

REPORTS

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

In 2009, one major emphasis of the Western PA Conference Commission on Archives and History (CAH) has been the raising of funds to publish a comprehensive collection of the pastoral records of all of the predecessor conferences which made up the WPA UMC (1784-2008). This 1200-page *Pastoral Records* volume, compiled by Norman Young, is a companion to the *Church Records* volume published in 2003. The 2009 annual conference gave CAH permission to solicit donations to publish this volume, and a goal of \$20,000 was established. At this writing (March 1) \$4,658 has been contributed toward this goal. Both *Church Records* and *Pastoral Records* are available in abbreviated form (due to the sensitivity of posting the pastoral records of active clergy online) at www.umchurchrecords.org and www.pastoralrecords.org.

CAH also made progress on our goal to digitize the catalogue of our holdings in the Smeltzer-Bell Archives at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. "Finding Aids" for the records of closed churches, physical artifacts, and publications are being developed. Our goal is to have these materials posted on the WPAUMC website as it is being developed. This will make it possible for researchers to determine whether or not the Archives contain the materials they seek before traveling to Meadville. At the same time CAH is working to catalogue and digitize the catalogues of several "satellite" archives throughout the annual conference.

In a recent issue of *Homiletics* magazine (March 2010, p. 12) Lynne Cheney is quoted as saying: "People who grow up without a sense of how yesterday has affected today are unlikely to have a strong sense of how today affects tomorrow. It is only when we have perspective on our lives that motives besides immediate gratification can come into play." The Commission on Archives and History exists both to maintain accurate, comprehensive records of annual conference sessions (including the work of its boards and agencies) and to recruit, encourage, and support historians who will help the Church understand how the past has affected us and how we will likely affect the future. It is important that this work of historical interpretation be done, so that the cultural trend toward immediate gratification can be resisted in the life of our conference and its local churches.

Following our Disciplinary mandate (2008 *Discipline* ¶ 641.1) to "collect, preserve, and make accessible the historically significant records" of the conference and its agencies, CAH encourages all agencies and committees of the WPA annual conference to submit minutes of meetings, printed materials, and descriptions of your ministries to the Archives. These records will help future generations evaluate the effectiveness of our current ministry decisions and practices, and will guide the ministry they provide to a new generation.

Nelson T. Thayer, Chair

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

The Camping and Retreat Ministries Team (CRM) has worked faithfully with the resources provided by you, the Annual Conference. Your time, talents, and finances make the difference in this ministry so important to building and fostering the Kingdom of God. Your gifts are precious to us.

Behind the camping program is an amazing group of staff and volunteers. Over 560 volunteers spent six days and nights over a ten week period during the summer camping season. That is 806,400 volunteer hours, a conservative estimate. You also enable children and youth the time to attend any of our three camps. In 2009, 2,695 campers attended United Methodist camp events in Western Pennsylvania. While this number is 50 less than 2008 the spiritual impact is no less significant.

The talents exhibited throughout the camping program are tremendous: teaching, leading, worshipping, nurturing, and other program specific talent. During 2009 CRM published the 2010 summer season brochure listing 40 different types of camps, totaling 155 events at Camp Allegheny, Jumonville, and Wesley Woods. Beside the many volunteers in the camping program there are 36 talented young adults paid as counselors. Other staff cook, clean, maintain, and administer the three camp sites. Each person is talented in his or her own way.

The financial resources that are given to the program and camp sites through Mission Share are a huge help. These dollars pay for the 36 staffers at about \$94,000. The support goes to not only a paycheck but leadership and relationship development. This funding reinforces the mission of the Annual Conference to provide leadership, connection, and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The remaining CRM budget of \$36,000 goes to promotion, training events, and supplies to encourage United Methodists and people beyond the church to send young people to our camps.

CRM lives out the Mission, Vision, and Core Value of the Annual Conference with the resources you provide.

Seth A. McClymonds, Jr., CRM Chair

CAMP ALLEGHENY

Praise the Lord! The ministry at Camp Allegheny continues to grow and thrive! Following are some highlights of 2009 to report to you.

First in 2009 an independent organization, Intergenerational Communications Solutions, conducted an External Communications Audit of Camp Allegheny. Among many other things, the audit looked at why people come to Camp Allegheny for retreats and summer camp. Following are the top 5 reasons why folks choose us:

1. **The staff is courteous and helpful.** We take the responsibility and privilege of hosting retreats and running a summer program very seriously.
2. **Facilities are clean and cared for.** We are always working hard to care for what we have.
3. **There is a lot to do.** We are always adding activities for both retreats and summer camp.
4. **It helps me/us grow in Faith.** Praise the Lord! That is why we are here.
5. **The food is good.** We are very proud that we have "broken the mold" here by providing high quality meals for everyone.

We celebrate that summer 2009 was one of our busiest ever. We had an increase in summer resident campers as well as hosted some new groups. The "Camp Allegheny Christian Wrangler" continues to increase in attendance and grow and evolve into a dynamic horse program. We were also a part of using our connectional system to improve the lives of children from rural Appalachia. The churches of Ligonier valley held

fundraisers throughout Lent, gathered items and performed a work project at camp for the children from the other side of the mountain ridges of New Paris area in Bedford County to assist them in attending a week of summer camp. What a great outreach and mission.

While retreat attendance was down slightly, we have served several new large groups that upon the end of their retreat are so excited about Camp Allegheny they immediately have rebooked for the next year and are recommending us to many others. We continue to move Camp Allegheny ahead into the 21st century in both Marketing and in camp services: website development, e-newsletters, Facebook pages, YouTube videos to name just a few.

We continue to make numerous improvements on facilities including a remodeling of Hemlock lodge and landscaping throughout the camp.

We have been blessed with a great staff that truly sees the camp as a year round extension ministry / mission of the Western PA Conference. We cannot thank the conference enough for their faithful support of Camp Allegheny.

The Camp Allegheny Board has established a priority of paying off the indebtedness of our Heartwood Facility. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Camp Allegheny Board, Merritt H. Edner, Chair

JUMONVILLE

God is good! While the last several years have been full of many challenges, Jumonville continues to be very blessed. We continue to have wonderful fruitful ministry take place on this special mountaintop and campers who come to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The entire national economic climate has affected the number of campers and guest groups that we have been able to serve. So many families have been dealing with unemployment and underemployment that it has greatly affected the ability of our guests to pay for their mountaintop experience. We have been extremely blessed that our Jumonville donors have given more than ever to our Kidz2Kamp program to help both campers and retreat guests to be able to experience the Jumonville difference. Across the country there were many camps that experienced decreases of up to 25% in their annual attendance. We felt blessed that we were just 7% down from 2008 and were actually just about on track with our 2007 attendance stats.

Marketing in today's ever changing world of technology continues to remain a very real challenge. Can you believe that some colleges are no longer issuing emails to the incoming freshman because email is now a thing of the past! Text messaging, Facebook, and Twitter have now taken over as the way to communicate. Email is now considered old school and is looked at like "snail mail." WOW, what a challenge to keep up and try to stay connected! Jumonville has just subscribed to a service called Tatango that allows us coordinate bulk text messages. That will help us to communicate more effectively with our summer staff. Many of them rarely check email anymore. In order to reach them, we're better off using Facebook. We now have a Facebook Fan Page listed as Jumonville Camp & Retreat Center. Times sure have changed!

Camp has always been about building relationships and these new social network tools are helping us to reach more campers and guest groups so that more and more people every year have an opportunity to respond to the message of the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. Our methods will continue to change, but our goal will always remain.... to share the Good News and invite more people to become disciples for Christ.

Another new marketing effort that was started this past year was to help sponsor Christian concerts. In 2009, we helped sponsor groups such as Third Day, Building 429, Stephen Curtis Chapman, and Skillet. While you may not know the names of those groups, it has helped us connect with the youth, youth leaders, pastors and families who are active in the conference. Many people drive two or more hours to attend events in Pittsburgh, and are willing to drive two hours to Jumonville. It has also been a good way to recruit potential summer staff.

Our donors totally blessed us with wonderful support again this past year. In 2009, we were raised over \$265,000 in gift income. This past year also marked the successful completion of our swimming pool renovation project. I am delighted to report that in addition to the \$300,000 that we raised for that project, we raised another \$35,000 to pay for a new exterior wall for our bathhouse. Both projects are finished and we are debt free! Praise God and special thanks to all those who sacrificed to make that possible. We also had three very successful fund-raising events last year. Our Golf Fundraiser raised almost \$11,000 which was a 45% increase over the previous year. Our Spring Dinner raised almost \$22,500 for our Kidz2Kamp program and the Jumonville Sponsors Dinner raised the extra money that we needed to pay for the new bathhouse wall. How blessed we are to have such wonderful supportive friends!

In 2007, we received news that the DeVos Foundation would no longer be giving any grant money to support HOPE Camp. With that loss of between \$35,000 - \$40,000, we launched our Kidz2Kamp program to help fund HOPE Camp and our regular campership program. Since then, we have been able to cover all of our operational costs for HOPE Camp as well as provide significant financial aid for summer campers and retreat guests. We are indeed grateful to the numerous churches and individuals who have helped to make this program possible. We are grateful that as we begin 2010, we have a balance in our Kidz2Kamp program of over \$65,000.

Another major facility change for us this past year was the decision to remove the stately stone Jumonville entranceway and to hold a contest to design a new entrance. The old entrance had developed stress cracks and the design of the stone archway made it very difficult for groups arriving in buses to be able to make the turn into campus. We actually had some buses get stuck and had to use the tractor to pull them out. It was time to retire the landmark.

So after 55 years of faithful service, the old entranceway was removed. We are excited about the new design and plans are in place for the new entrance to be completed by May 2010. The new design features a stone wall with four flags, nicely landscaped, and with new lights to help show it off at night. The new stone entrance will be a positioned with a wonderful view of the cross in the background that will surely be used for thousands of photos in the years to come.

I continue to be blessed when we travel to various events and are greeted by folks who have been to Jumonville in past years. We so often hear of wonderful mountaintop experiences where lives have been touched by the awesome power of God on our campus. They are thrilled to see Jumonville's mountaintop ministry continuing to give youth and adults a vital opportunity to experience God's love and grace.

As I begin my 28th year of service as Jumonville's Executive Director/President, I am grateful and honored to be a part of Jumonville's ministry. What a joy to work along side such a great group of dedicated staff and a wonderful supportive board! We may be in very difficult economic times, but that cannot be diminished by our many donors, deans and counselors, group leaders and guests, and our many friends that continue to make Jumonville a special place for so many. Know that you are all loved and appreciated, and that you have all blessed us immensely. It is my prayer that God will bless you for your faithfulness to Jesus by your service to this special mountaintop called Jumonville.

Larry Beatty, Jumonville President

WESLEY WOODS

Wesley Woods continues to serve the church by providing a place where children, youth and adults can come and enjoy the wonderful natural surroundings of camp throughout the year. Yes, Wesley Woods is open year round. Skiing in the winter, hayrides in the fall, horseback riding in all the seasons and of course there is summer where over 45 summer camps come for a week.

The year 2009 was an eventful year. Economics and camp participation influenced many changes in the camping ministry. Bob Kobelish, the Christian Camping and Conference Association CEO stated that all the camps should be prepared. Recommendations from Bob were: "Engage with your constituents, camper and guests user groups, alumni, donors, neighbors, and community agencies as you were caregivers not marketers. Seek out cooperative ventures with other camps. Make changes that you always wanted to. Chances are you will be followed or forgiven". We attempted many changes. Some were successful, and others not so successful.

