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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Conference Leadership Team	2
Summary of 2012 Budget	3
2012 Line Item Budgets	3
Abuse Prevention Team	9
Archives and History, Commission on	9
Christian Camping, Board of	9
Church and Society, Board of	10
Communications Commission	11
Disability Concerns, Committee on	13
Discipleship, Board of	13
Children's Ministries	13
Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts	14
Young Adult Ministries	14
Disaster Response Team	14
Equitable Compensation, Commission on	15
Evangelism, Board of	16
Finance and Administration, Council on	16
Global Ministries, Board of	20
Clark Retirement Community	21
Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries	21
Conference Committee on Mission Personnel	21
Methodist Children's Home Society	22
School of Christian Mission.....	22
United Methodist Community House.....	23
United Methodist Metropolitan Ministry of Grand Rapids	24
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission	25
Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Board of	25
Adrian College.....	26
Albion College.....	26
Central Michigan University Wesley Foundation	27
Ferris State University Wesley House.....	28
Wesley Fellowship at Grand Valley State University.....	29
Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo	30
Michigan State University Wesley Foundation	31
Committee on Hispanic / Latino Ministries	31
John Wesley Association	32
Lake Louise Christian Community, Camp and Retreat Center	32
Lay Ministries, Board of	no report
Michigan Area Committee on the Episcopacy	33
Michigan Area Indian Workers' Conference	34
Michigan Area Loan Funds	39
Michigan Area School for Pastoral Ministry	40
Michigan Area United Methodist Historical Society	no report
Michigan Christian Advocate	41
New Church Establishment and Development Committee	41
Ordained Ministry, Board of	42
Candler School of Theology	45
Gammon Theological Seminary	46
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary	47
Methodist Theological School in Ohio	48
United Theological Seminary	49
Pension and Health Benefits, Board of	50
Personnel Committee	52
Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Concerns, Committee on	52
Racial Ethnic Local Church Committee (RELC)	53
Religion and Race, Commission on	no report
Status and Role of Women, Commission on	54
Trustees, West Michigan Conference	54
UMCOR/Hunger Committee	55
United Methodist Foundation	55
United Methodist Women	56

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

A significant change was made in 2011 in the leadership of our conference program areas. Previously, there were 25 boards, agencies and committees that made up the Conference Council on Ministries (CCOM). The total number of persons on this council was sixty-three and it had an average attendance pattern of less than 50%.

The CCOM would meet three to four times per year. Its primary focus was to coordinate and oversee the various program areas and monitor the budget development and expenditures of these areas. During 2010 the CCOM initiated a task force to review and suggest changes to this structure.

Those changes were proposed to and adopted by the 2011 Annual Conference along with establishing a Hispanic/Latino Ministries Committee. The conference programs are now guided by the 15-17 members of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT). There are now 23 various boards and agencies that are accountable to the CLT.

In the first six months of its existence (July-December) the CLT met on five occasions for a total of 19 hours with average attendance of 14 persons (82%). It utilized an electronic meeting capacity on two occasions saving both time and money.

As required in the responsibilities given to it, the CLT arranged a meeting for all the board and agency chairpersons and invited all other conference chairpersons as well. It was held in October in Big Rapids. It was a positive opportunity for dialogue, accountability and collaboration.

The CLT quickly noted that there are several places of redundancy in our programming and some groups are functioning at a fairly minimal level. One of the CLT's stated goals is to review those overlaps and capacities of functioning in the coming months to see what improvements can be suggested.

The CLT identified that one of the primary goals to which it must attend is the equipping and connecting of local congregations for ministry. It noted that contexts for leadership development and training are essential. The CLT is directing resources and personnel into the Vital Church Initiative (VCI) as a means to making a significant impact in this area.

This initiative combines an invitational approach for congregations and clergy to participate in an intentional learning context over several months. The learning is supported by coaching and specific training. The VCI includes the possibility of an intensive evaluative consultation which results in specific actions being identified for the congregation to take, if it so chooses.

Some resources in the budget of the New Church Development Committee, which would have been grants to start new congregations, have been redirected to expand the previous ½ time position of Director of New Church Development so that it also includes "Congregational Transformation." This position will begin July 1, 2012.

The CLT spent the initial months of its formation focusing on learning the scope of its responsibilities, building relationships, addressing the significant deficit in the Board of Christian Camping and preparing a 2013 budget recommendation. It scheduled a retreat for early 2012. The purpose of the retreat was to begin some intentional long range prioritizing and planning. These strategic plans and actions steps would then help guide the CLT and come before the Annual Conference as necessary.

I believe the newly created Leadership Team is deeply committed to both continuing the strong pattern of effective ministries in our conference and taking the necessary steps for change so that the West Michigan Conference is strategically moving forward in creative, vital and fruitful areas.

Rev. Benton R. Heisler, Director of Connectional Ministries, Chairperson of the CLT

WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES

Summary of 2012 Budget

[As Approved By The Conference Leadership Team]

	2010 Budget	2011 Budget	2012 Budget
C. WORLD SERVICE & CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES			
1. World Service	\$968,945	\$928,799	\$895,886
2. Conference Benevolences			
Archives & History Commission	(moved)	(moved)	
Christian Unity Commission	\$500	\$500	\$500
Religion and Race Commission	5,000	5,000	5,000
COSROW	1,000	1,000	500
Christian Camping Board	145,000	159,000	162,000
Church and Society Board	5,000	5,000	5,000
Discipleship Board	10,000	8,250	5,000
Conference Council on Youth Ministries			5,000
Global Ministries Board	315,000	315,000	305,000
Racial/Ethnic Local Church	95,000	95,000	100,000
Higher Ed. & Campus Ministry	310,000	310,000	305,000
Communications Commission	50,000	50,000	60,000
Connectional Ministries Staff	520,000	524,000	545,000
Lay Ministries	3,000	1,500	3,000
Conference Personnel Committee	1,000	1,000	1,000
Evangelism	5,000	5,000	5,000
United Methodist Men	1,000	1,000	1,000
Hunger	1,500	1,500	1,500
Prison Ministry	5,000	5,000	5,000
Indian Workers' Conference	3,500	2,000	2,000
Disability Concerns Committee	1,000	1,000	1,000
Vital Church Initiatives	5,000	5,000	7,500
Hispanic/Latino Committee			0
Total Conference Benevolences	\$1,482,500	\$1,495,750	\$1,525,000
3. WS/CB Contingency Fund	\$169,500	\$158,250	0
Total Conf. Ben. and WS/CB Contingency	\$1,652,000	\$1,654,000	\$1,525,000
Total World Service & Conf. Benevolences	\$2,620,945	\$2,582,799	\$2,420,886
TOTAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUDGET	\$6,209,076	\$6,159,550	\$5,951,495

2012 LINE ITEM BUDGETS

Conference Benevolences Programs

[As Approved By The Conference Leadership Team]

		2012 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	\$ 500
5080000	Scholarships	\$ 500
5120000	Program-Leadership Training	\$ 2,000
5290310	Dues-NCJ CORR	\$ 800
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$ 200
5051129	Cross Racial Appt Support	\$ 1,000
	Total Disbursements	\$ 5,000

COMMISSION ON STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN - 3050

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	500
	Total Receipts	\$	500
5050000	Program Disbursements		
5380000	Printing		
5620000	Admin and Meetings		
	Total Disbursements	\$	500

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CAMPING - 3200

4903000	Distri Rev-WS & Conf Benevolences	\$	162,000
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	162,000
	DISBURSEMENTS		
5200000	Payroll-Salaried Employees	\$	151,100
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	1,000
5400000	Office Supplies	\$	400
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	500
5740000	Promotions	\$	9,000
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	162,000

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY - 3030

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	1,000
5080000	Scholarships	\$	1,000
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	50
5380000	Printing	\$	250
5380000	Resource materials	\$	100
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	500
6105809	Distrib Exp-Peace w/Justice	\$	2,000
6107604	Distrib Exp-Lans Dist Shalom Cntr	\$	100
	Total Disbursements	\$	5,000

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP - 3070

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	800
6103071	Distrib Exp-Childrens Council	\$	1,000
6103074	Distrib Exp-Family Life	\$	500
6103077	Distrib Exp-Single Adult	\$	500
6103078	Distrib Exp-Young Adult	\$	500
6105224	Distrib Exp-Wor/Music/Arts	\$	700
	Total Disbursements	\$	4,000

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRY

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	5,000
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	5,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	5,000

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES - 3400

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	305,000
	Total Receipts	\$	305,000
6107100	Block Grant - Albion District		
6107200	Block Grant - Heartland District		
6107300	Block Grant - Grand Rapids District		
6107400	Block Grant 0 Grand Traverse District		
6107500	Block Grant - Kalamazoo District		
6107600	Block Grant - Lansing District		
5133306	Town & Country		
5033309	UMVIM-NCJ		
5033313	Urban		
5033315	Volunteers in Mission		
5033406	Other-Education/Cutivation		
5360000	Postage and shipping		
5380000	Printing		
5620000	Admin & Meetings		
5913400	CBGM Secretary		
5913406	School of Missions		
5913407	Haiti Task Force		
5913408	Missions Promotion		
5800000	Miscellaneous		
	Total Disbursements	\$	305,000

RACIAL ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEE - 3490

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	100,000
	Total Receipts	\$	100,000
5030308	Grants-Washington Hgts UMC		\$7,500.00
5033211	Grants-Kewadin Indian UMC		\$10,264.00
5033213	Grants-Northport UMC		\$4,185.00
5080000	Scholarships		\$900.00
5120000	Program-Leadership Training		\$468.00
5620000	Admin and Meetings		\$450.00
5740000	Promotions		\$450.00
6107306	Salem Bradley Indian Missions		\$6,000.00
6107315	Distrib Exp-Salem Bradley Sr Meals		\$13,500.00
6107320	Distrib Exp-LaNueva Esperanza		\$13,500.00
6107323	Distrib Exp-GR Vietnamese UMC		\$11,700.00
6108100	Distrib Exp-Church of All Nations		\$12,150.00
6108110	Distrib Exp-Lansing Faith		\$13,500.00
503	NOW/Matching grants		\$5,433.00
	Total Disbursements	\$	100,000

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY - 3600

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	305,000
	Direct gifts		\$5,000
	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	\$	47,500
6106200	Distrib Exp-WF Capital Fund	\$	3,120
6106208	Distrib Exp-WF CMU (1)	\$	63,000
6106212	Distrib Exp-WF MSU (1)	\$	63,000

6106216	Distrib Exp-WF WMU (1)	\$	63,000
6106222	Distrib Exp-WF FSU (1)	\$	63,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	310,000

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS - 3040

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	60,000
	Total Receipts	\$	60,000
		\$	31,925
5050513	Leadership Development	\$	1,200
5053001	Rethink Church	\$	225
5053010	MailChimp Services	\$	1,500
5270000	Continuing Education	\$	250
5360000	Postage and Shipping	\$	100
5380000	Printing	\$	1,000
5410000	Equipment Replacement	\$	1,500
5420000	Equipment Repair and Maintenanc	\$	150
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	700
5740000	Promotion	\$	200
5820000	Web Site Administration	\$	6,000
5850000	Internet Services	\$	1,000
5080000	Scholarships	\$	2,000
6105204	Distrib Rev-MARC	\$	4,250
	Graphic Design	\$	5,000
	Photography	\$	3,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	60,000

CONNCTIONAL MINISTRIES STAFF - 3100

	New Church	\$	5,000
4800000	AC Motion related to salary / health '12	\$	3,000
4526010	Personnel Support	\$	500
4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevole	\$	545,000
4905805	Distrib Rev-Youth Ministry Staff	\$	45,000
	Total Receipts	\$	598,500
5050000	Program disbursements	\$	7,748
5051135	New Pastors Orientation	\$	500
5200000	Payroll-Salaried Employees	\$	225,312
5210000	Payroll-Hourly Employees	\$	109,230
5202100	Payroll-Salaried Adjunct Staff	\$	16,500
5213100	Casual Help	\$	1,000
5223101	Pension Contr-CCOM Staff	\$	26,541
5223102	Pension Contr-CCOM Support Staff	\$	8,734
5240000	FICA/Medicare Taxes	\$	18,351
5241000	Worker's Comp Insurance	\$	1,084
5260000	Health Insurance	\$	96,750
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	\$	500
5400000	Office Supplies	\$	3,000
5420000	Equipment Repair and Maintenanc	\$	1,000
5410000	Equipment Replacement	\$	500
5580000	Credit Card Fees	\$	500
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	2,000

5633110	Travel-Mileage, Conf Dir	\$	6,500
5633120	Travel-Mileage, Min Consult1	\$	8,000
5633150	Travel-Mileage, Min Consult4	\$	4,000
5640000	TravelOther Than Mileage	\$	1,000
5643110	Travel-O/T Mileage, Conf Dir	\$	2,000
5643120	Travel-O/T Mileage Min Consult1	\$	1,500
5643150	Travel-O/T Mileage Min Consult4	\$	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	\$	500
6102130	Distrib Rev-Conf Properties	\$	20,000
6105204	Distrib Exp-Michigan Area Resource Center	\$	17,000
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>598,500</u>

BOARD OF LAITY - 3460

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	3,000
	Total Receipts	\$	3,000
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	800
5290000	Membership Dues	\$	400
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	750
5280000	Resource materials	\$	150
5640000	Travel-O/T mileage	\$	900
	Total Disbursements	\$	<u>3,000</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	\$	1,500

PRISON MINISTRY COMMITTEE - 3480

	Carryover 2011	\$	2,000
4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	5,000
	Total Receipts	\$	7,000
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	600
	Retreat	\$	3,000
	Camp New Day	\$	2,000
5270000	Continuing Education	\$	500
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	800
5740000	Promotions	\$	100
	Total Disbursements	\$	7,000

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	\$	2,000

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
5620000	Admin and Meetings	\$	200
5800000	Miscellaneous	\$	50
	Total Disbursements	\$	1,000

HISPANIC / LATINO COMMITTEE

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	0**
	Total Receipts	\$	0
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	0
	Total Disbursements	\$	0

VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVES

4903000	Distrib Rev-WS and Conf Benevolences	\$	7,500
	Total Receipts	\$	7,500
5050000	Program Disbursements	\$	7,500
	Total Disbursements	\$	7,500

AMOUNT NEEDED FROM CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES	\$	1,525,000
CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES TOTAL BUDGET	\$	1,578,000

[**Hispanic/Latino Committee is being provided \$2,500 in 2012 from Reserves.]

ABUSE PREVENTION TEAM

The [Abuse Prevention Policy](#) document of the West Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, covering *Adults With Special Needs, Children and Youth*, is posted on the website as requested by the 2009 legislation – <http://www.westmichiganconference.org/pages/detail/1074>.

There have been no changes to the Abuse Prevention Policy. The Abuse Prevention Team has done the work related to the 2009 legislation during the year 2011. The developed guidelines include these sample documents: What if the Abuser is One of Us; a sample policy; and a sample covenant and limited access agreement.

The Abuse Prevention Team held training sessions in local churches throughout the West Michigan Conference during the year 2011 for over 200 people.

Joyce Gackler, Chair

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMISSION

This year the commission completed its work on the design and production of a marker that can be used at grave sites of United Methodist pastors and its antecessor churches, such as Methodist, M.E., EUB, Evangelical, United Brethren, etc.

The markers are available by contacting the Archivist Assistant at Albion College, 600 E. Cass Street, Stockwell-Mudd Library, Albion, MI 49224. Phone 517-629-0779. Email sfrederich@albion.edu.

This year Rev. Emmett Kadwell and Don Hiler joined us as new members of the commission. Rev. David L. Crawford, Rev. Dr. Maria Rutland, Lois Baumer, Kenneth Gackler, Betty Uithoven, David Yates and Stephanie Frederick continue as commission members.

Officers are: Kenneth Gackler, Chair; Rev. Dr. Maria Rutland, Vice Chair; Daniel Yates, Secretary and Historian; Stephanie Frederick, Asst. Secretary and Treasurer. Many of us on the commission are also involved with the Michigan Area United Methodist Historical Society.

A display was set up at the 2011 Annual Conference. It promoted the new clergy grave markers that are now available.

Rev. Dr. Maria Rutland and Kenneth Gackler attended the 2011 North Central Jurisdictional Convocation on Archives and History in Winona, Minnesota, from July 11-14. They also attended the 22nd annual meeting of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City, OK, from July 20-24.

The 2012 North Central Jurisdictional Convocation on Archives and History will be held at the University of Indianapolis, July 9-12. The 2012 annual meeting of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church will be held in Gettysburg, PA, on May 14-17. The theme of the meeting will be "Methodism's Civil Wars."

Ken Gackler, Chair

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CAMPING

What is the best thing you can do for camping? Send every kid you know to camp every summer. Recruit actively in your church and your community, and back up that recruitment by paying for registration. This is local mission money well spent! It's especially effective to send kids who have no other connection to the church. Churches that have done this have seen the fruits of their ministry grow. When those kids get to camp, they will have a great time learning intensively about Jesus, and they will help with recruiting next year! Or start a church retreat, in RV's, cabins, or retreat center, and let your whole congregation or leadership team build community together at one of our camps.

