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Reports that did not require approval from the Annual Conference may not appear in the Journal. A permanent file is kept on record in the Conference Office.
CLERGY SUPPORT TEAM REPORT

Clergy Compensation
In 2018, the Missouri Conference Clergy Support Team asks that the annual conference recommend that each pastoral charge give their clergyperson(s) at least a cost-of-living increase plus the consideration of a “merit” increase.

All full-time charges must include in their compensation package:

A. TRAVEL: Reimbursement for the actual “business” miles traveled by the clergy at the current rate established by the IRS. Clergy are to voucher all miles and submit documentation to the church treasurer for reimbursement.

B. UTILITIES: (Gas, electricity, water, sewer, trash service, base telephone and basic cable or base telephone/internet/cable bundle. We also recommend that charges consider providing internet service for full-time clergypersons.) Either (1) direct payment to the utility companies; or (2) in special circumstances, cash allowance at a minimum of $3,000 per year. When the utility companies are paid directly, there is no compensation to the clergyperson for utility charges.

C. HEALTH INSURANCE: All pastors serving in full-time charges shall be enrolled in the conference insurance program. (Missouri Annual Conference Standing Rule 401.00)

D. PENSION: Monthly premium for the clergyperson’s CRSP (pension) and CPP (death/disability)

E. HOUSING: Provide adequate housing allowance or housing meeting the requirements and standards of church-owned residences as published in the 2017 Missouri Conference Journal, pages F-23 through F-25.

F. CONTINUING EDUCATION: Full-time clergy are required to participate in a continuing education plan. Charges are encouraged to pay for these expenses either by a continuing education allowance or reimbursement.

G. PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES: It is recommended that other professional expenses directly related to work as a clergyperson be paid as a reimbursed expense. Cell phone expenses for a clergyperson are considered a part of professional expenses. Please refer to the General Council on Finance and Administration Accountable Reimbursement Policies.

H. CLERGY COUPLE HOUSING: If a clergy couple in a dual appointment are living in one parsonage, both clergy will claim the parsonage housing value for pension and service credit.

*Part-time charges must include in their compensation package: pension (CRSP/UMPIP) and professional expenses (travel/continuing education).

It is recommended that the total allotted for travel, utilities, continuing education and professional expenses be a minimum of $7,000 per year for full-time clergy. This amount should be reviewed annually by the charge to determine if it is adequate to support of the ministry of the clergyperson.

Minimum Salary And Salary Supplement
The minimum base salary for all full-time clergypersons under Episcopal appointment is determined by multiplying the conference average base salary (2019, $55,120) by 70% for full-time local pastors; 70% plus $800 for associate and full-time provisional members; and 70% plus $1,250 for full members. Therefore, the minimum base salary for all full-time clergy is as follows (Section A of Pastoral Support Form):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Local Pastors</td>
<td>$37,966</td>
<td>$38,514</td>
<td>$38,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Members and Full-Time Provisional Members</td>
<td>$38,766</td>
<td>$39,314</td>
<td>$39,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Members</td>
<td>$39,216</td>
<td>$39,764</td>
<td>$39,834</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part-Time Minimums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>⅓ Time</th>
<th>½ Time</th>
<th>¼ Time</th>
<th>&lt; ¼ time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Pastor</td>
<td>$28,938</td>
<td>$19,292</td>
<td>$9,646</td>
<td>&lt;$9,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional/Associate Member</td>
<td>$29,538</td>
<td>$19,692</td>
<td>$9,846</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Member</td>
<td>$29,876</td>
<td>$19,917</td>
<td>$9,959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines for Providing Equitable Compensation

1. According to the Missouri Annual Conference Standing Rules (¶1143.00), all matters relating to the assurance of minimum salary support (“Equitable Compensation”) is referred to the Clergy Support Team. Each year the Cabinet will assign a district superintendent to the Clergy Support Team who will be responsible for coordinating applications, the approval process and the distribution of Equitable Compensation grants to local charges (in coordination with the Conference Treasurer).

2. A charge may receive Equitable Compensation upon the recommendation of the district superintendent for the district in which it is located, approval by the Cabinet, and notification of the Clergy Support Team chairperson.

