

2014 DETROIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HISTORICAL REPORTS

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DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT

The ministries of the congregations of the Ann Arbor District continue to thrive and grow; there is a strong partnership of the clergy and laity in making disciples for Jesus Christ. A continued emphasis is on equipping both laity and clergy by training programs and opportunities to work together on missions and ministries.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY was held on March 16 at Plymouth First UMC; 258 people attended. In addition to great workshops, the keynote speaker was Chuck Gaidica, two-time Emmy winner and weathercaster for WDIV and Today Show. He is a pilot, scuba diver, author, father of five and enrolled at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. The workshops were:

1. What Can a Faith Community Look Like?
2. Touchpoints for Nurturing Transformative Worship
3. To “Like” or Not to “Like”: Social Media in Ministry
4. A Church All A Twitter: Young Clergy Consider the Future of Our Church
5. Youth Protection Training & Cyber Safety Awareness
6. Reaching Out to the Community

The 2014 Ann Arbor District Leadership Training Day will be held on March 8 at Ypsilanti FUMC. The theme is *Change* and Bishop Kiesey will be the Keynote Speaker. Six workshops will be held.

The Ann Arbor District has an active **LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES** program (formerly called **LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES**) with courses offered twice a year. The Spring 2013 School was held at First UMC of Saline on April 20 and May 5. In addition to the Basic Course, two advanced courses were offered: *Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century* and *Growing Spiritually*. The Fall 2013 School was held at Novi UMC on Oct 19 and Nov 2. In addition to the Basic Course, two advanced courses were offered: *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* and *Living Our United Methodist Beliefs*.

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT PALOOZA was held at the Chelsea Retirement Community on July 27. Although the weather was not great, it was well attended with food, entertainment and good Christian fellowship. DS Rev. Mark Spaw attended and played his guitar (even though on renewal leave; he then went on to break his wrist on Aug 8!)

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING was held on Oct 14 at South Lyon UMC. We enjoyed a meal, followed by reports from the District. The speaker was Edith Wiarda, who reported on the activities of the Liberia Task Force.

ADRIAN AND WESLEY STUDENTS ATTEND “EXPLORATION 2013” Ten students from Adrian College and the University of Michigan, under the leadership of Chris Mo-many, attended this program in Denver that helps students explore their calling to ministry. This was the largest group from any single ministry site in the Connection.

LIBERIA TASK FORCE: The Ann Arbor District Liberia partnership required reconfiguring. The LAC created new Districts due to their continued growth and evangelization work. We have been assigned a 4th partner district – Morweh District, which is in remote Rivercess County, and adjoins Rivercess District. Rev. Jacob Nathan, District Superin-

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tendent of Rivercess District, Liberia, reports two successful youth and young adult events. He held the 2nd Camp RAWANA Youth Camp during the Christmas School vacation. He was extremely pleased with roughly 140 attendees, plus about 40 adults in support. Then immediately following, his Rivercess District hosted the LAC-wide Young Adult Conference. Rev. Na-than gives special thanks to Ann Arbor First UMC, whose VBS kids raised money to support this youth camp. Also special thanks to Milan Marble Memorial UMC, for their donation that allowed the purchase of sleeping pads, so that kids didn't have to sleep directly on the floor.

In addition to financial support for districts, there are a number of mission projects. Of note for the Liberia Task Force is the **John Dean Town Initiative**. To date we have received pledges from 9 congregations totaling \$25,500 over the course of the 3-year project. The immediate contributions will allow the kickoff of a grass roots training program for local midwives at UMC facilities in John Dean Town, Liberia in January 2014. Later, participating villages will be able to receive new wells for clean drinking water, mosquito netting, new latrines, and other public health support. For more information, check out the district web site AADistrict.org

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN are very active in the Ann Arbor District. They support a number of programs in their congregations, communities, and beyond. As examples, they provide financial support for Manasseh Project, Ele's Place, Nomads, SafeHouse Domestic Violence Project, UMCOR, Mountain Top, Operation Christmas Child, Good Samaritan, Growing Hope, Corner Health Center, House by Side of House and Least Coin. They prepare numerous lunches in their churches for celebrations and funerals, as well as in their communities. See the UMW report for additional details. The Ann Arbor District meeting was held on Oct 12 at Saline First UMC. The speakers were Anita Christopher and Rose Simmons speaking about the United Methodist Community House of Grand Rapids.

UNITED METHODIST MEN of the Ann Arbor District gathered on Sept 21 at Howell First UMC. The guest speaker was Lem Barney, former pro football star and defensive back for the Detroit Lions.

Churches within the Ann Arbor district are creative and outgoing in reaching disciples for Jesus Christ in their area. To learn more about the ministries occurring in the Ann Arbor District, check the monthly newsletter at the district website: AADistrict.org

John Wharton, Ann Arbor District Lay Leader

BLUE WATER DISTRICT

"Where visions are cast, objectives are defined and Christ is honored!"

We have completed our first year under the new structure that was approved at the Blue Water District Conference on September 9, 2012. The Leadership Team is the central "Hub" to which the local churches connect.

The Blue Water District Leadership Training Day was held on March 2, 2013 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Lapeer, and was a resounding success. Classes offered

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were: New Structure; Conference/District Resources; Committee Leadership; How to support your minister; Grants and Loans Process; Communication and Finance.

As a result of the information presented by the Finance Team at the Training Day an unprecedented influx of Grant and Loan requests were received and processed. We will increase the class times from 30 minutes to 45 minutes for the 2014 Leadership Training Day. Teachers were a blend of both clergy and laity who volunteered their time and talents to make the day a success.

Breakfast was provided by the Trinity United Methodist Women and lunch was catered by the Lapeer Public Schools. The day would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers and staff from Lapeer: Trinity UMC.

Christian Education in the Blue Water District had a very ambitious year. This was the year of filling in the gaps. We took a long hard look at what we were doing in our local churches and at the district level for our youth. We found that we were offering great programs at our local churches, but we weren't doing our best to protect our children, youth, and volunteers. Churches were to prepare a safe sanctuary policy or review and update their policy for their church conference. The district also looked at programs that we were offering and supporting, we found that we had a large gap. A district program for youth in the fifth through eighth grade, named B.L.T. (Beginning Leadership Training), was offered as a weekend class to introduce middle school aged youth to Lay Servant Ministries.

United Methodist Women in the Blue Water District saw many opportunities to minister to women, children and youth, a part of our purpose! We had Kathy Long, speaker extraordinaire from Mt. Pleasant and Janelle Titus as our team at the Spiritual Growth Retreat, with the title, "Lord, Make My Life a Ministry to Others Through Hospitality". We encountered many different kinds of hospitality, and learned more about how we offer hospitality to others as well. The 27th annual Prayer Breakfast held at Lake Orion, was a continuation of "Here I Am Lord", where a variety of women ministers gave us their story of how they came to be, guided with music by Dawn Titus and Tina Fick. Our District Annual Meeting was held at Mayville UMC, with Debbie Line-Yencer as our guest speaker on "Living the Heart of God". As our president Janice Foster leaves the board, we all want to thank her for her devotion to United Methodist Women, and to our Mission Team. She will be missed.

Director of Lay Servant Ministry, Deb Strum, ignited much excitement with a Lay Servant Rally at her home in Pigeon on June 29th. We had a Commitment Service for 52 Lay Servants on November 3. 6 basic classes and 7 advanced classes were held with a total of 69 students. A number of Certified (advanced) Lay Servants are anxiously awaiting the development of the new Lay Speaking Certification to be completed.

The Blue Water District Clergy Retreat was held at Bay Shore Camp & Family Ministries in Sebawaing, Michigan on March 6-7, 2013. Rev. Dr. Karen Ovileto, senior pastor of Glide Memorial UMC in San Francisco, was the guest speaker. She encouraged attendees to grow through small group and large group exercise.

Respectfully submitted by Reverend Tom Sayers & Rev. Dr. Margie R. Crawford

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

The Crossroads District continues to seek vitality through strengthened relationships and a connectional sharing of resources. Every church has a story to tell, and a testimony to the goodness of God and to the presence and work of the Lord among them. As we tell our stories and share our resources we all become stronger by virtue of the ties that bind us together in Spirit and in Truth. The strong commitment to missions and spiritual formation exhibited through the district UMM and UMW, as well as the UM Youth inspires us. The Lay Servant / Lay Speakers training continues to be well attended as our people embrace their call to serve and seek to be equipped for service.

The people of the Crossroads District “took it to the streets” in 2013 with a mission immersion event in the City of Flint. Based in downtown Flint, mission and ministry extended through five area local churches with food give-aways and clean up efforts to attack blight in the city. We look forward to a repeat in 2014, and expect to extend our reach in 2015 by including service to outlying and rural areas. Our first annual district day of prayer in May planted seeds of prayer throughout the district as those who attended committed to cover each local church, each pastor, and each lay leader in prayer.

We envision a transformed Crossroads District of connected spiritual leaders and churches fully reflecting the Kingdom of God. New leaders have been deployed to seek ways to best resource local churches with attention to excellence at the call of our District superintendent Rev. Dr. Tara Sutton. With God’s help, we will grow into the vision we have embraced to support leadership and congregational development. Through teaching at Tools for Ministry events, through an uplifting district annual worship event, and through continued striving for signature mission in each local church we seek to expand our notions of both who is present and who is welcome at the table.

Miki Savage has come on board as our District Youth Coordinator bringing fresh vision and energy to this ministry. We continue to equip youth to lead as they plan and carry out a fall gathering at Myers Lake, a winter UNITE lock-in at Genesys Athletic Club, and a spring bowl-a thon to support missions. Participants in the Youth Lay Servant weekend retreat build relationships as they gain knowledge, and lead Sunday morning worship at the host church. Lynn Mandeville has resigned from her role as District Christian Education Consultant. We are grateful for what Lynn brought to our churches, and we pray God’s best for her as she pursues other ministry endeavors.

We continue to benefit from the service of Cheryl Renstchler, our dedicated and caring Administrative Assistant. Dr. Sutton continues to call clergy to gather for study on Tuesday afternoons through a series of Bible Study opportunities that span the calendar year. I am excited to see what the Lord has for the people of the Crossroads District in the coming year. Please join me in praying for the lost and those who are hurting. May the Lord give us increase by new converts to the faith. May we share the gospel of Jesus Christ with passion and deep conviction through the sharing of our lives with those around us. May we be attentive to the Lord and make the most of every opportunity as we spread everywhere the fragrance of Christ (2 Cor 2:15).

Grace and Peace to you,
Rev. LuAnn Rourke

DETROIT RENAISSANCE DISTRICT

This year as Detroit Renaissance District, we have continued to strive toward the goal of fully being the hands of God bringing renaissance to the metropolitan area while strengthening and providing resources for the churches of our district.

Among the significant events in our district in the past year:

- Hands4Detroit2 expanded our outreach to southern Oakland County with a second location in Waterford, serving the Pontiac area. This year's event featured more people served and serving, more food donated, and more service locations. Planning is underway for another expansion in 2014.
- We have initiated the Area Imagine No Malaria Initiative with district wide response to be completed in 2014.
- United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Youth, and Lay Servant Ministries all continue to grow and thrive.

We are looking for continued forward movement in 2014.

Respectfully submitted by William Arendall, District Leadership Team chair.

MARQUETTE DISTRICT

The beauty of the Marquette District is unsurpassed by the faithful work of the people of God, who reside in the north country of Michigan. The United Methodist Church is involved in ministry and mission across the vast area sharing God's love, and work of justice to the people of the Upper Peninsula.

In May, we said goodbye to the DECC Chair, Rev. Scott Harmon as he prepared to serve God in a new appointment downstate. We join together to say thank you to Rev. Scott for his excellent leadership to the Marquette District.

The Second District Wide Confirmation Retreat was held at Ishpeming Wesley UMC, in May. The retreat had to be moved from Camp Michigamme, due to the lingering snow at the camp. The retreat was under the leadership of Rev. Scott Lindenberg. During the two- day retreat the youth and their leaders were involved in times of learning, discernment, growth and fellowship. The youth left the retreat prepared for their Confirmation and membership in the United Methodist Church.

The leadership gathered for the District Learning Fair at Marquette Grace UMC in the fall. We were challenged with being alive and in mission in our congregations and our communities.

Then, in November, one hundred persons attended the Marquette Double Header at Wesley, UMC in Ishpeming. During the Double Header the **White Pine Community UMC was designated at the 2014 Mission of the Year**. The Rev. Molly Turner introduced the UMC "Imagine No Malaria" campaign. After hearing how the individual congregations can become involved in this initiative a collection was taken for Imagine No

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Malaria. The participants presented \$974 toward the cause. The Marquette churches are making plans and implementing ways to raise awareness and money in their own communities to aid in the DAC's goal.

A gem, in the Marquette District, is Camp Michigamme. It was with great excitement that we learned that the number of children and youth campers had increased over the summer months. Camp Michigamme also welcomed a new director, Renee Deroche. We look forward to more opportunities for spiritual growth through the camping program in the Marquette District and Renee's leadership.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Elizabeth A. Hill, DEDC Chair

SAGINAW BAY DISTRICT

The Saginaw Bay District adopted a new purpose statement that reflects our commitment to make Disciples of Jesus Christ in 2014 and beyond!

"The Saginaw Bay District Council on Ministries will utilize its resources to help strengthen the foundational elements of its local churches in support of the U.M.C. vision. Focus areas are knowledge of the U.M.C. Discipline, develop leaders, Christian Education and providing "To Go Ministries."

Training and Supporting Congregations (T.A.S.C.) – We are responding to the call of discipleship making by providing educational tools needed by the local church. This ministry called T.A.S.C. To Go provides laity training means (methods) and opportunities, which are timely, relevant, and immediately applicable. We produce, schedule, and publicize these training events for all persons in, or considering leadership roles in their congregations. Each church can select training topics from our menu of 17 topics. Each topic is informative, interactive and was led by a TASC selected leader. Each participant of these sessions was presented with a CD that covered all information from the training session. For more information, check out our new u-tube video on the T.A.S.C. page at saginawbaydistrict.com which was written, produced, and stars the members of the TASC Force.

Our team looks forward to hosting, "Church in a Diner", as Rev. Tom Arthur from the Sycamore United Methodist Church inspires participants to see discipleship making from the visual setting of a 50's Café Diner. During this diner experience, we will eat finger foods typical of a 50's diner and engage in conversations that centers on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world. Rev. Tom Arthur will offer his insight of how his weekly Christian experience in a local diner in Lansing, MI inspired him to share his blog called, "The best book he read in Seminary." Rev. Tom Arthur will inspire us to view discipleship through new means, even in a diner!

Mary Fox – Chairperson

Loons Baseball Game – Our focus to create a new place for new faces was embraced by the 450 Saginaw Bay District Fans that attended the 2013 Loons Game at Dow Diamond in Midland. It was a time of sharing, cheering, laughing and enjoying the United Methodist Church connection, as we built new friendships and strengthened and en-

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couraged the body of Christ in Christian fellowship. We are grateful to God, as we celebrate and look forward to our 3rd annual baseball event, which is scheduled for August 2014!

Teri Meyer – Chairperson

Introducing 3 NEW – Saginaw Bay District Ministries

2014 Discipleship Retreat – Our focus is to ignite and encourage followers of Jesus into accountable discipleship that leads to a change from head knowledge to heart knowledge, then move to action. This reflects Bishop Kieseey passion and vision, based on the next four years of the Detroit Annual Conference sessions called “Disciples: Made in Michigan by Leading.

Discipleship making should be a simple process, but often our churches become complex instead. New case studies from American churches show that churches that adopt a simple process in ministry make more disciples of Jesus Christ and enjoy ministry more! The Simple Church book focuses on this concept by Thom S. Rainer and Eric Geiger, which clearly calls for Christians to return to the simple gospel-sharing methods of Jesus.

We are excited to offer this retreat at our beautiful Lake Louise Retreat Center in September 2014 using the simple process of ministry in making more disciples of Jesus Christ, while enjoying ministry more! Those that attend will enjoy spiritually moving lake side worship opportunities, along with spiritual renewal through themed prayer stations, gain tools in a strategic process that moves people in your church through stages of spiritual growth, using spiritual disciplines, plus fun discipleship activities that encourage and build up the Body of Christ! We look forward to God transforming and empowering lives in the name of Jesus Christ at the 2014 Discipleship Retreat!

Melene Wilsey – Ministry and Education Facilitator

2014 Safe Sanctuaries –Reducing the Risk of Physical Injury, Sexual and Physical Abuse Creating, implementing and maintaining a safe sanctuary policy for all persons in the local church

As leaders of local churches we need to do all we can to assure that all persons in our care are safe. To assist in this process, a 3 hour training called “Keeping It Safe” will be offered. Churches may choose one from any of the six different locations that are being offered. The purpose of this training is to help churches develop their own protection policy or to assist in updating their current policy based on industry standards along with educational resources in keeping all churches safe. This training will cover safety guidelines that will assist in reducing the risk from physical injury, from sexual abuse, from false allegations, including information on needed forms and background checks. In addition, it will address how to handle the presence of registered sex offenders. Every church on the Saginaw Bay District is required to have a protection policy adopted by their administrative/church council by December 31, 2014.

We are committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so that each person will be “surrounded by steadfast love, ... established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal” (Baptismal Covenant II, *UMH*, p. 44).

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Maxwell – District Superintendent

New in 2013 Christian Game Show – To Go Ministry – Children, youth and adults are joining the game show mania! This To Go Ministry offers a variety of game shows – Bible Jeopardy, The Way with lifelines, 50/50 & phone a friend, Biblical Squares, plus more! The possible event usage is endless. Here are a few examples of ways the church can use this ministry; an entire church celebration, Sunday school kick-off, youth mission trip fundraiser, friendly committee competition or use in re-visiting a children, youth or adult Bible study to retain Biblical knowledge. Each church receives all that they need to use a custom tailored game show experience, based on their specific questions and answers, along with contestant stations that include lights, buzzers and lock out circuitry. As a result, we gain, Christian fellowship, Biblical knowledge, along with a fun outreach and easy fundraiser! Most importantly, Biblical knowledge is gained in a fun learning atmosphere for all!

