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Reports

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

Within our camping ministries last summer, we had many young people make a first-time or recommitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We also had a number of young people express a call to ministry. God continues to use our Camping and Retreat Ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Praise God!

All together, we had 2,492 folks come to our 2011 Summer Conference Camping Program at Camp Allegheny, Jumonville and Wesley Woods.

The Camping and Retreat Ministries Team (CRM) continues to look at our three Areas of focus: Structure and Policy; Vision, Theology and Mission; Marketing and Program.

This has resulted in many changes in the last year.

New Staff Person: We were delighted in 2011 to bring Jessica Gamache on Conference Staff as our Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries Coordinator. She is very professional, well qualified and has brought expertise, enthusiasm and great passion to this ministry. Jessica has helped tremendously in our work this past year.

New Relationship: At the 2011 Annual Conference, Olmsted Manor was placed in relationship with our Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries Team. This is a good relationship since it is our goal to support and encourage both camping ministry and retreat ministry within our Annual Conference.

Financial Changes: Camp Allegheny and Jumonville as of January 1, 2012, have begun to function as being financially independent of the Annual Conference by paying payroll and all bills at the site level. Conference Connectional Apportionments and Summer Camp Registration income is being sent to each of these two sites monthly. Olmsted Manor has functioned as being financially independent for many years and Wesley Woods hopes to begin functioning this way in 2013.

Consulting Firm: We worked with Kaleidoscope, Inc. a camping and retreat consultant firm to bring clarity to the relationship between our Annual Conference and Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Wesley Woods and Olmsted Manor. We found that many ways of functioning among the camps, retreat center and the Annual Conference had evolved and changed over the years not by design but by default. We examined all the of ways we relate to each other in terms of summer program, registration, accountability and structure to find which worked well and which did not. We found that our camps and retreat center have evolved to be much more independent than had been the norm in the past. But, we also saw a great need for Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Wesley Woods and Olmsted Manor to stay connected to our Annual Conference. From this work, we bring legislation to the 2012 Session of Annual Conference to better define this relationship.

What this will look like:

The Annual Conference: Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Wesley Woods and Olmsted Manor will remain affiliate corporations of our Annual Conference with the members of the Annual Conference functioning as members of the corporation, electing board members, approving funding and approving by-law changes.

Camping and Retreat Corporation Committee: The Camping and Retreat Ministries Team will become the Camping and Retreat Ministries Corporation Committee. They

will function as an administrative committee not a program team. This committee will safeguard and protect the rights of the Annual Conference by reviewing mission, vision and values of our camping and retreat ministries to make sure they reflect the priorities of our Annual Conference.

Our Camping and Retreat Centers: Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Wesley Woods and Olmsted Manor will have full oversight of ministry, programs, finances and operations of their site. Full responsibility for our Summer Camping program will be at each site.

The Future: We will continue in old ways and in new ways to bring young and old into a relationship with Jesus Christ on the Holy Ground which is Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, Wesley Woods and Olmsted Manor.

Please keep our conference camping and retreat ministries in your prayers. Also, please encourage everyone through prayer and financial support to come and stand on the Holy Ground of one of our camping and retreat centers and experience love of God, the salvation of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Allan K. Brooks, CRM Chair

CAMP ALLEGHENY

Praise the Lord! 2011 was certainly a year to celebrate. I have been trying to find some words to adequately describe this past year. My mind then goes to the people we served. The smiling faces of children. The laughter of those children echoing through the woods. The joy in the souls of those who have seen the face of Christ. I then remember why we do what we do. Why Camp Allegheny is so special to so many. Why we sacrifice our time, talent and treasure to further the Kingdom. Then I too, smile and so should you!

Now to try and combine facts and feelings, quality with quantity, etc... Thanks to the staff and the many volunteers we were able to complete the following projects; barn tack room completed, all fields fenced in, a new pony barn built, a new horse run in shed, new furnaces in Hemlock and Spruce, a new metal roof on Hemlock (thanks to the men of Kantner UMC), Mini golf rebuilt (thanks to Mt. Olive UMC), roof on craft pavilion replaced and a van/bus donated thanks to our former board member Mr. Allen Smith.

We have been blessed with 15 new groups just this year. Camp Allegheny is getting a strong reputation as a place of great hospitality, tremendous food and the overall best value for churches and other groups to hold their retreats. We are honored to serve so many United Methodist churches and to partner with them to serve their children and youth. We continue to be blessed to serve the men and women of the Navigator's program from our Naval Academy. We also must celebrate the opportunity to serve over 400 additional children from our local schools.

Camp Allegheny, along with the support received from the conference has been able to once again financially balance our operational budget without the need to use additional donated funds. We must celebrate this operational ending since we faced numerous challenges. The overall economy, much higher utility costs, higher food costs and of course the high fuel costs. We cannot thank the numerous churches and individuals who sacrificially donate to this ministry. We have been blessed with \$ 51,000

in donations to the Heartwood Center, \$14,000 toward camperships and \$10,000 in other donations.

The Camp Allegheny Board of Directors continues to move this ministry forward to be a modern dynamic place of faith. They have worked on restructuring and rewriting of our current Bylaws to ensure that this place will be a significant ministry for decades to come.

We have a committed and caring core group of staff and volunteers. They make this place all that it is to so many. While I could lift up many, many folks who have volunteered this past year I want to especially lift up Jeni Wolfe and John Vanderhoff. Jeni deans and counsels many weeks in the summer. She is always willing to do what she can. She assisted with the dinner theater and is an active member of the board as well. John has come out the past couple of years several days a week to assist with maintenance and the horses. They are both a real blessing to this place.

Our summer events continue to be one of the best opportunities for children and youth to experience Christ, Creation and Community all rolled into a week of fun. We do not sit still and are always adding new activities to keep things exciting. This past year we added a water walking ball to our long list of activities. The Christian Wrangler program continues to grow and improve at a rapid pace. We now own all of our own horses and provide fall and spring lessons and trail rides.

The Camp Allegheny Board of Directors and the staff want to thank the conference for their faithful support of Camp Allegheny. Camp Allegheny; Where you can reach up and be touched by God!

Dennis Tawney, Executive Director

JUMONVILLE

2011 marked the 70th year of Jumonville's mountaintop ministry. What a blessing it has been to be a part of seeing campers and guests meet Christ on God's mountain as they take part in summer camp and retreat events throughout the year. Every year I am blessed when I travel to churches and various events and I am greeted by folks who love Jumonville and share how it is their "favorite place on earth." What a privilege to be a part of a ministry that continues to give youth and adults the opportunity to experience God's love and grace in such a special way.

We continue our efforts to increase the number of campers and retreat guests on the Jumonville mountaintop. It is hard to see empty beds when I know we are missing opportunities for our guests to be touched by the awesome power of God on this campus. We will continue to do all that we can to make sure that Jumonville remains a vital part of proclaiming the Gospel to a world that will always need Jesus.

While the national economic climate of the last several years has continued to affect the number of people that we have been able to serve, it was encouraging that we actually served 6% more guests in 2011 over 2010. It was interesting to note that overall summer camp usage was up by 7% while the conference camping program stayed even from the previous year. Our Inn usage (our premiere and most expensive facility) was up over 30% while our Retreat and Conference usage of Washington Lodge was down by about 10%. (Washington Lodge requires larger groups) Over the past five years, our biggest decreases by far have been in weekend retreat usage by our churches.

Our Kidz2Kamp program has been a huge blessing. That program has allowed us to continue to reach out to families and individuals that need assistance to pay for their mountaintop experience. My heart breaks when I read letters from families who struggle to make ends meet, but desperately want their kids to have the experience of attending a summer camp at Jumonville, just like they did. They recount how their time at Jumonville was one of the favorite experiences of their life and in many cases was the start of their Christian journey. Special thanks to our many donors who have made camp and retreat events possible. However, because we had so much demand on our Kidz2Kamp program, we have depleted most of those funds and now have the job of replenishing them so that we can continue to help our campers and families in need.

While we have had our share of struggles, we have much to celebrate as a Jumonville Family. We were blessed to receive funding of \$6,000 from the Fayette County Tourism Grant to add an ADA lift to our swimming pool. 2011 also marked the completion of the renovation of the Wesley Hall bathrooms and the installation of the brand new playground. New furniture was also added to the lounge of the Inn, Martha Lodge, Pine Cabin, & Hickory Cabin along with the addition of several wall-mounted flat screen TV's. A volunteer work crew from Central Highlands UMC power-washed and stained the ramps leading to the Craft Building, the Pottery Building, and the ramp at Asbury Hall.

The other large project that was begun in 2011 was to raise funds (about \$40,000) for replacing the roof on Whyel Chapel as well as major repair work that needed to be done on the bell tower. The bell tower work was completed in the fall and the main Chapel roof is to be completed in the spring 2012. We continue to work hard to keep our facilities in great shape so that they will be able to serve the needs of our ministry for decades to come. We are blessed!

As we approached the end of 2010 we were facing a deficit of about \$100,000. We were about \$19,000 short of clearing that debt by the end of the year. Praise God we were able to pay back that debt to the Conference Center in the spring. When we approached the end of 2011 we were definitely in better shape than the previous year, and thanks to our many friends and supporters, we were able to cover the cost of operations with undesignated gift income. However, we have pretty well depleted our reserves and are in the process of trying to raise the income necessary to cover the cost of operations.

We have started 2012 with a new financial relationship with the Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church. Beginning in January 2012, payroll services are no longer being provided by the conference and we are no longer able to use conference funds for our cash flow throughout the year. These are pretty drastic changes and we are working hard to make the required transition.

I am honored and blessed to be a part of this mountaintop ministry as I approach the thirty year mark of serving as Jumonville's President. We have a wonderful supportive board and a fantastic dedicated staff! Our donors, deans and counselors, group leaders and guests, and friends make Jumonville a special place for so many. Know that you are loved and together we will continue this journey as we "Follow the Lord Every Passing Day."

Larry Beatty, Jumonville President

OLMSTED MANOR

I sometimes wonder, could anyone have ever imagined a little retreat center in northwestern Pennsylvania flourishing? When Bishop Roy C. Nichols led the service of dedication at Olmsted Manor in November 1969, could he have known that this facility would be successful? I do not believe anyone at that event really knew what the fate of Olmsted would be. Some bold Methodists took a risk, believing in the power of the Holy Spirit and a vision for a place where all people could come to be refreshed and renewed while experiencing God in a very unique setting.

That was 43 years ago and with each passing year I am more convinced that this place has a purpose and mission that is as strong as ever. Providing Christian hospitality has been at the core of what our work has been all about. However, through the years education and spiritual renewal have increasingly become how this place is best utilized.

We continue to be excited about this retreat center serving as the continuing education center for the conference. Olmsted has been in partnership with the Conference Continuing Education and Formation committee and other conference agencies. This joint venture is part of greater plan to provide high quality continuing educational programs for the clergy of the Annual Conference, as described in the *Believe Again* plan. In the past year, Olmsted has provided more high quality programs for clergy and laity that enhance ministry in churches across the conference. We look forward to enlarging the program offerings and serving those in ministry, both now and in the future.

Our 2011 Pastor's Academy featuring the teaching of Paul Chilcote, titled, *The Wesleyan Way: Rediscovering Ancient-Future Methodism*, was a very well received event. This type of retreat is designed for clergy and laity who are seeking a more intentional academic training event for personal and professional development. We plan to continue these events which we hope will cover a wide range of interest for participants. Some shorter more concentrated events were also held in 2011 concerning topics such as grief management, liturgical symbols, and other church related topics.

Olmsted has transitioned in the last 18 months into the Conference Camp & Retreat Ministries, CRM corporations group. Prior to that time, Olmsted was grouped with the United Methodist homes. With the dissolution of the corporation committee that oversaw the corporate work of the homes and Olmsted, we now join our conference camps in their committee. The CRM group is presently reorganizing and Olmsted is pleased to be a part of this work in the Conference.

Our Board of Directors bid farewell to two board members in the summer of 2011. They were C. Thomas Burkett and Sharon Schwab. We thank God for the leadership and guidance that these members provided during their eight years of service to the Olmsted ministry. The board also re-elected three board members for a second term. They included Donna Atwell, Sarah Roncolato, and Steve Tuell. Our board of directors has been faithful and diligent in their oversight of the management of the facilities. The board is led by an executive committee who is dedicated to our ministry. They include Jeff Sterling, board president; David Streets, vice president; Donna Atwell, secretary; Brenda Thompson, assistant secretary; Sue Wilson, treasurer; and Jim Willats, assistant treasurer. These individuals add richness to the leadership of the board that has led to another successful year.

Finally, our facility would not be as successful as it is without mention of the staff members who faithfully labor in this ministry of hospitality. Olmsted's standard of

quality service and care is set apart principally because of the dedicated people who work together in ministry at our facility. Consider the food service, the maintenance, housekeeping, bookkeeping, the publicity, and the welcome you receive upon arrival. All these servants combine to create an atmosphere of Christian hospitality that is enjoyed by many. We thank God for the gifts that they all bring to this place.