3. In order to be considered for approval, charges receiving Equitable Compensation must present to their district superintendent evidence of an ability to pay at least 65% of the Annual Conference’s minimum salary out of its own budget(s) or fund(s). Those minimum amounts for full-time charges are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Local Pastors</td>
<td>$25,034</td>
<td>$25,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate members and Full-Time Probationary Members</td>
<td>$25,554</td>
<td>$25,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Members</td>
<td>$25,846</td>
<td>$25,892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. In considering proposals for Equitable Compensation, the Cabinet and Clergy Support Team will maintain and utilize the following priorities:

   a. Charges that have experienced increases in worship attendance, and a need to move from part-time to full-time clergy, but which still struggle to afford the complete minimum compensation package will be given high priority.
   b. Charges that meet the needs of demographics involving lower economic and financial means, especially those that increase the ethnic, linguistic and economic diversity of the Annual Conference, will be also be given high priority of consideration.
   c. Charges receiving Equitable Compensation will be expected to present evidence of a clear desire to meet the missional needs of their communities, as well as the missional desires of the Annual Conference, including the payment of Conference and district apportionments.
   d. The Cabinet and Clergy Support Team will also consider other priorities named in the Discipline, such as entry-level positions and teaching parish opportunities.

5. It is generally expected that by the time a charge has been on Equitable Compensation for five years, it should be self-sufficient. The Cabinet and Clergy Support Team may seek to encourage self-sufficiency by making Equitable Compensation grants that diminish each year following the initial grant. If a charge is unable to achieve self-sufficiency, the Cabinet will give consideration to a range of options, including, but not limited to, charge realignment, reduction to three-quarter, half- or quarter-time appointed clergy, or charge closing.

6. From time to time, charges may, for missional purposes including the appointment of clergy in
support of the value of diversity within the conference, require emergency assistance distinguishable from Equitable Compensation. A one-time, Emergency Grant ("Emergency Grant") is available in special cases upon recommendation of the district superintendent, approval by the Cabinet and notification of the chair of Clergy Support Team.

7. At least twice per year, the Conference Treasurer and district superintendent assigned to the Clergy Support Team shall make a report to the Clergy Support Team of the charges receiving Equitable Compensation and Emergency Grants, including the amounts provided in each year to ensure the viability of the Equitable Compensation Fund.

8. Local church treasurers of charges receiving Equitable Compensation or Emergency Grants should be informed that apportionments for “bishops, district superintendents, conference claimants and the Equitable Compensation Fund” (Episcopal Fund, Superintendents Fund, Clergy Support Fund, Equitable Compensation Fund, Moving Expense Fund and Ministerial Education Fund) shall be paid in each pastoral charge “exactly proportional to the amount paid on the clergy base compensation” (¶622, 818.3, 2016 Discipline).

PROCESS FOR APPROVAL
(Based on an agreement between the Cabinet and the Clergy Support Team)

1. The charge requests salary support from their district superintendent who must consent to the proposal.

2. Assuming the district superintendent concurs with the request, he/she will bring the request to the Cabinet.

3. The Cabinet makes final approval decisions. The district superintendent responsible for distribution will then request disbursement from the Treasurer’s Office and notify the Chair of the Clergy Support Team.

4. The Clergy Support Team will receive a report of all disbursements from the district superintendent assigned to the Team.

Pensions
The Pre-1982 annuity rate recommended to the Missouri Annual Conference by the Conference Board of Pensions for 2019 is $644 per service year. This reflects an increase of $19.00 or 3.13% over the 2018 approved rate.

In 2019, churches will be directly billed by the conference for participants under Episcopal appointment for current service under terms of the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP). The amount billed will be a percentage of the clergyperson’s compensation. The percentage will be fixed annually by the Clergy Support Team based on the funding amount required by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. For 2019, the percentage will be 12.22% of the clergyperson’s compensation, unless the clergyperson is serving quarter-time or is a local pastor serving less than quarter-time whereas they will not receive a CRSP benefit (by General Conference action). The Clergy Support Team would recommend that, for active clergy not eligible for CRSP participation, 8% of their compensation be contributed by the local church to the clergyperson’s UMPIP account (or 3% of their compensation if serving less than ¼ time). Also, for 2019, clergy participating in the CRSP pension plan will need to contribute 1% of their compensation to their UMPIP account to receive a match from the Conference of 1% to their CRSP account.

As of January 2018, all new clergy or those clergy moving to a new appointment will be automatically enrolled in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) at a 4% personal contribution rate. Clergy may opt out of this personal contribution or they can change the rate of contribution.

In 2019, the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) part of the pension plan will be directly billed to churches. The amount billed will be a percentage of compensation as determined by Wespath Benefits & Investments. The CPP percentage will be 3% of compensation up to two times the 2019 denominational average compensation of $71,361.
Amounts received as payment of the CRSP pension plan direct billings shall be received for the sole benefit of pension plan participants.

If, at any time, Wespath decides to suspend billing for CPP, the Conference Board of Pensions shall continue to collect an amount equal to the previous year’s billing, hold such amounts in reserve, invested as deemed appropriate, and use such funds for future benefit or pension costs as the Conference Board of Pensions deems necessary.