Worship Arts – To Go Ministry – A worship arts team creates and networks with the local church in the usage of free worship arts and technical resources, which includes, music, video clips, banners and a variety of visual arts. In 2014, this ministry team will continue to incorporate new and innovate ways to support and encourage the local church in worship by offering a new worship arts training that will travel to 4 training sites. We believe, that worship is often an entry point into the church that transforms lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

Vacation Bible School – To Go Ministry – The Saginaw Bay District has chosen to be in partnership with the church, by establishing a visual resource and prop center that saves the church time and money. A variety of themes and v.b.s. curriculum kits are offered, along with music and assembly & music d.v.d.s, visual resources and props. It's clear to us that Vacation Bible School is still a relevant means to make disciples of Jesus Christ for all ages!

Christmas Program – To Go Ministry – Children learn a variety of ways they can give praise and glory to God, while proclaiming the wonderful birth of Jesus! The workshops include the new Jingle Jangle Band, fiber-optic, streamer & clog dances, bells, choral songs and drama that inspire children to share the Christmas story in new ways! This program offers everything you need, including fun upbeat music and reflective Christmas songs. In 2013, we welcomed three new participating churches, along with several new attendees, with a total of 77 participants.

To Go Ministries – Melene Wilsey – Ministry and Education Facilitator

Cathy Kelley – Children's Ministry, Chairperson

Lay Servant Ministries – Our District is blessed to have 80 certified lay servants and 54 local church lay servants. This active committee hosts training events across our large geographical area, and hosts special weekend events for our youth and young adults. During 2013, our faithful Director, Joyce Kerr had to resign, but we are pleased to have identified a new director, David Michelli. We feel confident that God is using the Lay Servant Ministry, as we can identify a steady flow of our lay servants that are going into seminary, or course of study toward becoming clergy. The widened array of new courses coming out of G.B.O.D. in Nashville ought to provide many more opportunities for active lay people to get training in helping lead ministries in their churches.

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The Mission of the Saginaw Bay District Committee on Lay Servant *Ministries is to equip lay Servants as church leaders to help people become disciples and disciple makers!*

Ralph Czerepinski – Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Young Adult Lay Servant Ministry – 2013 was a huge year for Young Adult Lay Servant Ministries in the Saginaw Bay District. 8 young adults, many staff and volunteers helped create “Jesus Gives Me Super Powers” at Wisner United Methodist Church, August 9-11. This event allowed for the young adults in the church to step out of their comfort zone and be leaders for Christ in serving others around them. A basic and advanced lay servant course were offered, which allowed for the development of leadership skills and ministry knowledge within the church. Our goal is to continue to incorporate a creative theme in a fun learning atmosphere in 2014, which creates a welcomed draw for young adults. Lay Servant Ministries will continue to create leaders within the district, conference, and beyond for all ages! With God’s continued guidance, it can only get bigger and better from here! God answered our prayers!

Kimberlee Kennard – Director of Lay Servant Weekend

Youth Lay Servant Ministry – 2013 was one of the best for The Saginaw Bay District Youth Lay Servant Weekend. We had an incredible group of people participate to help make it a huge success. This year we put our learning into action as we became “Doers of the Word and not Hearers only”. The students were offered many ministry opportunities to serve and learned about many others. They learned about prison ministry and how they can serve but also first hand from an ex-prisoner who had served a 30 year prison term and came to know the Lord on his Keryx weekend. Very powerful testimony! They served at a local Soup Kitchen by standing out in the snow and wind to serve groceries. It was unanimous that this experience was the most powerful on the weekend.

The Youth Lay Servant Weekend 2014 is scheduled for Tawas United Methodist Church on February 28 - March 2. The focus this year will be Opening Ourselves to Grace so that we can become stronger servants for God and His Creation.

Michelle Aultman – Director of Lay Servant Weekend

Youth Ministries – The S. B. District Youth Group is enthusiastically offering the following events in 2014. We believe, youth ministry should be more than a social event, but a way to engage in meaningful Christian relationships that bring love and support to all! **Food, Fun and Snow!** A free event of food, spiritual food and fun fellowship has been scheduled, followed by optional sledding at Snow Snake on February 15th. **Free Dinner at Detroit Conference** – Our team will host a free dinner for the Saginaw Bay District youth at D.A.C. We want them to know we care and support their faithful leadership in their local church, along with equipping them with relevant resources they can use in their ministry. **Loons Baseball Game** – Plans are underway to partner with our young adult team and some students from SVSU for a fall youth group kick off this September in Saginaw.

We believe that making disciples for Jesus Christ is our greatest calling in ministry!

Rev. Cathy Christman – Chairperson

Respectfully submitted by Pat Gruber, Chairperson, District Council on Ministries; and Melene Wilsey, Ministry and Education Facilitator

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

It has been a fruitful year for the Conference Leadership Team as we continue to be guided by our three Vision Pathways.

On behalf of the Conference Leadership Team, I thank Paul Perez for the way he dove into his new position as Conference Director of Mission and Justice Engagement and Leadership Recruitment. Paul was immediately tasked by the CLT with two projects: create and implement the new Mission and Ministry Projects program (which replaces Ministry Jubilee) and work with the program committee to develop a way to educate about and tell stories of the vision pathway ministries at annual conference. We are already experiencing the fruits of his work and the work of those who served on the taskforces for each project.

For much of this year, a taskforce of the CLT, worked diligently to create a new structure for the DAC to be brought to the 2014 annual conference. It is time to provide a means through which our boards and agencies can work with more efficiency, creativity and collaboration. Thank you to Andy Wayne, Wayne Bank, Greg Timmons, Latha Ravi and Jerry DeVine for their tireless work on this extensive project that will lead us into the future.

Leadership Day was held November 16, 2013. Leaders from our conference boards and agencies gathered together to set 2014 priorities and budgets for our Vision Pathways. Here are the priorities set:

Pathway I: New Spaces for New Faces

Improving Communication for Church Redevelopment and New Faith Communities

Strategies:

- Cabinet and Dirk Elliott meet to clarify the type of churches that will benefit from VCI. *Complete in first quarter of 2014.*
- Work to develop a system to specifically target churches and church leaders for trainings that best fits their ministry contexts. This would include:
 - 1) all persons developing programming and training will specifically identify the target audience and market (or send invitations) to that group.
 - 2) Ask the conference communications team to develop a tag or icon system to be used with conference/district/agency publications. The system would be a quick reference for readers to identify trainings and programs relevant to contexts and needs.

Pathway 2: Creating Effective Christian Leaders for the Church and World

Strategies:

- Continue the newly created (2013) Ministry Exploration Intern Program offering seven internships to churches who are seeking to offer the opportunity for a young

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person in their congregation to explore pastoral ministry through a mentoring relationship. This year we will create intentional “panels”/conversations and training.

- Develop Connectional Relationships with Board of Ordained Ministry Recruitment Committee and Summer Camp Staff, Mission Interns and Ministry Exploration Interns.
- Equip and Recruit Racial-Ethnic Leaders through pathway 2 allotted funds.
- Train Individuals in the conference to be Experts/Coaches in ministry areas, making them available for trainings and coaching.
- Support Individuals to attend GYPCLA
- Continue support of the Mission Intern Program
- Offer support to the Confirmands' Rally \$2,000
- Offer financial support to the CCYM \$4,000 for re-start efforts.

Pathway 3: Transformational Mission Engagement

Overarching Outcome: Communities being actively transformed through the local United Methodist churches working with vulnerable ones of our communities.

Strategies:

- Mission Intern Program
- JFON (Justice For Our Neighbors)
- Local Church Mission and Justice
- Engage indirect mission and social justice experiences by contacting:
 - 100 Spotlight Churches
 - UMM and UMW
 - Peace With Justice [NOTE: Does this mean Peace With Justice Sunday emphasis?]
 - District Mission Teams
 - Committee on Native American Ministries
 - Committee on Asian American Ministries
 - Korean churches

Much good work was done by those present at Leadership Day. I am excited to see how we live out all of these goals.

I offer my thanks to Dr. Jerry DeVine, Director of Connectional Ministries, for his leadership and vision; and to Wayne Bank, our Conference Lay Leader and Vice Chairperson of the CLT, for partnering in this ministry and sharing his wisdom and leadership. I also thank the Conference Leadership Team members for their leadership and service.

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I am excited to see all that is in store for our conference as we continue to move forward creating and nurturing dynamic and fruitful congregations that make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Faithfully,
Rev. Amy Mayo-Moyle
Conference Leadership Team

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

During this past year the Detroit Annual Conference Leadership Team Personnel Committee has focused on continuing to staff our annual conference in such a way as to help us more effectively live out our mission statement “to create and nurture dynamic and fruitful congregations who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

We place an emphasis on the Detroit Conference Three Vision Pathways. We address the issue of how the mission and vision of the conference shapes our conversation about staffing for the conference and we keep this as one of the objectives as we do the work of the church.

During 2013 we conducted exit interviews for the former Conference Director of Communications, Paul Thomas and the former Conference Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Ang Hart.

We shared in discussions with Bishop Kieseey and West Michigan Conference representatives in developing a job description for the newly created position of Michigan Area Director of Communications, Mark Doyal. He reports directly to Bishop Kieseey.

We approved the proposal of the Director of Connectional Ministries to increase the responsibilities of the National Hispanic/Latino Plan Missionary, Sonya Luna to include some area responsibilities. Her new title is Michigan Area Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries. She reports to the Detroit Conference Director of Connectional Ministries.

A new position was created titled Conference Director for Mission and Justice Engagement and Leadership Recruitment. The committee advertised this position and conducted several interviews. The Rev. Paul Perez was unanimously selected to fill this position.

Our administrative assistant/receptionist, Jessica Browning, resigned due to her husband's job relocation to Florida. Extensive job postings and interviews took place. Caron Mosey was selected to fill this position. Part of the process included updating the job description. We continue to make support staff adjustments as needed.

During 2013 we forecasted and constantly monitored the annual budget that funds our program and support staffs.

Our committee meets four times a year. We also met with our program directors and support staff members in October, 2013. This annual review allows our Personnel Com-

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mittee to give constructive and supportive feedback to our Director of Conference Ministries, Rev. Dr. Jerome Devine.

The Detroit Annual Conference Leadership Team Personnel Committee remains deeply grateful for the many gifts and graces that each of our staff brings to strengthen the ministries of DAC and our local churches.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Jean Snyder, Chairperson – CLT Personnel Committee

CONFERENCE STAFF POLICY COMMITTEE

No report received.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

No report received

CONFERENCE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

“New places for new faces...”

“Effective Christian leaders for the church and the world...”

“Transformational mission engagement...”

These three related Vision Pathways guide the work of the Director of Connectional Ministries and our program and support staff team. While each staff member, myself included, has distinct responsibilities, essentially every effort focuses on the vision of the Detroit Annual Conference ***to create and nurture dynamic and fruitful congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*** The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) report will give more details on the several task groups and conference agencies that help facilitate the work along with the staff.

As your Director of Connectional Ministries each year I have tried to use a primary biblical story or image to help frame and ground my work. The one that has been especially present for me this year is First Corinthians 12. This is that poignant and poetic metaphor of the Church as a living connected body. The approach of our staff team and the CLT is to create an environment where collaboration is the natural norm, leading to more effective resourcing of local church leadership and connecting local churches to wider ministry opportunities.

The 2013 year was our first cycle of living into inter-agency collaborative planning and ministry implementation. Now in year two of this effort it does have its challenges and rewards. Some agencies are far more active and engaged than others, and thus collaborating takes more time and energy than just doing it themselves. Yet, in the collaboration we begin to see how we are one body in ministry here in the Detroit Conference. Some highlights:

1. Vision Pathway 1 team has expanded support of the Vital Church Initiative (VCI), the in-depth process of revitalization of our existing congregations. They have given additional funding toward both Hispanic/Latino ministry and Asian American min-

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istry, as both groups seek to reach new generations. They have also continued church growth through two new church starts per year using several viable models. Program staff persons connecting to this ministry are Dirk Elliott and Sonya Luna, supported by administrative staff Caron Mosey and Claudia Bowers.

2. Vision Pathway 2 team has once again expanded the work of our DAC Mission Interns. This impacts both young adult leadership development as well as connecting ministries with children and youth in low income environments. This team also links with our outdoor and retreat ministries and the new Ministry Exploration Intern initiative. James (Jim) Parkhurst and Paul Perez help staff these initiatives, assisted by Cheryl Poole. Jim has also guided our camp and retreat sites to new ministry potentials, along with guiding an area conversation on the impact of these ministries.
3. Vision Pathway 3 is evolving as a new effort to directly engage local laity and clergy and their churches with mission and justice ministries across our conference. Paul Perez is our primary staff for this, with some partnerships with Sonya Luna. At the invitation of Bishop Kiesey, Paul Perez is working with district superintendents to hold grass roots conversations in urban areas, leading to a Michigan Area task force on urban ministry strategy. He has also helped launch our new Mission & Ministry Project effort, with considerable support from Mark Doyal, Area Director of Communications, and David Dobbs, our DAC Conference Treasurer.

Rounding out our total staff team is our excellent Receptionist, Angela Watkins, who also provides considerable administrative support.

Using the image of the “connected body of Christ” I have been a part of multiple fruitful Michigan Area ministries and explorations during the past year:

- Area VCI staff/team sharing and planning
- Area camping conversations and visioning
- Area communications upgrades
- Area Hispanic/Latino ministries expansion
- Area intercultural competency trainings
- Area Imagine No Malaria campaign
- Area Program Committee planning
- Area CLT conversations

The Detroit Conference truly is an inter-connected body of Christ bringing transformation to individual lives, our communities and world. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Jerome (Jerry) DeVine
Director of Connectional Ministries

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – NCD

The New Church Development (NCD) Committee embodies the vision of the DAC: To create and nurture dynamic and fruitful congregations who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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The purpose of the NCD Committee is to collaborate with the Cabinet Representative, the Conference Director of New Faith Communities and Congregational Development, the Conference Staff, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Conference Leadership Team to start new congregations and to promote, encourage and resource healthy congregations in new ministries. The goal of the NCD Committee is not only to create and nurture new faith communities that reflect the diverse ministry setting of the Detroit Annual Conference, but to offer adequate training and support to sustain these ministries. By training church planters and those who support them, the NCD Committee seeks to equip the DAC to create “new places for new faces.” The specific goal for this committee, as set by the DAC is to assist in establishing a minimum of two new faith communities per year.

In 2013-2014, the NCD Committee offered leadership support and financial grants for these new faith communities: Fenton UMC's Sundays@Six worshiping community; Metro Detroit Hispanic/Latino New Church Plants and Redford:Aldersgate/West Outer Drive UMC; DownRiver UMC; Bay City: Grace UMC. Both DownRiver and Bay City: Grace are new congregations formed by existing congregations based on the Vital Merger model.

In addition, the NCD Committee sponsored an 18-month academy that trained clergy from the DAC and the West Michigan Conference for future new church start leadership. In 2014-2015, we will join with our counterpart in the West Michigan Conference to bring an introductory workshop and continuing training for new church start pastors. The Committee is working to raise awareness of church planting models and to train and assess a minimum of six persons per year for new church plants.

In 2013-2014 we sponsored Spanish language Lay Missionary Planting Network training for members of the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences. In 2014-2015, we will offer the training in English.

In 2014-20-15 the NCD Committee will continue to offer grants for new faith communities. The NCD will also provide support and fund coaching for church planters currently working in new faith communities (established prior to 2014) and for those that begin new faith communities in 2014-2015.

As the NCD Committee trains church planters and assists in establishing new faith communities, it will communicate the vision of new church development and lead the Detroit Annual Conference in developing a vibrant culture of new church development.

Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker, chairperson
New Church Development Committee

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES – CYM

No report received.

CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN – UMM

No report received

CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN – UMW

We began the year reflecting on the actions of the 2012 General Conference, which approved autonomy for United Methodist Women (UMW), separating the national policy-making body of women organized for mission within the denomination from the church's mission agency for the first time in more than 70 years.

Our 2013 activities began with a two-day session of Conference Leadership Team meetings to plan for the organization in my presidency's first year. A highlight of those meetings was a new team of mentors, young adults and youth dubbed "Limitless: the Detroit Edition," patterned after a national 2012 event and created with much anticipation. Their Vision Statement stated, "Because of Limitless, the women of the Detroit Annual Conference will seek to empower and educate young women to a higher understanding of Social Justice and Mission through Spiritual Growth." The team began ambitious plans for a Limitless event in conjunction with August Mission u events at the Lake Huron Retreat Center and a call to district UMW organizations for additions to the Limitless team.

Our report to Annual Conference in May included photographs showing the activities of United Methodist Women in the Detroit Conference and a video presentation from the Offices of Deaconess, Home Missioner, and Home Missionary, celebrating the 125th anniversary of the deaconess movement in the Methodist tradition. Its theme: Love, Justice and Service.

Mission u events this year (formerly School of Christian Mission) were: a one-day session July 20 at Livonia: Newburg UMC with a concurrent youth study at no charge; a Mission u Sampler August 15, at the Lake Huron Retreat Center (LHRC); Hands On Mission Experience (H.O.M.E.) August 15 in the Port Huron area; Mission u Study by the Lake August 16-17, also at the LHRC with a concurrent children's study at no charge; and, Mission u of the North October 21-22, at Gaylord UMC.

This year's Mission u topics were: Living Sacramentally and Walking Justly, The Roma of Europe, and Poverty; this year's theme: "Learning Together for Transformation of the World." Our study leaders were Rev. Dr. Jerry Devine, Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker, Rev. Dr. Julius Del Pino, Rev. Faith Fowler, Rev. Paul Perez, and Rev. Don Mosher. Deans and study leaders received UMW National Office provided training for these studies in St. Louis, Missouri, in June.

Reading Program Book Review sessions facilitated by our Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies during the Study by the Lake reviewed *The New Jim Crow; Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander.

Unfortunately, the Limitless: Detroit Edition event scheduled August 16-18 at the Retreat Center had to be canceled due to lack of registration. We hope that adding a youth/young adult liaison to our Leadership Team in 2014 will enhance our ability to reach younger women. Participation in the Hispanic/Latino Celebration Ministry Fair June 1 at Detroit: El Buen Pastor UMC alerted us to the need for Spanish language publicity materials to reach younger Hispanic women.