Another thing to do for camping is to pay your Ministry Shares, and also to support the camps as Advance Specials, with special offerings. This is your ministry, year-round making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

2011 has been a busy year for the Board of Christian Camping. In the midst of much business, however, we intend to remain firmly focused on our purpose, which is to provide people with the opportunity to

encounter God through the ministry of camping. We are thankful for those members of the conference staff, especially Naomi García and Pam Stewart, who are so helpful to us, though they do not have enough time to do all that is needed to oversee and support the work of five camps. Since it is clearly impossible for them to do everything, the board has taken steps to become much more active and involved in the support of camping. Our members are generous with their time, commitment, and expertise, and are strengthening the work of Christian camping in West Michigan.

This was a challenging year, as we saw an unexpected decline in camper registrations, for a variety of reasons. This resulted in significant deficit spending, at a time in the life of our conference when we are unable to absorb unexpected costs. In response, our excellent fiscal officer is leading our work of putting into place a more complete budget plan and financial accountability for the camps, which have not had this in the past. This is being accomplished in cooperation with the Conference Treasurer's Office and the Council on Finance and Administration. Meanwhile, we continue to work on paying back our loan to the Conference Board of Global Ministries loan fund, with distributions from our modest endowment.

Three new directors are in place, bringing fresh creativity to Lake Michigan, Albright, and Lakeview camps. They are already implementing their plans to create new camping opportunities, and to find support for overdue improvements at their facilities.

We have been working toward providing health insurance for our directors, a task that remains in process. We have recognized that though most of our directors are paid as part-time employees, they all in fact work far more than full-time, and deserve the benefits that accompany full-time work, according to the conference policies. The conference pays their salaries through the budget of our board, a budget that is not able to grow enough to provide these benefits in full, but we are looking for solutions, and hope to have them in place within 2012.

We are launching a new strategic planning process with Run River consultants, in concert with our equivalent ministry in the Detroit Annual Conference, and with the Lake Louise Christian Community. This has been funded through the allocation of 2010 reserve funds from the former Conference Council on Ministries. This process will probably be completed by the end of 2012.

Jeremy Williams, Chair

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

As always, members of the West Michigan Conference Board of Church and Society share concerns of justice and peace that reflect the compassion of Christ for all humanity and for God's gift of life and creation. These concerns as often expressed around the table in our meetings are local, state, national and world. Our constant regret is that we do not have enough resources, human or monetary, to address directly each of these issues. Ours is the task of prioritizing our ministry in any given year and allocating the resources we have at our disposal.

In 2011 we realized the work of one of our committees as we held a workshop at South Haven in September, using a resource from Logos Publications that seeks to help us stay in relationship with each other despite our many diverse points of view over issues of faith, politics, and how to behave as Christians in this diverse world. It was a good day, led by John and Corky Fisher who had used the material in an adult Sunday school class over several weeks. We regarded this as a beginning effort and we would hope to see this material used in other settings as the hope for dialogue among those who disagree is growing less in this contentious society.

We continued our presence at 2011 Annual Conference at the Ministry Fair and through our luncheon where the Peace Sermon of the Year and the Peacemaker of the Year were given. The winner of the Peace Sermon was Jorgé Rodríguez of La Nueva Esperanza and the Peacemaker award went to JFON, Justice for our Neighbors, a program that works with the large immigrant population in our midst.

We allocated funds from our conference budget and from the portion of the Peace With Justice offering that remains in our conference to continuing projects such as JFON and HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace International), and to a new program growing out of the ministry at the Wesley Foundation at Western Michigan University. Scholarships are also awarded to individuals who participate in peace and justice actions and events. Besides the above mentioned sources, we also administer available funds from the Brubaker/Thompson Peace funds.

We decided in 2011 to offer a learning event in Washington, DC, that would mirror the United Methodist Women event last year. The plans were set in motion for 2012. This trip takes participants to the Church and Society Building in Washington and to Capitol Hill for meetings with elected officials.

Each year we publicize the Peace with Justice Offering to be taken in local churches. Half of this offering goes to the General Board of Church and Society, and half stays in our conference. Both groups are enabled through grants made of these funds to carry on many ministries of justice and peace around the nation and world.

At the 2011 Annual Conference, we saw approval of a resolution that encouraged local churches to name a person to lead that congregation in ministries of justice and peace. This was once mandatory but was eliminated some years ago by the General Conference. We have found on the board that our mandate to equip local churches for their ministries of peace and justice is hampered by the lack of a connection to the local church through a person named to those ministries. Some progress has been noted in this area, but we hope to continue to encourage local churches to name persons to lead the ministry of justice and peace in the local communities. We are ready to resource local churches upon request.

This last fall we responded to the new leadership team design by meeting with other advocacy related ministries and agreed that we need to communicate and cooperate with each other in our related ministries. This can be done by sharing our concerns and working with each other. There are exciting possibilities opening here.

Being a part of the West Michigan Conference Board of Church and Society is never dull. There is always more that we can do at one time, but that is as it should be. The members of the board are persons brimming over with Christ-like compassion for all of God's people and all of God's creation. We continue to work for a world that reflects God's love in the form of justice and peace in all places at all times.

Ellen A. Brubaker, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION and DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Commission began to be more active in the latter part of 2011. We met twice and are embarking on several new initiatives. One is to survey the local churches as to their accessibility to communications technology. With this information we can work with the local churches to assist in communications. As the conference turns more to using electronic technology to get out the messages about conference activities, it is important that we assist the five generations of users in accessing this information.

Another initiative of the commission is to review the conference Rules of Order and update them to reflect the electronic environment. Several petitions will be sent to annual conference to this end.

The commission is working closely with the Director of Communications to assist in effectively communicating with local churches. The following is a brief summary of this year's activities.

Miracle Saturday

Communications was at the center of bringing additional members to the 2011 Annual Conference through the creation of a drive-in day called "Miracle Saturday." This event involved a six-week bulletin, poster, web, social media, and Mail Chimp campaign. We added nearly 900 new faces to the final day of Annual Conference. The attendees experienced fellowship, worship and education they could bring home to their local church.

Annual Conference

In an effort to re-tool our communications for West Michigan Annual Conference, the Communications Commission moved more material online and upgraded the program guide. Thanks to a generous sponsor, the new full-color program book provided a take-home resource that could be shared with the local church. It included important Vital Church lessons, demographics and resources. Other improvements this year to Annual Conference included an upgraded radio communication system, reusable signage and expanded live web coverage reaching around the world. We continued to produce "Daily News" and delivered the publication to 900 new faces at 2011 Annual Conference. It was very well received.

Online Registration System

This past year the Communications Commission implemented a new online Brick River registration and donation system. This system allowed us to create nearly instantaneous registration systems for Miracle Saturday, Bishop's Day, camping and others.

Weekly News

Following a year of publication, it was determined that the *Michigan Area Reporter* was not meeting the needs of an area publication, or reaching a large readership. The publication was suspended pending evaluation. In the meantime, a new e-publication, the retooled Weekly News, was launched. It offers area stories, resources, events and more in a searchable form. Kay DeMoss was added as the Features Editor and Valerie Mossman-Celestin will continue to edit the publication.

Conference Website

This year we upgraded a number of web areas including Camping and Annual Conference. The site will launch a new Ministry Shares Interpreter that local churches can use to illustrate how their dollars are put to use. A mobile device app is also in development and expected to launch soon.

Africa University Campaign

To assist the fundraising effort of the AU Task Force, the Director of Communications consulted with the group and developed a marketing strategy, new center title and a fundraising video. The video was used at 2011 Annual Conference and is still being utilized in local churches.

MARC Campaign

With the Michigan Area Resource Center losing key funding, a campaign was developed to promote the importance of this resource to local churches. The campaign involved e-blasts and direct mail. We are awaiting the response.

Wesley Campaign

Following the successful "I am." campaign from 2010, a new, expanded campaign was developed to include Wesley Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. The goal of the campaign was for local churches to share the names of incoming college students through an incentive program.

Smart Rooms

The final Smart Rooms of 6 were installed in Traverse City and Battle Creek. A new Adobe Connect Pro system was installed. While use of the system has not met expectations, weekly training sessions with district office administrative staff have led to increased confidence in the system and expanded use.

Social Media

This has been a huge year of growth for our social media systems. The Facebook Group has expanded to almost 700 members and has become a vibrant community for discussion. Thanks to early spring efforts to encourage interaction, the site has taken on a life of its own, with members now providing the majority of content. Currently, we are in the process of transitioning the Group to a Fan Page, allowing more growth, transparency and exciting new opportunities.

Trainings and Presentations

In 2011, the Director of Communications presented a keynote address at the Kalamazoo District Leadership Conference and the Grand Traverse District Conference. Later in the year Mark offered a social media training experience in Grand Rapids and a website training at Super Sunday in Lansing. There were also weekly trainings on Smart Rooms plus an additional dozen consultations with local churches on social media and web design.

Carole Armstrong, Chair, and 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 hope to continue to offer grants.

In 2011, we were not very active until January due to the illness of our former chairperson. We hope to meet in January of 2012 and will be more active in the new year, the Lord willing. I just took over as the chair in November, so have not done much except contact the members to set up a date to meet.

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.

John Huizing, Chair

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The pages of the West Michigan Annual Conference Journal are filled with reports on the activities and statistics of our churches, committees, and organizations. There are reports of goals met and success achieved. There is also clear evidence of our struggles and failures.

The case can be made that there are no issues or problems or challenges facing our churches that would not be best addressed by an increase in the number of faithful and obedient disciples in our midst. Spiritual results require spiritual resources. The Board of Discipleship seeks to encourage and support the birthing, growth and development of followers of Jesus Christ in all of our local churches.

In 2011 we continued to provide churches with "people resources" that focused on our children, youth and families. Our various age level coordinators are as close to helping your church as a phone call or email.

Family Life Ministry provides grants (usually \$50-\$100) 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, Back to School materials, etc. The contact person is Mary Lou Fassett mfassett2@yahoo.com.

The largest share of our budgeted funds went to support the vital ministries of our Conference Youth Council.

Receipts from the annual Christian Education Sunday offering benefit every local church. Half of the offering stays with the local church to directly support local ministries and half of the funds become available for special program requests across the conference.

The national Congress on Evangelism received a one-time donation of support from our board to ensure that this valuable opportunity for learning would continue to be available in coming years.

The board seeks to identify and recommend all of the ways our churches are calling people to become disciples of Jesus Christ. We lift up the efforts of many individuals who work together across our conference to offer the Walk to Emmaus. We also recognize the importance of the Alpha Program in some of our churches as a means of engaging people with the truth of the Gospel. Praise God, both of these programs are sources of life and vitality as they increase the number of faithful and obedient disciples.

Ronald Hansen, Chair

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

2011 got off to a great start in our Children's Ministry with a workshop offered as part of the Bishop's Day for Evangelism. Leaders met to explore "Rotation Sunday School," shared ideas and encouragement, and collaborated together.

Children's Ministry now has a presence on the Conference website, where information can be found not only for Children's Ministry leaders, but also for parents who are seeking to learn more about our United Methodist practices and beliefs.

The newly created *Kids Ministry Matters* is my Children's Ministry blog, which continues to receive many visitors and aims to encourage and inspire all those involved in Children's Ministry. Please share the following link with all those you know who are involved in this important area: www.kidsministrymatters.blogspot.com

In the year ahead, I am hoping to establish a networking and support system for all those who work with our children. I am looking forward to another year of outstanding Children's Ministry within the West Michigan Conference, where we will all faithfully play our part in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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 in 2011 and also participated in the annual conference Ministry Fair.

Our spring workshop was held at Stevensville UMC. The focus was praise bands and was well received by all participants. The day consisted of opening, 3 sessions, lunch, and closing worship. All the attendees stated that they were well nourished by the workshop and would like to have another workshop in the future.

Our exhibit at the Ministry Fair was visited by many – some who had never heard of our group, and some who asked us to come to their church for future workshops. We were pleased with the results.

The fall workshop was our choral festival at Grand Rapids First UMC. Joseph Jennings led the workshop for the day. One of the sessions was a break-out in sectionals. The day concluded with a concert at Clark Retirement Community, singing the anthems we had learned during the day. The residents at Clark were very responsive to our endeavors and we hope to do it again in the future.

In 2012 we will be hosting Dean McIntyre from the General Board of Discipleship, and he will be leading our spring workshop on the new hymnal supplement, *Worship and Song*.

Sandy Mast, Chapter President

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

The West Michigan Conference is full of young adults, both within and outside of our churches. Young adults in our conference serve as camp counselors and deans, as Sunday school teachers, and are active in church leadership. They are involved in campus ministry programs and are serving on hands-on mission teams. An increasing number are serving as clergy in local parish ministry.

Yet churches often find young adult ministry a challenge because it is hard to define "young adults." Young adults are single and they are married. They are married with children and they are single parents. They are college students, business professionals, or they serve in the military. They are clergy and laity. Young adults represent a variety of "labels" and as such bring a great deal of diverse experiences, ideas, passions, and energy to our ministries. Young adults help us think about church differently and open us up to doing things in new, out-of-the-box ways. Their diverse needs and ideas sometimes lead them to struggling to find a place within the walls of our churches and thinking about how church can be done in different settings.

This year we have been exploring what it means to do ministry with, for, and by young people in our local churches, how to reach young adult seekers in our community, while at the same time networking and finding ways to link young adults by interests, geographic locations, life experiences, and needs through meaningful activities and support networks. These efforts will continue in the years to come. At the same time, we are developing ways to bridge the gap between the younger and the older in our congregations, recognizing that what is most important is doing church in ways that are meaningful, authentic, and relevant to people at every stage in life's journey.

Becca Wieringa, Conference Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

The Disaster Response Team had several trainings this past year. We worked on updating our conference emergency committee, and in the process we changed how we as a conference respond to disasters in our conference. We also changed the name of the committee to "Conference Disaster Response Team." We presented this to the 2011 Annual Conference in June and the legislation passed.

Don E. Tippin, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

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 of 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 CEC is firmly rooted in our strong connectional heritage. The CEC takes seriously the stewardship of Ministry Share resources entrusted for this purpose.

In 2011, a total of 23 charges, representing 29 churches, received \$174,871 in direct financial assistance from the Commission on Equitable Compensation for support of pastoral compensation. Grants ranged from as little as \$1,395 to as much as \$32,500, with an average grant of \$7,603 per charge. Of the \$174,871 in total grants, an estimated \$89,068, or 51% of the total, went to Racial/Ethnic/Missional churches that will likely remain on Equitable Compensation beyond the five-year conference guideline.

The CEC appears to be under budget for 2011, though Ministry Share shortfalls may leave it 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 its approved budget of \$200,000. Expenditures for 2011 increased almost \$6000 from 2010, which is a smaller increase than from 2009 to 2010.

The CEC budget was reduced from \$200,000 in 2011 to \$180,000 in 2012, so the CEC and the cabinet, along with the local churches, must work diligently to sustain or reduce the equitable compensation needs of the churches. Hopefully, this can be accomplished by assisting the churches with stewardship campaign techniques and unconventional fundraising ideas.

Beginning in 2009, the CEC 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 CEC 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 CEC 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 Equitable Compensation Commission thanks the churches that are faithful in payment of Ministry Shares in full, making it possible for the CEC to continue its work of seeking to support local churches in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION 2011 SUMMARY

	SALARY SUPPORT	PENSION SUPPORT	HEALTH INSURANCE	HOUSING	TOTAL
ALBION DISTRICT:					
Constantine	4,000.00				\$4,000.00
Center Park	6,000.00				\$6,000.00
Delton	5,000.00				\$5,000.00
N. Adams/Jerome/Osseo	5,108.00				\$5,108.00
Pleasant Valley	5,500.00				\$5,500.00
Parma	4,800.00				\$4,800.00
DISTRICT TOTAL	\$30,408.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,408.00

HEARTLAND DISTRICT:					
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
DISTRICT TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT:					
GR St. Paul's	5,000.00				\$5,000.00
GR Vietnamese	17,000.00				\$17,000.00
Hesperia/Ferry	1,500.00				\$1,500.00
La Nueva Esperanza	15,000.00				\$15,000.00
Martin/Shelbyville	9,000.00				\$9,000.00
Muskegon Lakeside	2,750.00				\$2,750.00
Salem/Bradley	11,000.00				\$11,000.00
Shelby	4,000.00				\$4,000.00
DISTRICT TOTAL	\$65,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65,250.00
GRAND TRAVERSE DISTRICT:					
Baldwin Covenant	10,688.00				\$10,688.00
Greensky Hill	2,880.00				\$2,880.00
Kewadin/Northport	32,500.00				\$32,500.00
Windward	7,250.00				\$7,250.00
DISTRICT TOTAL	\$53,318.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53,318.00
KALAMAZOO DISTRICT:					
Cassopolis	\$7,000.00				\$7,000.00
Galien/Olive Branch	\$1,395.00				\$1,395.00
Oshtemo	\$2,000.00				\$2,000.00
Sunnyside	\$10,000.00				\$10,000.00
DISTRICT TOTAL	\$20,395.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,395.00
LANSING DISTRICT:					
Dowling Country Chapel	5,500.00				\$5,500.00
DISTRICT TOTAL	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$174,871.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174,871.00

Nancy Patera, Chair

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism developed two programs for 2011.

- 1) Offering grants of \$250 for evangelism projects. The following churches and ministries took advantage of this program:
 - Greenville UMC: development of a packet for first-time guests in worship.
 - Otsego UMC: to focus on educators in their community, to encourage them and to invite them to a community worship service at Otsego UMC
 - Marcellus UMC: to help with a bulk mail project inviting over 2,000 households to Bible School, to a Back to School Spectacular (including presentation of backpacks), to an after-school program for K through 4th grades, and an after-school program for 5th-8th grades, as well as to the church's Cub Scout Troop.
 - Sunnyside UMC: support for the development of a Free Store.
- 2) We began an Encouragement for Pastors Tour which began in October 2011 on the Grand Traverse District and which will continue in 2012 going to each District providing evangelism tools to pastors.

