

VOLUME 1 REPORTS

West Michigan Annual Conference OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Forty-third Session
Calvin College
Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 1-4, 2011

Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton, Presiding Bishop
William W. Chu, Annual Conference Secretary

OFFICIAL RECORD
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TAKE MY HAND
ENGAGING THE POOR IN MINISTRY

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CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

Our Plan of Organization requires that the Director of Connectional Ministries files a report on behalf of the Conference Council on Ministries (CCOM) that “shall describe progress toward current goals and plans for future achievement.”

A visioning process over the period September 2008 – May 2010 arrived at a primary goal of identifying leadership and taking intentional steps toward the development of those leaders. It also noted the importance of long range financial planning that may require the encouragement of some ministries toward greater self sufficiency. This emerged in light of the economic failures of the country and the diminishing membership in congregations across the conference. It was also identified that our nearly 60-member council with a frequent attendance record of less than 50% may need to better organize for a leadership model which could be more responsive to change.

2010 became the year in which some intentional steps toward accomplishing these areas of emphasis began to take shape. As budgeting took place for 2010, 2011, and projections were made into 2012, the council moved away from equal percentage decreases or increases across every CCOM line item. The CCOM Executive Committee executed its finance committee responsibilities and brought proposals to the full CCOM that reflected the priorities of the council in key areas and the council’s particular commitment to supporting persons actively engaged in ministry as compared to pass-through grants with less accountability and/or reported results.

Extensive time was given at various CCOM meetings to address ongoing budget related matters, staffing possibilities, the future of the Michigan Area Resource Center (MARC), the transition of camp managers at three of our five camps and a significant cumulative deficit that these camps had accumulated.

A team of individuals reflective of insights from CCOM, the cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Order of Elders, the John Wesley Association, New Church Development Committee, and the bishop began to meet and has continued to explore models of lay and clergy leadership development. Pilot programs of this Vital Church Initiative (VCI) have been designed and were scheduled to begin in 2011.

A task force was established by the CCOM, in accordance with the Plan of Organization (2010 Conference Journal, page 210, Section III.B.4.c), to review our current Plan of Organization. Their extensive review of our current model, other models and implementation of emerging ideas led them to propose the creation of a Leadership Team of 16-18 persons in place of the 57-seat CCOM. This plan and all its specific descriptions was reviewed by the full CCOM and eventually approved for submission to the 2011 Annual Conference for its action. The CCOM is hopeful that the common expectations for every board and agency to have a clear line of accountability, stated purpose, and stated responsibilities will be a significant step toward fruitful and measured evidence of effectiveness among all ministries.

Rev. Benton R. Heisler, Director of Connectional Ministries

WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES

Summary of 2011 Budget

[As Voted By The 2010 Conference Council on Ministries]

	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	2011 Budget
C. WORLD SERVICE & CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES			
1. World Service	\$989,258	\$968,945	\$928,799
2. Conference Benevolences			
Archives & History Commission	(moved)	(moved)	(moved)
Christian Unity Commission	\$450	\$500	\$500
Religion and Race Commission	7,850	5,000	5,000
COSROW	1,271	1,000	1,000
Christian Camping Board	213,312	145,000	159,000
Church and Society Board	10,070	5,000	5,000
Discipleship Board	17,000	10,000	8,250
Global Ministries Board	385,000	315,000	315,000
Racial/Ethnic Local Church	118,070	95,000	95,000
Higher Ed. & Campus Ministry	366,550	310,000	310,000
Communications Commission	97,850	50,000	50,000
Conf. Council on Ministries	633,332	520,000	524,000
Lay Ministries	3,800	3,000	1,500

Conference Personnel Committee	1,200	1,000	1,000
Evangelism	7,200	5,000	5,000
United Methodist Men	900	1,000	1,000
Hunger	2,000	1,500	1,500
Prison Ministry	7,500	5,000	5,000
Indian Workers' Conference	4,500	3,500	2,000
Disability Concerns Committee	1,395	1,000	1,000
Vital Church Initiatives	7,000	5,000	5,000
Conference Emerging Ministries	9,750	0	0
Total Conference Benevolences	\$1,896,000	\$1,482,500	\$1,495,750
3. WS/CB Contingency Fund	\$0	\$169,500	\$158,250
Total Conf. Ben. and WS/CB Contingency	\$1,896,000	\$1,652,000	\$1,654,000
Total World Service & Conf. Benevolences	\$2,885,258	\$2,620,945	\$2,582,799
TOTAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUDGET	\$6,694,890	\$6,209,076	\$6,159,550

2011 LINE ITEM BUDGETS
[As approved by Conference Council on Ministries]

**2011
BUDGET**

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY & INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS - 3020

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	500
	Total Receipts	\$	500
5081139	Program – Training	\$	500
	Total Disbursements	\$	500

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE – 3495

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
5050000	Program Disbursements		
5080000	Scholarships		
5120000	Program-Leadership Training		
5290310	Dues-NCJ CORR		
5620000	Admin and Meetings		
5740000	Promotions		
	Total Disbursements	\$	5,000
	Surplus		

COMMISSION ON STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN - 3050

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	1,000
	Total Receipts	\$	1,000
5050000	Program Disbursements		
5380000	Printing		
5620000	Admin and Meetings		
	Total Disbursements	\$	1,000

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CAMPING – 3200

4903000	Distri Rev-WS & Conf Benevolencese	\$	159,000
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	159,000
	DISBURSEMENTS		
5200000	Payroll-Salaried Employees	\$	147,000
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	2,500
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	500
5740000	Promotions	\$	9,000
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	159,000

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY – 3030

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	2,000
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	50
5380000	Printing	\$	250
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	500
6105809	Distrib Exp-Peace w/Justice	\$	2,000
6107328	Distrib Exp-GR Dist Peace Cntr	\$	100
6107604	Distrib Exp-Lans Dist Shalom Cntr	\$	100
	Total Disbursements	\$	5,000

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP – 3070

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	8,250
	Total Receipts	\$	8,250
6103071	Distrib Exp-Childrens Council		
6103073	Distrib Exp-Youth Council		
6103075	Distrib Exp-Older Adult		
6103077	Distrib Exp-Single Adult		
6103078	Distrib Exp-Young Adult		
6105224	Distrib Exp-Wor/Music/Arts		
	Total Disbursements	\$	8,250

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES – 3400

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	315,000
	Total Receipts	\$	315,000
6107100	Block Grant - Albion District	\$	11,245
6107200	Block Grant - Heartland District	\$	29,710
6107300	Block Grant - Grand Rapids District	\$	148,780
6107400	Block Grant 0 Grand Traverse District	\$	18,900
6107500	Block Grant - Kalamazoo District	\$	22,490
6107600	Block Grant - Lansing District	\$	64,875
5133306	Town & Country	\$	1,000
5033309	UMVIM-NCJ	\$	750
5033313	Urban	\$	1,000
5033315	Volunteers in Mission	\$	3,500
5033316	Health and Welfare Development	\$	750
5033406	Training and Development	\$	2,000
5360000	Postage and shipping	\$	300
5380000	Printing	\$	200
5620000	Admin & Meetings	\$	500
5913400	CBGM Secretary	\$	500
5913406	School of Missions	\$	2,500
5913407	Haiti Task Force	\$	4,500
5913408	Missions Promotion	\$	1,000
5800000	Miscellaneous	\$	500
	Total Disbursements	\$	315,000

RACIAL ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEE - 3490

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	95,000
	Total Receipts	\$	95,000
5030308	Grants-Washington Hgts UMC	\$	6,750
5033211	Grants-Kewadin Indian UMC	\$	8,915
5033213	Grants-Northport UMC	\$	3,724
	Greensky Hill	\$	400
5080000	Scholarships	\$	400

5120000	Program-Leadership Training	\$	270
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	350
5740000	Promotions	\$	250
6107306	Salem Bradley Indian Missions	\$	4,500
6107315	Distrib Exp-Salem Bradley Sr Meals	\$	13,500
6107320	Distrib Exp-LaNueva Esperanza	\$	12,600
6107323	Distrib Exp-GR Vietnamese UMC	\$	9,900
	Distrib Exp-Lansing Vietnamese	\$	1,035
	Distrib Exp-Plainfield	\$	3,420
6108100	Distrib Exp-Church of All Nations	\$	12,050
6108110	Distrib Exp-Lansing Faith	\$	13,500
503	NOW/Matching grants	\$	3,386
	Total Disbursements	\$	94,950
	Surplus	\$	50

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY - 3600

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	310,000
	Total Receipts	\$	310,000
5043610	Grants-Albion College	\$	3,000
5043620	Grants-Adrian College	\$	3,000
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	1,380
6106026	Distrib Exp-GVUMSF/GR Youth	\$	38,540
6106200	Distrib Exp-WF Capital Fund	\$	4,000
6106208	Distrib Exp-WF CMU (1)	\$	65,020
6106212	Distrib Exp-WF MSU (1)	\$	65,020
6106216	Distrib Exp-WF WMU (1)	\$	65,020
6106222	Distrib Exp-WF FSU (1)	\$	65,020
	Total Disbursements	\$	310,000

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS – 3040

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	50,000
	Total Receipts	\$	50,000
	UM News Reporter	\$	35,000
5050513	Leadership Development	\$	500
5053001	Rethink Church	\$	225
5053010	Centerpiece (MailChimp)	\$	1,800
5270000	Continuing Education	\$	100
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	25
5380000	Printing	\$	1,000
5410000	Equipment Replacement	\$	700
5420000	Equipment Repair and Maintenanc	\$	50
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	700
5740000	Promotion	\$	200
5820000	Web Site Administration	\$	5,200
5850000	Internet Services	\$	500
6105204	Distrib Rev-MARC	\$	4,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	50,000

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES – 3100

4526010	Personnel Support	\$	500
4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevole	\$	524,000
4905805	Distrib Rev-Youth Ministry Staff	\$	44,000
	Total Receipts	\$	568,500
5050000	Program disbursements	\$	2,769
5051135	New Pastors Orientation	\$	500
5200000	Payroll-Salaried Employees	\$	209,047
5210000	Payroll-Hourly Employees	\$	98,060
5213100	Casual Help	\$	1,000

5202100	Adjunct Staff	\$	27,501
5223101	Pension Contr-CCOM Staff	\$	26,000
5223102	Pension Contr-CCOM Support Staff	\$	8,109
5240000	FICA/Medicare Taxes	\$	17,896
5241000	Worker's Comp Insurance	\$	666
5260000	Health Insurance	\$	93,691
5270000	Continuing Education	\$	5,000
5280000	Resource Materials	\$	2,500
5340000	Telephone	\$	500
5350000	Mobile Phone	\$	2,000
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	800
5380000	Printing	\$	1,000
5400000	Office Supplies	\$	3,000
5420000	Equipment Repair and Maintenanc	\$	500
5410000	Equipment Replacement	\$	1,000
5580000	Credit Card Fees	\$	250
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	2,000
5633110	Travel-Mileage, Conf Dir	\$	6,000
5633120	Travel-Mileage, Min Cnsult1	\$	8,000
5633150	Travel-Mileage, Min Cnsult4	\$	6,000
5640000	Travel-Other Than Mileage	\$	1,000
5643110	Travel-O/T Mileage, Conf Dir	\$	2,000
5643120	Travel-O/T Mileage Min Cnsult1	\$	1,500
5643150	Travel-O/T Mileage Min Cnsult4	\$	1,500
5720000	Insurance, Other	\$	700
5800000	Miscellaneous	\$	500
5810000	Computer Services	\$	1,500
5830500	Computer Equipment	\$	2,500
5840000	Software Purchase and Support	\$	1,250
59700000	Contingency	\$	261
6102130	Distrib Rev-Conf Properties	\$	20,000
6105204	Distrib Exp-Michigan Area Resource Center	\$	12,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>568,500</u>

BOARD OF LAITY – 3460

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	1,500
	Total Receipts	\$	1,500
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	100
5290000	Membership Dues	\$	300
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	200
5630000	Travel - Staff mileage	\$	700
5640000	Travel-O/T mileage	\$	200
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>1,500</u>

CONFERENCE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – 3470

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	1,000
	Total Receipts	\$	1,000
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	1,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>1,000</u>

BOARD OF EVANGELISM – 3080

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
5050000	Program Disbursements		
5080000	Scholarships (grants to churches)		
5620000	Admin and Meetings		
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>5,000</u>

UNITED METHODIST MEN – 3085

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benev	\$	1,000
	Total Receipts	\$	1,000
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	300
5081139	Program – Training	\$	400
5280000	Resource Materials	\$	100
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	50
5380000	Printing	\$	50
5620000	Admin & Meetings	\$	100
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>1,000</u>

HUNGER COMMITTEE – 3440

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	1,500
	Total Receipts	\$	1,500
5120000	Program-Leadership Training	\$	600
5280000	Resource materials	\$	400
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	500
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>1,500</u>

PRISON MINISTRY COMMITTEE – 3480

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	3,000
5270000	Continuing Education	\$	800
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	1,000
5740000	Promotions	\$	200
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>5,000</u>

INDIAN WORKERS CONFERENCE BUDGET - 3450

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	2,000
	Total Receipts	\$	2,000
5050000	Program Disbursements		
5080000	Scholarships		
5620000	Admin and Meetings		
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>2,000</u>

DISABILITY CONCERNS COMMITTEE – 3032

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	1,000
	Total Receipts	\$	1,000
5030000	Grants-Churches	\$	600
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	150
505301	CenterPiece	\$	75
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	125
5800000	Miscellaneous	\$	50
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>1,000</u>

VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVES

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
505000	Program Disbursements	\$	5,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>5,000</u>

CONFERENCE EMERGING MINISTRIES – 3500

4570000	Interest Income		
4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	-
	Total Receipts		

5030000	Grants-Churches		
	Total Disbursements	\$	-

CCOM Contingency / tbd

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	158,250
	Total Receipts	\$	158,250

	Total Disbursements	\$	158,250
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CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES TOTAL BUDGET	\$	1,698,500
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AMOUNT NEEDED FROM CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES	\$	1,654,000
AMOUNT "PROJECTED" FROM CCOM RESERVES		\$43,500

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION

We had an important year, because we were the co-hosts for the North Central Jurisdictional Convocation of Archives and History at Adrian College. We co-hosted with the Detroit Archives and History Commission.

The convocation highlighted 200 years of Methodism in Michigan. It all began with circuit riders arriving from Canada and New York to evangelize the people of Detroit. The first society was organized by 1810 with seven members that apparently met out on the River Rouge, some six miles west of Detroit.

Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton opened the convocation with the Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker, Senior Pastor of the Brighton United Methodist Church delivering the keynote address. The convocation was attended by eight people from the West Michigan Conference.

A bus trip to the Detroit area was arranged for July 6 that included a stop at Central United Methodist Church, which traces its roots back to the beginning of Methodism in Michigan. Then on to Cass Community United Methodist Church which is the third oldest society in Michigan. They have a program of working with the needs of inner city people. Then on to the First Congregational Church for a visit to the Underground Railroad Living Museum. Followed by a stop at Dixboro United Methodist Church, which is the oldest structure on its original site still being used as a church in Michigan.

Dr. William K. Quick was to be our main speaker at the convocation but was unable to attend. His paper, titled "From Saddlebags to Satellites Sesquicentennial of Detroit Conference 1856-2006," was read.

At the archives located in the Albion College Library, Stephanie Frederick continues to serve as our administrative assistant archivist for the conference collection.

Rev. Dr. Maria Rutland and Betty Uithoven joined us as new members of the commission. Merna Francis, Rev. David Litchfield, and Webb Scrivnor retired from the commission this year. Rev. David Crawford and Lois Baumer, Daniel Yates, Stephanie Frederick and Kenneth Gackler continue as commission members.

Officers are: Kenneth Gackler, Chair; Dan Yates, Secretary; Stephanie Frederick, Asst. Secretary. Vice Chair and Treasurer are open for now. Many of us on the commission are also involved with the Michigan Area Historical Society and attended several of their meetings this year.

A display was set up at the 2010 Annual Conference. It promoted the Adrian College convocation in July and invited people from the West Michigan Conference to attend.

The 2011 North Central Jurisdictional Convocation of Archives and History will be held in Historic Winona, Minnesota, from July 11-14, 2011.

Kenneth Gackler, Chair

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CAMPING

What's Happening with Camping?

The past year (2010) has been a tough one for the Board of Christian Camping (BCC). I want to give you an update on the situation, and then to ask for your continued passionate support for Christian camping in West Michigan, through our five conference-owned camps: Albright, Crystal Springs, Lake Michigan, Lakeview, and Wesley Woods.

Is our camping program effective?

Yes. Even in this tough year, we have done more and better ministry than ever before, to more people and in more ways than ever. Camping is very much alive, and is leading the way in making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. In a year when camps around the country are facing declining numbers of campers and closures, almost all our camps have seen an increase in all kinds of campers. Every day people have the opportunity to encounter Christ in a life-changing way through camping ministry. Hundreds of volunteers touch thousands of lives every year at our camps.

Financial problems

Ministry success, however, is not the whole story. During 2010 we discovered huge financial problems at two of our camps, Lakeview and Albright. They were caused largely by a single director who spent recklessly and perhaps criminally on some modest improvements to the facilities at both camps. A planned timber harvest had a net income of more than \$100,000 less than had been anticipated. This also contributed to the financial crises. Our immediate reaction was to replace that director, and to try to pursue what legal solutions are available. The following groups were kept informed of these developments and how they were being addressed: Board of Christian Camping, Conference Council on Ministries, Conference Personnel Committee, Council on Finance and Administration, Conference Board of Trustees, the Cabinet, the Bishop, and the Conference Chancellor. Two open meetings were held with the Reed City UMC and criminal complaints were filed with the Montcalm and Osceola County Sheriff Departments.

In the subsequent months, we have worked on four things:

- 1) Putting new directors in place at both Albright and Lakeview who have the skills to run the camps properly and to rebuild relationships with camp groups and supportive churches.
- 2) Building a financial plan for paying back our deficit to the annual conference, in cooperation with the Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Treasurer's office, and the Director of Connectional Ministries.
- 3) Putting new policies in place that will help us to avoid this happening again.
- 4) Strengthening the involvement of local site committees and the BCC in their oversight responsibilities.

Here's a summary of our situation at the end of 2010 and our plan to get out of the woods.

The deficit	2010 Yr End	Total deficit
Albright Camp deficit at the end of 2010	\$271,270	
Lakeview Camp deficit at the end of 2010	\$224,658	
Total deficit	\$495,928	\$495,928
Solution steps		
The Council on Finance and Administration has agreed to write off \$100,000 over five years, reducing the debt burden of the camps.	(\$100,000)	\$395,928
The Conference Council on Ministries at the beginning of 2011 had a reserve remaining, and voted to contribute to the reduction of the deficit.	(20,000)	\$375,928
The Board of Global Ministries is making a loan to the Board of Christian Camping. This will be paid off over ten years using portions of the interest earned from the Camping Endowment Fund, which normally would have gone to Albright and Lakeview Camps.	(\$250,000)	\$125,928

We are still working with the CF&A to find an appropriate way to deal with the remaining \$125,928. The Board of Christian Camping is looking for a solution that will fit with our long range plans for all the camps.

