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2018 NTC CONFERENCE REPORTS

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Center for Leadership Development (CLD) is to develop principled Christian leaders for the transformation of the world. Our priority is to design an ‘ecosystem’ for cultivating young leaders (35 and under) and culturally-diverse leaders who can reach the mission field. Additionally, we strive to cultivate leaders to support the objective to catalyze gatherings of new faces in new spaces in and through every local church and in targeted mission fields. We continue to re-imagine all our ministries through the lens of reaching young and diverse leaders through a system of Wesleyan Formation, Leadership Development, Vocational Discernment and Professional Development events, programs and initiatives. In collaboration with the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the CLD seeks to recruit gifted, diverse clergy; develop and sustain clergy and laity through life-long learning; and equip Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees to collaborate with their clergy for ongoing formative work towards greater effectiveness. In addition, we connect and resource Boards and Resources for churches and laity.

For more information about the Center for Leadership Development visit our website at www.ntcleadership.org, join our Facebook page, NTC Center for Leadership Development and follow us on Social Media, @ntcleadership.

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

Bridgeport Camp & Conference Center

2017 was another great year of vision and planning at Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center (BCCC) as we continued to provide exceptional camping experiences and retreat space for churches, individuals and other organizations. We had a busy non-summer schedule with 70 events held from January to June (before camps start), then starting again in August until the end of the year. Conference groups made up the majority of events, but we had a great turnout from groups outside our conference as well. Some of these groups included university retreats, family reunions, local school events, weddings, and sports banquets.

The Conference Summer Camps were almost at capacity, with 4 camps being completely full. We also had 2 full weeks of SEEK (Summer Events for Exceptional Kampers) Camps, and a full week of Project Transformation Camp in August. This gave us another excellent summer attendance of over 1400 campers and over 500 volunteer leaders that helped make this another incredible year of camping ministries.

As we look to the future and the improvements that need to be made here at BCCC, there are several things on the horizon. With our camps being so close to full almost every week and crowded facilities at multiple non-summer events, we need to be diligent about creating more spaces for our children, youth, and adults to stay, eat, convene, and worship. We covet your prayers and continued support as we continue to move forward to better serve all our guests.

Go Camp

2017 marked the launch of Go Camp’s five day summer day camp program. We held six different day camps in six different locations all throughout the summer. We worked with United Methodist Churches in South Dallas, Fair Park, Oak Cliff, Richardson, Denton, Plano, and Clarksville, TX as well as other non-profit organizations to provide quality camping opportunities for kids living in underserved communities ages 7 to 17.

Our camps started and ended each day with meaningful worship time and devotionals that shared the gospel and Wesleyan theology presented through the NTC’s unified camping curriculum. Our camps also included several field trips that provided hands-on activities that challenged our campers while exposing them to nature. Our campers did everything from sailing on a pirate ship, to zip-lining, hiking, swimming, fishing, kayaking, working on a farm, exotic animal tours, and exploring the Perot Museum.

Since the summer we have partnered with other camps in the Metro and East Districts to provide more camping opportunities for the communities that need to be outside. We held our first ever overnight mid-winter camp at the Jan Kay Ranch in East Texas, and our first ever overnight spring break camp at Lake Lavon Camp east of Dallas. We are also working with other Methodist organizations such as the Wesley Rankin Center, the Dallas Bethlehem Center, and the Zip Code Connection to provide even more quality camping opportunities in the non-summer months.

For summer of 2018, we are hosting eight weeks of summer day camps all over the North Texas Conference and one week of overnight camp in East Texas. God's faithfulness and love are evident in this program, and we are looking forward to a bright future of camping for many years to come because of the prayers and support of the United Methodist Church.

Prothro Center at Lake Texoma

In 2017 The Prothro Center celebrated its 14th year of existence. With each year, we feel it's important to maintain the visual appeal of our existing facilities, as well as introduce updates around our approximate 100 acres of diverse landscapes. Some new features include the development of a new beach area and flagstone patio on the east side of our facility. This now gives us two great beach areas that are separate from each other to accommodate different groups and events better. The pavilion's siding was replaced, and concrete was stained to tie into its rustic theme. We were also able to expand our wireless coverage to every cabin/meeting space and provide unlimited access at faster speeds. Every building now has the addition of a flat screen as well as Direct TV. An area of focus went to improving walking paths. With our 3 miles of hike and bike trails, we added decomposed granite for easier access to Cross Point and Lookout Point. Drainage and gravel were also added to our lake circle roadway for easier access to our shorelines and beach areas. We were also able to develop a new logo that now correlates Prothro with Go Camp and Camp Bridgeport.

This year also marked our busiest year to date. Creative scheduling allowed us to host new groups along with the substantial number of repeat groups. NTC usage also increased this year. We hosted events such as NTC Licensing School, The Bishop's Cabinet, NTCUMW, Board of Ministry Commissioning and Ordination Retreats, Clergy Spouse Retreat, Summer Internship, 3 Seek Camps, and numerous individual church/youth retreats. Our ministry continues to be a great reflection of the Methodist slogan, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors," by serving the many other non-profits, schools, churches, families, businesses, individuals, and wedding parties. Once again, Prothro has proven to be an excellent place for adults, young adults, and youth to learn, connect, reflect, and grow.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Denton Wesley (UNT/TWU/NCTC) – In a year of transition, the Denton Wesley Foundation community has been actively discerning how we can continue to be a loving and liberating home built on and extending Christ's love in transformative ways that are responsive to our student body and to our current context. Under a new director this year, we have taken steps to articulate clearly our identity, creating a Denton Wesley Statement of Faith, adopting a vision statement of being a Com/Passionate Community committed to stumbling towards Christ together, and forming a four-point identity message. This identity message is that 1) we are a student ministry for TWU, UNT, and NCTC; 2) we are not a church (we encourage our students to connect with a local church of their choice), 3) we are confessionally Christian but are welcoming of all, and 4) we are radically inclusive and are progressive and intersectional in our theology. To these ends, we have launched a growing faith-and-social justice group called Intersect that gathers for Bible study and action planning, a theological study group, and a thriving special-needs respite ministry. Our students planned the powerful #ChurchTooConference to address sexual abuse in churches and helped to organize the Denton Women's March. Additionally, we have weekly small groups, serve free lunch on Thursdays, participate in intramurals, host weekly creative and interactive worship services, provide free professional counseling, and offer free groceries twice a month to several hundred students through our Shiloh

Food Pantry. We also engage in one-on-one discipleship relationships and have a dynamic team of student leaders invested in DWF's growth as an inclusive, loving home for students – but one that challenges our students to fall deeper in love with Christ and to embrace a Christianity that is a verb, actively transforming the world around them. This year, we have also focused on forming partnerships with several local churches and participating in Denton community events, and we are grateful for the DWF supporters we've gained that have adopted us as a mission worthy of their time, prayers, and gifts.

Synergy Wesley Foundation (UTD/Richland/Collin) – The Synergy Wesley Foundation is a diverse and inclusive campus ministry providing supportive space for college students to build authentic relationships and community, grow in faith through study and conversation, discover their gifts, discern their vocational call, develop as leaders, and serve alongside their neighbors to transform the world. Our storefront space off Synergy Park Boulevard adjacent to the UTD campus serves as mission central for ministry that is incarnational, meeting students where they live and attend class. Our programming includes worship, Bible study, free weekly lunch and dinner, retreats and leadership conferences, mission trips and local volunteering, fellowship events at the center of campus, and an internship program for students exploring a call to ministry. Students' favorite programs during the past year have included leading a drum circle and Ash Wednesday blessing on campus, mobilizing student organizations to paint a Zip Code Connection house in South Dallas, a mission trip to Victoria to assist with hurricane relief, Fall retreat with other campus ministries, tutoring students at Dobie Elementary, and hosting awesome guest speakers who have facilitated discussion around faith, spirituality, and social justice at our weekly Wesley Wednesday meetings. Our partnerships with multiple congregations support our ministry financially and help students build relationships with the local church that can continue beyond graduation. We invite you to join with us in our mission to synergize students, churches, and organizations to do transformative work with our North Dallas area college campuses. For more information, visit SynergyWesley.org or contact our campus minister, Brittany Burrows, at Brittany@SynergyWesley.org.

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry at TAMU Commerce – The Wesleyan is an inclusive and diverse campus ministry, where ALL God's children can Belong, Believe and Become! We are a faith home to many who have been turned off from Church, yet by the power of the Holy Spirit former 'outcasts' have found in us a welcoming community where all can discern their faith and grow in discipleship. Current ministries include; Bible studies, free lunch, Love Group, Mobius Coffee House, New Beginnings Gospel Choir, Uniquely Bynded, Mane Swing Society, Worship with FUMC, missions, fellowship/outreach events, and retreats. We continue to adapt to an ever-changing mission field, finding innovative ways to connect with new people, along with forming stronger bonds between campus departments and other student organizations. Over the past year the WCM has improved our name recognition, as the progressive grace-filled ministry on campus! One of our recent alumni now serves as a pastor in our NTC. Other current students are beginning to discern a possible call to ministry. @TAMUCWESLEYAN and contact Brian@fumccommerce.org.

The Wesley at Paris Junior College – The Wesley at PJC has been in an encouraging season of renewal and refocus. Under the leadership of its Board, a new part-time director was brought on in the fall of 2017 as part of the effort to rebuild the campus ministry. The primary focus of that effort has been the repair and remodeling of the Wesley House into an exciting new space for student activities and discipleship -- a process which has included prayerful, financial and professional support from several local congregations. Strategy sessions with the new director and college staff members including dorm leaders, the student activities coordinator and the Director of Student Life have been taking place to identify opportunities to connect with students on-campus as well as to help identify potential future student leaders for the ministry. Gatherings with various student groups have served to provide direction and vision for ministry planning, as we seek to build and walk alongside student leaders and lifelong followers of Christ to help them find the place where their gifts and passions intersect with God's priorities and the world's needs. We're excited to really dive in to this new season once the renovations to the Wesley House are complete!

Wesley House – The SMU Wesley Foundation had a pivotal year in its ministry. About 100 years ago, there was a need to start a church to minister to the needs of college students at SMU. That small church was the beginning of Highland Park United Methodist Church. After a lot of conversations, prayers, and dreaming about the future over this past year, we made the bold step to have SMU Wesley Foundation find a home with Highland Park United Methodist Church and be the place that will minister to the needs of our college students. With that change, SMU Wesley Foundation is now known as Wesley House and it is the college ministry of HPUMC. Over this calendar year we have seen some incredible growth both in numbers and in spiritual depth with Wesley. Our bible study averages over 50 people each week. We launched 7 small accountability groups called United Groups with 30 people challenging each other to grow in faith. We connected over 60 college students to Host Families where more than 150 volunteers are leading the charge to support and pray for these students while they are away from home. For our fall retreat we took over 40 people, which doubles what our fall retreat was last year. Almost every day the Wesley House is filled with dozens and dozens of students finding a safe place to study, to connect with others, and to grow in their faith. We see over the course of a week nearly 100 unique students engaging in the life of this ministry through a variety of ways: bible studies, worship services, community events, mission and outreach projects, and more. In addition to that, our students are finding a church home at HPUMC. They are worshipping in multigenerational worship services and volunteering in youth and children's ministries. With all of our students and growth, we are also renovating the house to better accommodate our needs. The house on Daniel will become even more welcoming and hospitable to meet the needs of our students that we minister to when it opens in the fall of 2018.

The Wesley Foundation of Wichita Falls (MSU/Vernon College Wichita Falls Campus) is committed to engaging the college campuses to make, equip, and prepare disciples for the transformation of the world. Rev. Marcus Jones was appointed to The Wesley as director in July 2017 to rebuild and grow the ministry. Since his arrival, the mission and vision are to continue the Wesley's commitment of transforming grace by promoting spiritual, physical, and emotional wellness among traditional, international, and nontraditional undergraduate students. Each week students are engaged through community lunches, bible studies, forums, and other community service engagement. The goal of the Wesley is to become a bridge for which different groups may cross between the various communities it serves: the college, the local church, the Wichita Falls community, and the international communities it reaches through our students. In the 2017-18 school year, the Wesley helped to launch a Chinese student organization through the partnership of one of our board members, partnered with the Caribbean Student Organization in sending food and other needs to the various islands in the Caribbean who were devastated by the hurricane season, and hired a student intern to help further the reach and discipleship of our students. We look forward to greater ministry in the summer and next school term. For more information on The Wesley of Wichita Falls, ways to collaborate and support work of the Wesley, visit www.wfwesley.org, or email Rev. Marcus at mjones@wfwesley.org.

ADVANCED LEADERSHIP COACHING

The CLD hired the Holmes Coaching Group to begin building a leadership coaching network for pastors and lay staff in the North Texas Conference. In 2017, 11 Advanced Leadership coaches received 60 hours of ICF (International Coaching Federation) approved executive coach training and were deployed to increase the adaptive leadership skills of approximately 45 clergy and lay staff. Another 9 coaches were trained and will be deployed in Fall, 2018 with capacity for an additional 45 pastors to receive coaching. Several of our coaches did advanced work through the Mentor Coaching training and plan to pursue International Coaching Federation (ICF) certification. Additionally some of our coaches serve as adjunct faculty for *The Academy of Artful Leadership* designed by Holmes Coaching Group. Through *The Academy of Artful Leadership*, we will develop cohorts of leaders (lay and clergy) who will grow through group coaching around key themes in ministry, peer learning and individual coaching. Given the complex and fast changing world in which we live, it is essential for leaders to be agile learners and adaptive leaders, able to wrestle meaning from their experiences so they can integrate and use their learning going forward. The 'coach-approach' process helps leaders discern the God-sized things that need to happen, develop a plan to get there, and celebrate their successes. These will be invitational but voluntary programs as pastors and lay staff will be identified and invited by their District Superintendent and the CLD staff.

CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE

The North Texas Conference is launching a new CQ (Cultural Intelligence) Team comprised of a diverse group of strong leaders (lay and clergy) who have both passion for and experience with cross cultural settings and relationships. Rev. Dr. Maria Dixon Hall, Senior Advisor to the Provost - Campus Cultural Intelligence Initiatives, SMU, will provide training for this team of 15 persons who will then lead this work in the NTC. The training will help participants 1) understand Cultural Intelligence and its importance in ministry, 2) identify biases and philosophy of cultural intervention, 3) identify where political ideology, race, gender, age, geographical culture issues are at play, 4) prepare colleagues and congregations for cross-cultural appointments, 5) help colleagues negotiate cultural conflict in their congregations or committee work, 6) lead congregational training in CQ.

In addition to this broad work of increasing the CQ of every pastor and church in the conference, a more focused work will be offered in places that may be ripe for deep and provocative conversations over the course of eight months. The vision for this work is the Project Curate model being utilized in Houston where cohorts of diverse persons gather in relational/learning cohorts designed to challenge theological, social and cultural assumptions, as well as lay the groundwork for action and community development work.

FAITH FORMATION

Children – **A Time for Children** (ATFC) is expanding into new congregations and continues to bear spiritual transformation through North Texas congregations. The initial cohort has now completed the three year cycle, and some have spent a year mentoring participants beginning the ATFC experience. As of 2018, thirty churches have participated in ATFC, and as we look toward the fall, we are excited to begin piloting the model for youth.

Greenhouse, a children's ministry training opportunity, was held at St. Andrew UMC this spring. North Texas children's ministers completing their third year of A Time for Children under the direction of Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley led this event, with Rev. Caroline Noll keynoting the morning. Workshops were offered on activities and programs in the A Time for Children model aimed to lead children deeper into spiritual transformation.

Children's Ministers from across the Conference once again planned and led **Camp Bible** for 3-5 graders. During an overnight stay at Bridgeport Camp participants explored their Bibles and the traditions of our faith. Campers will participate in immersive, innovative learning and leading. This year's Camp Bible will focus on places in the gospels where people encounter Jesus. Camp Bible will be held the weekend of September 21-23, 2018.

Christ UMC Plano and the CLD partnered together to host **Bishop's Rally** for 5-7th graders and Confirmants. Over 400 youth and adults came to play, worship and learn together. Bishop's Rally creates a unique opportunity to bridge the gap from Children to Youth Ministry and have an encounter with our Bishop designed specifically for them. We will return to Christ UMC Plano for Bishop's Rally 2019.

Youth - The CLD partners with Youth Ministry Staff from across the Conference to host several events through the year, including Midwinter, Bishop's Rally and an ALL Conference ALL Youth event to gather for ONE Day in ONE Worship as ONE Church. This year's **ONE** event took place at FUMC Rockwall with Rev. Ray Jordan as our Keynote Preacher, who led participants in understanding the filters through which we experience life. Small groups discussed how God leads us to embrace our differences come together as Christians.

The North Texas Conference has had three voting delegates elected to represent the youth and young adults of the South Central Jurisdiction at the **UMC Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC)**. Anna Shipley of FUMC Rowlett, Keri Lynn Lucas of Lovers Lane UMC and Marcus Jones, director of the Wichita Falls Wesley Foundation, will be attending this gathering, held July 18-22, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. GYPC is a quadrennial event that meets before General Conference and brings together UMC youth, young adults and adult workers from across the world to worship as one body as well as have conversations about the significant issues facing the church, which

is crafted into legislation presented to General Conference.

To find more information on all these events and programs, to host an event at your church or get involved, please visit www.ntcleadership.org or email Emma Williams at emma@ntcumc.org.

2018-2019 Children, Youth, Young Adult Dates and Events

- Camp Bible (3rd– 5th grade students) - Bridgeport Camp - September 21-22, 2018
- A Time for Children Fall Cohort Training – September 27-29, 2018
- NEXT (National Young Adult Event) – Orlando, FL – November 9-11, 2018
- Academy of Preachers National Festival – Atlanta, GA – January 2-5, 2019
- Confirmation Camp – Bridgeport Camp – January 11-13, 2019
- MidWinter Retreats 2019 (Middle and High School Youth) – Bridgeport Camp- January 25-27, Feb 8-10
- Bishop's Rally (5th - 7th grade students) – Christ UMC Plano – early 2019
- ONE Worship Event (Middle and High School Youth) – FUMC Rockwall - April 2019
- National Youth 2019 event: Kansas City - July 10-14, 2019

BOARDS AND RESOURCES

Congregational Assessment, Response and Transformation (CART) Teams - CART Teams are equipped to assist District Superintendents, clergy and congregations move through the difficult work of grief, anger, mistrust, loss and change. Throughout the year, the CART Teams were deployed to engage congregations that were in crisis or conflict to assist in healing, reconciliation and transformation. Please contact your DS or the Center for Leadership Development for more information on how to receive the help of CART Crisis or Conflict teams.

Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) - Interim ministers are experienced clergypersons, committed to Wesleyan theology and the UMC, who have proven effective in their service to Christ and the church. Intentional Interim Ministers adapt well to a congregation's context and particular needs, are highly relational, and provide pastoral leadership and management for a season of ministry. IIMs are vetted by the Bishop and NTC Cabinet, trained and certified through an accreditation process, and may be deployed across conference boundaries. IIM's serve many contexts which include: Sabbatical, Renewal or Study Leave; Pastoral Transitions; Conflict Management; Disability, Terminal Illness or Death of a Pastor; Clergy Misconduct. This past year 3 Intentional Interim Ministry placements were appointed by the Bishop and Cabinet. For more information on IIM training or deployment, contact your District Superintendent or the Center for Leadership Development of the NTC.

Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) – CCYM is excited to represent your youth from around the conference. Our cornerstone project, the annual Midwinter retreats at Bridgeport Camp and Conference, brought together 434 youth, youth workers and volunteers from across the North Texas Conference over two weekends. This year, CCYM chose the Midwinter theme to be “Follow the Yellow Brick Road” and we explored what it meant to live your life differently as a Christian. Midwinter is completely run by CCYM students. Youth facilitated small groups, gave testimonies, led worship and organized fun activities. This year we piloted a new Midwinter opportunity, Discipleship Groups, where students could learn more about being called to ministry, work on a local mission opportunity, share best practices of youth group games, discover their leadership style or ask questions about faith in college. Midwinter is a place where students and adults can grow in their faith and in their connection to each other. It is also an opportunity to raise money for our Youth Service Fund. This year we raised money during our Midwinters through a Snack Shack and a competitive Dorothy vs. the Wicked Witch competition. Our 2017-18 YSF funds will be put toward the Beanie Bag Project, a mission started by one of our own North Texas CCYM alumni. Over two weekends, the youth of our conference raised \$3,000! This year CCYM members will be in attendance to Annual Conference both as voting members and observers. As a CCYM, we strive to be examples of faithful servant leaders not only for youth in our conference, but for the adult leaders of our churches. We look forward to having a voice in the future of our conference and denomination in the year to come.

Committee on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) - The NTC COSROW meets to focus on major priorities of issues related to women: a) to gather, interpret and transmit information on the status and role of all women at the conference, district and local church level, b) work in tandem with the United Methodist Women to champion full inclusion of women in decision-making structures, c) develop processes to inform and sensitize leadership within the conference at all levels on issues that affect women, d) to review sexual harassment policies and procedures, by working in consultation with the NTC Congregational Assessment Response and Transformation Crisis Team(s). This year, the committee has worked to partner with the North Texas Clergy Women’s group, and looks forward to supporting their Wisdom Workshop presented in fall 2018.

Committee on Religion and Race (CORR) - The NTC Committee on Religion and Race has the goal of strategic planning in the areas of diversity, cultural competency, racial justice, reconciliation and equity, and communication/advocacy for change. This May, two NTC CORR representatives attended the Facing the Future conference hosted by the General Commission on Religion and Race. This conference’s theme was “In the Midst of the Storm,” and explored strategies, opportunities and best practices for pastors in cross-racial/cross-cultural ministries. The CORR will continue to encourage more NTC involvement in the future, and explore new ways to connect more of our churches with opportunities for growth in cultural competency and racial reconciliation.

BOARD OF MINISTRY

The Board of Ministry is privileged to serve North Texas.
We share these dates for 2018-19 as we continue to
journey in ministry with our Conference.

8/25/2018	Candidacy Summit - 9:30-1:30
9/17-19/2018.....	Residency Retreat – Prothro
9/27/2018	BOM Meeting – Ministry Center
10/25/2018	BOM meets 2019 Candidates – Ministry Center
12/7/2018	Commissioning paperwork due
1/18/2019	Ordination paperwork due
1/27-30/2019.....	Commissioning Interviews I – Prothro
2/15/2019	Deadline for Districts to submit names
3/24-27/2019.....	Ordination Interviews I – Prothro
4/7-10/2019.....	Ordination Interviews II - Prothro
4/6/2019	Licensing School Session 1 - Ministry Center
4/13/2019	Licensing School Session 2 - Ministry Center
4/27/2019	Licensing School Session 3 - Ministry Center
5/4/2019	Licensing School Session 4 - Ministry Center
5/9/2019	Continuation Interviews – Grace Ave UMC
5/11/2019	Licensing School Session 5 - Ministry Center
5/19-24/2019.....	Residential week of Licensing School - Prothro

The Board remains available to receive your questions, comments
and certainly your prayers as we faithfully strive to serve the Kingdom.
Tim Morrison – TMorrison@crumc.org

COMPENSATION OF CLERGY APPOINTED BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH-2017

(The 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶628)

	ANNUAL CASH SALARY	UTILITIES/OTHER HOUSING RELATED ALLOWANCE	OTHER CASH ALLOWANCE	TRAVEL ALLOWANCE
Cathy Bingman	30,000			
Susan Bryan	37,000			
John W. Cole III	52,000	39,670		
C. Megan Danner	64,812			
Ericka Fadel S.	85,000			
Gallaway, Tamara.....	3,475			
Jonathan Grace	63,145			
C. David Grant	105,000			Vouchered
Joel B. Green.....	200,000	28,000		
Lisa Greenwood	133,000			
Justin Hancock	21,000			
Brian Hardesty-Crouch	15,085	12,000		
Terrance Heislen	31,000			
Leslie A. Herrscher	49,088			
Marjoire Bishir Hill.....	39,000			
Larry M. James	105,000			
Leslie A. Janovec	108,752	29,540		
Ashleigh Joyner	55,407	25,455		
Sheri S. (Hollingsworth) Lake	32,000			
Sarah Lancaster	31,000	36,000		1,200
Mai Le	28,392			
Alyce M. McKenzie.....	62,740	55,556		
Thomas R. McKnight.....	37,089		1,351	757
Timothy E. McLemore	40,260	24,000		
Carol Montgomery.....	90,000			
Connie Nelson.....	89,839			
Ugonna Ndukwo Onuoha	60,343			
Beatriz E. Pacheco	60,000			
Lydia Pellikan	44,483			
James Clifton Pierce	88,000			
JamesPaul Qazilbash.....	27,000			
Stephen W. Rankin.....	59,000	45,000		
Caesar Rentie	118,738			
Joerg Rieger	85,000	50,000		1,500
Kelly Sanford	60,000			
Jennifer Beth Scott.....	55,000			
Mark W. Stamm	107,500			
DonnaLea Sutton	53,000			2,000
John Thornburg	130,000			
Patricia Piron Thresher.....	39,200	32,000		
Harry S. Wright, Jr.	70,000			

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT RESPONSE GUIDE

Maintaining Healthy Relationships

The North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church is committed to the well-being of all United Methodists in the Conference and to maintaining healthy relationships between pastors and the persons they serve. In light of the increasing national awareness of sexual harassment and abuse that has gone unreported, there is a need to reemphasize that the North Texas Conference has a zero-tolerance policy regarding any sexual misconduct either by clergy or lay people. The church should be a safe space where all people are valued as children of God, and those who have experienced hurt within its walls should be supported and protected. It is important that church leaders (lay and clergy) are aware of the policies and procedures in place, if such a situation is reported to you. Please find below two documents: one focused on clergy experiencing sexual harassment and one focused on laypersons experiencing sexual harassment. Both include a list of people to contact for further support or information. These documents can also be found here: <https://ntcleadership.org/resources/harassment-response-guide>

Maintaining Healthy Relationships: What You Should Know About Clergy Sexual Misconduct

Statement of Purpose

The North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church is committed to the well-being of all United Methodists in the Conference and to maintaining healthy relationships between pastors* and the persons they serve. When a clergy person engages in sexual misconduct, this commitment requires the Conference to act as fairly and as quickly as possible so that healing can begin.