Jody Z. Larson, Executive Director

WESLEY WOODS

As the new director of Wesley Woods I am pleased to report that Wesley Woods continues to reach out to children, youth, families, and groups to provide a “place apart” to renew, recharge, and reconnect with God and each other. Wesley Woods is open year round offering, skiing in the winter, hayrides in the fall, horseback riding in all the seasons and of course there is summer where over 45 United Methodist Conference summer camps come for a week.

The year 2011 highlighted the end of the “Going Greener for the Lord”, a campaign that has been the main focus at Wesley Woods for the past two years. Through this program we upgraded the water heaters in all five of our main camp cabins, the director’s house, the maintenance director’s house, Asbury Lodge and Elmer’s Lodge. We also upgraded our water system and now have a 25,000 gallon back-up tank in the event of a power outage or problems with our well system. During the April work week at Wesley Woods’ over 53 volunteers helped finish off these, and many other projects that improved the appearance of the camp. The campaign will mature in June 2012. Upon completion, the project will have cost over \$120,000. The savings over the years to come will make it well worth the cost.

Marketing took on a new look in 2011. Along with increasing the banners in congregations for higher visibility, we also had booths at both the Crawford and Warren County Fairs. We also increased the number of personal visits by the director and other staff to our supporting congregations. The plan for 2012 is to continue to increase the number of fairs and festivals and congregational visits.

The 2011 Booster Dinner was held in October and over 90 were in attendance. Dale & Annabell Shunk received the Hall of Fame Award. Dale and Annabell have been deans of our Astronomy, Rocket, and Computer Camp for over 20 years and built an observatory on site to raise the quality of the program. Matt Judd of Cabot UMC and Matt Kennedy of Corry First were awarded Volunteers of the Year, and Oil City Grace UMC received Volunteer Group of the Year for their many hours of work at camp.

Total usage (off season and summer combined) decreased in 2011 by 17 groups. Many of the off-season groups cited economic reasons for not renewing their usage in 2011. This past summer we had 761 campers and over 400 campers through private groups. Due to this drop we, are revisiting our marketing strategy. Where do you send your children, youth and adults for retreats and summer camp? Why not try Wesley Woods? You will discover a tremendous ministry of hospitality and great food!

Rick Frederick, Executive Director

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Finance Committee, Board of Pensions

Jesus said “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:47-48).

The Conference Board of Pensions has been entrusted with much. Every year, our local congregations entrust us with valuable congregational resources to be used to provide for the healthcare and retirement needs of those who serve our congregations. As a Board we recognize that the stewardship of these resources is an incredible responsibility that demands much of us. To that end, the Board has established a Finance Committee to analyze, and oversee our management of the financial resources entrusted to us.

In the 2011-2012 appointment year the Committee has worked hard to ensure that our financial resources are distributed with faithfulness and integrity. To that end we have focused our efforts in the following areas: the utilization of the Pre-82 plan overfunding and the adequacy of our reserves for active and retiree medical.

With respect to the Pension Plan, there are currently three parts to the plan. Years of service prior to 1982 are part of the Pre-82 plan. Years of service from January 1, 1982 through 2006 are under the MPP, Ministerial Protection Plan, and a defined contribution plan during the years of accumulation. Service beginning January 1, 2007 to the present is covered under the CRSP, Clergy Retirement Security Plan, with both defined benefit and defined contribution elements. Each segment of this three-part plan has its own set of rules for benefit calculations. Upon retirement a portion may be withdrawn in cash and the balance is set up as an annuity. At that time a defined benefit obligation is established for the lifetime of the clergy and, if applicable, the spouse. Each church with a full time pastor participating in the current CRSP plan has had its annual monetary obligation temporarily reduced by between \$6,000 and \$7,000 a year for each of the years 2007-12 as the result of designating a portion of the overfunding of the Pre-82 plan to cover the required contributions to the Defined Benefit portion of the CRSP plan. The Committee is in the process of reviewing the funded status of each component of the plan and expects to propose legislation to the Board to continue redirection of Pre-82 overfunding to cover the Conference’s required contribution to the Defined Benefit portion of the CRSP plan for plan year 2013. Additionally, the Committee is reviewing the appropriateness of redirecting a portion of the Pre-82 overfunding to cover other conferences Pre-82 plan, MPP Annuities or CRSP-DB contributions in exchange for their funding an equal amount of our conference obligations.

In August, the committee began an analysis of our active medical reserves. The analysis centered on the adequacy of the reserves and whether any excess amounts exist to permit the allocation of medical costs (premiums) to the local churches to be maintained at 2011 levels. After careful review and deliberation, the committee recommended to the Board that the increase in healthcare premiums be absorbed by our medical reserves. Consequently, for the fourth straight year local congregations will see no increase in healthcare costs.

Another major issue addressed by the Finance Committee was our underfunded retiree medical liability. According to the 2011 AON Actuarial Report, our conference commitment, to provide post- retirement benefits including funding each retiree and

spouse with a \$126 per month healthcare subsidy was significantly underfunded. We reviewed our retiree medical reserve needs in light of various investment assumptions and as a result, in conjunction with the Board's Executive Committee, recommended the allocation of the \$4.5 million proceeds received from the Mississippi Conference (see other board activities below) upon the redirection of our over funding in the Pre-82 Plan to cover this unfunded liability.

We celebrate these decisions as fruit of faithful stewardship. Throughout the year, the Finance committee continues to monitor our cash flow and investments in an effort to help the Board make responsible stewardship decisions. We are thankful to serve in this way and pray God's blessing on all those who have so faithfully served our congregations.

Steven White, Finance Committee Chair

Administrative Committee, Board of Pensions

The primary tasks of this committee are as follows: We are the liaison between the Conference and CDS (the company that bills and collects payments from our congregations for health care and pensions) and we support our conference staff in their dealings with them. We work at resolving any concerns our clergy may have about their retirement. We review, source and administer Carnahan Grants and other hardship grants (such as the Farmer fund, etc.) We plan implementation of legislation, rate changes and identify issues of equity and process.

This past year we sponsored a pre-retirement seminar at Sheridan Four Points on October 3-4, 2011. There were approximately 100 in attendance. Topics covered included: General Board Pension Plans for Clergy, Financial and Estate Planning for Clergy, Social Security/Medicare and Health Care Choices at Retirement. Individual conferences representatives of the General Board of Pensions were also offered. This year we will not sponsor a seminar. We will however be offering individual pre-retirement conferences at the conference center. Watch for further details.

This past year we also sponsored our first surviving spouses' luncheon at the Sheridan Four Points. There were about 50 in attendance; including Bishop and Mrs. Bickerton, conference staff related to the Conference Board of Pensions, and members of the Conference Board of Pensions. Evangelist Roy Gearhart and his wife Janice led worship. The spouses' have taken on the mission of prayer for the purpose of supporting our conference and delegates to the General Conference. They have also organized a steering committee. Watch for upcoming events.

We also began making contact with our clergy who are on disability leave to keep the connection alive and will become involved in the Conference Incapacity Leave Committee.

Gary Grau, Administrative Committee Chair

Health Insurance Committee, Board of Pensions

As reported last year, "your board of pensions is aware and monitoring the dispute between Highmark and UPMC." The medical insurance committee has faced an environment of new hostility as the Western Pennsylvania market place is experiencing a very public struggle between the two dominant providers of health care and health insurance. In response to the uncertain situation your Pension Board requested and

reviewed bids from all the significant health insurance providers that had the potential to serve our participants. As a result of the review we determined that our participants would receive high quality service from either the UPMC or Highmark networks.

Our analysis indicated that the severity of the impact on our participants would be much worse if we remained with Highmark network and lost access to UPMC facilities and doctors than if we changed to the UPMC network. This drove our decision to make the change to UPMC Health Care Plan. To facilitate a plan transition, regional informational meetings were held around the Annual Conference.

Our medical plan participants have for an extended period been uninspired about aggressively impacting their personal health situations. In recent years the Pension Board has partnered with Highmark and the Health as Wholeness Team of our Annual Conference to bring wellness opportunities to our Annual Conference at Grove City. Participation of insured members in completing the wellness surveys has been at an extremely low level. Some indications are that this was partly driven by the difficulty of accessing the Highmark system. The UPMC Health Care's system is more user-friendly and there is anticipation that this will lead to improved participation. Completion of the wellness surveys is of particular importance now because the actual medical history that is at Highmark does not transfer to UPMC Health Care Plan so without the use of the Wellness Surveys the proactive parts of the wellness program can only be implemented after a health incident has occurred. Resources are in place to help move the needs identified in the survey into outreach programs to help improve participant wellness.

Ed Bailey, Health Insurance Committee Chair

Other Board Activities During 2011

The Pension Board has been concerned and seeking possible solutions for the significant long term underfunded status of the Conference retiree health benefits. The most promising solution became clear during 2011 as it was concluded that we had the opportunity to redirect a portion of the over funded pre-82 portion of the pension plan to another conference and have the other conference fund our post- retirement health care reserve account. The Mississippi Conference was willing to participate in a transaction amounting to \$4.5 million. This transaction will likely leave us still short of funding the full obligation but moves us much closer to our objective. During 2012 we will continue our review the reserves in place to fund our obligations for pensions and active and retiree health care. The additional post-retirement reserve assets have allowed your Board of Pensions to plan for 2013 to fund 50% of the post-retirement health care costs previously funded by the Conference apportionment budget (approximately \$153,000).

The 2012 General Conference will consider legislation which may have significant implications for our future pension obligations and current status of our pre-82 over funding.

Pat Morris has led and encouraged a renewal of efforts to maintain connection with surviving spouses of clergy and clergy who have experienced disabling conditions.

The board wishes to express its appreciation to our conference support staff: Pat Morris, Larry Bridge and Kathleen Lasky for their help, support, patience and hard work. Thanks to the support of the individual board members, Frank H. Kelly, Vice Chair, Bill Hastings, Secretary, Ed Bailey, Ralph Culp, Gary Grau, Barbara Holcomb, Larry

Homitsky, Don Inman, John McKee, Tom Parkinson, Jim Reese, Cheryl Regal, Michael Studeny, Judith Tobias, and Steven White these tasks have been accomplished.

Terry E. Lyon, Board Chair

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CF&A) has many tasks. The most recognizable of which is compiling the Annual Conference Budget. This is a difficult and extensive process, involving round-table discussions and conversation with each Conference Connectional Network (CCN) member, a review of their budget requests and strategies, conversations with the Bishop and the Cabinet, sharpening of pencils and more sharpening of pencils. For the 2012 budget we had nearly \$12 million of budget requests that were carefully, prayerfully, and painstakingly reduced to \$8.7 million. The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* requires that we pass a workable and reasonable budget every year.

But developing the budget is not the only job we do. We are also tasked with maintaining, and administering the fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the Annual Conference. The team that performs this function is among the most talented and experienced group of individuals that I have ever worked with. Their dedication to integrity, transparency, accountability, and stewardship of the resources of the Annual Conference is exemplary, and I would like to take this moment to thank them for all their hard work.

2012, however, is a quadrennial year, meaning that we will be saying farewell to several of our long standing members, and I would just like to take this moment to acknowledge their contributions to the Annual Conference. We thank our Recording Secretary Don Henley, Bob Zilhaver who chairs our investment sub-committee, Brenda Shaffer, who is also our Small Church Membership Representative, and Lay Member Dave Zirnsak, all who have served faithfully and given us many years of dedicated support. Please help me in thanking them for their service to you and the entire Annual Conference. Being a quadrennial year also means that we will add new members to our committee, and we are looking forward to adding their insights and experiences to our fellowship and to the conversation around the table.

Our mission on CF&A is to faithfully assist, sustain, and support **all** of the ministries of our Annual Conference. We take that job very seriously, and try to oversee the administration of the work of the Annual Conference with the highest Christian ethical principles of integrity, transparency and trustworthiness. Our hope is to insure that monies contributed by the local church through the Apportionment Process are not frivolously wasted, and that important ministries have the opportunity to thrive and not just survive.

In 2011 we set a goal to pay 100% of our General Church Apportionments, and I am pleased to announce that for the first time in nearly 16 years, we accomplished that goal. We hope this shows our commitment to a standard of accountability and leadership in the area of financial responsibility. While the economy continued its spiral downward, the faithful giving of our churches produced a better than 87% achievement of our forecasted budget for 2011. For most of the year, we received a higher percentage of giving from our churches in response to the Conference Apportionments of previous

years. It is our hope on CF&A that our churches will continue to be faithful to that giving this year as well.

Last year we reported that our financial strength stood among the top five Annual Conferences in the United States, and this year we continued that effort and still stand strong in comparison to other Conferences. And in response to several requests from around the Annual Conference, we were able to provide training on apportionment payments and calculations. With your diligence in taking this obligation seriously, 613 churches paid 100% or more of their Apportionments in 2011. It is our hope and prayer that even more churches will be able to meet their commitments to paying their Apportionments at or above the 100% mark for 2012. Without that kind of commitment, the Annual Conference cannot meet its obligations and ministry just like that of the local church, ministry that truly touches lives for Jesus Christ cannot happen. It may sound trivial, but your part in this commitment helps us to accomplish together, that which we cannot accomplish on our own.