Why not just sell a camp?

We have considered the sale of a camp, and are not doing so at this time for several reasons:

- Though the planning process is now under way, we do not yet have a comprehensive ministry plan for our camps that would enable us to make sure all our ministries were cared for while closing one camp.
- This is a very bad time to sell a camp, given property values. That would be poor stewardship of our precious resources.
- Every camp is surrounded by a community that treasures its connection to that camp and its vital ministries. The loss of a camp involves much more than the closure of a facility: it would be the breaking of many bonds that are important to our congregations and our people.
- To close a camp without selling it would generate much greater losses than keeping it open. In a normal year, we expect all the camps to break even, just as local churches do. This has unfortunately not been a normal year.

How are the other three camps doing?

Our other three camps have also faced a tough economic year, for a variety of reasons.

- Lake Michigan Camp had to re-do a bathhouse construction project thanks to design and construction problems, resulting in an accumulated deficit of \$58,606. They have plans to pay this off through capital giving commitments.
- Wesley Woods has a current deficit of \$64,192, and we expect that they will be able to resolve this through normal income flows within a couple of years, as they have in the past.
- Crystal Springs had an accumulated deficit of \$11,927, because of the last-minute cancellation of a two camp groups due to weather, and they too are expected to work this out through normal operations over a year or two.

Staff changes

The Board of Christian Camping is responsible for hiring a director for each camp. This year, because of the departure of the director of two camps, and the retirement of another, three of our camps have new leadership. The director is responsible for operating and maintaining the camp, and is also responsible for overseeing programming. It's a huge job and is woefully underpaid, but we believe that we now have five excellent directors. Here's an introduction to the new three:

- Harvey Weaver retired as Director of Lake Michigan Camp near Pentwater, after 44 years of faithful service. We welcome Tobin Powers to that position, and look forward to creative, energetic, entrepreneurial development at Lake Michigan. Tobin has a strong background in a variety of very successful camps around Michigan, and all the skills necessary to be a great director.
- Deb Steed is the interim director at Lakeview Camp in Lakeview, bringing strong organizational skills, a passion for customer service, and a desire to bring transparency and excellence to the camp.
- Dennis Dull is the new Director at Albright Camp near Reed City, bringing local trust and credibility, a deep understanding of the values of camping from years as a dean and member of the site committee at Wesley Woods, and organizational development skills.

How can I help?

This is your camping ministry. The most helpful thing you can do is to recruit and send campers to our camps. In your local church, become a passionate recruiter for camping. Direct financial contributions toward any of the camps' deficits and/or to the Camp Endowment Fund are also options. Those gifts help support the legacy of our camping ministry in the West Michigan Conference. Our camps are giving the best ministry they have ever given, and against national trends we are growing every year. The way forward is to do more ministry, to reach more people with the love of Christ. If you don't have children and youth in your church, go out and find them in your community. Kids will find powerful love and acceptance, and a life-changing message about Christ our Savior, if you can get them to come to camp.

Jeremy Williams, Chair

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

After a hiatus this commission is now taking up their work again. The first question has been, "What exactly is our work?" Obviously we are about Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns but that arena is one with many entryways. For the last several months a small group of people have been discerning how we are to enter into this work. One has only to listen to the news to realize that it is time to learn more compassionate ways of being with one another. We believe that this work can best be done person to person through the building of relationships on the local level.

With this in mind we are looking for resources that can equip and encourage pastors and congregation members in their efforts to welcome persons of other denominations and religions to the table. This is not for the purpose of converting, but for the purpose of dialogue, with the hope of developing a deeper understanding of our shared humanity.

To this end we have added to our portion of the West Michigan website information about the Charter for Compassion. Two of our members have already begun using it as a tool in their churches and local communities. This is only a beginning. We plan to put links to additional material on the web site as we become aware of them. At the moment our commission is very small and limited in what we can do because of it. We would welcome to our meetings others who would like to participate with us in building a bridge of understanding. We currently meet by Skype in an effort to be good stewards of time and money and to keep a low carbon footprint for our commission. Our hope for the future is that we be able to offer equipping workshops for both pastors and laity.

Lyne Stull-Lipps, Chair

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The work of the Board of Church and Society continues with the addition of several new members in 2011. There continue to be many concerns for issues of justice and peace brought to the board by its members.

We continue to work on "A Whole Gospel for a Whole People." A small committee of the board meets to work out a curriculum that can be offered to local churches and to district groups in the near future. One challenge is to get the word out to local churches. Most churches no longer name a person responsible for matters of justice and peace within the local congregation. We seek to alter this with a petition strongly encouraging the return to naming such a person in each congregation.

We continue to offer awards for peace sermons and peacemakers in order to highlight these ministries in our midst. Funding of special projects centering on peace and justice concerns is another way of affirming such ministries. Last year we were able to support the peace centers and our continued participation in the Keep Making Peace event shared with the Detroit Conference. Through the offerings of local churches to the Peace with Justice offering through the General Conference, we were also able to support projects in Battle Creek, Muskegon Heights, and Haiti. Justice for our Neighbors, a program to help immigrant neighbors navigate the system towards citizenship, is also helped with a grant from our Peace with Justice offering.

In the spring of this year we were invited to participate in a general church priority around Immigration Reform. In the fall of 2010 the bishops of our church issued a statement declaring immigration reform to be a key issue for United Methodists. The Board of Church and Society was invited along with others to work on this issue for education, advocacy and action. We were given the opportunity to develop workshops, keep congregations informed as to possibilities for study, prayer and action through the conference website, and to network with other groups within the connection.

There is so much that could involve us as a board. We continue to seek God's guidance as we center our time and energy in the places where God calls us to be on behalf of the oppressed, the marginalized and the poor. With God's help we will make a difference for church and for society.

Ellen A. Brubaker, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The past year was extraordinarily busy for conference communications, however it proved to be a challenging year for the function of the Communications Commission. The commission operated without a chair until March 2011. As a result, the group met only once after Annual Conference 2010. Regardless, much was accomplished by the conference staff during the past 12 months including the development of brand identity, new communication tools, awareness campaigns and training.

In an effort to visual brand the conference, a new logo was developed in addition to new district logos, conference identity packages, a Wesley logo and new identity for Annual Conference. All of these materials were rolled out over the past year.

In September new Smart Room/Adobe Video Connect technology was installed in every district office, the Conference Center and the Episcopal Office. This allowed for state-wide video conferencing to take place. This system is anticipated to save thousands of dollars in mileage and hours of commuting time over the years. Many new social media tools were also added, including a new Twitter site, Flickr and the use of e-mail campaigns through MailChimp. The Facebook group site got a facelift and now serves as a connection tool for over 600 members. For the first time the conference webcast the 2010 Annual Conference session. Over 1,200 viewers from all around the world tuned in. And a "Ministry in Action" phone number was added allowing individuals to record stories of our faith in action.

Seven major awareness initiatives were created and launched in the past year including "I am," an awareness campaign for Wesley, "Front Porch" for Annual Conference 2010, "Together We Can" stewardship campaign, "Ride for Haiti" fundraising campaign, "Hang It Up" for Camp Ministry, "World needs a Savior" Advent campaigns, and "Take My Hand" for Annual Conference 2011.

The Director of Communications consulted with a variety of ministry areas including Wesley, Camp Ministry, Annual Conference Program Committee, Africa University, Hands Across The City and Ride For Haiti to name but a few. Trainings also took place across the conference on a wide range of topics including social media and Smart Room technology.

For 2011 the new chair and the Director of Communications plan to work closely together to better define the work of the commission and find new ways of working together to advance the connection.

Mark Doyal, Director of Communications

COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY CONCERNS

We have several reasons for our existence. We provide information and advocacy to churches of the conference about disabilities. The committee members are available for consulting with local congregations and will make site visits when asked. As a way to thank and help the churches who take the time and effort to make their facility more handicap and disability friendly, we continue to offer grants. In 2010, we awarded a number of grants. Some were used to make altar areas more accessible, put in a system for the hearing impaired and several were used to update entrance walkways/ramps.

We thank all of the churches who have been sensitive to the needs of the disabled and worked so hard to make their buildings and worship area a welcoming place for one and all.

Fran Courser, Chair

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Board of Discipleship of the West Michigan Annual Conference continues to hold up the goal of leading and assisting congregations and individuals to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Christian discipleship continues through various ministries including education, small groups, single adults, older adults, family/marriage/parenting, camping and many age-related ministries that take place across the conference and in our local churches. We celebrate this reality and seek to assist the churches of West Michigan in these important ministries.

This past year we have continued to administer grants that have assisted our churches to provide ministry in various work areas. Family Life Ministry grants (usually \$50-\$100) are given to local congregations and groups to support ministries that strengthen the quality of life. Such activities could include: Parenting, Care Giving, Spiritual Formation, Marital Growth, Church School Materials, Family Camping Experiences,

Special Church Family Activities, and Back to School materials. The contact for these grants is: Mary Lou Fassett mlassett2@yahoo.com. The Board of Discipleship encourages conference and district groups, as well as local congregations, to apply for grants from this fund to assist them in supporting ministries that will benefit families.

Christian Education grants are also given to local churches in support of new educational ministries. A church can apply for a Christian Education grant for any new Christian Education ministry. Whenever a church takes a Christian Education Sunday offering it sends in 50% of the offering to the Conference Treasurer's Office and the local church keeps 50%. The monies sent to the conference provide for the local church grants, which provide exciting opportunities to do new ministry and help churches make new places for new faces.

The Board of Discipleship has sought in this year to be faithful to the oversight responsibilities it has for its various work areas and to assist the ministry these work areas are accomplishing in West Michigan. As a board one of our goals this coming year is to provide a place to connect local churches and districts to one another for the sharing of ideas, resources, and celebration of what's working and what God is doing among us. We are working to do this primarily through our web page which we hope will provide a key source for these tasks and this sharing.

Thanks to all those who have shared in the various important work areas and components of the board this year.

William Haggard, Chair

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Serving under the Board of Discipleship, I am excited to be appointed as the new coordinator for Children's Ministries. Throughout the churches of the West Michigan Conference, there are hundreds of vital ministries taking place for children and their families, all of which are seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

During 2009 I have had the privilege of visiting three churches to provide support and encouragement to those involved in leading Children's Ministry. Looking ahead to the coming year, there are three areas which we will be focusing on: firstly, I am excited to be in the process of recruiting a team of people to help represent Children's Ministry within the West Michigan Conference; secondly, plans are underway for an exciting Children's Ministry workshop to be offered at Cornerstone Church in Caledonia as part of the Bishop's Day for Evangelism on March 13th, and thirdly, we are working on establishing a Children's Ministry presence on the West Michigan Conference website. This will not only serve as a resource tool for all those involved in leading Children's Ministry but will also assist those parents and grandparents who are looking for a church home for their children. Join me in praying for our children – that together, our churches will be a place of safety, love and learning about Jesus Christ, where we will truly "let the children come."

Glenys Nellist, Conference Coordinator of Children's Ministries

THE FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED METHODISTS IN MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS, WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

The West Michigan Chapter of The Fellowship held two workshops and participated in the Conference Ministry Fair in 2010.

The spring workshop was held on April 17, at Grand Rapids First United Methodist Church. It was a choral festival – Steve Michelson from Helena, Montana, led the adult choral and Heidi Hertal from Grand Rapids led the children's and youth sessions. Mark Loring of Grand Rapids First United Methodist Church coordinated the opening and closing worship services.

We had a display table at the Annual Conference Ministry Fair held in June at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. All of our handouts and the video were well received.

In October we held our fall workshop at Cadillac United Methodist Church. The theme was "Sound, Sight and Smell." The sound portion was led by Stephanie Wiltse of Grand Rapids who conducted a handbell clinic. The sight was done by Judy Coffey of Cadillac, and she led an altar-scapes session with many ideas on how to accommodate the liturgical year. Tom Bentley led the smell tract with spiritual bread-making, and they made the bread we used at our closing worship communion.

Sandy Mast, Chapter President

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) was busy in 2010 with a number of meetings and events. Quarterly meetings were held in Otsego, Alba, Dowagiac (Crystal Springs Camp) and Lansing. We hosted our third annual "Spring Splash" event at the Boyne Mountain Resort, setting a new attendance record. The success of the Love Links fundraiser for the Youth Service Fund (YSF) continued at the 2010 Annual Conference with the Heartland District winning the challenge, and we returned to Wesley Woods for our annual Youth Assembly camp where district and conference council members studied the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens with Ministry Consultant Naomi García.

The by-laws of the CCYM were changed in June to accommodate a new leadership structure. Rather than having the traditional offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and YSF Chair, the CCYM now functions under the leadership of an Executive Advisory Board (EAB). The EAB is comprised of a youth leader from each of the six districts, chosen by the individual districts. Leadership training occurs within the EAB as the various representatives cycle through different leadership roles at our quarterly meetings and conference calls. Early indications are that this system is working very well. Naomi García's return to youth ministry has also been well received, and our meetings now include skill building sessions (most recently the youth have been exploring the proper uses of parliamentary procedure). We look forward to seeing where this renewed emphasis on leadership education will lead the CCYM and its individual members.

John Holland and Joy Mills, Conference Youth Coordinators

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

This again has been a fortunate year in which we had no major disasters in West Michigan. We spent time as a committee working on upgrading the Conference Disaster Plan, matching its wording and reasoning to what UMCOR wants to see in a plan. The new plan will be before the 2011 Annual Conference for a vote to accept it in June. Also there will be a petition to change our name to Conference Disaster Response Team.

We are continually working with Detroit Conference in areas that will help each conference to better our communication and planning for the future. Along with that we are working with other faith-based and secular disaster response groups. The committee is still looking for a vehicle to pull our trailer and volunteers to staff it. We do have a number of people trained and are looking forward to have many more trained.

Don E. Tippin, Disaster Response Coordinator and Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) is to annually propose the minimum compensation schedule for clergy in various appointment categories and to assist local churches in making disciples for Jesus Christ by helping to meet minimum compensation standards for their pastors when local church resources are not sufficient. In fulfilling the obligations of ¶342 and ¶624 of *The Book of Discipline*, and in using Ministry Shares to ensure compliance with their purposes, the work of the commission is firmly rooted in our strong connectional heritage. The commission takes seriously the stewardship of Ministry Share resources entrusted for this purpose.

In 2010, a total of 20 charges, representing 28 churches, received \$168,834 in direct financial assistance from the Commission on Equitable Compensation for support of pastoral compensation. Grants ranged from as little as \$600 to as much as \$32,500, with an average grant of \$8442 per charge. Of the \$168,834 in total grants, an estimated \$91,067, or 54% of the total, went to Racial/Ethnic/Missional churches that will likely remain on Equitable Compensation beyond the five-year conference guideline.

The commission appears to be under budget for 2010, though Ministry Share shortfalls may leave us in a deficit. (The Ministry Share income report was pending at the time of this report.) Given the current economic climate in Michigan, the Commission on Equitable Compensation celebrates having been able to meet the needs of churches while remaining within our approved budget of \$185,000. Expenditures for 2010 were reduced almost \$9,000 from 2009.

Beginning in 2009, the commission was more intentional about paying attention to the rate of payment of Ministry Shares from congregations receiving Equitable Compensation support. Though we understand that the same economic conditions that create the need for Equitable Compensation support are often behind the failure to pay Ministry Shares in full, the commission has, through its guidelines and application questions, tried to make it clear to churches that full payment of Ministry Shares is expected, as that is the source of funding for Equitable Compensation. The commission added a statement regarding the expectation of full payment of Ministry Shares to the conference guidelines in 2010. Included in this statement was the stipulation that in consultation with the district superintendent and/or the cabinet, a church not meeting its conference obligations could find its Equitable Compensation grant reduced or rescinded.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation thanks the churches that are faithful in payment of Ministry Shares in full, making it possible for the CEC to continue our work of seeking to support local churches in making disciples for Jesus Christ.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION 2010 SUMMARY

CHURCH/CHARGE	ACCOUNT	ITEM	AMOUNT	TOTAL
ALBION DISTRICT:				
Constantine/White Pigeon	1110-5051101	Salary	5,000.00	5,000.00
Galesburg	1110-5051101	Salary	4,350.00	4,350.00
Hillside/Somerset Center	1110-5051101	Salary	2,400.00	2,400.00
Pleasant Valley/Ninth Street	1110-5051101	Salary	6,500.00	6,500.00
Parma	1110-5051101	Salary	6,000.00	6,000.00
DISTRICT TOTAL				\$24,250.00
HEARTLAND DISTRICT:				
Hersey	1110-5051101	Pulpit	600.00	600.00
DISTRICT TOTAL				\$600.00
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT:				
Church of All Nations	1110-5051101	Salary	3,000.00	3,000.00
Grand Rapids Vietnamese	1110-5051101	Salary	17,000.00	17,000.00
La Nueva Esperanza	1110-5051101	Salary	15,000.00	15,000.00
Muskegon Crestwood	1110-5051101	Salary	2,880.00	2,880.00
Salem/Bradley Indian Mission	1110-5051101	Salary	10,000.00	10,000.00
Shelby	1110-5051101	Salary	2,187.00	2,187.00
DISTRICT TOTAL				\$50,067.00
GRAND TRAVERSE DISTRICT:				
Baldwin/Luther	1110-5051101	Salary	10,687.00	10,687.00
Greensky Hill	1110-5051101	Salary	2,880.00	2,880.00
Kewadin/Northport	1110-5051101	Salary	32,500.00	32,500.00
Pine River Parish	1110-5051101	Salary	1,750.00	1,750.00
Windward	1110-5051101	Salary	7,250.00	7,250.00
DISTRICT TOTAL				\$55,067.00
KALAMAZOO DISTRICT:				
Cassopolis	1110-5051101	Salary	7,200.00	7,200.00
Galien/Olive Branch	1110-5051101	Salary	3,600.00	3,600.00
Paw Paw	1110-5051101	Salary	6,850.00	6,850.00
DISTRICT TOTAL				\$17,650.00

CHURCH/CHARGE	ACCOUNT	ITEM	AMOUNT	TOTAL
LANSING DISTRICT:				
Dowling Country Chapel	1110-5051101	Salary	13,600.00	13,600.00
Stockbridge	1110-5051101	Salary	4,000.00	4,000.00
Williamston Crossroads	1110-5051101	Salary	3,600.00	3,600.00
DISTRICT TOTAL				\$21,200.00
GRAND TOTAL				\$168,834.00

Nancy Patera, Chair

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism provided financial support to the Bishop's Day for Evangelism and Stewardship in 2010. At the 2010 West Michigan Annual Conference, prayer tables were placed across the Calvin campus permitting hands-on evangelism tools to conference members, and a prayer room was established within the conference meeting place.

Dr. Les Longden, member of the Board of Evangelism and Professor of Evangelism at Dubuque Theological Seminary, presented the address at the annual Evangelism Luncheon at the 2010 Annual Conference.