**Determination of Appointment for Purpose of Service Credit for Clergy Retirement Security Plan**

In 2019, to receive a full-year service credit under the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), the person under appointment must receive (1) at least the conference minimum base salary support together with housing in the form of a parsonage (Wespath Benefits & Investments computes the value of a parsonage as 25% of base salary for purpose of determining compensation for pension purposes) or (2) at least the conference minimum base salary together with a housing allowance totaling in aggregate an amount equal to or greater than 125% of the conference minimum base salary. Persons under appointment who do not qualify for full-year pension credit shall receive partial-year credit reflected as .75, .50 or .25 of the full-year credit (less than .25 time for local pastors only). A person not qualifying for full-year pension credit shall receive .75 service credit if the amount of base salary paid together with housing allowance or parsonage housing value is equal to or exceeds 87.50% of the conference minimum base salary (CMBS X 1.25 X .70). A person not qualifying for full-year or .75 service credit shall receive .50 service credit if the amount of base salary paid together with housing allowance or parsonage housing value is less than 87.50% of the conference minimum base salary but is equal to or exceeds .50 of conference minimum base salary (CMBS X 1.25 X .40). A person not qualifying for full-year or .75 or .50 service credit shall receive .25 service credit for pension purposes. Unless the person is a local pastor and earns less than $9,327 in total salary and has no housing component, they will qualify for less than .25 service credit. A person receiving a .25 service credit or less than .25 service credit will not be eligible to participate in the CRSP plan as of January 1, 2014. The parsonage housing value for a person living in a parsonage while receiving less than the conference minimum base cash salary shall be 25% of base salary paid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full Member</th>
<th>Associate/Provisional</th>
<th>Local Pastor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>$49,793</td>
<td>$49,230</td>
<td>$48,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¾ Time</td>
<td>$37,345-$49,792</td>
<td>$36,923-$49,229</td>
<td>$36,173-$48,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ Time</td>
<td>$24,897-$37,344</td>
<td>$24,615-$36,922</td>
<td>$24,115-$36,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ Time</td>
<td>$1-$24,896</td>
<td>$1-$24,614</td>
<td>$1-$24,114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2019 minimums represent a .2% increase based on the increase in the Conference Average Compensation*

**Policy on Parsonage and Cash Housing Allowances**

The parsonage system is central to our system of itinerancy. The itinerancy system is central to our understanding of pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church for full-time ordained elders. “The itinerant system is the accepted method of The United Methodist Church by which ordained elders, provisional elders, and associate members are appointed by the Bishop to fields of labor. All ordained elders, provisional elders, and associate members shall accept and abide by these appointments” (¶338, The Book of Discipline 2016). The parsonage system works to provide congregations and pastors with a greater flexibility in the appointment of pastors to suit the needs for pastoral leadership in particular places at particular times. In certain areas of Missouri, the housing norm for clergy who are serving in a full-time appointment in the Missouri Annual Conference is a parsonage that fits the Guidelines for Church-Provided Residences; other areas of Missouri may consider housing allowances as these areas are more transitional/homes can be purchased or sold more easily. When a charge does not provide a parsonage that meets the conference’s parsonage guidelines, district superintendents may initiate conversations for considering alternative housing or a housing allowance for the clergy appointed. If a pastor declines to live in a parsonage that meets the guidelines, the church is under no obligation to provide alternative housing or housing allowance.
If a housing allowance is provided in lieu of a parsonage, these guidelines are to be followed:

1. Negotiations to establish a housing allowance in a charge will include:
   a. The pastor
   b. The pastor/staff-parish relations committee chairperson
   c. The committee on finance chairperson
   d. The trustees chairperson
   e. The district superintendent

   The purpose of these negotiations is to develop a clear understanding by all parties as to the arrangements mutually acceptable. Final arrangements must have the approval of the church/charge conference and the district superintendent.

2. A housing allowance should be based on the rental value of an average home in the parish setting that meets the Conference’s Parsonage Guidelines.

3. If the pastor chooses to live outside the community(ies) served, s/he must receive consent of the district superintendent, in consultation with the pastor-parish relations committee.

4. The charge conference shall annually approve the housing allowance and shall not have the authority to reduce the allowance without renegotiation and approval as set out in item No. 1 above. Upward adjustments in the housing allowance would be part of an annual process of review and recommendation initiated by the staff/pastor-parish relations committee.

