

## **Reports to the Annual Conference**

**California-Nevada, June 2016**

### **Leadership Development Area**

#### **Young People's and Camping Ministry**

**Young People's Ministry:** 2015 has been an exciting year for our area of ministry. We continue in our partnership with the Leadership Development area of focus where we have conversations around collaborative partnerships towards a common mission focus. Those conversations resulted in Discipleshift, an event that brought both laity and clergy of all ages together around effective practices and further development of our Conference's leaders. As well, in 2015 we held two Bishop's Confirmation Retreats, hosting over 100 young people committing to the profession of faith through confirmation. The national youth event for the denomination (Youth 2015) was held in Florida and we sent a Conference group of 25 young people as well as 13 individual churches choosing to participate on their own. Our annual faith formation retreat FX3, had over 125 participants engaging in worship, service, recreation and fellowship over three-days. We hosted our annual Youth Worker's Retreat and 20 youth workers received training on resources available to them through Discipleship Ministries of the GBOD. Each youth worker was provided with the resources at the end of the retreat. The Conference Committee on Young People's Ministries continues to grow and support young people and young adults throughout the Conference. We offered grants for young adults seeking faith formation training or event opportunities, as well as supporting both Youth and Young Adult Delegations to Annual Conference. Both delegations were the largest we've had in 10 years. 2015 also saw a re-vamping of the Safe Sanctuaries program that now offers both background checks and a more comprehensive on-line training course with support of the Conference Committee on Young People's Ministry. CCYPM's goal is to resource, empower and connect both our young people and worker's with young people so as to create Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

**Camping:** Our Camping and Retreat Ministries continue to grow and serve through all 3 of our sites and our many camping and retreat programs. Our traditional children and youth camping programs served over 250 campers and staff, while our family camps served 250. We continue to grow leaders in Leadership in Training Programs which increased in participants. Through our small groups, worship and intentional Christian living communities, we continue to see faith formation and development in our young people as being that important piece in creating Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. Our sites host hundreds of people

coming to find retreat, respite, connection to the creation, spiritual growth, reflection and sometimes even service. Both Camp Lodestar and Monte Toyon hosted our local congregations that came to put time and resources into our beautiful facilities. The Waller Center in San Francisco continues to grow and develop as an urban retreat and community center. The Center hosted over 1000 people throughout the year seeking urban mission work, gathering, meeting or a community center as well as a place of community support and outreach. We have hosted groups from across the nation and abroad, a place living into its mission of “spirit, service and community to San Francisco”. The Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries with its dedicated members continue to be committed to the future and to further the value of camping and retreat ministries in the California Nevada Annual Conference.

## **CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AREA**

### **COMMITTEE ON NEW AND VITAL CONGREGATIONS**

Submitted by Rev. Sungho Lee

#### **A. New Faith Community Development:**

We believe that our best strategy for fulfilling the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ that will help transform people’s lives and the world is developing new and vital faith communities.

We are excited about the fact that many more people are finding hope with God, more disciples standing with people in the margins, and more followers of Christ advocating for peace and justice in our communities and around the world. This is the sort of mission and ministry that we as people called United Methodists need to be about.

Our Annual Conference has set a goal of **62** new starts from 2012-2024. This means that we need to average **5 – 6** new starts per year.

We are encouraged by the growing interest among our churches and leaders in participating in creating new and developing vital new faith communities. From 2012-2015 (3 years), we launched **16** new faith communities, and for 2016 conference year, we will launch **7** new projects, which will add up to **23** of our total new church starts over the period of 4 years, which is an average of almost **6** new church starts each year, or **1** in every two months.

#### **2012:**

1. ACTS Community at First UMC

San Jose/El Camino

**2013:**

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Heavenly Grace (Under Review)                                   | Millbrae/El Camino |
| 2. S.E.E.D./Hispanic-Latino New Faith Community Campbell/El Camino |                    |

**2014:**

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Jesus Love Korean                              | Mountain View/El Camino |
| 2. Trinity UMC/Restart                            | Mountain View/El Camino |
| 3. River Valley Christian Fellowship/Multi-Ethnic | West Sacramento/Bridges |
| 4. Expression Fresca/Hispanic-Latino              | Fresno/Central Valley   |
| 5. Cambodian Bayside Fellowship (Chartered)       | Alameda/Bridges         |

**2015:**

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Gathering/House Church                | Mountain House/Central Valley |
| 2. Elko Multisite                            | Elko/Greater Northern         |
| 3. Cambodian New Faith Community             | San Jose/El Camino            |
| 4. The Followers of Christ/Filipino-American | Concord/Bridges               |
| 5. Embrace/Next Generation                   | Oakland/Bridges               |
| 6. Oak Tongan Fellowship (Chartered)         | Oak Park/Bridges              |
| 7. First Reno Tongan Fellowship (Chartered)  | Reno/Greater Northern         |
| 8. Church Together/Online                    | San Francisco/Bridges         |

**2016:**

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Hispanic-Latino New Faith Community | Alum Rock/El Camino      |
| 2. Reno Faith Fellowship/Multi-ethnic  | Reno/Greater Northern    |
| 3. Hindi New Faith Community           | South Sacramento/Bridges |
| 4. American Canyon/Community Center    | American Canyon/Bridges  |
| 5. St. Mark's UMC/Fresh Expression     | Orinda/El Camino         |
| 6. Vietnamese UM Fellowship/Chartering | Alum Rock/El Camino      |

Our effort of starting new faith communities seeks to live out the mission of the Western Jurisdiction, which is "A home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation: the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is multicultural and inclusive, engaged in the life of its communities, with confident, effective lay and clergy leadership who, in diverse ministry settings, form disciples who live out the Good News of Jesus as global citizens."

#### B. Lay Planter Initiative (LPI) – Making New Disciples by Creating New Faith Communities:

Having been called to find even better ways to share the love of God in Jesus Christ by creating new places for and with new people, we embark on a new thing—the Lay Planter Initiative (LPI) that will run over the period of four years (2016-2020).

