

172<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE  
**CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
 SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2020



**Reports to the Annual Conference**  
**September 15, 2020**

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## Conference Statistician's Report 2020

Submitted by Adrian Pell, Conference Statistician ([statistics@calnevumc.org](mailto:statistics@calnevumc.org)) 530-217-3550

### THANK YOU!

I am grateful to all the local church pastors, secretaries and treasurers who provide the raw statistical material for this report. Without you, there would be nothing to report. Thank you for putting up with many letters, emails, and questions for clarification. This is as much your report as mine.

Statistics are never a particularly popular topic, of course, but the historical record they create stretches back for many years and is an invaluable tool for understanding the life of the annual conference.

### SUMMARY

This year, we received full or partial statistical reports from 332 of the 347 churches and fellowships in the conference which were due to report - 269 of which were complete by the deadline, about the same as last year. We will continue a similar process for next year of sending initial requests by email and following up later by paper mail and telephone as necessary.

Looking first at church membership, we added 1,340 members during the year – 1,094 on profession or reaffirmation of faith (268 of which were by confirmation), and 246 on net transfer from non-UM churches. This is slightly lower than in 2018.

Overall, though, conference membership continued to fall with 857 removed by death, 39 on net transfer to other UM churches (the first time this has been negative in many years), 1,060 removed by charge conference action, 468 withdrawals and 906 removed as a result of membership audits. At the end of 2019 conference membership stood at 67,714 – down 1,990 from last year's figure of 69,704. You can find more on these trends later in this report.

Average worship attendance was down too, from 26,349 to 24,893 (including 1,123 worshipping online). Taking non-reporting churches into account (using their most recent reported data), the drop is slightly larger, from 27,530 to 25,395.

The detailed statistics are found elsewhere in the Conference Journal and on the conference web site.

### WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MEMBERSHIP?

It is a commonly held view that worship attendance is a better indicator of the strength of a fellowship than membership. To that end, you can find a deeper analysis of trends in worship attendance in last year's statistician's report.

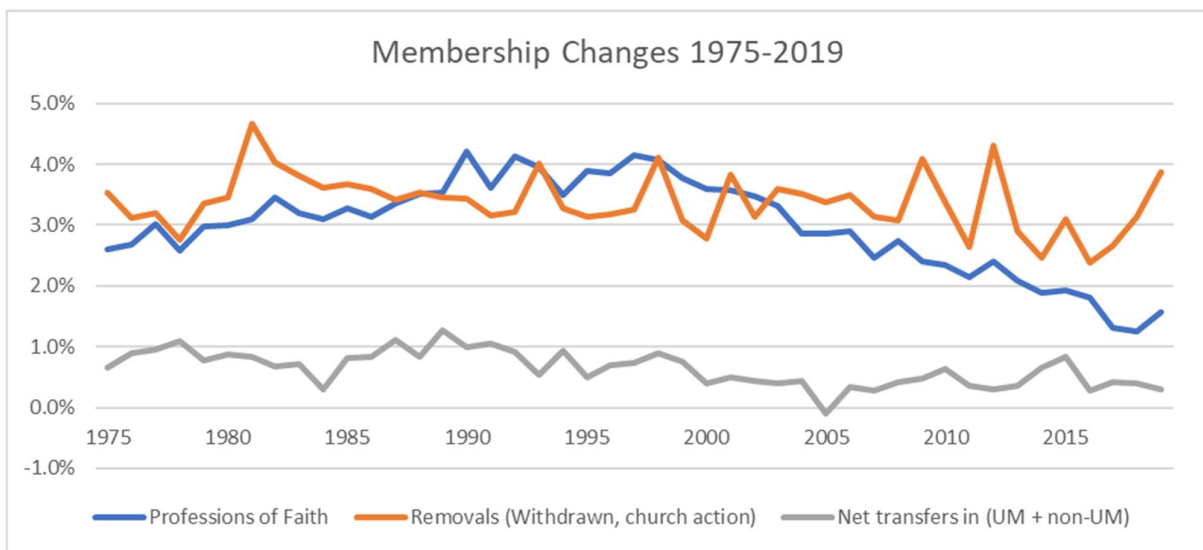
Why then, are we talking about membership this year? In summary, while worship attendance is a better indicator of the *current* strength of a fellowship, there are still trends that we can derive by looking at membership – particularly taking a longer view. In statistical terms, worship attendance is a current indicator, but membership is a lagging indicator.

We probably know this empirically. After a new person starts attending church, they are automatically reported in the worship attendance statistics, but it takes some time before they consider taking church membership. Some people never do, of course, but that's a topic for another time – although it is an increasing trend. At the other end, when somebody stops attending worship, it can take a long time before they cease to be a member, unless they voluntarily withdraw. The Book of Discipline has clear mechanisms in place for how churches can remove people from their membership roll if they do not withdraw themselves, and this process takes some time.

Enough discussion ... what does our conference membership trend look like?



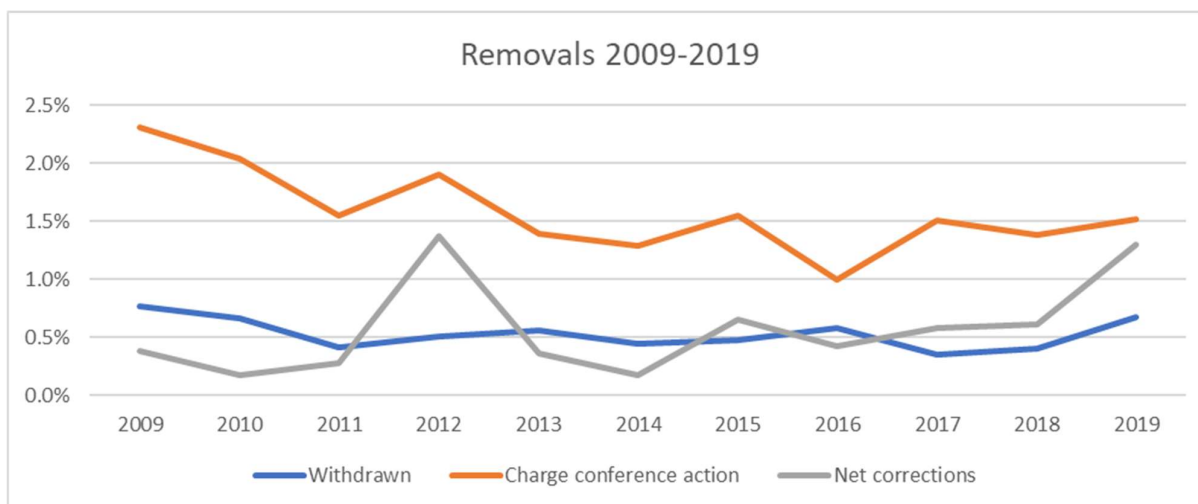
It should be no surprise to regular readers of this report that the overall trend of conference membership is down – in an almost straight line from 1974 (107,203) to 2019 (67,714). Indeed, the only years where there was a small increase were 1990 to 1992 ... but that increase was wiped out in 1993!



Turning now to the various reasons for membership change:

- Net transfers in (UM and non-UM in aggregate) have been steady in the range 0-1% throughout, although have been closer to 0.5% in recent years. There has been only one year (2005) in the study period where there has been a net transfer out. As already noted, 2019 was the first year in recent times when net UMC transfer has been negative.
- Removals because of withdrawal or church action have remained relatively steady in the 3-4% range throughout. More on this below.
- The most noticeable change is in professions of faith (including reaffirmation). For most of the study period, these were roughly in balance with removals. Since 2004, however, we can see a general decline, with occasional upticks, in this primary method of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. If this decline continues, the consequences for the church are not encouraging. This is, of course, a key area for work being carried out by the Cabinet and the Core Team.

Finally, let’s unpick that “withdrawn + church action” number a little. The statistics we gather change a little over time (General Conference action). For this purpose, the most significant change is that, prior to 2009, corrections were combined with re-affirmation (for additions) and with charge conference action (for removals), making comparisons difficult. Since 2009, however, these numbers have been collected separately, so we can look a little more closely at recent years.



- Withdrawals have remained relatively constant during this time. Of course, withdrawals may be a result of preparations for annual church conferences, but nonetheless this indicates that a connection has been maintained with these people.
- Removals by church conference action (typically after three years of no contact) have reduced a little but have been relatively constant over the past 10 years or so.
- There is a small, but noticeable increase in net corrections (out!) which gives me cause for concern. The only valid reason for corrections should be that churches have carried out a membership audit and found that they cannot reconcile their membership number with the roll of names. It is not a short-cut to the removal process. This should be rare (not in consecutive years, for example) and hopefully small.

## SO... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

This report has looked at general trends across the conference which, of course, masks those churches which are seeing positive trends. Here then are some questions which I would invite you to explore in your local setting:

- What does your trend for professions of faith look like? How are you “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”?
- How do you care for your members? Do you make regular contact with **all** of them (not just the ones that come to church)?
- Does your membership number match your roll of names? When was the last time you carried out a membership audit? What process do you use to keep track of your membership roll?