For the first time, technology classes for district and conference officers were provided by St. Clair County Community College the afternoon of October 25, prior to officer specific training at Port Huron: First in the evening. Our Annual Celebration Saturday, Oc-

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tober 26, at Port Huron: First featured keynote speaker Rev. Melanie Carey, Detroit Renaissance District Superintendent. Baby clothes and supplies were contributed by members from all over the conference for the Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center.

We were able to send nine district and conference UMW officers to Leadership Development Days in St. Louis, Missouri, in November for training presented and partially funded by the National Office.

Kay Mowery, President, United Methodist Women Detroit Conference

COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES

The Committee on Standing Rules believes it assists conference agencies to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by ordering the life of the annual conference for effective ministry through its continued work of perfecting the conference rules and structure.

The committee met on October 23, 2013, and January 22, 2014, and took the following actions:

1. Amended the structure of the Commission on Archives and History to include significant parts of the Committee on Memoirs. With support of the Annual Conference as of May 2014, there will no longer be a Committee on Memoirs.
2. Supported the work of the Conference Leadership Team Task Force on Structure and reviewed the draft of the Structure making some suggestions.
3. Acted on several suggestions from the Committee on Nominations Chair regarding wording in Rules Section VI Nominations.
4. Addressed questions raised by other agencies on interpretation of the Rules and Structures.

We are grateful for the service of Paula Timm, Beverly Marr, Diana Miller, and Terry Euper who go off the Committee this year. Todd Price was elected chair for 2014-2015, Diane Brown vice chair and Richard Kopple secretary.

In the next year, in addition to making changes to the rules and structure as a result of action by the annual conference, the committee will continue the work of perfecting the rules and structures.

Diana Spitnale Miller,
Chairperson, Conference Committee on Standing Rules

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION – CFA

2013 was a great year in Michigan! New economic growth continues to impact not only the business community but families and churches. CFA was pleased by apportionment receipts of 80.90% though it was a bit less than the 81.03% of 2012.

CFA appreciates how hard each congregation worked in 2013 to pay their apportionments. Two hundred eighty-seven churches of every size - approximately 66% of the

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four hundred thirty-four congregations in our annual conference - paid 100% of their apportionment contribution. Many other congregations endeavored to pay at least something beyond their pension apportionments. Twenty-nine congregations made no payment toward their common budget apportionments in 2013.

As we consider our financial commitment to the general church, an additional amount of \$67,837.35 was added to the Episcopal Fund to bring the total paid to 100%. All other general church apportionments were paid at 75.6%, the actual level of receipts.

It is hard to believe that our treasurer, David Dobbs, has completed his second year. We continue to appreciate his financial leadership, his inquisitive nature, and his work ethic as he strives to serve local churches and the Detroit Annual Conference.

There are many financial challenges ahead of the Detroit Annual Conference. The increasing cost of health care continues to impact the ability of many churches to meet their apportionments. Our commitment to pay the Episcopal Fund at 100% and to provide for a large number of pastoral moves continues to be a challenge. We appreciate the support of the Board of Pensions in providing necessary funds for retiree moves in 2013.

The challenges do not end here. Over the last several years, CFA has worked diligently to contain costs and significantly reduce the Annual Conference budget. It was our assumption that lower apportionments would help congregations meet their own financial responsibilities and pay their apportionments. Unfortunately, congregations continue to contribute at the same percentage regardless of the apportioned amount. It will be a continual challenge to fulfill the ministry of the Detroit Annual Conference at the current rate of 80.90% of apportionments received.

The support of every congregation is essential and appreciated. Together we can make a difference in the world. Thank you to the churches of the Detroit Annual Conference for your support and faithfulness.

Carol J. Johns
President of CFA

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY – BOM

The Board of Ordained Ministry cares for those whom God has called into ministry. Our work is to:

- recruit candidates for ordained ministry in an inclusive church
- interpret the process toward ordination for colleagues & candidates
- examine candidates regarding fitness and readiness for ministry
- recommend changes in conference relationship (retirement, leave, location, etc.)
- provide support and training for clergy throughout their careers.

Each member of the Board brings particular gifts and graces to our work as we equip future leaders for the United Methodist church. It is the job of every member of the Detroit Annual Conference, however, to discern persons whom God might be calling into ministry and to tell them, "I think you should explore a call to ministry."

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I'd like to express my appreciation to the members of the Executive Committee who do significant work for the Board throughout the year: David Eardley, Rick Dake, Dale Miller, Mary McInnes, Doug Paterson, Pam Buchholz, Laura Speiran, Tim Ziegler, Mark Spaw, Jan Brown, Billie Lou Gillespie, Beth Librande, Debbie Yencer, and Carole Wesner. Doug Paterson is the new CHP of Conference Relations and Tim Ziegler the new CHP of Recruitment. We also rely heavily on Nancy Arnold, administrative assistant to the Board, who keeps us all organized. Thank you as well to Linda Schramm, who handles continuing education grants, and to Scott Harmon, who handles seminary grants. You may contact Linda at lars@greatlakes.net or Scott at beemerrev@gmail.com to apply for grants.

These are just some of the programs the Board provides to support clergy:

- three-year residency training for provisional members
- mentoring through the Orders and the Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members
- New Beginnings and First Appointment seminars for clergy in new appointments
- scholarships for ministerial students
- recognition of retiring clergy
- planning the ordination and commissioning service

Let us know if you would like to help with any of these projects.

May the grace of Jesus Christ abound in the ministry that we share.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Sondra Willobee, Chairperson
Board of Ordained Ministry

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS – CBOPHB

I. Pension & Health Insurance Delinquencies:

The total 2013 Detroit Conference pension apportionment payments received from our local churches equaled 97.3% of the actual amounts billed in 2013, representing a slight increase of 0.5% over 2012. Of greater significance, although ending the year with almost \$65,000 in unpaid pension apportionment dollars, 2013 receipts represent the best overall pension apportionment remittance since 2002. Of the 437 churches apportioned, 407 churches paid 100%, an increase of four from 2012. Only three churches paid 0%. In addition, over \$30,000 was received in 2013 from local churches toward previous year outstanding pension apportionment balances. The CBOPHB is grateful for this positive trend, and offers to our local churches its continued support for our shared ministries.

As required, permanent records are kept on file by the CBOPHB with the intention to recover the balances. Outstanding balances for both pension apportionments and health insurance balances (also listed below) become part of a local church's financial plan when a local church considers building expansion, merger, or closure. Please contact the Conference Benefits Officer, Rev. Donald Emmert, for further details or to discuss payment options for prior year pension and health insurance balances.

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Outstanding Pension Balances				
Church Name		2013	2012-2000	Total
Ann Arbor				
1015	AA Korean	5,676	83,155	88,831
1018	London	0	1,294	1,294
1021	Blissfield First	0	7,875	7,875
1027	Canton Cherry Hill	0	9,468	9,468
1029	Rollin Center	0	8,453	8,453
1032	Deerfield	113	0	113
1041	Hartland	0	5,156	5,156
1045	Ida	365	0	365
1053	Milan Marble Mem	0	9,838	9,838
1059	Morenci	1,280	8,772	10,052
1071	Samaria Grace	0	1,300	1,300
1074	Stony Creek	0	6,138	6,138
1080	Whitmore Lk Wesley	1,028	0	1,028
1083	Ypsilanti St Matthews	0	2,249	2,249
1134	Amen Korean	1,780	3,415	5,195
1139	Arise	0	2,145	2,145
District Total		10,242	149,258	159,500
Detroit Renaissance				
9018	Det Cass Community	0	45,862	45,862
9019	Detroit Central	0	2,208	2,208
9021	Detroit Conant Ave	0	12,573	12,573
9024	Detroit Mt Hope	0	32,519	32,519
9029	Detroit St Pauls	4,610	31,589	36,199

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9035	Oak Park Faith	336	3,010	3,346
9036	Ferndale First	0	662	662
9038	Four Towns	0	12,937	12,937
9046	Madison Heights	0	3,742	3,742
9053	PCP St John	0	1,400	1,400
9059	St Clair Shores First	3,155	19,790	22,945
9146	Mt Clemens	0	13,248	13,248
9147	New Baltimore	0	26,598	26,598
9518	Detroit Calvary	4,440	27,273	31,713
9519	El Buen	0	1,085	1,085
9522	Det Ford Memorial	0	1,424	1,424
9525	New Beginnings	0	250	250
9526	Detroit Peoples	3,798	33,572	37,370
9530	Det St Timothy	1,326	4,902	6,228
9532	Det Second Grace	0	5,698	5,698
9533	Det Trinity Faith	0	4,888	4,888
9545	Lincoln Park Dix	0	6,780	6,780
9553	Riverview	0	697	697
9559	Trenton First	0	19,140	19,140
9561	Westland St James	3,570	12,698	16,268
9564	Det Resurrection	170	5,643	5,813
9569	Wayne First	0	1,422	1,422
District Total		21,405	331,610	353,015
Crossroads				
4001	Birch Run	0	346	346
4005	Burton Christ	0	6,677	6,677

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4010	Corunna	0	20,899	20,899
4011	Davisburg	5,012	0	5,012
4015	Thetford	1,795	0	1,795
4019	West Forest	0	167	167
4024	Durand	644	0	644
4028	Vernon	0	4,363	4,363
4035	Flint Dimond	348	0	348
4039	Flint Eastwood	2,455	7,374	9,829
4040	Flint Faith	134	32,909	33,043
4042	Flint Charity	4,340	29,828	34,168
4044	Flint Lincoln Park	0	3,260	3,260
4055	Argentine	1,290	1,975	3,265
4064	Pittsburg	0	8,120	8,120
4065	Bennington	0	535	535
4066	Mt Bethel	0	7,370	7,370
4067	Mt Morris	5,141	28,246	33,387
4069	Juddville	0	4,704	4,704
4071	Owosso Burton	266	0	266
4072	Carland	0	2,838	2,838
District Total		21,425	159,611	181,036
Marquette				
5006	Escanaba Central	0	16,131	16,131
5017	Iron River Wesley	0	954	954
5021	Painesdale	0	770	770
5024	Zeba	0	136	136
5027	Marquette Grace	0	13,524	13,524

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5047	Republic	0	462	462
5048	WMCP Woodland	0	2,155	2,155
5051	Algonquin	0	532	532
5057	Ewen	0	2,529	2,529
District Total		0	37,193	37,193
Blue Water				
6023	Decker Argyle	0	194	194
6033	Imlay City	0	3,875	3,875
6037	Central Lakeport	0	3,197	3,197
6042	Lakeville	0	295	295
6047	Marine City	0	12,611	12,611
6066	Buel	0	1,842	1,842
6067	Melvin	0	635	635
6072	Pinnebog Grindstone	2,640	264	2,904
6075	Washington Ave	0	3,893	3,893
6076	Port Sanilac	956	0	956
6078	McGregor	0	147	147
6079	Richmond	5,544	798	6,342
6084	St Clair first	2,430	1,160	3,590
6096	New Hope	0	843	843
6103	Unionville	456	0	456
District Total		11,070	30,710	41,780
Saginaw Bay				
7083	Standish Community	790	6,560	7,350
7088	Tawas	0	16,648	16,648
District Total		790	23,208	23,998
Total Pension Outstanding		64,932	731,589	796,521

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OUTSTANDING HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS					12/31/2013
Church (at least 3 months delinquent)		Pastor	Current Appoint-ments	Previous Appoint-ments	Total
1039	Fowlerville First	Tarpley	10,929	0	10,929
1134	Amen Korean	Yoo	81,605	0	81,605
5027	Marquette Grace	Spencer, K	23,810	0	23,810
1059	Morenci	Burstall	0	8,066	8,066
1075	Springville	Host	0	4,227	4,227
4067	Mt Morris	Vincent	0	48,656	48,656
6035	West Goodland	Mosher	0	25,252	25,252
6070	Port Austin	Freeland	0	4,110	4,110
9029	Detroit St Paul	Williams, H	0	20,380	20,380
9059	St Clair Shores First	Crawford, M	0	16,039	16,039
9518	Detroit Calvary	Whitely	0	35,233	35,233
9526	Detroit Peoples	Williams, G	0	38,196	38,196
9545	Lincoln Park Dix	Schneider	0	9,120	9,120
Total Premiums Outstanding			116,344	209,279	325,623

II. 2013 Benefits-Related Special Grants/Payments of the CBOPHB

Prior Year Pension Apportionment Balances written-off as uncollectible:	
Discontinued Churches	
Subtotal	\$102,237
Matching Local Church Grants applied for Prior Year Pension Apportionments:	
Subtotal	\$52,898
Grants approved for Medical Leave Benefits:	
Neumann, Macaulay, Taylor	\$57,819
Less disability plan reimbursements	(36,328)
Subtotal	<u>\$21,491</u>
Payments from Accounts at GBOPHB	\$176,626

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Payments to Churches whose clergy were granted Temporary Medical Leave	
Atherton	\$ 800
Novi	800
Davison	400
Oscoda	1,600
Detroit Central	1,000
PH New Beginnings	1,600
Monroe Heritage	1,600
Sault Ste Marie	600
North Street	1,600
Woodland	800
Yale	1,600
Iron Mtn Trinity	<u>(100)</u>
Subtotal	\$12,400
Grants approved for:	
2013 Retiree Moving expenses	\$79,000
Health Premiums for Clergy on Leave Categories	0
Special Medical/Hardship Situations	<u>5,706</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$84,706</u>
Payments from Accounts at DAC	<u>\$97,106</u>
Total 2013 Special Grants/Payments from all CBOPHB accounts	\$273,732

III. Clergy Changes in Conference Relationship

Disciplinary Question #22: Who have been discontinued as local pastors (§320.1)?
None

Disciplinary Question #44: Who have been granted the status of honorable location-retired (§359.3)?

Krichbaum, Daniel 07/01/2014

Disciplinary Question #52: Who have been granted medical leave due to medical or disabling conditions (§357)?

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Brown, Colon R	02/01/06
Donelson, Linda J	10/01/00
Frank, Nancy K	10/01/05
Gentile, Michelle A	06/15/90
Hamilton, John N	07/01/04
Liles, Lynda B	07/01/11
Macaulay, Elizabeth A	05/01/13
Mehl Jr., John M	01/01/09
Neumann, Fredrick D	07/01/13
Stover, Colin P	01/01/11
Taylor, Thomas L	02/01/13

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Disciplinary Question #53: What members in full connection have been retired (§358)

A. Deacons

Buchholz, Pamela L	09/01/13
Freeman, Catherine M	07/01/14
Mayo, Judith Y	07/01/14
Wik, Carolyn S	07/01/14

B. Elders

Brown, Dale E	07/01/14
Charlefour, Kathy R	12/01/14
Clemmer, Wm Michael	01/01/14
Dawes, Gary C	07/01/14
Densmore, Jerry P	07/01/14
Elliott, John W	07/01/14
Fleming, David L	02/15/14
Hawkins, Rhonda L	07/01/14
Karls, Mark A	07/01/14
Keef, Thomas F	07/01/14
Mallory, Paul J	07/01/14
McKinstry, Aloaha Faye	07/01/14
Meyers, Patricia A	07/01/14
Naile, John E	07/01/14
Raymo, Michael L	06/01/14
Rowe, Edwin A	12/01/13
Snyder, David P	07/01/14
VanWarmer, Patricia	07/01/14

Disciplinary Question #54: What Associate Members have been retired (§358)?

None

Disciplinary Question #56: Who have been recognized as retired local pastors (§320.5)?

Willson, Roberta L	07/01/14
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IV. Steps To Retirement

The following information should be examined by anyone contemplating retirement within the next five years. Often it takes significant time to correct a special situation or service record error.

1. Attend a pre-retirement seminar (next seminar scheduled for February 2015).
2. Review the 2012 Book of Discipline pertaining to retirement
3. Notify in writing, at least 6 months prior to retirement, the following:
 - A. Bishop Deborah Kieseey
 - B. Your District Superintendent
 - C. Rev. Don Emmert, Conference Benefits Officer
 - D. Rev. Doug Paterson, Chairperson of Committee on Conference Relations of the Board of Ordained Ministry
4. Once a participant's intention to retire is confirmed in writing by the Office of the Bishop, the Benefits Officer notifies the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits

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and materials are sent directly to the participant from the General Board detailing pension payment options. A pension projection is available anytime through the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits at 800-851-2201 or www.gbophb.org (Benefits Access).

- 5. Health Insurance:** At age 65, you are eligible for Medicare. **You MUST enroll in Part A and B to qualify for the Conference Retiree Group Coverage. If you opted out of Social Security earlier, you must arrange to purchase Medicare Benefits in order to be eligible for coverage under the Conference Retiree Group Coverage. PLEASE REVIEW THE INSURANCE RULES RELATING TO THE RETIREE GROUP COVERAGE!**
6. Send photocopies of Medicare cards for you and your spouse to the Conference Benefits Officer as soon as they become available. This is essential in order to coordinate health care coverage and avoid lengthy delays and/or denials of medical claims.
7. Review and update all beneficiary designations on your Pension Accounts at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

General Information:

1. Each pastor is advised to check with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits periodically to make certain that his/her service record is accurate. This is especially important with respect to pre-1982 service and the post-2006 Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Plans since these benefits are calculated based upon years of service.
2. Each person is encouraged to check his/her own Social Security record every 3 years to be certain that all payments have been properly credited. The Social Security Administration is not required to correct errors over 3 years old.

V. Detroit Conference Group Health Care Policy

The Detroit Annual Conference Group Health Plan is designed to safeguard the health and wellbeing of covered subscribers and their families. Medical coverage is provided through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Dental coverage is provided through Guardian Insurance, with an optional subscriber annual election for vision coverage. Prescription drug coverage is provided through CVS Caremark. A prescription mail order program through Global Health Management is encouraged for recurring/maintenance prescriptions. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements.

Active Plan Benefits: The medical, prescription drug, dental, and vision (optional) plans are designed to cover active subscribers and their eligible dependents during their working years.