##### *Our Mission Value*

The California-Nevada Conference is known for its vision of a truly welcoming and inclusive church, standing with people in the margins, and advocating for peace and justice in our communities and around the world. Our efforts for finding, equipping, and deploying lay people to lead in creating new places for and with new people is an expression of our Conference's unwavering commitment to intersect these values with new models of new faith community development. This undergirds our beliefs of what it means to make disciples of Jesus Christ as agents of God's mission in the world.

##### *Our Mission Zone*

As John Wesley once said, "the world is my parish." In the California-Nevada Conference, the world is in our midst. Our mission zone has been a home to all kinds of God's people. We have an opportunity to unleash the gifts and graces for ministry of the lay people called United Methodists as they live out their belief, call and witness of discipleship in Jesus Christ in the world.

##### *Our Mission Focus*

The LPI exists to recruit, equip and deploy lay people to get involve or lead new faith communities in partnership with clergy, in populations and contexts in which traditional approaches have not proven fruitful, and offer fresh expressions of disciple-making faith community.

##### *Our Mission Strategy & Goals*

Our Circuit Ministry structure will serve as our incubator and launching pad for LPI. Circuit Ministry is both a *vital space and critical strategy* for making disciples, developing leaders (lay and clergy), and starting new faith communities.

LPI's primary activities such as recruitment, training, assessment and deployment of lay people will happen within the Circuits' setting, and in populations and contexts found in the identified mission zone.

In partnership with Circuit leaders and with cooperation from clergy members, we will regularly monitor and celebrate the fruitfulness of LPI within the period of four years (2016-2020) by measuring the following desired outcomes:

- Engage at least 1 Circuit per District x 4 Districts = 4 every year  
or 16 over the period of 4 years.
- Equip at least 12 lay people per Circuit x 4 Circuits = 48 every year  
or 192 over the period of 4 years
- Enlist and deploy at least 6 lay people per circuit x 4 Circuits = 24 every year  
or 96 over the period of 4 years
- Establish at least 4-8 new faith communities every year  
or 16-32 over the period of 4 years

And, here are some specific fruit that will be measured on this initiative:

- New Disciples (e.g., Number of people who joined the church by profession of faith and faith restored).
- Growing Disciples Deeper (e.g., Number of small groups & Number of people who participate in a small group that meets for fellowship, prayer, study, care, and service)
- Disciples Engaged in Mission (e.g., Number of people from the congregation engaged in local, national and international mission/outreach activities)
- Disciples Giving to Mission (e.g., The total amount given by local church to shared ministries through UMC connection and other organizations for support of benevolent and charitable ministries.)
- New Servant Leaders: (e.g., The number of people taking an active servant leadership role)
- Young Disciples (e.g., Number of children and youth engaged)
- Diverse Disciples (e.g., comparing population demographic diversity with diversity in congregation)

We believe gifted, called lay people will effectively lead in starting new faith communities that will assist in fulfilling the mission of reaching out to more new people, more younger people, and more diverse people. Moreover, this initiative underscores our commitment to achieving our integrated strategic goals of making disciples, developing innovative leadership, and creating new places for new people.

#### C. Resources and Services:

We continue to provide resources and services to local churches for their efforts of becoming vital congregations.

1. *Congregational Vitality Consultation*. The goal of this process is to provide resource and support to local churches, mission congregations or fellowships for their effort of developing disciple-making process and structure that is relevant to their unique ministry setting.
2. *Chartering Process*. Some of our existing fellowships or mission congregations are moving towards becoming new chartered United Methodist congregations.
3. *Church as Models Project*. This is to ensure that our older adults (50+) remain connected, engaged, and socially, spiritually, intellectually, and physically healthy.
4. *Vital Signs and Wonders*. This is an online platform where church folks share stories, insights, best practices and other information about their mission and ministry to a wider audience within and beyond our conference connection.
5. *Mission Insite* (demographic tool). This is a free resource that is made available for the use of the cabinet, districts, circuits, and of all local churches.
6. *Readiness 360 Assessment Tool*. It is a web-based tool that is designed to measure congregation's multiplication DNA – its current capacity to multiply – to create new ministry for new people in new places.

### **Conference Committee of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (CCHECM)**

Number on agency: 17 Number present when voting: 10  
 Number voting for: 10 Number voting against: 0 Number abstaining: 0  
 Date of First Meeting: 9/24/15 Number of meetings held: 5

Through ministry on campuses and in churches, the California Nevada annual conference made impact through providing meaningful worship, deepening faith, furthering spiritual formation and bearing witness for justice. CCHECM made grants totaling \$118,000 on eight campuses. In the coming year, CCHECM will focus on making grants more effective; engaging Annual Conference and local churches; and supporting campus ministers. The Colin Knoch Scholarship and awards through GBHEM were administered.

The Department of Spiritual and Religious Life at the University of the Pacific and Stockton Central UMC partnered this year. Students gathered for lunchtime “Soul Food” devotionals, and did mission work at local schools and organizations. Students participated in an inter-faith Alternative Spring Break trip through SSP, working in a city-sanctioned homeless village, serving food, organizing food at a distribution center, and building Water Pasteurization Indicators.

First generation college students from San Joaquin Delta College gather Sunday evenings at Stockton Central UMC for meals, spiritual devotions, and to talk through life skills and college-transfer planning. Students do regular visitations to 4-year colleges.

Monday Christian Worship in Davis grew with 12-15 students. A student shared, “The first time I participated I nearly came to tears when I took Communion. I have participated in many of the Christian ministries and clubs at UC Davis and this is the only Christian ministry that offers

Communion on a weekly basis.” Nineteen students have volunteered to visit Yolo County Juvenile Detention Center. One student intern led a program on WWII’s internment of Japanese-Americans in connection to modern Islamophobia for 75 students.

Pastor John Song began as campus pastor for Wesley Foundation of Merced at UC Merced, Merced College, and Wesley House. The ministry mission is to transform the lives of students as “Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” through spiritual formation program, fellowship, and social justice ministries.