The purpose of this brochure is to give victims of clergy sexual misconduct in the North Texas Conference some basic information that may help them recognize misconduct and assist them in beginning the healing process.

The primary goals of the Conference's procedures for dealing with claims of clergy sexual misconduct are:

- above all, to protect the vulnerable by preventing further abuse from occurring,
- to provide an aggrieved person with information about the church's policies and procedures,
- to seek justice by acknowledging that the aggrieved has been wronged and holding the offender accountable through appropriate discipline,
- to encourage the aggrieved and the offender to receive appropriate counseling or treatment to facilitate healing,
- to restore the well-being of the congregation and others who have been affected,
- to treat everyone involved with the fairness, respect and compassion that our faith demands.

Defining Clergy Sexual Misconduct: What It Is And Why It Is Wrong

Any sexual contact or sexualized behavior between a pastor and a person with whom he or she has a professional relationship is clergy sexual misconduct.

Because clergy persons are in a position of trust and authority, there is an imbalance of power between a pastor and a person with whom the pastor has a ministerial relationship. Although this imbalance is greatest when someone has sought the advice or counsel of a pastor in a time of stress, it is inherent in the ministerial relationship and is always present.

Because of this unequal power, a parishioner or employee cannot give meaningful consent to sexual contact with a pastor. No matter who initiates the contact, it is the pastor's responsibility to maintain the proper boundaries of the

relationship. A pastor who initiates sexual contact or allows it to occur has crossed the boundaries and committed a breach of professional ethics.

Clergy sexual misconduct includes actual sexual assault and sexual intercourse, of course, but it also includes more subtle conduct. This conduct may be physical contact or verbal behavior, including behavior that creates a hostile or intimidating environment and the explicit or implicit use of authority or power to coerce someone into sexual contact.

Examples of Clergy Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct may include physical contact, such as:

sexual touch, including touch of sexual areas and inappropriate caressing or fondling,
a prolonged embrace when a brief hug is appropriate, or pressing against your body when hugging,
a kiss on the lips when a kiss on the cheek is appropriate,
tickling, stroking or other playful touch that makes you uncomfortable,
any touch that disregards your feelings or is against your will,

Sexual misconduct may include verbal behavior, such as:

comments that sexualize a relationship by expressing or implying sexual interest,
inappropriate comments about your body,
suggestive comments, jokes or innuendo,
intimate questions, including questions about your current or prior relationships,
discussion of the intimate details of the pastor's own relationships or experiences,

Any behavior that gives you a feeling of discomfort or confusion about your relationship with your pastor may be a warning sign of sexual misconduct. For example, you may feel uneasy because your pastor has given you a personal gift or excessive personal attention, or because your pastor seems to want to talk about his or her own problems when you meet for counseling.

Is Sexual Contact with My Pastor Ever Appropriate?

It is not unusual for a member of a congregation to feel attracted to his or her pastor. There is nothing wrong with you just because you have these feelings. If you express your feelings, it is your pastor's professional responsibility to explain why a relationship would be inappropriate. He or she should do so in a manner that respects your feelings and does not make you feel bad about yourself. In other words, by "rejecting" you, your pastor is maintaining the integrity of the ministerial relationship between you.

It is extremely complicated and never advisable for a pastor to enter into a romantic relationship with a member of his or her congregation. If there is a mutual interest and relatively equal power between the pastor and the parishioner (which there must be in order for meaningful consent by the parishioner to be possible), the pastor may ethically pursue the relationship only after fully removing himself or herself from the ministerial relationship with the parishioner. It will be very difficult for a pastor to do so successfully if he or she has ever served as a counselor to the parishioner.

Unwillingness by the pastor to be open and honest with the congregation about the relationship may indicate that manipulation is present and that a healthy relationship is not possible.

It is natural to feel fear, anxiety, and confusion if you have experienced sexual harassment or abuse. In many cases, aggrieved persons feel they are to blame because they did not object to the behavior in the beginning. Even if you did not object, your pastor has engaged in sexual misconduct if he or she has abused his or her power by taking advantage of your vulnerability. It may help to share your feelings with someone you can trust.

Options for Reporting Clergy Misconduct

The policy the Conference follows in dealing with formal misconduct grievances is contained in ¶ 2702 of The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. To initiate a grievance you must contact the Bishop of the North Texas Conference or any of the District Superintendents. Their names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the last page of this document.

Resource Persons are available to assist persons who believe they may have been the object of clergy sexual misconduct. Resource Persons are lay persons who have been trained to provide such assistance, and are not employed by the Conference or any related church body.

Resource Persons

A Resource Person's role is to actively assist and support the person who is alleging clergy sexual misconduct. The support continues through the Conference's complaint process to the end that the aggrieved is empowered to reclaim his or her voice and that the church may once again be a place of sanctuary.

A Resource Person is an ally, listener, helper, clarifier and supporter. A Resource Person is not a judge, therapist, lawyer, decision-maker, rescuer, or mediator.

The role of the Resource Person is to:

- listen to and support the aggrieved,
- explain the church's processes and procedures,
- provide resources and referrals.

In addition, the Resource Person may:

- help the aggrieved write a formal complaint if requested by the aggrieved person,
- accompany the aggrieved person to meetings in the complaint process as allowed by The Book of Discipline,
- call to the attention of the Bishop if hostile, vindictive, or insensitive situations arise during the complaint process or if the process outlined in The Book of Discipline is not properly followed.

Resource Persons serve on behalf of the Annual Conference and have been trained to serve in this capacity. You may contact the Bishop's Office, one of the District Superintendents, or The Center for Leadership Development if you feel you have been the object of clergy sexual misconduct and would like to speak to a Resource Person.

You do not have to register a complaint, formally or informally, before accessing a Resource Person, nor do you need permission from any level of The United Methodist Church to access a Resource Person. You do not have to identify yourself to talk to a Resource Person nor are you required to use a Resource Person.

Contact Information

BISHOP

Bishop Michael McKee, 500 Maplelawn Dr. Plano TX 75075 P. O. Box 866128 Plano TX 75086,
(972) 526-5015 bishop@ntcumc.org

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

East District, Dr. Vic Casad, PO Box 1326 Sulphur Springs, TX 75483-1326,
(903) 439- 1117 ds@ntceastdistrict.org

Metro District, Rev. Debra Hobbs Mason, 399 W. Campbell Road, #200B, Richardson TX 75080
(214) 941- 7712 dmason@ntcumc.org

North Central District, Dr. Ronald Henderson, 1333 W. McDermott, #180 Allen, TX 75013

(469) 342-6864 rhenderson@ntcumc.org

Northwest District, Dr. L. Marvin Guier, III, 2304 Midwestern Pkwy., #205, Wichita Falls, TX 76308,

(940) 767-6621 guier@ntcumc.org

THE CART TEAM

The Center for Leadership Development, Rev. Cammy Gaston

500 Mapelawn Drive, Plano, TX 7507, (972) 526-5006 cgaston@ntcumc.org

CART Crisis Team Coordinator, Rev. Dretha Burris, dretha.burris@firstrowlett.org

CART Crisis Team Coordinator, Dr. John Millerman, jhmillerman@gmail.com

If you would like to have a confidential conversation with a person outside of the official process to help discern your next steps, you may contact:

Rev. Carol Montgomery cmontgomery@tmf-fdn.org

*This page refers to “clergy persons” and “pastors,” but these words should be read to include all persons serving as ministers or counselors or in other positions of power or authority in the Conference, which can include both clergy and laity in a variety of circumstances. The conduct described is inappropriate for any of these persons.

When Ministerial Professionals Encounter Boundary Violations: Sexual Harassment by Congregants

Sexual Misconduct within ministerial relationships is a betrayal of sacred trust. It is a continuum of sexual or gender-directed behaviors by either a lay or clergy person within a ministerial relationship (paid or unpaid). It can include child abuse, adult sexual abuse, harassment, rape or sexual assault, sexualized verbal comments or visuals, unwelcome touching and advances, use of sexualized materials including pornography, stalking, sexual abuse of youth or those without capacity to consent, or misuse of the pastoral or ministerial position using sexualized conduct to take advantage of the vulnerability of another. It includes criminal behaviors in some nations, states, and communities and is a chargeable offense in The United Methodist Church.”

(2016 Book of Resolutions, #2044, p. 176)

Sexual Harassment is “any unwanted sexual comment, advance, or demand, either verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating or coercive. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.”

(The BOD 2016, ¶ 161.J)

REMEMBER: It is always the responsibility of the person in the ministerial role to maintain appropriate boundaries. If you are a clergyperson or other church leader who has encountered boundary violations or harassment by a layperson, here is a SUGGESTED PROCESS for re-asserting and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.

Suggested Process:

1. Pastor perceives an advance has been made.
2. Pastor needs to establish professional pastoral boundaries:
 - Identify your role as the pastor:
 - “I am your pastor...” “As your pastor I...” “The United Methodist Church takes this kind of conduct very seriously and considers this behavior as sexual harassment...”

- Identify that they are part of a community, not just “you and me” framing.
 - “We are in relationship to a congregation, denomination, calling(s), roles, responsibilities...”
Expand the awareness of your context by bringing in others you are both responsible for and in relationship with.
 - “I cannot be your pastor if...”
3. DOCUMENT – Written and verbal (SPRC Chair).
 4. Inform the DS. What? Where? When (include date, time)? Who? “Advance” behavior or verbiage? Witnesses? What happened after clarifying boundaries?
 5. Call Director, Center for Leadership Development to engage CART process.

If inappropriate behavior continues:

1. Re-establish Boundaries
 - I will not meet with you privately.
 - Explain that someone will be in the church if/when you meet and that confidence will be maintained.
 - Reiterate your identity/role to congregant.
2. DOCUMENT – written to SPRC and DS.

If violation of boundaries persists:

1. Call a Meeting for the purpose of clarifying communally the role and responsibility of the pastor and appropriate behavior of congregants. (In the North Texas Conference, this is usually done by the CART Team who can organize and facilitate this meeting, often with the District Superintendent).
2. Invite:
 - a. DS – certainly informing them of your purpose; who will be attending; follow-up communication plan; meeting location; etc. Ask DS if it is appropriate (or wise) to have a conversation with the annual conference Chancellor for any recommendations, suggestions; simply being put “on notice”.
 - b. Violator – Ask them to bring a friend or family member– someone they trust – for a conversation with others about issues related to serving as pastor. They are to bring someone who can be reflective with them. NOT a lawyer!!!
 - c. SPRC Chair
3. Seek resolution with CLEAR boundaries about how to behave appropriately and why the boundaries have to be maintained. Consider preparing a “Behavioral Covenant” identifying what you need as pastor and be prepared to name what behaviors need to stop by the violator. Write out the agreed “ways of being” and have everyone sign as witnesses and prayer partners.
4. If you sense it will help, plan a follow-up meeting for a “check-in” and if further clarification/information is needed – supportive accountability.
5. Follow-up with a letter to everyone involved as to purpose of the meeting; those attending; if resolution was reached, note the specifics; thank everyone and seek continued prayer for everyone. (Copy to DS).

Who to Contact:

If you would like to speak with someone about your options for taking action in response to sexual harassment, you may contact the following individuals for a confidential conversation:

Your District Superintendent

CART (Congregational Assessment, Response and Transformation) Team Co-Chairs

Rev. Dretha Burris Dretha.Burris@firstrowlett.org

Dr. John Millerman jhmillerman@gmail.com

Center for Leadership Development Director

Rev. Cammy Gaston cgaston@ntcumc.org

If you would like to have a confidential conversation with a person outside of the official process to help discern your next steps, you may contact: Rev. Carol Montgomery cmontgomery@tmf-fdn.org

If they refuse to sign a Behavior Covenant:

1. Be clear that the violator is making a choice about their relationship to the church and is choosing not be in contact, communication, on church property or attend any church programming until they agree and sign the behavior covenant.
2. Have everyone in attendance note and sign that they witnessed a refusal to sign by the violator. Follow-up by sending a certified letter to the violator, specifying a procedure they can initiate for future participation in any church sponsored activities. (Who to contact, etc)
3. Send copies of all documentation via certified mail to the DS (and possibly the Bishop's office). **DO NOT ELECTRONICALLY SEND ANY DOCUMENTATION.** DS along with the pastor should certainly review the status of things with the Chancellor at this time.
4. Consider meeting with those in leadership, stressing the need for confidentiality.
 - SPRC Chair and Committee
 - Trustees
 - Lay Leader
 - Staff
 - Custodian(s)
5. Make clear that professional, appropriate boundaries are taken very seriously in the UMC as well as the need for our congregants to be responsible for maintaining safe, healthy, respectful and honoring behavior to one another and those in professional leadership.
6. Have a "reporting/communication" plan in place IF the violator appears on church property, during church programs/services, or makes contact with church leaders.

If flirtation has happened (mutual attraction/ enticement):

1. **Name** and confess your participation in the confusion of boundaries and your role as pastor. Name the mixed messages/signals to bring them to light.
2. **Repent** – Identify your role as pastor and being responsible for maintaining clear, healthy, professional relationships with all in the congregation and apologize by naming the confusion and harm your behavior has brought to your relationship with the congregant.
3. **Reconcile** – Identify what boundaries must be made and kept as well as what damaging or misleading behaviors must be stopped. Pastors – talk with a grounded confidant and make a behavior covenant with clear accountability structures built in. Example: regular and frequent meetings with confidant reflecting on issues related to wandering over healthy, professional boundaries.

Local Congregation Sexual Harassment Policies

A clear and concise policy statement is a key part of a congregation's plan to address sexual misconduct. Policy documents are intended to be used for prevention of, and education and guidance on appropriate responses to allegations of, sexual misconduct in the local church. Resources are available from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women to help create a policy for your congregation. You can find these documents and more information at umsexualethics.org.

CENTER FOR MISSIONAL OUTREACH

The mission of the Center for Missional Outreach (CMO) is to help local churches make disciples through ministry *with* their neighbors, particularly people living in poverty or in under resourced communities. The CMO believes that the local church is best positioned to know its unique context and impact its community; thus, our “client” is the local church. The CMO is here to be a catalyst for local church missional outreach. Our strategy is to **inspire** (by lifting up powerful “ministry *with*” stories from North Texas and around the world), **connect** (by fostering connections to already-existing ministry models and potential UMC and community partners), and **equip** (by sharing foundational information, current best practices, and targeted monetary grants for missional outreach).

For the CMO, the values that define what faithful and effective ministry *with* one’s neighbors looks like are grounded in Micah 6:8: “God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” *Doing justice* compels us to address the systems that perpetuate suffering and inequity rather than deal only with the symptoms of our broken world. *Loving kindness* invites us to see our neighbors as beloved and gifted children of God; to engage in ministry with our neighbors that is relational and not merely transactional; and to reflect the *hesed* or steadfast love of our Creator by making a long-term commitment to our relationships with our neighbors. *Walking humbly* describes our ideal ministry stance – listening to our neighbors, learning about and from them, and coming alongside them as friends.

In addition to a refreshed mission, strategy and set of values, the CMO has a new staff team! Rev. Andy Lewis is the Director of the CMO (lewis@ntcumc.org); Jurrita Williams is an Associate Director with a focus on the One + One initiative or church-school partnerships (jwilliams@ntcumc.org); and Rev. Andrew Fiser is an Associate Director with responsibility for the Zip Code Connection (fiser@ntcumc.org). As we chart a new course, we are building upon and grateful for the work of our predecessors.

Below are highlights of the work of the CMO. For more information, go to our website, explore, and then sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter at www.ntcmissonaloutreach.org/newsletter/. Or, contact one of the members of the CMO staff team.

A Listening Stance

In the fall of 2017, the CMO reached out to clergy and lay leaders in 284 different local churches across North Texas and was able to conduct extensive interviews with representatives from more than 100 of them. We asked questions such as the following: What are examples of missional outreach that your church is doing? Which efforts are making the most impact? What are your goals and dreams for this work? What obstacles or frustrations do you routinely encounter? **How can the CMO best help you?** It was exciting and encouraging to learn about the faithful and innovative “ministry *with*” happening all over the conference. What we heard also shaped our center’s strategy and areas of focus.

Hurricane Harvey Relief and Recovery

Also, the fall of 2017 brought storms to the Texas Gulf Coast, and the response of United Methodists from North Texas has been nothing short of inspiring. In the months after Harvey made landfall, \$362,258 was given to the North Texas Disaster Relief Fund! Right away, \$50,000 each was given to the Texas Conference and the Rio Texas Conference for relief efforts. The remaining funds have been designated for three purposes: 1) help the Rio Texas Conference establish what they are calling “volunteer villages” – key sites for hosting hurricane recovery mission teams; 2) provide 1:1 matching grants to NTC hurricane recovery mission teams to defray the cost of materials; and 3) partner with UM churches in the Rio Texas Conference that need financial assistance in order to rebuild. North Texas Early Response Teams (ERTs) also sprang into action and played a significant role in clearing debris, tarping roofs and mucking out flooded homes. For more information on the work of the NTC’s ERTs and overall Disaster Response efforts, please see the Disaster Response report.

As the calendar turned to 2018, it became time to shift from immediate relief to long-term recovery. Our friends in the Rio Texas Conference estimate that it will be 3-5 years before life returns to pre-storm conditions. In light of the long road of recovery ahead, Bishop McKee and the CMO cast a vision for the North Texas Conference to commit to a long-term partnership with the Rio Texas Conference. We dreamed of what God could do through the 300 churches of the NTC if we focused our benevolent energy and resources on hurricane recovery in Rio Texas for the next three years. We set a God-sized goal of sending a total of 300 mission teams to Rio Texas in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The CMO has sought to connect and equip local churches to live into this vision in a number of ways. We are serving as a source of timely and accurate information for those who are called to plan and lead their own hurricane recovery mission teams. We also are offering monthly United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) training seminars and providing a variety of trip options – weekend roofing trips for adults led in partnership with Labors for Neighbors (www.laborsforneighbors.org) and four-day recovery trips sponsored by the NTC Board of Global Ministries – so every North Texas United Methodist who feels called to participate can do so. For more information about how you and your church can be a part of long-term recovery efforts in Rio Texas, go to www.ntcmissonaloutreach.org/mission-opportunities/hurricane-recovery-mission-trips/.

Reviving One + One

In 2015, Bishop McKee and the CMO presented an exciting vision for church-school partnerships that grew out of Methodism's long history of impacting education, focused on one-on-one mentoring, and was called One + One. Through the CMO's listening initiative in the fall of 2017, we learned that approximately 50 percent of local churches in North Texas are engaged in some kind of church-school partnership and 33 percent of those partnerships involve mentoring relationships. We also learned that many churches, though inspired by the One + One vision, struggled to live into it fully.

In 2018, the CMO recognizes the potential of church-school partnerships to not only affect educational outcomes for students in public schools but also provide priceless avenues for churches to listen to and learn about their mission fields and to build authentic relationships with their neighbors. So, we feel called to breathe new life into the One + One vision *and* equip churches to be successful in establishing and further developing strong church-school partnerships.

A key partner in this equipping work will be First UMC of Dallas. Since 2014, First UMC of Dallas has been in partnership with J.J. Rhoads, an elementary school in South Dallas / Fair Park. Over the past four years, this partnership – which began with one-on-one mentoring – has grown to include filling backpacks for weekend nourishment for students, providing bicycles as attendance incentives, sponsoring back-to-school meals for parents and teachers, “adopting” teachers and staff and showering them with encouragement year-round, lending a hand in the office and library, and volunteering as readers for Dr. Seuss Day and presenters for Career Day. As of the end of March 2018, members of First UMC of Dallas have given 1,350 hours of service to the J.J. Rhoads community during the 2017-18 school year. Their profound commitment to church-school partnerships and their first-hand experience of the difference they can make on the morale of students and teachers and the attendance rates and grades of children has propelled this church to develop a bold initiative that now has the potential to bless communities and churches across North Texas.

The initiative is One + One Dallas. One + One Dallas is a partnership with First UMC of Dallas, Dallas ISD, Pastors for Texas Children, The Meadows Foundation and the CMO. The mission of One + One Dallas is to facilitate church-school partnerships, and the overall vision is for every one of the Dallas ISD schools to have a thriving church-school partnership in five years. Jason Lewis is One + One Dallas' newly hired Executive Director. His role will be two-fold: connect communities of faith with Dallas ISD schools *and* contextualize and share best practices for church-school partnerships with NTC churches.

In addition, Jurrita Williams – new Associate Director of the CMO – is developing a cutting-edge learning cohort model for connecting and equipping local church leaders from across the conference for the task of beginning and deepening partnerships with their local schools. Our dream is that, one day, the vision of One + One Dallas will

spread, and there will be, for example, a One + One Clarksville and a One + One Wichita Falls and a One + One Prosper ... all to the glory of God. For more information about how the CMO can help your local church make disciples through a church-school partnership, go to the CMO website (www.ntcmissonaloutreach.org) or contact Jurrita Williams at jwilliams@ntcumc.org.

THE ZIP CODE CONNECTION

The Zip Code Connection has undergone significant changes and development since its inception in 2013. We updated our name — “*connection*” rather than “*project*.” We have a re-framed mission — “*creating vibrant and thriving communities*” rather than “*eradicating poverty*.” And—as our name change implies—we are focusing on transformation of the lives of our neighbors in these communities by connecting with them, by building connections among our churches to work with our neighbors during the transformation, and by connecting and coordinating resources already at work in these communities so they can collaborate and expand their impact.

Our goal is not to create yet another non-profit or compete with existing organizations. The Zip Code Connection was first imagined with two orienting goals 1) to focus the collective United Methodist resources and relationships among churches and organizations in ministry with neighbors in two areas, one rural one urban, working to overcome systemic oppression and/or generational poverty, and 2) to extrovert the learnings that happen in these two areas to the rest of our conference so that we can replicate similar work across North Texas.

Today the Zip Code Connection pursues the dream that residents of Clarksville/Red River County and South Dallas – Fair Park have for their own neighborhoods and community by leveraging our UMC connection to help residents achieve that dream. The best way we have found to articulate the dream so far is to work with residents and partners to help these two areas become more fully “vibrant, thriving communities recognized as a good place to live, work, learn, do business, raise children and practice one’s faith.” We continue to have four focus areas in our work: economic development, education, community engagement, and health & wellness. It is becoming clear in both areas that affordable and quality housing is a persistent issue that may need to be addressed in our work.

Developing Local Leadership: Over the next year, both areas are convening local advisory teams to guide their development, knowing that local leadership must be encouraged and nurtured to create sustainable futures. The Texas Methodist Foundation is providing consultation help using the Holy Conversations process normally used for strategic planning in churches, but adapted for use in this more broadly defined context. This adapted process focuses participants on three questions: 1) Who are we now as a community and organization? 2) Who are our neighbors? (or What breaks God’s heart?), and 3) What difference is God asking us to make?

Our Red River County/ Clarksville Advisory Team decided, without prompting, that they needed to pray weekly together for the community and their work. This may seem overly simple, but we believe this was a sign of God working in this diverse group to accomplish the work of the “Kingdom” where we are all sisters and brothers made in the image of God.

New Ministry Model: As part of the Center for Missional Outreach’s pivot toward catalyzing local church efforts, the Zip Code Connection is exploring ways to engage the South Dallas – Fair Park and the Clarksville/Red River County areas through local churches, existing organizations, and in partnership with pastors and laity who are passionate about and committed to connecting to their community in a deep and relational way. Beginning on March 1, Warren UMC and its pastor, Rev. Joshua Manning, entered a test phase of a partnership with the Zip Code Connection to live into a call to become a ministry hub for the South Dallas – Fair Park community. This effort is aimed at encouraging and resourcing Warren UMC as it lives into its call to be the church at the corner of Malcolm X & MLK in Dallas.

Other Fruitful Ministries:***Clarksville/Red River County:***

- Catana Yarnell continues as The Hub Manager and Education Liaison.
- The Hub Community Center: This acclaimed center for important meetings, social services, and innovative action continues with the help of a local foundation that funds the Manager and Education Liaison position.
- Counseling Service with Clarksville ISD funded by General Board of Global Ministries Grant – Restored access to only licensed mental health worker in the County
- Pray-er's for Students: Coordination provided for recruiting residents to pray for each and every student and classroom in Clarksville ISD
- Cheatham Champs: Recruiting for elementary school volunteers to read with students and support teachers
- Communities Unlimited: In second year of creating a sustainability plan for Red River County, with particular focus on small business development by residents
- Common Ground Community Garden: Second year of garden has brought together residents and partners to foster community and healthy food access.

South Dallas – Fair Park:

- South Dallas: Fair Park Faith Coalition: Provided SMU Perkins Intern to support the growth and development of this effective leadership group of 25 area churches
- SMU Perkins Interns: Two students will be deployed to focus on building relationships with area residents and potential ministry partners and will be based at Dallas Bethlehem Center and Warren UMC. Their leadership will pave the way for even better listening to the expressed desires and needs of actual neighbors. Coming Fall 2018
- UMC Stakeholder Gatherings: Beginning in Spring 2018, UMC-related churches, ministries, non-profits, businesses, and leaders who are connected to South Dallas – Fair Park will convene for quarterly conversation about how they can work together to serve the interests of residents.

