergy in Full Connection Alternates:**

Alison Grove	Y
Jennifer Parks-Snyder	H

14.A.4 **Professing Members Alternates:**

*Elizabeth Beebe	W	*Larry Speer	Y
*Diane Konieczny	H		
*Joan Smith	A		

(Paragraph 2703.2 of The Discipline states: "the committee shall be nominated by the presiding bishop...and elected quadrennially. If additional members or alternates are needed, the annual conference may elect members to serve for the remainder of the quadrennium." Since a new quadrennium has not yet begun, these members and alternates remain in place. Names underlined are being nominated to fill current vacancies.)

14.B Administrative Review Committee (2016 Book of Discipline ¶636)**14.B.1 Clergy:**

James P Bohanan	Y
Mark Shover	Y
Jennifer Williams	H

14.B.2 Alternates:

Pamela Ford	SC
Thomas Maurer	H

(Paragraph 636 of The Discipline states: "The committee shall be nominated by the bishop and elected quadrennially by the clergy session..." Since a new quadrennium has not yet begun, these members and alternates remain in place.)

15. BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

Sandra Steiner Ball, *Bishop*; Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, *Bishop* (2016 Book of Discipline ¶642.2)

Laura Kincaid, *Bishop's Representative*

Joyce Davis, *PA Advocacy Coordinator*

Class of 2025

x Russell Goodman	H
x Patricia Shope	A
x*John Smay	W

Class of 2026

x Craig Rose	SC
x*Wanda Mertick	SC
x	

Class of 2027

x*Marsha Curry-Nixon	H
x Megan Burd-Harris	H
x*Kendra Mabon	Y

Class of 2028

x Renee Ford, <i>Chair</i>	SC
x*Charles Kaufmann	H
x Laura Kincaid	SWB

16. ADDITIONAL OFFICERS (2016 Book of Discipline ¶607.9, ¶603.7)

Lay Leader: x*Joyce Davis H (20)

Asst. Lay Leaders: x*Christina McDermott H (20)

Secretary: x*Cindy Weaver H (18)

Statistician: x*Mark Knecht H (20)

Treasurer: x*Mark Knecht H (20)

17. THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

(2021 Merger of The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation and the United Methodist Foundation of Western PA)

Officers: President: Ed Trainor

Voting Members of the Board of Directors from the Susquehanna Conference

Note: Three members of the former UMSF stepped down after the 2021 Annual Conference so the UMSF bylaws for interim replacements were enacted before completion of the merger; all members listed below now start as new members

Members elected by Annual Conference for three-year terms:

Class of 2025

x*Cathy Bowen
x Richard Felty
x*Jacob Sekel
x Tom Salsgiver

REPORT 4-B: PROGRAM AGENCIES**CONFERENCE MINISTRIES STAFF**

Director of Connectional Ministries	Kathleen Kind
Director Camp & Retreat Ministries, Age Level Ministries, Building the Beloved Community	Kevin Witt
Director of Communications	*Elizabeth Lennox
EVC, Age Level Ministries, Building the Beloved Community Administrative Assistant	*Cindy Weaver
Executive Administrative Assistant	*Amy Wynn
Disaster Response Coordinator	*Douglas Hoy
Volunteers in Mission Coordinator	*Michelle Schwartzman
Discovery Place	

EQUIPPING VITAL CONGREGATIONS/GROWING SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Janice Hughes	Patricia Shope	Travis Allshouse
Elizabeth Jackson	Daniel Wilt	*Melanie Feldner, <i>Co-Chair</i>
*Diane Konieczny, <i>Co-Chair</i>		
*Jill Pecht		
<i>Ex-Officio</i>		
*Joyce Davis, <i>Conference Lay Leader</i>		
Kathleen Kind, <i>Director of Connectional Ministries</i>		

CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRY BOARD

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
* <u>Brad Haubert</u>	*Jake Hamilton	*Tracy Funk	* <u>Travis Curry</u>
* Kristin Hoover, <i>Chair</i>	*Jason Peno	*Somer Meadeth	<u>Taylor Johnston</u>
<u>Bobby Jones</u>	*Amber Smith	*Amy Hoffman Rea	<u>Jason Schwartzman</u>
<u>Tyler Rauhauser</u>	Joshua Tobias	*Scott Zieber	<u>Joleen Willis</u>
<i>Ex-Officio</i>			
Kevin Witt, <i>Director of Camp & Retreat Ministries</i>			
Daniel Wilt, <i>Cabinet Representative</i>			

YOUNG PEOPLES MINISTRY COUNCIL

Youth		
*Jack Hoover	*Madison Light	*Gavin Mills
Adults		
*Ryan Craig, <i>Co-Chair</i>	*Christina McDermott	Jason Schwartzman
Carrie Granche	*Kathryn Rauhauser	Kevin Witt, <i>Director</i>
*Brien McChesney	Jason Schwartzman	

LAY SERVANT COMMITTEE

*Sherry Barth	Catherine Dawes	Calvin Miller
*John Clary	Kathleen Kind, <i>Staff</i>	*Kim Shockley
Richard Conklin	*Joanne Konick-McMahan	*Ron Swift, <i>Director</i>
Duane Coy	Susan Knorr	*Beth Zeiler, <i>Chair</i>

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Paul Amara	William Klebe
*Lisa Bender, <i>Interim Secretary</i>	*Sheila Noss, <i>EMPOWER Committee Chair</i>
Andrew Burd-Harris, <i>Chair</i>	<u>Jane O'Borski</u>
* <u>Joyce Davis</u>	*Sue Reisinger
Ryan Gephart, <i>Peace with Justice Coordinator</i>	*Sharon Ritchey
*Grace Hanft, <i>GRANT Committee Chair</i>	Brent Salsgiver
*Hope Harrison, <i>Mission Central Representative</i>	*Michelle Schwartzman, <i>VIM Coordinator</i>
* <u>Laura Inlow</u>	Lillian Smith, <i>Cabinet</i>
<u>Bobby Jones</u>	*Phyllis Terwilliger, <i>Empower Committee Co-Chair, UWF Rep</i>
<u>David Keyworth</u>	*Flo Waybright, <i>Interim Conference Secretary Global Missions</i>
Kathleen Kind, <i>Staff</i>	Jacob Waybright

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

*Douglas Hoy, *Conference Disaster Response Coordinator*
 *William Toner, *Early Response Team Coordinator*
 Serving Opportunity, *Spiritual/Emotional Care Coordinator*

Disaster Response Coordinators

Altoona-Serving Opportunity
 Harrisburg-Serving Opportunity
 Lewisburg-Kelly Kocher-Ross
 Scranton/Wilkes-Barre-*Ron Lucas

State College-Michael Swimley
 Williamsport-Serving Opportunity
 York-Brian Lucas

VIM GRANT COMMITTEE

Kathleen Kind, *Staff*
 *Doreen Mileto

*Darlene Thomas

*Michelle Schwartzman, *VIM Coordinator*

COMMISSION ON BELOVED COMMUNITY

Miguel Arenas
Randy Bennett
Tanya Brubaker
 Jessica Davis
 *Joyce Davis

Robin Fillmore
 Lenore Hosier
 Kathleen Kind, *Staff*
 Anna Layman Knox

*Brien McChesney
 *Michelle Schwartzman
 Kristopher Sledge, *Chair*
 Christopher Weems
 Kevin Witt, *Cabinet*

COMMISSION ON INCLUSIVENESS

*Dolly Lucas

*Milton Loyer

Kevin Witt, *Staff*

DISABILITIES MINISTRY TASK FORCE

*Wendy Albright
 Mitchell Galloway
 Carol Gathagan
 Craig Gommer
 *Pamela Harker
 James House
 Jeffery Holland
 Rebecca Holland, *Chair*
Ex-Officio
 Mark Knecht, *Cabinet Representative*

*Abigail Kane
 Elizabeth Kostelnik
 *Lisa Lupold
 TBD, *Partner, Mental Health Task Force*
 *Jerry Post
 Julie Rosensteel
 Robert Stump
 Jennett Wertz

COMMISSION ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Richard Robinson, Jr, *Chair*
 Robert Baker