The Ecumenical House at San Francisco State University partnered with Temple and Korean UMCs, piquing students’ curiosity and engaging them with front lawn barbecues and karaoke. Movie Nights sparked thoughtful conversations. One recent “Dinner and Discussion” even needed more seats. Hmong and Filipino students regularly use the chapel. One student is considering seminary.

Campus Ministry at San Jose State was launched through St. Paul’s UMC. Partnering with professors and campus organizations, students and church members worked together for service learning and neighborhood development with. Pastor Jennifer Goto is now on staff with SJSU’s CommUniverCity. Meg Glenn, campus ministry staff, developed a core who connect around faith and social justice work.

The Table is supporting students at area colleges as they root their lives in grace, grow in faith, and reach in love. Christina Turner, Pastor in Training, offered spiritual mentorship, with several students discerning calls to ordained ministry and seminary. On Shrove Tuesday, students gathered for “Pancakes and Prayers”, for a fellowship “study break” dinner and prayers over finals.

United Campus Christian Ministry at Stanford University is working with Palo Alto Wesley UMC on cooperative ministries.

Ministry at UC Santa Cruz continues as a student-led group.

## **Compassion and Justice Area**

### **Advocacy and Justice Committee Michael Yoshii, Chair**

The Committee on Advocacy and Justice includes representation from three standing task forces of the Annual Conference. These include the Israel/Palestine Task Force, the Philippines Solidarity Task Force and the Immigration Task Force. Budgets for these task forces are administered through the A & J Committee. Each of these task forces work independently on their own goals and activities while we attempt to integrate education, intersection, and support for each of these ministries. Jeanelle Ablola serves as the Co-Chair of the Philippine Solidarity

Task Force. Yvonne Turner is the Chair of the Israel/Palestine Task Force. Linda Kuruhara is the Chair of the Immigration Task Force.

The committee also administers the Peace with Justice Grants and Ecumenical Grants. Revisions have been made to the application process for Ecumenical Grants to align the grant cycle in collaboration with the Peace and Justice Grants. Mary Liebke administers the Peace and Justice Grants. Jim Cramer administers the Ecumenical Grants.

The Committee worked with Co-Lay Leaders Gayle Sherman and Burt Yin in 2015 to facilitate listening sessions during the Laity Session at Annual Conference. These listening sessions were intended to generate dialogue & discussion on key peace and justice issues taking place within our local congregations. Committee members participated as conveners and facilitators for these discussions.

One key issue raised in the listening posts which had not been visible to many in our conference was the historical controversy about the "comfort women" trafficked into sexual slavery during World War II. This issue will be the focus for our Annual Conference dinner co-hosted by MFSA in June 2016. Committee member Jenny Kwon provided leadership for the listening session and now for the annual conference dinner event co-sponsored by the conference MFSA chapter.

## **Conference Mission Service Committee**

### **Conference Secretary of Global Ministries Report**

In 2015, six Global Ministries missionaries from the annual conference were in active missionary service: Marilyn Chan (Cambodia), Claudia Genung (Japan), Emma L. Kerr-Carpenter (Montana), George Martzen (Singapore), Katherine Parker (Nepal), and Brenda Vaca (U.S. Western Jurisdiction). In addition to these six, and in the spirit of missionary service being "From Everywhere to Everywhere," 21 other Global Ministries missionaries also received conference support through The Advance: Albert Willicor, Carol Partridge (now retired), Eun Ha Choi, Florence Ogugua Mefor, Gary Moon, Gordon Graner, Hye-In Lee, Hyo-Won Park, Jae Hyoung Choi, Jane Kies, Jeffrey Hoover, Jerusha Neal, Joseph Chan (now retired), Kennedy Cruz, Lawrence Kies, Matthew Laferty, Paul Jeffrey, Romeo del Rosario, Mark Zimmerman, Mary Zigbuo, and Young Seon Kim. Missionaries Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mareina served as Mission Advocates for the Western Jurisdiction. For 2015, the total conference missionary support was \$94,394.

In 2015, 39 conference churches provided significant missionary financial support: San Rafael Aldersgate, Almaden Hills, Aptos, Atwater, San Francisco Bethany, Fresno Calwa, Campbell, Oakland Chinese Community, Citrus Heights, Davis, Dixon, Elk Grove, Lodi, Modesto First, Palo Alto First, Sunnyvale First, San Francisco Glide, Healdsburg Community,

Oakland Korean, San Francisco Korean, Korean UMC Santa Clara Valley, Lafayette, Los Altos, Pleasanton Lynnewood, Merced, Mill Valley Mt. Tamalpais, Nevada City, Pinole, Placerville El Dorado Federated, Porterville First, Alamo San Ramon Valley, Santa Rosa First, Sonoma, San Jose St. Paul's, Palo Alto St. Andrew's, Manteca St. Paul's, Chico Trinity, Woodland, Yreka.

Also during 2015, the Conference Mission Service Committee continued its collaborations with United Methodist Women and with the conference Imagine No Malaria campaign and its ambitious goal of raising \$2 million and saving 200,000 lives. The Committee continued its work with the NETworX (Circles) program of the Children and Poverty Committee, which has been expanded to seven communities in the annual conference, with efforts to support mission activity in Fiji, with the West Angola Partnership Committee and its efforts to develop a health clinic in Bom Jesus, with conference disaster response efforts, with the Sierra Service Project, and with the conference UMVIM program.

The Mission Service Committee has 10 voting members. In 2015, the Committee held in-person meetings on January 31, May 30, and October 31. Sylvia Phon served as chair. This report was adopted through email voting on April 11-15, 2016, with seven in favor, none opposed, and three not voting.

Respectfully, Howard Parker, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

### **Conference Committee for the Angola Partnership** Report for May 2015 through April 2016

*Number on agency: 8 Number of full committee meetings: 0*  
*Report adopted: May 1, 2016 Number voting:   2*  
*Voting for:   2   Voting against:   0   Abstaining:   0*

The Angola team continued phone and email contact with our friends in Angola and among ourselves over the past year, but we have seen little measurable progress toward the goal that a clinic at Bom Jesus, Angola, would begin operations and demonstrate effective decreases in malaria incidence. The 2013 Annual Conference offering, identified as the Bridge of Love, raised \$68,126.47 to rehabilitate and support the clinic. UMCOR also provided \$60,000 for physical rehabilitation of the original 1970 building during April-December 2014. We transferred \$33,100 to the West Angola Annual Conference on April 29, 2015, through Advance number 3022082 and intended to transfer the remainder in two stages over the following 18 months to help the clinic become self-sustaining under the agreed strategic plan.

Unfortunately, the world price of oil began a steep decline a few months earlier, pushing down Angolan government revenues and probably halting the planned government component of the

clinic budget. The value of Angolan currency declined by 40 percent over the past year, compared to the US dollar. So far as we know, the clinic has not yet opened.

We invited WAAC Development Program coordinator João da Graça and three others to visit California - Nevada in October 2015 to extend personal relationships, learn about agricultural extension programs, and meet farmers supporting families on small farms. João previously visited here in 2013 and he hosted committee members Joel Bulaya, José Fernandes, and Donna Van Maanen there in 2014. The planned trip did not happen because, we suspect, of financial limits and the bad exchange rate. Two potential Volunteer in Mission trips with emphases on health care delivery and small-plot demonstration agriculture also did not happen.

How best to use the remainder of the 2013 offering to move the clinic forward remains unanswered. We plan to discuss that with our Angolan friends in Portland, Oregon, during General Conference, as João is the lay delegation leader for WAAC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Bulaya, Chair  
Jim Eychaner, Treasurer

## **Partners in Ministry Area**

### **Report of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race**

*Number on agency: 12, Number present when voting:  
Voting for: 6 Voting Against: 0 Abstaining: 0  
Adopted: March 18, 2016 Number of Meetings: 6*

The Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) lost one of its vital persons in the passing of Latu Evelyn Koloto. She was our Chairperson and Vice Chairperson who was very active in all areas of the work of CORR. Her leadership and her dedication to the work, laid the foundation to our present work. She is sorely missed; and our sympathy goes out to her husband, Rev. Maile Koloto and family.

The work of CORR in 2015 was very frustrating as we tried to continue the work based on the results from our *Gathering of Ethnic Leaders* in 2014. Bishop Brown and the Cabinet received the results; but, their response lacked specific comments on how and when they would address these concerns. While we sent recommendations on Shared Facilities to the Cabinet in the fall, we have not received a written response. We were told early in the year that the Cabinet was going to have a workshop on Shared Facilities in the fall. When that didn't happen, they said early in 2016; but they haven't started to plan yet! We believe we have hit a brick wall; and

our perception is that the Cabinet is not serious in dealing with the challenges associated with Shared Facilities. Another year has gone by and the Resolution for Cultural Competency Training (for those in shared facility arrangements), that was passed at the 2010 Annual Conference Session, still goes unfulfilled.

We continue our work in trying to advocate for those who have no voice, whose concerns go unanswered. However, it is difficult when the Conference leadership (the Cabinet) is not receptive in working together to implement one of the responses to the recommendations from the 2010 General Commission on Religion and Race's Review of this Annual Conference. This year's work has shown us it is not a priority for them! In a Conference that is so diverse, such inaction is reprehensible!

Embracing the General Commission on Religion and Race's Ministry Model, consisting of Institutional Equity, Vital Conversations, and Intercultural Competency, CORR will continue to work on advocating and building bridges. We look forward to God's leading as we continue our work in 2016.

In 2015, CORR met six times: January 16<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>. The Commission awarded a total of \$4,700 in grants to: I-Relate Leadership Training (\$740), Falehufanga UMC, Summer Youth Convocation (\$740); El Caucus Hispano for Youth Leadership Training (\$740); First UMC of Hayward Youth MOVE Program (\$740); Fijian Language Ministry Youth going to Youth 2015 (\$740), Burlingame UMC Youth (\$500), and Samoan Youth Ministry (\$500).

We've been invited (and agreed) to partner with Leadership Development, Mission Focus Area for the August 13<sup>th</sup> *MultiCity Conference*, helping the Church reach out to the diversity in our communities.

Rev. Barbara Horikoshi-Firebaugh, Chairperson

## **Conference Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations**

Met 5 times, First Meeting November 11, 2015 – Last Meeting April 8, 2015

Voted on Report March 15, 2015: Members 4, 3 voted yes, 1 absent: First Meeting  
As a result of Annual Conference action, this group is now officially the Conference Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations. The name should now be used in conference work and documents wherever the work of CCUIR is mentioned

CCUIR continues to foster awareness, participation, and learning with regards to ecumenical and interreligious work within the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference.

Individual members continue to be involved in various interfaith groups in Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area, as well as other areas.

This past year we sponsored an award to recognize a church which best exemplified an outstanding and effective interfaith ministry. The recipient of the award was First United Methodist Church in Salinas California. Rev. Jim Luther received small cash award on behalf of Salinas UMC during an Annual Conference plenary session.

CCUIR has made significant contributions toward the development UMEIT (United Methodist Ecumenical and Interfaith Training) which is a program of the OCUIR (Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations) within the Council of Bishops. 2016 will be the first year that UMEIT has coordinated its own program under the direction of new Associate Ecumenical Staff Officer. UMEIT is offered annually alongside the National Workshop on Christian Unity.

In January of 2015 CCUIR coordinated a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity event in cooperation with Ecumenical Officers of the San Francisco North Bay Area. The event was held at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church. The goal was to invite representatives from other faith traditions to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday by focusing on "Community, Culture, and Vision.

Submitted by Hubert Ivery, Chair

## **Connectional Resources**

### **COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Number on agency: 9; Number present when voting: 7;

Number voting for: 7; Number voting against: 0; Number abstaining: 0; Date adopted: March 11, 2016; Number of meetings held: 4

2015 was the second year for churches to tithe 10% of their income to the connectional church rather than be assigned an apportionment amount. The Council monitored these receipts during the year and helped resource churches with questions. The response from churches has been positive, and receipts in 2015 were above 2014. The Council will continue to work with the Cabinet to challenge all churches to model tithing for their congregations.

