2017 Florida Annual Conference
The Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Orlando, Florida

2017 Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

June 8 – 10, 2017
Registration begins June 7

Workbook
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the annual session of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. We join together during these days as disciples of Jesus Christ and leaders in his mission. This year we will be guided by the words of a request and petition to God, found in Psalm 85: "Revive Us Again." Our conference will be marked by music and worship, study and prayer, debate and conferencing, fellowship and laughter, business and visioning. We will license, commission and ordain men and women set apart for leadership in the church. We will send clergy into congregational and extension leadership for the coming year. We will make important decisions as an Annual Conference around proposed constitutional amendments and the realignment of districts. And we will return to our local churches, more aware of our connection as Florida United Methodists.

Gathering in Orlando, the Annual Conference will begin with the celebration of Holy Communion. Our keynote speakers will be extraordinary: Dr. Kevin Watson of the Candler School of Theology of Emory University, and an author of Wesleyan Class Meetings, and Dean Elaine Heath of Duke Divinity School, a prominent advocate for the renewal of the church through missional movements. We will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of our covenant relationship with the Methodist Church of Cuba, and Bishop Ricardo Pereira will preach. Dr. Walter Monroe, Superintendent of the South Central District, will deliver the Memorial Sermon. And inspirational music will be led by Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson of Atlanta, Georgia.

Our offerings will support the development of a Pension Fund for retired clergy of the Methodist Church of Cuba and a hunger initiative that will greatly benefit the people of Haiti.

I thank you for serving as a leader in the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. I urge each of you to attend a meeting in anticipation of annual conference, which will be held in your district. This will help us to arrive more fully informed and prepared for the important work of God. I welcome you again to Orlando, and wish you God’s richest blessings in these days!

The peace of the Lord,

+Ken Carter
Resident Bishop, Florida Area
The United Methodist Church
CAMERA READY WORKBOOK REPORTS

All content included in the 2017 Workbook is generated by conference departments, committees, ministries, etc. Reports are submitted for publishing as “camera ready.” The Florida Conference publishing staff does not edit camera ready reports.
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**KEY TO NAME BADGE COLORS**

**YELLOW NAME BADGE** – Can vote on all matters¹
- Lay Members elected by their local church, charge or district;
- Lay Members by virtue of an office they hold such as District Lay Leader, District President of UMM and UMW, Conference Lay Leader, Conference President of UMM and UMW, etc.
- Diaconal Ministers and Deaconesses (according to the 2016 Book of Discipline and/or 2016 Florida Annual Conference Standing Rules)

**BLUE NAME BADGE** – Can vote on all matters
- FD – Full Deacon
- FE – Full Elder
- RD – Retired Deacon
- RE – Retired Elder

**GREEN NAME BADGE** - Can vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and clergy relationships
- AM – Associate Member
- FL – Full-time Local Pastor
- PD – Provisional Deacon
- PE – Provisional Elder
- PL – Part-time Local Pastor
- RA – Retired Associate Member
- RP – Retired Probationary / Provisional Member

**SALMON NAME BADGE** – Can vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, clergy relationships, and delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference (color used only in election years)
- FL – Full-time Local Pastor who has not completed Course of Study
- PL – Part-time Local Pastor who has not completed Course of Study

**TAN NAME BADGE** – No voting privileges on any matters.
- RL – Retired Local Pastor

**GRAY NAME BADGE** - No voting privileges on any matters.
- AF – Affiliate Member
- OA – Associate Member Other Annual Conf
- OD – Deacon Member Other Annual Conf
- OE – Elder Member Other Conf/Denomination
- OF – Full Member Other Denomination
- OP – Probationary Member Other Annual Conf
- OR – Retired Other Conf/Denomination
- SY – Lay Supply

**WHITE NAME BADGE** (Obtained at Guest Services) – Guests of the annual conference; no voting privileges on any matters. This includes all non-voting guests such as clergy spouses, lay member spouses, guests of the conference, exhibitors, staff, and reserve lay members² (who have not officially replaced a lay member from their church).

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¹ Except elections for clergy delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conferences; Matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (unless a lay member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and/or Committee on Investigation (par. 602.6))

² A Reserve Lay Member who is officially replacing the Lay Member from their church must complete a “Laity Credentials Form.” Forms can be obtained at the Registration Desk. They will be given their materials and name badge once this form is completed, signed by the pastor or district office representative, and submitted to the Registration Desk.
### Voice and Vote

Your name tag indicates your voice and vote status at Plenary Sessions. Please wear your name tag in a visible location during these sessions. Florida Annual Conference Members with both voice (meaning they can speak in Plenary Sessions) and vote (meaning they can make and amend motions and vote on motions) are as follows:

<table>
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<th>Clergy Members in full connection (¶ 602.a)</th>
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<td>Provisional Clergy Members who have completed all of their educational requirements (¶602.b errata)</td>
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<td>Provisional Clergy Members who have not completed all of their educational requirements (¶602.b)</td>
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<td>Associate Clergy Members (¶602.c)</td>
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<td>Affiliate Clergy Members (Standing Rules)</td>
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<td>Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment to a pastoral charge before the election (¶602.d errata)</td>
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<td>Full- and Part-time Local Pastors who have not completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and/or have not served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election (¶602.d)</td>
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<td>Elders or Ordained Clergy from other denominations serving under appointment within the Annual Conference (¶346.2)</td>
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<td>Lay Members: Elected Members representing congregations, Members by Virtue of Office, At-large Members as designated by districts, Youth Members (¶602.4)</td>
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<td>Official Representatives from other Denominations (¶602.9)</td>
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<td>Missionaries regularly assigned by the GBGM in nations other than the US &amp; Certified Lay Missionaries from nations other than the US serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference (¶602.9)</td>
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<td>Conference Chancellor if not otherwise a voting member (¶602.10)</td>
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<td>Ordained Clergy or Provisional Members from Other Annual Conferences and Other Methodist Denominations (¶346.1)</td>
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<td>Visitors, Spouses of Clergy &amp; Florida Conference Staff</td>
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† If also a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they may vote at Clergy Session
‡ If also a lay member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and/or Committee on Investigation (¶602.6)
Thinking back and reflecting on my Christian journey, I remember a songwriter who penned these words, “Take me back, take me back dear Lord to the place where I first received you. Take me back, to where I first believed.” Do you remember?

As lay members to the 2017 Florida Annual Conference and the United Methodist Church, we are called to go with a purpose. Matthew 5:14 reminds us that “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid”. We are walking billboards for Jesus Christ; billboards that advertise life, hope and purpose in a world of darkness and sin. God paid a great price for our lives; He gave us His son Jesus Christ, and when we accept Him into our lives and confess our faith to the world our lives become a neon light; a billboard advertising our Christian faith. Yes, I want to go back, “Revive us again.”

I have been challenged to a call summoning me to go, and I share that same challenge with you to join me in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Luke 17 speaks of the disciples expressing their concerns when told they had to rise to the level of forgiveness and mercy that was unknown to them. Jesus responded to their lack of faith by telling them it only took a small amount of obedience and trust in Him to put the power of heaven at their disposal. That is the key to our journey. Together we can do great things if only we put our trust in God.

We should never lose sight of where we first met the Lord. We should firmly believe we are changed and permit everything around us to change when we go back to that “place”. I believe as we relive the compelling experience and recount how we felt, where we were and what we thought, we allow ourselves to know who we are. Somehow we are able to raise our eye levels and see some good in all humankind. We cannot afford to forget that the God we serve is changeless, timeless and dimensionally unlimited. As we move from the place where we “first” saw the light to this present time there should always be a time when God is there. I want to go back!

Today we celebrate our God-given gifts to “lead like Jesus” and draw others to the throne of God. How exciting it is to offer Christ in a new way, with new challenges, experiences, ideas and possibilities of hope. We serve a God who delights in impossibilities.

“Take me back to the place . . . “ and “revive us again”!

Paulette Monroe, Conference Lay Leader
2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

JUNE 7, SPECIAL SPEAKER, WEDNESDAY EVENING PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT

Tammy Pawloski
Tammy Pawloski, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty at Francis Marion University. She grew up and taught in the impoverished areas of rural Horry and Allendale counties of South Carolina.

She currently holds a dual appointment of Professor of Early Childhood Education as well as her directorship. Prior to joining the faculty of FMU in 2000, she served in a similar capacity at the Columbia, Aiken, Salkehatchie, and Beaufort campuses of USC, and at Ventura College and Pepperdine University in Southern California. Dr. Pawloski’s research interests include children of poverty; family, school, and community partnerships; and best practices for under-resourced students.

JUNE 8, PREACHER AND CELEBRANT, THURSDAY EVENING, SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

Bishop Kenneth Carter
Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. is resident bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Along with the Cabinet, he gives pastoral and administrative leadership to almost 700 congregations, fresh expressions of church, campus ministries and outreach initiatives in an episcopal area that stretches from Tallahassee and Jacksonville to Miami and the Keys. He came to the Florida Conference in 2012, following a ministry of almost thirty years in Western North Carolina, twenty-nine as a local church pastor.

Bishop Carter is the president-designate of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, and in 2018-2020 he will serve as president. He is one of three moderators of A Way Forward, the commission authorized by the General Conference in matters of unity and human sexuality.

His great hope for the church is that she will rediscover an orthodox Christian faith which offers the radically inclusive grace of God to all people, and at the same time calls every follower of Jesus to inner holiness, missional compassion and hopeful witness. He travels extensively across the state, preaching in local churches and encouraging lay and clergy leaders.
Bishop Carter and his wife, Pam have been married for thirty-five years. Pam is also an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, and she serves in missions and volunteer development on the staff of First UMC in Lakeland. They are blessed with two adult daughters: Liz lives in Los Angeles, where she is a PhD. student at U.C.L.A., and Abby is a youth minister at Soapstone UMC in Raleigh.

The Carters consider it a great blessing to live and serve in Florida.

JUNE 9, SPECIAL SPEAKER, FRIDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION

Elaine A. Heath
Dean of the Divinity School and Professor of Missional and Pastoral Theology. BA (Oakland University); Mdiv (Ashland Theological Seminary); PhD (Duquesne University).

Dean Heath began her tenure as dean of Duke Divinity School in July 2016. Previously she was the McCreless Professor of Evangelism at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Her scholarly work integrates systematic, pastoral and spiritual theology in ways that bridge the gap between academy, church and world. Her research interests focus on evangelism and spirituality, evangelism and gender, the new monasticism, and emergence in church and in theological education.

Heath is the author of numerous books and monographs, the most recent of which is God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church (June 2016). She is also the co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, which provides opportunities for clergy and laity to learn how to live in intentional communities and how to develop missional communities and social enterprise in diverse social contexts. Her other publications include Missional.Monastic.Mainline (co-authored with Larry Duggins, 2014), The Mystic Way of Evangelism (2008), Naked Faith: The Mystical Theology of Phoebe Palmer (2009), Longing for Spring: A New Vision for Wesleyan Communities (co-authored with Scott Kisker, 2010), We Were the Least of These: Reading the Bible with Survivors of Sexual Abuse (2011), and The Gospel According to Twilight: Women, Sex, and God (2011).
JUNE 9, SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, FRIDAY MORNING

Rev. Dr. Walter Monroe
Dr. Walter E. Monroe, Jr. is District Superintendent of the current South Central District that includes Polk, Hillsborough and Pasco counties and part of Hernando and is home to 71 churches, one mission and various extension ministries. He previously served as chaplain and director of religious life at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, where he received a bachelor’s degree in religion and philosophy. He has been an adjunct professor there and also at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

He holds additional degrees from Bethany Theological Seminary, Candler School of Theology, Jameson Christian College and United Theological Seminary.

Dr. Monroe was ordained as an elder in 1976 in the New York/Washington Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. He transferred to the Florida Conference in 1982 and later was ordained as a UMC elder. His appointments in Florida include Scott Chapel, Melbourne; Lake City Parish; Ebenezer and Grace UM churches, Orlando; First UMC, Taft; The University UMC, Gainesville, and Stewart Memorial UMC, Daytona Beach.

Rev. Monroe has chaired the Division of Elders of the Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and served as a Trustee of the United Methodist Foundation and the United Methodist Children’s Home. He has also served as a Director of the Florida Annual Conference Course of Study.

He is the author of four books, most recently “Experiencing the Unimaginable” (Moving from “Trauma to Triumph”).

Dr. Monroe and his wife Paulette reside in Lakeland. They are the proud parents of three adult children and are blessed grandparents.

JUNE 9, SPECIAL SPEAKER, FRIDAY AFTERNOON
PLENARY SESSION

Kevin M. Watson
Kevin M. Watson is Assistant Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. His research interests focus on Christian formation and discipleship from a Wesleyan perspective, particularly communal formation, Wesleyan/Methodist Christianity, the history of early Methodism, American Methodism, common misunderstandings of the Wesleyan tradition, and current events in The United Methodist Church. In addition to writing articles for both scholarly and popular publications, Watson is the author of three books: Pursuing Social Holiness: The Band Meeting in Wesley’s Thought and Popular Methodist
Practice (Oxford, 2014); The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience (Seedbed, 2014); and A Blueprint for Discipleship: Wesley’s General Rules as a Model for Christian Living (Discipleship Resources, 2009). His current book project is provisionally titled Old or New School Methodism: The Fragmentation of a Theological Tradition. Kevin lives with his wife (Melissa) and three children (Bethany, James, and Eden) in Lilburn, GA. When he isn’t teaching or writing he enjoys playing with his kids, reading, managing his fantasy football team, and adding birds to his life list.

JUNE 9, REVIVAL WORSHIP AND MUSIC, FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

Bishop Ricardo Pereira Díaz
Bishop Ricardo Pereira Díaz was born on June 9, 1956 in Rancho Veloz, Las Villas, Cuba, which is currently known as the Villa Clara province. He grew up in Potrerillo, Holguín province where he attended primary school. He went to a junior high school in Rafael Freyre, Holguín province and the High School in Camaguey province where he also began working as an Assistant Pastor. He received his theological education through the courses provided by the Cuban Annual Conference. He got a Bachelor degree in Theology, he was granted a PhD, and a Doctorate of Divinity at the Latin American College in Miami Headquarters.

Bishop Pereira is married to Maritza Proenza Ortega. They have two sons, Ricardo Jr. (36 years old) and Yosvany (34 years old), and a grandson named Moises (8 years old).

Bishop Pereira began working as an Assistant Pastor in 1973 in Camaguey. He was firstly appointed Pastor of the Cuban Annual Conference in 1975 in Las Tunas province. He served in Las Tunas, Pilon, Niquero, which are in the eastern region of Cuba and later served as Assistant to the Bishop Armando Rodriguez, in El Vedado, Havana. He worked as a District Superintendent in Pinar del Rio for twelve years.

During his faith journey he served as President of the National Youth and the National Methodist Men’s organization. He chaired the Evangelism Area for the Conference and the Discipleship. He was elected Bishop in March of 1999. At present he is the Senior Pastor of the Methodist Church in Marianao, Havana, which is the largest church in the Conference with more than 3000 members.

The Methodist Church in Cuba has been growing by 10 percent annually. We have experienced a continual and massive growing in our membership. New missions and churches have been opened in municipalities and territories where there was no presence of the Methodist Church.
MUSIC LEADER

Jarvis R. Wilson

Jarvis R. Wilson was born in Atlanta, Georgia. When he was only four years old, his mother noticed his aptitude and keen interest in music. He began music lessons under her tutelage and continued to perfect his gift under the guidance of others, among them the late Alberta Williams King (mother of Martin Luther King, Jr.) and renowned concert organist David Stills.

Jarvis began playing the organ in church when he was 10 years old and went on to learn the trombone as well. As predestined by God, he has been glorifying and magnifying the Lord through music and song since that time. While at Hoke Smith High School he was a member of the marching band, concert band and school chorus. At age 15, Jarvis joined the Rising Star Baptist Church and was baptized by Rev. Walter J. Hall. He became the youngest director of the H. T. Thomas Gospel Chorus, a 100-voice choir. Scholarships enabled Jarvis to continue his education at Clark College, majoring in Music Education with a concentration in piano and organ music. He was the student conductor of the Clark College Philharmonic Society, under the direction of the late Dr. Frank Boldware, Dr. Sharon J. Willis, and Dr. Thomas D. Hager. This group traveled as ambassadors for the school performing concerts throughout the United States and Canada.

From 1982 until 1997, Jarvis served in many capacities at Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. During this period, he was director of the Male Chorus, Women's Ensemble, Youth choir and the Young Adult Choir. He also served as the full-time, Assistant Director of Music and Interim Director of Music for 2 years.

WORSHIP LEADER

Robert McMichael

Robert Henry McMichael, III, is a 5th generation Atlantan. A product of the Atlanta Public Schools, Robert is a 1999 graduate of Morehouse College, and a 2009 graduate of Gammon Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Robert has distinguished himself as a writer, lecturer, vocalist and organist. He has served in numerous capacities in churches throughout the Atlanta area. As Organist, he has served at the Mallelieu United Methodist Church, East Point, GA, (now East Point First Mallelieu UMC) and at the Hoosier Memorial United Methodist Church, his home church. He has served the Cascade United Methodist Church as Director of the Women’s Chorus and Praise and Worship Leader. He also served the Historic Central Ministries United Methodist Church where he served as Minister of Music, Worship and the Arts. He currently serves the Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Marietta as
Worship Leader/Ministerial Assistant. As a baritone soloist, Robert has been featured at many recitals and concerts. One of his proudest moments when he was chosen to be a part of the Chorus that performed Brahms’s Nanie at the Woodruff Arts Center under the direction of the late Robert Shaw. In July of 2001 he co-chaired a delegation that traveled to the Ivory Coast of West Africa to take the Gospel message in song and to begin discussions on how the then “Methodist Church of Cote’Ivoire” and the United Methodist Church could merge. Within two years of the initial conference, the Methodist Church of Cote’Ivoire became a part of the United Methodist Church. Robert is also a Realtor ® with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Buckhead West Paces office. He is one of Metro Atlanta’s leading Real Estate Consultants.

Robert is an active member of several community and civic organizations; the NAACP; the Boys and Girls Club of America; the American Guild of Organist; the Hampton University Choir Director's/Organist Guild; and the National Academy of Religion. Robert enjoys water sports, reading, writing, and especially cooking. He is married to the former Dina Bagby, and they have 4 children, Chandler, Preston Tyler and Logan. They reside in the East Cobb area of Metro Atlanta.

Robert has adopted as his life’s theme, “Love, The More Excellent Way!”
EVENT INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2017 Florida Annual Conference Event! Registration for clergy and laity will begin on Wednesday, June 7, at 3:00 pm in the Citron Registration Booth at Buena Vista Palace Hotel, 1900 Buena Vista Drive.

All information contained in this Workbook is available at the Florida Conference website (http://www.flumc.org). Please check the website often for updates and additional information on the 2017 Florida Annual Conference Event.

**5K Race**: 6:30 am on Thursday, June 8. For more information contact Jad Denmark, jad.denmark@flumc.org.

**AGENDA**: A basic schedule for the week can be found on page 28 of the Workbook. A pocket agenda will be available at registration.

**CHILD CARE**: St. Luke’s UMC. Check our website www.flumc.org for more information.

**CLERGY SESSION**: Will be held at St. Luke’s UMC, 10:00 am, Thursday, June 8.

**COKESBURY**: The Cokesbury book exhibit of The United Methodist Publishing House is located in the Expo on the main floor of the conference center in the Palm Event Center. It will close at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 10.

**COMMUNION**: Holy Communion will be celebrated during the Worship Service at 7:30 pm, Thursday, June 8. Holy Communion is also offered on Thursday and Friday at 7:45 am in the Prayer Garden.

**GUEST SERVICES**: Located in the Sabal Foyer Registration Booth. Services offered include guest name badges, information about the conference, order forms for the 2017 Journal, and computer kiosks for online orders.

**HEARING-IMPAIRED**: Signing for the hearing impaired will be provided for all sessions of Annual Conference.

**HOUSING**: Buena Vista Accommodations: Information for Buena Vista area hotels/motels can be found on the conference website at flumc.org (click on the Annual Conference 2017 link).

**INTERNET**: WIFI access is available throughout the areas in use.

**INTERPRETERS** (LANGUAGE): To use the services of an interpreter, you may pick up a receiver and earpiece at the Interpreters’ Table, located in the rear of the Sabal Ballroom.

**JOURNAL ORDER FORMS**: Order forms for the 2017 Florida Annual Conference Journal can be found at Guest Services. Orders paid by check may be placed in the designated box at Guest Services or left with an attendant at the Guest Services Desk (main lobby). All credit card orders must be placed online. Computer kiosks will be available at Guest Services for online orders.
Order forms are also available on the conference website at www.flumc.org (click on the Annual Conference 2017 link).

**LAITY SESSION**: The Laity Session will be held in the Citron Ballroom, Thursday, June 8, 10:00 am.

**MEALS**: Buena Vista Palace has three options for dining on site: *Letterpress* features seasonal favorites and cooked to order omelets for breakfast. Lunch and dinner menus feature plated meals with locally sourced ingredients. *Shades* serves fresh American fare poolside. *Sunnies* lobby bar serves refreshing beverages and locally sourced seasonal fare.

**Special Meals**: Individual groups meeting during Annual Conference are responsible for the promotion and sale of tickets for their own event. Information about each gathering and contact and/or reservation information can be found on the conference website at flumc.org (click on the Annual Conference 2017 link). Many groups welcome interested guests to participate in their meal time activities. If interested in a particular group, contact the person listed on the Conference website group meals link for information about attending.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**: The Service of Remembrance will be held at 10:30 am, Friday, June 8, in the Sabal Ballroom. The Memorial Service will be webcast live via Internet enabling those who are not able to attend to see and hear the service. To view the Memorial Service, click on the webcast button on the home page of the Conference website, www.flumc.org, 10:30 am, June 8.

**EXPO**: The Expo will be located on the main floor of the conference center in the Palm Event Center. Please visit our vendors during the following times:

- **Thursday, June 8, 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.**
- **Friday, June 9, 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.**
- **Saturday, June 10, 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Thrivent Financial is joining with the Florida Annual Conference to lead an Action Team service project at this year’s Expo, and you’re invited to be a part of it! Visit our designated vendors to receive information and an item to create backpacks for children in need this fall. This is all part of the conference’s initiative of “overinvesting in the young” and building bridges between churches and local schools. All you have to do is visit the Expo to help out Florida school children.


**NAME BADGE – VISITORS AND GUESTS**: We encourage and invite all visitors and guests to wear a name badge while attending the Florida Annual Conference Event. If you know of someone who will be attending as a guest direct them to flumc.org (click on the Annual Conference 2017 link) to complete a Guest Name Badge request form before they come to the event. This will ensure that their guest name badge will be ready for them at Guest Services in the lobby of the Sabal Foyer Registration Booth when they arrive. Visitors and guests may also have a name badge made on-site at FLUMC Guest Services at the Buena Vista Palace any time after 3:00 p.m. on June 7.
OFFERING:
Bishop Carter’s Offering
The offerings celebrate our partnerships with our neighbors in Cuba and Haiti. One-half of the offering will be directed to each initiative.

- Cuban Pastor Pension Initiative – Develop a pension fund for Cuban pastors in collaboration with the leadership of the Methodist Church in Cuba.

- Abundant Health for Haiti – Developed through our Haiti Partnership
  - Meds and food for Kids (mfkhaiti.org)
For more details: www.flumc.org

PARKING: Parking is available on site at the Buena Vista Palace. Self-parking is complimentary, valet parking is $21/day.

PRAYER GARDEN: The Prayer Garden is for your spiritual fulfillment and enjoyment. You are invited to take time throughout the conference to meditate, pray and rest in the Lord. The Prayer Garden is located in the Areca Room and is sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Team.

PRINTED MATERIALS: Printed materials requiring conference action must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary in printed form 24 hours in advance. Such pages should be prepared and duplicated for distribution at the expense of the submitting party. Printed materials should be taken to the ushers tables located just outside the Sabal Ballroom. Only those materials that the lay and clergy members will use during the annual conference may be distributed.

REGISTRATION: Registration for all lay members will be at Buena Vista Palace. Clergy wishing to register/check-in before the clergy session on Thursday morning may only do so at St. Luke’s UMC. On Thursday afternoon, clergy registration returns to Buena Vista Palace. Registration/check-in opens Wednesday, June 7 at 3 pm in the Citron Registration Booth.

Here is the schedule:
- Wednesday, June 7, 3 pm – 6 pm (Buena Vista Palace, Clergy and Lay)
- Thursday, June 8, 8:00 am – 5 pm (Buena Vista Palace, Lay)
- Thursday, June 8, 8:30 am – 10:00 am (St. Luke’s UMC, Clergy)
- Thursday, June 8, 12:00 pm – 5 pm (Buena Vista Palace, Clergy)
- Friday, June 9, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (Buena Vista Palace, Clergy and Lay)

SPEAKERS: (See also pages 12-17) Speakers for this year's annual conference are:
- Thursday evening: Bishop Ken Carter
- Friday morning: Dr. Elaine Heath, Dean of the Divinity School, Duke
- Friday morning: Memorial Service, Dr. Walter Monroe
- Friday afternoon: Dr. Kevin Watson, Professor, Candler School of Theology
- Friday evening: Bishop Ricardo Pereira, Cuba Methodist Church
- Saturday morning: Ordination Service, Bishop Ken Carter

**VIDEO AND AUDIO TAPE SESSIONS:** All sessions of the Annual Conference are video and audio taped, including worship services, debates and discussions. Order blanks will be available online and on-site during Annual Conference.

**VISITATION DURING CONFERENCE SESSIONS:** Ushers will close off the ballroom each morning when the sessions begin. Visitation may take place outside the ballroom.

**WHEEL CHAIR FACILITIES:** Buena Vista Palace is equipped for persons who are physically challenged. See an usher for assistance.

**WORSHIP BOOKLET:** A Worship Booklet will be included in the materials you receive on-site during registration. Please bring this with you to all worship services.

**WORSHIP SERVICES:** Annual Conference worship services are coordinated by the Worship Team, led by Rev. Sarah Miller. All worship services will be held in the Sabal Ballroom unless otherwise directed.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** Special activities have been scheduled for youth (ages 12-18 or those still in high school). Please refer to the Youth Agenda and Expectations found on pages 30-31 of this Workbook. Go to the conference website http://www.flumc.org for more information.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Workshop</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Board of Ordained Ministry Preparation</strong> Brett Opalinski, Jeremy Rebman,</td>
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<td>Debbie McLeod, Tracy Hunter and Sidney Tompkins</td>
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<td>**Florida United Methodist Foundation Presents - Old Money, New Money, More</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Money: Cultivating Generous Givers to Transform Ministry** Rev. Michael Vilardo</td>
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<td>1:30-2:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session 1 Workshops</strong></td>
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<td><strong>How to Help Churches Reach the Next Generation</strong> Joel Pancoast, Annette</td>
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<td>Johnson, Scott McQueen and Steve Schneeberger</td>
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<td><strong>How to Help Churches Get Connected to Cuba</strong> Bishop Ricardo Pereira Diaz and</td>
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<td><strong>Lay Servants/Certified Lay Minister Training</strong> Rod Groom and Elizabeth Graves</td>
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<td><strong>Commission on a Way Forward Update and Discussion</strong> Jorge Acevedo and Alice</td>
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<td>2:45-3:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>3:15-4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session 2 Workshops</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Connect Your Congregation and Your Annual Conference</strong> Paulette Monroe</td>
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<td><strong>The Heart of Fresh Expressions</strong> Kevin Griffin, Audrey Warren and Matt Harrell</td>
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<td>**Challenges and Opportunities: Why Poverty Matters and Why Church-School</td>
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<td>Partnerships Can Matter More** Dr. Tammy Pawloski</td>
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<td><strong>How the Word Becomes Words: A Conversation with Florida Conference Authors</strong></td>
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<td>Jim Harnish, Justin LaRosa, Magrey DeVega, Charley Reeb, Jorge Acevedo, Wes</td>
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<td>Olds, Jack Jackson, Audrey Warren and Bishop Carter</td>
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*Workshop room assignments will be available at St. Luke’s UMC.*
Course Descriptions and Bios for Pre-Conference Workshops

**Board of Ordained Ministry Preparation:** Brett Opalinski - BOOM Chair, Jeremy Rebman - Proclamation Team Leader, Debbie McLeod - Leadership Team Leader, Tracy Hunter - Theology Team Leader, and Sidney Tompkins - Personal Growth Team Leader

**Course Description:** Meet with review team and other BOOM leaders to hear what they are looking for and to ask any questions you may have.

**Bios:**
- Brett Opalinski serves as Senior Pastor at Christ Church in Fort Lauderdale, as well as Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Jeremy Rebman serves as Senior Pastor at First UMC Vero Beach. He has served on BOOM for the past 8 years, and currently leads the Proclamation review team of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Debbie McLeod has served over 30 years in ministry and is currently Senior Pastor of Mandarin United Methodist in Jacksonville. Debbie is Chair of the Leadership review team for the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Rev. E. Tracy Hunter was ordained an elder in full connection in 2002. After serving in the local church for eighteen years, she currently serves as a chaplain at Tampa General Hospital. Rev. Hunter chairs the theology review team and has served on The Board of Ministry since 2008.
- Rev. Sidney Tompkins is an ordained Deacon with a specialty in counseling psychology and serves at Pasadena Community Church in St. Petersburg. Additionally, she is licensed in Florida as a Mental Health Counselor. On the Board of Ministry, Sidney is Chairman of the Personal Growth team, a member of the Executive Committee and the Conference Relations Committee.

*Please register separately for this event using this link:*
  https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/BOMPrepDay

**How to Help Churches Reach the Next Generation:** Annette Johnson, Joel Pancoast, Scott McQueen and Steve Schneeberger

**Course Description:** Are you concerned about declining attendance in the Church? There is hope in the next generation. Understand your resources and maximize them to reach children, youth, and their families. Discuss how realistic expectations will help your congregation gain traction in your community.

**Bios:**
- Annette Johnson has worked professionally in Children's and Family ministry since 2008. Currently, she serves as the Director of Children and Family ministries at FUMC Gainesville. Annette has a passion for serving the entire family and integrating children into the everyday life of the church. Currently, Annette is serving the conference as the chair for the KidMin roundtable, and loves seeking the best ways we can improve our family ministries across the entire conference.
- Joel Pancoast is our Conference Youth Ministry Coordinator and one of the Co-Directors of Gator Wesley Foundation on the campus of the University of Florida. Joel has worked as a local youth director in our conference and most recently as the Program Manager for the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp.
Scott McQueen is currently on staff at Riviera United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg where he has served as the Director of Youth Ministry since 2000 as well as the Director of Children's ministry since 2008. Prior to arriving at Riviera UMC, Scott spent 8 years in a variety of roles within the mental health system including Case Management and Therapeutic Foster Care Supervisor.

Steve Schneeberger is the Executive Director of the Youth Ministry Institute. Founded in 2005, YMI is an organization that empowers youth ministers to become skilled and effective leaders. www.yminstitute.com Beginning in 1985, Steve began a vocation as a youth minister serving churches in Kansas and Florida. He is also the adjunct professor of youth ministry at Florida Southern College and the youth ministry consultant for both the Central Florida Diocese of the Episcopal Church and the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Old Money, New Money, More Money: Cultivating Generous Givers to Transform Ministry: Rev. Michael P. Vilardo, president and founder of Transforming Christian Ministries in Cincinnati, Ohio 

Course Description: Many churches lack a vision that guides their ministry. But cultivating generous givers requires offering a vision people can embrace and support with their gifts. Money follows ministry. This nearly three-hour workshop will offer five steps to cultivate generous giving to your church’s ministries. You will:

- Discover how vision grows generosity
- Examine and strengthen the “case” you make for your church’s ministries
- See how strong leadership in your church creates a foundation for generosity
- Learn the practices of development professionals that are changing the giving patterns of your members
- Discover the importance of describing outcomes, not just output

Bio: Rev. Michael P. Vilardo, president and founder of Transforming Christian Ministries in Cincinnati, Ohio. Vilardo has worked as a pastor and development professional for more than 30 years, honing his strategic planning and analytic skills as vice president for fund development and community relations at a Christian retirement community. As a pastor in The United Methodist Church, he led one congregation to more than quadruple its membership and ministry. Building on his ministry and consulting experiences, he launched Transforming Christian Ministries, a consulting firm that works with churches and organizations to strengthen their impact by helping them envision, plan and secure resources for their ministries.
Cuba Workshop - How to help churches get connected to Cuba: Bishop Ricardo Pereira Díaz and George Reed

**Course Description:** All you need to know to be part of a 20-year young vital missional relationship with the Methodist Church in Cuba. An interview with Bishop Ricardo Pereira and George Reed, Methodists United in Prayer Cuba Task Force chair.

**Bios:** Bishop Ricardo Pereira Díaz was born in Rancho Veloz, Las Villas, Cuba, which is currently known as the Villa Clara province. He received his theological education through the courses provided by the Cuban Annual Conference. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Theology, and was granted a PhD, and a Doctorate of Divinity at the Latin American College in Miami Headquarter. Bishop Pereira began working as an Assistant Pastor in 1973 in Camaguey. He served in Las Tunas, Pilon, and Niquero which are in the eastern region of Cuba and later served as Assistant to the Bishop Armando Rodriguez, in El Vedado, Havana. He worked as a District Superintendent in Pinar del Rio for twelve years. He was elected Bishop in March of 1999. At present he is the Senior Pastor of the Methodist Church in Marianao, Havana, which is the largest church in the Conference with more than 3000 members.

George Reed is the Cuba Task Force chair for Methodists United in Prayer. He works with the Florida Conference and the Methodist Church in Cuba to maintain and grow over 200 sister church relationships. He is also the Group Area Coordinator for the North East District and the Havana District churches. He attends Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church and has been traveling to Cuba for ten years.

Lay Servants/Certified Lay Minister Training: Rod Groom and Elizabeth Flynn

**Course Description:** Lay Servant Ministries dates back to the early lay preachers and class leaders of the Wesleyan Movement. Today it encompasses a variety of areas within lay ministry. Come and learn about becoming a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, or a full Certified Lay Minister (CLM). CLMs are new to the lay servant family and prepare intensively under pastoral supervision to become a part of pastoral care and ministry teams. Learn about application and certification procedures, interaction with district superintendents and district committees on ministry, and conference committee approval and recertification.

**Bios:** Rod is a retired State of Florida employee, clergy spouse and Florida Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

Elizabeth is a Certified Lay Servant and the registrar for six District Committees on Ministry (DCOM) in the Florida Conference.

Commission on a Way Forward Update and Discussion: Jorge Acevedo and Alice Williams

**Course Description:** The Commission on a Way Forward was established by the Council of Bishops following the 2016 General Conference to find a way forward for the church that moves us beyond the continuing impasse over sexuality. Jorge Acevedo and Alice Williams, both members of the Commission, will facilitate the discussion.
**Bios:** Jorge Acevedo is in his twenty-first year as lead pastor at Grace Church, a multisite United Methodist congregation in Southwest Florida with six campuses. The church has grown in its weekend attendance from 400 to over 2600 in the past twenty-one years and has a remarkable ministry to, with, and for the poor, marginalized, and addicted. The church is recognized as having one of the largest and most effective recovery ministries in America. Alice Williams is a member of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Windermere and a leader in our Conference. She currently serves as the EC District Lay Leader, GBHEM Board Member and delegate to CG 2016.

**Lay Leaders/Lay Member - Connect Your Congregation and Your Annual Conference:** Paulette Monroe

**Course Description:** “…all Christians are called to minister wherever Christ would have them serve and witness in deeds and words that heal and free.” (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶128) Invite Christ into the process of guiding your ministry. God blesses you with gifts, skills, and experience. You are a blessing when you allow God to work through you in making disciples for the transformation of the world.

**Bio:** Paulette Monroe has been a leader in the local church, District, Annual Conference and Jurisdictional Ministries of the United Methodist Women and currently serves as the Lay Leader for the Florida Conference.

**The Heart of Fresh Expressions:** Kevin Griffin, Pastor of Transformation, Grace Church Cape Coral; Audrey Warren, Senior Pastor, First UMC Miami; Matt Harrell, Fresh Expressions Coordinator, Florida United Methodist Conference

**Course Description:** Fresh Expressions is an initiative that catalyzes new forms of church for our rapidly changing culture, established primarily to reach people who do not attend church. This workshop will be a great introduction for those that do not know anything or know very little about the Fresh Expressions initiative. We will define what Fresh Expressions is, learn about what is going on with Fresh Expressions around the conference, and take a look at the different roles of supporting a Fresh Expression of church. All are invited to attend “The Heart of Fresh Expressions” Pre-Annual Conference workshop!

**Bios:** Kevin Griffin is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Conference and he currently serves as Pastor of Transformation at Grace Church in Cape Coral, FL. In his current role, he provides leadership and support to all ministries with adults at Grace, as well as serving on the teaching team with ongoing responsibilities for preaching and teaching. Kevin has co-convened the Fresh Expressions movement in the conference since 2015.

Audrey Warren is an ordained Elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and currently serves as Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Miami. Since 2013 Audrey has co-convened the Fresh Expressions movement in the Florida Annual Conference. Audrey’s greatest joy in ministry is teaching Yoga Chapel in Downtown Miami as well as visioning with her congregation new ways to be church in a growing and diverse city.
Matt Harrell currently serves as the Fresh Expressions Coordinator for the Florida United Methodist Church. Matt joined the team in July of 2016 after spending six years serving at a United Methodist Church in the Atlanta area. While in Georgia he had the opportunity to lead several Fresh Expressions. He has a great passion for coming up with new and creative ways for people to experience the love of God.

**Challenges and Opportunities: Why Poverty Matters and Why Church-School Partnerships Can Matter More:** Dr. Tammy Pawloski

**Course Description:** Life with limited resources can negatively impact achievement and life success for students, but the good news is that schools, especially in concert with the faith-based community, can matter more! The latest research from neuroscience provides direction for intentional moves that can dramatically and positively shift the trajectory for all students and their families. Learn how to authentically partner with schools in ways that can help to reveal the often-hidden potential of every learner every day.

**Bio:** Tammy Pawloski, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty at Francis Marion University. She grew up and taught in the impoverished areas of rural Horry and Allendale counties of South Carolina. She currently holds a dual appointment of Professor of Early Childhood Education as well as her directorship. Prior to joining the faculty of FMU in 2000, she served in a similar capacity at the Columbia, Aiken, Salkehatchie, and Beaufort campuses of USC, and at Ventura College and Pepperdine University in Southern California. Dr. Pawloski’s research interests include children of poverty; family, school, and community partnerships; and best practices for under-resourced students.

**How the Word Becomes Words: A Conversation with Florida Conference Authors**

Join Cokesbury as nine of our Florida Conference Authors share about their latest books published by Abingdon Press. Books will be available for purchase, book signing, and pre-order.