I’d happy to discuss these with any church. I look forward to hearing from you!

## CHECK OUT [WWW.UMDATA.ORG](http://WWW.UMDATA.ORG)

There are many more interesting ways to view the statistics that we gather, and now there’s an easy way for you to explore past statistics. Check out the UMC’s online directory and statistics site and let me know what aspects of *your* statistics you’d like to examine further.

## MISSIONINSITE

Don’t forget that the Annual Conference has a subscription to the “MissionInsite” demographics tool. That means that it is available to all churches without charge, which makes it very straightforward to generate a report of your local area by radius, zip code or some other area that you draw yourself! Check it out on the conference web site – you might be surprised what you find.

## IN CONCLUSION

The coming year is likely to result in some significant statistical shifts because of Covid-19. If you have questions about reporting in this case, or any other statistical comparisons, please contact me.

This has been my first year working fully remote in the United Kingdom and I am grateful to many people: Diane Knudsen in the conference office for assistance in gathering the statistics; Cindy Buna, Claudia Trejo, Robyn Peterson and all the District Superintendents for their persistence in encouraging churches to submit their statistics; Bishop Carcaño and the Extended Cabinet for their invaluable insights and advice throughout the year. Thank you all!

Don't forget, you can always find resources to help with your statistical analysis on the conference web site: <https://www.cnumc.org/statistics>

Respectfully submitted,  
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## Conference Committee on Young People's Ministry

Number on Agency: 11

Number voting when adopted: 4

Number voting for: 4

Number voting against: 0

Number of meetings held: 7

Date of first meeting: January 24, 2019

Date adopted: August 26, 2020

Submitted by: Karla Ludin, Chair ([karla.lundin@cnumc.org](mailto:karla.lundin@cnumc.org)), Robbie Frederiksen, New Chair, and Felicisimo Cao, Conference Staff for the CCYPM

COLLABORATION, TEAM and INTER-SECTION of ministries and programs are the very key words that lift the vision, mission and hope higher for the young people's ministry with faithful obedience in witness and service to our general church's mission of, "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." "...and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10, New Revised Standard Version of the Bible) The theme of the 172nd Session of our California-Nevada Annual Conference on September 17-2020 which is convened virtually for the very first time since we were hit by COVID-19 pandemic, has given us, the ministers with young people and the young people assurance that God is with us and that God has never abandoned us. The empowering message is that Jesus is EMMANUEL. The support of the members of the Annual Conference Session held in June 2019 was felt very strongly in the election of six (6) young adults to the General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation. The inclusion of the young people to represent the California-Nevada Conference to the General Conference is very empowering in developing new younger leaders that will help in giving new directions for the church.

Although, COVID-19 pandemic created major disruptions in our lives and the lives of our young people, and yet, the young people are witnesses of strength of faith and RESILIENCE. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were about more than fifty (50) youth and counselors-leaders from our conference that participated in the national gathering of YOUTH 2019 held in Kansas City, Missouri on July 10-14. The theme was, "LOVE WELL." More than a thousand young people gathered for connection, fellowship, bible study, worship, leadership-training workshops, hands-on mission and they were challenged to make a difference in the world. The FAITHXTREME ministry event that has been designed as a weekend retreat for youth as the new school year has started has evolved into FAITH-SERVICE-XTREME with an emphasis on service and mission and adapted the weekend service format from the Sierra Service Project. Young people, pastors and counselors from Tulare UMC, Merced UMC, Concord UMC were hosted at Point Pleasant UMC in Elk Grove to support the mission project at Wesley UMC in Sacramento that has become a thriving church with the presence and leadership of the Fijian congregation.

"PRIORITIZE THE YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE," is one of the CORE Commitments of the GROWING YOUNG COHORT that led in the ministry collaboration of the Offices of Congregational Development led by the Executive Director, the Rev. Craig Brown and the Young People's Ministry. Young people have been involved as members of the teams from 33 pilot churches with the goal of shifting the culture of doing ministries and the mission of the church. The Growing Young Cohort has the goal: To equip Growing Young Cohort churches to engage young people by resetting their mission and ministry to launch after the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing the Fuller Youth Institute's model Growing Young and combined with the best practices of launching new congregations, the Growing Young Cohort of the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference can redeem today's pandemic crisis as an opportunity to engage with young people like never before. This is a time when the local church has the opportunity to "reset" its ministry for the future. Each module will include case studies, case analysis, and problem solving to help address the "re-launch" opportunities."

COVID-19 pandemic created major disruptions and increased level of stress in the lives of young people: cancelled PROMS - delayed graduation ceremonies - not seeing friends - virtual graduation ceremonies - managing distance learning - leaving dormitories/campuses - uncertainty of going back to school - illnesses no in-person bible studies - no in-person youth fellowship - other unnamed disruptions.

But in the midst of all these and others that have not been identified in the report, the young people have taken the leadership of protests against police brutalities, social injustice, racial discrimination and injustice and other forms of human rights violations. The young people have exemplified resiliency and optimism in creating a world of inclusion and support to BLACK LIVES MATTER movement.

The California-Nevada Conference through the Offices of Leadership Development, Communications and Young People's Ministry has provided support to our churches and young people through a number of Webinars that focused on topic such as, "Engaging Children, Youth and Young Adults in Times of Pandemic, Caring for K-12 Students, Teachers and Parents and College Students During COVID-19.

Robbie Frederiksen, the new chair of the CCYPM, and is the young people's ministry director of Central United Methodist Church, Stockton, shared at that Wednesday Webinar as is quoted here: "What was surprising was our Bible studies. Before the pandemic there were between one and four people attending the study. But, after the pandemic, the group averaged between 12 to 15. "What wasn't well attended before is the highlight of the week!" Robbie works with students on the Delta Wesley and University of the Pacific campuses as the youth and young adult director for Central UMC and Los Gatos UMC. The full article with the title, "Young Adults Yearn for Faith and Connection Amid Crises," was written by Debra Brayfindley and could be accessed at <https://www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/jb-webinar-story-14014348>.

The CCYPM has identified three ministry areas in its focus of service and resourcing the connection in the conference:

- Peace and Justice
- Discipleship (includes Confirmation)
- Task Force on Children's Ministry

Voices were heard regarding the urgent need to resource the local church in supporting its ministries with children and to provide some help to churches who are struggling with their children's ministry or to get started with their children's ministry. The conversations regarding the Creation of a Committee on Children's Ministry took place in the months of July till October in 2019. Several conversations followed regarding the importance of the Children's Ministry as one of the priorities in the CNUMC. It was realized that there's no existing committee on Children's Ministry in the CNUMC. Tasks were Performed: Fel, Cathy, Jorge engaged in some conversations. Jorge directed Fel to work with Cathy in exploring what could be done for Children's ministries. George Edd-Bennett LDMFA), Karla Lundin Fel Cao, Mary Cheng, Consultant for Leadership Development Strategic Leadership Assessment discussed the possible recommendation for the creation of a Council on Children and Youth Ministry separate from Council on Young Adults Ministry. CORE Team must receive any recommendation re Children's Ministry. At the retreat on Nov 7-9, 2019 of the CCYPM (Planning/Visioning Retreat) held at Waller Center-San Francisco, the CCYPM included in its vision and mission for 2020 the area of Children's Ministry. Jorge and Fel discussed determination of creation of a Task Force on Children's Ministry as part of CCYPM.

The time period of the months of March to June, in which the COVID-19 pandemic hit us and sheltering in place took place, the Task Force was organized with the composition of clergy and lay. Fel convened the first meetings and Cathy Morris was unanimously elected as chair with the following members: Jaekuk Jo, Myeong Nam, Ellen Dizon, Nia Mateialona, Rebecca Bernstein. TF supported Children's Online worship with a support of \$500 from CCYPM Budget. In addition to the Core Commitment of Prioritizing the Young People Everywhere, it is also the CCYPM commitment to Prioritize the Children Everywhere.

The CCYPM prepared an operating budget from the 2020 Spending Plan Allocated funds of \$30,963 and it has been put into implementation amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

## Conference Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries

Number on Agency: 10                      Number voting when adopted: 6  
Number voting for: 6                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 5              Date of first meeting: February 4, 2019  
Date adopted: August 19, 2020  
Submitted by: Patricia Parfett, Chair ([pparfett@gmail.com](mailto:pparfett@gmail.com))

"I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back." (Philippians 3:12-14, *The Message* Translation by Eugene Peterson)

The words to the pioneering Christian church in Philippi as ascribed from Paul give inspiration to our ministry of compassion for ALL. We are indeed, pressing on toward the goal of the realization of the Kingdom of God here on earth through faith that is rooted in the grace of God with our deeper commitment in witness and service and walking in the footsteps of Jesus. The Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries is rising above the many disruptions and challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic by moving forward in the future of camping ministry, by pressing on toward the goal of the mission of the church in "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Unfortunately, we, like all other businesses and faith communities have been drastically impacted by the pandemic. Our properties went from full of the sound of people of all ages joining together in camps, retreats and overnight meetings to the sounds of silence. Yet even in the silence, we hear the sounds of nature and are reminded of God's grace and beauty.

We are working with the United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries and other camp and retreat organizations as together; we brainstorm ways to counter the financial impact while visioning for a new future. The Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries set some Goals to carry on the next quadrennium of 2021-2024. • Create Inter-Ethnic, Inter-Cultural, Inter-Generational opportunities & invitations with broad appeal to CNUMC; increase number of guests/campers by 10%; increase Monte Toyon & Lodestar Children, youth, young adult and family camps. • Create year-round camping/retreat experiences for adults focused on spiritual formation, leadership development and deepening fellowship thru common interests: invite more Ethnic Ministries and Outreach to organize camping ministries. • Create living experiences in unique settings that provide entry for people to experience Christian community, deepening connection with self, God and others: organize 4 major bike camps, quilt camp, leadership training for VIM at Waller Center, retreats. In Pressing ON toward these goals, we are grateful to report to you the following: Camp/Retreat Name Dates Number of Campers/Youth Leaders in Training Number of Staff/ Counselors in Training Bike Camp with Metric Century Ride-Fresno, CA April 5-7, 2019 8 2 Family Camp at Silver Spur June 16-23, 2019 215 Fijian Young People's Camp of the Conference Committee on Pacific Islanders Ministry June 25-28, 2019 31 10 Asian Camp at Lodestar (Grades 6th-9th June 30-July 5, 2019 To be provided Monte Toyon July 7-13, 2019 75 18 Camp Lodestar July 13-20, 2019 51 17 Shasta Family Camp Asian Camp at Lodestar (Grades 10th-Sophomore College) July 20-26, 2019 TBP Christmas Institute Staff Training at Lake Tahoe UMC-Retreat August 16-18, 2019 34 Conference Committee on Young People's Ministry Retreat at Waller Center-SF November 8-9, 2019 8 Christmas Institute of the Conference Committee on Filipino American Ministry at Old Oak Ranch Conference, Sonora December 26-30, 2019 72 48 COVID 19 PANDEMIC ADAPTIVE CAMPS (Virtual and limited number of in-person gatherings) Asian Virtual Camp July 2020 Toyon CAMP IN A BOX July 6-10, 2020 42 17 Lodestar CAMP IN A BOX July 13-17, 2020 36 15 Family Camp - Virtual July 2020 245 Wesley UMC-Fijian Young People's Retreat at Lake Tahoe UMC-Retreat September 4-7, 2020 20 3 Christmas Institute is scheduled on December 26-30, 2020 as a Virtual Camp. The decision to do CI Virtual Camp this year with the theme, "The Stories We Tell," went through a very difficult decision making to do virtual Ci camp because of the culture of camping of connection and fellowship in the community of young disciples of Jesus.



The leadership team of CI which is called, "The Collective," is composed of young people who have the passion for evangelism, spiritual formation, discipleship, social justice continues in its commitment to do the mission of the church. Christmas Institute is a ministry of the Conference Committee on Filipino American Ministry. The main priority in all the decisions that the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries made to cancel in-person camping and retreat events is the health and safety of all campers and staff of all ages. The BCRM has given thorough study and implementation of the directives and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the protocols prepared by the Disaster Response Team of the California Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in re-opening and re-launching of churches in worship services and other ministries and agencies that include camping and retreat and the guidelines from the American Camping Association and the Public Health offices of the States of California-Nevada. The pressing question BCRM is dealing with is, "WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF CAMPING MINISTRY?" This question is also like a missional assessment for us that gives us hope and is leading us in lifting the vision up higher of identifying, recruiting, and involving more leaders, clergy and lay who are developing their leadership skills and gifts through camping ministry with a faithful obedience to the mission of the UMC, that is, "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The Board of Camping and Retreat ministries received and implemented the approved allocations for 2020 Spending Plan with Zero (0) amount.

## Conference Committee on New and Vital Congregations

Number on Agency: 13                      Number voting when adopted: 7  
Number voting for: 7                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 12              Date of first meeting: January 15, 2019  
Date adopted: August 26, 2020  
Submitted by: Matt Smith, Chair ([matt@thetableumc.org](mailto:matt@thetableumc.org))

The Conference Committee on New and Vital Congregations (CNVC) completed a strategic planning process in 2018. CNVC established measurable goals for 2024 in three focus areas: Preparing People, Cultivating Places, and Aligning Resources. In order to reach the 2024 ministry goals, CNVC accomplished the following in 2019:

### Preparing People in 2019

Ten pastors completed our year-long 2019 Church Planting Academy; an intentional community of potential church planters who experienced a CULTURE of worship, multiplication and accountability in a COHORT over the course of one year as they developed MINISTRY ACTION PLANS for reaching new people in new & existing places. In December, these ten persons presented their ministry plans to the Bishop and appointive cabinet as part of the discernment process. Each academy member completed both online assessments and in-person discernment with colleagues to gain a sense of readiness for this ongoing work. By year's end, six members of the academy submitted proposals to the Appointive Cabinet and CNVC to begin on July 1, 2020.

Plans for a Lay Church Planting Academy were developed and finalized in collaboration with Path 1; with the inaugural cohort set to begin in January of 2020. The pilot hopes to attract an initial cohort of ~40 lay people; with at least 30 completing the four months of training which will involve 2 in-person gatherings and 7 hour-long online sessions. Three different groups will be targeted for this training: (1) Certified Lay Ministers to start new ministry with or alongside those already there, (2) Lay persons working on the planting team of those planting churches after completing Church Planting Academy, and (3) Lay persons in existing congregations who want to launch a new ministry initiative. At the close of 2019, over 25 lay persons had registered to participate in this pilot program with Path 1.

### Cultivating Places in 2019

Thirty-two local churches were identified and brought together to begin the "Growing Young Cohort" in partnership with the Fuller Youth Institute. This year-long process began with an initial summit gathering and unfolded with churches learning via webinars and with coaches to advance their goals for growing young. While the partnership with Fuller Youth Institute was terminated near the end of the calendar year, the work of this inaugural cohort continued with augmented leadership from the Offices of Congregational Development & Young People's Ministries.

Rev. Nicole Reilley led over 100 participants from 20 churches in Trainings on Discipleship (February 21-23); an effort to build discipleship systems in our churches.

Jason Moore led trainings on worship and hospitality Redding, Fresno, and West Sacramento including over 100 people and 30 different churches (May 19-26); an effort to build a culture of welcome and vibrant worship in our churches.

Rev. Kim Griffith led "Transforming Conflict & Leading Change" workshops were offered to help pastors in existing congregations learn some of the adaptive change skills necessary for multiplying growth in their ministry settings. These workshops were offered for Bay District & El Camino Real on October 5, Los Rios and Great Northern on October 10, and Central Vally on November 18. A total of 75 pastors and laity received this training.

A Circuit- Based Strategy for Congregational Vitality was developed and will be implemented over the coming year.

#### Aligning Resources in 2019

A subcommittee of CNVC gathered throughout the year to begin developing and refining a legacy process. The subcommittee hopes to collaborate with other institutional stakeholders in developing a tool for assessing local church vitality and a process for assisting local churches to faithfully pass on their legacy. Based on changes to the standing rules of the annual conference 2019, strategic planning for the use of the assets from the sale of local church property were forecast for use in planting new communities of faith. CNVC has identified these incremental goals for 2020:

#### Incremental Goals for Preparing People in 2020

- 8-12 people grow in their spiritual leadership and develop a concrete Ministry Action Plan for reaching new people in new or existing places within one year.

- 1-3 church planters in startup phase.

- Train & equip 5-8 pastors for coaching and mentoring others in starting new things.

- Train & equip 50 lay people equipped to partner in starting new things.

#### Incremental Goals for Cultivating Places in 2020

- 3-5 churches partnering with resources to plant a new church or new location.

- Evaluate effectiveness and adapt trainings to curate learning and growth postures among churches.

- Establish partnership and preliminary plans with District Superintendents regarding strategies for 5 identified high potential opportunities for new church starts.

#### Incremental Goals for Aligning Resources in 2020

- Renegotiate loan with South Reno UMC.

- Train 5-6 lay people in each District in leading legacy process.

- Complete legacy assessment with 2 historic congregations in each District.

- Collaborate with District Unions on new church development efforts.





## Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Number on Agency: 14                      Number voting when adopted: 9  
Number voting for: 9                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 5              Date of first meeting: September 9, 2019  
Date adopted: February 12, 2020  
Submitted by: Patty Bartscher, Chair ([pattybartscher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pattybartscher@sbcglobal.net))

The Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is part of the Congregational Development Mission Focus Area. We are called to focus on "Ministries that lead and assist in the development of vital communities of faith by creating new faith communities and encouraging vitality in existing congregations and communities." This precisely describes the mission of each of our Annual Conference affiliated campus ministries. Each of these faith communities is vibrant and a critical link to young adults who may not be part of traditional congregations.

The Annual Conference continues to support the campus ministries at CA House at U.C. Davis, Wesley Foundation Merced at U.C. Merced and Merced College, Ecumenical House at San Francisco State University, Stanford University, The Feast at U.C. Santa Cruz, Delta Wesley Stockton and Pacific University. This has been a year of challenge to campus ministry and we are not able to continue contributing to the funding of the campus ministries at Stanford University and U.C. Santa Cruz. We will continue to support these ministries and work to keep our ties strong. However, the most effective way to cement these relationships is to provide direct financial support from the Annual Conference. The campus ministry to San Jose State University was supported by the local congregation of St. Paul's UMC, and they decided to focus on other areas of ministry. By virtue of their location next to the campus, their relationship to the campus will continue. The Board had hoped to expand the number of campus ministries in the Annual Conference, but this was not possible. Expanding and increasing support of campus ministries in the Annual Conference continues to be a priority for the Board. The Board will continue to work with the Core Team to secure funding to make this a reality. Below are the reports from the Campus Ministries.

Wesley Foundation of Merced The Wesley Foundation of Merced provides ministry to UC Merced, Merced College and at the Wesley House, an intentional Christian faith-based community that house 8 students. We have weekly gathering that begins with dinning together to combat feelings of isolation and loneliness and to foster connection and community. Following our shared meal, we have Bible Study and "Journey Conversations" small group program to deepen Christian faith and to explore Christian response to current affair and addressing various life issue facing students. Our Campus Minister offers free pastoral counseling and Spiritual Direction to students who are increasingly experiencing mental health challenges with spike in anxiety, depression, suicidality stemming from academic pressure, economic insecurity, climate instability, gun safety, partisan politics, and navigating the chaos and information overload from social media. We help sponsor "Immigration Forum", monthly meditation gathering at UC Merced campus, hosted Thanksgiving dinner to students, graduation party for graduating students in December, and volunteering for BBQ Chicken fundraising event in October and volunteering at local food pantry. The Board is working on the 5-year business model to explore and ensure viability and effectiveness of Wesley Foundation Campus Ministries.

CA House at UC Davis In our 102nd year of ministry at Cal Aggie Christian Association (CA House), we had an exciting year where we were able to further strengthen our internal infrastructure for our primary program offerings. Through a complete overhaul of our student leadership model in Fall 2018, we were able to welcome 11 student leaders into roles that have tremendously helped with student engagement in our community, and in turn, the greater Davis community as well. We still continue to host our weekly programs, which include a weekly Christian Student Fellowship on Monday nights, and "Open Table," a Multifaith program that allows a space for students of diverse religious traditions to come together around a common table and have conversations about faith, community, sustainability, and social justice.

Additionally, this year we were able to receive grant funding to send students to two different national gatherings. First, in April 2019, a group of 10 from CA House had the opportunity to attend Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. where our students were able to directly connect their passion for social justice and activism to real political action through lobbying their congress members. Second, in August 2019, CA House sent 3 leaders to the Interfaith Leadership Institute in Chicago, IL, hosted by the Interfaith Youth Core. Through both of these important leadership development opportunities, we were able to further allow students to deepen their commitment to faith, community, social justice, and sustainability, and in turn, share these commitments with our community in Davis. Additionally, after receiving a Peace with Justice Grant from the California-Nevada Annual Conference, CA house was able to launch our newest community outreach program: Nourish Food Pantry. Nourish is a radical intracommunity food pantry system designed to address food insecurity among university students in the Davis community by providing access to fresh, nutritious, and well-balanced groceries. While CA House provides hot meals to students at our biweekly spiritual programming, these two meals are not enough to ensure that students have enough to eat throughout the week. This student-led initiative was launched in April 2019, and attempts to meet the needs of the religiously- and culturally-diverse student community while offering a variety of healthy food options. Through partnerships with UC Davis, local congregations, and the Yolo Food Bank, we hope to expand our work to address food and housing insecurity amongst college students, a growing issue that affects the lives of thousands of students across our Annual Conference on a daily basis. Looking forward to the coming year, we hope to focus more directly on an expansion of our progressive Christian mission on the UC Davis campus through more direct collaboration with our other Mainline Christian ministry partners. As a large state research institution with nearly 40,000 students, UC Davis brings a wide array of students from myriad spiritual and religious backgrounds; however, without direct access to enrollment data or religious identity statistics, it can be hard to locate students coming from United Methodist and other Mainline Christian traditions upon their arrival to campus. This year, we hope to work more intentionally on creating a strategic plan to find these students and get them connected with our ministry offerings. This is not in an attempt to increase numbers of the sake of increasing numbers, but instead because we deeply believe that students thrive when they are able to find a safe and welcoming community that allows them to grow spiritually alongside their academic journey.

Ecumenical House at San Francisco State University Residential community: The chaplain serves as mentor, and guide to the residential community as they discern and create their ministry to campus and the community. The 2019/20 residents reflect formally Jehovah's Witness (now discerning), Catholic, Episcopal, 3 are undergraduate students at SFSU, and 1 graduate students at SFSU, two of which a returning residents. We collectively meet each week for reflection and leadership training, and the chaplain meets with them individually twice a month for check-in's and support. Each week the residents and chaplain host a family dinner. We typically see between 10-15 students each week. Following these dinners, the residents and those able to stay read and discuss a section from a chapter of various texts or scripture study. We have explored topics regarding race, immigration, homelessness, environment, sex and sexuality, and disability. GoodWorks [Free] Café: We have turned our community space into a café for students to eat, study, play games, hangout. The café is open two days a week and we 100-120 students each day, with many of the coming back week after week. We get student volunteers who help with sandwich and coffee set-up and offer an expanding pantry with donations from congregations throughout the city. We continue to help students get connected to community gardens, food recovery, food pantries, and coordinated benefits access programs in the neighborhoods the students live in across the bay. We are in discernment as we explore ways to expand this ministry and better use our resources to serve students who are facing homelessness. We provide daily shelter and respite in our chapel as well as assist students in finding resources for housing and advocating for students. Small Groups: We have four theology groups that meet monthly over lunch or dinner. We have 8 students in the LGBTQ+ group, 12 in the Social Justice group, 7 in the Bible study, 10 anti-racism, and around 6 in Pop-Culture and Theology. Each of these groups have topics/chapters that they read and discuss and explore together how we should respond as people of faith. Fundraising & Church Relations: Beginning fall 2019, EcHouse chaplain and board have been working on building relationships with congregations and also trying to get congregations to engage with our campus ministry.

We hosted an Open House in December which had 10 pastors come, and we will be hosting our second in February. The first served as a good way for pastors to see what is taking place, get a feel of our Café and pantry, as well as meet students and see the house. In response to student invitation (which is the required procedure of the ORL on campus at Stanford), I have been attending the ELCM Bible studies.

UCCM at Stanford University We have about 15 students that Rev. Nan Swanson has gathered through the supporting churches. One of them, Katie Dickerson (Los Altos UMC), wants to host a dinner for the others at her house on March 13. We have yet to work out the details, and it may turn out that we will include ELCM and several other students who have shown an interest (including Friends) in this gathering. UCCM will put on a lecture/slide show of Stanford research in Antarctica. John Kelly (currently SRI) and I wintered-over near each other in Antarctica. He was primarily at Byrd Station but also spent time at Longwire where I was the Station Engineer. We are currently working on a presentation to put all this together and we will show it at Wesley, and perhaps again at First UMC in Palo Alto, but we have not yet planned this with First UMC. We will at least invite both electrical engineering and the physics departments from the campus.

Paige Kaneb, the Supervising Attorney for the Northern California Innocence Project (although she does not know it yet) may provide meeting space for the leaders of (1) Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY), (2) Talking Peace with Eric Butler in the Oakland school system, (3) Youth Community Service in the Bay Area directed by Leif Erickson, and (4) the SEEDS program started by Caryn Cranston. At this meeting, I hope to have some of the leaders of Stanford Prisoner Advocacy and Resources Coalition (SPARC) in attendance. One goal of this envisioned meeting is to have SPARC do something similar at the Stanford law school. In addition to what we have in the works with SLS, or perhaps to replace it, I hope to develop a program with SLS to deepen possible student engagement with the legal needs of CDCR prisoners in various prisons in California. My paper in postmodern parlance entitled Womanist Atonement nears completion and I hope to get feedback about it from some of the LGBTQ affiliated students on campus.

Delta Wesley at Stockton Central UMC Gatherings: Our group gatherings once a week for a meal and bible study. The groups focus is centered around Wesleyan theology and living, life skills discussions (finance, cooking, etc). Life Skills: Supported with money from the conference, we work with first generation college students to provide peer support, transfer counseling, college visitations, service project trip, cooking classes, finance classes, camping trips, and much more. Fellowship events: Our Delta Wesley group regularly gathers outside of our “weekly gatherings” to watch movies together, celebrate holidays together, and participate in city-wide events together. Annual Conference: For the 3rd year in a row Central has ensured the Young Adult Delegation to Annual Conference had two young adults from our church representing young voices in the legislative body of our conference. University of the Pacific Gatherings: Our group gatherings once a week for a meal and bible study. The groups focus is centered around Wesleyan theology and living, examining faith formation in college. One-on-one Sessions: Students regularly meet with our Affiliate Campus minister to check in on life, stress, and call discernment. Spiritual Spiritual Retreats: Once a semester students take a Friday or Saturday away from campus to focus on spiritual breaks. Trips have included mostly hiking trips to Lake Tahoe, Mount Diablo, and Big Trees in Arnold, CA. Fellowship activities: Our group regularly gathers to enjoy self care retreat, coffee outings, sporadic shopping trips, and outdoor adventures together. Youth Leadership: Several of our Pacific students have been recruited to help lead our Middler and UMYF youth as small group leaders and worship leaders. City of Stockton Trips: A new aspect of our ministry at Pacific is helping new students get comfortable leaving campus and experiencing events in Stockton. Events/trips have been to Farmers Markets, Stock Market, and Escape Rooms.



## Conference Advocacy and Justice Committee

Number on Agency: 14

Number voting when adopted: 9

Number voting for: 9

Number voting against: 0

Number of meetings held:

Date of first meeting:

Date adopted: September 5, 2020

Submitted by: Michael Yoshii, Chair ([michaelyoshii1@gmail.com](mailto:michaelyoshii1@gmail.com)) and Hubert Ivery, Incoming Chair

- The Committee continues to support the work of the Israel-Palestine Task Force, Philippines Solidarity Task Force, Immigration Task Force, Disability Task Force, and Korean Peace Task Force. Each task force has a team which works to highlight education and advocacy in their respective areas.
- The committee organized a vigil was at Annual Conference to focus on the conditions of children around the world. Participants included Youth and Young Adult Ministries, UMW, Native American Caucus, BMCR, Asian American Caucus, Philippine Solidarity Task Force, Israel-Palestine Task Force, Global Ministries missionaries, Disability Task Force, Immigration Task Force, and the Korean Peace Task Force.
- As a follow up to the 2018 convening commemorating the death of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Resolution #22 was passed at Annual Conference in June 2019 to convene a task force to study the intersection of military, security, and prisons industries and their impact upon the criminalization of children & youth.
- The task force for Resolution #22 was convened in September 2019 with members including JoAnn Lawson, Angela Brown, Ruth Stacey, Patricia Daugherty, Michael Yoshii, with staff support from Jorge Domingues. The task force took on the name of "Task Force on the Criminalization of Children & Youth." In the process of its research the task force sponsored events at the conference office to hear from experts to discuss the military and security industries. Nick Buxtom, author with the Transnational Institute shared a presentation on militarism in October 2019. Dalit Baum with the American Friends Service Committee shared a presentation on research related to the security industrial complex in January 2020. During the Covid-19 shelter in place, the task force organized a webinar with focus on the intersection of the prison industrial complex and immigrant detention centers. Speakers were Angela Brown and Gala King, regional faith organizer for Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. New chair for the Advocacy & Justice Committee, Hubert Ivery joined the task force in July 2020. The task force will present a video report to Annual Conference in September 2020 and have the full written report posted on the AC website.
- The committee continued to administer Ecumenical Grants to support organizational partners in ministry throughout the state of California. Grant recipients in 2019 were:
  - California Immigrant Policy Center
  - California Interfaith Power & Light
  - Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
  - Earth Justice Ministry
- The committee administered Peace With Justice Grants in fall 2019 and spring 2020 with the following grant recipients:
  - Temple UMC
  - Sierra Service Project
  - Woodside Road UMC
  - Truckee UMC
  - IM HOPE Center, El Sobrante UMC

### Disability Task Force

The mission of our Disability Task Force is to advocate for the full inclusion of persons with disabilities into our society. Within the California-Nevada Conference of the UMC, our task force is housed within the Advocacy and Justice Committee. It is a perfect placement for us as we address issues such as the

education of students with special needs, the school-to-prison pipeline, and discrimination to name a few. This year has been laden with challenges. The pandemic means most of our students will not be able to attend in-person instruction. Additionally, many of their needed services will have to be provided differently. We will be watching the progression carefully over the next year.

Amidst the challenges, several of our team members have great accomplishments. One of our members was elected to be the Disability Advocate for the Central Committee. During the same year, he won several awards for his tireless work in the community. Another member of our team published a book on living with a disability and working through to pain and anguish to reach a place of healing. Donna Fado Ivery's book is called Sleep, Pray, Heal. Many of the students who have worked with us side-by-side have moved successfully through college and some onto outstanding graduate school programs. At the end of this school year, we will be able to count multiple undergraduates, a graduating law student, a medical doctor who will be doing her residency, and a Ph.D. candidate just to mention a few who are near and dear to our hearts. It is our hope to erase the stigma of having a disability or minimally start seeing each other as differently-abled.

As luck would have it, Dr. Rev. Hubert Ivery, a long term member of our Disability Task Force, has recently become the head of the Advocacy and Justice Committee. We are very proud of his work on our team and in the community.

If you or any member of your congregation is looking for a way to fight the good fight, to advocate for those in need, or to seek justice for others please join us on this journey. We would love to have you walk with us. For those who need a hand, or have a question, or are worried about how your children will be able to make it through this school year, we are here for you.

Do not hesitate to write to us at [joyceamail-disability@yahoo.com](mailto:joyceamail-disability@yahoo.com) or leave us a message at 925-247-0414. Joyceanne Beachem  
Chair of the Disability Task Force

#### Israel Palestine Task Force 2020

Submitted by Patricia Daugherty, co-chair of the Israel Palestine Task Force

COVID 19 shelter in place mandates disrupted much of our planned activities, including joint planning for a Prayer Vigil at 2020 AC with Advocacy & Justice and Youth Ministries. However, adjusting to virtual meetings we now look forward to the possibility of expanding outreach geographically throughout the conference. Additionally, this offers the possibility of not only recruiting new members but supporting individuals working in their respective churches.

Postponement of AC also threw us off. As mentioned, we had planned to organize with A&J and Youth ministries a prayer vigil focused again on children. This time adding a focus of children and youth as strength and hope. We will look to see how we can accomplish this and other joint efforts in the future. We continue to be an active member organization of the Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights, a coalition of both faith-based and secular groups advocating for the rights of Palestinians. Gloria Fearn is our liaison to those meetings and coordinated efforts.

Our main focus of advocacy has continued to be on educating and advocating for the passage of HR 2407, Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation. We are encouraged that a new bill, HR 8050, To prohibit United States Government recognition of the Israeli Government's claim of sovereignty over the occupied West Bank, and for other purposes.

We take advantage of the support and work of national organizations like Friends of Sabeel North America, The US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Jewish Voice for Peace, Christian Peacemaker Team in Palestine, Eye Witness Palestine (formerly the Interfaith Peace Builders) and of course, United Methodist Church Kairos Response and General Board of Church and Society, as well as others. We manage a FaceBook presence and an email list to share information and advocacy opportunities from these organizations.

Member Mike Friedrich is a liaison to Friends of Wadi Foquin. Our intention is to recruit and support participants for a delegation to this Bethlehem village. This too is on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions. Our challenge now is to recruit new members, hopefully with a broader representation of the AC.

Cal-Nev Philippine Solidarity Task Force  
Advocacy & Justice, September 2020

Bi-Monthly Gatherings

- Planning Meetings, Check-In & Prayer Gatherings, Movies and Updates
- Trying to stay connected and “immersion” without being able to have Pastoral and Solidarity Visits

PERSONA (Peoples State of the Nation Address)

- Monday, July 27, 12pm-2pm
- Car-Caravan, blocked Sutter St. in front of the Philippine Consul General in SF from 12pm-2pm. Approx. 300 in attendance. Planned, organized, lead by young adults from various parts of the Bay Area.

When We Ask Why: Vigil for Human Rights Defenders

- Friday, August 28, 6pm-7pm PT (11am-12pm Manila), via Zoom
- Speakers featured were clergy who had recently been red-tagged by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines). They have been accused of being part of the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines - New Peoples Army), receive threats, the AFP puts out misinformation about them and attempt to drag them on social media.
  - Rev. Irma Balaba (UCCP), Secretariat Member, NCCP
  - Bishop Reuel Norman Marigza (UCCP), General Secretary, NCCP
- The vigil included the names of church people and church organizations that have been red-tagged and harassed, political prisoners, and victims of extrajudicial killings (EJKs) since 2016 - the beginning of President Duterte's administration.
  - Zara Alvarez, 39, killed on August 17, Volunteer, Church-Workers' Solidarity Group (San Carlos Diocese)
- Video recording available on the Cal-Nev Philippine Solidarity Task Force Facebook page

Ongoing

- Philippine Human Rights Act (PHRA)
- Justice for Brandon Lee



## Conference Commission on Religion and Race

Number on Agency: 12                      Number voting when adopted: 10  
Number voting for: 10                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 4                Date of first meeting: August 16, 2019  
Date adopted: April 30, 2020  
Submitted by: Tikiko Lesuma, Chair ([tikiko.lesuma@cnumc.org](mailto:tikiko.lesuma@cnumc.org))

### Achievements of 2019

During this unprecedented time in the history of the world and by God's grace, Conference Commission on Religion & Race had a successful and a productive year of ministry. We continued to issue grants in two cycles, Spring and Fall. For the Fall Grant cycle, there were three recipients, Florin UMC was given \$833; Tongan Mission was also given \$833 and Sierra Service Project was given \$834.00. We reviewed and updated the CCORR membership as per Nominations Committee. CCORR was updated on the strategic planning procedure as per All Conference Chairs/Conveners discussion. Conference Commission on Religion & Race was also informed about the three prompts as the AC prepares itself for the next quadrennial.

CCORR continues to work collaboratively with the Conference Committee of Ethnic Ministry and Outreach (CCEMO); the goal was that both Conference Committees were to partner and sponsor an Ethnic Gathering in early April 2020. Unfortunately, we were not able to due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The focus of the Gathering was broad in spectrum; 1. to give input on Way Forward; 2. To have Q & A Sessions with Bishop Carcano per "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation;" 3. Sharing from Various Ethnic Caucuses, and 4. Have Speakers on issues like participating in the 2020 Census and participation in Voter Registration and Getting Out to Vote – 2020 General Election.

CCORR advocated for a local church member who had reported being the recipient of acts of discrimination. CCORR received an invitation to co-sponsor an event being planned by the Conference UMW, "Interrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline" on April 25th. The focus of this event, as the title suggests, is how are so many people of color being funneled into a pipeline that ultimately leads to prison and what can we see as people of faith, do about it. Also, due to the statewide 'shelter in place' order, this event might be conducted as a virtual event.

CCORR has worked collaboratively with all the Ethnic Caucuses. This year, CCORR in partnership with the Black Methodists for Church Renewal and the Conference Committee on African-American/Black Ministries submitted legislation to the 2019 Annual Conference session. The first was Item 19 – Resolution Asking Governor Gavin Newsom for Pardons for Non-Violent Drug Offenders (89-0) and the second was Item 21 – Resolution of Thanks to Governor Gavin Newsom for Moratorium on Death Penalty (79-0). Both pieces of legislation passed unanimously.

## Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships

Number on Agency: 11                      Number voting when adopted: 9  
Number voting for: 9                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 4              Date of first meeting: January 15, 2019  
Date adopted: August 31, 2020  
Submitted by: Akiko Miyake-Stoner, Chair ([akiko@ujcclife.com](mailto:akiko@ujcclife.com))

The Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (CUIR):

- created and sent out a survey to clergy to collect information on ecumenical and interfaith partnerships among churches and faith leaders, to hear how CUIR can be of support, and what ecumenical and interfaith organizations exist within the bounds of our conference
- explored possible partnership with Justice and Advocacy and possibly state ecumenical organization for shared ministry around a living wage and refugee/immigrant resettlement
- facilitated a Gathering of the Orders workshop, sharing interfaith prayers and best practices
- hosted a table at ACS 2019 with educational resources and an opportunity for people to sign messages of support and encouragement for mosques in Christchurch who experienced mass shootings
- continued conversation and work on establishing a CUIR website
- promoted ecumenical and interfaith efforts through submissions to the *Instant Connection*
- sent a representative to the National Workshop on Christian Unity in St. Louis, MO.

The California-Nevada Conference supports the Full Communion proposal with the Episcopal Church which will be brought to General Conference.

## Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Number on Agency: 9

Number voting when adopted: 5

Number voting for: 5

Number voting against: 0

Number of meetings held: 7

Date of first meeting: January 7, 2019

Date adopted: March 24, 2020

Submitted by: Sally Wenzel, Chair ([svwenzel@aol.com](mailto:svwenzel@aol.com))

### Achievements of 2019

We met January 7, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, September 10 and November 12 via Zoom. COSROW had been inactive in 2018 and we had some new members, so we spent time learning about the organization, what type of information was available from GCSRW, and how to get that information out to the Conference.

At Annual Conference Session in June we had a display table with materials from GCSRW for people to look at and also some information for them to take. At the United Methodist Women Annual Breakfast held during ACS, Emily Allen, one of our members, was asked to be the guest speaker and share about COSROW and what we do.

We watched videos from other conferences about the experiences of female clergy and discussed options to raise awareness of discrimination and harassment in our conference.

We continue to pursue a data analysis project examining the gender balance of our conference leaders, laity and clergy.

## Conference Council on Finance and Administration

Number on Agency: 15                      Number voting when adopted: 14  
Number voting for: 14                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 5                Date of first meeting:  
Date adopted: August 1, 2020  
Submitted by: Kristin Stoneking, Chair ([kstoneking@gmail.com](mailto:kstoneking@gmail.com))

You did it, California-Nevada! Three-peat! For the third year in a row, California-Nevada has fulfilled 100% of our general and jurisdictional apportionments. Congratulations and thank you for your faithfulness! Through increased tithing, a special appeal to the annual conference featuring Giving Tuesday at the end of the year, and the utilization of stored funds and operating reserves, Cal-Nevada has been a full partner in the ministries of justice, healing and hope across our global connection.

In 2019, tithe collections increased from \$5,629,013 to 5,829,091, or about 3.1% Local church giving to the annual conference was at 9% of total income.

At the close of 2019, the balance of the conference operating fund was \$1,530,342 and within the standing rule requirement of a fund balance with between 2.5 and 3 months' reserve.

In 2019, voted to end the practice of creating a budget that presumed 100% tithe fulfillment by local churches of the annual conference. Though tithe fulfillment is improving, we are not yet at a full tithe from every church. The previous methodology resulted in an annual gap between budgeted expenses and available income. The 2020 budget presented to the 2019 session of annual conference was based on an assumption of continued improvement in tithing as we move toward a full 10% tithe from every church.

CFA presented a new budget format that showed use of income funds beyond tithing income to financially support ministries in the annual conference. The 2020 budget recommendation of \$7,568,554 with 6 million coming from tithing and \$1,568,554 in other ministry funds held by the annual conference was passed as recommended.

The CFA chair actively participated in the Core Team meetings during 2019. With Bishop Carcaño, the extended cabinet, and Core Team, CFA provided leadership in recommendations of the FACT report related to tithing sustainability; conference-wide coordinated financial processes and statements; and communications relating to finance and administration. Additionally, the Council was represented on the Cal-Nevada United Methodist Foundation's investment committee.

The 2019 audit of the California-Nevada Annual Conference (excluding the Board of Pensions) was received from Gilbert Associates, public accountants and approved by CFA. The audit received an unqualified opinion from Gilbert Associates, meaning that the conference's fund balances and financial processes were reviewed and affirmed.

Throughout the year, CFA monitored the financial condition of the conference with the help of financial reports prepared by conference staff Karen Foster, Lesya Susid and Ajesh Kumar. We are grateful for the leadership of executive director of finance and administration Diane Knudsen who has completed 25 years of service with the annual conference.



## Conference Committee on Episcopacy

Number on Agency: 13                      Number voting when adopted: 13  
Number voting for: 7                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 2              Date of first meeting:  
Date adopted: July 31, 2020  
Submitted by: Lisa A. Brown, Chair ([pastorlisabrown@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisabrown@gmail.com))

According to *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (§ 637, Page 637 2016 BOD), the committee shall meet at least annually. It shall be convened by the bishop and shall elect a chairperson, a vice-chair person, and a secretary. The bishop and/or chairperson are authorized to call additional meetings when desired.

The current committee members are as follows:

- Lisa A. Brown (clergy-chairperson)
- Oscar Ochoa (layperson-vice chair)
- Kristen Marshall (clergy-secretary)
- JB Brayfindley (lay person)
- Mark Nelson (lay person)
- Pedro Cervantes (lay person)
- Tyree Johnson (lay person)
- Micheal Pope (conference lay leader)
- Dawn Blundell (clergy)
- Vathanak Heang (clergy)
- Ofa Uepi (clergy)
- Emily Allen (Western Jurisdiction lay person)
- Jeffery Kuan (Western Jurisdiction clergy)

One of the committee's responsibility is to engage in annual consultation and appraisal of the balance of the bishop's relationship and responsibilities to the area and annual conferences, the jurisdiction, general Church boards and agencies, (§637 3.a).

During 2019, we were successful in increasing the recommended membership of the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy. Our new committee members became effective July 1: Pedro Cervantes (lay person), Tyree Johnson (lay person), and Mark Nelson (lay person).

Our committee met twice during 2019. In looking back, we are happy to report, we have been supportive in the following ways: the bishop's renewal leave, her presence and sharing communion with gatherings with constituencies of the conference, as well as community outreach and engagement, which includes San Francisco Pride Festival, ethnic-cultural caucus gatherings, and much more. We are grateful for the extra time and tender care given to congregations wrestling with those churches struggling with the meaning of inclusion. We are pleased to report, our connectional responsibility was fulfilled by completing the annual Episcopal Evaluation and Conference Profile to Western Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy (every quadrennium).

## Conference Commission on Archives and History

Number on Agency: 4                      Number voting when adopted: 2  
Number voting for: 2                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 1              Date of first meeting: March 8, 2019  
Date adopted: February 28, 2020  
Submitted by: Stephen Yale, Chair ([stephen.yale@cnumc.org](mailto:stephen.yale@cnumc.org))

The Commission met once during 2019 at the Conference Center in West Sacramento. At the end of year the Archives and History Fund balance was \$92,293. This fund came from three sources: the Historical Society Publication Fund, the J.A.B. Fry Library and Archives Fund and the Archives and History Offering. The Fry Fund was established in 1955 to endow a Conference Archives room in the library at the University of the Pacific. The Archives and History Offering was authorized by the Annual Conference in 1989 to support preservation of the archives. The Publication Fund was derived from donations and from the Book Exchange at Annual Conference and has been used to publish books about our Conference history.

The Commission continued discussions about moving the archives of the Annual Conference from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. The Commission has consulted with Conference staff and the Board of Trustees to identify an appropriate new location. The Commission has been directed to remove the books and periodicals stored at the Waller Center in San Francisco.

Space provided by Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley for the Conference archives also houses the archival collection of the Western Jurisdictional Conference which includes minutes, journals and other records and secondary resources of the current and former conferences and missions within the bounds of the Western Jurisdiction as well as the Western Jurisdictional Conference itself.

A highlight of the year was Dr. Jeanyoun Kim's completion of her doctoral dissertation entitled Gendered Ideologies of Merit and Service: A History of San Francisco National Training School, 1891-1934 at the Graduate Theological Union. Dr. Kim used our Conference Archives, particularly the records of the San Francisco National Training School where many deaconesses were educated. Among those deaconesses was Katherine Maurer who served at the Immigration Station on Angel Island for nearly thirty years. The site of her ministry is one of thirteen Annual Conference Historic Sites.

The chair of the Commission manages the archives of the Annual Conference and of the Western Jurisdiction, provides access to the archives and responds to requests for information.

The Commission recommended that the First United Methodist Church Lodi be designated an Historic Site of the Annual Conference. The recommendation of the Commission was adopted by the Annual Conference in June. The site was officially recognized on September 8th.



## Conference Equitable Compensation Commission

Number on Agency: 5                      Number voting when adopted:  
Number voting for:                      Number voting against:  
Number of meetings held:              Date of first meeting:  
Date adopted:  
Submitted by: Janette Saavedra, Chair ([janettesaa@aol.com](mailto:janettesaa@aol.com))

The Commission currently has 5 members, and a representative from the Cabinet.

This year we focused on developing clear procedures for receiving grant applications, and awarding the funds. This effort was done in close consultation with the Appointive Cabinet.

We also worked with Gere Reist to develop Commission procedures and personnel in keeping with the quantity of work we must do each year, and in keep with *The Book of Discipline*.

In awarding Equitable Compensation Fund Grants, the following congregations received salary support from the funds which this Commission oversees:

Church	2019
Campbell New Creation	\$3,500
Colusa/Yuba City Grace	\$3,000
Cupertino Jesus Love Korean	\$10,000
Grass Valley Sierra Pines	\$3,000
Hughson	\$2,500
Jamestown	\$12,650
Kerman	\$9,000
Knights Landing/Meridian	\$9,980
LeGrand/Wesley Foundation	\$8,600
Linden	\$27,740
Marina	\$3,500
Martinez	\$9,000
Newcastle	\$2,000
Porterville Grand Avenue	\$3,500
Orinda St. Mark's	\$2,750
Sacramento Hope	\$10,000
San Francisco Geneva	\$5,000
San Jose La Trinidad	\$15,000
San Jose Peace	\$12,500
Tehachapi Valley	\$10,000
Ukiah	\$8,000
Total disbursements in 2019	\$171,220

## Conference United Methodist Women

Number on Agency: 26                      Number voting when adopted: 26  
Number voting for: 26                      Number voting against: 0  
Number of meetings held: 4                Date of first meeting: January 7, 2019  
Date adopted: April 25, 2020  
Submitted by: Sally Wenzel, President ([svwenzel@aol.com](mailto:svwenzel@aol.com))

### Achievements of 2019

CA/NV Conference UMW, in 2019 Increased to 5 Districts in order to align with the Annual Conference.

January 11: Began 2019 with Leadership Team Retreat “Healer of Broken Hearts”, led by Conference Lay Leader Micheal Pope – Conference Center, West Sacramento

January 11-13: Leadership Team Meeting – Conference Center, West Sacramento

March 23: 150th Anniversary United Methodist Women

May 4: Conference Social Action Event “School to Prison Pipeline” at Sacramento First UMC, Sacramento. Our speakers for the day were Rev. Tinsley, Director, Gettin’ Outta Dodge Ministry and Carl Pinkston Black, Parallel School Board.

May 4 & 5: Conference Leadership Team Meeting – Conference Center, West Sacramento

June 7 & 8: Conference UMW 2 Day Mission u Event held at Quincy Community Church. The Mission u studies for 2019 were “Gospel of Mark”, “United Methodist Women History”, “What About Our Money?”. Before the Mission u events, our teachers read the book that is part of the study along with other books to help in their teaching. National United Methodist Women hosts a multi-day training event for all teachers and song leaders.

June 19 – 22: United Methodist Women participated in CA/NV Annual Conference, Modesto. During Plenary shared a video for the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women and during the Laity Session gave our annual report.

June 21: Conference United Methodist Women held their annual breakfast at Annual Conference in Modesto. Our speaker was Emily Allen, Member of CA/NV COSROW and also on the board of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

July 14 & 15: Leadership Team Meeting – Conference Center, West Sacramento

August 3: Conference UMW 1 Day Mission u Event held at FUMC, Santa Rosa

August 16-18: Conference UMW 3 Day Mission u Event held at South Reno UMC

October 18: Conference UMW District Leadership Training Event, Merced UMC. Conference Officers spend time answering questions and training District Officers on their responsibilities in those positions. The Districts then go back to their District and set up a time for training for the Local officers.

October 19: Conference UMW Annual Celebration at Merced UMC Kenya Roberts a Legacy Fund Representative from National UMW joined us and Bishop Carcaño was our surprise guest speaker. During our Annual Celebration we elect new conference officers, approve the next years budget, celebrate milestones at the District level and remember the lives our saints you have left us in the past year.

During 2019 the Conference UMW continued to manage the Buelah Older Adult Grant Fund and received applications for and approved 24 grants worth a total of \$261,280 for projects working with seniors. Juliet Maliksi continued her leadership role on this. The Conference UMW continues to serve on the boards of 2 local National Mission Institutions located in San Francisco, Mary Elizabeth Inn and Gum Moon Women’s Residence and Asian Women’s Resource Center. 2019 was our 150th Anniversary, so throughout the year at the Local and District level we had many occasions to celebrate this milestone.

## Africa University Report

In 2019, Africa University's story was one of resourcefulness, investment and ministry growth. The university community continues to celebrate God's amazing grace with thanksgiving.

Africa University extends its thanks and appreciation to Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the Cabinet, lay and clergy leaders and local congregations of the California Nevada Conference for continuing to lead in giving to address ministry needs in Africa, through Africa University.

Thank you, California Nevada Conference, for investing consistently in this effort to nurture, educate, and equip leaders who think for themselves, are contextually relevant and have a passion to serve. The Africa University community is blessed by all the sacrifices made to maintain a 100 percent investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2019.

Your gifts prepare young people to participate in feeding, healing and bringing God's abundance to life in their communities. Since 1992, Africa University has trained more than 9,000 graduates who lead and serve across sub-Saharan Africa and around the world. Through their contributions, Africa University graduates multiply the value of the education they've received every day.

### **Institutional Update:**

- Africa University has an annual enrollment of more than 2,800 students, with 25-30 African nations represented in the student body each year.
- The university's three colleges operate as centers for teaching, research, innovation, community engagement and enterprise development. Africa University leads as the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degree programs.
- Students, faculty and alumni contribute effective solutions to Africa's current challenges. Their interventions include graduate programs in migrant and refugee protection, articulated by refugee students, and doctoral level training for military chaplains in Africa. Why military chaplains? They are among the first responders in crisis situations in Africa. They help to address immediate needs such as rescue, shelter, food and comfort for the bereaved. In the longer term, military chaplains also contribute to efforts to heal and rebuild communities.
- Africa University is increasing its use of solar energy with the support of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. A residence hall for women and a new wing of the student union building. The buildings—constructed with a gift to the university from the Dallas, Texas-based Highland Park United Methodist Church—will be the first solar-powered facilities on the campus.

Africa University affirms its commitment to The United Methodist Church, the Cross and Flame, and the denomination's global mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

California Nevada Conference, thank you for your ongoing response of engagement and generosity. Thanks to your stewardship of God's blessings, Africa University has gone beyond what some thought was possible. "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27 NKJV

*Submitted by:*

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Thank you for **helping us grow deeper roots** by giving faithfully to the Africa University Fund!

# California-Nevada Annual Conference

**2019 APPORTIONMENT AT 100%**

## Candler School of Theology 2020 UMC Annual Conference Report

Since our founding in 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has educated more than 10,000 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders who are dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current shifts in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward, we will continue to invite and welcome those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

This year, Candler has continued to strengthen our deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded \$6.3 million in financial aid, with 100 percent of master of divinity (MDiv) students receiving support and financial coaching. In fall 2019, we announced a major expansion of our financial aid program to include full-tuition scholarships for all MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, and new merit scholarships covering 75% of tuition for qualifying MDiv students who identify as pan-Wesleyan, and those pursuing chaplaincy through Candler's new chaplaincy concentration. In addition, all incoming students in the master of divinity, master of theological studies, and master of religious leadership programs will receive awards covering at least 50% of tuition.

This year also saw the launch of two pilot "formation communities," off-campus student housing that focuses on intentional living and spiritual formation. Students from multiple degree programs applied to take part in these pilot groups. At the start of the year, the housemates created a "rule of life" to guide their days together, emphasizing prayer, fellowship, and celebration. A house chaplain—a Candler faculty member or church leader—supports them and shares in the journey. The ten students who took part this year describe feeling a richer sense of community and deeper connections to God and one another in the midst of their busy lives. It is clear that this fulfills a need for our seminarians, and we eagerly anticipate the program's growth in the coming years.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 470 from 12 countries and 38 states, with 40 percent people of color (U.S.) and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 42 denominations, with 45% of all students and 50% of MDivs coming from the Methodist family.

We offer six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees.

Candler draws 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 throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination.

We invite you to visit us in person or online at [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu).

— Jan Love

Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics  
Candler School of Theology



## Claremont School of Theology

Now, more than ever, CST values its connection to The United Methodist Church and particularly to the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction. As I write this report, we are together facing a global pandemic, and I am grateful for your continued support of our students, alumni/ae, faculty, and mission.

Since 1885, we have existed to prepare students to become agents of transformation and healing in the world, and our alumni/ae are evidence of this mission. Every day, I see them serving local communities through compassionate and prophetic teaching, preaching, chaplaincy, and non-profit work. The world hungers for this kind of religious leadership, and I am grateful for innovative, effective, and restorative ways our alumni/ae have responded to the pandemic.

Five years ago, CST developed a strategic plan based on three goals: *promoting transformative education, engaging local and global communities, and achieving long-term institutional stability.*

I am proud to say, CST's sacred *transformative theological education* will continue no matter what COVID-19 or shifting CDC guidelines demand. For nearly a decade our faculty have been teaching in online and hybrid formats, and right now they are preparing to teach their Fall 2020 courses as online courses, hybrid courses, or traditional face-to-face courses. We are ready to continue providing the progressive, innovative, and life-transforming theological education you have come to expect from CST *this* Fall 2020!

To ensure reaching *long-term institutional sustainability*, we continue our work with Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. In May 2019, we entered into an affiliation agreement, thus moving us another step closer. Last fall, we were welcomed graciously by Willamette University and the city of Salem with ceremony and ritual, and we offered courses in both Salem and Claremont for the 2019-20 academic year. To link the two campuses, we set up synchronous classrooms with state-of-the-art technology so that students 800 miles apart could learn simultaneously from a single professor.

Further, we are very excited to have been the recipient of a \$30,000 Wabash Grant that allows faculty from CST and Willamette to collaborate on the three-year project to study strategies that enable dialogue across difference on campus and in the community. We also welcomed Heather Hawkins as our Director of Admissions and Enrollment Services in Salem, Oregon—our first life-long Oregonian staff person! And several of our seasoned faculty and staff members also relocated. By affiliating with Willamette, we retain both our connection to The United Methodist Church and our reputation as an excellent theological school with renowned programs.

CST's 2019-20 Fall enrollment remained strong and this May we celebrated the graduation of our largest class in history, albeit virtually. As in years past, this class represented much diversity, confirming CST's commitment to minoritized and marginalized communities. This year, our youngest enrolled student is 21, and our oldest is 75, with an average age of 41. Our student body is 32% Methodist, 44% other Christian, 16% non-Christian traditions, 2% non-religious, and 6% unaffiliated/undeclared. And more than 50% of our students identify as people of color (15% black/African American, 11% Asian, 15% international/non-resident, 6% Hispanic, 7% Pacific islander/native Hawaiian, 1% Native American, 2% two or more races, along with 4% undeclared, and 39% white).

In a world rife with division, fear, and confusion, our students, professors, and alumni/ae are agents of healing who model peace with justice. CST is made up of people who are *engaging local and global communities* on a variety of issues, and this year, while they have pivoted their approach, their innovative spirits prevail. Certainly, we could not do this critical work without the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction.

As much as the pandemic has wreaked havoc on the world, 2019 held some significant achievements for CST that serve to further our three goals.

With the help of alumnus and Board of Trustees member Steve Horswill-Johnston, a beautiful and inspiring short film about the spirit of CST, our preparedness for a changing world, and our move to Salem launched.

The film is powerful and energizing, and I believe has even galvanized our board of trustees, staff, and faculty to continue our sacred work together. (Find the film on our [YouTube channel](#).)

We partnered with the Performance Enhancement Group of Houston, Texas, to conduct a comprehensive alumni/ae, students, and friends survey. In the initial stages of the study, we formed focus groups of alumni/ae and friends to actually develop the survey instrument. Then, over the course of several weeks, we heard from more than 400 of our constituents. Today, we are beginning to share the results and engaging alumni/ae and friends in the strategic use of the results to build and strengthen relationships across the Western Jurisdiction. (Watch your inbox and our social media platforms for infographics and ways to connect.)

With the help of our Advancement and Communications staff, two former CST librarians, and several dedicated student workers, we have created a memory book titled *CST: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*. While not a complete history of CST, the book shares snippets of the school dating back to 1885 and includes links to some of CST's video and film archives. Most importantly, it encourages readers to interact with its pages by adding their own memories and mementos. (Visit our [website](#) to order your copy.) Thank you again for supporting Claremont School of Theology, and please stay connected through our monthly newsletters, our website, and our social media channels. Together, we are CST.

Blessings and good health,

*Jeffrey*

*Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President and Professor of Hebrew Bible*

## Duke University Divinity School

Dean L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, had his term as dean extended for a full five years through 2023.

The Duke Endowment awarded Duke Divinity School a \$12 million grant in support of DDS's three core priorities and traditions: Thriving communities enlivened by healthy congregations and gifted pastors, embodied wisdom through rigorous intellectual vitality, and creative institutions that inspire imaginative and transformative leadership including the Thriving Communities Fellowship program, which will provide 52 new full-tuition scholarships over the next four years.

Duke Divinity School launched the Duke Divinity: Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration which will draw on original research in Black church traditions and historical examples of effective Black church leadership to train and build networks of effective leaders for the Black church of today and the future. The collaboration will be led by the Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and Black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School.

In 2019, Duke Divinity School welcomed 215 new students from 33 different states and seven other countries, including Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) and Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) degree programs received record enrollments of 35 students and 22 students respectively. The Master of Theology (Th.M., 14 students), Doctor of Ministry (D.Min., 20 students), and Doctor of Theology (Th.D., 4 students) all had strong enrollment. The D.Min. program was named the top online program by TheBestSchools.org. Duke Divinity's new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll 8 students, all of whom are fellows with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture (T.M.C.) Initiative at the school. The M.T.S. program also includes 8 students who are T.M.C. fellows, for a record year of 16 total fellows. The M.Div. degree program gained 110 new students, with minority students comprising more than 32 percent of the incoming M.Div. class, and Black students comprising 18 percent of the incoming M.Div. class. Female students made up 44 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 56 percent. There were 24 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 42 percent affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

Two new faculty members, Brent Strawn and Brett McCarty, joined the DDS faculty in July 2019. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference. Strawn has a secondary appointment as a Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Strawn taught at Candler School of Theology at Emory University for eighteen years.

McCarty, Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, is a theological ethicist whose work centers on questions of faithful action within health care. He is associate director of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, and he holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Population Health Sciences.

Randy Maddox, William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, general editor of the Wesley Works Editorial Project, and elder in the Dakotas Conference, retires at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

United Methodist faculty member Brittany Wilson received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

Tito Madrazo joined the administrative leadership of the Divinity School as Senior Strategist for the Hispanic House of Studies. He will also serve as a consulting faculty member.

The Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative is currently in its fifth year of providing high quality theological education to current and aspiring Hispanic-Latino/a ministers. 21 students from multiple denominations are taking courses with us this year.

The Duke Endowment has also awarded Duke Divinity School a grant of \$5.5 million over five years to cultivate meaning and purpose across diverse professional schools at Duke University. The Lilly Endowment has also awarded grants to Duke Divinity School to coordinate initiatives on "Thriving in Ministry" and "Thriving Congregations" across the United States.

Duke Divinity School has a partnership with Huntingdon College and Virginia Wesleyan University to create streamlined admissions process and private campus events in order to better equip students from those institutions with a calling to serve the church. In an effort to expand access for quality theological formation to students, pastors, and lay leaders in the Nashville Episcopal Area, DDS is also partnering with the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College to offer theological training for innovative and entrepreneurial ministries.