An emphasis on Board Member training was one area that the camp changed in 2009. The Executive Director offered training during the spring and fall to educate new board members about the camp. This included their job descriptions and responsibilities as new board members, plus a tour of all the program areas, facilities and grounds. Another area of experimentation was in the marketing of the camp. Wesley Woods did some aggressive marketing with TV, Radio, Websites, and Bill Boards. Along with this, the camp engaged the guests with a survey throughout the year, and was surprised with the results, which have prompted additional marketing and operational changes for 2010. From these surveys we have become more aware of the needs of our guests.

In July 2009 The Wesley Woods Board hired Charlie Crosby as the new Maintenance Director. Charlie comes with great maintenance skills. He has proven himself many times with the aging facilities of the camp. The camp has truly been blessed by Charlie! Earlier in the year the board approved the hiring of Andy Blystone whose focus would be on the Marketing and Programming of the camp. Andy will float between Program, Maintenance, Housekeeping and Food Service during the non-summer months and during the summer will focus on the Summer Camping Program. This arrangement has worked out very well.

In 2009 Wesley Woods lost two wonderful women of the camp, Dottie Patterson and Dorothy Dearborn. They were both influential in many of the camp's success stories over the years. Other areas concerning past individuals and groups that have made a difference at the Camp were highlighted at the 2009 Annual Booster Dinner. Lee Baker

was honored by the Wesley Woods Hall of Fame Award. Other recipients during the evening were, Ann George receiving the Volunteer Award, and the Christ Community UMC receiving the Group Volunteer Award.

On December 1, 2009 Wesley Woods made its final payment for the New Pool in the amount of \$125,000. This was a great accomplishment for all that were involved with this campaign.

Total usage (off season and summer combined) decreased in 2009 by 7%. We hope this trend will change in 2010. Currently this has been the case early into 2010 season; usage has increased in January-March compared to last year. 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!

Herbert J West, Executive Director

OLMSTED MANOR

After 40 years, Olmsted Manor is in many ways still the best kept secret in northwestern Pennsylvania. This retreat center has been used by many United Methodists, as well other people of various denominations, yet we are unknown to a great many more. Marketing and promotion has been on the minds and hearts of the Olmsted board members over the past few years. At the forefront of this matter is not only how to introduce Olmsted to new individuals and church groups, but also how do we draw in younger users to Olmsted as we begin the second decade of the 21st century.

In the past year, our usage has been down slightly compared to previous years. This of course, is not surprising considering the stagnant economy. However, Olmsted has continued to grow in popularity with our users, and relationships continue to be strengthened with each passing year.

Olmsted is blessed to have a board of directors with enthusiasm, talent, and most of all, a love for Olmsted and the ministry that takes place there. The board is led by an executive committee whose members include: Tom Burkett, board president; Aaron Kerr, vice president; Donna Atwell, secretary; Brenda Thompson, assistant secretary; Sue Wilson, treasurer; and Jim Willats, assistant treasurer.

In 2009, three board members terms expired. They included: Pam Gardner, Thomas Chacko, and George Porter. We are grateful for the gifts and talents shared by these individuals during their terms of service. Subsequently, the board welcomed Laurajane Stone, Sibyl Ream, and Joe Street to their first term of service. Also, Kathy Mikesell and Jeff Sterling joined the board filling vacancies due to resignation.

An exciting development for the retreat center has been a concerted effort to become the continuing education center for the conference. Olmsted has been in partnership with the Conference Continuing Education and Formation Committee. This joint venture is part of greater plan to provide high quality continuing educational programs for the clergy of the Annual Conference, as described by the recently adopted *Believe Again!* plan. In the past year, Olmsted has provided some 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.

On December 6th and 13th of 2009, Olmsted Manor welcomed over 200 area residents to an open house. *Christmas at Olmsted Manor* featured extensive decorations

and refreshments in the Manor for a two night gala event. The Olmsted staff did all the preparation and hosting of this very successful holiday happening.

Olmsted Manor administrates an educational trust fund providing educational travel experiences to clergy and spouses. The Russell E. & Evelyn June Perry Educational Trust Fund was established in 1989. In the past, we have taken eligible clergy to England, Turkey, and Cuba. Upon announcement of a trip, clergy may apply for scholarships for up to one half the cost of the trip for themselves and their spouse. Administration of the Trust is carried out by the executive director of Olmsted Manor and an administration committee of its board. The Trust is held by the United Methodist Foundation of Western Pennsylvania under the conditions agreed upon by the parties involved. The market value of the trust on 12-31-09 is \$368,940.

Olmsted Manor is not planning any major building projects in the near future. The last capital improvement project was the expansion of Groves Lodge with the Annex. The fully accessible six room addition completed in 1998 expanded our capability to house anyone with a disability. This greatly enhanced our ministry in that it enables us to welcome those with various disabilities and enjoy their gift of attendance to our programs and events.

The Olmsted property is unique and is viewed by many as sacred space. Ongoing maintenance of both buildings and grounds is as challenging as it has ever been with rising costs and diminished revenue. We have been blessed with talented and committed staff members who have practiced cost containment and good stewardship through the years.

We recognize that our unique rural location is a mixed blessing as we plan for the future. Our recent marketing studies and discussions have led us to the realization that where we are is where we are going to be. In light of these discussions, prayerful conversations have led us to the phrase, "Come Away," as an inviting lure to come and experience what this retreat center has to offer. "Jesus said to his disciples, 'Come away to a deserted place and rest a while.' Mark 6:31. Olmsted is and can be that place of rest for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of their faith and relationship with God. The power of our ministry is in many ways our location.

In conclusion, after 40 years of ministry in Christian hospitality we believe more than ever that the need is great for places like Olmsted. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I am pleased to report that Olmsted Manor continues to serve God and the church by "Providing Christian Hospitality in a Hostile World."

Jody Z. Larson, Executive Director

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

Happy 40th Anniversary Christian Associates! After more than a year's collaboration and discernment, the then predominantly Protestant Pittsburgh Council of Churches joined with Catholic and Orthodox dioceses to form a new entity committed to seeking the unity of Christ's Body in 1970. Forty years later the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, UMC along with 25 other Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant judicatories across the region continue that ecumenical journey. Your partnership with Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania (CASP) seeks to be "a Unifying Voice in the name of Jesus Christ for the Mission of the Gospel and the Wholeness of Communities." In the name of Jesus diverse confessions and traditions find common

ground for witness and service. By the time of your Annual Conference CASP will welcome both a Pentecostal (Church of God in Christ) and a historic peace Church (Mennonites) to our family quest for oneness in and through Christ.

I am grateful for the leadership of Bishop Tom Bickerton and Assistant to the Bishop, Robert Higginbotham on the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives. David Morse, Elizabeth Wolfskill and Bill Jacka ably represent the conference as they staff our working committees.

We give thanks to God for the ministry of Lynn Yeso, a conference member, for her five years as Director of Chaplaincy Services at the Allegheny County Jail. We wish her well in her new call in North Carolina, and rejoice in the growth of the chaplaincy and the HOPE pre- and post release programs under her leadership. We welcome Gretchen Hulse as HOPE aftercare coordinator and our partnership with the United Methodist Church Union as we seek to support our HOPE graduates as they move back into constructive citizenship. We seek congregational members who will commit to being mentors in our HOPE ministry.

Callings, a weekly magazine television format program has premiered on Christian Associates enabling our member judicatories to tell their stories of witness and service in the name of our common Savior and Lord. A modest grant is enabling our television ministry to produce several pilot programs of interest to the elderly and their care givers, and the grant enables us to find ways to bring our programming into our faith-based geriatric communities.

The Pittsburgh Summit, the meeting of the G-20 provided an opportunity for Christian Associates to witness to both our unity in Christ amidst diversity, but also to the strong relationships fostered by CASP with our Abrahamic kin. While respecting the integrity and particularity of each tradition's faith The Pittsburgh Summit Interfaith Prayer Service at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland gave witness to the mutual respect and genuine affection which our Christian, Jewish and Islamic leaders share for each other.

Christian Associates is in the midst of a capital appeal to insure the continuation of our mission and ministries. All of our judicatories have been stressed by the demographic and economic shifts in our region. They are no longer able to fully fund Christian Associates in our work. On behalf of the Council of Bishops and Executives, I ask your prayers for generous hearts, as well as the names of potential donors so that this unique expression of the ecumenical journey can continue to impact our region in the name of Jesus and the sake of his coming sovereign reign.

The Council is grateful for the unique ecumenical engagement which we share in this region, the genuine fellowship and open dialogue among our Christian leaders and the opportunity to bring that engagement and fellowship to the grass roots - clergy, laity, and congregations. Know that the bishops and executives are joined in prayer with you during this 2010 Annual Conference.

Donald B. Green, Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Our Mission

Article 12 of the Council's Constitution and Bylaws sets its mission: "The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is a voluntary association of separate and autonomous Christian churches, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through which its members 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.” This brief annual report illustrates how the Council tried to fulfill its mission in 2009. For additional information, visit www.pachurches.org.

Fellowship

The former presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Pr. H. George Anderson, argued in an article in *Ecumenical Trends* that “it is clear that personal relationships between our bishops and leaders of other traditions enabled them to take the lead in ecumenical arrangements of all sorts.” The Council has focused on building and sustaining personal relationships and fellowship among the leaders of its member church bodies by

- engaging in common prayer and worship at its 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 public advocacy ministry, the Council witnessed on behalf of social justice and for the common good. Priorities for the 2009–2010 legislative session were poverty (including all related issues like housing, hunger, health care) and public education. Additional work was done on civic engagement (thanks to an unsolicited grant from the Wallace Global Fund), torture (through the National Religious Campaign Against Torture) and gun violence (which resulted in the endorsement by the Council’s Board of Directors of a resolution on gun violence). Information on issues and opportunities for involvement can be found at www.pachurchesadvocacy.org.

Ministries of Service

The Council supported local churches engaging in trucker and traveler ministry at three sites, where three chaplains 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. Field chaplains and volunteers offer farm workers and their families worship services, spiritual counseling, clothing and other material aid, assistance with immigration issues, emergency transportation for medical care, translation services, emergency housing and food, and recreation.

Witness Among Persons At Leisure

The Council also worked with local park ministry committees to assist in chaplain recruitment and program administration. The annual training held just after the Memorial Day holiday ensured that chaplains were equipped for their ministry. Twenty-three chaplains served campers in 37 state, federal, and private campgrounds.

Continuing Education For Church Workers

The Council sponsored a three-day continuing education event for clergy and other church workers, the Pennsylvania State Pastors’ Conference. Planned by a committee of representatives from member bodies, the conference featured the Gilbert R. Rendle, senior consultant, Texas Methodist Foundation Institute for Clergy and Congregational Excellence.

Darlene R. Schlegel, Office of the Executive Director

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY

2009 was both an exciting and challenging year for the Prison Ministry. We were able to complete 12 *Disciple* classes in 10 prisons in the spring and start 4 new ones and continue the existing ones again in the fall. The Spanish speaking community continues to grow in all of our prisons and we hope to start at least 2 new Spanish classes in 2010.