   - *Available for Pre-order: Make a Difference; Easter Earthquake*
2. Jim Harnish and Justin LaRosa: *Disciples Path; Disciples Heart*
3. Magrey DeVega: *One Faithful Promise; Songs for the Waiting*
   - *Available for Pre-order: Embracing the Uncertain*
4. Charley Reeb: *That’ll Preach*
5. Jorge Acevedo and Wes Olds: *A Grace-Full Life*
6. Jack Jackson: *Offering Christ*
7. Bishop Carter and Audrey Warren: *Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of Methodist Church for People Not In Church*
2017 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE GENERAL SCHEDULE

All events at Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace, unless otherwise noted

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

1:30 pm  Pre-Conference Workshops, Session 1, St. Luke’s UMC
3:00 pm  Registration opens in Citron Registration Booth
3:15 pm  Pre-Conference Workshops, Session 2, St. Luke’s UMC
6:30 pm  Children at Risk: A Mission of Bridge Building, Dr. Tammy Pawloski, St. Luke’s UMC
8:00 pm  Reception Sponsored by Florida United Methodist Foundation, St. Luke’s UMC

Thursday, June 8, 2017

6:30 am  5K Race/Walk, Windermere
7:30 am  Expo opens in the Palm Event Center
          Prayer Garden opens with Morning Communion, Areca Room
8:00 am  Laity Registration opens in the Citron Registration Booth
8:30 am  Clergy Registration opens at St. Luke’s UMC
          (Clergy may ONLY register at St. Luke’s prior to the Clergy Session on Thursday. If you miss this registration time, you may register at the Buena Vista Palace after lunch)
10:00 am Clergy Session, St. Luke’s UMC
          Laity Orientation meets in the Citron Ballroom
12:00 pm Clergy Registration re-opens in Citron Registration Booth
1:30 pm  Opening Plenary Session with Worship in the Sabal Ballroom
5:00 pm  Dinner Break
7:30 pm  Worship Service with Communion, Bishop Carter, Sabal Ballroom

Friday, June 9, 2017

7:30 am  Expo Opens in the Palm Event Center
          Prayer Garden opens with Morning Communion, Areca Room
8:00 am  Registration Opens in Citron Registration Booth
8:30 am  Plenary Session in the Sabal Ballroom  
Dr. Elaine Heath, Dean of Duke Divinity School – Special Speaker

10:30 am  Service of Remembrance, Sabal Ballroom, Rev. Dr. Walter Monroe

11:30 pm  Lunch Break  
Memorial Luncheon  
Retiree Luncheon

1:30 pm  Plenary Session in the Sabal Ballroom  
Anniversary Celebrations  
Dr. Kevin Watson, Professor, Candler School of Theology – Special Speaker

   Retirement Service

5:00 pm  Dinner Break

7:00 pm  Plenary Session, Sabal Ballroom  
Bishop Ricardo Pereira, Methodist Church in Cuba – Special Speaker

Saturday, June 10, 2017

7:30 am  Expo opens in the Palm Event Center  
Prayer Garden opens with Morning Communion, Areca Room

8:30 am  Plenary Session in the Sabal Ballroom

10:30 am  Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination and Fixing of Appointments

12:30 pm  Conference concludes
YOUTH SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1  Wednesday, June 7, 2017
   3:00pm  Youth Orientation at Buena Vista Palace (please check into the hotel prior to orientation)
   •  This time will include dinner, orientation to the site, and registering for conference together.

2  Thursday, June 8, 2017
   10:00 am  Laity Orientation meets in the Citron Ballroom
   12:00 pm  CCYM & Youth Delegation Luncheon, St. Luke’s UMC
   1:30 pm  Opening Plenary Session with Worship in the Sabal Ballroom
   5:00 pm  Dinner Break
   7:00 pm  Worship Service with Communion, Bishop Carter

3  Friday, June 9, 2017
   7:30 am  Expo Opens in the Event Center/Exhibits
   Prayer Garden (with Communion) opens in Areca
   8:30 am  Plenary Session in the Sabal Ballroom
   Dr. Elaine Heath, Duke Divinity School – Special Speaker
   10:30 am  Service of Remembrance
   Lunch Break
   11:30 am
   1:30 pm  Plenary Session in the Sabal Ballroom
   Dr. Kevin Watson, Candler School of Theology – Special Speaker
   Anniversary Celebrations
   Retirement Service
   5:00 pm  Dinner Break
   7:30 pm  Evening activities

4

5  Saturday, June 10, 2017
   8:30 am  Plenary Session in the Sabal Ballroom
   10:30 am  Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination and Fixing of Appointments
   12:30 pm  Conference concludes

6

7

8

[30]
Thank you for registering for the Annual Conference Youth Delegation! Below you will find important information regarding the event.

Student Expectations:

- The youth members to Annual Conference are required this year to sleep and take their meals with is in Orlando. We have a block of rooms reserved At the Buena Vista for the youth delegation. The cost of participating is $120 for the lodging and 2 meals. Students must bring money to cover their other meals
- You will be on time for and participate in all activities during this event.
- You will abide by the rules set by the event leader and adult chaperones
- Youth members will not be allowed to leave the hotels grounds (unless on an official youth delegation outing!) until the event is over.
- If you drive to AC 2017, you will leave your car parked at the hotel for the entire event. There is a fee, the amount of which can be inquired directly to the hotel. You will not be permitted to drive your vehicle during the event.

Dress Code:
While we do not have a mandatory dress code, we encourage you to strive for business casual. This means nice jeans or pants, fingertip length or longer shorts, and a presentable, clean shirt or top. The event room will be chilly, so you will want to bring some layers. Please no excessively torn jeans or t-shirts. No clothing with suggestive messages.

What to bring:
- Completed medical form, expectation sheet, and retreat waiver – these forms will be sent to you by May 1, 2017
- Money for 2 dinners and one lunch, as well as 3 breakfasts.
- Clothing for 3 days of conference session. If wearing shorts they must pass mid thigh.
- Clothing for hanging out on grounds after session (shorts rule still applies)
- Personal clothing items and personal care items

Staying informed:
During the event, there will be a good amount of social media interaction. If you have a twitter account, please notify Kelly so she can add you to the newsfeed.
See you in June!!!!

If you have any questions, need directions, etc, please contact Kelly Minter.

Contact information:

Kelly Minter, event coordinator

Email: kminter@flumc.org

Phone: 407.694.2167

HOTELS FOR 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2017 Annual Conference will be held June 8-10 at Lake Buena Vista Palace hotel, 1900 Buena Vista Drive, Orlando, Florida 32830. We have contracts with the following hotels for discounted rates during Annual Conference.

**Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace Disney Springs Area**

1900 Buena Vista Drive
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830
Central Reservation Line: 1-855-757-4984
from $139/night

**Wyndham Hotels Disney Springs Area**

https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/fla-conf2
Group Code 06046780FL
From $54/night
The following is recommended for approval:

1. The authority for procedure of the 2017 Florida Annual Conference is the following: (a) the 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church; (b) the Standing Rules of the Florida Annual Conference, 2016 Journal, page 215 ff.; and (c) Robert’s Rules of Order.

2. The Pocket Agenda for the 2017 Florida Annual Conference event, received at registration, is to be the official agenda for the 2017 Conference.

3. Any member of the Annual Conference who wishes to be recognized shall stand at his/her place and wave the brightly colored card found in the Welcome Packet. When the Bishop recognizes that person, he/she goes to the designated numbered microphone and addresses the conference. The person must state her/his name, clergy or lay, and the name of the local church, district or conference organization he/she represents.

4. The following items will treated as “Orders of the Day.”
   • Presentation by Elaine Heath, Dean of the Divinity School, Duke University
   • The Service of Remembrance
   • Presentation by Kevin Watson, Professor, Candler School of Theology
   • The Retirement Service
   • The Service of Licensing, Commissioning and Ordination
   • Adjournment at 12:30 PM on Saturday, June 10

Alex A. Shanks,
Agenda Chair
STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our work over this Annual Conference year (2016-2017) has continued to focus on a few key initiatives aligned with the purpose of the Strategic Leadership Team. The purpose of the Strategic Leadership Team, as defined at its formation, is to “clarify the vision of the Annual Conference, ensure this vision is accomplished, and ensure the alignment of all Annual Conference resources and ministries with the vision.”

At the start of this new quadrennium, the Strategic Leadership Team connected more closely with the Cabinet to form the Strategic Leadership Team/Cabinet Connection. This has produced greater collaboration at all levels of leadership. We have used a peer consultation model to further enhance our collaborative efforts and to explore many of our adaptive challenges as an Annual Conference.

The three key initiatives of the Strategic Leadership Team continue to be: Fresh Expressions, the Nehemiah/Legacy Project and the School/Church Partnership. The future vision for the Annual Conference includes the realization of 500 Fresh Expressions and 500 local churches, while doubling the number of vital congregations. Progress has been made toward this vision and further details can be found in other reports. Together with Congregational Vitality, we have developed a document entitled Five Streams of missional/congregational multiplication.

The Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet have joined together with other Conference Leaders to recommend to the Annual Conference the reduction from nine to eight Districts. Further details about this recommendation follow this report.

Future work includes finalizing a Conference Strategic Plan, partnering with the Committee on Finance and Administration to look at the future sustainability of the Annual Conference, realizing a vision for reaching the next generations, and utilizing data visualization tools to help create outcome based measurements. The Strategic Leadership Team seeks the ongoing feedback from leaders around the Annual Conference as we look to the future with great hope for what is yet to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Strategic Leadership Team

Members of the Strategic Leadership Team: Bishop Ken Carter, Gary Spencer, Bob Bushong, Candace Lewis, June Edwards, Jay Therrell, Durwood Foshee, Walter Monroe, Cynthia Weems, Rini Hernandez, Alex Shanks, Tony Prestipino, Sara McKinley, Sharon Austin, Clarke Campbell Evans, Mark Becker, Dan Jackson, Janet Earls, Gretchen Hastings, Alice Williams, and Dale Locke.
DISTRICT PROPOSAL AND MOTION

Context: In the fall of 2016, the Cabinet and Strategic Leadership team began to explore how the Florida Conference has changed since we reduced from 14 Districts to 9 Districts eleven years ago. We discovered that we have closed 93 churches in eleven years. This is more than the number of churches in any one of our Districts. There has been an equal reduction in the number of full time elder placements and, for various reasons, several more churches have lowered their clergy salary. The *Book of Discipline* (415.4) gives the Bishop the responsibility to “form the districts after consultation with the district superintendents and after the number of the same has been determined by vote of the annual conference.” In response to the reduction of churches over the past 11 years, combined with a desire to reset the economic base of the Florida Annual Conference, the Cabinet, in consultation with other Conference leaders, is recommending a reduction in the number of Districts in the Florida Annual Conference from nine to eight. It is our prayer and hope that this reduction of one district will be one piece of a continued journey of examining the sustainability of our Annual Conference budget, as well as continuing to redirect the flow of resources to the Local Church and support the vital ministries that take place at the Conference level such as Campus Ministry, Camps and Retreats, Missional Engagement and more. This proposal has been discussed and examined by leadership groups throughout the Annual Conference and further discussion took place at the pre-Annual Conference meetings in each District in May.

Motion:
In accordance with Par 415.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, the Florida Annual Conference reduces from nine to eight Districts effective July 1, 2017.

Implementation Notes:
1) The eight districts will be called: Atlantic Central; East Central; Gulf Central; North Central; North East; North West; South East; and South West.
2) The lines and list of churches in each realigned district will be published on the Florida Annual Conference website.
3) The assets of the South Central District will be distributed in accordance with Par. 2518.3.
The Florida Conference Table was created to improve communication and coordination between leaders of the Conference agencies, allowing for greater attention to be given toward the Mission and Vision of the Conference.

The Conference Table explores the possibility of making a difference as an Annual Conference to bring people together to discuss complex issues of the church. It is a time for collaborative conversation among the boards and the diverse constituencies of the Conference. We not only want to relieve some of the suffering in our land and world, but through our actions draw others to the Lamb of God.

Since the last Annual Conference there have been two Conference Table gatherings in Lakeland. At the November 12, 2016 meeting, Conference Lay Leader Paulette Monroe reminded those in attendance that we are advertising agents, citing Matthew 5:14, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid”. She also reminded the gathering that false advertising may cost a few dollars or a few minor inconveniences, but that false advertising as a Christian could cost someone to miss Jesus and Heaven.

Special invitations were sent inviting others, including community leaders, to join the discussion on two matters affecting the church: Working Resolutions prepared by the Rev. Harold Lewis, “Black Lives Matter” and “Abolishing the System of Mass Incarceration”. Chuck Mallue, a retired Disney executive and consultant to the Florida Conference Table served as facilitator.

The second Conference Table was held February 11, 2017. The devotion was given by Chuck Mallue. The majority of the day was geared toward discussions on apportionments, the budget and sustainability, and was led by Florida Conference Treasurer Tony Prestipino. Chairperson of Florida Conference Committee Religion and Race the Rev. Mary Mitchell, and Chairperson of the Florida Conference Social Justice Committee the Rev. Sarah Miller also participated in the discussion. There was also a Question and Answer period regarding the Conference Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments proposed at the 2016 General Conference.

Convener Bishop Ken Carter and Co-Convener Paulette Monroe together serve as chairs of the committee. They serve with the assurance that in accepting this challenge our churches and communities will be transformed. We would become like Daniel who followed the instructions sent to his people with guidance from God, to direct us in all that we do to open our eyes to read the word, our ears to hear His voice and our hearts to accept His love in the understanding of His plans for us.

Respectfully Submitted
Paulette Monroe, Co-Convener
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP

Officers of the Conference

Below is the Conference Committee membership as of March 21, 2017. This information will be updated on the FLUMC website by May 11, 2017 before Annual Conference.

Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin
Conference Treasurer: Anthony “Tony” Prestipino
Chancellor: Mark Hanley
Conference Secretary: Elizabeth Gardner
Head Usher: Dawn and Ted Eckbreth
Parliamentarian: Bob Grizzard

Conference Leadership

These Servant Leaders listed below were either:

1. nominated by the Conference Committee on Leadership and are presented to the Annual Conference for election
2. elected by a particular agency of the conference or district or
3. designated by the bishop or other agent as defined by the Standing Rules.

Italics indicate clergy. Numbers and initials after a name indicates the year that a person first joined the committee, the year that he/she is required to rotate off and the district. (For example (16/24/NC), the person came on the committee in 2016. By Standing Rules, he/she is ineligible to serve after 2024. He/she serves from the North Central District.) A number following the name of a committee officer indicates the year that person assumed that office.

Conference Table

Co-Conveners: Kenneth Carter (16) and Paulette Monroe (16)
Committee Chairpersons:
Archives & History: Anita Campbell; BCRM: Mike Fordham; Bethune Cookman University: TBD; Beyond 50: Gary Rideout and Jerry Smith; BOOM: Brett Opalinski; Children & Family Ministries: Annette Johnson; Children’s Home: Kitwana McTyer; Commission on Status and Role of Women: TBD; Conference Lay Leader: Paulette Monroe; Congregational Vitality: Sharon Daniels; East Angola/Florida: Sandi Goodman; Episcopacy: Molly McEntire; Equitable Compensation: Brian Carr; Finance/Administration Harriet Mayes; Florida United Methodist Foundation: Julia Mercier; Fresh Expressions: Audrey Warren; Global Mission & Justice: Mike Kennedy; Haiti Florida Covenant: Lianne Schrader; Haitian Ministries: Montreuil Milord; Higher Education/Campus Ministry: Tim Smiley; Hispanic Assembly: Lorena Barrero; Justice for Our Neighbors: Martha Rutland; Lay Servant Ministry: Rod Groom; Ministry Protection: Mark Arnold; Methodists United in Prayer: George Reed; Native American Ministry: Ed Taylor; Outreach Ministries: Pamela Qualls; Pensions/Health Benefits: Scott Davidson; Religion & Race: Mary Mitchell; Shade & Fresh Water: Lucy Wray; Social Justice: Sarah Miller; Spiritual Formation: Marilyn Swanson; Standing Rules: Steve Hart; Strategic Leadership Team: TBD; Trustees (Conference): Yoniece Dixon; Trustees; (FSC): Robert Fryer, Jr.; United Methodist Men: John
Delaney; United Methodist Women: Kay Roach; Women's Retreat Design Team: Valerie Neblett; Young Adult Missional Movement: Rachael Sumner; Young Clergy of Color: Nathan Adams; Youth/Young Adults: Kelly Minter

Conference Staff:
Director of Clergy Excellence: Sara McKinley; Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin; Connectional Ministries: Betsy Grizzard; Director of Camps/Retreats Ministry: Mike Standifer; Director of Congregational Vitality: Janet Earls; Director of Human Resources: Marilynn Mollica; Conference Youth Ministry Coordinator: Joel Pancoast; Director of Connectional Relations: Gretchen Hastings; Director of Global Mission: Icel Rodriguez; Director of Missional Engagement: Clarke Campbell-Evans; Director of New Church Development: Dan Jackson; Treasurer: Tony Prestipino; Controller: Craig Smelser; Claims/Risk Manager: LaNita Battles; Assistant to Bishop: Alex Shanks; Bishop: Kenneth Carter; Disaster Ministry: Pam Garrison; UMVIM: TBD

Members at Large: Chuck Mallue, Debbie McLeod, Alice Williams

Strategic Leadership Team
Chairperson: Kenneth Carter
District Superintendents: AC – Gary Spencer, EC – Bob Bushong, GC – Candace Lewis; NC – June Edwards, NE – Jay Therrell, NW – Durwood Foshee, SE - Cynthia Weems, SW – Rini Hernandez; Assistant to the Bishop: Alex Shanks; Treasurer: Tony Prestipino; Director of Clergy Excellence: Sara McKinley; Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin; Director of Missional Engagement: Clarke Campbell Evans; President of the FLUM Foundation: Mark Becker; Director of New Church Development: Dan Jackson; Director of Congregational Vitality: Janet Earls; Director of Connectional Relations: Gretchen Hastings; Layperson: Alice Williams; Clergyperson: Dale Locke

Conference Ministry Groups

Committee on Haitian Ministry
Chair: Montreuil Milord (16)
Vice Chair: Pierre Exantus (16)
Secretary: Myrlene Mist-Desmomes (16)
Vice Secretary: Judith Pierre-Okerson (16)
Haitian District Representatives: Pierre Exantus (16/24/AC); Tamara Isidore (13/21/SC); Montreuil Milord (16/24/SE); Myrlene Mist-Desmomes (16/24/SE); Judith Pierre-Okerson (16/24/SE); Elianuas Valmyr (15/13/EC)
Non-Haitian District Representatives from districts with Haitian Ministries: Nancy Gray (15/13/SC); Ed Ritter (13/21/SW)
Ex officio Members: District Superintendents in Districts with Haitian Congregations
By Virtue of Position: Immigration Law Consultant: Janet Horman (SE)

Hispanic Assembly
Chair: Lorena Barrero (17)
Vice Chair: TBA
Treasurer: Xiomara Domenech (16/20/SE)  
Secretary: Isabel Corona (16/20/SE)  
Christian Education, Jose Javier Hernandez (16/20/EC); Evangelism, Rodolfo Casayas (16/20/SE); Youth, Gabriel Hernandez (16/20/SE); Family Camp TBA; Communications, TBA; Worship, Eliezer Cortes (16/20/SE); Hispanic Academy, Pedro Jimenez (12/20/SE)  
Conference Staff: Icel Rodriguez, Director of Global Missions  

Outreach Ministries Committee  
Chair: Pamela Qualls  
Vice Chair: Brent McLaughlin  
Secretary: Deborah Brown  
Branches (SE): Brent McLaughlin  
Christians Reaching Out to Society (AC): Ruth Mageria  
Cornerstone Family Ministries, Inc. (SC): Cathy Capo Stone  
Grace Place for Children and Families (SW): Dave Tobiasz  
Halifax Urban Ministries, Inc. (EC): Mark Geallis  
JFON South Florida: Janet Horman  
UM Cooperative Ministries of Madison County (NW): Deborah Brown  
UM Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast, Inc. (GC): Pamela Qualls  
Director of Missional Engagement, Clarke Campbell-Evans  
Social Justice Committee: Chair – Sarah Miller (EC)  

Shade and Fresh Water  
Members: Lew Arnold (12/20/GC); Dawn Carter 15/23/EC); Martha Gay Duncan (15/23/SC); Marguerite Matthews (16/24/NC); Cynthia Morselli (17/25/SC); Trudy Corry Rankin (13/21/SC); Esther Rodriguez (16/24/SW); Marilyn Swanson (17/25/SC); Lucy Wray (13/21/GC)  
Clergy Excellence Advisors to Board: Sara McKinley  

Disaster Ministry Advisory Team  
Conference Coordinator: Pam Garrison  
Mary Lou Rothfuss (15/23/AC); Jeff Campbell (11/29/EC); Sherie Sayre (16/24/EC); Laura Ice (16/24/GC); Jim Watson (16/24/NC); Bill Knight (16/24/SC); Bruce Lee (15/23/SC); Jim Mitts (9/17/NE); Fred DeWitt (16/24/NE); Cesar Villafana (11/19/SE); SW: Ernie Ritta (16/24/SW); Thom Street (16/24/SW)  
Conference Staff: Pam Garrison; Disaster Recovery Ministry  

Conference Mission/Ministry Priorities  

Congregational Vitality  
Mark Caldwell (15/19/AC); Jennifer Chester (15/19/NE); Sharon Daniels (15/19/SC); Tony Fotsch (16/24/NE); Damon Hart (17/25/AC); Harry Holloman (16/24/NC); Juana Jordan (15/19/NE); Wes Olds (15/19/SW); Roberto Sanchez (17/25/SC); Sherlain Stevens (15/19/SE); Chris Wolf (16/24/GC); Marcus Zillman (13/21/SE)  
Conference Staff: Janet Earls, Congregational Vitality; Dan Jackson, New Church Starts  
Ex officio: Florida United Methodist Foundation: Mark Becker  
Cabinet Representative: Candace Lewis
Missions
Chair: Mike Kennedy (12)
George Reed; Chair of MUIP; Sandi Goodman; Chair of East Angola/Florida Partnership; TBD;
Chair of Haiti/Florida Covenant; Peter Cottrell, New Mission Initiatives; Larry Rankin, Missionary
support; Judith Pierre-Okerson (14/22/SE); UMW Representative
At Large: Carl Bergeson (13/21/NC); Marta Burke (17/25/AC); Pam Carter (16/24/SC); Camille
Feaster (17/25/NE); Jeff McClendon (14/22/NE); Mariam Mengistie (15/19/EC); Marsha Mullet
(14/22/GC); Armando Rodriguez (14/22/SC); Louis Telcy (16/24/GC); Matthew
Williams (17/25/SW), Ross Witschonke, (17/25/SW)
Conference Staff: Icel Rodriguez; Director of Global Missions; Clarke Campbell-Evans; Director
of Missional Engagement
Cabinet Representative: Rini Hernandez

Social Justice
Chair: Sarah Miller (14)
Outreach Ministry Chair: Pam Qualls; Immigration Chair: (TBD); Human Trafficking: Beth Potter;
Peace with Justice: Alma Manney, UMW representative: Edith Zewadski-Bricker
At large: Beth Bostrom (14/22/AC); Arllindall Burks (16/24/NE); John (Jad) Denmark (17/25/EC);
Emily Kvalheim (16/24/SE); Kenya Monroe (14/22/GC); Esther Rodriguez (16/24/SW)
Conference Staff: Sharon Austin; Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries; Clarke
Campbell-Evans; Director of Missional Engagement

Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
Chairperson: Tim Smiley (16)
Vice Chairperson: Mike Crawford (06)
Scholarship: Nathan Adams
Campus Ministry Representative: Erwin Lopez (EC)
Class of 2018: Nathan Adams (10/18/SE); Will Finnin (10/18/AC); Sharyn Ladner (14/22/SE);
Allison Manning (14/22/SC); Glenn Bosley-Mitchell (10/18/SE);
Class of 2019: Starr Clay (15/23/NW); Peter Elliott (16/24/SC); Jim Manuel (13/21/EC); Yvonne
McShay (13/21/SC); Steve Painter (15/23/NE)
Class of 2020: Joy Bridwell (16/24/SW); Drew Dancey (12/20/GC); Phyllis Klock (16/24/EC);
Willie A. Miller; Jr. (12/20/AC); Tim Smiley (16/24/AC); Tom Tift (16/24/AC); Deborah Zutter
(16/24/EC)
Class of 2021: Amanda Blount (13/21/SC); Kevin Johnson (17/25/NC); Jason Knott (15/23/NE);
Jim Olliver (17/25/GC); Alan Rowan (16/24/NW); Cynthia Sucher (13/21/NW); Jon Tschanz
(13/21/EC)
Ex officio: Bethune Cookman Representative: David Allen; FSC Church Relations Director:
Michael Crawford; Cabinet Representative: Cynthia Weems; Director of Connectional and
Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin; Conference

Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries
Chairperson: Mike Fordham (16)
Vice Chairperson: Audrey Warren (16)
Secretary:
Class of 2018: Mary McLendon (16/24/EC); John Welsh (16/24/AC)
Class of 2019: Mike Fordham (16/24/NW); Hunter Short (11/19SC); Jack Tilk (12/20/NW)
Class of 2020: Danny Bennett (15/23/SC); Linda Bowling (15/23/SW); David Cruz (12/20/SE); Steve Schneeberger (12/20/EC); David Stump (16/24/AC); Adam Zele (12/20/NC)
Class of 2021: Chris Haden (13/21/SC); Corey Jones (13/21/EC); Becky Rokitowski (17/25/GC); Audrey Warren (13/21/SE)
Ex officio: Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin; Conference Treasurer: Tony Prestipino; Conference Trustees Representative; Camps and Retreats Ministries Director: Mike Standifer
Cabinet Representative: Alex Shanks; Foundation: Andy Craske

Disciplinary Ministry Priorities

Commission on Archives and History
Chairperson: Anita Campbell (16)
Vice Chairperson: Carmen Nelson (16)
Secretary: Larry Loveday
Archivist: Nell Thrift
District Representatives: TBD (AC); Anita Campbell (11/19/EC); Morita Hadlock (11/19/SC); Kay Holley (16/24/GC); Carmen Nelson (16/24/NC); Maggie McDuffie (17/25/NE); TBD (NW); Larry Winebrenner (10/18/SE); TBD (SW)
At-Large: Opal Winebrenner (10/18/SE)
Ex officio: Nell Thrift; Conference Secretary: Elizabeth Gardner, Larry Loveday; Tom McClary; Consultant: Ivan Corbin

Commission on Religion and Race
Chairperson: Mary Mitchell (16)
Sandra Brooks (13/21/GC); Bob Douglass (17/25/SC); Jaime Faberlle (13/21/SW); Pamela Green (17/25/NW); Juana Jordan (16/24/SE); Mary Mitchell (16/24/NC); Aaron Rousseau (17/25/NC); Edwin Santos (13/21/EC); Thomas Shafer (17/25/SW); Latricia Scriven (17/25/NW); Bo Sim (17/25/GC); Carolyn Thomas (13/21/NC); Debra Thompson (17/25/NE); Oswald Sands (11/19/NE); Dawn Worden (17/25/SE)
Conference Liaison: Sharon Austin
General Commission on Religion and Race: Rini Hernandez

Small Membership Church Ministries
Class of 2019: Barbara Awoniyi (15/22/NW); John Newbold (15/22/NE); Steve Nolin (15/22/AC); Dan Rosier (15/22/NW)
Class of 2020: Mary Ashcraft (16/24/GC); Charley Watts (16/24/SW)
Conference Staff: Janet Earls; Congregational Vitality Specialist
Cabinet Representative: Durwood Foshee (NW)

Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Chairperson: TBD
Vice Chair: Andrew Miller (17)
Secretary: Karin Nordlander (16)
Members At Large:
Lay women: Gwen Dixon (11/19/NW); Rebecca Eppler (15/23/NE); Kyle Henderson (11/19/AC); Karin Nordlander (12/20/AC);
Clergy women: Lauren Dunkle Dancey (15/23/EC); Catherine Fluck-Price (16/24/NC); Susan Gray (16/24/AC); Robin Hager (17/25/SW); Tracy Hunter (16/24/EC); LeeAnn Inman (09/17/EC); Denise Morrell (17/25/NE); Alyce Parmer (14/22/NW); Nadine Richmond (13/21/EC); Emily Sterling (17/25/AC); Dora Thomas (16/24/EC); Sabrina Tu (10/18/SC)

Men: Will Cooper (17/25/NC); Andrew (Drew) Dancey (16/24/GC); Richard Jones (17/25/AC); Andrew Miller (16/24/EC); Johnny Rice (16/24/NC)

United Methodist Women Representative: Rosemary Uebel (GC)

Cabinet Representative: Sharon Austin

Ex officio: David Dodge; member of General COSROW

Committee on Native American Ministry
Chair: Ed Taylor (16)
Secretary: Marsha Taylor (16)
Treasurer: Cindy Suter (16)
Thom Barlow (12/20/SC); George McKeown (16/24/NW); Deane Palmer (16/24/SC); Cindy Suter (12/20/GC); Dale Taylor (10/18/NW); Ed Taylor (12/20/NC); Marsha Taylor (12/20/NC); CJ Walter (17/25/SE);
Ex officio: Sharon Austin; Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries

Conference Connection on Youth Ministry (CCYM)
Leadership and Graduates: Martha Brown (NC); Jenn Hess (EC); Donna Jarmon (NC); Kelly Minter (NE); Ashley Sabol (NE); Alyssa Shelamer (NC); Khloe Ziff (EC)
High School Membership: Lauren Andrews (NC); Justin Aprea (NC); Timothy Brown (NC); Danielle Clark (NC); Brooke Coulter (SC); Olivia Hilton (NC); Hannah Loper (EC); Lauren Muse (EC); Lindsay O’Ferrell (NC); Johan Quevedo (EC); Mary-Louise Parkkila (EC); Zara Toundas (NC); Laura Vaughan (EC); Craig Sava (EC); Jared Zack (SC)

Conference Youth Ministry Table
Class of 2017: Justin Cox (13/17/EC); Emily Givens (14/17/NC); Dave Jans (17/21/SC); David Stump (16/17/AC)
Class of 2018: Micah Keech (16/18/EC); David Schmidt (16/18/AC); Chris Tabone (16/18/NC)
Class of 2019: Bryan Amerling (17/19/NE); Emily Devries (17/19/SC); Matt Jones (17/19/NW); Chris Linderman (17/19/SE); Krista Mulholand (17/19/SW);
At Large: Joel Pancoast (NC); Kelly Minter (NE); Steve Schneeberger (EC)

Board of Lay Ministry
Conference Lay Leader: Paulette Monroe (16)
Vice Chair: Judith Pierre-Okerson (16)
Secretary: Alisa Rushing (16)
Treasurer: Nancy Metz (16)
Chairperson of the Lay Leadership Nominations Committee: Russ Graves (AC)

District Lay Leaders: William Messersmith (16/24/AC); Alice Williams (12/20/EC); Chris Wolfe (16/24/GC); Trish Thomas (16/24/NC); Patrice Peterson (16/20/NE); Jim Crosby (15/23/NW); John Reever (15/23/SC); Judith Pierre-Okerson (16/24/SE); Nancy Metz (14/22/SW)

Associate Lay Leaders: Rachael Sumner (12/20/AC); Kim Lee and Melanie Lee (16/24/EC); Keri LeBrandt (17/25/GC); Idella Gadson (16/24/NC); Rose Muller (12/20/NE); Dan Rosier (12/20/NW); Greg Uchimura (16/24/SC); Oswald Sands (12/20/SE); TBA (SW)

Lay Women: Elizabeth Petty (14/18/NE); Alisa Rushing (17/20/GC);
Lay Men: John Rogers (17/221/NE) and TBA
Young Adult Representatives: Molly McEntire (12/20/SC); Rushing Kimball (16/24/EC)
Youth Representatives: Sophia Williams
Older Adult Representative: Frances Jennings (16/24/NE)
Cabinet Representative: Durwood Foshee
By Virtue of Position: Director of Lay Servant Ministries: Rod Groom; Hispanic Assembly Representative: TBA; Haitian Ministry: TBA; Korean Representative: TBA; President, United Methodist Men: John Delaney; President, United Methodist Women: Kay Roach; Scouting Coordinator: D. R. Walker
Ex officio: Florida Area Resident Bishop; Kenneth Carter; Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries; Sharon Austin
Past Conference Lay Leader: Russ Graves (AC)
Staff Liaison: Sherri Lingle; Program Coordinator

Lay Servant Ministries
Conference Director: Rod Groom (16)
District Directors: Mary Lou Rothfuss (15/23/AC); Jim Boesch (15/23/EC); Lynn Campbell, Associate Director (16/23/EC); Robert Bruso (16/24/GC); Rhonda Smith (16/24/GC); Karen Rice (16/24/NC); Linda Cumbie (15/23/NE); Joyce Estes (16/24/NW); Rod Groom (17/25/SW)

Committee on Disability Awareness
Timothy Bricker (17/25/SE); Leslie Ketterman (17/25/NW); Lynn Picolo (17/25/NW); Jill Stephan (15/19/GC); Burt Stephens (17/25/NC)

United Methodist Men
President: John Delaney
First Vice President: Jim Boesch
Second Vice President: Charlie Perry
Secretary: Bill Fritchman
Treasurer: TBD
Cabinet Representative/Conference Lay Leader: TBD
Directors: John Dowell; Hakim Lucas
Ex-Officio Members: Rodney Akers, Past President; D.R. Walker, Conference Scouting Coordinator
District UMM Presidents: TBD (SE); Richard Gray (EC); Chet Klinger (GC); Michael Maxwell (NE); Stan Monroe (NW); Terry Sisco (SC); John Delaney (SW)
Cabinet Representative: Durwood Foshee

United Methodist Women
President: Kay Roach (16/NW)
Vice President: Mae Griner (16/NC)
Secretary: Linda Parrish (14/AC)
Treasurer: Ethel Ewing (13/SC)
Secretary of Program Resources-Kenya Monroe (14/SC)
Chair, Committee on Nominations: Denise Morrell (17/NE)
Social Justice Representative: Edith Zewadski-Bricker; Haitian Coordinator: Ciliane Louis (16/20/SE); Korean Coordinator: Julie Yo (17/21/SC); Hispanic Coordinator: Kathy Guevara-Acosta (15/19/SE); Dean, Missions u: Paulette Monroe (17/21/SC) ; UMW National Office
Director: Magdala Edmond (17/21/AC); UMW National Office Program Advisory Group Magdala Edmond (17/21/AC); SEJ Secretary: Gertrude Stewart (17/21/SE)
Class of 2017: Marilyn Holsipple (14/17/NC); Ruth Jean-Pierre (14/17/SE)
Class of 2018: Sookkyung Chae (15/18/SW); Denise Morrell (15/18/NE)
Class of 2019: Jannett Sue Hawley (16/19/SW); Martha Wellington (16/19/NC)
Class of 2020: Veronica Aiken (17/21/EC); Annabelle Bricker (15/21/SE)
Resident Bishop: Kenneth Carter; Cabinet Representative: June Edwards

The Ministry of the Ordained

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
Chairperson: Brett Opalinski (16)
Vice Chairperson: David Miller (16)
Secretary: Christine Holden (16)
Registrar: Sara McKinley
Chair of the Order of Elders: Dionne Hammond
Chair of the Order of Deacons: Monique McBride
Chair Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members: Will Clark

Class of 2020: Debbie Allen (15/20/NC); Dan Bell (08/20/SE); Anne Burkholder (09/20/); Mark Caldwell (11/20/SE); Terri Hill (08/20/AC); Christine Holden (11/20/SW); Tracy Hunter (08/20/EC); Robert Laidlaw (08/20/NW); Monique McBride (11/20/NC); Tom McCloskey (08/20/EC); Debbie McLeod (16/20/NE); David Miller (08/20/EC); Brett Opalinski (08/20/SE); Jeremy Rebman (08/20/AC); Sidney Tompkins (08/20/GC)

Class of 2024: Arlindall Burks (12/24/NE); Melissa Cooper (12/24/NC); Kevin James (13/24/EC); Lee Lallance (15/24/SC); Richard Landon (12/24/GC); Montreuil Milord (12/24/SE); Tapiwa Mucherera (12/24/EC); Simon Osunlana (12/24/SE); Melissa Pisco (13/24/NE); Sam Ramirez (12/24/SC); Armando Rodriguez (12/24/SC); Scott Smith (12/24/EC); Wayne Wiatt (16/24/NW)

Class of 2028: Will Clark (16/28/NE); Luc Dessieux (16/28/SE); Susan Gray (16/28/AC); Dionne Hammond (16/28/AC); Cathy Hart (16/28/GC); Chris Jones (16/28/EC); Nakako Kellum (16/28/SW); Wes Olds (16/28/SW); Betsy Ouellette-Zierden (16/28/NC); Danilo Quevedo (16/28/SC); Charley Reeb (16/28/GC); Jenn Stiles-Williams (16/28/EC); Roy Terry (16/28/GC); Matthew Williams (16/28/SC)

Lay Members: Jill Kibler (12/24/AC); Mark Capron (09/20/SC); Shari Chroviyan (16/28/SW); Janet Earls (16/28/SC); Dave Elyea (09/20/NW); Jeremy Hearn (16/28/SC); Jeanie Jacques (15/24/SE); Sharon Luther (16/28/SW); Guy Minviel (09/20/SE); Heather Pancoast (16/28/NC); Derrick Scott (17/29/NE); Sam Sheets (12/24/SC); Alice Williams (16/28/EC)
Ex officio: Executive Director, Center for Clergy Excellence: Sara McKinley
Cabinet Representative: Bob Bushong

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee
Chairperson: Brett Opalinski (16); Vice Chairperson/Leadership: David Miller (16); Secretary: Christine Holden (16); Theology Chair: Tracy Hunter; Proclamation Chair: Jeremy Rebman; Leadership Chair: Debbie McLeod; Personal Growth Chair: Sidney Tompkins; Chair of the Order of Elders/Leadership: Dionne Hammond; Chair of the Order of Deacons/Theology: Monique McBride; Chair of Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members: Will Clark; Cabinet Representative: Bob Bushong; Registrar: Sara McKinley; Laity Rep/theology: Mark
Capron; At Large: Luc Dessieux (Creole speaking); Armando Rodriguez (Spanish Speaking); Simon Osunlana

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Conference Relations Committee
Chair/Leadership: Wayne Wiatt; BOOM Chair: Brett Opalinski; BOOM Vice Chair/Leadership: David Miller; Secretary: Christine Holden (16); Laity Rep/theology: Mark Capron; Personal Growth Chair: Sidney Tompkins; Registrar: Sara McKinley; At Large/Leadership; Simon Osunlana; Chair of the Order of Elders/Leadership: Dionne Hammond; Chair of the Order of Deacons/Theology: Monique McBride

Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Chairperson: Scott Davidson (16)
Vice Chairperson: Clare Chance (16)
Secretary: Patrice Peterson (16)
Treasurer: Tony Prestipino (15)
Clergy: David Averill (13/21/NC); Archie Buie (15/24/SC); Clare Chance (12/20/NE); David Dodge (16/24/SC); John Hicks (15/19/NW); Doug McClain (15/19/AC)
Laymen: John Benton (11/19/NW); Scott Davidson (10/18/EC); Walter Dry (12/20/GC); Tom McCracken (14/22/NC)
Laywomen: JoAnna Franz (15/19/SC); Gloria Campbell (16/24/GC); Kyle Henderson (12/20/AC); Karen Huff (14/22/NE); Irene Ingram-Bailey (14/22/NE); Linda Moss (12/20/AC); Patrice Peterson (10/18/NE); Ann Pierre Louis (17/25/SE); Sharon Saige (16/24/AC)
Ex officio: Conference Secretary: Elizabeth Gardner; Conference Treasurer: Tony Prestipino; Conference Human Resources: Marilyn Mollica
Cabinet Representative: Gary Spencer

Committee on Clergy Effectiveness
Chairperson: Annette Pendergrass (17)
Jim Harnish (15/23/SC); Bruce Jones (15/23/NE); Joanes Martin (15/23/AC); Geraldine McClellan (17/25/NC); Ben Stilwell Hernandez (15/23/EC); Annette Stiles Pendergrass (16/24/AC); Sheryl Marks Williams (15/23/SE); Lucy Wray (15/23/GC); Sam Wright (17/25/SW)
Ex officio: Director, Office of Clergy Excellence: Sara McKinley; Cabinet Representative—Cynthia Weems

Joint Committee on Medical Leave
Chairperson: Scott Davidson
Secretary: Patrice Peterson
Cabinet Representative: Jay Therrell
Executive Director of Division of Ministry: Sara McKinley
Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits: Marilynn Mollica
Conference Board of Ordained Ministry: James Lake (10/20/AC)

Commission on Equitable Compensation
Chairperson: Brian Carr (12)
Class of 2017: Bruce Jones (13/21/NE); Ithamar Fonrose (13/21/EC); Jackie McMillan (12/20/GC)
Class of 2018: Chris Akers (14/22/EC); Michael Frazier (14/22/GC); Janie McCluney (12/20/NC); Jim Thomas (14/22/SW)

Class of 2019: Jay Kowalski (15/23/GC); Simon Osunlana (15/23/SE); C.J. Walter (15/19/SE)

Class of 2020: Brian Carr (12/20/EC); Susan Gray (16/24/NC); Oscar Negron (16/24/SE)

Class of 2021: Joyce Waldon Bright (17/25/EC)

Cabinet Representative: Cynthia Weems

Director of Missional Engagement, Clarke Campbell-Evans; Conference Treasurer, Tony Prestipino

Committee on Institute of Preaching
Chairperson: Kent Crow (16)

Class of 2020: Matthew Hartsfield (12/20/SC); Bruce Jones (13/21/NE); Daren Richards (16/24/SC)

Class of 2024: Bruce Toms (16/24/SC); John Griswold (16/24/GC); Juana Jordan (16/24/SE); Matt Horan (16/24/SE); Kent Crow (16/24/AC); Linda Tice (16/24/GC)

Conference Staff: Director, Office of Clergy Excellence: Sara McKinley

Ex officio: Jim Harnish; Nathan Kirkpatrick

Emeritus: Gene Zimmerman

Committee on Investigation
Chairperson: Anthony Tatti (15)

Clergy: Lawrence Barriner (15/23/NE); Gustavo Betancourt (15/23/SE); Justin LaRosa (15/23/SC); Betsy Ouellette-Zierden (15/23/NW)

Lay: Oscar Negron (15/23/SE); Ed Qualls (15/23/GC); Anthony Tatti (15/23/NC)

Alternate Members - Clergy: Cheryl Jane (CJ) Walter (15/23/SE); Nako Kellum (15/23/SE)

Alternate Members - Laity: Gary Sanders (15/23/NC)

The Stewardship of the Conference

Board of Trustees of the Florida United Methodist Conference; Inc.
President: Yoniece Dixon (15)
Vice President: Ken Hamilton (17)
Secretary: Jim Myers (17)

Class of 2018: Michael Weaver (14/22/SW)

Class of 2019: Yoniece Dixon (11/19/SC); Jim Luther (15/23/SW)

Class of 2020: Jeff Bennett (16/24/NE); Ken Hamilton (16/24/NW); John Legg (12/20/EC); Mozelle Thomas (12/20/NE)

Class of 2021: Arch Johnston (17/25/GC); Kenya Monroe (17/25/SC); Carol Musselman (17/25/SW); Jim Myers (17/25/SC); Larry Powell (17/25/SC)

Ex officio: Florida Area Resident Bishop: Kenneth Carter; Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin; Conference Treasurer: Tony Prestipino; Chair, Higher Education and Campus Ministry: Tim Smiley; Director Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries: Mike Standifer; Chair, Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries: Mike Fordham; President of Florida United Methodist Foundation: Mark Becker; Cemeteries; Ed Dinkins

Cabinet Representative: June Edwards

Council on Finance and Administration
President: Harriet Mayes (15)
Vice President: Kelly Smith (16)
Secretary: Jim Mitchell (16)

Class of 2018: Sue Piirainen (14/22/SW)
Class of 2019: Russ Barlow (15/23/GC); Carolyn Williamson (15/23/NE)
Class of 2020: Scott Harris (16/24/EC); Harriet Mayes (12/20/SC); John Rose (16/24/SC); Donna Ruhsam (16/24/NE); Kim Uchimura (12/20/SC); Matt White (16/24/AC)
Class of 2021: Cedric Lewis (17/25/NE); Cliff Melvin (17/25/AC); Jim Mitchell (13/21/SC); Kelly Smith (13/21/EC); Carey Sumner (17/25/NE); Bridget Thornton (13/21/NE)
Ex officio: Florida Area Resident Bishop: Ken Carter; Conference Treasurer: Tony Prestipino; Assistant to the Bishop: Alex Shanks; Director of Connectional and Social Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin; President, The United Methodist Foundation, Inc. Mark Becker; Chairperson of Ministry Protection: Mark Arnold; Cabinet Representative: Jay Therrell

Ministry Protection
Chairperson: Mark Arnold (16)
Vice Chair: Dennis Royer (16)
Class of 2018: Steve Edwards (14/22/NC); Barb Riggs (14/22/SW)
Class of 2019: Mark Arnold (11/19/GC); Daphne Johnson (11/19/GC)
Class of 2020: Dennis Royer (12/20/SE); C.J. Hill (16/24/SC)
Class of 2021: Tommy Martin (13/21/EC); Chip Williams (1/25/NC)
Representative from CF&A: Yoniece Dixon; Conference Trustees Representative: Harriet Mayes
Ex-opic: Conference Treasurer: Tony Prestipino; Claims/Risk Manager: LaNita Battles; Conference Chancellor: Mark Hanley

Committee on Conference Nominations and Leadership
Chairperson: Bishop Kenneth Carter
Assistant to the Bishop: Alex Shanks; District Superintendents: AC – Gary Spencer, EC – Bob Bushong, GC – Candace Lewis, NC – June Edwards, NE – Jay Therrell, NW – Durwood Foshee, SE – Cynthia Weems, SW – Rini Hernandez; Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries: Sharon Austin; Conference Secretary: Elizabeth Gardner; Conference Lay Leader: Paulette Monroe; Conference President, United Methodist Men: John Delaney; Conference President, United Methodist Women: Kay Roach; District Representatives: William Messersmith (16/24/AC); Alice Williams (12/20/EC); Chris Wolfe (16/24/GC); Trish Thomas (16/24/NC); Patrice Peterson (16/24/NE); Jim Crosby (12/20/NW); Judith Pierre-Oerson (16/24/SE); Nancy Metz (14/22/SW)

Committee on Standing Rules
Chairperson: Steve Hart (14)
Class of 2018: Steve Hart (14/22/AC)
Class of 2019: Chris Sanders (15/23/NE)
Class of 2020: Edward Kellum (12/20/SW); Jonathan Smith (12/20/NE)
Class of 2021: Mark Capron (13/21/SC); David Juliano (13/21/SW); Judith Pierre-Oerson (17/25/SE); Linda Tice (13/21/GC)
Ex officio: Conference Secretary: *Elizabeth Gardner*, Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries: *Sharon Austin*; Bishop’s Representative: *Alex Shanks*

**Episcopal Oversight**

**Committee on Episcopacy**
Co-Chairpersons: Molly McEntire and *Alex Shanks*
Vice Chairperson: *Jorge Acevedo*
Secretary: Sharon Luther
Members: Molly McEntire (16/24/SC); Sharon Luther (16/24/SW)
Scott Davidson (16/24/EC); Mike Kennedy (16/24/GC); Chuck Mallue (16/24/EC)
*Jorge Acevedo* (16/24/SW); *Dionne Hammond* (16/24/AC); *Alex Shanks* (17/25/SC); *Juana Jordan* (16/24/SE); *Armando Rodriguez* (16/24/SC); *Vicki Walker* (16/24/SC)
Conference Lay Leader: Paulette Monroe; Conference UMM President: John Delaney;
Conference UMW President: Kay Roach
Board of Trustees Representative: Mozelle Thomas

**Administrative Review Committee**
Chairperson:
Members: *Gary Upleger* (12/20/NC)
Alternates: *Chuck Englehardt* (12/20/SW); *Daphne Johnson* (12/20/GC)

**Annual Conference Committees**

**Committee on Annual Conference Program**
Co-Chairpersons: *Alex Shanks* and *Sharon Austin*
Bishop: *Ken Carter*; Assistant to the Bishop: *Alex Shanks*; Conference Director of Connectional Ministries and Social Justice: *Sharon Austin*; Conference Lay Leader: Paulette Monroe;
Conference Secretary: *Elizabeth Gardner*; Worship Coordinator – *Sarah Miller*; Conference Director of Connectional Relations: Gretchen Hastings

**Committee on Memoirs**
Co-Chairpersons: *Dennis* and Ann *White* (15/23/NE)

**Committee on Resolutions**
Chairperson: *Emily Hotho* (17)
Class of 2017: *Melanie Fierbaugh* (14/22/SW)
Class of 2018: *Matt Horan* (14/22/SC); Mike McFadden (14/22/GC)
Class of 2019: *Randy Strickland* (11/19/NE)
Class of 2020: *Emily Hotho* (16/24/GC)
Ex officio: Conference Secretary, *Elizabeth Gardner*

**Election Procedures Committee**
Chairperson: *Cory Britt* (16)
Vice Chairperson:
Cory Britt (12/20/SC); Tracy Hunter (14/22/SC); Sharon Luther (12/20/SW); Nancy Mayuex (16/24/SW); Jennifer Potter-Buff (16/24/GC)

Ex-officio: Conference Secretary, Elizabeth Gardner

Standing Task Teams

“Beyond 50” Ministries
Co-Chairpersons: Gary Rideout (16) and Jerry Smith (16)
David Broadbent (11/19/AC), Gary Rideout (16/24/EC); Jerry Smith (15/23/NW); Carmen Perez (15/23/SE)

Methodists United in Prayer (Formerly Cuba/Florida Covenant)
Chair: George Reed (14)
Vice Chair: Dan Christopherson (14)
Secretary: Renee Kincaid (09)
Methodist Seminary rep: Van & Dee Beggarly (17/25/NE)
Alice Matthews (17/25/AC); Chris Akers (17/25/EC); Rusty Belcher (13/21/EC); Elsa Kaye (17/25/NC); Aldo Martin (10/18/EC); Karen Laukat (13/21/GC); George Reed (15/23/NE); Sanford Mayo (15/23/NC); Terry Denham (10/18/NW); Paul & Ibis Griffith (15/23/SC); Renee Kincaid (10/18/SC); Roberto Lopez (15/23/SC); Blanca Hermida (10/18/SE); , Roberto Pinera (10/18/SE); Larry Rankin (17/25/SC); Dan Christopherson (10/18/SW); Frank Yong (17/25/NE)
Conference Staff: Icel Rodriguez, Director of Global Missions

East Angola/Florida Partnership
Chair: Sandi Goodman (14)
Steve Hart (13/21/AC); Mike Baker (15/23/GC); Will Clark (13/21/NC); Nancy Vallario (1C); Don Zeiser (11/8/NE); Patsy Rabb (11/19/NE); Armando Rodriguez (13/21/SC); Sandi Goodman (13/21/SE); Simon Osunlana (SE); Linda Scott (SW); Wayne Stockbower (15/23/SW)
Conference Staff: Icel Rodriguez, Director of Global Missions

Missionary Support
Chair: Larry Rankin (16)
Carl Bergeson (16/24/NC); David Carefoot (17/25/EC); Lia Icaza-Willetts (17/25/SW); George Reed (16/24/NE), Jeff McClendon (16/24/NE); Larry Rankin (16/24/SC); Sandi Goodman (16/24/SE); Margaret Kartwe (16/24/SE)
Conference Staff: Icel Rodriguez, Director of Global Mission

Haiti/Florida Covenant
Chair: Lianne Schraeder (15)
Daniel Esperanz (16/24/AC); Thomas Toussaint (13/21/EC); Laura E. Berg (15/23/EC); Lianne Schraeder 13/21/NW); Pam Carter (13/21/SC); Jetro Jeune (13/21/SC)
Conference Staff: Greg Harford, UMVIM Coordinator; Icel Rodriguez, Director of Global Mission

Spiritual Formation
Chair: Marilyn Swanson (16)
Lew Arnold (15/23/GC); Donna Bauernschub (13/21/SC) Debbie Halcomb (17/25/EC); Kathy Houser (12/20/NE); Sarah Madsen (17/25/GC); Trudy Corry Rankin (13/21/SC); Marilyn Swanson (15/23/SC)
Conference Staff: Sherri Lingle, Program Coordinator, Connectional Ministries

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)
Coordinator: TBA
Beth Bostrom (16/24/AC); Mike Coffey (16/24/EC Bruce Anderson (15/23/GC); Jane Dunn (16/24/AC); Andrew Kastner (16/24/SE); Luz Ortiz (16/24/EC); Anna Peterson (16/24/SC); Scarlett Smith (16/24/NW)
Conference Staff: Greg Harford, UMVIM Coordinator; Icel Rodriguez, Director of Global Mission

Women’s Retreat Design Team
Chairperson: Valerie Neblett (18)
Class of 2018: Mary Best (03/18/AC); Deborah Davis (98/18/NW)
Class of 2019: Sierra Clark (15/19/GC); Valerie Beckles-Neblett (15/19/SE); Suzanne Raines (15/19/GC); Cynthia Ulrich (15/19/SC)
Class of 2020: Sheila Rust (16/20/GC); Robin Stetler (16/20/SW); Tabatha Parish (14/20/SC)
Class of 2021: TBD
Conference Staff: Sherri Lingle, Program Coordinator, Connectional Ministries

Focused Task Teams

Kid Min
Co-Conveners: Melissa Cooper (15), Annette Johnson (17)
Jennifer Blessing (17/25/SC); Caitlin Booth (17/25/EC); Melissa Cooper (15/23/NC); Lauren Dickey (17/25/EC); Annette Johnson (17/25/NC); Vicky Mackey (17/25/SW); Christi Moore (17/25/SC); Shannon Vianello (17/25/NC); Betsy Mae Wilson (16/24/NC); Carrie Yoder (15/23/NE)

Prison/Jail Ministry
Patti Aupperlee (16/24/AC); Steve Hart (11/19/AC); Stephen Hoffman (15/23/SW); Laura Ice (15/23/GC); Cindy Lane (12/20/SC); David Williamson (15/23/NE); Sherlain Stevens (17/25/EC)
Conference Staff: Pam Garrison, Disaster Recovery Ministry

Young Adult Missional Movement
Chair: Rachael Sumner (15)
Vice-chair: Josias Andujar (17)
Secretary: Keri LaBrant (17)
Treasurer: Clarke Campbell Evans (17)
Josias Andujar (16/24/AC); Ruth Berlus (16/24/SE); Beth Bostrom (16/24/AC); Letra Davis (17/25/SC); Keri LaBrant (15/23/GC); Molly McEntire (15/23/SC); Nancy Metz (15/23/SW); Tita Parham (17/25/EC); Rachael Sumner (15/23/AC)
Extended Connection Leaders
(Boards of Directors and Trustees of Related Institutions)
Reports will be posted online by May 11, 2017

Justice For Our neighbors

- Trustees, Florida United Methodist Children’s Home
- Board of Directors, Florida United Methodist Foundation; Inc.
- Preachers Relief Board
- Trustees, Florida Southern College
- Trustees, Bethune-Cookman University
- Florida Conference Historical Society

District Leaders
Reports will be posted online after Annual Conference
District Leadership is nominated by District Committees on Leadership (Nominations) to serve in various capacities in both the conference and the district.
On behalf of the Standing Rules Committee, what follows is the proposed revised Standing Rules presented to the 2017 Florida Annual Conference for approval. This version reflects paragraph number changes that make our Standing Rules consistent with the 2016 Book of Discipline.

There are also some changes that reflect the composition of conference committees in terms of membership and organization, all of which reflect conformity to the 2016 Book of Discipline and changes previously approved by this Annual Conference. Additionally, this version reflects the proposed change in the number of Districts that will be presented by the Cabinet prior to the Standing Rules Report.

Many thanks to the Standing Rules committee members and the dedicated conference staff for working to put this together. It is an honor to work with such great people.

Steve Hart
Chairperson, Standing Rules Committee
Par. 101. Establishment. The Annual Conference establishes the following Standing Rules under the authority of ¶ 610 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012-2016) (“The Discipline”), which permits the Annual Conference to structure its own ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Par. 102. Purpose. The Standing Rules prescribe the ministries of the Annual Conference and the administrative procedures it shall follow.

Par. 103. Amendment. A two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to amend or change the Standing Rules.

Par. 104. Suspension. A two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference members present and voting shall be required to suspend the Standing Rules.

Par. 105. Discipline Controls. If a Standing Rule conflicts with The Discipline in any way, The Discipline shall control.

Par. 106. Definitions.
1. The Discipline: unless otherwise noted, refers to The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2012-2016).
2. Annual Conference or Conference: unless otherwise noted, refers to the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.
3. Conference agency: any council, board, commission, committee, or other structural grouping established by the Standing Rules of the Conference or mandated by The Discipline.
4. Ex-officio member: unless otherwise noted, all ex-officio members shall have voice but not vote.

Section II. Standing Rules Committee


Par. 108. Membership. The committee shall consist of eight members. The committee shall serve as a team, being elected as a single class quadrennially. In order to provide continuity and stability, the newly nominated committee will include at least two members from the previous quadrennium’s committee. The Conference Secretary, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and a representative of the Bishop’s office shall serve as ex-officio members.

Par. 109. Officers. The Conference Committee on Nominations will designate a Chair. The Committee will elect a Vice-chair and a Secretary from its membership at its first meeting of the quadrennium.

Par. 110. Powers and Duties. The Standing Rules Committee shall have authority to perform the following duties:
1. Consider all proposed amendments or changes to the Standing Rules and present them to the Annual Conference after:
   a. Determining that proposed amendments or changes do not conflict with other Standing Rules or The Discipline;
   b. Reviewing proposed amendments or changes for clarity of language and appropriate location in the Standing Rules;
2. Determine whether the Annual Conference has all agencies required by The Discipline or, where permitted by The Discipline, other structures to provide the functions mandated by The Discipline, and report its findings to
the Annual Conference;

3. Keep the Standing Rules current by recommending updates each year to the Annual Conference for action;

4. Have committee members at each session of the Annual Conference to monitor the business and recommend changes to the rules to reflect the action of the Annual Conference;

5. Inform the Bishop of Standing Rules violations;

6. Maintain the Standing Rules in a user-friendly format to facilitate compliance with the Standing Rules; and

7. After each Annual Conference session, promptly submit a current version of the Standing Rules to the Conference Secretary for publication on the Conference website and in the Conference Journal.

Chapter Two
ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Section I. Officers

Par. 201. The Annual Conference Secretary.

1. Election. The Conference Secretary shall be elected quadrennially at the first session of the Annual Conference following the General Conference, assuming office on September 1, and shall be eligible to serve no more than two consecutive quadrennia. In the event of a vacancy, the Cabinet shall have authority to appoint a successor, subject to confirmation by the next session of the Annual Conference.

2. Powers and Duties. In addition to other responsibilities, the Secretary shall perform the following duties:
   a. Editor of Conference Journal. Edit and publish the Conference Journal;
   b. Nominates Secretarial Assistants and Committee on Journal. Nominate Secretarial Assistants and members of the Committee on Journal, as needed, for annual election by the Annual Conference;
   c. Custodian of Conference Books and Archives. Serve as the custodian of the books and archives of the Conference and annually report where they are kept, cooperating with the Commission on Archives and History in the discharge of this responsibility and serving as an ex-officio member of that Committee;
   d. Ex-Officio Member of Committees. Be an ex-officio member of the Annual Conference Event Program Committee, the Committee on Resolutions, the Standing Rules Committee, the Conference Committee on Leadership, the Elections Procedures Committee, the Conference Commission on Archives and History, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the Service Years Committee of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Par. 202. The Annual Conference Treasurer: Powers and Duties. In addition to other responsibilities, the Treasurer shall have the following duties:

1. Keep Records and Inventory of Conference Property.
   a. In cooperation with Conference Trustees, maintain records and tend to title issues of all real properties owned by the Conference and the Districts;
   b. Keep an up-to-date inventory of all office equipment, furnishings, software, and other valuable tangible items owned by the Conference and the Districts.

2. Keep Record of Insurance. After consultation with the proper agencies and in cooperation with the Ministry Protection Committee, the Treasurer shall keep a record of all insurance for the Conference, Districts and Conference agencies involving coverage of property, accident, liability, and fidelity.

3. Conference Statistician. The Treasurer shall serve as Conference Statistician, collecting the statistics of the Annual Conference, editing the Statistical Tables for publication in the Conference Journal, and reporting to each regular session of the Annual Conference.

4. Administrator of the United Methodist Conference Center. In consultation with the Office of the Bishop, the Conference Trustees, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and the organizations housed therein, the Treasurer shall be the administrator of the United Methodist Conference Center.

5. Personnel and Human Resource Officer. In consultation with the Executive Committee of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Treasurer shall serve as the Personnel and Human Resource Officer for Conference and District staff.
Section II. Membership of the Annual Conference

Par. 203. Lay Members of Annual Conference. The lay members of the Annual Conference are set forth in ¶ 32 of The Discipline. The district presidents of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women shall also be members. The following Conference Officers, if laypersons, shall also be members: President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Director of the Office for Clergy Excellence, the Director of Missional Engagement, Chair of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Chair of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Chair of the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries, President of the Conference Board of Trustees, Chair of the Conference Committee on Congregational Vitality, Chair of the Standing Rules Committee, the Conference Treasurer, the Conference Secretary, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Director of the Office of Congregational Vitality, the Conference Chancellor, the Director of Lay Servant Ministries, and the Conference Global Missions Secretary. The Conference Secretary shall compute annually the number of additional Lay Professing Members needed to equal the Ministerial Members, and shall distribute the number to be elected by each district on the basis of the percentage of pastoral charges in that district. The District Committee on Leadership (Nominations) shall nominate, and the District Leadership Council shall elect, these additional lay members.

Section III. Location of Annual Conference

Par. 204. The Annual Conference shall meet, upon invitation, at such places as may be selected by the Conference, or by the Bishop and Cabinet.

Section IV. Business of the Annual Conference, Rules of Procedure

Par. 205. Committee on Journal. Upon nomination of the Secretary, the Conference shall elect a Committee on Journal at the beginning of each Annual Conference session. This committee shall consist of three members of the Conference and shall examine the daily minutes, make any needed corrections, and make a cumulative report on the final day of the Annual Conference session. The adoption of their report shall be the approval of the minutes.

Par. 206. Resolutions.
1. Who May Submit a Resolution. The following persons and entities may submit a resolution before the Florida Annual Conference:
   a. Any Conference agency;
   b. Any clergy member (full connection, provisional, or local pastor, including retired pastors) of the Conference;
   c. Any lay member of the Conference; or,
   d. Any layperson who is a member of a local church within the Conference and whose church council (or other similar governing body) has endorsed their resolution.
2. Submission and Filing Deadlines.
   a. The Conference Secretary will publish guidelines for resolutions so that they are submitted in Workbook-ready format. Resolutions will be submitted in Workbook-ready format to the Conference Secretary, or the Secretary’s designate, through U.S. mail, electronically, or any other reasonable means the Conference Secretary determines.
   b. Each resolution must address only one issue if the resolution does not address The Discipline. If a resolution does affect The Discipline it must address only one paragraph of The Discipline, except that, if two or more paragraphs in The Discipline are so closely related that a change in one affects the other, the resolution may call for the amendment of those paragraphs also to make them consistent with one another.
   c. Every resolution requiring implementation will include: a. financial impact to the Conference; b. name of the implementing organization or persons; c. if communication or referral is required, will designate the person or persons responsible for the communication or referral.
   d. All submitted resolutions must be received by the Conference Secretary by January 31 to be considered at the regular Annual Conference Event later that year.
A resolution may be submitted for consideration at the Annual Conference Event after the deadline only if the subject of the resolution arose after the deadline, and in any event all resolutions must be submitted 24 hours before resolutions are debated at the Annual Conference Event. All resolutions submitted after the deadline still must meet all other requirements set forth in the Standing Rules. The Committee on Resolutions will be the final judge to determine if the subject of the resolution arose after the publishing deadlines. If the Committee on Resolutions decides the resolution was properly submitted after the deadline, it will forward the resolution for consideration at the appropriate Annual Conference Event. For resolutions determined to be properly submitted after the deadline, the submitting party must provide enough copies for all delegates attending the Annual Conference Event, and the cost of such copies will be borne by the submitting party.

Each resolution must be signed by the person(s) submitting it, accompanied by appropriate identification, such as address, local church, or Conference agency relationship. Each petition submitted electronically must identify the individual submitting it, accompanied by identification as above, and must contain a valid electronic mail return address. Electronic signatures will be accepted in accordance with common business practices.

The Committee on Resolutions will determine if the above requirements have been met for any and all resolutions submitted to the Conference Secretary. If a resolution is deemed by the Committee on Resolutions to have been properly submitted, it will be submitted for consideration at the Annual Conference Event. If a resolution has not been properly submitted, the Committee on Resolutions will return it to its sponsors for revision, however, all revisions must meet the deadlines specified above to be properly before the Annual Conference.

Resolutions Involving, or Potentially Involving, Conference Legal Rights or Obligations. If the Committee on Resolutions determines a resolution involves the potential legal rights or obligations of the Conference, or its agencies, the Committee on Resolutions will request an opinion or comment from the Conference Chancellor. Before the debate of any such resolutions, the Conference Chancellor, or his/her designate, will speak before the Conference and share his/her legal opinions concerning the resolution(s). This speech will not count against the debate limitations referenced in Standing Rule 207.

Resolutions Involving, or Potentially Involving, Other Conference Agencies. If the Committee on Resolutions determines a resolution involves the work of a Conference agency, the Committee on Resolutions will request an opinion or comment from the respective agency or agencies. Before the debate of a resolution involving the work of a Conference agency, the respective agency will be entitled to speak once before the Annual Conference and share its opinions and comments concerning the resolution. This speech or speeches will not count against the debate limitations referenced in Standing Rule 207.

Resolutions Binding for One Year. Resolutions adopted by the Annual Conference will be valid for the lesser of: one year; or until they are specifically rescinded, amended, or superseded by action of subsequent sessions of the Annual Conference. If the intent of a resolution is to be binding upon the Annual Conference for more than one year, then a resolution must provide the appropriate language to amend the Standing Rules to allow for the indefinite implementation of the resolution.

Order in Which Resolutions are Debated. The Committee on Resolutions will determine the order in which resolutions are debated before the Annual Conference.

Vote Count Appended to Resolutions. Every resolution upon which a vote has been taken, and the yeas and number of that vote were recorded, will have the vote count attached to it in all distributions of that resolution.

Par. 207. Debate and Discussion of Conference Matters.

1. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the presiding bishop before being debated. The Annual Conference shall determine how to recognize those members wishing to speak in debate.

2. The member upon whose motion a subject is brought before the Annual Conference, or the member reporting a measure from a committee, is first entitled to the floor to speak for the motion. The next speech shall be against the pending motion. The speeches shall then alternate between those for and those against the motion.

3. All speeches shall be limited to three minutes per speech.

4. No member can speak a second time to a question until every member choosing to speak has spoken.

5. The member who made the motion is entitled to close the debate. If the previous question is ordered, the presiding bishop shall at once assign that member the floor to close the debate.

6. As long as there are members wishing to speak, a motion to call the previous question may not be made until there have been two speeches for and two speeches against the pending motion.

7. Debate on any issue shall be limited to three speeches for and three against the pending motion. Then the vote shall be taken unless the rule is suspended.

Section V. Annual Conference Event Program Committee and Committee on Memoirs

Par. 208. Annual Conference Event Program Committee.
1. Purpose. The Annual Conference Program Committee shall plan, implement and evaluate the session of the Annual Conference and all matters relating to that session. The Annual Conference Program Committee is empowered to establish any task forces necessary to accomplish and fulfill its work.

2. Membership. The committee shall include the Bishop, the Assistant to the Bishop, the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, the Conference Lay Leader, the Conference Secretary, the Worship Coordinator, and the Conference Director of Connectional Relations. The Assistant to the Bishop and the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries shall serve as co-chairs of the Program Committee. They shall be empowered to name other members to the Program Committee as are needed to fulfill the planning and execution of a successful session of the Annual Conference. A Certified Meeting Planner may be engaged to provide expertise and assistance in the successful planning and execution of the session of the Annual Conference.

Par. 209. Committee on Memoirs
1. Purpose. The purpose of the Committee on Memoirs is to send expressions of sympathy on behalf of the Annual Conference to family members following the death of a pastor or spouse. Further, the Committee will organize and oversee the Memorial Banquet for family members.

2. Membership. The members and Chair (or co-Chairs) of the Committee on Memoirs are to be nominated and elected by the Annual Conference on an annual basis.

3. Duties. The Committee will have the following duties:
   a. To send a card or letter of condolence on behalf of the Annual Conference to immediate family members following the death of a pastor or spouse.
   b. To make arrangements through the Annual Conference Event Coordinator for the Memorial Luncheon.
   c. To notify family members of the date of the Memorial Service and Memorial Luncheon as soon as it is set, and to receive Luncheon reservations for those who are able to participate in it.
   d. To contact family members requesting biographical information and a recent picture of the deceased for inclusion in the Memorial Booklet and Journal.
   e. To make arrangements with the Conference Staff for the production and printing of the Memorial Booklet and PowerPoint display to be used in the Memorial Service.
   f. To serve as hosts/hostesses at the Memorial Luncheon, and to make arrangements for decorations, sound equipment, check-in and payments, servers and guests speakers (if desired).
   g. To work with the Annual Conference Event Coordinator to settle all financial obligations associated with the Memorial Luncheon.
   h. The Chair or co-Chairs are empowered to enlist help for any of the above-described duties.

Chapter Three

NOMINATION AND ELECTION TO CONFERENCE AGENCIES

Section I. Nomination to Conference Agencies

Par. 301. Conference Committee on Leadership (CCL). The Conference Committee on Leadership shall be composed of the Bishop, who shall be Chair, the Assistant to the Bishop, if any, the District Superintendents, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Conference Secretary, the Conference Lay Leader, the Conference President of United Methodist Men, the Conference President of United Methodist Women, the Chair of the Network of Ministries with Young People, and one Lay Member nominated quadrennially by each District Committee on Leadership (Nominations) and elected by the Annual Conference. Up to three persons may be named at-large by the Board of Lay Ministry to provide for adequate diversity.

Par. 302. Nomination Procedure.
1. Agencies Submit Requests for Personnel. By October 1 of each year, Chairs of all Conference agencies shall, after determining their respective agency’s personnel needs for the coming conference year, submit their requests for personnel to the Administrative Assistant of the Conference Committee on Leadership (CCL). This request shall include the following:
a. The number of persons needed;

b. The agency perspective on the gifts and graces needed in its personnel for the most effective work of the agency;
c. Any factors that would help that agency reflect general goals of inclusiveness of all persons;
d. A description of the work the agency has before it;
e. An estimate of the number, extent, and location of agency meetings;
f. Any other factors that would fully inform the District Committees on Leadership of the nature of the work and the agency’s expectations.

2. Personnel Needs are Circulated. No later than the end of October a compiled statement of personnel needs of all Conference agencies shall be circulated to all District Committees on Leadership.

3. District Superintendents Meet. In December the District Superintendents shall gather to reflect upon the personnel needs then apparent and consider strategies to communicate the needs of the CCL to the districts and to encourage widespread participation in the application and nomination process in the districts. The District Superintendents shall promptly consult with their District Lay Leaders on the outcomes of that reflection.

4. District Committees on Leadership Deliver Lists of Nominees. Each District Committee on Leadership shall meet in the winter and deliver to the Administrative Assistant to the CCL its nominees for the positions indicated.

5. Persons Seeking Nomination Submit Forms. In consultation with District Committees on Leadership, persons seeking to serve must submit a self-nomination form on the website, which shall list, at minimum, the position sought, name, address, phone numbers, and a brief statement of their experience or expertise in the area.

6. CCL Completes Nominations. The CCL shall meet by early April to consider and make nominations for the upcoming Annual Conference session. A full statement of needs and responses shall be in the hands of members of the CCL at least fifteen days prior to the meeting. Last-minute nominations of persons not previously considered by a District Committee on Leadership shall be accepted, but are strongly discouraged, for they subvert the process. A listing of all persons so nominated shall be published each year on the Conference website no later than four weeks prior to the start of the regular meeting of the Annual Conference and printed in the Workbook Supplement in preparation for Annual Conference.

Section II. Election to Conference Agencies

Par. 303. Elections at Annual Conference. The Annual Conference shall elect, upon nomination by the Conference Committee on Leadership or from the floor, the personnel needed for its work. The Annual Conference shall also elect the District Leadership Councils and other district committees as required by paragraph 610 of the Standing Rules. Election shall be at the regular session of Annual Conference.

Section III. Filling Vacancies in Conference Agencies

Par. 304. Unexcused Absences Create Vacancies. Any member of an agency who is absent from two meetings without excuse shall automatically cease to be a member of that agency. The secretary of the agency shall notify the Conference Committee on Leadership of vacancies created by unexcused absences.

Par. 305. Procedure for Filling Vacancies. If vacancies in Conference agencies occur between regular sessions of the Annual Conference, the Conference Committee on Leadership may fill these vacancies. The respective agencies may, in order to provide expertise and promote inclusiveness, suggest persons to fill these vacancies to the Conference Committee on Leadership. Vacancies filled in this manner shall come before the Annual Conference for confirmation at its next regular session. Persons so nominated shall serve until their confirmation as if elected.
Chapter Four
CONFERENCE AGENCIES

Section I. Establishment of Conference Agencies Required by The Discipline

Par. 401. The Annual Conference establishes the following agencies required by the 2012-2016 Discipline. With each agency is its corresponding paragraph in The Discipline, any Standing Rules pertaining to that agency, and the name given by this Conference to the agency if it differs from the name listed in The Discipline.

1. Conference Council on Finance and Administration (¶ 611-628 of The Discipline; Standing Rules (“SR”)

2. Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation (¶ 625; SR Par. 416 417, Commission on Equitable Salaries within the Office for Clergy Excellence Office of Missional Engagement)

3. Conference Board of Church and Society (¶ 629; SR Par. 408 409, Social Justice Committee)

4. Conference Board of Discipleship (¶ 630; SR Par. 404 405 & 406, within the offices of Connectional Ministries and Congregational Vitality)

5. Conference Board of Lay (¶ 631; SR Par. 412 413, Conference Board of Lay Ministry)

6. Conference Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (¶ 632; within the office of Missional Engagement and Connectional Ministries)

7. Conference Board of Global Ministries (¶ 633; SR Par. 408, Missions Committee)

8. Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (¶ 634; SR Par. 409 410)

9. Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (¶ 635; SR Par. 414 415, within the Office for Clergy Excellence)

10. Conference Administrative Review Committee (¶ 636)

11. Conference Committee on Episcopacy (¶ 637; SR Par. 424 425)

12. Conference Board of Pensions (¶ 639; SR Par. 422 423, Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits)

13. Conference Board of Trustees (¶ 640; SR Par. 420 421)

14. Conference Commission on Archives and History (¶ 641; SR Par. 411 412)

15. Conference Commission on Religion and Race (¶ 643)

16. Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (¶ 644)

17. Conference United Methodist Women (¶ 647)

18. Conference United Methodist Men (¶ 648)

19. Conference Council on Youth Ministry (¶ 649; SR Par. 413 414 Network of Ministries with Young People)

20. Joint Committee on Incapacity Clergy Medical Leave (¶ 652; SR Par. 417 418 within the Office for Clergy Excellence Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

21. Committee on Disability Concerns (¶ 653; the Extended Cabinet and all structures of the Conference)

22. Committee on Parish and Community Development (¶ 633.5, Missions Committee, Congregational Vitality)

23. Committee on Young Adult Ministries (¶ 650; SR Par. 413 Network of Ministries with Young People)

24. Commission on the Small Membership Church (¶ 645, within the Office of Congregational Vitality)

25. Episcopal Residence Committee (¶ 638, within the Committee on Episcopacy and Conference Board of Trustees)

26. Committee on Native American Ministry (¶ 654)

27. Commission on Communication (¶ 646, within the office of Connectional Relations)

28. Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (¶ 642, within the office of Connectional Ministries)

Par. 402. Rationale for The Conference Table and Strategic Leadership Team. The Annual Conference creates the Conference Table and Strategic Leadership Team so that better communication and coordination can exist between the leaders of Conference Agencies. Additionally, The Conference Table and Strategic Leadership Team are created to allow for greater attention to be given towards the mission and vision of the Annual Conference and to ensure the Annual Conference’s agencies and ministries are properly aligned to carry them out. It will bring people together to work on the complex issues facing the church.

Par. 403. The Conference Table.

1. Establishment and Purpose. Pursuant to Par. 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, the Annual Conference forms the Conference Table to provide communication between leaders of the Annual Conference and create collaborative conversations among the broad and diverse constituencies of the Conference. Through The Conference Table, leaders will share strategic plans and activities within their areas of responsibility to ensure
synergistic and effective interaction, as well as coordinated results. The Conference Table also will provide advice and feedback to the Strategic Leadership Team.

2. Leadership. The Conference Table will be convened by one or two persons (lay or clergy) nominated by the Conference Committee on Leadership and elected by the Annual Conference.

3. Meeting Times and Locations. The Conference Table will meet at least twice each Conference year (July 1 – June 30). Suggested meeting times include following the Annual Conference Event for purposes of reviewing action items generated by the Annual Conference and to set priorities for the Conference Year. Also it is suggested the Table meet in the Winter/Spring for purposes of reviewing budget items and focusing on action items for the upcoming Annual Conference Event.

4. Membership and Terms of Office. The Conference Table will include the convener(s), the Bishop, The Dean of the Cabinet (or designee), the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Conference Treasurer; the President of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, the Conference Lay Leader; representative from the Strategic Leadership Team (as designated), the chairs/leaders of each Conference Agency and ministry group or the designee of their choice, the Chair of the Board of the Florida United Methodist Foundation; Conference staff (as designated) and up to ten at-large positions. The at-large positions will be nominated by the Conference Committee on Leadership and elected by the Annual Conference. No member of The Conference Table may serve for longer than eight consecutive years. Every member of The Conference Table will have both voice and vote.

Par. 404. The Strategic Leadership Team.

1. Establishment. Pursuant to Par. 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, the Annual Conference forms The Strategic Leadership Team.

2. Purpose. With input from The Key Leader Connection, the Strategic Leadership Team will clarify the vision of the Annual Conference, ensure the Annual Conference’s vision is accomplished, and oversee the alignment of all Annual Conference resources and ministries with the vision.

3. Membership and Terms of Office. The Strategic Leadership Team will be chosen by the Bishop in consultation with the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Conference Lay Leader.

4. Meetings. The Strategic Leadership Team will meet face-to-face on at least a quarterly basis and conduct other business by Conference Call as needed.

5. Officers. The Bishop will chair the Strategic Leadership Team.

6. Responsibilities. The Strategic Leadership Team will have the following responsibilities:

a. Clarify the vision of the Annual Conference;

b. Oversee and ensure the Annual Conference’s vision is being accomplished;

c. Oversee the alignment of all Annual Conference resources and ministries with the Conference’s vision;

d. Initiate task teams to respond to specific needs and trends;

e. Hold all task teams, ministry groups, conference boards, agencies and offices accountable to fulfill requirements and meet identified objectives;

f. Dissolve task teams once they have accomplished their task or become ineffective;

g. Approve the distribution of funds to task teams appropriate to their specified mission.

Par. 405. Task Teams and Ministry Groups.

1. Task teams. A task team is made up of volunteers passionate about a particular ministry. It is focused on a specific, measurable, achievable and time-specific ministry. A task team’s ministry serves the Conference as a whole rather than a specific church, churches, or district. Task teams are either self-initiating (initiated by an individual or group) or called into existence by the Strategic Leadership Team, and are accountable to the Conference vision and mission. Standing Task Teams have specific tasks that are carried out each year. Focused Task Teams complete a specific plan of action and are then ended. Standing Task Teams and Focused Task Teams will be listed in the Conference Journal each year that they are active. The Leadership of Task Teams, while not elected by the Annual Conference, rotates on a quadrennial basis just as that of other conference agencies, boards, and committees.

2. Conference Ministry Groups. Conference Ministry Groups are groups brought together because of a common sense of mission or common affinity. The Ministry Groups, set forth below, are not defined by a specific function or action as are task teams, but may have a variety of responsibilities that bind them together.

a. Outreach Ministries

1) Establishment. The Annual Conference establishes an Outreach Ministries Committee.
2) Vision and Mission. The Outreach Ministries Committee affirms the Church’s purpose to extend the ministry of Jesus Christ to the poor, the oppressed, and those of special need. Its specific purpose is to enable both those who provide services in meeting human need and those who receive the services to experience God as the source of compassion and Jesus Christ as the one who is our constant companion in compassionate service.

3) Membership. The Outreach Ministries are represented by the directors established in each of the districts. New ministries must complete an application to be approved by the district Leadership Council, Outreach Ministries, Social Justice Committee, and the Annual Conference. The Conference staff person related to missions shall be an ex-officio member.

4) Meetings. The Outreach Ministries Committee shall meet at least once a year for an extended retreat.

5) Officers. There shall be a chair, vice-chair, and secretary of the Outreach Ministries Committee, elected by the members of the Committee.

6) Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the Outreach Ministries Committee shall be to:

   a) call the Conference, districts, and congregations to serve people in critical social need, such as food, housing, emergency relief, health care or any other demeaning condition and seek to change systems which perpetuate conditions;
   b) identify areas of need and work cooperatively to expand the ministry of the Church in the cities and in the open countryside;
   c) help plan, resource, facilitate and coordinate services in the conference; and
   d) hold ministries to a high degree of accountability to the conference and funding sources.

b. Committee on Haitian Ministries

1) Establishment. The Annual Conference establishes the Florida Conference Committee on Haitian Ministries (CCOHM).

2) Mission and Purpose. The mission of the CCOHM shall be to make of all disciples of Jesus Christ, particularly, Haitian men, women, and children living within the boundaries of the Conference. Its purpose shall be to act as an advocate for Haitian ministries in the Conference.

3) Membership. The members of CCOHM shall be all Haitian pastors, ordained, licensed, and lay, serving in the Conference; all pastors serving a Haitian congregation in the Conference; all district superintendents serving in the Conference who have supervision over a Haitian congregation; the Conference Lay Leader, and all district delegates appointed to the CCOHM according to its bylaws.

4) Meetings. The CCOHM shall meet at least four times a year with at least one meeting per quarter.

5) Officers. There shall be an executive committee made up of a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary/treasurer. The members of the executive committee shall be elected to a three-year term and may succeed themselves only once. No member shall serve on the executive committee for more than six consecutive years. The chairperson and the vice-chairperson shall be of Haitian origin and shall be proficient in English and in Haitian Creole and must be able to relate to the Haitian culture. The secretary/treasurer shall be from any ethnic group.

c. Hispanic Ministry Team

1) Establishment. The Annual Conference establishes a Hispanic Ministry Team, which shall be the basic working unit of the Hispanic Comprehensive Plan.

2) Vision and Mission. The vision shall be to reach the growing Hispanic population in the state of Florida with the Good News of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. The mission is to develop congregations, both old and new, which shall be growing and vital and which shall minister in Christ’s name to the needs of the whole person and the whole community.

3) Responsibilities. The Conference Hispanic Ministry Team shall work in at least three areas: congregational mobilization, leadership recruitment and training, and resource development.

4) Membership. The Conference Committee on Leadership will nominate five members at large. The members at large will be leaders in Hispanic ministries within the Annual Conference. The Committee on Leadership should work to achieve a balance between laity and clergy, men and women. The Committee on Leadership will also designate the chair of the Hispanic Ministry Team. The chair will be chosen from one of the five members at large. Additionally, the following people will serve on the Hispanic Ministry Team ex-officio (with voice but no vote): the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Chair of the Hispanic Assembly, the Hispanic New Church Development staff person, and the Hispanic Congregational Excellence staff person and the Missional Engagement staff person.

d. Shade and Fresh Water Ministry

1) Establishment. There shall be established a program agency of the Conference named Shade and Fresh Water.
2) Vision and Mission. Shade and Fresh Water’s vision is to promote the health of the Conference’s clergy members and their families. Its mission will lead it to work in three directions:
   a) It will provide an environment that addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of self-care to bring healing for clergy members and their family members;
   b) It will develop retreats to aid in the adjustment clergy families undergo during transitions from one appointment to the next;
   c) It will advocate on issues that can also affect the health of Conference clergy and their families.
3) Board of Directors. The agency shall be led by the Board of Directors numbering no more than twenty and no less than seven. The tenure of the Board shall be as follows: one-third shall serve a two-year term; one-third a three-year term; and one-third a four-year term; with subsequent members serving a four-year term. The Board of Directors may include both clergy and laity of the Conference as well as people from outside the Conference.
4) Officers. The officers of the agency shall be elected from the Board of Directors annually and shall include the following positions: Two Co-Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary, and Spiritual Director.
5) Membership. In addition to the Board of Directors and Officers, other members of the agency include all individuals and support service personnel who agree to the mission and vision statements, who participate in the development and envisioning of Shade and Fresh Water’s development, and who covenant to support Shade and Fresh Water with prayer and personal involvement.
6) Accountability to Conference. The officers of Shade and Fresh Water shall answer to the Bishop and the Cabinet upon request from the Bishop and the Cabinet.

e. Disaster Ministry Advisory Team
1) Establishment. The Annual Conference establishes the Disaster Ministry Advisory Team (DMAT).
2) Mission. The mission of the DMAT shall be to work with the Disaster Recovery staff in preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation of disasters.
3) Membership. The membership of the DMAT shall include the district disaster coordinators, or their designee, and leadership from the Emergency Response Teams and the Care Teams. The DMAT shall be chaired by the Conference Disaster Coordinator.
4) Responsibilities. The team shall be responsible for:
   a) Assisting the staff with both consultation and hands-on response in every phase of disaster work.
   b) Creating and dissolving disaster ministry structures as they relate to either particular disasters or general preparatory needs, ensuring both flexibility and accountability.
   c) Providing guidance and feedback related to disaster work.

f. General Conference Legislative Committee
1) Establishment. The Annual Conference establishes a General Conference Legislative Committee (GCLC).
2) Purpose. The purpose of the GCLC will be to study the legislation of the General Conference and legislative issues which may be considered by the General Conference in order to provide information and analysis to delegates to the General Conference and the members of the Annual Conference, and to propose petitions to the General Conference for adoption by the Annual Conference.
3) Membership. The committee will consist of eight members, clergy and lay. To secure experience and stability, the membership will be divided into four classes of two members; one class will be elected each year for a four-year term. To begin the process of rotation, on the first year one class will be elected for one year, one class for two years, one class for three years, one class for four years. The Conference Committee on Leadership will nominate members of the committee.
   a) Responsibilities. The GCLC shall have the following responsibilities:
   b) Study legislation of the General Conference and legislative issues which may be considered by the General Conference.
   c) Present reports as necessary to be adopted by the Annual Conference containing its analysis of legislation of the General Conference and legislative issues which may be considered by the General Conference.
   d) Propose petitions to the General Conference for adoption by the Annual Conference in accordance with ¶ 507 of The Book of Discipline.
   e) Offer assistance to the delegation to General Conference to provide information about the legislation of the General Conference and legislative issues which may be considered by the General Conference.
Par. 406. Congregational Vitality.
1. Establishment. The Annual Conference, pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, establishes a Congregational Vitality office and a Conference Committee on Congregational Vitality.
2. Purpose. The purpose of the Congregational Vitality office is to be a resource to the District Superintendents and local churches in order to develop new churches and ministries as well as revitalize existing churches throughout the Annual Conference.
3. Membership. The membership of the committee will be the Chair and up to twelve persons selected from across the Conference elected by the Annual Conference because of their expertise in congregational vitality or the development of new churches and to assure balance in the committee membership. In addition, there will be the President of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. with voice but not without vote; the staff specialists of the Office of Congregational Vitality, with voice but without vote. The Committee will additionally ensure that there is adequate and regular communication with representatives from each District who are involved in the work of Congregational Vitality.
4. Executive Committee. The Committee shall constitute an Executive Committee composed of the Chair, the Vice-chair and Secretary (as elected by the Committee), plus two additional members of the committee selected by the Committee. The staff specialists of the Office of Congregational Vitality shall also be members of the Executive Committee, with voice, but without vote. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to handle business of the Committee needing action between meetings, and report such action to the next full meeting of the Committee.
5. Outcome and Responsibilities. The Desired Outcome for the work of this Committee is to increase the number of vital chartered congregations and ministries through the work of revitalization of existing churches and the beginning of new churches and ministries. The Committee shall be responsible and accountable (to the Annual Conference for focusing our Conference resources on creating, growing and sustaining vital congregations and ministries and creating and implementing, as needed, a Conference wide strategic plan and priorities for congregational vitality (including the establishment of new churches and extension campuses) collaborating with the strategic plan of each district. The Committee will administer all new church development funds and approve all funding requests, in consultation with the Committee on Finance and Administration and the Conference Financial Service office. The Committee will provide additional support, as needed, to the work of each District and District Superintendent in evaluating the need and process for church discontinuances.
6. Assets of Discontinued or Abandoned Church Property. In compliance with ¶ 2549.7 of The 2012 Book Of Discipline which requires the proceeds from the sale of discontinued or abandoned local church property in urban settings to be used within urban transitional communities, the Florida Annual Conference adopts this Standing Rule regarding the use or disposition of assets from discontinued or abandoned local church property:
   a. If the property is located in an urban center with a population of more than 50,000, title to discontinued or abandoned local church property -- both real and personal, tangible and intangible -- shall be transferred to and held by the Board of Trustees of The Florida Annual Conference Of The United Methodist Church, Inc. The Board of Trustees shall oversee and make provision for the security of any property pending its sale or transfer to another entity. Any use or disposition of property, real or personal, including a sale or a transfer to another entity, shall be as directed by the Appointive Cabinet in collaboration with the Director of Missional Engagement and with the consent of the Bishop, provided that the assets must be used for new and/or existing ministries within urban transitional communities within the Florida Annual Conference, and as required by The 2012 Book Of Discipline;
   b. If the property is not located in an urban center with a population of more than 50,000, absent direction from the Annual Conference to the contrary, title to all property -- real and personal, tangible and intangible shall be transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Upon the sale of any real property, 25% of the net proceeds from the sale will be deposited into the Conference New Church Development’s Endowment Fund (or similarly named fund) and 75% of the net proceeds will be deposited into a to be created Cabinet Development Fund. Distributions from the fund will be at the approval of the Appointive Cabinet in consultation with the Director of New Church Development. The percentage breakdowns of such proceeds are to be calculated after the repayment of any debts owed to the Annual Conference, the respective districts, or any other creditors with legitimate claims against the closed, abandoned, or discontinued churches. The Conference Committee on Congregational Vitality may choose to waive the required 25% deposit into the Conference New Church Development’s Endowment Fund if, in the opinion of the Committee on Congregational Vitality, the needs of the Cabinet Development Fund are greater than the needs of the New Church Development Endowment funds.

[63]
Purpose. The purpose of the Missional Engagement office is to increase our impact for Christ’s mission to all the world at all levels of our connection as we engage churches and our Annual Conference in Global Ministries and effective community outreach through multicultural diversity and outward focus.

Executive Director. There shall be a Director of Missional Engagement. The Director may be lay or clergy, and is named by the Bishop, after consultation with the Cabinet, to serve for such a term as the Bishop shall determine.

Outcome and Responsibilities. The desired outcome for the work of this area is to impact the community and the world by increasing our multicultural diversity and outward focus by redirecting our overall resources toward missional engagement. In addition to re-envisioning and implementing our strategy to accomplish this outcome, Missional Engagement will focus on the health, growth and sustainability of our mission congregations and the identification, recruitment and formation of pastoral leadership in these communities. Missional Engagement will oversee the continued implementation of a plan to increase our conference multicultural diversity and will ensure continued work on all current comprehensive plans related to ethnic constituent groups. Missional Engagement shall be responsible for coordinating the work of all current and future conference committees related to the areas of Missions and Social Justice, including, but not limited to, Outreach, Hispanic Ministry Team, Committee on Haitian Ministries, Global Partnerships, UMVIM, Disaster Recovery, Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Creation Care, Childhood Hunger, Prison Ministry, and other relevant committees or task teams.

Par. 407. Missional Engagement.
1. Establishment. The Annual Conference, pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, establishes a Missional Engagement office.
2. Purpose. The purpose of the Missional Engagement office is to increase our impact for Christ’s mission to all the world at all levels of our connection as we engage churches and our Annual Conference in Global Ministries and effective community outreach through multicultural diversity and outward focus.
3. Membership. There shall be twelve members made up of persons who chair or represent different mission-related responsibilities: MUIP, Haiti/Florida Covenant, Florida/Angola Covenant, etc.
4. Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least three times per year.
5. Responsibilities. The Committee shall be responsible for:
   a. Emphasizing the relationship between and need for each of the following: spiritual formation and disciplines, biblical and theological education, hospitality and partnerships, and direct mission action and implementation;
   b. Creating and distributing mission information; and
   c. Promoting mission education and mission opportunities among districts, ministries, and congregations.

Par. 408. Missions Committee.
1. Establishment. The Annual Conference, pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, establishes a Missions Committee.
2. Purpose. The Committee will be the steward of and promote global and conference missions throughout the conference. It will educate and promote the conference mission priorities and offer opportunities for mission, service, and action with local congregations and ministries. The Missions Committee will encompass the responsibilities of Global Ministries as defined by The Discipline.
3. Membership. There shall be twelve members made up of persons who chair or represent different mission-related responsibilities: MUIP, Haiti/Florida Covenant, Florida/Angola Covenant, etc. and four ten at large members, one elected each year to a four year term. Ex-officio members include representatives to the General Board of Global Ministries, the Conference United Methodist Women’s Global Mission Coordinator.
4. Officers. There shall be a chairperson, nominated by the Conference Committee on Leadership, and a Secretary elected by the Committee.
5. Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least three times per year.
6. Responsibilities. The Committee shall be responsible for:
   a. Emphasizing the relationship between and need for each of the following: spiritual formation and disciplines, biblical and theological education, hospitality and partnerships, and direct mission action and implementation;
   b. Creating and distributing mission information; and
   c. Promoting mission education and mission opportunities among districts, ministries, and congregations.

Par. 409. Social Justice Committee.
1. Establishment. The Annual Conference, pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, establishes a Social Justice Committee.
2. Purpose. The Committee will focus and lead on social justice issues throughout the conference. It will educate and promote the conference justice priorities and offer opportunities for advocacy and action with local congregations and ministries. The Social Justice Committee will encompass the responsibilities of Church and Society as defined by The Discipline.
3. Membership. There shall be twelve members made up representatives from justice-related ministries: Creation Care, Prison Ministries, Immigration, Human Trafficking, etc. and four at large members, one elected each year to a four year term. Ex-officio members include representatives to the General Board of Church and Society, the Conference United Methodist Women’s Social Action Coordinator.

4. Officers. There shall be a chairperson, nominated by the Conference Committee on Leadership, and a Secretary elected by the Committee.

5. Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

6. Responsibilities. The Committee shall be responsible for:
   a. Working with local churches, districts, outreach ministries and extension ministries and others to facilitate the Annual Conference’s engagement in issues of justice effecting our state;
   b. Creating and distributing social justice information; and,
   c. Promoting justice education and advocacy opportunities among districts, ministries, and congregations.

**Par. 410. Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.** Pursuant to ¶ 610 of *The Discipline*, the following provisions shall be added to the requirements of ¶ 634 of *The Discipline*.

1. Membership. The membership will be composed of 24 members, nominated on the basis of their interest and expertise, taking into consideration, whenever possible, concerns of inclusiveness and geographical representation, without diminishing the effectiveness of the Board’s ability to carry out its mission, and elected by the Annual Conference. The ex-officio members shall include the following representatives from the colleges and campus ministry units for whom the board has responsibilities of oversight and care: the presidents of the institutions of higher learning or their designated representatives; college chaplains; and campus ministers/directors. Other ex-officio members will be the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Executive Director of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. The following will also be members with voice and vote: two United Methodist students, a representative from the Cabinet; and others designed by *The Discipline*.

2. Terms. The elected Board membership shall be divided into four classes to provide continuity.

3. Officers and Executive Committee.
   a. The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry shall elect from the membership every four years a Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Finance Chair, Assessment Chair, and Scholarship Chair. These elected officers shall serve as members of the Executive Committee. Ex-officio members of the Executive Committee shall include one Campus Minister or Chaplain, with voice and no vote, and a representative of the Cabinet, with voice and vote.
   b. The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility and authority to act on behalf of the Board when the Board is not in session, with the exception of any business that may be reasonably postponed until the meeting of the full Board. A record of those actions shall be included in the Executive Committee Report and reported at the next Board meeting.

4. Meetings and Quorum. The Board shall meet at least two times per year to fulfill the responsibilities of oversight and care of the campus ministries and institutions of higher learning, within the bounds of the Florida Annual Conference, as outlined in ¶ 634 of *The Discipline*. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting at a duly called meeting.

5. Financial Recommendations. The Board shall present to the Council on Finance and Administration of the Annual Conference the financial needs for adequate support of the colleges and campus ministries as related to the Annual Conference for apportionment to the local churches within the Conference.

6. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*, ¶ 254 makes provision for the nomination of a Campus Ministry Representative as part of the slate offered by the local church Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership to the Charge Conference. *The Discipline* states, “Every local United Methodist Church may have a campus ministry coordinator, who may have membership on the church council. . . . The campus ministry coordinator in every church shall also promote financial and other support of United Methodist Campus ministries, such as the Wesley Foundations, within their local church.” Further, the Committee on Nominations and Leadership form that we currently use states under the heading: *Whether or not you use this form or one of the church’s design, all churches should nominate persons to serve in the leadership positions listed in Sections A and B. Section C is to be used as positions apply to each local church. Currently, the Campus Ministry Representative is listed within Section A. We have interpreted this as an imperative even though The Discipline lists both the position and its membership on the Church Council as ‘may have’.*

**Par. 411. Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries.**

1. Establishment. The Annual Conference, pursuant to ¶ 610 of *The Discipline* and those paragraphs of *The Discipline* that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by *The Discipline*, establishes the Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries.
2. **Vision and Mission.** The Board of Camp and Retreat Ministries shall be responsible for the development of a vision and mission for the camps and retreat centers of the Conference that aligns with that of the Florida Conference.

3. **Membership.** The membership of the Board shall consist of sixteen members, divided into four classes of four persons each, elected for a quadrennium at a time, not to exceed eight years. The Chair shall be nominated and elected by the Conference Leadership Committee and chosen from the sixteen elected members of the Board. The Vice-chair and Secretary shall be nominated and elected by the Board. Ex-officio members shall include a District Superintendent appointed by the Bishop, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Conference Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Conference Board of Trustees, and the Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries.

4. **Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries shall be to:
   a. oversee the ministry and properties of all Conference camps and retreat centers
   b. develop a Comprehensive Master Plan for ministry needs, land use, facilities, and funding
   c. envision, support, and empower the staff of the camps and retreat centers with regard to ministry, financial development, marketing, and occupancy
   d. insure the maintenance of standards of excellence
   e. staff support for age-level, family and intergenerational ministries
   f. Financial Recommendations. The Board shall present to the Council on Finance and Administration of the Annual Conference the financial needs for adequate support of the camps and retreat centers as related to the Development initiatives.

5. **Membership.** The Board shall present the Council on Finance and Administration of the Annual Conference the financial needs for adequate support of the camps and retreat centers as related to the Development initiatives.

6. **Purpose.** The Board shall present to the Council on Finance and Administration of the Annual Conference the financial needs for adequate support of the camps and retreat centers as related to the Development initiatives.

**Par. 412. Conference Commission on Archives and History.** Pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline, the following provision shall be added to the requirements of ¶ 641 of The Discipline: Membership shall consist of one coordinator from each district and up to five at-large members elected by the Annual Conference. Additionally, ex-officio members who bring special interests and skills may be added to the commission as needed.

**Par. 413. Board of Lay Ministry.**

1. **Purpose.** There will be a Conference Board of Lay Ministry, which will be responsible for developing and implementing long-range and annual programs encompassing lay activities of men, women, and youth throughout the Conference.

2. **Membership.** The Board’s membership will coordinate the work of the Board. Membership on the Board will include the Conference Lay Leader; the Associate Conference Lay Leader(s) (with voice, but without vote); the Vice-chair; the Board Secretary; the Board Treasurer; the Conference President of United Methodist Women or a representative of that group; the Conference President of United Methodist Men or a representative of that group; a representative from the Network on Ministries with Young People; a representative chosen by the Haitian Committee on Ministries; a representative chosen by the Hispanic Assembly; the Conference Scouting Coordinator; a young adult representative; an older adult representative; one District Superintendent, selected by the Bishop (without vote); a conference staff person (without vote); the immediate past Conference Lay Leader; the Director of Lay Servant Ministries; the Director of Lay Renewal; the District Lay Leaders; five Lay Members of the [66]
Annual Conference (the five nine Lay Members will include one man two men, one woman two women, two youth, and one two young adults, and one older adult representative); the Director of Connectional Ministries, (with voice, but without vote); and the Bishop, who is an ex-officio member.

3. The Executive Committee will be composed of the Conference Lay Leader; the Associate Conference Lay Leader(s) (without vote); the Vice-chair; the Board Secretary; the Board Treasurer; the Conference Staff Person (without vote); one District Superintendent representing the Cabinet (without vote); and two members of the Board to be elected at the fall meeting after Annual Conference (These two members shall be elected by the full Board of Lay Ministry.)

4. Elected Leaders’ Responsibilities.
   a. Conference Lay Leader. The Conference Lay Leader will be the Chair of the Board of Lay Ministry and the Executive Committee. The Lay Leader’s duties will include the following:
      1. Guiding the work of the Conference Board of Lay Ministry so that it will be coordinated with the comprehensive program of the Conference;
      2. Serving as an ex-officio member of other conference ministries, committees, and commissions. The Lay Leader may delegate this membership to another member of the Board of Lay Ministry if it is deemed advisable;
      3. Presenting a written report annually to the Board of Lay Ministry and to the Annual Conference.
   b. Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair convenes and presides at meetings of the Board of Lay Ministry when the Conference Lay Leader cannot be present.
   c. The Associate Conference Lay Leader(s). The Associate Conference Lay Leader(s) will be assigned to lead and coordinate Board of Lay Ministry initiatives regarding special areas of concern that arise from time-to-time within the Conference. Up to three Associate Conference Lay Leaders may be appointed by the Conference Lay Leader at a time.
   d. The Board Treasurer. The Treasurer will be responsible for preparing a Board of Lay Ministry annual budget, assisted by the Board of Lay Ministry, and will submit it for approval.
   e. The Board Secretary. The Secretary will be responsible for the minutes of the Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and lay orientation meetings. The Secretary will give the lay orientation minutes to the Conference Secretary for inclusion in the Conference Journal.

5. Funding. The work of the Conference Board of Lay Ministry will be financed by an allocation of funds from the Annual Conference Administrative Budget.

6. Nominations and Election. The following procedures will be followed to nominate and elect the various members of the Board of Lay Ministry:
   a. The Conference Committee on Leadership will serve as the nominating committee for the seven eight lay-member representatives of Conference Ministries, Committees, or other elected or appointed Lay Members of the Annual Conference (two men, two women, two youth, and one two young adults, and old older adult representative) referenced in §412.2 Par. 413.2. Elections for these Board members will comply with Par. 303 of the Standing Rules.
   b. The entire Board of Lay Ministry shall serve as the nominating committee for the following Board members: Conference Lay Leader; Board Secretary; Board Treasurer; Young Adult Representative; and Older Adult Representative.
   c. The Conference Lay Leader may designate a Recruitment Committee to help recruit, encourage and secure the names of possible willing nominees for the various positions becoming vacant.
   d. Nominations from members of the Board, the Recruitment Committee or other sources will be forwarded to the Conference Lay Leader prior to the spring meeting. The Conference Lay Leader will present the names of all nominees for the various positions to the entire Board at its spring meeting.
      1. An election to fill the nominated offices (excluding the Conference Lay Leader) will take place at the spring meeting of the Board. A simple majority of those in attendance is required for election.
      2. The Board will review the list of persons nominated, or seeking, to hold the office of Conference Lay Leader. The Board will discuss the gifts and graces of each person in light of the direction and needs of the Conference. If, in the opinion of the Board, one particular nominee seems best suited at this time to carry forth the objectives of the Board, a simple majority vote of those present would then be the basis for the nomination. If, instead, multiple nominees are to be considered, the top two candidates will be determined by the Board at its spring meeting. These two candidates will then be presented to the Annual Conference for possible election as the Conference Lay Leader.
   e. The nominee(s) for Conference Lay Leader will be reported to the Annual Conference. All members of the Annual Conference, clergy and lay, will elect the Conference Lay Leader. A simple majority is required for election. Nominations from the floor of the Annual Conference are not allowed.

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f. The Board Vice-Chair will be elected from the membership of the Board at its fall meeting by simple majority of those present. The Vice Chair will take office immediately upon election.

7. Tenure.
   a. Conference Lay Leader. The Conference Lay Leader will be elected for a four-year period. The term of office will coincide with the Conference Year and will be limited to a maximum of four consecutive years.
   b. Associate Conference Lay Leaders. The Associate Conference Lay Leader(s) will serve for a term of four years; however, the Conference Lay Leader will have the right to terminate the term of any associate lay leader and name a replacement. Each Associate Conference Lay Leader will be limited to two four-year terms.
   c. District Lay Leaders. District Lay Leaders will serve terms of office as set forth in Paragraph 610 of the Standing Rules.
   d. All Other Board of Lay Ministry Members. All other members of the Board of Lay Ministry whose tenure is not specifically set forth above will be elected for a four-year period. The term of office will coincide with the Conference Year and will be limited to a maximum of four consecutive years.
   e. Vacancies. The Board of Lay Ministry will fill vacancies occurring between Annual Conference sessions. Persons elected to fill a vacancy will serve until the end of the next Annual Conference regular session at which time the vacancy will be filled through the nomination and election process outlined above.

8. Lay Servant Ministries. Lay Speaking Ministries within the Florida Annual Conference will be known as Lay Servant Ministries. All provisions and requirements of The Book of Discipline ¶631.6 for lay speaking ministries will apply to Certified Lay Servants and to Local Church Lay Servants within the Annual Conference.

Par. 414. Network on Ministries with Young People.
1. Purpose. The Annual Conference, pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, establishes There shall be a Network on Ministries with Young People, which shall be responsible for fulfilling the responsibilities as outlined in ¶ 649 and 650 of The Discipline.

2. Membership. The Network shall be divided into three subgroups: The Conference Connection on Youth Ministry (CCYM), the Adult Workers with Young People Network, and the Young Adult Network. The Leaders of the three subgroups will make up the leadership team of the Network on Ministries with Young People.

3. Nominations and Elections. The membership of the groups will be self-selecting as long as the requirements of The Discipline are used as the minimum guideline. The leadership will be nominated from within the groups and forwarded to the Conference Committee on Leadership prior to the meeting of the CCL in the early spring of each year. Elected members can serve a maximum of two four year terms, and chairpersons of the groups can serve a maximum of four years.

4. Meetings. The networks will meet as often as is necessary to complete their work.

Section IV. The Ministry of the Ordained: The Office for of Clergy Excellence.

Pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, the Annual Conference establishes The Ministry of the Ordained: The Office for of Clergy Excellence, comprised of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Commission on Equitable Salaries the Committee on Conference Relations, the Committee on Clergy Effectiveness, the Joint Committee on Incapacity, and oversight of clergy continuing education opportunities.

Par. 415. The Board of Ordained Ministry.
1. Membership. The Board shall be composed of not more than sixty persons. It shall be composed of the following as nominated by the presiding Bishop, after consultation with the Chair of the Board and the Director of Clergy Excellence:
   a. Each district in the Annual Conference shall have one clergy representative on the Board.
   b. It is recommended that the Chair of each respective District Committee on Ordained Ministry serve as that district’s member-at-large of the Board.
   c. One-fifth to one-third of the membership of the Board shall be professing members of United Methodist churches in the Florida Conference.
   d. Two members of the Board shall be either local pastors who have completed the Course of Study or associate members of the Florida Conference.
e. The members-at-large of the Board shall be deacons and elders in full connection in the Florida Conference.

f. There will be at least one elder on the Board who is currently serving in extension ministry.

g. There will be at least one clergy representative on the Board who is currently retired.

h. There will be two ex-officio members on the Board: a District Superintendent to serve as the Cabinet liaison and the Director of the Office for Clergy Excellence, who will serve as registrar for the Board. These members will have voice but not vote.

i. Clergypersons referred by the Bishop and Cabinet to the Committee on Clergy Effectiveness will not be eligible to serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry or any of its committees.

j. The membership of the Board shall be constructed to give balance to clergy order, ethnicity, and gender representation.

2. Officers. The Board shall organize itself by electing from its membership a Chair, a Vice-chair, Chairs of the Division of Deacons and the Division of Elders, a Secretary, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. The Chair of the Board shall designate the Board’s Executive Committee which is to include the Chairs of the Order of Deacons, the Order of Elders, and of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.

3. Organization and Terms of Office. The Board shall be organized in three classes of four years each. Each member may serve up to twelve years. When a person is elected to the Board during a quadrennium, his/her term shall not exceed the balance of that quadrennium and two more quadrennia.

4. Participation Required. If a member does not attend or does not fully participate in Board responsibilities, that member shall be replaced; further, unless excused by the Chair, expenses will be reimbursed only if a member attends all sessions of the Board meeting.

5. Rules. The following rules shall assist the Board of Ordained Ministry in its work:

a. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall present to the Conference to be filed among its papers a complete biographical statement of all persons admitted into full connection and of all persons received by transfer; and of the latter, a description of the ministry up to the date when received by transfer.

b. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall require each applicant, including those being admitted from other denominations, to present a certificate of good health from a practicing physician, a current criminal background check, and an itemized statement of financial obligations.

c. Any graduate of a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) not approved by the University Senate who desires to enter the Florida Conference as a provisional member under the Seminary Rule must have completed forty-five credited hours of study in a Seminary approved by the University Senate.

d. All candidates for provisional membership and full-connection status shall appear in person to be interviewed by the Board.

e. Candidates for full connection shall have served full time under Episcopal appointment in the Florida Annual Conference under the supervision of a District Superintendent for at least two full Annual Conference years following the completion of the education requirements specified in The Discipline. The faculty or staff of United Methodist colleges, universities, or seminaries may be permitted to render this service outside the bounds of the Florida Annual Conference.

f. Candidates from other denominations shall remain as a provisional member not less than two years.

g. Candidates for admission as a provisional member from other conferences must also receive a recommendation by a District Committee on Ordained Ministry of the Florida Conference and have been a certified candidate of The United Methodist Church for two years prior to the Clergy Session of the Florida Annual Conference. These candidates must take any psychological assessments required for candidates by the Florida Annual Conference prior to appearing before a District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Candidates for admission as a provisional member shall have satisfactorily completed the psychological assessment process of the Conference; candidates transferred in as a provisional member shall comply with the Standing Rules of the Florida Conference for candidates for admission as a provisional member, including the psychological assessment process.

h. All candidates, except those applying for readmission for purpose of retirement or transfer, shall satisfactorily complete the psychological assessment process of the Florida Conference.

i. Provisional members in their eighth and final year of provisional membership must apply for a relationship of Elder in Full Connection, Deacon in Full Connection, or Local Pastor by October 1 of their eighth year and be available for an interview with the Board at its regularly scheduled meeting the following January. Failure to submit an application by October 1 and/or failing to appear for an interview will result in the Board automatically recommending to the clergy session that said provisional member’s clergy...
relationship be discontinued. No other relationship with the Annual Conference will be considered after
such a recommendation.

j. The Board of Ordained Ministry sets the following requirements for each applicant for full-time local
pastor:

1) Have been an active member of a local United Methodist church in the Florida Annual Conference
   for two years prior to the date of application for licensing as a local pastor
2) Present a certificate of good health from a practicing physician
3) File an itemized statement of financial obligations
4) Complete satisfactorily the psychological assessment process of the Conference
5) Provide for his/her file a current criminal background check prior to meeting with the district
   committee on ordained ministry.
6) Be recommended by his/her district committee on ordained ministry
7) Appear in person before the Board of Ordained Ministry or its Executive Committee for interview
   and recommendation for approval by clergy members in full connection at Annual Conference.

k. Persons seeking a relationship as a part-time local pastor shall complete the application process
   for local pastor and shall be interviewed and recommended by his/her District Committee on Ordained
   Ministry.

l. Persons seeking the relationship of student local pastor must be certified candidates for ordained
   ministry, be enrolled in a University Senate-approved college or seminary, have completed a certified
   Licensing School, and be recommended by a District Superintendent under whose supervision the person
   shall serve. Final approval shall come from the Board of Ordained Ministry without the requirement of an
   interview.

m. All responsibilities of the former Board of Diaconal Ministry shall now be the responsibilities of the
   Board of Ordained Ministry. The Chair of the Division Order of Deacons shall give leadership to the Board
   for matters related to professional certification, continued candidates for diaconal ministry, and persons
   who remain consecrated diaconal ministers. The 1992 Book of Discipline shall serve as a guide in these
   matters.

6. The Committee on Conference Relations. The Conference Relations Committee will act with the full
authority of the Board of Ordained Ministry in the following matters and in the following ways:

a. Purpose. The Committee on Conference Relations exists for the following purposes:

   1) Clergypersons requesting changes in their clergy relationship with the conference will make such
      requests to the Conference Relations Committee. The Committee will hear such requests and make
      recommendations concerning those requests to the clergy session of members in full connection with
      the annual conference. The following request for relationship change will be considered by the
      Committee: Voluntary Leaves of Absence as defined by ¶ 354, 353 of the Discipline, Sabbatical Leave,
      Appointment to Honorable Location, Appointment to Extension Ministry, Retirement, and Return to
      Effective Relationship.

   2) The Committee will hear all administrative complaints referred by the Bishop to the Board of
      Ordained Ministry. The Committee will make all necessary recommendations regarding such referrals
      as required by the Discipline.

b. Membership. The Conference Relations Committee will be composed of the following members:

   Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Registrar, Chair of the Division Order of Elders, and Chair of the Division
   Order of Deacons of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Executive Committee of the Board will appoint
   one lay representative to serve on the Committee. The Cabinet Liaison to the Board will not serve on the
   Committee.

c. Rules.

   1) Clergypersons requesting changes in their clergy relationship will appear for an interview with the
      Committee, at the Committee’s sole discretion.

   2) Clergypersons requesting changes in their clergy relationship will apply in writing to the Board and
      Committee at least 45 days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference Event. If a clergyperson
      requesting a change in their clergy relationship fails to apply for a relationship change within the
      aforementioned time requirement, said clergyperson’s district superintendent may initiate the process
      of seeking involuntary leave for said clergyperson.

Par. 416. The Committee on Clergy Effectiveness.

1. Purpose. The Committee is to be a resource to the Bishop and Cabinet in assisting clergy who are having
significant difficulty with effectiveness in ministry.
2. Membership. There shall be eight members who shall be nominated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The members of the Committee shall not be current members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The majority of the Committee shall be clergy, and at least one member shall be a layperson. In addition, the Director of the Office for Clergy Excellence and a District Superintendent to be named by the Bishop shall be ex-officio members.

3. Terms. The Committee membership shall be divided into two classes of four years each.

4. Officers. The Committee shall elect from its membership every four years a Chair and a secretary.

5. Referrals. The Bishop and the Cabinet shall refer to the Committee clergy who are experiencing a pattern of diminished effectiveness in their ministry. The Committee shall meet with the referred clergyperson and his/her District Superintendent, and shall determine a plan to enable and support the restoration of effectiveness. The Committee shall continue to meet with the referred clergyperson until such time as s/he has established a pattern of effectiveness or, in the opinion of the majority of the members of the Committee, it is determined that the referred clergyperson is not making sufficient progress. The Committee shall report its conclusions to the Bishop and Cabinet.

6. Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least two times per year and shall notify the Bishop and Cabinet of the meeting dates with sufficient notice.

7. Financial Recommendations. The Committee shall present to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration the financial need to fulfill the purpose of the Committee.

Par. 417. The Commission on Equitable Salaries will be composed of between eight and 16 members equally divided between laity and clergy and will include a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, one District Superintendent, one member of the Council on Finance and Administration, one minister, and one lay person who is a member of a church assisted by Minimum Salary Funds. The Director of the Office for Clergy Excellence, the Director of Missional Engagement and the Conference Treasurer will serve as ex-officio members.

Par. 418. The Joint Committee on Incapacity Clergy Medical Leave will be selected by the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits as described in The Discipline. The Director of the Office for of Clergy Excellence will serve as an ex-officio member. A physician may be added to the membership by the Joint Committee on Incapacity Clergy Medical Leave to provide medical insights and understandings for the Committee. The physician will have voice but not vote.

Par. 419. The Institute of Preaching.

1. Purpose. The purpose of The Institute of Preaching is to encourage pastors of the Florida Conference to improve their preaching skills in order to best communicate the Gospel in their unique cultures.

2. Membership. The Institute will be composed of a board of eight persons to be nominated by the Conference Committee on Leadership and elected by the Annual Conference. The Director of the Office for Clergy Excellence shall serve as an ex-officio member of the board as well as one other Conference representative to facilitate financial needs and communication with the Florida Conference. As with all Florida conference committees, efforts will be made to be inclusive.

3. Officers. The Institute’s board shall organize itself by electing from its membership a Chair, a Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Conference representative may fill the role of Secretary and Treasurer.