Edward Ross, Chair

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Thank You, West Michigan Churches!

The *Book of Discipline* mandates the Council on Finance and Administration the responsibility to be the steward of the financial and administrative affairs of the conference. That responsibility includes the annual audit of the conference finances, and the audited financial report is published in volume 2 of the Conference Journal.

The council appreciates the generous support of our churches in the midst of financial challenges in our state. Actual receipts for ministry shares represented 95% of the conference budget, compared to last year's 92%. Churches that gave 100% or more increased from 267 to 285 churches and 17 of those churches contributed more than 100% of their Ministry Shares. Ministry Shares financially undergird the various ministries of our six districts, the conference, and the denomination world-wide.

In addition to Ministry Shares our churches gave \$2 million to special offerings. \$1.2 million was contributed to UMCOR for disaster relief in Haiti and other areas; \$345,000 to world and national missions; \$292,000 to Conference ministries fund; \$97,000 to Special Sundays; and, \$80,000 to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The support of our churches enabled the conference to fulfill **100% of all general church apportionments**. This action by the CFA reflects and models the commitment of our churches to support our shared mission and ministries as a connectional denomination. The West Michigan Conference is committed to support the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church world-wide to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Summary of Giving By District

The Grand Rapids District again led the conference in percentage giving to ministry shares followed by Grand Traverse District. The following table shows the 2010 financial giving (percentages are compared to the amounts of ministry shares apportioned):

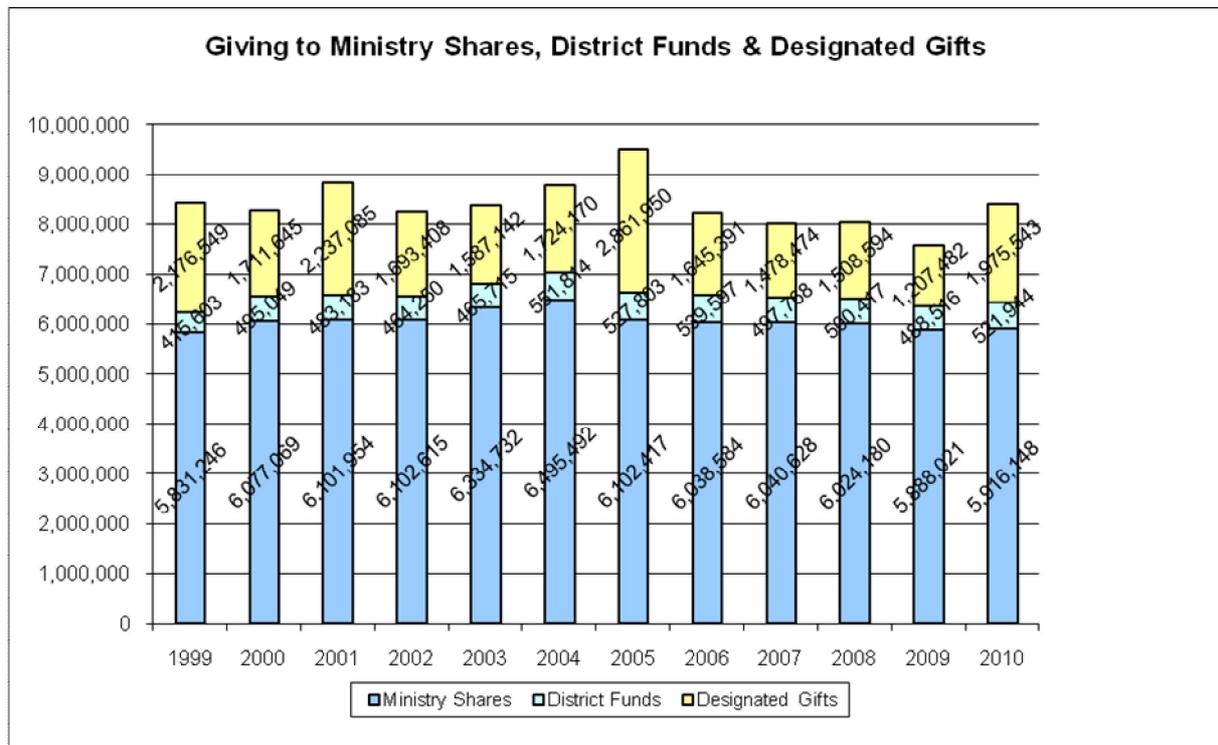
MINISTRY SHARES & DISTRICT MINISTRIES**FUNDS GIVING**

		<u>12/31/08</u>	<u>12/30/09</u>	<u>12/31/10</u>
CONFERENCE	Ministry Shares & District	\$6,524,597	\$6,376,538	\$6,438,092
	% Paid	85.8%	84.2%	88.4%
	Special Giving	\$1,508,595	\$1,207,482	\$1,975,543
ALBION	Remittances Year To Date	\$892,651	\$918,820	\$865,920
	% Paid	86.2%	89.1%	90.1%
	Special Giving	\$177,478	\$154,186	\$247,596
HEARTLAND	Remittances Year To Date	\$721,112	\$709,706	\$717,958
	% Paid	85.6%	81.6%	87.7%
	Special Giving	\$168,013	\$154,321	\$222,306
GRAND RAPIDS	Remittances Year To Date	\$1,706,839	\$1,729,108	\$1,788,434
	% Paid	89.3%	89.9%	95.1%
	Special Giving	\$494,002	\$337,898	\$628,594
GRAND TRAVERSE	Remittances Year To Date	\$843,740	\$817,045	\$870,639
	% Paid	82.2%	82.3%	92.5%
	Special Giving	\$183,846	\$154,785	\$225,868
KALAMAZOO	Remittances Year To Date	\$1,154,453	\$1,065,505	\$1,075,331
	% Paid	84.0%	78.5%	81.7%
	Special Giving	\$292,956	\$237,917	\$333,120
LANSING	Remittances Year To Date	\$1,205,802	\$1,136,354	\$1,119,810
	% Paid	85.3%	81.2%	82.0%
	Special Giving	\$192,300	\$168,375	\$318,059

SPECIAL GIVING

	<u>12/31/08</u>	<u>12/30/09</u>	<u>12/31/10</u>
1. Camp Endowment Campaign	\$1,112	\$574	\$760
2. Christian Education Sunday Offering	5,879	4,938	3,853
3. Racial Ethnic Local Church Sunday Offering	5,091	6,288	5,669
4. Human Relations Day Offering	17,088	14,861	12,275
5. Rural Life Sunday	5,990	6,112	4,177
6. Peace With Justice Sunday	15,290	12,205	11,798
7. Camp Sunday	8,759	7,307	5,979
8. Native American Ministry Sunday	17,065	16,672	12,658
9. Golden Cross Sunday Offering	8,158	7,054	5,566
10. United Methodist Student Day Offering	9,158	9,713	11,997
11. World Communion Offering	19,143	19,031	23,636
12. One Great Hour of Sharing	79,581	81,130	80,138
13. Africa University Endowment Fund	1,289	2,894	399
14. World Missionary Support	197,157	181,772	190,807
15. World Mission Projects	98,072	83,952	88,023
16. United Methodist Children's Fund	719	176	1,041
17. National Missions	66,491	69,137	66,662
19. Appalachia Service Project	0	140	0
20. U.M.C.O.R.	580,504	453,073	1,158,049
21. Ethnic Ministries	27,023	27,483	23,340
22. Conference Ministries	321,515	193,217	245,228
23. Other Benevolences	<u>23,511</u>	<u>9,753</u>	<u>23,488</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL GIVING	\$1,508,595	\$1,207,482	\$1,975,543
TOTAL GIVING	\$8,033,192	\$7,584,020	\$8,413,635

History of Giving:



On behalf of the council members, we acknowledge with great appreciation the faithfulness of our churches. We also take this opportunity to express appreciation for the commitment of Council members: Rex Schad (Vice Pres.), Susan Cobb, Diane Gordon (Secretary), Nolan Hudson, Joe Huston, Dave Lundquist, Susan MacGregor, Georgia Marsh, Russell McReynolds, Patrick Tiedt, Tom Vogeler, Patty Watson, Bob Hundley (Cabinet Rep), Wayne Barrett, Bill Dobbs and Bishop Jonathan Keaton. Thanks be to God, from whom all blessings flow!

Dale Kimball, President, Council on Finance and Administration
 Pros Tumonong, Conference Treasurer

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Again this year, my writing takes me into mid-January, testing the patience, no doubt, of those who assemble the Conference Journal! Last year, I wrote of the Church being her best in the face of emergency, as Haiti was torn by a massive series of earthquakes. This year, the grief and deep concern for the Haitian people has given way to suspicion of agencies large and small that raised billions of dollars for relief. A relatively small percentage of those funds raised have been used. We in the pipeline of church and other non-profit, non-governmental agency information know that money for relief is being utilized as infrastructure to make use of those funds reemerges. The mission and ministry of relief is a long-distance runner. What is it in us that moves to suspicion when our American expectations of being able to fix everything quickly is a matter of throwing money at it. But I digress from the annual report of the Conference Board of Global Ministries...

But not really. It continues to be the reality of our Church impacted by culture that we are in the on-going work of rethinking our mission in light of shrinking conference funding. The Ministry Shares for 2010 continued to challenge the conference and, thus, the funding of mission and ministry through the board. The Conference Board of Global Ministries again was forced to conclude that programs to heighten missions awareness and to challenge new district ministries would have to be sidelined so that we were able to keep the budget promises made to six districts which in turn fund 37 local church and community

ministries throughout our conference. We remain grateful for the work of the districts and the ministries that are living, moving, and having their being in the midst of the greatest of need.

The funding difficulties do not get any easier. As the Conference Council on Ministries, the body of which we are but a part, looks at radical restructure, the funding future of the board is in question. This may be a blessing IF the ministry vision and strategy of the CCOM helps tighten definition for the boards and agencies operating under her. Time and process will tell. May God keep us faithful.

Again this year, I remind you of the core truth the West Michigan Board of Global Ministries utilizes in our conversations, planning and funding.

“You are a missionary ...

- sent by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit
- serving in response to human need
- strengthened through connection to others
- seeking personal and communal health and wholeness
- shaping disciples and being shepherds for the transformation of the world.”

In closing, I again express appreciation for the many sub-groups of the board involved in mission at all corners, from Volunteers-in-Mission, to Urban and Town and Country focus groups, to the Detroit-West Michigan Haiti Task Force, to our Mission Personnel team and more. The Body, broken and distributed, continues to offer sustenance to fractured areas of the conference, while reaching out in Christ’s name to all the world. There has been no saint of the Church who has understood this truth, and lived out its implications, more fully than our brother Paul Doherty. Through his work in Haiti and his consistently prophetic participation in the Board of Global Ministries he has given us all a standard of mission. He will continue to be missed, even as his teachings will continue to instruct.

Barry T. Petrucci, Chair

CLARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Clark Retirement Community begins its 105th year of operation, continuing to live out its mission of “creating a community of dignity, compassion and respect centered on the lives of older adults and those who care for them.” Clark offers a full continuum of care on two campuses, which includes independent living, assisted living, short-term rehabilitation, dementia care and skilled nursing.

Clark began as a residence for retired United Methodist ministers and their spouses. Today, Clark is a community of 446 residents, 343 on our Franklin Street campus (both in independent living town homes and our main building serving all levels of care) and 103 residents on our Clark on Keller Lake campus (both in independent living town homes and assisted living care). There are currently 43 retired United Methodist clergy and/or spouses as residents of Clark.

Clark promises each resident the same high level of care regardless of longevity or ability to pay once personal financial resources have been depleted. Our Benevolent Care Fund serves the purpose of making up the difference between care cost and resources from personal and governmental support, and is dependent upon gifts and bequests for funding. During our fiscal year ending April 30, 2010, 66 residents depended upon benevolent care at the cost of \$1,554,000, a 31.25% increase in expense compared to last year.

Clark continues to strengthen its dementia care programming and residential living options, differentiating Clark from other long-term care providers. Clark hosted a region-wide conference for direct care workers in May, called the *Heart and Spirit of Caregiving*, with over 380 participants. The short-term rehabilitation center attracted many new residents to receive services in the Keller Center. Some of these “rehabbers” have become long-term residents of the community.

Clark at Home, often referred to as our third campus, continues to grow as Clark staff provides personal and health services to members of the greater community as well as Clark residents in their homes.

Revenue received by Clark for operations totaled \$19.4 million and \$2.4 million in non-operating revenue in FY ‘10, and incurred operating expenses of \$18.6 million. Contributions from individuals and churches to the Benevolent Care Fund and other projects totaled \$594,385, with church support totaling 3.18% of the total raised.

Glenn Lowe, Clark Foundation Director
Robert J. Perl, Executive Director

CONFERENCE SECRETARIES OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

West Michigan churches hosted four missionaries in 2010: Ardel Graner (Bolivia), Kathy Burton-Lewis (Japan), Rachel Gabler (South Africa), and Karen J Ujereh (North Central Jurisdiction Mission Interpreter In Residence).

The 2010 Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries speaker was Amanda Mountain from the General Board of Global Ministries who talked about the 10-Fold initiative. For 10 days starting 10/10/2010, one Advance project per day was featured online at www.10-fold.org, people interested in any of the projects could sign up to be an advocate for that project. Day 1 was Haiti Recovery; Day 2: Children's health and wholeness; Day 3: Missionaries in the United States; Day 4: Missionaries around the world; Day 5: Training church leaders; Day 6: Church planting world-wide; Day 7: Justice for Our Neighbors; Day 8: Clean water and sanitation; Day 9: Healthcare in Africa; Day 10: Sustainable agriculture. The goal was to get 10,000 advocates for each project. Donors were lined up ahead of time so that for every new advocate that signed up, one dollar would be donated to that project.

2010 saw further restructuring at the General Board of Global Ministries. Thomas Kemper, a layperson from Germany, was named the new General Secretary for the board. This marks the first time in our denomination's history that someone from outside the United States has held this position.

We were saddened when Daniel Terry, who served in Afghanistan for more than 30 years through the General Board of Global Ministries, was among the 10 persons murdered in the northeastern part of the country on August 6th.

The Fellowship of Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries for the North Central Jurisdiction met in Indianola, Iowa, in early August where I was elected that organization's vice-president. The West Michigan Conference continues to have a strong reputation throughout the denomination as being a very strong one for Missions. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the Conference Secretary of Global ministries.

Jon L. Pohl, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MISSION PERSONNEL (CCMP)

As the first point of contact for anyone interested in missionary service, the CCMP exists to interview applicants and make recommendation to the General Board of Global Ministries. The committee is also available to inquirers who seek information about mission service.

At the time of this writing we have met with one candidate and have a pending interview with another candidate. We have fielded questions from several inquirers.

Lynn A. DeMoss, Chair

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

Methodist Children's Home Society has been providing care for Michigan's children since 1917. Annually, Methodist Children's Home Society provides assistance to hundreds of children and families through its core programs.

The residential treatment program provides intensive treatment for 70 boys ages 6-17. Staff works to provide each child with counseling and assistance in overcoming the effects of physical, emotional and sexual abuse. "Children's Village," as it is known, served 119 children and families during 2010.

Licensed foster care is furnished for children, birth through age 17, who have been temporarily removed from their homes. A loving, caring environment is provided by foster parents in a family atmosphere for infants and older children who are waiting for a chance to return home or to be adopted. This past year, Methodist Children's Home Society foster homes cared for 133 young people. During 2010, foster care staff responded to 229 inquiries related to foster care.

Every attempt is made to reunite children in our care with their birth families. Because this is not always an option, we identify adoptive families and place children into loving, permanent homes. Methodist Children's Home Society adoption workers placed 38 children during 2010 and responded to 32 inquiries about adoption.

In 1992, Methodist Children's Home Society developed BookPartners, an after-school mentoring program in Jackson. Children receive individual attention from volunteer mentors who develop an individualized approach to reading that is centered on the interests of the child. The success of this program led to the establishment of additional programs in 2004. The additional programs are located in Shaftsbury and

Howard City. Methodist Children's Home Society is continuing to expand the number of mentoring programs.

The Board of Directors and staff are proud of the agency's long tradition of caring for children in need and we value our connection to both the West Michigan and Detroit conferences of The United Methodist Church through which we carry out our ministry based on Christ's words in Matthew 19:14:

"But Jesus said, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Neil Wester, President
M. Beth Tarquinio, MSSA, LMSW, Executive Director

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

The West Michigan Conference School of Christian Mission is a cooperative event sponsored by the Conference United Methodist Women and the Conference Board of Global Ministries.

A Four-day School was held July 20-23, and a Drive-In-Day was held July 24, 2010, at Albion College.

The spiritual growth study was "For the Love of God: the Epistles of John," led by Rev. Barry Petrucci. The geographic study was "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible," led by Rev. Dr. Joseph Perez and Joanne Perez. The social action issue was "Joy to the World: Mission in an Age of Global Christianity," led by Rev. Steven Charnley, Julia Deemer, and Rev. Charles Farnum. Diane Allarding was the Youth Leader. The youth spent parts of two afternoons working on volunteer projects in Albion. Mary Margaret Willbanks and Jan Huffman led the Kids' School. The children decided to call their group GC², God's Children's Class.

A total of \$375.25 was collected as an in-gathering project for a new roof for Community House, and a silent auction raised another \$342 for the roof. A used book sale raised \$209.50 for books for Community House.

John Williams, Dean 2008-2010

MISSION SCHOOL OF THE NORTH

This two-day event is another opportunity for mission education in Michigan and is sponsored jointly by United Methodist Women and the Conference Board of Global Ministries of both the Detroit and West Michigan conferences. This event is held in October at the Gaylord United Methodist Church. It is a great time of year and a great location for this joint venture.

The theme for 2010 was "Faith, Hope, Love in Action." Seventy-four men, women, clergy and laity were in attendance. The study leaders for the fall event included: Rev. Barry Petrucci for the spiritual growth study, Rev. Charlie Farnum and Julia Deemer for the social action study and Rev. Charles Boayue for the geographical study.

In addition to the studies, participants have the opportunity to attend small groups covering a variety of topics. The choices this time included: "Praying in Color," the Midwest Distribution Center, Young Adult Mission Opportunities, and The Friendship Shelter. The offering taken each year goes to United Methodist Women Mission Giving, alternating each year between the two conferences.

Linda Darrow, Dean 2008-2010

UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE

Summary of ministry for the year:

2010 proved to be a year filled with unprecedented challenges, yet through each test of our resilience came a renewed resolve to our mission and a strengthening of our faith. This ensured that our most vulnerable citizens (children, youths, and seniors) and participants received the educational, physical and emotional support they needed to succeed. Throughout all this, United Methodist Community House (UMCH) was able to witness exciting opportunities in many program areas by fulfilling our mission of **'increasing the ability of children, youth, adults and families to succeed in a diverse community.'**

Community Impact

UMCH, founded in 1902, is located in Kent County in the heart of inner-city Grand Rapids, where the majority of the participants utilizing services live. Annually, UMCH has served over 2,000 diverse participants with 90% having an income level below the federal poverty guideline.