September 2009 was the 10th Anniversary of WPAPOM and many of our volunteers and Board Members have participated during a good number of those years. David Stains has also participated in many Hispanic worship services in the prisons, and our Missionary Director, Randy Datsko, has been involved in several Mission trips to Cuba where *Disciple* is now being shared in a prison in Havana.

Dorie and Randy both participated in a Criminal Justice Summit in Washington, D.C. in 2009, sponsored by GBHEM, UMC Prison Chaplains, and UM Seminaries, and continued to share information about this ministry in both UMC and other churches throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Our newsletter continues to inform churches and supporters of what is happening in our ministry and monthly financial reports are sent to the Board and Friends of the ministry. We try meet quarterly as weather allows, and by e-mail when that is not possible.

The number of local churches and organizations and individuals has continued to grow over the years and more and more Districts are becoming involved in both prayer and financial support. We were excited to be chosen as one of the 6 Doorways to Hope at Home in our Conference and greatly appreciate the support received from W PA Conference Mission Support

Our ministry has become known in Annual Conferences in KS, NC, and TX and we continue to collaborate with the individuals involved in Restorative Justice in those areas.

Although it has been a very rough year financially, through the generous support of many churches, UMWs, and individuals, we continue to serve the incarcerated men, women, youth, and children in Western PA and have very high expectations for 2010 in being able to continue our interactive disciplined Bible study in as many prisons as possible with the help of more volunteers from many of our local churches and communities, and to continue our donations of clothing and supplies to the offenders being released and the children coming out of detention centers or shelters.

Dorie Heckman, Administrative Assistant, WPAPOM

DISABILITIES CONCERNS TEAM

During 2009 churches in the Western PA Conference contributed \$8,959 to the Disability Awareness offering, making accessibility grants totaling \$7,800 (ranging from \$400 to \$1,000 each) possible for nine requesting churches: Avery; Bairdford; Dawson; Heburnia; Manorville; McMasters; Monroeville; Vincent; and West Middlesex. During 2008, only five churches requested grants for beginning projects to assist in facilitating accessibility and accommodation. All Disability offering funds remain in Western Pennsylvania Conference in order to fund accessibility grants and disability inclusion. At the end of 2009 there was \$10,126 remaining in the reserve grant fund.

Disability Concerns also sponsored a retreat at Olmsted Manor for people challenged by physical, mental or emotional issues. Twenty people attended the September 13-15th retreat this past year, making use of every one of the accessible rooms. Participants pay \$75 of the total fee with necessary caregivers attending free of charge. Keith and Alyce Weaver Dunn led the 2009 retreat, expounding effectively on the profound meaningfulness of the 23rd Psalm. During 2009, our committee received one new member. The committee realized, however, that a 2008 project of gathering resources for each district that would assist churches faced with mentally and emotionally challenged members was not highly productive, gathering resources for only three districts. In addition, although the present retreat is deeply meaningful and important, enlarging it with many additional days would be too expensive and arranging adequate transportation for the disabled would become a problem. Instead, the committee constructed an idea for holding Disability Days in a totally accessible church in each district during 2011 with one pilot Disability Day in 2010 to test the concept. The Disabilities committee meets every three months and the committee chair participates on the CCN committee.

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

“So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover’s life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.” Paul, servant of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:9-11)

Paul’s prayer is one that is as authentic today as it was for the Philippians in those early days of Christianity. The WPA Conference Board of Discipleship, working out of the conference core value of love, has tried to be sensitive to and discerning of the tremendous challenges that are being addressed by our conference churches, agencies, boards, cabinet and conference staff. These challenges are reflective of a changing culture, a recession economy, a skewed demographic in western Pennsylvania and the rapid growth of technology that demands innovation in the life of the church. However, being mindful of these challenges, working toward a renewed church that meets and grows beyond these challenges and embracing efforts made to move forward with faith and trust by all concerned in no way shifts our attention from Paul’s message to us, as individuals and as corporate bodies of Christ: that our love be “sincere, intelligent and that we live a circumspect and exemplary life that Jesus would be proud of. That our life be bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all and getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.” This is discipleship!

The goal of the Board of Discipleship is to have the leaders of our conference focus on discipleship in all its various ministries, endeavors, “arenas,” and settings so that a spiritual, passionate connection among all people in WPA becomes more than a vision but a tangible, energizing reality. We aim to encourage, support, guide and network with leaders to make this happen. The Board of Discipleship’s mission is to provide leadership, connection and resources so that discipleship ministries thrive with best practices, safe sanctuaries, and identifiable skill sets to “get the job done.”

Working with the Conference Connectional Network to coordinate efforts throughout the conference, the Board realizes the importance of “hands-on” servant ministry as individuals and congregations live into and mature through active, involved, need-based, personal outreach. It is through heartfelt participation that discipleship becomes meaningful which then leads to a “teachable moment.” Therefore, the need to engage all age levels, all racial and ethnic backgrounds, all social conditions and people with special needs in servant ministries is instrumental to vibrant discipleship. VBS, camping, special worship services, work team mission trips, food distribution, youth groups, children’s clubs, parenting classes, financial seminars, Bible studies, nursing home ministries....the list goes on and on. While all this is commendable, we need to find ways to partner together in these ministries to increase the enthusiasm, determination, joy and personal experience of the faithful leaders and participants. Finding, developing, retaining and using volunteers throughout the life of the church is also a tremendous challenge. Praise and thanksgiving to God for both clergy and lay leaders who have felt the call and are mindful of the challenges but are not deterred for the mission. Let us move forward praying that “our love will flourish and that (we) will not only love much but well.”

Mary Lou Lazear, Chair

ETHNIC MINORITY LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

The work of this committee is two-fold. The first is that we have been working diligently in preparing to launch a team that will develop a comprehensive plan to dismantle systemic racism within the annual conference. We have employed consulting services from Crossroads Incorporated based in Chicago, IL. They have provided facilitators which has helped develop a framework which leads to a better understand critical elements in the origins of systemic racism. These principles are critical as we develop our strategic plan. Our plan was presented at the Conference Connection Network and will be present at the Annual Conference in June.

Our hope is that this effort will help us fulfill our mission of reaching our focus areas of dismantling racism, creating new places for new people, and to develop Christian principled leaders.

William B. Meekins, Jr., Co-chair
Robert A. Wilson, Co-chair

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE (CoRR)

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (§643) requires each annual conference to have a Commission on Religion and Race or other structure to “assume responsibility for such matters as:

- a) Providing resources and training...
 - b) Examining ethnic representation on all of the conference boards, agencies, and committees...
 - c) Working with conference boards and agencies as they seek...racial inclusiveness.
 - d) Providing a channel of assistance to racial and ethnic groups...”
- and twelve other areas of work to monitor and assist in the dismantling of racism.

The Conference Commission on Religion and Race has endeavored to fulfill our assigned tasks. Racism is defined as prejudice plus power. The systems of our society

were created to deliver goods and resources to those in power. White privilege is so much a part of the way we do business every day that it is difficult for us to see that it exists. We must recognize this truth and fight to change this discrimination. We are concerned that many clergy in the Conference have no recognition of the extent they/we are racist. People must be exposed to the truth and convicted by the Holy Spirit that racism exists and is sin. There is no African-American United Methodist church paying a full salary and the number of African-American congregations has declined in the Conference.

We, as the Commission on Religion and Race, realize that dismantling racism requires the participation of all Christians for we are each an “ambassador of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:11-21). We ask that every member of the Annual Conference and every United Methodist will make this a priority in daily living.

CoRR has considered the needs of ethnic pastors in cross-cultural appointments. We had a representative at the Asian pastors’ event in Chicago and at the national Black Methodists for Church Renewal event in Pittsburgh. Our chairwoman participates in a Jurisdictional GCoRR Google Group for sharing lessons learned, resources, and important information. The *Believe Again!* program is sponsoring Crossroads from Chicago to come and deal with issues of systemic racism. Our leadership team has met with the Bishop and is asking for his help in preparing a service of racial reconciliation to be held at Annual Conference. Recommended reading:

- *When Racism is Law & Prejudice is Policy: Prejudicial and Discriminatory Laws, Decisions and Policies in U. S. History* by Edward Rhymes.
- *Meeting God at the Boundaries* by Lucia McSpadden
- *Dismantling Racism* by Joseph Barndt
- *Embracing Diversity* by Charles R. Foster

The Commission on Religion and Race is grateful for all who stand against racism in large or small ways. We pray the day soon comes when racism is eliminated from the church, society, and, indeed, the whole world.

August B. Twigg, Secretary

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 a Clinic on Evangelism featuring speakers from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and a Congress on Evangelism lead by Eddie Fox and George Morris. We have also held two training events focused on Christian witness. We are currently planning our next Clinic for March 2011 featuring Josh McDowell.

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 completed developing policies and guidelines for General Evangelist. This information will inform those who desire to explore the calling of General Evangelist and will 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 to develop a holistic understanding of evangelism. In essence evangelism is

witnessing the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed by proclaiming salvation in various settings and contexts and living out grace in practical and visible ways. Evangelism is one integral part of all of our Christian life and not just one 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, and to ignite and sustain a passionate, spiritual connection with Christ among all people in Western Pennsylvania.

Ken Duffee, Chair

EASTERN GERMAN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

The partnership between the conferences of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Germany was initiated at the beginning of Bishop Bashore's tenure in the fall 1988. A committee was formed at that time to seek an appropriate partnership in then-communist eastern Europe; and it was determined that the greatest facility lay with eastern Germany, as Bishop Bashore and then Bishop Ruediger Minor, a native of that conference, were well-acquainted and both able to correspond in both languages. The first direct correspondences between members of the two conferences occurred about the beginning of 1989. Since those early days when our conference viewed ourselves in ministry to the German churches then under communism, to multiple cultural and mission exchanges between us in the 1990's, we have cultivated a true peer partnership in the 21st century.

Many local church-to-church partnerships continue their work and we count their numerous contributions as priceless. Among the oldest and most fruitful has been the bond between Mt. Lebanon and Zwickau-Planitz, a partnership that involves near-annual exchanges of visiting teams for enrichment and mission. Within the last year, an exchange visit strengthened ties between Homestead Park UMC and the church of German partnership chair Werner Philipp of Dresden; and a new partnership has begun between the churches at Rodewisch, Germany, and Homer City UMC.

Our committee manages three annual projects—the inter-conference prayer day in early January, with a list of prayer foci or printed liturgical prayer provided in the *Interlink* in December; a display table at Annual conference; and the Advent daily devotion booklet, distributed to all pastors in November. Anecdotal feedback indicates that these prayer and meditation tools are used by a growing number of churches across our conference each year. The Advent devotional is now made available online at our conference website.

In 2009 we celebrated 20 years since the initial contacts between our conferences with special observances at Grove City in June.—and in October-November, the fall of the Berlin Wall, where Mary Garber represented our conference partnership at the Berlin celebration.

For information on these projects, or other ways you may be more involved in our partnership's work, inquire of chair Joe Stains.

The partnership has progressed with a very modest budget, and very generous contributions from pastors and laity throughout the conference in the context of special events and tours. Great thanks to the dedicated committee members: Rick Russell

(secretary), Gale Boocks, Joy Conti, Erin Eidenshink, Mary Garber, Grace Killian, and Duane and Muriel Slade.