I would just like to say thank you again for trusting me to lead the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. What a privilege it is to serve as its chair, and what a joy it is to work alongside you and your congregations as we support the programs and ministries of our Annual Conference and its agencies. Please continue to keep us in prayer, and keep the ministry of the Conference Connectional Network and their committees in your prayers, as they look for ways to faithfully develop ministry opportunities that bring us together as the church of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your support and prayers, as we serve Christ together.

Paul Ritchey, Chair

CONFERENCE TREASURER

2011 was a year for increased training and focus on Stewardship. Training events were held around the annual conference by Fred Leasure and me on Ministry and Money. We held a one day training event led by Dr. Clif Christopher. This event was a huge success and really pin pointed the desire of the local churches to have more events in this area.

Online camping registration began and has been working well. We had all annual conference registrations handled online as well. This process saved a lot of time and made the registration process at Grove City run fairly smoothly.

One exciting thing for me was the beginning of the surviving spouse ministry. A kickoff luncheon was held and we now have our surviving spouses on board to be called back to active service in our annual conference. They became prayer warriors for our General Conference delegation and continue to be called upon to serve in many ways.

Our web page has been expanded to include the total Conference Apportionment report each month. Also any church may go to the finance page and select "your apportionment dollars at work" and have printed for them the current budget showing where each dollar from the local church is applied to budget lines.

The 2010 audit is complete and the full report can be found in the 2011 conference *Journal*.

A pre-retirement event was held in October and as usual was well received by our members.

We had two new staff persons in 2011 – Sue Browne our new receptionist and event planner and Doug Bowman our facilities manager. We are blest to have them with us.

The staff at the conference center is there to serve the local church. It is our focus and our passion.

I want to thank the members of the finance staff for their faithfulness and their sense of ministry. They bless my life each new day. Thanks also to the members of the Conference Finance and Administration Committee – their support has been invaluable. The Conference Board of Pensions and Conference Trustees are also teams that work closely with our finance department. The individuals who serve on these teams are dedicated and knowledgeable. Their service has been stiller. This Annual Conference is very fortunate to have persons who have a clear sense of ministry.

Pat Morris, Conference Treasurer

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

We continue our role to “collect, preserve, and make accessible the historical significant records” (§ 641.2, *Book of Discipline*) of the conference, its agencies, and the churches.

Since we desire to have improved accessibility to the Archives Center, we began to develop a plan to train residents from the Wesbury community who could maintain some open hours so that students at Allegheny College and others could avail themselves of the rich historical records located at the Smeltzer-Bell Research Center. We would like to begin this sometime in 2012.

Another goal is to train our people to offer and lead workshops for districts and local congregations in the area of record preservation of historical data for each local church.

This year we had a change in leadership. Nelson Thayer chaired this committee during a time when there was a large turnover of members and he skillfully led us. We are grateful for his leadership to this committee and for his continued interest and support.

We continue to maintain the Research Center. Several work days have allowed us to record and file records that come into the center during the year.

Last year we reported that our Conference Secretary, John R. Wilson, working with Norman C. Young compiled and published the 2010 Pastoral Records of the Annual Conference. They have also compiled the Pastoral Records 1794-Present, but have not been able to publish due to the cost restrictions. It would take about \$20,000 and we have raised \$5,000 toward the cost. This compilation is on the conference web site in PDF format.

Edwin J. Herald, Chair

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

As the name of this commission indicates, a primary function of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC) is to act as a contact point between our United Methodist conference and other Christian traditions, as well as non-Christian faiths. One

of the most obvious actions, in fulfillment of our purpose, is to support and promote ecumenical relationships.

On the denominational-level: Our conference commission has a parallel body in the general church. Tracy Merrick sits on both our conference commission and the general commission. Thanks to Tracy, we have been able to maintain a liaison with the General CUIC—note: the General Commission on Christian Unity may be restructured at General Conference, 2012.

On the national-level: For the last two years we have sent representatives to the annual *National Workshop on Christian Unity*. This is the leading neutral gathering focused on the subject of ecumenism, at the national-level. The United Methodist Church is one of the main organizers of this event. By our participation, we are able to increase our understanding and keep up-to-date on ecumenical issues. Furthermore, we are able to make connections with others specializing in ecumenism.

On a regional-level: In response to the recent establishment of full communion partnership between the Evangelical Lutheran Church and The United Methodist Church, we have opened a dialogue with our counterpart agencies in the Southwestern and Northwestern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. Furthermore, we are in the beginning stage of establishing a dialogue with the historically black Methodist denominations in our region.

In addition to our own initiatives in ecumenical relations, we support regional ecumenical bodies through funding. Our commission vouchers funds in support of four organizations: The Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County and Christians United of Beaver County.

On a local-level: In the 2011 charge conference pastor's report, our commission inserted a question regarding local churches' participation in shared ministry and activities with churches of other denominations. The information from this question has provided a picture of the ecumenical work currently taking place within our conference.

This information, along with what we have learned in our other work, has prepared us to take the next step in our intention to support and encourage the local church in ecumenical activity. In the near future, the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is planning to provide information and resources to aid the local church in developing ecumenical partnerships.

Dai Morgan, Chair

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

Reflecting the prophet Ezekiel's (47:7-12) vision, John of Patmos writes, "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Rev. 22:1-2) In the midst of adversity and oppression, John offers a vision of hope for the fulfillment of God's perfect reign in Christ Jesus. This is the vision to which I cling in a time of global conflicts, partisan anger in our land, and divisive fragmentation within the one body of Christ.

Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, amidst our own internal struggles with declining judicatory financial support and ever changing denominational leadership, seeks to live into that vision of abundant wholeness for all peoples and healing wherever there is division and brokenness. At our Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives retreat in January two Christian leaders sat at the table together, even though schism had divided into two what was once a single entity. The fallout from that division and brokenness continues to play out between their respective judicatories, clergy and congregations, frequently in less than Christ-like humility, generosity, and reconciliation. But that day both leaders declared that they were still brothers in Christ. Indeed, their relationship would never be the same as it had once been, but none the less, they were bound by Christ and needed to find a respectful way of living together and seeking healing among their flocks. Such is the mission of Christian Associates; to bring Christ's reconciliation and healing to our divided churches.

The river of the water of life flowing from the throne of the Lamb causes Christian Associates to be engaged in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Food Security Partnership. Through education of our congregants, with advocacy to our elected leaders, and charity and guidance to the hungry we seek to see that the twelve fruits of that tree of life bring abundance to every person in our region. The leaves of healing from that tree find their reality in the care of incarcerated men and women at the Allegheny County Jail through our chaplains and over 350 volunteers offering worship and prayer, Bible studies and life skill training. Healing is taking place in those lives as pre- and post- release mentoring assists those men and women to manage their emotions and addictions, to learn parenting skills, and to reenter our communities as productive citizens. The Foundation of H.O.P.E., an affiliate corporation of Christian Associates continues to provide training and mentoring in Jesus' name and after his example.

Christian Associates was pleased to host the 2011 National Workshop on Christian Unity rated by the participants as one of the best workshops ever! Our hosting provided a model to other ecumenists from across the country of how a very diverse Christian community can work collaboratively for healing among our churches and the common good of our neighbors.

The Council extends their thanks and gratitude to the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference for its commitment to the ecumenical journey and the participation and leadership of Bishop Tom Bickerton and especially his assistant, Bob Higginbotham who so effectively represents the bishop and the conference at the Council table. Your Conference remains one of the most active members of this ecumenical association and we are grateful for the many volunteers from the conference who serve our mission. Thank you!

As the coming years will be challenging for your conference, so too will be the challenges faced by Christian Associates. Our leaders have defined our two foci for the future as "Collegiality/Connectedness" and "Collaboration." Modeling collegiality at the hierarchical/executive level, we are committed to assisting such collegiality at every level of our lives. Being partners in planning the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, the Returning Veterans Conference, the SW PA Food Security Partnership and regional VOAD are but a few examples of current collaborations. In the coming year the council will seek to find ways in which we can collaborate across our denominational lines in the areas of human services and developing youth and young adult leaders.

May the waters of the river of life flowing from the throne of the Lamb, give you new life, wholeness, and healing with abundance so that the world might know God's love through your conference's witness and service. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Donald B. Green, Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Centennial Celebration: In 2011 the Pennsylvania Council of Churches celebrated one hundred years of ecumenical witness and service. October 25 was the day of the official celebration, with an ecumenical forum led by the Michael Kinnamon and a festive worship service.

As part of the centennial observance, the Council commissioned a formal history of its last fifty years. Available at www.pachurches.org (click on the "Centennial" tab), this latest volume of the Council's history was written by the David A. Schattschneider, dean and professor of the history of Christianity emeritus of Moravian Theological Seminary.

In addition to celebration, the centennial also began a process of reflection and evaluation as the Council considers its future. Rooted in an understanding of conciliar ecumenism in which its member church bodies "...seek to manifest their fellowship (koinonia) with one another, to engage in common ministries of witness and service, and to advance towards the goal of visible unity," the Council's 2011 programs and ministries have sought to express those commitments.

Fellowship: In 2011 the Council tried to build and sustain fellowship among the leaders of its member church bodies by engaging in common worship and prayer at board meetings, encouraging leaders to share stories of their coming to faith and their call to ministry, encouraging the sharing of both the opportunities offered by and the concerns of member church bodies around Pennsylvania, and hosting an overnight gathering for religious leaders at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

Witness For Social Justice: Through its Commission on Public Witness and its public advocacy ministry, the Council witnessed on behalf of social justice and for the common good. Among the highlights were the continued promotion of "God's Kingdom is for Everyone: Discussing Poverty in a Christian Framework," a four session study guide exploring poverty and ways Christians can work toward addressing it; working with the Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians (CLIP) to protect funding that helps to support millions of vulnerable Pennsylvanians with housing, hunger, child care, employment training, etc.; and Promoting protection of public health and the environment in all aspects of Marcellus Shale natural gas activities, and supporting an extraction fee that would support the state's efforts. Information about these highlights and other activities, including the study guide on poverty, can be found at www.pachurchesadvocacy.org.

Ministries Of Service: The Council supported local churches engaging in Trucker and Traveler Ministry along a portion of I-80, where a chaplain served along with volunteers and local church leaders. The Council also supported local churches (in the Fruitbelt and in Chester County) engaged in ministry with migrant and seasonal farm workers. The Council also worked with local park ministry committees to assist in chaplain recruitment and program administration. Twenty chaplains served campers in 33 state, federal, and private campgrounds.

Concluding Note: The Council ended 2011 with an operating deficit of nearly \$100,550 (a deficit of \$74,400 had been projected). While careful management again held operating expenses under budget, financial support from member church bodies was over \$32,000 less than in 2010. Projections for 2012 and 2013 are equally bleak.

Gary L. Harke

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The Commission on Equitable Compensation is a mandatory commission of the Annual Conference. It meets three to four times a year to set the minimum Base Compensation and to issue grants for Equitable Compensation.

Equitable Compensation is given to those churches that make application to receive funds. Each year that application is refined dependent upon the needs within the conference.

One of the major roles of the Commission is to review carefully each year the application form for Equitable Compensation Grants. Each local church which feels a need for some additional pastoral support may make an application to receive grant money from the Annual Conference to support their local church's pastor's salary. Once the application is signed by the District Superintendent and all the necessary supportive documents (i.e., an audit from the previous year, and a budget for that year) are received, the application is reviewed by the commission. If the application is in order and is approved, a grant is issued not to exceed 30% of the conference minimum Base Cash Compensation. If Equitable Compensation is needed for more than a year, it is reduced each year by 25%. During the past year, twenty-two grants were made for salary support to fourteen churches.

Each year the Commission reviews the minimum Base Cash Compensation to see if it adequately meets the needs of those pastors serving in Western Pennsylvania. It then recommends to the Annual Conference an amount to meet this need through a resolution submitted for review by a legislative committee and then brought to the Annual Conference floor. Twice in the last five years, the Annual Conference voted to increase the salary above that which was recommended.

The Commission also works with the Cabinet and other agencies of the Annual Conference to ensure that each local church is receiving adequate pastoral support and to determine if there is any duplication in the process of ensuring such support.

The Chair currently serves on the Conference Connectional Network and meets with other groups and agencies when necessary.

Edward C. "Eddie" Patterson, Chair

COMMISSION ON THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH

Our most significant project in 2011 was to plan and host the first Shared Ministry Gathering in our annual conference September 23-24. Our guest presenter was the Edward Kail from the Iowa Annual Conference and author of *Partnersteps: Developing Cooperative Ministries Today*. Ed talked with us about the critical issues of mission (purpose) and identity as it relates to congregations working together in ministry. The total cost of the event was \$1,594 of which \$1,374 came from our Mission Share

budget. Immediately following evaluation of the event, plans were begun for a second Shared Ministry Gathering with the hope that this will be an annual event to recognize, resource and encourage those who are leading shared ministries.

Michael Long, Chair

COSROW

The WPA Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) has been hard at work.

We hosted Jennifer Davis at our Women's program in April. Over 60 women came to join in zumba, Health and Wholeness with sign-shi-do, pack kits and learn about mission and spiritual direction. We also learned about domestic violence, Discipleship and Leadership, General COSROW, and were updated on Sexual Ethics. Fellowship, worship and spiritual growth were the cornerstone of the day.

Most notably COSROW monitored Annual Conference 2011! Ten people monitored all plenary sessions and 5 legislative sessions. We consider the monitoring effort to be very successful.

Registered delegates were fairly evenly split between males and females, though this was hard to ascertain because gender is not asked on any registration material other than housing requests. There were slightly more laity than clergy registered. Ethnicity is only tracked among clergy. According to the 2010 *Journal* there are 727 elders in full connection. 87% are male. 2.3% are racially Ethnic Persons. It is important to ask for this descriptive information if we are to know where we are and how we are doing in meeting our goals of equal participation of women, racially ethnic persons and people with disabilities.

Women were underrepresented on the stage and initially in leading prayers for the candidates. As conference went on, more women were called upon to pray. The language of Annual Conference is predominately non-inclusive of women. This was evident across most topic areas, notably language of God, and referring to clergy as male. A reliable count of women and men in attendance at legislative sections was not obtained. Only 22% of all attending the sections contributed to the discussion. 70% of speakers were males. 56% of those males were identified as clergy compared to 34% lay men. Conversely 2.6% of speakers were clergy women compared to 23% of speakers being laywomen. 90% of the speakers were white. Clearly, male clergy are the most active group in legislative sections. A question arises about the relative silence of female clergy.

Voting for General/Jurisdictional delegates was a large part of Annual Conference 2012. Clergy elected a female in the 3rd spot and an African American Male in the 4th spot. Clergy elected 2 women and 1 Racial Ethnic Person as General Conference Delegates. A total of 4 women and 1 Racial Ethnic Person was elected by the clergy. Another clergy woman was added among the alternates. Lay elected 3 women before 1 male was elected. No Racial Ethnic Persons were elected as General Conference Delegates, however the 1st Jurisdictional Delegate (and thus 1st alternate to General Conference) elected was a Racial Ethnic Female. Laity elected a total of 3 males for General/ Jurisdictional delegates and 2 Racial Ethnic Females. Another Racial Ethnic woman and 4 males were added as alternates.

COSROW is focusing on assessing the inclusiveness of our leadership throughout the conference, monitoring of AC 2012 and addressing needs identified through the monitoring.

COSROW is sponsoring, HiRho Park, GBHEM. She will speak at the Clergy Women's Lunch and the UMW dinner during AC 2012. We are also co-signers of legislation regarding sexual Misconduct, which has resulted from our collaboration with a coalition of lay and clergy exploring a transparent response to sexual misconduct. 2012 is the 40th anniversary of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Celebrations will occur at AC 2012 and other dates.

More information on the contents of this report can be found at the COSROW section of the conference website, www.wpaumc.org and our Facebook page, Western Pennsylvania COSROW.

Peggy Ward and Lota Jones, co- Chairs

DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Leadership, connection, and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The mission of our annual conference is a driver in what we do as your conference staff and as the agencies of the conference.

This past year has been a year of transition for the connectional ministries staff. Last year, we began the process of implementing a change that aligned our staff to our mission and vision. That process took many months but we have finally brought together our staff with new staff and a clear sense of purpose in our work.

Dawn Lynn Check joined our staff full-time in January 2011 as the Communications Officer and has continued to work diligently with the communications staff. Jessica Gamache, our new Camping and Retreat Ministries Coordinator began in May and quickly set her goals on strengthening our camping program through Wesley Woods, Jumonville, and Camp Allegheny. Jim Walker joined the staff in late summer as our Director of Congregational Development and Revitalization. Jim's work is moving us toward a culture of creating new places for new people as churches struggle to reach new constituencies and lives for Christ. Finally, Rebecca Innerst joined our staff in late fall as our new Director of Discipleship and Christian Spiritual Formation. Already, she is making an impact in our struggle to understand what a disciple is and what a disciple is called to do. Those staff additions only compliment the already hard working names and personalities in our connectional ministries and I am grateful for their work.

Our call as a staff is to reach the local church. Disciple making and disciple formation happens in the communities that surround our churches. The United Methodist *Discipline* is clear, "the local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. It is a community of true believers under the Lordship of Christ." Our role as a staff is to support and inject vitality into that local church's struggle to change lives.

In addition to your conference staff, the agencies and ministries of the annual conference continue to find life. Most, if not all are struggling with issues very similar to the paid staff in reaching the local church. Yet not all of the questions that we have been asking have clear solutions. Asking the hard questions is the beginning of the challenge of leadership. Our agencies are doing the hard work and seek to impact the work of our

conference and our local churches. Some administrative changes are being proposed as part of the connectional ministries structure and will be presented during the annual conference.

Again, our annual conference staff and ministry areas are working to provide leadership, connection, and resources for the local church. Our role is not to live out of our offices, but in the very local churches that we serve. We encourage you to invite us into your work. Let us be your connection. Let us resource you as you form Christian disciples for God's Kingdom.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all in your ministry.

Gregory D. Cox, Director of Connectional Ministries

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Church and Society was pleased to add two new members, Kelly Smith and Gretchen Hulse. We cosponsored successful legislation: RS 102 Moral Choices, Moral Decisions: A Moral Approach to Governing; RS 103 A Reasonable Approach to Marcellus Shale Drilling; RS 609 The Children's Sabbath; and RS 610 Bread for the World Sunday Offering of Letters. We sent Donna Burkhart and Seth McPherson to the UM Advocacy Poverty Summit in Camp Hill, PA. We also sponsored Donna Burkhart to attend the Poverty, Abundance and Peace – Seeking Economic Justice for All God's Children seminar at Lake Junaluska and the PA health Access network: Third Annual Conference. We awarded Peace With Justice grants to Tina Whitehead: Conference missionary to Israel/Palestine, PA Prison Outreach, WPA Immigration Task Force, Beaver County Marcellus Shale Awareness Committee, UM Advocacy in PA, UM Kairos Response, Pittsburgh Faith in Action Against the Death Penalty, Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community: Homeless Ministry and The Table. Finally, we purchased two copies of the DVD "Gasland" for the Media Resource Center.

Jeff Conn, Chair

JUSTICE REFORM

In 1997 Bishop Bashore reported to the Annual Conference that Pennsylvania's legislators were complaining that they seldom heard from the Methodist Conferences. He called on us, as the institution of prophecy, to communicate with our legislators and participate in the legislative process.

In 1998 the Western Pennsylvania Conference passed "P83 Victim Restitution and Participation" which instigated legislators who were attending the Annual Conference to pass Act 97 of 1998. Offenders must now compensate their victims for special damages. UM Witness in Pennsylvania also began campaigning for a moratorium on Death Warrants as the Death Penalty aspect of their agenda. Reports and Resolutions on Justice Reform were provided to each Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

In 2001 the Conference Witness Team was formed as one of five teams under Conference Rule 3.2.6 with Larry Fink as Chair. The Annual Conference adopted ten separate Death Penalty Reform Resolutions, and Death in Pennsylvania; James V. Bennett Revisited was published and presented to the Bishop.

In 2002 the Pennsylvania Senate unanimously passed the DNA Rights Bill. The Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Representative Dennis O'Brien, was reluctant to hold a hearing on the Bill. The Secretary of the Conference Witness Team delivered 853 individual petitions to him on June 28, and Governor Rendell signed the Bill into law on July 1. The Legislative Director of the ACLU, the Director of Peace & Justice, the Director of the Pennsylvania Prison Society and two Senate Legislative Assistants took the Secretary to lunch and charged him with the duty; "keep those letters coming!"

In 2003 Bob Walden invited Central and Western Pennsylvania Conferences to jointly petition and write to the Pennsylvania Senate for a Moratorium on Death Warrants. Rand Edwards became Chair of the Western Conference Witness Team. The Secretary testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee to implement *Atkins v Virginia* and thereby exclude the mentally retarded from Pennsylvania's Death Row. Over 12 inmates were removed from Death Row and either released or placed in Special Needs Units. For the next eight years judges were able to evaluate mental retardation in pretrial, and conduct the trial accordingly.

The Secretary was also appointed to the Advisory Board of the SR149 Committee on Geriatric and Seriously Ill Inmates. He served until the Final Report was published in June 2005.

In 2006 the First UMC of Germantown invited both the Eastern and Western Conferences to jointly petition and write to the Pennsylvania Senate for a moratorium on Death Warrants. UM Witness in Pennsylvania became UM Advocacy, and the Conference Witness Team was rolled into Church and Society.

The Governor also appointed the Secretary and Rep. Joe Preston, Jr., of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, to Chair the "Pennsylvania Committee for the Analysis and Reform of Our Criminal System". The Governor's charge was; "I want a complete study of the entire criminal process to determine whether there is evidence of defects in the system." The Committee held its Beyond Innocence Conference, and published its initial report in 2007. The Conference adopted the Committee's 23 recommendations as RS 102 of 2008. Eleven of the recommendations have been implemented or legislated. Juries are now composed of a complete cross-section of the population; video cameras are now in general use during interrogations and line-ups; misdemeanors can be expunged after seven years; and evidence discovered after the trial may now be admitted. The Juvenile Justice Act, HB 1994; The Biological Evidence Retention Act, HB 1995; The Racial Justice Act, HB 2256; Care-givers exemption option from jury duty, HB 1997; The Juror Compensation Act, HB 1998; the Eyewitness Identification Act, HB 2255; and the Snitch Testimony Disclosure Act, SB 1338 are all being currently debated, and this Conference is present in each of them. In 2008 testimony was given regarding the Juvenile Justice Act and the Felony Homicide Rule.

On July 19, 2010 the House Judiciary Committee conducted an informational hearing on the Racial Justice Act. The Conference Resolutions, RS 101 of 2009 and 2010, were all presented as part of the testimony. So was the cumulative correspondence supporting those Resolutions. The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus unanimously endorsed The Racial Justice Act on January 25, 2012, and its Chair introduced it as HB2256 with 29 co-sponsors. The Chair of the House Judiciary Committee was presented with 330 petitions for a hearing on the Bill. It is already scheduled for hearing on the Policy Committee about May 22, 2012. The petitions will be formally presented at

that time along with supportive correspondence from the Bishops, and resolution from Pittsburgh's NAACP, The Beaver County Minority Coalition, African-American Women for Political Change, and other supporting organizations.

Bishop Bashore's challenge is being met, the Governor's assignment is being met, and the 2008 Conference Resolution is being satisfied. We are continuously striving toward the teshuvah in Ezekiel, the Covenant Code in Exodus, and the Great Commission in Matthew. One step at a time.

Roger Thomas

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

"Pursue the goal of peace along with everyone – and holiness as well, because no one will see the Lord without it. Make sure that no one misses out on God's grace." (Hebrews 12:14-15a, Common English Bible)

In the fall 2011, the Western Pennsylvania Conference welcomed Rebecca Innerst as our Director of Discipleship and Christian Spiritual Formation. Both the position and the person, Rebecca, speak to the Board of Discipleship's desire for a shift in emphasis in our conference from business (tasks) to practice (a holistic approach to the development of disciples). Rebecca wasted no time in presenting a vision and goals to the board. The vision, a holistic approach, will be undergirded with prayer and preparation as well as practice leading to balanced, nurturing ministry. The goals were formulated to provide assistance for three areas: local congregations, districts, and age-level ministries. The board will work closely with conference staff to resource, network, encourage and influence through these three organizational components of the conference.

It is appropriate that the conference addresses both the spiritual formation and the practices of discipleship. Research indicates that people are yearning to know a living God that forms their being in a restless world. People want to learn more about the means of grace. They are eager to know an abiding peace for themselves and their loved ones. They also want to use their gifts and talents in authentic ways to serve in their communities and in the world. The time is right for leaders in the church to intentionally model a spiritual demeanor as a way of life; to mentor others in how to pray, how to worship, how to be open to the Spirit; to prepare new leaders by teaching faith practices as well as organizational needs. The Board of Discipleship, along with other boards and agencies in the conference, view this holistic approach to discipleship as imperative to attaining our conference vision, mission and core value of love.

2011 was a year of introspection for the board. Our meetings were gatherings of conversation about discipleship, leadership, ministry and Western Pennsylvania. What is a disciple? What is the disciple-making process? How do we reach people for Jesus Christ in the world today? I think it was good use of time because it helped us go beyond the responsibilities listed in the *Discipline* for a Board of Discipleship. It helped prepare us for what we hope will be a new energy, a new outlook and a new Spirit-filled desire to develop disciples in our local churches.