The Council brought a 2016 budget recommendation to the 2015 Annual Conference Session. The budget was passed as recommended. The Council also brought a standing rule change regarding the management of the conference operating fund. It was also approved by the Annual Conference Session.

The Council's president actively participated in the Core Team meetings during 2015. The Council was also well-represented on the Cal-Nevada United Methodist Foundation.

The CFA Unit Insurance committee continued to contract with Philadelphia Insurance Company for the program's property and liability insurance. The committee monitors the claims experience of our churches while seeking to maximize coverage at the lowest cost possible. The premiums paid by churches are subsidized by savings realized from the portion of our property insurance that is self-funded. The cash balance of this fund was \$381,029 at 12/31/15.

The CFA Unit Insurance committee was able to obtain an earthquake insurance policy for our churches for 2016, so the Unit Insurance Earthquake Grant Fund is no longer receiving a percentage of church premiums. The cash balance of the fund at 12/31/15 was \$1,293,612. Some of the fund will be used to subsidize the 2016 premiums for the earthquake insurance policy.

The Council convened on a conference call in June to review and approve the financing plan for the Board of Trustees' legislation to purchase a new building for the United Methodist Center.

The Council convened the Conference Personnel Committee for its organizing meeting and empowered the HR Team to seek an outside service or consultant to work on revamping the compensation structure for Conference staff.

The Council and its audit subcommittee received the 2014 audits of the California-Nevada Annual Conference (excluding the Board of Pensions) from Macias & Gini, public accountants. The audit received an unqualified opinion.

CFA monitored the financial condition of the conference with the help of financial reports prepared by Karen Foster and Ajesh Kumar. Diane Knudsen serves as Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services.

At the end of 2015, the balance of the conference operating fund was \$1,429,803 or 3.13 months reserve. Our new standing rule instructs the Council to target a fund balance between 2.5 and 3 months reserve, so the "excess" reserve was added to our general conference apportionment payments in 2016.

## **Report of the Conference Board of Trustees**

*Number on agency: 8 Number present when voting: 7  
Voting For: 7 ; Voting Against 0; Abstaining:0  
Adopted: February 6, 2016; Number of meetings: 4*

The Conference Board of Trustees holds title to and maintains six district parsonages, one episcopal residence and the United Methodist Center. The Board holds in trust the parsonage of the former Hamilton UMC of San Francisco and the property of the former Orangevale UMC property, presently occupied by the Cho-Un Korean UMC.

During the calendar year 2015, all district parsonages were rented and most were managed by professional property managers. Part of the net rental income of the parsonages is used to fund housing allowances for the district superintendents. A property manager was also used to care for the former Hamilton UMC parsonage.

During 2015, the board's subcommittee consulted with architects on the remodel of the UM Center at 1276 Halyard Drive. The subcommittee and architects discussed future building needs with the Bishop, staff and committees. A building code review revealed significant fire safety improvements were needed. The board considered the options presented by its subcommittee and decided to purchase the building at 1350 Halyard Drive rather than remodel the current one. The legislation to purchase and to sell was approved at the 2015 Annual Conference. The office move was made on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The former UM Center was in escrow at 12/31/15.

The Board also has reviewed financial statements as presented by the Conference Treasurer and has approved planned maintenance and repair items on the aforementioned properties.

The Board has fulfilled its responsibilities as defined in the Book of Discipline.

Respectfully Submitted By: Nathan Meeks, President

## **Committee for the Episcopacy**

*Number on agency: 11 Number present when voting: 11  
Number voting for: 11 Number voting against: 0 Number abstaining: 0  
Date adopted: April 21, 2016  
Number of meetings held: 1  
2015 achievements*

The Episcopacy Committee met once in 2015 with Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. in the Disciplinary role of "support, consultation, advisory and assisting."

The Committee supported the Bishop in dealing with various complex issues in the life of the Annual Conference, including church vitality, cross-cultural appointments, intentional discipleship, starting new churches and raising young leaders. Bishop Brown is actively working with our laity to move them towards more fruitful discipleship. He emphasized collaboration by fostering an environment among pastors, between laity and some clergy circuits to work together in building relationships and valuing differences.

Bishop Brown provided leadership to move the Conference Center to a new facility that will better serve the needs of the staff and the whole Conference.

He continued to emphasize mission and the importance of our changing understanding and practice of mission as: building relationships, listening deeply to people’s needs, and joining with those impacted in addressing those needs. Bishop Brown traveled to South Korea and Palestine to nurture missional relationships. He led a delegation to Cuba to learn from the Cuban church how they have grown churches through lay ministry.

The Episcopacy Committee has encouraged Bishop Brown in the challenging work of collaboration and collegiality as he serves as President of the Council of Bishops, dealing with a variety of difficult issues facing our denomination and in preparation for General Conference. The Episcopacy Committee continued to support the Bishop as he approached his final year before retirement; a year still full of responsibilities in our Annual Conference and as President of the Council of Bishops.

The Episcopacy Committee is in conversation about the Bishop's transition to retirement in 2016. The transition will include celebrating Bishop Brown’s leadership, addressing issues at the episcopal residence and preparation to welcome the incoming Bishop. The Episcopacy Committee remains supportive of the Bishop's family. We invite the Conference to hold the Bishop, his family, and his ministry in our prayers.