Joseph R. Stains, Chair

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The WPA Conference Board of Global Ministries continues to consider God's mission today in our conference, nation, and the world, and our response as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

In our 2009 meetings, discussion took place concerning the possibility of a Conference-to-Conference Partnership in West Africa with the eventual selection of Zimbabwe as the country. Legislation was prepared and with approval of Annual Conference, the partnership is being developed through the Global Health Initiatives Team with Joel Garrett as chair.

Legislation was also submitted to Annual Conference and approved, to establish as regional ministries for the next quadrennium, six missions from the Advance Specials list with the stipulation that they be located in the large population areas of Western PA Conference and have established ministries covering a large service area. The six chosen were Center for Hope in Ambridge, Connellsville Area Community Ministries, Erie United Methodist Alliance, United Methodist Human Services in Johnstown, Northside Ministries in Pittsburgh and the Prison Outreach Ministry. Publicity was planned and a brochure for promotion designed to encourage local churches to get involved in these regional ministries through learning about their programs, supporting them with financial gifts and prayers, and participating in volunteer work.

An undated, all inclusive offering envelope was designed as a cost effective measure for contributions to conference Special Sunday offerings. They will be available upon request along with promotional resources.

The possibility of God's justice, mercy, peace and love becomes more of a reality in our world as we proclaim the gospel of Christ and work together through missions we support.

Carole Smith, Chair

HEALTH AS WHOLENESS

The vision of the team is for the development of "communities of * wholistic wellness" throughout the Annual Conference --- communities that support and nourish the development of the interrelated and dynamic wellness of body, mind and spirit. Wholistic wellness helps then to promote and sustain that passionate spiritual connection with Christ.

*Wholistic wellness includes the spiritual, physical, psychological, mental, social/interpersonal and environmental aspects of wellness.

The mission of the Health As Wholeness Team is to provide leadership, connection and resources that will assist the people of Western Pennsylvania to live lives that are wholistically healthy (body, mind and spirit) and therefore 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."

The goals of this team are based on the scripture "to love" – to love God through service to others, to love ourselves by practicing wholistic health promoting behaviors

(for body, mind and spirit) and to love others through providing them with the care, information, tools and opportunities to live wholistically healthy lives.

#1 – Promote an understanding of wholeness, the role of the church and the resource(s) of the Health As Wholeness Team.

- Developed logo for *Health As Wholeness, Pathways to WHoly Living*.
- Began development of Health As Wholeness website with theme of *Pathways to WHoly Living*, based on the successful Arkansas Conference site with three major components for individuals, congregations and one for clergy, families and staff. See our website and logo at www.wpaumc.org/health. Although much of website is still under construction, many resources can be found including health education resources from HIGHMARK.
- Developed and provided presentations at district trainings and UMW meetings on John Wesley's teachings, health and wholeness, health ministry and SPRC training on clergy health.
- Program and resource information disseminated through *The Interlink*, *E-News*, *Cross and Flame*, district newsletters.
- Presence at 2009 Annual Conference
 - o Presentation on Health As Wholeness with wholistic health promotion activity by HIGHMMARK.
 - o Arrangements for HIGHMARK truck and opportunity for completion of wellness profile
 - o Arrangements for HIGHMARK information table and stress reduction classes
 - o Information table on Health as Wholeness, health ministry and general health information. Also drawing for health promoting tools.
 - o *Golden Sneaker Award* with walking program and marked course including walk-a-thon fund-raiser for *Nothing But Nets*.

2 – Promote the wholistic health of clergy, clergy families and staff

- Coordinated resources and programs with HIGHMARK
 - o 2 mailings in 2009
 - o 2 campaigns 2009
 - *Strides for Health* – fall 2009
 - *T'is the Season* --- winter 2009-10
- Coordinated with Board of Pensions
- Coordinated with HIGHMARK for Bishop's District Days (10 programs in first half of 2009)
- Forming Wellness Teams for creating wellness-promoting opportunities with the Formation of Wellness Team at Conference Center – begun February 2009
- Worked to promote, coordinate and implement wellness- promoting programs provided through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB)
 - o *Servant Leadership: A model for Personal and Professional Self-Care*
 - Joy Conti and Barb Lewis completed first and second level trainings to qualify to lead program in conference.
- Conducted Demonstration Program in Connellsville District with STEPs program of Fayette County -- Clergy and spouses (January 2009)

#3 – Promote Communities of Wholistic Wellness through Health Ministry Teams in local churches, building on their ministries and the gifts of all members.

- Provided consultation to local churches
- Conducted Demonstration Program in Connellsville District with STEPs program of Fayette County -- for Congregations (February 2009)
- Began identification of individuals and teams for development of health ministry in each district. First steps have begun in Connellsville, Erie-Meadville, Kane and soon Pittsburgh.
- Began database of health ministers and parish nurses
- Provided information on health ministry at Annual Conference, presentations throughout conference and on new web site.

Joy Conti, Chair

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University has many stories to tell – to the nations of Africa, and the world.

During Zimbabwe's economic and political struggles of recent years, United Methodist-related Africa University continued to educate leaders for all of Africa. For a time in 2009, it was the only institution of higher education in Zimbabwe open for classes. We celebrated our 3,000th graduate with the 2009 graduating class.

In the 2009-2010 academic year, our 1,100 students represented 28 African countries. We have a substantial waiting list of students eager to attend on campus or through our emerging distance-learning curriculum.

For all of this, we thank God for the prayers and support of United Methodists. In 2009, annual conferences contributed more than \$2 million to the apportioned Africa University Fund. That represents 86 percent of the \$2.5 million goal set by the 2008 General Conference.

United Methodists' support for Africa University creates opportunities for Africans to help Africans. Our graduates are living out the United Methodist vision for the Four Areas of Focus:

- *Leadership*: Tolbert Thomas Jallah Jr. is a prime example. A graduate of AU's Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance, the former advisor to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is now Secretary General of the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Churches in West Africa.
- *Global Health*: Bigi Ruhigita, a nurse from the Democratic Republic of Congo, earned her master's degree in public health at AU. She returned to Congo to work in a 50-bed clinic she and her siblings founded in honor of their father.
- *Ministry with the Poor*: Isaiah Njimbu, a 2006 graduate, returned to Lubumbashi, DRC, to find many children orphaned because their parents died of AIDS. In response, Njimbu started the Child Action Initiative, a nongovernment organization. Today, this ministry still thrives.
- *Church Growth*: Daniel Mhone was instrumental in establishing 28 local churches in the newly established Malawi (Africa) Missionary Conference. He credits Africa University for increasing his capacity as a pastor.

In December 2009, we joyfully celebrated the inauguration of Bishop David Kekumba Yemba and professor Fanuel Tagwira as the university's third chancellor and vice chancellor.

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila praised the university's dedication to Africa at our annual seminar commemorating former United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld.

Every annual conference is vital to the success of the dream that has become Africa University. Your support educates leaders in theology, agriculture, social sciences, health sciences, and peace and justice.

Jim Salley, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

We greet you in friendship, thanking God for your leadership of the church's ministry. Many of you have given prayerful support to the Boston University School of Theology (STH) during the past year, and we thank you. You encourage us as partners in mission and in the pioneering work that has marked our particular mission in the past year. Thanks in large part to many of you, we have traveled the country, heard your hopes for the future, and launched many new initiatives.

What has happened during this year?

- Student enrollment increased in 2009-2010 over the previous year. Our dynamic student body has led STH efforts to respond to the people of Haiti, to enhance the School's sustainability work, and to create new forms of theological dialogue among people with diverse perspectives on God and God's creation.
- The Seminary Singers have revived the annual choir tour tradition, singing their way from Northern Virginia to Connecticut.
- Travel seminars have studied in Cuba and Ephesus (modern Turkey).
- The STH faculty published eight books in the past year, and they were honored with two book prizes, two teaching awards, one promotion to a Boston University endowed chair, and one leadership award.
- Professor Anjulet Tucker joined our faculty in 2009, bringing her expertise in Sociology of Religion and her specialized study on Black Pentecostal churches.
- Professor Dana Robert is delivering major addresses around the world in 2010 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference. The School will also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Truman Collins Chair in World Christianity and Mission, sponsoring special events in Fall 2010 and soaring efforts to raise funds for the Chair, thanks to an anonymous challenge grant of \$420,000.
- Co-directors of Contextual Education, Sam Johnson and Elizabeth Parsons, are expanding STH partnerships with local churches, service agencies, and faith-based communities, helping us extend the breadth and depth of our work in contextualizing theological education.
- The ATLAS for Alums Program now provides free online ATLAS Access to all STH alums, enabling them to utilize over 140 journals in their ministries! Please email Maggie Keelan, Development Officer, for the user name and password to ATLAS: mkeelan@bu.edu. We are grateful to the Lilly Foundation for supporting this outreach.
- We are on the road, striving to increase our presence in United Methodist Conferences around the country. Please hold us accountable to this and let us know if you would like a representative from the School to visit in the future!

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Guided by our mission *to educate faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world*, Candler School of Theology continues to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by developing leaders called by God to serve in Christian ministry. Candler is one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church and one of nine graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top 20-ranked research university. Our distinctive commitment to both inspiring minds and empowering 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.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler has placed a new emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. In 2009, we established the Office of International Initiatives and received several grants related to international engagement.

Candler's student body continues to attract younger and more diverse people. Our enrollment stands at 499, with 391 seeking the Master of Divinity. The total student population is 23% US ethnic minority, 11% international, and 50% women, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. Fifty-seven percent of our students are under 30.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the Contextual Education program continues to shape our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic reflection in the classroom. In any given week, Candler deploys more than 250 ConEd students throughout the region to minister to people in congregations, hospitals, and social service agencies. Last year, Candler's ConEd students provided 1/3 of the service hours responsible for Emory University winning the U.S. government's Presidential Award for General Community Service.

Candler's Teaching Parish Program continues to expand into more conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, providing United Methodist students with the opportunity to serve churches throughout their seminary education, earn academic credit for pastoral experience, and complete their MDiv degree in three years. Through the Course of Study regional school at Candler and our five extension schools in the Southeast, we oversaw the educational process of 918 people this past year.

Candler has faced the recent economic challenges with a steadfast commitment to keeping theological education affordable. Although our operating budget essentially will remain flat next year, we are increasing our investment in financial aid. Candler's total financial aid commitment in 2009-10 was \$4.7 million. Eighty-six percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. More than \$2.6 million was provided to 191 United Methodist students.

During 2009-10, Candler celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Sherman Scholarship Fund, which has provided financial assistance to 868 students preparing for pastoral ministry in United Methodist churches.

Our faculty members continually demonstrate their dedication to the church through preaching and teaching engagements, scholarship, and service in local parishes as leaders in their congregations.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its vital relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission depends upon your

support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you undergird this essential ministry in the life of our denomination.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Greetings from Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where six students from the Western PA Conference prepared for ministry during the 2009-10 school year.