Each year for the past four years, there has been an attempt to gather together some leaders of children's ministry in our conference for a time of peer sharing. What a healthy, faithful group this is! The passion, the enthusiasm and the diligent work of ministry to children and their families is evident as these leaders share their knowledge of

procedures, resources, safe practices and creative ideas. The Children's Ministry Team, accountable to the Board of Discipleship, would like to continue to expand this network of children's leaders. This initiative has also provided a model for other age-level ministries to develop within the conference.

Development of and refinement to the conference website as it relates to discipleship has been an ongoing project. We ask for patience. We realize that this is an authentic ministry that needs ongoing attention. Our intention is to continue to add to the website so that local leaders can easily access worthy information.

Mary Lou Lazear, Chair

EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Team continues to plan and organize training events focused on equipping laity and pastors for more effective and fruitful evangelistic efforts. Over the past year we have held three Schools of Evangelism with a fourth one Scheduled for September 22, 2012.

We continue to fulfill our relationship with our Conference General Evangelist. Our responsibilities with the General Evangelist include annual evaluations, recommending them to the Annual Conference and promoting them throughout our conference. We have policies and guidelines for General Evangelist. This information will inform those who desire to explore the calling of General Evangelist and provide guidelines and expectations for those who are currently approved General Evangelist.

One of our immediate challenges is to develop ways to provide training opportunities throughout our conference on the district and local church levels. Another challenge is develop a holistic understanding of evangelism. In essence evangelism is witnessing the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed by proclaiming it in various settings and contexts and living it out in practical and visible ways. It is an integral part of discipleship and not just a segmented part of the Christian life; therefore, a holistic understanding of evangelism will encompass the varied theological focuses of our conference and inform all of the different avenues of ministry and mission carried out by our local churches.

We covet your prayers as we seek to fulfill our responsibilities in the Western PA Conference to provide leadership, connection and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through an effective evangelistic outreach.

Ken Duffee, Evangelism Chair

ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

There were many notable advances in the Encounter program of our Conference during the year 2011. By the end of the year, our total support for the program since the 2000 conference was \$80,000, bringing us close to our \$100,000 goal. For that reason, the Encounter Committee has worked together with the Conference Global Ministries Committee to sponsor legislation for a special offering on May 5, 2013. If this offering is supported by the churches of our Conference, we should meet our goal.

During March, the Encounter Committee sponsored its first VIM Mission to Colombia. The mission was dedicated in honor of Rex Sunderland, David Stains' son-in-law who has since died of cancer. The mission was to help build a new church in Ponedera, a small town close to the Magdalena River, which flooded last year, displacing tens of thousands of persons. Because the Conference of Colombia pledged its intention to host a number of social services, the government granted the church a place to build, precisely in the middle of the area where flood victims will be resettled. The Methodist Church of Ponedera is the second church building the Colombian Conference has been able to build. The Rio Grande Mission Conference was also involved in the construction, and plans to continue a partnership with Ponedera. For our part, our Conference will participate with a Jurisdictional VIM project in Sincelejo, Colombia in April of next year.

Our Conference relationship with Nicaragua has also been in a high performance mode. Since Richard Schall has taken leadership of this Latin American relationship, several missions of visitation have taken place, renewing our Conference contacts with all of the Nicaraguan churches. This led to our hosting an international conference at Christ UM Church. The gathering featured representatives from a number of conferences together with the President and Secretary of the Nicaraguan Conference. The speakers explored various avenues of support for the growing Methodist Church of Nicaragua. Pastors Omar and Francisco spent the subsequent weeks of their visitation speaking in many of our Conference churches. Mission involvement on our part continued as Rebekah Swineford led a VIM team in August, and Richard Mrozcka continues to serve there on an ongoing basis.

The greatest disappointment during the past year was that we were not able to assemble a VIM team to Haiti, in spite of the continuing great need there. We hope some guidance from the Lord inspires us in the future. We are also aware that a number of churches organize their own missions to Latin American or Caribbean countries, sometimes with VIM, or sometimes with non-denominational mission organizations. We rejoice in everyone's involvement in the things of Christ, of course. It would be nice, however, to have some awareness of these activities so we could, in fact, acknowledge them. If people involved in mission could kindly send us even a brief word to describe your mission activities.

David Stains, Conference Liaison

RUSSIA INITIATIVE

Embassy of Love United Methodist Church, Syktyvkar, Komi: Our only UMC in this Republic, our Conference is their official partner since 2003 (and partners of the Komi Peace Fund since 1995). The Nixon UMC of the Butler District, Waynesburg First of Washington District, and Heritage UMC of the Greensburg District are the most active partners providing funds for this partnership. Embassy of Love is pastored by a clergy couple, the Olga and Pavel Shishkin. Olga is the lead pastor of Embassy; Pavel has been appointed Chair of the Conference Council on Ministry. Both are 2008 graduates of the U.M. Seminary in Moscow – among the first four-year graduates of the seminary.

Olga Shishkin Visited WPA in 2011: In March, Olga Shishkin came to WPA Conference as this year's partner exchange. Marina Pavlenko, a resident of Syktyvkar now residing in the Atlanta area, was referred to us by the Peace Fund of Syktyvkar and retained by us for

interpreter duties. Olga visited with partner churches in Waynesburg, Ligonier, and Pittsburgh.

International Conference, April, 2011: Held in Oklahoma City, this was an adventure in itself as we mingled with dozens of programs like ours who work in UMC assigned areas of Russia. Lectures and table conversations and worship update us on changing conditions to help maximize our mission effectiveness. Olga Shishkin of Russia and John Flower and Gary Grau of WPA Conference attended. The next Conference is being planned for spring 2013 in Moscow.

Prayers Exchanged: In December we received word by email that Olga Shishkin had a heart attack, requiring hospitalization and time at home in recovery and therapy. Happy to say, that she reports she has recovered and is well. One of the Embassy of Love students at the Moscow UM Seminary withdrew from classes, initially for economic reasons, but is delaying her return in order to marry. One of the young children of an Embassy member died when struck by an automobile.

Christmas Skype: By arrangement, members of the Heritage UMC in Ligonier skyped with Embassy of Love on Christmas Eve, allowing for the nine hour time difference. Members of Embassy gathered again Christmas evening so that they might Skype the members of Heritage during Heritage's Christmas morning service. We joyfully exchanged greetings, hymns, and blessings.

New sponsorship: Tatyana Shimanovich, a laywoman of Embassy of Love, transferred for employment to the capital city Kirov, of Kirov-Oblast region, located approximately 250 miles south-west of Syktyvkar. The church in need of a pastor there, Tatyana was appointed part-time to pastor this small local congregation. Tatyana and Kirov being in need of support, the WPA Conference Russia Initiative decided to sponsor this pastorate, as it was affordable, and because it was an offspring of the church we already sponsor.

Financial Needs: In addition to the annual sponsorship support that remains critically needed by most Russian congregations, Olga relates that Embassy of Love still needs approximately \$20,000 for finishing work related to rebuilding from the fire that destroyed the church in 2009. The structure itself has been substantially rebuilt and improved upon. Further, she relates the congregation needs approximately \$25,000 to enable Olga and Pavel to purchase a parsonage, rather than rent as they have been. We also need to raise funds this year for the 2013 consultation.

John Flower, Chair

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY

For the report of the Western Pennsylvania Prison Outreach Ministry this year, I would like to use this opportunity to write a tribute to Dorie Heckman, our administrative assistant who went to be with the Lord on December 24, 2011.

What a privilege to work with Dorie Heckman these last eight years. I told her the last time I saw her that if God decided to take her home, He would get an argument from me.

I was not involved in prison ministry when she with her husband David and Stan Nixon started the work at FCI Loretto. My first interaction with Dorie was when Bob Higginbotham and I started teaching *Disciple I* at the Federal Correctional Institution McKean. Dorie invited me to become a board member of the Prison Outreach Ministry.

How proud she was to invite the board to FCI Loretto for the *Disciple I* class graduation. Bishop Wilke who wrote the *Disciple* series came in with us.

The next year she and David moved north and she started to teach a Spanish class of *Disciple I* at FCI McKean where I was already teaching the English class in *Disciple*. In the Spanish community, in the prison, for a woman to take a leadership role took a special person and a lot of courage. She quickly won them over. David Stains is teaching that class now and is in the process of finishing *Disciple IV* with 25 in attendance.

Two years later she and I started a Bible study at the FCI McKean Camp. Over 300 men have come through that fellowship over the years. Her concern for the men and friendship helped make that gathering in the chapel into a fellowship and a welcoming place in the name of Christ.

Dorie's enthusiasm for prison ministry was contagious. Her contacts helped build a fledgling organization into a conference-wide ministry. Grant writing, speaking, correspondence, finance, being a genuinely good Christian friend were all gifts that Dorie unselfishly shared with the rest of us as a genuine servant of the Lord.

The last few years when funds were tight, Dorie called the rest of us to prayer and little by little we have paid all of our bills of over \$9,000 just for materials and Bibles so far this past year. Her call to give and trust God inspired all of us.

Dorie's work with the tireless work of our Prison Outreach Missionary Director, Randy Datsko, have brought us where we are today.

Our board met this January and will meet again in March. We are committed to pick up where Dorie left off and to make sure this ministry of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ to the thousands incarcerated in prisons in Pennsylvania continues to grow.

David W. Bunnell Chairperson

MISSION/VIM REPORT

Speaking/teaching [informing, inspiring, inviting people to participate]

- 27 sessions for churches, UMW, district and conference events
- 2 presentations at Licensing School for Certified Lay Ministry
- 4 elementary school assemblies – disaster response
- 9 half days with confirmation classes at the WPA Conference Center (VIM and kit ministry)
- Chautauqua speaker at UM House
- Taught at South Atlantic Regional School of Mission [connecting/networking with the larger church]
- Taught at WPA Cooperative School of Christian Mission – new course – Hands On Mission in WPA VIM Leader Training [developing principled leaders for the church and the world]
- Franklin District – May – 20 participants
- Pittsburgh District – June – 9 participants
- School of Mission – July – 35 participants
- Greensburg District – September – 11 participants

Ramp Building

- Training (I set up – others led): May – Indiana District; July – School of Mission [developing principled leaders for the church and the world]

- There are now ongoing, growing regional ramp ministries across the conference: Somerset (Ramps 'R Us); Indiana District, beginning stages; Washington District, beginning stages; Mission Barn (Butler District); Erie/Meadville District (Ramps of Hope) [engaging in ministry with the poor]

Led VIM teams: Nicaragua (July, 2011) and Susquehanna Conference (Oct, 2011) [because of their experiences, volunteers often return to revitalize their home congregations]

Mission News – weekly emails to over 800 people, including secretaries of district superintendents who forward to their distribution lists – mission information; needs for prayer, contributions, volunteers; training opportunities, etc. Let me know if you want to join my list.

Mission/VIM Web Site – regularly updated information and mission opportunities

Consultant: Relate/Resource

- WPA Global Ministries Committee – meeting every other month
- WPA/Zimbabwe Partnership – meeting monthly
- Mission Barn Board of Directors – meeting monthly except in December and summer. Officially part of the UMCOR supply network, the Barn now receives kits and volunteers from West Virginia and East Ohio. In 2011, 34,266 kits were shipped out, including 1,160 cleaning buckets in response to September flooding. The Barn now has a funded ministry for regional ramp building and training.
- Cooperative School of Christian Mission school committee – meeting 4 times a year
- NE Jurisdiction Partner Ministries Table – meeting once a year
- Districts – VIM coordinators in place in every district, resourcing people and setting up district projects

Resource individuals and churches via phone, email, and my presence that they might 1) give, to stamp out global diseases and support mission; 2) witness with their actions 3) make disciples; 4) minister with the poor.

Diane M. Miller, WPA Mission/VIM Coordinator

HEALTH AS WHOLENESS

The mission of the Health As Wholeness Team is to provide leadership, connections, and resources that will assist the people of Western Pennsylvania in living lives that are wholistically healthy---in body, mind, and spirit. This will enable them to more effectively fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church, “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Our vision is to develop “communities of wholistic wellness” throughout the conference by developing District Health As Wholeness Teams for each of the ten districts. These teams will:

- Facilitate and coordinate communication between the churches within the districts and the conference Health As Wholeness Team.
- Gather information about the wholistic health needs as well as the resources within the individual churches in the districts.
- Promote & coordinate health programs/events within the districts.
- Represent their districts on the conference Health As Wholeness Team.

This past year we have been able to bring the International Parish Nurse course to Erie, PA. We commissioned 16 Faith (Parish) Community Nurses - five of whom are from the WPA UMC. One of these nurses has agreed to be the Greensburg District HAW Coordinator. We are working with Villa Maria School of Nursing at Gannon University to help them become an approved educational site for the Faith Community Nurse Course. We are also working with St. Vincent's Hospital in Erie to develop a Parish Nurse/Health Ministries Resource Center and possibly outreach programs for the underserved.

We continue to promote the Golden Sneaker Award & programs related to it.

We are working with the Erie United Methodist Alliance to provide wholistic health programs to staff and clients alike. Wii sports equipment was purchased for the Refuge families & staff to have opportunities to be physically active together in the winter months.

Clergy Spouse web page is being developed.

Mentoring and consultations regarding Faith Community Nursing, Health Ministry and wholistic health programs and resources have been provided as needed.

Barbara Lewis, Coordinator

BOARD OF LAITY

Grace and Peace to the Annual Conference from the Board of Laity. 2011 has been an exciting year of change and newness, as Conference Lay Leader, I was able to share my duties with two Associates this year, in hopes of a smooth transition for the 2012 Quadrennial Change; I will not be accepting another term as the Conference Lay Leader and planned to have Associates work with me this past year. I, Sharon Gregory and Robert Penrose traveled to Indianapolis in February to the Annual Association of Conference Lay Leaders meeting which was shared with the Conference Directors of Lay Speaking for the first time. The three of us were able to spend time discussing new ideas and ways to better reach the Laity of WPA to be able to help them Grow in Christ and to help them reach those in their circle who are 'searching'.

The Laity Board has been working hard to make educating our laity a major priority. All of the Districts in the WPAUMC have offered their annual Lay Ministry Schools. All of us at the Lay Ministry School level have been leading the schools to be more than just Lay Speaking Schools. We are now opening our schools to any lay person who wants to learn more about their opportunities for ministry and mission in their church and communities. Some of the Districts are offering multiple schools to help get as many laity the opportunity to be trained. From multiple sites to offering courses on different days and times of the year, the Laity Schools are taking their responsibility of training laity to "Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." As we become more organized, we are looking to listing all of the District School's offerings on the Conference Website and making online registration a reality. There is so much excitement about the schools and our mission to train the laity. We just ask the laity to try a class. See what the schools are all about and be part of moving our churches forward in ministry. We are "Dreaming God-Sized Dreams" of creating a trained, empowered and dynamic laity in WPA who connect back to our history and eagerly take

the Gospel to all in our communities just like the Circuit Riders did at the beginning of our history in our country.

The Laity Connection with Zimbabwe is building and growing. The first connection was the Laity School that was offered in the summer 2011. Nine laity leaders from WPA went to Zimbabwe to assist the Zimbabwe Conference in a Bi-Annual Lay Academy. Those WPAUMC lay people presented sessions to fill in areas that the Zimbabwe Conference needed us to help inform and train the Zimbabwe laity. Those laity volunteers also got to tour parts of the country and see the Zimbabwe United Methodist Church in action. The Zimbabwe United Methodists are out evangelizing the country because they see the power of God moving in their poverty. They see God as the only true answer to the problems they face in life and in their country. There is so much our two Conferences can learn from each other. This relationship is growing with the addition of the Immersion Program that will begin this summer. Some of our WPAUMC laity will spend a large amount of time living with families and getting an understanding of the everyday struggles and triumphs of Zimbabwe life. This interaction will help us to understand in greater detail what life is like in a country that is struggling economically, culturally and personally. The Laity Connection will grow even more with the District to District relationships that have just been unveiled. Through these relationships, we will be able to help get projects moving that will impact the communities in those districts. The money raised and sent to Zimbabwe will help them to hire local workers to complete the projects. Not only does this help the projects to be completed, but it helps the economy of the community because they are hiring local workers and the money they pay them will go back into the local community. Laity touching Laity. Laity empowering Laity. Laity taking the name of Jesus into the entire world.

We as a Board have very active members of mission teams; education teams; programming teams and leadership teams. With God's guidance and a vision set by the Conference, the Board of Laity will continue to help others grow in Christ and to stretch forth a helping hand to the Bishop, the Cabinet, the Administration, the Clergy and all the Laity Members throughout Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

Harry Barbus, Conference Lay Leader

Sharon Gregory, Associate Conference Lay Leader

Robert Penrose, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.” – Isaiah 43:2

At its inception, many doubted that the dream could be realized. Yet, in February 2012, Africa University launched a year-long celebration of its 20th anniversary. It has quite a story to tell.

“We serve a faithful God,” says Dr. Fanuel Tagwira, vice chancellor. “As we now celebrate 20 years of existence, we can say ‘Ebenezer’, for this far the Lord has taken us. He will surely take us further because we serve a God who finishes what he starts.”

Recalling the challenges the University faced during Zimbabwe's economic

crisis in 2008-2009, Tagwira noted that “God was on our side...other universities, primary and secondary schools, and hospitals closed, but Africa University students never lost a day of classes.” For this, Tagwira offered his thanks to The United Methodist Church for its responsiveness and unwavering support.

In 2011, the Western Pennsylvania Conference was one of twenty-seven annual conferences that paid 100 percent of their apportioned share of funding to Africa University. The University is profoundly grateful to the leadership and local congregations of the Western Pennsylvania Conference for their generous apportionment contributions to the Africa University Fund.

Enrollment at Africa University is at an all-time high. The current total population of 1,634 students is 42% higher than it was for the 2010-11 academic year. There are 23 African countries represented in the student body. At Africa University, male and female students are almost evenly balanced—something that bodes well for increasing the participation of women in decision-making and leadership roles in Africa.

New programs are helping Africa University to grow and remain relevant to community needs across the continent. New academic offerings include undergraduate degree programs in Computer Science and Laboratory Science as well as graduate degree programs in Child and Family Studies, and Public Policy and Governance.

The University is preparing to launch online distance learning. Online training options will focus on areas such as practical theology, health, and business. The initial target countries for Africa University’s online distance learning outreach are Angola, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

In June 2011, 349 students from 19 African countries graduated. The graduating class was comprised of 69 graduate students receiving master’s degrees, and 280 undergraduate students receiving bachelor’s degrees. The Class of 2011 swelled the ranks of Africa University graduates to more than 4,000 since first opening its doors in March 1992.

In their home countries, graduates are addressing critical issues of hunger, poverty, disease, lack of knowledge, and conflict, all of which prevent millions of people in Africa from enjoying God’s promise of abundance (John 10:10; Jeremiah 29:11).

At 20, Africa University is part of a crucial feeder system for nurturing a new generation of principled leaders in Africa as evidenced by the number of graduates who are evangelists, pastors, lecturers and administrators of schools, seminaries and universities.

“Many believe that Africa University, voted into being by the 1988 General Conference, is the most exciting ministry that The United Methodist Church has ever founded,” says Tagwira. “It is a model of connection; shared responsibility; and best of all; it is a tangible witness to how United Methodists live out the Word of God in a chaotic and self-centered world.”

This year, encourage your church to give 100 percent of its Africa University Fund apportionment. The Africa University Fund supports day-to-day operations. Your support helps young people acquire the tools and skills to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, heal communities, enable dignified living, and foster hope. Thank you for believing in and supporting Africa University.

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology, one of your United Methodist partners in mission! Thank you for your prayerful support through the past year.

A Year to Remember!

New Faculty: BU School of Theology welcomed six great faculty: David Jacobsen, Preaching; Rady Roldan-Figueroa, History of Christianity; Phillis Sheppard, Pastoral Psychology and Theology; Pamela Lightsey, Asso. Dean for Community Life & Lifelong Learning; Cristian De la Rosa, Dir. Contextual Education with Community Partners; and Wanda Stahl, Dir. Contextual Education with Congregational Partners.

Church Connections: Bryan Stone and students continue to develop new church starts. Faculty and students are working with local churches and boards and agencies, and our graduates are giving strong leadership throughout the church.

Global Connections: Students have come to STH from more than 19 countries on six continents. Travel seminars have studied this year in Jamaica, Israel and Palestine, and Turkey (Ephesus). One seminar roamed the Boston region, with students from BU and Russia, who visited and worked together in diverse ministries.

Intentional Living Communities: We have two dynamic intentional living communities – Theology House and Green House – and are working toward a third!

Contextual Engagement: We continue to build great partnerships with churches and service agencies, both local and global. We welcome others!

Community Building: Community life is buzzing with dynamic weekly worship, daily Morning Prayer, and afternoon Bible Study. Students have delighted in work days, Saturday reading retreats, a weekend “Beside Still Waters” retreat, and two spring break journeys: Seminary Singers Tour in Florida and a “Vocation Vacation.”

Sustainability: The School stepped up its green offices, composting, and carbon reduction. We were even a BU Challenge winner!

Reclaiming our Tradition: We dedicated the Truman D. Collins Chair of Global Christianity and Mission and honored the Collins Professor Dana Robert. We also honored Distinguished Alums: Sally Dyck ('76, '78), UM Bishop, Minnesota; Philip Wogaman ('57, '60), ethicist and leader in church and academy; Janet Yarlott Horton ('76), pioneer as army chaplain; Barry Lynn ('73), public theologian on church and state; and Jeremy Smith ('06), young tech-savvy alum and UM pastor in Oklahoma.

People's History: We had a fabulous lecture and interview with James Lawson, UMC pastor, Civil Rights leader, and prophet!

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean, Boston University School of Theology

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Candler School of Theology prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Candler offers students a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 479, with 372 seeking the Master of Divinity, 64 the Master of Theological Studies, 19 the Master of Theology, 17 the Doctor of Theology, and seven enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 22% U.S. ethnic minority, 8% international, and 50% women. Forty-four denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 50% of total enrollment under thirty.

An extraordinary gift of \$15 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation will make possible the construction of the second phase of the school's new building. In recognition of this gift, the first building—a 65,000-square-foot facility completed in 2008—will be named in memory of the late Rita Anne Rollins, the first grandchild of the foundation's namesake. The new building will house the Pitts Theology Library, additional classrooms and offices, group study areas, and the Wesley Teaching Chapel.

Candler and The General Theological Seminary (GTS) in New York have formed an innovative partnership that includes the sharing of library resources, collaborative educational programs, and the exchange of both students and faculty members. The partnership began this fall with the transfer of 90,000 volumes from GTS to Candler's Pitts Theology Library, and will continue to expand this year via student/faculty exchanges and continuing education programs.

Candler has introduced two new ways to make theological education more accessible. First, we launched a Tuesday-Thursday format for core courses for our incoming students in order to lessen the burden of commuting. Second, we began offering certain courses in an online or hybrid format. Two courses were piloted in January term and spring semester. We remain deeply committed to the highest quality education for our clergy and will offer only those hybrid and online courses that meet a gold standard of excellence in teaching and learning outcomes. Faculty members undergo rigorous training in order to translate their courses to an online format.

Candler continues to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context. We now offer 17 academic exchanges with theology schools across five continents and 15 countries, including many related to The United Methodist Church. In addition to our ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, this year's travel seminars included the Middle East Travel Seminar in May-June and World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars to Colombia, Indonesia, and Israel.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Drew Theological School, deeply rooted in its United Methodist heritage, is a place that empowers its students to conceive and implement dynamic ministries. Drew offers the MDiv, MA, MAM, STM, DMin, and PhD degrees, as well as certifications in Camp and Retreat Ministry, and Spiritual Formation. Academically rigorous and spiritually revealing, Drew develops religious leadership prepared for these ever-changing times. Drew offers 100% tuition scholarships to all United Methodists who meet all admissions requirements and have a 3.5 undergraduate GPA or higher.

In the fall semester, I had the honor of welcoming a new class of students to Drew. This new class is composed of 73 masters and 13 PhD students. In addition, we also admitted 58 DMin students who started the program in the various cohorts around the country. We also welcomed another 19 students in the spring semester. We began the new academic year with a new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in Dr. Morris Davis, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Wesleyan/Methodist Studies and welcomed two new faculty members and a post-doctoral fellow. Dr. Kate Ott joined us as Assistant Professor of Christian Social Ethics, Dr. Elías Ortega-Aponte as Assistant Professor in Afro-Latino/a Religions and Cultural Studies, and Dr. David Evans as a post-doctoral fellow position and Lecturer in the History of Christianity.

As we began a new academic year, I was reminded of Drew's impact and contribution in the global context. I had the privilege of visiting Drew alumni in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea. Our alumni spoke with great appreciation of the education they received at Drew and the professors who taught them. Drew's influence in Korea, in particular, is historic. Henry G. Appenzeller, a graduate of Drew in 1885, brought Methodism to Korea. Appenzeller's connection with Drew has brought hundreds of students from Korea to Drew. Today, we have alumni teaching in seminaries and universities and serving churches in Korea.

I have enjoyed teaching a course on the General Conference and will be taking the class to Tampa. We were honored to have leaders such as Jim Winkler, General Secretary of GBCS, Harriett Olson, Deputy General Secretary of the Women's Division, and Erin Hawkins, General Secretary of GCORR, come and speak to the class. Three members of the Drew community are serving as delegates to the General Conference: Mark Miller, Tanya Bennett and myself.

We are living into a "majority minority" faculty, staff and student body at Drew that trains leaders for the church that will be soon serving in a "majority minority" world. Forty-five percent of our faculty is African/African Americans, Asian/Asian Americans, and Latino/a. We have almost an equal number of women and men on the faculty.

We are thrilled to have received a grant of \$75,600 from the GCORR Action Fund for the purpose of widening the ethos of multi-ethnic theological education. The grant will assist us in a thorough curriculum review with the hopes of enhancing every aspect of the multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural reality at Drew.

Creative, cutting-edge, inclusive, multi-cultural, social justice ministry is part of the legacy of Drew, and I am proud to be associated with it!

Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Dean

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary continues its commitment to its core purpose: to know God in Christ and, through preparing spiritual leaders, to help others know God in Christ. We continue our deep and abiding commitment to prepare bold and articulate leaders who share the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Last fall the seminary welcomed 93 new students, raising our total enrollment for the fall to 382, a nine percent increase from the previous year. Fifty-four percent of the student body are women. The average age of the diverse and highly qualified new Master of Divinity class is thirty-one. More than thirty religious traditions, four continents, twelve countries and thirty-two states are represented in the student body. Two hundred four students are United Methodist. Thirty-four additional students come from other Pan-Methodist denominations.

Garrett-Evangelical's commitment to making seminary education affordable is reflected in the annual awarding of more than \$2 million in institutional financial aid to students. This year the seminary added the Linked in Ministry Scholarships. This 100 percent scholarship is awarded to the first student admitted to Garrett-Evangelical from his/her United Methodist annual conference who maintains a 3.3 GPA or above and who is a registered UMC candidate for ministry.

Following more than a year of renovation, Loder Hall and Stead Hall (formerly Lesemann Hall) reopened to the seminary community during the summer. Loder, a Gold-certified LEED facility (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), includes a student center, student lounges, a state-of-the-art classroom, a dining hall, two small chapels, modern residence rooms with private baths, and guest suites. Stead Hall includes a conference room, library offices, and the Stead Center for Ethics and Values.

Care for creation is reflected in the seminary's participation in the Green Seminary Initiative, which fosters efforts by theological schools to incorporate an ethic care for creation into the identity and mission of the institution. Garrett-Evangelical is a founding participant in the Blessed Earth Seminary Stewardship Alliance, a collaborative project among seminaries for the purpose of preparing future church leaders to be catalysts for positive change around issues of environmental sustainability.

A new partnership with Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Indiana gives Garrett-Evangelical students the opportunity to obtain a concentration and/or certificate in Peace Studies, and AMBS students can meet United Methodist ordination requirements through a certificate in United Methodist Studies earned through Garrett-Evangelical. Each school provides staff to advise students in these programs, affording students access to areas of strength at the other institution.

In October the Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities hosted the "Captured by a Compelling Narrative Conference: A Christian Story for a New Generation." The two-day event engaged church leaders and educators in an exploration of ways to proclaim the Good News for a new generation, focusing on developing a vision for fostering transformative witness within faith communities. Presenters included Walter Fluker, the Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership at Boston University School of Theology; Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Ohio; and Diana Butler Bass, specialist in American religion and culture.

Plus, a program of the Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities, is the first of its kind cooperative executive education program of Garrett-Evangelical and Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. The three-year leadership certification program for seminary graduates and other professionals in ministry includes six seminars led by experts in non-profit leadership, as well as one-on-one coaching, pairing individuals with effective and experienced certified clergy coaches.

We are proud to serve the United Methodist Church, and we ask for your continuing prayers and support as we pursue our mission and our renewed vision.

Philip A. Amerson, President

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Is God calling you or someone you know to the ministry of Jesus Christ? If so, we invite you to explore how United can assist you in fulfilling God's purposes for your life and how you can help others in this journey. Come and check us out in person or online at www.united.edu!

United is one of the fastest growing, accredited seminaries in North America. Why are Christian disciples and leaders signing up for our traditional and online programs? They do so because United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. What could be more important or exciting?

United provides an In-Context Mdiv degree in West Virginia, coordinated by Dr. Janet Flanagan. Please see <http://links.united.edu/xhqph> or contact Dr. Flanagan at JFlanagan@united.edu for more details.

In addition to expanding our service in the Midwestern US, United will continue to enhance its use of technology to deliver theological education in underserved regions in North America and beyond. United's hybrid/online UMC FLEX Master of Divinity degree was designed specifically to meet the requirements of the UMC for ordination and it is accessible anywhere with good Internet service.

Three new professors will join our excellent team of faculty in 2012. Additionally, United's doctoral program will add new mentors and focus groups around the ministries of renewal, mission, preaching, healing and Christian education. United's hybrid/online UM Course of Study is expanding each semester, along with UM Certification offerings.

Please let us know if you have questions about how we can best assist you or, if you would like to help make it possible for an American or international student to study at United.

Enrollment at United is growing steadily and we invite you to call or visit soon!

For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu.

Thank you for your prayers, partnership and service in the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Wendy J. Deichmann, President

ARBUTUS PARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Arbutus Park Retirement Community was once again very blessed in 2011 by the many faithful believers who support our mission. A number of enhancements to the physical and spiritual services we provide those entrusted to our care occurred during the last year.

After months of hard work, Arbutus Park launched our new, user-friendly website which highlights the different levels of care we provide to our independent, personal care, and skilled care residents. We would welcome your virtual visit at www.arbutusparkmanor.com.

A successful fundraising luncheon was held last fall which benefitted our Benevolent Care Fund. This fund helps to support those residents who have exhausted their financial resources. Well-known author and lecturer, Mr. Ted Benna, the “Founder of the 401(k) Plan,” gave an insightful presentation on the state of the Social Security program and other financial issues. The program was well attended by about 150 business people from the Johnstown and surrounding areas.

Arbutus Park obtained a Certificate of Licensure from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to operate a Home Care Agency Facility. This license enables us to provide non-skilled services to our independent living residents in their homes or other independent living environments. We at Arbutus Park are trying to position ourselves for the anticipated deluge of baby-boomers who will be looking for living choices during the next ten or twenty years. To this end, we have also begun negotiations to acquire 32 acres of undeveloped land near our campus on which to build additional independent living cottages and townhouses.

We continue to foster our Planned Giving Program with the help of fundraising consultant, Karen Petrucelli, who, along with the United Methodist Foundation, has helped us build a program of faithful contributors who are remembering Arbutus Park Retirement Community in their estate plans. This will help sustain our position as a leading continuing care retirement community in the Johnstown area.

The installation of a state-of-the-art Wi-Fi internet network in our long-term care nursing facility will allow staff and visitors alike to access the internet. Our residents and their families will connect with family and friends with Skype, a communications program that also will allow out-of-town family members to participate in resident care conferences.

In October, Arbutus Park was pleased to welcome John Hollis as our new campus chaplain. John is a resident of one of our cottages and has served The United Methodist Church for over 40 years. The Lord has sent him to us to help minister to our 300 plus campus residents. He has been a blessed addition!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our helpful Auxiliary, and the entire staff, I am proud to report that Arbutus Park Retirement Community continues to administer loving Christian service and care to all residents who come through our doors.

Richard Wilson, Administrator

UNITED METHODIST SERVICES FOR THE AGING

Since 1908, Asbury has been offering care and accommodations to the region’s older adults. Today, almost 500 older adults make their home at Asbury and receive

accommodations and services on the Asbury Heights campus and at an off-campus apartment building, The Embassy. This community of senior living options includes independent living, personal care, skilled nursing care and special memory support. There are over 480 employees who care for these individuals, along with a group of over 250 persons who volunteer their time and talents. Scientific evaluation and medical education take place alongside the delivery of high-quality and compassionate care.

After over a year of strategic planning, a Strategy Map was created and a vision/"Big Goal" was created that will take Asbury in a unique direction. The "Big Goal" is to become the Gold Standard in the South Hills area of Pittsburgh in maximizing function and wellbeing in older adults in areas of thinking (cognition), moving (physical function) and feeling (affection/socialization/spirituality). Evidence-based initiatives for improving thinking, moving and feeling will be used in each area. Measurements are consistently recorded to evaluate improvements.

Committees were organized, comprised of Board Members, Senior Leadership and Management Staff: MarCom (communication of Asbury's vision and goal); OpCom (defining operational interventions to improve thinking, moving and feeling and developing measurements to review improvement); and Finance (reviewing resources needed to obtain the "Big Goal").

In the area of governance, a focus was made to fill several open Board of Director seats. The following individuals came on the Board for United Methodist Services for the Aging (parent corporation of Asbury Heights): Steven Albert (a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and a renowned academic gerontologist), Martin Sieferting (a gerontologist and architect with significant experience in the industry of long term care facilities), and Richard Zahren (retired executive with PPG Industries). Their diverse skill sets compliment the talent of the other directors on the Board.

Economically, 2011 was a good year for Asbury. Results from operations were just shy of break even. To remain financially viable into the future and to address large increases in debt payments in 2013, revenue opportunities and expense reductions were carefully reviewed for efficiency and effectiveness. The difficult decision was made to eliminate some positions and those duties and responsibilities were absorbed by existing members of management. Additionally, some non-performing programs were discontinued. We have also been involved in discussions with several banks to renew our Letters of Credit, due to expire in May, 2013.

While it was necessary to initiate cost-saving methods, quality did not diminish, as evidenced by the positive regulatory surveys received in all levels of care/facilities.

Fundraising has consistently improved since making the commitment several years ago to become a stronger fundraising organization. And in 2011, Asbury had an outstanding fundraising year, raising over \$1.2 Million. This included almost \$500,000 in annual fund gifts and the maturity of several bequests.

Census challenges have been experienced due to strong competition in our primary market area and the residual effects of the economic crisis of 2008. A direct mailing campaign has resulted in more inquires and work of the MarCom Committee will aid in communicating our differential advantage.

Economic Performance for FY2011 (unaudited results):

Revenues from operations	\$28,146,563
Expenses incurred from operations	<28,237,078>

Net operating loss	< 90,515>
FY10 Net operating loss	< 758,412>
Difference from prior year	<\$ 667,897>

The decrease in net operating loss from 2010 to 2011 mainly relates to increased third party reimbursement rates relative to the nursing home as well as increased private pay revenue related to personal care.

David J. Johnson, Chair, UMSA Corp. and Vice Chair, UMSA Board of Directors
John J. Zanardelli, President and CEO, UMSA

THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Foundation continue to provide high quality services and information to support and enhance the stewardship ministry of individuals, congregations and agencies of the Annual Conference. To this end the following outlines the highlights of our 2011 activities.

In order to provide a more convenient access to current information on a variety of stewardship topics as well as Foundation services, the web site was completely revised. As travel has been an issue for some attending Foundation events, a webinar format was instituted by the Foundation to provide an interactive venue on timely topics. This will not replace Conference wide events, but will offer supplemental information. In order to accomplish this electronic offering the internet provider, firewall and other technical upgrades were undertaken as well.

The success of the funds management program of the Foundation was reaffirmed as over three million dollars in new funds were deposited this year. Of these funds, almost five hundred thousand dollars was designated for scholarships. In this tumultuous economic climate the Unified Balanced Account has provided competitive returns with downside protections. The Board has acted to keep the income distribution for 2012 at 4.45% of the trailing 3 year average market value. This is the same level of income distribution as 2011.

In conjunction with the Conference Treasurer, a series of five seminars on Ministry and Money were presented for clergy of the Conference. The focus of these events was on the theology of dollars as well as helpful information on financial controls and policies.

A call for candidates for the fourth Pastors Academy for Stewardship Formation was issued and eleven participants have been selected. This multi-year intensive educational program has been ranked as one of the top educational offerings of the Foundation. Over 30 clergy have graduated from the Academy and have testified to the benefit it has been to their ministry.

Throughout the course of the year several changes occurred in the life of the Foundation. Two new staff persons were added: Alexis Shaffer as Administrative Assistant and the Seth McClymonds, Jr. as a Field Staff Representative. The setting and format of the Annual meeting was changed from a dinner at the Grove City Country Club, to a successful evening reception at St. Paul's UMC Allison Park. After multiple years partnering with RSI for capital campaign materials we enlisted Lisa Young, our Senior Consultant, to write our own materials that will be more focused and available in an electronic format.

In November the Foundation celebrated its traditional celebration of Founders Day. The recipient of the 2011 award was Franklin H. Kelly, Past Chair of the Foundation. Frank's unparalleled leadership has been felt by all aspects of the Foundation. In addition, he has made a significant impact on many Conference entities as well as numerous charitable organizations.

The mission of the Foundation continues to be affirmed as individuals find a deeper sense of personal stewardship and express this in significant funding of various Christian endeavors.

Susan W. Wesmiller, Chair, Board of Directors
Frederick H. Leasure, Executive Director

KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Created in 1953 by United Methodists, for United Methodists, Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union is a financial ministry working in partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. The credit union serves all United Methodists in the WPA and their family members, as well as UM clergy, churches and church staff, and UM organizations and their staff.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative, Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union is dedicated to providing professional, courteous and timely financial products and services to its members, as well as helping them achieve their financial goals. The credit union understands the importance of financial stewardship, and regularly supports United Methodist ministries through contributions that help create new churches, support the camping ministry, and much more.

Education is a key component of the services provided by the credit union. Personal credit counseling and seminars on topics such as credit score enhancement, identity protection, and home buying are available to churches and members.

Unlike the bank, credit union members are shareholders in the organization. When someone opens an account at the credit union, they become members by buying a "share" in the organization. Each deposit they make into their account purchases additional shares. As a nonprofit, any profits made by the credit union are returned to these shareholders in the form of better rates and services.

Because membership in the credit union is free for life and stays with members even if they relocate or retire, members are assured that they will always have access to the personal attention, sound financial advice, and superior products and services that Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union has come to represent.

Patty Columbe, Treasurer

PENNSYLVANIANS CONCERNED ABOUT ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

Allow me to begin this report by thanking everyone who supported us with your prayers and donations during 2011. PCAP could not exist without YOU! The mission of our organization is to teach children about the harmful effect of using alcohol and other drugs.

In 2011 we had the privilege of interacting with over two thousand students in public schools. We are continuing to add new curriculum to our inventory of age appropriate teaching material.

As the Executive Director of PCAP one of my biggest concerns is the lack of participation from churches. In years past we would be invited to send speakers to churches and Sunday school classes to talk about our work and to allow us to receive an offering for our work. In 2011 we had just a few churches invite us to send a speaker. My question is this: what has happened? Is the church no longer concerned about the problems associated with alcohol use? Many denominations that once supported our ministry are silent today!

Every year thousands of people lose their lives because of alcohol. Many young people die from car accidents and the abuse of alcohol. I must ask the question – do we care? Is the Church of Jesus Christ still concerned about alcohol problems? I realize that many Christians have concluded that alcohol is not a sin. Neither is smoking but society has realized that smoking is harmful and it kill thousands of people. The same is true of alcohol. Even if you personally think drinking alcoholic beverages is alright, what about the thousands of you g people who do not understand that alcohol can and will kill many people. I am asking you to help us to at least warn the children – your children and grandchildren—before it is too late. Reaching young people with the warning message about using alcohol is a passion for us at PCAP.

We are always looking for opportunities to reach children. Do you know of a teacher of School District that would allow us to present our classes? If so, please send us those names. Perhaps you are not familiar with our teaching curriculum. I would welcome the opportunity to share it with you. Give me a call and I will come to you and give you a personal demonstration.

Alcohol is a killer! We need to warn our children. Will you help us with your prayers and monetary support? Our search for per diem teachers is continuous. Give me a call and I will be happy to explain how you can earn extra income and at the same time help young people to be spared from the negative impact of alcohol.

I look forward to hearing from you. May the Church of Jesus Christ be filled with passion for reaching the lost and sparing the innocent from harm.

Don H Wert, Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UNION

The United Methodist Church Union has been serving the Pittsburgh region since 1880 with outreach missions and ministries. Our present mission is to serve as a catalyst to build strong, vibrant congregations and agencies in the Pittsburgh region, seeking transformation of lives and communities. Over this past year, with a collaborated spirit and your financial support, the following ministries have assisted hundreds of individuals and truly have made a difference in their lives.

New Hope United Methodist Church & Church Of Our Saviour: Aiding with financial recording and reporting so these ministries can remain focused and valid in some of the most challenging neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. Also helping with the coordination of Vacation Bible School for our Northview Heights Community and providing general oversight for these congregation's redevelopment and expansion of ministry and mission.

For example, over the past two years Church of Our Saviour has doubled its attendance while providing ministries like: Eye Care Clinics; Youth Ministries; Weekly Bible Studies; and a Health and Wholeness Ministry with our 50 individuals.

Northside Congregate Feeding Program: Serving over 11,000 meals annually to the homeless and unemployed on the Northside of Pittsburgh. Over two dozen United Methodist congregations join us in making this basic need ministry possible.

Bethany House Academy: Enabling over 20 preschools with our Northview Heights neighborhood to experience a healthy academic start within one of our most challenged communities. Our Northview Heights site also provides computer training and tutoring for the children and youth on a daily basis. Summer programs expand these contacts with daylong programs and field trips.

Low Income Preschool Scholarships: Helping to coordinate over 100 scholarships with 13 different preschools in Western PA. These scholarships assist both the families and the schools to nurture our young children at a very important stage in development.

Methouse and Metowers LP: Provides over 225 low income seniors with a safe and healthy living environment. Also sharing information through dozens of programs for these 200 plus seniors on a variety of topics like; financial solicitation, health care, dietary, and general safety issues.

Methousing North, Inc.: Opening in 1983, Methousing North Inc. (Wrenshall Apartment Building) has continued to provide modest, safe and comfortable living areas by providing eight apartments for individuals and families. There are four one-bedroom apartments and four two-bedroom apartments.

Eighth Avenue Place: Collaborations with this new ministry located in Homestead for space and ongoing support. Dozens of individuals and families are provided with a daily drop in support base, plus weekly worship experiences, with food and fellowship. Youth ministries are also being implemented for middle and high school ages.

Work Teams: We have also started a work team division of our ministries hosting five different teams here in the Pittsburgh area over the past two years and sending our first team to Joplin, MO last August.

Mentoring Programs: There are now seven United Methodist congregations included in this Elementary School Reading and Mentoring Ministry. Over 60 children are being assisted weekly to encourage and increase their reading and comprehension abilities. We believe this is a great step in breaking the cycle of poverty that over 90% of these students live with every day!

Presently the United Methodist Church Union is exploring a number of other areas of need within the Pittsburgh and now Annual Conference geographical boundaries. It is our prayer and passion to see these new ministries begin to take shape during 2012.

Larry P. Homitsky, President

BETHANY HOUSE ACADEMY

Bethany House Academy also known as Bethany House Ministry strives to bring the love of Jesus to the public housing community of Northview Heights, which is rated #1 in poverty in the City of Pittsburgh. The heart of our ministry is service to children and youth. However, offering crisis intervention, referral and counseling services, tangible aid of food, clothing, and school supplies has become an integral part of our ministry today. Financial support for the ministry is received from the WPA

Conference Mission Support, Trust Funds allocations from the United Methodist Church Union, Advance Specials, United Way of Allegheny County, The Heinz Endowments, other Foundation support, and personal donations from United Methodists and supporters. food, clothing, Christmas gifts, and program materials are also donated and appreciated when received. Most of all, the prayers of many committed supporters are of vital importance to us.

Northview Heights Location: The ministry in Northview Heights through collaborative efforts has afforded our agency the ability to provide a broad spectrum of services. Bethany House recently received a grant from The Heinz Endowment to offer a Rites of Passage program for African-American males and funding to provide a quality Arts program that focuses on African Drum and dance, and digital photography. Additionally, The Pittsburgh Foundation has provided support for Bethany House for a Community Garden, Health and Wellness, and Entrepreneurial Skills Development that focuses on self-sufficiency. Our core services continues to offer high quality academic and spiritual programs in our Pre-School and After-School initiatives which include: Computer literacy in Mac-based computer labs., arts and crafts, entrepreneur training, tutoring/study skills services, college preparation services, study abroad opportunities (Ghana, West Africa), spiritual development, and the P.O.W.E.R. (Positive Outcomes With Excuses Removed) Program. The majority of the staff employed are members of the community or persons who live at poverty level. Empowering the community through employment opportunities and vocational development is what keeps Bethany House relevant and with United Methodist support, we will continue doing the necessary work for those labeled as “poor” but have great spiritual resolve.

Keith Murphy, Executive Director

METHOUSE, INC. / PARKVIEW TOWERS

The mission of Methouse is to provide safe, comfortable and affordable housing where our residents may continue to participate in community life with a high level of dignity and independence.

Methouse, Inc. strictly adheres to all non-discriminatory practices and requirements of its sponsoring agencies and seeks to establish a beneficial community life for all of its residents in an atmosphere of joyous goodwill and fruitful living.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES:

- Attractive facility
- Safe and sanitary housing
- Worry free maintenance program
- Competent, committed administration and staff
- Active Residents' Council
- Opportunities for socialization
- Opportunities for spiritual growth
- Careful supervision by a responsive Board of Directors

Methouse/Parkview Towers, established 40 years ago by the efforts of the United Methodist Church Union and members/clergy of the Homestead Park United Methodist Church, began as a vision allowing the retired people in our community to maintain comfortable, affordable living. The demand for low income housing is consistently out distancing the supply and is especially so for elderly.

Parkview Towers provides these amenities:

- Spacious common areas
- Cable TV at a reduced rate
- Laundry rooms on every floor
- Computers with internet access in the Activity Room
- Wii Bowling league
- Many activities coordinated by Residents' Council
- Non-denominational church services on Sunday evenings

This ministry provides a strong faith-based presence in the Munhall / Homestead community and we are proud to be a part of the United Methodist Church Union and Methouse, Inc.

David A. McQuiston, Administrator

METOWERS ASSOCIATES, LP

Metowers is a Section 202/8 subsidized property offering housing for the elderly and people with mobility impairment.

Aging in place with dignity and support has been successfully accomplished for many through the dedication and direction of the United Methodist Church Union.

Because of the vision and renewed commitment, the United Methodist Church Union continues to provide safe, affordable housing for those persons with limited incomes.

Our recently remodeled apartments effectively meet the needs of individuals with mobility impairments and those of an aging population. Our supportive services enable our residents to remain in their homes all throughout life stages. Programs presented by the Service Coordinator range from Safety assessments, Ask the Dr., an annual Health Fair, Wii Bowling , and exercise classes to name a few.

We are a Neighborhood Network site. The Neighborhood Network gives the residents access to the internet via the two computers located in a private setting.

METOWERS IS:

- Staffed by competent caring people
- Supervised by a Board of Directors that shares the same caring commitment
- Clean, safe and comfortable
- Supportive of spiritual growth and socialization
- Moving forward to continue to meet the needs of an aging population
- Home

Kathryn E. Williams, Administrator/ Community Manager

ERIE UNITED METHODIST ALLIANCE

The Erie United Methodist Alliance is committed to combating homelessness by providing Christ-centered ministries of shelter, support and service to families, veterans and individuals in Erie, Pennsylvania. The agency's roots can be traced back to 1888 as a pastoral fellowship which led into outreach programs in the mid-1980's. EUMA serves approximately 1,700 people each year through five ministry programs.

The Refuge: The Refuge is an emergency homeless shelter for families with children. It is one of the only shelters in the Erie area which keeps the family unit intact by housing

each family in their own room together. Up to 32 mothers, fathers and children are housed on a daily basis. The average stay at The Refuge is 30 to 45 days, during which the family's basic needs are met, along with assessment and case management to identify and target each family's unique reason for homelessness. Each family creates a plan to stabilize their situation and help them move toward secure housing. Last year, The Refuge provided shelter and care for 211 parents and children.

Hope House: Hope House is a four-apartment transitional program for homeless families with children, providing more time and assistance to address each family's individual reasons for homelessness. With average stays of up to nine months, families are able to address financial instability, follow through on educational and vocational opportunities, and secure employment. EUMA staff provided support and encouragement as well as life skills classes to seven families living at Hope House last year.

In the past year, EUMA has added a child and youth specialist to focus on the specific needs of the children and youth at both The Refuge and Hope House. This person coordinates volunteers, sets up tutoring, encourages positive family interaction, arranges activities and field trips, and provides one-on-one help when needed.

Liberty House: Liberty House is the only transitional housing program in Erie County created specifically for homeless, honorably-discharged veterans. The house is a safe haven for men who proudly served our country and are now in need of new beginnings. Last year, the program provided 21 veterans advocacy and support within a structured living environment to allow them to develop the skills necessary to deal positively with life issues.

Project Hope Outreach: Project Hope Outreach is a unique on-the-street ministry to the homeless community. Outreach workers seek out and meet homeless individuals and families, wherever they may be – soup kitchens, downtown parks, the library, area shelters – offering care and assistance. Last year, Outreach helped 252 people by providing hygiene care kits, warm clothing, assistance obtaining government identification documents, referrals to available shelters and housing, and vouchers for free clothing and necessities.

The Rainbow Connection: The Rainbow Connection is EUMA's thrift store with a mission. The Rainbow Connection serves dual purposes in providing financial assistance to EUMA programs and helping people in the community obtain low-cost clothing and household necessities. In addition the store also serves the homeless community and those-in-need by providing these same items free of charge through a voucher assistance program. Any person who receives services through Erie's homeless shelters and social service agencies can receive vouchers for free items. Last year, the Rainbow Connection distributed \$22,693 worth of clothing and items to 1,130 people.

Chaplain Program: EUMA provides a chaplain who meets weekly with program clients for group Bible discussions and individually for discussion and encouragement, provides a weekday email devotion for staff, distributes individually appropriate topical Bibles to clients and staff, and reinforces God's unconditional love for each person and their worth as a child of God.

We at EUMA are very thankful for the prayers and support that allow us to meet such wonderful people and help them renew their spirits and their lives. God bless all of you.

Cheryl Davis, Executive Director