- **Child Development Department:** 65 children served annually in our Nationally Accredited Child Development Center.

- **Youth Development Department:** Over 200 children served annually through programming on-site at UMCH and through our off-site programs.
- **First Step House:** Provides transitional housing and supportive services to over 25 women leaving a lifestyle of prostitution annually. Additionally, the program also offers informal supportive services off-site to over 50 women through community partnerships.
- **Mobile Food Pantry:** UMCH was able to serve over 1,400 individuals and families by providing over 5,000 pounds of food twice per month.
- **Family Support Programs:** Provides educational and supportive services for over 300 parents, individuals and their families.
- **Senior Center:** Provides services to over 200 seniors both on-site and off-site.

Key Agency Highlights

UMCH welcomed a new Chief Executive Officer, Richard Clanton, to UMCH in May 2010. Richard brings to UMCH over 30 years of experience in fundraising, staff development, planning and implementing organizational strategies.

The UMCH Child Development Center was reaccredited in March 2010 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) after continuing to meet national standards. This national seal of approval is a testament to the quality of program that UMCH provides to children and their families. Only 6% of child care centers in Michigan and 10 % in the nation are nationally accredited.

UMCH was a pilot site for the *Believe to Become* Summer Program, which offered services for 58 middle and high-school aged youths. This program augmented their educational opportunities and taught employment and life skills to serve them throughout their lives. Students in targeted Grand Rapids neighborhoods experienced the arts, outings, field trips and college visits, while others were offered part-time jobs, all designed to combat a phenomenon known as “summer learning loss.”

The Senior Development Department continued to serve over 60 low income seniors on a daily basis, on-site Monday through Friday. Through a partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation, UMCH received an 18-passenger handicap accessible bus, which provides needed transportation services to UMCH seniors.

Through support from the Keller Foundation and Cascade Engineering, UMCH developed an agency Business Plan. The Business Plan was developed as a tool to assist UMCH in planning for the future of the organization, including financial stability and long-term success.

As UMCH looks ahead, we are committed to the future and will work diligently to ensure that this diversely-rich organization will continue to support unmet needs in the community. We encourage you to visit www.umchousegr.org, where you can keep up-to-date on UMCH activities and agency funders, review our annual report and sign up to receive agency communications.

Richard Clanton, Chief Executive Officer

UNITED METHODIST METROPOLITAN MINISTRY OF GRAND RAPIDS

The mission of Metro Ministry is to *inspire and equip United Methodists to serve Christ in transforming the greater Grand Rapids area.*

The Grand Rapids metropolitan area is served by 20 United Methodist churches and agencies.

Representatives from metro churches have expressed hope for stronger connection, more collaboration and knowledge of tools and resources for the unique challenges and opportunities of urban ministry. Metro’s purpose and pledge is to respond to current and emerging needs and strengths to support and enhance our mutual urban ministry via specific, focused initiatives and goals.

Three major 2010 initiatives – *Hands Across the City*, *the La Nueva Esperanza/Olivet/Metro Partnership*, and *Communities of Shalom* – provided foundational goals and focus for ongoing transformative ministry in the city.

Hands Across the City, August 7, 2010 – “Hands” was a unique collaboration among Metro Ministry, GR Parks and Recreation, Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association, Friends of GR Parks, KABOOM! playground builders, members of local United Methodist congregations, and residents of Grand Rapids communities to beautify 12 city parks and build a playground in one park in one day.

Over 600 persons participated, including individuals from 18 United Methodist churches, 34 non-United Methodist churches and others who claimed no church affiliation at all. With a list of dynamic lay leaders

who worked so hard on “Hands,” Metro envisions a ‘think tank’ or ‘prayer pool’ of high-potential laypersons and committed clergy to respond with relevant and life-giving ministry to the strengths and needs in our urban communities.

La Nueva Esperanza / Olivet / Metro Partnership – After 120 years of faithful ministry and a long season of prayer and discernment, the congregation of Olivet United Methodist Church voted on November 18th, 2010, to discontinue as a worshipping congregation; and on an icy winter afternoon, over 100 persons, including five former pastors, gathered to celebrate and mourn with the Olivet congregation.

Beginning in September 2010, Metro Ministry, Grand Rapids District Superintendent Laurie Haller, and about 30 Grand Rapids United Methodist clergy and laypersons worked with La Nueva Esperanza (LNE) United Methodist Church and Olivet United Methodist Church to discern the most faithful stewardship of the buildings at 100 Burton (LNE) and 1933 Buchanan (Olivet).

The growing congregation of LNE United Methodist Church discerned that their large old building had become an impediment to ministry, financially unsustainable without assistance from conference funds no longer available. After much discussion, and with both hope and pain, LNE decided to move their ministry to the former Olivet building (the very location from which LNE was born). That move was completed on January 29, 2011.

By *Discipline*, the Olivet building is now owned by Metro. The LNE congregation is a tenant who will continue to work to stabilize and strengthen their congregational life and to reach out to their largely Hispanic neighborhood. Mike Marshall, Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Area Service Project (GRASP), also a tenant of the Olivet building, now serves as the Building Manager, coordinating all building-related issues.

The Metro Trustees, Executive Committee and the Urban Ministries Task Force will continue to work with LNE, the Grand Rapids District Superintendent and the Conference Treasurer’s Office to provide support and oversight to solid and creative stewardship of the former Olivet building, including a name change. Metro is working with the LNE congregation to discern the quickest, most cost-effective and faithful disposition of the building.

A New Model for Old Buildings – The difficult decision of the Olivet congregation was a result of circumstances familiar to many urban churches: a long decline in membership; a congregation that no longer reflects the cultural diversity of the surrounding neighborhood; a neighborhood rich with opportunity for ministry but unconnected to the congregation; a large old building with potential for new life but financially unsustainable by a now-tiny congregation.

The partnership among Metro Ministry, Grand Rapids congregations, LNE, Olivet and the Grand Rapids District Superintendent has opened doors to discerning new ways to use aging urban buildings for emerging ministries. Conversations are beginning now to find creative ways to maintain a United Methodist presence in inner city neighborhoods through faithful stewardship and transformed use of our beautiful and potentially useful but aging, expensive and difficult-to-maintain older facilities.

Communities of Shalom (www.communitiesofshalom.org) – is a strategy to make visible the witness of the gospel by developing communities and strengthening the local church. CoS is a model for ministry *with* church neighbors, which includes the principles of:

- faith in action: witnessing to the faith through the power of community action and organizing;
- asset-based community development: focusing on community strengths rather than problems;
- a collaborative approach: working with faith communities, businesses, community organizations, residents, governmental agencies;
- a willingness to promote systemic change: while meeting basic human needs, addressing the systems that create poverty.

Certified, trained Shalom Sites in Grand Rapids are La Nueva Esperanza, Plainfield Corridor, Wyoming Park and a sister site in Haiti, “Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI).”

CoS will be a major focus of Metro in 2011 and beyond, and is viewed by the executive committee as an avenue through which Metro’s mission of inspiration and equipping for relevant, joyful urban ministry can be lived into with energy and effectiveness.

Gratitude – The entire Metro Board is deeply grateful for the faithful service of former Executive Director Susan Hansen, who in July, 2010, completed nine years of excellent ministry.

Hope – Metro is committed to a bright future in which Grand Rapids urban congregations, agencies and ministries might find ever more faithful, more meaningful and more effective ways to share the joys and burdens and lessons of ministry together in the city.

Julie Dix, Executive Director

VOLUNTEER IN MISSION (VIM)

Throughout West Michigan, members of churches, large and small, have been sending VIMers into the world. Those reporting their work include 21 international teams working in Cameroon, Costa Rica, Haiti, Jamaica, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The 11 domestic teams worked in Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi and Tennessee. Two hundred ninety-two individuals have taken advantage of an opportunity to make a difference in the world and at the same time grow in their own faith experience. These persons in mission gave a total of 1,998 days of labor, equal to five years plus of service or 13,986 hours. Through our connections with the North Central Jurisdiction Coordinator, a number of individuals have been connected to teams in other conferences that met their availability and matched the skills they wished to share.

David L. Morton, Volunteer in Mission Coordinator

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

The five campus ministries and two chaplaincy programs which constitute the West Michigan Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries are here reporting their year of work with the students, faculty and staff of their university settings: Central Michigan University; Grand Valley State University; Ferris State University; Michigan State University; and Kalamazoo Area, i.e., Western Michigan University as well as the chaplain offices at Adrian and Albion colleges.

Their summaries of ministry activities are impressive and especially so since we recognize the forces of change at work on college campuses and the pressures of sustainability. Our special thanks for each congregation which has welcomed Wesley students, provided a touch of home-cooked meal or a worship setting.

Each ministry is asked to report on the number and the profile of students, staff and other campus members at work in ministry – we have a number of professors working hard. Awards and recognitions, outreach projects outside the campus and cooperative activities with local churches are all components of these reports. We have new residential units going up (CMU), building being shored up from water damage (FSU), deep and meaningful discussions with local church partners (MSU), land transactions with the university (WMU) and serious strategic planning for ministry (GVSU). Adrian continues to lead the nation in initiatives such as slave trafficking and pre-ministerial programs. Albion ministers to students through the chaplain's office as well as Albion First Church.

These are exciting times – for these ministries and even more so for the leadership they are creating. Read with anticipation.

Anne Soles, Chair

ADRIAN COLLEGE

An independently administered survey found that over 250 students participate directly in the Adrian College Chaplaincy. Others participate in institution-wide ways. This is no surprise. There are ten different spiritual life groups on campus and weekly chapel services. There are also special educational programs, studies, opportunities to serve, and campus-wide emphases sponsored by the Chaplain's Office. Our staff includes one chaplain and twelve student ministers. This is a student-centered ministry that offers nationally-acknowledged intellectual leadership. Chaplain Chris Momany teaches as a member of the philosophy/religion department and publishes in both academic and popular church journals.

In May 2011, Momany's book on the Wesleyan/Holiness ethic of love will be published by Abingdon Press.

The Adrian College Chaplaincy is grounded in an indigenous theology – a theology that gave rise to our college over 150 years ago. Our founder, Rev. Asa Mahan, believed in the sacred dignity of every person. He often described this dignity as “intrinsic worth.” Such conviction drove Adrian College's fight against slavery in the years before the Civil War. This living conviction drives our current witness against “human trafficking” or modern-day slavery.

Today there are 27 million people held as property throughout the world. This abuse exists in our nation and in our state, too. The Adrian College Chaplaincy, along with faculty colleagues and especially students, intend to end slavery in all its forms. Recently we worked for the successful passage of anti-trafficking legislation in the Michigan legislature. The gospel of Jesus Christ compels us to think and act for human dignity.

Each year Adrian College provides more than \$800,000 in grants/scholarships to United Methodist students. For more information, contact Dr. Chris Momany, Adrian College Chaplain, at 517-265-5161, ext. 4211. To tour the campus and meet with an admissions representative, call 800-877-2246 or 517-265-5161.

Christopher P. Momany, Chaplain, Part-Time Professor, and Director of Church Relations

ALBION COLLEGE

In 2010, Albion College nurtured disciples of Jesus Christ in a number of ways. As a whole, Albion College offered the grace of God through academic excellence and critical engagement with the needs of the world.

Albion College's spiritual life continued to engage the head and heart. In Christian life, Albion College Chapel (sponsored by the Chaplaincy) had one of the best in terms of visibility, accessibility, ecumenical engagement, and leadership development. Many United Methodist students preparing for ordained and lay ministry have been leaders in this group. The Office of the Chaplain continued to lead Christian unity and diversity efforts on campus (including eight distinct Christian groups). The Office maintained strong ecumenical connections with area congregations. Bible studies, service, leadership development, and innovative educational programs helped nurture the body of Christ. Wesley Fellowship continued to be a strong home for nurturing United Methodist faith development. This student organization is hosted in its regular meetings by the First United Methodist Church of Albion.

In 2010, disciples were made through leadership development in the following ways:

- Through peer leadership, the Office of the Chaplain hosted an overnight spiritual retreat for United Methodist high school youth from the Michigan area. The model for the retreat gained regional and national recognition.
- Elise Gotham, '12, one of two Student Coordinators for United Methodist Relations, earned the prestigious Harry Denman Evangelism award for her service in Haiti, the retreat mentioned above, and overall Christian leadership.
- Christian living-learning residence in its eighth year.
- Integration of Christian life with wider diversity efforts of the college. Christian leaders at Albion College were better prepared for pluralistic ministry and leadership because of this engagement.
- Albion College continued to further integrate issues of faith and spirituality into the ethos, programming, and curriculum of the college. United Methodist students have provided strong advocacy for this integration.
- The Exploring Ministries group offered students visiting role models, advisors, and regular dinners to discern their calling. A handful of 2010 graduates entered seminary or full-time mission/ministry.

In 2010, disciples were made through one-to-one pastoral care and spiritual mentoring. The College Chaplain offered pastoral care for students, faculty, staff, alumni/ae, and community members who had suffered tragedy, loss, violence, and abuse. The College Chaplain also continued to empower and mentor peer mentors, nurturing the vital role of peer ministry at Albion College.

In 2010, under President Randall's leadership, Albion College launched The Albion Advantage. This four-year program has gained immediate national fame for engaging the entire campus in preparing students for their life's work (vocation). Through this program and continued excellence in Liberal Arts education, Albion College has continued to position itself among the very best in liberal arts colleges.

Albion College remains a celebration of shared mission. God has been glorified in this work. On behalf of the college, I invite members of the West Michigan Conference to visit. In particular, I invite United Methodist youth to consider Albion College for their choice of college, and to get involved in spiritual life once they get here. Albion College is a great place to develop as a whole self and leader.

Please be in touch – dmcquown@albion.edu, 517-629-0492 – and let me know how we may continue to expand our mutual mission.

The Reverend Daniel J. McQuown, College Chaplain and Director, Global Diversity

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION at CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY (CMU)

Summary of ministry for the year

Wesley@CMU's mission is to create Christian community for CMU students. We do this through weekly Christ-centered worship and study for Christians, monthly service and off-campus fun events, Spring Break work trips, and special events. Weekly movies and meals provide an avenue for non-Christians to come in contact with our community. Active fundraising has enabled us to slightly increase staff hours despite cuts in conference funding, giving us increased recruitment in the Fall.

Number and profile of the students, staff, and other campus members participating

In 2010, 29 different members of the campus community regularly participated in Wesley activities. Eighteen of these were involved in discipleship activities. Recruitment is up in 2010, with 11 students joining us in the Fall. All of the regular participants were undergraduate students; 66% were female (compared with 55% of undergraduates); 1 (3%) was a minority student (compared with 8% of undergraduates).

Awards / recognitions

The director served as chair of the Mt Pleasant Area CROP Walk, which set a new record in dollars raised and is forming a powerful alliance with CMU.

List of outreach beyond campus

Wesley@CMU is specifically focused at creating a Christian community on campus, but one of the things our community does is serve off campus. In 2010, we worked with residents of Mission, South Dakota, during Spring Break and held monthly "Random Acts of Kindness" days where we pick up trash, rake leaves, etc., around the community.

Brief summary of cooperative activities with local churches

Wesley@CMU has a positive relationship with Mt Pleasant First United Methodist Church. Members of local churches serve on the Wesley Board and often prepare dinners for students on Sunday evenings.

Training received by staff

Director Dr. Charles Farnum's primary areas of study this year were global mission, leadership, and Bowen Family Systems theory. He taught classes at the Christian School of Mission, the Mission School of the North, and the "Being a Visionary Leader" conference at Western, and provides training for the student staff.

Other pertinent information the Annual Conference needs to be aware of

Wesley@CMU seeks to grow closer in size to the Kalamazoo and MSU Wesleys, each of which has substantial individual donor support and a strong student staff. Plans to build on-site housing for 5 student leaders have expanded to an 8 student residential Leadership Center, with support from the CMU and Mt Pleasant leadership community. \$47,500 has been raised for this center as of 1/1/2011 and completion of the building is anticipated in July.

The Wesleys of West Michigan continue to be our greatest evangelistic field, with literally tens of thousands of new freshmen each year across our state. Every year, we lose our most experienced leaders and 20-25% of our membership to graduation. Every year, we offer the Gospel to people at a pivotal point, as they decide what they are going to do with their adult lives. We covet your support – spiritual, emotional, and physical.

Charles Farnum, Director

FERRIS STATE WESLEY HOUSE (FSU)

I refer to this year as a transitional transforming time at the FSU Wesley House. The theme that I have personally taken on, and has spilled over into the lives of the students here, is "Courage to Take the Lead."

As I was hired two weeks before Ferris State University's Fall Semester began, I can only speak to what we have been doing from that point forward. We hit the road running by beginning the semester with a welcome back picnic. There were 15 students who attended; most were from the previous school year and few were new students. Board members joined us for the picnic, as well.

We participated in the annual Bulldog Bonanza that offers new students information on the many campus organizations available to them and what the Big Rapids community has to offer. This was a successful event for us. We offered a “box-o-goodies” drawing and had over 60 students stop by our table for the drawing. About 40 students signed up to be on our e-mail list to receive weekly news about upcoming events. I had the opportunity to meet people from eight other campus ministries represented that afternoon, many of whom are interested in working on a cooperative project together in the future.

Our annual Fall Retreat was in October. This was a relaxing time, as well as an opportunity to get to know the students better. Nine students participated in the fun weekend. Our topic for the weekend was “Learning How to Meditate on the Scriptures.” The students responded well to this.

We had two fundraisers in the fall. The first fundraiser was our annual Pumpkin Roll sale. The second fundraiser was a Pulled Pork Dinner. Both did well in adding to our mission fund. We are preparing for our next round of fundraisers.

We have continued with the Thursday evening dinner and Bible study. After meeting with the students at the first Bible study, I determined that the students did not want a “pre-made” Bible study. They wanted to read the scriptures with a purpose; to learn how to understand the scriptures; and most importantly, how to apply these scriptures to their everyday lives. This all tied into my theme of becoming leaders. As we read through a selected piece of scripture we take a look at a list of leadership traits and identify any of them in the biblical person we are reading about. Then we discuss its application to our lives. Our first lesson was Jonah! A week later, students had a “Jonah” moment and a light bulb came on. Amazing!

After completing a semester of study like this, the students still want to continue in this fashion. They are getting much out of their time in the scriptures.

We are now preparing to host the State Wide Retreat during the first weekend of February. We will be working with an area assisted living facility and two nursing homes as our service project. We are also preparing for our mission trip to Chavies, Kentucky, for the Appalachia Service Project.

Profile of Students

Participation varies between 15-25 students – approximately 11 females and 14 males. The core group is about 8 students who are part of the RSO board and/or Wesley House Board and help plan events/activities.

Awards/Recognitions

Certificate for Highway Clean up

List of Outreach Beyond Campus

Our students participate in the Highway Cleanup, CROP Walk, raking leaves in the community, and a local lunch program once a month at a local church.