- *50th Anniversary:* Planning for 2010 MTSO celebration of 50 years of preparing leaders for the church and the world. In five decades, our school has sent more than 3,000 men and women into vocations of ministry and service.
- *Students:* The school enrolled 230 students from 22 denominations in master's-level courses in the fall semester of 2009. An additional 23 students are pursuing Doctor of Ministry degrees. Three-fifths of all master's level students are United Methodists; the second most common denomination on campus is United Church of Christ, with 8 percent of students. Half of our students are under 40 years old. Students come from 24 states and Korea; 5 percent hail from Pennsylvania.
- *Scholarships:* One-fifth of the students at Methodist Theological School earned full-tuition scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year. The average non-load aid award in 2009-2010 was \$7,200. More than 90 percent received some form of financial aid through work-study, loans or scholarships.
- *Faculty:* Professor Linda Mercadante was named a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology. The program will provide funding during her upcoming sabbatical as she continues research regarding people who consider themselves spiritual but not religious.
- *Events:* MTSO welcomed students, faculty, alumni and the broader community to a number of special events. The theme for October's Schooler Institute on Preaching was "Fireworks from the Pulpit: Prophetic Preaching for Secular Holidays." Dale Andrews, the Martin Luther King Jr. professor of homiletics and pastoral theology at the Boston University School of Theology, offered three presentations, with responses by Yvonne Zimmerman, assistant professor of Christian ethics at MTSO.

In March, the Williams Institute presented Ed Wimberly, provost at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, who spoke on the theme "The Pursuit of Happiness: Practical Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit."

"Small but Significant: Missional Renewal of the Small-Membership Church" was the theme of March's Mission and Evangelism Institute, led by Anthony Pappas, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, and Robin Knowles Wallace, professor of worship and music at MTSO.

Danny Russell, Director of Advancement

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Seated in the nation's capital, centered in Christian faith, Wesley Theological Seminary prepares over 1,000 students annually, representing more than 25 denominations, to become exemplary teachers, preachers, and leaders. In 2009, Wesley welcomed the largest and youngest class in its history; a trend that we look forward to supporting in years to come.

A Capital Seminary – Wesley is expanding its landmark programming downtown at Mount Vernon Square, an innovative venture in contextual theological

education. At MVS, Wesley hosts Master's and Doctoral courses, focusing on urban ministry and public theology, as well as community workshops. MVS is also houses Wesley's Urban Fellows program, which supports students dedicated to inner-city ministry. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/mvs.

A Place for Spiritual Growth and Leadership Development – Wesley's Lewis Center for Church Leadership has launched a new online assessment tool, the Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory (LPLI), designed to provides pastors valuable feedback on 75 criteria of effectiveness in ministry. Information about Lewis Center resources and programs, as well as its free electronic newsletter, Leading Ideas, can be found at www.churchleadership.com.

A Global Investor - Wesley offers a diverse range of programs for clergy and lay leaders, on campus and online. This year, Wesley Ministry Network partnered with the Institute for Discipleship to expand online programming and through the Wesleyan Studies Project will shortly release new courses in Methodist History, Doctrine and Evangelism, including lessons by more than 50 scholars from 11 countries. Learn more at www.wesleyministrynetwork.com.

Wesley offers specializations in Urban Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Emerging Ministries as well as opportunities in the arts, public policy, and intercultural immersion that are buttressed by a rich array of opportunities through the Washington Theological Consortium. A dual degree in International Peace & Conflict Resolution is also possible through American University. Wesley's Doctor of Ministry program extends these offerings through courses that challenge pastors to grow in their specific ministry contexts. The Seminary offers a vital program of scholarship support for the next generation of church leaders. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact our Financial Aid Office to find out which options are suitable for their course of study and calling.

Being Part of the Change You Hope to See - Wesley is a mission-minded community. As agents of creative, collaborative and scholarly practice, the members of Wesley's 2010 graduating class alone will minister to more than half a million people in the course of their careers. I welcome you to join them.

God's call is bold. Your seminary should be too.

Meet us at www.wesleyseminary.edu.

David McAllister-Wilson, President

BOARD OF LAITY

The laity board continued its work in forming and expanding District Lay Teams to bring the local church and districts and the conference closer together and working toward a common goal.

I attended the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders in Sacramento in February. James and Mary Scott were the presenters and brought a wealth of new information to the Annual Meeting for the Conference Leaders to take home with them, they challenged us with new ideas and concepts to help us to *grow* the church.

In April we planned the Lay Academy for Annual Conference and once again had a numerous amount of classes to offer the laity and clergy and the classes were well attended.

Immediately after Annual Conference, the Board began planning for the fall Laity Retreat. Our speaker for this event was Gil Rendle. Rendle presented us with new ways to have a conversation with each other as leaders and also as laity of the church.

Bishop Bickerton also formed a New Laity Cabinet. We had our first meeting in the fall with more planned. We began a conversation with all District Lay Leaders and their District Superintendents, myself, the Bishop and the extended Cabinet. To help us to realize what we need to be doing in today's changing Religious Community we will be doing a reverse Mentoring process. We need NOT look at if we are doing *things right*, BUT to see if we are doing the *right things*.

I look forward with anticipation to the challenge of a new year and the challenges of the changing communities in which we do church.

What would church look like if.....?

Harry Barbus, Conference Lay Leader

POVERTY TEAM

In our efforts to inspire, facilitate, and resource poverty-related ministries in the churches of our Conference, the Poverty Team is aware that the effort to alleviate and eliminate poverty has to have a multitude of approaches, including the obvious need for education opportunities, job-creation, and health initiatives. These ministries against poverty begin in our churches with the transformation of our hearts. We need an evangelical zeal that comes from the transformation of our hearts by the love of God and the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Only with that empowering transformation will we be able to conduct ministries of both mercy and justice.

In the last year we have conducted "poverty simulations" at the Western PA School of Mission and at a West Virginia regional conference. Both of these were led by Glenna Wilson and others. Clara Belloit also has conducted poverty simulations at Clarion University.

We also created and distributed our *Poverty Directory* detailing "Ideas, Opportunities and Resources for Poverty Ministries by Your Local United Methodist Church." This directory was distributed at the 2009 Annual Conference and at District "Pre-Charge Conference" meetings. It is now available on the Conference web site. Updates will continue to be made on the web site. This directory can be a powerful tool to share within the leadership of the local church.

Planning began for Annual Conference 2010 where we could sponsor a plenary session presentation describing a ministry by *Move the Mountain* called "Circles." This mentoring approach to addressing generational poverty will be yet another possibility for local churches and their members to engage in powerful poverty ministry in their communities.

Our Poverty Team wants to encourage local churches to engage in ministries that address both "situational poverty" and "generational poverty." Ministries to "situational poverty" address the needs of people who are newly caught in poverty. Usually these people can be "helped to help themselves" with relatively quick and temporary help while they recover from an unusual loss. Ministries to help "generational poverty" require a different mentoring approach that enables folks to begin to accumulate the advantages of education, experience, and new perspectives. As mentioned above, the "Circles" concept of mentoring addresses "generational poverty."

We recommend the books by Ruby Payne, *Bridges out of Poverty* and *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty*.

David F. Keller, Chair

COMMISSION ON THE SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH

Since the writing of our last report the Commission on the Small Membership Church has distributed ten \$500 Shared Ministry Grants using funds from Rural Life Sunday offerings. A condition of receiving a grant was to agree to participate in a four hour training experience, *An Introduction to Shared Ministry*. Five training sessions were scheduled for the grant recipients and others. One event was cancelled and the other four were held. Nine of the ten grant recipients had at least one person in attendance at a training session. A total of 32 people attended the introductory events. We plan to continue an emphasis on promoting the development of shared (cooperative) ministries.

Our commission has also been working to provide access to resources for small membership churches through our conference website. At the writing of this report this project is still in process. We will continue working toward an online resource guide for smaller congregations.

Michael Long, Chair

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is established by the *Discipline*. However, our conference has not had an active COSROW in many years. It should not then be surprising that getting COSROW up and going has been challenging.

Major functions of COSROW are:

1. To be informed about the status and role of all women in the total life of the conference.
2. To develop ways to inform and sensitize the leadership within the conference at all levels on issues that affect women
3. To focus on major priorities of issues related to women, which may include sexual harassment policies and procedures, and to enlist the support of the bishop, cabinet, and conference staff in policies, plans and practices related to those priorities.

A major way of being informed is to gather data through monitoring. The monitoring ministry helps us to see how we are furthering the Kingdom here in Western PA Conference. Bias and expectations are communicated to others even without our conscious awareness. Monitoring brings our actions and impacts into conscious awareness, only then can we begin to address and adjust them.

“By showing the sheer numbers—who gets to speak and who does not, who gets elected and who does not and which category of people is most likely to interrupt a person from another group—we can see the strides we have made in being truly just and inclusive. And we can show the church how far we have yet to go.” [retrieved from General Commission website, <http://www.gcsrw.org/Resources/Monitoring.aspx>, on March 1, 2010]

Some things to think about:

- Women are 57% of the lay membership church-wide
- Women are over 50% of students in theological schools

- 24% of clergy church-wide are women
- 7% of 1,000 member or more churches have women as lead pastors
- Only 5% of Americans have had a woman pastor
- Women comprise 2/3 of the general agency workforce and make up 52-69% of executive, management, technical and professional positions- however the majority of women are at 4 of the general boards

Peggy Ward, Chair

CONFERENCE CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

Members of the Conference Corporations Committee were elected by the Annual Conference in June 2009. The chair of the committee began putting together a plan for us to accomplish our work, defined in the conference Bylaws as follows:

[The] Conference Corporations Committee ... shall, on behalf of the members of the Annual Conference, review the plans and financial affairs of each Conference corporation and shall report its findings and recommendations to the members of the Annual Conference.

There are members of the committee from other conference committees. Three representatives of the Council on Finance and Administration were added in mid-August. Representatives of the Conference Trustees were added mid-September.

United Methodist Services for the Aging

- Early October the chair met with three people from United Methodist Services for the Aging: John Zanardelli, Executive Director; Andrew Harvey, Chaplain; and Glenn Gillette, Counsel. We began a conversation about what documentation the different conference corporations would need to share for review in order to submit this report to the Annual Conference.
- The 2008 Audit was received on October 7, 2009, and sent to the committee members for their review.
- A document outlining the corporate structure of the organization and ministries carried out was provided for our understanding and information.
- New projects of 'size' – an email from Counsel Glenn Gillette, Oct. 7, 2008 states "to my knowledge there are no current projects under study."

Arbutus Park Manor

- The chair visited with Rick Wilson, Executive Director; and Gary Bentz, Board President, on Thursday, October 15. We agreed that the last audit would be sent for review, and that any new projects of size would be reviewed with the committee.
- Audits for 2008 were received in early November and sent to the committee members for review. They were distributed and no questions were raised.

Wesbury

- The chair visited with Donald Clawson, Executive Director on Tuesday, October 20. We discussed the relationship that might exist between the committee and the Wesbury Corporation.
- An audit comparing 2007 and 2008 was given to me to distribute to the committee. They were distributed and no questions were raised.

- The committee may be helpful in the drafting of Bylaws – the chair offered legal review by our chancellor prior their being submitted to the annual conference.
- We did not reach agreement on the process regarding new projects. The Executive Director was comfortable with the Wesbury Board handling these without our review. An area newspaper reported plans for the building of a new unit in Conneaut Lake area.

Olmsted Manor

- The chair had a telephone conversation with Jody Larson, Executive Director on Friday, December 3. Sent him files on the Conference ByLaws' description of the work and membership of the committee, a working relationship document, and a listing of the members of the committee. He reported a change in accounting systems that has put them a little behind. They are hopeful of having the 2007 audit completed shortly and will provide me a copy.
- The chair sent Jody Larson an email on January 27, 2010 asking about the audit reports for 2007 and 2008, copying the email to Tom Burkett, Board Chair. Tom Burkett reported on Thursday, February 11th, that the copy of the 2007 audit which he had seen includes a 'clean' audit opinion. Once it is reviewed by the Olmsted Board on March 22, 2010 it will be released to our committee.
- The audit report for year 2007 was received on March 26, 2010.