5. A written record of the housing allowance agreement shall be signed by the pastor, PPR chairperson, Trustee chair, Finance chair and district superintendent (with each keeping a copy of the agreement). The agreement should state the amount allowed per month, and a statement that the arrangement for a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage shall not hinder participation in itinerancy for future appointments.

6. The Charge Conference has the option to change to a parsonage provision at the time of changes in pastoral appointments.

Other policies regarding parsonages:

A. The incoming pastor shall have no obligation to purchase the house of his/her predecessor.

B. If a charge needs to purchase a parsonage for an incoming pastor, a temporary housing allowance shall be negotiated (as described in item No. 1) until the new parsonage is ready, and any extra moving costs associated with these temporary arrangements shall be the responsibility of the local church.

C. If, after living in a parsonage, the pastor requests and the charge agrees to a housing allowance, the cost of moving to another home shall be paid by the pastor. If the charge requests a change to a housing allowance and the pastor agrees, the moving cost shall be borne by the charge.

D. No assets from the sale of a church-owned parsonage shall be used for current operating expenses of the charge (¶2543.1, Book of Discipline 2016). Any such sale of a church-owned parsonage must include consent of the pastor, district superintendent, district board of church location and building, and the charge conference (¶¶2542-2544, Book of Discipline 2016).

E. If a church-owned parsonage is sold on behalf of a charge with full-time pastoral leadership, a restricted fund account shall be established for the purpose of maintaining a down payment for another parsonage. It is also recommended that the minimum for this restricted account will equal 20% of the cost of a home in the community that meets conference parsonage standards. This restricted fund shall be maintained for at least 10 years if it remains full-time. If at that time the charge determines that it intends to continue providing a housing allowance rather than a parsonage, the restricted account may be released according to the requirements of the Book of Discipline. If a church owned parsonage is sold on behalf of a charge with less than full-time pastoral leadership, a restricted fund may be established but is not required. The proceeds of the sale must adhere to the requirements of the Book of Discipline.

Guidelines and Recommendations for Church-Provided Residences

These minimum parsonage guidelines are intended to provide clergy housing that meets safety, codes, good building practices and comparable community living standards. These minimum guidelines are specifically for full-time pastors, whether a church owns or rents the parsonage.

- Appliances: Laundry (washer and dryer) and kitchen (oven/stove, refrigerator including freezer compartment and dishwasher) appliances provided in good condition
- Bathrooms: At least two full baths with modern fixtures and at least one shower
• Bedrooms: Minimum of three bedrooms (each at least 120 square feet) with adequate closets in each
• Design: Neutral colors and versatile design used throughout the home, including floor covering, wall colors and major appliances
• Dining: Adequate dining space for family and guests
• Electrical Wiring: Adequate outlets in all rooms, lighted stairways, meets National Electrical Code and outside lighting where needed
• Flooring: Adequate, safe, easy-care flooring. Consider hardwood, laminate or other flooring to avoid allergies
• Garage: Two car garage with opener, if possible
• Heat, Air Conditioning and Energy Efficiency: Central heat and air conditioning, adequate insulation in walls and ceilings, and energy efficient major appliances (furnace, air conditioner, water heater)
• Humidifier/Dehumidifier (if needed) provided
• Kitchen: Includes adequate work space, sufficient storage space and garbage disposal
• Landscaping: Yard with adequate drainage and attractive landscaping
• Living Space: Adequate, comfortable space for accommodating guests
• Location: Encourage parsonage to be within reasonable proximity to the church served, provide privacy for the parsonage family and not next door to the church.
• Pastor’s Study: Preferably the pastor’s study is in the church. However, if the study is in the home, there should be a separate clearly marked outside entrance and separate doorbell.
• Plumbing: Water heater, easy access for repairs, adequate plumbing with provisions to prevent freezing in winter, and sump pump where needed
• Safety features: Smoke/carbon monoxide detector(s) in sleeping area, fire extinguisher in cooking area, dead bolt locks on outside doors, outside lighting and adequate fire exits
• Storage: Minimum 120 square feet in sealed, dry basement, utility room, walk up attic or building near the residence
• Window Treatments: Shades, privacy curtains or Venetian blinds on all windows