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
 Kevin Witt, *Staff*

REPORT 4-C: DISTRICT NOMINATIONS

Board of Church Location & Building
 Committee on Ordained Ministry
 Committee on Superintendency

**ALTOONA DISTRICT
 DISTRICT AND SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEES**

ALTOONA DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)

Michelle Bodle	Carol Gathagan	*Dave Poole
Duane Coy	Ryan Gephart	*Sylvia Smith
Ron Doverspike	David McElwee	*Beth Taylor
	Jonathan Morningstar	

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AND LOCATION

*Norman Baumbarger	Ken Grundon	*Tracy Morgan
*Jeannie Cannistraci	Myron Jones	Josh Tobias
*Duane Franks	*Maurice Kaiser	

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY

Faith Anderson	* Jim Hurley	Rick Smith
*Joe Barrett	* Sue O'Brien	*Larry Speer
*Ken Bodle		

**HARRISBURG DISTRICT
 DISTRICT AND SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEES**

HARRISBURG DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)

Miguel Arenas	Mindi Gochnaur, <i>Chair</i>	John Overman III
Karen Atanasoff	Judi Herrold	Peter Raser
Alan Atchison	Mira Hewlett	Kristopher Sledge
Randall Bennett, Jr.	*Joanne Konick-McMahan	*Audrey Wilder
Suzanne Elliott	*John Konieczny	Patricia Woolever

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AND LOCATION

Tanya Brubaker	James Lewis, <i>Chair</i>	*Terry Robinson
*Susan Clough	*John Miller	*Randy Umberger
*Cheryl Foeks	Jennifer Parks-Snyder	*Patty Weidman

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY

Randall Bennett, Jr.	Therese Finney	*Marty Wagner
*Michael Brubaker	*Dennis Helsel	Jean Ward
*Carol Burkindine	Donald Rowe	

**LEWISBURG DISTRICT
DISTRICT AND SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEES**

LEWISBURG DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)

Audrey Brosious

*Andy Bucke

*Sheri Kline

**SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE DISTRICT
DISTRICT AND SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEES**

SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)

Michael Bealla

*Donna Mela

Jane Pykus

John Buxton

Adam Miller

Lori Robinson

Tenny Hutchinson

*Jane O'Connell

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AND LOCATION

*Cathy Berkey

*Alan Kinsman

*Ronald Lucas

*Conrad Bosley

Susan Knorr

Don Perry

Kelly Groves

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY

*John Clary, *Lay Leader*

Kelly Kocher-Ross

John Shaffer

*Sarah Cooper

*Elizabeth Kostelnik

*Megan Wessman

Craig Gommer

*Mary Ellen Pajor

Andrew Weidner

*Robert Hess

**STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT
DISTRICT AND SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEES**

STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)

Kim Cartwright

*Helen Meyer

Stephen Portner

Pam Ford

Greg Milinovich

*Jennifer Saunders

Renee Ford

Andy Morgan

Michael Swimley, *chair*

Laura Kyler

Julia Piper

*Lisa Talarigo

Karen McCachren

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AND LOCATION

*Vicki Free

Clare Pannebaker

*Judy Pfleegor

James Jacobs, *Chair*

*Brian Petrovic

*Grant Walk

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY

*Ken Bodle

Jenny Lucas

*Joy Oakley

*Blannie Bowen

Karen McCachren

*Larry Sheats

*Ruth Hocker

David McElwee

*Kari Swigart

WILLIAMSPORT DISTRICT DISTRICT AND SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEES

WILLIAMSPORT DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)

Lori Betsworth	John Piper	*Perry Reed
Mark Brumbach	Edward Preston	*Gail Vaughan
*Candace Chase	Edward Prowant	Jennifer Wolf
*Randall Laird	Gregory Rapp	*Arlene York
Helen Learn		

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AND LOCATION

*Shirley Crawley	*Meda Hilfiger	Mark Shover
*Larry Foor	*Randall Laird	*Debra Steransky
Arthur Gladfelter	*Hugh Seely	

SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY

*Andy Bucke	*Jill Johnston	Richard Robinson, <i>Chair</i>
*Candace Chase	Brian Moyer	*Robert Weaver
*Robert Bauder	*Jessica Olenginski	*Patricia Wittig