4. Organization and Terms of Office. The Institute’s board shall be organized in two classes of four years each. Each member may serve up to eight years. When a person is elected to the Institute’s board during a quadrennium, his/her term shall not exceed the balance of that quadrennium and one more quadrennium.

Section V. The Stewardship of the Conference


1. Establishment and Purpose. There shall be a Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) as provided in ¶ 611-628 of The Discipline, which shall work cooperatively with the districts and with the other program and administrative agencies of the Conference in matters of staffing, administration, finances and program.

2. Membership. The membership shall be in accordance with ¶ 612.2 of The Discipline. Additionally, the Chair of the Ministry Protection Committee shall serve as an ex-officio member of CF&A.

3. Officers. The President, Vice-President, and other officers shall be elected by the CF&A. The President of CF&A shall be the convener of the Council.
   a. Fiscal Year is Calendar Year. The Conference fiscal year shall be the calendar year.
   b. Budget Adjustments and Contingency Funds. CF&A may make adjustments within the Conference
      budget with the consent of the agencies involved. CF&A shall have authority to designate use of
      contingency funds, except contingencies in program-area budgets, which shall be controlled by the
      program agency.
   c. Treasurer Oversees Budgets. The Conference Treasurer shall manage all expenditures of the
      Annual Conference.
   d. Checks Payable to Entities. Checks written to agencies, boards, districts, committees,
      commissions, or institutions shall be made payable in the name of the particular entity and not to any
      individual related to the entity.
   e. Administrative and Program Budgets Required. In cooperation with the Treasurer’s office, each
      organization shall designate in its annual budget an administrative budget (which shall include all fixed
      costs, including staff payroll and benefits, taxes, utilities, debt service, insurance, etc.) and a program
      budget. Administrative costs shall have priority of payment.
   f. Advances and Budget Changes. Advances against anticipated income for a program may be made
      if funds are available. Changes to the administrative budget may be made with CF&A approval. Changes to
      the program budget may be made with CF&A approval when requested by the agency involved. Requests
      for making changes in budgets and for funding of unbudgeted projects or programs may be brought to
      CF&A for consideration.
   g. Zero-base budgeting; budget requirements. The annual budgets for all Conference program and
      administrative entities shall be prepared on a zero-base. It is intended that all programs, projects, and
      functions, old and new, be analyzed and re-evaluated on a year-to-year basis; that groups requesting
      budgeted funds shall frame their request in terms of the Conference vision and mission; and that groups
      justify their requests in detail to explain why money is needed, specifically what it will be used for, the
      resulting benefits, and what would result if the request were denied. The groups requesting budgeted funds
      shall propose alternative courses of action, suggest levels of funding to fulfill pre-stated goals, and rank
      proposed activities in their order of importance. CF&A shall prepare guidelines to assist the groups
      requesting budgeted funds in their preparation of annual budget requests in accordance with this standing
      rule.
   h. Financial Reports/Audits Required. All entities, including the districts, receiving funds through the
      CF&A or the Conference Treasurer’s office shall present an annual financial report and/or audit to CF&A
      following the guidelines and within the time frame as specified by CF&A, including a statement of all
      monies held in reserve accounts. When there is failure to comply with this rule, CF&A may decline to
      consider requests for funds and for the following year and/or may withhold funds until such report is received.
   i. Conference Reserve Fund. CF&A is authorized to maintain a Conference reserve fund which may
      consist of: funds budgeted for that purpose; funds received from whatever source for activities which have
      been terminated and which remain unused; year-end unused balances in the budget of conference
      program and administrative areas; and income earned by the investment of the cash flow in the
      Conference Treasury. The Conference reserve fund may be used to manage cash flow and/or allocated to
      specific needs as approved by CF&A. Status and uses of the Conference reserve fund shall be reported at
      regular sessions of the Annual Conference.
   j. Executive Committee Acts as Personnel Committee. The Executive Committee of the Council on
      Finance and Administration, including the Bishop or the Bishop’s designee, the Conference Treasurer, the
      Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Human Resources Director shall serve as the Personnel
      Committee for Conference employees and shall be responsible for setting policy, benefits, and
      compensation; and handling grievances. This rule does not limit the role of the Conference Board of
      Ordained Ministry or the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits in relation to clergy matters.
   k. Emergency Borrowing. In the event of a major emergency between sessions of Annual Conference
      and with the approval of the Bishop and a four-fifths majority of the Cabinet, a four-fifths majority of the
      Trustees, and a four-fifths majority of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Council on Finance
      and Administration may borrow up to one million dollars and/or, with the consent of other agencies, may
      suspend payment of, or reallocate, monies within the Conference budget.
   l. Approval Required for Obligations in Excess of Budget or Resources. No agency or entity of the
      Conference shall be allowed to obligate itself beyond its approved budget or available resources without
      the prior approval of the Cabinet and CF&A. This rule does not apply to Bethune-Cookman College
      University, Florida Southern College, the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, the Florida Conference
      Foundation, or to District Boards of Mission and Church Extension.

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a. Mileage Allowance. The mileage allowance for all persons traveling by automobile for conference meetings is set at the IRS allowable business rate plus tolls actually paid. Actual expenses for travel by other means will be reimbursed up to, but not exceeding, the above mileage rate. Per Diem amounts will be set by the executive committee of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A); in hardship situations the Chairperson of CF&A, in consultation with the conference treasurer, may adjust these amounts. Persons authorized to represent the conference in an official capacity in meetings beyond conference bounds may be reimbursed for actual expenses. Prior approval from the conference treasurer is required for reimbursement. The group or person requesting approval must also indicate which fund will be used for reimbursement. In keeping with the spirit of good stewardship, expenses are to be kept to a minimum. To maximize resources of both time and money, conference groups should meet only when necessary to accomplish conference business. Whenever possible, groups are also encouraged to schedule meetings in conjunction with other conference events.

b. Housing Allowances to Conference employees. Housing allowances, when provided to employees of conference institutions and groups, shall be based on the prevailing rental rate in the area in which the staff member housing is located. The employing entity shall negotiate a satisfactory housing allowance and be responsible for paying it. Professional staff occupying conference-owned parsonages are responsible for stewardship of the parsonages in accordance with the Florida Annual Conference Parsonage Guidelines as published in the 2008 Conference Journal and/or as amended.

c. Fair Share Formula for Apportionments. The fair share formula shall be used to determine the local church apportionment for all conference and general church budget areas. The fair share formula is based on the items as reported in lines 53 through 62 of Table II of the most recent year-ending statistical report compiled by the conference statistician. These items include Pastor & Associate Compensation, Deacon & Diaconal Compensation, Other Staff Compensation, Current Expenses for Program, and Current Operating Expenses. Compensation includes housing allowances and housing related expenses paid to Pastors, Associates, Deacons, Diaconals, and other staff. In reporting Operating Expenses, churches should not include payments made to the conference for the conference's ministry protection program for property and casualty, workers compensation, or automobile insurance. Each local church should include only those expenses of their "tuition based" school actually paid by the local church. Expenses of the school, paid by tuitions, are not to be included. The Florida Annual Conference recognizes the importance of New Church Development and the role of the Mother/Daughter relationship. Therefore the expenses of the Daughter church, which are paid by the Mother church, should not be included in the operating expenses of the Mother church for the purpose of computing apportionments; such expenses are to be reported by the daughter church. The total amount spent on these items in each local church is divided by the total amount spent on these items for all conference churches. This calculation determines each local church’s fair share percentage or decimal. This fair share decimal is then multiplied by the amount approved for each area in the conference budget to determine the amount each local church is asked to give. Each district shall ensure that the total amount apportioned to the churches in that district is fully paid. Each district may decide how the apportionments within the district will be shared by the churches in order to achieve the 100 percent goal. Any Clergy Support apportionment and Episcopal Fund apportionment not fully paid by a church shall be carried forward to the next year and added to that church’s apportionment. Apportionments shall be given in full and on a timely basis. Local churches are encouraged to give 10 percent of each apportionment item per month during the first 10 months of the year.

d. District Work Fund Apportionment Formula. District Work Fund apportionments shall be calculated using the same formula for all churches in every district throughout the Conference, based on the compensation paid to the church’s pastor(s) and other appointed clergy. The Cabinet and CF&A together shall establish an upper limit percentage to use in this formula so that district-level mission, ministry and administration are adequately funded, in keeping with the spirit of good stewardship, while taking into consideration the individual districts needs and resources.

e. Not obligating Conference funds in excess of anticipated income. Except as otherwise provided in these Standing Rules or in The Discipline, no agency, individual or group may obligate conference funds in excess of anticipated income. CF&A shall have authority to make amendments to a budget to accommodate pressing needs but those amendments must be proposed to CF&A for consideration and will be considered in the context of available funds and other conference priorities. Funds will be available “On Ratio” as received. See particularly Standing Rule 419.4.b, 420.4.b, 419.4.c, 420.4.c, 419.4.d, 420.4.d and 419.4.e.

f. Budget Submission Policies. Any board, agency or other entity seeking funding in the conference budget shall submit their budget requests to the conference treasurer not later than the tenth day of January for inclusion in the budget to be presented to the Annual Conference that year. The CF&A executive committee
may grant reasonable extensions to the deadline. Any entity that has designated or other funds available to
them will provide that information when submitting their budget requests. Each group’s budget request must
be in the format and include the information requested by CF&A. The budget request must include line item
explanation of the amounts requested and show the signature of the chairperson or secretary of the group.
g. Line of Credit. The Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to negotiate favorable rates for and
to establish a loan or line of credit (secured or unsecured) not to exceed $1 million ($1,000,000). In the event
of a financial shortfall this loan or line of credit would be used to manage cash flow needs for operations of
the Conference. Any use of this loan or line of credit shall be reported to the Annual Conference upon its
next meeting.
h. Empowerment to Act Between Sessions of Annual Conference. The Council on Finance and Administration,
in consultation with the Bishop, is empowered to act on financial matters between sessions of the Annual
Conference. Such actions shall be reported to the Annual Conference upon its next meeting.
i. Executive Committee is Personnel Committee. The Executive Committee of the Council on Finance and
Administration shall be the Personnel Committee of the Conference, and shall have authority to act on all
personnel matters, including, but not limited to matters concerning staff compensation, employment, and
other human resource matters. These decisions will be made after careful study, research, evaluation and
consultation with appropriate experts, consultants and other resources available at the time.
j. Salaries for District Superintendents. The salaries for district superintendents will fluctuate annually according
to the percentage change in the Florida Conference Average Compensation of clergy members, as calculated
and published by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Additionally, each district
superintendent will be reimbursed for business expenses, included business travel, at the IRS allowable
business rate.

Par. 421. Conference Board of Trustees
1. Establishment. Pursuant to ¶ 2512 of The Discipline, there shall be a Conference Board of Trustees
(Trustees).
2. Trustees Hold Title. The title to all Conference-owned property shall be held by the Board of Trustees of the
Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., except those properties held by other
incorporated bodies authorized by the Conference.
3. Legal Status of Property. The legal status of all property belonging to the Conference, including the tax
status, shall be the responsibility of the Trustees.
4. Insurance Coverage. The Trustees hold responsibility for seeing that adequate insurance coverage, as
determined in cooperation with the Conference Ministry Protection committee, is provided for all Conference-owned
property and facilities.
5. Responsible Use of Property. The Trustees shall work cooperatively with all Conference agencies in plans
for responsible use of Conference-owned property and facilities.
6. Trustee Approval Required. The Trustees shall approve acquisitions of real property, construction of new
buildings, additions to existing facilities, and capital improvements to Conference-owned property.
7. Review of Building Plans. Before a building can be built, altered, or purchased 1) by a Conference agency
with the Trustees holding title; or 2) with direct appropriations from the Conference budget; the Trustees must
review and approve any plans at both the preliminary and final drawing stages and/or approve the purchase. The
cost of this review shall be assessed against the projects involved.
8. Capital Maintenance Endowments. It is expected that the cost of all new buildings shall include funding for
a capital maintenance endowment designated to pay for some of the future capital maintenance needs of the
building.
9. Repair and Maintenance. The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that repair and maintenance of all
Conference-owned property is properly carried out by the agencies that oversee them.
10. Staff Housing for Clergy. Where residences are owned by the Conference and available, staff persons are
to reside in them. Maintenance for the housing will be paid by the Conference Agency that hired the staff person.
In cases where a housing allowance is paid in lieu of a parsonage, the employing entity shall negotiate a
satisfactory housing allowance and be responsible for paying it.
11. Certificate of Insurance Required. A certificate of insurance shall be furnished to the Conference Board of
Trustees by companies performing work on Conference property. The Trustees shall require Conference agencies,
which control the use of Conference-owned property, to provide adequate insurance to cover all legal liability of the
Trustees and those using the property.
**Par. 422. Ministry Protection Committee.**

1. **Establishment and Purpose.** There shall be a Ministry Protection Committee that shall have overall supervision of the Property, Liability, Workers Compensation, and other related insurance and Ministry Protection programs of the Florida Annual Conference. The Committee shall report to, and be amenable to, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. The Committee shall serve as an intermediary in explaining, negotiating, and implementing the Conference-wide Ministry Protection program with all church-related entities that are involved in the program. The Committee shall have responsibility for selecting the broker of record, negotiating insurance contracts, designating the types and limits of insurance included in the program, establishing the financial parameters of the program, and other appropriate matters relating to the Conference-wide Ministry Protection program.

2. **Risk Manager Expenses.** The positions of Risk Manager and support staff shall be established within the office of the Conference Treasurer. Budgeting of the Ministry Protection Department and the expenses of this Committee are contained within the administrative management fee of the Ministry Protection program. These fees are to be paid out of premiums, not apportionments, are to be reviewed and approved by the Committee, and are subject to approval by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

3. **Membership.** The Committee will consist of eight members-at-large, who will be placed in four classes of two persons each, and who will serve for four year terms. The Committee will not be limited to, but must include, members with insurance, legal, pastoral, and financial experience. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration will appoint from among its membership one member with voice and vote to this Committee. The Conference Trustees will appoint from among its membership one member with voice and vote to this Committee. The Cabinet will appoint one District Superintendent to this Committee. The Cabinet representative, the Conference Chancellor, the Conference Treasurer, and the Conference Risk Manager will serve as ex officio members of the Committee. The Committee, at its discretion, may invite others to serve as ex officio advisors to the Committee.

4. **Officers.** The Committee shall nominate, and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall elect, the Chair, Vice-chair, and (if needed) other officers of the Committee.

**Par. 423. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) shall have the organization and function of the predecessor Board of Pensions.**

1. **Membership.** The Board shall consist of twenty-one members: one third laywomen, one third laymen, and one third clergy, elected for a term of eight years and arranged in two classes as nearly equal as possible so that one half will rotate each quadrennium. A District Superintendent appointed by the Bishop, the Director of Human Resources and Benefits, the Conference Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer for Administration shall serve as ex officio members. Additional ex officio members with voice, but without vote, who bring special interest and skills may be added to the CBOPHB as needed.

2. **Officers.** The Board shall elect from its membership a Chair, a Vice-Chair, Secretary and a Chair of the Preacher’s Relief Board. The Vice-Chair shall also Chair the Health Insurance Subcommittee and shall represent the Conference in matters related to health insurance. All members of the CBOPHB are also members of the Preacher’s Relief Board which represents the CBOPHB in matters relating to grants and real property. **3. Qualifying for Conference Sponsored Retiree Health Insurance Program.** These provisions are only available for fulltime clergy who are ordained ministers, deacons or Board approved local pastors as well as members of the Florida Annual Conference.

3. **Qualifying for Active Clergy Health Insurance Program.** The administrative rules governing the active clergy health insurance program became effective January 1, 2017 and replaces the predecessor mandatory clergy health insurance program that terminated on December 31, 2016 are as follows:

   a. Effective January 1, 2017, all local churches, Districts and Conference staff with appointed eligible full time clergy are required to offer full time clergy either a health insurance plan or additional compensation to purchase other insurance.

   b. The church will no longer pay the Conference a premium for health insurance and instead will either provide a health insurance plan for clergy members and their family or increase the annual salary so eligible clergy can purchase a private insurance plan.

   c. Eligible clergy are actively working full time clergy (including Deacons) appointed to a local church, District or Conference staff. Clergy members have special recognition by the IRS and are considered self-employed persons and as such are not considered “employees” under the Affordable Care Act.

   d. The Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits will determine the amount of additional compensation. This additional compensation, paid in lieu of health insurance, will be based on the clergy family size. This additional salary is taxable income and should be properly reflected as such on clergy members’ W-2 tax form. And the church should
pay eligible clergy this additional compensation according to regular payroll practices. The Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits (CBOPHB) will monitor the amount of compensation paid to clergy in lieu of health insurance annually and issue required updates as needed.

e. If the church offers a health insurance plan they don’t need to alter or change the coverage provided or how the church chooses to share the cost of the insurance. It’s the clergy member’s choice to accept the insurance plan as offered or decline it and request the additional compensation to purchase health insurance. However, clergy members who are offered a plan and decline it are not eligible for Premium Tax Credits (government subsidies) if they purchase insurance coverage through the Marketplace.

f. Clergy must make an election to either accept the health insurance plan offered by the local church (if available) or request the additional compensation before Charge Conference forms are completed and submitted to the District. Any change in family members that will impact the stipend amount will be approved at the church level and will not require a Charge Conference.

g. Clergy who have other insurance can “opt-out” of health insurance provided by the local church. Clergy members can decline the insurance plan offered and decline the additional compensation. This “opt-out” requires the approval of the District Superintendent to make sure there is no effort to coerce clergy members to forfeit benefits. The opt-out election must be recorded on the Compensation Charge Conference form.

h. Clergy not eligible for required employer support are those who are either serving part-time, Lay Supply Pastors, Clergy appointed to extension ministries, or retired clergy serving an appointment.

i. Eligible clergy who are currently on paid leave (such as renewal leave) or clergy who take a future paid leave of absence must continue to be paid the additional compensation for health insurance. Those clergy who take a personal, sabbatical, transitional, or any other non-paid leave are not eligible for compensation to purchase health insurance.

j. Clergy applying for disability from the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) remain eligible for additional compensation for health insurance while their application is pending and will be paid by the current Salary Paying Unit. Once an applicant is approved for long-term disability, their compensation to purchase health insurance will be paid by the Conference. If the application is not approved, the clergy’s compensation (including additional compensation for health insurance) will be suspended pending an appeal and final disposition of the claim for disability benefits.

k. Clergy couples who have dependents will be classified as a family for benefit purposes. As such, clergy couples (either two party or families) must make an election decision for the family unit. Clergy members serving at the same Salary Paying Unit (SPU) who have dependents and choose to enroll in the local church insurance plan must be classified as a family. Or, clergy members can request the family stipend of the additional compensation which may be shared between the SPUs annually for each clergy to use to purchase alternative insurance coverage for the family. The additional compensation shared between the clergy couple should not exceed the total family stipend amount.

l. SPUs are advised that the requirement to compensate clergy to support the purchase of health insurance cannot be conditioned on the actual purchase of health insurance. The SPU cannot require clergy to provide proof of insurance.

m. “The CBOPHB may modify these rules until the next annual conference if a legislative/regulatory change in the Affordable Care Act or exit from the Exchange of Florida providers becomes probable. The CBOPHB will judiciously exercise its fiduciary responsibility to ensure all full-time, active clergy have a viable healthcare benefit.

4. Qualifying for Conference Sponsored Retiree Health Insurance Program. These provisions are only available for fulltime clergy who are ordained ministers, deacons or Board approved local pastors as well as members of the Florida Annual Conference. Clergy who transferred their membership to the Florida Conference after January 1, 2003 will not receive credit for retiree supplemental health benefits for prior service in other Annual Conferences.

5. Administrative Rules Governing Eligibility & Benefits for the Two Retiree Healthcare Insurance Supplement Programs are optional choices for eligible clergy at the time of retirement and are outlined below: as follows:

Grandfathered Plan

- Clergy who are members of the Florida Conference are eligible for the Grandfathered Plan (Medicare supplement) where the Conference provides support to retired clergy to purchase health insurance when these criteria are met:

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• Clergy who are 55 or older with a minimum of 35 years of service or were age 64 or older on July 1, 2014 and are serving in an appointment made by the Bishop of the Florida Conference and are enrolled in the Conference health insurance program. They may elect the credit-based retiree health insurance plan when they retire as outlined above for themselves and any eligible spouse. This plan functions as a Medicare supplement for those retirees who are receiving Medicare. Or, they can elect the new HRA program. It is their choice at the time of retirement. This group is “grandfathered” with the credit-based plan remaining an option. This is the only eligible group who qualifies for the credit-based plan. If you are not receiving Medicare, this arrangement is not an option.

• A clergyperson must have a minimum of 10 years of service in Florida and credits are limited to 40 years of service for awarding service credits. (Each year of service reduces the retiree’s premium payment toward their Grandfathered Medicare supplemental plan).

• The individual must be serving in an appointment made by the Bishop of the Florida Conference and enrolled in the Conference health insurance program at the time of retirement. In addition, he/she must be continuously enrolled in the health insurance program for a minimum of five years immediately prior to retirement. Due to the change from the clergy-provided Conference health insurance plan to the health stipend, beginning January 1, 2017, clergy members of the Florida Conference must have been appointed to a local church within the Florida Conference and may be enrolled in a church health plan or provided the health stipend. In addition, he/she must have served continuously in a local church within the boundaries of the Florida Conference or appointed on staff at the Florida Conference for the last ten years of their career, prior to retirement, to be eligible for a future retiree health benefit.

• For those who began service in the Florida Conference prior to January 1, 2003, all years of service in all conferences of The United Methodist Church will be credited.

• The Conference funding retiree healthcare subsidy for the Grandfathered Plan applies to the retired clergy’s and his/her Medicare-eligible spouse (credits will only be extended to the clergy members spouse at the time of retirement) and will continue for the spouse even if the clergy precedes the spouse in death. The surviving spouse will continue receiving Conference funding the retiree healthcare subsidy until his/her death or upon remarriage.

Health Reimbursement Account Effective July 1, 2014.

• The new benefit is a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) arrangement. The HRA is an account-based plan that provides an annual subsidy for the purchase of health insurance in retirement based upon total years of service at the time of retirement in the Florida Conference. The following are specific details on plan eligibility and benefit provisions:

• As of 7-1-2014 those clergy age 64 or those age 55 or older with a minimum of 35 years of service and are serving in an appointment made by the Bishop of the Florida Conference and enrolled in the Conference health insurance program on July 1, 2014 may elect the credit-based health insurance plan when they retire as outlined above for themselves and any eligible spouse. Or, they can elect the new HRA program. It is their choice at the time of retirement. This group is “grandfathered” with the credit-based plan remaining an option.

• HRA Plan Eligibility. All other Only clergy with membership in the Florida Conference serving full time under Episcopal appointment and were enrolled in the Conference health insurance program on July 1, 2014 will be eligible for the new HRA benefit upon retirement. Full time is defined as an appointment at or above minimum salary for each type of clergy category as defined in the Conference journal. Clergy must be enrolled in the Conference health insurance program at the time of retirement. In addition, they must be continuously enrolled in the health insurance program for four of the last five years immediately prior to retirement. Clergy members of the Florida Conference who were not enrolled in the Conference health insurance plan on July 1, 2014 are not eligible for a future retiree benefit. Anyone not meeting the HRA Plan eligibility requirements as of 7-1-2014 (and is not grandfathered) is not eligible for a future HRA benefit or any subsidy from the Conference for the purchase of health insurance as a retiree. These changes do not affect existing retirees and are effective for retirements on or after July 1, 2014.

• As of July 1, 2014, service credits for clergy who are currently on unpaid leave or clergy who take a future personal, sabbatical, transitional, or family leave of absence or any other non-paid leave are limited to 12 months HRA service credit. Non-paid leaves of more than 12 months will not be included as credited service for HRA eligibility.

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• Clergy receiving a disability benefit from the Clergy Protection Plan (CPP) will be subject to the same eligibility rules for the grandfathered either the credit-based or HRA plan upon retirement. Service credits will be awarded to clergy while receiving CPP disability benefits.

• Anyone not meeting the HRA Plan eligibility requirements as of July 1, 2014 as stated above is not eligible for a future HRA benefit or any subsidy from the Conference for the purchase of health insurance as a retiree.

• **HRA Plan Benefit Provisions.** Effective July 1, 2014 those eligible clergy who met the eligibility requirements stated above and who completed a minimum of 10 years of service appointed to the local church or Conference, with membership in the Florida Conference, and are at least age 60 will receive an annual HRA contribution upon retirement. The amount of the annual HRA contribution will vary with the retiree’s age and years of service at retirement and will remain fixed at that amount. The schedule below illustrates the annual contributions based on age and service at retirement.

• Clergy couples will be provided individual HRA account contributions based on their own individual age and years of service at date of retirement.

• Upon the death of the retiree retired clergy member, a retiree’s the surviving spouse at their time of retirement (who is not receiving an individual HRA contribution under this plan and is at least age 60) will receive an annual HRA contribution equal to 75% of the retiree’s amount rounded to the nearest $100. The surviving spouse will continue receiving the annual HRA contribution until their death or upon re-marriage.

• If an actively working clergy member passes away and would have been eligible for retiree healthcare supplemental benefits on the date of death, the HRA will be offered to the surviving spouse when he/she reaches age 60. However, if the clergy member passes away before reaching retiree healthcare eligibility, an HRA benefit or any subsidy from the Conference for the purchase of health insurance will not be offered to the surviving spouse.

• The CBOPHB will review the annual HRA contribution schedule at least every four years to determine future increases.

### Surviving spouses of actively working clergy:

**Eligible for HRA:** Surviving spouses of clergy who pass away while actively working and are eligible for retirement are extended Continuation coverage through the group health plan for 60 days. The Conference will pay the employer’s premium and the individual is responsible for the employee’s premium. The surviving spouse is eligible for the retiree health insurance HRA when she/he reaches age 60.

**Not eligible for HRA:** Surviving spouses of clergy who pass away while actively working and are not eligible for retirement are extended Continuation coverage through the group health plan for 60 days. The Conference will pay the employer’s premium and the individual is responsible for the employee’s premium. No further health insurance benefits are provided.

• The CBOPHB will review the annual HRA contribution schedule at least every four years to determine future increases. **Years of Service Schedule Effective July 1, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Service Schedule</th>
<th>Age 60</th>
<th>Age 61</th>
<th>Age 62</th>
<th>Age 63</th>
<th>Age 64</th>
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Established to guide the orderly process of electing delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Par. 424. The Elections Procedures Committee and Elections Procedures for Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

1. The Elections Procedures Committee.
   a. Establishment. The Florida Annual Conference is given the responsibility to help shape the future of The United Methodist Church when it selects and prepares its delegation for General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The Elections Procedures Committee is established to guide the orderly process of electing delegates including recommending changes in these Standing Rules, to set the method of voting for delegates (in consultation with Annual Conference Event Program Committee), to monitor delegate elections, and to be the final arbiter of any and all election disputes. The committee’s hope is to call the Annual Conference to a prayer-centered process of spiritual discernment in preparation for the delegate elections. The hope is that this process will create opportunities for the Spirit of God to call forth from among us faithful witnesses who will become the agents of God’s purpose for the future of the church.
   b. Membership. The committee shall consist of six members and serve a term of one quadrennium. Committee members may succeed themselves. The Conference Secretary will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee unless elected as a member of the committee. The Conference Committee on Leadership shall determine the Chair of the committee. The Chair shall hold office for the entire quadrennium for which he or she serves on the committee.

2. Election Parameters.
   a. That the Annual Conference approach the election process with a clear center in prayer.
   b. That the Annual Conference encourage opportunities for groups of clergy and laity to listen to Scripture, share their sense of God’s vision for the church, and enter into disciplined prayer for the election process.
   c. That the Annual Conference commit ourselves to being open to the call of God upon the lives of people who represent the diversity and strength of the local congregations of the Florida Annual Conference in terms of age, sex, race, ethnic background, language, orders of clergy, geography, theological perspective and experience.
   d. That the Elections Procedures Committee create clear guidelines by which the Annual Conference can gather and share pertinent information about nominees which will assist the voting members of the Annual Conference in their selection of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

3. District Responsibilities. The Cabinet and the Board of Lay Ministry are charged to discover the most appropriate way for each District to participate in the Spiritual Journey to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. It is hoped that each District will create and implement an educational strategy which will include at least the following items: the process for nomination; spiritual discernment and how to recognize the call to serve; lifting up the issues and concerns likely to be addressed during General and Jurisdictional Conferences; the financial and time requirements expected of those elected to serve; reflection upon the unique needs and demographics of the Florida Annual Conference; and praying for the Spirit to provide the names of those who can best represent our

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>HRA Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
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*Annual HRA contribution is reduced by 5% each year prior to age 65 for early retirement. Married retirees (that are not part of a clergy couple) share HRA contribution with spouse. Surviving spouse’s benefit at retiree’s death is equal to 75% of the retiree’s amount while living—rounded to the nearest $100. The clergyperson’s age on the date of retirement determines the amount of the HRA contribution. Years of service is determined by the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits official Service Record.*
Annual Conference. Each District will intentionally encourage clergy serving in an appointment beyond the
bounds of the District or Annual Conference to consider serving as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional
Conferences. Each District will provide a way for nominees from that District to share their vision for the Church.
Each District is encouraged to pray regularly for all of the nominees.

4. Nominations Process for Lay Persons. Lay persons desiring nomination and election as a delegate to General
and Jurisdictional Conferences will follow the process outlined below.
a. Any person who has been a member of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their
election, has been an active participant in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their
election and is a member within the Florida Annual Conference at the time of the General and Jurisdictional
Conferences is eligible for nomination.
b. A cover letter and nomination form will be posted on the Conference web site in September preceding the
Annual Conference session of delegate elections. The nomination form requests the following information:
name; address; occupation; local church; District; race/ethnicity; confirmation about the ability to attend the
required meetings; age bracket (under 21, 21-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 and over); and experience
in the church (local, District, Conference, or General). Nominees will be asked to answer in 250 words or less
(only the first 250 words will be printed) one of the following questions: “Why do you feel called to be a
delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?” or “What is your vision for The United Methodist
Church?” Nominees are encouraged to electronically submit a recent digital photograph during the on-line
registration process.
c. Nomination forms filled out on the Conference web site will be electronically dated upon completion. In order
to include nominee’s biographical information and photograph in the pre-Conference materials, the
nomination form on the Conference web site will not be available after February 15 preceding the Annual
Conference session of delegate elections. Nomination forms submitted via U.S. Mail must be postmarked no
later than February 15 preceding the Annual Conference session of delegate elections and are to be mailed
to the Chair of the Elections Procedures Committee. Any disputes will be adjudicated by the Elections
Procedures Committee.
d. The names, addresses, photographs, and statements will be printed in alphabetical order in the Conference
Workbook of the session of Annual Conference in which delegate elections occur. An alphabetical listing will
also be placed on the Conference web site.
e. All Lay nominees will be introduced at the Lay Orientation session of the Annual Conference where delegates
are elected. The Annual Conference Program Committee will provide a time to meet the nominees prior to
the first ballot. Nominees will have a special designation to wear to indicate that a person is a nominee.
f. To allow for spiritual discernment for persons sensing a call to serve as a delegate to General Conference
and Jurisdictional Conferences after the February 15 deadline, representatives from the Elections
Procedures Committee will be stationed at a table in the area designated for the Lay Session meeting with
blank self-nomination forms. The representatives will be available from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on the day
of the Lay Session for persons desiring to be considered for election to provide the required information. All
of the provisions in 4.(a) and 4.(b) above must be satisfied and verified. If approved, the person will be
assigned a ballot number and will be eligible for consideration. A handout with the additional names and
ballot numbers will be provided to voting members prior to the first ballot. Persons adding their names in this
manner will not be introduced at the Lay Orientation Session, will not have their biographical information
printed or posted on the Conference web site, and will not be permitted to introduce themselves to the Annual
Conference during a regular business session. Copies of the completed forms will be posted on a bulletin
board in a strategic location determined by the Elections Procedures Committee for voting members of the
Annual Conference to review prior to the first ballot. Persons adding their names in this manner may provide,
at their own expense, copies of their completed form to be placed on the Ushers’ Table for members to pick
up and review prior to the first ballot. No further names may be nominated or considered for election after the
11:00 a.m. closing of the on-site registration station.

5. Nomination Process for Clergy. The ordained ministerial delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences
shall be elected by and from the ordained ministerial members in full connection within the Annual Conference.
All eligible clergy interested in serving as a delegate will follow the procedures outlined below.
a. A cover letter and nomination form will be posted on the conference web site in September preceding the
Annual Conference session of delegate elections. The nomination form requests the following information:
name; address; local church; district; race/ethnicity; confirmation about the ability to attend the required
meetings; and age bracket (under 21, 21-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 and over). Nominees will be
asked to answer in 250 words or less (only the first 250 words will be printed) one of the following questions:
“Why do you feel called to be a delegate to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conferences?” or “What
is your vision for the United Methodist Church?” Nominees are encouraged to electronically submit a recent digital photograph during the on-line registration process.

b. Nomination forms filled out on the Conference web site will be electronically dated upon completion. In order to include nominee’s biographical information and photograph in the pre-Conference materials, the nomination form on the Conference web site will not be available after February 15 preceding the Annual Conference session of delegate elections. Nomination forms submitted via U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than February 15 preceding the Annual Conference session of delegate elections and are to be mailed to the Chair of the Elections Procedures Committee. Any disputes will be adjudicated by the Elections Procedures Committee.

c. The names, addresses, photographs, and statements will be printed in alphabetical order in the Conference Workbook of the session of Annual Conference in which delegate elections occur. An alphabetical listing will also be placed on the Conference web site.

d. To allow for spiritual discernment for persons sensing a call to serve as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences after the February 15th deadline, representatives from the Elections Procedures Committee will be stationed at a table in the area designated for the Clergy Session meeting with blank self-nomination forms. The representatives will be available from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on the day of the Clergy Session for persons desiring to be considered for election to provide the required information. Only those clergy members eligible to serve in accordance with The Book of Discipline may register. Upon verification, the person will be assigned a ballot number and will be eligible for consideration. A handout with the additional names and ballot numbers will be provided to voting members prior to the first ballot. Persons adding their names in this manner will not have their biographical information printed or posted on the Conference web site and will not be permitted to introduce themselves to the Annual Conference during a regular business session. Copies of the completed forms will be posted on a bulletin board in a strategic location determined by the Elections Procedures Committee for voting members of the Annual Conference to review prior to the first ballot. Persons adding their names in this manner may provide, at their own expense, copies of their completed form to be placed on the Ushers’ Table for members to pick up and review prior to the first ballot. No further names may be nominated or considered for election after the 11:00 a.m. closing of the on-site registration station.


a. Prior to the opening of each ballot, the Bishop, or person designated by the Bishop, will lead the Conference in a time of silent meditation and prayer.

b. Members of the Conference will vote on computer-sensitive cards, electronic device, or other method determined by the Elections Procedures Committee (in consultation with the Annual Conference Policy Committee or other agency charged with planning the Annual Conference sessions) with laity voting for lay delegates and eligible clergy voting for clergy delegates.

c. When the Bishop, or person designated by the Bishop, announces the results of election ballots, the names and ballot numbers of persons receiving votes will be projected on the screens in preparation for the next ballot.

d. To expedite the election process, ballot results will be reported as follows:
   1) 1st ballot - All names receiving votes will be read.
   2) 2nd – 4th ballot - First 25 names will be read.
   3) Remaining ballots - First 10 names will be read.

e. At specific points in the election process, the Elections Procedures Committee will report to the Conference on the inclusiveness and diversity of the elected delegation.

7. Policy for Tie Breaks. In the event of a tie between two or more nominees for the last available position on the General and/or Jurisdictional delegations, a run-off election will be ordered by the Bishop to select the person to fill that position. Only the names of those in the run-off are open for votes. The names, with their corresponding number of votes, will be read in the order of their election. The person with the highest number of votes cast will be seated with the appropriate delegation.

8. Invalid votes. An invalid vote is a vote that does not conform to the election procedures set forth in the Standing Rules or any other procedures adopted by the Annual Conference prior to the first ballot. An invalid vote only invalidates the specific vote that was cast incorrectly. The Elections Procedures Committee shall be the final arbiter of all decisions concerning invalid votes or ballot challenges.

9. Reserve Delegates. Reserve delegates to General Conference will be those elected to Jurisdictional Conference in the order of their election. Reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference will be elected on a single ballot with the seven persons receiving the greatest number of votes in each category being elected in order of the votes received. The first two (2) elected Lay and Clergy delegates to Jurisdictional Conference will serve as alternates to the General Conference delegation.
10. Information Distribution. In keeping with the historic principles of The United Methodist Church that each
delegate votes their individual beliefs and convictions and with the traditions of the Florida Annual Conference for
inclusiveness and diversity in thought and practice, all nominees are requested to refrain from distributing printed
material about themselves or their positions on issues before, or during, the election process. Only those nominees
noted in paragraphs 4.f and 5.d above are permitted to place copies of their completed nomination form at the
Ushers’ Table for distribution.

Section VI. Episcopal Committees

Par. 425. Committee on Episcopacy. Pursuant to ¶ 610 of The Discipline, the following provision shall be added
to the requirements of ¶ 637 of The Discipline: The committee shall have 12 members comprised of three
laywomen, three laymen, and six clergy, insuring diversity and knowledge of the mission of the annual conference.
Three persons shall be nominated by the Bishop. Two of these members are ex-officio members from the SEJ
Committee on Episcopacy and shall be co-chairs of this committee.

Section VII. Annual Conference Staff

Par. 426. Director of Connectional Ministries. The Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM) shall be the
Executive Officer of the Conference. The DCM shall articulate the vision of the Conference, seek alignment and
implementation of the ministry system that gives life to the vision, and participate in and supervise the core
processes of the boards, agencies, task teams, ministry groups and offices of the Conference. The DCM shall
function in a consultative relationship to the Cabinet on matters relating to coordination, implementation, and
administration of the Conference ministries. The DCM leads the Conference Staff in implementing the shared vision
and ministries of the Conference. Following consultation with the Personnel Committee and the Strategic
Leadership Team, the Bishop shall nominate the DCM whose election shall be determined by the Executive
Committee of the Personnel Committee solely upon the nomination of the Bishop. The salary shall be the same as
that of a District Superintendent.

Par. 427. Conference Staff. The Conference shall employ other staff on the recommendation of the DCM, the
Conference Treasurer, and the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee shall seek nominations following
the procedures set forth in the Conference Employee Handbook. Staff assignments to areas of work and
conference agencies shall be reviewed annually by the DCM, in consultation with the Extended Cabinet and
confirmed by the Personnel Committee.

Par. 428. Personnel Committee of the Annual Conference. The Executive Committee of the Council on Finance
and Administration, including the Bishop or the Bishop’s designee, the Conference Treasurer, the DCM, and the
Human Resources Director shall serve as the Personnel Committee for Conference employees and shall be
responsible for all personnel matters including setting policy, benefits, and compensation, and handling grievances.
This rule does not limit the role of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry or the Conference Board of Pension
and Health Benefits in relation to clergy matters.