The Church is responsible for:
1. Providing a full-time pastor with a parsonage that meets the minimum guidelines. If there are questions/concerns, the PPR chair and/or pastor should consult with district superintendent.
2. An annual inspection of the parsonage should be made by (at least) the Trustee chair, PPR chair and pastor (2016 Discipline, paragraph 2533.4). Report of this inspection is to be sent, by March 1 of each year, to the respective district office and to the chair of the local church Trustees.
3. An inspection should be made annually on every church owned parsonage, whether the pastor lives in it or it is used in other ways (including renting).
4. Adequately budget for routine maintenance/repairs and needed major improvements to the parsonage. (Recommend minimum of 2.5% of the parsonage’s replacement value to be provided in annual budget with excess to accumulate for future replacement).
5. Provide timely maintenance/repair on items reported by pastor/annual inspection.
6. Consult with parsonage family in selection of appliances, furnishings, color schemes and equipment.
7. Respect the rights and privacy of the parsonage family.
8. Provide insurance on residence and church-owned furnishings.
9. A residence book (file) is to be permanent in each residence, which includes guarantees, repair lists, instructions for use of equipment, when/where equipment was purchased, whom to call for various reasons, where to find various items and when/whom various improvements were made.
10. At any change of pastors, the Trustee Chair and PPR chair are to make inspection of the parsonage with the pastor, noting repairs that need to be made, normal wear and tear, and damages for which the parsonage family is responsible.
11. Within a month of a new pastor moving into the parsonage, the Trustee Chair and PPR Chair are to re-inspect the parsonage with the new pastor and sign the “Parsonage Use Agreement,” keeping a copy in the church and sending copy to district superintendent.

The Pastor is responsible for:
1. Respecting the property
2. Routine care of lawn and shrubbery
3. Insurance on personal effects
4. Arranging an annual inspection of the parsonage made by (at least) the Trustee chair, PPR chair, and pastor; This is to be completed by March 1 of each year, with a copy of the inspection report sent to the respective district office and chair of the local church Trustees. When an inspection is not done, the pastor waives protection from blame on any damage found.

5. Promptly reporting needed repairs

6. Requesting of the Trustees (in advance) any changes the parsonage family wishes to make to the structure or design of the parsonage (including painting)

7. Restitution for damages done by family or pets (outside of normal wear and tear)

8. Leaving the property clean when moving out

9. Adding to the residence book (file), which is to be permanent in each residence which includes guarantees, repair lists, instructions for use of equipment, when/where equipment was purchased, whom to call for various reasons, where to find various items and when/by whom various improvements were made.

10. Before moving out of a parsonage, the pastor shall invite the Trustee Chair and PPR chair to make an inspection of the parsonage, noting repairs that need to be made, normal wear and tear, and damages for which the parsonage family is responsible.

11. Within a month of moving into the parsonage, the new pastor shall invite the Trustee Chair and PPR Chair to re-inspect the parsonage and sign the “Parsonage Use Agreement,” keeping a copy in the church and sending copy to district superintendent.

Any new parsonage construction or purchase shall:
- meet or exceed local building codes or FHA Minimum Property Standards or a nationally recognized building code
- use passive solar where practical
- meet new construction accessibility requirements as set forth in ¶2544.4d, 2016 Book of Discipline. A fully accessible bedroom, bathroom and utility area on the ground floor are required.

RETIRING MINISTER’S DAY
The Conference Board of Pensions as the Clergy Support Team (in compliance with ¶1506.10d, 2016 Book of Discipline) recommends that each local church observe Retired Minister’s Day in honor of the retired ministers, their spouses and surviving spouses of ministers in recognition of the church’s responsibility for their support. We recommend this observance be held in February.

MOVING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT
Moving expense reimbursement information for clergy upon retirement, being granted medical leave or participating in the Voluntary Transition program, or surviving spouse of a clergy not yet retired is found in the Conference Clergy Support Policies and Procedures document.

DEATH BENEFIT PAYMENTS
Death benefit payments for those clergy in the former Missouri West Conference granted retirement status prior to becoming the Missouri Conference are found in the Conference Clergy Support Policies and Procedures document.

HEALTH INSURANCE
The Missouri Conference Health insurance plan for active participants in 2019 will be HealthFlex Exchange. Information with regard to participation for active and retired clergy is found in the Conference Standing Rules and Conference Clergy Support Policies and Procedures document.
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Episcopacy Committee, I’m pleased to report that in the past year, Bishop Robert “Bob” Farr has built upon the fine start to his tenure. In his second year, he is providing strong, focused, exemplary leadership for our Conference – clarifying and recasting a forward vision, engaging leaders in a very actionable strategic plan that can strengthen our conference and congregations’ ministries. We’ve seen during our annual conference session that Bishop Farr is leading us with a sense hope, of moving forward, building upon the positive movement of the past few years while making changes to meet additional needs of our conference. And, he is quickly becoming known throughout our denomination as a thoughtful, considerate, honest, straightforward, highly respected teacher and leader. With his passion for reaching people and making disciples for Jesus Christ, he’s helping all of us to focus upon the essentials of our faith for today and revitalize the Methodist movement here in Missouri.