In addition, the Board supported the Congress on Evangelism gathering with a grant for their event in early 2012.

Edward Ross, Chair

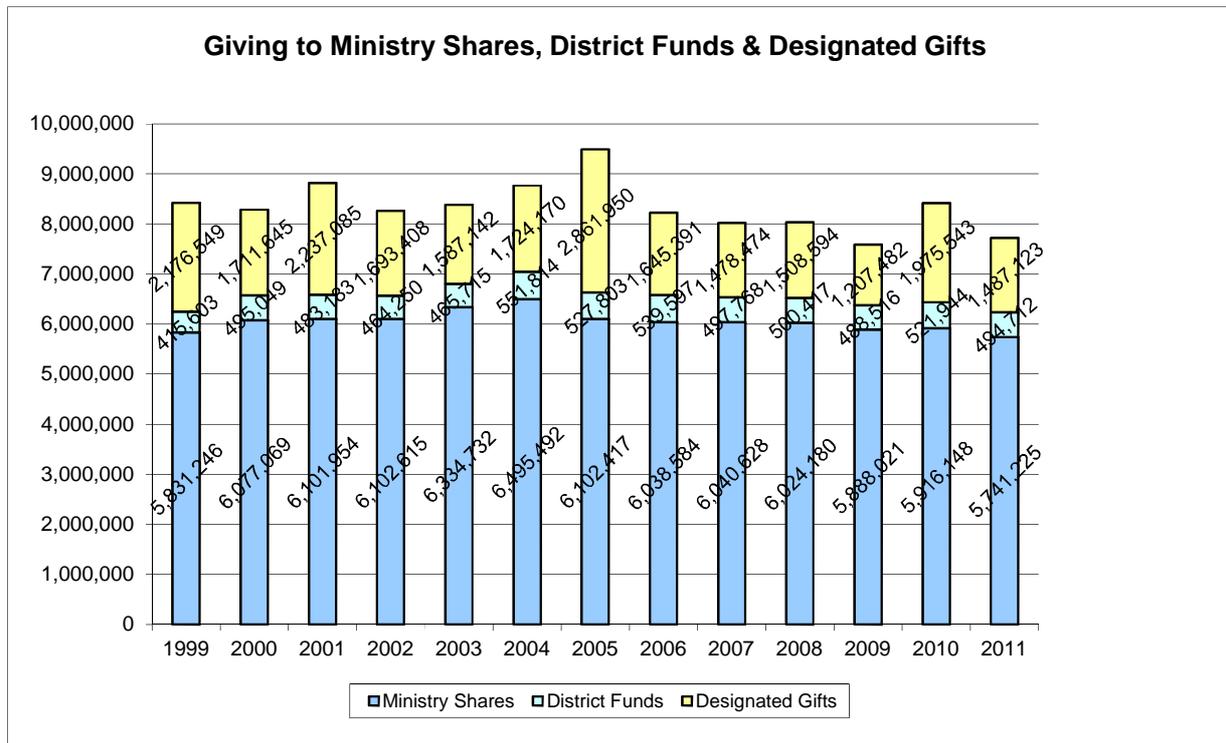
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Thank You, West Michigan Churches!

As the Council on Finance and Administration, we thank our churches for their support of our shared mission and ministry by paying their ministry shares. We understand the financial challenges facing our State, and the churches' commitment in paying ministry shares is greatly appreciated.

Story of A Giving People. The chart below shows the generous giving of our churches in the midst of difficult economic challenges. The conference received more than \$7.7 million in 2011 which were designated 74.4% to ministry shares, 6.2% for district ministry funds and 23.4% for advance special offerings.

12 Year History of Giving:



Year	Ministry Shares	District Funds	Designated Gifts	Total Giving	% Min Shares Budget Paid
2000	6,077,069	495,049	1,695,898	8,268,016	93.0%
2001	6,101,954	483,183	2,229,571	8,814,708	89.8%
2002	6,102,615	464,250	1,686,198	8,253,063	87.5%
2003	6,334,732	465,715	1,585,979	8,386,426	87.2%
2004	6,495,492	551,814	1,724,170	8,771,476	85.1%
2005	6,102,417	527,803	2,861,950	9,492,170	89.5%
2006	6,038,584	539,597	1,645,391	8,223,572	93.4%
2007	6,040,628	497,768	1,478,474	8,016,870	92.6%
2008	6,024,180	500,417	1,508,594	8,033,191	91.9%
2009	5,888,021	488,516	1,207,482	7,584,019	87.9%
2010	5,916,148	521,944	1,975,543	8,413,635	95.3%
2011	5,741,225	494,712	1,487,123	7,719,854	93.2%

THE ADVANCE: Our West Michigan Conference is the recognized leader in per capita giving to the Advance for Christ Fund of the denomination. 100% of money given to the Advance goes to the intended recipient of the gift. The Advance projects include UMCOR, Mission, Community ministries, Evangelism and church growth. Our conference also has the highest percentage of churches participating in the Advance and the highest amount given to missionary support in the North Central Jurisdiction. Praise God!

MINISTRY SHARES: Ministry Shares is the first priority benevolence of the local church and reflects its financial commitment to the shared mission and ministry of the West Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, locally and globally. It is conference policy to support the worldwide ministry of The United Methodist Church by paying 100% of the World Service Fund. However, because of low reserves available, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration paid only 93% of the remaining general apportionments resulting in aggregate payment of 96.6% or 3.4% short of 100%.

WHERE MINISTRY SHARES DOLLARS GO: *Praise God for the provision that is given to administer God's grace in various forms (1 Peter 4:10).*

District Superintendent & Clergy Support	27%	1,541,353
Conference Program Ministries	26%	1,499,674
New Church Development	5%	277,037
Administrative Support Ministries	12%	731,486
World Service & General Church Apportionment	30%	1,736,144
	100%	5,785,694

GIVING BY CHURCHES:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Churches giving 100% or more	301	260	242	282	272
Churches giving less than 100%	49	51	61	34	44
Churches giving less than 70%	65	104	104	90	89
Total	415	415	407	406	405

GIVING BY DISTRICT:**WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT REPORT**

MINISTRY SHARES & DISTRICT MINISTRIES FUNDS GIVING

		<u>12/30/09</u>	<u>12/31/10</u>	<u>12/31/11</u>
	Ministry Shares & District			
CONFERENCE	Funds Paid	\$6,376,538	\$6,438,092	\$6,235,939
	% Paid	84.2%	88.4%	85.3%
	Special Giving	\$1,207,482	\$1,975,543	\$1,487,123
ALBION	Remittances Year To Date	\$918,820	\$865,920	\$809,526
	% Paid	89.1%	90.1%	86.2%
	Special Giving	\$154,186	\$247,596	\$145,273
HEARTLAND	Remittances Year To Date	\$709,706	\$717,958	\$748,885
	% Paid	81.6%	87.7%	90.7%
	Special Giving	\$154,321	\$222,306	\$158,557
GRAND RAPIDS	Remittances Year To Date	\$1,729,108	\$1,788,434	\$1,800,946
	% Paid	89.9%	95.1%	94.1%
	Special Giving	\$337,898	\$628,594	\$443,378
GRAND TRAVERSE	Remittances Year To Date	\$817,045	\$870,639	\$822,646
	% Paid	82.3%	92.5%	86.8%
	Special Giving	\$154,785	\$225,868	\$203,349
KALAMAZOO	Remittances Year To Date	\$1,065,505	\$1,075,331	\$1,001,261
	% Paid	78.5%	81.7%	76.9%
	Special Giving	\$237,917	\$333,120	\$266,379
LANSING	Remittances Year To Date	\$1,136,354	\$1,119,810	\$1,052,675
	% Paid	81.2%	82.0%	76.3%
	Special Giving	\$168,375	\$318,059	\$270,187
SPECIAL GIVING		<u>12/30/09</u>	<u>12/31/10</u>	<u>12/31/11</u>
1.	Camp Endowment Campaign	\$574	\$760	\$720
2.	Christian Education Sunday Offering	4,938	3,853	5,259
3.	Racial Ethnic Local Church Sunday Offering	6,288	5,669	4,363
4.	Human Relations Day Offering	14,861	12,275	15,192
5.	Rural Life Sunday	6,112	4,177	4,962
6.	Peace With Justice Sunday	12,205	11,798	12,712
7.	Camp Sunday	7,307	5,979	7,858
8.	Native American Ministry Sunday	16,672	12,658	12,922
9.	Golden Cross Sunday Offering	7,054	5,566	5,614
10.	United Methodist Student Day Offering	9,713	11,997	10,154
11.	World Communion Offering	19,031	23,636	17,335
12.	One Great Hour of Sharing	81,130	80,138	72,687
13.	Africa University Endowment Fund	2,894	399	2,803
14.	World Missionary Support	181,772	190,807	174,584
15.	World Mission Projects	83,952	88,023	148,692
16.	United Methodist Children's Fund	176	1,041	1,048
17.	National Missions	69,137	66,662	60,001
19.	Appalachia Service Project	140	0	0
20.	U.M.C.O.R.	453,074	1,160,407	685,359
21.	Ethnic Ministries	27,483	23,340	22,635
22.	Conference Ministries	193,217	245,228	218,542
23.	Other Benevolences	9,753	23,488	3,683

GIVING SUMMARY:	Special Giving	\$1,207,483	\$1,977,901	\$1,487,125
	District Funds	\$488,516	\$521,595	\$494,712
	Conference Ministry Shares	\$5,888,021	\$5,914,139	\$5,741,225
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,584,020	\$8,413,635	\$7,723,062
	Conference Budget	\$6,694,890	\$6,209,076	\$6,159,550
	% of Conference Budget Received	87.9%	95.2%	93.2%

We take this opportunity to express appreciation for the commitment of Council members: Sue Cobb (Vice Pres.), Diane Gordon (Secretary), Kathleen Anderson, Phillip Bickel, Chris Hawkins, Nolan Hudson, Joe Huston, Dave Lundquist, Susan MacGregor, Georgia Marsh, Russell McReynolds, Patrick Tiedt, Tom Vogeler, Patricia Watson, Benton Heisler (Director of Connectional Ministries), David Hills (Cabinet Rep), David Bell (Pres.UM Foundation), 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

This will be my last report as chair of the West Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries. It has been an eye-opening honor to serve as chair of this board for seven years. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with, and give thanks for, all those who have come to the table to set vision, strategize, resource, and celebrate places of mission faithfulness.

As I write, I am aware that conference funding is again in a highly precarious state and ministries central to the mission of the Church are being cut. It has become a perennial challenge. Missions funded by apportioned funds, at the general, conference and district levels, have been shrinking as the needs at the local, national and global levels have been increasing. Your West Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries has tried to be faithful to the apportioned giving of local churches by assuring that those closest to the ministries funded are making decisions about the trust and accountability of those ministries. Block grant funding is now in its seventh year. The conference partners with the districts to faithfully fund ministries serving human need and offering up the hope of the Christ. As the local church and community ministries do their work, they continue to see apportioned support of The United Methodist Church slip, and spend more time and energy seeking direct support of churches, individuals and community resources. This is OK...except that the connectional influence we talk about in such lofty terms reflects less and less reality as the years go on.

It is certainly not all doom and gloom, yet the body needs to understand that our missional impact, at least as measured in dollars from Ministry Shares going to those we are called to serve is concerned, is decreasing. Still, we celebrate that 2011 Annual Conference in June was thematically centered on Ministry with the Poor. We had an awesome time of Ministry Fair sharing, a space in which tables connected the many ministries throughout West Michigan with connections to the board. We welcomed the chief executive of the General Board of Global Ministries, Thomas Kemper, as he addressed the 2011 Annual Conference and shared in a fireside chat. Likewise, we celebrated the presence of Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Deputy General Secretary of UMCOR, with us for the CBGM-Hunger Committee luncheon and fireside chat. And we join the West Michigan Conference in celebrating three new mission interns with the Board of Global Ministries. Stephanie and Ashley Norton, from Kalamazoo: Milwood United Methodist Church, are assigned to HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace), while John Daniel Gore, active at Plainfield United Methodist Church, is serving in the West Bank, Israel.

Finally, we celebrate a brand new position on the Conference Board of Global Ministries, as Shirley Freeman of Portage: Chapel Hill United Methodist Church comes as our first Refugee and Immigration Ministries Coordinator. She is available to local churches to help connect with refugee resettlement programs and to assist in advocating for those in our communities who are struggling with immigration challenges.

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 & 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. I pray that, as we make difficult decisions about who we are and who God is shaping us to become, we will not lose our core mission.

Barry T. Petrucci, Chair

CLARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Clark Retirement Community began in 1906 when Melvin and Emily Clark donated their home to the Michigan Conference of The Methodist Church for use by retired ministers, their spouses, and other "worthy" individuals who needed assistance during their senior years. Today Clark is home to over 500 residents who live on two campuses and enjoy award-winning programming and outstanding care.

One of our points of distinction is The Clark Commitment to Benevolent Care which reflects Melvin and Emily's original spirit of philanthropy. Clark's Benevolent Care Program provides the necessary financial resources to support those residents who through no fault of their own become financially unable to make payments required for their care and support.

It is through the generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations and churches that Clark is able to make – and keep – the commitment to benevolent care.

The Clark Foundation was established in 1995. A 501(c) 3 organization, the Clark Foundation:

- Has an annual goal of \$1 million dollars for The Benevolent Care Fund.
- Conducts capital campaigns for the enhancement or expansion of facilities or programs.
- Sponsors activities and programs for residents and the general community.
- Serves as an ambassador to the greater community and The United Methodist Church.

During the fiscal year of 2011, revenue received by Clark Retirement Community for operations totaled \$22.6 million, of which \$21.3 million, or 94%, came from direct resident care. Expenses for the year totaled \$19.9 million. The Foundation received \$595,985 in gifts and bequests.

Joanna Hogan, Foundation Director
Robert J. Perl, Executive Director

CONFERENCE SECRETARY OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The West Michigan Conference hosted several missionaries in 2011: Ut To Director, Vietnam Initiative; Karen Vo-To, Vietnam Initiative; Paul Webster, Director, Mujila Falls Ag Project; Nkemba Ndjungu, Superintendent Cameroon Initiative; and Mbwizu Ndjungu, Cameroon Initiative.

We were pleased to host the General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries in June 2011 at Annual Conference.

The Fellowship of Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries met in Indiana in August. I was unable to attend. They will meet again in New York City in August 2012.

Jon L. Pohl, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON MISSION PERSONNEL (CCMP)

After many years of no new missionaries being recruited out of West Michigan, we are overjoyed and thankful to God that in the past year three mission interns are now at work on the field. Stephanie and Ashley Norton of Kalamazoo: Westwood are at work in Haiti with the HAPI project, which is itself a development ministry with West Michigan connections through its founder, Valerie Mossman-Celestin. John Daniel Gore of Grand Rapids: Plainfield is at work in Israel.

Mission interns are one type of general board missionary who spend 18 months on the field working in some form of justice ministry, followed by 18 months of service in a similar ministry in the United States.

We are thankful for these our new missionaries and encourage local churches to support them through their Lane 1 Missionary Support Advance Specials: J.D. Gore (#3021335); Ash Norton (#3021340); and Stephanie Norton (#3021341).

Valerie Mossman-Celestin, who interviewed with the committee several years ago, is nearing completion of her preparation to become a deaconess of The United Methodist Church.

The committee stands ready to meet with those wishing to inquire about missionary service or to formally interview those who desire to become full-time missionaries with the General Board.

Lynn A. DeMoss, Chair

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

"When you help a child, you change a life."

This year Methodist Children's Home Society will celebrate 95 years of service to children and families. Since 1917 we have provided assistance to thousands of vulnerable children through our core programs. Our rich legacy and proud heritage is a direct result of the support, financial investment and prayers of The United Methodist Church.

Raising Responsible Young Men –

The residential treatment program provides intensive treatment for up to 70 boys ages 6-17. Our staff work 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 82 children and families during 2011.

Providing Safe Havens –

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 141 young people. During 2011, foster care staff responded to 155 inquiries related to foster care.

Creating Forever Families –

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 49 children during 2011 and responded to 33 inquiries about adoption.

Literacy Programs –

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, located in Shaftsbury and Howard City.

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."*

Murray E. Brown, Board 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 Conference Board of Global Ministries. 110 men, women and children attended the four-day School, held July 20-23, 2011, at Albion College. A one-day event was held Saturday, July 24 with 67 adults in attendance.

The 2011 theme was "Make All Things New." The Scripture base was Revelation 21:3-5. The spiritual growth study was called "The Journey." This study was led by Rev. Dr. Jana Lynn Almeida. The geographic study was on Haiti and led by Rev. David Morton, Rev. Gordon Schleicher and Terri Eisenmann. The social action issue was the second year for "Joy to the World: Mission in an Age of Global Christianity." The two sections were led by Rev. Curtis Jensen and Rev. Jodie Flessner.

The youth were led by Jamie Young. Their topic of study was mission evangelism. They spent several afternoons doing hands-on projects in the Albion community.

Children ages five years through fifth grade were led by Mary Margaret Willbanks and Janice Huffman. Their study was Haiti and used the resource "Krik Krack."

Several fund raising events took place during the week-day school. Just over \$2,000 was collected from an auction, both silent and live; proceeds to go to Haiti and United Methodist Community House roof project.

Linda Darrow, Dean 2011-2013

UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE

In 2011, the United Methodist Community House (UMCH) experienced significant positive change and recognition for a job well done. Located in the heart of the inner-city of Greater Grand Rapids since 1902, UMCH continues to offer high quality services to our area's most vulnerable populations: children and seniors. Of the more than 2,000 participants served this year, 90% report an income level below the federal poverty guideline.

Program Components and Achievements

- ❖ In our **Child Development Center**, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 76 children have been served in 2011 (to date).
- ❖ In the **Youth Development Center** to date, 309 children were served, which includes participants in our Summer Camp for Kids and B2B Summer Program for middle and high-school students.
- ❖ The **First Step House**, a transitional housing program designed to assist women who are in recovery from substance abuse and/or a life of prostitution, has served 115 women in need.
- ❖ The **UMCH Senior Development Center** provides congregate lunch meals, outreach and assistance, health and wellness programming, etc., to more than 200 seniors.

Agency Highlights

- ❖ UMCH is a lead organization in the Early Learning Neighborhood Initiative, a collaborative project designed to enhance the quality of learning environments for children in their formative, early years.
- ❖ On January 29, 2011, UMCH was awarded the *Raymond Tardy Community Service Award* at the 2011 Giants banquet. This award is given to individuals or organizations that focus on the concerns of the low-income citizenry.
- ❖ On March 24, 2011, UMCH was presented with the *Cornerstone Award* by LINC Community Revitalization. This award is given to an organization that models capacity building and demonstrates impact in a specific area.
- ❖ On Monday, October 31, 2011, UMCH hosted its "Reach, Teach, and Inspire" luncheon at the Prince Conference Center of Calvin College. Keynote speakers for this informational and inspirational event were Dr. Marguerite Morgan (author, *God Turns Lemons into Lemonade*) and Dr. Nkechy Ezech (Project Specialist for the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative). We gathered to: 1) celebrate our continued ability to **reach** out to and connect with our inner-city's most vulnerable populations: children and seniors; 2) celebrate our nationally accredited child development programs that are designed specifically to **teach** appropriate early childhood development for children ages 0 to 5 years; and 3) celebrate one of our most valuable and often overlooked resources, as we strive to **inspire** our participants in their twilight years to improve their health – physical, emotional and mental – in an atmosphere that welcomes seniors with the warmth, dignity and respect that they so deserve.
- ❖ On Friday, November 25, 2011, UMCH was the benefactor of "Divine Divas Giving Thanks," a concert featuring the voices of Jessica Reedy, Carolyn Quinn-Allen, Sharon Norman, and Erica Glenn, with a praise dance featuring Laassah Taylor. Presented by Green-Smith Management, this event occurred at the Frederick Meijer Gardens.

Richard Clanton, Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST METRO MINISTRY OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

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

Emerging Vision

Metro's Executive Director, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, along with the Grand Rapids District Superintendent, are committed to building and sustaining strong relationships between United Methodist congregations and our neighbors in the city. Faithful stewardship of the aging buildings at 100 Burton and 1933 Buchanan streets are leading Metro into exploration of ministry partnerships with other Grand Rapids agencies in areas such as affordable housing and community building. Strong, healthy, faithful relationships among congregations will enhance our ability to respond to God's call into this uncharted yet potentially transformative territory.

Communities of Shalom

Communities of Shalom (CoS) is a faith-inspired, community development network in the US, Africa and Haiti. It was initiated by the 1992 General Conference in response to the civil unrest in Los Angeles, ignited by the beating of Rodney King by police. The CoS initiative was brought to Grand Rapids by Metro Ministry in 2010. CoS provides training, education and seed grants for Shalom ministries in their work toward collaborative approaches to systemic change, economic prosperity, healing and health, and sustainability. www.communitiesofshalom.org

Shalom sites in Grand Rapids are La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church, Plainfield Avenue Corridor (PACCOS) and Wyoming Park United Methodist Church, with an active sister site in Haiti, Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI).

Hands Across the City and Communities of Shalom

The first *Hands Across the City* event was held in August 2010 as a day of community service. Metro collaborated with three city agencies, a neighborhood association, a playground builder, and over 600 persons from 18 congregations to beautify 12 city parks and build a playground in one day.

In 2011, Metro assembled a team of 13 strong lay and clergy leaders from across the city – many of whom had participated in the 2010 event – to create continuing *Hands* events with the express purpose of building lasting relationships of mutual transformation through partnership and service. The team grounded its work in the guiding Shalom principles and goals of shared planning, shared experience and mutual transformation.

Metro is using *Hands Across the City* efforts to highlight our Shalom sites. Each of three *Hands* events in 2011-2012 were/will be hosted by a local Community of Shalom: "New to the Neighborhood," October 1, 2011, by La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church; April 28, 2012, "The Greening of the North End" by Plainfield Area CoS; Fall 2012, "Hands Across the World" by Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI).

Properties

The former Olivet United Methodist Church has been renamed *Hope Center: A United Methodist Ministry*. La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church is the primary tenant, along with Grand Rapids Area Service Project (GRASP) and others. Hope Center is settling into its new uses, and Metro leaders continue to discern ministries that will help sustain relationships with the neighborhood and the United Methodist presence there.

The facility at 100 Burton Street is vacant and in critical disrepair. Conversations are now taking place between Metro and a local non-profit that rehabilitates such properties for the purpose of affordable housing and resultant neighborhood revitalization.

Metro is also discerning wise stewardship of the parsonages associated with the two buildings. One is home to the pastor of La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church; the other is rented to a long-time tenant who receives Section 8 housing assistance from Wyoming Housing Commission.

Metro is open to and hopeful of increased collaboration with the Grand Rapids District Superintendent and select congregations, where appropriate, in exploring possibilities for creative and well-fitting continued ministry in United Methodist urban facilities owned by congregations who are discerning whether to discontinue.

Board Development and Administrative Structure

We continue to seek committed, creative persons with a passion for urban ministry to serve as Metro board and committee members. We are considering also whether Metro's current administrative structure serves us well, and whether some adjustments might increase effectiveness, efficiency and faithfulness to current Metro goals and calling.

Rev. Julie A. Liske, Executive Director

VOLUNTEER IN MISSION (VIM)

During 2011, VIM teams to various places in the continental United States, working with First Peoples in Michigan and South Dakota, Appalachia Service Project, Grand Rapids Area Service Project (GRASP), Red Bird, New Orleans, Midwest Mission Distribution Center, and Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, to name a few.

In addition multiple teams have traveled to work in Haiti, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Russia, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic.

This year has seen a larger number of individuals participating as volunteers, in teams or alone, in local food pantries, Habitat for Humanity Affiliates and Restores. Several individual volunteers have also made commitments of six months or longer in the United States or around the world.

As VIM coordinator I look forward to being a resource to individuals or teams looking for a life-changing experience in making a difference in the world.

David L. Morton, Volunteer in Mission Coordinator

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM) advocates, secures and allocates resources, holds accountable, promotes, and evaluates the United Methodist campus ministries in West Michigan. At five major universities in West Michigan and two United Methodist-related colleges, Wesley foundations and campus ministries proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, offer hospitality to all, provide ways for young adults and other students to mature in the Christian faith, and provide opportunities for leadership and service in, through and beyond the church. We also provide connectional relationship and support to the two United Methodist-related colleges in Michigan and connectional relationship with the United Methodist campus ministry at University of Michigan (U of M).

A vital component of each ministry is the development of student leaders who are encouraged to discover and use their spiritual gifts in leading and serving others. In some cases, student leaders receive financial remuneration and, in other cases, students are volunteers, but all are learning vital skills of leading peers to grow theologically, spiritually and in servant ministry. These ministries are arenas of cultivation for future clergy and lay leaders for the local church.

A second component of each ministry is the creation of safe spaces for students who are seekers or unaffiliated with the church to ask hard questions and explore the Christian faith. At our Wesley foundations and campus ministries, students may "rethink" church and have opportunities to connect with Christian students in serving others.

This year, the BHECM engaged in a process of evaluation of several of the ministries through a process developed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Next year, two of the ministries which have welcomed new directors will be part of the evaluation process. We have worked diligently with the Wesley boards to develop financial and organizational sustainability. Sustainability efforts include alumni relations, residential developments, grants, discussions with a fund developer, and partnerships with local congregations and districts.

There is excitement in the work of campus ministry where students are hearing the call to lay and clergy ministry in the church and where others are seeking to explore the radical life of becoming one who follows Jesus. This work is taking place on campuses because our annual conference has chosen to work together to provide ministries in places of higher education. I am thankful for the support of our annual conference, for the passion and commitment of our Wesley directors and campus ministers, and for the faithfulness of many others which makes campus ministry possible.

Lynn Pier-Fitzgerald, Chair

ADRIAN COLLEGE

An independently administered survey found that over 200 students participate directly in the Adrian College Chaplaincy. Others participate in institution-wide ways. This is no surprise. There are eight different spiritual life groups on campus and weekly chapel services. Our staff includes one chaplain and fourteen 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.

Momany's recent book on the Wesleyan/Holiness ethic of love is titled, *Doing Good: A Grace-Filled Approach to Holiness* and is published by Abingdon Press.

The Adrian College Chaplaincy is grounded in a theological commitment to the intrinsic worth of all people. This living conviction drives our current witness against "human trafficking" or modern-day slavery.

Highlights of this year's ministry include:

- A Wednesday Noon Chapel Series focusing on "Passages from Paul" (fall) and "The Fruits of the Spirit" (spring).
- A journey by our "Not for Sale Campaign" leadership team along a route of the Ohio Underground Railroad. Students lodged in a documented UGRR site on their way to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.
- Presence at the November United Methodist Exploration 2011 "call-to-ministry" event in St. Louis. Our student group was the largest from any single ministry in the nation.
- The inaugural offering of Chaplain Momany's upper-level religion course on human trafficking ("Human Trafficking: Reality and Response").

In September Rev. Momany received the 2011 Adrian College Alumni Humanitarian Award. This award, presented by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, honors alumni who demonstrate an altruistic lifestyle that reflects Adrian College's founding spirit of service to others.

For more information about Adrian College's ministry, contact Dr. Chris Momany 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 2011, 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.

United Methodist students engaged their faith in their academic experience, through rigorous course offerings in Religious Studies, the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service, Holocaust Studies Service-Learning Project, Music, and many other disciplines.

Albion College's spiritual life continued to engage the head and heart. In Christian life, Albion College Chapel (sponsored by the Chaplaincy) had another breakout year in terms of visibility, ecumenical engagement, depth of sharing and fellowship, and leadership development. As always, many United Methodist students preparing for ministry were core Chapel leaders. Chapel went on tour to First United Methodist Church of Fenton, Michigan, in February.

The Office of the Chaplain continued to lead Christian unity efforts on campus (including seven 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. As in years past, this student organization has been hosted and supported by the First United Methodist Church of Albion.

In 2011, Christian disciples were developed at Albion College in the following ways:

- For the 2011-2012 academic year, Albion College awarded over \$1.8 million in grant and scholarships to United Methodist students.
- In February 2011, the Office of the Chaplain hosted a second-annual overnight spiritual retreat (“Faith in Transition: Being a Christian in College”) for United Methodist high school youth from the Michigan area. The model for the retreat has continued to gain wider United Methodist recognition.
- Christian life continued to be further integrated with the wider diversity efforts of the college. As a result, Christian student leaders at Albion College have been much better prepared for ministry and leadership in a pluralistic context.
- The Exploring Ministries group continued to offer students a multidisciplinary supportive context for discerning call.

In 2011, disciples were nurtured through one-to-one pastoral care and spiritual mentoring with the College Chaplain. This included direct support for bereaved, victims of discrimination and abuse, leadership development, and vocation discernment. The Chaplain continued to expand the strong peer mentorship model that has allowed ministry to flourish.

In 2011, Albion College was reviewed by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and received a very positive reaffirmation of accreditation for the next ten years. Following this review, in September 2011, Albion College hosted a review team of the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. As of the submission date of this report (January 2012), Albion College has not yet received the final report of this UMC review. The visiting team was received very positively by students, faculty, and administration.

Albion College remains a celebration of shared mission. God has been glorified through this historical relationship.

On behalf of Albion College, I warmly welcome members of the West Michigan Conference to campus. In particular, please encourage youth to consider Albion College in their college discernment process, and to get involved in spiritual life once they get here. Albion College is a great place to develop as the person God intends.

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

Rev. 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, exercise classes, and meals provide an avenue for non-Christians to come in contact with our community.

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

In 2011, 33 different members of the campus community regularly participated in Wesley activities. Twenty-two of these were involved in discipleship activities. This is a 12% increase over 2010. Twenty-nine of the regular participants were undergraduate students; 63% were female (compared with 55% of undergraduates); one (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 new records for amounts raised by students (over double the previous record), for number of walkers, and for money raised locally, all due to a stronger alliance with CMU administration.

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 2011, we worked with residents of Washington, DC, during

spring break, worked towards passage of a local non-discrimination ordinance, 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 leadership, personal development, and Bowen Family Systems theory. He provides training in these areas and in running non-profit organizations for the student staff.

Other pertinent information the Annual Conference needs to be aware of

Wesley@CMU has completed an on-site Leadership Residence with rooms for eight students. Having students on-site 24 hours a day greatly increases the availability of the Center; there were 40 consecutive days of activities at Wesley in mid-semester. These students also have a much deeper involvement at Wesley, including daily devotional activities and weekly small-group meetings.

The priority of Wesleys in conference funding continues to decline, in spite of numeric, organizational, and spiritual growth. In 2011, **almost 50% of Wesley@CMU's income came from fundraising** outside of the conference budget allocation. Imagine the drain on your local church pastor's time and energy if she or he had to raise half of the church's budget from a place other than the regular offering.

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, Wesley@CMU

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY (FSU)

Summary of ministry for the year

Our mission statement at the Ferris State Wesley House is to be a transforming ministry of Jesus Christ that encourages and promotes spiritual growth by providing a safe, fun, and accepting environment to the Ferris State University community. That is exactly what we did during 2011.

The year 2011 was ushered in with preparation for hosting the Statewide Winter Retreat in early February. Students had an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We visited two nursing homes and an assisted living facility. The residents enjoyed our Wesley students. We enjoyed the Student Recreation Center on campus, and many played games and laughed all night long.

Our annual Alternative Spring Break in March took us to Chavies, KY, to work for the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). There were a few first-timers, and they weren't afraid to jump in and get muddy. This was a very rewarding trip for all of us. We were able to assist three families and two puppies!

We held many fundraising events that continue to support our mission trip during spring break. Area churches are very giving of their support for these young adults. We enjoy visiting the churches to show our thanks for supporting us during our fundraising efforts to make the mission trip affordable for the students.

Our Thursday evening dinners have grown with the new school year. We follow with Bible study which encompassed the minor prophets and Rob Bell's NOOMA series. We are now beginning to look at the life of Jesus in the gospels.

This year's Fall Retreat was held at the director's home where we enjoyed fellowship with one another making apple cider, visiting a corn maze, and enjoying a horse-pulled wagon ride.

The students at FSU Wesley House continue to serve the Lord in this community by taking part in the Big Event, CROP Walk, Highway Pickup, and preparing/serving meals at the Big Rapids Third Avenue Church every third Saturday. Students also had a presence at the Bulldog Bonanza and Spiritual Exploration Fair.

The director coordinated efforts with the Dean of Student Life to host the first Annual Spiritual Exploration Fair in September at the university. We had positive feedback with new ideas to look at as we prepare for the second Annual.

Profile of Students

We've had upward of 31 student participants involved in some facet in our programming, activities, service projects, and walk-ins. Our core group of eight has grown to 13 in the past year. Regular attendees are currently 21 student participants: 11 females and 10 males. Three out of 11 females are minorities; four out of 10 males are minorities. We are a growing ministry.

Awards/Recognition

Certificate for highway cleanup, CROP Walk, recipient of \$924.89 for the Mecosta County Community Foundation Match Day.

List of Outreach Beyond Campus

Highway cleanup, CROP Walk, Big Event, preparing/serving free lunch at local United Methodist Church, mission trips.

Brief summary of Cooperative Activities with Local Churches

Students attend church services at Big Rapids First United Methodist Church and Big Rapids Third Avenue United Methodist Church. Students make multiple church visits to other churches throughout the year, as well. The students participate with the free lunch program at Third Avenue United Methodist Church.

Training received by staff

Director attended a United Methodist Campus Ministry Association (UMCMA) Conference in July in Nashville. Director taught a workshop on Spirituality and You for the Michigan Teen Conference hosted at Ferris State University.

Final Thoughts

Campus ministry is an exciting place to be today. There is an awakening occurring across the college campuses and students are seeking. Many are finding their way into campus ministries. Thank you for your continued support for this growing outreach ministry called The Wesley Foundation.

Christine Berke, Director

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY (GVSU)

The campus ministry at Grand Valley State University witnessed a transition in 2011 as long-time director Heather Holt stepped down to pursue other interests and Rev. Greg Lawton was hired *ad interim* to lead the ministry. The board deeply appreciates Heather's devotion to and leadership of the ministry over the past decade, helping it become a place of safety, nurture and social justice for all on campus.

Throughout the year we have been engaged in awareness and fellowship activities on and off campus. In January we attended the statewide Wesley retreat at Ferris and in March we drove down to glean cabbages and grapefruit with the Society of St. Andrew in Florida for our Spring Break Mission Trip. In April we invited social justice advocate Erin Davies and her rainbow-wrapped VW Bug to campus to confront bigotry and heterosexism with a screening of her movie and interactive dialogue. We celebrated Heather's ministry with a party in May and invited two students to move into our Wesley House. In September we added a worship service to our weekly activities and held an Imagine No Malaria event to raise awareness about Malaria in Africa. In October we hosted a Homecoming Party for students and alumni and collaborated with the young adults at Valley United Methodist Church in Allendale for a Halloween Party. In November we had an excellent time tie-dyeing "Wesley." t-shirts and in December we joined Valley United Methodist Church once again for a semester-ending Christmas Candlelight Service.

The board of trustees continues to expand and seek ways to engage the campus and district through their leadership, working with Greg to bring about structural changes and a vision for United Methodist campus ministry at GVSU. Their work of strategic planning and fund development will continue through this transition year to bring about a healthy, vibrant and engaging ministry to the students, faculty and staff at GVSU.

Greg Lawton, Interim Director

WESLEY FOUNDATION OF KALAMAZOO

Serving Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College

“John Wesley was a campus minister.”

“Every year is a new church start in campus ministry.”

These are two phrases that are heard over and over again and they are true. The founder of the Methodist movement began meeting in small bands or classes on campus. Also, each year in campus ministry we say good-bye to graduates or students who are transferring and we welcome new students. Each spring we bring to a close ministry and the community that has formed. Each fall we form a new community and new ministries. Both of these statements represent the unique challenge that is campus ministry – living out our history in new and relevant ways and the energy, time and resources that go into forming a new community each year.

The Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo was started in 1923 and until 1964 was housed at Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church. Since that time the current building has housed many of the ministries that continue today. The building has done its duty but the time has come to move. After an offering from Western Michigan University for a cash amount, a property swap, and a five-year rent free lease in the current building, the Board of Directors voted on a four-phase plan. Phase one is construction of the first of three 12-person residential ministry centers that will be open for fall 2012. Phases two through four will include the remaining two residential centers and a 6,800-square-foot student center. The two remaining residential facilities will be built as demand dictates while the student center will be built when the 1.3 million dollar campaign goal is reached. This exciting vision allows for historic and ongoing ministries to continue while entering into a new ministry that will reach students' needs for years to come.

At the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo we spend ten consecutive days each fall welcoming new students, inviting them into a safe space, into ministry, into community. We form small groups, mission teams, leadership development opportunities, Bible studies, social justice ministries, and worship.

In 2011 eight students traveled to Nicaragua and a team of 16 to South Dakota for spring break mission trips. Ten students served at Cass Community in Detroit and a team of students offer worship at a homeless mission in downtown Kalamazoo each month. Students served at a Stockbridge Avenue United Methodist Church Halloween Party, collected offerings for the Gobles-Kendall Food Pantry, and collected coats for Kalamazoo Christmas.

Various styles of worship are offered Sunday, Monday and Thursday nights with an average attendance of eight, 40, and 45 respectively. Four small groups average 8-10 students each. Intentional leadership development is offered through small groups and retreats. The social justice ministry is offering education and action on the issues of bullying and sustainability. Throughout the year outreach to campus is a weekly ministry.

The Wesley Praise Band, the Outreach Team and student board members visited 15 local congregations offering leadership in worship, sharing a ministry moment, and serving in hospitality. Two recent alumni are currently attending seminary and five additional alumni and students are in the candidacy process.

A female student, who was baptized, confirmed and will be married in a local United Methodist church recently attended Exploration, a conference for young adults discerning a call to ministry. She is an example of the connection between the local church and campus ministry working to bring about the glory of God. A male student that I have recently begun meeting with has never been to church. His family is non-religious and atheist. He is beginning to explore what being a Christian would mean for his life. We are reading the Gospel of Mark together and meeting regularly. He is an example of the need for campus ministry, a safe place for post-moderns to enter into faith.

The new church start that is campus ministry is grounded in who we are as United Methodists and continues to be a vital part of the ongoing ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Lisa Batten, Campus Pastor

WESLEY at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU)

2011 has been an exciting year of transition for the Wesley campus community at Michigan State University. We are grateful for the work of the Wesley Board at MSU, the leadership team, and Rev. Greg Lawton who served as our interim campus pastor for the first six months.

In February we held our third annual Mystery Dinner to raise funds for an alternative spring break. Fifteen students traveled to Huntsville, Alabama, for the alternative spring break where we rebuilt homes, worked with children and advocated for the hurricane and impoverished community. In April our annual Relay for Life was a huge success, and we raised over \$5,000 for cancer research and relief. In May we co-sponsored the tolerance awareness program Fag Bug.

In July, Rev. William W. Chu came on as half-time campus minister. In August we greeted new students at MSU through the Midnight Madness, Sparticipation, and Spartan Remix student welcoming programs. Through these programs we further developed our list of contacts in the student body of over 50,000.

In September we traveled to Lake Michigan Camp at Pentwater, Michigan. Fourteen students, half of them new to Wesley, attended this retreat designed to foster coalescence. MSU Wesley launched a new mid-week emergent worship on Thursdays. We call the service Thank God It's Thursday, and its contemporary praise band, mixed media devotions and teaching have become an alternative way for students to wind down on the campus traditional party night. The service has an average attendance of 30, and we have had as many as 70.

MSU Wesley supported the Cass Community Haunted House in October. Twelve students helped to clean up a public area and prepare about 1,000 sandwiches. That evening the Wesley team haunted the house and brought in over \$3,000 to support Cass Community Ministries.

Minister Chu ran in the Chicago Marathon in November, and seven students went to cheer him on and soak up the metropolitan culture. We spent the night at Epworth United Methodist Church, a mission-minded congregation in the Edgewater Neighborhood. Another MSU Wesley Mission team joined with Williamston United Methodist Church to serve a Thanksgiving meal at Open Door Ministries at Lansing Central United Methodist Church.

Our third annual Christmas Tea was a wonderful chance to connect with United Methodist Women from University, Mason, Asbury, and Holt United Methodist churches. The Spartan Dischords a *cappella* group were spectacular once again.

MSU Wesley continues to have a tremendous impact for the cause of Christ in the campus community of East Lansing and Lansing. We thank the West Michigan Annual Conference for your continued support. To learn more about how you can partner with us visit www.msuwesley.org.

William W. Chu, Campus Minister

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC / LATINO MINISTRIES

The overall mission of the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries (CCHLM) is to promote and support existing ministries with the Hispanic/Latino community like the English as a Second Language classes in St. Johns First United Methodist Church and La Nueva Esperanza in Grand Rapids, and to create new opportunities for ministry with the Hispanic/Latino community in West Michigan.

We have worked with Grand Rapids Metro Ministry for Hands Across The City at Centro Esperanza, hosted a celebratory worship event at La Nueva Esperanza, and have funded continued leadership training for Rev. Jorgé Rodríguez. Several leaders from the West Michigan Conference also participated in the Pentecost Journey workshop in cooperation with the Detroit Annual Conference this past November.

Along with acquiring the needed finances, we will be working on our long-range and short-term goals. Among the short-term goals is contacting key West Michigan churches that are willing to be in more intentional ministry with the largely-ignored H/L community. We also plan to implement additional trainings in 2012, including Pentecost Journey. We will continue to work with the Detroit Annual Conference and the National Hispanic Latino Committee, as we further develop long-term goals.

Proposed Budget

First contact work	\$ 3,000
Strategic Planning Meeting	\$ 500
Pentecost Journey (2 parts)	\$ 2,000
General trainings	\$ 2,000
Specific trainings	\$ 1,000
Two events	\$ 1,000
Monthly meetings	\$ 500
Total	\$10,000

Committee Members

Tamara Brubaker, Patsy Coffman, Billie Dalton, Samuel Figuero-Garcia, Fran Grabowski, Louis Grettenberger, Robert K Lynch, Stacy Mabus Caballero, Ingrid Portillo, Jorgé Rodriguez, Rosie Rodriguez, Lea Tobar

Fran Grabowski and Stacy Mabus Caballero, Co-chairs

JOHN WESLEY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PASTORS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The John Wesley Association (JWA) of Local Pastors and Associate Members had an active and fruitful 2011. In late January, Chairman Mike Riegler attended the biennial "Gathering of the Chairs" in Orlando, Florida. The chairs of the Orders of Elders, Orders of Deacons and Associations of Local Pastors and Associate Members from annual conferences all across the country met to fellowship, worship and discuss the future direction of our denomination. In April, the JWA held the first annual "Preachapalooza," in two sessions, at the Battle Creek First and Lake City churches. A total of ten Local Pastors preached sermons for critique and comment. Panels of experts (including four of our District Superintendents) provided immediate feedback for the edification of the speakers and the audience (mostly other pastors). It was a marvelous time of both fine preaching and education in ways to preach more effectively. The event was a huge success and will be repeated in the spring of 2012. In June, a lunch meeting of the JWA was well-attended during annual conference. In September, a contingent of seven people attended the annual meeting of the United Methodist Church National Association of Associate Members and Local Pastors, in Branson, Missouri. The West Michigan Annual Conference was represented by the second-largest group of attendees from any conference in the country. A big pat on the back goes to Vice-Chair George Lawton and his wife Beverly for their leadership and support of this endeavor. In October, meetings were held in our churches in Wayland and Manton. The JWA stands ready to support all of our pastors and churches in any way possible, as we seek to become ever more effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world.

Michael A. Riegler, Pastor, Edmore Faith UMC, & Chair, John Wesley Association

LAKE LOUISE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, CAMP and RETREAT CENTER

Located on 2400 acres of conservation forest surrounding a spring-fed lake, Lake Louise is a cottager community of 126 families connected to a camp, retreat and conference ministry affiliated with both West Michigan and Detroit conferences of The United Methodist Church. Vaughn Maatman is the Executive Director, and Lake Louise is governed by a 15-member board of trustees, including four members appointed by Detroit Annual Conference, and four members appointed by the West Michigan Annual Conference. By Lake Louise bylaws, trustees generally serve three (3) three-year terms, for a total of nine (9) years. The West Michigan appointees and their year of appointment are:

Rev. Deborah Johnson, President (2005)	Inge Whitemore (2008)
Rev. Phil Friedrich (2010)	Trustee to be elected at Annual Conference 2012

Lake Louise's summer camping ministries grew by 7% in 2011 to more than 700 campers and counselors, making Lake Louise the only camp of any kind in Michigan to demonstrate an increase in

registrations for five summers running. In the summer of 2011 there were four high school camps, a family camp, a multi-age choir camp (grades 4-12), five elementary camps and a middle school camp, in addition to a variety of volunteer groups, an adult retreat, and a training experience for Mission Interns from Detroit and West Michigan conferences. Lake Louise's year-round retreat ministry grew by more than 11% in 2011, serving pastors, lay people and youth from Detroit and West Michigan conferences, regional Protestant and Catholic parishes, the local community, and service groups including Habitat for Humanity.

This last year included a significant loss to Lake Louise's ministry. Terry Gladstone, Lake Louise's Program Development Specialist, died of cancer in November 2011. At this writing, a search is being launched for her replacement.

Approximately \$700,000 has been raised to date toward a 1.1 million dollar campaign to address staffing, programmatic and infrastructure needs. A Program Development Specialist was hired to extend the outreach of our ministry. Two year-round log lodges for 20 people have been completed with the work of volunteers, beginning the replacement of aging cabins and bathhouses. Gifts enabled the start of a playground for young children. Significant trail work was completed in our conservation forest acreage in 2011, an effort designed to bring campers and retreaters into closer contact with 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 grow the ministry.

In 2010 the Board of Trustees began the process of revising and refreshing its five-year strategic plan. As a first step in that process a new mission statement was adopted in June 2011: *"We offer an environment and provide leadership for opportunities promoting healthy relationships, personal wholeness and spiritual well-being."* 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.

Deborah Johnson, Pastor, Sturgis First UMC, & President, Lake Louise Board of Trustees

MICHIGAN AREA COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

The Michigan Area Committee on the Episcopacy is comprised of members of both the Detroit and the West Michigan conferences.

The bulk of our work dealt with the evaluation process that occurs every four years at the end of the quadrennium. A survey generated by the North Central Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy was sent to 50 members of each conference. Our committee worked diligently, compiling the results and submitting the report. This report will be one tool used by the jurisdictional committee as it assigns bishops in July, 2012. The North Central Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy includes four representatives from our committee: Jackie Euper and Joy Barrett from the Detroit Conference, and Laurie Dahlman and Benton Heisler from the West Michigan Conference.

As this quadrennium comes to a close, we are thankful for the leadership and guidance of Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton who has been Resident Bishop since 2004. We are grateful for his spiritual leadership to the United Methodists of Michigan, and for helping make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our committee is blessed to work with Bishop Keaton and Rev. Bill Dobbs, his clergy assistant, sharing experiences on how together we can work to fulfill the mission of the church, especially in the Michigan Area.

Genie Bank, Chair

MICHIGAN AREA INDIAN WORKERS' CONFERENCE (IWC)

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)
 West Michigan Conference Representative: Benton Heisler

2011 IWC meeting dates:

April 30, 2011 – Mt Pleasant Chippewa Indian UMC
 October 15, 2011 – Greensky Hill Indian UMC

2012 IWC meeting dates:

Salem – April 20-21, 2012;
 Bradley – October 5-6, 2012.

IWC Indian Mission Delegates:

Phyllis John (Kewadin)
 Donna Squires (Northport)
 Carol White Pigeon (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
 Timothy Wright – Greensky Hill
 Owen White Pigeon – Mt Pleasant-Chippewa
 Sandra VandenBrink – Salem / Bradley
 Briony Desotell – Oscoda
 Stephen Rhoads – Zeba
 Donald Wojewski – Saganing

CHUCH REPORTS:

Kewadin Indian Mission – Pastor Thomas John, Sr.

- Sunday worship at 9:00 am. Attendance average between 15-25.
- Renovation continues at the church and community hall. Community hall water pipes burst during last year's cold weather and caused major water leakage and damage to the tile flooring. All the damage had been repaired and completed before our warm weather activities began. Our church foyer/narthex entrance were redone. Members with wheelchairs and walkers had problems entering with the old step-up. Outside entrance ramp was repaired and repainted. The old brick church chimney was removed and rotten wood was discovered and repairs completed. The church roof was also replaced in December.
- Shaftsbury United Methodist Church youth mission group came in late June to help clean up our camp grounds for July Camp Meeting. Earlier in June, a thunderstorm came through the grounds and knocked down trees and branches and disconnected electrical power to the pavilion. The mission group was a blessing in helping clean up all debris left behind.
- Small dining room continues to be used for After School tutoring; Women of Tradition group meets to do bead work, sew and make crafts; plus the AA group meets weekly on Thursday. We have a

Potluck and Penny Roll on the first Sunday to support our girl (Shadie) in Guatemala through the International Medical Assistance program. Our previous two girls Leslie and Sylvia have graduated.

- Tom and Phyllis John attended the Native American Lay Speaking School held at Oscoda Indian Mission April 1-3, 2011. It was the advanced class on Spirituality and was enjoyed by all who attended.
- Tom and Phyllis John attended the 2011 West Michigan Annual Conference in June at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. They also attended the Native Americans Speak event in Chillicothe, IL, on August 27th sponsored by 4 Directions Healing Foundation (President Adam Danner).
- Kewadin's Easter Revival (April 14-16) with Sam McClellan; Summer Camp Meeting (July 14-16) with Charlie Nahwegahbo; and Fall Revival (November 17-19) with Pastor Tim McGowan were all well attended and spiritually uplifting for all participants.
- One Voice Gospel Choir from St Paul United Church of Christ in Saline, MI, made their second annual trip to Kewadin on October 16th and their spirit-filled singing was enjoyed by everyone. We are looking forward to their next visit in 2012.
- Kewadin continues to support their Food Pantry. The WMC Ministry Shares have been paid 100%. Our monthly church expenses are paid to date.

Northport Indian Mission – Pastor Thomas John, Sr.

- Sunday Worship Service at 12 noon – average attendance 15-20 members. Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7 pm – average attendance 6-8 members – we are using a Bible Study Guide by Charles Swindoll entitled “Jesus’ Teaching & Training of the Disciples.”
- We continue to have our potluck brunch after worship service each Sunday.
- In March, we replaced the dining room carpet with vinyl floor tiles.
- Our Easter Revival was held on April 7-9 with featured speaker Adam Danner. He is president and spiritual speaker for the 4 Directions Healing Foundation located in Chillicothe, IL. He was a very inspirational speaker and memories of Michael Peter’s ministry came to mind for many members. The Greensky Hill Women’s Drum Group came on Friday and presented their music ministry. It was truly an awesome experience for everyone.
- On Easter Sunday, Pastor Tom baptized Elijah Shomin, grandson of Mary and Marshall Collins. He voluntarily came to Pastor Tom and asked if he could be baptized on Easter. Elijah is 15 years old and a very special young man.
- Val Maidens attended the Lay Speaking Course at Oscoda on April 1 and 2.
- The Central UMC mission team led by Jim Huckle and Pastor Bob Grigereit came to our campgrounds for their 8th Annual Spring Cleanup on May 14th.
- Church Women United held their meeting at our church on May 6th. Val Maidens spoke on our church history and Ruby John played violin for the women’s group.
- On June 8th, a strong thunderstorm came through our campgrounds and knocked down many trees. One tree top fell through the roof of our pavilion staging/front area. We worked diligently with the insurance company to secure the necessary bids to repair the damaged pavilion. The settlement did not come soon enough to hold our annual Summer Camp Meeting. This was the first time in 100 years our annual Summer Camp Meeting was not held on our sacred grounds.
- Our Summer Camp Meeting was held at our church location on August 11-13; it was well attended with our guest speaker Joseph “Bo” Robinson.
- We were busy cleaning and painting our church sanctuary this past fall due to a high profile wedding that took place on Saturday, October 22nd for Lon Johnson and Julianna Smoot – Julianna is President Obama’s reelection Deputy Campaign Manager. Lon Johnson has a vacation home nearby so he is very familiar with the Little Finger/Leelanau County area and has driven by our church on numerous occasions. They wanted a small, private wedding and he mentioned seeing our church to his fiancé and as the saying goes, the rest is history.

- On October 16th, the One Voice Gospel Choir (of the St Paul United Church of Christ in Saline, MI) came to our church and their inspirational, spirit-filled singing was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, we had fellowship with them over fry bread and corn soup.
- Pastor Tom baptized his great-granddaughter, Jasmine Bressette, on September 28th; and two young boys on October 2nd.
- Our Fall Revival on November 10-12 with Fred Jacko Sr., as speaker and very well attended.
- We lost three church elders this year: On March 4th, Evelyn John-Manitowash, 88 years old, passed on. She was song leader for a girls' choir for many years under tutelage of Pastor Amos Kahgee. On April 29th, Robert "Butch" Wonegeshik, 63 years old, passed on. His father, Rocque Wonegeshik, had been a lay minister for our church. On December 6th, Clarence Manitowash, 81 years old, joined his beloved wife Evelyn of 53 years. Clarence had been our church and campgrounds trustee for many years. These three elders had great love for our church and were very active. They are truly missed by everyone.
- Northport continues to support their Food Pantry. The WMC Ministry Shares have been paid 100%. Our monthly church expenses are paid to date.

Greensky Hill Indian Mission – Pastor Timothy Wright.

- Sunday Worship at 9 am and 5 pm with Pastor Tim offering the morning message and Pastors Sam McClellan, Marshall Collins, Tom John and Bob Dominic sharing the evening services on alternating Sundays.
- We have a women and men Bible Study group studying on alternating weekdays. The women are studying the Bad Girls of the Bible; Pastor Tim's group is reading "Love Wins" by Rob Bell.
- Women's Drum Group continues to perform where invited including the Love Concert fund raiser for Mary and Marshal Collins and the new District Superintendent installation.
- Completed a successful Summer Camp Meeting with Sam McClellan on July 8-10.
- Fund raisers: Men's Group had MARSP dinner and presented a video of LTBB "4 Directions"; Golf Outing Tournament on May 22nd. UMW had their September Harvest Dinner – 300+ people attended – raised \$2400 for scholarships; UMW participated in Christmas craft show on November 20th at Odawa Casino's Ovation Hall with 65 other vendors.
- Currently working with the State Historical Society to check into ways the church foundation can be repaired and still keep its historical value. Also plan on fund raisers and search for grants and request donations.
- We had two adult baptisms (Vaughn and Audrey Black) and two deaths (Marilyn Williams and Harold Smith) this past year.
- The WMC Ministry Shares have been paid 100%.
- In 2012, plan on having Healthy Congregations Workshop. Also the congregation is transitioning to a 50/50 split in pastoral ministry and expenses with Horton Bay United Methodist Church.

Salem Indian Mission – Pastor Sandra VandenBrink.

- Sunday worship starts at 11:45 am; potluck served every Sunday after worship service.
- Youth group very active. 7-8 youths went to On Eagles' Wings Warrior Leadership Summit in Missouri (June 27-July 2). Tim and Deb Miller volunteered to drive them there. Youth group also attended the Flying w/Eagles Native American Youth Leadership Training (December 1-4, 2011) in Ocean Grove, NJ. Event sponsored by the Native American International Caucus of The United Methodist Church, Northeast Region.
- Bible Study on Tuesday nights, using the Ray Vander Laan video series. Ray Vander Laan is the founder of "That the World May Know Ministries" and he serves as the host of Focus on the Family's popular Faith Lessons Bible Study.
- Working on obtaining permits for campground improvements; repaired the church furnace and basement. Working with Consumers Energy on energy efficiency for dining room.

- Salem and Bradley Youth Group planning a mission trip to Spirit Lake next summer (2012) with group from Marshall United Methodist Church. Pastor Sandy will email trip information to all Native American churches. The dates will be during spring break or early summer.
- Michael Peters – 4 Fires Ministry is growing and church members are attending.
- WMC Ministry Shares have been paid 100%.

Bradley Indian Mission – Pastor Sandra VandenBrink.

- Sunday Worship Service at 10 am. Serve a Brunch every 3rd Sunday. New sign installed with worship time printed. With new families moving into the area and greater job opportunities, we have seen our church attendance increase to an average of 40.
- For the first time in over 20 years, Bradley has a Sunday school class that meets each week with up to five children. Near the end of the adult worship service, the children rejoin the congregation and share a Bible verse they have just learned. Sharon Sprague is doing the Sunday School.
- Bradley received five new members. Joe Sprague passed away earlier in the year and recently his great-granddaughter was baptized, plus there were two other baptisms.
- Bradley and Salem continue to sponsor the PaWaTing MeGedWin Kikaajik Native American Elders Program in Grand Rapids. This outreach ministry 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. 400 to 500 meals are served on a monthly basis. The program receives financial assistance from IWC and the Tribe.
- Anna and Dwight recently returned from Chicago. She has been moved up the list and must continue with visits to Chicago for tests, etc. Please continue to prayer for her.
- Well and water heater are in place and working great – we now have hot water.
- Installed new carpeting in church; now working on new seating. In three years, we will celebrating our 100th anniversary.
- We had two concerts earlier this year – Rain and Calico – great country gospel groups.
- WMC Ministry Shares have been paid 100%; our monthly obligations are met each month.

Oscoda Indian Mission – Pastor Briony Desotell.

- Sunday services at 1 pm. Share Pastor Briony Desotell with Oscoda UMC. Largest attendance - 29; smallest attendance – four. On April 17th had four baptisms – the Breiter family; two new members – Davis; no deaths this past year.
- On September 25, 2010, we celebrated our 150th Ministry Celebration – approximately 100 attendees. Very nice celebration of our past, present and future. We had representatives from the local Historical Commissions, Genealogical Society and other local representatives take part in sharing our history. Pastor Briony Desotell and Rev William Cargo also shared.
- On April 1-3, 2011, we hosted the Native American Lay Speaking School. Church members prepared, cooked, set up, etc., the meals and made gifts for the teachers and leaders. Seven students for the Beginning Class (one from OIM and one from OUMC); 12 students for the Advanced (two from OIM & three from OUMC). Easter Dinner (31 attendees) on April 24th.
- Vacation Bible School – did not take place this year due to scheduling conflicts and leaders not available to host. Plan on hosting VBS next summer (2012).
- Summer Camp – one youth attended Camp Kinawind Water Adventures. Goal for 2012 is to send three youth and/or young adults to Camp Kinawind or another United Methodist camp.
- Special Events/Projects – May Annual Conference hosted an informational booth/display featuring OIM activities; May 21st – church representative attended the Detroit Annual Conference (CONAM) meeting in Adrian, MI; May 30th – 35 attended our Memorial Day Picnic; July 16th – hosted an information/display booth at the 2011 Gagaguwon Pow Wow. At one time, there were as many as 13 church members present and throughout the day we had 30 members and friends in and out helping;

August 5th – OIM representative attended the Conference Leadership Team Training Day at the Detroit Conference (CONAM) in Fenton, MI; August/September – sponsored a Back to School Project and served 13 K-12th grade students; assisted two families, one with transportation and the other with food needs; assisted one youth with an educational-related conference; September 10th – representative attended the Detroit Conference (CONAM) regular meeting held in Flint, MI; September 22nd – sponsored two members to a leadership training seminar in Bay City, MI – Effective Communication Skills for Women; September 24th – annual cemetery clean up with members raking, trimming of young trees, cleared off graves.

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

- Sunday Worship Service: Thursday Evening Service: Bible Study on Tuesdays. Pastor Owen had 15 baptisms on Easter Sunday.
- Easter Revival with Sam McClellan on April 21-24. Camp Meeting on August 28-September 5 with Sam McClellan, Lennox Taylor and Ray Harringer. Thanksgiving Revival with Sam McClellan on November 24-27.
- 3 members are working in Lay Ministry – Perry Bailey; Greg Mandoca; Rob White Pigeon.
- Our focus is set on future goals/accomplishments such as church roof replacement and work with The Tribe for youth intervention (school on reservation). Our church and members have been very blessed.

Detroit Conference/CONAM – Carmen Misner.

Hosted a Native American Lay Speaking Course at Oscoda in April (1-2). Very well attended, 16 students total: Salem – seven students; Bradley – three students; Greensky Hill – four students; Northport – one; Kewadin – one. No classes scheduled for 2012. Certification needs to be updated every three years. Suggested anyone interested in attending lay speaking school to check with their district office. The districts offer classes every year. Remember to register with your district office as certified lay speaker after completing a lay speaking class.

Native American Course of Study (NACOS) – Timothy Miller, Director.

- Tim presented Pastor Thomas John with an eagle staff and necklace for completing the NACOS (Fall 2010) during the IWC meeting in April.
- NACOS received a \$5,000 grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
- Tim is looking at developing a Certified Lay Ministry, Native American Licensing School, and is currently developing a website that will be ready by early summer (2012).
- NACOS was established in 2002 and started classes in 2003. This study program embraces Native American tradition and culture while at the same time is consistent with the teachings of The United Methodist Church. The course of study began as a jurisdictional school but has since received permission to recruit denomination-wide. NACOS is the only Native American Course of Study in the denomination. There are four classes held each year in March, April, September and October. Because NACOS is an extension school, classes are held in two sessions in consecutive months. Currently meet Tuesday through Friday which allows the pastor to arrive home in time for Sunday services. NACOS has basically four guiding principles, which came out of a proposal developed by Dr. Jerome DeVine and Dr. Theresa (Little Eagle) Oyler-Sayles, were submitted to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church and became the Native American Course of Study. The four principles are: to be economically feasible, culturally interpreted, contextually relevant, and communally comfortable.
- NACOS' tuition cost is \$275 per class. At present, they bill the annual conference of the student for tuition. The student is asked to pay a \$25 registration fee per class, but if a hardship, the fee is waived. NACOS goal is to keep costs as low as possible for the student to enable as many as possible to attend. The majority of funds come from the North Central Jurisdictional Mission Committee. Currently seeking funding from other CONAMs within the jurisdiction to help keep the program/school on a solid fiscal foundation.

- NACOS' vision is to develop a permanent home. Currently communicating with a Native American Church in East Peoria, IL, to explore the possibility of combining efforts to make a permanent home for NACOS a reality. This church has 40+ acres. Another vision is to develop a Native American Licensing School for local pastors.
- NACOS is open to all – Native American and non-Native American and non-United Methodist ministers. There are some issues facing Native American ministers to attend NACOS – one being the age limit and another that they must be pastor of a local church. Tim would like the age limit eliminated. But the *Discipline* ground rules have been set by the General Conference. The next General Conference is in April 2012 in Tampa, FL, and changes can't be made until the 2016 General Conference. Tim is willing to work with any potential candidate who must go through the candidacy process first.
- NACOS will meet October 18-21 at the Living Springs United Methodist Camp in Lewistown, IL. Please keep us in your prayers.

Miigwetch (thank you) – in recognition of the generous giving (giving: a traditional way of life for Anishinaabe 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 2010 for use in 2011 was \$12,922.29; half, \$6,461.14, 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 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, IWC Chair / Valerie Maidens, IWC Secretary

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

2011 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 website was recently introduced, www.michiganarealoanfund.com. You are invited to visit our site for updates for investors or borrowers.

Investors were rewarded during 2011 with a rate of return that was attractive in comparison to many similar investment options. Investors currently earn 3.00% on their investment accounts. Larger accounts (\$100,000 or more) earn 3.25%. 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 5.49%. Promissory notes are also available for smaller funding needs at a rate of 6.00%. The Fund is registered with the Securities Bureau of the State of Michigan and is managed by its Resident Agent. As of December 2011 the loan portfolio included 32 loans and mortgages with a total value of approximately \$6,585,830.

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 allows 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.

George House, President, Board of Trustees
Dr. Wayne Barrett, Resident Agent

MICHIGAN AREA SCHOOL FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY

The 2011 Michigan Area School for Pastoral Ministry convened the third week in August at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Our theme was "Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land." This year's school featured Dr. Brian D. McLaren and Dr. J. Clinton McCann. The school began with Dr. McLaren sharing his vision and prayer: that all our churches would be full and overflowing with people of all ages. He is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. His prophetic wisdom, relational spirit, and depth of compassion for the "Nuns" (those who attend church regularly), "Nones" (those with no real church background), "Dones" (the de-churched dropouts, alienated or wounded), and the "No-Funs" (those hanging on by a fingernail), was noticed by all. Much of Dr. McLaren's work focuses on the need to move the church out of argument and sales, and into active, compassionate listening. We were challenged to listen to the stories of others by actively asking them to "tell me about your religious experiences, your fears, and your story." In addition, Dr. McLaren told a story of his own: his relationship with a young adult named April. There are plenty of churches for the found 99 (or 20), but so very few for the lost 1 (or 80).

Due to a family loss, Dr. Allen Dwight Callahan was not able to make our school. In his stead, Dr. McCann graciously offered exegetical teaching of Holy Scripture, at its best. We were taken deep into the trenches of the Psalms, picking a rich harvest of justice, righteousness, and shalom. From radical purity to radical compassion, Dr. McCann pointed us back to God's Word as the foundation of our ministry still today. He also placed tools in our hands from new releases of Psalms in song, to resources like davidlamotte.com, standrewpress.com, and symmetryduo.com.

In addition to inspiration and permission given by our two speakers, the school offered workshops in the areas of technology, spiritual practice, personal renewal and administrative practices. You can continue to count on workshops being offered in each of these categories in the upcoming school, as well. Multiple opportunities for worship and fellowship, a new Pastor's Lounge, and the resurrection of *The Wesley Open* golf outing added an important component for peer relationship development. We settled into our new venue at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center more than ever and began to feel at home this year. Attendance grew by more than 15% to 150 registrants. With the level of speakers that are being acquired, the intimacy of teacher/student ratio, and the peer interaction that is available, the Senate feels what we are offering pastors is on a par with, and even exceeds, other much more expensive and geographically-difficult-to-attend training opportunities. We are proud to claim that The School for 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 understandably recovering from surgery, his presence was missed by many this second year of absence. We look forward to a renewed accessibility with our bishop at this year's school. Our 2012 theme is "Who Let the Church Out? Meeting Jesus Where He Already Is" and will feature Bishop Woodie White and partners in transformational cross-cultural ministry, Tom and Dee Yaccino. Bishop White served as clergy in the Detroit Annual Conference, General Secretary of the newly established General Commission on Religion and Race and then as bishop in both the Indiana and Illinois areas before becoming the Bishop in Residence at Candler School of Theology. He also is author of three books: *Racial Transition in the Church*, *Confessions of a Prairie Pilgrim*, and *Conversations of the Heart*. The Yaccinos moved from pioneering an integrated community-based development initiative that resulted in the creation of grass-roots organization of popular educators to facilitate numerous sustainable initiatives in health, water, agriculture, and education in rural communities, to becoming the lead developers of Willow Creek Community Church's international ministries.

The 2012 Michigan Area School for Pastoral Ministry will convene Tuesday, August 21st through Thursday, August 23rd at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing on the campus of Michigan State University. It is our hope in 2012 that the MASPM will continue to grow, allowing more registrants than ever to experience the benefits of our top notch speakers, in addition to the walking trails, screened porches, babbling brook and outdoor patios. Along with *The Wesley Open*, we will be hosting our first-ever *Crossing the Red Cedar* canoe outing. We plan to make use of our beautiful venue, set in nature, for meaningful devotion and fellowship opportunities, in addition to the stellar education that is provided.

Melany A. Chalker, Dean of the School Senate

MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

The Michigan Christian Advocate has been out of print for more than a year now; however, the Michigan Christian Advocate continues to update and promote events within the West Michigan Conference. The Michigan Christian Advocate's web site is updated frequently with stories about local churches across the West Michigan Conference. Churches are encouraged to continue sending newsletters, news releases and notes to the Michigan Christian Advocate for inclusion in this very informational web site. The board of directors of Michigan Christian Advocate continues to look for funding sources and opportunities to return to print. A proposal to the Michigan Area conferences has been submitted seeking funding for the return of the Michigan Christian Advocate. The support from local churches has been very encouraging and gratefully appreciated.

Tom Ferguson, Editor/Publisher

NEW CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2011 was a year of saying "Good-bye" and saying "Hello" for New Church in West Michigan. With sadness we said "Good-bye," to Barb Flory, who retired after being our Director of New Church for two years; to Windward Church in Traverse City, which closed in May; and to Outland's independent location, as they now worship on a weeknight in Maple United Methodist Church's building in Battle Creek.

In the midst of, and in some instances because of, those good-byes, our committee has said, "Hello" to many new things. One of our key new learnings is that we cannot continue to start parachute drop (no formal connection to any existing church) churches that have only a 10% chance of success. We will, instead, channel the resources of the conference into new models of starting new churches that have a 90% chance of success – multi-site, mother/daughter, and vital merger models.

We are saying "Hello" to new policies around benchmarks and accountability and the importance of having a coach. We also have formed new procedures and documents for churches applying for grants for starting a second site, a new worship service, or for being a part of a vital merger. Have you said "Hello" to a coach? Could your church use a grant to say "Hello" to a new faith community growing out of your church?

We are saying "Hello" to a strategic plan that was formulated and adopted following almost half of the committee's participation in the School of Congregational Development in Dallas, Texas. This plan includes funding, staffing, finding, assessing, and multiplying. Out of this strategic plan is coming a focus on younger clergy, as well as the development of a new academy/institute to train people interested in leading a new faith community. Would you like to say "Hello" to being a part of that academy?

While some of our new churches struggled or closed, LifeSpring is saying "Hello" to a new facility and to new members, as they purchased a building and chartered in December. Valley Church is saying "Hello" to a new worship space and to increasing numbers of persons, and they are looking forward to chartering in 2012.

We are saying "Hello" to partnerships among churches, working together to start something new, such as Portage First, Stockbridge Avenue, and LifeSpring, as well as Cornerstone and Mosaic. To what neighboring church might you say "Hello" so that together you can start something new?

Our conference will be saying "Hello" to a new full-time staff person, a Director of New Church and Congregational Development. New Church partnered with the Vital Church Initiative to create this new position, funded by New Church. With our focus on the new models of starting new churches, which

include multi-site and mother/daughter, our existing churches must be healthy and vital to be able to start a new faith community. Have you said “Hello” to the Vital Church Initiative?

Any churches wanting to start a new faith community can say “Hello” to [Readiness 360](#), a tool to help churches assess their readiness to plant something new. The New Church committee will help churches get started with this, if they sign up for “Church Planting 101,” coming in the fall of 2012. Many churches said “Hello” in 2011 to [MissionInsite](#) and gained valuable information to help them reach out in their own communities.

The New Church Committee said “Good-bye” to some, but said “Hello” to much more in 2011. The committee did this by working as a team, where everyone got to work and participate... and laugh... a lot.

What helped this group say all of these “Good-byes” and “Hellos”? The New Church Committee identified these elements:

- Read a book. Have someone present a book review at each meeting, so you learn together.
- Meet frequently. For this committee, that meant monthly for 4 hours each time for most of the year.
- Keep constant communication/online dialogue. The emails and closed Facebook group keep the conversation going between meetings.
- Have planned (and even unplanned!), creative, interactive devotions.
- Attend other training events.
- Stop stuff that isn't working.
- Set benchmarks.
- Assign coaches for effectiveness and accountability.
- Employ a coach specific to your group to ask the hard questions. (We have not done this yet.)

We've all heard that definition of insanity – “Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” The United Methodist Church as a whole must leave insanity behind, because we cannot keep doing the same things and expect the church to be vital. The New Church Establishment and Development Committee is determined to leave behind what isn't working and is excited about the future of The United Methodist Church in West Michigan.

It's time to say “Hello” to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It's time for the church – ALL churches – to step up and be the church.

To what will you say “Hello” as you start something new?

Kathy Brown, Chair

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) is the instrument 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 the West Michigan Annual Conference. Yet, the work of the BOM includes more than entry into the covenant relationship, as the BOM is responsible to care for, support and guide clergy throughout their years of service in Christ's Church.

The BOM works closely with the bishop and cabinet, although we have distinct functions. The bishop and cabinet are responsible for appointment and supervision of clergy. The BOM is responsible for the credentialing of clergy. This is a very important system of checks and balances and is a very positive part of the United Methodist connection.

Much of that work of the BOM is done through the following:

Conference Relations Committee: This committee responds to the changing circumstances in the lives of ordained elders, deacons, associate members and local pastors. It monitors and tracks all changes in clergy status, recommending leaves of absence, transition or family leaves, incapacity/medical leaves, honorable locations and retirements. It also monitors candidates attempting to transfer into the conference from other annual conferences or other denominations. In the unfortunate event of an administrative complaint, it would serve as a hearing body. Rev. Wade Panse is the chair of the Conference Relations Committee.

Support and Development: This committee continues to explore ways to be more supportive of the clergy and their families. Major life changes happen to all of us: death of a spouse, parent or child; health issues that can occur at any time; the reality of "burn out"; family issues that impact ministry. In all of these arenas, the BOM seeks to find ways to be supportive. Rev. Bob Lynch is the current chair of the Support and Development Committee.

Registrar Committee: This committee maintains contact with all clergy candidates, local pastors, and district committees on ministry. They guide, monitor and facilitate the candidacy tracks of all attempting to come into the covenant connection of clergy. They facilitate the interview process through the receipt of theology, personal and professional materials that are evaluated by the full BOM. They guide the BOM through its standards of fitness, readiness and effectiveness as candidates are evaluated. This year the registrars are moving the BOM into full electronic capability through a program called Pathways. Rev. Dean Prentiss is the facilitator of the registrars and is the registrar for candidates for Elders Orders and Full Membership. Rev. Lillian French has been registrar for Deacon Candidates. Rev. Marty Culver is registrar for Local Pastors. Rev. Melanie Baker is candidacy registrar to work with the district committees on ministry.

Finance Committee: This committee monitors the budget of the BOM, both the Operating Fund and the Ministerial Education Fund. The Operating Fund supports the day-to-day work of the BOM, including interview weeks and regular meetings. The MEF helps clergy and candidates with their educational responsibilities, including seminary, course of study and continuing education grants. It also has funds to help with counseling for clergy. Both of these funds are supported by Ministry Shares. Barbara Brechting has been chair of the Finance Committee for many years. The new chair will be Rev. Jeff Reese.

Enlistment and Mentoring Committee: This committee has a dual function. First, it determines and enacts ways to recruit and enlist potential candidates for ministry. Especially for those who express an interest at annual conference, this committee follows up with them and gets them on the right track for candidacy. It also coordinates visits to our United Methodist seminaries, both for the purpose of maintaining contact with our seminarians, and for the possible recruitment of other candidates. Second, this committee implements our mentoring program. This includes the training of all candidacy and clergy mentors, and the establishment and operation of mentoring groups for probationary members. Rev. Jane Ellen Johnson is the chair of this committee.

Orders: The BOM works with the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons and the John Wesley Association in looking at ways to work together to facilitate ministry in the conference. This past year, the BOM adopted and presented to the 2011 West Michigan Annual Conference a document of Clergy Effectiveness, providing more concrete standards for individual clergy and members of the cabinet to monitor the effectiveness of clergy. Rev. Lynn Grimes is the chair of the Order of Elders. Rev. Sandra Douglas is the chair of the Order of Deacons. Rev. Mike Riegler is the chair of the John Wesley Association.

Administration: The BOM has an Executive Committee which performs much of the administrative work of the full BOM. We are assisted in this work by Sus'ann Busley, administrative assistant, who is also the administrative assistant for the Lansing District, with her office in Okemos. We very much appreciate her excellent work.

The BOM covets your prayers as we seek to do our work in building the Body of Christ for servant ministry in this world.

John W. Boley, Chair

ORDER OF DEACONS

2011 was a year of planned changes for the West Michigan Conference Order of Deacons. Many of the changes that were implemented weren't the subject of new conversation among the Order of Deacons; they were changes that represented risk-taking to move the order to a place of dignity and consideration as a viable ministry within the West Michigan Conference, districts and local churches.

As the new chair of the West Michigan Conference Order of Deacons, ordained into Full Membership on June 10, 2011, I made a decision that I didn't want to be part of a dead order, and I committed to working with my fellow deacons to bring vitality to the life of the order.

The following items were addressed and implemented in 2011:

- Identification of Deacons in Full Membership and persons in process from Certified to Provisional candidates.
- Obtain feedback from all candidates and full members on what is working well and what needs to be improved.
- Increase communication utilizing current methods of technology – i.e., Facebook, page on West Michigan Conference web site and a minimum of two meetings of the order per year.
- Develop opportunities to provide additional information to persons in the exploration phase and sense a call to the ministry of Deacon.

Goals for 2012:

- Increase the number of Order of Deacon displays at West Michigan Conference events.
- Provide at least one presentation on the ministry of the Deacon in each district by a Deacon in Full Membership and/or the chair of the Order.
- Participate in one mission event with Full Members and candidates.
- Increase understanding of the ministry of Deacons among clergy and laity.

Sandra Douglas, Chair, Order of Deacons

ORDER OF ELDERS

As Elders in The United Methodist Church we are members of the annual conference and are in a covenantal relationship with one another. I hold before us again the words of ¶333.1 of *The Book of Discipline*: ***“Elders in full connection with an annual conference by virtue of their election and ordination are bound in special covenant with all the ordained elders of the annual conference... in mutual trust and concern and seek with them the sanctification of the fellowship.”***

As ordained elders in The United Methodist Church, in our ordination liturgy, we promised to be part of a covenant community that would “sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service.” Yet, we recognize and confess that we often fall short of these ideals as elders in this annual conference. Many times we live in isolation, we struggle to be a community that is “one in spirit and purpose,” and put aside this commitment to our covenant community.

Because of this, we come to 2012 looking to new opportunities to find connection and build covenant. As a result of a motion passed by the Board of Ordained Ministry, a “*Board of Elders*” is being formulated. With representation from each district and facilitated by the chair of the Order, this board would be charged with the purpose of providing mutual support, care, accountability, and nurture for those ordained as elder. Briefly stated, through intentional opportunities for fellowship, study, discussion, mission and worship, our hope would be to reclaim the sense of covenant community among our elder brothers and sisters.

This past year, as chair of the Order of Elders, I:

- Provided for our pre-conference clergy worship in partnership with the chair of the Order of Deacons and the John Wesley Association chair.
- Participated as a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and the board’s executive committee.
- Met with board and cabinet representatives to produce the “Clergy Effectiveness” document, which was then presented and approved at the 2011 clergy session.
- Continue to meet with the Michigan Area Task Force on “Vital Church Initiative” in support of developing vital clergy and congregations in our conference.
- Am currently updating, with the assistance of Rev. Dr. Jerry Toshalis, the Directory of Spiritual Direction and Retreat Centers. The document, entitled “Tending the Holy,” will soon be available on the Board of Ordained Ministry web site.
- Been available to offer support and nurture to clergy colleagues when requested.

It is an honor to represent the elders of the West Michigan Conference. I look forward to this new year as, together, we will seek to reclaim our identity as elders, build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service, and find encouragement that will remind us of the joy found in our ordination and service 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 commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

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

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 479, with 372 seeking the Master of Divinity, 64 the Master of Theological Studies, 19 the Master of Theology, 17 the Doctor of Theology, and seven enrolled as Special, Non-Degree students. The total student population is 22% U.S. ethnic minority, 8% international, and 50% women. Forty-four denominations are represented, with 52% of MDiv students being United Methodist. The median age of our entering class of MDiv students is 26, with 50% of total enrollment under 30.

Despite the difficult economic climate, Candler has surpassed its fundraising goal of \$60 million as part of Emory University's \$1.6 billion capital campaign – and we've done so a full year before the end of the campaign. An extraordinary gift of \$15 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation will make possible the construction of the second phase of the school's new building. In recognition of this gift, the first building—a 65,000-square-foot facility completed in 2008 – will be named in memory of the late Rita Anne Rollins, the first grandchild of the foundation's namesake. The new building will house the Pitts Theology Library, additional classrooms and offices, group study areas, and the Wesley Teaching Chapel.

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

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

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

A hallmark of the Candler MDiv experience, the two-year Contextual Education program, shapes our students' pastoral identities by interweaving service at ministry sites 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 have continued Candler Advantage, a program designed to pay rising third-year MDiv students for summer internships in congregations so they can further hone 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. Our Fall Conference, "The Art of Preaching in the 21st Century," brought to campus some of the most respected names in preaching, including Otis Moss Jr.

and James Howell. The Spring Conference, "The Singing Church," gathered experts to lead an exploration of the best practices and emerging trends of congregational song.

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 steadfastly committed to making theological education financially feasible. Although our operating budget essentially remained flat this year, we dedicated \$4.5 million to financial aid. Seventy-seven percent of eligible students received Candler-based financial aid, with the average award covering more than two-thirds of tuition.

Our widely respected faculty continues to distinguish itself, both in academia and in churches and denominational bodies at local, national, and international levels. This year, faculty members garnered prestigious grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Louisville Institute, among others. Dr. Carol Newsom recently completed a term as president of the Society of Biblical Literature. In the fall of 2011 we welcomed two new faculty members: Jennifer Ayres in religious education and Anthony Briggman in the history of early Christianity. In the fall of 2012 we welcome Neil Alexander, current bishop of the Episcopal Archdiocese of Atlanta, as director of our Anglican Studies Program and Ted Smith as assistant professor of homiletics and ethics. Our United Methodist faculty presence remains strong, with 36 percent of our full-time faculty being United Methodist.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of *educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world* depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. 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

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of six historically African American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a co-educational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world's premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of The United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world's largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religious Education, the Master of Arts in Church Music, the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in Pastoral Counseling, and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.). There are also a number of dual degree programs offered in cooperation with seminaries and schools in the Atlanta Theological Association. Admission is open to qualified men and women of the United Methodist Church.

Because of the support of this Annual Conference, Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition, and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development, and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry.

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. There are at least three significant ways that we have lived out our mission and furthered our vision:

- 1) Enrolled one of the largest entering classes on record for our institution. This entering class is comprised of young persons (average age of 25) called by God to be prophetic leaders for the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- 2) Instituted the Merit Scholars Program, which is a scholarship for incredibly bright and called students, that covers full tuition and fees. Gammon/ITC is able to attract these students because of your contributions to the Ministerial Education Fund.
- 3) Launched the Center for the Study of Religion and Race. Gammon/ITC's historic commitment to producing public theologians – men and women who are spiritually astute, intellectually keen, politically sophisticated, and culturally sensitive – is advanced with the establishment of this Center. With assistance from the General Commission on Religion and Race, it is Gammon/ITC's desire to continue the great work of addressing issues of cultural competency, advocacy and education in areas that further racial justice and equity.

Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Dr. Albert D. Mosley, President-Dean

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

Last fall the seminary welcomed 93 new students, raising our total enrollment for the fall to 382, a nine percent increase from the previous year. Fifty-four percent of the student body are women. The average age of the diverse and highly qualified new Master of Divinity class is 31. More than 30 religious traditions, four continents, 12 countries and 32 states are represented in the student body. Two hundred four students are United Methodist. Thirty-four additional students come from other Pan-Methodist denominations.

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

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

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

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

In October the Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities hosted the "Captured by a Compelling Narrative Conference: A Christian Story for a New Generation." The two-day event engaged

church leaders and educators in an exploration of ways to proclaim the Good News for a new generation, focusing on developing a vision for fostering transformative witness within faith communities. Presenters included Walter Fluker, the Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership at Boston University School of Theology; Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Ohio; and Diana Butler Bass, specialist in American religion and culture.

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

Intersection, a new and innovative continuing education opportunity, incorporates readings, online presentations by seminary faculty, and reflection on contemporary issues of life and ministry, providing an intersection of academic studies with the concern for practical ministry. Topics range from theology, biblical interpretation, and church history to ethics and the church in society. Continuing education credit is available. Additional information is available at <http://www.garrett.edu/intersection>.

Garrett-Evangelical helps develop bold local pastor leaders through the United Methodist Course of Study School. Held on campus each year during the last three weeks of July, this quality education and formational experience is guided by a strong and committed faculty. The multi-cultural program offers classes in three languages: English, Spanish, and Hmong. In addition to the on-campus residential model, Garrett-Evangelical supervises three extension locations: Indiana, Illinois Great Rivers, and Upper Midwest (Iowa).

The seminary continues to raise \$2 million to endow the Rueben P. Job Chair in Spiritual Formation. The chair will ensure that the seminary remains at the forefront of developing and enhancing spiritual formation studies at the certificate, master's and doctoral levels.

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 is also a portal to the Association of Chicago Theological Schools' (ACTS) DMin program in preaching.

Two esteemed members of the Garrett-Evangelical faculty retired at the end of the academic year following a total of over 30 years of service:

Dr. James Poling, Professor of Pastoral Care, Counseling and Theology

Dr. Kenneth Vaux, Professor of Theological Ethics

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 to visit us on campus. Garrett-Evangelical's commitment to theological education will continue to expand and improve through 2012. We are proud to serve The United Methodist Church, and we ask for your continuing prayers and support as we pursue our mission and our renewed vision.

Philip A. Amerson, President

METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you an update from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. MTSO continues to evolve, developing new educational models, strengthening ties with the church and providing new tools to help future Christian leaders make the most of their unique gifts.

Theological Commons unveiled

The innovative Theological Commons at MTSO is creating new and mutually beneficial connections between those in the practice of ministry and our students and faculty. Loosely based on a "knowledge commons" model developing within some universities, the Theological Commons is a forum for the development of new educational practices and technologies. In addition to encompassing our information technology services, the Commons is the incubator for several new endeavors, including the creating of Communities of Inquiry and Practice – small groups of seminary students, professionals in active ministry, leading experts and faculty members, formed around an area of common interest. These groups meet regularly, in person and online, to share in dialogue, collaborative learning, knowledge construction and leadership development.

New specializations offered

MTSO has introduced specializations that offer Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology students opportunities to focus on areas of particular relevance to their ministry and those they aspire to serve. M.Div. students can now choose from among six specializations: Spirituality; Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Ecology and Social Change; Black Church and African Diaspora Studies; Interreligious Contexts; and Feminist and Womanist Studies. The MAPT program offers specializations in Parish and Community Ministry; Spiritual Formation and Small Group Ministry; Ecology and Justice; and Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Science and religion library awarded

The [International Society for Science & Religion](#) selected MTSO as an ISSR Library awardee and provided MTSO's Dickhaut Library with 224 volumes, exploring the intersection of science and theology in subject areas from ecology to cosmology to bioethics. The ISSR, headquartered at the University of Cambridge's St. Edmund's College in the UK, has selected only 150 institutions worldwide to receive a full set of the library.

We're honored to serve the church and the world through the education of our next generation of leaders. We thank you for your continuing support and prayers, and we invite you to stay connected with our work throughout the year by visiting www.mtso.edu.

Danny Russell, Director of Communications

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"Spirit led: Renewing the Church!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, President

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PLAN (CRSP)

The current 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). The Defined Benefit contribution due and paid by the conference was \$2,106,415 for 2011.

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. In 2010 and 2011, no contribution was received from Cokesbury. By the end of 2011, the board has contributed the total of \$39,404.13 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. Conference premium contribution is 3% of the cash salary and housing of eligible clergy. However, the conference availed of the premium holiday granted by the General Board of Pension which generated savings of \$475,000 in 2011; hence, no contribution was due.

Payments to Annuitants and Beneficiaries Report: There were 596 participants who received benefits and total payments to annuitants were \$7,305,034 including Disability payments of \$261,092. A detailed report showing payments to individual beneficiaries is available upon request at the Conference Treasurer's Office.

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

The MRPF is the Pension plan covering services years 1948 to 1981. The General Board of Pension reported that for the 2011 actuarial study, our pre-82 Ministerial Reserve Pension Fund is funded at 99% and contribution of \$306,346. The decrease in invested assets was due to market decline beginning in 2008. The general board's actuarial projection is that funding of the pre-82 Plan will be at 110% in 2012 based on the PSR of \$711 and the surviving spouse benefit of 85%.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFITS LIABILITY FUNDING

Our Health Care Reserve Fund at year end 2011 was \$15,198,335. (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 has 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. The board determined the need for 100% funding of the post-retirement liability in the long-term, which involve increasing contribution from participants and churches as well as changes in benefit coverage. Funding strategy may also 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. With the changes already made, the 2011 medical benefit claims costs incurred under our Plan through October 31st have stabilized compared to the medical claims cost experience for prior years.

Prescription Drug Benefits for Clergy and Lay on Active Status

Claims costs for the prescription drug coverage increased at a substantially higher rate than expected. The most significant factor driving the increase in the prescription drug costs is very high prescription rate of high cost branded medications through both the retail pharmacy network and the home delivery (i.e. mail order) provisions of our Plan. To mitigate the high cost of branded medications a Mandatory Step Therapy will be adopted beginning January 1, 2012.

Medtipster Drug Benefit Program: The Medtipster Drug Benefit Program provides free eligible generic drugs to participants and will remain in effect during 2012. The Medtipster Drug Program has been very successful in helping our participants realize substantial annual cost savings in their prescription drug expenditures over the past year.

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 with the United American Insurance Company. 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. Starting January 1, 2012, the retiree minimum contribution will rise to 15%.

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, 2011

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Net Asset, beginning of year	\$15,274,092.68	\$16,171,503.31
Contributions		
Premiums collected	3,833,303.99	4,384,297.08
Ministry Shares	47,185.30	45,680.93
Receipts from Redirected CRSP DB	1,230,635.69	1,266,885.16
Other Income	22,404.49	31,933.68
	<u>5,133,529.47</u>	<u>5,728,796.85</u>
Benefits Expenses	(6,164,532.91)	(6,061,035.67)
Administrative	(229,530.10)	(198,419.75)
	<u>(6,394,063.01)</u>	<u>(6,259,455.42)</u>
Asset Increase/(Decrease) from operation	(1,260,533.54)	(530,658.57)
Investment Gain/Loss	2,157,944.17	362,007.63
Change in Net Asset Increase/(Decrease)	897,410.63	
Net Asset, end of year	<u>\$16,171,503.31</u>	<u>\$16,002,852.37</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), Peggy Boltz, Wendy Clark, David Dekker, Deborah Fennel, Lou Grettenberger, Norm Kohns, Jennifer Loding, Robert Richards, David Selleck, and Anthony Shumaker, and Representatives from the Cabinet and the general board were Laurie Haller and Ross Lundstrom, respectively. We also recognize the support of the Conference Treasurer's office staff, John Kosten, Benefits Coordinator, and our third-party administrator 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. We thank God for the opportunity to serve those serving the Lord.

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

CONFERENCE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

This has been a year of prioritizing for our annual conference. The Personnel Committee worked with the restructuring task force to create the new Plan of Organization for the annual conference. The balance of the year has been used to evaluate our current staffing strategy as it relates to this new plan and make appropriate changes. Part of this work included collaborating with the Conference Leadership Team and the New Church Committee to establish the position of Director of New Church Development and Congregational Transformation.

We work closely with the Director of Connectional Ministries to make sure that our policies and strategies align with the emerging vision of the Conference Leadership Team. We continually assess and support the work of our program staff. We ensure that the conference maintains just and equitable personnel practices and accountable, supervisory relationships for all staff.

Finally, we wish to thank our devoted conference staff that works tirelessly to accomplish the purposes set forth by the annual conference.

Karen Grettenberger, Chair

COMMITTEE ON PRISON MINISTRY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONCERNS

"What does God require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." [Micah 6:8]

In 2011 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;
- Workshop at 2011 Annual Conference;
- Planning a retreat "Rewired for Leadership for the fall of 2012."

Our goals were to:

- 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;

- Have a trained mentor in every church of the Conference to assist re-entry citizens since we have fielded calls from people in churches of the Conference asking how best to help returning citizens. This is part of our long-range plan.

The worship at 2011 Annual Conference included 18 participants who were extremely interested in becoming more involved in Prison Ministries. There were family members of incarcerated persons and former incarcerated people present.

Camp New Day (camping experience for children, ages 9-14, of one or more incarcerated persons) met in the summer of 2011 at Albright Camp – 44 children attended. Funding and transportation for the children continue to be a challenge. Camp New Day is again planned for 2012 at Albright for the 9-14 year olds and another camp for Senior High youth, for the first time, which will be a canoe trip originating at Camp Kinawind. It is hoped that some of these youth will be inspired and encouraged to become counselors and leaders at Camp New Day in the future.

The retreat to be held in the fall of 2012 in conjunction with Prison Fellowship will be for returning citizens as a celebration and encouragement for successfully staying out of prison at least a year. We will be seeking ways to fund this. There will be worship, fun times, a keynote speaker and workshops. Our committee members will all be involved in helping to plan and carry out this retreat. The theme would be the same as one held by Prison Fellowship in the past, “Rewired for Leadership.”

There are 17 people who want to take a mentor training in the future. We are encouraged that there is great interest in Angel Tree Ministry (gifts for children of inmates). In 2012 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. We hope to have training for family support groups in communities of our Conference. 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

RACIAL ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEE

Our purpose is to support and strengthen racial ethnic churches in the West Michigan Conference and build conference-wide support for special ministries in outreach, evangelism, and discipleship with diverse people and communities. We see one of our biggest responsibilities is to get information out to the local churches about what is happening in the racial ethnic local churches.

We serve the following churches:

- Kewadin Native American United Methodist Church
- Northport Native American United Methodist Church
- Greensky Hill Native American United Methodist Church
- Mt. Pleasant Native American United Methodist Church
- Bradley Native American United Methodist Church
- Salem Native American United Methodist Church
- Native American Elder’s Program (Grand Rapids)
- Grand Rapids Vietnamese United Methodist Church
- La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church
- Mosaic Church of all Nations
- Lansing Korean United Methodist Church
- Faith United Methodist Church / South Lansing Ministries
- Washington Heights United Methodist Church

Our goals and timeline toward which we are moving:

- A. We are visiting each ministry during our meetings. We are also in the process of each committee member choosing one or two programs that they will visit and oversee on a yearly basis.
- B. Create a DVD and a booklet on the racial ethnic local churches for distribution to the local churches giving them more information about the programs in the racial ethnic local churches. Timeline - 2013
- C. An Ingathering of the racial ethnic local churches with emphases on traditional foods, music, dress, and arts. Timeline – Fall of 2012

D. Advent Devotional from the racial ethnic local churches offered to all local churches. Timeline – Advent 2013

E. Diversity Training for leaders of districts and churches. Timeline – 2015

Responsibilities (paragraph 632 of the Discipline):

- Keeping the vision of the ethnic local church concerns before the West Michigan Annual Conference.
- Providing guidance and resources to churches in the West Michigan Annual Conference as they minister with and to ethnic constituencies.
- Coordinating West Michigan Annual Conference strategies related to ethnic local church concerns including general church emphases and initiatives.
- Providing a forum for dialogue among the ethnic local church constituencies, as well as with West Michigan Annual Conference agencies.
- Providing training for West Michigan Annual Conference and congregational leaders.
- Promoting and interpreting ethnic local church concerns to the West Michigan Annual Conference. This includes funding for the ministries of the ethnic local churches.
- Working with West Michigan Annual Conference to identify and nurture leaders, lay and clergy of ethnic communities.

Gerri Litchfield, Chair

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The mission and purpose of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) is still the same: “to challenge The United Methodist Church to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church, sharing fully in the power and in the policy-making at all levels of the Church’s life.”

To begin 2011, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women provided an excellent training event in January in the Texas area, which the chair attended. New ideas and the clarification tasks provided some great learnings.

At the 2012 Annual Conference COSROW will provide information at the Ministry Fair, hoping to initiate some interest and enthusiasm for women in the life of our churches.

We continue to look forward to a new, bright year of living out the purpose of COSROW.

Kathryn Leydorf- Keck, 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 2011:

1. The board and other agencies diligently cared for conference property and equipment with acquisition value of \$5.3 million and \$2.5 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 five parsonages (in Lansing, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Traverse City 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 parsonage for the Grand Traverse District Superintendent on 4505 Stoneridge Road, Traverse City, was purchased on April 29, 2011, for \$255,000.
3. The Conference Master Group Insurance Program for all churches and conference property entered its third year of operation. The Program also includes a master Workers Compensation Insurance policy. The designated insurance company is 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 \$71,000 was distributed to our churches and the conference.

4. The board is grateful for Stevensville UMC and the leadership of Pastor Gordie Barry in caring for the maintenance of the Peace Temple property after the church discontinued in 2009.
5. The church property that was Jones UMC was sold in an Internet auction for \$5,600. This was certainly a new way of selling real property.

The board acknowledges with deep appreciation the leadership of Kip Brunson, past president, and the service of Jack Tingle and Paulette Cheyne who completed their eight-year term. The current members have served faithfully in carrying out the functions of the board on behalf of the West Michigan Annual Conference: Lyle Ball, Michael Belt, Jerry Bukoski, David Bloss, William Gehman (vice president), Judy Leach, Jody Pratt, (secretary) Cliff Radtke, James A Richie, John Scott, Tamara Williams (cabinet representative), Benton Heisler (Director of Connectional Ministries).

Charles VanLente, President
Pros Tumonong, Conference Treasurer

UMCOR/HUNGER COMMITTEE

At the beginning of the year the co-chairs went to New York City for training and orientation at the General Board of Global Ministries. Interviews were held with a dozen officers representing the scope of the work of UMCOR in this country and abroad. Of special interest was the interview with the officer assigned to oversee the work of UMCOR in Haiti, where West Michigan has special interests. We were pleased and relieved to learn that the board, as well as the Michigan Area Haiti Task Force, had made strides in dealing with concerns raised by the Task Force in regard to UMCOR's working relationship with the Haitian Methodist Church.

The highlight of the year was the appearance of the Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, the Associate General Secretary of the General Board who is head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. She did an excellent job of interpreting the work of UMCOR in the plenary, at the UMCOR luncheon and at a fireside chat. At the plenary Secretary Harvey presented the West Michigan Annual Conference with an award for having the highest per capita giving to UMCOR in the denomination.

Currently, the committee is working on producing a DVD for showing at Annual Conference and distribution to the local churches. This is in direct response to the request from local churches for more information to assist in interpreting the work of UMCOR to their people. We have also created a Facebook page and a quarterly e-newsletter to communicate UMCOR and hunger news and concerns.

The Committee will coordinate Bishop Keaton's "Seat Cover" appeal at Annual Conference 2012. We will handle all aspects of the project including organized distribution of the donated underwear.

Kay and Lynn DeMoss, Co-Chairs

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is privileged to serve so many congregations and United Methodist organizations throughout the Michigan Area. Even amid some uncertain economic times, the Foundation has continued to partner with an ever-growing number of churches. Together with these local churches, we seek to assist and to inspire congregations in fulfilling their ministry both locally and globally. The Foundation provides a wide continuum of financial stewardship, investment management, and donor-focused services for local churches, districts, conferences, agencies, and institutions and their constituents.

We completed a very significant senior staff leadership transition. The Rev. Dr. Wayne C. Barrett retired from his long tenure as President and Executive Director. His dedication and leadership over the past nearly three decades enabled the Foundation to grow into one of the most prominent, leading United Methodist foundations in our connection. We are delighted that he remains a vital part of our ministry by serving as Senior Executive. His corporate memory, investment expertise, and financial wisdom remain essential to the spectrum of our services. Following more than four years of service as Vice-President of Stewardship, Rev. David S. Bell assumed executive leadership for the Foundation on July 1, 2011. The Board of Directors invited David to join the staff several years ago as part of the senior staff succession plan. This plan has now come to fruition. His national stewardship reputation and strong organizational leadership position the Foundation for the continued growth and innovation that have been hallmarks of

this ministry since its inception. Marian Coles is well-known to most clients and is the Operations Manager. Kay Yoder, Director of Accounting Services, completes a number of back office responsibilities.

During 2011, we formed a separate limited liability corporation – UMF Collective Funds of Michigan LLC – that is the pooled investment fund for local churches. UMF Collective Funds of Michigan LLC consists of a Stock Fund, Bond Fund, and a Collective Money Market Fund. We provide a default mixture of these stock and bond funds for a balance investment strategy that is chosen by a majority of church investors. However, we do allow great flexibility for constituents to select their own investment allocation between these funds. In addition, all of our funds are socially screened to assure that investments are compatible with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

Our offices are strategically located in Grand Rapids and Brighton in order to conveniently serve congregations and individuals throughout the Michigan Area. The Foundation website – www.UMFMichigan.org – is a primary portal for vital information ranging from investment performance to thought-provoking articles, to practical stewardship resources. The staff is prepared to provide expertise regarding personal generosity, church finance, planned giving, and investment strategy through on-site consultations, webinars, and e-mail or phone conversations.

The Foundation is grateful for the capable governance of its Board of Directors comprised of lay and clergy residing throughout the Michigan Area. The Foundation officers for 2012 are:

Chairperson: Terry Groesser
Vice Chairperson: Joy Barrett

Treasurer: Gary Haller
Secretary: Sue Woodard

The Foundation staff is delighted with our collaborative partnership of the Annual Conferences and all of our constituents. We are able to be successful in our ministry because of this unique partnership.

David S. Bell, President and Executive Director
Wayne C. Barrett, Senior Executive
Terry Groesser, Board Chairperson

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

It has been a busy and exciting year for West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women as we strive to live out our purpose. We are looking at some proposed changes coming in 2013 but one thing that will not change is our purpose. We are still a mission organization which works to better the lives of women, children and youth both here at home and globally. The changes are more structural and the purpose for them is to try to keep in step with the changing times we live in.

We started our year with an annual overnight planning retreat where we set dates for the next three years. Like other organizations we are flexible in those plans. We had a more fun and relaxed time at “The Shack” where we played games, painted tote bags and just got to know each other a little better. We didn’t have to cook so that was a bonus. We will combine those two events in 2012 in an effort to be better stewards of our time and money.

We were happy to meet our pledge to missions in 2010. We know that combined with all the other conferences we do make a difference.

We saw many changes in leadership this year as we were happy to welcome several new officers and sad to see old friends meet their tenure. In November our new officers were sent to St Louis where they received training for their respective offices. Training is performed by Women’s Division Staff members.

Our Annual Celebration was a successful event with some disappointments. We were disappointed that Bishop Keaton and several of the district superintendents were unable to attend. However, David Hills and Anita Hahn did attend, and Rev. Hills stayed for the day and did a great job installing our officers. Attendance was down this year but Reed City UMC and UMW were gracious hosts. As usual, the team did a great job.

We were able to replace two-thirds of the United Methodist Community House roof, the part that was leaking the worst. Hopefully we will be able to replace the rest in 2012.

Ruth Whaley, President

WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**TREASURER'S REPORT**

CONFERENCE PLEDGE TO MISSION 2011		\$205,934.00
MISSION GIVING 2011		
Pledge to Mission	\$167,333.19	
Special Mission Recognition	7,600.00	
Gift to Mission	9,754.14	
Gift in Memory	4,625.00	
World Thank Offering	<u>14,810.57</u>	
TOTAL MISSION GIVING		\$204,122.90
MISSION GIVING PLUS 2009		
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	\$ 9,368.37	
Supplementary Gifts	265.00	
World Missions	23,486.76	
National Missions	19,909.82	
UMCOR	<u>11,442.44</u>	
TOTAL MISSION PLUS GIVING		<u>\$64,472.39</u>
TOTAL REMITTANCE TO WOMEN'S DIVISION		\$268,595.29
ADMINISTRATIVE & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT		\$85,182.49**

**** Money retained by Conference for Conference Expenses**

Linda Luce, UMW Treasurer