Chapter Five
RULES GOVERNING CONFERENCE AGENCIES

Par. 501. Notice of Meetings; Meetings Open to All. Each Conference agency shall give reasonable advance
notice of the place and time of each regular meeting and each special meeting it calls. Notice shall be given
through the Conference publications and/or the Conference website and written e-mail notice (or written notice
through the United States Postal Service if e-mail is unavailable). It shall be the responsibility of each agency
member to assure that the Chair has an accurate e-mail or postal address of record. All agencies shall welcome
any person(s) who may desire to visit meetings to discuss and/or offer suggestions related to the work of the
agency.

Par. 502. Statement of Employee Salaries and Expenses. Each Conference agency shall make available to the
members of the Annual Conference, upon written request, an exact statement of the salaries and expenses paid on
account of any person employed by the agency.

Par. 503. No Conflicts of Interest or Remuneration.
1. No person whose private business conflicts with the purposes or business of a Conference agency, or that does or proposes to do business with that agency, shall be a member of that Conference agency.

2. No person may receive an honorarium, or be paid a fee, for services rendered, if that person is a member of the sponsoring or planning agency or organization.

3. No officers or members of any Conference agency shall receive remuneration for their service.

Par. 504. Terms and Term Limits. The term of service of all agency members elected shall begin as of the end of the Annual Conference session at which they were elected, and those ending in that year shall end at the close of that Annual Conference session. Membership on Conference agencies shall be limited to eight consecutive years for both clergy and lay members unless The Discipline or the Standing Rules provide otherwise. Members rotating off any organization under these provisions shall become eligible for re-election to such organizations after a period of two years. No person shall serve longer than four years as Chair of the same Conference agency.

Par. 505. Agency Membership shall be in Classes. The membership of all Conference agencies except for the Standing Rules Committee shall be elected in classes with a definite number of members in each class. The Standing Rules Committee shall include eight members to be elected as a single class each quadrennium, as described in Par. 108.

Par. 506. Membership Limited to One Conference Agency. Membership shall not be held in more than one Conference agency, provided, however, that this rule does not apply to members of the Committee on Investigation, Committee on Episcopacy, Conference Committee on Leadership, The Board of Ordained Ministry, Annual Conference Program Committee, ex-officio members of agencies, or to anyone exempted by The Discipline or the Standing Rules.

Par. 507. Conference Secretary to Review Agency Membership. The Conference Secretary, with the assistance of the Administrative Assistant to the Conference Committee on Leadership, immediately shall review the Annual Conference elections, and any agency vacancies filled by the CCL, to determine if one person has been elected to two Conference agencies. The Conference Secretary shall notify the person and groups involved and, in turn, shall be notified as to which responsibility shall be accepted.

Par. 508. General Board Members May Serve in Comparable Conference or District Agencies. Persons serving on General Boards or agencies of The United Methodist Church who are members of the Florida Conference or are members of any church in the Florida Conference may be full members of the comparable Conference agency and of any comparable District Work Area. The rotation rule shall not apply for such term of service, but the rule regarding service on two boards shall apply.

Par. 509. Charter and By-laws of Incorporated Agencies must be Filed with Conference Secretary. The Charter and by-laws of each incorporated legal and financial organization of the Conference shall be filed with the Conference Secretary. The Conference Secretary shall be notified immediately of any proposed change in these Charters or by-laws. The Conference Secretary shall also list the legal and financial organizations in this standing rule each year. These organizations are as follows:

1. The Trustees of the Florida Annual Conference
2. The Florida United Methodist Foundation
3. The Florida United Methodist Committee for New Church Development, Inc.

Par. 510. Prohibition on Loaning Conference-Owned Equipment, Software, and Information. Conference-owned equipment shall not be loaned or rented to profit-making organizations because such action might endanger the tax-exempt status of the Annual Conference. Conference-owned computer software and information (such as mailing lists and e-mail address lists) shall not be shared or loaned without the permission of the Annual Conference.

Chapter Six
RULES GOVERNING DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Section I. Rules Governing Districts
**Par. 601. Districts of the Annual Conference.** The Conference shall be divided into the following nine districts: Atlantic Central; East Central; Gulf Central; North Central; North East; North West; South Central; South East; and South West.

**Par. 602. District Structure.** The Annual Conference, pursuant to ¶ 610 and ¶ 661 of The Discipline and those paragraphs of The Discipline that allow it some discretion in structuring agencies required by The Discipline, gives authority to the District Superintendent, as the chief missional strategist, and District Lay Leader, in consultation with the Annual Conference, to organize its ministries, work areas, task forces, and committees, as it shall deem advisable to carry out its purpose. They must also ensure all Disciplinary requirements are met. Any changes to the structure of a District shall either be approved by the Annual Conference or, if needed, an appropriately called District Conference (see ¶ 658 and 659 of The Discipline)

Each District shall have:
1. A leadership group consisting of lay and clergy leadership who shall assist the District Superintendent in major strategic decisions. This leadership group shall ensure there is a strategy for starting and growing vital chartered congregations as well as engaging in mission to the world. The District Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member. The District may choose to have one or more committees to fulfill these functions, and may name the groups as each District determines.
2. There shall be a group (or groups as determined by the District or included in the work of the leadership group or another group) who will ensure intentional work on congregational vitality, including the development of new churches and ministries. This group (or another as determined by the District) shall be responsible for all district funding decisions related to mission and church extension.
3. In addition to its basic responsibility, this leadership group (or another group as determined by the District) must function, as needed, as the District’s Board of Trustees. The District Board of Location and Building may be included as a function of one of these groups or be separate. The group meeting as the Board of Trustees shall meet the requirements of ¶ 2518.
4. This leadership group (or another group as determined by the District) must fulfill the functions of the District Committee on Superintendency and ensure that all the guidelines on membership, selection, meeting and purpose of the District Committee on Superintendency as stated in ¶ 669 of The Discipline are accomplished. They shall submit an annual written report of their work to the Bishop as it applies to the role of the Committee on Superintendency.
5. One committee of the District (as determined by the District) shall have the responsibility to elect the lay delegates at large to Annual Conference. The District Committee on Lay Leadership shall provide nominees for the delegate positions.
6. Assignments. The leadership group (or other similar structure) will assign members and groups to serve and accomplish these special roles at its first meeting in the year.
7. District Advance Specials. The leadership group (or other structure) will approve all district advance specials. This same group will determine the District’s method for receiving, evaluating, and approving existing and new district advance specials, in consultation with and after approval by the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration.

**Par. 603. District Committee on Leadership (Nominations).**
1. Establishment. Each district shall have a District Committee on Leadership (Nominations).
2. Membership. The District Superintendent shall chair this committee. It shall be comprised of nine persons divided into three classes serving for three years each. At least five members shall be laypersons.
3. Responsibilities. This committee shall perform the duties outlined in Standing Rules Par. 607 and nominate district at-large delegates to Annual Conference.

**Par. 604. District Housing Committee.**
1. Establishment. Each district shall have a District Housing Committee that will report to the group appropriately acting as the District Board of Trustees.
2. Membership. The District Housing Committee shall be composed of six to nine members elected annually at the same time and in the same manner as other leadership of the District is elected. All members shall be professing members in local United Methodist Churches of that District. Membership of the committee should reflect the churches of that District with regard to size, race, and ethnic makeup. Recommended membership of the committee should be one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen.
3. Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:
   a. Work in cooperation with the District Board of Location and Building to ensure that all proposed parsonages fulfill the requirements for parsonages as stated in the Standing Rules and The Discipline;
b. Be available, at the invitation of the District Superintendent, to mediate conflicts between churches and pastors regarding parsonages or housing allowances.
   1) Local churches (via trustees, parsonage committees, or staff-parish committees) or the clergy family may request mediation.
   2) Although it has no binding authority, the Committee would work with the local church, District, and Conference leadership to resolve the issues.

c. Approve the housing allowance offered by any church in lieu of a parsonage. In reviewing and approving all housing allowances for clergy in the District, the committee shall insure the allowance complies with the Standing Rules and The Discipline. The Committee must review these allowances at least once every four years to insure they represent the housing market of the time.

d. Ensure all clergy housing complies with the Standing Rules. In order to ensure compliance, the Committee shall:
   1) assist local churches in developing plans to bring parsonages up to the required standards; and
   2) extend deadlines for up to three years if churches are working in good faith to fulfill the standards.

e. Inspect each parsonage in the District at least once every four years or more frequently when:
   1) requested by the pastor;
   2) requested by local church Trustees, Parsonage Committees or Staff-Parish Committees;
   3) needed to insure agreements through mediation are being fulfilled in a timely manner;
   4) needed to insure upgrades are being done as agreed upon;
   5) there is a change of pastors.

f. In consultation with the District Superintendent, make exceptions to the Conference Parsonage Standards and Recommendations and housing allowances when special needs exist.

Par. 605. District Committee on Ordained Ministry. Each district shall have a District Committee on Ordained Ministry. This committee shall include at least seven clergy, one of whom shall be the representative to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and at least three laypersons. The clergy shall include elders and deacons, and where possible, women and ethnic clergy, a deacon or elder who is age 35 or younger, an associate member, and may include one local pastor who has completed Course of Study. Nominations are made by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Chairpersons of both the Conference Board and District Committees on Ordained Ministry. The work of this Committee is described in Standing Rules par. 414 415.

Par. 606. District Board of Location and Building. Each district may continue to have a District Board of Location and Building, or it may choose to assign those responsibilities to another group as determined by the District. In either case, the Board shall consist of the District Superintendent and six to nine persons. It is recommended that its membership be one-third laywomen, on-third laymen, and one-third clergy.

Par. 607. Nomination and Election of Committees.

1. Guidelines. The District Committee on Leadership (Nominations) shall prepare a slate of officers and members for the District Leadership Council and the other District Committees and Boards in accordance with the current Standing Rules and The Discipline. As noted in Par. 605, the committee does not nominate members of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

2. Deadlines. The Committee shall present its nominations to the Conference Committee on Nominations in time to be included in its report to Annual Conference. The Conference Committee shall communicate this deadline in a timely fashion.

3. Election. All officers and members of the District Committees identified in the Standing Rules shall be elected at the Annual Conference session prior to their taking office. Other groups recognized or established by the District may be nominated by the Committee or by other processes, but shall be submitted to the Annual Conference for election in all cases.

4. Terms of Office and Classes.
   a. District Lay Leader and Associate District Lay Leader. The District Lay Leader and Associate District Lay Leader will serve a term of office of four years with no one person serving longer than eight consecutive years in any one office. No years of service prior to July 1, 2008 will count for purposes of calculating the terms of service for District Lay Leaders and Associate District Lay Leaders towards the maximum number of years in office.
   b. Classes and Term Limits. Beginning July 1, 2012 and thereafter, all officers and members of District Committees and Boards will serve in four equal classes, with each class elected to serve a term of four years. No person will serve more than eight consecutive years in any one office or on any one Board/Committee,
unless otherwise provided in the Standing Rules or Discipline. Prior to July 1, 2016, Districts, at their
discretion, may place Committee and Board members into four equal classes.
c. Terms. All officers and members elected by the Annual Conference shall begin their terms on the first day of
July following their election. They shall continue in office until the last day of June in the year their terms expire.
5. Vacancies. The District Committee on Nominations shall recommend and the appropriate District group shall
 elect persons to fill vacancies that occur between sessions of the Annual Conference.

Par. 608. Budgets and Financial Reports.
1. District Budgets. A portion of the appropriate District group shall prepare its proposed budget and receive
proposed budgets from other District Committees and Boards.
2. Approval. The entire appropriate District group will approve the total District budget and forward it to the District
Superintendent. The District Superintendent shall, at the earliest possible date, and before the deadline as named
by the Conference Treasurer, send the District Budget and any request for apportionments specific to the District
to the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration for review and approval. The District Budget and
any request for District Apportionments shall be included in the appropriate report to Annual Conference and
listed in the Conference Journal.
3. Reporting. Regular reports on the District’s year-to-date spending and other matters relating to the District’s
finances will be reported to the appropriate District group in the manner it shall determine.
4. District Audits and Financial Controls. The financial control and financial management of each district, along with
the audit, will be the authority and responsibility of the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration
and the Conference Treasurer’s office. The Conference Committee on Finance and Administration will submit a
copy of the audit to the appropriate District group and the District Superintendent.

Section II. Rules Governing District Superintendents

Par. 609. Prohibitions on Membership. No District Superintendent shall be a member of any Conference agency
except for the Conference Board of Trustees or as otherwise provided by these Standing Rules or The Discipline.

Chapter Seven
RULES GOVERNING CLERGY HOUSING

Par. 701. Parsonage Requirements. Set forth below are required and recommended parsonage standards. The
required standards are the minimum requirements that all existing parsonages must have by June 1, 2007, and that
any parsonages purchased after May 30, 2003 must have. The suggested standards give the Bishop and the
Cabinet more flexibility when assigning a pastor; parsonages not meeting the suggested standards may limit who

1. Required Standards. In addition to the requirements set forth in The Discipline for parsonages, the
following items are required for all parsonages in the Conference. Parsonages must comply with them unless
exempted by Standing Rule Par. 606, the District Parsonage Committee.
   a. Electrical wiring that meets code and is sufficient to meet today’s needs for electricity.
   b. Climate control both heating and air conditioning
   c. Rooms: living room or great room; dining room or eating area large enough for at least eight
   people; kitchen; three bedrooms; two baths; indoor laundry area; shelter for two vehicles; secure storage
   area
   d. Equipment: good quality dependable appliances; stove; microwave; dishwasher; refrigerator with freezer
   compartment; washer and dryer; hot water heater of at least forty gallons; wired for basic cable or satellite dish
   service; maintained smoke alarms; current fire extinguishers for kitchen and other required areas; vacuum cleaner
   if there are carpets.
   e. Lawn Maintenance: if no lawn service is provided and the pastor is expected to maintain the lawn, the
   following are minimum requirements: gas mower; trimmer; weed eater; rake; shovel; electric or gas hedge
   trimmer if needed.
   f. Security System: monitored security system that insures the security of the entire house.
   g. Furnishings: quality window coverings in neutral colors that insure privacy; quality floor coverings in
   neutral colors that are durable and easy to maintain.
h. Maintenance: regular pest control inspection and treatment; annual termite inspection and treatment; annual inspection and cleaning of ductwork as needed; landscaping and maintenance thereof should be representative of the neighborhood; regular schedule for painting both on the outside and inside of the house as needed; any needed repairs should be done in a timely manner; annual carpet cleaning; regular maintenance and cleaning of chimneys.

i. Location of all new or replacement parsonages: should not be on the main church property but at a distance that insures privacy for the pastor and family; needs to be located in a good school system; should be located in what is perceived as a safe community; location that permits children.

2. Recommended Standards. The following standards are not mandated, but each church is encouraged to meet these standards as fully as possible:
   a. Rooms: four bedrooms; family room; study; two-car enclosed garage.
   b. Equipment: garbage disposal; freezer.
   c. Handicapped Accessibility: at least one walk in shower and one tub; physically disabled accessibility throughout the house.
   d. Safety: permanent equipped hurricane shutter for all exposed exterior glass areas within ten miles of the coastal shoreline; safe storage area for paints, gasoline, or other flammables.
   e. Lawn: irrigation system for the yard.

Par. 702. Housing Allowances.

1. Determining the Amount of the Housing Allowance. The District Trustees or the District Housing Committee (DHC, see S.R. Par. 606) shall determine, no less than every four years, the minimum housing allowance for the District, or portions of a District. The minimum housing allowance shall be the amount necessary to rent or own one of a number of single-family residences or condominiums within reasonable commuting distance of the churches within the District, not to exceed twenty miles. The residences used as models for the calculation shall be in compliance with the Conference standards for parsonages. It is recognized that there may be wide differences in costs within a District. The DHC or the District group with the responsibility may, for that reason, determine several costs, depending on the location of the churches in the District. The District Superintendent must approve variances with the approved minimum housing allowance. The District Trustees or DHC shall provide listings of potential residences to churches within the District that offer housing allowances and to pastors new to the District. In addition to the amount of the housing allowance, an equitable utility allowance, set by the church leadership in consultation with the pastor, shall be paid to the pastor by the church. The church may assist the pastor (if renting is desired) in paying a security deposit. If the church makes such a payment and the rental unit is not left in clean condition and a portion of the security deposit is not returned to the church, the pastor will be responsible for reimbursing the church. It is understood that if the pastor selects a rental unit it shall have an annual lease that will commence at the beginning of the appointment year and end at the conclusion of that year.

   a. Any congregation considering a housing allowance shall consult with the District Superintendent to understand all the positive and negative aspects of housing allowances.
   b. Before implementing a housing allowance, a congregation must obtain the District Superintendent’s permission and have the amount of the proposed allowance approved by the DHC or the party fulfilling that role. As a part of the request for permission, the congregation must present a tentative draft budget for the first two years and demonstrate the impact of the change on the overall fiscal health of the congregation.
   c. If the congregation decides to sell an existing parsonage, the church leadership shall follow The Discipline guidelines for selling the parsonage and using the proceeds of the sale.

3. Allowances below the District Minimum Rate. Churches currently paying housing allowances below the District minimum rate must, in consultation with the District Superintendent, develop a plan that is approved by the DHC or the party fulfilling its duties which would bring the allowance up to District minimum in a reasonable amount of time.

Par. 703. Parsonage Furniture. Each clergyperson shall be responsible for providing the furniture in the parsonage, except for the appliances, window and floor coverings, and other items set forth in Standing Rule Par. 701.
CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Connectional Ministries began the year by engaging Bishop Carter’s initiatives through our Quadrennial Training for Conference teams. We were informed and inspired by the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems, whose presentation on “Leading Into the Future” inspired us to consider quadrennial emphases for our Conference ministries. Further, he challenged our understanding of the culture of our ministry connections and the relationships between ministry teams and the vision of the Annual Conference. Dr. Weems provided us with statistical data on FL’s growth which can serve as a catalyst for ministry discernment and initiatives.

He reminded us that we are stewards of the United Methodist Church within the bounds of the Florida Conference therefore everything we do needs to express the vision and mission of the Church instead of operating in ministry team silos. As a result of this report, CM staff and ministry leaders have engaged in significant conversations this year, pushing toward the goal of ministry incarnating the vision of the UMC through the FL Conference and how we meet the expectations of partnerships with local churches.

One of the ways in which we seek to secure and document the progress is by the use of our online survey tool, sent to our Connectional Ministry chairpersons. The survey responses can serve as a tool for ongoing, documented information on the progress of ministry vitality and vision, and a basis for financial resources. We have not received responses to many of our queries, which highlights another area of concern. The Connectional Ministries staff spends an inordinate amount of time on phone and email follow up, largely due to missed deadlines and rsvp on reports, meeting, and meals. One of the ways in which we can become better stewards of Conference resources, will be to attend to our work in a timely fashion.

An important aspect of our work as an Annual Conference is leading and supporting local churches. We engage, develop relationships, build trust and pour into vital work in our local communities. We were honored to support Bishop Carter’s vision of leading vital conversations at Concord Coffee House in Lakeland. The topics for the gatherings were as follows From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter (January), Immigration (March), Creation Care (April). It was great to have Conference staff, clergy and laity from congregations and people from the community, engaged to connect and build relationships around these topics. The first event enabled conversation on Bishop Carter’s and Bishop Adam Richardson’s (AMEC) invitation for pulpit exchanges between local UMCs and AMECs. This was suggested to occur in conjunction with the birthday of the late, Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. and The UMCs Human Relations Sunday.

A number of clergy and congregations participated in this rich exchange and others found ways to join together through local community parades, exchanges between congregations and campus ministries and a host of creative opportunities. This good work will continue and we invite you to craft and lead these and other vital conversations in your communities.

This past Conference year has been one of transition for me and the CM staff, as our ministry portfolio was expanded to include Social Justice Ministries and some of the Multicultural Ministries. In addition, to gathering our arms more broadly around this work,
I had the privilege of attending, participating and, in some instances, providing leadership in the following:

- Serving as a delegate to GC
- The Global Leadership Summit (Willow Creek) with Conference staff
- Secretary for the General Board of Church and Society
- Global Clergywomen’s Consolation and World Methodist Conference
- Secretary, General Board of Church and Society and board meetings
- Provided budget support for Lineage Young Adult Retreat (announced at the 2016 AC)
- Provided budget support for our KidMin, to participate in the Rooted youth event
- Traveled with General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Clergy trip to Peru for an Ecotheology Tour
- General Council on Finance and Administration - US Jurisdictional Extended Cabinet Consultation and a gathering of SEJ DCM cohort group
- Hosting Western North Carolina leaders
- SEJ College of Bishops and Directors of Connectional Ministries, Lay Leaders, Committee on Episcopacy
- Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries
- New Board Member of FL Impact (State-wide Coalition working to combat Childhood Hunger)
- Provided budget support for thirty young adults to attend FL Advocacy Days (FAD) inclusive of FL Impact, AMEDs and UMCs. We had a team of almost 100 people visit with state legislators and aids requesting their support for the following bills:
  1. Juvenile Civil Citations as an alternative to arrest for select misdemeanors
  2. Keys to Independence (Driver Licenses for youth living in out of home care settings.
  3. Human Trafficking protocols for law enforcement and others when the victim is a child.
- Invited to 100 Change Makers Open Space Summit sponsored by GCORR

I am deeply inspired having experienced another year of faithful, fruitful ministry. I am honored to serve as your DCJM, grateful to Bishop Carter for his confidence, and delighted to serve with the SLT/Cabinet members, other Conference staff, and a host of incredible leaders, lay and clergy throughout the Conference and The UMC.

I ask covet prayers as we engage in this work!

Sharon G. Austin
Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries
Our churches are changing the world one story at a time, and we remain dedicated to enabling individual churches and extension ministries to tell their stories, share their videos and their photos. Our focus on local churches and ministries boosted our website page views to 6.4 million in 2016, an increase of 3.5 million. On the data side of the department, the team completed the second phase of transitioning our database to the denomination’s system, which will result in cost savings in the future.

Check out the year by the numbers!

Gretchen Hastings, Director
The Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries (BCRM) is privileged to report that your Florida Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries continues to provide vital sites of transformative ministry. The site directors, staff and board are committed to continuing the trajectory of operational sustainability, telling our stories and programmatic growth.

All four sites (Centenary Camp, Life Enrichment Center, Riverside Camp & Retreat Center, and Warren Willis Camp) are working towards being financially sustainable and are growing in ministry programs and participants. Apportionment dollars went to support scholarships, new program development to reach more people, and overall coordination of our statewide ministry. Summer campers (total for all four sites) exceeded the 4,000 mark for the sixth year in a row with 4,166 campers.

This past year marked an exciting time of facility growth. Centenary Camp added a new pavilion, prayer garden and Low Challenge course. The Life Enrichment Center did a major renovation to the campground pavilion, added 50-amp service for the campground and cleared brush to improve the view of the lake. Riverside Camp & Retreat Center had a new director’s residence built and did a major renovation to the restrooms in the Red Pavilion. The Warren Willis Camp added a second bouldering wall as an additional activity for campers and guests near the lake on the south side of the property as well as updating several High Challenge course elements.

The Board made the decision after much prayer and conversation to merge the operations of the Life Enrichment Center and Warren Willis Camp effective January 2017. The sites still operate as two individually named sites, but operate with one staff between the two sites. This has allowed us to streamline our redundant services and be more mindful to our guests. We are excited to look toward the future ministry and growth in Fruitland Park.

The sixth annual Camping Sunday was held the last Sunday in February 2017, offering a chance for each church in the conference to celebrate our camping ministry through the giving of scholarships and encouraging excitement in congregations about summer camp.

Conference Youth Ministry Report: 2016 – March 2017
Conference Youth Ministry Table: Our table plans training events, builds networks, and advocates for youth ministry. Our table meets four times a year at the Conference Office.

Rooted: Annual Youth Worker Training Event:
2016 Event: September 19-20: Bishop Carter joined us for our first combined youth, children, and family ministry training event. He spoke about our conferences initiative encouraging churches to partner with local schools. This combined event was our largest attended event in years.

2017 Event: September 18-19: Our hope is to pick up where the 2016 event left off. We are encouraged by the momentum and the community of youth, children, and family ministries who are working together in our local churches.
Youth Ministry Academy: The January 2017 Academy was a convention sponsored by the Youth Ministry Institute, Center for Youth Ministry Training, our Florida Conference, and an Episcopal Diocese in Florida. This year’s event was a solid event for an affordable price. It combined TED style talks with informative sessions that challenged our youth leaders to be pioneers in their field.

Youth Ministry Institute: YMI continues to provide extremely valuable services to our conference. YMI’s youth ministry training program, their free consultation services, and their youth minister search services help in so many ways. In the Florida Conference in 2016, YMI staff visited with 35 local churches, conducted four pre-hiring focus groups, contracted with 10 churches for the two-year training and coaching programs for their youth minister, contracted for the youth minister search for three churches, consulted on the phone with an additional 10 churches on a variety of youth ministry issues, and conducted 6 on-site consulting trips. www.yminstitute.com

Conference Connection on Youth Ministry (CCYM): CCYM held its 8th and 9th annual student leadership training “Dare” events in February 2016 & 2017. Designed for students in leadership positions, these events are intended to gather teens and train them to be leaders in their churches, schools, and communities. Our 2016 theme was Dare to Echo, dealing with how to echo the word of God throughout our world. In 2017, the theme was Dare to be Real, where the students focused on how to let down their walls and be real with one another. Our attendance in 2017 hit a five-year high of 150 student leaders and youth workers. CCYM has also reactivated the Youth Service Fund education program in our conference, encouraging students to understand and be active in service and justice issues in Florida and across the world. Our CCYM is made up of 20 students from nine churches across the conference, and is always looking to bring more students on.

Annual Conference Youth Delegation: Our youth delegation has stayed steady at 60-70 youth from more than 35 churches from across the conference. This experience is intended to help students understand our polity and the significance of being involved in our church’s vision and mission.

Joel Pancoast – Conference Youth Ministry Coordinator – www.flumym.org
Kelly Minter – CCYM Coordinator – kminter@flumc.org

Camps, Retreats & Youth Ministry change lives. People come to our sites to experience welcoming natural places set apart, genuine Christian hospitality, and life-changing experiences. Our sites are working towards being financially sustainable and are projected to achieve this goal in the future. New programs have started and are growing, new and renovated buildings have emerged and the best is yet to come.

Faithfully submitted,
Mike Standifer, Director, Camps and Retreat Ministries
Rev. Mike Fordham, Chair, BCRM
FLORIDA CONFERENCE CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Florida Conference has taken a firm interest in ministries for young people in recent years. “Over-investing in the young” even being a theme for our conference. The “KidMin” table is specifically focusing on the youngest demographic in the group and how, we as the church, can best minister to them and their families.

A group of children’s ministry leaders has gathered regularly to discuss the needs of children and children’s ministries throughout Florida. It was quickly realized that our first step was to figure out who these ministry leaders are. A team has since been diligently working to contact District Superintendents and churches in order to develop a working list of Children’s Ministry leaders, both staff and volunteer, from around the conference. As this list is being created, the team is asking these leaders how we can best serve them. Requests for training and accountability groups have been the top of the list.

Moving forward, the KidMin table is creating a mission and vision for this team. As we are finding out who we are serving, we are able to plan how best to serve them. One event that already exists is Rooted. In September of 2016, for the first time, Rooted included not only youth ministry professionals, but children and family professionals as well. The event was extremely well attended, and well received. We anticipate an even larger event in 2017. Plans for sessions and speakers are currently underway.

Currently the KidMin table includes representatives from 6 of the 9 districts, and hopes to have all districts represented by the end of 2017. These district representatives will plan district level events for those serving in their area. These events will largely begin as meals together. As we gather around tables around the state, we will dream and plan how this group of ministry leaders can work together to equip each other to continue the work set before them.

Moving forward, the team plans to pair churches together who may be able to share resources for large events like VBS. These groupings will allow churches to share costs and equipment and become better stewards. Many churches are already utilizing a KidMin Facebook group to share curriculum, decorations, music, and more. The beauty of our connectional church shines through this group of ministry leaders.

If you are interested in being a part of this group or getting your children’s and family minister connected, contact Annette Johnson at annette@fumcgnv.org.
Growing and Effective Campus Ministries
Celebrate the ministry of our Wesley Foundations on college and university campuses throughout the Florida Annual Conference.

Atlantic Coast Wesley at FAU in Boca Raton
Campus to City Wesley serving campuses in Jacksonville and St. Augustine
CFL Wesley Foundation at UCF in Orlando
FAMU Wesley Foundation in Tallahassee
FSU Wesley Foundation in Tallahassee
Gator Wesley Foundation at UF serving campuses in the Gainesville area
Gulf Coast Wesley Foundation at Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers
Stetson Wesley Foundation in Deland
United Wesley Foundation serving FIU, Miami-Dade College, and the University of Miami
Wesley at USF serving campuses in the Tampa Bay area

Together with ministries to Bethune-Cookman University and Florida Southern College, we are reaching students on at least 20 campuses. Please visit our website and learn more about your campus ministry: [www.GoToWesley.org](http://www.GoToWesley.org). Sustained growth in Florida’s campus ministries is the fulfillment of a five-year vision “to reach as many students as we can” and a strategic plan developed by BHECM, and approved at the 2010 annual conference.

Highlights during this conference year
Celebrate the launch of Atlantic Coast Wesley at FAU, in partnership with First UMC, Boca Raton. Under the guidance of the Rev. Ryan DeLaune, a new and growing group of Wesley students is gathering, and Rev. DeLaune is developing a ministry to faculty and administration as well as inter-faith connections, with outreach and care for homeless students struggling to remain in school. Over time the vision is that this ministry will reach students on campuses within a 30-mile radius of Boca Raton.

Celebrate the completion of the new FSU Wesley Foundation facility. Students are already using the facility for worship and gatherings. Thanks to the Rev. Mike Toluba for his leadership through this time of transition. Visit [www.fsuwesley.com/building-project.html](http://www.fsuwesley.com/building-project.html) to see how the project unfolded and learn what is still needed. Mark the weekend of Sept. 9-10, 2017, as a celebration of the new worship space.

Celebrate FAMU Wesley Foundation’s continued growth. Student leaders are now being developed through the mentoring leadership of the Rev. Dr. Latricia Scrivens.

Celebrate the vision of the CFL Wesley Foundation, led by Executive Director Rev. Erwin Lopez, together with the support of the East Central District and BHECM, to develop a partnership with University-Carillion UMC to reach students and young adults on and near the campus of the University of Central Florida.

Celebrate our campus ministries, which are developing an “exponential” model of ministry. Executive Director, Derrick Scott, has led Campus to City Wesley onto a third northeast Florida
campus, Flagler College, and the Rev. Erik Seise and Wesley at USF board members and student
leaders are now reaching students from four Tampa Bay campuses.

Looking Forward
During this quadrennium, BHECM will focus on “refreshing the vision” and developing a new
strategic plan for a new season of campus ministry; empowering the leadership of local Wesley
Foundation boards to generate and allocate resources at the local campus ministry level; and
establishing strong linkage between the conference board (BHECM) and each local Wesley
Foundation board.

Campus ministry is truly a connectional partnership. Thanks to Bishop Carter and the Cabinet,
the Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin, Director of Connectional Ministries, the Florida Conference Board of
Trustees, and Financial Services for guidance and timely help; thanks to our campus ministers,
chaplains, and members of BHECM for your faithful service; special thanks to the Rev. Dr. Cynthia
Weems, Sherri Lingle, and Heidi Leab for “service beyond the call.”

Rev. Timothy S. Smiley, Chair

BEYOND 50 MINISTRIES TASK TEAM

The Beyond 50 Ministries Task Team was formed in 2003 to equip church leaders (clergy and
laity) to utilize the spiritual gifts and talents of older adults engaged in making disciples of Jesus
Christ. To accomplish our mission, we offer resources to encourage and support the complete
integration of older adults in the Body of Christ.

Currently in the United States, the fastest growing demographic is those who are 50 years and
older. The church can be a resource in helping to address the needs of this growing demographic.
Plus, the church can benefit from the gifts and graces that this group has to offer. Not only is this
age group growing but it is changing – changing in the way we experience growing older, by being
more active, staying healthier, living longer, wanting to serve, desiring for intergenerational
interaction, and aspiring to grow in our faith. The UM Churches in the Florida Conference have
the great challenge and blessing to look anew at different ways that this age group can be a part
of the Body of Christ in all its diversity. As we live longer and our congregations grow older, we
encourage church leaders to develop and share models for creative, innovative ministry by, with
and for older adults.

The Beyond 50 Ministries Task Team is being restructured to address the changing needs of this
age range. The Team will contain representatives from each district who will be a point of contact
for the district and the district staff in sharing resources, information and best practices and to
communicate upcoming seminars and events about older adults to the churches in the district.
Also, the team will dialogue on ways to help support, educate, and be an advocate to churches
involved in ministry to adults over 50. A part of the team effort would be to identify specific issues
of concern for which the Florida Conference can embrace. It will also be involved in discerning
which outside UM agencies that we may want to develop partnerships with.

The Beyond 50 Task Team will continue to work closely with the Office of Aging and Older Adult
Ministries of the General Board of Discipleship to explore ways of addressing ministry to older
adults. Many from the Florida Conference attended the Boomerstock Event, which was sponsored by the Office of Aging and Older Adult Ministries in September in Nashville. The event was the first comprehensive study of how the church can engage Baby Boomers, whose numbers will double the number of people over 60 years of age in the next 20 years. It is a generation who will change aging as we know it.

The Beyond 50 Ministries Task Team will also continue to work closely with the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Older Adults (SEJAOA). The SEJAOA sponsors the annual Festival of Wisdom and Grace Conference at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in western North Carolina. The 2016 festival, held in August featured speaker Tony Campolo and Bible teaching from Dr. Mickey Efird, as well as a variety of workshops of interest to those 50 and older. The 2017 event is scheduled for Aug. 7-10 and will feature Dr. John Ed Washington, Dr. Patricia Suggs, and Dr. Everett Worthington.

The Church needs the wisdom, experience, and faith of its older members as we move forward. And, the Church needs to be present in the lives of our older adults to help them continue to grow in faith, live happy, productive, and healthy lives.

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**Prayer Garden during Annual Conference:** Each year the Spiritual Formation team is honored to create and host the Prayer Garden. The Prayer Garden is designed to be a place of quiet and calm, a place of centering prayer and spiritual direction. Communion is offered at the beginning of each day. An invitation is extended for all who would welcome a time of respite to visit the Prayer Garden during Annual Conference.

**Florida Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation:** In conjunction with Upper Room, the Florida Conference offers the Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation. This year’s theme was “Led by Jesus”. The faculty presenters were Dr. Wilkie Au and Dr. Amy Oden. Their daily topics of instruction and discussion were “Prayer and Discernment and “Hospitality as Spiritual Practice”. The Five-Day Academy this year included attendees from several states with a multi-generational group of clergy and laity that participated in daily plenary sessions, worship and covenant groups each evening, gaining knowledge about Christian spiritual formation in a context for experiencing it.

The Spiritual Formation Team has met this year to determine what our focus will be in the next three years. The vision is to move from central planning to local or regional areas that would be actively involved in spreading spiritual formation. The definition of Spiritual Formation is the “process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others”. One of the ways to spread this concept is to utilize those in the existing Academy community. The team is in the process of identifying those who might be interested in forming an Academy Reunion Community. This community will determine activities for their local area and provide a source of renewal for recent attendees and a community for those who may not attend each year. The goal would be to provide spiritual formation activities not only to those in the community, but to reach beyond the community for the sake of others.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Swanson, Spiritual Formation Chair
The Women’s Retreat Design Team organized 3 retreat weekends for about 700 ladies attending from throughout the Florida Conference. Our theme for the 33rd Annual Women’s Retreat was “Peace.” The Old Testament scripture was Numbers 6:24-26. “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.” The New Testament scripture was John 16:33. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The retreats take place Friday evening through Sunday noon at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park. This year the retreats were held January 20-22, February 10-12, and March 3-5. These retreats offer an opportunity for women to break away from day-to-day responsibilities to sing, pray, praise, learn, and renew their relationship with the Lord. The weekend is trouble free with all lodging and food provided by the LEC, a beautiful setting for prayer, study and reflection. The objective for the retreat weekend is for the women to leave re-energized and re-dedicated to their walk as Christian Women with clean hearts and steadfast spirits and ready to share Him to the ends of the earth!

Connectional Ministries, the Design Team, and the LEC were honored to organize and attend the Women’s Retreats. We were witness to amazing transformations in many women and numerous blessings bestowed on many others. Some of the comments on evaluations as well as the answered prayers shared throughout the weekend show just how special these retreat weekends are to these ladies. “What did you like MOST about your Retreat?”: “The quiet time with God”, “Truly Hallowed Grounds”, “My favorite was being there with ladies of the same mindset”, “The relaxing atmosphere, connecting with new friends, and getting alone time with God!”, “The sense of peace that was there throughout” Answered prayers from the weekend: “Getting closer to my God”, “This time last year our mom faced serious breast surgery. Praise God NO lymph nodes were affected!”, “Made it to the Life Enrichment Retreat this year!” These answered prayers and comments are the reason we said yes, with a servant’s heart, to serve on the Design Team. These are the same reason all the ladies keep coming back year after year.

Tabatha Parish
Chairperson, Women’s Retreat Design Team

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Greetings from the members of your Commission on Archives and History who send many thanks to those of you who have responded to our request for updated local church histories and contact information on local church historians! We depend on you—both clergy and laity—to locate, collect, and preserve vitally important historical information. Without your help and support we cannot possibly do the work of maintaining a Ministry of Memory for generations to come!

During the past year, the Commission accomplished a great deal. In July we began a process to plan strategically for the long term, enabling us to better meet the ever-changing needs of our constituency. Our new chair facilitated a mini strategic planning session at the January 2017
meeting and will continue the process going forward.

Strategies included the following action plans:

- Informing the conference leadership of the need to conduct a search for a new archivist in 2019
- Scanning and digitizing all conference journals, important photographs, and documents
- Conducting workshops (traditional and online) to train district and local church administrative staff in setting up collections policies
- Expanding use of communications tools to raise awareness of the Commission and its work and to connect with local church historians and clergy on a regular basis
- Ensuring that every church has a historian and that their contact information has been sent to the conference
- Ensuring that every church has updated their history every five years and submitted this information to the archivist
- Creating plans for the next two years, during which we will highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Methodist-Evangelical United Brethren merger (2018) and the 175th Anniversary of the Florida Conference (2019). Preliminary plans include curating a permanent and traveling exhibit, celebratory events at the Archives Center in Lakeland, and special events during AC 2018 and 2019.

We completed the paperwork for the recognition of Florida Southern College as a United Methodist Historic Site.

Conference archivist, Nell Thrift, continues to receive, organize, and file records from churches, districts, and conference agencies. She handled numerous telephone and email inquiries, conducted tours of the Heritage Center, and ensured that churches kept their histories updated. She supervised volunteers and assisted visiting researchers.

Commissioners have assisted the archivist by co-leading district training events in the East Central and South West districts, monitoring informational tables at such events, volunteering in the Heritage Center, and meeting with their district superintendents and administrative assistants to communicate the Commission’s plans and needs.

To stay abreast of current topics of interest, several Commission members attended the annual Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society meeting in New Bern, North Carolina, in July, and the archivist attended training offered by the General Commission on Archives and History in Madison, New Jersey. The annual meeting of the SEJ Commission on Archives and History at Lake Junaluska in the fall was attended by Leah Pittard and Nell Thrift, both members. Leah is also a member of the SEJ Historical Society Executive Committee.

The celebration of anniversary churches and clergy at the 2016 Annual Conference was exuberant, as always! Each of the newly ordained elders and deacons received a copy of Robert M. Temple’s history of the Florida Conference, *Florida Flame*, as well as cards giving the chain of their ordinations back to Thomas Coke.
Churches being recognized this year with their identifying banners are:

1. 150 years (1867) First, Bartow; Bronson; Mt. Pleasant, Gainesville; St. Catherine
2. 125 years (1892) Chaires; Mt. Hermon, Fairfield; First, Ft. Pierce; Carlson Memorial, LaBelle; Mims; Cleveland, Punta Gorda; First, Tarpon Springs; UMC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach
3. 100 years (1917) First, Moore Haven
4. 50 years (1967) Southwest, Gainesville; Miami Lakes, Miami; North Naples, Naples; St. Andrew, Titusville
5. 25 years (1992) Peace at Hunter’s Creek, Orlando

Ordained Deacons being recognized with certificates for 50 years of service (1967):

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<th>Norwood R. Crawford</th>
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<td>Thomas E. Farmer, Jr.</td>
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<td>Robert F. Hornback</td>
<td>Frank M. Mason, II</td>
<td>E. Wayne Speakman</td>
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<td>Donald J. Hughes</td>
<td>James M. Morgan</td>
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Ordained Deacons being recognized with certificates for 25 years of service (1992):

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<td>Patricia Ann Downes</td>
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<td>Craig W. Nelson</td>
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<td>Timothy W. Ehrlich</td>
<td>Samuel Gonzalez</td>
<td>Margaret E. Reed</td>
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<td>Gary L. Eldred</td>
<td>Allen L. Johnson</td>
<td>David J. Stauffer, Jr.</td>
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Consecrated Diaconal Ministers being recognized with a certificate for 25 years of service (1992):

| Pearl G. Boles | Carol V. Marsh |

Anita Campbell, chair

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Our Lord Jesus Christ is incredibly wise. In the beginning verses of Luke 10 we read, "The Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest'" (Lk 10:1-2). By commissioning the disciples in pairs to attend to their work in the Kingdom, Jesus ensured the disciples would have companionship and accountability. By commissioning the disciples in pairs to attend to their work in the Kingdom, Jesus wisely sets for us a model for our shared ministry together at the local church, district, and conference levels. And I celebrate that in our shared ministry together, Jesus has surprised me that the workers are not few; they are many. We are many. And we are passionate, driven, and seeking the Kingdom of God and its righteousness together.

After two years of discernment about the call, role, and function of our ministry team, the Florida Conference Committee on Social Justice "hit our stride" in walking together with our sisters and
brothers – lay and clergy, individuals and ministry teams – across the Annual Conference that engaged in powerful justice ministries in 2016. Together we witnessed God cultivating a rich harvest through our strengthened work, our deepened relationships, and our increased accountability. God continues the work of the harvest through seeding conversations and connections with new and additional servants in our Annual Conference engaged in dialogue on social justice matters. Welcoming these voices and perspectives is an incarnation of Christ’s invitational nature; I truly believe welcoming these voices will further diversify our service and presence in service in social justice matters that impact the hearts and minds of United Methodists in Florida and of our kin in Christ in our state, nation, and world.

I am thankful for our committee members and for the servants we have had the privilege to be sent with in our shared ministry together this year. I am immeasurably grateful for the leadership and guidance of Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin, Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans, and the Connectional Ministries Staff; their commitment to excellence for and with our committee is pure gift.

I look with joy to the people, places, and possibilities that God will send the Conference Committee on Social Justice next. The harvest is indeed bigger than we can imagine and connecting with more servants makes our service all the richer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Sarah B. Miller, Chair, Conference Committee on Social Justice

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The FLUMC Commission on Religion and Race extends a thank you to those who have gone before us giving opportunity to build upon the foundation of the advancement of our multi-cultural understanding.

CCORR is challenged in this quadrennial to re-form, re-educate, and transform business as usual in relation to practices and policies that hinder cultural and racial diversity and inclusiveness.

During this quadrennial, CCORR is committed to conduct a conference wide self - audit of the progress we have made towards multi - cultural/multi-racial advancement, in addition to GCORR’s evaluation our progress thus far. The audit process will provide some next steps and give us a sense of what is needed now.

The Florida Conference Committee on Race and Religion affirms and seeks to live out the purpose and mission of the General Conference Commission on Race and Religion.

The GCORR was created by The UMC in 1968 to address institutional racism, engage in new conversations about what a truly desegregated and global church could look like, and chart a course for living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a more authentic and all-people-embracing way.

The ministry and mandates of GCORR are focused on valuing the diversity of God’s creation, challenging racial inequities, and lifting up issues of injustice while simultaneously providing church leaders with practical tools, resources, and training to expand intercultural competency,
ensure institutional equity, and hold vital conversations in their own conferences, local
congregations, and communities.

THE GCORR MINISTRY MODEL

Intercultural Competency GCORR serves as a catalyst and partner with other leaders in The UMC
to support the development of interculturally competent leaders who are engaged in ministry that
promotes intentional diversity and equity.

Institutional Equity GCORR critically examines expressions of racial and cultural injustice in local
and global contexts: setting goals for overcoming them, intentionally measuring progress and
resourcing interculturally competent leaders (lay and clergy) to promote and sustain institutional
equity within the worldwide United Methodist Connection.

Vital Conversations GCORR initiates and models holy conversations throughout the church about
race, cultural diversity, and institutional equity. We gather and share learnings from these
conversations to help grow a movement honoring God’s hope that we be one with Christ, one with
each other, and one in ministry to the entire world.

To learn more please go to The General Committee on Religion and Race website:
http://www.gcorr.org/.

Reverend Mary Mitchell, Chairperson
Reverend Thomas Shafer, Vice Chairperson
Reverend Rini Hernandez GCORR

MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRIES

The FL Conference has been blessed with leaders imbued with tremendous gifts of leadership in
diversity. FL, both as a state and as an Annual Conference is positioned to lead and model unique
21st century conversations reflecting the reality of our ‘doorway to the world’.

Our diverse cultural ministries have expressed a desire for deeper and further integration among
the life of the Annual Conference. They desire to be included and respected for the richness of
their traditions, while at the same time, reflecting a desire to be fully integrated into the life of the
Annual Conference. They believe they are value-added persons, who can both teach and learn
from this integration. When I have met with these leaders, there is often sadness at the lack of
Conference Ministries and programs that represent their needs, reflect their images and that invite
their input and leadership.

We are currently blessed to have the Black Caucus, Haitian Ministries, Hispanic Ministries and
CONAM (Committee on Native American Ministries) included among our multi-cultural ministries.
We propose the exploration of formalizing Asian and Pacific Islander Ministry plans. Their vital
conversations of ethnic ministries are often held among their constituents when the greater Annual
Conference would also receive the benefit of their leadership and wisdom. We will receive a
blessing by the reading of their Annual Conference Reports.

We anticipate inviting a representative from each of our ethnic ministries to join the Conference
Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) ministry table, in order to enrich this ministry area
and broaden the scope of needed work. CCORR in turn, is represented at the Social Justice Ministry Table.

I am grateful for the work of Conference Directors Icel Rodriguez and the Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evens, for their practiced leadership in the areas of Ethnic, Global and Missions, as we join together in leading these ministries.

**BELOVED COMMUNITY**

The absence of the Beloved Community Luncheon during this year’s Annual Conference, provides an opportunity for review and reflection. Heretofore, this fellowship luncheon planned by primarily by one District Superintendent and staff has the opportunity to for broader inclusion. We have the opportunity for input and planning across broader collaboration. If our Conference CORR and COSROW engage this event along with our Ethnic Ministry team partners, the luncheon will reflect the wonderful diversity of culture and leadership reflective of FL.

Programmatically, an important next step for our Beloved Community ministry work will be that of training additional Multicultural Facilitators (MRFs) within districts. The goal of providing MRFs for each district will enable the ongoing training to be more broadly disseminated and more regularly, to Staff-Parish Relations Committees and other leaders than is able to occur at present. The competencies of inclusivity will increase and enhance our effectiveness in the discipleship and missions ministries within the FL Conference.

**STRENGTHENING THE BLACK CHURCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

The structure of our ministry revitalizations initiatives with the black clergy and congregations is undergoing a change. Plans are underway toward designing an Academy model for resourcing the Black Church. Clergy and congregations will be invited to attend, based on District Superintendent referral. Training, guest speakers, and curricula between sessions, are included in the projected model. The Academy will likely begin in summer or fall of this year and will incorporate peer learning, resulting in reunion groups at the end of year Academy cohort group.

We are grateful to the consultation team and to the Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis who serves as the coordinator of this ministry.

In Hope!
Sharon G. Austin
Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries

**COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES (CONAM)**

We Are:

A. Committed to making a place available for native people to receive teaching and fellowship that is culturally relevant to them through our Annual Gatherings.

Florida CONAM has hosted our Eleventh Annual Native American Ministry Gathering at the Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, FL, April 22-24, 2016 with over 75 in attendance, many being
repeat attendees from previous years. Our guest speaker was Rev. Bill Gowey of Restoration Ministries. Also with us was award winning singer and songwriter, Michael Jacobs. The Theme for the Gathering was “Finding Victory Where the Buffalo Once Roamed.” This year, our gathering will feature Terry and Darlene Wildman aka Rainsong, April 21-23, 2017 from Traverse City MI, Dr. Casey Church, from Albuquerque, NM and other local artisans.

B. Encouraging each church to appoint a Native American ministry representative from within their congregation in accordance with the Book of Discipline, (para. 654). We have developed and offer a training course for the newly appointed representative to facilitate their position.

C. Promoting the observance of Native American Ministries Sunday throughout the Conference; this is also one of the special Sunday offerings in the Book of Discipline (para.263). Native American Ministry Sunday offerings are the only source of financial support for CONAM.

D. Supporting the development of American Indian Christian Circles as a Fresh Expression. These are groups of native people meeting in UM churches. At this time, we have three of these circles, one meeting at the Thonotosassa UMC, another meeting at the Clermont FUMC, and a third meeting at Trinity UMC in Plant City. These circles are places where Native Americans can participate in Christ centered worship, in the native way, and hear biblically based teaching that is culturally relevant. It’s walking the walk and talking the talk of the native peoples.

E. Making ourselves available to UM churches throughout the Conference and North America, to bring support and help in whatever way we can. We are currently networked with 11 regional and national ministries.

F. Currently networking with native pastors and other Native American ministries throughout the Conference and North America, to bring support and help in whatever way we can. We are currently networked with 11 regional and national ministries.

G. Participating in and supporting the work of the South East Jurisdictional Association on Native American Ministries (SEJANAM), in Lake Junaluska, NC. We do this by attending the conferences and lending a hand in their ministry. Members of CONAM have led worship, taught workshops, held powwows and helped with various needs during these annual conferences. Recently we provided artifacts for display in the Welcome Center at the Lake.

H. CONAM has been seen attending and lending a hand at Native American events around the conference. This is where we reach out through developing relationships, friendship, and evangelism. Events that we attend each year are the Panokee Family Powwow at the Dade Battlefield, Bushnell, and the Silverhawk Flute Gathering, Withlacoochee State Park, Dade City, Native American Festival in Brooksville, Thundering Spirit PowWow, Mt. Dora, and Thunder on the Beach, in Vero Beach.
We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the United Methodist Churches who give to this ministry with their Special Sunday Offerings each year. We could not continue to minister to the Native American people within our conference and beyond without your help.

For more information on the work of this committee or if you would like someone from the Florida CONAM to share in your church service or event, please contact Ed Taylor, Chairman, 352-409-3368 or email us at aicclc@gmail.com.

We have disciples in your area.

FLORIDA CAUCUS BLACK METHODIST FOR CHURCH RENEWAL, INC.

History of National Black Methodist Church Renewal (BMCR)

On August 19, 1967, the all-Black, segregated Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church elected its 14th and final Episcopal leader, Bishop L. Scott Allen. This election and the ensuring service of consecration were the final acts to be performed by the jurisdiction.

With the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction a serious and nagging question remained for Black Methodists: Will there be a permanent place in the new United Methodist church for Black Methodists? The history of race relations within the Methodist Church has in many ways mirrored the history of race relations in American society.

In November 20-21, 1967, many members of the now defunct Central Jurisdiction felt uncertainty about the status of Black Methodists in this new United Methodist Church. Groups of lay and clergy met frequently. The issue at hand was the question, “How do we ensure that there will be a permanent place for Blacks in the new United Methodist Church?” In Cincinnati, Ohio on February 6, 1968, a meeting was convened of Black Methodists from around the nation to answer this question.

The purpose of the National and the Florida Conference Black Methodist for Church Renewal caucus is:

- To empower Black Methodists for effective witness and service in local churches, conferences, schools, and the larger community.
- To initiate, develop, and implement strategies and instruments for the development, maintenance, and growth of strong Black local churches.
- Ability to advocate for the interests and inclusivity of Blacks in the District, Conference and General church leadership structures,
- To serve as the spiritual agitating conscious of the church,
- Determination to raise up prophetic and spiritual leaders who will be advocates for the unique needs of Black people in The United Methodist Church.
- National Membership - BMCR represents and is dedicated to more than 2,400 Black United Methodist congregations and approximately 500,000 African American members across the United States.

Florida Caucus of (BMCR)

Black Methodist for Church Renewal is still relevant today. In 1994, twenty-five (25) clergy and laity met to establish the Florida Conference Caucus of Black Methodists for Church Renewal.
(BMCR), and continue to provide opportunities to address issues and facilitate increased vitality of Black congregations.

**2016-2017 Meetings & updates of our work with the Districts of the Florida Conference**

- On October 17, 2016, Ebenezer UMC in Jacksonville hosted 42 lay and clergy representatives for the North Central, North East and North West Districts. Our time together was rewarding and opened eyes as to the health our congregations. At end of our time together we engaged in a survey that allowed individuals to express their personal thoughts about who they were in the context of their local church and their church's current reality and what they could do to help the church move forward and take the next step.

- On February 13, 2017, Mt. Pleasant UMC hosted the second gathering and used that time to follow up on concerns that were obvious from the survey, namely a clear mission. We are grateful to Rev. Harold D. Lewis Sr., the Author of “Charting the Church’s Course” – Developing a Biblical Mission for Ministry. At the end of this presentation there was a need for clergy and lay to return and focus on articulating their mission in writing or to clarify and simplify their mission. Much excitement was shared by the 31 in attendance.

- Our next scheduled gathering will be held on May 8, 2017 at Zion UMC, Ocala, Florida. Clergy and lay were ask to engage their Church Councils in conversations about the mission of their congregations. That information will be used to help congregations focus on providing insight into clarifying and simplifying their mission, in order to keep it short and simple. When the mission is determined, it makes the vision easier to cast which provides the energy needed to make ministry happen.

Dr. Earnest A. Smith one of the founders stated “From this day forward, our dedication must be deep, our commitment sure, and our action certain. God’s work and way are contemporary in every age. There is no waiting for tomorrow—it is blasphemous to shunt the expectations from our time to another—it is cowardly and without faith to cry that the situation will adjust itself.” “OUR TIME UNDER GOD IS NOW”

Humbly submitted,
Rev. Geraldine W. McClellan, President
Rev. Carrill Munnings, Secretary
Mrs. Gertrude Stewart, Treasurer

**GENERAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN**

**Paragraph 4, Article 4**

All Annual and Central Conferences will vote in 2017 and 2018 on changes approved at General Conference 2016 to Paragraph 4, Article 4 of “The Constitution” contained in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. No amendments will be allowed. The proposed amendment reads as follows:

In the United Methodist Church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or constituent body of the Church

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because of race, color, national origin, **ability** or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, **gender**, national origin, **ability**, **age**, **marital status**, or economic condition.

*The FL CCSRW supports the Amendment coming from General Conference 2016!*

We have experienced a year of fruitful conversation. We have experienced a change in the leadership of chairperson, the Rev. Tracy Hunter. We wish her well. We do not have a chairperson at present but are blessed to have the Rev. Andrew Miller elected as our vice chairperson and attendee at the fall GCSRW training event. We are also deeply appreciative that the Rev. David Dodge (ret.) represents our Conference on the GCSRW board. We are delighted to have had so many conversation around partnerships that CCSRW can share with their ministries such as UMW.

Among the deliberations we shared in discussion are:

1) Dividing our work into areas that will better enable us to meet goals as outlined by GCSRW.
2) Researching information regarding clergy salaries and equities or disparities among female and male clergy.
3) Support of Disciplinary Paragraph 4, Article 4 of the Constitution.
4) Assisting districts and churches in awareness and development CSRW ministries.

Expect updates of this work, resources for local churches and the presence of CSRW as a partner with our Social Justice Ministries.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of

Andrew Miller, Vice Chairperson

CSRW
OFFICE OF MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

MISSIONS

Thanks be to God for the many ways the people of the Florida Conference are making disciples of Jesus Christ. These disciples participate in the mission of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to transform their local communities, our state and the world. The Missions Committee strives to partner with the Episcopal Office and the Office of Missional Engagement to equip and collaborate with local churches and districts to grow disciples through missions.

A group of Committee members serves as the Conference Committee on Mission Personnel (CCMP) and continues their vital ministry to foster support around the Conference for our current and future long-term missionaries serving around the world through the UMC’s General Board of Global Ministries. Florida United Methodist Churches supporting at least one missionary grew from 80 to 92 in the past year thanks to this ministry. I encourage you to contact CCMP chair Larry Rankin at lrankin@flumc.org if you feel called to serve in this ministry.

The Committee also celebrated the fruitful ministries of the Conference’s Methodists United in Prayer (Cuba), East Angola/Florida partnership and Haiti/Florida Covenant ministries. The Committee assisted the Methodists United in Prayer team and our Cuban brothers and sisters last year in charting a future course for this vibrant ministry. The Committee has begun an evaluation of the Haiti/Florida covenant ministry and will begin an evaluation of the East Angola/Florida partnership in 2018.

The Committee continued in its role of overseeing the receiving of applications and determination of awards for the Alice W. Lockmiller and Health Ministry grant programs.

One role of the Committee is to consider applications for the creation of Conference Advance Specials. These are projects whose fiscal agents are located within the bounds of the Annual Conference or Episcopal Area and must have a regional, national or global appeal. The Advance is an accountable, designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100% of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry.

The Committee gives thanks for the leaders and committee members who capably guide fruitful ministry teams for the Young Adult Missional Movement (YAMM), our relationships with East Angola, Cuba and Haiti, and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). You can read more elsewhere in this workbook about how God is powerfully at work in each of these ministries.

Join us in praising and thanking God for changing hearts and lives through these ministries.
In 1996 a Task Force convened by Bishop Cornelius L Henderson drafted a sister relationship covenant between the Cuba and Florida Methodist churches. In 1997, Bishop Henderson and Bishop Francisco Gustavo Cruz ratified the Cuba-Florida Covenant at both Annual Conferences. On its upcoming 20th anniversary the Cuba ministry, even though it has a new name, remains a vital and vigorous link between Methodists in Cuba and the United States.

Bishop Ricardo Pereira, attending the ministry’s last Task Force meeting, stated that, when the Covenant was signed, it was hoped that this would become a Bridge of Friendship between our churches and among our people and so it has been, regardless of political or any other differences or obstacles. This ministry started a trend of the Florida Conference of partnering with the Methodist Church in Cuba supporting pastors and missionaries, not only in Cuba, but missionaries were sent to Angola, Africa.

Due to improvements in Cuba-United States relations, the ministry was able to contribute to the funding of retired pastors’ homes, construction and repairs of house churches, helping the Theological Seminaries, not only in Havana but in the district seminaries all over the Island. Also 26 water purification systems were sent to Cuba through Agape Flights and an Educational Opportunities cruise to 3 ports in Cuba is now available for many to get acquainted with the revival in Cuba Methodists churches.

This year 36 mission teams with 232 persons traveled to Cuba. This showed a continuing interest in supporting the ministry with the partnering of some new sister churches and strengthening the relationships among others.

Donations to the Cuba ministry this year amounted to almost $500,000 in support of pastors and churches. These donations are usually underreported. They include a substantial contribution towards the purchase of house churches to support evangelistic efforts through new church planting across the island.

The total number of churches appointed by the Methodist Church in Cuba Annual Conference is approximately 417 with over 700 mission-houses throughout the Island. Also, church groups or individuals provide salary support for Cuban pastors whose churches do not have a sister relationship through the Adopt-a-Pastor program. Currently, 72 pastors are receiving financial support through this program.

This year, 21 Cuban pastors and laity were hosted by their sister churches. This continues to be a vital part of keeping the relationships strong.

Currently, 236 Florida churches are in sister church relationships with 218 Cuba churches. There are still half of Methodist churches in Cuba waiting for a partner church in Florida. The Florida Conference aims for 100% of churches in sister relationship with Cuba churches.

Submitted by Renee Masvidal Kincaid
Secretary, Methodists United in Prayer – MUIP
The East Angola/Florida Partnership mission in Quessua, Angola is an exciting place to serve. We work side by side with our partners as we share in the rebuilding of a community rising from the ruins of war. There is much work to be done but much joy in doing it. Our lives are changed as we feed hungry children, provide clothing for the cold, care for the sick and we share Christ’s message of love...with His people.

One of our partnership’s main initiatives is to provide healthcare. Providing medical clinics in the villages surrounding Quessua, made us acutely aware of the critical need for life saving medicines and treatments as well as provisions such as mosquito nets to help prevent Malaria and sanitary products. We will feed the nearly 700 hungry children many who are suffering from malnutrition and still attend Church in Quessua every Sunday. We will continue to support young men in our boarding home. We will provide for students who earned scholarships and are attending universities to study Medicine, Engineering, Theology and Psychology. We will also support a few young women as they pursue higher education in the fields of Nursing and School of Theology. Education is a vital tool needed to overcome poverty and rise above the ruins.

Our missionaries, Reverends, Doctors Leonardo and Cleivy Garcia continue to faithfully and passionately minister to the many needs of the people in Quessua and graciously host our teams that come to serve. They treat us like family and are encouraged by our visits. Cleivy and Leo visited 25 churches and shared their stories while on itinerancy to the US in 2017. Leo is now commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries. Cleivy and Leo will be working in the capacity of Medical Doctors, working with the School of Theology, farming with the community and wherever else they see a need.

Ken Koome serves as our financial Officer from the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). Ken is a tremendous asset to ministry. Kutela Katembo is also assigned by GBGM as agriculturalist. On a recent trip, one of our teams took farm seeds that had been requested. Kutela had the fields plowed and was ready to plant the seeds when the team arrived.

We have a medical team planned for August, 2017. In October, we have another team that will also provide medical clinics and other projects focused on young girls and women. Construction is underway to provide a dormitory attached to the missionaries home to house the visiting teams. We will join the people to rebuild small churches that were severely damaged or destroyed during Angola’s Civil War and build sanitation facilities in the villages.

We are grateful for all of our partners in mission as we build lasting relationships while empowering the beautiful people of Quessua, Angola.

Submitted by Sandi Goodman
Chairperson, East Angola/Florida Partnership
The Advance is an official program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated contributions. Through The Advance, one may choose to support particular, approved mission programs or mission personnel with financial gifts. One hundred percent of all Advance giving goes to the chosen mission project or ministry. Contributions to the Advance are tax deductible.

**Advance Specials related to Global Relationships**

**METHODISTS UNITED IN PRAYER (formerly CUBA/FLORIDA COVENANT)**
- Advance # 100070 supports Methodists United In Prayer (formerly Cuba/Florida Covenant) by covering travel costs for Cuban Christians visiting Florida and ministries related to the Covenant.
- Advance # 100135 supports the Cuba Methodist Seminary.
- Advance # 100140 provides support for retired pastors of the Methodist Church in Cuba.
- Advance # 110030 supports the evangelistic effort of the Methodist Church in Cuba through matching grants towards the purchase of house/churches.

**EAST ANGOLA/FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP**
- Advance # 100130 supports missionaries of the Cuban Methodist Church serving in the East Angola United Methodist Conference.
- Advance # 100125 supports the feeding program of the East Angola Boarding House/Orphanage.
- Advance # 102020 provides scholarships for East Angolan students to attend Higher Education institutions.
- Advance # 100145 provides scholarships for students at the School of Theology in Quéssua, Angola.
- Advance # 100090 supports the ongoing reconstruction of the Quessua Mission and churches throughout East Angola.
- Advance # 100120 supports a variety of ministries and projects related to the East Angola/Florida Partnership.

**HAITI/FLORIDA COVENANT**
- Advance # 102060 supports theological training for pastors in Haiti, children’s education, feeding programs, etc.

**UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION**
- Advance # 100180 provides resources for training, trip planning, consultation and guidance, mission scholarships for youth, church grants and matching grants for mission experiences.

**Advance Specials related to Outreach Ministries**
- Advance # 510004 – Branches (SE) seeks to partner with churches and organizations to create and expand ministries of compassion and justice in the communities of South East Florida.
• Advance # 510002 - Christians Reaching Out for Society, Inc. (AC) partners with congregations to share God's love through tangible acts and justice ministry.

• Advance # 510021 - Community Outreach Agency (NE) engages with all the churches in the district to promote outreach ministries in each parish.

• Advance # 510006 - Cornerstone Family Ministries (SC) touches the lives of over 20,000 families across the state each month through programs for children, families and seniors.

• Advance # 510025 - Grace Place for Children and Families, Inc. (SW) is a comprehensive child care and family ministry that ministers to at-risk children and families in the Naples area.

• Advance # 510016 - Halifax Urban Ministry (AC) provides emergency food assistance with “feed a family” bags of nonperishable food, with snack bags for homeless people, with daily hot meals and with daily bread.

• Advance # 102035 – South Florida Justice for Our Neighbors concentrates on providing assistance to persons needing immigration legal services.

• Advance # 510001 - Madison County Outreach (NW) offers a variety of services and resources for small membership churches in the area. UMCM built and manages the Florida Conference Disaster Response Supply Depot.

• Advance # 510008 - UM Cooperative Ministry/Suncoast (GC) supports local congregations to respond to critical needs in their communities and provides direct services to refugee and immigrants.

Other Conference Advance Specials

• Advance # 510000 - Alfalit International, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian literacy ministry working in Florida, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

• Advance # 510017 - Carver Heights Ministry is an educational and health ministry with at-risk children and youth of African American and Latino backgrounds in Leesburg.

• Advance # 112010 - Disaster Recovery coordinates volunteers, resources, and pastoral care with local congregations to prepare for and mitigate disasters.

• Advance # 510013 - Florida United Methodist Children’s Home provides services to families and to children from birth into adulthood. It provides school-aged children who have been victimized by abuse, neglect or family trauma, a family-style home, education, counseling, recreation and ministry opportunities.

• Advance # 410005 - Habitat for Humanity Projects in Florida enables low-wage earner families to afford quality homes through sweat equity.

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• Advance # 100110 - Haitian Committee on Ministry supports the strengthening of Haitian-American congregations in the Florida Conference through training of clergy and laity and in the formation of missions as opportunities arise.

• Advance # 510003 - Jim Russo Prison Ministry works with persons recently released from prison. It fosters Christian living values in a home and family setting.

• Advance # 510031 - PET Florida provides the gift of mobility to those outside the U.S.A. who have no legs or no use of their legs. PET (Personal Energy Transportation) is a three wheel, hand pedaled wheelchair that can go where wheelchairs can’t go.

• Advance # 100170 - Shade & Fresh Water is a ministry to clergy and their families dealing with transition.

• Advance # 510019 - Society of St. Andrew (the Potato Project) is a gleaning, produce distribution and hunger education ecumenical ministry that involves volunteers in gleaning farmer’s fields. The food is shipped to food distribution cooperatives for the hungry people.

• Advance # 113030 - The Young Adult Missional Movement identifies, recognizes, gathers & encourages all expressions of young adults in missional service in the Florida conference.

MISSIONARIES WITH COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS
IN THE FL CONFERENCE
www.flumc-missions.org

Africa
Leonardo and Cleivy Garcia – East Angola
Delbert and Sandy Groves – Zambia

Asia
Jonathan McCurley – Japan

Central America and The Caribbean
Connie DiLeo – Dominican Republic

Europe
Alison Gilmore – Ireland
Michael Zdorow – Russia

Middle East
Kristen Brown – Palestine/Israel

South America
William Llanos and Rocio Barcenas – Argentina
Gordon Greathouse – Brazil
Charles Mulemena – Brazil

United States
Janet Horman – Miami, Florida
Kim King Torres – Florida City, Florida
Robert Amundsen – Red Bird Missionary Conference
Steven Riddle – Red Bird Missionary Conference

Global Mission Fellows
Andrew Kastner – Miami, Florida
Caitlin Kastner – Miami, Florida
Emily Kvalheim – Miami, Florida
Nicholas Stanford – Jacksonville, Florida
Victoria Stanford – Jacksonville, Florida
Isabel Icaza Willetts – Amity Foundation

Missionary candidates with GBGM
Margaret Kartwe-Bradley
The Disaster Recovery Ministry prepared local United Methodist Churches to assist their communities before and after disaster through seven Basic Disaster Ministry trainings in 2016. A total of 177 volunteers representing 62 churches attended these trainings. We also added 30 volunteers to our list of Early Responders certified by the Florida Conference and UMCOR.

There was a shift in focus in 2016 with less emphasis on training and more emphasis on the work of recovery as the Florida Conference Disaster Recovery Ministry continued to lead the recovery for the 2015 rain and flood event in Pasco County. UMCOR provided $100,000 for this work and also conducted training for disaster case management. The conference contributed an additional $25,000 along with my time to oversee the project. We completed home repairs with volunteer teams from national organizations, including the Mennonites, World Renew, Catholic Charities, United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, as well as our local United Methodist Churches from around the conference.

As always, our churches and volunteers provided invaluable assistance and support. First New Port Richey donated office space for our recovery operation and graciously allowed us to stay a few months longer as we responded to Hurricane Hermine. Sun City Center UMC and First Deland sent disaster volunteers to renovate that space. East Lake UMC served faithfully bringing a team to help with home repairs every month for the duration of the recovery project. And the list goes on with so many of our churches and volunteers responding to the need.

In this recovery we completed more than 1000 call backs to people who had contacted Pasco County for help after the flooding. Those call backs provided a triaged list of 400 people who needed some kind of assistance. Through referrals and further follow up, we opened 59 cases and repaired 36 homes. In addition to volunteer labor, and discounted building supplies from Lowes, we also had in kind donations, and vendors who provided their services at cost or greatly reduced. The final cost of the recovery for repairs and materials was approximately $75,000 and 7,000 volunteer hours.

As the recovery was preparing to close at the end of September, Hurricane Hermine came up the west coast of Florida as a category 1, causing wind, rain and flood damage. A month later, Hurricane Matthew, a category 3, went up the east coast of Florida. UMCOR provided a $50,000 emergency grant to assist with immediate needs, and we were able to keep our case manager and construction coordinator through the end of the year to work in relief in Pasco County. Altogether twenty counties in Florida received a FEMA declaration for individual assistance. Plans are moving forward to begin long term recovery operations around the state in 2017.

In May at the Governor’s Hurricane Conference, I was honored to be elected to a second term as chair of Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (FL VOAD). This statewide organization is a network of agencies who have disaster as part of their primary mission and includes organizations like American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and others. Serving in this role provides an opportunity for the United Methodist Church to provide influence and leadership in disaster response and recovery in Florida. This has opened many doors and provided unique opportunities during the response to Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew. I am truly blessed to work with so many dedicated organizations and especially with our amazing United Methodist Connection and volunteers.
In ministry with you,
Pam Garrison, Florida Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

PRISON AND JAIL MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Prison and Jail Ministry Task Force mission is to promote Christ-centered ministries of prevention, healing and restoration for those who have experienced incarceration and their family members.

This year the task force submitted ‘A Resolution Calling For Death Penalty Reform in Florida’ based on John 8:7b "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." We also continue to support the “No More Throw Away Kids” initiative, a partnership with the African Methodist Episcopal Church continues to provide a mentor (“faith friend”) for every incarcerated child in Florida.

We recognize that opportunities for involvement are varied. Building relationships with those incarcerated directly, or in aftercare, and seeking to be supportive of family and friends through the church as a safe and healthy place. Each church as the unique opportunity to be involved as the need in that local community requires.

The task force remains committed to our mission and encourages any churches or individuals who want to know more or get involved, to reach out to us at patti.aupperlee@flumc.org

Rev. Patti Aupperlee, Prison Ministry Chairperson

HAITIAN COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Mission and Vision

Mission. The mission of the Haitian Committee On Ministry is to seek out men and women within our communities and make them disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus-Christ.

VISION. Our vision is to create and equip Haitian ministries to respond to the spiritual needs of Haitians living within our communities.

OBJECTIVES. In order to fulfill this mission the committee shall constantly strive to:
1. Assess the needs for establishing new Haitian faith communities in the Florida Conference.
2. Develop Haitian missions and churches.
3. Encourage the establishment of self-supporting Haitian churches.
4. Serve as a facilitator to train lay ministers to function as leaders in missions and churches, and create for them a path toward licensing and/or ordination.
5. Promote the numerical and spiritual growth of Haitian congregations through leadership trainings, seminars and conferences; accountability and education; specialized and
expertise supports; administrative guidance; evangelism training; and any and all support as may be applicable as per assessment.

Well, during the past year, the Lord had been faithful to us. His grace was / is all sufficient for us. I do understand John Newton when he pens this song:

"Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home".

Last April, we had a wonderful retreat attending by 25 of our colleagues. It was very uplifting and resourceful to all attendees. And, at that retreat, we did elect our new officers for the next quadrennium. The following ones were elected to the Chair – The Rev. Montreuil F Milord; The Rev. Exantus Pierre, Vice Chair; Judith Pierre O’kerson – Secretary and Myrline M. Desmornes – Vice Secretary.

My thankfulness goes to the former Chair, The Rev. Tamara Isidore who had toiled so hard to lead this body to new venture. To our God – be the glory! My thankfulness goes also to Rose Mary, our former Secretary and Treasurer. The Haitian Committee On Ministry will continue to pray for them all as they are moving forward with God’s kingdom on the other side of the Florida Conference.

Also, during the past year, one of our colleagues, The Rev. Joanes Martin, had suffered a stroke. But the GRACE of God has brought him safe thus far. And what a mighty God we serve! Amen! Let us continue to pray for him for a complete recovery. Thanks. May I bring to your attention The Rev. Aurilus Desmornes who had a successful surgery over the past few weeks. Please, continue to lift him up in prayers as he pursues toward a full recovery at home.

Finally, here are goals for the next few years:

1. Empowering the lay people throughout the Florida Conference.
2. Organizing all our Haitian youth at local and district levels via associations
3. Organizing training leadership throughout the Haitian Churches and Missions.
4. Organizing throughout the next years retreats for the Haitian Pastors.
5. Encouraging all Haitian pastors to attend meetings set by the Haitian Committee On Ministry; and, according to The Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans, Director of Missional Engagement, all those who are receiving EC ought to be in attendance.
6. Rallying, reviving and revitalizing all the Haitian churches and missions via crusades and revivals.

May I say thanks to The Florida Conference which gives me the opportunity to serving my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!
Blessings to all!
The Rev. Montreuil F Milord – Chair

HISPANIC ASSEMBLY
www.flumc.org/hispanicministrieshome

The Executive Committee of the Hispanic Assembly is more than blessed to report on our effort in extending the Kingdom of God through our different areas of work by strengthening and helping our congregations in fulfilling our mission of making disciples.

During the lapse of this year, the youth and communication areas started hosting an internet-radio broadcasted program called Wildfire Youth that mainly targets the youth audience. Moreover, several youth worship services across the state are helping in revitalizing our youth groups, and it is our main emphasis to promote a Scripture-based and spiritual revival among our youth that can positively impact our congregations.

It is also a privilege to inform that Metahispano magazine has reinitiated its publications in a digital and written format. The last edition targeted a relevant topic for the fulfillment of the church mission, with emphasis in different stages of the discipleship process such as pre-catechesis, evangelism, hospitality, and foundational and ongoing discipleship. It is our intention that Metahispano continue to be an empowering tool for our laity, servant-leaders, and pastors.

During this period of time, the Academia Latino Hispana of the Florida Conference has imparted 15 courses with the aim of preparing laity and clergy in biblical, theological and administrative areas. Currently, the Academia operates in 3 different campuses, and it is our plan to open other ones as more congregations are offering their premises for this purpose. During this year the Academia has had the privilege of also conferring new lay missioner certificates to 13 graduates from the required courses. It is also our goal to achieve accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools.

In September, the Hispanic Assembly hosted its Annual Family Camp in Leesburg, FL, under the theme "Connecting the Family with the Source of Power" and with an attendance of 364 persons representing a total of 21 Hispanic congregations of all different ages. Through this event our people joined in worship, fellowship, and Christian education and experienced a spiritual and emotional renewal.

It is our purpose to continue serving as an instrument of the prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace of God in order to help our congregations in reaching the lost, the lonely, the least, and the last; in connecting them with the Body of Christ; in equipping them through foundational and ongoing discipleship and leader-servant trainings; and in sending them to serve and make new disciples of the Hispanic community for the transformation of the world.

Submitted by Lorena Barrero
Chairperson, Hispanic Assembly
Our UMVIM Florida vision is to transform the world through short-term Christian mission experiences and our mission is to equip, empower and encourage the local church to experience missions. Strong relationships are being formed as the churches are realizing what a great resource they have in UMVIM Florida.

In 2016, the Florida Conference sent 158 UMVIM Teams to 25 countries with a total of 1518 missionaries. In addition, 28 teams registered, up from 14 in 2015, and went on Domestic trips with a total of 451 missionaries, up from 226. We had 19 youth/children under the age of 16 all the way up to 18 adults 80 years old or older. We had 135 volunteers from 18 churches received in depth training on how to lead a team on mission; four of those trainings were in Spanish and four in English. In addition to Team Leader Training, several churches also went through a coaching process for team building. Let’s connect; these are exciting times.

The UMVIM Leadership Team continues to serve God by serving others through the service of each UMVIM Team.

Submitted by Greg A. Harford
Florida Conference UMVIM Coordinator

SOUTH FLORIDA JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (JFON)

South Florida Justice For Our Neighbors provides free immigration legal services as a ministry of the South East District and as part of the United Methodist National Justice For Our Neighbors network. In addition to providing immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, we engage in advocacy for immigrants and their families and offer education to communities of faith and to the public. We continue to hold monthly clinics at First UMC Homestead and Branches in Florida City, during which our volunteers and staff complete intake of new clients and our attorneys provide advice and counsel and assess whether or not we can take each case.

In 2016 we took in 78 new clients/families and continued to work on pre-existing cases. In 2017 we received a grant from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network to participate with them in an immigration legal screening project where we identify any potential immigration benefits for which persons in the community might apply and receive with legal assistance.

Many of our clients are farmworkers or unaccompanied minors from Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, or Mexico. We take on a wide range of cases, including asylum, citizenship, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), family petitions, Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJ) for unaccompanied minors, U Visas for victims of crimes, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) cases.