Generally, the Episcopacy committee works with the bishop, providing support as well as honest feedback and insight as he shares his plans. This committee also will provide evaluations periodically to help the bishop and the jurisdictional episcopacy committee in their work.

In coming months as we approach the called session of General Conference, we know that Bishop Farr’s leadership will help us all to navigate some rough waters to maintain our mutual respect and unity in purpose, with grace and truth. He has met with the Episcopacy Committee, as well as with the General Conference delegation, and kept us all apprised of the process and plans as they’ve developed, as best he could.

Another thing you need to know concerns the episcopal residence – the house in Columbia that the Conference has owned for the bishop. We reported last year that, in light of several factors, including the bishop’s needs and wishes, the house would be sold in coordination with the conference trustees. I’m pleased to report that this action was completed a few months ago, with proceeds placed in an account to be held for future needs of an episcopal residence. Thanks to Rev. Nate Berneking, Director of Finance and Administration, the Conference Boards of Trustees and all who made this happen.

As we recognize the importance of supporting our bishop, we also acknowledge the importance of the bishop’s family – particularly his wife Susan. We will continue to keep her in our prayers as well.

All of us on the Episcopacy Committee appreciate the opportunity to serve our conference and our bishop, and we encourage everyone to continue praying for Bishop Farr – for wisdom and a steady hand – as he leads the movement called the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church in the mission of Jesus Christ!

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Hammons, Chairman
Africa University enjoyed a banner year in 2017, thanks to the local congregations, leadership, and individual members of The United Methodist Church. United Methodists throughout the connection spearheaded special celebration events marking Africa University’s 25th anniversary. These efforts brought Africa University’s ministry contributions to the forefront and allowed congregations to recommit to the institution’s mission of nurturing global leaders who transform communities.

Africa University is deeply thankful to the members of the Missouri Conference for investing in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment at 91.65 percent in 2017. Thank you for being generous and faithful to this ministry. The university community is especially grateful to the local churches of the Missouri Conference for growing their support by more than three percent in 2017.

Institutional Update:

- Currently, Africa University hosts a 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.
- 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. This includes the launch of the Institute of Theology and Religious Studies which brings together multidisciplinary training and leadership formation opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Africa University’s insectary and researchers are providing critical data on mosquitoes and regional malaria control programs to aid Africa’s efforts to eradicate malaria and other insect-borne diseases.
- The university is also making trailblazing, regional contributions in migrant and refugee protection, child rights, and harnessing intellectual property for development.
- The first 25 years of AU’s ministry have produced more than 8,000 graduates who lead efforts to make disciples, minister to the poor, improve global health, and better the quality of life in communities.

As Africa University embraces emerging opportunities for service and impact within and beyond the church in Africa, the support of the Missouri Conference is crucial. As you gather for annual conference and throughout the year, please keep Africa University in your prayers. Africa University exists and is making an impact because of the love and support of United Methodists. Please continue to invest in Africa University’s mission because every gift matters.

Thank you, Missouri Conference, for your foundational role in the Africa University story. Thank you for being a part of an incredible year of blessings. Thank you for affirming the power of faithfully sowing 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
Dear Colleagues in Ministry: Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we travel together in this journey of discipleship!

BREAKING NEWS:
- Students: Our entering students were the most diverse in our history, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchange and fruitful collaboration.
- Faculty: We welcomed three amazing faculty this year: Rebecca Copeland in Theology (focus on environmental theology); Theodore Hickman-Maynard in Black Church Studies; and Cornell William Brooks as Visiting Professor of Social Ethics, Law, and Justice Movements. Thanks to loyal alums, we also endowed the Harrell Beck Professorship in Hebrew Scripture and installed Kathe Darr as the first Beck Professor.
- Congregations: The Lilly Endowment awarded the Center for Practical Theology $1.5 million to create an innovation hub, which will foster creative vocational reflection in congregations, and a sharing of the congregations' wisdom.
- Doctor of Ministry: The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.
- Scholarships: We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Dale Andrews Scholarship in Practical Theology and Race, Korean Student scholarship, and the Bishop John H. Adams and Dr. Dolly D. Adams Scholarship for candidates for ordained ministry in the AME, AMEZ, and CME churches.
- Arts Initiatives: Recent exhibits and events include “Symbols and Art of China, Korea, and Japan” and “Bridging Divided Communities through the Arts”

PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION: Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.
- Congregational courses: Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning together.
- Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic: Internships and workshops that foster justice and reconciliation.
- Travel seminars: Courses engaging local communities on Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, India, spiritual life centers, and Serbia and Croatia (with focus on interreligious dialogue).
- Ecumenical partnerships: Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan denominations, while launching robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ.
- Partnership with Hebrew College: Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring The Journal of Interreligious Studies. The focus is on enriching theological education with interreligious learning and leadership opportunities.

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:
- Campus action: Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World.”
- Internships in global service and peacemaking: Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.
- Faculty and students have led and participated in service for victims of hurricanes and fires, protests on behalf of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, protests of white supremacist movements, protests and services on behalf of immigrants and DACA young people, and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
- The community (often student-led) has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological issues). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:
- Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Anna Howard Shaw Center

As BUSTH looks back on 2017, it celebrates transformational leaders who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Their living legacy and perceptive witness gives us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,
Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean
CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler has been included on a list of “Seminaries that Change the World” for five years running, and was recently named a “Bright Spot in Theological Education” by Auburn Seminary.

Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a demonstrated commitment to service. Our location in Atlanta provides a hands-on learning environment rich with opportunity: The General Board of Global Ministries is headquartered here, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Simply put, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

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

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 455, reflecting 49 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2017-2018, we awarded $5.3 million in Candler scholarships, with 97 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 75 percent of tuition. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

Half of Candler’s faculty are United Methodist and 58% come from traditions within the larger Methodist family. This year, we welcomed fellow United Methodist Helen Jin Kim to the faculty as Assistant Professor of American Religious History, and we sent best wishes along with our colleague Mary Lou Greenwood Boice as she retired after 25 years of remarkable service to Candler.

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

—Jan Love
Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology
Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of historically African-American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world’s premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman’s Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of the United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action are fostered.

Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world’s largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Christian Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women of the United Methodist Church.

The support of this Annual Conference helps Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition, and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development, and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry. Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God’s church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Grace and Peace,

Ken J. Walden, Ph.D.
President-Dean
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Missouri Annual Conference.

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.

From the outset, Dean Hill has traveled throughout the South Central Jurisdiction to meet with clergy, laity, bishops, cabinets, and other leaders to strengthen partnerships and to share his vision for Perkins as “an academy for the whole church in the whole world.” During 2017, several bishops—with their cabinets—held meetings and retreats on the Perkins campus.

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.
• Dr. Isabel Docampo, associate director of the Perkins Intern Program and professor of Supervised Ministry since 1997, was named director of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, effective June 1. In Fall 2017, Dr. Docampo ushered in the first cohort of eight students (from Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Peru, Chile, Cuba and Mexico, serving in the U.S. or in their home countries) in Perkins’ new Spanish-language Master of Theology degree program—the only one of its kind offered by a United Methodist School of Theology. Funding for the students is part of a three-year, $500,000 grant made to the Center by The Henry Luce Foundation’s Theology program.
• Tracy Anne Allred was named to the new position of Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Community Engagement effective June 1. Key areas of responsibility include implementing plans for the nurturing of community life at Perkins for students, faculty, and staff, serving as liaison to the newly formed Perkins Staff Council, and developing connections with a wide range of creative ministries in the North Texas and Houston-Galveston areas.
• Rev. Dr. Margot Perez-Greene, a higher-education professional with more than 20 years of administrative experience, was appointed Associate Dean for Enrollment Management effective July 1. A 2011 M.Div. graduate of Perkins School of Theology, she is an ordained Elder in the Rio Texas Annual Conference. Dr. Perez-Greene earned a B.A. degree from St. Edwards University, an M.A. degree from Arizona State University, and the Ph.D. degree in Educational Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. In this new role, she is responsible for crafting a vision for Perkins’ recruitment and admissions strategies, identifying and reaching out to prospective students for the school’s masters’ and doctoral degrees. Additionally, she leads a staff responsible for all phases of recruitment, retention and financial aid as well as cultivating relationships with key ordained and lay church leaders to assist those called to ministry through the admissions process.
• 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.

- The Fall 2017 Convocation, which drew record crowds of clergy, laity and prospective students to the SMU campus Nov. 13-14, featured bestselling author Anne Lamott, Rev. Dr. Amos Yong, professor of theology and mission and the director of the Center for Missiological Research at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and noted biblical scholar Rev. Dr. N.T. Wright, a professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland.

- 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.

- Two Perkins alumni are enrolled in the DTM (Diploma in Theology for Ministry) at Wesley House, Cambridge—a member institution of the Cambridge (UK) University Theological Federation—as part of a new partnership between Perkins and Wesley House. The students participating in the nine-month program, which integrates academic study with a focus on pastoral ministry, are part of an international cohort.

- 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.