Brief summary of Cooperative Activities with Local Churches

Our students attend worship at the Big Rapids FUMC, Big Rapids Third Avenue United Methodist Church, as well as their home churches. We accepted an invitation to visit Frankfort and Elberta United Methodist churches last October. The students participate in Third Avenue’s lunch program once a month preparing and serving the community. We are preparing to work with other churches in the community in better serving students, as well as other FSU campus ministries.

Training received by staff

Completed an Advanced Lay Speaking Class last fall on “Next Church.Now.” Preparing to take another this winter on “Creative Speaking.” Began a class with Reverend Dean Prentiss on “Understanding God’s Call” in exploring a more formal ministry.

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry as we campus ministers reach out to communities in need of hearing God’s word and making a difference in those lives.

Christine Berke, Director

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY (GVSU)

Summary of the year. The Wesley Fellowship at GVSU was in our fourth year of full-time ministry in 2010. Our mission as a group is celebrating diversity, uniqueness, and God. We created a mission statement that reads, “We come together as a unique Christian community to experience and serve God by supporting and encouraging students wherever they are on their spiritual journey.” The Fellowship is

ready to be a witness of love, acceptance, compassion, and grace at this university. Wesley Fellowship meets on Sundays from 5-7:30 pm at the Wesley House on the Allendale campus for food, fellowship, and fun. We follow our dinner with Bible study, devotions, or discussion time. Students look forward to this safe environment to talk about faith and what is going on in their lives. Our programming space, Wesley House, is located just off campus on Luce Street. We began gatherings here in January 2009. We now have a student dinner during the week, Community Garden of GVSU planning meetings, and our Sunday gatherings there. 2010 programming highlights included: Wesley students participated in the Wesley Statewide Retreat which was held in our own backyard, Olivet United Methodist Church and Grand Rapids Area Service Project. Fifty students and campus ministers from around the state came together for worship, fun, and service. This is a yearly event and the second time the Wesley @ GVSU has hosted. We also enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner provided by our Board of Trustees, which included Wesley alumni, the current Fellowship and friends and the board members.

Profile of students and staff. Our 2010 numbers included 15 involved throughout the Sunday meetings. There were 5 students taking on leadership responsibilities including hospitality, planning retreats, attending board meetings, creating events, and participating in district meetings. There were also additional students who were in one-on-one conversation with our director, attended events, or were on the e-mail list. We have seen many new faces and been in contact with lots of new people. We had 2 students graduate in 2010, but 4 new students in the fall. We currently are working with one Faculty/Staff person, who is our Board of Trustees Treasurer, Jennifer Schick, our student Advisor. We are also in conversations with the director of the LGBT Resource Center, office of Student Life and other campus ministers on the campus. We are working on developing more relationships with the faculty and staff on campus. The GVSU Student Life Office began Interfaith Luncheons twice a semester which brought together all of the faith traditions on campus to share about programming. This is a big deal as GVSU continues to work toward diversity on campus. This is a great learning experience and a way to connect our student organizations together to do collective programming.

Awards and Recognitions. We are recognized as a religious student organization on campus.

Outreach beyond campus. We took a spring break mission trip to sunny Florida, to work with inner city children in an after school program, an opportunity to speak to the middle school and high school youth groups at Melbourne United Methodist Church about connecting to campus ministry, and a trip to Disney World through the Helping Hand program. There were 10 students involved.

A few of the Wesley students have been involved with teen ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church. We are lucky to have Grand Valley's Community Garden right beside the Wesley House. We are working on collaboration between the Wesley Fellowship and the Garden people. This garden is in its third year of providing many organic vegetables and flowers. Some of the vegetables will be used in Campus Dining. This connection with the sustainability initiatives at GVSU is an important partnership. Our graduates are involved in outreach in their communities. They are in important ministry fields like education, nursing, business, and engineering. We value all the ways we can be sharing God's love with each other.

Summary of cooperative activities with local churches. One of our supporting congregations provides a meal at each Sunday gathering. We are also privileged to have many Wesley Board members and their families bring dinner as well. We have enjoyed the presence of the White Pines youth groups and a visit from our district superintendent again this year. We also are proud that Marne, Georgetown, Faith, Wesley Park, and Wyoming Park United Methodist churches are represented on our Board of Trustees. We have also visited Grand Rapids Faith United Methodist Church, Valley Church, and Wyoming Park UMCs.

Training received by staff. The director, Heather Holt, is working on her Master's degree in Social Work at GVSU. She is also a member of Allies and Advocates at GVSU, which provides yearly trainings. This ministry is important to the GVSU campus community as we learn together how our faith affects our lives and we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others. Heather has announced "retirement" in 2011 after eleven years. This decision was difficult, but Heather believes she is called to the field of social work advocacy. This change is scary and exciting for students and trustees as we discern God's calling together.

Thank you for your support of campus ministries.

Heather Grubaugh Holt, Director

WESLEY FOUNDATION OF KALAMAZOO

The biggest news at the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo is the sale of the building and property occupied since 1964!

At the Wesley Foundation, we began the Widening the Welcome capital campaign in 2009 with the goals of creating a space that would be accessible for all with better energy efficiency and interior space organization. To achieve those goals in our current facility would have required investments far in excess of the building's appraised value. When WMU approached us to purchase our current property, we recognized that in building anew, we could meet our current goals and more, including establishing a residential community, which would have been impossible to achieve at the current site. In addition, our property was seen as at risk to eventual eminent domain claim from WMU, which threatened our future cooperative relationship and made leaders reluctant to make significant investments in the facility.

The new facility will be located 1250 feet west of our current location, on a plot of land 40% larger than our current site, bordered by Howard and Rankin Streets. The new facility will include a Ministry Center where students will worship, meet for study and dialogue, and find pastoral support.

This year we expanded our ministry to include Voices of WMU Gospel Choir, Lutheran-Episcopal ministry, two new addiction recovery groups, and yoga club in addition to ongoing collaboration with the two meditation groups, the Military and Veteran Student Association and Swords into Plowshares Peace Center. The new space will be designed to foster continued collaboration with these current and future student and community groups. We are working with the Kalamazoo District Superintendent to provide space for these offices to allow for increased resource sharing with pastors, lay leaders, and local congregations in the district. We also plan to build a space to house a residential community for approximately 75 students committed to sharing a journey of faith and service.

WMU has offered continued rent-free occupancy of our current facility for up to five years. We plan to continue fund raising efforts through the campaign over the next several years while we create plans for our new facility.

Wesley has continued with ongoing ministries that focus on growing disciples through Bible study, small group book studies, mission work and engaging in social justice issues. February 25th-March 6th student teams of sixteen and nine traveled to Mission, South Dakota, to work with the Lakota people through Tree of Life Ministries and Quilali, Nicaragua, to work with Mano a Mano and Stephen and Karen Small. Each month students participated in local mission opportunities and a fall service retreat to Cass Community in Detroit.

Weekly worship and Sunday night meals continue to anchor the beginning and end of our week of programs and ministry serving 35-40 students at each event. Over one hundred students participate in mission work, social justice issues, Bible study, worship, prayer group, praise band, intentional leadership development, retreats, Voices Gospel Choir, and fellowship. As a full-time campus pastor I work with six part time student staff and five non-staff leaders to plan and implement these ministries and programs. The leadership team receives sexual harassment, safe on campus, abuse prevention, and ongoing leadership training.

Wesley received numerous recognitions from Western Michigan University for our willingness to work with a variety of on-campus groups and in the larger community. The praise team traveled to ten local congregations and led worship at Bishop's Day. Students helped to serve community meals at local churches and provide a monthly worship and meal at a local homeless ministry.

We look forward to the blessings and challenges of living into our vision of being "an authentic, transforming, Christ-centered community."

Lisa Batten, Campus Pastor

WESLEY FOUNDATION at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU)

In 2010 the Wesley Foundation at Michigan State University ministry extended beyond our normal weekly programming to include a variety of social service opportunities, retreats, and events. In January, Wesley students statewide came together for a weekend of fellowship and service in Grand Rapids. In February, the annual Mystery Dinner Fundraiser was held to help cover costs for our Spring Break Mission Trip. That trip led us to Charleston, South Carolina to work with the United Methodist Relief Center in their efforts to eradicate substandard housing. During this trip, participating members spent a day in

Washington D.C. where we were able to tour the nation's capitol. Throughout the academic year Wesley young adults joined forces with the Muslim Student Association and Islamic Center in a program called Project Downtown. Every other Friday students from both organizations packed lunches to hand out at a downtown Lansing homeless shelter. The lunches also provided a way to begin conversations with those individuals at the shelter, to gain a better understanding about poverty, and to see what can be done.

To finish out the academic school year Wesley Foundation young adults participated in two social service opportunities held on Michigan State University's campus. In mid-April we participated in the MSU Spartan Relay for Life. In the several months leading up to this event students raised over \$1500 for cancer research. The event provided a chance to stay up all night in fellowship for a great cause. Later that month we participated in an event called Unite for Haiti. We worked with other religious organizations on campus to plan and run an event that raised money for Haiti Relief. Wesley Young adults worked at the event doing set up and tear down as well as selling tickets.

With the new academic year beginning, student staff and upperclassmen stormed the dorms greeting incoming freshmen with goodie bags and a friendly face. Wesley provided transportation to University welcome back activities, as well as activities hosted at the Wesley Foundation. Efforts were made to ensure contact with all incoming freshmen who indicated a preference for United Methodist ministry.

In September we went on our annual Fall Retreat to Pentwater, Michigan. This weekend retreat provides a way for students to get to know one another, connect with God, and come back to campus rejuvenated for the new semester. The weekend is filled with devotional and small group sessions, as well as time for enjoying Lake Michigan and fellowship with each other. In an effort to get the Wesley Foundation's name and purpose known on campus, we participated in the Michigan State University's Homecoming Parade on October 15. Students spent their weekday evenings in fellowship, building a float before the parade. October also brought our annual service weekend retreat to Cass Community Services in Detroit, Michigan, where we did service projects during the day, acted in their Haunted House, and worshiped together.

In December we held our Second Annual Christmas Tea. This tea provided a time for area United Methodist Women and Wesley female young adults to spend an evening in fellowship and raise funds for Wesley programming. Male students provided the wait staff for this wonderful evening while the ladies were entertained by the Spartan Discords, one of the many a cappella groups on campus. Many lives have been touched by the ministries of the Wesley Foundation at Michigan State University.

Garrett Reinig, Development Intern and Greg Lawton, Campus Minister

JOHN WESLEY ASSOCIATION

The *2008 Book of Discipline* (§ 323) calls for – and provides guidelines to – a Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. In our West Michigan Annual Conference, that requirement has been satisfied since 1971 by the John Wesley Association (JWA). Through the JWA, Local Pastors and Associate Members (and other pastoral clergy who are not yet a member of an Order) come together in mutual care and support. We seek first and foremost to develop our faith, skills, knowledge, inspiration and commitment to excellence in carrying out God's call upon us. We are affirmed and credentialed as clergy by The United Methodist Church. As pastors to many and varied congregations, we assist the Order of Elders and the Order of Deacons in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the services of Christ's Church everywhere and to everyone.

In 2010 and 2011, the JWA has concentrated on "professional development" and "commitment to excellence" in performing our pastoral duties. In October of 2010, meetings were held at the Lake City United Methodist Church and the Battle Creek First United Methodist Church. Information was shared regarding professional development, educational opportunities and the physical health of pastors. In an effort to hone one of our most important skills – preaching – seminars by the Reverends Rick Blunt and Billie Dalton were presented. In April of 2011, meetings will feature several Local Pastors and Associate Members preaching to their peers – for sharing, worship, critique, comment and learning.

All Licensed Local Pastors and Associate Members are automatically members of the John Wesley Association. It is hoped that each and every one will become or continue to be active, as we seek to best fulfill God's call.

Michael A. Riegler, President

LAKE LOUISE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, CAMP and RETREAT CENTER

Located on 2400 acres of conservation forest and a crystal-clear lake, Lake Louise is a camping and retreat ministry affiliated with both West Michigan and Detroit conferences. Lake Louise is ably served by Vaughn Maatman, Executive Director, and a 15-member Board of Trustees, including four members appointed by Detroit Annual Conference, and four members appointed by the West Michigan Annual Conference. Trustees may, by Lake Louise bylaws, serve up to three (3) three-year terms, for a total of nine (9) years. The West Michigan appointees and their year of appointment are:

- Jeff Parsons (2003)
- Rev. Deborah Johnson, Vice President (2005)
- Inge Whittemore (2008)
- Rev. Phil Friedrich (2010)

Lake Louise's camping and retreat ministries are vital and growing. Camp registrations in 2010 were up by 6% to 654. Those campers were served by 124 dedicated volunteer counselors and deans. In the summer of 2010 there were four high school camps, a family camp, choir camp (grades 4-12), three elementary camps and a middle school camp, in addition to a variety of volunteer groups, an adult retreat, and a retreat and training experience for mission interns from Detroit and West Michigan conferences. Lake Louise's retreat ministry grew by more than 11% in 2010, serving primarily United Methodist parishes – adults and youth – from Detroit and West Michigan conferences, but also parishes from our sister denominations and the local community.

Lake Louise is 18 months into a three-year 1.1 million dollar capital campaign to address staffing, programmatic and infrastructure needs. Early success in that campaign in 2010 has enabled hiring a Program Development Specialist, Terry Gladstone, to help us extend the outreach of our ministry, and to complete the construction of the first of three small lodges for 20 people to begin the replacement of aging cabins and bathhouses. Gifts will enable the start of a second lodge in early 2011, as well as a playground for young children. Significant work was also accomplished on our waterfront and trail work through our conservation forest, both efforts designed to bring campers and retreats into closer contact with God's first revelation – our natural environment.

Due to growing camp and retreat registrations and many generous donors, Lake Louise's financial situation is solid. Lake Louise currently has an application pending for the Forest Legacy Program, a federal and state program that purchases conservation easements on private property. If chosen, Lake Louise's environmental resources will be protected for generations into the future, and the financial support will help us grow the ministry.

We are mission driven and all of our efforts have one goal; to equip persons of faith and extend the kingdom of God by "Creating an environment that nurtures Christian growth and Christ-like community" (LLCC's mission statement). We invite all members of the two United Methodist conferences in Michigan to pay us a visit, to join us for a retreat, to send their children to our camps, and to volunteer as a counselor or work camp volunteer. We are glad to be partnering with you in this ministry.

David Gladstone, President, Board of Trustees

MICHIGAN AREA COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

The Committee on the Episcopacy has representatives from each of the conferences that make up the Michigan Area. It meets thrice yearly and seeks to be a support for the bishop in the oversight of the area. The committee acts much like the staff parish relations committee of the local church. Our mission is to assist the bishop as he provides leadership in making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Realizing this mission is not his alone, we share experiences on how together we can make this happen.

Our committee includes the chair of the Episcopal Residence Committee. The oversight of the residence is well cared for by J.D. Landis. The relationship between Bishop and Mrs. Keaton and Rev. Landis is cordial and special thanks are given to Mrs. Keaton as she has looked after the residence and has made it a home.

Four members of the committee also serve on the North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy. They will guide us in the quadrennial evaluation process that will occur in 2011.

We thank Gary Sarut who served the area well as chair of this committee. We also wish to acknowledge Bill Dobbs and his contribution to the work of the Michigan Area.

We look forward to the coming year and working with Bishop Keaton and the United Methodists of the Michigan Area.

Genie Bank, Chair

MICHIGAN AREA INDIAN WORKERS' CONFERENCE

❖ **IWC Executive Committee:**

Chairperson: Pastor Thomas John (Northport/Kewadin)

Vice Chairperson: Carmen Misner (Detroit CONAM)

Secretary: Valerie Maidens (Northport)

Interim Treasurer: Judy Johnson (Greensky Hill)

Detroit Conference Representative: Carmen Misner (Detroit CONAM)

Youth Representatives: Robby White Pigeon; Rose Jackson (Mt. Pleasant-Chippewa)

WMC Representative: Benton Heisler

❖ **2010 IWC meeting dates:**

April 17, 2010 at Northport Indian Mission

October 8, 2010 at Kewadin Indian Mission

❖ **2011 IWC meeting dates:**

April 29 and 30, 2011 at Mt Pleasant-Chippewa Indian Mission

October 14 and 15, 2011 at Greensky Hills Indian Mission

❖ **IWC Indian Mission Delegates:**

Phyllis John (Kewadin)

Donna Squires (Northport)

Cynthia Floyd (Mt. Pleasant-Chippewa)

Carmen Misner (Detroit Conference; Saganing; Zeba)

Amy Alberts (Oscoda)

Anna Bixler (Bradley)

Judy Johnson (Greensky Hills)

Norman Pigeon (Salem)

❖ **Native American Church Pastors:**

Thomas John, Sr. – Kewadin / Northport

John Henry – Zeba

Devin Chisholm – Saganing

Timothy Wright – Greensky Hill

Owen White Pigeon – Mt Pleasant-Chippewa

Pastor Sandra VandenBrink – Salem / Bradley

Pastor Briony Desotell – Oscoda

CHUCH REPORTS:

❖ **Kewadin Indian Mission – Pastor Thomas John.**

Sunday worship service at 9 am. Easter Revival held on March 25-27 (2010) with speakers Shane and Chris Johnson. Our 1st Sunday Potluck Penny Roll continues to support our 4th Guatemalan girl thru the International Assistance Medical program. With funding from the Indians Workers Conference, we were able to send 4 children to the 1st Native American Connections camp in August. Pastor Tom and Phyllis also attended and spoke with the children. Kewadin had our 3-day Summer Camp Revival on July 15-17 (2010) with Marshall and Mary Collins. Fall Revival was held November 18, 19 and 20 (2010) with Delford "Bunny" White Crow. On Sunday, October 24th, One Voice Gospel Choir from St Paul United Church of Christ located in Saline, MI, performed at morning worship service. We continue to support our food pantry. Church paid 100% of their Ministry Shares to WMC for 2010.

❖ **Northport Indian Mission – Pastor Thomas John, Sr.**

Sunday Services – 12 noon (share Pastor Tom with Kewadin); Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Easter Revival March 18-20 (2010) with Pastor Jerry Huffman. Easter Sunday, April 4 (2010), Pastor Tom baptized his 7 month-old grandson – Brandon. With funding from Indian Workers Conference, renovation completed on Sunday school room – walls and cabinets repainted; church elder built a book case and study table; new blinds hung on windows and purchased a new DVD/VHS combo unit; and sent one child to the 1st Native American Connections camp in August. Our children collected and donated \$100 to the Haiti Relief. Annual Summer Camp Meeting August 5-8 (2010) with Pastors Jerry Huffman and Sam McClellan. Fall Revival Meeting November 11-14 (2010) with Pastor Michael Peters, of 4Fire Ministries included a well-attended 2-day workshop. Major project completed: removal of the mobile home block foundation before August Camp Meeting. Church elder Tom Anderson did the manual labor and saved the church a huge expense. Church elder Tom Anderson continues to care for the Onominee Indian Cemetery. Two summers ago, the cemetery was completely overgrown with thick brush and weeds. After all the debris was cleared away, two Civil War veteran gravesites were located. George Ashkabug served with the Co K 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, the only all-American Indian unit in the Michigan regiments and the largest unit of American Indians east of the Mississippi. Joseph Prickett served with the Co L 3rd Michigan Cavalry unit. On Sunday, October 24th (2010), One Voice Gospel Choir from St Paul United Church of Christ located in Saline, MI, performed at our church. Church members put together and delivered 20 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. Church paid 100% of their Ministry Shares to WMC for 2010.