Retiree Plan Benefits: Blue Cross/Blue Shield Complementary Medical Coverage is provided for secondary medical expenses of retirees and their eligible dependents as a supplement to Federal Medicare (Part A and Part B). Dental, prescription drug, and vision (optional) coverage is also available to retirees. Full details regarding retiree eligibility, requirements, and funding appear in the Retiree Group Health Care Plan section of this report.

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Plan Administration: Both the Active and Retiree plans are centrally administered by BenePro, Inc. 1423 E Eleven Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI, 48067 where enrollment and premium billings are processed. BenePro and/or the Conference Benefits Officer are available to answer questions about the plans.

ACTIVE GROUP HEALTH CARE PLAN

Enrollment/Effective Date of Coverage: Health Care eligibility begins the first day of a new appointment/hire, change in appointment/employment status, or a life-qualifying event (i.e. loss of other health coverage), provided all required submissions, underwriting, and payments have been timely made. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. It is the responsibility of the subscriber to submit enrollment forms in a timely manner. If the enrollment process is not completed within 30 days of eligibility, the subscriber must wait until the next open enrollment period.

Eligible Subscribers: Active Plan eligible classes include the following:

(Full-time for health coverage eligibility is defined as working at least 30 hours per week)

1. Full-time Clergy (Ordained Ministers and Local Pastors) under Episcopal appointment with the Detroit Annual Conference as the responsible agency for providing benefits.
2. Full-time Lay Employees of the Detroit Annual Conference and its approved, related agencies.
3. Full-time Lay Employees of a local church (including District Superintendent Assignments) until the employee turns age 65. All conference eligibility requirements must be observed. The local church is the responsible agency for all lay employee health insurance premiums. However, premium-sharing schedules may be determined by local church employee policies.
4. Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees on Disability Leave, provided the subscriber was enrolled in the Detroit Conference Group Active Health Care Plan at the time they were granted disability leave.
 - a. The subscriber must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B at the date of first eligibility.
 - b. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber's Medicare card to the Conference Benefits Officer at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.
5. Dependents of deceased Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee subscribers provided the dependents were enrolled in the group active health care plan at the time of the subscriber's death.
 - a. Dependents of a retired subscriber will continue health coverage under the same eligibility and funding provisions as the subscriber.
 - b. A surviving spouse that remarries will continue to receive the health care benefit. However, the new spouse is not eligible for coverage.
6. Enrolled dependents of deceased Local Church employee subscribers as allowable by the health care plan if continued coverage is a provision of the local church employee policy, and if the local church maintains responsibility for the health insurance premiums.

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7. Divorced or legally separated spouse subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Continuation of coverage until the earliest of the following occurs:
 - i. Acquisition of alternate health insurance
 - ii. Remarriage of the divorced spouse
 - iii. 36 months following the date of the divorce decree or legal separation
 - b. The divorced or legally separated spouse shall be responsible for payment of the monthly premium.

Eligible Dependents:

1. Spouse.
2. Children and Legal Dependents under age 26.
3. Qualifying Adult Children with disabilities.

Changes in Eligibility: All changes in appointment, employee, or family status that affect eligibility in health coverage must be submitted within 30 days of the date the change occurs, otherwise loss, lapses, or gaps in coverage may occur. Subscribers are responsible for providing family status changes (including marriages, births, adoptions, legal guardianships) in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer. A delay in notification could mean a delay or denial of coverage until the next open enrollment period.

Working Aged 65: Active Clergy under eligible Detroit Conference Appointment and Conference Lay Employees in Conference/Related Agency employment retain eligibility status in the conference active group health care plan.

1. The conference active group plan continues to be the subscriber's primary coverage.
2. Subscribers and dependents must enroll in Medicare Part A at the time they turn age 65, but are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B until the time of the subscriber's retirement.
3. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber/dependent Medicare card to the Conference Benefits Officer at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.

Funding of Active Health Care Policies:

1. Active Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Employees: Health insurance premiums are shared by the salary-paying unit (Detroit Conference, Conference Related Agency, or Local Church) and the subscriber according to the contribution schedule established by Detroit Annual Conference action.
2. Disabled Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Employees: Health insurance premiums are paid by the Detroit Annual Conference to the extent established by Detroit Annual Conference action.
3. Dependents of deceased Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee subscribers: Health insurance premiums are paid by the Detroit Annual Conference to the extent established by Detroit Annual Conference action.

Termination:

1. A subscriber may voluntarily terminate a subscriber's health insurance policy at any time by submitting a request in writing to the Conference Benefits Officer.
2. Health insurance policies are terminated the date of a subscriber's termination from an eligible Clergy Appointment or Conference/Related Agency employment.
 - a. Coverage for terminated employees may be extended up to three months as a severance package provision.

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- b. Under special provisions of the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits, a policy will be extended for up to one year for a clergyperson subsequently appointed to an eligible leave of absence status.
3. Health Insurance policies for a local church employee are terminated effective:
 - a. The termination date of local church employment. Coverage may be extended up to three months as a severance package provision.
 - b. The first of the month in which the subscriber turns age 65. Existing policies for working aged 65 local church employees as of December 31, 2013 are exempt from this provision.
4. Health Insurance policies will be terminated for non-payment of premiums according to the following schedule:
 - a. Health insurance premium payments are due the fifteenth of every month for the current month's coverage.
 - b. A delinquency notice is issued when an account is two months in arrears.
 - c. A second delinquency notice is issued at three months in arrears.
 - d. A third delinquency and pending termination notice is issued at four months in arrears.
 - e. Policy will be terminated at six months in arrears.
 - i. Policy may be reinstated within 30 days of termination if the outstanding balance has been remitted in full.
 - ii. In a delinquency situation involving a clergyperson appointed to a local church, a repayment plan must be submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee of The Board of Pension & Health Benefits to extend coverage past the six month period.
5. COBRA coverage is not offered through the Detroit Annual Conference. Existing COBRA-like policies in effect as of December 31, 2013 may continue according to the current terms of their agreement.

Waiver of Coverage:

1. Eligible Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees that waive conference health care coverage must have a Waiver of Coverage form on file in the Detroit Conference Benefits Office.
2. Persons waiving coverage have opportunity to enroll themselves and eligible dependents in the conference health care plan annually during open enrollment or at the time of a life-qualifying event.

RETIREE GROUP HEALTH CARE PLAN

Introduction:

This section describes the provisions and requirements of the Detroit Annual Conference group retiree health care plan. All available benefits are at all times subject to and may be limited, denied, or terminated based on applicable underwriting provisions, contract terms, eligibility rules, and premium payment requirements. All required submissions, underwriting, and payments must be timely made. It is the subscriber's responsibility to understand the specific rules relating to eligibility for coverage in retirement prior to the subscriber's retirement date. Questions may be directed to the Conference Benefits Officer or conveyed in writing to the Board of Pension & Health Benefits. Do not rely on verbal responses to general questions raised in informational meetings or provided by representatives other than the Board of Pension & Health Benefits. It is crucial that clergy who have served appointments during their career in Extension Ministries or an-

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other Annual Conference are knowledgeable regarding years of service credit, coverage, and cost sharing in order to effectively plan for retirement.

Definition of Terms:

1. Years of Service Credit for Health Benefits in Retirement: Years of Service in Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointments used to calculate eligibility and funding levels for health benefits in retirement.
2. Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointment: An Episcopal appointment is defined when the Detroit Annual Conference is the responsible agency for the clergy person's benefits.
 - a. Some Extension Ministry Appointments will be eligible for credit toward health benefits in retirement. Others will not, depending on the agency responsible for the clergy person's benefits.
 - b. Appointments to other conferences/agencies while maintaining membership in the Detroit Annual Conference are not eligible for credit toward health benefits in retirement.
 - c. Reciprocal Agreement with West Michigan Conference
 - i. A Detroit Conference clergy member will receive credit toward health benefits in retirement for Eligible Episcopal appointments in the West Michigan Conference.
 - ii. A West Michigan Conference Eligible Episcopal Appointment is defined when the West Michigan Conference is the responsible agency for the clergy person's benefits.
 - iii. A Detroit Conference clergy member serving a West Michigan Conference appointment must serve a Detroit Conference Eligible Episcopal Appointment and be enrolled in the Detroit Conference Active Group Health Care Plan immediately preceding retirement in order to be eligible for retiree health benefits. (reference: *Eligible Subscribers* 1.b. below)
3. Mandatory Retirement: Defined as retirement on July 1 after having attained age 72.
4. Full Retirement: Defined as retirement at age 65 or with 40 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.
5. Early Retirement: Defined as retirement at age 62 or with 30 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.
6. 20 Year Rule: Defined as retirement under age 62 with 20 years of service under appointment as an ordained minister or local pastor. The years of service for retirement may or may not be the same years of service used to calculate health benefit credit depending on the type of appointments served.

Medicare Enrollment/Coordination of Benefits:

The retiree medical health care plan is a supplemental plan to Medicare for all eligible subscribers age 65 and over.

1. In retirement, the subscriber and dependents must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B effective the date of first eligibility.
2. The subscriber is responsible for submitting a copy of the subscriber/dependent Medicare cards to the Conference Benefits Officer at the time of Medicare enrollment to assure the proper coordination of benefits.

Eligible Subscribers:

1. Retired Clergy (Ordained Ministers and Local Pastors):
 - a. Subscriber must be a Clergy Member of the Detroit Annual Conference at the date of retirement.
 - b. Subscriber must be enrolled in the Detroit Conference Active Group Health Care Plan at the time of their retirement. For clergy not participating in the conference active group health care plan, in most situations the final opportunity for a clergy and/or dependents to enroll will be during the Open Enrollment Period prior to the subscriber's retirement date. Annual Open Enrollment is in December for a January effective enrollment date.
 - c. Subscriber must have served under Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal appointments for the ten years immediately preceding retirement.
2. Retired Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees:
 - a. Subscriber must be enrolled in the Detroit Conference Group Active Health Care Plan at the time of their retirement. For employees not participating in the conference active group health care plan, in most situations the final opportunity for an employee and/or dependents to enroll will be during the Open Enrollment Period prior to the subscriber's retirement date. Annual Open Enrollment is in December for a January effective enrollment date.
 - b. Subscriber must have been employed by the Detroit Conference/Related Agency for the ten years immediately preceding retirement.
3. Dependents of deceased Retired Clergy and Conference/Related Agency Lay Employee Detroit Conference group retiree health care plan subscribers provided the dependents were enrolled in the group retiree health care plan at the time of the subscriber's death.
 - a. Dependents of a retired subscriber will continue health coverage under the same eligibility and funding provisions as the subscriber.
 - b. A surviving spouse that remarries will continue to receive the health care benefit. However, the new spouse is not eligible for coverage.
4. Divorced or legally separated spouse subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Continuation of coverage until the earliest of the following occurs:
 - i. Acquisition of alternate health insurance
 - ii. Remarriage of the divorced spouse
 - iii. 36 months following the date of the divorce decree or legal separation
 - b. The divorced or legally separated spouse shall be responsible for payment of the monthly premium.
5. Retired Local Church Lay Employees are not eligible to enroll in the Detroit Conference Group Retiree Health Care Plan. Existing retiree policies in this category as of December 31, 2013 are exempt from this provision.

Eligible Dependents: Eligible dependents are determined as of the date of the subscriber's retirement. All dependents must be enrolled on the subscriber's group active health care policy at the time of subscriber's retirement date in order to be considered for coverage eligibility. These include:

1. Spouse.
2. Children and Legal Dependents under age 26.
3. Qualifying Adult Children with disabilities.

New dependents through marriage or other family additions subsequent to the subscriber's date of retirement are not eligible.

Funding of Retiree Health Insurance Policies:

1. Clergy that received their first Detroit Conference Appointment prior to 2007:
 - a. Retiring under Mandatory, Full, or Early Retirement
 - i. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 4% per year of credited service in an Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointment toward the retiree's health insurance premium (including eligible dependents)
 - ii. If the subscriber has less than 25 years of credited service, the subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.
 - b. Retiring under the 20 Year Rule
 - i. The subscriber may retain coverage through the Detroit Conference Health Care Plan if they meet eligibility requirements as applicable from time to time.
 - ii. The subscriber is responsible for the entire insurance premium until age 65. At age 65, the Detroit Conference will pay a portion of the health insurance premium according to the funding provisions for mandatory, full, or early retirement.
 - iii. If the subscriber terminates their policy prior to age 65, they cannot re-enroll at a future date.
2. Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees hired prior to 2007
 - a. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 4% per year of employment toward the subscriber's health insurance premium (including eligible dependents).
 - b. If the subscriber has less than 25 years of employment, the subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.
3. Clergy that received their first Detroit Conference Appointment in or subsequent to 2007:
 - a. Retiring under Mandatory, Full, or Early Retirement
 - i. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 3% per year of credited service in an Eligible Detroit Conference Episcopal Appointment toward the subscriber's health insurance premium (including eligible dependents).
 - ii. The maximum payment by the Detroit Annual Conference is 90%.
 - iii. The subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.
 - b. Retiring under the 20 Year Rule
 - i. The subscriber may retain coverage through the Detroit Conference Health Care Plan if they meet eligibility requirements as applicable from time to time.
 - ii. The subscriber is responsible for the entire insurance premium until age 65. At age 65, the Detroit Conference will pay a portion of the health insurance premium according to the funding provisions for mandatory, full, or early retirement.
 - iii. If the subscriber terminates their policy prior to age 65, they cannot re-enroll at a future date
4. Conference/Related Agency Lay Employees hired in or subsequent to 2007:
 - a. The Detroit Annual Conference will pay 3% per year of employment toward the subscriber's health insurance premium (including eligible dependents).
 - b. The maximum payment by the Detroit Annual Conference is 90%.
 - c. The subscriber will be billed monthly for the balance of the health insurance premium.

Termination:

1. A subscriber may terminate their health insurance policy during retirement at any time. However, the termination is non-revocable and a subscriber cannot re-enroll at a future date.
2. The health insurance policy of a retired ordained minister whose clergy membership is terminated with the Detroit Conference for any reason will be terminated the effective date of the termination of the subscriber's clergy membership. Existing retiree policies in this category as of December 31, 2013 are exempt from this provision. However, Detroit Conference funding for all such policies will cease December 31, 2013, and the subscriber will become responsible for all premiums.
3. Health insurance policies will be terminated for non-payment of premiums according to the following schedule:
 - a. Health insurance premium payments are due the fifteenth of every month for the current month's coverage.
 - b. A delinquency notice is issued at two months in arrears.
 - c. A second delinquency notice is issued at three months in arrears.
 - d. A third delinquency and pending termination notice is issued at four months in arrears.
 - e. Policy will be terminated at six months in arrears.
 - i. Policy may be reinstated within 30 days of termination if the outstanding balance has been remitted in full.
 - ii. Since termination of a retiree policy is permanent following the 30 day window for reinstatement, subscribers in a delinquency situation are strongly encouraged to initiate communication with the Executive Committee of The Board of Pension & Health Benefits to negotiate a realistic repayment schedule prior to the date of termination.

In the event any of the above provisions need to be interpreted, the Committee on Health Benefits is authorized to make any needed interpretation which will be considered final unless appealed to the full Detroit Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits, which will have the final authority to decide any issue. In the event of any dispute or disagreement by a participant, the Committee on Health Benefits is authorized to negotiate and settle the matter subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriter of the coverage and review by the Board of Pension & Health Benefits.

Presented by The Detroit Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits
Mr. Fred Gray, President
Rev. Donald J. Emmert, Conference Benefits Officer

CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Since the last session of the Annual Conference the Board of Trustees has met two times with a third meeting scheduled for early spring before the Annual Conference meets.

At our October 8, 2013 meeting we elected the following officers:

President: Rev. Brent L. Webster
Vice President: Mr. Rob Long
Secretary: Rev. Faith Timmons

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We met with representative of Church Mutual Insurance Company for an annual review of losses concerning both conference owned property and local churches insured by Church Mutual. It should be noted that when the discussions turns to losses at local churches, Church Mutual maintains a high degree of confidentiality and they do not disclose details of losses.

We received an update on the Michigan Area Ministry Center. Three of our board members are also members of the MI.A.M.C. Board.

We assigned board members to conduct reviews of the three conference owned parsonages.

An update of the Henderson Memorial U.M.C. sale was presented.

We approved the use of the former Saganing Indian Church property to be used as a Native American Learning Center under the direction of the Detroit Conference Committee on Native American Ministries. They are to report back to the board within six months concerning their progress. The board provided up to \$2,000.00 to have the utilities turned on and to have the furnace checked.

We sold the property of the former Ishpeming Salisbury United Methodist Church. This property had suffered water damage.

A review of changes to the Flint offices was provided as well as an update on technology.

At our January 13, 2014 meeting we received reports concerning the inspection of two of our three conference owned parsonages as well as repairs/upgrades that need to be made. The third parsonage report will be presented at our April 28th meeting.

We were informed of two church closings: the Decker U.M.C. and the Marine City U.M.C. These properties as well as the Marine City parsonage will be offered for sale.

Updates were given concerning the Henderson Memorial property as well as the MI Area Ministry Center.

The lease was extended for another year for the house that is used by the Hispanic Missionary to the Michigan Area.

The lease for the Flint offices was discussed. David Dobbs will negotiate this lease with Flint Bethel U.M.C.

Submitted by:
Rev. Brent L. Webster
President, Detroit Conference Board of Trustees

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In 2013 the Board of Christian Education continued to be working towards ways to empower, equip, inspire, invite, and nurture churches throughout the conference. We have continued the "consulting" program where Christian Education leaders in the conference

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provide information, resources, materials and support to local churches. The board continued its efforts to have an on-line presence through the Detroit Conference website.

In the fall of 2013, we partnered with Lake Louise Christian Community who held a retreat for Christian Education Workers. The board provided scholarships for people to attend the retreat as well as supported workshop leaders/speakers. The three districts with staff dedicated to Christian Education (Blue Water, Crossroads, and Saginaw Bay) continue to do incredible ministry such as "coffee chats", VBS to go, prop and resource centers, trainings, and more. We also sent money to support Christian Education with our brothers and sisters in Liberia.