- In 2017, SMU launched a three-year current-use giving campaign called Pony Power, with a goal of raising $150 million over three years for the University in current-use giving. The University’s goal for 2017-18 is $45 million. Perkins’ goal for this fiscal year, which ends May 31, 2018, is $2.8 million. Perkins donors are asked to consider making a three-year pledge to a current-use project at Perkins. The areas of greatest need are 1.) the SMU Fund for Perkins, which is used by Dean Hill at his discretion, and 2.) Perkins student financial aid.

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
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 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, Kenechukwu (K.C.) Mmeje 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
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 THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wesley Theological Seminary, located in Washington, D.C., continues to equip the next generation of Christian leadership for the church and the world. As a United Methodist seminary, we form students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions.

Whether you are clergy or laity, an alumnus or a prospective student, looking for master’s or doctoral work or continuing education or simply deeper biblical knowledge, Wesley wants to support you in your current and future call to ministry. Here are a few ways Wesley can help you grow in faith, wisdom, and ability.

**Expand your leadership skills**

Wesley’s internationally respected Lewis Center for Church Leadership is a key resource for cutting-edge church research and disciple-growing strategies for the local church. Under the directorship of the Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., the Lewis Center’s Leading Ideas e-newsletter, reaching almost 20,000 people in ministry each week, has launched its new podcast – Leading Ideas Talk. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/

The Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley continues its innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program from Heal the Sick to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. Some scholarships are available for this program. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

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

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

**Take your ministry to the next level**

Wesley continues to be a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs, offering practical and spiritually renewing tracks in theological education. Wesley announces an exciting new 2019 Doctor of Ministry track, in partnership with Wesley House in Cambridge, UK: “Winds of the Spirit and Ministries for a Changing World.” Other 2019 tracks will include Church Excellence, Spirituality and Story, a 13th Global Asian Church track and Public Engagement: Healing Communal Brokenness and Despair. Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

**Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies**

Wesley understands the struggle of responsibly accepting your call while being concerned about balancing life, family, ministry and student debt. We are here to help make responding to that call possible. Through our partnership with Shenandoah University and our new 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degree in 6 years. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees.

Wesley’s Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years. This format is designed to be more accessible to those with busy ministry, work, and/or family commitments throughout the region. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for summer and fall 2018 at http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/

The new African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the unique opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master’s degree students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy. Wesley continues to offer our 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.
Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley’s degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry.

*Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry*

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, Wesley is working with 20 local congregations to design innovative ministries to enrich the religious lives of young adults. Follow the work and connect with resources at www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/. The Wesley Innovation Hub is made possible by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment.

In a time of polarization, the Center for Public Theology, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, continues to equip pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Center also provides events, such as the Wesleyan Political Theology Project, to help faith leaders lead prophetic, open dialogue in their communities. For more information, visit http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

The Luce Center for Arts and Religion remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

*Stay connected*

Ready to join in our mission? Wesley provides more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships to our students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary. Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/.

We invite you to stay in touch through the year and learn more of the latest developments at Wesley by signing up for our monthly electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.

We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God’s dream together. Blessings to you for a fruitful and faithful Annual Conference.

--The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President
JO-OTA METHODIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MISSOURI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

www.CampJo-Ota.org
June 8, 2018

In 2015, the Missouri Annual Conference voted to sell the Camp Jo-Ota property to the Jo-Ota Methodist Association. This report is to fulfill the 2015 Missouri Annual Conference resolution which asked for an annual report be made to the Conference.

Camp Jo-Ota is located 70 miles north of Columbia, near Clarence. The property was donated by local church members and the camp began operation in 1953. For many years it was run by a local board who later turned the operation over to the Missouri East Conference. The Jo-Ota Methodist Association began operating the camp in 2016.

2017 was a very successful year for the camp. During the 10-week camping season, there were 11 resident camps, 232 campers from preschool to age 19, 35 adult campers, 14 directors, and 38 counselors. In addition, numerous retreats, meetings, and other special events were held.

2017
$ 73,866 Donations
35,670 Trust Fund income
58,729 Retreat income
41,877 Camper fees
4,736 Misc. income

$214,878 Total income
$175,140 Total expenses

We look forward to a successful camping season in 2018. The purchase price of the property was set in 2015 as $120,000. The resolution requires the Jo-Ota Methodist Association to pay the Missouri Annual Conference $30,000 per year beginning in 2020. JMA has adequate reserves to meet this obligation.

There has not been a Conference Next Generation Ministries resident camp placed in Northeast Missouri since 2015. The Jo-Ota Methodist Association Board invites the Conference Next Generation Ministries leadership to place one of their resident camp events at Camp Jo-Ota. This beautifully located camp with modern facilities is a wonderful venue for other Conference sponsored events as well.