Other Business..

- After having an initial conversation with Amy Bentz, legal counsel on January 26, 2010, the chair called to set up a meeting with the Bishop to have conversation about changing the relationship that exists between the homes and the annual conference.

Glenn Kohlhepp, Chair

ARBUTUS PARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

It was another exciting year at Arbutus Park Retirement Community. In 2009, Arbutus Park Manor was designated as a Five Star Facility (Much Above Average) under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Five Star Quality Rating System.

God provides, even in the economic downturn of 2009. Arbutus Park Retirement Community was blessed with generous donors, who along with skilled hands, allowed for the expansion of 964 square feet to "Crossroads," our dedicated Alzheimer's unit. We were also able to add an additional 700 square feet to our Rehabilitation Department, again thanks to our generous donors, and Gary L. Bentz, President of Arbutus Park Retirement Community Board of Directors, who spear headed the "Rehabilitating Life: Healing the Human Body and Spirit" campaign. This much needed additional space allowed for the introduction of out patient therapy for our independent living residents on campus, thus making healing the body and spirit easily accessible. As we look ahead to serving the next generation of aging, we have to assess the current services and assess the needs of potential residents. With this additional space we are establishing a Short- Term Rehabilitation program for those residents who need to just "get back on their feet" to return home to independent living.

In July, Arbutus Park held our second "A Splendid Summer Evening," a dinner and play fundraiser in partnership with Green Gables Restaurant and the Historical Mountain Playhouse. Thanks to the generous contributions of our many business partners and dedicated contributors we were able to raise much needed resources for our

Benevolent Care Fund. We look ahead with much excitement for the release of the Mountain Playhouse 2010 Theater Schedule to schedule the 3rd Annual "A Splendid Summer Evening"

In the late summer and early fall Arbutus saluted its rich historical legacy by inviting people of all faith traditions and the general public to celebrate our heritage at the 2009 Arbutus Park Camp Meeting Services. A committee of Arbutus residents, the Board of Directors, and Don Krestar, Arbutus Chaplain, replicated the historical Camp Meetings. The program "Echoes" held four services: revisiting a Summer Youth Camp, a Bible Conference, Missionary Institute, and a Camp Meeting. This four part series was well received by residents, family and our campus community.

As with any industry but especially health care our roles and responsibilities are forever changing. At Arbutus Park Retirement Community we embrace change and look forward to providing quality service and compassionate care to our residents and the community we serve.

Rick Wilson, Administrator

WESBURY UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Despite the Washington babble about restructuring the national health care system and all the convolution that goes along with it, Wesbury has managed to do well. Census is the key to a good portion of our financial health. Wesbury has been very fortunate and our census levels are in the 90+% ranges.

Brian Nageotte, our Chief Financial Officer has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer as of January 1, 2010.

We continue to work on the renovation of Grace Health Center and are getting ready to open fourteen new beds as soon as the new chairs arrive for those rooms.

We have had numerous meetings concerning expanding our operations into other areas in accordance with our Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan adopted by Wesbury's Board of Directors included a directive for management to explore future partnerships and/or affiliations and/or expansion in communities surrounding Meadville. Wesbury began the exploration of possible feeder facilities in Warren, Titusville, Conneaut Lake and Edinboro.

So far, we have nothing but good news to report on Alliance Visiting Nurses. The company is off to a really good start and we hope to see major growth in that business in the future. Alliance Visiting Nurses (AVN) was formed in 2008 by Wesbury, St. Paul's and Concordia Lutheran Ministries. In 2009 Meadville Medical Center joined in Alliance Visiting Nurses and the name was changed to V.N.A. Alliance.

Donald E. Clawson, President/CEO

RUTH M. SMITH CENTER

The Ruth M. Smith Center has had a successful year. Our Preschool program is busting with 32 children, an all time high. Our residential program is considered full with 25 residents. Our residents, children and staff have had a healthy and happy year.

Through a series of grants we were able to replace the original slate roof on the main residential building. The roof was replaced with regular shingles, but in a style that maintains the integrity of the original architecture. Thanks to the generosity of the Cloe United Methodist Church, we are now the proud owners of a twelve passenger Ford van.

After reading about our need in their District newsletter they decided to donate their van to us. This will make life much easier on our Activities Director when planning a trip.

Funding for benevolent care is an ongoing concern. Eighty percent of our residents are considered low income. They are subsidized by the government, but this only covers one third of the cost of their care. Because of the churches, UMW groups, the community and Mission Support we are able to continue to provide them with excellent care. Many of our residents come to us with nothing and have no family support system. We provide them with both.

In this day and age government regulations are constantly changing. County funding is always fluctuating, and we are always faced with new needs to be met. It is our vision to keep evolving to meet these needs in our community. Presently our clientele ranges from age two months, to ninety two years old. There are many levels of physical and mental capabilities as well as emotional needs. The Ruth M. Smith Center and its staff are meeting these needs, and with the proper funding we can continue to do so.

Wendy Stanko, Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The purpose of the United Methodist Women is to be in mission to women, children and youth. The United Methodist Women have been focused on the environment this year. Each district developed its own environmental focus, worked on its objectives and made a report at the Conference Annual Meeting with 119 people in attendance at the Armagh UMC, Armagh, PA on Saturday, October 17. The Conference UMW, under the direction of the Social Action Mission Coordinator, Joan Lucarelli, has emphasized having Green Cleaning Parties where local unit women are learning to make environmentally safe cleaning products which will reduce the cost of purchasing toxic cleaning products. Children, youth and pets will not be exposed to harmful products. At the Cooperative School of Mission which was held July 13-17 (Weekday School) and July 17-19 (Weekend Event), participants learned about Food & Faith, Native American Survival and the Sudan. The Hands-On Mission Project was making cooling neckbands and helmet liners for the soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The United Methodist Women pray for the mission sites and the missionaries listed in the GBGM Prayer Calendar while sending letters and birthday cards to the missionaries.

The Conference United Methodist Women met their \$250,000 pledge to Women's Division.

The Elizabeth A. Bradley Fund Committee disbursed grants to the following agencies and programs for 2009.

1. Children's Community Outreach	Brookville FUMC	\$1,500
2. Children's Ministry Computer Lab	Chippewa UMC	\$ 700
3. After School Outreach	Fellowship UMC	\$1,000
4. Outdoor Classroom	First Bethel UMC	\$1,000
5. Greenstone Music Outreach	Greenstone UMC	\$5,500
6. Children's Ministry	Hot Metal Bridge Faith	\$5,700
7. After School Program	Mars UMC	\$1,000
8. After School at Moorhead	Moorhead	\$ 500
9. Albright Kids Childcare Center	Six United for God Co-op	\$1,000

10. Dorcas Project	United Methodist Human Services	\$1,000
11. Domestic Violence Services	Safe Horizons	\$1,500
12. Grace Learning Center, Inc.	Grace Learning Center	\$2,500
13. Partners for Life	Connellsville Area Ministries	\$1,500
14. Bible Study for Women & Youth	WPA Prison Outreach	\$2,500
	Cooperative School of Christian Mission	
15. Children's School of Mission		\$2,000
16. Tweens School of Mission		\$2,000
17. Youth School of Mission		\$2,000
	Total	\$32,000

The 2009 United Methodist Assembly was held in St. Louis, April 30—May 2. Fifty-two people from WPA attended the Assembly. The United Methodist Women are proud to announce that Karen (recent graduate of Bethel Park High School) and Jamie (a Sophomore at Bethel Park High School) Lucarelli of First Bethel UMC, Bethel Park, presented at the Assembly on a program titled “Past, Present and Future”. They told how they became interested and active in the United Methodist Women from attending the Children’s School of Mission in 2002. Karen is on the Women’s Division Green Team. Jamie is on the Young Women’s Consultative Group for Women’s Division. The WPA Conference UMW is very proud of these two young women leaders.

The United Methodist Women serve not only in their local churches, but on boards and agencies on the District, Conference and General Church levels.

- Donna Burkhart, Conference President, serves on the General Board of Church and Society.
- Carol Fuller (immediate past President of the Erie/Meadville District) is President of the Chautauqua Mission Home. Donna Burkhart, Conference President, and Ardell Johnson, (Kane District) are members of the Chautauqua Mission Home Board.
- Donna Burkhart (Conference President), Betty Roberts (Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach), Kay Magnuson (Kane District President), Wilma Maben (Kane District), Marie Stumpf (Indiana District), and Cindy Hickernell (Erie/Meadville District) serve on the Ruth M. Smith Center Board.
- Donna Burkhart serves on the Connectional Network, the Conference Board of Church and Society, the Commission on Race and Religion, The Bishop’s Israel/Palestine Task Force, Conference Lay Leadership Committee, the Quadrennial Election Process Committee, the Conference Sessions Committee (Privileges & Courtesies), and as a Legislative Section Leader.
- Peggy Ward (Pittsburgh District) is on the North East Jurisdiction Planning Team for 2012.

The United Methodist Women are providing leadership development for women to enable them to become officers on the local, district, conference and general church level. The United Methodist Women are fulfilling their purpose to be in mission to women, children and youth by raising money to support missions and missionaries locally, nationally and internationally in order to provide education, health care, food, spiritual development and work to eradicate poverty.

Donna L. Burkhart, Conference UMW President

THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Investment Committee of the Foundation faced many market challenges during this past year and carefully monitored the activity and performance of its investment managers. By reducing the total return distribution to depositors by one percent for the year, the Unified Balanced account was able to produce a very competitive total yield in excess of 21.2%. This recovery has affirmed the rationale for the conservative investment policies that has guided the Foundation over multiple years.

In spite of the fact that many other grant making Foundations drastically reduced or suspended their awards for 2009, we were able to continue to serve applicants in much the same manner as we had done in previous years. A record number of applications were received this year. We were delighted that the revision and simplification of the process encouraged so many to apply. Awards totaling over \$43,000 were distributed among 24 churches and 14 agencies. Many of the grants assisted community feeding programs.

A major emphasis of the staff of the Foundation is to assist individuals in establishing planned gifts for the benefit of their local church and/or other United Methodist Causes. The importance of these long-term efforts was affirmed as the Foundation received a bequest in excess of 1.4 million dollars for the benefit of a local church. Additionally over \$263,000 in unrestricted bequests were received to assist the Foundation in its ministry to churches, individuals and agencies.

As the Directors and staff of the Foundation continue to seek to improve both the quality and availability of its programs new hardware and software was purchased for the office. Also a comprehensive Communications Audit was undertaken in 2009. Results of this endeavor led to the formation of a task force that includes representatives of the Conference and Foundation staffs. The purpose of this group is to explore new avenues to deliver information and resources to individuals and congregations.

The third Pastors Academy for Stewardship Formation was initiated with the selection of ten pastors to embark on this three year journey in intensive study and sharing. Maxine Beach, Dean of the Theological School of Drew University, provided a three day training on the Biblical Basis of Stewardship.

In October, the Board of Directors held its 20th Founders Day Awards luncheon. The recipient of the award for 2009 was Joan Nagle. Now a resident of South Carolina, Joan had served as the Chair of the Board and was also selected to give the Laity Address to the General Conference in 1988. Over the years this event has honored numerous leaders that have advanced the mission of stewardship.