Building Trust: One of the major challenges we have encountered has been re-building trust. After broadly publicizing a plan for an entrepreneur center that would incubate South Dallas – Fair Park businesses and jump-start the local economy, it became clear to new leadership that we did not have the capacity to fulfill our promise to turn a very creative dream into reality. Candid one-on-one conversations with community and United Methodist stakeholders have been difficult, but some have yielded new possibilities for future endeavors. Our strategic shift on strengthening the local church as the primary agent of mission is a new concept for churches and area partners. Though unintended our past approaches were seen as building yet another non-profit to enter a community and do the work. Our approach of coming alongside existing churches, organizations, and neighbors to encourage and strengthen their work is not what is expected.

Learning and Engaging: In keeping with our original goal for Zip Code Connection, we are doing the following: 1) developing clear ways for local churches and individuals to be a part of the work residents direct, and 2) developing ways to extrovert our learnings around the Annual Conference. We will be communicating these ways to engage in the coming months. If you would like to know how you or those you know can connect with the work in either area, or if you would like to explore how you can develop similar work in your community, please let us know. We are glad to preach, present, facilitate a learning group, or just talk. Please contact Rev. Andrew Fiser at fiser@ntcumc.org or 972-526-5018. You can also check us out at zipcodeconnection.org.

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Your Conference Board of Global Ministries seeks to serve the congregations of the North Texas Conference by maintaining the connectional relationship with our denomination's General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) and, through that relationship, to provide resourcing and encouragement for enthusiastic participation in the missional, Kingdom opportunities the GBGM provides.

- A. Those opportunities are literally world-wide. Over 200 United Methodist missional agencies are on the ground and making an impact in 71 countries or political entities from Africa to Asia and the Pacific islands, from Europe/Eurasia to Latin America, and from North America to the Middle East. Over 350 United Methodist missionaries, called and committed, are presently serving as pastors, church planters and evangelists, congregational leadership developers, educators, agriculturalists, doctors and health care providers, community and global health coordinators, and disaster recovery leaders all over the planet. These persons and ministries address the whole person and the whole community. A vital difference is being made. Disciples are being made.

Simply put, your Board of Global Ministries is focused on involving as many North Texas United Methodists as possible in passionate, supportive engagement with one or more United Methodist missional agencies, ministries, or missionaries to the glory of God and for the sake of our neighbors around the world. We encourage you to see for yourself. Go to umcmmission.org to get started.

- B. In **Conference year 2017-18** *Hurricane Harvey* dominated the landscape. North Texas United Methodists were not timid, slow, or miserly in responding:

- Of the 1,689 NTC gifts to The Advance (totaling \$880,252.23), approximately 1,100 were directed to UMCOR's early and long-term work in Harvey-stricken places and in similar communities ravaged by natural disasters.
- The 2017-18 top-four Advance recipients of monetary support reflected this reality: #1 – UMCOR Disaster Response USA, #2 – UMCOR Undesignated, #3 – UMCOR Material & Relief Resources, #4 – UMCOR Disaster Response International.
- Organized mission teams for Harvey relief and recovery, other disaster scenarios, and work with agencies in difficult places showed an impressive uptick:
 - 72 mission/UMVIM groups were reported deployed (a 33% increase over the previous year)
 - 1,154 individuals were reported sent by local church organizers on these mission trips (a 23.4% increase over the previous year)
 - *All four districts of the North Texas Conference showed an increase in mission teams sent and persons sent on those teams over the previous year's reporting. This fact is noteworthy and to be celebrated!*
 - In 2017-18 - whether through a single congregation raising and sending teams to locations, or through combined teams from two or more congregations, or through Conference-sponsored disaster recovery trips – many congregations have made multiple trips and significant efforts to alleviate suffering and hardship. *These congregations are heeding Christ's call to go and serve, keep praying fervently, and continue to provide resources and encouragement until the need is met.* It is expected that our Conference's end of year 2018 disaster response totals will significantly surpass prior years' numbers.
 - In 2018, the North Texas Conference Board of Global Ministries is sponsoring three long-term recovery/rebuild mission trips to Rio Texas Conference areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey:
 - April 5-9 to the Victoria area
 - June 8-11 to the Rockport area
 - September 20-23 Location TBD

Online trip information and registration can be found on the Center for Missional Outreach's website (ntcmmissionaloutreach.org) at least sixty days prior to the specific trip. We encourage you to prayerfully consider being a part of one of these trips. Participation in a Conference-sponsored disaster recovery trip could be especially helpful for congregations who are new to disaster response involvement and

desire settings where its people can serve productively while learning about trip planning, organization, and ministry mindset.

- C. Historically, at the center of our Conference's involvement in God's mission in the world have been United Methodist missionaries and missionary-related agencies like Missionaries Around The World and the young adult Generation Transformation Program. In conference year 2017-18, the following GBGM missionaries were supported by NTC congregations:

David Ceballos, Cindy Ceballos, Jacques Akasa Umenbudi, John Calhoun, Mary Escobar, Katelyn Davis, Becky Harrell, Umba Llunga Kalangwa, Ngoy Mulana Kalangwa, David McCormick, Emmanuel Ufonna Mefor, Florence Ogugua Mefore, Katherine Meek, Cristan Schlick, and Cornelia Wieck.

We thank God for the ministries of these called and claimed persons. Profiles of all current GBGM missionaries can be viewed at the GBGM website: umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles.

We also celebrate the retirement in 2017 of Becky Harrell and in 2018 the retirements of David Ceballos and Cindy Ceballos.

To close, your Board of Global Ministries asks the congregations of North Texas:

- a. To step into this historical **involvement of covenant relationships with serving missionaries, missional agencies, and missional emphases**. So much is to be gained from these relationships and what they provide. Congregations of all sizes can find a linkage that works for you. Let your Board of Global Ministries help you explore the possibilities.
- b. To strongly support the **annual UMCOR Sunday special offering** during the Lenten season. In the previous conference year, only 43 congregations reported observing this opportunity to support and learn about our ministry through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Has it been awhile since you checked out UMCOR? Go to **umcor.org** to learn more.

This North Texas Conference remains wonderfully alive and committed to the Wesleyan declaration that The World Is Our Parish! That is good news indeed! Let us live further into its invitation: make a difference, make disciples.

Our thanks to Rev. Dr. Janet Bell Odom - Conference Disaster Response Coordinator - and the Reverends Andy Lewis & Andrew Fiser - Center for Missional Outreach staff - for their indispensable support and guidance. To God be the glory.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

In the fall of 2017, your Board of Church and Society began the process of identifying an area of need that we could rally around and bring to the attention of The North Texas Conference. To that end we have decided to raise awareness around the issue of youth homelessness.

While we are all aware of the homeless in our communities, it is becoming more evident that there is a large population of students who have been identified by school districts and social services as homeless. We are currently trying to tackle this issue by focusing mostly on Dallas, Denton, and Collin Counties, with the hope of offering some initial resources to local churches who are interested in learning more. We believe that for those churches that are already active in a One + One church-school partnership, access to local information will be especially helpful.

The General Board of Church and Society has called on the Conferences to participate in the revision of The Social Principles by holding conversations in local churches and offering feedback. The sessions must be completed and input sent to the General Board by August as they work on The Social Principles in preparation for General Conference 2020.

We continue to give financial assistance through Peace with Justice Grants. In 2017, we awarded one grant to the Denton Wesley Foundation to support an intentional effort to mobilize students and equip them in faith-based justice action. In 2018 we awarded one grant to One Man's Treasure, a ministry that assists men coming out of incarceration with clothing that will help them transition into society and the work place.

Denise Peckham, Chair

CENTER FOR CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

“New Faces | New Spaces”

In 2018, The Center for New Church Development and Congregational Transformation officially changed its name to the Center for Church Development (CCD). The name “Church Development” was chosen to embrace the biblical definition of church as a gathering of persons for Christian discipleship. The name points to a new season of church development and congregational transformation that is adaptive to dynamic contexts in North Texas. Our vision is every church planting, and our mission is to gather new persons in new spaces.

New spaces may be physical spaces on or off existing church campuses. New spaces may be spaces of time during a week or month that are dedicated to reaching a new mission field. New spaces call those gathered in traditional spaces to encourage, support, and provide nontraditional spaces that adapt to our ever changing mission field in North Texas. The CCD has embraced the mission of assisting churches to gather persons and create spaces that make disciples of Jesus Christ among those who call North Texas home.

Dr. Owen Ross was appointed as the Director and Rev. S. Dianna Masters was appointed as the Associate Director for Strengthening the Black Church since July 1, 2017. Matt Temple was hired as the Associate Director for church planting, and existing staff member Liliana Rangel was promoted to Ministry Coordinator as of January 1, 2018. This team is leading the North Texas Conference Center for Church Development into a new era in which churches gathering new faces in new spaces will be the norm rather than the exception among churches in the North Texas Conference.

TRANSFORMING EXISTING CONGREGATIONS

The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) continues to make an incredible impact within the North Texas Conference. The HCI is led by Liliana Rangel, and is based on training our own clergy and laity to mutually coach and mentor congregations. This approach involves laity in all levels of leadership and participation with components designed specifically for churches of all sizes. Data and personal testimonies attest to the fruitfulness of the HCI.

The HCI is entering into a new era of working with churches which have already gone through the HCI process. This newly developed process re-evaluates churches which have completed the original HCI process. The CCD has created a team of North Texas Conference pastors and laity that will assist congregations in evaluating the impact of their own implementation of the original prescriptions. The process will assist churches in discerning what they need to continue to build on in order to be able to enhance their ministries, to develop new prescriptions, and to gather new faces in new places as well as transformed or transforming spaces. This new phase will launched January 2019. Team members: Serena Eckert, John McLarty, Todd Harris, Gene Wisdom, Edlen Cowley, and Brian Bosworth.

The following churches have participated in the Healthy Church Initiative process from 2015-2018:

Plymouth Park	FUMC The Colony	Caddo Mills	FUMC Royse City
FUMC Sulphur Springs	Holy Covenant	Whitewright	FUMC Bells
Van Alstyne	Wesley, McKinney	Trenton	Cochran Chapel
Wesley, Greenville	Archer City	Henrietta	Asbury, Denton
Faith, Corinth	Alvord	Burkburnett	FUMC Farmersville
Whaley	Boyd	Iowa Park	Suncreek
Spring Valley	Saint Jo	Bridgeport	FUMC Holliday
FUMC Mesquite	Ponder	Wesley	FUMC Krum
FUMC Commerce	Pilot Point	Kavanaugh	Paradise
University Park	Valley View	Howe	Wesley, Wichita Falls
Stonebridge	Button Memorial	Lakeway	FUMC Leonard
FUMC Irving	Oak Haven	Trinity	FUMC Duncanville
FUMC Decatur	St. Marks	St. Philips	Floral Heights
Lake Highlands	St. Stephen	Grace Avenue	Grace Sherman
Heath	Camp Wisdom	First Lewisville	FUMC Plano
Cornerstone	Jubilee	Alvord	Cockrell Hill
Wylie	Aubrey	Boyd	Living Life
Poetry/Kemp/Becker	Pleasant Valley	Melissa	College Mound
Honey Grove/McKenzie	FUMC Bowie	Christ Princeton	FUMC Terrell
Tioga	Glen Oaks	Church of the Disciple	
Casa Emanu-El	Wheatland	Creekwood	
Mabank	Good Shepherd	Fellowship	

NEW CHURCH STARTS

In the CCD we believe that it is churches that plant churches. Because of this, our vision for planting is simple: ***Every Church Planting***. The CCD wants to partner with *every church* in the North Texas Conference and provide support in order to see the majority of churches transforming communities through planting. In the CCD we define planting as any endeavor that seeks to engage a neighborhood in discipleship and gospel renewal through the creation of new and/or innovative missional strategies. In short, the CCD will endeavor to create a discipleship movement by supporting churches in developing new spaces for new faces.

The first step in realizing this dream is the development of a church planter support system that: (a) provides planters with strategic in-time training guided by adult education methodology; (b) facilitates holistic personal formation; (c) provides relational support through peer engagement; (d) allows for the sharing of tribal knowledge and personalized coaching; (e) creates space for innovative ideas to emerge and a laboratory for those ideas to be tested and (f) views planting through the lens of human development and tracks with planters and their team in each of the unique developmental years of the church plant.

The best way to create a holistic and effective support system is to capitalize on the great planting work that has been done over the past several years in the North Texas Conference. To truly support our planters the CCD incorporates the struggles and challenges of those who have planted in a wide array of contexts with representatives from a diverse social and ethnic background as well as from suburban, rural and urban contexts. The first step to accomplish this was to harness the creative energy from some of the quality leaders in the field and give them the ownership of designing the support system. In the months of February and March of 2018 clergy with planting experience were invited to be a part of the design team. Those who accepted the invitation met once to get an overview of the design process and then met on three separate occasions in April and May for all day retreats to do the design work. The goal of the design team was to develop a support system for church planters that helps

the Center serve planters effectively in each unique developmental stage of the church plant. Members of the 2018 design team were:

1. Matt Temple | Associate Director of Church Planting for CCD
2. Rev. Stacey Piyakhun | Pastor, Melissa UMC
3. Rev. Mike Baughman | Pastor, Union, Dallas
4. Rev. Derek Jacobs | Pastor, The Village, DeSoto
5. Rev. Clay Horton | Associate Pastor, Triestch UMC
6. Rev. Abe Smith | Pastor, Living Life UMC, McKinney
7. Rev. David Rangel | Pastor, Casa Linda, Dallas
8. Rev. Billy Echols-Richter | Pastor, Grace Avenue UMC, Frisco

We have identified five church plant developmental stages. Each stage has a unique set of challenges and requires the church planter and team to adapt to those challenges in order for the new church community to flourish. The stages are as follows:

- Dream: Hear the Call
- Genesis: Clarify the Vision
- Launch: Animate the Vision
- Nurture: Embody the Vision
- Expand: Multiply the Vision

In the Dream stage potential planters are just beginning to think about the idea of planting. There is the sense of a call but that call has not been fully discerned. The focus within this stage is discernment and assessment. The CCD helps planters discern whether or not planting is for them, what sort of new faith community they feel called to, and where they may need further development. Once a planter has discerned a clear calling and been through an initial assessment process they then move into the Genesis stage where they will focus on personal development as well as the development of a strategy. It is in this stage that the planter enters our 12-month Genesis cohort training to help them develop and execute their vision.

Leading up to the launch, planters will have spent quite a bit of time dreaming and looking to clarify the vision of their church and strategy for launch. The launch year is unique because everything is new as planters seek to give life to the vision. But like any plant that starts to grow after being put in the ground it must be tended to and cultivated in order to flourish. The Nurturing stage of a plant happens in years 2 - 5. During the nurturing stage the challenge for the church is to live into the vision that they have developed. During this time the planter and team must cultivate the life of the worshiping community, implement the processes for missional engagement, and actualize the discipleship pathway and leadership development. In the midst of all of this the team must constantly assess the effectiveness of their strategies and adapt in areas where things are not working. If the culture they are creating is not intentionally nurtured then churches tend to become reactionary instead of proactive and default into negative/self-focused behavior that becomes destructive to the vision and limits growth potential. Once the church has taken the time to live into their vision they begin to establish a culture. As churches move into the expansion stage they begin to identify potential new mission fields where they can multiply what they have done. The vision does not necessarily change, but because the church has been nurtured and is healthy the church can now look to start new spaces for new faces (geographic, ethnic, affinity, etc.), *planted churches planting*.

At the hub of this vision is a 12-month church planting cohort that will both equip the planter and provide the space and direction for the development and execution of their church planting strategy. Neuroscience and human development teach that learning and creativity have the greatest impact when they are sequenced in a structured learning community and allow for immediate application. Within a planting cohort church planters can apply what they are learning and have an opportunity for reflection in a peer group. Relevant application, reflection, and repetition are essential aspects of the structured environment and create space for innovation and vision to emerge.

The first NTC cohort begins July 1, 2018. Some of the focus points for the cohort include:

- **Who:** The focus is to develop a profile of the new church. Particular focal points will be the planter's profile, the leadership team profile and ethos (culture and values) of the church.
- **Where:** The focus is to develop a profile of the local community in which the planter hopes to plant and how the new discipling community will respond to those distinctives.
- **What:** The focus will be to develop a profile of the churches local engagements. The goal is to describe how the new plant will live out its calling to be a missionary people in its context.
- **How:** The focus will be to develop a time-line and strategy for executing the vision and living into the values of the church within its unique context.

CCD Church Plants

- In 2018 15 persons were identified in the Nascent Stage.
- In 2018 5 persons were identified for the Genesis Stage.
- Churches moving from Genesis Stage into Launch Stage in 2018 are:
 - Trinity Falls (Multisite/Daughter of FUMC McKinney) Planter: Kris Melvin
 - Casa Linda Extension (Multisite/Daughter of Casa Linda UMC) Planter: Juan Carlos Ramirez
 - Pecan Mission (Multisite/Daughter of FUMC Decatur) Planter: Ricky Harrison

STRENGTHENING THE BLACK CHURCH

The North Texas Conference initiative on Strengthening the Black Church was begun July 2017. Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee serves as chair along with seven clergy persons and four laity. The North Texas Conference Strengthening the Black Church (NTCSBC) focuses on three components:

The Pastors

The first component in strengthening NTCSBC churches was to develop clergy cohorts. The first cohort is for pastors that lead churches with over 100 in average Sunday worship attendance. This cohort will partner with Perkins School of Theology in Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence to sharpen and further develop the preaching of the pastors in the larger churches. These pastors also have coaches to assist the pastors and their leadership teams in strengthening their churches. The second cohort is pastors that lead churches with less than one hundred in average worship attendance. These pastors participate in a cohort with three coaches that help them lead and assist their leadership teams to revitalize the congregations.

The Churches

The second component is the church. The design team developed a process where the pastor, leadership team and coach work to first identify areas of strength and weakness. The 100+ attendance churches read and processed together *Bigger Than Hip Hop - Seven Questions for Effectively Reaching Young Adults in Ministry* by Ron Bell, Jr, *Black Millennials and the Church* by Joshua Mitchell, *Preaching to the Black Middle Class* by Marvin McMickle. Then, the church engages in a deep study of the congregation, including its evangelism, attendance, hospitality, finances, and other key components of healthy churches. Upon identifying unique components of the church that will most strengthen it, congregations will engage with a coach to implement strengtheners in 12 - 18 month process to achieve the desired results.

The second group of churches will also be involved with learning healthy church initiatives each month and developing strategies to strengthen the churches. A lead coach works with two other coaches for these nine churches in developing and implementing these strategies.

The Young Black Clergy

The third component of the plan is strengthening our young African American Clergy. Each fall the CCD will continue to expose them to seasoned pastors both United Methodist and other denominations for ideas on preaching and what a successful ministry looks like. This past Fall 2017, they visited with two black mega pastors and found the work rewarding. The CCD will also offer them an opportunity to learn from a national conference where the purpose of that conference is about strengthening their work. The CCD also meets with these young pastors over a meal or coffee monthly to see how they are doing and what the Annual Conference can do to help them prepare for significant ministry in the North Texas Annual Conference.

The design team along with Conference Staff is committed to this work because the CCD believes this will strengthen not only our Black Churches but our entire North Texas Annual Conference.

Members of the Design Team are:

Rev. S. Dianna Masters, Associate Director

Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Rev. James Minor, Rev. Michael Bowie, Rev. Preston Weaver

Rev. Edlen Cowley, Rev. Christopher O'Riley, Roderick Dangerfield; Phiebie Hutchins

Lisa Cooper, Joyce Bell, Liliana Rangel

CONCLUSION

The 2018 theme of the North Texas Annual Conference of New Faces in New Spaces is at the heart of the work of the CCD. As the demographic and religious landscape in North Texas Conference continues to change, the CCD works to equip churches to engage in the ever-changing mission field. The CCD exists to equip and strengthen the churches of the North Texas Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the word. The Center's work in 2017-2018 has been fruitful, but the best is yet to come.

COMMUNICATIONS

The North Texas Conference communications team remains committed to sharing the stories of clergy and laity throughout the conference who utilize their given skills and talents to glorify God and bring others closer to Him.

Matt Jacob joined the North Texas Conference staff in August 2017 as Director of Communications. He most recently served as Associate Director of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations at Perkins School of Theology. Previously, Jacob also worked as a staff writer at *The Dallas Morning News*, served on the Public Relations and Marketing team at Children's Medical Center and was part of client teams at two international public relations agencies, Golin and Allison+Partners.

In this role, Jacob is tasked with developing and coordinating all strategic communication activities of the conference. To that end, he will communicate all North Texas Conference initiatives to local churches, oversee the public communication of the Bishop, leverage media relations opportunities with local print and broadcast media, ensure brand management of the conference office in all respects and act as the primary liaison with United Methodist Communications.

Other members of the communications team include Kim Kaufman, manager of web services; Wil Murphy, videographer and media consultant; and Linda Johnson and Wendy Campbell, writers.

As a group, we develop and communicate the story of the North Texas Conference externally to and through the work of our 300 local churches. We view this charge as a distinct opportunity to cultivate and fortify relationships with our churches to amplify their good work while, simultaneously, working alongside United Methodist Communications and other boards and agencies to connect them with churches and United Methodists in our region.

The team has diligently researched the communications preferences of our followers. To that end – and as a product of that work – we soon will be launching a rebrand for the North Texas Conference that will bring consistency and a fresh design perspective to our communications channels. This will include a redesigned website, fresh stories of individuals and groups, interactive content on social media and a commitment to video storytelling.

As always, we view those individuals in our conference – clergy and laity – as communications ambassadors ... our many eyes and ears in the field who are willing to share interesting stories with us. Please feel free to email Matt Jacob (mjacob@ntcumc.org) and share with him those story ideas as well as your thoughts feedback on the types of stories you would like to see from the North Texas Conference.

CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Core Leadership Team (CLT) serves as a sounding board and strategic partner for the Bishop and the Center Directors in their leadership within the North Texas Conference. In the 2017-2018 conference year, the CLT met three times and engaged in faithful and fruitful discussion.

In October, the agenda focused on the North Texas Conference's initial response to Hurricane Harvey and our vision for a long-term partnership to aid in the recovery process in the Rio Texas Conference; the emerging work of the Center for Leadership Development on Cultural Intelligence and its potential benefits to our leadership – clergy and laity – and the missional effectiveness of our churches; the process of strengthening teamwork and achieving strategic alignment among the Extended Cabinet; and the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and its implications for United Methodism in North Texas.

In February, the CLT continued discussion on the implications of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and received an update on the alignment of the Extended Cabinet. In addition, the agenda included a presentation by the Director of Communications, Matt Jacob, detailing his communications strategy and goals.

In April, the CLT revisited the above topics and reflected on the Center Directors' collaborative proposal for how to empower churches to gather new faces in new spaces.

For more detailed descriptions of the work being done by the Centers, refer to the Center reports in the Agency Reports section of the Journal.

The CLT is convened by Bishop McKee and includes:

- Vice Chair/Conference Lay Leader – Jeff Bouis
- Lay members elected by each district – Clay Johnson, East; Kim Brannon, Metro; Tim Crouch, North Central; Abby Echols, Northwest
- Three at-large members appointed by the Bishop – Alfred White, Marie Mitchell, and Mary Beth Hardesty-Crouch
- One District Superintendent – Cammy Gaston
- Center Directors – Jodi Smith, Marti Soper, Owen Ross, and Andy Lewis

CENTER FOR CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)

On August 25, 2018, Hurricane Harvey, a category 4 hurricane, with torrential storms made landfall along the Texas Gulf Coastal Areas resulting in an estimated 30,000 people needing temporary shelter. The North Texas Conference

(NTC) Disaster Response, under the leadership of Dr. Janet Bell Odom, received a call from the Dallas County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) asking for assistance with the Hurricane Harvey refugees who would come to the Dallas Shelters.

The North Texas Conference Churches began working with VOAD, volunteering in the Dallas shelters, donating clothing, hygiene kits, pack and plays, baby tubs, as well as, preparation of food for those who came to the city. We had a church which provided temporary living quarters for a family.

As the NTC received invitations from the Rio Texas and Texas Conferences to come and assist with the cleanup, (tearing out walls, tarping, etc.), the NTC UMCOR Disaster Response Certified Early Response Teams (ERT), Second Responders, answered the call. Several of the NTC Church ERTs volunteered “to provide a Caring Christian Presence in the aftermath of disaster.”

The NTC UMCOR Disaster Response held several ERT Basic and Recertification Trainings hosted by NTC Churches in all of the NTC Districts. Four UMCOR Disaster Response Certified ERT Trainers, Alma Cone, Mike Walker, Mike Ridgley, and Bobby Aga trained 125 persons to join the over 200 already trained ERTs, to go work in the devastated communities along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Special thanks to all of the churches in North Texas Conference for your monetary contributions and donations. There have been over 3,000 Cleaning Buckets, Hygiene and School Kits collected. We have distributed over \$100,000 to provide relief assistance to the Rio Texas and Texas Conferences. Through the NTC Disaster Response efforts, you have been the hands and feet of Jesus Christ for the people along the Texas Gulf Coast.

COMMISSION ON CHURCH ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

As a group committed to paying attention to the past and focusing on what is happening *right now* in our midst, we find that what is happening in the church today is an exciting opportunity to bear witness to history unfolding day by day. We move closer to history being made at the denominational level with a specially called General Conference (the second of its kind in the United Methodist Church’s 50 year history) next year, and we are seeing history being made at the local level in churches surrounding us every day! From the excitement and revitalization of congregations like Casa Linda UMC, innovative partnerships and expansions occurring in communities like White Rock UMC and Oak Lawn UMC, and creative ministry expressions like Union Coffee, we believe that *now* is the time to be excited at what is happening all around us! And in that spirit, we want to raise a few things to your attention:

- The Kate Warnick Award. Did you know that there is a recognition rewarded annually for a well-told story of your local church’s history? We want to invite you to consider writing the story of your local church so that it can be added to the Christian testimony that is burning bright in the North Texas Annual Conference. For more information about this award, including what the reward for the local church is, visit: www.goo.gl/bRoAYw.
- Is writing an entire church history too daunting? What about publishing a small article or sharing a shorter story or event that occurred in your local church congregation? Did you recently celebrate a significant milestone in your church’s ministry? Perhaps a saint whose story needs to be told recently passed. We want to share your story with the world! Send us your stories—as blog posts, or videos, or even audio/podcasts! We will set up a place on the internet where your story can be shared with the world and we can celebrate together the brilliant testimony of your local church. For more questions, or to submit YOUR story, please email: archivesandhistory@ntcumc.org. If you want to see what kind of stories you can share, visit our table at Annual Conference this year to see some examples of how you can share your story and to meet us in person! We would love to hear about the exciting things that are happening, or have happened in the life of your local church!

Our scriptures started as an oral tradition—where stories were passed down in the community. Eventually, someone decided it would be important to write it down—and thanks to those innovative story tellers we have been gifted with the testimony of our faith that has endured through centuries. As we approach the threshold of such an important historical moment in the life of our denomination, we want to invite you to join us in keeping an account of what is happening in YOUR church, so that your testimony can endure!

Rev. Ben A. David Hensley, Commission on Church Archives and History, Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. Fidelity Bond for Local Churches

The North Texas Conference continues to provide a \$100,000 Employee Dishonesty (Crime) Bond as an integral part of our current conference wide mandatory insurance program for the employees and volunteers responsible for all aspects of finances in the local churches.

B. Electric Aggregation Program

Electric utilities in the state of Texas were deregulated effective January 1, 2002. Deregulation offered the opportunity for the churches of the North Texas Conference to join together to purchase electricity. With the encouragement of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), a group of large churches in the conference initiated an effort to secure a group contract for the purchase of electricity. All of the churches of the conference have been invited to participate in this effort. The program will enter its sixth aggregate contract this July and continues to be beneficial to the approximately 108 participating churches.

Effective July 1, 2015, we entered into an electrical aggregate contract for a 48 month negotiated rate of .0509 per kWh through July 2019. Beginning in 2019, the price will drop to .041 per kWh.

C. Conference-Wide Property & Liability Insurance Program

In response to requests for help from several local churches and after a great deal of study and discussion over many years, the 2006 Annual Conference session voted to establish a conference-wide property and liability insurance program through the group captive established by GCFA known as UM PACT. State regulations governing group captives required each annual conference to provide a capital contribution to the captive.

In April of 2011, GCFA created United Methodist Insurance (UMI) as a single parent captive with the intent of providing greater insurance coverage opportunities and savings. By the end of the second quarter of 2012, UMI assumed all of the assets and liabilities of the UM PACT program and retained its risks and coverage. Although the North Texas Conference is no longer participating in the UMI program, we do continue to have an asset in the form of a surplus note of approximately \$449,000 held with UMI from our capital contribution. We expect this contribution to eventually be returned to our conference.

In 2011, the unusually high loss experience over the preceding five years led to a premium increase of 23% over the previous year along with an increase in deductibles from a flat \$1,000 across the board to a wind and hail damage deductible of 2% per building with a cap of \$50,000 per building per occurrence on our October 1, 2011 insurance renewal with UMI. Under the direction of the Bishop, the Core Leadership Team, and the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), an Insurance Advisory Team (IAT) was created to negotiate this program on behalf of the churches of the North Texas Conference. The initial IAT was a six member task force composed of experienced property and liability insurance professionals who were not current broker/agents, directors, or otherwise beneficiaries of any sort of insurance carrier so that they might act on behalf of the churches of the North

Texas Conference without any conflict of interest. Over the course of the next several months, the IAT entered into negotiations with UMI over our existing insurance programs. In addition, they secured the services of a local commercial broker, MHBT, in order to obtain a competitive bid on our lines of coverage.

In 2011, the IAT presented to CF&A their recommendation that we move all lines of property and liability insurance coverage to MHBT. CF&A voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the IAT and to ask that this short term task force be an ongoing advisory team tasked with the work of review and continued negotiation of our insurance needs, reporting directly to CF&A. The actions of the 2012 General Conference moved that oversight responsibility to the Board of Trustees.

Fortunately for our churches, the Property and Liability insurance was moved to a new carrier on April 1, 2012. On April 3, 2012 the Dallas area experienced the eighth most expensive storm in the last forty years of Texas weather history. And on June 16th, the Dallas area was again hit with what proved to be the fifth most expensive insurance loss for Texas. Both of these storms ranked above the Bastrop Wildfires in terms of total losses for the insurance industry. Had we remained under our previous carriers, our churches would have experienced deductibles of approximately \$1,405,611 on the hail claims alone based on the 2% of building value deductible. Instead, our churches paid a total of \$74,260 in 2012 deductibles on these same losses under our new insurance policy. We are facing a very hard market for property insurance lines due to the recent storms, particularly in Dallas and Wichita Counties. The Insurance Advisory Committee is working very hard to provide our churches with coverage that protects their ministry dollars.

Our loss experience in 2013 improved significantly, resulting in a smaller than expected increase in premiums for the 2014-2015 year. Although we experienced significant storms in 2014 and related hail losses, the restructuring of the insurance program that allows the conference to cover more of the first dollar losses allowed us to keep the increase in property insurance to an average of just under 5%. We did experience larger increases in General Liability and Auto causing an overall increase of just under 8% for the 2015-2016 year.

The 2015-2016 year turned out to be very costly with historic floods in the spring, December tornadoes, numerous hail storms, and two churches burning to the ground. In spite of such catastrophic damages, the Self-Insured Retention allowed the conference to keep the overall increase in property insurance at slightly less than a 4% increase.

The 2016 -2017 year also turned out to be very costly with hail storms in the spring of 2016, and again in March of 2017. These storms included baseball and softball sized hail that damaged churches from Wichita Falls to Collin County. Fortunately, Dallas County fared a little better this year. The total increase to the churches for 2017-2018 was just under 7%, which included a 15% increase in property but significant decreases in liability and worker's comp.

The 2017-2018 renewal shifted the first dollar loss of claims to the conference from 1.5 million to 2.5 million, with an increase in the deductible to \$25,000. The conference maintains a GAP fund included in the calculation of the bills to cover this first dollar loss as well as the differential in the cost of the deductible per campus charged to the conference as opposed to the deductible charged to the individual churches. While the market calls for a deductible of 1% of the Total Insured Value (TIV) in general, this GAP fund allows us to keep the deductible charged to the local church at an amount not to exceed .2% in recognition of the hardship most of our churches would face in trying to fund up to 1% in the event of a loss. The overall increase in premiums across the board was held at about 3% for the 2018 year given this structure. Our property loss experience was very good for the 2017-2018 year, allowing us to build a cushion into the GAP reserve.

Because of continuing concern over the vulnerability of our churches in today's litigious society and realizing that all of the other churches are at risk when some are without adequate coverage or limits, the Trustees are convinced that a mandatory conference wide program is the best way to protect all North Texas Conference churches in case

of property losses or issues leading to liability claims. The Trustees desire to do everything possible to keep our churches out of harm's way and to enhance our protection of ministry and mission.

D. Designation of UMC Owned Property as Cultural, Historical, or Architectural Landmark

Paragraph 2512.7 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* directs that “the board [of trustees of the annual conference], after consultation with the conference commission on archives and history, shall develop a policy for an annual conference response, on behalf of any local church, church-related agency, or district or annual conference board of trustees located within the bounds of the annual conference, to any governmental effort to designate a property held in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church (§2501) by any such board of trustees as a cultural, historical, or architectural landmark.” The Board of Trustees met with the Commission on Archives and History on April 3, 2018 to establish policies and procedures to assist our local churches in navigating the complexities of historical designations. Certain designations can place undue governmental burden on a historically designated church when repairs are needed or a campus needs to expand or move. Please see Legislative Item #9 for more details.

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

HEALTH BENEFITS POLICIES

June 2018

INTRODUCTION

The North Texas Conference provides a conference health insurance program designed to provide its eligible employees (defined herein) with a comprehensive plan for medical insurance. The program is administered through a group plan overseen by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The North Texas Annual Conference participates in HealthFlex, the health benefits program of Wespath Benefits and Investments of The United Methodist Church for our active participants and Via Benefits for retired participants.

All full-time clergy appointed to local churches within the Conference or as District Superintendents or to the Conference staff (ordained elders, deacons in full connection, deacons on track to become elders, commissioned persons on track to become elders or deacons, full-time local pastors, members of other conferences or denominations appointed according to Paragraphs 346.1 or 346.2) **are required** to be enrolled in the Conference health insurance plan and their respective church or salary paying unit is responsible for the defined contribution amount set by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits for the appointee. Coverage for spouses and dependents is optional, and the premium for an appointee's spouse and dependents is the responsibility of the appointee.

ELIGIBILITY

The following are eligible for coverage under the program and in accordance with the adoption agreement between the North Texas Conference and Wespath:

1. Ordained elders and deacons and commissioned persons on track to become elders or deacons (including those with full Conference membership, provisional membership and associate membership), and local pastors appointed full-time to local churches within the Conference and their eligible dependents.
2. Clergy serving as district superintendents and Conference staff.
3. Clergy from other United Methodist annual conferences and ordained ministers from other denominations

employed full-time and under episcopal appointment to a local church or charge of the North Texas Annual Conference under the provisions of Paragraphs 346.1 or 346.2 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*.

4. Clergy appointed beyond the local church within the connectional structure to a General Agency, to other than a unit of a conference or other than a General Agency, an ecumenical agency and extension ministry endorsed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry under the provisions of Paragraph 344.1a(2), 344.1a(3), 344.1a(4) and 344.1b, only if they are listed specifically in the annual Wespath adoption agreement.

5. Clergy appointed to Leave of Absence or Sabbatical (eligible for one year only).

6. Lay persons who are full-time (at least 30 hours per week) employees of the annual conference and their eligible dependents.

7. Full-time (at least 30 hours per week) lay employees and their eligible dependents of local churches or connectional agencies in the North Texas Annual Conference which offer the Conference group insurance program to all of their fulltime lay employees, if the church has a sub-adoption agreement with Wespath and meets the 75% participation rule.

8. Retired clergy members of the Conference immediately eligible to receive pension from Wespath at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation takes place, and who had a minimum of five (5) continuous and consecutive years of active participation in the North Texas Annual Conference group health program at the time of retirement, and their respective dependents. Retired clergy can retain future rights to Conference funding if at the time of retirement coverage was declined because the clergy had other employer sponsored group health insurance.

9. Disabled clergy members (appointed under ¶356 *2016 Book of Discipline*) of the Conference (who were enrolled in HealthFlex at the time of their disability) immediately eligible to receive disability benefits from Wespath at the beginning of the month following the month in which the disability leave with disability benefits takes place, as granted by the Division of Conference Relations, and their respective dependents.

10. Retired lay employees of the Conference or a local church within the Conference at the beginning of the month following the month in which the retired relation takes place, and who had a minimum of five (5) consecutive years of active participation in the North Texas Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement, and their respective dependents, if the church selects that category in the sub-adoption agreement with Wespath.

11. Disabled lay employees of the Conference or a local church within the Conference (who were enrolled in HealthFlex at the time of their disability) at the beginning of the month following the month in which the disability leave takes place as granted by Wespath, and their respective dependents.

12. Surviving dependents of a deceased active participant as long as the participant and dependent were covered participants at the time of death.

13. Surviving dependents of a deceased retired participant as long as the participant and dependent were covered participants at the time of death. If the surviving dependent declined coverage at the time of the participant's retirement due to having other **employer sponsored group health insurance**, that dependent retains future rights to funding as long as the other employer sponsored group health remains in effect.

14. Eligible children include any child under the age of 26, including all natural, legally adopted and step-children for whom the participant has court ordered legal guardianship.

15. A divorced spouse of an active participant is eligible provided the participant is responsible by legal decree for the majority of financial support of the former spouse or specifically responsible for the medical or other health care expenses of the former spouse.

16. Continuation health benefits are available for a period of one year for any participant who becomes ineligible providing they have been on the plan for at least three months and they are not eligible for coverage under another group health plan or Medicare. A divorced spouse is eligible for two years of continuation health benefits. The plan is the same and the premium, due one month in advance, is billed directly to the participant. Notification of ineligibility must occur within 30 days and application for continuation benefits must occur within 60 days of becoming ineligible and the continuation benefits begin the day after the participant became ineligible.

Eligible persons must complete a HealthFlex enrollment form and return it to the Conference Center for Connectional Resources within 30 days of their date of hire, date of newly acquired eligibility or family status change. Family status changes which allow late enrollment are: birth, adoption, death, marriage, divorce, or loss of other coverage. There is also an open enrollment period every year in November for coverage to begin in January of the following year.

MEDICAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

A Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, Consumer Driven Health Plans (CDHP), and High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP) are available for active participants and their dependents. These plans are currently administered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois. Prescription drugs are covered for active participants through OptumRX and the prescription plan is a percentage plan with co-pay amounts for three tiers of drugs. A mail order program is also available to obtain 90-day supplies of maintenance drugs at a lesser cost and is required for all maintenance prescriptions. In addition, 90-day supplies of maintenance drugs are available through Walgreen's.

Mental health and chemical dependency benefits are provided through United Behavioral Health (UBH) under all plans. A participant must call UBH at 1-800-788-5614 before receiving inpatient or outpatient treatment either innetwork or outofnetwork. There is also a Pastoral Consultation Hotline for clergy available for both active and retired clergy at no charge. The number is 800-842-2869.

Vision benefits are available through Vision Service Plan (VSP). A basic vision examination is provided and discounts for eyeglasses and contact lenses are available at no cost. For an additional fee, two other vision plans are available.

A choice of three dental plans (Dental PPO, Dental Passive PPO 1000, and Dental Passive PPO 2000) is available for a fee and each is administered through Cigna.

UMLifeOptions is a Wespath sponsored life insurance program allowing eligible clergy and lay employees of churches to purchase additional life insurance coverage. Local churches are plan sponsors of this coverage and will find information on this program at www.Wespath.org.

Medical Reimbursement Accounts (MRA) and Dependent Care Accounts (DCA) are also available to active participants. A participant may select annual MRA amounts between \$300 and \$2,650 to be deducted by the salary paying unit on a monthly basis as a salary reduction. This money may be used for medical expenses which are not covered by the plan such as deductibles, co-pays, dental, vision and other qualified costs. The DCA may be used to pay for qualified child or parent daycare expenses (maximum annual amount is \$5,000). Forms to be used to submit claims are available at www.Wespath.org or in the Conference Center for Connectional Resources.

CONFERENCE FUNDING POLICIES FOR ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFITS

1. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits approved default plan premium for full-time clergy appointed to local churches within the Conference or as district superintendents or to the Conference staff (ordained elders, deacons in full connection, deacons on track to become elders, commissioned persons on track to become elders or deacons, full-time local pastors, members of other conferences or denominations appointed according to Paragraphs 346.1 or 346.2) is to be paid by the local church or salary paying unit. For 2018, the defined contribution for the Conference is equal to the fully-funded premium of the Consumer Driven Health Plan (CDHP) C2000.

2. The premium for the appointee's spouse and dependents is the responsibility of the appointee. An optional agreement may be made between the church or salary paying unit and the appointee for the church or salary paying unit to pay the family premium.
3. The Conference will pay the approved defined contribution as set annually by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits for lay employees of the annual conference. The premium for dependents is the responsibility of the employee.
4. Responsibility for the premium for eligible lay employees of local churches or institutions within the connectional structure will be determined by the employer and the employee.
5. The Conference pays the active premium for disabled clergy members of the Conference who were appointed to a local church or as district superintendent or to the Conference staff and were enrolled in HealthFlex at the time of disability. Approval by the Division of Conference Relations and eligibility to receive disability benefits from Wespath is also required. Payment begins the month following the month in which the disability leave with disability benefits takes place. The premium for dependents is the responsibility of the clergyperson.

If the disability with benefits was approved prior to December 31, 2013, the Conference will pay the active premium until the disabled participant chooses retired status at which time enrollment in a Via Benefits Medicare Plan (if the participant is age 65 or older) will be required and funding will be based on years of service attained at time of retirement. For those taking retired status at age 62 or 30 years of service, the funding for the active health premiums will be based on the scale in the *2012 Journal* and 2013 Medicare Supplement premium of \$5,040 not to exceed \$2,520 per year. At age 65 and Medicare eligibility, funding will be provided at the current year's Via Benefits Funding Scale.

For disability with benefits approved on or after January 1, 2014, the Conference will pay the active premium until the disabled participant reaches age 65 at which time enrollment in a Via Benefits Medicare Plan will be required and funding will be based on years of service attained at that time. Retired status is not required but enrollment in a Medicare plan is and cessation of active health insurance premiums paid by the Conference will occur.

Via Benefits is available only to those with Medicare Part A and B benefits. Therefore, to qualify for Via Benefits and Conference funding, a retired clergy person who opted out of Social Security must either purchase Medicare Parts A and B at their own expense or have access to Medicare through their spouse.

6. Subsidies are available on a sliding scale for those churches whose pastor's Total Compensation is below the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) for the appointee's premium and those pastors whose compensation is below the DAC for their dependents. A written application must be submitted to and approved by the appropriate District Superintendent. Only those appointed full-time as "pastor-in-charge" are eligible for this supplement. The guidelines for application are as follows:

Guidelines for 2018 Health Insurance Supplement Applications

1. Local churches must submit to their district superintendent a written application signed by the Pastor (Staff) Parish Relations Committee chairperson and the Administrative Council/Board chairperson for appointee supplements.
2. Pastors must submit to their District Superintendent a written application for dependent supplements.
3. The pastor's "Insurance Supplement Eligibility" (line VIII from the 2018 Ministerial Compensation Report turned in at Charge Conference) must be below \$70,202 (the 2018 Denominational Average Compensation).
4. If the need exists in the judgment of the District Superintendent and funds are available, appointee supplements may be awarded to churches on the following scale (annual amount shown - paid monthly):

Pastor's Total Compensation	% DAC	Church Pays	Amount of Supplement
\$70,202 and above	100%	\$10,668	\$ 0
\$70,201 – 66,692	95%	10,135	533
\$66,691 – 63,182	90%	9,601	1,067
\$63,181 – 59,672	85%	9,068	1,600
\$59,671 – 56,162	80%	8,534	2,134
\$56,161 – 52,652	75%	8,001	2,667
\$52,651 – 49,141	70%	7,468	3,200
\$49,140 – 45,631	65%	6,934	3,734
\$45,630 – 42,121	60%	6,401	4,267
\$42,120 and below		6,401	4,267

5. If the need exists in the judgment of the district superintendent and the funds are available, dependent supplements may be awarded to pastors on the following scale (annual amount shown - paid monthly):

Pastor's Total Compensation	% DAC	One Dependent		Two or More Dependents	
		Pastor Pays	Amount of Supplement	Pastor Pays	Amount of Supplement
\$70,202 and above	100%	\$9,588	\$0	\$14,916	\$0
\$70,201 – 66,692	95%	9,109	479	14,170	746
\$66,691 – 63,182	90%	8,629	959	13,424	1,492
\$63,181 – 59,672	85%	8,150	1,438	12,679	2,237
\$59,671 – 56,162	80%	7,670	1,918	11,933	2,983
\$56,161 – 52,652	75%	7,191	2,397	11,187	3,729
\$52,651 – 49,141	70%	6,712	2,876	10,441	4,475
\$49,140 – 45,631	65%	6,232	3,356	9,695	5,221
\$45,630 – 42,121	60%	5,753	3,835	8,950	5,966
\$42,120 and below		5,753	3,835	8,950	5,966

6. If the pastor's Total Compensation for Health Insurance Supplement Eligibility is above \$70,202 but extraordinary circumstances exist in the judgment of the District Superintendent, an appointee supplement may be awarded to the church and/or a dependent supplement may be awarded to the pastor at the lowest level on the scales above if funds are available. Likewise, superintendents are not obligated to award any supplements even though an applicant may be eligible, if they determine that no need exists.

7. District Superintendents are asked to distribute these Guidelines and the supplement application forms to churches and pastors who may be eligible as soon as possible. Additional application forms will be available in the District and Conference Offices.

8. District Superintendents are asked to fax or mail the approved Health Insurance Supplement Application Forms to the Center for Connectional Resources by December 1 of each year. No supplements will be processed until the approved Application Forms are received in the Center for Connectional Resources. Forms received after the deadline will be processed for the following month's billing and they will not be done retroactively.

9. All supplements cease when a pastoral change occurs. New applications are to be submitted to the Center for Connectional Resources by the first day of the month following the move. A supplement may be processed one month retroactively only in the event of a mid-year move.

MEDICAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR RETIRED PARTICIPANTS

Beginning on January 1, 2014, the North Texas Annual Conference provides a consultation service through Via Benefits to help Medicare-eligible retired participants, spouses and surviving spouses find and enroll in a Medicare supplement plan best suited to individual needs. You must have Medicare Parts A and B to be eligible for coverage through Via Benefits. For those enrolling in the insurance supplement plan through Via Benefits, the annual conference will help offset the cost of the individual Medicare supplemental plan and eligible health care costs by funding a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA).

Clergy in the retired relationship with the annual conference who continue to work full time at a local church or eligible agency remain in the active plan. Retired clergy who opted out of Social Security and their dependents and spouses continue in the active plan if they continue working full time at a local church or eligible agency.

A dependent spouse may be eligible for Conference retiree benefits even if not a covered dependent at the time of the participant's retirement. If the spouse is covered by another **employer sponsored group health insurance plan**, he/she may decline Conference coverage while still maintaining future rights to coverage. The retiring participant may also decline Conference coverage at the time of his/her retirement while maintaining future rights to coverage if he/she can be covered under a spouse's **employer sponsored group health insurance plan**. Future coverage rights can be exercised at any open enrollment opportunity or within thirty days of losing the other employer sponsored group health coverage as long as the other coverage was maintained up to the day the Conference coverage is to begin.

The divorced spouse of a retiree may retain coverage or future rights to coverage as described above if it is declared in the divorce decree that the participant is responsible for health coverage or is responsible for a majority of the financial support of the divorced spouse. Future rights to coverage will end when the specified period in the legal decree has expired or upon the death of the participant (providing the decree provides for termination of the participant's responsibility at that time).

A new spouse or dependent acquired by a retiree after retirement is not an eligible dependent with the exception of a dependent child gained through court ordered legal guardianship.

TOLLING PROVISION: If the retiring participant or eligible dependent has other employer sponsored group health coverage at the time of retirement (through a subsequent employer or spouse's employer) he/she may decline HealthFlex coverage and retain the ability to enroll for such coverage at a future date (so long as continuous coverage through such other employer sponsored group health coverage is maintained). The eligible person can exercise this enrollment option within 31 calendar days of losing other employer sponsored group health coverage.

After retirement, if a retiree, dependent or surviving spouse terminates Conference coverage, they will no longer retain any future rights to coverage.

CONFERENCE FUNDING POLICIES FOR RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

Beginning on January 1, 2014 the North Texas Annual Conference through the Retiree Health Insurance Current Year Benefits apportionment helps fund a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to be used for health insurance premiums and/or eligible medical expenses in retirement for eligible retired clergy participants, spouses and surviving spouses. Prior to retirement at age 65, an eligible clergyperson would be given information to contact Via Benefits, the agency selected by Wespeth to guide retirees through the process of choosing the most suitable plan to supplement Medicare.

For those eligible clergypersons enrolled in the conference health insurance plan who retire after January 1, 2003, their eligible spouses, and eligible surviving spouses, the conference will fund a Health Reimbursement Account

with 30-100% of \$1,300 for those retiring at age 65 (or full retirement age) based on their years of ministerial service (which qualify for retirement credit) in The United Methodist Church in which they were appointed to a local church or within the connectional structure as defined in the *2016 Discipline* Paragraphs 344.1(a)(1) and (2), or partial years of like service for less than full-time appointments, as follows:

VIA BENEFITS FUNDING SCALE
Effective 1-1-2018

Years of Service (full time equivalent)	% \$1,300	\$ Amount
0 - 4	0	0
5	30 %	390
6	32 %	416
7	34 %	442
8	36 %	468
9	38 %	494
10	40 %	520
11	44 %	572
12	48 %	624
13	52 %	676
14	56 %	728
15	60 %	780
16	64 %	832
17	68 %	884
18	72 %	936
19	76 %	988
20	80 %	1,040
21	84 %	1,092
22	88 %	1,144
23	92 %	1,196
24	96 %	1,248
25 or more	100 %	1,300

For those eligible clergypersons enrolled in the Conference health insurance plan who retired before January 1, 2003, their eligible spouses, and eligible surviving spouses, the North Texas Conference will fund 100% of \$1,300.

ELIGIBILITY FOR VIA BENEFITS AND CONFERENCE FUNDING FOR RETIREES

1. RETIREES, SPOUSES, SURVIVING SPOUSES

Retired full-time clergy appointed to: 1) a local church within the North Texas Conference, 2) District Superintendents or 3) Conference staff (including ordained elders, associate members, deacons in full connection, provisional elders and deacons, full-time local pastors, members of other annual conferences or denominations appointed under ¶346.1 and 346.2) who have a **minimum of five (5) continuous and consecutive years of active participation** in the North Texas Annual Conference group health plan at the time of retirement. **Conference funding via an HRA will only be available to retired clergy and non-clergy spouses while they are covered by a plan through Via Benefits or the active Conference health plan.** Under certain circumstances, the five (5) year condition may be waived upon written recommendation from the Bishop and the Cabinet with approval from the North Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Spouses of clergy at time of retirement are eligible for Via Benefits (or the active plan in the case of those under age 65) and funding based on the years of service level of the retired clergy. Retirees and Spouses who decline Conference health insurance at the time of retirement due to other employer sponsored group coverage (in which they have maintained continuous coverage) may be eligible for Via Benefits and funding when the employer coverage ceases.

The divorced spouse of a retiree may retain coverage or future rights to coverage in the appropriate Conference health insurance plan if it is declared in the divorce decree that the participant is responsible for health coverage or is responsible for a majority of the financial support of the divorced spouse. Future rights to coverage will end when the specified period in the legal decree has expired or upon the death of the participant (providing the decree provides for termination of the participant's responsibility at that time). Conference funding is not available for divorced spouses.

A new spouse or dependent acquired by a retiree after retirement is not an eligible dependent with the exception of a dependent child gained through court ordered legal guardianship.

Dependent children of a retiree are eligible for the appropriate Conference health insurance plan but are not eligible for Conference funding.

After retirement, if a retiree, dependent or surviving spouse terminates Conference coverage, they will no longer retain any future rights to coverage.

2. CLERGY COUPLES IN RETIREMENT

The first party of a clergy couple to retire will receive funding corresponding to their own years of service level at the time of their retirement. Upon retirement of the second party of the clergy couple, both will receive funding related to the highest years of service level.

Full-time appointed clergy spouses of a retired clergy are not eligible for supplemental funding as their active health premium is paid in full by the local church to which they are appointed.

In the event of a clergy couple divorce following retirement, each clergy person would receive the amount of funding based on their own years of service.

3. PRE-65 RETIREES/SPOUSES/SURVIVING SPOUSES

For clergy retiring on or prior to 12/31/2013 who are at least 62 years of age (but not yet 65) or have 30 years of service, their eligible spouses, and eligible surviving spouses who are required to remain in the active health plan, the Conference will base funding for active health premiums on the scale in the *2012 Journal* and 2013 Medicare Supplement premium of \$5,040 not to exceed \$2,520 per year per person. At age 65 and Medicare eligibility funding will be provided at the current year's Via Benefits Funding Scale. Anyone retiring on or after January 1, 2014 will receive funding through appropriately reduced Conference health insurance premiums based on the Via Benefits Funding Scale in effect on the date of retirement.

4. RETIREES WITH MEDICARE SPOUSES

For clergy retiring whose spouses are already covered by Medicare, the spouse may choose to become part of Via Benefits effective the next calendar year. Funding for the spouse for the rest of the year in which the clergy person retired will be prorated and administered by Via Benefits. To be eligible for the funding for the next year and years going forward, the spouse will be required to enroll in Medicare supplement plans at the fall Medicare open enrollment through Via Benefits. The spouse could be subject to medical underwriting.

5. TWENTY YEAR RULE RETIREES (§357.2 2016 Discipline)

Those retiring under "the twenty year rule" (i.e., are not 62 and have at least 20 years but not 30 years of service) are eligible to remain on the Conference active insurance plan. These participants must pay the entire active premium until they reach 65 (Medicare eligible). At age 65, the retiree may obtain the services of Via Benefits and the Conference will fund an HRA at the years of service level accrued at the time of retirement.

6. RETIREES APPOINTED FULL TIME TO A LOCAL CHURCH

For retirees who continue to serve local churches full time in the North Texas Conference and remain in the active health plan the Conference will fund through appropriately reduced Conference health insurance premiums based on the Via Benefits Scale in effect on the date of retirement.

7. CLERGY WHO OPTED OUT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Via Benefits is available only to those with Medicare Part A and B benefits. Therefore, to qualify for Via Benefits and Conference funding, a retired clergy person who opted out of Social Security must either purchase Medicare Parts A and B at their own expense or have access to Medicare through their spouse.

8. INVOLUNTARY RETIREMENT (§357.3 2016 Discipline)

For those under involuntary retirement who have remained in the Conference active health plan, funding will become available at age 65 (Medicare eligible) when entering Via Benefits. The level of funding will correspond to the years of service attained at the effective date of retirement.

9. DISABILITY (§356 2016 Discipline)

If the disability with benefits was approved prior to December 31, 2013, the Conference will pay the active premium until the disabled participant chooses retired status at which time enrollment in an Via Benefits Medicare Plan (if the participant is age 65 or older) will be required and funding will be based on years of service attained at time of retirement. For those taking retired status at age 62 or 30 years of service, the funding for the active health premiums will be based on the scale in the 2012 *Journal* and 2013 Medicare Supplement premium of \$5,040 not to exceed \$2,520 per year. At age 65 and Medicare eligibility, funding will be provided at the current year's Via Benefits Funding Scale.

For disability with benefits approved on or after January 1, 2014, the Conference will pay the active premium until the disabled participant reaches age 65 at which time enrollment in a Via Benefits Medicare Plan will be required and funding will be based on years of service attained at that time. Retired status is not required but enrollment in a Medicare plan is and cessation of active health insurance premiums paid by the Conference will occur.

Via Benefits is available only to those with Medicare Part A and B benefits. Therefore, to qualify for Via Benefits and Conference funding, a retired clergy person who opted out of Social Security must either purchase Medicare Parts A and B at their own expense or have access to Medicare through their spouse.

10. RETIRED FULL-TIME LOCAL PASTORS (§320.5 2016 Discipline)

Retired full-time local pastors who meet Via Benefits eligibility described in 1. above will receive HRA funding according to their years of service at time of retirement.

11. SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DECEASED RETIRED CLERGY are eligible for coverage as long as the participant was a covered participant at the time of death. The health plans available to surviving spouses are the same as those available to retiree participants and conference funding of the HRA is the same as for the retiree.

12. THE HEALTH PLANS AVAILABLE TO RETIRED DIACONAL MINISTERS are the same as for retired clergy and the Conference funding of the HRA is the same as for retired clergy.

13. THE HEALTH PLANS AVAILABLE FOR RETIRED LAY EMPLOYEES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE are the same as for retired clergy. Conference funding of the HRA for the retired lay employee of the annual conference with 10 or more years of service (not including spouse or dependents) is based on the same scale of service as that for retired clergy beginning at the 10 years of service level.

14. RETIRED LAY EMPLOYEES OF A LOCAL CHURCH OR QUALIFIED AGENCY within the Conference are eligible to participate in any of the health insurance plans available to retired clergy, **if** the church or agency has a sub-adoption agreement with the WESPATH. The premiums are the same as for the retired clergy, but the responsibility for payment remains entirely with the retired lay participant.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Enrollment material can be obtained from the Conference Center for Connectional Resources. Enrollment forms must be completed, signed and returned to that office within 30 days of the employee's date of hire or family status change. Upon receipt of enrollment forms, Wespath will inform the insurance provider and the participant should receive election material and appropriate insurance cards within a reasonable period of time. If the 30day time period is not met, the employee would be assigned the current Conference approved health insurance plan **(although the salary paying unit is still responsible for payment of the appointee's premium in the case of mandatory categories of participants).**

The monthly health insurance billing is mailed to the appropriate local church, agency, or individual on the 1st of each month and the payment is due in the Conference office by the 20th of that month. Premiums not received by the next billing period are considered "past due" and so marked on the next month's bill. Termination procedures begin for any accounts more than 60 days in arrears. District Superintendents are informed each month of those churches with past due balances.

Participants will receive annual election materials each fall prior to the Open Enrollment period from Wespath with instructions for changing or maintaining health coverage for the next calendar year.

Denial of benefits policies and appeals procedures are those of the HealthFlex insurance carrier and Wespath.

HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY STATEMENT **FOR INDIVIDUALS COVERED THROUGH 20-YEAR RULE RETIREMENT,** **EXTENSION MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS, CONTINUATION INSURANCE,** **AND RETIREES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES PAYING PREMIUMS** **DIRECTLY TO THE NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE**

The North Texas Conference makes health insurance available to clergy who have retired under the 20-year rule and to some clergy who are appointed to extension ministry positions. (Special arrangements for health coverage can be made in some cases for those appointed under ¶344.1b, and ¶344.1d.) The premiums must be paid by the individual one month in advance and are due on the 20th of every month. Accounts are past due if not received by the 20th and if two payments are due on the 20th of any month, a letter will be sent to the individual with notification of insurance cancellation. In addition, an attempt will be made to schedule a meeting with the participant and a member of the Conference staff to explain the termination of coverage. Any account that is two payments past due will be terminated if payment has not been received in the Conference office by the end of the month. The termination date will be retroactive to the first of the month of unpaid premium. (For example: The premium for February is billed on January 1 and is due by January 20. The premium for March is billed on February 1 and is due by February 20. If neither February nor March premium is paid by February 20, the insurance will be terminated retroactive to February 1.)

The North Texas Conference offers continuation health insurance to participants who have been terminated or have lost eligibility if they have been covered for at least three consecutive months prior to loss of eligibility. The continuation coverage can extend up to one year following the loss of coverage date. The first month's premium is due with the application for coverage and future premiums are due one month in advance on the 20th of every month. Accounts are past due if not received by the 20th and if two payments are due on the 20th of any month, a letter will be sent to the individual with notification of insurance cancellation. In addition, an attempt will be made to schedule a meeting with the participant and a member of the Conference staff to explain the termination of coverage. Any account that is two payments past due will be terminated if payment has not been received in the Conference office by the end of the month. The termination date will be retroactive to the first of the month of unpaid premium.

If anyone in the above categories has extenuating circumstances which prevent them from making timely payments, a hearing may be scheduled with the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to appeal the scheduled termination and request a payment plan.

This Health Benefits policy statement will be effective July 1, 2018.

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE TREASURER'S REPORT (UNAUDITED)

REMITTANCES

	2016 RECEIPTS	2017 RECEIPTS
APPORTIONMENTS		
World Service	1,682,369.94	1,769,326.81
Ministerial Education	577,591.01	597,596.50
Black College Fund	230,406.95	238,375.83
Africa University Fund	51,578.30	55,636.00
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund	45,194.04	46,736.40
General Administration Fund	203,120.15	210,092.90
Episcopal Fund	578,666.00	546,443.00
Lydia Patterson Institute	68,644.85	69,898.97
Mt. Sequoyah	16,415.19	0.00
Jurisdictional Administration Fund	32,149.98	43,070.66
Leadership Development	1,660,612.60	1,779,665.26
Church Development	1,204,283.27	1,269,056.88
Missional Outreach	646,111.22	674,307.30
Connectional Resources	1,384,977.93	1,414,721.20
Area and Conference Administration	502,668.73	515,358.75
Conference Benefits	1,683,700.00	1,579,300.00
District Superintendents Fund	577,320.00	584,795.00
District Administration Fund	<u>657,328.99</u>	<u>667,240.97</u>
 TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS	 11,803,139.15	 12,061,622.43

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
CONFERENCE TREASURER'S REPORT (UNAUDITED)**

REMITTANCES

	2016 RECEIPTS	2017 RECEIPTS
TARGETED CAUSES		
Second Mile Apportionment Fund	26,861.41	19,016.22
GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS		
UMCOR		
UMCOR Undesignated Gifts	35,177.40	38,495.19
UMCOR Relief Supplies	4,788.50	6,385.26
UMCOR Domestic Disaster Response	47,940.62	280,799.01
UMCOR International Disaster Response	23,208.27	4,861.97
UMCOR Global Health	<u>130.00</u>	<u>190.00</u>
Total UMCOR	111,244.79	330,731.43
WORLD MISSIONS		
Regional Africa	5,381.55	4,624.50
Cameroon	174.70	1,066.00
Congo	3,487.50	3,400.00
Kenya	4,587.00	0.00
Europe	2,032.21	3,943.00
Russia	0.00	664.75
Latin America and the Caribbean	3,000.00	2,295.00
Panama	6,184.05	5,936.00
Zoe Ministry-Rwanda	5,570.00	6,652.33
Becky Harrell	2,000.00	0.00
Global Migration	0.00	1,398.44
Haiti Advance Project	<u>15,511.01</u>	<u>1,185.00</u>
	47,928.02	31,165.02
TOTAL GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS	159,172.81	361,896.45
OTHER ADVANCE SPECIALS		
Heifer International	1,000.00	12,765.89
Red Bird Mission	461.12	0.00
Africa University Scholarship	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL OTHER ADVANCE SPECIALS	1,461.12	13,265.89
TOTAL ALL ADVANCE SPECIALS	160,633.93	375,162.34
YOUTH SERVICE FUND	3,067.25	2,069.61

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
CONFERENCE TREASURER'S REPORT (UNAUDITED)**

REMITTANCES

	2016 RECEIPTS	2017 RECEIPTS
GENERAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS		
UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour)	19,967.62	16,345.98
World Communion	7,908.80	5,236.21
UM Student Day	2,071.85	961.50
Human Relations Day	2,078.30	1,415.17
Peace With Justice	1,997.31	1,673.46
Native American Ministries	<u>2,266.60</u>	<u>1,210.00</u>
TOTAL GEN. CONFERENCE OFFERINGS	36,290.48	26,842.32
OTHER CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES	585,789.61	499,064.90
TOTAL NON-APPORTIONED FUNDS	812,642.68	922,155.39
TOTAL APPORTIONED FUNDS	11,803,139.15	12,061,622.43
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	12,615,781.83	12,983,777.82

**NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Plano, Texas

Consolidated Financial Statements
December 31, 2017 and 2016

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Consolidated Financial Statements
December 31, 2017 and 2016

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Ratliff & Associates, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Council on Finance and Administration of
The North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements ("financial statements") of The North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and the related consolidated statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Ratliff & Associates, P.C.

July 27, 2018

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 7,068,215	\$ 1,085,945
Accounts receivable	1,326,405	2,158,772
Investments	36,429,469	32,318,891
Prepaid expenses	<u>298,673</u>	<u>396,152</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>45,122,762</u>	<u>35,959,760</u>
Property and Equipment, net of depreciation	<u>5,408,309</u>	<u>5,675,884</u>
Other Assets		
Land and buildings held for sale	1,115,351	4,801,164
Endowment and other long-term investments	<u>1,947,195</u>	<u>1,677,866</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>3,062,546</u>	<u>6,479,030</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 53,593,617</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 48,114,674</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Notes payable, current portion	\$ 179,641	\$ 1,486,090
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,044,008	508,947
Accumulated postretirement benefits obligation, due in one year	<u>373,020</u>	<u>330,899</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,596,669</u>	<u>2,325,936</u>
Non-current Liabilities		
Notes payable, non-current portion	2,025,189	2,198,221
Accumulated postretirement benefits obligation, due in more than one year	<u>11,426,774</u>	<u>10,438,769</u>
Total Non-current Liabilities	<u>13,451,963</u>	<u>12,636,990</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>15,048,632</u>	<u>14,962,926</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	35,745,323	30,956,281
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,985,594	1,381,399
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>814,068</u>	<u>814,068</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>38,544,985</u>	<u>33,151,748</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 53,593,617</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 48,114,674</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Consolidated Statements of Activities
For the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets		
Revenues and support		
Apportionment receipts	\$ 12,081,622	\$ 11,804,265
Program and event fees	2,057,862	5,761,960
Property insurance receipts	6,455,902	5,947,476
Health insurance receipts	5,689,629	5,220,624
Pension receipts	2,181,338	2,132,828
Investment income (loss)	4,274,712	1,777,433
Other income, net	853,417	154,372
Temporarily restricted net assets released	<u>327,369</u>	<u>1,551,879</u>
Total unrestricted revenues	33,921,851	34,350,837
Program expenses		
General and jurisdictional programs	3,906,882	3,704,267
New church development	949,267	1,758,730
Leadership development	1,939,827	1,796,324
Missional outreach	951,577	1,407,274
Conference services		
Property insurance	5,187,416	6,099,548
Conference benefits	9,509,638	9,000,718
Legacy property	659,355	930,298
Episcopal office	173,038	144,897
District expenses	1,061,622	1,070,536
Wesley Foundations	65,374	24,038
Camp and conference expenses	<u>2,031,244</u>	<u>2,019,662</u>
Total program expenses	26,435,240	27,956,292
Supporting Expense		
Connectional	1,371,453	1,308,198
Communications	<u>295,990</u>	<u>349,684</u>
Total supporting expense	<u>1,667,443</u>	<u>1,657,882</u>
Total expenses	<u>28,102,683</u>	<u>29,614,174</u>
Excess revenues over expenses	<u>5,819,168</u>	<u>4,736,663</u>
Other income (expense)		
Gain (loss) on postretirement benefits obligation, net	<u>(1,030,126)</u>	<u>239,427</u>
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>\$ 4,789,042</u>	<u>\$ 4,976,090</u>

(Continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Consolidated Statements of Activities (continued)
For the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 4,789,042	\$ 4,976,090
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Contributions	639,980	767,600
Investment income (loss)	291,584	127,530
Net assets released	<u>(327,369)</u>	<u>(1,551,879)</u>
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>604,195</u>	<u>(656,749)</u>
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase in Net Assets	5,393,237	4,319,341
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>33,151,748</u>	<u>28,832,407</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 38,544,985</u>	<u>\$ 33,151,748</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
For the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Increase in net assets	\$ 5,393,237	\$ 4,319,341
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	302,755	308,426
Change in postretirement benefits obligation	1,030,126	(239,427)
Investment (gains) losses	(4,603,628)	(1,931,382)
Loss on sale or disposition of assets	-	1,441,564
Non-cash contributions	-	(3,283,053)
Decrease (increase) in operating assets		
Accounts receivable	832,367	8,032
Prepaid assets	97,479	(4,604)
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	535,061	(4,427)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>3,587,397</u>	<u>614,470</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of investments	(3,229,339)	(4,290,245)
Withdrawal of investments	3,453,060	3,707,196
Purchases for property held for sale	(9,187)	-
Proceeds from sales of assets held for sale	2,733,003	-
Purchase of fixed assets	(35,180)	(89,944)
Net Cash Utilized by Investing Activities	<u>2,912,357</u>	<u>(672,993)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Principal payments on notes payable	(517,484)	(230,407)
Net Cash Utilized by Financing Activities	<u>(517,484)</u>	<u>(230,407)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,982,270	(288,930)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>1,085,945</u>	<u>1,374,875</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 7,068,215</u>	<u>\$ 1,085,945</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

1 - Nature of Organization

The North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church (the “Conference”) is the administrative headquarters of the North Texas United Methodist regional districts. The Conference represents approximately 280 member churches and fellowships and 16 new church starts. The Conference provides various services for its member churches including administration of health benefits and retirement plans available to member clergy and Conference lay employees and collection of funds for remittance to various regional, national and global benevolences.

The principal source of revenue and support for the Conference is apportionments received from the member churches represented by the Conference.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements (“financial statements”) include the assets, liabilities, net assets, and financial activities of all institutions and agencies providing services at the Conference level of administration and for which the Council on Finance and Administration has oversight responsibility. Furthermore, the following agencies of the Conference are separately incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, however they are consolidated with the Conference for financial statement presentation: Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center, Prothro Center at Lake Texoma, NTC Offsite Camping Ministry, Paris Jr. College Wesley Foundation, Midwestern University Wesley Foundation, Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, and Board of Trustees. Significant intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated.

2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

In fulfilling its responsibility for the preparation of the Conference’s financial statements and disclosures, management selects accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and adopts methods for their application. The application of accounting principles requires the estimating, matching and timing of revenue and costs in the determination of support and expenditures. It is also necessary for management to determine, measure and allocate and make certain assumptions regarding resources and obligations within the financial process according to those principles. Below is a summary of certain significant accounting policies selected by management.

Basis of Accounting - The Conference’s financial statements have been prepared using the accrual method of accounting and conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Net assets and revenues, expenses, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted Net Assets - Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that will be met either by actions of the Conference and/or passage of time.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that must be maintained permanently. Generally, the donors of these assets permit the use of all or part of the income earned on related investments for general or specific purposes.

Donor restricted contributions whose restrictions are met in the same reporting period in which those contributions are received are reported as temporarily restricted support and as net assets released from restrictions.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund Accounting - To ensure observance of the allocations and restrictions placed on funds received, the accounts of the Conference are maintained internally in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Accordingly, resources collected, invested and ultimately disbursed are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into separate funds, established according to the various boards and agencies of the Conference. See the Supplementary Information included at the end of this report.

Use of Estimates - The process of preparing financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The methods used in making accounting estimates are believed by management to be reasonable and have been consistently applied. Actual results may differ from estimated amounts. The most significant estimates are depreciation and the amounts related to the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation.

Cash Equivalents - The Conference considers all short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Accounts Receivable - As a significant dollar amount of member church apportionments and other remittances are received close to year-end, member churches are provided a cut-off date subsequent to year-end in order for churches to fulfill their annual apportionments. The amount of apportionments and other remittances received between year-end and the cut-off date are recognized as accounts receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position. Due to the nature of these receivables, no allowance for doubtful accounts is deemed necessary.

Investments - All investments are measured at fair value based upon the exit price model. Funds are managed by Wespath Investment Management ("Wespath") and the Texas Methodist Foundation ("TMF"). The underlying investments are in short-term money market funds, fixed income, equities, energy and TMF Methodist loan funds and are subject to market risk. Dividends, interest, realized and unrealized gains and losses are included in investment income on the consolidated statements of activities as part of the change in unrestricted net assets unless the use of the assets received is limited by donor-imposed restriction. Investments fees and other investment activity expenses are netted within the investment income. These expenses are not material to these financial statements.

Property and Equipment - Buildings, improvements and equipment are recorded at cost, if purchased or at estimated market value at the date of receipt if acquired by gift. Assets over \$5,000 are capitalized. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Building and improvements have useful lives of 10-30 years. Furniture and equipment have useful lives of 5-10 years. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to expense as incurred.

Impairment of Long-lived Assets - Long-lived assets include property and equipment and land and buildings held for sale. Management evaluates its long-lived assets for financial impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized when the estimated undiscounted future cash flows from the assets are less than the carrying value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of their carrying amount or fair value, less cost to sell. Management is of the opinion that the carrying amount of its long-lived assets does not exceed their estimated recoverable amount.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk - During the year and at yearend, the Conference had funds which exceeded the FDIC insured limit on deposit with a commercial bank. In an effort to minimize risk, the Conference maintains its accounts with a large regional bank.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows - The indirect method is used to prepare the consolidated statements of cash flows. For the purposes of this statement, the Conference considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the date of acquisition to be cash equivalents.

Income Tax Status - The Conference is a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as other than a private foundation, except on net income derived from unrelated business activities. For the year ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Conference conducted unrelated business activities at the Prothro and Bridgeport Camps. Management has determined that expenses exceed unrelated business revenues, and therefore, no tax is due. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes is included in the financial statements. The Conference's previous tax filings for the years ended 2014, 2015 and 2016 are open for examination by the taxing authorities.

3 - Other Income

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Contributions	\$ 499,569	\$ 402,779
Interest income	53,231	46,814
Loss on impairment of other asset	-	(449,100)
Other income	<u>300,617</u>	<u>153,879</u>
	<u>\$ 853,417</u>	<u>\$ 154,372</u>

4 - Investments

The Conference has an agreement with TMF in which TMF acts as agent and investment manager for the Conference's investments. These investments are either directly invested or pooled by TMF into larger investment funds. TMF adheres to the Statement of Investment Guidelines adopted by the General Council of Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church.

The Conference also maintains investments with Wespath which are invested by the Wespath in pooled investment funds. Wespath investments are comprised of approved investment instruments in accordance with the funds' objectives.

The Conference's investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the consolidated statements of financial position.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

4 - Investments (continued)

The Conference's investments are financial assets that are measured and reported on a fair value basis. The Conference measures and discloses fair value measurements in accordance with the authoritative accounting literature. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The authoritative accounting literature establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives highest priority to unadjusted quote prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under authoritative accounting literature are described as follows:

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Conference has the ability to access.

Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- Inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means.
- If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual term), the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for level 2 assets measured at fair value.

- Level 2 investments include assets held with Wespath that are pooled into larger investment funds of Wespath. Wespath funds are measured using net asset value ("NAV") per share, or its equivalent, which is based upon an active market with daily pricing for these funds, that may be redeemed at the NAV at the date of the yearend financial statement or in the near term, which is generally considered to be within 90 days.
- Level 2 investments also include long term investments maintained by TMF and are valued using significant other observable inputs that are based upon fixed or variable rates of broader financial markets.

The preceding methods described may produce fair value calculations that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Conference believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different value measurement at the reporting date.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

4 - Investments (continued)

The following table sets forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Conference's investments at fair value at December 31, 2017.

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
TMF short-term investments	\$ 607,899	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 607,899
Wespath deposit account	-	3,029,142	-	3,029,142
Wespath retiree health account	-	26,094,426	-	26,094,426
Wespath superannuate fund	-	134,609	-	134,609
Wespath long-term reserve	-	837,937	-	837,937
TMF long-term investments	-	5,725,456	-	5,725,456
Total	<u>\$ 607,899</u>	<u>\$ 35,821,570</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 36,429,469</u>
Endowment and other investments	<u>\$ 1,947,195</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,947,195</u>

The following table sets forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Conference's investments at fair value at December 31, 2016.

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
TMF short-term investments	\$ 952,277	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 952,277
Wespath deposit account	-	2,976,570	-	2,976,570
Wespath retiree health account	-	21,921,345	-	21,921,345
Wespath superannuate fund	-	114,092	-	114,092
Wespath long-term reserve	-	710,219	-	710,219
TMF long-term investments	-	5,644,388	-	5,644,388
Total	<u>\$ 952,277</u>	<u>\$ 31,366,614</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 32,318,891</u>
Endowment and other investments	<u>\$ 1,677,866</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,677,866</u>

Significant changes in investments year over year consist of net unrealized gains and losses as well as additions or withdraws as reported in the consolidated statements of cash flows. In addition, interest income is disclosed in the separate Other Income note disclosure.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

5 - Property and Equipment

Buildings, improvements and equipment acquired by the Conference are recorded at cost when purchased and fair value when donated. Depreciation is computed based on expected useful lives and is calculated using the straight-line method.

Property and equipment consists of the following at December 31:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Land	\$ 754,101	\$ 754,101
Buildings, parsonages and capital improvements	8,172,268	8,163,833
Furniture and fixtures	642,688	622,615
Automobiles	<u>116,247</u>	<u>109,575</u>
Total	9,685,304	9,650,124
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,276,995)</u>	<u>(3,974,240)</u>
Net property and equipment	<u>\$ 5,408,309</u>	<u>\$ 5,675,884</u>

6 - Multi-employer Pension Plans

The Conference is a participating employer in five separate trustee-managed multi-employer defined benefit pension plans which are described in further detail below.

The risks of participating in these multi-employer defined benefit pension plans are different from single-employer plans because: (a) assets contributed to the multi-employer plan by one employer may be used to provide benefits to employees of other participating employers, (b) if a participating employer stops contributing to the plan, the unfunded obligations of the plan may be required to be borne by the remaining participating employers, and (c) if the Conference chooses to stop participating in one of its multi-employer plans, it may be required to pay a withdrawal liability to the plan. The Conference has no plans to withdraw from its multi-employer pension plans.

Because employers that contribute to multi-employer plans are responsible only to make the contributions called for and they do not have a directly identified or separate interest in investment gains or losses or administrative costs, nor does the employer have a directly identified or separate obligation for benefit payments, separate assets and liabilities for their portion of the plan are not recognized, and the contributions are recognized as expense in the period they are paid.

Pre-1982 Plan ("Pre-82") - The Conference participates in the Pre-1982 Plan which is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by Wespeth Benefits & Investments ("Wespeth Benefits"), formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church. The fund covers service prior to 1982 for substantially all clergy and lay pastors. For service subsequent to 1981, clergy members of the Conference are eligible to participate in the multi-employer retirement plans offered by The United Methodist Church as described below.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

6 - Multi-employer Pension Plans (continued)

The Board of Pensions of the Conference acts as trustee responsible for deposits with the Wespath Benefits. All assets of the plan are available to pay all benefits of the plan, regardless of the conference from which the contributions came or under which benefits were accrued. However, each conference controls certain benefit provisions of the plan and may choose to fund this plan using different funding methodologies. In the past, the Conference has chosen to fund the plan using the full actuarial allocation and is currently fully funded. An actuarial report is available from the Wespath Benefits that shows the funding requirements and funded status of all the conferences for the Pre-82. In 2017 and 2016, Pre-82 assets are expected to be overfunded by approximately \$305,403,187 and \$105,280,896, respectively.

No payment was required in 2016. An advanced contribution of \$68,580 was required for 2017 though no amortized contribution was required for 2016. The most recent valuation indicates a payment of \$160,622 will be required for 2018.

Ministerial Pension Plan (“MPP”) - U.S. bishops, Conference members and local pastors under Episcopal appointment are eligible for pension coverage under the Ministerial Pension Plan. The MPP is a multi-employer defined contribution plan which required the Conference to contribute 12% of each participant’s compensation, subject to a limit on total compensation. This plan was frozen effective December 31, 2006; however, the Conference is required to make payments to the plan as needed.

No payment was required in 2017 or 2016, and no payment will be required for 2018 although future payments towards the plan are possible. This plan was replaced by the CRSP described below.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (“CPP”) - In addition to the Pre-82 Plan, certain ministerial employees are provided disability and death benefits as well as certain minimum benefits related to pension coverage through participation in the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The CPP is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by Wespath Benefits. The contribution to the plan for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, were \$650,489 and \$682,337, respectively.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (“UMPIP”) - Effective January 1, 2006, the Cumulative Pension and Benefit Fund and the Personal Investment Plan were merged to form the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan. Conference clergy members, lay employees, and local church personnel are eligible to participate in this multi-employer defined contribution plan administered by Wespath Benefits which currently allows an employer contribution of up to 12%. The Conference contributes 6% of all eligible lay participants’ compensation. Total contributions to the plan for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 were \$52,929 and \$49,290, respectively. These amounts are included in conference benefits in the consolidated statements of activities.

Clergy Retirement Security Program (“CRSP”) - Effective January 1, 2007, the Conference established the CRSP, which is a multi-employer defined benefit plan and a multi-employer defined contribution plan administered by Wespath Benefits. Clergy members and local pastors under Episcopal appointment to a conference, church, charge, district or conference-controlled entity or unit are eligible to participate. For the defined benefit plan, the contribution is based on a formula using the denominational average compensation and the years of credited service beginning January 1, 2007. For the defined contribution plan, contributions are 3% of each eligible participant’s compensation.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

6 - Multi-employer Pension Plans (continued)

The contributions to the CRSP for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Defined contribution plan, funded from the Conference	\$ 692,681	\$ 693,599
Defined benefit plan, funded from the Conference	<u>1,755,597</u>	<u>1,600,207</u>
Total contributions	<u>\$ 2,448,278</u>	<u>\$ 2,293,806</u>

The Conference expects future annual contributions for all of the plans above to be approximately \$2.5 million. The total costs for the above benefit plans are generally billed to the churches of the Conference; however, any shortfalls are obligations of the Conference.

7 - Postretirement Benefit Plan

The Conference sponsors a defined benefit postretirement health care plan for ministerial employees of its member churches and employees of the Conference. Actuarial reports are currently obtained every year for the plan. The annual measurement date is December 31. The plan is unfunded, however, as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Conference has approximately \$26,094,426 and \$21,921,345, respectively, designated by the Board to be used for payment of future net periodic postretirement benefit costs. Any changes in the plan or revisions to assumptions that affect the amount of expected future benefits may have a significant effect on the amount of the reported obligation and future annual expense.

The following tables present the Plan's obligations, funded status, activities and net unrestricted assets.

Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO) at December 31:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Gross APBO	\$ 11,799,794	\$ 10,769,668
Fair value of plan assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net unfunded status of the plan	<u>\$ 11,799,794</u>	<u>\$ 10,769,668</u>

Amounts recognized in the statements of financial position consist of the following:

Noncurrent assets	\$ -	\$ -
Current liabilities	373,020	330,899
Noncurrent liabilities	<u>11,426,774</u>	<u>10,438,769</u>
	<u>\$ 11,799,794</u>	<u>\$ 10,769,668</u>

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

7 - Postretirement Benefit Plan (continued)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Reconciliation of APBO to amounts recognized in statement of activities:		
APBO, beginning of year	\$ 10,769,668	\$ 11,009,095
Service cost	335,565	327,810
Interest cost	424,038	443,205
Actuarial (gain) loss	607,975	(611,986)
Expected benefits paid directly to the Conference, net of retiree contributions	<u>(337,452)</u>	<u>(398,456)</u>
Net change	<u>1,030,126</u>	<u>(239,427)</u>
APBO, end of year	<u>\$ 11,799,794</u>	<u>\$ 10,769,668</u>
Net unrestricted assets are developed as follows:		
Net prior service credit (cost)	\$ 6,212,586	\$ 7,919,340
Net gain	<u>3,240,662</u>	<u>4,131,779</u>
Net unrestricted assets	<u>\$ 9,453,248</u>	<u>\$ 12,051,119</u>
Net unrestricted assets, beginning of year	\$ 12,051,119	\$ 13,386,810
Amounts amortized during the year		
Net prior service credit	(1,706,754)	(1,706,754)
Net gain	(283,142)	(240,923)
Occuring during the year		
Net gain (loss)	<u>(607,975)</u>	<u>611,986</u>
Net unrestricted assets, end of year	<u>\$ 9,453,248</u>	<u>\$ 12,051,119</u>
Net periodic postretirement benefit (income) costs are as follows:		
Service cost	\$ 335,565	\$ 327,810
Interest cost	424,038	443,205
Net prior service credit amortization	(1,706,754)	(1,706,754)
Net gain amortization	<u>(283,142)</u>	<u>(240,923)</u>
Net periodic postretirement benefit income	<u>\$ (1,230,293)</u>	<u>\$ (1,176,662)</u>

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

7 - Postretirement Benefit Plan (continued)

The following assumptions and dates are used:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Discount rate	4.00%	4.00%
Current health care cost trend rate	6.50%	6.50%
Ultimate health care cost trend rate	5.00%	5.00%
Year of ultimate trend rate	2023	2023
Census date	1/1/2017	1/1/2017

Effect of 1% increase in health care cost trend rates:

APBO	\$ 12,076,337	\$ 11,005,100
Amount change	\$ 276,543	\$ 235,432
Percentage change	2.34%	2.19%

Effect of 1% reduction in health care cost trend rates:

APBO	\$ 11,565,124	\$ 10,568,484
Amount change	\$ (234,670)	\$ (201,184)
Percentage change	-1.99%	-1.87%

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future services, as appropriate, are expected to be paid in future years.

2018	\$ 379,492
2019	412,460
2020	455,054
2021	500,639
2022	533,339
2023-2027	<u>3,102,616</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,383,600</u>

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

8 - Notes Payable

Notes payable are to the Texas Methodist Foundation as follows:

\$4,100,000 note payable secured by real estate of the Conference, and bearing interest at a variable rate, 1.80% at December 31, 2017. This loan amortizes over 20 years.	\$ 2,204,830
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2016 note payable for \$450,000 secured by a prior year receipt of property. The loan was paid in full in 2017.	-
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2016 note payable for \$961,997 secured by a 2016 noncash receipt of property. The loan was paid in full in 2017.	<u>-</u>
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Notes Payable as of December 31, 2017	2,204,830
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Less current maturities	<u>(179,641)</u>
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Non-current portion of notes payable	<u>\$ 2,025,189</u>
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Interest expense during 2017 and 2016 amounted to \$56,283 and \$70,033, respectively.

Future principle amounts due as of December 31, 2017, are as follows:

2018	\$ 179,641
2019	182,902
2020	186,221
2021	189,601
2022	193,042
Thereafter	<u>1,273,423</u>
	<u>\$ 2,204,830</u>

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

9 - Endowment Investments

The Conference's endowment investments are composed of funds from contributions permanently restricted by the donor. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, net assets associated with permanent restrictions, including board designated funds, are classified and reported based upon the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

The Conference operates under the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of the State of Texas (TUPMIFA). This Act eliminates the historic dollar value limitation imposed by the previous law, thereby increasing the Conference's ability to apply a total-return spending rate to its funds. The historic dollar value limitation is replaced with a new standard of prudence. The Conference may apply its spending rate if it is determined to be the prudent course of action, even though application of the spending rate will cause the value of the fund to fall below the value of the original gift.

Endowment investments are reported in endowment and other long-term investments in the consolidated statements of financial position. As of December 31, the endowment investments of the Conference consisted of the following:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Nannie F. Bean Trust	\$ 64,068	\$ 64,068
Perkins Fund	<u>1,875,459</u>	<u>1,605,077</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,939,527</u>	<u>\$ 1,669,145</u>

The Nannie F. Bean Trust is held at the General Council of Finance and Administration (the "GCFA") in compliance with the estate documents. Income is managed by the GCFA and distributed periodically. Per the trust agreement, the Conference returns the funds to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) designating the recipient of the funds from the list GBGM maintains. The purpose of the Perkins Fund is to assist retired clergy with catastrophic medical expenses.

The Conference has a spending policy of appropriating for distribution each year up to 95% of its endowment fund's net income. In establishing this policy, the Conference considered the long-term expected investment return on its endowment. Accordingly, over the long term, the Conference expects the current spending policy to allow its endowment fund to grow at an average of 5% annually. This is consistent with the Conference's objective to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets as well as to provide additional real growth through investment return.

To achieve that objective, the Conference has adopted an investment policy that attempts to maximize total return consistent with an acceptable level of risk. Endowment assets are invested in a diversified asset mix, which includes equity and debt securities that is intended to result in a consistent inflation-protected rate of return that has sufficient liquidity to make an annual distribution of up to 95%, while growing the fund, if possible. Actual returns in any given year may vary from this amount. Investment risk is measured in terms of the total endowment fund; investment assets and allocation between asset classes and strategies are managed not to expose the fund to unacceptable levels of risk.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2017 and 2016

9 - Endowment Investments (continued)

Changes in endowment net assets for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

	Temporarily <u>Restricted</u>	Permanently <u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Endowment investments, January 1, 2016	\$ 746,122	\$ 814,068	\$ 1,560,190
Investment income (loss)	124,675	-	124,675
Grants paid	<u>(15,720)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,720)</u>
Endowment investments, December 31, 2016	855,077	814,068	1,669,145
Investment income (loss)	288,530	-	288,530
Grants paid	<u>(18,148)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(18,148)</u>
Endowment investments, December 31, 2017	<u>\$ 1,125,459</u>	<u>\$ 814,068</u>	<u>\$ 1,939,527</u>

10 - Net Assets

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Unrestricted net assets:		
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 30,956,281	\$ 25,980,191
Increase	<u>4,789,042</u>	<u>4,976,090</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 35,745,323</u>	<u>\$ 30,956,281</u>
Temporarily restricted net assets:		
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,381,399	\$ 2,038,148
Increase (decrease)	<u>604,195</u>	<u>(656,749)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 1,985,594</u>	<u>\$ 1,381,399</u>
Permanently restricted net assets:		
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 814,068	\$ 814,068
Change	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 814,068</u>	<u>\$ 814,068</u>

11 - Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through the date of the independent auditor's report on page one, which is the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



Ratliff & Associates, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S
REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements ("financial statements") of the North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church as of and for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, and our report thereon dated July 27, 2018, which expressed an unmodified opinion of those financial statements, appears on page one. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole.

The Supplementary Consolidated Statement of Revenues and Expenses on page twenty 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 information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Ratliff & Associates, P.C.

July 27, 2018

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Supplementary Consolidated Statement of Revenues and Expenses

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	Balance 12/31/2016	Collections	Disbursements	Transfers	Balance 12/31/2017
Unrestricted net assets					
General Conference	\$ 838,945	\$ 3,345,125	\$ (3,341,330)	\$ -	\$ 842,740
Jurisdictional conference	-	112,970	(112,970)	-	-
GBGM advances	-	363,336	(363,336)	-	-
Other benevolences	-	89,246	(89,246)	-	-
Apportioned conference programs					
Center for new church development	652,655	1,282,248	(948,215)	(46,981)	939,707
Center for leadership development	353,778	2,148,806	(1,880,145)	(79,350)	543,089
Center for missional outreach	391,554	713,683	(428,192)	(260,206)	416,839
Center for connectional resources	1,455,194	1,469,365	(1,377,992)	(82,975)	1,463,592
Conference benefits	4,773,208	14,079,200	(10,859,068)	(3,420,975)	4,572,365
Retiree Medical	11,151,677	-	-	3,142,955	14,294,632
Property insurance	1,648,358	6,680,821	(5,187,416)	-	3,141,763
Non-apportioned programs					
Episcopal office - area admin.	367,579	133,479	(98,740)	(1,521)	400,797
Episcopal office - GCFA	21,252	-	-	-	21,252
Communications	117,252	413,927	(295,990)	(14,815)	220,374
District superintendents	160,425	587,920	(519,772)	(49,489)	179,084
East district	393,688	172,557	(144,874)	(26,468)	394,903
Metro district	875,018	302,511	(141,527)	(23,423)	1,012,579
North central district	476,522	183,022	(157,894)	(22,756)	478,894
Northwest district	232,230	165,809	(97,605)	(24,682)	275,752
Legacy property	4,951,437	223,880	(659,355)	(17,402)	4,498,560
Midwestern Wesley Foundation	52,635	4,436	(41,002)	52,341	68,410
Paris Junior College	-	80,036	(24,372)	-	55,664
Bridgeport camp (non-apportioned)	43,390	799,311	(1,128,684)	251,661	(34,322)
Bridgeport camp property	663,354	-	-	(42,301)	621,053
Prothro Camp center	1,200,643	-	-	(67,531)	1,133,112
Prothro Center	125,242	724,953	(824,278)	162,533	188,450
NTC offsite camping ministry	10,245	28,070	(78,281)	56,000	16,034
Total unrestricted net assets	30,956,281	34,104,711	(28,800,284)	(515,385)	35,745,323
Temporarily restricted net assets					
Creating congregation	-	-	-	-	-
Young Clergy Initiative	-	-	-	-	-
Zip Code Connection	-	82,118	(396,449)	314,331	-
NT Disaster Relief	106,462	361,852	(124,937)	-	343,377
Peace with Justice	9,193	837	(2,000)	-	8,030
Native American Ministry	10,366	605	-	-	10,971
Hispanic Plan	6,460	-	-	-	6,460
Box Truck	-	-	-	-	-
Cut Trust	271,269	-	-	-	271,269
Perkins Fund Income	855,077	288,530	(18,148)	-	1,125,459
Nannie Bean Trust Earnings	-	2,961	(2,961)	-	-
Episcopal GCFA Funds	-	84,654	(74,298)	(10,356)	-
Robertson Awards	1,779	8	-	-	1,787
JV Partnership	5,711	-	(1,052)	-	4,659
Children Seek Scholarship	18,595	-	-	-	18,595
Superannuate Corpus	89,338	-	-	-	89,338
Johnny Irish	-	100,000	(11,500)	-	88,500
A Time for Children	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
A Wilkinson Playground	7,149	-	-	-	7,149
Total temporarily restricted net assets	1,381,399	931,565	(631,345)	303,975	1,985,594
Permanently restricted net assets					
Perkins Fund	750,000	-	-	-	750,000
Nannie Findlay Bean Trust	64,068	-	-	-	64,068
Total permanently restricted net assets	814,068	-	-	-	814,068
Total Net Assets	\$ 33,151,748	\$ 35,036,276	\$ (29,431,629)	\$ (211,410)	\$ 38,544,985

See the Independent Auditor's Report on Supplementary Information.

2018 NTC CONNECTIONAL REPORTS

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University enjoyed a banner year in 2017, thanks to the local congregations and leadership of The United Methodist Church. A luncheon organized by United Methodists in the North Texas Conference on February 25, 2017 was the first celebration event held in the United States to mark Africa University's 25th anniversary. This, and other celebration events held across the connection last year, brought Africa University's contributions to the forefront.

The university community is deeply thankful to the North Texas Conference for investing in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment at 100 percent in 2017. Thank you, North Texas United Methodists, for the extraordinary effort, generosity, and faithfulness that led to this milestone.

Institutional Update:

- Currently, Africa University hosts a stable, focused, and vibrant campus community of 1,417 full-time students and faculty and staff from 31 African nations. In addition, 392 students are pursuing degree programs on a part-time basis.
- Africa University's annual operating budget of just-under \$10.5 million prioritizes student access and retention, with more than \$2.2 million in scholarships and financial aid awards disbursed in 2017.
- Amidst a transition in the governance of Zimbabwe, lectures, research, and outreach activities at the Africa University campus have continued uninterrupted.
- A new academic structure and the realignment of programs is encouraging innovation and enhancing Africa University's relevance to The United Methodist Church and to sub-Saharan Africa. The recently-launched Institute of Theology and Religious Studies offers multi-disciplinary training and leadership formation opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Researchers at Africa University are providing critical data on mosquitos and regional malaria control programs to aid Africa's efforts to eradicate malaria and other insect-borne diseases.
- Through teaching and research, Africa University is making trailblazing, regional contributions in migrant and refugee protection, child rights, and the harnessing of intellectual property for development.
- The first 25 years of AU's ministry have produced more than 8,000 graduates who are leading efforts to make disciples, alleviate poverty, improve global health, and better the quality of life in communities across sub-Saharan Africa.

Africa University ended 2017 with its highest level of support from The United Methodist Church to date—a 96.77 percent investment of the overall budget commitment to the AUF. The North Texas Conference was one of a record 35 annual conferences that achieved or exceeded their 100 percent investment to the AUF. The strong support of the North Texas Conference helped the South Central Jurisdiction to achieve an overall investment of 88.42 percent to the AUF.

As Africa University embraces emerging opportunities for service and impact within and beyond the church in Africa, the unwavering support of the North Texas Conference is of vital importance. On June 9th, three students will graduate from Africa University, equipped to make a difference in their communities, because North Texas United Methodists provided scholarships at Africa University as part of their global legacy. These three new graduates come from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria and represent two of the African central conferences of The United Methodist Church. They are returning to their home communities to make life-changing contributions in the health sector. Other students are being similarly prepared and your prayers and support make it possible.

The four-year, \$50 million Campaign for Africa University is ongoing, with 77.4 percent of the goal or \$38.7 million in cash and pledges already committed. A new residence hall for students is being constructed and the expansion of the dining hall/student union building is underway, thanks to a \$2 million gift to the campaign from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. The campaign prioritizes scholarships, expert faculty, research, infrastructure, and technology.

Thank you, North Texas Conference, for your foundational role in the Africa University story. Thank you for being a part of this incredible year of blessings. Thank you for affirming the power of faithfully sowing, standing, and working together as you journey in ministry with Africa University. May God bless and keep you always in an abundance of grace and mercy.

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office
 1001-19th Avenue South, P O Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007
 Tel: (615) 340-7438 Fax: (615) 340-7290
jsalley@gbhem.org www.support-africauniversity.org

CC YOUNG Senior Living

Have you visited our campus lately?? The Vista has risen out of the ground and should open by the end of this year!

- The Vista is designed with ultimate flexibility in mind. It will be built in accordance with the strictest construction guidelines required for skilled nursing in Texas which is the highest level of care.
- The Vista will offer 219 new state-of-the-art patient rooms and resident apartments. Beautifully appointed spaces will replace and enhance the current skilled nursing, rehabilitation, memory care, and the adult day center program while also adding larger assisted living residences.
- Amenities include inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation with a comprehensive aquatic program and therapy pool.
- Other amenities are a spa, grand hall, multiple dining venues, family gathering rooms, a community room, a meditation room and chapel, art gallery, gift shop, team member area and multiple sensory gardens.
- Smaller ‘households’ or ‘neighborhoods’ for 16 residents/patients will create intimate environments to promote closer relationships with their families and caregivers.
- The Vista will house two full kitchens enabling us to enhance the dining experience throughout campus. Options will include meals cooked to order in each neighborhood.
- The new design and flow of the building has been designed to transform and enhance person-centered care.
- The Vista will transform senior care through forward-thinking design, enhanced programs and technology designed specifically for seniors and healthcare.
- Once The Vista is open and operational, Lawther Point East, Lawther Point West and The Cove will be replaced with The Terraces, a new Independent Living community which we hope to break ground by 2020.

In January, 2018, we created the “CC Young Centennial Club” to honor our residents as they reach their 100th birthday. In 2018, we will welcome nine (9) residents into this hallowed group. Each celebration is specially designed for each resident and includes the reading of a personalized proclamation from the Dallas County Commissioners Court, honoring each resident. The celebration also includes the addition of an honorary paver in their name in our Central Park along with cake and festivities.

Also new to campus this year is our Palliative Care program. Two very well-renowned physicians have joined forces with CC Young to enhance this highly specialized and much needed program. We welcome Dr. Alexander Peralta and Dr. Harold Childs as they help train our team, implement this remarkable service, and educate family members.

If you have not visited in a while, our Volunteer Program continues to evolve. We welcome *everyone*: individuals, schools, corporations, and even moms with twins! All volunteers, all ages, from all walks of life, are welcome to join us in loving service to seniors. Founded in 1925, our C. C. Young Auxiliary is a shining example of how volunteering can make a difference.

For more information on how you can volunteer and contribute your time and talent to our ministry, call:

CCY's Manager of Volunteer and Transportation Experience at 214-841-2988.

Or for information about membership in the Auxiliary, call 214-841-2909.

The future looks bright as we continue to expand on Reverend Young's ministry of service! Stay tuned for a fresh new look and a fresh new website!

About CC Young, A Non-Profit Organization founded in 1922:

At CC Young, our vision is to enhance the quality of life for all we serve. Our mission is to foster premier environments where every life at every age is valued and enriched. We strive to create life-enriching experiences for all to celebrate life every day. The Point and Pavilion in the heart of our campus just celebrated its 10th Anniversary! The Point offers creative, educational and fitness opportunities for not only residents but also for the general public.

Our campus is located on 20 acres near Dallas' White Rock Lake and offers these services for seniors, age 55 and better:

Independent Living—Assisted Living—Memory Care—Skilled Nursing—Long Term Care
In & Out-Patient Rehabilitation—Home Healthcare—Home Services--Hospice
Respite Care—Adult Day Center, supporting dementia with daytime care—The Clinic
Pastoral Care—CCY Cares Outreach Program—Point Membership
Massage Therapy—Volunteer Opportunities

**ANNOUNCING
CC YOUNG'S
New Logos and Colors!**

*"I firmly believe that nothing
contributes so much to the
beauty of this world as color."*
Dorothy Draper, Interior Designer
1889-1969

**CC YOUNG
SENIOR LIVING**

**CC YOUNG
SENIOR LIVING**

**CC YOUNG
SENIOR LIVING**

**TIME TO
CELEBRATE!**

Our Community Services program is licensed in thirteen (13) North Texas counties and offers these services for seniors wherever they call home:

Home Healthcare
Home Services
Hospice

For information on all programs, visit: www.ccyoung.org or call 214-874-7474.

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) launched a new mission and vision in August 2017. The updated mission and vision simplify GBHEM's role as the primary leadership development agency for The United Methodist Church.

Mission: Build capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ's calling in their lives, by creating connections and providing resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation. **Vision:** Generations of thriving, diverse and compassionate Christian leaders for The United Methodist Church and the world.

OUR WORK THROUGHOUT 2017 AND 2018

The **Office of Discernment and Enlistment** at GBHEM hosted **Exploration**, a biennial event for young adults ages 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry as a United Methodist deacon or elder. More than 350 attended the event in Portland, Oregon in November 2017.

The **Young Clergy Initiative (YCI)** funded **34 innovative projects** across the church in 2017 to attract young people to ordained ministry. Since its inception, more than 100 projects have been funded through YCI.

GBHEM works with the **Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (CCTE)** to distribute grants for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the Central Conferences. In 2017, the CCTE awarded **67 grants totaling more than \$1 million** to the seven Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church.

The **Publishing Ministry**, established to engage, nurture, and advocate for the intellectual life of The United Methodist Church, released **13 books in 2017**, reaching more than 10,000 people.

In 2017, GBHEM's Office of **Loans and Scholarships** awarded **2,000+ students with \$4.1 million** in scholarships and **350 students with \$1.4 million in low-interest loans**. More than **\$1.6 million was awarded to 200 recipients of the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship**, which helps United Methodist clergy avoid excessive educational loan debt, minimize financial stress and build financial acumen.

To aid pastors in their ministry journey, GBHEM's **Candidacy Office** introduced **EM360**. A formation guide to help pastors and congregations meet mission and ministry goals, EM360 is a tool to help clergy leaders **identify and gauge pastoral effectiveness**. In 2017, **1,438 candidates enrolled in UMCARES** to seek certified candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry. A total of 589 **candidates were certified**.

The **Black College Fund** distributed **more than \$9.68 million in 2017** to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities related to The United Methodist Church for faculty development, infrastructure maintenance, academic programs and scholarships.

Clergy Lifelong Learning led African-American, United Methodist pastors who lead predominantly white churches in **cross-cultural diversity training** in South Korea in 2017. Continuing education and coaching opportunities are available through the innovative, multilingual platform, UMC Cyber Campus.

In 2017, **Schools, Colleges, and Universities** established the **Siri S. Gadbois Fund** in partnership with the National Association of Schools & Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC) for mentoring among institution leaders (kickoff in 2018). The **Cutting-Edge Curriculum Award** was created to recognize 10 exceptional faculty members who are building effective and innovative academic courses (winners announced at the end of 2018 spring semester).

In partnership with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM provides e-readers to theological schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia, offering access to the latest textbooks and references books. The **E-Reader Project** distributed

667 e-readers in 2017 and nearly **2,500 devices to 22 theological seminaries** since the program inception in 2013.

In 2017, GBHEM and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) hosted two **academic theological colloquies**. Initiated in service to the intellectual life of the church, the colloquies are intended to be a resource for the church. The first colloquy (March 2017) focused on **human sexuality and church unity**, the second (November 2017) reflected on the practice of **Missio Dei**. Both events produced a study guide and book.

GOLDEN CROSS METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION

Mission Statement: *“Golden Cross is a faith-based program of Methodist Health System and the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Its purpose is to provide quality healthcare for those who are underserved and most vulnerable within the North Texas Conference.”*

Golden Cross Division Board: As a division of Methodist Health System Foundation and guided by the original vision of a healthcare ministry, the Board of the Golden Cross Division of Methodist Health System Foundation is charged with governing and directing the Golden Cross Ministry. The Golden Cross Division Board is comprised of dedicated clergy and lay members from congregations throughout the North Texas Conference.

Benefits for North Texas Conference: The Golden Cross Ministry began in 1921 as an idea of a men’s Sunday School class at First United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. The vision of these city leaders was to create a healthcare ministry providing services at Dallas Methodist Hospital, now Methodist Dallas Medical Center, for those in the community who needed medical care but could not afford it, regardless of their faith. This idea was considered revolutionary at the time.

As the Golden Cross Ministry evolved, for many years ministers in the North Texas Conference referred individual patients to receive needed healthcare at Dallas Methodist Hospital. The model limited the number of patients served. After learning that medication costs were one of the most significant needs for these patients, in 2006 the Golden Cross Division Board adapted its program support to MedAssist, a prescription medication program administered by physicians and social workers through the Golden Cross Academic Clinic. This new model allowed the Golden Cross Ministry to serve more patients, and since 2008 the Golden Cross Ministry has funded more than \$1.9 million in medication and medical supply support.

Today Golden Cross continues to bring together Methodist congregations, dedicated physicians, and caring individuals to provide medical care for those in need.

The Golden Cross Ministry also supports the Faith Community Nursing program. This specialized area of professional nursing practice focuses on the promotion of health within a faith-based community. In Faith Community Nursing, a nurse professional provides ministry by assessing the needs of a congregation on an ongoing basis then planning and implementing relevant programs to promote health and wellness. Since its inception in 1996, the Faith Community Nursing program has grown significantly and now partners with 61 congregations across Dallas County.

Golden Cross Ministry Funded Program Achievements:

MedAssist:

MedAssist provides qualified patients with health education and medications at no cost. Administered by the Golden Cross Academic Clinic, in 2017 the MedAssist program provided significant services to its patients:

- Total MedAssist patient served: 5,549
 - 109 new patients
 - 184 patients are currently receiving medication and medical supply support

- Funds used: \$19,485 to purchase prescriptions and medical supplies including diabetic testing supplies for 184 patients
- Health education: provided to 1,249 patients
- Prescription medication: 787 prescriptions were written for free medications through the MedAssist program at a retail value of \$478,264
- Other MedAssist services: social services, nutrition services, and education programs to help patients remain well and active in the workplace and the community. Short-term counseling services are provided as needed to help patients learn better ways to cope with chronic illness.

Faith Community Nursing:

Partnering with faith communities in North Texas, the program promotes health and wellness for all people. Faith Community Nurses work with nurses in the church congregations to provide medical resources to help their members. In 2017 there were:

- 60 partnering churches
- 5 new congregations were added
- new congregational nurses completed the 40-hour Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course
- 50,000+ served
- 325 flu shots provided
- Identified and began connecting congregations with the online resource tool Aunt Bertha, <https://www.auntbertha>

In 2018, the Faith Community Nursing program is offering the Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course for the first time online. To enhance and improve reporting, there is an online documentation tool for partnering churches.

Funding: The Golden Cross Division Board funds the MedAssist and Faith Community Nursing programs through individual contributions, church contributions, and with funds from the Golden Cross Endowment. Churches are asked to support Golden Cross by continuing to contribute one dollar (\$1.00) per member per year, which is the funding model envisioned by the founders of Golden Cross. If a church is unfamiliar with the program and would like more information to find out how to participate in Golden Cross, it should contact the Methodist Health System Foundation.

Oversight: The Golden Cross Board reviews its program support annually to determine the highest priority and best use of available funds. The Board takes seriously its responsibility to manage the sacred trust of donors successfully. Golden Cross needs the support of the entire North Texas Conference to realize its mission.

The Future: The goal and mission of Golden Cross are to grow and strengthen its ministries in the visionary spirit of its founders. Exciting cooperative opportunities to expand the capabilities of the Golden Cross ministry into underserved geographic areas of the North Texas Conference are in development.

The mission of Golden Cross answers the call of Christ, “Heal the sick...Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:8). Through the prayers and generous support of the North Texas Conference, Golden Cross will continue its ministry to people in need of quality healthcare.

2018 Golden Cross Division Board

The Rev. Linda Roby, Chair, Jim Atkins, The Rev. Mitchell Boone, The Rev. April Johnson Bristow, Kenneth Cheairs, John Collins, Alina Esquivel, John Hasley, Michael Hutton, Tricia Loe, G. David Neal, Carole Somers-Clark, Julie Yarbrough, James M. Johnston, ex-officio, President, Methodist Health System Foundation

For More Information: To access the services of Golden Cross, please call the Golden Cross Academic Clinic at 214-947-6700.

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE

Greetings from your ministry on the US-Mexico border! Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI), is the only ministry of the United Methodist Church that sits right between two countries and three states: The countries of Mexico and the United States and the states of Texas, New Mexico and the Mexican state of Chihuahua. It is the only ministry that can claim to have trained over 160 Pastors, 12 District Superintendents, 4 Chaplains, 1 Seminary President, and 1 Bishop. In the secular world, Lydia Patterson has trained doctors, lawyers, educators, engineers, artists, comedians, actors, ambassadors, governors, and many other state officials.

For more than 100 years, Lydia Patterson Institute has been committed to serve the church and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Every day, lives are being changed for the better and the world becomes a better place because of LPI.

School year 2017-18, serves 400 students that commute daily from Cd. Juarez and the El Paso area, many making a 2-3 hour trip to and from school. We owe the churches and friends of your conference and all the conferences of the South Central Jurisdiction for their apportionments and gifts for scholarships that give these students an opportunity to change their lives. A young boy or girl may be living in a “colonia” with no hope for the future, and through the generous support and the work of LPI, he or she may join the list of professionals mentioned above.

Looking to the future, LPI is preparing to continue to change lives for another 100 years. Through the efforts of a capital campaign, LPI has been converted into one of the best equipped schools in the area with the latest state-of-the-art technology in the classroom. Here, students are being provided with the best tools to meet the needs of a changing world.

Academics is the road to success, but spiritual guidance and strong ethical preparation is the answer to life in a complex world. Lay Ministry Students at LPI are trained to bring the love of Christ to others through their service and commitment to the church. Students serve in internships and many choose to go to seminary as a result. In the summer of 2017, more than 40 students were placed in internships throughout South Central and beyond. Eighty-seven students graduated and eighty-seven students are in college today. Your investment in our future leaders could not yield a higher rate of return. For this, and for all your resources and prayers that you send our way, we wish to thank you.

In the midst of a very controversial issue of immigration in the country, Lydia Patterson Institute is here to build bridges in place of walls. The United Methodist Church and Lydia Patterson Institute are the link that provides potential human resources to both sides of the border. Please come and visit and experience firsthand the presence of God in the faces of our students, faculty and staff and all those who have dedicated their lives to the welfare of these young boys and girls. “La Lydia” is a beacon of light in the midst of challenges on both sides of the border. Thank you for joining us in this venture to fight crime, drugs and violence through education and spiritual leadership. Thank you for contributing to changing the lives of our students and creating a better world in the name of Jesus.

METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME

Greetings from Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) and the more than 5,000 children, youth and families we serve. Our ministry is possible thanks to the support of our many benefactors and friends, including those from the North Texas Annual Conference. I am honored to report to you that MCH continues to be in compliance with and, in many cases, exceed best practice standards for childcare established by the states of Texas and New Mexico as well as the Council on Accreditation (COA), an international accrediting organization of child welfare, behavioral health, and community-based social services.

I invite each member of the annual conference to visit our website at www.MCH.org. There you can view our strategic plan, annual report or explore in more detail the services we offer. You can also download stories; identify resources to help educate your congregation on our ministry; view a transparent listing of our financial resources and services delivered; find out how you can refer a child for placement; or learn more about a call to join our ministry as a home parent, foster parent or in another capacity.

Guided by our core values of Christian Principles, Relationships, Responsibility, Growth, Service and Hope; MCH provides the care, programs and talented individuals needed to positively impact the lives of children, youth and families throughout Texas and New Mexico. This is happening every day in residential programs on our Waco campus and Boys Ranch as well as through 13 MCH Family Outreach offices including Dallas.

The reasons children and youth arrive in our care are unique to each individual. They range from extreme trauma, a sudden change in the family structure, school issues, or poor choices in a difficult and ever-changing world. We invest in our staff so that regardless of what brings someone to MCH, they encounter the highest level of care possible. Our vision remains to share what we learn with pastors, youth ministers and family members in the local church because MCH knows you are encountering similar situations.

Through the generosity of our benefactors, the prayers of our friends and supporters, and the commitment of a skilled community of MCH employees, here are some of the things you helped MCH accomplish for God's glory and those we serve:

- Building on the success of the Dr. Jack Kyle and Evelyn Daniels Home completed in 2016, we continued construction on two new homes – the Margaret Ann Ashcraft Home and the John E. Hilliard Home. These two state-of-the-art homes complete the first phase of the Building Hope capital campaign. At the writing of this report, we are more than half-way toward our fundraising goal that will build the fourth and fifth of these new homes!
- Celebrated 24 young men and women as they graduated from our University of Texas – University Charter School on the Waco campus and other public schools. At our May graduation, the 300th graduate from the charter school walked the stage.
- Awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarship funds to assist MCH alumni in pursuing advanced education degrees and vocational certificates. More than 80 MCH alumni were approved for scholarships which will help them achieve life-changing skills.
- Enjoyed another great year showcasing their Ag Science/FFA projects at the Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo and other local livestock shows.
- Awarded the Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, the world's largest source of information of nonprofit organizations. Less than 1 percent of nonprofits listed on Guidestar have achieved the Gold level. MCH also received another four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest rating available from this notable charity watchdog organization. These designations recognize our commitment to excellence and efforts to conduct our work with the utmost integrity and transparency.
- Captured the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship (TCAF) Division I state championship with a 72-57 win. After falling in the playoffs in previous seasons, our MCH Bulldogs six-man football team capped off a successful season by winning our school's first state title!
- Participated in mission trips and service projects that provided opportunities for MCH youth to show Christ's love by sharing their talents to help meet needs across Texas.

Our achievements in the past, and those yet to come, are directly related to the men and women who give their time, talents and resources to bless our children. The following individuals from the North Texas Annual Conference serve on the MCH Board of Directors:

Mrs. Amy Barley, Celina
Rev. Marie Mitchell, Grand Prairie
Mr. Dan Moore, Carrollton

If you would like to schedule a speaker, arrange a tour or request resources to help promote an offering, contact our Development office by email at development@MCH.org, by phone at (254) 750-1314 or (800) 853-1272. You can also reach us by mail at 1111 Herring Avenue, Waco, Texas 76708.

As we now celebrate our 128th year of ministry, MCH knows our service to children and families is possible because of God's amazing grace and our generous benefactors. Thank you for your trust and support of our ministry. May God continue to bless you, the ministries of the North Texas Annual Conference and Methodist Children's Home.

Sincerely,
Tim Brown, President/CEO

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the North Texas Annual Conference:

- Fifty-nine (59) students affiliated with the North Texas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins, including: 39 Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students, eight Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) students, six Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) students, five Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students, and one Master of Theology (Th.M) student.
- Eligible 2017–2018 students from the North Texas Conference each received a Perkins Annual Conference Endowment (PACE) grant up to the amount of \$2,000, with qualifying full-time students receiving an additional \$6,000 each in need-based aid.
- Eighteen (18) Perkins students have been placed as interns within the North Texas Annual Conference for the 2017-18 academic year.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2017-18 academic year totals 312 students, including 31 enrolled in the Ph.D. program. Fall 2017 statistics reflect the following: 59% of our entire student population are United Methodist and more than 45 percent are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 43 percent male and 57 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Dallas.

In 2017, Dr. Craig C. Hill completed his first year as Dean and Professor of New Testament at Perkins School of Theology. Under his leadership, a number of new initiatives have been launched, including new forms of outreach to churches and church leaders, deeper and more fruitful relationships with feeder colleges, new curricular and co-curricular initiatives, a staff council, the revamping of the D.Min. and Houston-Galveston Programs, additional staffing in critical areas, increased giving, additional financial aid, new uses of technology, and a program for United Methodists seeking ordination.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- Fall 2017 admissions increased by a record 42.8 percent over the previous year with an incoming class of 80 students (excluding new D.Min. and Ph.D. students).
- Two new degree concentrations—“Church Management” and “Social Innovation and Nonprofit Engagement”—were launched in fall 2017 in partnership with SMU’s Cox School of Business and Meadows School of the Arts. Available to students pursuing the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) degrees, these unique concentrations are designed to strengthen future clergy in the area of church management and to equip those pursuing nontraditional forms of ministry that encourage social innovation.
- Current-use giving to Perkins increased 14% over 2016, making funds available to Dean Hill for immediate needs.
- A new scholarship program geared toward attracting outstanding Master of Divinity students was launched in 2017. The first 10 *Perkins Scholars*, each of whom received a three-year scholarship commitment, were named for the 2017-18 academic year. A total goal of \$630,000 in funding will provide for an anticipated 10 additional scholarships for fall 2018 and another 10 for the fall 2019. When the program is fully operational there will be 30 *Perkins Scholars* in the student body. Combined with additional financial aid, this program provides nearly full scholarships for these highly skilled servant leaders.
- A new curriculum was adopted for fall 2018 by the SMU Board of Trustees in December for the Perkins Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program. The new curriculum, under the direction of program director Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, includes a 30-hour graduation requirement; degree completion in three years; intensive peer group interaction and learning; and concentrations in Vocational Director, Organizational Leadership, and Community Building.
- In an effort to deepen relationships between Perkins and undergraduate college and universities, new partnerships in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been launched in 2017-18. Formal agreements have been signed with historically United Methodist institutions including Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana; Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas; McMurry University in Abilene, Texas; Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas; and Presbyterian-related Austin College in Sherman, Texas (with more pending at the time of this writing). These MOUs establish a preferred pathway for graduates of the institutions interested in pursuing ministerial vocations at the graduate level, granting preferred consideration and early acceptance to Perkins School of Theology for students pursuing ministerial vocations. The agreement also states that the undergraduate institutions and Perkins will encourage new opportunities for future cooperation.
- Dr. C. Michael Hawn, University Distinguished Professor of Church Music and director of the Sacred Music and Doctor of Pastoral Music (D.P.M.) programs at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, retired from full-time teaching in 2017 after 25 years on the SMU faculty. Dr. Hawn continues to administer and teach in the (D.P.M.) program.

Perkins School of Theology is committed to those *called to serve* so that they might be *empowered to lead*. We thank our many colleagues, friends and alumni/ae across the connection for generous their support, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

Grace and peace,
Craig C. Hill, Dean and Professor of New Testament

PROVIDENCE PLACE

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and those on our campus who are working hard to achieve their own personal level of success, I thank you – Bishop, Michael McKee, and the members of the North Texas Conference – for your dedication in partnership with the ministry of Providence Place. By God’s grace, we celebrated our 122nd anniversary in 2017 thanks to the committed support from individual donors and United Methodist Churches. We have been able to be a blessing to those around us for well over a century, and we couldn’t have done it without you.

Providence Place provides a safe haven for those who have felt excluded. We offer adoption services to women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, as well as those who are looking to open their hearts and homes to a child in need of a forever family. We have expanded on this wonderful service and now offer classes for parents to improve upon their parenting skills through our newest program, Parenting with a Purpose.

We regrettably had to say goodbye to our Center for Higher Independence (CHI) Program. The program had run for 43 years; but due to changes with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), we were not able to sustain the program. We did have a final graduation for the CHI Program in October of 2017, and had a record 43 students graduate.

We were able to hold onto our Transition Program which is now called Legacy. This is a transitional living program for young adults with disabilities, and we presently have 15 young adults with disabilities living independently in apartments either on campus or in community apartments.

Also in October of 2017, Providence Place celebrated 50 years of memories at our Leon Valley campus. During this Event, families were reunited, while others shared stories of their time at Providence Place.

While we had to say a heartfelt goodbye to our CHI Program; as the saying goes, where one door closes another opens. Providence Place is going to embark on a new journey to help women and children who are victims of assault, abuse, and trafficking. We have applied for several grants for both the Program and updates to the property. This program will take us back to how Providence Place was started back in 1895.

On April 27, 2018, Providence Place will host our second annual Fiesta Event which we call Familia Palooza. Families from our surrounding community and San Antonio are invited to take part in Fiesta activities that will include a live band, games, food trucks and face painting.

Last but certainly not least, I would also like to take the time to recognize those from the North Texas Conference who give of themselves, their time and resources to serve on the Providence Place Board of Directors:

Board of Directors

Catherine Tunks, Dallas, TX

Honorary Board Members

Rev. Dr. Joan LaBarr Carrollton, TX

I encourage you to schedule a tour of our beautiful 25 acre campus, coordinate a volunteer mission trip, arrange a speaker for your congregation or church group, and request offering materials for an annual church offering. We couldn’t continue these ministries without you and we would love to come and share the stories of Providence Place! If we could be a resource to you, contact our Mission Advancement Team at (210) 696-2410 or at mission.advancement@provplace.org. Also, please visit our website at www.provplace.org to learn more about these special ministries and to hear first-hand stories from those we have served.

Respectfully,
Dr. Judith Bell, President and CEO

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**www.spst.edu**

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with two campuses, in Kansas and Oklahoma.

This past 2017-2018 academic year, Saint Paul enrolled 117 students in the master and doctoral degree programs. The Saint Paul Course of Study School educated 261 students in Kansas City, KS; Hays, KS; Oklahoma City, OK; and Springfield, MO.

Saint Paul School of Theology announced a new FLEX schedule for theological education starting Fall 2018. Seminarians will receive a more Flexible Learning Experience that combines convenience and community opportunities with intentional academic scheduling. Students can take a mixture of online, on-campus, and hybrid (blended online and on-campus) courses to complete the required curriculum.

One FOCUS week will be scheduled each semester for hybrid and on-campus students. They will come together with faculty and skilled practitioners to participate in spiritual formation retreats, practicums that teach ministry skills (i.e. funeral planning, technology in worship, financial reporting), and community activities.

The Board of Trustees and president set into motion a new scholarship initiative. Every entering, full-time, master's degree student at Saint Paul will receive a \$5,000 scholarship for the 2018 seminary year. This broad opportunity is the most recent effort to reduce student indebtedness.

Seminary partner, United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, will offer a three-year, full-ride scholarship beginning 2018-2019 academic year. The Resurrection Fellow will have a hands-on, paid internship with a ministry mentor to learn ministry skills in evangelism, worship, pastoral care, and discipleship.

Dr. Amy Oden, Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality, at Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University received the 2017 GBHEM Exemplary Teacher Award. Her book entitled, *Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness* examines how Christian mindfulness practices begin with the teachings of Jesus and continue throughout Christian history. Oden includes step-by-step instructions for practicing Christian mindfulness today.

Dr. Mike Graves, William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching and Worship, published a book in October entitled *Table Talk: Rethinking Communion and Community*. Table Talk explores communion practices and a new way of doing church that is catching on around the world. Dr. Graves writes about the dinner church movement and ways that it is carried out.

Seminary partner, Oklahoma City University, dedicated a classroom in the W. Angie Smith Chapel building to honor retired Oklahoma UM Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. A plaque on the classroom door recognizes Hayes for his many years of service to both the seminary and university. He returned to Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University this year to teach, preach, and serve as Bishop-in-Residence.

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

Kansas Area Campus

Saint Paul: Church of the Resurrection

4370 W 109th St, Suite 300, Overland Park, KS 66211

Oklahoma Area Campus

Saint Paul: Oklahoma City University

2501 North Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

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

In fall 2017 SMU's total enrollment of 11,789 included 6,452 undergraduates and 5,337 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 26 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,785 (more than 15 percent of total enrollment) represented 88 foreign countries.

SMU ranks among the nation's best universities. In the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* listings, SMU ranks among the top 20 percent of the "best national universities." Several individual schools and academic programs also earned national rankings.

SMU received \$22 million in external funding during 2016-17 for research in the U.S. and worldwide. Current research subjects include the search for dark matter, natural hazards, water quality, cyber security, data analytics, learning disabilities, human performance, immigration, treatments for cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes, anxiety and depression.

In December, SMU received a \$1 million gift from the Moody Foundation, which will support renovation of Meadows School of the Arts facilities and key education research by Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. Also, a \$15 million gift received from the Nancy Ann Hunt Foundation (a supporting organization of the Communities Foundation of Texas) will ensure the long-term support of SMU's Hunt Leadership Scholars Program, one of the University's signature scholarship programs attracting academically talented student leaders from throughout the United States to SMU.

Last February, Elena D. Hicks began her post as SMU's new dean of undergraduate admission. Hicks came to SMU from Loyola University Maryland where she was dean of admission. In July, Kenekwue (K.C.) Meme began his post as SMU's vice president for student affairs. He had been assistant vice president and dean of students at Loyola University Chicago. In August, Matthew B. Myers became dean of SMU's Cox School of Business. Myers had been dean at the Farmer School of Business at Miami University of Ohio. SMU Cox's previous dean, Albert W. Niemi Jr., has transitioned to full-time teaching. Also in August, Stephanie L. Knight, a nationally recognized education leader, researcher and professor, began as dean of SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. She came to SMU from the College of Education at Pennsylvania State University where she had been associate dean and professor of education.

SMU faculty honored in 2017 include Mark Chancey, professor of religious studies at SMU's Dedman College, and Adam Herring, professor of art history at Meadows School of the Arts, who each received prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships in recognition of their achievement and exceptional promise. Also, noted SMU anthropologist Caroline Brettell was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Brettell's research focuses on ethnicity, migration and the immigrant experience. Much of Brettell's work has focused on the Dallas-Fort Worth region as a new immigration gateway city, especially on how immigrants practice citizenship and civic engagement as they meld into existing economic, social and political structures.

Biochemistry professors Pia Vogel and John Wise in the SMU Department of Biological Sciences, and Corey Clark, deputy director of research at SMU Guildhall, are leading the SMU assault on cancer in partnership with fans of the popular best-selling video game "Minecraft." The professors expect to make progress in their quest to narrow the search for chemical compounds that improve the effectiveness of chemotherapy drugs. Wise and Vogel have tapped the high performance computing power of SMU's ManeFrame, one of the top 20 most powerful academic supercomputers in the nation. With ManeFrame, Wise and Vogel have sorted through millions of compounds

that have the potential to work. Now the biochemists are taking that research to the next level — crowdsourced computing. A network of gamers can crunch massive amounts of data during routine gameplay by pairing two powerful weapons: the best of human intuition combined with the massive computing power of networked gaming machine processors.