YORK DISTRICT DISTRICT AND SUPERVISORY AREA COMMITTEES

YORK DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)

*Alice Baer	Alison Grove, <i>Chair</i>	*Betsy Speer
Tammy Blose	Beth Holz	Jennett Wertz
*David Dusthimer	John Kratz	

REPORT 4-D: CONFERENCE RELATED INSTITUTIONS

1. NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Susan Forney, President

*Michelle Schwartzman, *Mission Board Representative*

Greater Harrisburg Representatives

*Atiya Brown

*Justin Coleman, *Treasurer*

*Da'Laine Simpson

*Ilecia Voughs

Sharonda Diggs Cole

United Women In Faith

*Amy Whitworth, Harrisburg District

*Sue Reisinger, UMW President

Susquehanna Conference Representation

Kristopher Sledge, *Bishop's Representative*

Gary Weaver, *Conference Superintendent, Harrisburg Supervisory Area*

Karen Atanasoff, *Secretary*

Officers

President: Susan Forney

Vice-President:

Secretary: Karen Atanasoff

Treasurer: Justin Coleman

Staff: QuéTrina Sims-Shelton, Interim Executive Director

2. WESLEY FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

(Articles of Incorporation - Article 9 - Section 3)

*Lauren Bonsall

*Andrew Chung, *Undergrad Student*

Rebecca Connelly

*Karen Eklund

Pamela Ford

Brenda Leigey

Gregory Milinovich

*Karen Morgan

*Darrin Thornton

*Julie Simon, *Chair*

Sarah Voight, *Director*

2024 JOURNAL CORRECTION FORM

To publish a Journal without errors is virtually impossible. Please assist us by notifying us of any errors which should be corrected in the next edition.

Your cooperation in calling this to our attention is appreciated and helpful. Thank you.

CORRECTION NOTATIONS

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ADDRESS: _____

On page _____, which reads:

Please correct to read:

On page _____, which reads:

Please correct to read:

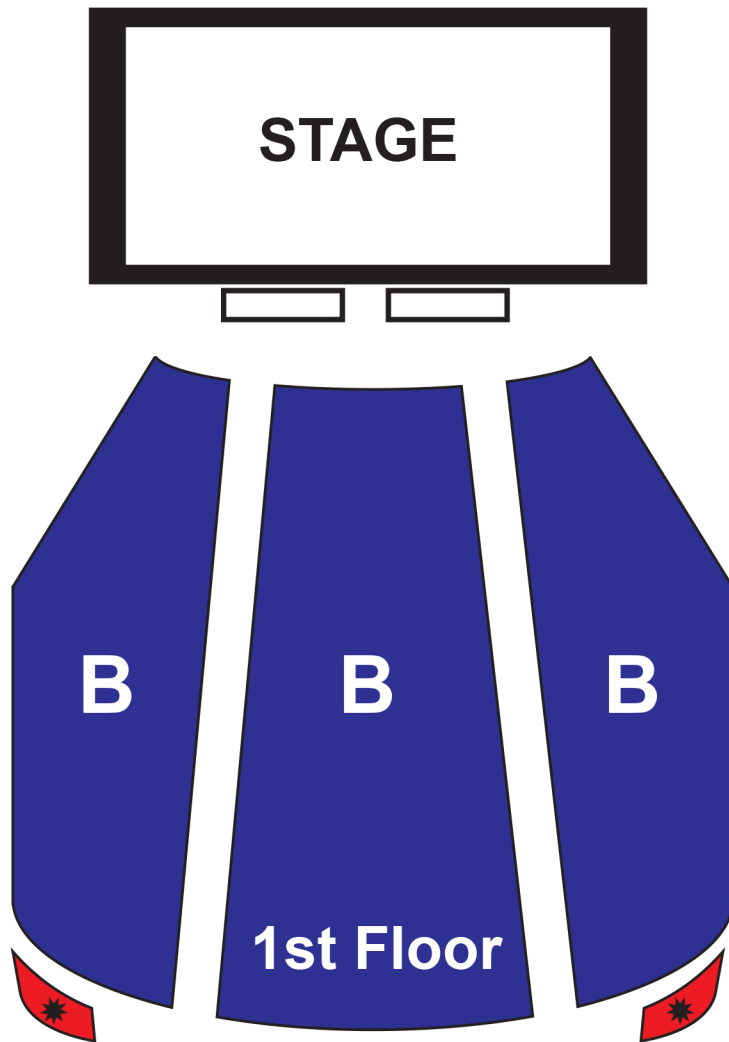
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The United Methodist Church
303 Mulberry Drive
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-3179

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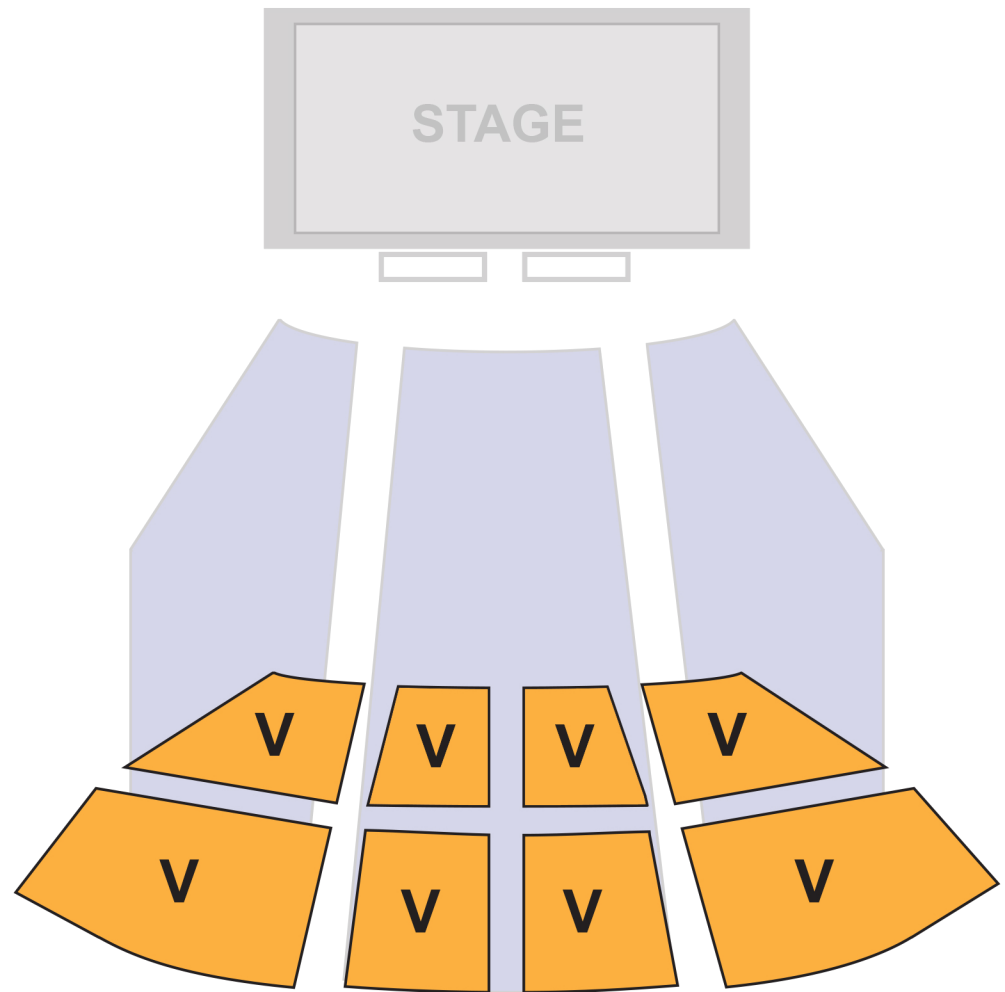
SEATING CHART

2024 Susquehanna Annual Conference
May 30-June 1, 2024 • Williamsport, Pa



B - Bar of Conference

(All 1st Floor Chairs are the Bar of the Conference)



2nd Floor
(Balcony)

★ Handicap Accessible

V - Visitor Seating