❖ **Greensky Hill Indian Mission – Pastor Timothy Wright.**

Sunday Services – 9:00 am and 5 pm Evening Services alternate between Pastors Sam McClellan, Marshall Collins and Thomas John. Sunday school program continues to grow with 10 students attending the morning program and 7 students attending the evening program. Church members are very active with fund raising projects: Spring and Summer craft show; Summer flea market; men's club variety show and Sugar Shack activities; annual Fall Harvest Dinner. The Women's Drum Group continues to share their music. This past year, the group sang at a mother-daughter banquet at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, Charlevoix Congregational Church, Manton United Methodist Church Variety Show and the Love Benefit Concert for Mary and Marshall Collins. The group is willing and ready to share their songs wherever they are invited. The church sent 7 students and one grandmother to the 1st Native American Connections Camp in August through funding provided by the Indian Workers Conference. Church paid 100% of their Ministry Shares to WMC for 2010.

❖ **Mt. Pleasant-Chippewa Mission – Pastor Owen White Pigeon.**

Sunday Worship at 11 am and 7 pm; Bible Study class on Tuesdays at 7 pm; Midweek worship service at 7 pm.

Our church remodeled this past spring – new carpet installed in the sanctuary and tile laid in the Sunday school room. The basement dining room was painted and tile laid down. Our restrooms have been tiled and painted; tabernacle painted. Our youth did all the work and did a great job. Easter Revival with Bill Bird, Marshall and Mary Collins, and Phil Bird. On Easter Sunday morning service, performed 15 baptisms and 92 received communions. Our annual summer camp meeting held on August 29 – September 5 with Lennox Taylor; Sam McClellan; and Roy Harrigerour. We continue to meet our financial needs.

❖ **Oscoda Indian Mission – Pastor Briony Desotell**

Pastor's lay ministers alternated Sunday Worship services during Pastor Bri's 6-week maternity leave this past Spring. Attendance has been increasing; going through a transition of financial management; restructuring at-will volunteerism. We had 3 youths attend the 1st Native Connections camp in August. Renewal of vows and 2 baptisms on May 15th and Memorial Day picnic celebration. Celebrated our 150th Anniversary on September 25, 2010.

❖ **Salem Indian Mission – Pastor Sandra VandenBrink.**

The congregation at Salem Indian Mission continues to worship each week and to be a supportive spiritual community for the Native Americans and others in the Salem/Hopkins/Dorr/Burnips area of Allegan County. Tribes represented in the congregation include: Pokagon, Gun Lake, and Grand Traverse. Other non-Native members and constituents also worship with us so that the congregation is a blending of cultures and perspectives. Its diversity truly represents what the Kingdom of God is meant to be. Those who worship at Salem value the compassion, warmth and grace that is shown to all who enter its sanctuary.

Each week, following worship, the congregation joins together for a community potluck meal. A dynamic youth group continues to gather each week with Bible study, service projects, fundraisers, and camping as their focus. The Salem youth group has initiated a project to begin raising money for a youth building with facilities for recreation and meetings. In addition to fundraising projects various grant opportunities will be explored.

In 2010 there were five baptisms. During the summer the church hosted the Gladys Church Sunday School picnic, hosted by Gladys' children. Gladys' husband Lewis White Eagle Church was the long-time pastor at Salem and Bradley Indian Missions.

On the first weekend in October, Salem hosted a Fall Revival on Friday and Saturday nights at which Lennox Taylor from Ontario, Canada, was the speaker. The services were well attended and the congregation was blessed by hearing Scripture read in the Ojibwa language.

Four children from Salem attended Native American Camp at Camp Kinawind. One of the Salem youth (Kelsey Stickley) served as a camp counselor.

The youth group from Salem was invited to sing and speak at East Nelson United Methodist Church. One youth wore her regalia, and the youth group taught the children of East Nelson an Indian song. Their participation in worship and the display of Indian crafts was truly appreciated.

Goals and plans for the future include; building a Youth Building, and developing the land behind the church into a camp meeting grounds.

We are so grateful to God for the many ways he has blessed our congregation and our people.

❖ **Bradley Indian Mission – Pastor Sandra VandenBrink.**

The year 2010 has truly been a year of blessing for Bradley Indian Mission. With new families moving into the area and greater job opportunities we have seen attendance double and triple at most of our Sunday worship services. But more than numerical growth there is such a vibrant sense of spiritual growth that is expressed in heart-felt testimonies and closer relationships with God through Jesus Christ.

For the first time in over 20 years Bradley has a Sunday School class that meets each week with up to five children. The class meets during part of worship and at the end they rejoin the congregation and share a Bible verse that they have just learned. What a blessing these children have been to our church.

Bradley received 5 new members on Profession of Faith in 2010, and baptized one baby.

Worship on Sunday always includes testimony time and singing of Ojibwa hymns. Retired Pastor Joe Sprague leads us in singing and shares a ministry moment each week. He has been an inspiration to the entire congregation as our oldest member and with such a powerful personal testimony. On Veterans Day in 2010 Pastor Joseph Sprague was honored by finally receiving his World War II Army medals in a moving ceremony at Luella Collins Community Center (go to www.positivelymichigan.org to see the video and interview).

Each Easter and Christmas, Bradley and Salem Indian Missions join together for a combined worship service and potluck dinner held at Luella Collins Community Center (Gun Lake Tribal Center). Attendance at these special worship services always exceeds 125 people.

On the third Sunday of each month Bradley hosts a special brunch that offers a great opportunity for food and fellowship.

Building improvements at Bradley Mission continue, with plans for new carpeting and new seating in the sanctuary. Volunteers worked this past year on finishing outdoor projects and doing planting and landscaping.

Bradley and Salem continue to sponsor the PaWaTing MeGedWin Kikaajik Native American Elders program in Grand Rapids. This ministry of outreach has been in operation for over 30 years and continues to offer lunch twice a week, along with fellowship, games, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, crafting, and musical specials. The program meets from September through May and at the end of the year hosts a huge picnic and barbeque. Four to five hundred meals are served each month.

❖ **Native American Connections Camp – Camp Kinawind (August 2010) – Judy Johnson.**

1st Native American Connections camp August 8-11, 2010 at Camp Kinawind. Judy and Dougherty Johnson volunteered as camp deans. Youths in grades 3-8 were invited. The Indian Workers Conference provided the funding. 16 youths attended from Salem (1), Bradley (3), Northport (1), Kewadin (4), Greensky Hill (7 plus 1 Elder). Pauline Barber taught the Native language sessions and Pastor Tom John

taught the ministry session (lesson on encouraging young people to become active within their church). Plan to sponsor another camping experience in Summer 2012. Judy suggested Mt Pleasant would be an excellent location. 2010 1st Native American Connection costs for 16 youths – \$2,400.00 plus camp supplies – \$523.79. Total Cost: \$2,923.79.

❖ **Detroit Conference/CONAM – Carmen Misner.**

Native American Lay Speaking Course of Study. There are 30 different programs for Lay Speaking Course – Basic and Advanced Training. Committee is checking into the possibility of holding a local NA Lay Speaking School for 2011. Carmen asked Pastors Tom John and Owen White Pigeon to volunteer as teachers.

Native American Course of Study (NACOS). Due to lack of funding, the 2010 NACOS did not take place. Rev. Tim Miller, director of the NACOS, travelled to Nashville in September to meet with the Directors of the National Course of Study Programs. They provide financial assistance to the Hispanic Course of Study through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Tim met with the group to see if financial assistance could be granted to Michigan's NACOS. He reported on the program and received a favorable reception. He will request a grant to run the program for one year. If the grant is approved, this will help the NCJ Mission Committee to fund other ministry programs. The NACOS is thinking about a NA licensing school or NA Lay Missioner training. The next NACOS will be April 6-9, 2011, in Grand Rapids, MI. Two classes will be offered: Wednesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 7 on Pastoral Care and Counseling; Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9 on The Pastor as a Transforming Agent. Anyone interested in attending can contact Rev. Timothy Miller, 3080 Waterchase Way SW, Apt 104, Wyoming, MI 49519 or call him (616) 724-4389 (office) or (616) 350-2909 (cell) or send an email to miller-timothy@att.net. Pastor Thomas John (Kewadin/Northport Missions) completed the NACOS and presented his Certificate of Completion in November 2010.

❖ **Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) – Amy F. Alberts.**

Members have participated in the following activities and events and worked toward the following ministries:

- In 2010 our Committee on Native American Ministry met in the spring at the Annual Conference and in the fall at the Kewadin Indian Mission Church.
- Our three Detroit Conference Indian churches/missions, Zeba, Oscoda and Saganing, have actively participated as voting members of the Indian Workers Conference since 1954. As in the past, we continue our fellowship in celebration of our interconnectedness as Anishinabek serving our Creator.
- In 2010, support was provided for two adults to participate in the annual Bishop's Day that was held in Mt. Pleasant, MI, during the month of March. In April, support was provided for a Detroit Annual Conference liaison and two Oscoda Indian Mission representatives to attend the spring Indian Workers Conference meeting held at the Northport Indian Church, Northport, MI. The CONAM also provided support for a representative to attend the UMW Assembly held in St. Louis, MO to network with the Native American Oklahoma Missionary Conference.
- During the 2010 Annual Conference an informational booth was set up offering literature and displays representing the ministries that are sponsored and/or supported through the Committee on Native American Ministries.
- In collaboration with Camp Kinawind, the West Michigan Conference, CONAM and Detroit Conference, and CONAM Indian missions/churches supported the Native American Connections mini-Camp held in August of 2010. The camp included teachings of our Anishinabe culture and traditions. The camp targeted youth in grades 3 - 8.
- Also, the committee provided support to the Outdoor & Retreat Ministry camp scholarship fund to offset the sponsorship of two youth to attend camp in the summer of 2010.
- At the fall regular meeting, it was decided that the Detroit Conference CONAM would sponsor the 2011 Native American Lay Speaking School established through the North Central Jurisdiction. A basic and an advanced Lay Speaking course will be offered. The Native American Lay Speaking School program will be held at the Oscoda Indian Mission, Oscoda, MI, in April.

Megwetch (thank you) – in recognition of the generous giving (giving: a traditional way of life for Anishinabe People) of the local churches for supporting the ministries managed through the Native American Ministries Sunday offering! Your ongoing support has strongly impacted the Native American missions, churches, communities and future generations. The Native American Ministries Sunday collection in 2009 for use in 2010 was \$16,464.62; half, \$8,232.31, was sent to the General Church to provide scholarships for Native American seminary students and to fund Native American Urban Initiatives. The half that was retained by our conference was divided into four equal shares (\$2,058.08) and sent to the three Indian missions/churches and to the committee's cumulative fund, which provides for other programs or ministry projects relating to Native Americans.

Thomas John, Chair / Valerie Maidens, Secretary

MICHIGAN AREA LOAN FUND
of The United Methodist Church
Missions and Church Extension Trust Fund

2010 was a positive year for the Michigan Area Loan Funds in spite of pressures from the weak economy, the regulatory climate, and struggles for congregational finances. The Loan Fund operations continued steady and met the challenges of both investor and borrower relationships.

Dr. Wayne Barrett, CFP®, serves as Resident Agent of the Fund. He serves as Chief Executive of the Fund and brings certification in financial planning and a Series 63 securities license from the State of Michigan. He directs the operations of the Fund from his Grand Rapids office.

Rev. Denny Buwalda serves as Loan Officer. Rev. Buwalda handles all loan inquiries as well as providing the linkage between the several parties involved in processing church loans.

Office operations are directed by Marian Coles and Kay Yoder from the Grand Rapids office. Ms. Coles handles correspondence and operational management while Ms. Yoder is staff accountant.

A useful new website was introduced in 2010, www.michiganarealoanfund.org. You are invited to visit our site for updates for investors or borrowers.

Investors were rewarded during 2010 with a rate of return that was attractive in comparison to many similar investment options. Investors currently earn 3.25% on their investment accounts. Larger accounts (\$100,000 or more) earn 3.50%. This fund, The Missions and Church Extension Trust Fund, offers both investment opportunity for congregations and individuals within the state of Michigan and a loan source for the 920 congregations of The United Methodist Church in Michigan. Mortgage loans are available with a variety of amortization schedules and a current rate of 5.74%. Promissory notes are also available for smaller funding needs at a rate of 6.25%. The Fund is registered with the Securities Bureau of the State of Michigan and is managed by its Resident Agent. As of December 2010 the loan portfolio included 32 loans and mortgages with a total value of \$6,245,830.

A complete audit of the Fund is available upon request from the administrative office, PO Box 6247, Grand Rapids, MI 49516.

The future of the Fund looks strong in spite of weakened loan demand. The financial strength of the Fund should be secure as the net corpus of Fund assets continues to grow and allow the Fund to serve the needs of Michigan United Methodist congregations. The board continues to look for ways to expand our fund base to ten million dollars or more so we may be competitive in the broader loan market. Congregations as well as individual United Methodists are invited to invest in our Fund.

The Fund is grateful for the leadership of a fine volunteer Board of Trustees that guides the vision of our ministry.

Joel Garrett, President, Board of Trustees
Rev. Dr. Wayne Barrett, Resident Agent

MICHIGAN AREA SCHOOL FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

The 2010 Michigan Area School for Pastoral Ministry convened the third week in August at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Our theme was "Change on the Horizon: Catching Up With What God Is Doing!" This year's school featured Dr. Phyllis Tickle and Dr. Maxie Dunnam.

The school began with a fast-paced history lesson on major movements of the Church given by Dr. Phyllis Tickle. She is the founding editor of the Religion Department of PUBLISHERS WEEKLY. Her inspirational wisdom, depth of knowledge and contagious wit was noticed by all. Much of her latest work examines how Christianity is changing, what is emerging and how the church can respond in a way that makes a meaningful impact. In addition, her work *The Divine Hours*, a pocket edition of fixed-hour prayers, is a companion resource for sojourners, office workers, and others on the go.

Our preacher, Dr. Maxie Dunnam, laid out some stark truths about the decline in church membership and effectiveness in an ever-growing unchurched society. Only 20% of United States citizens are in church on Sunday mornings anymore and the U.S. is now third, behind only China and India, when it comes to the percentage of unchurched in our society. Dunnam's wealth of experience and wisdom gave us hope for a future where we might move from "come to" congregations to becoming "go to" churches.

In addition to depth and contrast of our two speakers, we offered a panel of "Best Practices for Pastors," multiple opportunities for worship and fellowship, poetry by the riverside, in addition to the benefits of our new venue at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center. Many of the shared practices were found to be encouraging, Rev. Matt Hook's worship leading was inspiring, listening to the poetry of our peers was enlightening, and the new venue was a huge hit for those wishing to have more options for joining up with friends and colleagues. Attendance held firm at 130 with hopes of growing in years to come. As the school schedule has been tweaked in past years, purpose has been pinpointed, and a more suitable venue has been secured, the Senate feels what we are offering pastors is par with other much more expensive and geographically difficult to attend training opportunities. We are proud to claim that The School of Pastoral Ministry is the only event designed specifically for the care and nurture of persons in pastoral ministry in the Michigan Area.

While Bishop Jonathan Keaton was on spiritual renewal, his presence was missed by many. We look forward to a continued accessibility with our bishop at this year's school. In addition to asking questions in direct dialogue with Bishop Keaton, ongoing community and relationship around tables, at meals, and in hallways is appreciated in greater ways than any of us understood until it was not present.

Our 2011 theme is "Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land."

This year's MASPM features Brian D. McLaren and Allen Dwight Callahan. McLaren is an author, speaker, pastor, and networker among innovative Christian leaders, thinkers, and activists. Callahan is director of the Instituto Martin Luther King Jr. in Salvador, Brazil and the author of *The Talking Book: African Americans and the Bible*.

The 2011 Michigan Area School for Pastoral Ministry will convene Tuesday, August 16th through Thursday, August 18th at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing on the campus of Michigan State University. It is our hope as we return to our new site, more will be able to experience the benefits of the walking trail, screened porches, babbling brook and outdoor patios for meetings, gatherings, bonding and collegiality among peers. We plan to make use of this beautiful space, set in nature, for meaningful devotion and fellowship opportunities, in addition to the stellar education that is provided.

Melany A. Chalker, Assistant Dean of the School Senate

NEW CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Our Council of Bishops and our general agencies set four priorities for The United Methodist Church this quadrennium, and one of those four is new church development. Our bishops realize that the most effective way to reach un-churched people in our culture is through new churches, as they can more easily address and connect with the culture, which is constantly changing. Existing churches can learn from our new churches and can also give support to our new churches, so the establishment of new churches is a win for everyone.

Our committee and our Director of New Church Development, Barb Flory, have worked hard to plant and give continuing support and guidance to our new churches. Our newest church plant is Valley Church in Allendale in the Grand Rapids District. They launched on 10-10-10, and at the end of 2010 they had an average attendance of 140 adults and 50 children. Other signs of growth in our new churches include: CrossWind Community Church purchased and renovated a building this year; LifeSpring is looking for a new place, as they have outgrown their current location; and Sycamore Creek held a capital campaign to move ahead with building a facility. It's not about buildings, of course, but it's harder to measure and see the many lives that are being transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ through all of our new churches, along with the multitude of ways that the people in these churches are actively reaching out to transform the world.

While we celebrate the signs of new life in our current new churches, we regret that we were not able to begin working toward a new church in 2010, due to deficits that the committee is working on reducing. Those deficits should be eliminated in 2011, which will allow for something new to begin in 2012.

We are considering new models for starting new churches. A team of persons from the committee attended the United Methodist School of Congregational Development in Nashville, Tennessee, during the summer of 2010, learning more about multi-site churches and planting churches with lay persons, among other aspects of new church development in The United Methodist Church.

We invite existing congregations to consider becoming a church with more than one site. Would you be able to reach new people if you began another worship service in a different location? What would that look like? What resources would it take? What would the structure with the original site look like? You may want to begin those kinds of conversations in your church.

We encourage everyone in the conference to pray for our new churches often. We also hope that you will seek ways to reach out and encourage a new church that is in your district. We are connected, and we are all in this together. For more information on each of these new churches, you can visit the New Church Development page on the conference website – <http://www.westmichiganconference.org/pages/detail/1822>. We have included there a list of their website addresses. Please check them out from time to time and keep track of their progress. They are a growing arm of The United Methodist Church in the West Michigan Conference.

Kathy Brown, Chair

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) is the instrument that The United Methodist Church uses to affirm God's calling to ordained ministry and meet the standards and qualifications necessary for this calling and the life of service as God's servants within West Michigan Annual Conference. Yet, the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry includes more than entry into the covenant relationship, as the board is responsible to care for, support and guide clergy throughout their years of service to Christ's Church. Much of that work is done through the following sub-committees:

Conference Relations Committee responds to the changing circumstances in the lives of ordained elders, deacons, associate members and local pastors. They track all changes in clergy status, recommending leave of absences, transition or family leaves, incapacity/medical circumstances and retirements. This past year, under the guidance of John Boley, the committee has continued to clarify and refine our processes for handling recognition of denominational credentials and appointments within the West Michigan Conference.

Support Committee, under the direction of Bob Lynch, continues to explore ways to be more supportive of the clergy and their families. Life happens to all of us: the unexpected death of a spouse, parent or child; health issues that can occur at any time; the risk of "burn out" becomes reality; family issues impact ministry. In all these arenas the board seeks to find ways to be supportive. We also seek your input as to how the board might initiate and provide helpful programs and be present in crisis situations.

Registrar Committee. Under the capable leadership of our registrars, Dean Prentiss (new Elder candidate registrar), Lillian French (new Provisional member registrar), Marty Culver (new Local Pastor and Associate Member registrar), and Wade Panse (Candidacy registrar), the board maintains contact with all pastoral candidates, local pastors, and district committees on ministry. It is under their direction that all candidates for ministry on the deacon and elder track, at both the commissioning and full member

level, are asked to submit written materials, evaluations, professional examples of their ministry and be a part of our twice-yearly interview process, as the board looks at their “readiness for” and “effectiveness in” ordained ministry. The board is most grateful for their excellence in leading this most important facet of our work together.

Finance Committee. Utilizing the skills of Barbara Brechting, the board maintains their budgets (both board funds and MEF monies) to help underwrite the cost of seminary education through grants and loans; underwrite costs of Licensing School and Course of Study classes for our local pastors; provide for counseling / medical costs (not covered by clergy insurance) incurred by clergy families; offer funds for both continuing education and spiritual direction; provide support toward ethnic intern opportunities, etc. We thank all those churches and individuals of the West Michigan Conference who faithfully pay their Ministry Shares and thus help fund future clergy, and support present clergy, of the conference.

Enlistment and Mentoring Committee. Jane Ellen Johnson, as our new chair of Enlistment, is the contact person for those students who indicate an interest in servant ministry. Initial contact, offering board support and direction, is made with all those who respond to the bishop’s call at the ordination service. Enlistment persons visit our senior high camps, offering opportunities for conversation about God’s call to ministry. Seminary visits are made to offer encouragement and guidance to our present students. Under the capable leadership of Mike McDonald, Jane Ellen Johnson and Daniel Hoffman, Candidacy Mentor training sessions continue to be held around the conference where numerous pastors were trained as Candidacy Mentors. The District Committees on Ordained Ministry may now assign them (in consultation with the district superintendent) to mentor candidates for ministry until they begin serving as commissioned provisional members or local pastors. Additional training sessions will continue to be held in the future.

In addition, under the guidance of Devon Herrell and Mary Ivanov, the board continues to sponsor regular meetings of each class of commissioned provisional members as they move toward ordained ministry. These groups meet regularly throughout the year to support one another and share their experiences in ministry. The board appreciates and affirms the dedication and time commitment of our clergy mentors who make these experiences possible.

In addition, the board works with both Julie Dix, chair of the Order of Deacons, and Lynn Grimes, chair of the Order of Elders, in looking at ways we can work together to facilitate ministry in the conference. We are presently engaged in exploring an instrument for “Clergy Effectiveness,” and how it might be used in the provisional ministry process and in conjunction with the cabinet. The board continues to be assisted in its work by Sus’ann Busley, our administrative assistant. Working out of the Lansing District Office (where Sus’ann is also administrative assistant to the Lansing District Superintendent), she has been most helpful in learning BOM process, responding to requests for information and materials, keeping our BOM website updated, and facilitating board communications. We are most appreciative of her work!

Our board again covets your prayers as we seek to do our work in building God’s Kingdom through servant ministry in the West Michigan Annual Conference.

William M. Beachy, Chair

ORDER OF DEACONS

The deacon embodies the interrelationship between worship in the gathered community and service to God in the world. (The 2008 Book of Discipline ¶305)

The West Michigan Conference Order of Deacons is growing. As persons who are gifted and called to the ministry of the deacon become ordained and sent into service, congregations and clergy colleagues are experiencing the movement of the Spirit in this unique expression of ordained ministry.

Deacons serve West Michigan in congregations, hospitals, retirement communities, mental health facilities, and social service and non-profit agencies. Our ministries are based solidly in the worship life of the congregation, where we co-lead worship, preach, teach, offer music, conduct weddings and funerals and lift up, pray for and work toward the healing of the Church and the world. Whether we are deployed outside the congregation or serving primarily within it, our calling, our task and our joy is to walk with, challenge and support laypersons and others as they discover and grow their own ministries of love, reconciliation and justice.

2010 was a quiet year in West Michigan for the order of deacons. We are spread far and wide, immersed in our places of ministry, and while we are growing and thriving in our individual areas of service, we have not yet found the best and most fruitful ways of connecting and deepening as an order. We expect new

leadership in 2011, with an emphasis on maintaining connection, reaching out to those exploring the ministry of the deacon, keeping better track of those on the way to ordination and new energy in our relationships with other West Michigan deacons.

We met in February 2011 with Detroit area deacons and with our bishop for an afternoon of relationship-building, spiritual growth, conversation and prayer. We are hopeful for continued cross-conference dialogue and ministry with Detroit area deacons.

Most of all, we are grateful to God for the call to relate what we do in worship with what we do – all of us – in our daily lives. Together as an order and in our places of ministry, we seek to follow God's leading, to proclaim the gospel and to be thankful always.

Julie Dix, Chair, Order of Deacons

ORDER OF ELDERS

Colossians 3:13-15 speaks these words of covenant: "Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

The Order of Elders is defined as a "covenant community within the Church to mutually support, care for, and hold accountable its members for the sake of the life and mission of the Church."

All Ordained Elders are members of the Order, including those who are retired and those serving beyond the local church. As we know, there are many issues today that can divide us.

Yet, the goal of the Order is, through gatherings, conversation, study, worship, support and trust, to confront those issues and accent what makes us 'one' ~ one in Christ, one in covenant, one by our call to ministry, and one in affirmation by the Church. In the midst of our diversity and differences, we can then still affirm our oneness.

This past year, the Order has been involved in:

- Providing for our pre-conference worship, planned and provided by the Chairs of the Orders of Deacon and Elder and the Chair of the John Wesley Association.
- Participating as a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and the board's executive committee.
- Meeting with the bishop, area cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry representatives in preparation of the "Effective Clergy Leadership" document.
- Being available to offer support and nurture to clergy colleagues when requested.

It would be my hope and prayer that, working with our West Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Order might:

- Provide intentional opportunities for team building, learning together, praying together and sharing experiences of ministry and mission.
- Begin to give structure to our Order with more involvement of district representation.

As an order of Elders may we find friendships that will last a lifetime, fellowship that will enrich our journey and encouragement that will remind us of the joy found in our ordination and service to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Lynn E. Grimes, Chair, Order of Elders

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition of evangelical piety, ecumenical openness, and social concern. As one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich

context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the major metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia, Candler offers students a learning laboratory that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 469, with 358 seeking the Master of Divinity, 67 the Master of Theological Studies, 16 the Master of Theology, 14 the Doctor of Theology, and 14 enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 25% US ethnic minority, 9% international, and 52% women. Forty-six denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 57% of total enrollment under thirty.

To ensure that our students are prepared for leadership in an increasingly global context, Candler continues its emphasis on internationalizing the curriculum. This fall, Rev. Dr. Beauty Maenzanise, dean of the theology faculty at Africa University in Zimbabwe, joined us as the 2010-11 McDonald Chair in the Study of Jesus and Culture, and the Rev. Dr. Margot Kaessmann, former head of the 14 million-member Protestant church in Germany, joined us for a semester as visiting Theologian-in-Residence. This year, Candler has academic exchange partnerships with theology schools across five continents and nine countries, including many related to The United Methodist Church. In addition to our ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, Candler once again partnered with International Relief and Development, Inc., to send eight student interns as far as Cambodia and as near as Gulfport, Mississippi, to address a broad range of issues, including democracy and governance, HIV/AIDS, child poverty and mortality, and community development. Travel seminars in 2010-2011 include the Middle East Travel Seminar in May-June and World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars to the Philippines, India, and Colombia.

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the two-year Contextual Education program shapes our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites and churches with academic analysis in the classroom and spiritual reflection in pastor-led small groups. 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. This year, we will expand Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can concentrate fully on honing their pastoral skills beyond the first two years of ConEd.

Candler's Lifelong Learning events strengthen the church by providing opportunities for clergy and lay leaders to learn more about the practice of ministry. Fall Conference 2010 focused on conflict transformation; the spring event featured poet, author, and funeral director Tom Lynch along with Candler's own Tom Long, addressing "The Good Funeral." The 2011 Fall Conference highlights "The Art of Preaching in the 21st Century," with a chance to learn from some of the most respected names in preaching.

In addition to our Lifelong Learning events, Candler oversees the educational process of more than 900 people each year through the Course of Study regional school and our five extension schools in the Southeast.

Despite today's challenging economic climate, Candler remains committed to making theological education financially possible for our students. Although our operating budget essentially remained flat this year, we increased our total financial aid investment to over \$5 million. Eighty-three percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering 76 percent of tuition. In March, we hosted our third annual Leadership Candler event, an all-expenses-paid discernment experience that draws together top prospective MDiv students to explore the richness of life and study at Candler as they are considered for 30 top scholarships. In addition, Candler won a grant from the Carpenter Foundation to offer financial management training to our students. The grant also sponsored the public lecture series "Simple Enough?" to explore the relationship between financial and spiritual well-being. Featured speakers were popular United Methodist pastors and authors Adam Hamilton and Paul Escamilla.

Our esteemed faculty continues to distinguish itself at the highest levels. Dr. Luke Johnson won the prestigious Grawemeyer award in religion, Dr. Carol Newsom received a Luce grant from the Association of Theological Schools, and Dr. Jacob Wright received a medal of honor from the Collège de France in Paris. In addition to their achievements in scholarship and teaching, faculty members continually

demonstrate their dedication to the church through preaching and teaching engagements and service in parishes both local and across the country and world.

We celebrate the outstanding achievements of two of our United Methodist faculty as they retire this year: Dr. Russ Richey and Dr. Brooks Holifield. Both are highly regarded for their extraordinary work in their areas of expertise – the history of Methodism and American Christianity, respectively – and for their service to our denomination, both at the local and national levels.

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

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

Last fall the seminary welcomed 122 new students, the largest entering class in more than twenty years. The average age of the diverse and highly qualified MDiv class is thirty-one, reflecting a decrease in the average age of entering seminary students. Garrett-Evangelical provides \$2 million in institutional financial aid to students each year.

Class of 1961 alumnus Dr. James H. Cone, one of the world's prominent liberation theologians, was the keynote speaker during the fall convocation. The event was part of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical.

To commemorate twenty-five years of leadership in spiritual formation studies, the seminary is raising \$2 million to endow the Rueben P. Job Chair in Spiritual Formation, which will assure the seminary remains at the forefront of developing and enhancing spiritual formation studies at the certificate, master's, and doctoral levels. Garrett-Evangelical welcomes contributions, which will honor Bishop Job and assure the ongoing nurture of spiritual leaders for the Church and the world.

The Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities develops programs and events for the continuous education and lifelong learning for leaders and communities. The Institute's MDiv *Plus*, the first of its kind, is a three-year executive education program in cooperation with Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. The program is organized around six seminars and includes a one-on-one coaching program that pairs individuals with certified coaches who are effective and experienced. All clergy with an MDiv degree are eligible to participate.

The expanded Doctor of Ministry program offers four tracks of study: [Congregational Leadership](#), [African-American Congregational Leadership](#), [Spiritual Direction](#), and [Mission in the Contemporary United States](#). The Garrett-Evangelical DMin program also is a portal to the [Association of Chicago Theological Schools \(ACTS\) DMin program in preaching](#).

Renovation of Loder and Lesemann Halls nears completion. Loder will feature a student center, student lounge, state-of-the-art classroom, kitchen and dining room, modern residence rooms, and guest suites. Lesemann will connect directly to the United Library and will house the Stead Center for Ethics and Values, expanded library facilities, a conference room and other offices. Loder Hall will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.

Garrett-Evangelical is welcoming several new faculty and staff:

- Dr. Anna Johnson, Visiting Assistant Professor of Reformation Church History; Ph.D. in Church History and M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; B.A., St. Olaf College. She was an adjunct professor at Loyola University in Chicago.
- Dr. Hendrik Pieterse, Associate Professor of Global Christianity and World Religions; D. Phil., University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa (now the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University). He was Director of Scholarly Research and Book Editor for the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

- The Rev. Becky Eberhart, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management. Previously, she was Director of Admissions and Student Services at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and Program Associate for Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation, an initiative of the Lilly Endowment.
- The Rev. Mary Ann Moman, Senior Advancement Specialist and Director of Course of Study, focusing on development, recruitment and extending the seminary's program reach. Previously, she was Associate General Secretary for the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
- The Rev. Dr. James Noseworthy, Senior Assistant to the President, working with the president in administrative responsibilities, development, and grant writing. Previously, he was president of United Methodist-related Hiwassee College and Assistant General Secretary for the Division of Higher Education, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Joining the seminary's faculty this summer are:

- Dr. Charles H. Cosgrove, Professor of Early Christian Literature; Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently, he is Professor of New Testament Studies and Christian Ethics at Northern Baptist Seminary. He has also taught in the Association of Chicago Theological Schools' Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program.
- Dr. [Virginia A. Lee](#), Associate Professor of Christian Education; Ed.D., Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education; M.R.E., The Divinity School, Duke University; B.A., The College of William and Mary. She currently is Associate Professor of Christian Education at Memphis Theological Seminary.

Garrett-Evangelical serves over 550 students in degree-related courses, certificate programs and our summer Course of Study School. We encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and, if at all possible, to visit us on campus. Garrett-Evangelical's commitment to theological education will continue to expand and improve through 2011. We are proud to serve The United Methodist Church, and we ask for your continuing prayers and support as we pursue our mission and our renewed vision. Thank you.

Philip A. Amerson, Ph.D., President

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Greetings from Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO), where we're privileged to have 14 Michiganders among those preparing for lives of lasting significance on our campus. Thanks for this opportunity to share highlights from an eventful year.

MTSO introduces new certification: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor

Engaging in Ministry with the Poor, one of Four Areas of Focus adopted by delegates to the 2008 General Conference, has become the basis for new certification program at MTSO. This pilot program is offered in partnership with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and Community Development for All People (CD4AP), a United Methodist organization working to improve the economic, social and spiritual quality of life for poor and marginalized residents of the south side of Columbus. Classes for this popular program are taught both on the MTSO campus and at the facilities of CD4AP, which include the Church for All People and the United Methodist Free Store.

Christian Ed degree evolves as Master of Arts in Practical Theology

To better serve the changing educational and formational needs of the church, MTSO has introduced the Master of Arts in Practical Theology, a program that takes the place of the Master of Arts in Christian Education beginning in the fall of 2011. Students in the MAPT program will have the opportunity to choose from among four specializations: youth and young adults, ecology and justice, spiritual formation and small groups, and parish and community ministry.

Growing D.Min. program forms partnership with Lutheran seminary

MTSO and Trinity Lutheran Seminary have teamed up to offer a Joint Doctor of Ministry Program offering the benefits of both schools' resources. The program is a tangible benefit of a deepening cooperative relationship between MTSO and Trinity, as well as the agreement between The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to enter into full communion. MTSO will administer the joint program. Each student's degree will be awarded by the individual school through which the student

enrolled. MTSO offers three D.Min. specializations: Leadership for Transformational Change, the Mission and Practice of Preaching, and Pastoral Theology and Care. Enrollment in the MTSO D.Min. is at its highest level since the program was introduced in 2004.

MTSO ranks in top 20 for multifaith education

We have been recognized as one of America's top 20 seminaries in multifaith education. The list was released by Auburn Theological Seminary, a center for religious leadership and theological research based in New York City. Auburn studied 150 schools before publishing this unranked list. The study's authors cited MTSO's commitment to "individual wholeness, social justice, inclusiveness and religious diversity," and highlighted the work of Paul Numrich, MTSO's professor of interreligious relations. Numrich recently authored the book *The Faith Next Door: American Christians and Their New Religious Neighbors*.

We're grateful for your continuing support of our vital mission. Please stay connected with us throughout the year by visiting www.mtso.edu.

Danny Russell, Director of Communications

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"Spirit led: Renewing the Church!"

United has one goal: to train dynamic leaders for the ministry of Jesus Christ. As you consider whether God is calling you or someone you know into ministry, we invite you to explore the opportunities at United!

United offers:

- Degree and certificate programs relevant to today's followers of Jesus Christ!
- Emphases in Christian Ministry, Pastoral Care and Church Renewal!
- New: An Online/Hybrid Master of Divinity that meets United Methodist Church and ATS standards!
- A growing number of Life-Long Learning courses online and on campus!
- New Doctor of Ministry degree focus groups and mentors!
- Deep learning opportunities for both clergy and laity!
- Appreciative theological reflection on the central teachings of the Bible and the doctrines of the Christian faith!
- Spiritual formation in a variety of cultural contexts, including international communities!
- A technologically advanced, fully accessible, state-of-the art campus!
- A youthful, diverse, widely published faculty committed to the Christian faith!
- Friendly and helpful staff and students!
- A United Methodist matching scholarship program and scholarships for others as well!

At United, we are committed to following the Spirit's lead in renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world!

Enrollment at United is growing steadily and we invite you to call, visit or sign up for a class or program that meets your needs!

For more information, contact admissions@united.edu.

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

4501 Denlinger Road, Dayton, OH 45426, 937-529-2201 www.united.edu

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PLAN (CRSP)

The new clergy pension program called the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) took effect on January 1, 2007. The CRSP is a combination of a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan. The defined contribution portion is 3% of the clergy's plan compensation (cash salary plus housing). In this new pension plan, the "overfunded" or credit balance in our pre-82 defined benefit account in the General Board of Pension became available to the conference to the extent of the Defined Benefit contribution due from the conference in the amount of \$1,940,116 for 2010.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE PENSION PROJECT SUPPORT

The 2005 Annual Conference directed that "a portion of the Cokesbury contribution to the West Michigan Annual Conference shall be donated to the Central Conference Pension Project which was created to support the pension needs of retired clergy in developing countries." By the end of 2010, the board has contributed the total of \$39,404.13 of the monies received from Cokesbury since 2005.

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides additional benefits for active and retired pastors in the form of group life and long-term disability insurance. The long-term disability insurance takes effect upon approval by the GBOPHB when the clergy participant is not able to perform ministerial duties due to disabling medical reasons for at least six months.