In May, Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., the director of the National Institutes of Health who may be best known for leading the Human Genome Project (HGP), addressed SMU students during the 103rd all-University Commencement ceremony. Dr. Collins' personal research efforts led to the isolation of the genes responsible for cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, Huntington's disease and Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome. As NIH director, he oversees the work of the largest institutional supporter of biomedical research in the world. As an innovative evolutionary geneticist and a devout Christian, Collins has written about the integration of logic and belief including the books *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief* (2006) and *The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine* (2011).

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

R. Gerald Turner
President, Southern Methodist University

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Southwestern has a long and storied history of firsts. We are the first institution of higher education in Texas, home to the first Rhodes Scholar in Texas, and the first in the nation to honor alumni with a homecoming celebration. In order to remain a leader in higher education, Southwestern continuously evolves and challenges ourselves to develop new and dynamic educational experiences that prepare our students for the careers and opportunities of tomorrow.

One example of recent evolution on the Southwestern campus is shown through the adoption of our updated curriculum. The new structure, which was introduced in the fall of 2017, was a faculty-led initiative developed with input from students and colleagues. It incorporates an increased emphasis on student agency, where students create their own educational path, rather than simply following a rubric that someone else crafted for them. The response following our first semester has been tremendous.

Another example of Southwestern's evolution can be seen in our recent rebranding efforts, including an updated logo and the launch of our new website in November. The updates provide avenues to better connect with prospective and current students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and donors. We took great care to ensure that the changes reflect Southwestern's commitment to our future while honoring and remaining true to our past.

In August, Southwestern welcomed 363 entering students bringing our total enrollment to 1,387. A total of 73 percent of the new class was in the top 25 percent of their graduating class, and 38 percent were in the top 10 percent. Altogether, 18 states and two foreign countries are represented in the class. Underrepresented students make up 44 percent of the class. I was pleased to have the opportunity to visit personally with prospective students and their families at 18 events hosted on campus this year.

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

As I reflect on this past year, I am honored to bear witness to the power of Southwestern. An institution like ours is constantly changing, and it's phenomenal to watch the student body grow into our new vision of the curriculum. Our faculty is inspired about what we're doing inside the classroom, as well as in the scholarly world of research. Southwestern has many exciting projects on the horizon, including Phase II of a \$37 million-dollar expansion to the Fondren Jones Science Center. The expansion, which will break ground in February 2018 and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2019, is intentionally designed to enhance the shared learning environment and encourage collaboration among faculty and students.

2017 Accolades

- *USA Today*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *Washington Monthly* ranks Southwestern as top national, liberal arts college in Texas.
- The Princeton Review ranks Southwestern in its Top 200 "Colleges That Pay You Back."
- Southwestern's Career Services ranks 11th in the nation and No. 1 in Texas in The Princeton Review's latest book, *The Best 380 Colleges: 2017 Edition*.
- The Princeton Review also ranked Southwestern in its Best 381 Colleges, Best Western Colleges, Best Green Colleges, and an Impact School.
- Kiplinger's *Personal Finance* named Southwestern a "Best College Value."
- Southwestern is one of 47 colleges and universities in the country to be named a "Best Buy" school in the 2017 edition of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) named Southwestern the 2016-2017 College & University Green Power Conference Champion for the sixth year in a row.
- Southwestern was named a Military Friendly® School.

Academics

- Southwestern University introduced an updated curriculum in the fall of 2017. The new structure continues to incorporate Southwestern's Paideia philosophy, where faculty members encourage students to make connections not only within their classes, but also across disciplines. This concept is woven throughout our campus and incorporated in all areas. The new articulation of Paideia, where Paideia is now in every single class and students are being asked to take the thinking process from that particular class and apply it to another class — whether it's theater or the athletic field or science.
- New students had the opportunity to participate in the First Symposium this past fall, which showcases work from the First-Year and Advanced-Entry Seminar experience.
- For the 17th consecutive year, the King Creativity Fund supported innovative and visionary student projects across the disciplinary spectrum.
- Thirty-seven students participated in 13 different SCOPE research projects. SCOPE is an eight-week, student-faculty collaborative summer program that provides opportunities for students to participate in research and investigative learning, gain hands-on experience as well as valuable insights in diversity, persistence and collaboration.
- Southwestern added four new minors in the fall of 2017: Animal Studies, Data Science, Health Studies, and International Studies. These additions bring the total minors offered to 39, with 36 majors.

Faculty Achievements

Numerous Southwestern Faculty members were honored this year:

- In 2017, seven faculty members published books, 42 faculty members published articles, and seven faculty members published chapters.
- Nine full-time faculty members received Sam Taylor Fellowship grants from the Division of Higher Education from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church for 2017 to support their scholarly work. These competitive awards provide pivotal support for our faculty in the early phases of a project, providing seed money to assist them in establishing a track record which can lead to additional funding opportunities.

- Associate Professor of Mathematics Alison Marr had her proposal “Hidden No More: Stories of Triumph, Excellence, and Achievement in Math and Computer Science” selected for funding as a mini-grant through the “WATCH US” grant from the National Science Foundation INCLUDES program. This mini-grant will bring four women from underrepresented groups with doctorates in mathematics and computer science to campus over the 2017–2018 academic year for a lecture series where each speaker will tell her journey to math (or computer science) and also share the type of research she does.
- Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing John Pipkin has been awarded a Yaddo Residential Fellowship (Saratoga Springs, NY) to work on his new novel about the Tour de France under Hitler. The prize is prestigious: “Collectively, Yaddo artists have won 74 Pulitzer Prizes, 29 MacArthur Fellowships, 68 National Book Awards, and a Nobel Prize (Saul Bellow, who won the Nobel for Literature in 1976).”
- Associate Professor of German Erika Berroth earned a full scholarship from the Goethe Institute in Washington, D.C., to participate in the 41st International Convention of Teachers of German (IDT), July 8–Aug. 4, 2017 in Freiburg i.Ü. Switzerland, titled “Building Bridges—Connecting with German: People—Environments—Cultures. Berroth will present on her work of connecting STEM and German.
- Visiting Assistant Professor of History Joseph Hower has been awarded a Summer Stipend by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to fund work on his new book, *A Revolution in Government: Jerry Wurf and the Rise of Public Sector Unions in Postwar America*.

Student Achievements

Southwestern students also earned a variety of honors and awards in 2017. For example:

- Thirty-two students were inducted into our chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi honor societies.
- Southwestern biochemistry alumna Katie Ferrick '16 is the recipient of the prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Ferrick conducted research with Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Maha Zewail-Foote during her four years at Southwestern. She is currently in graduate school at Stanford University. This year, there were 13,000 applications and NSF made 2,000 award offers.
- Mattie Cryer, a 2017 Southwestern graduate, was named Southwestern's 18th Fulbright recipient in 18 years. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs. Mattie will serve as a teaching assistant at an Argentine University from March to November of 2018. A supplementary project will focus on the coordination and development of Rotary and Rotaract on the college campus with current students to further develop student leadership in the community.
- Four Southwestern juniors received two-year Hatton W. Sumners scholarships from the Dallas Foundation. They include, Natalie DeCesare, Conner Joyce, Danyale Kellogg, and Camille Martin. These prestigious awards provide \$20,000 in scholarship support each year, as well as financial support to attend trainings, lectures, and other events throughout the year.
- Student Dakota Cortez '19, was awarded a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for the fall 2017 semester. The award will allow Cortez to complete an independent study on Migration and Transnational Identity and allow her the opportunity to do fieldwork and ethnography on her own.
- Junior physics and computational math dual major Yash Gandhi, '17, spent his second consecutive summer interning with the National Institute of Standards and Technology summer research program in Boulder, Colorado. The 11-week program offered the opportunity to work alongside leading research scientists and talented undergraduates throughout the United States.
- At the 120th meeting of the Texas Academy of Science, Madison Granier, Class of 2019, received the Best Poster prize in the Conservation Biology section and also received a \$1500 grant from the Academy to support her undergraduate research titled “Snail Slime in Real Time: qPCR Detection of Environmental DNA using Apple Snails.” This work involves a collaboration between Granier, Professor of Biology Romi Burks and alumni Matthew Barnes '06, now an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University.
- Artworks by eleven students from Southwestern's Studio Art department were selected for the 38th Annual Central Texas Art Competition at Temple College from four area colleges and five high schools. Sophia Anthony, class of 2018, was awarded the Best of Show Award for her self-portrait. Lauren Valentine

(painting), class of 2019, and Sonja Lea (painting), class of 2018, were two artists among the six given Awards of Excellence in the College Division.

- Austin Mueck, Class of 2018, received a Best Scenic Design Award for his design of the musical, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the 2017 Texas Educational Theatre Association Conference in Galveston. Associate Professor of Theatre and Resident Scenic Designer Desiderio Roybal mentored and advised Mueck's poster presentation at the TETA Conference. Mueck designed *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* for the Southwestern University Theatre Department in November 2016 under the mentorship of Roybal and Southwestern Technical Director Justin J. Smith '04.
- Deidra McCall, Class of 2017, participated in the Honors Program and presented a research paper titled "Racialized Politics and the Confederate Flag: Why Society Can Never Be Color-Blind" at the August 2017 American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting in Montreal, Canada. Her participation was funded through her award as Southwestern's first Mellon Undergraduate Fellow.

Athletics

Accolades earned by Southwestern student-athletes and coaches in 2017 included:

- Approximately one-third of the student body participated in the University's 20-sport NCAA Division III Intercollegiate Athletic Program.
- The student-athletes cumulative grade point average is consistent with that of non-athletes, both of which are slightly above 3.0.
- For fall 2017, the first-year class of student-athletes generated an average of \$2,252 more in net tuition revenue than non-athletes.
- Athletics brought in 60% of the males in the 2017 fall class.
- Athletics continues to consistently bring in one-third of the incoming class.
- Men's golf won the 2017 SCAC Championship for the second consecutive year.
- Tyler Gammill earned Medalist honors at the SCAC Championship and was named Golfer of the Year.
- Greg Sigler was named the SCAC Coach of the Year on the men's side.
- Leilani McDaniel earned SCAC Freshman of the Year for women's golf.
- Leilani McDaniel and Mikayla Miller were named All-American Scholars.
- Emma Albin was named the IWLS Scholar Athlete of the Year for women's lacrosse.
- Head Women's Lacrosse Coach Matthew Grosso was selected as the IWLS Co-Coach of the Year.
- Alexis Dimanche was named the 2017 SCAC Men's Tennis Newcomer of the Year.
- Mary Cardone earned SCAC Newcomer of the Year and Player of the Year for women's tennis.
- Nik Kelly named to the D3football.com All-America Honorable Mention team in his final season.
- Hayden Smith becomes first SU football player to earn CoSIDA DIII Academic All-Region honors.
- Southwestern was selected as a host site for one of the 2017 NCAA Volleyball Regionals.
- Kate Daugherty wins ITA singles and advances to the Oracle Cup, earning All-American status (program first).
- Kate Daugherty and Esther Bowers win doubles at the fall ITA and advance to the Oracle Cup to earn All-American status (program first).
- Kate Mitchell named AVCA All-America in volleyball, Megan Grimes earns Honorable Mention selection.

Speakers and Symposia

- The University celebrated its 173rd Commencement Convocation on May 6, 2017. Dr. Earl Lewis, President of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, was the keynote speaker. During Dr. Lewis' tenure, the Foundation has awarded Southwestern University grants totaling over one million dollars.
- The Race and Ethnicity Studies program hosted an interdisciplinary symposium during Martin Luther King Jr. 50 Remember, Honor, Act. The symposium featured Southwestern faculty members who focused on the research on race and racial discrimination.
- The 2017 Brown Symposium was held March 1–3. It focused on arts and revolution with a specific focus on how the arts have given voice to the issues and themes that have spurred revolutions.
- Over 300 students presented posters, oral presentations or creative works at the Research and Creative Works Symposium held April 4, 2017.

- The 2018 Roy and Margaret Shilling Lecture was held January 31, 2018, featuring renowned social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. He presented *The Age of Outrage — What it is Doing to Our Universities and Our Country*.

In Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit Southwestern and experience, in person, the ways in which this intellectual community is thinking, creating, and connecting ideas to make meaning and make a difference.

Respectfully yours,
Edward Burger, President and Professor

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION

Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) is committed to using our resources to help congregations build cultures of purpose and generosity. The outcome we seek for all of our services – investments, loans, leadership platforms, strategic discernment, grants and legacy giving – is courageous, effective ministry. During the calamitous storm of 2017, we saw many examples of courage. Congregations throughout the disaster areas and the state became the hands and feet of Christ, going with their neighbors into the messiness and brokenness of life and providing signposts pointing the way forward to God's promise-filled future. Our mission is to empower that boldness at all times, for all needs.

Carol Montgomery, TMF Senior Area Representative for the North Texas Conference, is the primary point of engagement between congregations (clergy and laity) and TMF. She connects North Texas Conference constituents to resources relevant to their unique goals for missional growth in their congregations and communities.

TMF, headquartered in Austin, serves United Methodist individuals, churches and agencies within the six annual conferences in Texas and New Mexico. We appreciate the opportunity to report some of the ways we served United Methodists last year.

Within the North Texas Conference:

- Loans to churches in the North Texas Conference totaled \$97 million at the end of 2017.
- Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the North Texas Conference had \$158.7 million invested in all portfolios.

Throughout Texas and New Mexico:

- As of December 31, 2017, **total assets** under management by TMF were approximately \$569.1 million, a growth of \$44.2 million over 2017.
- **Methodist Loan Fund investments** ended the year at \$330.1 million, and our loan portfolio at \$341.5 million.
- TMF's **Undesignated Endowment** grew from \$34.6 million to \$38.7 million.
- Our **Leadership Ministry Endowment** grew from \$7.1 million to \$8.1 million.
- Highlighting a significant year of **financial support for TMF** was a gift of \$1 million from the Lilly Endowment to fund TMF's Courageous Leadership Imperative (CLI). **Gifts to Leadership Ministry and unrestricted support to TMF** totaled \$1.4 million, including more than \$110,000 in new gifts to the Dr. Gil Rendle Learning & Leadership Endowment.
- In 2017, the **Grants Ministry** awarded \$1 million in support of 34 churches and not-for-profits. Of that total, an estimated \$491,000 came from restricted endowments and \$540,000 from TMF operations. The Grants Ministry received individual and on-line gifts of \$31,517. Shortly after Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas Gulf Coast, the Grants Ministry awarded \$302,000 to 16 churches and not-for-profits to assist with immediate relief needs. In 2017, grants funds were distributed as follows: 30% to **outreach ministries and evangelism targeting systemic change**; 33%

to ministries which systemically benefit families living in poverty; 8% for scholarships; 29% for Hurricane Harvey relief.

- In 2017, TMF worked with families to help implement their philanthropic goals, funding gifts totaling more than \$3.3 million in the form of donor-advised funds, charitable gift annuities and permanent endowments. Distributions from these funds will support a range of ministries, from a new Youth and Community Center in Moody, Texas, to Wesleyan Homes services to senior adults in Central Texas.
- TMF distributed approximately \$1 million from permanent endowments.
- TMF's **Leadership Ministry** seeks to enable courage, learning, and innovation among leaders. During 2017, TMF hosted 16 peer-learning groups, involving over 250 clergy and lay leaders from across the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ). In addition to ongoing groups, such as the SCJ Bishops Conclave, New and Continuing District Superintendents, Executive Pastors, Musicians, and the Ministry with the Poor group, TMF facilitated several large group conversations to help leaders wrestle with important challenges. These groups included: denominational leaders from eleven different faith traditions around the challenges of upholding the norms and values of our tradition while seeking innovation and new ways to create faith communities; large church leaders seeking to stay focused on their mission in an uncertain and changing landscape; teams from 15 annual conferences to engage the work of setting outcomes and aligning resources; and South Central Jurisdiction bishops, along with other leaders from each conference, for an immersion experience in the Rio Grande Valley to deepen and change the conversation around how to be in ministry with the diversity of Hispanic and Latino persons who live in our communities.
- In 2017, the **Area Representatives** more fully embraced their role as **encouragers**. The team provided courage in the form of: a comprehensive Year-Round Stewardship program for six leading churches in the Dallas area, three in El Paso and three in Las Cruces; and a Holy Conversations spiritual discernment process with congregations in Dallas, Denison, San Angelo, Bellville, Bay City, and Round Rock. The team also enabled courage for the many churches that started endowment funds, sharpened their governance systems, or tackled leadership issues.

TMF Board members

TMF has submitted the following candidates for election and re-election to the TMF Board of Directors from the North Texas Conference:

- Rev. Jeff Lust, Clergy, 2-year term
- Rev. Katherine Glaze Lyle, Clergy, 3-year term
- Dr. Andrew Stoker, Clergy, 3-year term

TMF Board members previously elected by the North Texas Conference include:

- Mrs. Mary Brooke Casad, Layperson, currently serving through 2018 (Sulphur Springs)
- Dr. Will Green, Layperson, currently serving through 2019 (Dallas)
- Mr. Larry Haynes, Layperson, currently serving through 2019 (Coppell)
- Mr. Joe Holmes, Layperson, currently serving through 2020 (Plano)
- Dr. Owen Ross, Clergy, currently serving through 2019 (Dallas)
- Mr. Kelvin Walker, Layperson, currently serving through 2020 (Dallas)
- Ms. Julie Yarbrough, Layperson, currently serving through 2020 (Dallas)

TMF Board members from within the North Texas Conference who are currently serving in an otherwise elected or advisory capacity include:

- Mr. Jim Adams, Layperson, Advisory member (Dallas)
- Mrs. Patricia M. Deal, Layperson, Senior member (Wichita Falls)
- Robert Dupuy, Layperson, Senior member (Dallas)
- Bishop Michael McKee, Clergy, Senior member (Plano)
- Dr. Clayton Oliphint, Clergy, TMF Chair-elect (Richardson)
- Mrs. Kay Yeager, Layperson, TMF Chair (Wichita Falls)

Tom Locke, President

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

As a result of the generous support of our churches, the mission and work of the Texas United Methodist College Association (TUMCA) continues to be strong. Our work is guided by John Wesley's words. We believe that the truth that the scriptures tell us "will set us free" can be found in the conjunction of knowledge and vital piety. It is here where many TUMCA scholars have not only found their call to a career but also to a spiritual life that serves others. Through the funding of scholarships, our students are afforded an education that offers this combination of intellectual and spiritual development.

The TUMCA funds granted to Southwestern University, Southern Methodist University, McMurry University, and Texas Wesleyan University are restricted to scholarships for deserving students from United Methodist Congregations in Texas. This academic year, 75 students received a TUMCA scholarship. Through the years, thousands have been helped by our church family. No funds can be used for endowment nor bricks and mortar.

TUMCA students have shared with us their gratitude for this support and how it helped shape their lives of work and service. One former TUMCA scholar is Erin Roe who went on to graduate and who now works with children that have special needs. She shared the following:

I work with children ranging in age from 3 to 16. Some are nonverbal, others are high functioning. This job has taught me to celebrate the little things in life and to appreciate every moment, every milestone.

I know that I am not a minister per se. That is, I don't preach from the pulpit. But I believe that while I might stand on a different platform, I am still a part of a ministry...I too am teaching my students how to treat others, how to communicate, how to love...I see miracles all around in my job.

The first time their child says "mom", the first time their child gives them a hug, the first time their child plays a game with them: I see God all around. ...I see Him in the face of the boy who learned how to use sign language to request water, ... in the face of the girl who was asked to her high school prom. She thought that was never something that would happen because of her autism diagnosis. ... What better representation of God is there?

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

We at TUMCA believe our work continues to be an extension of the work of our congregations. We are most grateful for their support and pledge to use those gifts wisely and well in the creation of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Dr. Darrell M. Loyless, President

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

“NOW TO HIM WHO BY THE POWER OF GOD AT WORK WITHIN US IS
ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ABUNDANTLY FAR MORE THAN ALL WE CAN
ASK OR IMAGINE...”

— Ephesians 3:20

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, celebrated a 77% increase in new students for the fall of 2017. While 71 new students enrolled in September 2016, 126 new students enrolled in September 2017. This was made possible by increasing student aid opportunities and empowering faculty members, trustees and administrators to personally recommend candidates for a \$5,000 grant toward tuition. United experienced God’s provision, trusting what God said through St. Paul: “[God] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

Many of the seminary’s new students are current pastors who want to become more effective leaders for the Church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. United’s Doctor of Ministry program has 170 students enrolled this year from 29 states, 2 non-US countries and 27 Christian denominations. The average number of doctoral students in all Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is 60 students, making United one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs among ATS member schools.

The Doctor of Ministry program provides academic rigor, peer group support, spiritual growth and practical application. Pastors identify a need within their community and, with the support of a peer group, mentor and United faculty, they develop a model of ministry that will resolve the challenge in their congregations or communities.

Rev. Rudy Rasmus, pastor of the 9,000-member St. John’s United Methodist Church in downtown Houston is a current doctoral student, who says he has been both challenged and supported in the DMin program.

“The program is rigorous,” Rev. Rasmus says. “It is contextual, it is intentional and the professors and staff are at the top of the form.”

United also has 212 students enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program who usually seek to serve as pastors in local congregations. 88% of entering students are ordained or seeking ordination to serve a local congregation compared to 56% in other ATS member schools.

United also provides a two-year Master of Arts in Christian Ministries degree, which many persons serving as Directors of Christian Education or other local church positions pursue.

United provides flexible course options: 90% of students take at least one course online, and courses are also available as traditional on-campus courses, week-long on-campus intensive classes and virtual courses that meet simultaneously on campus and in the cloud via webcast.

If you are interested in pursuing further seminary education, contact United’s Office of Admissions at admissions@united.edu or call 800-322-5817.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Kent Millard, President
United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio

WESLEY-RANKIN COMMUNITY CENTER

I don't ask for the sights in front of me to change, only the depth of my seeing. —Mary Oliver

Wesley-Rankin (WR) has existed on the same corner for over 80 years. Our neighbors, for the most part, have been the same. That is, until this year. Our land is still spotted with vacant lots and boarded homes from the housing crisis over a year ago. And the “Bridge to Nowhere” has quickly become the Gateway to the West with developers demolishing old warehouses and creating large apartment complexes. The sights in front of us are changing. Our West Dallas community embraces new development—we need lower grocery prices, affordable housing and equal opportunity. We are lending our efforts to assure that there is room at the table for our devoted, hardworking neighbors by exploring and pursuing collaborations to create a space that embraces all people. And, we continue to strengthen our existing programs to better prepare our neighbors for navigating the world around them. Take a look at what has been happening at the WR

After School Program: We have always been centered on homework, enrichment activities and intervention. This year, our after school program added a club model, allowing students to select a different class each day between 5:00-6:00 pm. A kindergartener may choose to take yoga, art or tennis and a middle schooler may choose between such classes as improv, debate and photography. During this hour, students can be seen exploring interests and learning new skills. In addition, students in the most need of reading support receive one-on-one tutoring twice a week. Wesley-Rankin has partnered with Pastoral Counseling Center to offer counselors on site to provide socio-emotional support to students and families. Our enrollment is at capacity with 115 students, a waitlist of 40.

Beakers, Base Ten and the Beat (B3X) Summer Camp: In 2017, B3X-plorers built robots, dissected sheep hearts and cow eyeballs with the Perot Museum, and explored mediums of clay, oil pastels and watercolor. 222 students attended the 7-week camp in efforts of connecting learning in a classroom with hands on experience. Impact numbers: 87.5% of students receiving math intervention increased in tests scores by 40.4%. 74% of students maintained or improved their math scores and 76% of students maintained or improved their reading. First time experiences this year included: exploring blood types, making a financial budget, creating origami and seeing a 3-D movie. Worthy to mention, this program is dependent upon and grateful for the 5,000 volunteer hours logged by helping hands.

GOh GOh Girls (Girls of Hope, Girls of Honor): This program designed to foster faith, self-esteem, goal setting and responsibility strives to create a safe space to discuss sensitive subjects and provide accurate information in a supportive environment. Weekly, girls explore and practice a character trait such as empathy, gratitude and generosity. Thanks to a partnership with AT&T Performing Arts Center, the GOh GOh Girls previewed a performance of The Grinch and also received tickets to hear Michelle Obama on her visit to Dallas. In addition, many of the girls tackled their fears by zip lining at a yearly retreat at Riverbend Retreat Center. We are a group of 25 strong girls with promising futures.

Mexican-American Civil Rights Trip: Thanks to the funding of the National Plan for Hispanic and Latino Ministry of the UMC, Wesley-Rankin organized and hosted the first ever Mexican-American Civil Rights Pilgrimage for middle and high schoolers. Joined with friends from Christ's Foundry UMC and Agape-Memorial UMC, students traveled Texas to learn of their Native American roots, receive inspiration through music and the arts and hear numerous speakers encouraging them to become today's activists. Now gaining a better sense of their identity and being inspired to created change, our youth are taking an additional step in community organizing. Our first meeting was held in April.

Adult Academy and Leadership Council: Adult classes continue at Wesley-Rankin in topics as computer basics and nutrition. The Adult Academy seeks to expand and partner with area schools in the fall of 2018 (Stay tuned!). The Leadership Council's Uniform Store, has now officially raised \$10,000 in college scholarships for West Dallas seniors.

Senior Citizen Program: Seniors are traveling the world by studying a different country every month. Learning new safety words in English, tasting foreign foods, decorating the room and even experiencing various music styles, the senior citizens are actively playing and learning. In addition, crafts such as piñata making, dances with djs, weekly exercises and holiday celebrations liven the space. Fresh fruits and vegetables are distributed each week. The program also includes a Home Bound Program of 10-12 seniors who are regularly visited by the staff team. Promoting cognitive health and social engagement, physical exercise and nutrition, the senior program brings much joy to all who enter the doors.

Updates:

At the end of 2017, Sarah Squires announced her retirement as Executive Director of Wesley-Rankin. Her successor, Shellie Ross, has been an employee of the Center for eight years, lastly serving as Senior Director of Education.