It was with deep sadness that the Directors mourned the loss of Neal Rogers. Rogers had served the Foundation for many years in a number of different capacities. His insight and commitment to the mission and ministry of the Foundation will be a legacy that will remain for many years.

Against the backdrop of an uncertain economic climate, the Foundation continues to inspire individuals to provide a legacy of both their resources and their faith to provide ongoing support of various ministries and programs. The seeds that are sown today may take many years to mature, but will ultimately bear witness to the passionate endeavors provided by the staff and Directors of the Foundation.

Robert E. Harper, Chair, Board of Directors

ADDENDUM:

It is with deep sorrow that we acknowledge the sudden death of Robert E. Harper, Chair of the Foundation Board on February 24, 2010. Bob's leadership and passion for the work of the Foundation has provided a legacy that shall continue to guide our work for years to come. As life-long member of the Coraopolis United Methodist Church and active leader in the community, his life bore witness to the highest of ideals of our Wesleyan heritage.

Frederick H. Leasure, Executive Director

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

First, the required information. The 2008 *Discipline* ¶ 611 states that every Annual Conference shall have a Council on Finance & Administration (CF&A). The CF&A is tasked with developing, maintaining, and overseeing the financial plan for the Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church. It creates administrative policies and procedures, and supervises the financial management services for the Annual Conference.

The mission of the CF&A is to faithfully assist, sustain, and support all of the ministries of our Annual Conference with dependable resource management. The standards to which the CF&A holds itself and the financial and administrative services of the Annual Conference are the highest Christian ethical principles of integrity, transparency and trustworthiness as well as expertise in faithful fiscal accountability.

As required by the *Discipline*, the CF&A recommends an annual budget to the Annual Conference that consists of anticipated income from Mission Shares, designated investments, and other sources such as program fees and revenues. The annual budget also proposes expenditures related to all anticipated benevolences, programs, clergy support, General Church obligations, and administrative costs. In addition to the annual budget, the CF&A recommends a Dispersal Directive procedure for dealing responsibly with possible situations in which budgeted funds, as approved by the Annual Conference, are deemed inadequate. Income and distribution of funds are carefully monitored to insure that spending is in accordance with the directive of the Annual Conference as expressed through the approved budget and consistent with generally accepted and approved financial practices.

The CF&A is responsible for the oversight and management of the Conference Treasurer's office and the professional financial and administrative services staff of the conference. CF&A and the Conference financial staff also directly work with our auditors, overseeing the teams work and leading it in the vital ministry of insuring that the conference's fiscal responsibilities are carried out with the highest possible accuracy and integrity according to accepted standards of accounting.

Okay, now that that is out of the way...

Greetings from the Council on Finance & Administration. 2009 was quite a year. We received more Mission Share payments this year than in the history of the Annual Conference. Nearly 600 churches faithfully paid their Mission Share apportionments at the 100% mark or higher, while only 9 churches paid 0% of their Mission Share apportionments. Because of your incredible faithfulness and attention to our Mission Share Commitment, we received a total of \$8,286,178 towards our projected

\$9,974,081 requested budget, or better than 83% return on Mission Share askings. On behalf of not only the CF&A but also every committee that reaches out across Western Pennsylvania and around the world in ministry on your behalf, let me say thank you for your diligence and commitment to the budgetary process.

This being only my second year on CF&A, and my first as its Chair, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to Howard Burrell for his many years of service as the previous CF&A Chair and for his support and help in the transition process over the last year. I would also like to thank the rest of the CF&A for all their hard work this past year. This is a tremendous group to work with, and I am privileged, honored, and thrilled to be a part of this team, and to be surrounded by such a wonderfully talented and experienced team.

This year we were tasked with providing several pieces of legislation for consideration, and in doing so, we needed to look at the budget process in a unique way that would help us stay consistent with the five areas of focus adopted by the Annual Conference in 2009. This brings a new look to the budget for this year, a new look, and a new focus on ministry, church growth, new communities of faith, and new commitments to global outreach and ministry.

For 2009 the CF&A continued its commitment to strive for full financial disclosure by providing the Annual Conference with information pertaining to sources of income and expenditures. In addition, the following highlights were achieved:

- This year the CF&A continued its support of the Annual Conference legislation for Local Church Short Term Incapacity Support Funding, which includes a request for every member of clergy to contribute to this account for 2010.
- With the outstanding support of our Conference Finance Department Staff, we have been able to post all local church Mission Share payments on the WPAUMC.org web site on a monthly basis. This information can be found under the “Finance & Benefits” tab, under the link “Mission Share”.
- We continued our monthly assessment and audit of the expenditures within the Annual Conference and of the work of the Conference Connectional Network.
- And of course, we continued to look for ways to support the ministry of the Annual Conference through the monitoring and evaluation of the finances provided by the local church.

The CF&A is privileged to serve the Annual Conference, its ministries, and its agencies. As we venture together into a new decade of ministry, we continue to ask for your prayers and support as we try to find ways to reduce our operating costs while staying consistent and true to our task of ministry. 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 develop ministry opportunities that bring us together as an Annual Conference, and give each of our churches the opportunity to do ministry together that we could not do alone.

Paul Ritchey, Chair

BOARD OF PENSIONS

The Conference Board of Pensions experienced a year of discovery, organization, and focus. We have established three committees within the Board to focus on the work we have to do and how we can do it more effectively and have a broader

participation earlier in the decision making process. The administrative committee is focused on the task of ensuring that we have a good system for billing and collecting the monthly costs of pension, death and disability and health benefits. These tasks include improving the performance of EBDS (recently acquired by Highmark), who has been providing the billing and collection service, and reviewing the system of retiree grants generally for service not formally recognized under the pension plan. The health insurance committee is focused on the many aspects of the active and retiree health insurance and retiree health insurance subsidy. They are also attentive to the projected retiree health care liability and the funds needed to support the liability. The finance committee is focused on improving the reporting of all things financial to the board and increasing the depth of knowledge about the financial decisions that the Board is responsible for each year. Each committee's chair is a member of the Board's executive committee. The executive committee has kept the responsibility for the review of the pension plans and the management of providing an appropriate benefit reserve fund to provide a modest fund to absorb some of the impact from value fluctuation in the market place and other events.

The strains of the 2008-9 economy and stock market cast a long shadow over the activities of 2009 and into 2010. The stress of having nearly a million dollars in extra pension payments due in 2011 and falling to less than fully funded status for the retiree health insurance caused us to take a hard look at some of the decisions that had been made when we had been overfunded as the result of rising stock prices over the years. There are currently three parts to the Pension 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, 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 been relieved of about \$6,000 a year for each of the years 2007-10 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 Board is proposing 2010 legislation to continue this in 2011.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has reviewed the pension, death, and disability plans following the 2008 market meltdown to determine their stability and sustainability. As a direct result of this review it was determined that substantial contributions would be required in 2011 by all Annual Conferences to replenish the asset base of the MPP plan. Our portion of that payment is \$961,340. As part of the review it was also determined that the death and disability plan called the Comprehensive Protection Plan, CPP, had an excess over the necessary reserves. The GBOPHB has established a three year "premium holiday" for this CPP Plan and strongly encourages the Annual Conferences to continue collecting the premiums and redirect them to the payment of the extra pension contribution due. We will be presenting legislation to accomplish this at the Annual Conference in June. It is estimated that \$671,000 would be the 2011 CPP premium that would be directed towards the required

MPP payment of \$961,000. It will be proposed that the balance, estimated at \$291,000, would be paid from our conference’s benefit reserve account.

Medical Insurance Coverage

The medical plan for our active clergy is with Highmark. The plan is a medical retrospective insurance plan where the Conference pays the actual costs within a 20% corridor of the expected annual costs. The expected annual costs are apportioned through the monthly billings to the participants, churches, conference and agencies. Differences between actual costs and expected costs are absorbed by (or added to) Conference health insurance reserves; the Board maintains reserves sufficient to absorb about two year’s worth of adverse excess actual costs.

Medical Insurance for Special Clergy Situations – paid from Mission Share Clergy Widows and Families

Our conference through the mission share budget has for many years covered the full apportioned cost of the medical insurance for clergy widow(er)s and their families until the widow(er) became 65 and moved to Medicare. There are 13 widow(er)s in this group, and the approximate annual cost is \$106,000. As we are challenged to be responsible stewards, we have been reviewing the amount and length of time that we are paying for health insurance for surviving spouses, and we have concluded that the present arrangement is generous beyond norms even in our denomination and overlooks the changing demographics of clergy spouse careers, etc. We will be proposing legislation this year to provide a bridge period (three years) of coverage fully paid from the mission share budget and thereafter a much lower annual contribution. The legislation will also propose that a portion of the savings be set aside to establish a hardship grant fund that could be used to cover some of the cost of remaining in the Conference plan for widow(er)s who have particular hardship needs.

CPP benefit eligible Clergy and Families

(16 families) in this group receive a total subsidy of \$214,000 from the mission share budget.

Student Pastors

Churches where a student pastor is appointed are the recipients of a subsidy from the mission share budget equal to half of the required medical insurance cost. This subsidy supports the goal of developing effective leadership. The Conference is currently investing \$74,000 in the leadership development of 11 student pastors serving churches in the Conference.

Spouse & Families of Retired Pastors

Pastors with 40 years of service	Subsidy 100%
Pastors with 20 years of service	Subsidy 100% single rate
Pastors with 10 years of service	Subsidy 50% single rate
Pastors less than 10 years of service	No Subsidy

Consultants and Professional Resources

The Conference Board of Pensions continues its relationship with Employee Benefit Data Services (EBDS). EBDS generates monthly reports for the Conference Board of Pensions and Conference Treasurer. They invoice and collect the monthly billings for health premiums and pension contributions from the churches, agencies, and conference. EBDS has been acquired by Highmark and is in the process of being

integrated into the Highmark family. We have been experiencing a declining level of service as this change has occurred. The Board in conjunction with the Conference Benefits Officer has been working to improve the quality of service or consider alternative solutions. In addition, the Conference Board of Pensions continues to work with Frenkel Benefits. They provide consulting services for our active health program, all of our Medicare supplement alternatives, and assuring our programs comply with regulations. In 2009 the Conference Board of Pensions utilized the actuarial services of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

AON, a benefit actuary service, is used by the Conference to value the post retirement medical insurance obligation of the conference in support of the annual financial statement audit. The Conference Board of Pensions has used their services to assist in legislation proposals and board decisions to estimate the impact of benefit eligibility and subsidy changes on the liability for post retirement benefits. It is the intention of the Conference Board of Pensions to continue to utilize these professional resources in our future benefits decision making. The now less-than-fully-funded status of these obligations has led the Board to keep unchanged at \$126 per month the subsidy it provides retirees for so-called "Medigap" or "Medicare Advantage" insurance, in spite of rising premiums.

Other activities

The Conference Board of Pensions continues to fulfill its responsibility for matters related to, and for providing for the support, relief, assistance, pension, and benefits, for United Methodist Clergy families, United Methodist Church workers, and lay employees. In the area of Incapacity, the Conference Board of Pensions participates in a joint committee with the Board of Ordained Ministry. We continue our connection with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) in Evanston, Illinois, the United Methodist Foundation and the Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union.