### **Equitable Compensation Commission Report**

*Number on agency 7 Participants in voting 7 Voting for 7 Voting against 0 Not voting 0*

*Date report adopted 4/15/2015 via email*

*Number of meetings held none in-person; multiple phone conferences*

2015 Equitable Compensation Commission Chair: Howard Parker

The Equitable Compensation Commission in 2015 worked to effectuate adequate and equitable compensation for each clergy position and provide minimum compensation support in instances of established need. Compensation assistance disbursed in calendar year 2015 was as follows:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Total 2015</b>
Sacramento Emanuel	5,000

Richmond St. Luke's	8,000
Sacramento Hope	5,000
San Francisco Geneva	2,500
Rohnert Park	4,000
<b>Total: Bridges District</b>	<b>24,500</b>
Tehachapi Valley	1,000
Porterville Ano Nuevo	10,000
Stockton Grace	4,200
Sanger	3,500
Amador County	4,500
Fresno St. Paul's	4,800
Tracy	4,000
Hughson	5,500
Merced Campus Ministry	4,300
Stockton St. Paul	4,300
<b>Total: Central Valley District</b>	<b>46,100</b>
Smith River/Klamath	14,000
Colusa/Yuba City	9,000
Orland Federated	4,000
Portola	8,000
Knights Landing/Meridian	24,960
Sierra Pines	1,500
<b>Total: Great Northern District</b>	<b>61,460</b>
Martinez	9,500
Pittsburgh	6,000
Vietnamese UM Fellowship	12,500

Valley Faith	10,000
Monterey	2,500
La Trinidad	4,000
San Jose Calvary	6,400
Green Korean	7,000
<b>Total: El Camino Real District</b>	<b>57,900</b>
<b>Total: Annual Conference</b>	<b>\$189,960</b>

### **RETIRED CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

*Number on Agency: 18 Number Present For Voting: 13  
Number Voting For: 13 Number Voting Against: 0  
Number Abstaining: 0 Date Adopted: February 17, 2016  
Number of Meetings Held: 4*

The Retired Clergy Association, a Conference affiliate organization, represents more than 600 retired clergy and their spouses. Founded in 1992, the Retired Clergy Association maintains communications with and among those who have served the church as pastors and spouses and the boards and agencies of the Annual Conference.

The Annual Luncheon Meeting, held at the Annual Conference Session on June 17, 2015, welcomed nine new retirees. During the luncheon, RCA awarded three scholarships to Bethany Cseh, Dana Gill, and Tunishi Tovo.

The Spring Fling was held on April 29-30, 2015, at Christ the King Retreat Center. Dr. Pamela Eisenbaum, Professor of Biblical Studies and Christian Studies at Iliff School of Theology, guided our time together.

Nine members of the RCA (Joe Hurd, Marty Murdock, Betty Pagett, Randy Bolen, Dave Herb, Floyd Quenzer, and Donna Houghland) traveled to New Orleans from October 30 to November 8, 2015, for the Association's tenth annual Volunteers in Mission trip to New Orleans.

Working with the Board of Pensions and the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, the Retired Clergy Association continues to seek new and creative ways to increase its support of, and communication with, retirees and surviving spouses. The association continues to work with Conference leadership to determine the ministries in which retirees might participate, such as volunteering as mentors and coaches with active clergy.

The RCA is grateful for the work of our Executive Director, Nancy Daley. Nancy serves many roles in her ministry, including serving as the editor of our newsletter *Days of Grace*.

RCA is very appreciative of the ongoing support of Cory Parish and the Conference Claimants Endowment Board as well as Paul Extrum-Fernandez and the Conference Board of Pensions.

David Bennett, President  
Retired Clergy Association

## **CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS**

The Conference Board of Pensions has 12 members. The number present on March 16, 2016 for the adoption of the Annual Report was 11. Voting for 11; Voting against 0. The number not voting 0. The Board has at least three full Board meetings each year.

### **I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST YEAR**

1. The Board is the agent for the United Methodist Church and the California-Nevada Annual Conference in a significant economic ministry: providing adequate benefits for clergy and lay participants, their dependents and their survivors.

During calendar year 2015, congregations and agencies of the conference paid \$2,448,194 for Current Service Pension Funding (CRSP/ CPP) and \$3,508,250 for active employee health care benefits (Blue Shield PPO, Kaiser HMO, MetLife Dental). Additionally, retiree health care in the amount of \$1,700,000 was provided to 400 retired clergy, spouses, and surviving spouses. Other benefits provided by the Board of Pensions include Death, Disability and Life Insurance Benefits through UNUM for Conference lay staff.

Paul Extrum-Fernandez serves as the Executive Officer and Conference Benefits Officer to work with the UMC General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Conference Health Plan providers, the Cabinet, the Ministry Staff, the Endowment Board, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and individual constituents within the Annual Conference. He helps to administer the reserve funds held within the Annual Conference, and makes regular reports to the Board.

Laury Rand (27 years) and Linda Lasell (15 years) both retired from the Board of Pensions. The two of them provided distinguished service to the Board and to all of the participants of the California-Nevada Conference benefit programs. The Board hired Brian Grimmer as its new Office Manager and Andrea Winchester as its new Administrative Assistant.

After over 30 years at its Oakland location, the Board of Pensions moved its office to a new location in Sacramento, California. The office is now located at 1337 Howe Avenue, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 913-1049.

2. During 2015, staff continued to promote the importance to pastors and lay workers of the denomination's Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP), and continued to assist pastors with payroll matters and compliance testing on the current 403(b) 'elective deferral' limits.

3. The Board of Pensions made a significant change to active employee health care benefits in 2015. For the first time, a Kaiser HMO insurance option was made available alongside a Blue Shield PPO option. Clergy were also required to pay a \$600 annual cost share for participation in either plan. MetLife was also continued as our dental plan. Board of Pensions staff continued to counsel and assist constituents in the use of these managed care programs. The Board continues to monitor the health care programs and costs closely.

4. The Board of Pensions also administers four different Health Care Programs (Blue Shield PPO, Blue Shield HMO, UnitedHealthCare, Kaiser Senior Advantage) for approximately 400 retired clergy, spouses and surviving dependents. Retired participants are eligible for a premium subsidy determined by years of service

5. Since 1944, the Board of Pensions has administered the Death Benefit Program and/or the Death Benefit-Plus Program, providing term life insurance coverage for as many as 650 Conference constituents each year, both clergy and lay employees. By General Conference action, these formerly separate programs were made part of the "Comprehensive Protection Plan" ('CPP', for clergy) and the "Basic Protection Plan" ('BPP', for lay employees). During 2015, the Board of Pensions continued to work directly with the beneficiaries and survivors of those covered by these benefits, as well as administer the current coverage for the full-time lay employees of the Annual conference.

6. The Board of Pensions continues to operate a student housing facility adjacent to the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. Over 80 students from across in the country utilize the group living accommodations.

7. The Board of Pensions remains grateful for the Conference Claimants Endowment Board (CCEB), which continued its strong work in support of retired clergy benefits, and related services for retired clergy and surviving dependents. The Board recognizes the tremendous value of the \$1.6 Million annual gift from the Endowment Board, which now provides 100% of the Annual Conference-related funding for the Retiree health care plans. During 2015, Conference Claimants received up to a \$3,800 (single)/\$7,600 (couple) subsidy in their health care premiums, thanks to the Endowment Board contribution. The Board of Pensions encourages all persons to become acquainted with the programs of the Endowment Board, and to support that Board in their work to help fund the Conference retiree benefit programs.

8. The Board carries out its work with the help of the following standing committees:

- A. The Executive Committee
- B. The Health & Hospitalization Committee
- C. The Joint Committee on Medical Leave
- D. The Investment Committee
- E. The Personnel Committee

9. The Board of Pensions operates in accordance with the requirements of the 2012 Discipline. Authorization has been given to deposit funds with the Conference Treasurer, the Conference Claimants Endowment Board, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and a local financial institution used for daily transactions, presently the Bank of the West. The Treasurers related to the Annual Conference are bonded.

## **Candler School of Theology—2016 UMC Annual Conference Report**

For more than 100 years, **Candler School of Theology** at Emory University has prepared *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as Christian leaders who put faith and love into action, transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler now offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, development practice, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a retooled Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study—and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.

Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 466 students are enrolled, with 48 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 29. Students represent 44 denominations, with 51 percent coming from the Methodist family. 82 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2015-2016, we awarded nearly \$5.5 million in Candler scholarships, with 92 percent of MDiv students and 84 percent of all students receiving support. And our comprehensive financial literacy program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they serve—well into the future.

At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, Candler says goodbye and Godspeed to a handful of noted faculty as they retire: Barbara Day Miller, Luke Timothy Johnson, Steve Tipton, and Bishop Woodie White. Yet even as these legends take their leave after distinguished careers of scholarship and service, we look forward to welcoming a new crop of scholar-leaders who will join us in the coming months and grow with us in the coming years. We are especially pleased to welcome Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who will join the faculty as bishop-in-residence in the fall of 2016.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries in the world depends upon your support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person in Atlanta or online at [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu) to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics  
Candler School of Theology

## **Claremont School of Theology**

Claremont School of Theology (CST) stands poised to enter one of the most significant periods of growth in its history. Last July, the Board of Trustees approved a new strategic plan, entitled “Leveraging Our Past to Build Our Future.” The plan identifies three strategic goals:

1. Promote Transformative Education
2. Engage Local and Global Communities
3. Achieve Long-Term Institutional Sustainability

All three goals support CST's driving purpose of *Creating a Difference* for the Church and for the world. The 2015-16 academic year has seen several significant strides taken towards achieving these goals.

CST began offering its Master of Divinity degree program in Hybrid/Online format in the fall of 2014. Enrollment for students in the Hybrid/Online program now equal that of the residential program. In January 2016, CST launched a brand new Hybrid/Online Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Spirituality and Strategic Leadership. The program offers clergy and professional lay leaders an opportunity to refresh their perspective on vocation and ministry, while pursuing an individualized research topic over a two year period. *Half of students enrolled in both programs are United Methodist.*

Shortly after the Strategic Plan was approved, resources were applied to pursuing a new Campus Master Plan. DCG Real Estate, a consulting firm specializing in master planning efforts by churches and schools, was contracted to evaluate the current campus infrastructure and make recommendations for meeting the School's 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. In February 2016, the Board approved a period of discernment to evaluate whether it might be possible for CST to engage in a shared land deal with Claremont United Methodist Church, which is also evaluating its campus. In August 2016, the Board of Trustees will evaluate whether such a deal will help CST to achieve its goal of long-term institutional sustainability.

Claremont School of Theology is looking forward to having a presence at the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church in Portland, OR. Alumni/ae, friends and those interested in pursuing a call to ministry are invited to stop by its booth to catch up and learn more about degree programs at CST. Special events will be held for alumni/ae and friends during General Conference. For details, contact Director of Alumni/ae Relations Noemi Ortega at [nortega@cst.edu](mailto:nortega@cst.edu) or (909) 447-2545.

The year ahead promises to be full of impactful ministry for CST, as it continues in its mission to *Create a Difference* for the Church and the world. Stay connected to life at CST by visiting [cst.edu](http://cst.edu) or following CST on social media on Facebook and on Twitter @CST\_News.

## **Drew University Theological School**

### **A Cohering Vision: Curriculum, Community, Co-Curricular Initiatives**

After much collaborative discussion, discernment, and evaluation of the current state of theological education, those of us who lead, teach, and support Drew Theological School have launched on an ambitious course. Nearly 150 years after our founding, we envision a future as bright as the best eras in our past. I am pleased to share with you here the concrete steps we have taken— and are taking— to bring this future to light.

First, our efforts have been attentive to the history of Drew, in particular its Methodist roots, its long commitment to the Church and its ministries, and draw from this wellspring for inspiration and direction. Also, we have honored our progress to achieve denominational, ethnic, gender,

and racial diversity in our faculty and student body. This rich diversity has become both a hallmark of Drew and an expansion of our wellspring. Forces beyond our campus—notably, that the reasons for pursuing a theological education and expected outcomes are shifting dramatically—further press the need for us to align our vision and its supporting systems with our communal reality.

Given this imperative, we are focused on the three “C’s” of our cohering vision: redesigning our *curriculum*, strengthening our *community* of learning, and deepening training through revived *co-curricular* initiatives. These three aspect of a Drew Theological School education will work together to enable us to to empower creative thought and courageous action to advance justice, peace, and love of God, neighbor, and the earth—as well as uniquely position us to lead evolving expressions of Christianity.