As we proceed into 2014, we will continue to use the Annual Conference as a platform to reach the greatest number of leaders in Christian Education and the Church. We are also committed to our consulting program, the BCE website, financial partnering with local churches and district Christian Education needs, financial support of Christian Education in Liberia, and continuing to improve communication through social media and other avenues. We are also looking into ways to support Christian Education and Retreat and Camp Ministries on Christian Education Sunday (in September each year). The Board has also earmarked financial resources to support people who wish to attend the Christian Educators Fellowship National Conference in Nashville, TN in October of 2014. We are also excited about the potential structure changes and the new opportunities it will bring.

The Board of Christian Education is confident that these ministries are using our financial resources creatively and responsibly in an effort to effectively facilitate Christian Education throughout the Conference. Please keep the board in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to help Christian Educators throughout the Conference and connection.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Kathy Pittenger, chair

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

No report received

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Board of Discipleship continues to seek ways that help strengthen the local church in its pursuit of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Board has been actively engaged in conversation to find creative ways that resource local churches, and offer support that enhances discipleship and evangelism efforts throughout the Conference.

Over the past few years, there has been declining participation in Conference-wide events such as Hearts Strangely Warmed, resulting in the event being cancelled twice.

Therefore, conversations have been held to discuss the roles of the Board transitioning to a primarily resourcing body, and offering teaching events on making disciples at a

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District and local church level. The Board continues to seek input and creative ideas to resource local churches.

Although the Hearts Strangely Warmed event, scheduled for March 2013 did not occur, the Board of Discipleship awarded the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism to the Rev. Matt Hook at the 2013 Detroit Annual Conference.

The Board of Discipleship continues to seek out laity and clergy who exemplify the characteristics of a disciple-maker, to include evangelism.

The challenges currently being faced by the Board of Discipleship, primarily that of our role at the Conference, District, and local church levels continues to be at the center of our discussions. However, we continue to be passionate about making disciples, and seeking ways to help local churches change the world for Jesus Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Aaron Kesson
Chair, Board of Discipleship

UNITED METHODIST UNION OF GREATER DETROIT

On the Relative Value of Institutional Memory

Upon learning that Kris and I had participated in the filming of Antique Road Show at Cobo Center, a friend commented, "That seems appropriate." His words were a mildly sarcastic commentary on my age. Some people collect antiques. Other people are antiques. But then it occurred to me that an antique is something that not only has age on it, but value in it. Hopefully, I qualify on both counts.

Rev. Dr. Wes Brun is a valued member of our Board of Trustees. I have known Wes since he came to Michigan as the Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center and we were both based at Nardin Park UMC. At a recent meeting of our Personnel Committee, Wes said: "One of the chief values you bring to the Union is your half-century of institutional memory. You know the city. You know the churches. And you know the pastors." All of which is true. I was raised in Detroit, schooled in Detroit and churched in Detroit. I have never served a church more than 16.6 miles from my boyhood home. Clearly, I was kept on a short leash.

My first post-seminary appointment was to Dearborn: First UMC as an Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry. The year was 1965. In October of that year, I attended my first Annual Meeting and Banquet of the Union. I came alone, given that my marriage was not to take place until the following July. The outgoing Executive Director of the Union was Dr. Benjamin Holme. The President of the Union's Board of Trustees was Ralph McIntyre. I knew both men well. Dr. Holme was my boyhood pastor at Westlawn Methodist Church on the corner of Ohio and Grand River. Ralph McIntyre sang alongside me in Westlawn's Chancel Choir. Following Ralph's tenure as President (which ended in 1966), there have been 12 other leaders of the trustees. I have known them all and served as pastor to three. Four of those individuals are now deceased and I was privileged to bring a eulogy at three of the funerals.

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As concerns Executive Directors, I am the fifth to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Holme. During the years of Dr. Herb Hausser (1965-1977), I served as Secretary to the Union's Board of Trustees. And for a four year period during the tenures of Don Scavella (1982-2006) and Ken Christler (2006-2008), I served as an adjunct employee of the Union, leading the Mentor in Residence Program.

Simply put, I have been around the block more than once. And, all things considered, it is a fairly familiar block. We don't serve a church that I haven't visited. Most of them, multiple times. But in 1965, there were 41 churches that we no longer list in 2013. Thirty of those churches were located inside the city limits of Detroit. Historical research will further document the degree to which the landscape has changed. But I don't have to read the research. I have lived it. The church of my childhood years is no longer ours. And all but one of the schools I attended has gone the way of all flesh. I can't go home again. But before I leave these reflections on history, let me highlight one final connection. It involves tonight's speaker, Rev. Scott Chrostek. Scott is the great nephew of Adolph Halmhuber. Dr. Halmhuber served as the Union's Executive Director in the 1940's. His brother, Paul (and Ethel) Halmhuber, were active lay persons at Westlawn Methodist Church. They provided a substantial four-year scholarship that allowed me to attend Albion College. I never knew that until I preached Ethel's funeral, many years later. You can imagine the feelings that went through me (and washed over me) when I was privileged to lay my hands on Scott's head on the afternoon of his ordination. Some things that go around really do come around. And Wes Brun is right. I do have a lot of institutional memory.

How Much of Our Work is "Same Old, Same Old?"

Having been in existence for 94 years, there are some things that could be called the "staples" of our business. From the beginning, we have been a loan fund. We are still a loan fund. Early in our history, we gave loans to start churches. We helped congregations buy property and build their first building. Many of our suburban churches benefited from this activity. As years went by, we loaned money to build additions to churches. Educational units were added. Here and there, a fellowship hall. On many occasions, churches needed to buy a new parsonage. Or build one. Money from the Union (on favorable terms) was always available. And still is.

Today, the majority of our loans involve capital repairs. One church needs a roof. Another church needs a boiler. A third church needs to overhaul its parking lot. Major repairs and upgrades involve expenditures between \$25,000 and \$75,000. Sometimes more. Few churches have funds of such magnitude in reserve. The Union almost always comes to the rescue. Terms that meet the needs of the congregation are negotiated. On my watch, the rate of interest charged has always been lower than commercial rates. Before any such deal is closed, the Union offers assistance in finding and/or evaluating contractors. Most churches value our assistance. The Union cannot tell a church whose services should be contracted. But churches who have pushed ahead unaided have experienced painful consequences. No church wants to spend more than it has to. Many churches try to cut corners. We try to help congregations get work done by reputable vendors, capable of solving the problem. This is occasionally difficult in a world where everybody has a brother-in-law "who knows a little something" about shingles....or electric motors....or asphalt. Doing major projects "on the cheap" is seldom the way to go.

At the present moment, we service approximately 50 loans; mortgages, land contracts or promissory notes. Most new loans come from our investment corpus that has slightly

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more than \$7.2 million dollars. Once those loans are in place (and are being paid monthly), they comprise the other part of our corpus (cash and receivables) that numbers a little over \$6 million dollars. Considered together, the Union operates from a financial base of approximately \$13.5 million dollars. Earlier this year we celebrated a 100% recovery from the attrition caused by the 2008 recession. But we are more aware than most that while the market giveth, the market also taketh away.

Two loans deserve special highlighting. Both are construction loans. Both represent exciting activity in a status-quo denomination. Last year, I celebrated the construction of a new sanctuary for Scott Memorial UMC in Detroit. A picture of Scott's ribbon cutting highlighted the cover of our 2012 banquet booklet. This year I am excited that a major Union loan is going to support new construction at Fraser UMC. This congregation will have a grand new entranceway along with hospitality space, program space, storage space, an elevator and a refurbished sanctuary. These people have dreamed big and dug deep. They are a solid and faithful group of folk. I find it fascinating that they have been served by just two pastors, Rev. Eric Wehrli and Rev. Mel Leach, over the last 46 years. Lengthy pastoral tenures often lead to pleasurable outcomes.

But There are Always New Things Under the Sun

There was never a time when the Union did not invest in innovative ministries. Hence, I am reluctant to take too much credit for the expansion of our grant budget during my five years at the helm. But the expansion has been noted and the grants have been productive. Both this year and next, dollars granted (gifted) to churches will approach \$300,000. More amazing still, these grants will come extremely close to 50% of our annual budget. In part, this improved ratio means that we have been increasingly cost effective on the administrative side of the ledger. Running "leaner" does not mean "meaner," nor should it suggest the word "cheap." Hopefully, people perceive us as being efficient. Still, dollars squeezed out of administration mean dollars that can be passed on to churches.

Some of those dollars assist Superintendent Melanie Carey in the sustenance of pastors. Others, fund a few annualized grants such as those that support Multicultural Youth Camp, Clergy Family Camp and Cass Community Center. Small grants also cover building-related emergencies, while others pick up legal expenses involved in finalizing a loan. Grants are seldom, if ever, given for capital repairs. That's what loans are for. All of which means that the majority of grant dollars go to churches that are putting a Transformational Ministry Plan in place. There is a reason for this. At this point in our district's history, there is a desperate need to help our churches grow....to help our churches become stronger....to help our churches broaden their outreach....and to help our churches develop their program. Some of our Transformational Ministry Grants cover three years. Many of them range from \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year. In short, they are large enough to make a real difference.

But we do not go to every church door with bushel baskets full of dollars and invite the pastor and Council Chair to dip in with both hands. Every church needs money. There is nothing new about that. I never served a church that didn't need money. But not every church has reached a point where it has a plan to spend money. We are looking for churches that have such a plan. Better yet, that plan should have specifics to it, committed team members around it, and a budget underneath it. If staffing is involved, that church will have a pretty good idea who it wants to hire and what they expect that person to do. Better still, that church will have dedicated a portion of its own resources (dollars)

to put behind the initiative. I am talking about the need for a church to have some “skin in the game.”

Every place we have made such funds available, results have been discernible. We are now on our second wave of churches. My goal has been to make more grant dollars available with each year’s budget and I have been successful in doing so. While I am hesitant to identify past recipients in print, I am more than ready to talk with any congregation looking to go down this road. I can’t say it often enough. When it comes to grant dollars, churches are our only customers. Every couple of weeks, I field a request from some wonderful, charitable organization....doing commendable work....and doing it in our area. They, too, need money. But they are not on my primary radar screen. I need to do everything I can, for as long as I can, to strengthen our churches.

Notice I did not say “to save our churches.” In my first couple of years at the Union, I had a colleague who was fond of saying: “No church will close on my watch.” Well, five churches have closed on my watch.” Others will follow. I always view such closures with regret. But there is simply not enough money to keep every church open. When self sustenance is no longer possible (even with periodic infusions of “rescue cash”), a church needs to die as graciously as possible. On several occasions I have put out thousands of dollars so that DTE will turn the power back on. Which I will probably do again, given that I can’t abide the thought of elderly parishioners huddling in the cold. But every place I have provided rescue funding has closed its doors within 12-15 months. After a while, decisions about resource allocations become easier.

“New Occasions Teach New Duties”

The above-quoted words from the poet James Russell Lowell could well describe the challenges we face in the Detroit Renaissance District. Winds of change are blowing through our churches. I can’t say enough good things about the visionary leadership that Melanie Carey is bringing to the office of the District Superintendent. The most visible signs of change involve a tidal wave of new pastoral appointments, effective July 1 of this year. Twenty-six preachers have stepped into new pulpits. Of that number, 21 have arrived from outside the Detroit metropolitan area. To them, the words “United Methodist Union” mean virtually nothing. There was “no such animal” on the district from which they came. When they hear the word “Union,” they think about contract negotiations and labor strikes. So I have made a special effort to sit down with these pastors individually on their turf. I also prepared a list of commonly asked questions about the Union...why we exist and what we do...to leave behind once our visit is concluded. This has been a wonderful experience. The pastor tells his or her story. I tell mine. We talk about ways the Union may have impacted their church in the past. And then we talk about possibilities going forward. If this job has convinced me of anything, it is that building relationships is the heart and soul of connectionalism. Without well-maintained relationships, connectionalism is little more than an organizational chart reported in the Journal. Keeping in touch with pastors is critical to the work of the Union. The same is true with local church trustees, finance chairs and anybody else who calls our office. At the end of the day, this is a “people business.”

Another “new occasion” was the launching of DownRiver UMC on July 7, 2013. I attended the opening service. But long before the four congregations (Allen Park: Trinity UMC, Lincoln Park: Dix UMC, Lincoln Park: First UMC and Taylor: West Mound UMC) came together for worship, the Union was involved in property matters associated with the closing of four churches and the beginning of one. Switching hats from advisors to property

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managers, the Union is now heavily involved in the sale of former church buildings and/or parsonages, so as to provide a revenue stream for the new congregation going forward.

All of this activity also opened the door to orchestrate a title transfer involving the former Allen Park parsonage, thereby creating a new residence for the pastor of Detroit: El Buen Pastor UMC, whose arrival we both celebrated and supported just a year ago. Some out-of-the-box thinking not only provided a new home for our Hispanic pastor, but enabled the folks from Allen Park: Trinity to move into the Vital Merger unencumbered by previous debt owed to the Union. In a similar vein, the Union played a consultative role in the merger of Royal Oak: First UMC and Royal Oak: St. John UMC at the point of property matters involving the former St. John congregation.

Yet another “new occasion” involved a request from the District Leadership Team to help fund an additional staff person related to the office of the District Superintendent. Given the excitement we have already seen coming from the office next door, there was little question that we would be willing to “partner” in this endeavor.

Speaking Personally

I continue to enjoy this job. I know that surprises many of you who spent decades watching me in very different roles. I was viewed as a preacher and teacher....sometimes a pastor....every now and again as a builder....and, hopefully, as a leader. To some degree I still do a little of each, even though none of these skill sets ranks high on the search list for one who would lead the Union. But I have found that there is value in combining Union work with a pastor’s DNA. And enough of you have said something similar, so as to confirm my hunch. To a degree, I believe in job descriptions. Ironically, I was never handed one when I walked into this job. But, then, who expected an “Interim” to be here five years later. I still have no job description. But I never had one in 40 years of pastoral ministry. I guess people just expected I would know what to do.

Suffice it to say, the job seems to be getting done with very little falling between the cracks. Which is not exactly true. Stuff does fall between the cracks, but I now fish it out faster....either that, or talented Board members join Connie Perrine and Carolyn Nichols in “saving my bacon.” Profound thanks to them all. The Union’s Trustees are a special group. On my watch they meet more often than ever before, deal with more paper than ever before, yet attend with more fidelity than ever before. I try to keep them informed, involved, and (as best as possible) well fed. Most governance bodies in the Conference would kill for the level of attendance we expect and get.

Sadly, Harold Melin must now attend Union meetings in a more celestial realm, while Len Clevenger and Marsha Woolley must find something similarly satisfying to do on the Ann Arbor and Saginaw Bay Districts, respectively. Thankfully, Zac Eskau will slide over to an Emeritus role, perhaps being the youngest such person ever to be granted that title. But then, incisive young attorneys with the capacity to turn a group’s discussion upside down are tough to come by. And while we will be minus Don Shim and Rev. Jeff Nelson whose terms ran out, their supply of good ideas never will. Fortunately, there are people in the Green Room named Linda Conger, Anthony Hood, Carol Johns, Ray McGee and Clayton Osburn ready to come on stage and drive the future. The beat really will go on.

My shortcomings would be exposed (perhaps even ridiculed) were it not for our Investment Manager, Larry Larmee....our Accountant, Mike Schulte....our Attorney, Barb

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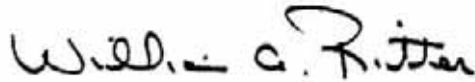
Ulman....our Auditor, Pat Sweeney....and our Realtor, Bill Skubik. Three cheers to them all.

Already, I have written about Melanie Carey who, like the character in Alice in Wonderland, really does entertain six impossible ideas before breakfast.

Which brings me to my wife, the lovely Kristine, who says: "You might as well go on a little longer. It's good for you. You seem to be good for them. And I am not sure what you would do if you hung around here every day."

All things considered, I am good for another lap around the block.

To God be the Glory!



Rev. Dr. William A Ritter
Executive Director

CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES – CBGM

Rev. Don Gotham, Chair, CBGM – The following reports highlight the work a piece of the passion for mission held by the DAC CBGM. Beyond these reports, three significant pieces of work addressed by CBGM leadership. With the able assistance of Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker, Mr. Eric Miller, and dedicated team, a Disaster Response Policy was created, and made ready to vote upon at the 2014 annual conference. Significant hours were spent in being a part of the creation of the new Mission and Ministry program. The document of renewal of the Covenant Relationship between the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church, and the Haiti District of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas was also created in 2013 and readied for adoption at the 2014 annual conference.

Privileged to serve,
Don Gotham

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries – Jacqueline Euper

It is truly a blessing to host our missionaries while they are itinerating around the United States. This happens about every three years for each of them. In 2013, we had the privilege of hosting 3 newer General Board of Global Ministries missionaries who had never itinerated. All are African nationals serving in Africa.

Princess Jusu, from Liberia, came to Detroit Conference May 4 – 21, 2013. Princess is an instructor at the United Methodist Women's Training Center in Monrovia. Princess shared her mission stories at the following 17 churches as well as at Detroit Annual Conference (UMW & CBGM): Garden City, Frankenmuth, Millington, Flushing, Chesaning Trinity, Flint Asbury, Cheboygan St. Paul's, Houghton Lake, Detroit Scott Memorial, Seymour Lake, Clarkston, Gladwin First/Wagarville, Owosso Trinity, Belleville First, Dixboro and Brighton First UMCs. In addition, she spoke at the Crossroads District Liberia/Haiti Covenant Committee.

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Drs. Simeon Kashala and Pierre Manya from the Democratic Republic of Congo came to Detroit Conference July 15 - 28, 2013. Dr. Kashala is director at Samuteb Hospital. Dr. Manya is Coordinator of Health and Medical Services for the Central Congo Episcopal Area. Both doctors were in need of a French interpreter. GBGM contacted Caroline Hart (wife of Rev. Drew Hart) to whom we are indebted for her care of the doctors during their entire itineration. They had an opportunity to share in the following places: Plymouth First, Monroe First, Livonia Newburg (DAC UMW), Congo Campus Org. at U of M, Bancroft, Morrice, Flint Hope, Lake Orion (VBS), Millington, Clarkston, Lapeer Trinity, Flint Bethel/Charity and Ann Arbor Westside UMCs.

Another unique opportunity came our way in April 2013 when Pastor Rauza and Ekatrina Landorf from St. Petersburg, Russia were available to come to Detroit Conference to share their stories about ministry at Spring Center Children's Ministry/Grace UMC. Thanks to our three interpreters: Oleg Nikolsky, Elena Boyd and Michael Emelianov who assisted. Opportunities to speak were at: Lapeer Trinity, Petersburg, Port Huron First, Wyandotte First and Flint Charity UMCs. Following their time in Michigan, I drove them to Memphis, Tennessee where we attended the GBGM meeting of the Eurasia/Russian Initiative. (FYI: The UMC is young in Russia (90's). There are about 100 churches across 9 time zones.)

Thanks to the 31 churches who hosted these ambassadors for Christ. They are eager to share their stories. May we always be eager to hear them.

At this time, we know that the following missionaries will be with us in 2014: Victor Taryor, Administrator of Ganta Hospital in Liberia (January) and Dan & Rachel Gabler from the Democratic Republic of Congo (August/September).

Some of Jesus's last words to us were to "Go and make Disciples among all nations." Matthew 28:19 Our GBGM missionaries around the word are making that happen on our behalf. We support their work, as they come to us to tell their stories of faith & mission.

When was the last time your church hosted a missionary? Have you provided opportunities for your children and youth to hear them too? Life is short. Don't miss the chance to be inspired, informed and encouraged of the work Christ is enabling through your support with His people all over the world.

HUNGER/UMCOR – Rev. Duane Miller

In making disciples for Jesus Christ we understand that we are in process of changing the world. The work of this committee points to the places where we are making that difference.

At our Annual Conference in May, we once again received an offering from our churches and individuals to feed children in our Covenant Conferences in Haiti and Liberia (Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village). \$20,304.30 was sent to Haiti and \$17,971.04 was sent to Liberia. This is a very significant offering that makes a huge difference for the children.

Our Annual Conference Covenant special offering focus alternates between Haiti and Liberia. For 2013 the focus was Haiti and was given for textbooks for the schools and

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camp scholarships. \$4,033.13 was collected for textbooks and \$1,512.50 for camp scholarships.

A renewed commitment to the Imagine No Malaria campaign was highlighted at Annual Conference with mosquito nets hanging in the lobby of Dawson Auditorium, displays and hand out materials. On Sunday morning, Bishop Kieseey played the piano while an offering was received for Imagine No Malaria. \$8,200.50 was collected. Coordinators have been trained in every district to assist local churches as they work to reach our goal of \$10 per member –\$1.5 million for the Michigan Area.

We celebrate that one of our own, The Reverend Jack Amick has been hired to lead The United Methodist Church's international disaster-response efforts through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. He began his new responsibilities July 1, 2013. Sunday, March 30, 2014 (or a nearby Sunday) was our One Great Hour of Sharing offering in local churches to support the administrative work of UMCOR. Then all other gifts made to UMCOR go directly for relief projects.

UMCOR has been busy responding to many disasters around the world and in our own nation again this year. Wherever you go United Methodists are respected for their know-how to organize and help with long-term recovery in disaster areas.

Health and Wellness Committee Report – Mary Solterman

1. In 2013, we provided disability grants @ \$500 to two churches.
2. We applied for and were approved to have the disability grant become a Mission in Ministry grant. It will be known as "Environmental Health and Accessibility Grant" M/M 1109 and be for the same amount of \$500. (Don, I am not sure about the status of the other programs under the title of Health and Wellness. I think VINA Community Dental Care also became a M/M grant but I don't have anything to do with that.)
3. We are working on ways to publicize the availability of M/M 1109 and are working on articles to be published in our conference communications. We plan on including information about other grant opportunities for accessibility grants.

Volunteers-in-Mission – John Walls

Once again Volunteers-in-Mission from Detroit Conference have been working within the conference, the nation and the world reaching people in need, experiencing the connectional church, developing relationships and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In 2013, Volunteers-in-Mission worked over 3300 volunteer-days on short term mission trips (1500 internationally, 400 nationally on disaster relief, and another 1400 nationally on other projects) while spending over \$700,000 for travel, room and board, project, miscellaneous costs (\$450,000 internationally, \$80,000 on disaster relief nationally, and \$170,000 nationally otherwise).

Volunteers from all over worked over 3000 volunteer-days within the Detroit Conference while providing over \$45,000 for personal and project costs.

The VIM Committee was instrumental in training 28 persons as VIM Team Leaders and in the distribution over \$6800 for first-timer scholarships and team insurance from

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MJ1316 and other VIM funds . The committee also applied for and was accepted into the new Mission and Ministry program for 2014 (Mission and Ministry #1316).

Let's celebrate the involvement on United Methodists in the Volunteer -in-Mission program with a special offering in your church for Mission and Ministry #1316 to allow for continued support of VIM first-timers and team insurance reimbursements. Also support VIM teams with your prayers, your contributions to projects and your presence as the team members relate their stories upon their return. Thank you for your support in 2013 and for your continued support in 2014 as Volunteers-in-Mission continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus and they venture into the mission field to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Conference Mission Personnel – Jacqueline Euper

We had four missionaries serving in our Detroit Conference in 2013. Kathleen Peterson, a deaconess and church & community worker (CCW) has served in God's Country Co-operative Parish for 7 years. We have appreciated her commitment in this upper peninsula mission site. Katie has been reassigned to Williston, North Dakota where a new and exciting opportunity awaits her in 2014. Thanks, Katie, for your dedicated work among us and God's blessings to you in your new ministry.

Sonya Luna, a Hispanic National Plan missionary, is now assigned to the entire Michigan Area. She continues to find ways to broaden our important ministry to those Spanish-speaking populations who live in Michigan. Thanks, Sonya, for serving us in this special way.

Brandon Powell is a US-2 young adult missionary at the N.O.A.H. Project at Detroit Central UMC. He is in his second year of this two-year commitment. Thanks, Brandon, for your faithful work.

Returning to Detroit Conference is Mary Gladstone-Highland, a church & community worker (CCW) at Clarkston UMC. Welcome, Mary! We are glad to have you back home, as you serve the community in mission and justice areas.

Be sure to ask Sonya, Brandon or Mary to be part of your church's program in the year ahead.

Brenda DuPree of Clarkston will become the new chair of CMP in 2014. Welcome, Brenda!

THE ADVANCE – Rev. Karen Williams

In 2013 \$921,942 was given through the Advance by churches in the Detroit Conference. This amount includes: \$78,851 IMAGINE NO MALARIA, \$14,593 Liberia Pastors Salary Support, \$65,037 Haiti Hot Lunch, \$31,298 Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village, \$15,699 Grace Children's Hospital, and \$220 Methodist Children's Home.

All of these contributions are in addition to those given by local churches to Apportionments, Ministry Jubilee, and other local projects in our communities.

This year 128 churches have

1. Paid Apportionments in full
2. given to Ministry Jubilee projects

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3. provided Missionary Salary Support
4. supported Advance Global Mission
5. supported Advance U.S.A. Mission
6. UMCOR or Poverty Projects
7. supported our partner churches in Haiti or Liberia; these churches are recognized as Spotlight Churches for 2013.

This year there were 19 new Spotlight Churches.

Thank you and congratulations to each of the 128 churches who are honored as Detroit Conference Spotlight Churches 2013.

2013 SPOTLIGHT CHURCHES

ANN ARBOR

Adrian First
Blissfield Emmanuel
Brighton First
Chelsea First
Commerce
Denton Faith
Dexter
Dixboro
Erie
Hardy
Highland
Howell First
*LuLu
*Milford
Monroe St. Paul's
North Lake
*Northville
Petersburg
Plymouth First
Saline First
South Lyon
South Rockwood
*Livingston Trinity
Weston

BLUE WATER

Akron
Armada
Capac First
BASS -Bethel
Forester
*Hayes
Howarth
*Jeddo
Kilmanagh

Kingston
Lapeer Trinity
Lexington
Mayville
*Memphis First
North Branch First
Paint Creek
*Pigeon First
Port Huron First
Sutton-Sunshine

CROSSROADS

Chesaning Trinity
Clarkston
Davison
Flint Asbury
Flint Bethel
Flint Court Street
Flushing
Fostoria
*Gaines
Genesee
Grand Blanc
Halsey
Laingsburg
Lennon
Linden
Middlebury
Millington
Montrose
Morrice
Oregon
Otisville
Owosso First
Phoenix
*Pittsburg

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Seymour Lake
Swartz Creek
West Forest

DETROIT RENAISSANCE

*Beverly Hills
Birmingham First
Dearborn Good Shepherd
Grosse Pointe
Farmington First
Farmington Orchard
Livonia St Matthew's
*Newburg
Troy Big Beaver
*Troy Fellowship
Utica
Warren First
*Waterford Trinity
West Bloomfield
Wyandotte First

MARQUETTE

Engadine
Gladstone Memorial
*Grand Marais
Greenland
Hancock First
*Iron River Wesley
Iron wood Wesley
L'Anse
Manistique First
Munising
Norway Grace
Ontonagon
Rockland

Sidnaw
Stephenson
White Pine Community

SAGINAW BAY

Alger
*Ames
Au Gres
Beaverton
*Bentley
Caro
Coleman Faith
*Essexville St. Luke's
Fairgrove
Frankenmuth
Good Shepherd of the North
Gordonville
Houghton Lake
LaPorte
Midland Aldersgate
Midland First
Mio
Ossineke
Pinconning
Poseyville
Saginaw First
Wagarville
Watrousville
West Branch
Whittemore
Wilber
Wisner

*New Spotlight Church

MICHIGAN AREA LOAN FUNDS

Michigan Area Loan Fund of the United Methodist Church
Missions & Church Extension Fund

2013 was an encouraging 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.

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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.

Our website, www.michiganarealoanfund.com, is being used by prospective investors and borrowers alike. You are invited to visit our site for updates on interest rates.

Investors were rewarded during 2013 with a rate of return that was attractive in comparison to many similar investment options. Investors earned 2.75% on their investment accounts. Larger accounts (\$100,000 or more) earned 3.00%. This 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 4.74%. Promissory notes are also available for smaller funding needs at a rate of 5.24%.

The Fund is registered with the Securities Bureau of the State of Michigan and is managed by its Resident Agent. As of December 2013 the loan portfolio included 31 loans and mortgages with a total value of approximately \$8,091,450. Investments burgeoned during 2013 and exceeded \$10,700,000 for the first time in the fund's history.

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

The future of the Fund looks strong in spite of weakened loan demand. The financial strength of the Fund should be secure as the net corpus of Fund assets continues to grow and allow the Fund to serve the needs of Michigan United Methodist congregations. The Board continues to look for ways to expand our fund base 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.

Charles Veenstra, President
Dr. Wayne Barrett, Resident Agent

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

No report received

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

Methodist Children's Home Society responds to the needs of abused and neglected children by providing an array of housing, educational, clinical and therapeutic services.

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From the moment we opened our doors in 1917, our vision has been to care for children when no one else could or would. This involves providing integrity, respect and love to children and their families during their most difficult times. This care sparks hope and promise for a better future...a future that is better for children and families, and ultimately the entire community.

Our Programs...

Residential Care – We raise responsible young men on our 72-acre campus in Redford, known as The Children’s Village. Our seven cottages house up to 70 boys who are in need of sanctuary from a chaotic past.

Foster Care – Foster care provides safe havens for children who have been removed from their parents’ care because of abuse and neglect. Foster parents provide compassionate daily care until these children are able to return to their biological families or are adopted.

Adoption – Adoption creates forever families for children whose biological parents can no longer care for them. There is pure joy when children and adults join together to become a family.

Literacy Programs – MCHS has created programs to help students excel academically, both on our Redford campus and in area schools. The new virtual academy enables students to earn high school credits on campus.

Transitional Housing – In September of 2013, MCHS was approved by the state to provide a voluntary program for young men aged 18-22 who have “aged out” of the foster care system. These young men will have the opportunity for structured housing while receiving guidance and mentoring. Attending school or working for 20 hours per week is a requirement of the program.

2013 Highlights....

- MCHS cared for 76 young men in our residential program and 58 MCHS foster homes cared for 141 vulnerable children.
- The Transitional Housing Program was approved and added to the agency contract.
- Redford Schools and MCHS took one step closer to finalizing the plan for a classroom on campus starting September of 2014.
- Campus wide activities included summer picnics, Family Fun Day, Summer Bridges program, Trunk or Treat Event, Foster Care bowling party and a Holiday Open House.
- Connected with hundreds of friends, donors, volunteers and Methodist church mission groups.
- Bishop Kiesey visited campus for a tour and meeting with the MCHS Executive Committee.
- Reverend Paul Perez toured the MCHS campus.

In 2013, with the help of many, Methodist Children’s Home Society was able to fulfill its mission: To meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the children in our care, develop personal, family and community relationships that will contribute to healthy op-

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opportunities for the children to reach their fullest potential, and to advocate on behalf of all children.

M. Beth Tarquinio, MSSA, LMSW, Executive Director
Kelly Kirkpatrick, Director of Development and Marketing

UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

No report received.

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

The Board of Higher Education and Ministry has been in a process of reorganizing and refocusing its efforts in line with the purposes and priorities of the Annual Conference. The first step was to adopt a new purpose statement and to outline our tasks as we see them.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Detroit Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry will be to raise up the next generation of Christian disciples and leaders who will enliven the United Methodist movement and transform the world.

OUR TASK:

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry will

1. Strengthen the historic United Methodist connection of the annual conference with United Methodist colleges, campus ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
2. Partner with West Michigan Conference in interpreting and promoting UM colleges and campus ministries with youth and local churches across the state.
3. Initiate new ventures in campus ministry and care for the oversight of campus ministries as outlined in the 2012 Book of Discipline, para. 634.4.d
4. Participate with other conference agencies in fulfilling the Pathway 2 goal of developing effective Christian leaders for the Church and the world and creating a “culture of the call” for ordained ministry within the churches of the annual conference
5. Encourage support of ministries in higher education through the apportionments and special Sunday offerings of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
6. Fulfill other duties as outlined in the 2012 Book of Discipline, para. 634.4

MEMBERSHIP:

The Board will be comprised of 12 members nominated by the annual conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference for terms of four years with a maximum of two terms, and members of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from the Detroit Conference. The following will be ex officio with voice but not vote:

- College students representing the Adrian College, Albion College and the campus ministries of the annual conference

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- Directors of Wesley Foundations and campus ministries
- Chaplains at Adrian and Albion Colleges
- District Superintendent assigned by the cabinet
- Persons elected by the annual conference as trustees at Adrian College and Albion College

The chairperson shall be nominated by the annual conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference. Other officers will be elected by the Board.

MEETINGS:

The Board will meet at least twice per year. Committees and task forces will meet as necessary to complete the work of the Board.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

The Board will be accountable to the Conference Leadership Team in matters of program and budget and will annually provide a written report to the annual conference.

The Board will be reviewing our current commitments and determining the best way to fulfill our purpose and tasks with the resources we have available to us. This past year we have supported Wesley Foundation at University of Michigan and provided assistance to the Adrian College group of students who attended EXPLORATION. Adrian had the largest group of students from any campus ministry in the nation. Congratulations to Chaplain Chris Momany for his ministry of encouraging students toward ministry. We provided a grant to the new campus ministry at Wayne State and hope to see that ministry grow in the new year.

The Board will be reviewing our relationship with the various campus ministries in the state as well as in the conference. We would like to find ways to lift up the full range of United Methodist Ministries in Higher Education including the two colleges and the campus ministries which are available to serve United Methodist students and hope this can be done in partnership with West Michigan. We hope to find ways to communicate with United Methodist high school students to help them be informed prior to going to college. We also hope to work with the Board of Ordained Ministry in building the network of support for candidates for ordained ministry within the conference. We believe these two boards and their counterparts in the West Michigan Conference are vital partners in the "Pathway 2" goal of nurturing Christian leaders for the future of the church.

We would like to recognize Dan Brewer who has stepped in as the acting chairperson this year and give thanks for his leadership and service.

John E. Harnish, on behalf of the Board

ADRIAN COLLEGE

Adrian College continues its nationally-recognized theological leadership in several ways. We are committed to street-level, student-centered ministry, and we combine this movement with academic depth.

We don't say that we have been a part of the Wesleyan family since 1859 without taking the claim seriously. We lead through concrete, living expressions of the tradition.

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There are eight different spiritual life groups on campus and weekly chapel services. Our staff includes one chaplain and six student ministers. Chaplain Chris Momany teaches as a member of the philosophy/religion department and publishes in both academic and popular church journals. Dr. Momany's work appears in the national edition of the *United Methodist Reporter* and in the online resource *Ministry Matters*. He has also been published recently in the *Christian Century*. His 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 conviction guides our approach to campus community and 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 "Old Testament Royalty" (Fall) and "Miracles" (Spring)
- Adrian College students wowed the professional organization, Historians Against Slavery, at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, September 2013.
- Our Adrian College student delegation to "Exploration 2013" in Denver was the largest from any single ministry site in United Methodism.

In March of 2014, Chaplain Momany joined scholars from several seminaries in presenting to the Wesleyan Theological Society, Nampa, Idaho. Momany will also be a featured lecturer at the Bay View Association in June of 2014.

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

Annual Report for Volume One of the 2014 West Michigan Conference Journal

In 2013, Albion College nurtured disciples of Jesus Christ through living out John Wesley's vision for higher education – nurturing knowledge and vital piety. United Methodist students engaged their faith in their academic experience, through a rigorous and acclaimed Liberal Arts education.

Albion College's spiritual life continued to engage the heart. In Christian life, Albion College Chapel (under the Chaplaincy) continued to provide a visible, ecumenical, and deep sharing and fellowship experience. As always, United Methodist students preparing for ministry were core Chapel leaders. Chaplaincy continued to lead Christian unity efforts on campus and in the community. Student organizations provided a wide array of Bible study opportunities.

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For all students, spiritual life at Albion College continued to be centered on engaging pluralism. This included a very strong interfaith council, twelve diversity organizations, and partnerships with numerous academic departments and area interfaith communities of faith. Out of this rich diversity context came a variety of expressions of learning. Here are some examples:

- Chaplaincy led the campus in its second and third year of participation in the President's Interfaith and Community Service Challenge.
- Continued participation in the Network for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges).
- A vibrant exploring ministry peer group.
- Over 250 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended both Taste of Blackness in February and Diwali in November.
- Extensive mentoring work with under-represented students at Albion College and in the Albion community.
- Vital support for Albion College's LGBTQ-Christian community.
- Continued partnership with Motown Mission and Cass Community Social Services, both in the City of Detroit.
- Chaplaincy's support of First United Methodist Church of Albion's relationship-building trip to Haiti, working through Haiti Artisans for Peace International (HAPI).

Through it all, disciples continued to be nurtured through one-to-one clinical pastoral care and spiritual mentoring with the College Chaplain. This included direct support for the bereaved, victims of discrimination and abuse, campus leaders, and those discerning their vocation.

Albion College continues to be an amazing celebration of shared mission. God has been glorified through this historical relationship.

On behalf of Albion College, I warmly welcome members of the Detroit Annual 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! Let me know how we may continue to expand our mutual mission.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Daniel J. McQuown, *College Chaplain and Director, Global Diversity*
Office of the Chaplain

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DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

2014 Annual Conference Report

The academic year 2013–2014 has been an exciting year in which we completed an intensive period of hiring new faculty. We believe that a strong faculty is at the heart of any great theological school, and we are thankful that the men and women who have joined us are characterized by excellent scholarship, generous character, and a deep commitment to the church. In the past three years, we have hired 18 new faculty, which means that 36 percent of current faculty have been hired since 2010. Half of those appointments are United Methodist, bringing our total regular-rank faculty to 42 percent Methodist.

Some of our new faculty hires were in response to retirements or departures; others were in response to the growth in our new degree programs, the Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.), Master of Arts in Christian Studies (M.A.C.S.), and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.). Other hires help expand our expertise into crucial areas. Xi Lian, professor of world Christianity, is a leading scholar of Christianity in China; Meredith Riedel, assistant professor of the history of Christianity, studies Byzantine Christianity and its engagement with the Muslim world; and Luke Bretherton, associate professor of theological ethics, works in Christianity and contemporary politics and community-building in a pluralistic culture.

Other new faculty build on our traditions of strength in historical, theological, ministerial, and biblical studies. Ross Wagner and Brittany Wilson both have Wesleyan commitments to reading Scripture that influences their scholarship in New Testament; Valerie Cooper, a self-described “fifth-generation Methodist,” does singular work in historical studies and biblical hermeneutics. Edgardo Colón-Emeric, assistant professor of Christian theology, continues our rich legacy of engagement between Methodist and Catholic theologies; and Jeff Conklin-Miller brings a wealth of experience as a United Methodist minister and youth programs director to his position in Christian formation.

All of our faculty members in all of our academic programs are committed to training talented, committed men and women for ministry. We continue to welcome students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2013, our total enrollment was 635 students: 434 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 60 in the M.T.S.; 18 in the Th.M.; 43 in the Th.D.; 36 in the D.Min.; 25 in the M.A.C.P.; 17 in the M.A.C.S.; and 12 who are special students. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4.5 percent from other Wesleyan traditions. Eleven percent are Baptist, 10 percent are Anglican or Episcopal, 6 percent are Roman Catholic, 6 percent are Presbyterian, with the remaining 6 percent from other denominations or nondenominational churches.

In addition to the ongoing excellent academic and field education work done by students each year, several students had notable achievements. Griff Gatewood M.Div.'13 was awarded a fellowship by the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, one of only 14 seminarians selected for the award. Andrew Barnhill M.Div.'13 was selected by a Duke University campus committee to deliver the student speech at the university's 161st Commencement Ceremony in May, the first time a Divinity student has been selected for that honor. Two M.Div. students, Kayla Harward and Carmen

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Gonzalez-McKernie traveled to South Korea to represent the Divinity School at the World Council of Churches 10th Assembly.

Duke Divinity School does not view our work as only academic or “ivory tower.” Our departments, centers, initiatives, and programs continue to engage with the church and social and cultural issues. The important work of the Clergy Health Initiative will be extended, thanks to a \$5.74 million grant from The Duke Endowment. In August its research was published in the *Journal of Primary Prevention*. Findings include that the rate of depression among clergy is nearly double the national rate. Factors contributing to depression include job stress, sense of guilt about not doing enough, and social isolation. In response to these findings, the Clergy Health Initiative has introduced a theologically framed curriculum for United Methodist Churches. Pastor & Parish is designed to strengthen relations between clergy and congregations, and it provides a scriptural foundation for Staff-Parish Relations Committees to engage in constructive ways to promote health and unity for the church and pastor.

Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA) co-sponsored the Dean’s Songwriter Series with the Dean’s office. The series promotes an ongoing conversation about songwriting, performance, and music in relation to Christian faith. Guests included singer-songwriter Pierce Pettis and his daughter Grace Pettis, David Wilcox, and Carrie Newcomer. Events include lunch concerts and discussion with students and evening concerts open to the community. DITA also introduced an informal film study for Divinity School students, “Image & Word,” hosted by postdoctoral fellow Daniel Train. The study includes short lectures, film viewings, and group discussion in order to deepen imaginative and pastoral acumen.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity (LEADD) has launched a new website that describes its programs in denominational leadership and resources to strengthen institutional resources: <http://leadership.divinity.duke.edu>. The online journal *Faith & Leadership* continues to draw hundreds of thousands of readers. Greg Jones, senior strategist for LEADD and professor of theology, has been named to the leadership team for the Duke Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative, where he will serve as a senior strategist for education.

The Center for Reconciliation sponsored the fifth annual Summer Institute at Duke Divinity School, hosting nearly 145 Christian leaders involved in diverse reconciliation ministries around the world. Participants included representatives from World Vision International, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, and organizations in South Korea, Japan, Burundi, South Sudan, and Uganda. For the first time the Summer Institute featured a seminar on Muslim-Christian dialogue, led by Professor Ellen Davis and Duke’s Muslim chaplain, Abdullah Antepi.

The Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation (DYA) is expanding to a yearlong program that combines a week of summer residency at Duke University with a year of ongoing engagement and practice. The new format will allow high-school students to build on the intensive summer residency experience throughout the year with the support of the DYA community and a local mentor. The program includes lectures by Divinity School faculty, workshops, theological reading, online community forums, and a self-directed final project on Christian practice.

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The second phase began of Thriving Rural Communities, a partnership between Duke Divinity School, The Duke Endowment, and the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences to help divinity students, pastors, laity, districts, and conferences cultivate and strengthen Christian leadership and United Methodist congregations in rural North Carolina. Eight new partner churches are participating, and over the next five years approximately 70 Thriving Rural Communities Fellows will be serving in United Methodist Churches across North Carolina. Brad Thie has been named the director; he has previously served as pastor of United Methodist churches in Charlotte, Asheboro, and Newton, N.C.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by Dean Richard B. Hays

By Wendy J. Deichmann, President
January 2013

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

United is one of the fastest growing, accredited seminaries in North America. Why are Christian disciples and leaders signing up for our traditional and online programs? They are doing 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 underserved regions in North America and beyond. United's hybrid/online UMC FLEX Master of Divinity degree was designed specifically to meet the requirements of the UMC for ordination and it is accessible anywhere with good Internet service. Our hybrid/online UM Course of Study is expanding each semester, along with UM Certification offerings.

What's new at United? Three new professors joined our excellent team of faculty in 2012 and a search is underway for yet another. United and Aldersgate Renewal Ministries have developed a new partnership, and we have piloted a new certification program focused upon ministries with persons with disabilities. Each year, United's doctoral program adds new mentors and focus groups for advanced ministry study.

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.

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Enrollment at United continues to grow, and we invite you to call or visit soon!

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

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

Wendy J Deichmann, President

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The past year has brought many blessings, change and growth to Wesley Theological Seminary. We continue to focus our work on preparing our students for leading churches that go out into the world and moving people to live the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Here are a few of the newest developments at Wesley:

- The Rev. Dr. **Robert K. Martin** joined the seminary as Dean and Professor of Christian Formation and Leadership.
- The Rev. Dr. **F. Douglas Powe** joined Wesley as the James C. Logan Professor of Evangelism and Urban Ministry. He directs the Urban Ministry program and Course of Study. **Paul Kang-Kul Cho** is serving as assistant professor of Hebrew Bible. The Rev. Dr. **Doug Tzan** is now teaching Church History part-time and is mentor to United Methodist students.
- **Mike McCurry** (former press secretary in the Clinton presidency) has been named Distinguished Professor of Public Theology and co-director of the National Capital Semester for Seminarians. The Rev. Dr. **H. Beecher Hicks**, senior minister of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Largo, Maryland, will serve as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Homiletics. With support from Lilly Endowment Inc., the Rev. Dr. **James P. Wind** (former president of the Alban Institute) has joined the faculty as Visiting Distinguished Professor. He joins our faculty for three years to lead a research project studying large congregations and the leadership they and their pastors wield in church and society.
- Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded Wesley a grant to research and develop a program to strengthen United Methodist elders' and future elders' financial literacy and financial-management skills.
- The Lewis Center for Church Leadership celebrated ten years of offering resources to help congregations reach more people and fund their ministry. See www.Church-Leadership.com.
- Our Heal the Sick Initiative has graduated its inaugural classes for the Health Minister certificate and the Faith Community Nurse Certificate. The initiative is a unique program at Wesley to help congregations become involved in public health initiatives in their parish, part of our Center for the Missional Church.
- Lewis Center director the Rev. Dr. **Lovett Weems** and Wesley Board of Governors Chairman the Rev. **Tom Berlin** released the book *Overflow: Increase Worship Attendance & Bear More Fruit*.
- Completed construction of a new, LEED-certified residence hall.
- Now offers course auditing for \$100 per credit hour and CEUs for \$100 per unit.
- Five pastors from Beijing, China, joined us for the spring semester in a special program of study through the work of the Rev. Dr. **Kyunglim Shin Lee**, Vice President of International Relations.

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- Wesley was named to Faith3.org's list, Seminaries that Change the World. This list was announced in the Huffington Post on November 12, 2013. One of the several reasons for the attribute was Wesley's Center for the Missional Church, which is headquartered at Wesley Downtown, in the heart of Washington, D.C.

Please be in prayer for Wesley Theological Seminary. We cannot do our ministry alone, and your participation with us in the greater mission of God enhances us mightily. We are striving to provide you with the kinds of educational opportunities that will take your ministry to the next level. In turn, we depend upon your participation in and contribution to our ministry as well. *So, pray for us often, avail yourself of the school's offerings, give to Wesley, and identify and send us persons who are called and who have a high capacity for fruitful ministry.*

David McAllister-Wilson, President
www.WesleySeminary.edu

BOARD OF OUTDOOR AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

No report received.

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

No report received.

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The laity and clergy persons who make up the DAC Commission on Equitable Compensation takes seriously the charge put before them and are grateful for the opportunity to serve our Church as we serve on this Commission. Salary grant requests for 2013 came in under for the year and actual approved funding did not exceed our budget for the first time in many years. Mostly this was due to re-assignments of pastors in the July time frame and the Bishops Cabinet being pro-active in recognizing, matching and shifting personnel and finances to better meet the needs of both clergy and congregation.

Grant requests have increased the last few years from an average of \$3,000-\$5,000 to \$5,000-\$10,000 for this current year. With the help of many other conference agencies we have been able to provide much needed salary support to the churches that request them.

The CEC is blessed, confident and prepared to continue to support the ministry of local congregations and ensure that a Pastor in our Conference receives the minimum salary set forth in our guidelines.

Submitted by:
Rev. Mark E. Zender
Chairperson-DAC Commission on Equitable Compensation

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

We begin our report this year with the sad news of the death of Commission Chair Marilyn M. McNitt. She was diagnosed in February with acute myeloid leukemia, underwent three rounds of chemotherapy, achieved a temporary remission, and was preparing for a bone marrow transplant when the leukemia became active again. Additional chemotherapy and a total of 113 transfusions of red blood cells and platelets failed to stem the disease and she succumbed to it on October 22, 2013. She is survived by her husband Bill, daughters Sarah (Jason Sprague) and Rebecca and exchange student "daughter" Marie-Theres Niedermaier.

The Commission held three meetings during the year - one in February at Flushing United Methodist Church, one in May at Annual Conference, and one in September at the archives in the Adrian College library. Discussions covered a variety of topics, but a major activity this year was researching and presenting the Conference Cane award.

Since 1904 the Conference Cane has been held by the oldest ordained elder with at least 35 years of active service who currently lives within the Conference boundaries. Rev. Kostantin Wipp, who held the cane since 2005, died in 2012. Since there was no up-to-date list of elders who met all of the criteria for the award, archivist Rebecca McNitt conducted extensive research and presented her findings to the Commission. After much discussion of whether various candidates met the criteria, the Commission determined that the next cane holder should be Rev. Tex Rickard. They also decided that the cane was too valuable a historical artifact to be stored permanently in the homes of individual ministers. From this point forward the cane will be stored in the archives. It will be present at ceremonies honoring the award recipients, but the honorees will receive a framed award explaining the history of the cane rather than the cane itself.

Rev. Rickard received the Conference Cane award on October 26, 2013, but died on November 8. The research done earlier in the year allowed for a quick identification of his successor - Rev. Donald Crumm. He received the award on January 12, 2014.

Archivist Rebecca McNitt is still maintaining normal reference services, processing and describing archival collections, and creating exhibits for annual conference. Once again she has reduced the size of the processing backlog, even while new collections continue to arrive steadily.

The archives were open during Annual Conference from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on each day of the meeting. Several researchers made extended or repeat visits to examine a variety of projects and other individuals visited to donate materials to the archives.

A major disruption occurred in June when heavy rains led to flooding in the lower level of Shipman Library. None of the Conference's historical materials were damaged because the water stopped short of the lowest shelves, but we lost some archival supplies and the archivist could not work in the office area for several weeks due to clean-up and the replacement of the old carpeting with a tile floor.

In July, Commission member Linda Schram, archivist Rebecca McNitt, volunteer Bill McNitt, and General Commission on Archives and History member Diana Miller attended the North Central Jurisdictional Convocation on Archives and History in Canton, Ohio. Linda Schram also serves as chair of that body and presided over the meeting. While

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at the convocation, the delegates visited historical sites and churches, and attended lectures and business meetings. Rebecca McNitt presented a review of the activities of the Detroit Conference archives.

Acquisitions this year included records of the following churches:

- Lincoln Park: Dix
- Lincoln Park: First
- Marquette: Grace
- River Rouge: John Wesley

We have cut our processing backlog in half, but still have several large collections to complete. Recently processed collections include:

Churches

- Carleton
- Flint: Central
- Flint: Trinity
- Marquette: Grace
- Milan: Marble Memorial
- Wooden Shoe

Districts

- Detroit East
- Marquette
- Saginaw Bay
- Saginaw Bay United Methodist Women

Conference

- Conference Statistician's Records
- Michigan Area Episcopal Office

COMMITTEE ON MEMOIRS

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Memoirs to collect memoir information for the *Journal* when the death occurs of clergy, diaconal ministers, lay members of the previous annual conference, laypersons of the conference support staff and ministry team, dependent children of clergy members, missionaries related to the conference and others recommended by the Committee on Memoirs. This is accomplished by contacting family members through the use of the death notices published by the Detroit Annual Conference.

The committee also assists with the presentation at the *Memorial Service*. Whenever possible, families provide statements to be read during the service. If the family is unable to provide this, a statement is prepared by the committee with the assistance of their obituary and their local church. Families are invited to attend and asked to RSVP so that we may have a committee member greet them in the chapel prior to the service.

A program is published for the *Memorial Service* listing those who are being remembered. We also incorporated pictures, when they were available, in a Power Point presentation during the service as tributes were read.

At the 2013 Detroit Annual Conference *Memorial Service*, we honored 14 clergy, 7 spouses of clergy, and 3 laity:

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CLERGY

Rev. Paul L. Amstutz	February 5, 2013
Rev. James C. Braid	May 21, 2012
Rev. Shirley A. Cormicle	January 29, 2013
Rev. Dr. Kendall W. Cowing	February 4, 2013
Rev. Wayne C. Ferrigan	June 17, 2012
Rev. Dr. Donald E. Hall	December 18, 2012
Rev. Howard Higgins	July 11, 2012
Rev. Wayne D. Jensen	October 14, 2012
Rev. Frank R. Leineke	December 15, 2012
Rev. Richard L. Myers	June 24, 2012
Rev. Mary F. Neil	December 17, 2012
Rev. Chang E. Park	June 13, 2012
Rev. Nancy G. Sparks	March 4, 2013
Rev. Konstantin Wipp	August 3, 2012

CLERGY SPOUSE

Mrs. E. Marie Fenton	October 29, 2012
Mrs. Barbara Shipley	October 4, 2012
Mrs. Mary Stutte-Hocking	July 5, 2012
Mrs. Faye Thompson	January 10, 2013
Mrs. June D. Thornton	July 24, 2012
Mrs. Rosemary Townsend	September 3, 2012
Mr. Terry Wik	July 27, 2012

LAITY

Mrs. Ann Anselm	October 25, 2012
Ms. Patricia Donaldson	July 27, 2012
Mrs. April Thornton	July 23, 2012

As with so many things, this committee is a work in progress. The Memoirs Committee appreciates the Conference's patience and support as we continue shaping this ministry into the blessing intended for those families experiencing a great loss in their lives. It is a privilege to serve by helping our Detroit Conference remember and honor these loved ones who have passed on to glory.

Peace and blessings,
Mary A. Whitman
Chairperson

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY & INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

We are excited about the transition from the former General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concern to the new Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (OCUIR) under supervision of the Council of Bishops that has taken place throughout 2013. The OCUIR vision includes strengthening our United Methodist Christian witness and expanding our global ecumenical involvement with other denominations and faiths. While the mandates for ecumenical and interreligious relations remain the same, the approach to how we do this work is changing. Already, members of the Council of Bishops and various Conference CCUIC leaders have begun studying the chang-

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ing landscape of Christianity in the world to gain a greater understanding of our roles as ecumenical leaders of the church and the opportunities that exist across the denomination for enhancing Christian and interreligious unity.

Following the lead of the OCUIR, the Detroit Conference CCUIC promoted the annual January 18-25, 2014 Worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and will continue to promote the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-24, 2015 when Christians from around the world come together to pray for faith and devotion. We participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to remind ourselves that we belong to Christ, and that we are one family in Christ.

The Detroit Conference CCUIC promotes and encourages those persons with a passion for Christian unity and interreligious dialogue to participate at workshops and seminars such as the United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training (April 28, 2014, Albuquerque, NM) that offer sessions for discerning and growing ecumenical and interreligious ministries, and the National Workshop on Christian Unity which is in its 41st year of providing seminars to stimulate the exchange of ideas and experiences for Christian unity and celebrates the unity which already exists and searches for ways to overcome the divisions that remain, and local organizations that promote interreligious dialogue and activities, such as the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit that brings together visionary religious leaders to work toward a community that lives in harmony.

The Detroit Conference CCUIC looks forward to promoting Christian and interreligious unity throughout 2014, and invites any person with a passion for unity and working towards communities that live in harmony to contact any member of the CCUIC listed in the Detroit Conference Journal and become involved with CCUIC.

Leonard A. Clevenger, Chairperson

COMMISSION ON THE LAITY

The scriptural theme for 2013 Annual Conference is II Timothy 1: 3-14. We are inspired with confidence in his statement "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self discipline."(v.7) These words can be the motto of our faith and love in action as we minister to a world in need through our clergy and laity partnerships- lay leader and pastor, district lay leader and superintendent, and conference lay leader and Bishop.

Individually and collectively, the members of the Commission on the Laity strive to empower laity so they are better able to partner with clergy in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

2012 is a time of transition in the Commission on the Laity. We welcomed Bob Hampton, new Director of Lay Speaking (soon to be Servant) Ministries, Bonnie Potter, Crossroads District Lay Leader, and Kay Mowery, President of UMW. We said thank you to Mike Clark, Conference Lay Leader and Bonnie Lentz, Director of Lay Speaking Ministries, for their leadership, dedication, and outstanding service. We mourn the passing of Patricia Donaldson, UMW representative, and Jeff Murdock, Crossroads District Lay Leader. Their gifts and graces are missed.

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For our conference to be a vital organism, the role of the laity must be renewed and expanded. Our Methodist heritage includes active lay leadership in spreading scriptural and social holiness throughout the land. It is the responsibility of laity and clergy to meet, plan, and work together and use their spiritual gifts to love and serve God and neighbor. We can foster awareness of the ministry of the laity through their ministry in the home, workplace, community, and the world. Awareness can be accomplished by recognizing and celebrating laity through Laity Sunday observance – 2013 theme is Developing Effective Lay Leaders; Recognition of Lay Servants; bulletin board displays of ministry; and recognition of groups and individuals serving through mission and service projects.

At the 2013 Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, David Lowes Watson shared laity and clergy must live a balance in works of mercy and works of piety. If one only concentrates on works of compassion, one gets burned out; if one only concentrates on acts of justice, one becomes impractical; if one concentrates only on worship, it may be only once a week; if one only concentrates on acts of devotion, one becomes snobbish. I pray clergy and laity work together and live in balance as we serve our Lord in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As I begin as conference lay leader, I want to thank those who have been mentors to me in faith and practice in serving Christ and the United Methodist Church; many, but especially Wayne Middleton, Shirley Cook, Cathy Hazen, and Mike Clark.

Wayne Bank, Conference Lay Leader

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

PURPOSE: Challenge the local churches and agencies of the annual conference to a full, equitable participation of its racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the church through advocacy and by reviewing and monitoring the practices of the annual conferences to ensure racial inclusiveness.

Accomplishments for 2013 Commission on Religion and Race (CORR)

- a. Completed a Proposal to become a Mission and Ministry Project for 2014
- b. Participated in the North Central Jurisdiction CORR Annual Learning Event in East Ohio
- c. Participated in the Diversity Workshop, Mason MI
- d. In June 22, 2013, The Detroit BMCR and the Detroit Conference BMCR merged and became the Michigan Area BMCR (Black Methodist Church Renewal). The organization is a stand-alone Mission and Ministry Project for 2014.
- e. Officers were elected as follows:
 - i. Chair Rev. Hilda Harris, Detroit MI
 - ii. Vice Chair Loretta Lee, West MI
 - iii. Secretary Cecelia Tolliver
 - iv. Treasurer Sam Carter
 - v. Financial Secretary Simmie Proctor
 - vi. Membership Secretary DeLiza Lee
 - vii. Chaplain Rev. Neil Davis

Goal and events planned for 2014 and 2015

1. The General CORR is working on a ministry model for the new quadrennial; CORR is committed to interpret, adopt, and help implement pathways with the leadership team of the Detroit Annual Conference
2. Participate in Michigan area multi-agency team developing and executing a diversity-cultural competency workshop in the fall of 2014
3. CORR will support the annual conference pathways in the following areas:
 - a. New Places: Use and review MissionInsite demographic tools to evaluate racial and ethnic aspects in support of development of projects
 - b. Equip leaders: evaluate actions to identify and encourage young adults called into ministry
 - c. Mission engagement: work with the Conference Director of Mission and Justice Engagement and Leadership Recruitment to support new projects
4. In March of 2014, the General (National) meeting was held in St. Louis MO
5. Tentative scheduling for training for new MI Area BMCR is scheduled for May 2014, and its focus will be on advocacy

Ernestine Campbell,
Chair, Commission on Religion and Race

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The work of the Michigan Area Committee on the Episcopacy is defined by the Discipline. We meet four times a year with Bishop Kiesey and her clergy assistant, Rev. Dr. Bill Dobbs. Our main function is to support the bishop in the oversight of the Michigan Area. In addition the committee keeps the bishop advised concerning conditions within the area.

Our committee is blessed to work with Bishop Deb and Rev. Dobbs sharing experiences on how together we can work to fulfill the mission of the church, especially in the Michigan Area. We also acknowledge the work of their two assistants, Deana Nelson and Vicki Gibbs.

Bishop Kiesey's leadership is felt throughout our state, and we are grateful that we can work side by side with her to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Genie Bank, Chair, Michigan Area Committee on the Episcopacy

COMMITTEE ON ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRY

In early 90s Asian clergy (Korean and Chinese) of Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conference was formed, The Fellowship of Asian-American Caucus United Methodists in Michigan Area with the following five objectives in line with the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM), which is a recognized racial ethnic caucus in the United Methodist Church that currently holds ten-sub-ethnic causes composed of Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Formosan, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, South Asian, and Vietnamese.

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1. to pull Asian-American United Methodists together for mutual support and fellowship, fortified by affirmation of our cultural and ethnic uniqueness;
2. to articulate the concerns, interests and needs of the Asian-American United Methodists;
3. to advocate the causes of Asian-American before appropriate boards and agencies of the Conferences (Detroit and West Michigan);
4. to empower ourselves to do more effective and enriching ministries of reconciliation and to be a catalytic agent for the understanding and appreciation of racial cultural and ethnic diversities;

Since the Asian Caucus was first formed, there has been a growing concern among Asian American clergy, especially, among Korean American 1st generation clergy of the need of Asian American Voices at the conference level for effective disciple making ministries. Subsequently, in February, 2013, Asian Caucus agreed to become one of the Conference Committees. With the help of the conference leadership, Asian Caucus became the Committee on Asian American Ministry of both Detroit and West Michigan Conference at 2013 Detroit Annual Conference. (please find the vision and purpose of COAAM in the standing rules). And, this is our first annual report to the Conference 2014.

Our goal for the first half year in 2013 was around Pathway One combined with Pathway Two. While maintaining the current leadership strengthening and nurturing program, the Committee focused on how the committee could become an functional agent in creating new spaces for new faces for the existing/future Asian American 1st, 1.5, and 2nd generations in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We organized two fellowship and training retreats under a God-sized vision of Creating New Places for New faces. We developed a set of strategies to strengthen our fellowship together as the body of Christ during December retreats. Historically many participants in the Asian Caucus enjoy an after Christmas time together. This year we have added a second retreat designed as a space for new learning such as theology of Multicultural ministry and generations, young adult leadership, mission intern programs, the use of technology and social media in ministry with panel discussion following on how Asian-American clergy and ministries can be effective in fulfilling the Pathway One.

For the year 2014-15 our strategic goals are:

1. Pathway One: (i) to facilitate in creating spaces for the 2nd and the future immigrant generations. (ii) to continue demographic study on Asian American population by identifying geographic location, needs and classes of the population. Primary Focus, 2014: Vietnamese, and (iii) to coordinate in developing at least one new church.
2. Pathway Two: (i) to promote and provide resources for multicultural youth & youth camps, young adult retreats and conference, young adult internship, Nationwide 2nd Generation Call to ministry event, (ii) to engage in Intercultural competence learning event, (iii) to organize and provide leadership training events and resources, and (iv) to strengthen leadership and ministries of Asian American churches, Asian American candidates for ordained ministry, clergy, laity and their families.
3. Pathway Three: to be a vehicle in organizing an Asian American Mission engagement event at an existing mission site within or outside Michigan Area with a learning component.

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We are convinced that all the above will become reality with the help of the conference staff and their intellectual and technical abilities. With our faith in God, Almighty in Christ Jesus and supporting spirits of our conference staff, we are looking forward to the future Asian American Ministries with Detroit Annual Conference

Currently we are organizing two retreat events: one in September; another in December. Some of the above strategic plans and training event will happen in conjunction with the two retreats.

For His Glory,
Submitted by
Chong Won, Chair
Committee on Asian American Ministry

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES

In 2013, the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries continued to work on our three-year strategic plan. The three strategic directions that are outlined in this plan are:

1. Strengthening Leaders and Congregations
2. Strengthening Community Empowerment
3. Strengthening Cultural Connectional Relationships

There has been great movement forward in each of these areas. For example,

Strengthening Leaders and Congregations

In 2013, we continued offering workshops and presentations through the Sowing Seeds Academy (Academia Sembrando Semillas), which is an academy for the development of Hispanic/Latino ministries.

The following workshops and presentations were offered in 2013:

- Spanish Language Classes for Clergy and Lay Leaders
- How Immigration affects families
- Bilingual Worship Workshop

In 2013, we also partnered with the New Church Development Committee and General Board of Discipleship **Path One** to coordinate training in Spanish for the Lay Missionary Planting Network. This training is made up of ten sessions such as Church Planting 101, UMC 101, Wesley, Reading Your Community, Teaching and Preaching, Pastoral Care, Leadership, Stewardship.

We are also very excited to report the transformation of the El Buen Pastor United Methodist Church, which has been revitalized under the leadership of Rev. Patricia Gandarilla. The church is developing new leaders and ministries. The church is also supporting the development of new faith communities including Revive Faith Community in Detroit and a bible study in Lincoln Park.

Strengthen Community Empowerment

In 2013, we continued to support Justice for Our Neighbors-Southeastern Michigan (JFON-SEMI) and partnered with them in offering presentations. The Conference Com-

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mittee also supported JFON-SEMI through the Immigrant Welcoming Congregations program and developing a regular visitation opportunity at the detention center in Monroe.

Strengthen Cultural Connectional Relationships

A big step forward that we would like to celebrate is the transition of the Hispanic/Latino Missionary into the Michigan Area Conference Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministries. This transition shows great progress and intentionality by both conferences to develop Hispanic/Latino Ministries.

We are also excited about the Hispanic/Latino leadership that has emerged at the various levels of the conference, at the local church level, the district level, and the conference level. There is more participation of Hispanic/Latino leaders in committees and task forces at these different levels.

COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY (CONAM)

Our first meeting of the year was held in conjunction with the Indian Workers Conference of the West Michigan Conference, Bishop Deb Kiesey and members of her cabinets. We met at Mt Pleasant Chippewa Church, and were the guests of the congregation, who provided us with a delicious dinner before our meeting.

Owen White Pigeon, pastor of Chippewa United Methodist Church, presented the Bishop with a blanket, in gratitude for her openness, interest and concern for the Native Americans in our area. He prayed that the blanket would surround her with love, healing, strength and wisdom.

Three main concerns we discussed during that meeting were:

- Concern with finding local Native Americans to pastor our churches
- Concern with training Native Americans to be church leaders
- Concern with teaching Native Americans and others NA history and traditions

Greensky Hill, Northport, and Salem were all planning to hold Camp Meetings during the summer of 2013. In the past, several Indian churches would hold these weekend long meetings, especially for families and youth, where there would be picnicking, singing, Bible stories, praying and outdoor activities. There would be one each weekend of the summer, and families could go from one to the next. Now there aren't so many, but all of us were encouraged to hear about the camp meetings that are being planned. This is one way to help develop and deepen the faith of our Native youth.

The importance of speaking to Native Americans with stories and language they can understand was stressed. That approach has led to the success of the Native American Lay Speakers class, held in Oscoda a couple years ago. (And hopefully renewed in 2014.)

Bishop Deb thanked everyone for coming and sharing their deep faith. She was happy to learn of the youth events, and encouraged the sponsors to share the information with her office, so they could publicize it for the whole area. She reminded us that even when she can't be at our meetings, the contents of the meetings are shared with her. She has a great heart for Indian ministries, and we appreciate her loving support.

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On May 17, we held our regular meeting in Adrian during Annual Conference. During that meeting we heard reports from Zeba Indian Mission and Oscoda Indian Mission. It was reiterated that Saganing Indian Mission had closed.

In new business, we heard from Carmen Misner that documentation from 1999-2009 has been turned into archives. This includes minutes of meetings, packets, and journal reports. The archives are here in the basement of the Adrian College Library. We thank Carmen for her hard work in this area. We also learned that Dorothy Reuter passed – she was an advocate. She wrote a book about Native American Missions in Michigan. Marcel Lamb offered that a book — “On This Spirit Walk” – is a study guide helpful for those of us who weren’t raised Native. It was written by Anita Phillips and Henrietta Mann. (Note – some of us on the committee have now read this book, and it has been enormously helpful to us – both personally and as a committee – as we have continued our work in Native American Ministries.)

On September 14, 2013, we held our regular fall meeting at the Conference Office in Flint. And that’s when things started happening!

Saginaw Bay DS Jeff Maxwell had been in contact with our chair, Amy Alberts, about a special meeting that he and Bill Dobbs (Assistant to the Bishop) planned for Monday, September 23, 2013 in Saginaw at Jeff’s office. They wanted to discuss what to do with the building at Saganing. They invited Amy and any CONAM members available to come to the meeting and give their input.

Rev Marcel Lamb spoke up and said that he’d been thinking about the building, and thought we might want to keep it and turn it into a learning center. We brainstormed throughout the rest of the afternoon, and came up with so many things we would like to see happen there. Lay speaking classes, Chippewa language classes, retreats for non-Native pastors who serve Native churches, and displays honoring the history and traditions of the tribe were just a few of the possibilities. Other ideas since that meeting include the possibility of having a Free Store, and having a way for the mission to be a place where community members could meet and develop relationships informally.

In other business, we decided to hold four business meetings per year, and hold some of them at our Indian churches. We decided that the meeting at annual conference be a “meet and greet,” rather than a business meeting.

Our next meeting would be held at Saganing, where we could all take a look at the facility and determine which of our dreams might come true in that building!

On November 8, we did come together at Saganing. By then, we had requested a VIM crew to help with building repairs. Rodney Gasaway and his crew from Livonia Newburgh UMC had responded to our request, and they came up for the weekend of work. Members of the former Saganing Indian Mission and the Oscoda Indian Mission stopped by and dropped off enough food for an army for us for the weekend. We made friends and had conversations with many people from the area. They all were happy that we were there, taking care of the building, and preparing for a new kind of mission there. Of course there were questions about whether we were going to start a new church, or re-open the church that had been there. We had to answer that it was not our plan – which previous efforts there had met with no support.

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The weekend was rewarding not only for personal relationships being built, but for all the work that got done. The leaky roof was fixed, the unsafe stairway was rebuilt, the leaky steeple got a temporary fix, and the inside got a thorough cleaning! We were helped with the cleaning by some local families, also. Since then, Dave Smith and a crew of painters from South Lyon UMC went up and started repainting the fellowship hall. That project will be completed early in 2014.

We are very excited to think about the future. Zeba Indian Mission has plans for a new fellowship hall. Oscoda Indian Mission has survived the very tragic death of their pastor's young son. As that community picks up the pieces and moves forward, we support them with our love and prayers. And finally, the future venture at Saganing has us excited to move forward.

We look forward to publishing more about Saganing and our other missions, in order to inform the conference about what's going on, and garner more support for all three of our missions.

If you would like, our committee members will come to your church, to help your congregation understand what Native American Ministries Sunday is all about here in the Detroit Annual Conference. In 2014 that Sunday will be May 4.

Kathy Smith
for CONAM

COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

No report received.

COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY CONCERNS

No report received.

CONFERENCE PROTECTION POLICY COMMITTEE

The Conference Protection Committee administrates and oversees the Detroit Conference Protection Policy for Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Persons. The committee works with various groups and events of the Detroit conference to ensure that proper protection for our members is in place. The committee also trains and certifies adults within the conference to work with children, youth, and vulnerable persons.

While the committee has not had any major changes to the policy or training this past year, we have had discussions on how to improve our overall purpose. The committee is now encouraging all local churches to create their own policy and training to best suit their local situation as to the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults. This committee will help in any way we are able to assist local churches in doing this.

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The committee remains dedicated to making our Conference a safe place for all to engage in ministry to all people. In the coming year we hope to explore additional ways to assist us in our endeavor to reach out to all who will benefit from our function.

This vital ministry is only possible due to the dedicated members of the Conference Protection Committee, the support of our conference staff, our trainers, and the many local church volunteers who are committed to our District and Conference level ministries. We say a big Thank You!

Marguerite Zawislak, Co-Chair, Detroit Conference Protection Committee
Barbara Benjamin, Co-Chair, Detroit Conference Protection Committee

MICHIGAN AREA REPORTER

No report received.

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