Payments to Annuitants and Beneficiaries Report: There were 591 participants who received benefits and total payments to annuitants were \$7,026,681 including Disability payments of \$317,254. A detailed report showing payments to individual beneficiaries is available upon request from the Conference Treasurer's Office.

MINISTER'S RESERVE PENSION FUND (MRPF/Pre 82)

The MRPF is the Pension plan covering service years 1948 to 1981. The General Board of Pension reported that for the 2010 actuarial study, our pre-82 Ministerial Reserve Pension Fund is funded at 160% and showed a credit balance (over-funded) of \$21,266,374 based on the PSR of \$697 and the surviving spouse benefit of 85%.

Because the surplus in the Pre-82 Fund can be used to pay Defined Benefit pension liability only, the board decided to apply portion of it to pay the CRSP DB contributions for our clergy who are in active appointment. The amount of the defined benefit contribution to the new pension plan (CRSP) paid by the churches has been redirected to fund the retiree health care.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFITS LIABILITY FUNDING

Our Health Care Reserve Fund at year end 2010 was \$16,171,503. (If needed a portion of this amount may be used to contribute to any unfunded liability in pension funds as the General Board will determine.) The board intends to set aside \$10,754,000 for the post-retirement Health Care Plan as of January 1, 2011. This represents a 37% funded ratio for the Plan based on actuarial study. Our long-term funding strategy may be impacted by the possible changes in US federal health care programs.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

Self-Funded Medical Benefits for Clergy and Lay on Active Status

The active health care plan provides medical, prescription drugs, dental and vision benefits for active pastors and their dependents, as well as eligible retirees and spouses under age 65. The premium for active clergy is shared by the pastor and the local church. In our effort to continue to provide a high level of benefits at a time when industry and other conferences are cutting back, the board secured concurrence of the annual conference to implement a Self-Funded Medical Plan for clergy and lay who are under age 65 effective September 1, 2009. Benefits remained unchanged with the exception of medical coverage for auto related injuries in order to protect the plan from potentially excessive claims. At this writing claim data are inadequate to provide an intelligent report on the status of the Plan. To effectively administer the Health Care Plan, the board hired Ronald Stoll as a consultant after having resigned from the board. Lou Grettenberger replaced Ron as a board member and chair of the Health Care Committee.

Health Care for Clergy and Lay on Retired Status

Retired clergy and lay who are eligible under Medicare (age 65 and older) and those on Medicare qualified disability status are placed in the Retiree Plan. The Retiree Health Plan provides coverage for medical, prescription drugs, dental and vision benefits. Medicare has primary coverage under Parts A and B (physician and hospitalization), and our Plan provides supplemental coverage equivalent to Medicare Part G. Retirees pay a minimum of 10% of actual premium cost plus 5% for every year that is short of the 20 years service to the church.

Medicare D Implementation: Integration of our prescription drugs benefit with the newly approved prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 was approved by annual conference in 2005. In implementing Medicare D, the government used private insurance companies and drug providers to sell certain plans. Our plan has been with the United American Insurance Company starting January 1, 2006. The Medicare D prescription drug plan adopted in the retiree plan does not have the infamous donut hole.

Medical Benevolence

The board has established a medical benevolence fund to assist both active and retired health care participants who are in financial distress brought about by medical needs up to a maximum of \$5,000 in a calendar year. Application form is available upon request from the conference treasurer's office.

Financial Report of the Health Care Programs for the year ended December 31, 2010

HEALTH CARE RESERVE FUND
WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

	2009	2010
Net Asset, beginning of year	\$13,931,517.77	\$15,274,092.68
Contributions		
Premiums collected	3,757,336.34	3,833,303.99
Ministry Shares	84,049.47	47,185.30
Receipts from Redirected CRSP DB	1,345,532.43	1,230,635.69
Other Income	625.00	22,404.49
	<u>5,187,543.24</u>	<u>5,133,529.47</u>
Benefits Expenses	(4,783,873.44)	(6,164,532.91)
Administrative Expenses	(189,499.22)	(229,530.10)
	<u>(4,973,372.66)</u>	<u>(6,394,063.01)</u>
Asset Increase/(Decrease) from operation	214,170.58	(1,260,533.54)
Investment Gains/(Loses)	1,128,404.33	2,157,944.17
Change in Net Asset Increase/(Decrease)	1,342,574.91	897,410.63
Net Asset, end of year	<u>\$15,274,092.68</u>	<u>\$16,171,503.31</u>

BENEFIT GUIDES

Benefits guides for health care plans are posted on the conference web site. Printed copies of Benefits Guides and/or plan documents will be provided upon request at the Conference Treasurer's Office.

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership and dedication of the Board members: Molly Turner (Vice Chair), Sue Graybill (Secretary), Peggy Boltz, Wendy Clark, David Dekker, Deborah Fennel, Lou Grettenberger, Jennifer Loding, Robert Richards, David Selleck, and Anthony Shumaker, and Representatives from the cabinet and the general board were Laurie Haller and Bill Neuert. We also recognize the support of the Conference Treasurer's office staff, John Kosten, Russ Geske and Ann Buck, and our third-party service provider Professional Benefits Services in the stewardship of the Plan. As always, we thank God for the support of our churches in providing for the health care and pension needs of our clergy and lay employees and the opportunity to serve.

Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Michael Anthes, Chair
Pros Tumonong, Treasurer and Benefits Officer

CONFERENCE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The personnel committee worked together with the Rev. Benton Heisler, our Director of Connectional Ministries, to realign staff, clarify and provide review processes, and encourage our conference staff.

During 2010:

- Naomi Garcia shifted some of her responsibilities in order to provide oversight to the conference youth ministries.
- Our Conference Director of Communication position currently held by Mark Doyle was expanded from ½ to ¾ time.
- The Michigan Area Resource Center (M.A.R.C.) staffing was reduced due to budget constraints and caused a need to realign office staff.
- Our committee provided input to the conference restructuring task-force.

I want to personally thank our committed staff and committee for all they do to support our conference vision and mission.

Karen Grettenberger, Chair

COMMITTEE ON PRISON MINISTRY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONCERNS

Micah 6:8

"What does God require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

In 2010 our committee focused on the following areas:

- Support groups for families of the incarcerated.
- Mentoring for returning citizens to society.
- Keryx ministry (similar to an Emmaus Walk but for inmates).
- County jail ministry.
- Restorative justice (victims rights and mediation before incarceration).
- Camp New Day.

Our goals were to:

- Train our committee.
- Have training sessions to educate and train key leaders in how to reach out to families of the incarcerated and provide training, supervision and support for church members interested in mentoring a returning citizen.
- Encourage churches to provide transportation to church services for returning citizens.
- Encourage churches to become involved in Angel Tree Ministry.

- Provide speakers and resources to educate West Michigan churches about the prison population and the challenges returning citizens, i.e., clothing, food, gas cards, public transportation, job search.
- Encourage churches to become involved in Keryx ministries.
- Assist Camp New Day to help stabilize their funding.

In April our committee attended Prison Fellowship's "Out For Life" conference in Lansing, Michigan. The conference gave us an overview of the criminal system. We were able to network with others working in the field and hear about the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative (MPRI). Patricia Caruso, director of Corrections, gave us an overview of the Michigan criminal justice system. We became aware of the great need for mentors for the successful reentry of returning citizens.

In November, Prison Fellowship provided a mentor training for us, open to all churches in the West Michigan Conference. Ten persons were trained to become mentors for returning citizens and nine other persons are interested in taking this training in the future.

Camp New Day (camping experience for children one or more incarcerated persons) met in the summer of 2010 at Albright Camp – 55 children and 26 staff members. For the first time the elementary and teen camps were held simultaneously. Funding continues to be a challenge for this event. Cost was \$360 per camper and campers also need transportation.

We allocated our budget for:

- Camp New Day.
- Prison Fellowship "Out For Life" conference.
- Mentor Training with Prison Fellowship.

In 2011 we hope to involve more local churches in the work of prison ministry and explore ways to initiate and support restorative justice in our society. Our goal is to have persons in each local community be trained and available as citizens return from prison to their local community for a more successful reentry.

Molly Tate, Chair

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) was established by the 1968 General Conference as a new institution of the Church. At the 1972 General Conference, the duties of CORR were outlined and the commission continues to function in its responsibility to work with the Church at all levels as we seek to be a more inclusive body of Christ representing the diversity of our region and neighborhoods. We still have much work to be done.

During the past year since 2010 Annual Conference, the Commission on Religion and Race, both at the Annual and General Conference levels, has been reviewing and evaluating the responsibilities of the CORR and visioning for the future. Your West Michigan Conference Commission on Religion and Race has been a part of the national reviewing and visioning process, and we have been doing similarly here at home. The West Michigan CORR has outlined priorities that we plan to focus on in the next two years to come.

Particularly, CORR will be looking at new church development and our efforts to reach out to a more diverse west Michigan population base. We will be looking at efforts of conference agencies and boards and the various districts to seek understanding of what the Church is doing to grow our conference more diverse. The CORR is particularly interested in the work of the conference in developing ministries for ethnic minorities within our area. Are we making any efforts to welcome a diverse membership and grow the Church in transitioning and diverse neighborhoods? Do we have a plan to plant new churches in ethnic neighborhoods and reach out to a community seeking faith?

The CORR will be looking at clergy candidacy, recruitment, and retention efforts. This will include all facets of the candidacy process through training, ordination, and retention. Further, CORR will seek to work with the bishop, cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, and district boards of ministry to review and evaluate efforts in the area of clergy recruitment, training, evaluation, and appointment making. The *Book of Discipline* calls us to this action, and the West Michigan Commission on Religion and Race has declared this a priority for the commission's work during the next two years and beyond.

The third priority of the CORR, in our visioning process is race relations/anti-racism and sensitivity training. CORR co-sponsored an E-Race training event this year in the Kalamazoo area that was ecumenical in nature and included members of the Western Michigan University staff. The training looked at the historical and systemic approach of racism and engaged participants in ways that we can break down walls and build a more inclusive community. The two-day training provided historical understanding, called on participants to understand personal and institutional racism, and helped participants understand ways that we as individuals and as institutions can dismantle racism and help those in the grips of racism and racist tendencies together be transformed into a more sensitive and inclusive community.

Representatives from your Commission on Religion and Race participated in training at the local, jurisdictional, and national levels in the past year. We provided a workshop on sensitivity and dialog at the 2010 Annual Conference Session, provided ERACE training during the late fall, and participated in the North Central Jurisdiction Annual CORR Training Event. Pat Bromberek, Jerry DeVine and I participated in a national training and visioning event cosponsored by the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. We continue to participate in national dialog on the refined work of the General Commission on Religion and Race.

The West Michigan Commission on Religion and Race has been at work on your behalf in the past year. But, our work has only just begun. We will ramp up efforts in the year to come on the areas outlined as our three priorities above. We will continue to work on the many other responsibilities of the Commission on Religion and Race as well, and we seek your assistance in making the work of the Church a success. May we be transformed in spirit, in our individual walk, and as an institution the Church to the glory of God.

Scott E. Manning, Chair

TRUSTEES, WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Your Conference Board of Trustees is organized and functions according to the *2008 Book of Discipline*, ¶2512. The Board of Trustees of the West Michigan Conference is incorporated in the state of Michigan.

We are pleased to report and celebrate with you the highlights of events in 2010:

1. The board and other agencies diligently cared for conference property and equipment with value of \$4.7 million and \$2 million net of depreciation. The Conference Board of Christian Camping operates five camp sites (Albright, Crystal Springs, Lakeview, Lake Michigan and Wesley Woods). Other conference real property directly managed by the board includes four parsonages (in Lansing, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant), the Conference Center in Grand Rapids and the bishop's residence in DeWitt Township which is jointly owned with the Detroit Conference.
2. The Conference Master Group Insurance Program for all churches and conference property enters its second year of operation. The Program also includes a master Workers Compensation Insurance policy. The designated insurance company remains the Church Mutual Insurance Company. In addition to the aggregate savings in multi-peril insurance premium and workers compensation insurance premium for churches and the conference of about \$230,000, a safety dividend of more than \$68,000 was distributed to our churches and the conference.
3. Peace Temple United Methodist Church in Benton Harbor was discontinued June 30, 2009. The church property was occupied by the Harbor Harvest Urban Ministries and the board would take over responsibility over the property when the HHUM moved to another location. The remaining assets of Peace Temple United Methodist Church would be used for ministries in the Benton Harbor area.
4. The board purchased a parsonage for the district superintendent in the Heartland District in the amount of \$262,000. The property is on 3510 Mineral Springs Trail, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Additional cost for finishing the basement and appliances amounted to about \$25,000.

The following members have served faithfully in carrying out the functions of the board on behalf of the West Michigan Annual Conference: Paulette Cheyne, Judy Leach, Jody Pratt, Cliff Radtke, James A Richie, Jack Tingle (vice president), Charles R VanLente, Tamara Williams (cabinet representative), and our Conference Treasurer Pros Tumonong. We acknowledge with deep gratitude the valuable services of recent former members, John McLaughlin, Gayle Berntsen (secretary), and Madeleine Mathieu (treasurer).

Kip Brunson, President
Pros Tumonong, Conference Treasurer

UMCOR/HUNGER COMMITTEE

A reorganized committee was established by the 2010 Annual Conference with the following statement as its charge:

“The purpose of the UMCOR/Hunger Committee will be to advance the historic support and involvement of the West Michigan Conference and its churches in response to hunger and disasters, both foreign and domestic.

This purpose will be accomplished by:

- Carrying out the work in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.
- Supporting the work of the Michigan Area Haiti Task Force.
- Promoting hunger and UMCOR Advance Specials around the globe.
- Telling the stories of hunger and disaster-related ministries.
- Stimulating giving by local churches to hunger and UMCOR Advance Specials.
- Encouraging and resourcing local churches in their own hunger ministries.
- Championing the importance of relief, recovery and development.”

Three accomplishments of the early months of the committee's work were to:

- Send out a survey monkey. The large number of responses will be used in shaping the work of the committee in coming months.
- Invite Cynthia Harvey, a Deputy General Secretary of the Board of Global Ministries and head of The United Methodist Committee on Relief, to attend the 2011 session of Annual Conference. She accepted and we are working to give her maximum exposure.
- Send the co-chairs of the committee to the board in New York for training.

Kay and Lynn DeMoss, Conference UMCOR/Hunger Coordinators

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

2010 was a good year for the Foundation. Even more congregations were served and dozens of individuals were assisted with their financial and estate plans through the ministry of the Foundation staff. Our investment products were expanded and enhanced and achieved superior results for the nearly 400 congregations that invest through the Foundation.

2010 was not without market volatility however. An all-time record was set of days when the Dow Jones average moved 100 or more points in either direction. While the performance of both our equity and fixed income investments was strongly positive, there were significant swings up and down throughout the year. 2010 was an unusual year in that fixed income investments performed almost as well as their equity counterparts. The Foundation's "Balanced Fund" nearly equaled the performance of the S&P 500 stock index for most of the year.

The Foundation enjoys a dedicated staff made up of President Wayne Barrett, Vice-President David Bell, Operations Manager Marian Coles and Director of Accounting Services Kay Yoder. Dr. Barrett and Rev. Bell are available to serve the needs of each of our United Methodist congregations in Michigan. During 2010 over 150 congregations welcomed Foundation staff for consultations and programming.

Through our Grand Rapids and Brighton offices the Foundation seeks to be conveniently available to all our constituents. The Foundation website, www.umfmichigan.org, is becoming a popular site for United Methodists to find useful information regarding personal stewardship, congregational finance, planned giving and investment. The site is updated regularly and we invite you to visit it whenever you are looking for information regarding personal or congregational finance.

Life income gifts such as Charitable Gift Annuities continue to be popular with donors here in Michigan. With prevailing interest rates on certificates of deposit at historic low levels, donors can often benefit by making a life income gift through the Foundation. The Foundation will trustee such gifts for United Methodist donors without regard to the charitable remainder organization. While the majority of our gift annuity contracts support a local congregation, many donors designate multiple charitable beneficiaries through a single gift.

In November President Barrett announced his plans for retirement in July of 2011. While he will continue on a part-time basis, the board announced the appointment of David Bell to become the new President July 1. With Rev. Bell's appointment the Foundation is assured of continuity and quality of leadership and ministry.

The Foundation enjoys an outstanding board of directors, laity and clergy, who provide strong guidance and encouragement for the staff. The strategic vision of the board is powerful and optimistic. For 2011 the Foundation's officers are:

Chair: Charles Veenstra Vice-Chair: Terry Groesser
Secretary: Deb Marcus Treasurer: Joy Barrett

The Foundation is grateful for the support of the annual conferences and the client congregations that enable our ministry.

Wayne C. Barrett, President David Bell, Vice-President Charles Veenstra, Chair

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As another year ends and a new opportunity begins, we renew our Purpose to serve women, youth and children through our Mission Giving. There was no decrease in Pledge Giving for 2011 and that is a positive sign. West Michigan was one of two conferences recognized at Regional School in 2010 for having new United Methodist Women's units. I am happy to report that we had two.

I am encouraged by the progress United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids has made this past year. Under the direction of our new CEO Richard Clanton and with the great support of West Michigan Annual Conference we will continue to serve those persons who consider UMCH a home away from home and a safe place for youth and children. We are making progress with the new roof fund and have about \$15,000 in an escrow account that can only be used for the roof project. Please continue to support this project.

It is exciting to have new officers and new ideas in the conference. We enjoyed a retreat in the Fall at The Shack in White Cloud. There were 15 of us who enjoyed getting to know each other better and sharing in fellowship while playing games, painting tote bags, doing puzzles and eating too much. It was nice to be waited on. The retreat was a gift to us so none of the expense came from pledge monies.

We have a planning retreat in February where we make plans and set dates for the next three years.

We were graced at our annual celebration in October by all six district superintendants and Bishop Jonathan Keaton. They each shared their faith journey with us and celebrated Holy Communion and installation of officers. It was a highlight of the year.

We will continue to serve more persons in 2011 as we live out our Purpose.

Ruth Whaley, President

WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

TREASURER'S REPORT

CONFERENCE PLEDGE TO MISSION 2010		\$205,665.00
MISSION GIVING 2010		
Pledge to Mission	\$171,185.95	
Special Mission Recognition	7,775.00	
Gift to Mission	5,142.86	
Gift in Memory	5,110.00	
World Thank Offering	<u>16,701.05</u>	
TOTAL MISSION GIVING		\$205,914.86
MISSION GIVING PLUS 2010		
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	\$ 8,943.51	
Supplementary Gifts	691.00	
World Missions	2,140.25	
National Missions	17,374.66	
UMCOR	<u>8,511.50</u>	
TOTAL MISSION PLUS GIVING		<u>\$37,660.92</u>
TOTAL REMITTANCE TO WOMEN'S DIVISION		\$243,575.78
ADMINISTRATIVE & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT		\$91,960.49**

** Money retained by Conference for Conference Expenses

Linda Luce, UMW Treasurer