The Board of Pensions sponsored a fall pre-retirement seminar for clergy over 55 and their spouses. The program included presentations by the GBOPHB, the United Methodist Foundation of Western PA, Keystone United Methodist Federal Credit Union, and the Pittsburgh area Social Security and Medicare departments of the Federal Government. Mark Stewart presented information on our conference retiree medical insurance.

Some interaction has begun between the Health as Wholeness team and representatives of the Pension Board as we seek to focus our clergy and congregations on daily choosing a healthier life style (reducing stress, eating healthier, and including intentional exercise).

The Board of Pensions would like to express its appreciation to the Conference Benefits Officer, Patricia Morris, in meeting the many requests of the Board and the benefit plan participants. Many thanks go to key support staff in the past year including Sally Bickerton, Larry Bridge, William Jacka, Kathleen Lasky, David Lindberg, Cooky Seth, and Mark Stewart.

All members of the Board of Pensions have stepped up their efforts to make the new committees and our work as a board a success. Praise God for each of these volunteers and the gifts that they each bring to the work of the Board of Pensions. A special appreciation to Frank Kelly, Vice Chair, who is great at keeping us on task and

William Hastings, Secretary, who is diligent at keeping the documentation and minutes we rely upon. Thanks are in order to our new committee chairs Tracy Merrick, Administration; Robert Garbart, Finance; and Edward Bailey, Health Insurance who have shared their leadership abilities and ideas for improvements.

Terry E. Lyon, Chair

CONFERENCE TREASURER

The goal of the Finance department for the Annual Conference is connection to the local churches. Once again we conducted district visits to provide training and resources.

The highlight of 2009 for me will always be the moment I was able to present to our Bishop a gift from the hearts of our local church treasurers of \$5,000.00 for Global Health.

We were able to complete the 2008 audit prior to Annual Conference 2009 and were pleased to report that our Conference is on solid ground financially. Even though the market took a major hit, our churches paid more in Mission Share in 2009 than any other time in the history of our Conference.

I was proud to be elected by the Council of Bishops to serve on The General Council of Finance and Administration for The United Methodist Church. Being a part of that council has been a huge learning process for me and has enabled me to bring back to our Conference first hand information about financial issues of the denomination.

The new Conference website is up and running and we are in the process of adding items to the Finance & Benefits pages of the web site. Soon all forms will be on the site and as well as the new Treasurers' Manual due out in February 2010. Future plans call for online classes in accounting and payroll processing.

This year will be final time we use our current accounting software. In the future we will be moving toward faith-based software rather than the manufacturing software presently in place. The entire staff is looking forward to that transition.

I want to express special appreciation to Howard Burrell former chair of CF&A. Howard has continually supported our Finance Staff and his leadership was always a blessing to us.

The new chair of Council on Finance and Administration is Paul Ritchey. Paul comes with enthusiasm and a prayerful spirit. We look forward to working with Paul.

I am blessed every day to work with a staff that offers ministry in many different ways:

Larry Bridge continues to serve as controller for the conference. He is a quiet presence in our staff, but he comes with great knowledge and dedication. Jervais Carr sees that everyone gets paycheck and bills paid on time! Jervais has an awesome work ethic and she is a gift to us. Sally Bickerton has been wearing many different hats this past year – from support staff to temporary accounts receivable! Sally is a gentle spirit with a keen sense of justice. Kathleen Lasky works closely with our members on issues of hospitalization and pensions. Kathleen is caring, compassionate and she wants things right for our clergy. Kerry Canter and Sue White never say no to a job in the mailroom. They sort, fold, staple, copy, stamp and carry thousands and thousands of pieces of mail each month. Ben Harsh is always close at hand whenever we need any help with

computers, excel reports, mission share issues – he blesses us in so many ways. Bill Jacka is a man with many gifts and he uses all of them for the annual conference. Bill is a man of faith and prayer. From facilities, property to video to sound – Bill is always there for us. Gloria Seth answers the conference phone each time you call. Gloria cares about the annual conference and she is quick to connect you to the ministry area of your choice. We all work for you. We encourage you to call us with any question or need you may have.

Patricia Morris, Conference Treasurer

ENDOWMMMENTS

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 this congregation's redevelopment and expansion of ministry and mission.

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 preschoolers at St. Clair Village to experience a healthy start within one of our most challenged communities. This will be our last year at this site due to the closing of the housing community; however we are hoping to move this preschool to Northview Heights. At the Northview Heights site we are already providing computer training and tutoring for the children and youth on a daily basis. Summer programs expand these contacts with day long 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 – 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. 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. One tenant has been in the facility since it opened. That longevity in part testifies to the value of the service, however increasing capital expenses and the aging of these facilities is truly a challenge for the future of this ministry.

8th 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 are now being offered.

NEW DAWN BEGINNINGS OUTREACH MINISTRIES – A partnership ministry enabling over 30 youth each school year to receive extra tutoring and training for general etiquette practices and career preparation.

Larry Homitsky, President

BETHANY HOUSE ACADEMY

Bethany House Academy also known as Bethany House Ministry strives to bring the love of Jesus to two low-income public housing communities in the City of Pittsburgh. The heart of the ministry is service to children and youth. However, the offering of crisis intervention, referral and counseling services, and tangible aid of food, clothing, and school supplies also serve entire families. Financial support for the ministry is received from United Methodist Western PA Conference Mission Support, Trust Fund allocations from the United Methodist Church Union, many United Methodist Churches through Conference Advance Specials, the PA Board of Education, and donations from individual United Methodist. 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

The ministry in Northview Heights, through collaborative efforts and others, has been able to offer a broad spectrum of services. Bethany House has secured a contract with the Pittsburgh Department of Human Services to reduce the out-of-home placement of African-American males. Additionally, as part of The Pittsburgh Foundation we are now engaged in a Community Garden, Health and Wellness, and Entrepreneurial project that focuses on self-sufficiency. We also provide academic, character development skills and paid work experience for youth living in Northview Heights and surrounding areas. We continue to offer high quality academic and spiritual programs in our after-school initiatives such as: Computer literacy, entrepreneur training, arts and crafts, tutoring services, spiritual development, and the P.O.W.E.R. (Positive Outcomes With Excuses Removed) program. During the summer we offer an 8 week program for all school aged children and youth. The City of Pittsburgh Parks and Recreation Department supply breakfast and lunch for the program. Many of the activities are implemented by staff who resides in Northview Heights, as part of our community empowerment model.

St. Clair Village

The Programming in St. Clair Village also reflects our willingness to cooperate with others. Through the Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, we are part of a family self-sufficiency program. Our high-achieving Preschool program is working towards becoming a model for replication for those who teach African-American children. The Pre-school has partnered with Head Start in an effort to provide additional intensive services for the families that have children enrolled in our programs. Additionally, we provide academic proficiency skills for thirty (30) K-2 students attending Philip Murray Accelerated Learning Academy. During the summer we offer programming to children and youth, however the focus is placed on our preschool graduates as measure of providing knowledge retention instruction. Ninety percent (90%) of our staff live in St. Clair Village We are thankful for the prayers and support of churches and volunteers as we join with others to do "the Glory of God".

Keith Murphy, Executive Director

METHOUSE, INC. / PARKVIEW TOWERS

Methouse, Inc. / Parkview Towers is a high-rise apartment building for extremely low, very low, and low income senior citizens and people with mobility-impairment. The facility is HUD affiliated. The minimum age requirement for seniors is

62 and for a person with a mobility-impairment the minimum age is 18. Market rents range from \$387 to \$506 per month and include light, heat, and water.

The mission of Methouse, Inc. 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.

A part-time Service Coordinator shared with Metowers helps residents find services in the community that will address pressing needs. The Service Coordinator is enhancing the program significantly.

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 and for spiritual growth
- Careful supervision by a responsive Board of Directors

David A. McQuiston, Administrator

METOWERS ASSOCIATES, LP

In 1978 the United Methodist Church Union began the process of planning, implementing and building a ten story high rise for the elderly and those who were mobility impaired under the age of 62 with very low incomes. In conjunction with the Department of Housing and Urban Development that dream became a reality in November 1980. Eighty-eight single bedroom apartments designed for the elderly, and ten designed for those with mobility impairments, were quickly filled. A long waiting list for those seeking housing soon followed.

Metowers, a Section 202/8 federally subsidized building, has been a safe, comfortable and affordable home for those with limited incomes. Aging in place, with dignity and support, has been successfully accomplished through the dedication and direction of the United Methodist Church Union.

As Metowers enters its 30th year, major renovations are underway. The kitchens and bathrooms in all the apartments are being remodeled. New appliances are being installed and many of the common areas will be updated. Special care is being taken to ensure that the apartments designed for those with mobility impairments will more efficiently meet the needs of those who reside in them.

METOWERS IS:

- Staffed by competent caring people
- Supervised by a Board of Directors that shares the same 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, Community Manager

UNITED METHODIST HUMAN SERVICES

Mission Statement of United Methodist Human Services: "To demonstrate the redeeming love of Jesus Christ by developing and channeling the resources of the United Methodist Churches of the Johnstown District, which help alleviate the human suffering and injustice faced by persons with specific spiritual, emotional and material needs."

The programs of United Methodist Human Services serving the Johnstown in 2009:

Ministering to Physical Needs:

- REAP (Required Emergency Aid Provided)

	(Amount Spent)	(Families Served)
o Rent	\$4,613	93 Families
o Utilities	\$10,881	224 Families
o Medical	\$2,357	56 Families
o Miscellaneous	\$328	7 Families
- Food Pantries

o Franklin Street	\$13,964	145 Families (monthly average)
o New Paris	\$???	115 Families (monthly average)
- Project Shoes
- Clothing Closet
- Togs-for-Tots

Ministering to Spiritual Needs:

- | | (Amount Spent) | (Number Served) |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| • Richland Towers | \$1,540 | 10 Average attendance |

Accomplishments for 2009:

- Director networking with UMW groups. Guest speaker at several UM Churches and one COB Church.
- Successfully acquired \$11,500 in grant money not including Mission Share dollars.
- Cookbook fundraiser resulted in \$3,000 profit to date. Approximately 275 cookbooks remain.
- Initiated a program evaluation report for UMHS Board. Report will aid in evaluating effectiveness of programs.
- Crossroads Program (transient travel) implemented in April in collaboration with GJCA.

Goals for 2010:

- Dorcas Project (hygiene kits for homeless) being implemented in 2010 in cooperation with Salvation Army.
- Develop budgetary guidelines for all programs so that direct and indirect costs can be appropriately allocated.
- Implement balance sheet reporting monthly. Continue to improve financial reporting.
- Improve written communication/marketing materials for UMHS.
- Develop plan for discontinuing, expanding, maintaining or developing programs/projects.
- Look for new ways to serve those in need throughout the Johnstown District.

The Board & Staff of UMHS ask for your support and prayers that we may continue "Helping Those In Need" in the name of Jesus Christ.

Connie L. Gossard, Director

MONITORING MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITY

The Monitoring Ministry Team was given the responsibility to track and follow-up the legislation and actions that were passed at the annual conference session. The Direction Oversight Team reviewed the work of the 2009 Annual Conference and requested necessary information from the implementing agencies. The response from the agencies was greatly appreciated. The Team is pleased to report that our legislation from the 2009 conference has received appropriate review by various conference agencies, and that the legislation has either been implemented according to the directions of the legislation, or is in the process of implementation.

Michelle Wobrak, Chair

DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES