

H. REPORTS AND ACTIONS

OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Rev. David Valera

Executive Director of Connectional Ministries

Enhancing our Disciple Making Systems and **Mission Field Engagement** are the two vision foci that the PNW Conference has named as its primary goals. Connecting and aligning the conference to these vision goals serve as the key functions of the Office of Connectional Ministries.

By collaboratively working with numerous Boards and Agencies, the Episcopal Area Office, District Superintendents, Local churches and Faith Communities, the OCM seeks to continue in strengthening the connection by providing numerous channels of logistical and human resourcing, coordination and communication. These are all in keeping with our denominational vision “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Driven by the two areas of vision focus, the Office of Connectional Ministries seeks to constantly “learn with”, provide training and resources to local churches, faith communities and members of the conference, who in turn are called to serve the greater mission field. The work of our staff brings Leadership Development, Congregational Development, Mission and Compassion, New Faith Community Development and Communications as primary functions of the office.

As our mission field continues to evolve and change, every OCM staff person is driven by a high sensitivity to understand “what is going on” in the mission field. We put a high value to understand the unique needs of each ministry setting, being full ware that there is no “one size fits all” in ministry. Being aware that the office seeks to be IN MINISTRY WITH every United Methodist and Ministry setting.

Connecting is what makes us United Methodists. We connect and we are connected. We discover one another and ourselves and in the process, we find God. We come to recognize that we are all the children of God and that the table is never too small to invite others.

“Leaders focus on doing the right things and managers focus on doing things right. You need both in an organization, even though people often have leanings one way or the other.”

Ed Friedrich, former CEO of Gensler Architects

The Office of Connectional Ministries is the resource that allows the Annual Conference to have Leaders who focus on doing the right things, and managers who focus on doing things right.

Living out our faith. One of the most significant events we had at the 2013 Session of the Annual Conference was to have the “Change the World” event. This was intentional two-hour block, dedicated by members of the Annual Conference to engage the host community of Wenatchee. In coordination with several church organizations and partner agencies, each conference member had an opportunity to ACT in accordance to their call to ministry. Both Lay and Clergy participated in these events, and also were encouraged to consider hosting or leading similar events in their local faith communities.

Here are the events and the agency partners.

- Quilted Baby Blanket Distribution United Methodist Women
- Letter writing to your Legislator Faith Action Network
- Putting together health kits UMCOR
- Community Gardening Creation Care Ministries
- Prayers/blessings for homes Habitat for Humanity
- Immigration Reform Rally Hispanic Ministries

Because the Office of Connectional Ministries deals with numerous events, trainings and projects, there are multiple ways by which the measurement of how effective it serves is done. The most common would be through the reviews given by the Boards and Agency to which OCM staff is made accountable. Because of its complex structure, the connectional nature of the office makes it a perfect place to read the pulse and health of the connection through the work of its agencies. Event evaluations are always a good source of feedback. Every significant OCM led or supported event is tasked with creating online evaluations. These evaluations are then collated, analyzed and passed on to the organizers for perusal and study, so that future events could be improved.

The root word in the name Office of Connectional Ministries is "connect." The OCM connects conference members for effective and faithful ministry. A good part of this fund provides resources for meetings, travel and training for most Boards and Agencies of the Conference. Beyond meetings and events, this fund also provides program resources and salaries for Conference staff tasked with providing support and leadership for the connection. This budget enables Conference-wide communications through the PNW website (www.pnwumc.org), News Digest, Channels and other publications. It also includes information management and implementing technology in ministry. Additionally, the Regional Media Center and duplication center handle the purchasing and lending of media resources to local churches on a daily basis.

Since discipleship happens primarily at the local church level, a significant amount of time and financial resources are dedicated by the staff of the Office of Connectional Ministries to "bridge the gap" between the various levels of church structure; moving the church from a traditional hierarchical structure to one that is more collaborative, while equipping and supporting local churches in their mission.

The most detailed, time consuming yet critical work of the Office of Connectional Ministries is planning and implementing the many facets of each year's Annual Conference Session and ensuring that the decisions made are followed up and implemented.

The logistics alone of preparing and hosting an Annual Conference Session is extensive. Included is the development and publication of the pre-conference handbook, registration of hundreds of participants, and maintaining open lines of communication with leaders & planners of conference sessions. There is also significant follow-up work that is done to prepare the official Conference Journal. This highly sought-after publication includes printed and digital summaries of the daily sessions, reports, data and the appointments of clergy. Given the size of our church structure and diversity of its employees and members, connecting and coordinating the work among the various levels is what the OCM does best.

The Office of Connectional Ministries has 12 employees:

- Executive Director of Connectional Ministries
- Director of Leadership Development for an Inclusive Church
- Director of Faith Community Development
- Director of Communications, Ministries with Young People
- Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- Office Manager/Administrative Assistant for Connectional Ministries
- Program Assistant for Leadership/ Congregational Development
- Program Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- Program Assistant for Camping Ministries
- Print and Publications Manager
- Regional Media Center Manager
- Media Center Assistant

The Office of Connectional Ministries also shares resources and collaborates closely with:

- Executive Director, Camping and Retreat Ministries (Camping Board of Stewards)

Most of the events and programs that the Office of Connectional Ministries leads or is significantly involved with, offer an evaluation or feedback system either printed or online. Many improvements to events have been a result of collating data and information shared from such surveys and evaluation forms. The OCM seriously considers every reasonable suggestion or comment that participants share. For 2014, we hope to offer a more robust online feedback and evaluation system that should continue to help us deliver better trainings, events and programs.

Local Churches are our primary “clients”. With a steady stream of relevant trainings for local church leaders, from we hope to offer better and more advanced disciple making tools and strategies for 2014. By that time, we dream of encouraging more individuals and affinity groups to “live out” multiple levels of disciple making systems. Our goal is to more United Methodists in the Pacific Northwest connect and minister to their communities, not only to those whom they share affinity with, but most especially to those whom society has marginalized.

Keeping these goals in mind help us seek opportunities for collaborative work with local churches in supporting our denominational focus of “creating new faith communities” and “enhancing disciple making systems”. We believe that 2014 and 2015 will be an opportune time for our churches to open their doors and launch themselves towards their communities. For ministry is not just opening doors, so we could invite people to come inside our buildings, but is in mobilizing ourselves out of our comfort zones and into the mission field.

Here are the individual reports from our OCM Executives:

Rev. Curtis Brown

Director of Faith Community Development

As Director of Faith Community Development, my position includes two focus areas: (1) initiating and collaborating for the development of new faith communities and (2) working with existing congregations’ lay and clergy leaders to strengthen the vitality and impact of all of our PNWUMC faith communities.

Focus Area (1): New Faith Community Development

Our ministries of New Faith Community Development are keyed to the development of new disciples of Jesus Christ and equipping our new faith communities for world-transforming action. Through our new faith communities, new people are beginning a new journey of discipleship, new disciples are growing in their faith and understanding, and new leaders are launching new ministries of justice, mercy, and transformation.

Our work with new faith communities is divided into three areas:

A. Direct funding, resourcing, and reviewing our New Faith Communities

At the end of 2013, we have sixteen new faith communities receiving direct financial support or resourcing from the New Faith Community Development budget. These are:

1. El Dios Viviente in Seattle WA
2. La Palabra Viviente in Everett WA
3. First UMC of Canada in Vancouver BC
4. Sky Prairie UMC in Post Falls ID
5. Good Seed Church in Federal Way WA
6. Valley & Mountain Fellowship in Columbia City WA
7. The Crossing UMC in Vancouver WA
8. God’s New Generation/Nueva Generacion de Dios UMC in Pasco WA
9. Evergreen UMC new congregation of Lacey St. Andrew’s UMC
10. Hispanic Congregation of Wenatchee First UMC

11. Young Adult Ministry at Olympia First UMC
12. New Faith Community at Tacoma First UMC
13. Peace German-Speaking UMC at Seattle First UMC
14. Seattle Vietnamese Fellowship at Seattle Beacon UMC
15. Academy of Missional Wisdom Cohort
16. Oak Tree Ministry at Spokane St. Paul's UMC

Each of these faith communities represents dozens of new Christians who are growing in discipleship to Jesus Christ through the United Methodist Church. Each of these new communities is innovating and developing new ways of ministry to reach people in their mission field and powerful new practices of engaging their communities. My office partners with their District Superintendents to provide accountable growth goals and benchmarks for each project. Some of our older projects haven't had this accountability, but we moved in 2012 to ensure a common standard of accountability for each project. Because accountability without resourcing is cruel, we also provide funding for ongoing coaching, training, and connecting of our new faith community leaders.

Starting in 2012 we began implementing a new partnership funding pattern for our new faith communities. In this pattern, we use our Board of Congregational Development funds to leverage additional funding from partners. For our four 2013 plants, the BOCD leveraged its own funding commitments of \$191,451 (35%) to release \$349,726 (65%) from our local church and district planting partners. We expect to continue this strategy for our next plants.

B. Resourcing and equipping our PNWUMC leaders to develop plans for New Faith Communities

Good plans are important for good plants. In collaboration with District and Conference leaders, we are working to develop plans for the next generation of new faith communities in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to providing planning resources, such as demographic analysis and mapping data, I also directly coach passionate leaders in helping make their dreams of new faith communities into realities. This often requires a significant investment of time and training resources. Additionally, we are constantly encouraging our existing churches to partner with new faith communities in order to closely learn new methods of reaching new people in our region. This year we continued to refine our PNWUMC Planting Process Guide, which describes our processes and practices of launching a new faith community from vision to reality. Our Planting Guide also provides a framework and collection of planting methodologies that describe the various partnering and launch strategies.

We hosted or resourced three major events in 2013 to support developing good plans for our New Faith Communities:

1. **United Methodist School of Congregational Development – Aug 15-18, Denver CO**
This is a national event that was held in and resourced by the Western Jurisdiction. We had a fairly large groups of PNW participants, including five new faith community planters.
2. **Trailhead: New Church Leadership Training – Nov 13-16, Oakland CA**
This event is designed to introduce potential planters and other leaders to the basics of starting a new faith community. Six PNW clergy and lay leaders participated in the training. The NCLI experience continues to be an important part of how we assist potential planters to discern their calling and capacity for starting a new faith community.
3. **LaunchPad West New Faith Community Planting Training – Sep 15-18, Boise ID**
LaunchPad is an upgrade to the traditional "Church Planter's Bootcamp" experience. It is designed to equip teams from new faith communities in developing a context-specific plan for

getting their new congregation started. Paul Nixon from the Path1 New Church Office of the UMC led this event. This planning and consulting time has been greatly beneficial in providing the best possible launch plan for each of our new starts.

C. Recruiting, training, and assessing potential New Faith Community planters

New faith communities are not started by committees or boards. They are started by lay and clergy leaders responding to God's call to do something new for Christ. New faith community planters can come from many different places with many different backgrounds, but we have discovered some key indicators of their potential success. Using these indicators, we are looking to recruit lay and clergy leaders who might be potential planters, give them some training and information to better equip their discernment to this peculiar calling, and assess their gifts and calling for new faith community planting. We have a team of seven leaders who have been trained to help potential planters assess their gifts and discern their calling. This team provides reports to assist the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet in identifying potential clergy leaders for our new faith communities. In 2013, our Assessment Team conducted six interviews for potential planters. This team includes:

- Pat Simpson
- Daniel Foster
- Mary Huycke
- Mark Galang
- Eleazar Rivera-Garcia
- Wendy Riddle
- Curtis Brown

In addition to this work, my office holds our new faith community development to a high standard of effectiveness. We primarily look at two factors to measure the effectiveness of our new faith community development efforts:

1. How many new faith communities are we launching?

In 2013, we launched four projects and new faith communities. We are planning to launch an additional four new faith communities in 2014, and four more each subsequent year of the next three quadrennium for a total of 48 new faith communities in twelve years. In addition, we have built a tracking system to mark progress on the development of potential new faith community projects that are still emerging. In 2013 we tracked projects in these stages of development:

- 1) **Visioning: 2 Projects** - a time of dreaming with leaders to imagine a future new faith community, connect with resources, and initiate a time do discernment.
- 2) **Discerning: 2 Projects** - a time of intentional learning about new faith communities and seeking God's guidance and calling to this task
- 3) **Planning: 5 Projects** - an intensive time of study and planning to develop a contextually engaging plan for a new faith community. For mis-plants, this can be a return to "re-planning."
- 4) **Partnering: 2 Projects** - a time of seeking confirmation, approval, and investment from supervising and partnering groups. This time usually ends with approval of a plan and appointment of leaders by the District Superintendent, Bishop, and Cabinet.
- 5) **Preparing: 5 Projects** - a time of gathering a Launch Team or Core Group and refining a plan to meet realities in the mission field.
- 6) **Launching: 7 Projects** - a time of rapid growth and development of ministry systems. This time usually ends with the meeting of Launch Plan goals, formalizing into a Charge Conference if appropriate, and a decrease of growth below 10% annually. Some faith

communities will not slow their growth and will move directly from launch to multiplication.

- 7) **Growing: 4 Projects** - a time of slower but stable growth and normalization of relationship and support from Conference.
- 8) **Multiplying: 0 Projects** - a time of reproduction of new cells, satellites, congregations, and new faith communities.

2. How are the new faith communities growing disciples and initiating world-transforming ministries?

We have a high standard of accountability for new faith communities in our Conference. For our sixteen planting projects, we require quarterly reporting, goal setting, and benchmarking. I work closely with the leaders and coaches of these new faith communities to ensure that they are working toward their goals.

In addition to narrative responses, detailed strategic planning and updated financial reports, some of the metrics included in our Quarterly New Faith Community Benchmarks are the numbers of:

- One-on-one community contacts by planter and team
- Adults on all contact lists
- Adults committed as Core Group Members or Launch Team
- People in Celebration Gatherings (worship services)
- People participating in outreach, justice or service projects
- People participating in ongoing small groups, classes or discipleship programs
- Monthly financial support, gifts and tithes given by participants

Beyond their quarterly goals and longer-range launch plans, our new faith communities are committed to a culture of innovation and experimentation. They are constantly trying new ways to reach new people. Sometimes these experiments succeed and sometimes they do not. We encourage risk-taking in planning and robust systems of evaluation in order to learn as much as possible about how to form faith communities in the changing spiritual environment of the Pacific Northwest.

As part of a larger plan within the Western Jurisdiction, we have set a challenging, but achievable, goal of launching 48 new faith communities in the Pacific Northwest by 2024. In 2013, we launched four. In 2014, we have already identified three new launches and fully expect to see 1 or 2 additional projects. In 2015, we anticipate continuing on this pace, with four additional new faith community projects, including several Hispanic/Latino new faith communities. Each of these new faith communities will be focused on effectively engaging its mission field and inviting people into a journey of discipleship with Jesus Christ.

Although our sixteen new faith communities are each located in a specific geography, they represent a larger benefit with Conference-wide application, especially for our established churches that choose to partner with or work closely with a new faith community.

- New faith communities are the “research and development” arm of the church, where we intentionally experiment with new ways of being church that creatively adapt to meet the changing dynamics of our mission field. Partnering with a new faith community gives a congregation direct access to what we’re learning through our new faith communities.
- New faith communities operate at a different pace than established congregations. Because they are new, they make decisions and changes more quickly. Partnering with a new faith community can help pick up the pace of an established church as it watches and is affected by a more rapid ministry partner. The change of pace can help an established church more quickly implement adaptive changes to engage its own mission field.
- New faith communities are constantly raising and training new leaders. A great way to learn about leadership development is to have some of the leaders of an existing church volunteer within a new

faith community's ministry. They will experience first-hand a new pattern of raising and training new leaders.

- New faith communities focus on contextualized evangelism within their mission field. Because they are constantly reaching new people, new faith communities often have an excellent understanding of what is actually connecting with people within their mission field. All of our congregations can learn from their accumulated experiences and practices.
- New faith communities are a blessing. As new faith communities bless their participants and communities with life-altering, world-changing ministry, they give their partners and our entire PNWUMC Conference the chance to be a part of sharing God's blessings with others.

In addition to my Conference work, I am also directly involved in helping to launch a new faith community. My wife, Rev. Meredith Manning Brown, is working with Rev. Melissa Ramming to develop a new satellite congregation out of St. Andrew's UMC in Lacey WA. Each week, we host the ministry planning team and small groups in our living room. As the planting pastor's husband, my role is primarily supportive and custodial (as in cleaning the house), but I deeply enjoy participating in this first-hand effort to build a new faith community that is making new disciples and discovering new world-changing ministries. Under Meredith's leadership, we worship, share, pray, sing, and study together. I watch and cheer as new vistas of knowledge and devotion are opened in the lives of the people participating. This year has brought new people into brand-new relationships with Christ and has seen long-time church-goers reignite the fires of their faith by envisioning a new faith community.

Focus Area (2): Established Faith Community Development

My work in resourcing our existing and established faith communities has been in five areas:

1. Offering Training Workshops

I am always excited to offer training workshops for church leaders. In 2013, I lead 20 workshops, training sessions, retreats, or other event where I produced and provided the content.

These workshops were attended by lay and clergy leaders from throughout the PNW Conference, and I have seen many leaders using the tools or information provided to strengthen their local congregations. Some workshops included:

- Seattle-Tacoma District Lay Speakers' Training
- Puget Sound District Training Day
- Vancouver District Natural Church Development Orientation Event
- Seattle-Tacoma District Training Day
- Tacoma District MissionInsite Demographic Orientation
- Seven Rivers District Training Day & Party
- Clergy Transitions Workshop
- Gathering of Orders Workshop
- Tacoma District United Methodist Men Gathering
- North Kitsap Cluster Training Event
- Puget Sound North Subdistrict Training Day

2. Direct Consultations

In addition to more generalized trainings, I have conducted direct consultations with 25 different local church lay and clergy leaders in the Pacific Northwest UMC. These consultations have been with small and large churches, urban and rural communities, East and Westside, progressive and conservative leaders, and thriving and struggling congregations. Typically, we discuss specific plans that a congregation may be developing, refine those plans, identify additional resources or ideas to strengthen those plans, and identify next steps toward successful implementation. Some examples include:

- Issaquah: Faith UMC – worked with church leaders on several occasions to refine and focus their mission & vision discernment process
- Richland: Central United Protestant Church – worked with church leaders on several occasions to help develop a more simplified governance structure
- Methow Valley UMC – met with leaders to discuss strategies for congregational development
- Seattle: Grace UMC – met with leaders to discuss strategies of engaging changing mission field and ministries
- Longview UMC – met with leaders to discuss opportunities for renewed engagement of mission field and ministry strategies

I have also been engaged in several longer consultative processes, in which we have relied on additional coaches and resource people. These include:

- Vital Merger process in Tacoma and North Seattle:
In cooperation with their District Superintendents, we have brought in Dirk Eliot to lead an extended conversation with a group of churches in Tacoma and another group in North Seattle. These churches are considering working together in different ways through a “vital merger” that would combine and relaunch their ministry in their community. This is an ongoing process, and I look forward to promising results in 2014 and early 2015.
- Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity:
Along with other leaders through the Tuell Center, I have been trained and working as a stewardship and generosity coach. I have been working directly with two congregations as they seek to implement a fuller strategy for encouraging financial generosity.

3. Developing Resources for Local Churches

Through my workshops and consultations, I have developed a small set of standard resources for local church leaders. These are quick handouts and self-coaching guides that our churches can use on their own. If you are interested in these resources, please contact me (cbrown@pnwumc.org). Some resources currently available include:

- Engaging the Mission Field: Rethinking church to reach our communities
- Growing Disciples: Building an intentional disciple making systems
- Introduction to Evangelism in Churches
- Leading Change to Rethink Church
- What are the demographics of your mission field?
- Worship Life Evaluation Tool & Survey
- How to Start a New Worship Service
- Congregational Discernment Process
- Congregational Welcome Checklist

An additional resource available to all of our churches is our MissionInsite online demographics service. Any PNWUMC church leader may access these powerful tools for mission field analysis through our web site: www.pnwumc.org/missioninsite. My office manages our contract and makes all of these resources available without direct cost all of our local churches.

4. Developing Beta Local Church Vitality Process

Over the past year, my office has been directly involved in helping to experiment, collaborate, and develop a PNW-specific process for helping local churches grow in vitality. With the help of the Tuell Center team and under Gail Grossman’s leadership, we’re piloting the Beta Local Church Vitality Process with twelve PNWUMC churches. Participating churches include:

- Couer d’Alene: Community UMC
- Spokane: Audubon Park UMC

- Mill Creek: Cedar Cross UMC
- Oak Harbor UMC
- Bellevue: First UMC
- Seattle: Beacon UMC
- Kennewick: First UMC
- Walla Walla: Pioneer UMC
- Belfair: North Mason UMC
- Gig Harbor UMC
- Centralia UMC
- White Salmon UMC

A key part of the Beta Local Church Vitality Process has been the development of Learning Modules that churches and their coaches use to develop short-term, quick wins for the participating churches.

These Learning Modules are developed, written, filmed, and produced to fit the expressed learning needs of the churches that use them. Every PNWUMC church can access and use these Learning Modules through the website: www.ChurchVitalityProcess.org. This site contains all the information about the Beta Process, all of the developed Learning Modules, and information on how to use them in your church. In order to access the Learning Modules, you'll need the password: "beta".

5. Building Conference Systems to Support Local Churches

Beyond the direct training, consultations and resources, my office has been hard at work in 2013 in helping to build more robust and useful systems to support the vitality of local congregations. This work has mostly involved three foci:

1. **Launching the Bishop Jack & Majorie Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence**
The Tuell Center is envisioned as the heart of our PNW Conference's efforts to strengthen lay and clergy leaders in our local churches. Through training, coaching, and consultations, the Tuell Center will assist leaders in improving the vitality of their churches and help leaders dream up new ways of being church that fully engage our quickly evolving postmodern mission field. Under Bishop Hagiya's leadership, I have been working hard with the Tuell Center team to build the Center's infrastructure, offer pilot programs in Transforming Ministry and Coaching Training, and to mobilize resources for future work.
2. **Alignment of Conference Resources**
Our PNW Conference has many resources, leaders, committees and teams interested in helping our lay and clergy leadership grow more vital congregations. However, these resources do not always agree or align their efforts together. My office is a significant node of communication and vision between many different parts of our Conference, helping to connect the dots between our diverse efforts. Large organizations, like Conferences, don't produce deep change by having everyone follow a single leader or initiative, like sheep after a shepherd. Instead, they produce deep change through dozens of small initiatives that emerge naturally and move the organization in a similar direction, like a marching band turning a corner by everyone turning at once. As more and more of our existing resources independently align their own efforts toward a common goal, we see greater and deeper change.
3. **We See A New Church Ministry Fund Drive**
Our "We See a New Church" Ministry Fund Drive is an essential part of our dreams for a new future for United Methodism in the Pacific Northwest. Without these funds, our hopes and plans for new and established churches will not come to fruition. Through my conversations with people about this Drive, I keep having these amazing moments of sharing about our

visions for what our churches can be in the future. Our leaders have great ideas, and many of them are committed to working hard at helping our churches become engaging and relevant. These conversations fill me with hope for our work of making disciples and transforming the world.

1. Exploring Options for Churches in Trouble

Beyond developing our systems for starting new faith communities and strengthening existing congregations, I believe that we will need to create a new system for partnering with churches in trouble. Churches are troubled by many things, but I most often hear of churches in crisis due to insufficient leadership, financial resources, facility problems, or spiritual strength for ministry. Currently, we handle resourcing these churches through our District Superintendents direct intervention. If we see an increase in the number of troubled churches, our Superintendents will not be able to manage that many churches, and some will slip through the cracks. I'm beginning to believe that we will need a new system to help churches in trouble out of their troubles through stabilization, revitalization, vital merger, or discontinuance and resurrection. Over the next year, I'm hoping to initiate several conversations to begin development of a more intentional system in the PNWUMC.

2. Dramatically Changed Mission Fields

Many of our churches find that they have become quite alien to the people living in their communities and mission fields. Slow congregational evolution won't be enough to reach the new people our churches are trying to serve. Many of our churches require large, quick, and dramatic transformation of their ministries. This kind of change challenges our organizational culture of stability and gradual adjustment. Sometimes this has resulted in church leaders' denial of the real conditions of a church's finances, facility, discipleship, or impact on their community. Few churches have the resources for a decades-long strategy for re-engagement of their mission field so many need to make immediate changes to increase their fruitfulness. This takes courage and risk-taking among lay and clergy leaders.

3. Change in Financial Models

Rising costs for facilities and staff have crept up on many churches. These costs have increased at greater than the average rate of inflation for decades, while average church giving has increased at less than the rate of inflation. In many communities, it may take two or three times as many people to financially support the same pastoral hours and facility as it did only two decades ago. This means that many churches, even if they have experienced some increased giving and participation, cannot afford the same staffing and facilities of previous decades. Churches have often adjusted to these changed economics by decreasing lay and clergy staff expenses or by using accumulated funds and endowments, but many are now stretched to the point where they must consider more foundational changes. We need different financial models to support our ministries. This will require experimentation and repurposing of assets by local churches.

4. Spiritual Health of Leaders

I find the spiritual health of many of our lay and clergy leaders to be stretched and thin. Often they tell me that they are tired, bored, or spiritually distant from God. I too frequently visit churches that are "functionally atheistic" and making decisions without active discernment of God's inspiration. In most of these churches, the lay and clergy leaders tell me that they are not engaged in regular communal or personal spiritual practices. I cannot conceive of a renewal of our churches without a revival of the spiritual health of our lay and clergy leaders. This is often the first step in many of revitalization efforts and consultations that I lead; however, it is also very difficult to make much of a difference on spiritual health as an outsider to the congregation. If we can focus ourselves, as conference and local church leaders, on helping support and strengthen the spiritual vitality of our lay and clergy leaders, I am convinced that greater congregational and denominational vitality will emerge organically.

WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL? WHERE AND WHAT SETTINGS?**1. Encouraging Risk-Taking Leaders**

We are doing a good job of encouraging risk-taking among our lay and clergy leaders. With the leadership of Bishop Hagiya and the Cabinet, our church leaders are repeatedly being given support and permission to try new ideas, to take risks, and to learn from failures. This is a culture-change for our denomination and, of course, it has its bumps and stalls. In general, however, we are doing well with encouraging risk-taking leaders. A good example would be at Lake Washington UMC in Kirkland. With the leadership of their pastor, Rev. Kelly Dahlman-Oeth, the congregation took a risk to partner with a homeless encampment that needed a place to reside. This risk has born tremendous fruit in new relationships, new opportunities for service, and new reputation in the broader community.

2. Transitioning Churches to Changed Mission Fields

Although we still have much work to do, we are making progress on transitioning churches to re-engage changed mission fields. A good example is the work of Eli Martinez, Sarahi Martinez, Derel Olsen, Lyda Pierce, and the people of Toppenish UMC. The community of Toppenish is now majority Hispanic while our established church is mostly Anglo. Over the past year, the leaders of Toppenish UMC have been crafting a plan to launch a new Hispanic bilingual congregation to better reach their neighborhoods. They see this plan as a way to be a relevant ministry and witness to Christ for the next generation in Toppenish.

3. Experimenting with New Faith Communities

We are doing a good job supporting and experimenting with our new faith communities. Our planters and teams are continuously inventing and attempting new ways of being church. Some of these work, and some don't. Our new faith community planting systems are built to support a wide variety of planting attempts, and to flow resources into those that are working well. A good example is Valley and Mountain Fellowship in Seattle. This year they have moved into a renovated storefront that they call the Hillman City Collaboratory. In addition to housing their faith community, this space has several deep partnerships with community organizations, and a designated co-working space for neighborhood professionals who need a desk, a conference room, or colleagues outside of their home offices. Already this innovative partnership is increasing Valley and Mountain's impact and opportunities for engagement in its neighborhoods.

1. Changing Environment for Faith Communities

We are experiencing a time of rapid change in the way that people in the United States form and participate in faith communities. Along with rapidly increasing numbers of people who identify "None" as their religious preference, we also see a significant decrease in the number of religious people who identify with only one faith tradition or community. Our society is moving away from single, authoritative, and exclusive faith communities into a new mélange of spiritual experiences. This shift can be an opportunity if we can draw on the resources of our Methodist tradition that were born into a similar context of society change in the England of 250-years ago. Engaging this opportunity to evolve a new way of being Christian faith communities will require us to do three things that were the hallmarks of early Methodism:

- a) Become enthusiastic about our personal spirituality and its expression through concrete acts of service, mercy, justice, and love for our neighbors.
- b) Decentralize the role of professional clergy and empower every Methodist as a leader and ambassador for Christianity in the Methodist way.
- c) Lower the cost of forming and sustaining a Methodist faith community by authorizing greater lay leadership and confronting our cultural idolatry on owning and controlling single-use church properties.

In times of environmental change, the species with the greatest variance are most likely to thrive. With a renewal of these principles of early Methodism, we will be able to form and multiply a wide variety of faith communities and experiences. From this variety, some will find new adaptations that carry Christianity in relevant and meaningful ways into the next generation.

2. Hispanic Peoples

Hispanic people, especially those from Mexico, have become a significant part of the population in the Pacific Northwest. We have not yet fully engaged this population growth and cultural transition. We need more Hispanic lay and clergy leaders, more lay and clergy leaders who are culturally competent within Hispanic communities, and more lay and clergy leaders who speak Spanish. With focused resources, we can develop and recruit leaders for this work, but it will take continued effort over many years. We are beginning to see some fruit from our work through our current Hispanic congregations and leaders. Lyda Pierce has been a tremendous asset for this work.

3. Use of Information and Communication Technology

Computers and smart phones are everywhere in the Pacific Northwest. Yet, many of our churches make little use of them. Many churches still rely on paper bulletins, newsletters, letters, and checks as their only method of communications or financial transactions. Some use large screen visuals in worship, but few have figured out ways to connect with the small screens of smart phones and tablets many parishioners carry. Even fewer churches are making use of online video conferencing for team meetings, discipling groups, or outreach. We need a concerted effort to reorient our use of information and communication technology to keep pace with the societal changes fostered by these technologies. This technology is a great opportunity for rethinking church, but taking advantage of this opportunity will need us to pay attention to emerging uses of technology and learning from early adopters in our congregations

I also want to thank Angie Lyons, who has joined our team in 2013 as the Program Assistant for Leadership and Congregational Development. Angie has jumped in to resource many of these efforts in new and established faith community development. Her gifts, focus, and attention have already blessed our work, and I'm grateful for her assistance.

KRISTINA GONZALEZ

DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Leadership development is the primary strategy of the PNW Conference for congregational vitalization and renewal. In 2013, significant time and energy was invested in the development of The Bishop Jack and Marjorie Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence and the Ministry Fund Campaign that will make The Tuell Center possible. The Tuell Center is distinguished from the leadership development activities of the past in that we are building capacity internally to offer specialized training, supporting congregations that participate in training with coaching, consulting or cohort groups, and developing best practices from our learnings. Even as we develop The Tuell Center, cutting edge leadership development opportunities are being offered and planned to assist local congregations to meet the challenges of today's ministry context.

Listed below are the trainings coordinated by Kristina's office in 2013, all of which support either the development of intentional discipleship systems in the local church or increased engagement of the faith community in its local mission field. The mission field is defined as the geographic reach of the church or as the special populations that church serves (new immigrants, a particular language or cultural group).

Congregational Effectiveness (*Strategic Priority: Vital Congregations*)

Events Produced

Connecting for Worship with Jorge Lockward, March 1 & 2 (Selah UMC) and March 3 (Renton UMC) Jorge Lockward, Director of Global Praise with the General Board of Global Ministries, offered two workshops in the PNW Conference with support of the Board of Congregational Development. A two-day workshop in the Seven Rivers District explored relevance and spontaneity in worship. A half-day workshop at Renton First UMC explored worship arts, contrasting performance with connection.

Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity. April 24 & 25 (training of trainers) & April 26 & 27 (seminar) (Wesley Homes, Des Moines WA) In conjunction with the Northwest United Methodist Foundation and the Board of Congregational Development, the Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence

presented Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity, a seminar supporting lay/clergy teams to explore trends in philanthropy and rethink giving. Dr. Bill Enright, Executive Director of the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, trained 10 persons from the PNW and Oregon Idaho Conferences to present this seminar. Four persons were certified in 2013. Dr. Enright will return in 2014 to certify the remaining trainers, building capacity in the PNW to reach more congregations in a manner convenient to lay and clergy teams. Those trained to present became coaches, implementing The Tuell Center coaching methodology to support local churches as they implement the learnings.

Transforming Ministries II. July 23 to 26 (Wesley Terrace, Des Moines WA) A partnership among the Tuell Center, Board of Ordained Ministry and Board of Congregational Development enabled Transforming Ministries II to offer clergy an opportunity to interact with top thinkers in ministry today. Transforming Ministries gatherings are for the purpose exploring innovations in ministry. Authors and nationally renowned speakers Rev. Alan Hirsch, Rev. Lillian Daniel and Rev. Philip Clayton presented. A yearlong series of webinars is assisting participants in deepening their learnings and applying them to the local church.

Coaching Conversations. Oct 18 & 19 (Covenant UMC, Spokane) and Nov 1 & 2 (Salmon Creek UMC, Vancouver WA) A partnership between the Board of Congregational Development and the Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence supported two sessions of Coaching Conversations, a seminar to train lay and clergy leaders to utilize a coaching methodology in their ministry settings. Held in Spokane and Vancouver, these seminars were led by professional coaches with Rev. Mary Huycke as the principal trainer. Participants were offered the opportunity to improve skills through a 6-month coaching practicum following the event.

Logistical and Budgetary Support

Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) Training. The Board of Congregational Development supported the work of the PNW and Oregon Idaho Cabinets and the Tuell Center in training persons to become Certified Lay Ministers. Angie Lyons, Program Assistant to Leadership Development and Congregational Development, is largely responsible for the logistics of this training. DS David Nieda is the dean. Bishop Hagiya, district superintendents and staff comprise the faculty for the trainings. Two were produced in 2013.

School of Congregational Development. The denominational School of Congregational Development was held in Denver in August 2013. The Board of Congregational Development supported four lay/clergy teams to attend the training: Everett: La Palabra Viviente; Lacey: St. Andrews; Clarkston UMC; Leavenworth UMC. District Superintendent Juli Reinholz, a member of BOCD, hosted the delegation. An additional three faith communities were supported through new church start funding and the Commission on Ethnic Ministries.

Raising the Roof, Alban Institute. A lay/clergy team from Trinity UMC attended the Alban Institute training Raising the Roof, a seminar to address congregations attempting to move to 200 or more in worship attendance. This was made possible through funding from the Board of Congregational Development.

Rural Ministries Resources produced two gatherings of leaders working in rural settings. Board of Congregational Development funding supported the gatherings and the administration of the Rural Ministries Resources, an organization that provides a unique service to small congregations.

Course of Study. The Board of Congregational Development supported five ethnic local church leaders to attend Course of Study in 2013. Course of Study and Licensing School prepare persons to become Local Pastors.

Leadership Institute, Church of the Resurrection, Leawood Kansas

The Board of Congregational Development provided partial support for a lay/clergy team from Kent UMC to attend the Leadership Institute of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. The Leadership Institute is an important ministry of the Church of the Resurrection as it works to infuse the denomination with learnings that support excellence and growth in congregations of all sizes.

Intercultural Competency (*Strategic Priority: Mission-field Engagement*)

The Pacific Northwest Conference leads the denomination in its commitment to training lay and clergy leaders in intercultural competency. Trainings are designed to assist leaders in interfacing with people who are culturally different, whether by age, language, ethnicity or other differences. 2013 was the first year of the new quadrennium. Intercultural competency efforts were centered on finding the next iteration of training and determining how best to offer training so that real and tangible outcomes can result. Kristina's office gathered a team of lay and clergy leaders from all over the conference to develop measurable outcomes for intercultural competency work. Funded by the General Commission on Religion and Race, the work has the potential to support the denomination in finding the most effectiveness ways to infuse intercultural competence through the structure. Kristina researched Emotional Intelligence and Diversity, a methodology combining the exploration and practice of Emotional Intelligence with the challenge of working and communicating with persons who are culturally different. A pilot was held in early 2014.

In addition to developing long-term strategies, we offered the following:

A New Heaven and A New Earth, Intercultural Competency for the Northwest

Feb 7 & 8, Portland OR and June 18 & 19, Boise ID. This 8-hour skills-based training assists participants in effectively communicating with a diversity of people, initiating and deepening relationships across cultural, ethnic and racial difference. An ecumenical team comprising the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, and the PNW Conference United Methodist Church developed the training with consultant The Rev. Eric H. Law, author and founder of the Kaleidoscope Center for Leadership in a diverse, changing world. This workshop fulfills the intercultural competency requirement for clergy and is effective for cross-cultural appointment consultations. Kristina and team members offered the training in the Oregon Idaho Conference and began training ORID leadership to conduct the training. An agreement with the Oregon Idaho Conference reimburses PNW for expenses and work across conference lines.

Kaleidoscope Institute Northwest (KINW), August 19 to 23, 2013 (Rainbow Lodge, North Bend)

This was a three-day fundamentals course in intercultural communication and 2-day primer on new intercultural approach to exchange called *Holy Currencies*. The Rev. Eric Law, author, speaker and consultant, delivered the training with the help of the ecumenical training team in the Pacific Northwest.

New District Superintendent/Directors of Connectional Ministries Orientation, August 25 to 29, 2013 (Lake Junaluska NC) Kristina offered a three-hour workshop in intercultural competency at this event and interpreted the Intercultural Development Inventory (a statistically reliable, culturally relevant tool for predicting intercultural competency) to assist the new superintendents and directors of connectional ministries in their new roles. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry produces this event with support of all general agencies. Kristina has served on the faculty of this annual event for the past ten years. This training serves annual conferences in the United States. Approximately 160 clergy, spouses and general agency personnel attended.

Shared Facilities Coordination and Support. Kristina spent significant time in 2013 developing covenant teams between Seattle First Korean UMC and host Bellevue First UMC, and between Highland Park UMC (now discontinued), El Dios Viviente UMC (Hispanic/Latino) and First Tongan UMC. She met with the covenant committees over 6 to 9 months to gain agreement on how the ministries would function together, and to gain understanding of the various cultures represented in the worshipping communities.

WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL? WHERE AND WHAT SETTINGS?

Our leadership is interested in engaging ambiguity, and not allowing the ambiguity to paralyze us. The continuing development of The Bishop Jack and Marjorie Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence has given us a focus for the work of spiritual growth and engagement in the life of our communities (disciple-making systems and mission-field engagement). Focus is extremely important in times when our faith in the institution is challenged.

We are growing in Hispanic/Latino ministries, reaping the benefits of many years of learning how to engage communities of immigrants from many different Spanish-speaking countries, as well as second, third and fourth generation Hispanic/Latino Americans. A willingness to support and invest in young leadership has been extremely important to expansion of ministry in this community. Gender equality in ministry sets the UMC apart from other denominations in serving Hispanic/Latino community. Relationship is also extremely important.

TRENDING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The excitement of those interested in becoming Certified Lay Ministers coincides with a need for a new model of pastoral leadership. This excitement is trending up as the number of persons retiring from the ordained ministry increases and seminary enrollment trends downward. The interest in CLM status is organic. The PNW Conference is doing excellent work in setting a high bar for training and competency. It would be very interesting to see the motivational trends in persons training to become CLMs.

We have a need for mentorship at many levels of the organization. Relatively little investment has been made in cultivating and training mentors, including reverse mentors and lay mentors. I see the emphasis on coaching and coaching training as one way to meet this need. Could we develop some method of inviting short-term mentorship opportunities around certain skill-sets, social media being one example for reverse mentorship?

There are many young women of many different cultural backgrounds in the ministry today. Perhaps we should get to know their needs and how the structures of the conference might support them better.

SUPPORT TO BOARDS AND AGENCIES/ETHNIC AND MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

Kristina provides staff support to the agencies of the annual conference listed below (program development and implementation; budget development and monitoring; leadership support and strategic planning). She also continues her work in supporting ethnic and multicultural ministries through consultation, training and support of the agencies designated to do this work.

Board of Congregational Development. Kristina provides staff support to the Board of Congregational Development including strategic planning, development and administration of the Church Extension budget, implementation of the strategic priority for leadership development as described in the activities above, and support of ethnic and multicultural ministry development.

Commission on Ethnic Ministries. Kristina provides staff support to the Commission on Ethnic Ministries, which works in four primary ministry areas:

- *Beyond the Doors, Mission Field Engagement.* This grant program encourages local faith communities to invest in personnel to reach racial/ethnic and linguistic communities (first language other than English) in their mission field.
- *New Life, Vital and Growing Ethnic and Linguistic Faith Communities.* This grant program provides financial support to racial/ethnic faith communities (faith communities of color) and linguistic faith communities (first language other than English) that are developing or perfecting disciple-making systems that link intentionally to ministries of mercy and justice.
- *Leadership Development.* This program assists ethnic communities in producing events to uplift specific cultural expression of the Christian walk. The Christmas Institute, a youth/young adult led Christian camp utilizes the talents of Filipina/o American and Canadian youth and young adults under the tutelage of Filipino American clergy. Camp scholarships, ethnic-specific family camps,

multicultural gatherings, caucus events and out of conference travel for specialized trainings are funded here. Kristina participates on the Western Jurisdiction Inter-Ethnic Coordinating as a part of her staff role in the PNW Conference.

The work of COEM supports two conference goals: *Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and world* and *Engaging ministry with the poor*.

Native American Ministries Committee. This committee administers Native American Sunday offerings and plans for appropriate ministry with American Indians and Alaska Natives. The committee reactivated in 2013 after a dormant period. The committee is working on a plan for education and engagement between Native American communities and churches. This committee is primarily oriented to *Engaging ministry with the poor*.

Commission on Religion and Race. The focus of the Commission on Religion and Race changed with General Conference 2012. The commission will play an active role in the development and oversight of intercultural competency training in the conference. The commission has been a partner in developing and delivering the three training modules currently in place: *A New Heaven and A New Earth*, *Cultural Competency Training for the Northwest*, *Differences Make a Difference*, and *Gospel Cycle of Living*. The commission has been primary in gathering a cross-functional team to determine a systemic approach to intercultural competence in the PNW Conference.

Board of Discipleship. The new quadrennium has brought new energy to the Board of Discipleship. BOD is finding its way in a conference that is heavily invested in training for discipleship and engagement in the mission field. BOD produced a training on Wesleyan Theology with Dr. Kevin Watson, Professor at Seattle Pacific University, in October. The board is working to define itself in a crowded field of leadership development.

Advisory Board, Bishop Jack and Marjorie Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence. Together with her colleague Curtis Brown, Kristina is one of two primary staff working closely with Bishop Grant Hagiya on developing The Bishop Jack and Marjorie Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence. Bishop Hagiya is Executive Director of the Center. A Special Session of Annual Conference authorized the Tuell Center in 2011.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

Kristina consults with conference leadership on a variety of issues including cultural differences, local church planning, congregational development and cross-cultural appointments, among others. Kristina assists in fundraising for specific ministries and events, participates in the work of the jurisdictional and ecumenical explorations/events locally. In 2013, Kristina drafted a successful application to the Asian American Language Ministry Plan, administered by the General Board of Global Ministries, to continue funding of the new Vietnamese Ministry in the Seattle District. She continues to lead the effort and administer funding from the General Commission on Religion and Race to identify the most effective ways to assist leaders and congregations in addressing the demographic and cultural changes in their communities.

RECURRING CHALLENGES

Worship: We continue to be challenged to offer relevant worship and ministry opportunities in the midst of changing culture and changing demographics including age, economic status, ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientation.

Full Inclusion: The culture around the church has become much more accepting of LGBTQ persons, and the denomination is challenged by the ambiguity between the Social Principles and the sections of the Book of Discipline that restricts participation of sexual minorities. Immigrant communities tend to more socially conservative, so civil disobedience toward restrictions in the church carry promise for some but distress for those with more traditional values.

Multicultural Ministries: While it will always be important to maintain first language ministries, it is also important to plant ministries that are intentionally multicultural, in which the leadership reflects the intended membership of the congregation. We have planted just one such ministry, though more are anticipated in the future.

Financial Support of Immigrant Generation Congregations: Though we are committed to developing congregations among immigrants, these ministries tend to need financial support for many years. The resulting financial strain prompts a recurring question as to what constitutes vitality and how important financial self-sufficiency is to the measure of overall effectiveness.

Messaging: We have a theological challenge and a messaging issue in a culture that is post-Christian.

Patrick Scriven

Director of Communications and Ministries with Young People

Communications @ Various Events

In the past year our communications team has been busy supporting a variety of events in ways that weren't even possible a few short years ago. It is fairly common now for our staff to be called upon to offer traditional audio/visual support, videography, remote access and even web streaming. Some of the more significant events supported over the last year include: Annual Conference, Transforming Ministries II, Transforming Ministries Remote Conversation with Brian McClaren, CONVO, Transitions Training, multiple Certified Lay Ministry trainings and several of the Tuell Center offerings.

Each of these events can require significant preparation, a team approach during the event, and some post-production work for our staff. A recent example would be our support of the Memorial Services for Bishop Jack Tuell where our communications team provided audio/visual support, and live streaming of the service allowing an additional 300 people to remember the Bishop even though they couldn't be physically present.

It's hard to be a connectional church when you aren't connected. One of the biggest challenges we all face is finding practical ways to be engaged and communicate effectively in a world that moves at a pace the church is unaccustomed to. This is true in the local church, and it can be a greater challenge on the conference level. Every message, event, and missional initiative competes for limited time, talent, and passion.

WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL? WHERE AND WHAT SETTINGS?

Our work in the area of communications on the conference level is focused on connecting people to each other, to resourcing from a variety of places, and toward an evolving sense of shared mission and purpose. As we do this work we are often drawn to consider how the shifting ways we connect can, and ought to, impact our connectional ministries. So much of our United Methodist structure is rooted in formalities that, while providing familiarity for those in the know, make it difficult for new people to engage. This can create unnecessary frustration at times. Every acronym used to expedite things for some is a potential roadblock for others.

Education about the existing resources in our United Methodist structure is one path to alleviate that frustration. We do this in part by sharing news from the larger connection, telling the stories of the ministry that happens within our Annual Conference, and by working to make commonly needed items accessible on the web. We continue to develop our web calendar, make staff information easier to access, downloads readily available for local churches, and rely less on costly printing and mailing. Elements of our communications strategy are still works in progress but we are always heading on toward perfection.

We are also active in sharing opportunities for training, connection and dialogue directly to people through email and social media. Some of these efforts help us to communicate our message directly to people in

local churches, taking some of the pressure off church offices to serve as the gateway for every possible opportunity – though their assistance remains critically important.

The other way we can help to mitigate frustrations is by helping people to connect through avenues that are more natural to them. Every point of connection in the Annual Conference doesn't have to pass through a board or committee. A good example of this would be the recent #UnitedInBlue food drive where our District and Conference communication resources came alongside local church efforts; offering support by helping to connect more people and by telling the story of the good work we all did together.

Connecting to young people is a challenge we share as well. While we continue to offer connectional events like CONVO, and support a variety of other opportunities on different levels, we also recognize that the local church is the primary place where discipling new generations can and does happen. Good work is being done by our Program Associate for Young People's Ministry, Teri Tobey, with the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. Beyond that, she is actively building relationships with adults serving young people in a variety of roles to best understand how we can support them and encourage networks that do the same.

Together, we continue to work with churches particularly as they move through transitions in staffing. As the years pass and our congregations age it is harder not to notice the significant decline in young people across the Pacific Northwest Conference. For many of our churches this has meant the loss of, or a reduction in hours for, a staff person dedicated to youth and/or young adult ministries.

Over the past year we've been active in upgrading our PNW web presence to make it accessible to as many people as possible while working to ensure that it views well on emerging technologies (42% of our web visitors are now using a mobile device). This is always a work in progress and one where direct feedback and hard usage data are considered hand in hand.

When people are looking for information about the Annual Conference it is more likely than ever that they will turn to the web first. In preparation for this report I ran an analytics report gathering the following data about our monthly website usage. Last month, our main pnwumc.org site, News Blog, and Ministry Directory websites combined to receive 11,901 visits from 7,672 unique visitors who logged 20,087 pageviews. Comparatively, the same period of time in 2010 garnered 5,307 visits, 2,616 unique visitors and 17,923 pageviews (this last number has increased less dramatically because more traffic today is targeted from direct links and social media so people spend less time searching).

Can you imagine if even a significant fraction of these points of contact needed to take place over the phone?

These numbers represent one month and not a particularly unusual one. But they also exclude the direct engagement that takes place on social media. Our most popular post on Facebook last month, a picture of Bishops Hagiya and Stanovsky used to help promote the #UnitedInBlue food drive, registered 671 clicks, 473 likes and a social reach of 15.9K. Our social media platforms aren't the largest in the United Methodist connection but they stack up very well when compared to other conferences of comparable size and they help us to share content in new ways that can bypass some of the traditional barriers of the past.

I think it is fair to say that we are doing well in the area of communications. We have a good foundation to build from and still have places where we can grow. I think our work in this area is incredibly important because it allows us to connect with people in different ways, to tell stories about what it means to be church today, listen and contribute to conversations that are happening online, and model new ways of being in ministry beyond the four walls of the traditional church building.

As an administrator for the PNW Conference Facebook page, I'm able to choose a setting that allows me to view all of the pages our Facebook presence 'likes' in my 'Timeline.' Since most of these page 'likes' are local PNW church pages, it provides a unique opportunity to see how we are engaging the mission field online. I wish it was something more people could see. As a whole, the churches of the Pacific Northwest

Conference are taking advantage of social media, and traditional websites, to tell their story in ways they weren't even a year ago. There is room for improvement, and there are exceptions, but together we are definitely making progress.

What I see through this view, and through the other forms of communication, isn't just a renewed engagement with our online community. The many event posts, photos, and status updates also suggest a renewal of our engagement with our local communities as well. For a denomination that sometimes struggles to share faith stories directly, it's great to see good progress in this arena.

In the coming year I'm looking forward to seeing the expertise we have gained through regular web development put to use supporting the work of local churches who are paying more and more attention to their digital doorstep. We have some vital ministries whose communications efforts, or lack thereof, are hiding much of their work from their communities – particularly from emerging generations who are more likely to check out a church or ministry online first before they ever engage with it personally. While very few of our ministries are absent any web presence, most can use some continued nurturing and support.

We are also seeing more churches curious about intergenerational ministry. Over the past few years a growing number of churches are experimenting with new models of Sunday School and age-level programming that make use of intentional mentoring. This has been a strength in our Conference Youth Ministries program for years as we've had excellent adult volunteers working alongside promising youth leaders. I'm also excited to see renewed interest like that expressed by our Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries to reach across some of the artificial barriers for dialogue and mutual learning.

In the area of Young People's Ministry, we are working to build more collaboration into the programming that we offer. I would like to see us transition toward a model that is responsive and eager to engage in active partnerships rather than one that programs down from above. We are continuing conversations with Camping Ministries and would like to see continued progress in aligning our combined efforts and the leadership development goals of the conference and local churches.\

In September of last year, international pressure was mounting for military intervention in Syria after it had been discovered that chemical weapons had been used. Roman Catholic Pope Francis called for a day of prayer and our Bishop Grant Hagiya invited United Methodists to consider joining in this moment to pray and fast for peace.

Given that we were already just a few short days from the proposed day of prayer, we had to work quickly and simply didn't have time for traditional print distribution. The Rev. Paul Jeffrey provided access to some of his excellent photos and a small group of us quickly put together some resources to support churches looking to host prayer vigil and encourage members.

Once we put the word out it was picked up by the United Methodist News Service and went Methodist-viral. It was very affirming to know that our work equipped not only people in the bounds of the Pacific Northwest Conference but that people were inspired to pray from thousands of miles away as well. Even better, it was great hearing stories of local churches who were resourced in part by our work to proclaim God's vision of a peaceful world.

Toward the end of 2013 I spent some time on renewal leave. Upon returning I've been attempting to be a bit more faithful with writing for our Conference News Blog. While the audience there is, generally speaking, church folks, I try to write with some thought to our public witness as well. It is encouraging to get feedback like this message I received last week on Twitter:

"Hi! I'm loving your writing. I was raised xtian but I'm very science minded & liberal. I was forced out of my church about a decade ago.

Not being fully into the dogma I called myself an atheist. My faith was recently rekindled. I'm trying to find a new church. You give me hope."

We never know how and when God will use something we do to change someone's life or even to give them the spark of hope they need on a particular day. While nothing beats the transformative work we can do when we connect effectively person to person in our local communities, that shouldn't keep us from sharing the Gospel in new ways as well.

CONVO - Memorial Day Weekend (*Developing Principled Christian Leaders: Conference, Local Churches*)

CONVO is the largest youth event of the year for our Annual Conference. Hundreds of Senior High Youth and adult youth workers gather for three days of music, prayer, fun, learning, and growth. Participation at CONVO 2013 rose to around 325 as we explored the importance of a healthy self identity through our theme, "Hello, My name is..." Our speaker, the Rev. Theresa Thames, Director of Challenging Study Ministries at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington D.C., brought a great spirit and connected well with the youth in attendance.

This year we'll be trying something new by opening CONVO up to youth from grades 6 to 12. We are doing this to better serve churches that often have one youth group matching this span and have had some past regrets splitting their groups for this event. The theme for 2014's CONVO is "The Quest for the Holy Grail". We'll be exploring the importance of spiritual disciplines in the Christian life with speakers including Revs. Curtis Brown, Elizabeth Schindler, and Ruth Marston.

Middle School Youth Retreats (*Developing Principled Christian Leaders: Conference, Local Churches*) February 9-10 and November 15-16, 2013

Our Conference Council on Youth Ministries has also worked on offering Middle School Retreats. In 2013, our Jr. High Retreat theme was, "Level Up!!" The first retreat was held in the middle of February at Camp Indianola with the Rev. Ruth Marston providing excellent talks; a planned fall retreat at Camp Twinlow didn't have enough registrations to go forward.

Teri Tobey, our Program Associate for Young People's Ministry worked with the staff at Camp Indianola to help lead a new retreat for middle school youth in November called Ignite. It had a good first year and conversations are underway to offer more collaborative retreats of this nature in the future.

Young Adult Retreats (*Developing Principled Christian Leaders: Conference, Local Churches*)

In 2013, we hosted the sixth incarnation of the Young Adult Retreat over the course of two weekends at Lazy F Camp. The retreat's theme was "Theologically Incorrect" and participants wrestled with questions like: "What does it mean to believe? Is diversity in belief a good or bad thing?" The Revs. Kathleen Weber and Austin Adkinson each blessed us with their speaking gifts and perspectives.

After several meetings and a few long conversations, the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries decided it was best to not directly sponsor a young adult retreat this year so they can focus on other items. In the opening this provided, several of our campus ministers are stepping up to plan a retreat for young adults aged 18-25 over the same weekend. The Office of Connectional Ministries is partnering with them to help with promotion and registration.

District Youth Ministry (*Developing Principled Christian Leaders: District, Local Churches*)

Youth leadership teams in three of our six districts continue to plan and organize. While each team functions differently and under the direction of its district leadership, the Office of Connectional Ministries continues to work to support these important regional youth opportunities, helping to share the word, troubleshoot forms and registration at times, and through direct participation when possible.

Rev. Lyda Pierce

Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Ministries

1. Events/activities I have helped shepherd:

- *Module I or II: Basic leadership for lay leadership and lay missionaries in Hispanic/Latino ministries* held in Seattle area, Toppenish and in Pasco. Four training events with a total of 42 people from PNW and 17 from Oregon-Idaho. (And then outside of PNW, I was the lead facilitator for a Module II in Chicago, Illinois for 35 participants, February 22-24).
- Retreat for Hispanic/Latina women, Pasco, June 7-8
- Hispanic Culture, bilingual Family Camp, Indianola, August 23-25
- National Learning-Gathering for Conference Coordinators of Hispanic Ministries, and Hispanic conference staff, district superintendents and pastors. Four Hispanic leaders from our conference participated. February 25-28 in San Antonio, Texas.
- Worship workshops in Moses Lake and Seattle with Jorge Lockwood, March 1-3.
- Change the World Immigration Rally and March at Annual Conference with approximately 200 in attendance at some point.

Additionally to events or gatherings that I was part of shepherding, my ministry included:

- I spend much of my time meeting with leaders in Hispanic/Latino ministries: multiple and extensive meetings in 8 ministry settings and conversations in 2 more.
- I spoke at the following events: Rural Ministry Retreat; United Methodist Women's Seattle District Immigration gathering; and Wesley Homes.
- I spoke at 17 non-Hispanic churches about Hispanic ministries and immigration.

2. Recurring challenges

- Developing enough leadership for the areas of need that is Wesleyan in theological perspective and connected to the United Methodist Church.
- The difficulty of comprehending and navigating candidacy for clergy status in the United Methodist Church—particularly for people for whom English is not their first language.
- Undocumented status of some leadership or potential leaders that make it difficult for them to fully use their gifts.
- Lack of good resource materials that are culturally relevant, with good Methodist theological undergirding in Spanish and English.
- The difficulty of managing the calendar and setting dates for gatherings, meetings and training events for Hispanic ministries and immigration concerns.

3. As a connected faith community, what are we doing well? Where and what settings?

- Loving people! The Hispanic people who are part of the churches in our conference have said that they are here because they were received with love and grace.
- There are a growing number of people and congregations with an interest in reaching out and engaging neighbors who are from a different ethnic group.

4. What trending needs or opportunities I see, arising from the mission field, that we should begin to focus or plan for?

- I expect that we will have a growing number of Hispanic/Latino leaders called to the ministry over the next 10 years and we will need to have the resources ready: conference committees and boards ready to work with them and financial resources to support their studies.

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM (UMCOR)

Although there were fewer disasters throughout the nation in 2013, the PNW Disaster Response Team has been busy.

In June, at the request of Bishop Hagiya, Cathy Earl, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), provided two case management trainings, one in Anchorage and the other in Fairbanks. Long term recovery trainings were also provided by the PNW Conference Disaster Response Coordinator to Whitman County and Latah County Offices of Emergency Management in preparation for a hot summer.

In July, the Yukon River in Alaska flooded during Spring break-up, damaging homes in the villages of Galena, Emononak, Alakanuk, Hughes, Gulkana and others. The Pacific Northwest Conference Disaster Response Team supported the Alaska Conference in this disaster recovery. We worked with Rev. Cindy Roberts, Alaska Disaster Response Coordinator, by helping her access UMCOR funding, and Jim Truitt provided UVMIM teams to Alaska. (See Jim Truitt's report)

In August, wildfires broke out in Idaho and in Oregon. Idaho had 25 active wildfires and Oregon had nine active fires. The PNW Conference actively supported (financially and with training) Dan Moseler, the new Oregon/Idaho Disaster Response Coordinator.

While this report is for 2013, two events in 2014 must be mentioned. In March 3-6, 2014, the first ever Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy was held in Western Washington. A planning team initiated by Jim Truitt and led by Larry Powell, UMCOR, provided the leadership and oversight for this historic event.

In April 2014, the Disaster Response Team, responded along with partner agencies, to the Oso Mud Slide disaster. We requested and received an Emergency UMCOR grant of \$10,000 which enabled us to provide financial support to the communities of Darrington and Arlington. Through the work of two disaster response volunteers, we gained valuable onsite information that will help us request additional funding from UMCOR. Disaster VIM teams are currently waiting for the flood water behind the slide to recede. Recovery from this disaster will continue throughout this year and the next.

We encourage every church to register with the American Red Cross as an emergency shelter. Being prepared is not just an idea, it is a necessity.

Rev. Dr. L. George Abrams and Rev. Stanley Norman, Disaster Response Co-Coordiators.

BAYVIEW

This synopsis highlights our year of accomplishments in 2013, from our financial performance to our social accountability activities.

In 2012, the Board of Trustees and Management devoted time and effort to develop benchmarks for key indicators of quality assurance. These benchmarks helped to guide our efforts during 2013 in five areas: Services, People & Processes, Community, Facilities, and Financial Performance.

Our results are impressive. In May, we transformed the Wellness Center into a light-filled space, encouraging residents and community seniors to come in, exercise, and try out our new balance machine. In June, we distributed our biannual resident and employee satisfaction surveys, and received the positive results in August. Also in August, we began the process of remodeling and redecorating the dining rooms in both Assisted Living and the Health Center, which received much praise afterwards. In September, the entrance to the Intergenerational Children's Center underwent a facelift, making it a cheerful, well-defined and distinct space. There was a major, Bayview community-wide focus on social accountability, specifically in the following areas: 1) Charitable Care; 2) Supporting Successful Aging & Senior-Focused Non-Profits; 3) Seniors and Intergenerational, Spiritual, Creative Arts; 4) Being a Good Neighbor & Supporting Local Communities; and 5) Leadership Development & Deepening Capacity of Those Who Serve Seniors. In the spirit of being a good neighbor, Bayview opened the Hub in October. The Hub is a gathering place for fellowship, education, and coffee, for both residents and area seniors. There has

been progress made on the Master Plan for a major reinvestment in our building, including the bridging strategies to get us there. Lastly, Bayview has had one of its best, knockout financial performance in recent history. This is key in making the implementation of the Master Plan transform into reality.

We look to the future with confidence that our mission will continue for decades to come, shepherded by our founding core values, beliefs, and guiding principles. Join us as we enter our 53rd year of service. The dreams we have dreamt are coming true. The journey will be a worthy one.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished in 2013. Many thanks to the residents, Trustees, staff, and all those who contributed to Bayview in their own impactful way to help make 2013 a very successful year. We are forging ahead in our pursuit of building towards the future, and we welcome your thoughts and feedback in 2014.

WESLEY HOMES

Dear Friends,

When Congress passed the Accountable Care Act, few of us had any idea how it would affect organizations like ours. Today, we are beginning to see how this legislation will change the way we provide services, how we receive payment for these services and how we prove we provide quality care. In licensed areas like our Des Moines Health Center and Assisted Living, government data is collected and used to identify quality providers. In independent living settings, census information and resident referrals are one measurement. Resident surveys track satisfaction measures such as the quality of meals, cleanliness of our buildings, clarity of information and overall satisfaction. The question that carries the most weight is: "Would you recommend Wesley Homes to your friends?" For 2013, over 94% of our residents reported they would refer a friend to Wesley Homes.

In 2013, we made great efforts to share our story and how we want to revolutionize senior living with church groups, businesses, individuals and family members. A measure of our success is the philanthropic support we are receiving.

- Lea Hill residents and Auburn community members have raised over \$1 million to build a new health center on the Lea Hill campus.
- In Puyallup, many community members are raising funds to help us build Wesley Homes Bradley Park, a full continuum of care community, something they currently do not have.
- Residents and others are laying the groundwork to begin the process of repositioning the Des Moines campus.

None of these developments would be possible without our longstanding and new friends of Wesley Homes.

As people of faith, we continue to believe in the ministry and mission of Wesley Homes. We celebrate the many accomplishments of 2013 and look forward to enhancing the partnerships with residents, families, communities, churches and business partners in the coming year. We are grateful for your support and look forward to working with you to meet the needs of seniors for many years to come!

Kevin Anderson
President / CEO, Wesley Homes

A. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A – 1. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

(Received Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, L.D. Consent Calendar Report #1a)

BOARD OF LAITY

The members of the Board of Laity work to support, encourage and equip the laity of the conference. The Book of Discipline sums it up:

"The purpose of the conference board of laity shall be:

(a) To foster an awareness of the role of the laity both within the local congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world in achieving the mission of the Church; to develop and promote programs to cultivate an adequate understanding of the theological and biblical basis for lay life and work among the members of the churches of the annual conference."

The Book of Discipline, para 631.2(a)

As leaders of committees and agencies across the conference, member of the Board of Laity reach a great number of laity throughout the year. The membership of the Board of Laity includes:

Conference Lay Leader, Associate Conference Lay Leader, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Conference Presidents of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, Presidents of the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries and Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Chair of the Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries, Conference Scouting Director, District Lay Leaders and Laity Communicator. We also have the support of the Annual Conference technical director and a member of the Annual Conference Worship Team. Both David Valera, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries and Patrick Scriven, Director of Communications & Young Peoples's Ministries, provide staff support. The Bishop is a member of the Board and provides strong support for the ministry of the laity.

Through these many channels we work to fulfill the mission above. This year, many of our conversations revolved around the need to promote the full participation of and support for youth and young adults in the church. This has led to deeper listening on our part and an invitation for me to join the Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries for intergenerational conversations. We have much more to do but believe that strengthening relationships with our youth and young adult leaders is a good and necessary first step.

Four of our Board members attended the Emotional Intelligence and Diversity training in February. In that training we explored the ways in which the Board of Laity can better address the needs of all communities in our conference, open channels of leadership to more diverse communities, and better communicate with laity across the conference.

Improving communication with laity in the local church remains an issue we are looking to improve. We have begun to address this with a Facebook Page (*PNW United Methodist Laity*) as well as a closed group on Facebook (*Pacific Northwest Laity*). The purpose of the closed group is to create a space for the laity of the conference to share their thoughts with other laity. Any layperson in the conference may join by simply going to the page and asking to be added. We hope to keep adding voices to the conversation.

As always, District Lay Leaders are active in District Training events: UMM, UMW, Older Adult Ministries, Youth and Young Adults are training their cohorts. Lay Servant Ministries provides training to better equip the laity to lead the local church. Our laity communicator seeks new ways to reach laity across the conference, and I have been honored to share at district events and local church celebrations. In many ways, we seek to support the ministry of the laity in our work.

I look forward to the year ahead as the Board of Laity continues the work already begun. The laity have an important role to play in achieving the mission of the church. The Board of Laity will continue to seek innovative ways to strengthen that role.

Joan Holms, Conference Lay Leader

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES REPORT

This last year has been one of reflection for the Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries (CCOYAM). For several years we have worked hard to nurture and grow CCOYAM— creating the Young Adult Retreat (YAR), leveraging our presence at different Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conference events, and taking on several other projects designed to fully incorporate young adults into the fabric of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

However, this last year we realized we needed to take a step back. One of the hallmarks of young adult ministry is that our lives are in transition. This means that recruitment is an ongoing challenge. We realized we needed to focus more on recruitment and collaboration with our campus ministry, camping ministry, and local church partners to expand our reach to every young adult in the Conference.

We also spent some time exploring the responsibilities charged to us by the Book of Discipline: to initiate and support plans and activities and projects that are of interest to young adults, to be an advocate for the free expression of the convictions of young adults in issues vital to them, to support and facilitate the formation of young adult caucuses, and to cooperate with boards and agencies to assist young adults in the transition to congregational life and receiving recommendations from/making recommendations to the same to provide for the needs and interests of young adults in the Pacific Northwest Conference.

These recruitment challenges and new focus on mission and purpose led us to the difficult decision to take a Sabbath from YAR this year, at least in the form that had been previously planned by CCOYAM. In its place this year is a college-age retreat led by a collaboration of the campus ministries at Central Washington University, University of Washington, and Western Washington University with logistical support from the Office of Connectional Ministries. We hope to explore the possibility of more retreats of this type, perhaps on a regional level, in the future.

We are praying that the next year will be one of intentional growth and purpose-driven projects, always with the same goal of representing and being a resource for all of the young adults in the Pacific Northwest Conference. We are looking forward to what this fresh start might bring and how it will shape the future of CCOYAM, and our local church's ministries with young adults, for years to come.

Megan Kilpatrick & Amber Su Dellsite

Co-chairs, Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCOYM) team has been hard at work this school year balancing meetings, work, and school in preparations for one grand retreat for the youth of the conference, giving them a place where they can escape the burdens of everyday life for a weekend, and grow in their faith among others.

This year the team included youth members from across the conference that met three times this year in order to make this event possible. The Executive Team of this body met for an additional two meetings for continued planning, and discussion on the future regarding youth ministry and the direction in which our retreat is headed now with changes being implemented. Together the team has created a retreat to serve young people in grades 6-12 with split High School and Middle School tracks each chaired by a member of the team. Below, each chair will explain their vision, and what has been accomplished this year in order to make this retreat possible. Thank you all so very much for the support given to this team as we create space for young people in our church to express and grow in their faith.

--Kevin Saucedo, President, Conference Council on Youth Ministries

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Middle School Ministries planning team of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries has been working productively to plan the next CONVO retreat, as we have collectively decided to extend the age range of CONVO attendees in lieu of running separate Middle School Retreats. The aim of the extended age range is to allow more youth to be brought closer to God by increasing the total number of attendees who attend the extended age range CONVO as opposed to the formerly separate retreats. By doing this, we hope to encourage participation from those churches whose youth population isn't high enough, in either the Senior High or the Middle School categories, to make attending both retreats practical. The formerly planned fall retreat at Camp Twinlow had to be canceled due to not enough attendees.

The Middle School Ministries Committee is hard at work managing the Middle School track of CONVO. We split CONVO into two semi-separate tracks to preserve the integrity of the Senior High CONVO experience of the retreat for Senior High attendees, while also allowing for the Middle School attendees to experience the thrill of CONVO. While at CONVO, Middle School attendees will still experience workshops, small groups, and rallies. However, the workshops have been developed so that some are only for Middle School attendees, others only for Senior High attendees, and some will have a session for each age. Small groups will still be organized by age, and the Middle School small groups are going to be lead by adults, who may also be tutoring certain Middle School youth in small group leading as well. The five rallies times will be attended by both Middle School attendees and Senior High attendees simultaneously giving the groups an opportunity to hear a powerful message.

Next year, I will be handing over the reins to the capable Amanda Tobey from Gig Harbor UMC. Amanda has been a member of CCOYM for several years, and will be leading it from the position of Chair of Middle School Committee throughout the 2014-2015 year, perhaps through one of the most critical times for CONVO and CCOYM. I am fully confident that she will not only succeed in leading the team, but also excel in doing so. Serving, as the Chair of the Middle School Committee has been a very rewarding experience in which by seeking to find ways to deepen the faith of youth across the Pacific Northwest I myself have found a deeper faith. Thank you for the opportunity!

Jacob Mahugh, Chair, Middle School Committee

SENIOR HIGH COMMITTEE

Youth Ministry has always been a huge part of my life. When I was in elementary school, I wanted to go to middle school youth group. When I was in middle school, I wanted to go to high school. When my time came to go up into the high school youth group I had a strong model for what an active youth looked like. My sister, Maya, was involved in both the district team and a crazy team called CCOYM. I would envy her as she went away on these mini weekend retreats to plan for CONVO and the Tacoma District's Fort Flagler event.

So, when I got into high school, it was my turn to join the teams. I got onto the Tacoma District team as a freshman and loved doing it so much that I applied to CCOYM the next year with huge ambitions for helping out at my favorite retreat of the year, CONVO. I sent in my registration, and a few months later I got my confirmation call. The call confirming my acceptance to the team came with a surprise, I was being asked to be a co-chair for CONVO! I eagerly accepted not knowing my responsibilities and I spent last year on the team learning from my mentor, Ellen Anderson.

As you have read this year, CONVO has gotten a makeover. We are aiming to increase church involvement by encouraging churches with small youth groups to come and bring their entire youth group. We are excited to see how this change will charge up conference wide involvement and encourage participation.

CONVO's theme this year is Quest for the Holy Grail. We chose this theme because we want youth to get excited for discovering the greatness of the kingdom of God. We will explore how we can live boldly and faithfully, free of the negativity and distraction that sets us off our quest, so we can be empowered and equipped to spread the message of God's love (*the holy grail*) with confidence. To go with

our quest theme we have chosen to have a team of speakers that will work together to share the message. We have three local pastors serving as our “Pastors of the Round Table” that will help our attendees on our journey that weekend.

I am excited for this year, and I look forward to passing CONVO 2015 on to my co-chair, Lucas Mahugh.

- Kellen Head-Corliss, Chair, Senior High Committee

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.

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

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2013 was a busy year for United Methodist Women.

The Conference United Methodist Women’s Volunteers in Mission team reached out to homeless men and women at Glide United Methodist Church in San Francisco. We helped to prepare food for over 450 people, chopped-up over fifty pounds of broccoli and watermelon. We provided jewelry and card-making workshops to women at the Gum Moon Asian Women Resource Center and at the Mary Elizabeth Inn, (both UMW supported agencies in San Francisco). We also worked with children and youth at the center. (CDs are available. We will come to your units to do programs.)

Seven Rivers District VIM team spent a heart-warming week at the UMCOR depot in Salt Lake City.

Local units are also actively reaching out to their communities with love. Lakewood UMW made cute outfits for children in Africa. Cedar Cross UMW bought and delivered fresh fruits every month to the Everett Gospel Mission Women’s and Children’s Center. They also provided cookies for a Teen Feed program. Their quilting group made lap robes and baby quilts and donated them to the community.

The Ellensburg and Fircrest units have clothing banks that benefit their communities. The Gig Harbor unit made quilts for the homeless in their community. The Olympia First unit shared their Mission Giving Fund with four nonprofit organizations in their community; and provided scholarships to youth for mission trips. Their food bank provided food for the needy; and supported the Atlantic Street Center; and Tacoma Community House. (both are UMW agencies). The Puget Sound District UMW collected over 600 pounds of food during the “United in Blue” Seahawks food drive. They also provided nutritional support for a student receiving therapy. Other units provided meals for shut-ins; helped with Habitat for Humanity; and supported their local crisis counseling centers.

Mission u continues to provide Mission Education and Mission Opportunities in the Pacific Northwest Conference. Scholarships are available.

The UMW Endowment Fund has reached over \$60,000. The Interests from this fund are used to provide scholarships for those who wish to attend UMW events.

The UMW continues the tradition of bringing baby-quilts to the Annual Conference. In 2013, over 200 quilts were shared between the districts and 5 nonprofit agencies in the Wenatchee Area. This year we hope to share baby-quilts for children in the Puyallup Community United Methodist Women, the world is a better place because of you!!!! Thank God for you!!!

Jenni Yeoh, UMW President

CAMPING BOARD OF STEWARDS

More than 40 years after Beryl Ingram invited me to spend a weekend at Twinlow – she “let” me paint the boathouse - I continue to believe deeply and passionately in the ministry and mission of United Methodist camping. Our four sacred spaces, Indianola, Ocean Park, Lazy F and Twinlow, are places of reflection, spiritual growth and leadership formation. It was at Twinlow as a young adult I learned the meaning of radical hospitality. As a young pastor I continued to be formed as a leader in our Conference serving on the site committee and as a leader and dean at Lazy F. Then there was that stretch of years when my new family was involved at Indianola – the girls as campers and a delightful surprise, my husband turned out to be a great camp leader. Now as the chair of CBS I have fallen in love with Ocean Park – with its wind swept beach front and enormous possibilities for family and adult camps and retreats. Which is my favorite camp – why all of them, of course!

Much has changed in camping over the years. The directors bring a high level of professionalism and do so much more than fix plumbing and patch cabins. Our four directors are highly skilled in running not for profit businesses, offering Christian hospitality and ministry to camp participants and local churches. Food service has been elevated from hot dogs and s’mores to nutritious meals that take into account new challenges with changing diets and allergies. But not to worry, we still have s’mores! While play, swimming and boating are still high on the agenda for summer camps now we have trained staff for ropes courses – teaching team building and leadership skills. Local churches can not only find time away together but they also find assistance with programing. Just think what could happen for a local church leadership team who together scale the climbing wall at Lazy F, jump in the lake at Twinlow for a refreshing swim, enjoy the thrill of the zip line at Ocean Park or watch the sun rise at Indianola’s morning watch.

Our camps have had significant staff changes in 2013. Long time treasure, Camp Director Pete Simpson, retired last October. Pete along with his wife Dee Ann and their children have served our camps for 29 years beginning when Pete became the director at Twinlow in 1984. In 1990 the Simpsons moved to the Kitsap Peninsula to lead the ministry at Indianola. Under Pete’s leadership camp property owned by Seattle First UMC was purchased through a conference wide campaign. Connections with our neighbors, the Suquamish Tribe, have been strengthened by Dee Ann’s work with the tribe. The Simpsons leave a legacy of dedicated work, of camp development and establishing strong ties between the camp and the community.

Due to other staff changes, Indianola called upon Joan Thorsen to return to camp to give leadership

in the interim between directors. She, along with Coleen Blazina, Operations Director as well as Brad Simpson kept things in good shape until a new director was hired. We are grateful for their service. In January Darin Gemmer was hired as the new director of Indianola. Darin comes with years of experience in camping ministry and serving Youth for Christ. He has already been recognized for his skills in organization and his outreach to local churches. His first challenge is undertaking critically needed repairs on roofs. Darin comes with wife Deanna and their three young children.

The other major staff change this year was with the retirement of Willis Williams after 9 years at Ocean Park. Willis and wife Gale continued the ministry of camping as they to supervised needed physical improvements to the camp, offering excellent hospitality and food service plus keeping Ocean Park in the “black”. We thank them for their faithful service and careful tending to Ocean Park.

Brandon Scheer began his tenure as Ocean Park Director in March. He and his family – his wife Carole and two preschool sons, are settling in the Ocean Park area. They come to us from Vancouver where Brandon is already making connections with churches that historically relate to OP. Brandon’s background is in Christian Education with a strong call to camping ministry. He has 4+ years’ experience as a program director prior to coming to OP as the site director.

Hiring two new directors was a daunting task with special thanks going to CBS Vice Chair, Peter Fraser, for taking the lead in the search. Along with Executive Director Alan Rogstad, Peter and the search committee made careful consideration and prayerful listening in order to find the right directors.

Ministry is also happening at Twinlow. Director Tyler Wagner continues to find innovative ways of making disciples for Jesus – at the camp and away. We congratulate Tyler and wife Elizabeth at the birth of a new child/camper in the spring.

Lazy F continues to be offering outstanding ministry under the leadership of Dave Burfeind. Plans for a beautiful new dining hall are finding strong constituent support. A creative group co-chaired by Bruce Smith and Shannon Brannon are heading up the much needed development. Our thanks goes to them and their team as they make sure everyone has a “place at the table.”

We have also been delighted to continue to strengthen our bond with camp leadership in the Oregon/Idaho and Alaska conferences. We have just participated in the Western Jurisdiction’s Camp Network week and look forward to next year’s National Camp Leaders meeting.

The ministry of camping and retreat ministry has changed over the years. What hasn’t changed is how, through the leadership of outstanding staff and dedicated volunteers, our ministry continues to offer sacred space, leadership development and incredible hospitality to churches, groups and individuals. If you haven’t been at camp for a while check us out again! Online or in person, you are all welcome here!

Joyce O’Connor-Magee, CBS Chair

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry! In 2014, GBHEM staff have been busy with two initiatives assigned to the Board by the General Conference 2012 — the **Young Clergy Initiative** and the **Central Conference Theological Education Fund**.

Ninety-one applications were submitted in the first round of grants from the **Young Clergy Initiative**. The second round deadline is July 2, 2014. First-round awards will be made in May.

Proposals for solar electrification of a rural theological school and training teams of pastors to mobilize people to change their communities were among 57 grants for more than \$1 million awarded from the \$5 million **Central Conference Theological Education Fund** for Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

- We hope you will visit our redesigned website (www.gbhem.org). The new site features an enhanced search engine, new content, and a user-friendly reorganization.
- GBHEM has expanded our use of social media. In addition to our new website, we have more than 4,800 followers on Twitter, and more than 1,500 like our Facebook page. We’ve added

- Google+, Linked In, and Pinterest, and have beefed up our YouTube channel.
- Technology has enabled us to make our training and resources more readily available to the church. The UMC Cyber Campus and Online Consortium (www.umccybercampus) provide free video training sessions and lectures, as well as an online listing of continuing education courses. Our Division of Ordained Ministry's 2013 training events, retreats, and webinars reached more than 700 district superintendents, elders, chaplains, clergywomen, deacons, candidates, and annual conference staff.
 - The GBHEM and Africa University Boards met jointly on the AU campus in March and witnessed the dedication of the Ubuntu Retreat Center, funded by the West Michigan Conference. The AU Board elected Dr. Munashe Furusa as the new vice chancellor.
 - Close to 5,000 AU graduates are changing the African continent. Enrollment in 2013 was 1,480 full-time students from 25 African countries. Women now account for 53% of the student body.
 - The Collegiate Ministry office is planning their student gathering, Imagine What's NEXT 2014. NEXT will be held November 7-9 in Denver, Colo.
 - Collegiate Ministry supported the training of 500 campus ministers through LEAD, Prepare / Shared Space, UM Campus Ministry Association, Exploration, and Refresh.
 - In 2013-2014, GBHEM's Loans and Scholarships office awarded \$5.5 million in loans and scholarships to 2,442 students. L&S also partnered in the creation of a UM scholarships portal offering one-stop-shopping for students and their parents. View the portal at scholarship.umc.org.
 - At Exploration 2013, 152 young adults signed commitment cards saying they felt the call to ordained ministry. Plans are already underway for Exploration 2015.
 - A pilot project sponsored by GBHEM and GBOD to provide e-readers for the Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia has proved so successful that additional funding is being sought to expand the project to other seminaries in Africa. To give online, go to drint.org/donate.
 - For the first time, an entire issue of Interpreter magazine (March / April 2014) was devoted to a single issue — United Methodist higher education. The Christian as Minister: An Exploration into the Meaning of God's Call was published last summer and will soon be published as an e-book through a partnership with Abingdon Press. Our first foray into digital publishing was in 2013 with Breaking Through the Stained Glass Ceiling: Women Pastoring Large Churches. We are now publishing a printed version of this title.
 - The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development established five regional offices: Methodist University, São Paulo, Brazil; Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea; Reutlingen School, Germany; Methodist University of Cote d'Ivoire; and GBHEM, Nashville, Tenn.

CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

There have been exciting changes and developments at Claremont School of Theology (CST) over the past year and we are pleased to bring these updates to our annual conferences.

In July of 2013, CST welcomed the Rev. Dr. Kah-jin Jeffrey Kuan as our seventh president. His inauguration took place in October with over 300 guests from around the world participating. Dr. Kuan comes to us after more than two years as Dean at Drew Theological School and more than nineteen years on the faculty of the Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union. His areas of scholarship include Hebrew Bible as well as Asian and Asian-American hermeneutics. "Dr. Kuan is a distinguished educator, scholar, and minister who is deeply committed to the vibrant future of theological education," said the Rev. Dr. David Richardson, Chair of CST's Board of Trustees. "His arrival at [CST] is well-timed for the continued development of this school and the vitality of the church in an increasingly globalized age."

Another highlight of the past year was the appointment by the board and faculty of the Rev. Dr. Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook, Ed.D, Ph.D as CST's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Kujawa-Holbrook is a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, an historian of religion, and practical theologian. She concurrently serves as Professor of Practical Theology and Religious Education at CST.

CST is pleased to inform the annual conferences of the launch of two online/hybrid degrees—the Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Ministry, Leadership and Service. Our world-class faculty has designed curricula to support these degrees that blend online teaching with intensive in-person meetings. These programs offer opportunity for distance learning students who are unable to relocate a unique opportunity to receive a high quality theological education – one that will allow them to participate in an interreligious community and experience a process of deep spiritual and vocational formation that opens the door to a wide range of potential ministries. The first cohort of students in these programs will enroll this September. Thus far the interest in this new degree program has been high. To learn more about these programs please visit our website, cst.edu.

Interreligious education remains a fundamental value to which CST is completely committed. That value is being lived out through the deepening of relationships with our Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist and Dharmic partners throughout Southern California. Our students live, learn and relax side-by-side with students of all religious backgrounds, all while deepening their understanding and appreciation for the Christian traditions from which they come. It is our firm belief that today's increasingly pluralistic religious environment demands that we prepare Christian leaders who are capable of speaking across faith traditions from a position of deep-rootedness within their own.

In pursuit of this mission CST is profoundly grateful for the continuing support of the United Methodist community around the world. Without the generosity of United Methodist donors, alumni/ae, general boards, and local churches it would not be possible to provide our students with such a high level of theological education. Thank you for helping us to train the next generation of Christian leaders.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT

The Pacific Northwest Conference increased its support for the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment by 2.9% in 2013, resulting in an investment of 87.9% of the asking. Overall giving to the AUF reached 91.7% last year, the highest level of any of the general church funds; and a total of 25 annual conferences invested in the AUF at 100% or higher.

The Africa University community—students, faculty, staff and trustees—thank you and celebrate your ongoing investment in changing lives for the better. We are especially grateful that the local congregations of the Pacific Northwest Conference are continuing to work towards investing at the 100% level in all the connectional ministries of the United Methodist Church, including Africa University.

Leadership and Service: In August, three 2013 graduates were commissioned as young adult missionaries by the General Board of Global Ministries, pushing the total number of Africa University alumni serving internationally as mission interns to seven in just two years.

“The church has a tremendous role to play in the transformation of the world,” said Jacques Kazemb, an AU graduate and mission intern who worked in outreach to at-risk children and youth in Brazil. “Through a project like the Shade and Fresh Water in Brazil, the Methodist Church is contributing to a positive change in many children's lives.”

Kazemb has returned to his home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a plan to start a similar initiative for marginalized children and youth.

In Mozambique, where recent political violence has destroyed homes, displaced thousands and claimed many lives, two Africa University graduates are in the forefront of caring for the victims and healing the rifts behind the conflict. Rev. Joao Sambo coordinates humanitarian relief in the Mozambique Conference and Rev. Anastacio Chembeze is mediating talks between the parties to the conflict to help them to resolve their differences peacefully.

Thank you for helping to shape Africa University as a ministry through which young people discern their call and gifts, and become effective global leaders!

Student Enrollment: Africa University's enrollment grew to 1480 full-time students from 25 African countries in 2013. Women now account for 53% of the student body.

Scholarships and Financial Aid: Africa University distributed more than \$1.8 million in scholarships and financial aid to its students. In April 2013, the university launched the Girl Child Scholarship Fund to help more African women to access higher education. Through a new \$50 million Campaign for Endowment and initiatives aimed at its alumni and African donors, the institution is working towards greater sustainability.

Disciple-Making: More than 450 students were awarded degree certificates in June 2013, bringing the total number of Africa University graduates to about 5,000. Every day, these graduates manifest the promise and power of the Gospel to bring light and hope to a troubled world.

Your contributions are vital to this work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the realization of a more stable, just, and healthy world. We pray that you will continue to increase your commitment to this visionary effort.

- Please make a 100% investment in the AUF your goal for 2014.
- Encourage your local church to become an annual scholarship donor.
- Have your district invest in an endowed scholarship which can support one student a year in perpetuity.
- Take advantage of our new Dream Insurance program and donate all or a portion of the proceeds of an affordable Term Life Insurance plan to Africa University.
- Remember to include Africa University in your will.
- Please pray without ceasing for Africa University and its contributions to a rich, impactful and vibrant future for Africa and for our global church.

Thank you and God bless you.

Mr. James H. Salley

Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Africa University Development Office

Tel: (615) 340-7438 | Fax: (615) 340-7290 | Email: audevoffice@gbhem.org

www.support-africauniversity.org

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Dear Colleagues in the Pacific Northwest Conference,

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! Thank you for your prayers and support for United Methodist theological education. This has been a bountiful year for Boston University School of Theology, beginning with the arrival of a passionate community of students from 35 states and 16 countries. The year has had many highlights.

BREAKING NEWS:

- **Doctor of Ministry:** The School has unfolded a new Doctor of Ministry program designed to enrich church leaders in traditional and non-traditional settings and to deepen their theological understanding and commitment to the practice of ministry. The DMin focuses on transformational leadership. It includes four intensive seminars on campus in August and January, a series of online courses, and opportunities for students to work closely with faculty as they research their own unique questions and visions.
- **Community Center:** The School's renovated Community Center has become a favorite gathering space – sustainable, hospitable, and accessible. It is the welcoming home for weekly community lunches, study, conversation, play, seminars, retreats, and parties.
- **Religion and Conflict Transformation (RCT) Clinic:** The RCT Clinic sponsors projects to

address conflict in congregations, interfaith peacebuilding, restorative justice, and mediation.

- **Expanded Scholarship Options:** The School has expanded its scholarship options to include full tuition scholarships for UMC certified candidates for ordained ministry, African American Thurman scholars, Latino/a Raices scholars, and School of the Prophets scholars.

DEEPENING SPIRITUAL LIFE: The community enhances spiritual growth in many ways.

- **Building intentional living communities:** The School sponsors and helps support Theology House, Green House, and Beane House of Study, where students live with intentional and communal practices.
- **Enhancing spiritual life** through weekly worship, reading retreats, winter retreat, daily morning prayer, and small groups.
- **Offering spiritual journeys,** including the Vocations Vacation to ministry and service sites and the Seminary Singers tour to local churches.

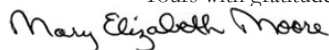
ENGAGING THE WORLD: BU School of Theology students and faculty have traveled and served extensively in the world during the past year:

- **Giving** hundreds of volunteer hours across the Boston region, U.S. and world in church camps, homeless shelters, peace organizations, global United Methodist programs, and other settings.
- **Traveling** in study groups to Turkey (Ephesus), Israel & Palestine, Cuba, rural and urban ministry sites, and churches and service organizations across the US
- **Sponsoring** conferences on global Christianity and the Dictionary of African Christian Biography
- **Serving** in local churches and community agencies in contextual education placements, courses, and special internships.

PONDERING CRITICAL ISSUES: The School's annual theme was "Free at Last," to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. The community engaged in urgent questions regarding race, sexual orientation and gender identity, and poverty, creating open and respectful spaces to discuss themes that are important to, and controversial in, the church and larger society.

The ministry of the Boston University School of Theology is to partner with you in serving the church and in caring for the larger human family and God's precious creation.

Yours with gratitude,



Mary Elizabeth Moore
Dean, Boston University School of Theology

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, WASHINGTON, DC

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.Churchleadership.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.
- 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

A – 2. MEETING TIMES

(Adopted Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, L.D. Consent Calendar Report #1b)

Resolved: that Chairpersons of Conference Boards and Agencies are encouraged to schedule meetings for dates and times which enable the full participation of all members of that board or agency, lay and clergy.

Explanation: We recognize that we do our best work when we have input from a variety of voices. During the nominating process care is taken to achieve balance between lay and clergy membership on conference committees. Among both laity and clergy, we find a multitude of gifted individuals with a passion for ministry.

Lay persons who accept the invitation to share their gifts for ministry do so with gratitude for

the opportunity to serve the church. It is disappointing and discouraging, then, when a lay person finds that meetings are scheduled at times when their work/family commitments won't allow them to attend. (Typically, weekday mornings or afternoons.)

If we are to do our best work, we need the full participation of all members of each Board and Agency. While there are times when it is appropriate to utilize electronic means (Skype, conference call) there are often circumstances in which face to face meetings are necessary. This may mean meeting on weekday evenings and/or Saturday's but each committee chair is encouraged to determine what works best for their committee members and schedule meetings accordingly.

Each committee chair will determine meeting dates and times based on the availability of that committee's members.

Joan Holms, Conference Lay Leader, Queen Anne UMC; Pat Dodson, Assoc. Conference Lay Leader, Snohomish UMC; Megan Kilpatrick - President, CCOYAM, Puyallup UMC; Noriko Lao - Puget Sound District Lay Leader, Garden Street UMC; Wendie Hansen - Seven Rivers District Lay Leader Lanora Callahan - Tacoma District Lay Leader, Eatonville UMC; Terry Neal - Vancouver District Lay Leader, Washougal UMC; Rosalee Mohney - Laity Communicator, Des Moines UMC; Jenni Yeoh – UMW President; Connie McBride, Colfax UMC

A – 3. CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS

(Adopted Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, L.D. Report #2)

Resolved, Conference Rule VI: “Conference Agencies”, is amended by adding:

Section 7: Fellowship of Certified Lay Ministers (§ 601, 610, 703.12)¹ (Rule II, Sec. 3 (d) (12), (21))²

- (a) Establishment –
The Fellowship of Certified Lay Ministers in the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church is established for the sake of the life and mission of the church and to foster a deepening relationship with God among its members.
- (b) Purpose –
The Fellowship’s Purpose is to:
 - (1) Be a network of trusting mutual support, unity, common commitment, counsel, camaraderie, and covenant accountability for the encouragement, development, growth and inspiration of Certified Lay Ministers in their discipleship as they strive to fulfill the Church’s Mission and realize the Vision of the Pacific Northwest Conference whether through their assignments as part of mutual ministry teams or other roles they may play in the life and mission of the church;
 - (2) To provide for regular gatherings of Certified Lay Ministers, and;
 - (3) To advocate for and affirm the essential and critical role of Certified Lay Ministers.
- (c) Membership –
All persons certified as Lay Ministers in the Conference become members upon certification, remain so as long as certified, and are encouraged to participate in the Fellowship.
- (d) Organization –
The Fellowship will organize itself so as to best accomplish its intended Purpose.
- (e) Relations with the Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, and Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members –
The Fellowship will establish and maintain collegial relations with the Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, and Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. This relationship will facilitate the development and dissemination of models and best practices of cooperative and collaborative ministries.

1 Paragraph references are to The Book of Discipline, 2012 edition

2 References to “Rules” are to the Conference Rules as published in the 2013 Proceedings of the Pacific Northwest Conference

(f) Conference Support –

The Bishop shall provide continuing spiritual leadership for the Fellowship. Financial support for the Fellowship shall parallel that for the Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, and Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

Rationale: It is without question that the laity are critical to the vitality of the church. From Joseph Humphreys in 1738 and Thomas Maxfield in 1741, and including Francis Asbury from 1761 until his ordination, nearly a quarter-century later, on Christmas day 1784, lay-persons have provided leadership, fulfilling essential and critical roles in the church’s ministry.

- Within the church community, there are persons whose gifts, evidence of God’s grace, and promise of future usefulness are affirmed by the community, and who respond to God’s call by offering themselves in leadership in many and varied ways; one of these is as a Certified Lay Minister.
- Those who are called to offer themselves in leadership as Certified Lay Ministers are as much in need of the opportunity for mutual support, care, encouragement, growth, covenant accountability, and deepening their personal relationship with God with and from their peers as are those who offer themselves in service as Elders, Deacons, or Local Pastors.
- While The Book of Discipline provides for the establishment of the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, it makes no similar provision for Certified Lay Ministers.
- The Pacific Northwest Conference (PNWC) has long been a leader in the development, growth, encouragement, and utilization of lay-persons for fulfilling essential and critical roles in ministry. The Conference’s Limited Population (LimPop) program, for example, is in many ways the model for the Certified Lay Ministry program.
- By placing a renewed emphasis on the Certified Lay Ministry program, the PNWC also creates a greater need for Certified Lay Ministers to have the opportunity for support afforded by an established Fellowship; and initiated such at the conclusion of the Certified Lay Minister basic training event in September 2012.
- This legislation recognizes the Fellowship of Certified Lay Ministers in the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church in the same way The Book of Discipline authorizes the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members across the Denomination.

Paragraph references are to The Book of Discipline, 2012 edition

References to “Rules” are to the Conference Rules as published in the 2013 Proceedings of the Pacific Northwest Conference

Section-by-Section Analysis

(a) Establishment –

Parallels ¶ 306 and 323 of *The Book of Discipline* relating to the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

(b) Purpose –

Parallels ¶ 306, 307, and 323 of *The Book of Discipline* relating to the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members with addition of advocacy roll.

(c) Membership –

Parallels ¶ 306, 307, 309, and 323 of *The Book of Discipline* relating to the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members but does not mandate participation and recognizes that status as a Certified Lay Minister may lapse.

- (d) Organization –
Parallels Conference Rule VI, Sec. 6.
- (e) Relations with the Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, and Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members –
Sets baseline duty of the Fellowship to proactively establish and actively maintain collegial relations with the Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, and Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members and establishes expected outcomes from that relationship.
- (f) Conference Support –
Parallels and is in concert with ¶ 308 and 323(2) of *The Book of Discipline* relating to the Order of Elders, the Order of Deacons, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

A – 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

(Elected Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, L.D. Report #3)

Chairperson: Dirk Robinson
Vice-Chairperson: *Kathy Morse*
Secretary: Janet Corey

B. CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

B-1. CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(Received Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, C.D. Consent Calendar Report #1a)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Congregational Development (BOCD) is composed of active United Methodist clergy and laity from throughout the Annual Conference as well as some Staff Leaders. Of the 16 members, 8 are clergy, 2 are lay and 6 are in staff positions.

BOCD meets once a month in our hope of fulfilling our dual task of helping in the revitalization and renewal of existing faith communities as well as in the development of new faith communities. Both of these tasks are geared towards the same goals of having faith communities (either new or existing) that are equipped in effectively engaging their mission field and making disciples of Jesus Christ. The following are the strategies we tried in performing these tasks this previous year.

A. In the Effort of Revitalization and Renewal of Existing Faith Communities

As it was mentioned in our reports in the previous years, BOCD has identified leadership development as its primary strategy for revitalization and renewal of existing faith communities and ministries. The focus of this work is to strengthen the capacity of the local church in developing disciple-making systems and engaging in its local mission field. In 2013, BOCD supported the following leadership development efforts:

- Connecting for Worship with Jorge Lockward. Jorge Lockward, Director of Global Praise with the General Board of Global Ministries, offered two workshops in the PNW Conference with support of the Board of Congregational Development. A two-day workshop in the Seven Rivers District explored relevance and spontaneity in worship. A half-day workshop at Renton First UMC explored worship arts, contrasting performance with connection.
- Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity. In conjunction with the United Methodist Foundation of the Northwest, BOCD and Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence presented Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity, a seminar supporting lay/clergy teams to explore trends in philanthropy and rethink giving. Dr. Bill Enright, Executive Director of the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, trained 10 persons from the PNW and Oregon Idaho Conferences to present this seminar. Four persons were certified in 2013. Dr. Enright will return in 2014 to certify the remaining trainers, building capacity in the PNW to reach more congregations in a manner convenient to lay and clergy teams. The Tuell Center implemented its coaching methodology, offering support to local churches as they implement the learnings.
- Transforming Ministries II. In partnership with the Tuell Center and Board of Ordained Ministry, BOCD supported Transforming Ministries II, a gathering of clergy to explore innovations in ministry. Rev. Alan Hirsch, Rev. Lillian Daniel and Rev. Philip Clayton presented. A yearlong series of webinars is assisting participants in deepening their learnings and applying them to the local church.
- School of Congregational Development: The denominational School of Congregational Development was held in Denver in 2013. BOCD supported four lay/clergy teams to attend the training: Everett: La Palabra Viviente; Lacey: St. Andrews; Clarkston UMC; Leavenworth UMC. District Superintendent Juli Reinholz, a member of BOCD, hosted the delegation. An additional three faith communities were supported through new church start funding and the Commission on Ethnic Ministries.
- Coaching Conversations. BOCD and the Tuell Center for Leadership Excellence hosted two sessions of Coaching Conversations, a seminar to train lay and clergy leaders to utilize a coaching methodology in their ministry settings. Held in Spokane and Vancouver, these

seminars were led by professional coaches with Rev. Mary Huycke as the principal trainer. Participants were offered the opportunity to improve skills through a 6-month coaching practicum following the event.

- A lay/clergy team from Trinity UMC attended the Alban Institute training Raising the Roof, a seminar to address congregations attempting to move to 200 or more in worship attendance.
- Rural Ministries Resources produced two gatherings of leaders working in rural settings. Funding supported the gatherings and the administration of the Rural Ministries Resources, an organization that provides a unique service to small congregations.
- Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) Training. BOCD supported the work of the PNW Cabinet and the Tuell Center in training persons to become Certified Lay Ministers. The trainings have been very successful.
- Course of Study. BOCD supported five ethnic local church leaders to attend Course of Study in 2013. Course of Study and Licensing School prepare persons to become Local Pastors.
- Lay Training. BOCD advanced funds for a lay leadership training to take place in early 2014. This training is produced in partnership with the Tuell Center and the Oregon Idaho Conference. The goal is to identify laity who are not currently involved in the life of the church and enlist their gifts on behalf of Christ's mission locally.
- District Superintendents received support to provided needed resourcing to the local church.

B. In the Effort of Developing New Faith Communities

Our ministries of New Faith Community Development are keyed to the development of new disciples of Jesus Christ and equipping our new faith communities for world-transforming action. Through our new faith communities, new people are beginning a new journey of discipleship, new disciples are growing in their faith and understanding, and new leaders are launching new ministries of justice, mercy, and transformation.

Our work with new faith communities is divided into three areas:

1. Direct funding, resourcing, and reviewing our New Faith Communities

At the end of 2013, we have sixteen new faith communities receiving direct financial support or resourcing from the New Faith Community Development budget. These are:

1. El Dios Viviente in Seattle WA
2. La Palabra Viviente in Everett WA
3. First UMC of Canada in Vancouver BC
4. Sky Prairie UMC in Post Falls ID
5. Good Seed Church in Federal Way WA
6. Valley & Mountain Fellowship in Columbia City WA
7. The Crossing UMC in Vancouver WA
8. God's New Generation/Nueva Generacion de Dios UMC in Pasco WA
9. Evergreen UMC new congregation of Lacey St. Andrew's UMC
10. Hispanic Congregation of Wenatchee First UMC
11. Young Adult Ministry at Olympia First UMC
12. New Faith Community at Tacoma First UMC
13. Peace German-Speaking UMC at Seattle First UMC
14. Seattle Vietnamese Fellowship at Seattle Beacon UMC
15. Academy of Missional Wisdom Cohort
16. Oak Tree Ministry at Spokane St. Paul's UMC

Each of these faith communities represents dozens of new Christians who are growing in discipleship to Jesus Christ through the United Methodist Church. Each of these new communities is innovating and developing new ways of ministry to reach people in their

mission field and powerful new practices of engaging their communities. Through our Director of Faith Community Development, we partner with their District Superintendents to provide accountable growth goals and benchmarks for our projects. Some of our older projects haven't had this accountability, but we moved in 2012 to ensure a common standard of accountability for each project. Because accountability without resourcing is cruel, we also provide funding for ongoing coaching, training, and connecting of our new faith community leaders.

Starting in 2012 we are implementing a new partnership funding pattern for our new faith communities. In this pattern, we use our Board of Congregational Development funds to leverage additional funding from partners. For our four 2013 plants, the BOCD leveraged its own funding commitments of \$191,451 (35%) to release \$349,726 (65%) from our local church and district planting partners. We expect to continue this strategy for our next plants.

2. Resourcing and equipping our PNWUMC leaders to develop plans for New Faith Communities

Good plans are important for good plants. In collaboration with District and Conference leaders, we are working to develop plans for the next generation of new faith communities in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to providing planning resources, such as demographic analysis and mapping data, our Director of Faith Community Development coaches passionate leaders in helping make their dreams of new faith communities into realities. This often requires a significant investment of time and training resources. Additionally, we are constantly encouraging our existing churches to partner with new faith communities in order to closely learn new methods of reaching new people in our region. This year we continued to refine our PNWUMC Planting Process Guide, which describes our processes and practices of launching a new faith community from vision to reality. Our Planting Guide also provides a framework and collection of planting methodologies that describe the various partnering and launch strategies.

We hosted or resourced three major events in 2013 to support developing good plans for our New Faith Communities:

1. United Methodist School of Congregational Development – Aug 15-18, Denver CO. This is a national event that was held in and resourced by the Western Jurisdiction. We had a fairly large groups of PNW participants, including five new faith community planters.
2. Trailhead: New Church Leadership Training – Nov 13-16, Oakland CA. This event is designed to introduce potential planters and other leaders to the basics of starting a new faith community. Six PNW clergy and lay leaders participated in the training. The NCLI experience continues to be an important part of how we assist potential planters to discern their calling and capacity for starting a new faith community.
3. LaunchPad West New Faith Community Planting Training – Sep 15-18, Boise ID. LaunchPad is an upgrade to the traditional “Church Planter’s Bootcamp” experience. It is designed to equip teams from new faith communities in developing a context-specific plan for getting their new congregation started. Paul Nixon from the Path1 New Church Office of the UMC led this event. This planning and consulting time has been greatly beneficial in providing the best possible launch plan for each of our new starts.

3. Recruiting, training, and assessing potential New Faith Community planters

New faith communities are not started by committees or boards. They are started by lay and clergy leaders responding to God’s call to do something new for Christ. New faith community planters can come from many different places with many different backgrounds, but we have discovered some key indicators of their potential success. Using these indicators, we are

looking to recruit lay and clergy leaders who might be potential planters, give them some training and information to better equip their discernment to this peculiar calling, and assess their gifts and calling for new faith community planting. We have a team of seven leaders who have been trained to help potential planters assess their gifts and discern their calling. This team provides reports to assist the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet in identifying potential clergy leaders for our new faith communities. In 2013, our Assessment Team conducted six interviews for potential planters. This team includes:

- Pat Simpson
- Daniel Foster
- Mary Huycke
- Mark Galang
- Eleazar Rivera-Garcia
- Wendy Riddle
- Curtis Brown

What is next?

In 2014 and 2015, BOCD will continue its emphasis on leadership development offering training opportunities in all districts of the conference. Offerings will include but not be limited to *Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity*, *Transforming Ministries* and *Certified Lay Ministers* training. Worship innovation will also be addressed in 2014 and ministry with the poor will then be addressed in 2015. Moreover, the Board will continue supporting ethnic leaders who would attend Course of Study and Licensing School to provide appropriate leadership for faith communities of color. The Board also plans in continuing to support gatherings of ethnic clergy for support and learning. BOCD will also continue to support training for rural and small town ministries, as these settings are unique. The board also intends on continuing to provide funding for use by district superintendents for specialized training and coaching.

In the area of development of new faith communities, we also expect to continue the trajectory we have already established in launching new faith communities. As part of a larger plan within the Western Jurisdiction, we have set a challenging, but achievable, goal of launching 48 new faith communities in the Pacific Northwest by 2024. In 2013, we launched four. In 2014, we have already identified three new launches and fully expect to see 1 or 2 additional projects. In 2015, we anticipate continuing on this pace, with four additional new faith community projects, including several Hispanic/Latino new faith communities. Each of these new faith communities will be focused on effectively engaging its mission field and inviting people into a journey of discipleship with Jesus Christ.

But more importantly, I would like to let you know that the BOCD is continuously reevaluating our strategies and efforts on how to do our tasks in the most cost-effective, efficient and relatively sustainable ways.

Words of Thanks

As final words, I would like to commend our outstanding staff particularly, Kristina Gonzalez (Director of Leadership Development for an Inclusive Church) and the Rev. Curtis Brown (Director of Faith Community Development). The greater part of the effectiveness of the Board's work comes as result of their outstanding job. I also would like to thank the members of the Board who tirelessly and unselfishly offer their time, wisdom and effort in this important work. Lastly I thank you all for your continuous partnership and prayers in our work together. I believe that best times are still ahead of us.

Mark Galang

COMMISSION ON ETHNIC MINISTRIES

The Commission on Ethnic Ministries supports the work of the local church in reaching racial/ethnic and linguistic communities that are generally underserved in the mainline Protestant

denominations. Its programs are organized to support racial/ethnic leadership development, empower established ministries to connect with their mission fields and prompt discipleship that engages the local community.

The commission provides support for leadership development among lay and clergy of color. In 2013, the commission supported a number of persons to attend trainings helpful to ethnic ministries, provided scholarships for age level camping for children of color, assisted racial/ethnic youth to attend Convo and caucus meetings, funded the Christmas Institute (a Filipino-American youth/young adult led gathering) and partnered in cultural competency training, among others. This support has helped to expose racial/ethnic youth, young adults and families to high quality opportunities to grow in faithful discipleship.

The Christmas Institute is where many Filipino and Filipina American clergy have experienced their calls to ministry. “The theme of being fearless related to me because now I know that I am worthy and in God’s eyes, I am enough. I was able to be who I am without the fear of anyone judging me,” said one 2013 Christmas Institute participant. “I am not fearless yet. CI told me...that it is okay and that I’m not alone. I now know who I stand to be in God’s eyes and who He’s calling me to be,” said another. “CI Leadership makes me excited to be a leader and increase my leadership skills. It seems that planning for CI is really fun and I feel that it will influence a lot of people to start thinking about being in leadership,” said another.

Funding for Leadership Development ranges from support for individuals to travel to trainings or cultural events like Filipino Caucus (NAFAUM) or special training on Hispanic Latino ministries, to large in-conference gatherings like Tongan Family Camp or the Christmas Institute. The common theme for all activities is a deepening understanding of Christian call and deepening commitment to Christian leadership in the United Methodist tradition.

The commission offers two grant programs as a challenge to existing communities to reach *Beyond the Doors* into racial/ethnic and linguistic communities in their neighborhoods. The *New Life* program prompts faith communities to take discipleship into their neighborhoods. Both support the conference emphasis on enhancing disciple-making systems and mission field engagement in the local church.

Pastor Lee Carney Hartman writes this about the Beyond the Doors program at Fall City UMC: *Thanks to the Beyond the Doors grant - outreach worker Veronica Bethel has been able to offer her presence and translation help to Spanish speakers in Snoqualmie Valley. She’s become known in part through her standard weekly assignment at valley food banks. Her services extend to supporting Spanish speakers in filling out forms, making medical appointments, and sometimes translating by request during doctor visits. One of those instances stands out as particularly life-giving.*

Veronica became familiar with a woman who was pregnant but without pre-natal care. As the pregnancy advanced Veronica encouraged the woman to pursue available medical services, helped with paper work, and agreed to accompany her to the initial doctor’s visit for translation support. Upon examination doctors discovered that she had a large ovarian tumor that was competing with her fetus for space. Veronica’s language skills and strength of spiritual presence were a great help to this young Latina and her mother in accessing and enduring the treatment that followed. In the end both mother and new daughter are healthy and better grounded for their lives ahead. Veronica made such a difference to them all that they call her “grandmother” too.

Thanks to the Beyond the Doors grant for helping Veronica to afford the time she spent along the way. Thanks be to God for such a joy-filled outcome!

The commission supports the Pacific Northwest Conference in its explicitly articulated desire for faith communities that are “diverse and united,” recognizing that ministry among immigrant communities takes time, relationship and commitment to grow and thrive.

The commission also places high value on seeding creatively in faith communities to engage their

mission fields differently. The programs have been very successful in this regard, with congregations finding new ways to open their building and grounds to the community, and finding new paths to engage the needs of their communities. The commission is seeding new thinking about how to assess and address the needs of the mission field. The commission will continue to be an advocate for ministries that reach the diversity of people residing in Washington and Northern Idaho.

John Coleman Campbell, Chair

B-2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

(Elected Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, C.D. Report #4)

Chairperson: LaVerne Troxel
Vice-Chairperson: Greg Mizukami
Secretary: *David McCue*

C. CONNECTING FOR MISSIONS – DOMESTIC

C – 1. CONNECTING FOR MISSION – DOMESTIC

(Received Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, CFM – Domestic Consent Calendar Report #1a)

CHURCH AND SOCIETY - DOMESTIC

The mission of the United Methodist Church is making disciples. We disciples are then to transform the world. The Board of Church and Society seeks to transform social structures to make them consistent with the gospel. The tools it uses are public witness and advocacy for change and providing resources for congregations to use in their work.

In the Pacific Northwest Conference this January, 46 Methodists were part of the group of 300 in Olympia, WA for Interfaith Advocacy Day. The theme for the day was *Dismantling the Culture of Violence*. During visits with their legislators, participants urged passage of legislation that would reduce gun violence and wage theft. Later in the session, we asked legislators to protect funds for the Housing Trust Fund that helps the homeless. The Idaho legislative event focused on education, particularly reading.

At the national level, Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. explored the theme *Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence, Building Peace*. When we attendees called on our representatives in Congress at the end of the weekend one thing we asked them was:

Reduce acquisition and use of guns for purposes that cause harm

Eight from the PNW stayed an extra day to work with GBCS staff on the effort in Washington State to reduce misuse of guns through background checks on all gun purchases. The debate about church property as a weapon-free zone at Annual Conference 2013 made it clear that this is an issue the church needs to discuss through the lens of our faith. The PNWAC C&S has worked to facilitate this dialog by sponsoring district gatherings and a luncheon on Friday at Annual Conference 2014.

Again this year, GBCS offered a Young Clergy Leadership Forum. C&S nominated pastors Cody Natland and Karen Yokota to attend. Pastor Natland writes of his experience:

“It’s easy to feel like we are isolated and alone in some of our struggles in the church and trying to make a difference in our world - trying to work toward our world’s transformation - and I had a lot of encouragement that the United Methodist Church IS making a difference, and each of our congregations matters and is important in that movement toward God’s Kingdom.”

United Methodists have long been concerned about substance abuse and addictions. Madelyn Bafus, our coordinator for this area, has prepared resources for the Inland District churches. She attended Building Healing Communities for Veterans at Gonzaga.

You are invited to participate in a UM Seminar program in Washington, D.C. in May 2015. We will look at issues relating to the environment and environmental justice from a base in the United Methodist building across the street from the nation’s Capitol and Supreme Court. More info is available on the C&S display table.

Ann Eachus, Chair PNWAC Board of Church and Society

C – 2. INITIATIVE 594

(Adopted Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, CFM – Domestic Consent Calendar Report #1b)

Resolved: The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church endorses Washington State Initiative 594, which would apply criminal background-check requirements to all gun

sales and transfers in Washington State, with specific exceptions.

Communications staff of the PNW Conference will send out one press release announcing the endorsement if and when it passes. Another press release reiterating the PNW Conference's endorsement will be sent in the week prior to the election. We further request that the Bishop appoint two persons to represent the Pacific Northwest Conference at the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility and to update local churches on how they can act in support of passing I-594.

Explanation: Gun injuries and deaths in Washington State are a significant public health problem with approximately 600 people killed by guns each year over the past decade, and in 2010 more people in Washington State died by guns (609) than in traffic accidents (554).

Fifteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws requiring background checks for all firearm purchases or handgun purchases, but Washington state has not. These fifteen states show a lower incidence of gun violence per capita than Washington state.

Since 1994 over 2.1 million firearm purchase applications have been denied because of federal criminal background checks for gun sales through licensed dealers required by the Brady Law, but up to 40% of firearm purchases are between private parties and not subject to criminal background checks.

Risk for new criminal activity is increased among those with a prior criminal history. Inmate surveys have shown that at least 80% of firearms inmates used in crimes were obtained in a private transfer, and more than 40% of homicide offenders and inmates incarcerated for firearm-related offenses were prohibited persons when they acquired their firearms, people who would have failed a background check had one been required when they acquired their firearm.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church has strongly advocated against the epidemic of gun violence and has continually urged United Methodists to oppose gun violence and work to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. ¶3426, Book of Resolutions, 2008 "Gun Violence").

Initiative 594 arose from the faith community of Washington State as a response to the Sandy Hook shootings in Newtown, CT. It would apply background-check requirements currently used for gun sales by licensed dealers to all gun sales and transfers, with specific exceptions, and require the checks be conducted through licensed dealers. Contrary to claims of the gun lobby, it honors Second Amendment rights by simply extending current background checks to gun purchases and transfers that are currently not covered in existing law. Initiative 594 has been endorsed by hundreds of faith community leaders in Washington State, by the Washington State PTSA, the League of Women Voters, the majority of Washington State's congressional delegation, by law enforcement leaders, including county prosecutors all over the State of Washington.

Bill Gordon; Carol Mariano, Haller Lake UMC; David Orendorff, Bear Creek UMC; David Valera, Office of Connectional Ministries; Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout, Sunrise UMC; Mark Williams; Mike Graef, Spokane Valley UMC; Paula McCutcheon, Ronald UMC; Terri Stewart, Youth Chaplaincy Coalition; Mary Petrina Boyd, Langley UMC; Cathlynn Law, Sandpoint UMC; Kay C. Barckley, University Temple UMC; Leslie Ann Knight, Fircrest UMC; Stephen Tarr, Bellevue First UMC; Sharon Moe, Tacoma District Superintendent; Ryan Russell; Bonnie Chandler-Warren, Mason UMC; Karla Fredericksen, Wallingford UMC; Paul Mitchell, Snoqualmie UMC; Sandy Brown, Seattle First UMC; Ann Eachus, Bothell UMC; Cary Lee; Evangeline Rand; Jonathan Tong; Patrick Scriven, Director of Communications, Ministries with Young People; Sara Dunning Lambert, Bear Creek UMC; Tracy Faulkner; Jane McGrath; Erik Still; June Fryer Jackson, Seattle First UMC; Sunny Hemphill; Myrna Overstreet; Diane J Sillivan; Jennifer Vasche Lehner; Lynn Brown; Barbara Moreland, Seattle First UMC; Elizabeth Neel; Lee Karl Palo; Amy Pazan, Aldersgate UMC; Sandy Covey; Carol Kite; Erin Elaine Gail; Kathryn Garnett, Hoquiam UMC; Jan Bolerjack, Riverton Heights UMC

Links to relevant material on gun violence.

<http://umc-gbcs.org/faith-in-action/gun-violence>

<http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=4&mid=937>

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/church-is-a-weapon-free-zone>

C – 3. CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

(Adopted Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, CFM – Domestic Consent Calendar Report #1c)

Resolved: The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church endorses Initiative 1329, which allows the people of Washington State to call for amending the U.S. Constitution to clarify that:

1. The rights of people protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of human beings only.

2. All citizens should have equal voice in the political process, and no person or artificial legal entity should gain undue influence over government as a result of financial resources. To meet this goal, federal, state, and local governments shall be fully empowered to regulate all political contributions and expenditures.

3. All political contributions and expenditures shall be publicly disclosed in a full and timely manner.

Resolved: The Annual Conference will endorse and publicize the endorsement to the larger community. Churches throughout the conference are encouraged to study the problem of how our elections and government policy making have been corrupted by the influence of money from corporations, special interest groups, and very wealthy individuals – on both ends of the political spectrum. Social justice committees are encouraged to obtain copies of petition sheets and make them available to members of their congregations who wish to support this initiative. If the initiative receives enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot, then churches in Washington State are encouraged to let their congregations know about the measure and make information available for those who wish to learn more about it.

Explanation: This is a non-binding resolution that, if passed, would have no actual effect on the U.S. Constitution or any federal or state law. It would simply make Washington the seventeenth state to call for such a Constitutional amendment. The other sixteen states are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

One of the main objectives of I-1329 is to raise awareness of the problems posed by “corporate personhood” – the granting of human rights to non-human legal entities – and to build the grassroots support needed to take reasonable actions to fix these problems. Simply providing opportunities for meaningful dialogue about the problems is critical, even if people disagree with the proposed solution. WAmend is a coalition of over sixty organizations -- both secular and faith based -- working to put I-1329 on the November 2014 ballot in Washington State. Volunteers are currently working to gather the 250,000 valid petition signatures needed to qualify for ballot. Deadline for submission of signatures is July 3, 2014.

If adopted, this resolution will enable the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church to join the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ in supporting I-1329. Adding the support of these two large mainline Christian denominations will do much to prevent this issue from being politicized and split along typical partisan lines. The problem of money corruption in our elections is not a political issue, nor is it a liberal/conservative Democrat/Republican issue. It is a moral issue about the character of our country that transcends the usual partisan divisions that prevent concerned citizens from working together for the common good. Endorsements from these two denominations will also encourage the conferences of other denominations to do follow our example.

According to the Bible, being created in the image and likeness of God carries with it a unique covenantal relationship with the Creator – the Source of all life and love. If humans are to love God then they must love each other, for the image and likeness of God is within all human persons.

Genesis 1:27: “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Matthew 22:36-40: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your

soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The granting of rights such as those cited in our U.S. Constitution can easily be seen as an extension of that imperative to love others as we do ourselves. But to extend those same human rights to non-human legal entities makes a mockery of these Biblical commandments. Corporations are not persons, nor do they have souls. They are not created in the image of God, nor are they called to embody the love of God. Moreover, the profit-making objectives of large corporations are frequently at odds with the best interests of ordinary citizens and communities.

According to the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, we are obligated to affirm the value of each person both as a child of God and as a citizen in our democratic society (underlining added for emphasis):

"We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections.... The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. (The Political Community, sections A and B)

"We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened." (The Social Community, introduction).

The Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) ruling overturned longstanding precedent giving Congress the authority to limit the amount of money spent by corporations, special interest groups, and wealthy individuals on political campaigns. Special interest groups -- both liberal and conservative -- spent more money in the 2012 elections than in the previous three elections combined. In allowing corporations and wealthy individuals to flood the airwaves with negative political ads, we have jeopardized the democracy we hold dear. How can the voices and concerns of ordinary citizens be heard if they do not have the money to compete with corporations and the wealthiest few?

The Church is obligated to act as the conscience of the state. This means standing beside the least among us, and helping ensure that governments respond to the needs of ALL citizens, not just those individuals and special interest groups that contribute the most money to re-election campaigns.

Jonathan Tong; Ann Eachus, Bothell UMC; Rev. Sharon Moe, Tacoma District Supervisor;
Rev. Emily McNeill, Parkland UMC; Michael Collier; Rev. Rich Lang, University Temple UMC;
Rev. Sandy Brown, Seattle First UMC; Rev. Katie Klosterman, Orting UMC; Rev. Monica Corsaro,
Rainier Beach UMC; Rev. Derek Nakano, Blaine Memorial UMC; Rev. Lara Bolger, Blaine Memorial
UMC; Nathan Klosterman, Orting UMC; Miriam Tong; Dale Kaneko; Sumiko Yoshioka;
Yoshiko Sakuragi; Nadine Miyahara; Jerry Lee; Sam Mitsui; Joey Ing; Stephen Sumida, Blaine Memorial
UMC; Ronald Odama; Marilyn Odama; Marianne Tada; Frank Tanagi; Jerry Ikegami;
Pam Ikegami; Bruce Yamamoto

C – 4. SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHANGE EFFORTS

(Received Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, CFM – Domestic Consent Calendar Report #1d)

Resolved, the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges the introduction and passage of a bill that will provide penalties for any mental health practitioner who engages in Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) for anyone under the age of 18.

Be it further resolved, that the PNW Conference directs the conference secretary to send notice of this petition to the sponsors of HB 2451 listed below, and encouraging them to take up the issue of SOCE in the next legislative session.

Representative Marko Lilas, District 21 (primary sponsor)

Olympia Office:

213 John A. Cherberg Building

PO Box 40421

Olympia, WA 98504-0421

(360) 786-7640

Representative Eileen Cody, District 34 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

303 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7978

Representative Kristine Lytton, District 40 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

310 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7800

Representative Sharon Wylie, District 49 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

417 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7924

Representative Mary Helen Roberts, District 21 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

420 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7950

Representative Maureen Walsh, District 16 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

411 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7836

Representative Brady Walkinshaw, District 43 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

328 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7826

Representative Roger Goodman, District 45 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

436B Legislative Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7878

Representative Marcus Riccelli, District 3 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

327 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7888

Representative Tina Orwall, District 33 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

326 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7834

Representative Jim Moeller, District 49 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

429B Legislative Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7872

Representative Laurie Jenkins, District 27 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

311 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7930

Representative Derek Stanford, District 1 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

304 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7928

Representative Eric Pettigrew, District 37 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

434B Legislative Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7838

Representative Cindy Ryu, District 32 (co-sponsor)

Olympia Office:

324 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

(360) 786-7880

Rationale: WA state HB 2451 passed the state house of representatives on February 14, 2014 with a vote of 94-4. The bill never left the state senate committee. This bill created a penalty for unlicensed mental health practitioners who conducted SOCE for any client under the age of 18. While this would have been a positive step toward creating a safer world for our youth, a stronger stand needs to be taken to provide full protection for LGBTQ youth from the harm that done by SOCE. For the next legislative session in WA state a new law needs to be presented and passed through both the WA house and senate.

Between 30 – 40% of LGBTQ youth and young adults attempt suicide. They are almost four times as likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers. The reasons for this are many; chief among the reasons many youth give for this is a lack of support from home, school, and church. Some families turn to Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) to influence their child's sexual orientation in order to cure them of being LGBTQ.

In 1997 the APA appointed a task force to look at Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE).

Their findings resulted in the following resolutions: encourage mental health professionals to avoid misrepresenting the efficacy of sexual orientation change efforts by promoting or promising changes in sexual orientation when providing care to individuals distressed by their own or another's sexual orientation; advise parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder and to seek psychotherapy, social support, and educational services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority youth; encourage practitioners to consider the ethical concerns outlined in the 1997 APA Resolution on Appropriate Therapeutic Response to Sexual Orientation, in particular the following standards and principles: scientific biases for professional judgments, benefit and harm, justice, and respect for people's rights and dignity. The task force further reported "that efforts to change sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful and involve some risk of harm, contrary to the claims of SOCE practitioners and advocates."

Authors: Jane Brazell and Rev. Austin Adkinson, members of the Pacific Northwest Reconciling Ministries Network

Signatories: Austin Adkinson, North Mason UMC; Jane Brazell, United Church in University Place; Monica Corsaro, Rainier Beach UMC; Dodie Haight, Ellensburg UMC; Vince Hart, Tacoma: First UMC; Wanda Munroe, Ellensburg UMC; Matt Patera, Tacoma: First UMC; Amory Peck, Bellingham: Garden St. UMC; Mary Schroff, Seabold UMC; David Vergin, Langley UMC; Carol Waymack, Woodland Park UMC; Melvin Woodworth, Tacoma: First UMC

C – 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

(Elected Saturday morning, June 21, 2014, CFM – Domestic Report #2)

Chairperson: *David Wright*
Vice-Chairperson: *JoDene Romeijn-Stout*
Secretary: Jane Brazell

D. CONNECTING FOR MISSIONS - INTERNATIONAL

D - 1. CONNECTING FOR MISSION – INTERNATIONAL

(Received Saturday afternoon, June 21, 2014, CFM – International Consent Calendar Report #1a)

CONFERENCE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Conference Board of Global Ministries is a program committee, the Mission ‘arm’ of our conference. The Board consists of representatives from many areas of activity. Mission is what helps our churches to grow and reach out to others. This may be local, conference wide, jurisdiction wide, or globally. All programming and spending is done with the question: “How does this educate, enable, and empower the local church to be in mission?”

We are humbled by all the ways churches serve in the community, be it local or global. Through feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, making quilts and “pillowcase dresses” – through helping local families repair or build their homes, cleaning yards for the elderly, serving as disaster shelters – or gathering socks, hats and mittens for those who are cold - or walking in Hunger Walks, traveling with mission teams, or advocating for those with no voice – we are the United Methodist Church in action!

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) - The primary purpose of UMVIM volunteers is to live out their faith by serving on short-term mission or service projects to create long term relationships with communities throughout the world. In 2013, Ronda Cordill, our UMVIM Coordinator, conducted team leader trainings, coordinating and assisted teams to serve within the Annual Conference (White Swan), nationally at Alaska, Hawaii, San Francisco, the West Depot) and internationally including Kenya, Haiti (2 teams), Honduras, Nicaragua, Cambodia and Philippines.

This year, the VIM leadership is working on more ways for teams to serve within the Annual Conference or nationally, especially focusing on Long Term Recovery Teams. As teams are being sent out in 2014, there is an increased emphasis on developing long-term relationships between VIM and mission sites, with an understanding of the spiritual and cultural aspects of the mission journey.

UMVIM Early Disaster Response Teams - Steve Meacham and Jim Truitt continue to recruit and train new Early Response Team (ERT) volunteers and recertify those who were trained three years ago, thus ensuring the Conference has trained volunteers who can respond to a natural disaster in our Conference or in our Jurisdiction, such as the slide in Snohomish County. Jim continues to support the Oregon-Idaho and Alaska Conferences by training their volunteers to be ERT members. In addition, Jim coordinated the UMVIM response to the flood recovery in Galena, AK August through October 2013. 82 volunteers from across the United States worked for a minimum of two weeks each to rebuild/repair homes damaged by the flood water and ice flows. He will coordinate the UMVIM teams making the trip to Galena this summer to complete the recovery, and is monitoring the Oso Mudslide situation. 168 volunteers will be needed between June 2nd and September 17th 2014.

Disaster Preparedness and Response – The primary function of this effort is to request and distribute disaster money supplied by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR provides financial assistance to people suffering from disaster by working through the connectional system, as is happening with the slide in Snohomish County. For many years George Abrams has coordinated this work, working closely with UMCOR, FEMA, and Emergency Response and UMVIM teams. Stanley Norman will be the new coordinator of this program.

Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries - 5 Columns of Mission is one of the strategies used to promote the work of Global Ministries in PNW. Churches or individual members using the name of their church for gifts can fulfill these columns

The 5 Columns of Mission are

- Attending Mission u. *64 churches were represented there in 2013*
- Supporting a missionary with a Covenant Relationship; \$5 per church member per year.

14 missionaries visited 165 churches AC 2012 to Fall 2013.

Individuals and 57 churches gave over \$73,000 to missionaries in 2013

- Sending an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing 129 churches gave over \$65,000 in 2013
- Giving to an Advance project- e.g. *National Circles Campaign #3021241*
- Contributing to UMCOR - e.g. *money for kits; Material Resources #901440*

Find out more about missionaries and The Advance and UMCOR at umcmmission.org

5 Column of Mission Churches are recognized at the Mission Luncheon at AC each year and at Mission u.

Conference Advance Special applications are reviewed annually and presented for approval at AC each year and listed in the Funding Ministry and Mission Outreach booklet.

In April 2015 Bishop Hope Morgan Ward the Chair of the General Board of Global Ministries will come to PNW for **4 Corners Mission Celebration** at Spokane Valley, Yakima Wesley, Vancouver Salmon Creek and Bothell.

Joan and Keith Hackett are our Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries.

Mission u – In our Conference, this annual event put on every summer is a Cooperative Mission u, meaning it is a joint project between the CBGM and the UMW and is open to men, women and youth ages 12 and older. CBGM works with the Mission u team through the Dean/Assistant Dean.

Mission u provides one Spiritual Growth study for all the participants, and each person also chooses between an Issue topic or Geographic study. All studies are aimed at giving the participants a view of mission, with a three part component of Education, Action and the need to follow up on those actions. Besides the Studies, there is a resource room and a learning center available.

Pam Serrano is Assistant Dean of Mission u, 2014

Health and Welfare – Jim Russell works closely with our UM related retirement centers, encouraging mutual programming as well as supporting their relationships with the Annual Conference.

Golden Cross money was used in 2013 to support access needs of a local church. Please remember the opportunity to contribute to the Golden Cross Fund.

Immigration – Immigration and refugee ministry provides a variety of methods for our churches and communities to welcome the stranger and develop communities of Pentecost in the process there is a mutual discipling and the world is transformed.

In the past year, Lyda Pierce and her team have been involved in many activities:

- Change the World Immigration Rally and March
- Classes, preaching or one-time conversations held at approx. 30 churches
- Immigration legal resources provided for the community at Chelan UMC
- Consultation with one church and CWS about support of refugees
- Participation in CWS sponsored consultation, press conference, congressional visits and a march for immigration reform in Washington D.C.
- Participation in at least 3 public marches for immigration reform

Community Ministries – Many of our churches are involved in supporting local ministries in a variety of ways. Katie Ladd and her team are developing a system whereby we can identify the diverse ways churches are in service, and organize that information so that others can find ideas and support for starting new local ministries.

Hope for the Children of Africa – Our Conference continues its relationship with, and support for, the two Jamaa Letu Orphanages under the leadership of Barbara Dadd Shaffer and Carl Landerholm. Their complete report is also included in this Report Section, but they coordinate with the Conference through the CBGM.

United Methodist Women – Much of the Conference's Missional involvement both locally and globally is done through the UMW. Jenni Yeoh and Marsha Aufenkamp serve on the CBGM to coordinate our work.

General Board of Global Ministries – Marie Kuch serves on the General Board of Global Ministries and serves as our voice to that body, as well as keeping us informed on happenings in the wider church.

Relating to other agencies – Tacoma Community House and Atlantic Street Center are supported by the conference through the CBGM.

Special Projects - Special funding is enabling some unique programming. In 2013, the CBGM made the commitment to pay a portion of the costs for two mission interns (US-2) to work in related agencies within the Conference with the hope that they would interpret mission programming to local churches and encourage our young adults to consider similar mission work as part of their future plans.

We also made a special grant to Mission u toward scholarships for those who had never attended this mission event and are from non-UMW congregations. Several people were able to participate because of this outreach and will carry mission information back to their churches.

The conversations in our meetings are, obviously, wide-ranging and invigorating. Our commitment to enabling, educating and empowering our local churches in ministry is strong. We celebrate all churches who are reaching out to others in so many, many ways that are not always known and recognized.

We are grateful for the leadership of Pat Dodson, who had to step down as chair last summer; the support of Kristen Joyner, Connectional Table; David Valera, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, and all the Conference Staff who cheerfully help us organize meetings, feed us, make last minute copies, and generally make us comfortable.

Lynn Magnuson, Interim Chair
Conference Board of Global Ministries

CHURCH AND SOCIETY - INTERNATIONAL

"We commit ourselves as a church to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another. We pledge ourselves to seek the meaning of the gospel in all issues that divide people and threaten the growth of world community." Social Principles of the United Methodist Church ¶165

Last year, General Board of Church and Society published a new workbook, *Becoming a Peace and Justice Covenant Congregation*. It explores the historic positions of Methodists on issues of war and peace, justice and injustice. From there it suggests ways to respond to God's call "to do the things that make for peace." From using fair trade coffee to supporting the Millennium Development goals, congregations can pledge to make a difference. Some PNW congregations are exploring this program. Copies of the workbook are available at the C&S display table.

In March, the GBCS Board of Directors endorsed a call to boycott SodaStream, a product made illegally in the occupied West Bank of the Palestinian territories. To help understand the issues behind this boycott and the headlines about the region that are often in the news, GBCS has put out a new workbook, *Working for a Just and Lasting Peace in Israel and Palestine*. It is a packet of resources for congregations that moves from "What You Should Know" to "How You Can Help." Copies are available at the C&S display table.

Several from PNW attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. GBCS is one of the sponsoring organizations. The theme this year included *Building Peace* and at the end we went to our Congressional Representatives to ask them to:

Rebalance funding priorities away from out-sized military spending to focus more resources on preventing violence and enhancing human security.

At Annual Conference 2013, the Martin Luther King, Jr Peace with Justice Award was given to the Tacoma Detention Center Roundtable for its work with detainees at the immigration detention center in Tacoma. Immigration reform is an ongoing priority. We have made phone calls to the President asking that he stop deportations. The calls were in support of two United Methodist Bishops and other church leaders who were arrested while demonstrating for this cause.

Ann Eachus, Chair PNWAC Board of Church and Society

HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA (HFCA) JAMAA LETU ORPHANAGES (JLO)

The Pacific Northwest Conference has been in partnership with the South Congo Conference of the United Methodist Church and the South Congo Episcopal Area since 1999 around concerns for children in the Congo. Two orphanages called Jamaa Letu (“Our Family” in Swahili) were established and are operated by the UMC of Southern Congo in the city of Lubumbashi with major funding from our conference.

The number of children and teens varies between 70 and 80 as new children become residents and a few children are placed in private families. At the end of 2013, the Director of the girls’ orphanage, Francine Tshisola, reported 46 children and teens. The Director of the boy’s orphanage, Nana Olangi, reported 26 boys. All of the children have poignant and sometimes violent stories which led to them being cared for by the church in the two orphanages.

Financial support: Sponsorships and Scholarships, Jars and local support

The Pacific Northwest Conference is the primary source of funding for operations of the two orphanages. Local support in the Congo, both money and in-kind donation, is increasing each year.

Sponsorships: The most significant source of funding is sponsorships by churches and individuals with a suggested amount of \$493 per year. Any amount helps with the support. There are multiple sponsors for each child/teen. The name of the child, a photo and biographical information are given to sponsors. The number of children and teens sponsored by local churches varies from a few dollars to thirteen sponsorships.

Jars for Jamaa Letu’ offering is typically taken between Easter and Annual Conference. Attractive labels are available on the website. Donations received in 2013 were higher than the prior year although lower than the year before that.

Education Scholarships: As the children become teenagers and then young adults, they are ready for college or vocational training. It is our commitment to them that, if they pass the all-important final exam at the end of their final year of secondary school, we will provide funds for their post-secondary education. Six young adults are presently studying at universities with several more approaching this time in their lives. There are no other sources of funds for the students. Donors are invited to make this possible through Education Scholarships, with a suggested amount of \$500 or more. One donor has funded an endowed scholarship.

Emphasis on Jamaa Letu Orphanages (JLO)

What does it mean to be in partnership with a conference and an institution on another continent? Both parties of the partnership grapple with this. Each are ministries but a different role.

The Task Force’s long-range planning process of more than a year helped the members claim the history and identify areas of change and growth. Out of this came the acknowledgement that the work of the task force is almost entirely related to the two orphanages. This led to a change in the description of the Pacific Northwest Conference role in the partnership.

The description is “Jamaa Letu Orphanages, a Ministry of the Bishop’s Task Force on Hope for the Children of Africa” which reflects the emphasis on the Jamaa Letu Orphanages (JLO). The website has been renamed Jamaa Letu Orphanages (with links from the old site) and there is a new logo.

Task Force

The task force welcomed four new members: Rose Mangini of Grangeville as the sponsor coordinator, Emily Blunt of Spokane, Pat Norris of Shelton, Shannel Janzen of Tacoma and Jon Short of Kent. Five members have moved on to different ministries: Carl Landerholm of Vancouver, Kristin Joyner of Bothell, Alice and Rody Rowe of Bellingham, Linda Mendro of Twisp and Joy Rhoades as the sponsor coordinator. Continuing on the task force are: Doug Huston of Kennewick, Carl Landerholm

of Vancouver, Jilma Meneses of Camas, Barbara Dadd Shaffer of Stanwood, Heather and Eric Sparkman of Shelton, and Marian Zaske of Des Moines.

For more information, visit our website and Facebook page.

Thank you for your faithful support.

Barbara Dadd Shaffer, chair

Jamaa Letu Orphanages, a Ministry of the Bishop's Task Force on Hope for the Children of Africa

www.jamaaletu.org

www.facebook.com/hopeforthechildrenofafrica

http://pnwocm.org/hfa/?page_id=104

jamaaletufaithful13@gmail.com (sponsor coordinator)

UMVIM ANNUAL REPORT

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) live out their faith by serving on short-term projects to create long term relationships with communities throughout the world. The UMVIM program offers CONNECTION with people and places that have asked for help as well as other UMVIM teams and people who have answered the call to mission. This provides the link for us to build bridges, develop relationships, through cross-cultural experiences. The Volunteer in Missions (VIM) program offers training for teams to go and serve God where they are called.

These VIM Teams SERVE by helping with:

- Outreach ministries to people who are homeless, hungry, or in poverty;
- Medical and dental needs
- Construction, repair homes, schools, hospitals, churches especially after a disaster such as a hurricane or earthquake;
- Assisting with programs for children and youth, e.g., Vacation Bible Schools;
- Teaching and tutoring, vocational skills such as sewing, farming, or other school work;
- Disasters both through Early Response Teams (ERT) and Long Term Recovery (LTR) Teams.

Volunteers SERVE in mission because:

- Jesus told us to "Go and serve"; get your feet dusty.
- We want to make a meaningful difference in the life of someone in need.
- We want to renew our faith.
- We want to work and worship alongside our brothers and sisters whose faith withstands the trials of poverty and major disasters.
- We want to expand our awareness of how other people survive in the world.

In 2013, Ronda Cordill, the AC UMVIM Coordinator, conducted team leader trainings throughout the conference, as well as coordinating and assisted teams to:

- Serve within the Annual Conference: White Swan in the Yakima Valley is in great need.
- Serve Nationally: Sites included Alaska, Hawaii, San Francisco, and the West Depot (6 teams) and
- Serve Internationally: Teams served in Kenya, Haiti (2 teams), Honduras, Nicaragua, Cambodia and Philippines.

The VIM Leadership Team is working to develop more ways for teams to serve within the Annual Conference. Besides White Swan, sites beginning developed are Okanogan and Seattle. Nationally, VIM teams are called to serve on Long Term Recovery Teams throughout the country (Alaska, Colorado, and the East Coast) to assist the victims of several disasters that struck this country rebuild their lives. Internationally, people in war and poverty continue to ask for help but disasters several countries (Haiti

and the Philippines) are looking for UMVIM teams to help them in rebuild.

As teams go out in 2014, there is an increased emphasis on developing long-term relationships between the Volunteer in Mission teams and the mission sites they serve along with a greater understanding of the spiritual and cultural aspects of the mission journey.

Ronda Cordill
PNW Annual Conference Coordinator

ALIGNING INVESTMENTS WITH VALUES REGARDING PALESTINE/ ISRAEL

RESPONSE TO CFM CONSENT CALENDAR REPORT #1B

This report is in response to an action taken during the 2013 session of the PNW Annual Conference, which: 1) requests the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (GBoPHB) exclude Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett-Packard from the PNW Annual Conference investments until these companies end their involvement in the Israeli occupation, 2) charges the Conference Benefits Officer and the Executive Director of the Foundation the responsibility to convey this request to the GBoPHB and report its response, and 3) if GBoPHB is unable to comply, describe any shareholder advocacy that has taken place in the period the Annual Conference has remained a shareholder.

Dale Jones, a staff member of the General Board of Pensions, was present at the 2013 Annual Conference session and carried a copy of the adopted resolution back to the GBoPHB. A copy of the resolution was also mailed by the Conference Secretary to the General Secretary of the GBoPHB.

Since the 2013 Annual Conference, Foundation and Pension staff has had several telephone and in-person conversations with:

David Zellner – Chief Investment Officer of the GBoPHB,

Derek Casteel – Managing Director of Institutional Investment Services for Wespath

Anita Green - Manager of Socially Responsible Investments GBoPHB and Wespath.

In these conversations we learned that, over the past year, the GBoPHB has chosen a prudent, deliberate and focused approach regarding divestment. This course recognizes the General Board's fiduciary responsibilities, as well as the strong feelings underlying the issues.

The General Board's process has included a 2012 visit to the West Bank by Barbara Boigegrain, the General Secretary of the GBoPHB and Dave Zellner, its Chief Investment Officer to achieve a deep understanding of the situation. They sat down with the leadership of multiple constituents – Israeli and Palestinian – and met multiple times with persons from the Kairos Palestine movement.

Out of this visit and as the result of other conversations, the GBoPHB co-convened with the General Board of Global Ministries, the *Human Rights and Investment Ethics Task Force*. This task force is made up of representatives from General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Global Ministries, UM Foundation, 2 Bishops, United Methodist Women, 2 Seminaries, National Council of Churches, The Carter Center, clergy and asset management representative. The purpose of the task force is as follows;

To identify resources, principles, and procedures that express our commitment to human rights, taking into account fiduciary responsibility and ministry priorities, consistent with the global mission of the United Methodist Church.

A report will be released soon for public comment.

To date (early spring) the GBoPHB has not divested from any of the above mentioned companies. However, as a result of its ongoing analysis, it is working to repurpose the Balanced Social Values Plus Fund as the Equities Social Value Plus Fund (January 1, 2015 expected inception date). Two additional screens will be added to the existing screens for pornography, weapons, cigarettes, alcohol, prisons and gambling. The two additional screens are fossil fuel companies that negatively impact the environment through climate change and their carbon footprint and human rights violators. The GBoPHB will utilize the services of MSCI to provide objective analysis and screens for companies, not only in regard to the

Middle East situation, but through-out the world.

The GBoPHB also continues to actively exploring positive investment opportunities on the West Bank.

Here is a brief statement by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

- GBoPHB is one of the world's leading socially responsible investors. We advocate for change and make meaningful social impact investments.
- In 2006, the United Nations invited the Board to co-author its *Principles for Responsible Investments*. Upon completion, we were the only faith-based institution to be invited as a founding signatory in recognition of our global leadership in responsible investment practices focused on environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.
- We support the United Methodist Church's call for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.
- We went to the region to see for ourselves the challenges confronted by the Palestinians.
- The issue is very complicated. As a fiduciary for all participants, we can't endorse "symbolic" gestures demanding divestment.
- We will continue to evaluate options for demonstrating support that are aligned with prudent investment practices.

To conclude the GBoPHB is not taking the call to divest seriously, or is not sympathetic with the issue at hand, would be a considerable error. The same is true of the Northwest United Methodist Foundation and the Conference Board of Pensions. However, we sometimes respectfully differ on the means for achieving constructive change aligned with the beliefs we share as United Methodists. Below are a few examples.

- The GBoPHB believes it more productive to stay engaged with these companies and to continue working toward a long-term solution. It protects the investments while insuring that even the most challenging issues are brought to the attention of company management in a direct and transparent manner. Engagement provides an opportunity for strong shareholder actions. Divestment involves simply walking away.
- The GBoPHB remains wary of tactics that seek to penalize companies and their investors for acts of commission or omission by nations and governments.
- The GBoPHB is concerned that divestment sometimes practices "selective morality" – proposing action against weaker targets and giving a pass to bigger more connected companies. They are also concerned with what feels to be a focus on certain regions of human rights abuse while giving less attention to those places where equal or greater atrocities take place.
- The GBoPHB believe in the call to be Peacebuilders rather than Advocates. Peacebuilding prevents us from making judgments and taking sides. It recognizes the good and bad in all people as well as their shared hopes and aspirations for a better tomorrow.

Our hope and prayer is that members and constituents of the PNW Annual Conference will rest assured that the GBoPHB, along with the Conference's Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and the Northwest United Methodist Foundation will continue to be engaged in efforts to align our investments with the Social Principles of the Church while being responsible and prudent investors of those financial resources entrusted with us.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Galvin, PNW Conference Pensions and Benefits Officer
Tom Wilson, Executive Director, Northwest United Methodist Foundation

D - 2. GLOBAL MINISTRIES SECRETARIES

(Adopted Saturday afternoon, June 21, 2014, CFM – International Consent Calendar Report #1b)

Resolved: The Conference Board of Global Ministries nominates Joan Hackett and Keith Hackett to be Co-Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries for the year 2014-2015.

Conference Board of Global Ministries

D - 3. JAMAA LETU ORPHANAGES/HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF AFRICA

(Adopted Saturday afternoon, June 21, 2014, CFM – International Consent Calendar Report #1c)

Be it resolved that the Pacific Northwest Conference affirm its continuing partnership with the South Congo Episcopal Area and continued support of its ministries.

Further resolved that this partnership especially include support of the two orphanages named Jamaa Letu ('Our Family' in Swahili) in the city of Lubumbashi.

Further resolved that this partnership include promotion of the financial and prayer support of these children and their caregivers, including sponsorships of the children by local churches and individuals to provide the urgently needed financial support of the two orphanages (three or four sponsorships of \$493 per year support one child or teen).

Further resolved that this promotion of the financial and prayer support also include Education Scholarships for Higher Education for university or vocational training for the youth in the orphanages reaching the age of 18 and completing secondary education, at a cost of approximating \$3000 for a year of education for each student (six sponsorships of \$500 each).

Barbara Dadd Shaffer, chair

Jamaa Letu Orphanages (JLO)

Bishop's Task Force on Hope for the Children of Africa (HFCA)

www.jamaaletu.org

www.facebook.com/hopeforthechildrenofafrica

D - 4. CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

(Adopted Saturday afternoon, June 21, 2014, CFM – International Consent Calendar Report #1d)

Resolved that the following agencies and projects which are initiated, developed and/or supported within the Pacific Northwest Conference be designated as Conference Advance Specials and be given support through second-mile missional giving by churches of the PNWAC.

1) Tacoma Community House: Advance #302

1314 South L St

Tacoma WA 98405

2) Atlantic Street Center #301

2103 S Atlantic St

Seattle, WA 98144-3615

3) Mary's Place & Church of Mary Magdalene #349

PO Box 1711 Seattle, WA 98111

4) PNW Conference and Retreat Ministries

(Camp Indianola: Advance #341)

(Twinlow Camp: Advance #343)

(Lazy F Camp: Advance #344)

(Ocean Park Camp: Advance #345)

(Send a Kid to Camp: No Advance #)

PO Box 13650

Des Moines, WA 98198-1009

5) Long-Term Disaster Relief #352
 PO Box 13650
 Des Moines, WA 98198-1009

6) Early Disaster Response Team #353
 PO Box 13650
 Des Moines, WA 98198-1009

7) PET (Personal Energy Transport) #339
 Inland NW PET Project
 15123 Little Spokane River Dr
 Spokane WA 99208

8) New – specific number requested
 Youth Chaplaincy Coalition – a Task Force of the Church Council of Greater Seattle
 PO Box 18467
 Seattle WA 98118

Explanation: The Conference Advance Specials, along with those from GBGM, give an opportunity for local churches to donate to specific causes which they can be assured are legitimate and in-line with the beliefs of our denomination.

Conference Board of Global Ministries

D - 5. STUDYING FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

(Adopted as amended Saturday afternoon, June 21, 2014, CFM – International Report #2)

Be it resolved that the local churches of the local churches of the Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Methodist Church use conference-recommended opportunities and resources for studying fossil fuel divestment ~~by the end of 2014~~ by the beginning of Annual Conference 2015.

Explanation: Congregations will have the opportunity to invite deep listening and conversation on fossil fuel divestment in a variety of ways:

--sermon starters for those who wish to engage through preaching

--Bible studies (with youth and adult versions) for those who wish to engage through the

Word

--a discussion exercise (with youth and adult versions) for those who wish to engage through small groups

--articles/blog posts for those who wish to engage by communicating through newsletters or social media

--webinars for those who wish to engage online

Each congregation will be invited to engage this conversation in at least one way.

The Office of Connectional Ministries will provide resources. Resources will be available by September 1, 2014.

Faith-based and secular institutions worldwide are considering divesting (selling stocks) from the top 200 fossil fuel companies as a response to climate change. General Conference 2016 is expected to consider a resolution calling the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to divest from these companies. This action is relevant to the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference because our clergy have retirement accounts through the GBOPHB, and many churches and the conference have money invested through the GBOPHB. This study opportunity will allow clergy and congregations to consider the connections between financial and environmental stewardship, learn United Methodist and Wesleyan teachings on financial decision-making and creation care, and grapple with challenging questions around

balancing our need for profitable investments with our commitment to advocating on behalf of God's creation. It will also explore the logic of divestment as a tool for addressing climate change. Finally, it will provide an opportunity for congregations to meet the requirements of Discipline para 247.20, which states, "The charge conference shall promote awareness of and concurrence with policies relative to Socially Responsible Investments (para. 717), the Social Principles (paras. 160-166), and The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church."

Climate change poses a grave threat to God's creation--one that will impact all of our lives and our ministries, as well as those of generations to come. The burning of fossil fuels is causing conditions that threaten life on our planet. Climate change exacerbates poverty and hunger, and it contributes to public health concerns. United Methodist investors in fossil fuel companies profit from this degradation, even as their churches' missions call them to ministries that respond to poverty, hunger, and public health. At the same time, clergy and churches are concerned with ensuring the stability of their investments as they seek to ensure financial support for their ministries and their retirements. As of February 2013, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits held shares in 113 of the top 200 fossil fuel companies. Deep conversation and listening are needed to discern how we as a church can best work toward financial and environmental sustainability.

Rev. David Valera, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries; Ann Eachus, Chair, Board of Church and Society, Bothell UMC; Rev. Emma Donohew, Green Lake UMC and Crown Hill UMC; Rev. John Helmiere, Valley and Mountain Fellowship; Rev. Kathleen Weber, Trinity UMC

Sample discussion exercise

Fossil Fuel Divestment—What Are the Stakes?

A Discussion Exercise for United Methodists

This is a discussion exercise to help participants consider multiple perspectives on the implications of divesting from fossil fuels—in other words, selling fossil fuel company stocks. Please read the scenario below and then follow the directions for discussion.

The exercise will take 25-40 minutes and is suitable for groups with between 6 and 36 participants.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) of The United Methodist Church is considering changing its socially responsible investment guidelines to include fossil fuels among screened investments. (Current investments that are screened out include companies that sell tobacco, alcohol, and firearms, and those that facilitate gambling and manage private prisons.)

The GBOPHB in order to be consistent with the denomination's guiding principles, which emphasize care for creation. Creation care leaders within The United Methodist Church say that the church should not profit from the destruction of creation, and that divestment is a way to take a public, moral stand against the continued use of fossil fuels. But some clergy have voiced concern about the impact that divestment will have on their pensions, while others are worried about the obligation to donors to maximize returns on investments.

Divide participants into groups representing the following interests:

- GBOPHB and United Methodist Foundation leaders
- Clergy
- Church members
- Church creation care leaders
- Fossil fuel industry leaders
- God

Each group should discuss its position on this decision for 10 minutes. The leader should invite one person representing each interest group to summarize his/her group's position on whether or not the denomination should divest and why. After this conversation, the group as a whole should discuss the following questions:

1. Which perspectives caused you to think in new ways about divestment?
2. How does your understanding of Christianity inform your perspective on divestment?

3. How can the values of The United Methodist Church inform your perspective on divestment?

4. If the GBOPHB were considering divestment, what would you want it to do?

Divestment Role Play Identities

GBOPHB and United Methodist Foundation leaders

GBOPHB and United Methodist Foundation leaders are responsible for ensuring strong financial returns within the guidelines provided by the denomination. Some argue that it is better to try to effect change through shareholder activism than through divestment.

Spokespersons for these directors are concerned that divestment from fossil fuels will result in a loss of returns.

Clergy

Clergy are responsible for teaching and living the values of their denomination. Some believe that they should not profit from the earth's destruction. But many clergy have limited incomes and limited retirement savings. They rely on their denomination to manage their retirement funds well. Many denominations believe that ensuring retirement income for clergy is a justice issue. Spokespersons for clergy should decide what position they would like to take.

Members of the church

Many church members make regular financial contributions to their church. They want to ensure that their gifts are being used wisely. Spokespersons for church members are concerned that investments made with their gifts are both financially sound and ethical. They should decide what position they would like to take.

Church creation care leaders

These people may lead a green team or other creation care group within their congregation or denomination. They believe that churches are obligated by their religious beliefs to respond to climate change. Spokespersons for this group believe that it is wrong for churches to profit from the wrecking of the planet, and that they must take a public, moral stand against it.

Fossil fuel industry leaders

These people are concerned with profits and returns on investment. They believe that exploiting the earth's resources creates value for themselves and for shareholders. Some also feel that they are doing important work by ensuring a steady supply of energy. Spokespersons for the fossil fuel industry are happy to see noisy, faith-based shareholders divest, as their morals are a hassle and the loss of their money is unlikely to impact the industry's bottom line.

God

For some people, presuming to speak for God can be uncomfortable or seem sacrilegious. Yet trying to describe God's perspective on this situation can be an important experience. Spokespersons for this position should reflect God's care for vulnerable communities and people, and for environmental justice and stewardship.

D - 6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

(Elected Saturday afternoon, June 21, 2014, CFM – International Report #3)

Chairperson:	Marie Kuch
Vice-Chairperson:	Gordon Ellison-Oslin
Secretary:	<i>Joel Aovsed</i>