### **Designing distinct pathways from curriculum to vocation**

To remain meaningful and offer the greatest value to our students, each of the six degree paths that we offer must be as distinct as the ministry to which it leads. For example, our Master of Arts in Ministry program, which forms students for the broadest spectrum of theologically-informed advocacy and ministry, or our DMin program, which has become the “new” terminal vocational degree, must be custom rebuilt for current and emerging student needs and outcomes. This also holds true for our Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, PhD, and, most critically, our Master of Divinity programs.

We have achieved our roadmap for curricular change through a period of intentional discernment, which included discussion with consultants, and with colleagues at peer institutions, who led a curricular formation retreats with our faculty; through the discernment and guidance of our faculty, and with the generous financial support of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund. Our next steps include a comprehensive analysis of pedagogical and technological trends in theological education, enrollment, and outcomes. Our redesigned curricular paths will be announced in the fall of 2017, concurrent with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Drew Theological School and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

### **Student experiences rooted in community**

Despite the increase in students pursuing their education through evening classes and online enrollment, we remain committed to the on-campus experience of community. This begins with a student-centered educational experience that better attends to the scheduling needs of our students, offers broader course content and availability, and more intentionally integrates vocational or career aspirations with coursework.

The success of these efforts are inextricably linked to scholarship support. Only by removing the financial barriers for students pursuing vocations can we hope to attract and retain the most

promising students and free them to learn and grow in community. Related to tuition support is the need for more affordable and modernized housing for those students who choose to live on campus. Together, scholarship support and housing relief will also unburden our students from unsustainable debt.

### **Fostering innovation in ministry and the work of spirit-filled justice**

To round out changes in our curriculum and on-campus learning experiences, we are also reviving co-curricular initiatives. The existing Center for Lifelong Learning will be recast as the new Center for Innovation and Leadership in Ministry and serve students, alumni, and others seeking to find creative and courageous approaches to revitalizing ministry. Here, programming will train pastoral leaders, in particular, for service in rapidly changing church environments, as well as position them to lead fearlessly and prophetically.

Our second co-curricular center will be an expansion of the current Communities of Shalom. This initiative will focus on action, advocacy, and social justice work in both pastoral and lay environments. Projects will range from student interns supporting the work of A Future with Hope in our home state of New Jersey, advancing social justice in non-profit settings across the country and around the world, initiatives which seek to transform and end systemic poverty, expansion of our Partnership for Religion and Education in Prisons (PREP) program, and teaching residencies at Drew for prophetic leaders.

### **Success so far through our *One and All Campaign***

As the 14<sup>th</sup> dean of Drew Theological School, I am deeply committed to continuing our long and distinguished legacy. To this end, our vision is innovative, forward-looking, and grounded in the practical needs of our students—we hope, too, that it is an inspiration to the various constituencies we serve. I fully subscribe to the inimitable words of Antonio Machado, that “we make the road by walking.” The road to this bright future we envision will be made by the dedication, determination, and generosity of those who love Drew and believe in its future.

Our vision is coming to light, in part, because of the generosity of our many alumni-donors and friends. Our *One and All* fundraising campaign has raised more than \$12 million to date for the Theological School and has seed-funded many of our burgeoning efforts.

Also, I encourage our alumni to embrace your power of influence to help grow philanthropic support for Drew Theological School. Many of our largest gifts have come from the influence of alumni, particularly pastors who serve in our church communities.

Yes, the needs ahead are many, yet our hope is high for a bright future for Drew Theological School. The road is made by walking. Let’s walk it together.

The Reverend Dr. Javier A. Viera, Dean of the Theological School  
Professor of Pastoral Theology

## **ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

*Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe, President and Chief Executive Officer*

Greetings from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. We wish you blessings as together we share the work of strengthening the Church and offering a compassionate presence to the World.

The Iliff School of Theology's commitment to the Wesleyan ethos of providing hopeful, intellectually alive, and spiritually grounded theological education for each and every student over the course of their lifetime continues. Iliff's identity is focused on educating leaders for three primary publics: the world, the church, and the academy. At Iliff, we refuse to choose between being a training home only for ministerial candidates, a center only for activists and scholar-activists, or a school only for academics. We believe all three are inseparable and enhance one another as we deliberately situate ourselves in the world and critically operate out of the world's complexities.

As such, we recognize that the world's religious landscape is changing and there is much at stake. Iliff recently completed its strategic plan, revised its curriculum, transformed its library, and initiated new relationships with other institutions. In collaboration with the people of Africa, we've started a discussion with Africa University (AU) to foster an educational alliance that will benefit Iliff and AU students. We have also joined a multi-institutional collaboration facilitated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the HANA Scholarship to create a pipeline for Hispanic students from United Methodist related secondary schools and historically black colleges leading to graduate level theological education.

Iliff's enrollment continues to be strong with 365 students joining us this academic year, 60% female and 40% male, 35% Methodist – all actively engaged in a host of ministry contexts. Their interest continues to be strong in Iliff's online and hybrid classes. A concerted move by Iliff to reduce student debt and grow the ability of students to lead financially sound, engaged communities continues with many MDIV students participating in the Spiritually-Integrated Financial Resiliency Program, funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Iliff's numerous events for area clergy and supporters remains part of our foundation. Via forums and conferences on social justice, food justice, the role of faith in politics, environmental stewardship, theology and disability inclusion, and more. Campus speakers included Rev. Gerald Durley, nationally-known civil rights leader and this year's Jameson Jones Preacher, Heather Jarvis, student debt reduction advocate, and more. Our efforts were duly noted by McCormick Theological Seminary's Center for Faith and Service when we were named as one of the nation's "Seminaries That Change the World" and our Master's of Theology Program was ranked seventh in the nation by OnlineColleges.net.

We welcomed two new scholars to our faculty this year, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Leath, Assistant Professor of Religion and Social Justice and ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Rev. Michelle Watkins-Branch, Gerald L. Schlessman Professor in Methodist Studies and

Assistant Professor of Theology and ordained in the United Methodist Church.

We continue to look forward with a courageous theological imagination. We are sincerely grateful for your support of theological education and the Ministerial Education Fund.

[www.iliff.edu](http://www.iliff.edu) 1-800-678-3360