Our advocacy priorities include TPS for the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras) and Re-designation of TPS for Haiti, support for the Bridge ACT for DACA eligible
young people and resolutions submitted to this Annual Conference supporting Driver’s licenses for all qualified FL Resident drivers and Welcoming the Migrant into Our Midst.

Introducing a Central Florida Clinic
We plan to introduce a Central Florida Clinic in 2017! More Information Coming Soon!

Thank You!

We are so grateful for your prayers, your willingness to serve alongside of us, and your financial contributions to our ministry. Without your support, we could not continue to welcome immigrants (Leviticus 19:34) or expand our services. If you would like to learn more about how you can support us, please e-mail Emily@FLjon.org. The “South Florida Justice For Our Neighbors” Conference Advance # is 102035. Thanks!

Staff
Rev. Janet Horman, Executive Director and Attorney
Roland Robinson, Attorney
Caitlin Kastner, Clinic Intake Coordinator
Emily Kvalheim, Community Relations Coordinator

Contact Us
English: (786) 470-7142, Caitlin@FLjon.org
Español: (786) 470-5735, Emily@FLjon.org
YOUNG ADULT MISSIONAL MOVEMENT

Now in its third year of programming, the Young Adult Missional Movement has expanded to six micro-missional community teams. The Summer Mission Intern Program is expanding to 4 sites this summer. Last year we replaced the summer director with a 0.3 time staff member to provide additional care for all mission serving young adults from application, intake, placement and post-service. Looking ahead, YAMM is leading an initiative to coordinate and improve various mentoring efforts. Additionally, YAMM is increasing communication and coordination with young adult ministry directors in local churches.

The purpose of our work is to expand the capacity of local churches, ministries and social service agencies, to provide meaningful experiences for young adults to discern their vocational and spiritual call, and to engage in our communities by building a living gospel.

The vision of the Young Adult Missional Movement is to identify, recognize, gather & encourage all expressions of young adults in missional service in the Florida conference. We’ll provide support in the way of encouraging, exchanging best practices, supporting spiritual development, and facilitating reflection, action and growth.

In our micro-missional house teams, young adults 18-30 years old are given the opportunity to share the love of God while mutually giving and receiving cross-culturally with neighbors within micro-missional communities. This is experienced by building meaningful work, intentional and cooperative Christian living and community engagement. In this our third year, we have 21 young adults living in six communities, Jacksonville, West Orlando, St. Petersburg, Canal Point, Naples and Miami. Nine of these participants came through the affiliation with the Global Mission Fellow program. Prayer and planning hope to see the expansion of the program to seven sites and twenty-eight participants for the fall of 2017.

In 2016 the Summer Mission Intern Program worked through two key partners at three locations to host twenty-two young adults in a ten-week intensive summer mission service program. In the summer of 2017, we expect to work with four partners in five locations. The mission of the Summer Mission Intern Program is to provide hands-on opportunities for young adults to make a difference in the world by serving out of a deep level of their Christian faith, particularly with children and youth in under-served communities.

It is our prayer that mission service becomes the normal and natural step beyond education for all young adults and will extend our discipleship and leadership development throughout the years of young adulthood. Through cross-cultural community engagement we will develop an abundance of leaders, both in our clergy and lay ministries. We will build vibrant communities, increase the space of young adult leadership, serve alongside communities across our conference and we will constantly, consistently, and creatively keep the fellowship of Christ relevant.
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

The Bible is full of action words – go, proclaim, feed, welcome, heal, serve. The Outreach Ministries of the Florida Annual Conference help churches put their faith into action by serving the hungry, the homeless, children and families, immigrants and others in need. The ministries include:

**Branches (Advance #510004)** formerly South Florida Urban Ministries (South East District) serves, educates and inspires people through student, family and financial stability services in partnership with churches and communities. We fulfill our mission by engaging children, youth and adults with life-changing opportunities for them to become better educated, to become more financially stable and secure, to make long-term, positive life choices and to know God.

**Christians Reaching Out To Society (Advance #510002)** (Atlantic Central District) serves those who are hungry through community collaborations. CROS partners with congregations to share God’s love through food pantries, hot meals, after school snacks, home delivered meals, summer camps, a weekend food backpack program and gleaning fresh produce from fields. CROS also serves as an advocate and catalyst working on justice ministries.

**Cornerstone Family Ministries (Advance #510006)** (South Central District) works to make a lasting and positive impact on disadvantaged children and their families by nurturing bodies, developing minds, and fostering hope through Christ. This ministry works with over 160 early childhood learning centers throughout the South Central and Gulf Central districts with a particular focus on providing access for low income children to nutritious food and connecting those centers that are not already connected with a local church. In addition, this ministry is one of only two UMW National Missions institutions in the state. In addition to this missions nutrition outreach, the Rosa Valdez Early Childhood Learning Center and Lab School has served poor infants, toddlers and preschool aged children in Tampa’s inner-city since 1892 and also serves as a model center for the other 160 centers sponsored by Cornerstone. The ministry served nearly 20,000 children living at or below the poverty level and facilitated the serving of over 4,000,000 nutritious meals in 2016 and engaged 130 United Methodist churches in its work.

**Grace Place for Children and Families (Advance #510025)** (South West District) puts faith into action – providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Grace Place provides programs in early childhood development, after school and summer youth development programs, adult English language classes, parenting and family literacy reaching more than 400 families and 800 students. As the county’s largest partner with Harry Chapin Food Bank, The Friday Food Pantry operates year-round supplying dry good and fresh produce to over 200 families each week serving more than 1200 households each year.

**Halifax Urban Ministry (Advance #510016)** (East Central District) works to prevent homelessness by providing food, financial help and other support services to those at risk of becoming homeless. We intervene on behalf of homeless people to sustain, stabilize and shelter them, with the goal of helping them achieve independence.

**Justice For Our Neighbors (Advance #102035)** (South Florida) offers hospitality to immigrants by providing free immigration legal services to low income immigrants, and education and
advocacy on behalf of immigrants to the community at large. JFON is working toward opening a monthly clinic in Central Florida.

**United Methodist Cooperative Ministries of Madison County (Advance #510001) (North West District)** works with the rural communities of Madison County on elder programs, hunger ministries and sending children to camp. The UMCM Thrift Store is a mission that performs a vital community service by giving items to those in need due to dire circumstances.

**United Methodist Cooperative Ministries/Suncoast (Advance #510008) (Gulf Central District)** works to alleviate the symptoms and address the causes of poverty through service, education and advocacy. It provides four Centers for Early Learning, adult English language and family literacy classes, citizenship classes, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing and emergency food programs.

Please contact your closest Outreach Minister for assistance in connecting to ministries in your community that can make a difference and share the love of Christ.

Pamela Qualls, Outreach Ministries Committee Chair
OFFICE OF CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Progress toward full implementation of the New Church Development (NCD) Strategic Plan defines NCD’s 2016 activities. Affirmed by the Cabinet in early 2014, the Strategic Plan can be summarized as:

- Starting or supporting new churches or revitalizations in the Florida areas most underserved by the United Methodist Church
- Connecting with the people who are in those areas
- Adequately funding the ministry starts in those areas
- Over-investing in NCD leadership preparation for new starts or revitalizations

By the end of 2016 New Church Starts or adoptions have either begun or are moving from planning to implementation in 12 of the 20 most underserved areas. Consultations with District NCD committees and Superintendents are ongoing as we determine the best ministry approaches to the remaining areas. Our ministry approach is to carefully research the identified area’s demographics and approach it with a primary focus on disciple development. As we move away from an attractional model to a missional model of church, worship style and frequency become less of a priority than connection with unchurched and de-churched persons.

Determining adequate funding for new church starts and revitalizations has required constant evaluation. Using appropriate benchmarks to determine funding continuation is now a regular part of NCD operations. These have been developed to grow new starts or revitalizations to the level of our chartering standards. In 2016 we again exceeded any previous year’s support of starts and revitalizations by investing $904,686.00, none of which came from apportionments. We also initiated ministry investments from our newly created Cabinet Development Fund. Priorities for the use of this fund are new church starts, increasing congregational vitality, revitalizing African American ministry and supporting our immigrant churches. The first projects of this fund will commence in 2017.

Our “overinvesting in leadership” has driven two major initiatives. In 2016 we completed the second cohort and began the third cohort of the Generative Church Leader Academy, a twelve day training program directed specifically to our chartering standards. With the graduation of the third group we will have trained 70 pastors. The second initiative is the creation of a Church Residency program. In the 2016-2017 appointment year five pastors were located at First Winter Park, Southside (Jacksonville), First Boca Raton, Grace Cape Coral and Sun City Center. The primary purpose of the residencies is to bring young pastors alongside experienced pastors in preparation for new starts or revitalizations.

In 2016 New Church development supported 22 ministries directly. In the next year 9 will be added to that total. That will include 15 multi-sites, 6 adoptions or mergers and 10 “parachute drops.” Within those groups are 2 African American and 7 immigrant congregations.

New Church Development continues to be directly involved with Fresh Expressions. We constantly look for ways to partner with ministries on the cutting edge as we seek new ways to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world.

[123]
Submitted for the work of Christ,

Rev. Wes Olds, Chairman
Conference Committee on Congregational Vitality

Rev. Dan Jackson, Director
New Church Development

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

Congregational Vitality Purpose: To lead the Conference's efforts in creating more vital congregations - both new and existing.

Congregational Vitality Vision: Vital congregations of disciples being changed in Christ, making a change in the world.

The focus of the Office of Congregational Vitality over 2016 continued to be about working together with districts, building foundations throughout the conference considering contextual differences, (urban/rural/growth, etc). One foundation includes strengthening the Districts' Vitality Teams so that they can be supportive of the District Superintendent in their role as missional strategists. These teams evaluate the health of the district and the individual churches, create vision for vital growth, and provide resources and tools to further our mission of making new disciples.

We are committed to build a culture of ongoing learning available anytime and encourage focused events throughout the year that provide inspiring ideas and tools for vitality. Currently, there are online web trainings for each role of church leadership available on the Congregational Vitality web page. This enables districts to use leadership events to share how to be a missional church, how to partner with local schools, and be a presence of hope, how to start Fresh Expressions in your community, improving hospitality, and inviting others to Christ by sharing our personal faith story.

Missional Vital Signs (MVS) was started several years ago for churches to see their health at a glance over several years, as well as weekly and monthly. While churches faithfully report this information, we encourage the church leadership to regularly evaluate their information/data, see that they are on the path of vitality and make adjustments to hospitality, worship, community outreach opportunities, small groups for deepening faith, and being a place of hope in their community. MVS’s helps us to see areas of strength and to provide or receive mentoring with our connectional relationships.

Some churches are expected to close this year. We recognize the difficulties of those decisions and celebrate their contributions to the Kingdom for many years. Seeing downward trends early allows for robust conversations and action to then make critical decisions and clarify vision to be a place of hope for the community. We want to help our churches that are feeling the pressure of changing communities, aging congregations, and societal changes that affect churchgoing.
Congregational Vitality recognizes five streams of growth in our Conference: the traditional church plant, multi-site campus, contextual worship to reach a specific demographic population, Fresh Expressions, and missional communities to support a missional edge neighborhood with basic human needs. We are blessed to have talented and serving hearts who are mission minded for the sake of growing disciples for Christ and bring hope to the people of the Florida. There are areas of growth and health in our Conference with healthy churches. We watch population trends to see how we can be positioned for future growth in expanding communities. Some healthier churches are starting new campuses in demographically growing areas or adopting/restarting churches that were unable to keep going. Fresh Expressions in the Florida Conference continues to grow and find new and unique ways to meet new people in new places. This office continues to be a part of the Fresh Expressions movement and will continue to encourage steps of faith to go out and create places for people to discover their faith.

Rev. Wes Olds, Committee Chair

Small Membership Church Committee
This committee met in person once in 2016 and once via web conferencing. While this group is still forming as a team due to adding people, another moving out of the Conference, and the need for more laity. Our last live event was an introduction to Fresh Expressions and the MVS changes. We are currently planning a live event prior to AC 2018 as well as a web-based training this year specific to the needs of the small membership church.

Janet Earls, Director

Congregational Vitality
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership at End of Year</strong></td>
<td>310,711</td>
<td>302,497</td>
<td>294,935</td>
<td>288,830</td>
<td>277,726</td>
<td>269,299</td>
<td>262,359</td>
<td>252,524</td>
<td>245,361</td>
<td>238,757</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Received-Profession of Faith</strong></td>
<td>6,897</td>
<td>6,683</td>
<td>6,514</td>
<td>6,055</td>
<td>5,733</td>
<td>5,636</td>
<td>5,504</td>
<td>5,461</td>
<td>4,462</td>
<td>4,661</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Received-Affirmation</strong></td>
<td>2,299</td>
<td>2,527</td>
<td>1,532</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td>1,294</td>
<td>1,356</td>
<td>1,355</td>
<td>1,191</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Received-Transfer from Other UMC</strong></td>
<td>3,812</td>
<td>3,933</td>
<td>3,413</td>
<td>3,059</td>
<td>2,819</td>
<td>2,885</td>
<td>3,078</td>
<td>2,945</td>
<td>2,690</td>
<td>2,732</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Received-Transfer from Other Denomination</strong></td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>2,609</td>
<td>2,244</td>
<td>1,857</td>
<td>1,841</td>
<td>1,827</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>1,903</td>
<td>1,551</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Removed-Charge Conference</strong></td>
<td>9,267</td>
<td>9,768</td>
<td>6,707</td>
<td>7,557</td>
<td>11,642</td>
<td>9,197</td>
<td>8,351</td>
<td>9,151</td>
<td>7,320</td>
<td>6,011</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Removed-Withdrawn</strong></td>
<td>4,230</td>
<td>3,858</td>
<td>2,904</td>
<td>2,652</td>
<td>2,640</td>
<td>2,663</td>
<td>2,330</td>
<td>2,710</td>
<td>2,155</td>
<td>1,795</td>
<td>-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Removed-Transfer other UMC</strong></td>
<td>3,812</td>
<td>2,848</td>
<td>2,867</td>
<td>2,247</td>
<td>2,060</td>
<td>2,016</td>
<td>2,449</td>
<td>2,567</td>
<td>1,597</td>
<td>1,646</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Removed-Transfer other Denomination</strong></td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>1,566</td>
<td>1,270</td>
<td>1,206</td>
<td>1,466</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>1,932</td>
<td>1,262</td>
<td>-35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members Removed-Death</strong></td>
<td>4,262</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>4,206</td>
<td>4,146</td>
<td>3,880</td>
<td>3,838</td>
<td>3,831</td>
<td>3,752</td>
<td>3,725</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Attendance-Weekly Worship</strong></td>
<td>151,354</td>
<td>144,149</td>
<td>146,855</td>
<td>142,177</td>
<td>141,104</td>
<td>137,820</td>
<td>135,361</td>
<td>132,338</td>
<td>129,590</td>
<td>124,959</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number Baptized</strong></td>
<td>4,657</td>
<td>4,207</td>
<td>4,389</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td>3,782</td>
<td>3,933</td>
<td>3,692</td>
<td>3,491</td>
<td>3,105</td>
<td>3,202</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church School-Average Attendance</strong></td>
<td>47,135</td>
<td>45,018</td>
<td>41,985</td>
<td>40,858</td>
<td>40,285</td>
<td>39,972</td>
<td>37,780</td>
<td>35,813</td>
<td>34,309</td>
<td>32,004</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UMM-Membership</strong></td>
<td>9,605</td>
<td>8,955</td>
<td>8,251</td>
<td>8,022</td>
<td>7,698</td>
<td>7,190</td>
<td>7,155</td>
<td>6,164</td>
<td>5,804</td>
<td>5,534</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UMW-Membership</strong></td>
<td>23,746</td>
<td>21,742</td>
<td>20,815</td>
<td>19,362</td>
<td>19,163</td>
<td>17,595</td>
<td>16,598</td>
<td>15,798</td>
<td>15,857</td>
<td>14,703</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This figure included corrections to the previous year's data until 2009. In 2009 the corrections to the previous year's data was broken out as a separate question. That figure was 2,277. This helps explain the large decrease from 2008 to 2009.
The Fresh Expressions initiative is about catalyzing new forms of church for a rapidly changing culture. The focus is creating expressions of church for new people, in new places, by new ways. Over the last few years under the vision of Bishop Carter and his leadership team, Fresh Expressions have begun to take root throughout the Florida United Methodist Conference. As of April 2017, there are over 75 Fresh Expressions of church in the conference with all nine districts being represented. These expressions of church look very different from one another, but the foundation is the same. They are reaching people that are not connected to an existing church, and are moving their attendees toward discipleship. As we move forward with this initiative, our team believes that these Fresh Expressions of church must work together with the existing church to reach the world with the message of Christ.

The steering committee along with the conference coordinator for Fresh Expressions have focused on three key areas for strengthening the initiative conference wide:

- Training – offering trainings through conference wide events, district trainings and to the local churches
- Resourcing – creating content for individuals and churches to learn more about the Fresh Expressions initiative and how to engage with their local communities
- Connecting – Offering ways for current and prospective Fresh Expressions leaders to learn best practices and what is going on throughout the conference

Highlights of the last year include:

- Leading workshops and trainings around the state for over 600 people
- Teaching at six of the district training events about the foundations of Fresh Expressions and how to engage with your local communities in new ways
- Awarding 24 micro-grants to both new and existing Fresh Expressions
- Hiring a full time conference employee to lead the initiative
- Launching a website that serves as a resourcing tool for those involved in Fresh Expressions and for those wanting to learn more
- Producing bi-monthly blog posts about Fresh Expressions and being the missional church
- Releasing a book by Bishop Ken Carter and Rev. Audrey Warren for church leaders and congregations to go through, to learn more about Fresh Expressions and reaching the unchurched in their communities
- Formation of a district Fresh Expressions committee in the North Central District

Our team is excited about all that has been accomplished over the last year and is looking to continue on with the momentum that has been created. If you are thinking about starting a Fresh Expression we would love to connect with you.

Email us at freshexpressions@flumc.org so that we can support you in engaging with your community! If you would like to find out more information about Fresh Expressions around the conference you can visit our website at www.flumc.org/freshexpressions.
We, the Board of Lay Ministry of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church feel the calling to go and compel the people to come! The journey is not easy; and the mission is a challenge as we go into our communities and seek out the hungry, the homeless and the hurting, and build relationships. We are responsible for the future of our church: to model, to foster, to recognize and to celebrate its ministries.

As we travel this journey together, ask yourself this: How do I see myself as a lay member of the Florida Annual Conference and in my church? There is only one mission and that mission is to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are called to follow Jesus and grow spiritually through the practice of a variety of habits for the good of the whole church.

Matthew 5:14 says, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.” Our hope as laity is that we can join in a common practice, through our actions, in drawing others to the Lamb of God; and to go forth and give light in our home, workplaces, and communities. We take seriously our call in the work through our prospective ministries, which can only happen when clergy and laity come together for the good of the church. We strongly believe that it can happen by partnering together. We are called to follow Jesus and grow spiritually through the practice of a variety of habits for the good of the whole church.

We are an advertising agent advertising faith; life, hope and a purpose in a world of darkness and sin. God paid a great price for us: His son Jesus Christ. When we become born again and confess our faith, our lives become a neon light and a billboard; a walking billboard.

False advertising may cost a few dollars or some minor inconvenience, but false advertising as a Christian may cause someone to miss Jesus and Heaven. We continue to encourage, invite, welcome and empower every lay member of the Florida Annual Conference to advertise the principles and teachings of Christ and a God in whom one can put his/her faith and trust: the one who will supply your every need; not an agent who advertises doubt, hopelessness and worldly value.

There are a variety of lay ministries: what is the Lord leading you to do?

Paulette Monroe, Chairperson
LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

Many new and exciting things are occurring within Lay Servant Ministries. The traditional program is going strong all over the Conference, and we are seeing additional opportunities for Lay Speaking Ministries courses as well. Newest to our family is the Certified Lay Minister program.

While it has been around since 2004, it now comes under our umbrella for the first time. Have you ever thought about becoming more involved with a team within your church or community that is part of a pastoral approach to ministry? Would you like to become more involved in your role as a lay person in action for Christ in the world? Then Certified Lay Ministry may be just the thing for you!

All three expressions of Lay Servant Ministries are based on first becoming a lay servant. Once you are a lay servant, you may become a lay speaker with additional coursework. Or if you are not interested in that specialty area, you may become a lay minister who works under the supervision of a pastor, and sometimes on a specialized team. Several specializations have already been approved and more are coming! These include:

- CLM with Specialization as a NPHLM Lay Missioner
- CLM with Specialization as a UMC Lay Missionary/Church Planter
- CLM with Specialization as a UM Parish Nurse

Coming Specializations include:
- Children’s Faith Formation
- Congregational Care
- Small Group Leadership
- Leading Men’s Ministry
- Blessings Ministry

For more information, check out our website at [http://floridalayservants.com/](http://floridalayservants.com/).

You can also download the latest 2017 LSM Catalog at [https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog).

We are also doing more online classes than ever before. Browse the catalog at the website, [http://beadisciple.com/](http://beadisciple.com/). Look specially for the “Affiliations” of “Lay Servant Ministries” and “Certified Lay Ministries,” as well as the “Wesley Lay Academy.” It is an exciting time to be a lay servant!

I would like to thank Lynn Campbell, our former director, for her many years of service in our ministry, and of course, all our district directors, who work so hard to arrange new and interesting classes for all of you.

Rod Groom
Conference Director
For the Florida Conference UMM, 2016-17, we kept focused on the future and looked for opportunities to add to our ministry to men.

The Florida UMM Board and Conference Committee met in the spring and fall for the 2015-2016 Conference year. Additionally, we had a presence at Annual Conference with a booth where we offered fellowship, material on our Retreats, and information about UMM programs and ministries.

We had initially planned two Fall Men’s Retreats. Unfortunately, our first retreat was cancelled due to the threat of storms and poor travel conditions from Hurricane Matthew. Its theme was “Lead Like Jesus,” and was to have been led by Jim Boesch, who is a Men’s Ministry Specialist and our own First Vice President.

The second retreat was a success, featuring speaking by Rev. Harold Lewis and Rev. Riley Short, who filled-in at the minute for John Riley who had to cancel for medical reasons. Music was provided by the Lighthouse Band from Coral Gables UMC. Many men used the altar time to address praises, joys, concerns, and problems and saw several men commit their lives to Christ, with others rededicating their lives to Christ.

In 2016, Florida’s United Methodist Men were also busy on the district level providing new opportunities for men. Men from several districts participated in and attended a variety of outstanding training and fellowship events as follows:

Iron Sharpens Iron Men’s Conferences in Fort Myers, Clearwater and Lakeland - March, April and May 2016

- United Methodist Family Night at the Jacksonville Suns (sponsored by UMM) - June 2016
- UMM District Leadership Gathering - July 2016 - Oviedo
- United Methodist Family Night at the Charlotte Stone Crabs (sponsored by UMM) - July 2016 - Port Charlotte
- 4th and One Men’s Rally - July 2016 - Jacksonville
- Lead Like Jesus Leadership Encounter - July 2016 - Oviedo
- Lead Like Jesus Men’s Training - November 2016 - Englewood

Throughout 2016, the UMM District Leadership team has been working with GCUMM Deployed Staff member, Jim Boesch, in creating a new event - the Igniting Men Conference - which will be held at First UMC Oviedo in May 2017. Jim Boesch also served as the facilitator for the Lead Like Jesus program throughout 2016.

2017 begins with a solid vision on the positive future of the UMM ministry here in Florida.
United Methodist Women is a lay women’s organization whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The entire program and organization of United Methodist Women focuses on mission. Our mission initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women and girls to be leaders
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth and flexibility
- Working for justice through service and advocacy

An inspirational celebration of the fifth Haitian Convocation was held February 20, 2016 at Wabasso United Methodist Church in Sebastian, FL.

The 2016 SEJ Quadrennial meeting, A Fresh Wind Blowing was held on June 3-5, 2016 in Charleston, SC. New officers were elected. Gertrude Stewart, from the FL Conference was elected as SEJ secretary. Serving as a National Director from the FL Conference is Magdala Edmond.

Mission u was held July 7-10, 2016 at Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach. The theme was “Pray, Learn, and Transform” and, the studies were: The Bible and Human Sexuality, Latin America and Climate Justice. There were 326 persons in attendance. All newly ordained clergy received an invitation to participate in Mission u with a full scholarship.

At the end of July five members of the Florida Conference attended the National Seminar “Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy” The quadrennial United Methodist Women mission issue priorities: Maternal and Children Health, Climate Justice, Mass Incarceration and Economic Inequality were launched at this event.

The 2016 theme for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat and Conference Annual Meeting was “Growing in Blessedness based on Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” (NRSV). Rev. Rachel DeLaune led the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat held at the Life Enrichment Center September 9-11. Edith Zewadski-Bricker, Southeast District President led the mini-Retreat for teens and college/university women.

The 43rd Conference Annual Meeting was held at The Life Enrichment Center on November 5, 2016. We had 226 persons gathered to celebrate our mission work. Liz Johnson, former President Women’s Society of Christian Service (Central Jurisdiction) and Grace Okerson, Young Adult United Methodist Women member were the keynote speakers. Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, Lay Leader South East District installed the newly elected Conference officers. Districts, Units and individuals were recognized for their accomplishments in the Reading Program, Mission Studies, Mission Today Units, Five Star Units and Rainbow Givers. The budget for 2017 was approved.
Thanks to all faithful United Methodist Women we were able to donate over $410,000 to the National Office for mission at home and around the world, and an additional $35,000 for designated mission projects.

Conference elected officers and District Presidents attended Leadership Development Days in St. Louis, MO and Lake Junaluska, NC sponsored by the National Office.

In celebrating the 150th anniversary, UMW members from the FL conference continue to participate in the Day of Giving on March 23 to commemorate the date of the founding of the first women’s organization in the Methodist traditions. These contributions go toward our Legacy Fund to enable future generations of women to continue to be partners in God’s mission through United Methodist Women.

You are invited to the 2017 Mission u at Bethune Cookman University, July 13-16, 2017. The studies are: Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States, Living as a Covenant Community and Climate Justice. Continuing education credits are offered.

We communicate through the “Genesis” the official Florida Conference United Methodist Women publication, our website: www.flconfumw.org. Response is the official national magazine. Additional information may be found on the national office website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

We affirm our PURPOSE living by Faith, Hope, Love In Action.

Kay Roach, President
Florida Conference United Methodist Women
MINISTRY OF THE ORDAINED

OFFICE OF CLERGY EXCELLENCE

• Supports and offers resources to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and its District Committees on Ministry that are responsible for overseeing the candidacy certification, licensing, ordination and transfer of those persons called to ordained and licensed ministry in the local church, community, and throughout the world.

• Hosts biannual candidacy retreats and oversees the group mentoring process for those exploring candidacy in the UMC.

• Maintains contact with and supports seminarians from Florida throughout the Connection.

• Oversees and supports the Residents In Ministry program for Provisional members.

• Coordinates and resources a Summer Pastoral Internship program in collaboration with interested local churches.

• Provides ongoing learning opportunities for our clergy including: Marcy Preaching Fellowship, Institute of Preaching, Courage to Lead, Reynolds Program for Church Leadership, and the Simpkins Wesley Study Retreat.

• Assists clergy with funds for other programs of continuing education, which are renewed upon each quadrennium.

• Supports Shade and Fresh Water in its mission to provide “a transformative sanctuary for individuals and their families who are professionally associated with the Florida Conference of the UMC for the restoration of body, mind, and spirit toward more abundant living” through the offerings of spiritual direction, personal and covenant group retreats, and programs to manage change in new and difficult appointments, and to facilitate divorce recovery.

• Implements important training events for newly appointed clergy and for clergy who are experiencing a transition of appointment.

• Supports young clergy initiatives throughout the conference

Highlights of the past year include:

• Hosted a Young Adult Lay and Clergy Summit Day with approximately 40 young adults and Conference staff to dream about ways of doubling the number of young adult Clergy under the age of 35; identifying at least 10 churches with vital ministries to young adults that can share best practices; and identifying over 100 young adult laity actively involved in leadership in their local churches and communities;
- Recruited Rev. Will Wold to chair a **Young Adult Steering Committee** of 12 young adult Lay and Clergy leaders to direct our future work with young adults in the conference;

- **Guided 60 Candidates for Ministry toward Certification** in our Candidacy retreats and mentoring groups;

- Prepared and approved **13 Ordinands for Full Connection, 17 for provisional membership and 7 for licensing as local pastors** (as of 1/17);

- Sponsored **10 summer Pastoral ministry interns** serving in our local churches in 2016, our largest group to date;

- **Collaborated with The United Methodist Foundation** to provide financial education for those participating in the candidacy retreats, and **developed new applications and procedures for the Passing of the Torch funds** for a Clergy of Color Scholarship, Sabbatical Leave grants, and grants for Ordinands;

- **Partnered with The Florida United Methodist Foundation** to send 4 Young Clergy representatives to each of the #millennials and REVITUP conferences;

- **Conducted District Committee on Ministry Training** for all nine Districts to standardize policies and guidelines providing updated Handbooks and resources;

- **Recruited District Registrar**, Elizabeth Flynn, for 6 districts enabling us to establish a more consistent and streamlined dCOM process. She also assisted with training dCOM Chairs and other registrars;

- In collaboration with Elizabeth Flynn, worked with Rod Groom, the Chair of Lay Servant Ministries, to **establish a standardized process for approving Certified Lay Ministers** through their dCOMs;

- Initiated the process for **transitioning Lay Supply Pastors** into the candidacy process for Licensed or Ordained Ministry or as Certified Lay Ministers;

- Visited Asbury (KY and FL), Duke, and Candler campuses to **connect with seminary students** and supported Florida conference seminary groups and events organized by student leaders;

- Supported **Course of Study Students** in our Regional Florida Schools and our Summer Course of Study Schools at Candler School of Theology, Duke Divinity School, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, and Perkins School of Theology.

- **The Board of Ordained Ministry worked to update all the Applications** in an effort to provide a more streamlined and concise process. They established guidelines of their expectations, and shortened readings lists for each of the application areas of personal growth, proclamation, leadership, and theology;
• Brought together a team to **evaluate the effectiveness of the entire BOM process.** Recommendations will be presented to the BOM at our June Annual Conference meeting;

• **Took a team of 11 BOM representatives to the BOM quadrennial training** in Chicago and **participated in the BOM network** training in Austin TX;

• **Offered a BOM Prep Day** for all those applying to BOM led by our Review Team leaders;

• **Supported mock interviews** arranged by Rev. Michael Beck at the LEC in preparation for BOM interview week;

• **Supported our 3-year cycle of Residents in Ministry Retreats (R.I.M.)** for Provisional members and those Full Time Local Pastors moving on to provisional membership (for a total of 58 participants); and **began working with the Conference RIM Leaders to develop a recommendation for possible revisions to the RIM process**;

• **Revised and simplified the Annual Clergy Assessment package** that is used by clergy in collaboration with their Staff Parish Relations Committee and submitted to their District Superintendents. The due date for the Assessment was moved from 1/31 to 5/31 to avoid the year end rush of reports.

• Continued to **work with Shade & Fresh Water** to provide appointed clergy with opportunities for spiritual direction and formation for ministry. The valuable “Change Retreat” continues to be offered to clergy moving in and out of difficult appointments;

• **Transferred our online candidacy, licensing, commissioning, ordination and transfer tracks from Pathways to UMCARES** (United Methodist Candidacy and Retrieval Entry System). (As of 7/1/17 we will no longer be using the Pathways to Ministry system);

• **Developed a system for more efficiently evaluating seminary transcripts** to ensure compliance with Discipline requirements;

• Took on the administrative support for the **Courage To Lead** program, and provided ongoing support for the other educational opportunities we offer.

• Worked with a diverse team of young adult clergy to plan and coordinate the **Clergy Gathering**;

**The 4-Fold mission of the Office of Clergy Excellence is organized around: Call, Discernment, Support, and Transformation.**

**Our Goals for the coming year are to:**

1. Continue refining the BOM and RIM processes to better meet the needs of the candidates and the Conference as we seek to meet the needs of the future church.
2. Initiate work on the 8-Year Assessment required by the 2016 Discipline for implementation in 2020.

3. Support the work proposed by the Young Adult Steering Committee

4. Work with the Chair of Local Pastors and Associate Members to develop a RIM mentoring process for Local Pastors who are in the process of completing their educational requirements.

5. Develop ways of better connect with camps and retreats, campus ministries, and local churches to foster a culture of call throughout the Connection.

6. Work with the Ministerial Assessment Specialists and the BOM Personal Growth Team to propose changes to improve the psychological assessment testing battery.

7. Continue training and streamlining the work of the District Committees on Ministry by training our District Registrars, Chairs and Committee members: simplifying the paperwork and processes; and establishing uniform expectations from the BOM.

8. Work with the Florida United Methodist Foundation and the Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits to more effectively utilize the Passing the Torch funds for Clergy debt avoidance.

9. To evaluate and, if necessary, revise the Right Start Training for new and moving clergy.

10. To develop better data and measurement systems that would enable us to evaluate the effectiveness of our various ministries including the BOM, dCOM, and Candidacy processes and our Continuing Education opportunities.

We are grateful for the clergy and lay leadership serving on all our Boards and Ministries. We offer special appreciation to The Board of Ordained Ministry Chair, Brett Opalinski; Vice Chair, David Miller; Secretary, Christy Holden; our cabinet liaison, Bob Bushong; our Conference Relations Chair and my awesome predecessor, Wayne Wiatt; and to our Conference RIM Leaders, Richard Landon and Debbie Allen. They have provided amazing leadership in support of our clergy as they seek licensing and ordination in the Florida Conference.

We are also thankful for the tireless leadership of clergy and laity in the following programs offered through the Office of Clergy Excellence: Institute of Preaching: Jim Harnish, Faculty, and Kent Crow, Chair; Marcy Preaching Fellowship, Charlie Reeb, Conference Liaison, and Clarke Campbell-Evans, Director of Missional Engagement; Courage to Lead: David Dodge and Janice Virtue, Faculty; Reynolds Leadership Program: Russ Moxley and Janice Virtue, Faculty; Simpkins Wesley Study Retreat: Phil Roughton, Chair, and Bishop Bob Fannin, Liaison.

We are honored to serve with these amazing teams of servants.

We want to especially thank Holly Finley, Assistant for the Office of Clergy Excellence. Holly has displayed exceptional gifts and graces in helping our candidates and Board of Ordained Ministry Applicants find their way through new online applications and data entry systems and helped our students discern and answer their calls to licensed and ordained ministry. Holly has taken on
many new challenges with personnel changes and reductions in the Office of Clergy Excellence, including training the new director! Please express your personal thanks to her!

With the Love of Christ,
Sara McKinley, Director
Holly Finley, Assistant

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

We began a new quadrennium on the Florida Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry with a strong group of clergy and laity. This board has some of the best preachers, theologians, leaders, and mentors the conference has to offer. It includes four former Board chairs. Further we are working to make sure that there is diversity reflected in both the board membership and leadership. More and more we want the board to reflect the people of our annual conference.

Our work remains the same, to recognize and discern God’s call for ministers in the Florida Annual Conference who are grounded in Wesleyan Theology, have healthy and well-ordered lives, are engaging preachers, and deep spiritual leaders. This work is not always easy, but it is done with much prayer and discernment.

Over the next few years, the Board of Ordained Ministry is going to explore new ways of doing our work. We are clarifying expectations for applicants at every level of ministry. We have developed a simplified reading list of books/texts that will offer a solid grounding in proclamation, leadership, theology, and personal growth. A team has also been formed to explore alternative options for reviewing paper work and conducting interviews. In essence, we want to be relevant and responsive to a new day in ministry.

I want to express deep gratitude to Sara McKinley and Holly Finley for the hard work that they do on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Our work could not happen without their tireless effort and dedication to the applicants and the conference. In addition, we are grateful to all of our District Committee on Ministry chairs and members who give so much of themselves to this work. Finally, thank you to all of our RIM (Resident in Ministry) Leaders for helping to guide a strong group of provisional members towards full connection. For all of these, the work is beyond the sight of most, but the impact is felt across the conference.

May God give us wisdom as we move ahead in this calling of the Board of Ordained Ministry!

Brett Opalinski
Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED FOR ELDER IN FULL CONNECTION – ELDER

Michael Adam Beck – 36 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, North Central District
Daniel Lucas Bennett – 32 Years Old, Married, Duke Divinity, North Central District
Melanie Joy Fierbaugh – 40 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, South West District
Ryan Franklin Frack – 33 Years Old, Married, Duke Divinity, East Central District
Corey Jones – 34 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, East Central District
Juana Renee Jordan – 46 Years Old, Single, Emory University, North East District
Jason David Knott – 29 Years Old, Married, Duke Divinity, North East District
Erwin Adrian Lopez – 33 Years Old, Married, Duke Divinity, East Central District
Jennifer Potter Buff – 29 Years Old, Married, Duke Divinity, Gulf Central District
Odalis Quevedo – 49 Years Old, Married, Seminario Evangelico de Teologia, South East District
Donald Robert Thompson Jr. – 48 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, North East District
Michael John Zdorow – 38 Years Old, Married, Emory University, South East District

RECOMMENDED FOR DEACON IN FULL CONNECTION – DEACON

Samantha Tyburski Cowan – 28 Years Old, Married, Emory University, South Central District

RECOMMENDED FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP – ELDER

Robert Holcombe Brooks – 33 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, East Central District
Benjamin Conrad Collins – 35 Years Old, Married, Chicago and Asbury Theological Seminary, East Central District
Nelson Cowan – 28 Years Old, Married, Wesley Theological Seminary, South Central District
David Wayne Killingsworth – 32 Years Old, Married, Duke Divinity, East Central District
Meghan Nicole Killingsworth – 30 Years Old, Married, Duke Divinity, East Central District
Sarah Kiviniemi McIntosh – 24 Years Old, Married, Emory University, North Central District
Perri Bevan Martin – 30 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, South West District
Jonathan Daniel McCurley – 36 Years Old, Married, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, East Central District
José D. Nieves – 41 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, East Central District
Anna Dolores Scharbo – 25 Years Old, Single, Wesley Theological Seminary, South East District
Latricia Edwards Scriven – 45 Years Old, Married, Interdenominational Theological Seminary, North West District
Stacey Spence – 50 Years Old, Single, Asbury Theological Seminary, North Central District
Timothy Carl Willcox – 50 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, North West District
Dawn Elizabeth Worden – 49 Years Old, Married, Emory University, South East District
RECOMMENDED FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP – DEACON

Mary Lee Downey – 34 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, East Central District
George S. Pellington – 65 Years Old, Married, Asbury Theological Seminary, Atlantic Central District

TO BE LICENSED AS LOCAL PASTORS (IF APPOINTED)

Robert Simmons Bledsoe
Carlos M. Cortes
Scott William Didriksen
Haley Grace Unkefer Eccles
Jana Imani Hall-Perkins
Evelyn Teran

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

The Ministerial Education Fund apportionment supports a fundamental part of the connectional ministry of the United Methodist Church. It enables all local churches throughout the conference to assist persons who are candidates for ministry. With the contributions made by members of the churches during 2016, your Board has been able to assist persons up to $2,000 per semester. This help is often crucial for candidates, many of whom give up other careers to enter the ministry. These are the guidelines which the Ministerial Education Fund committee uses in administering these funds:

Ministerial Education Funds (MEF) will be made available to all certified candidates who are attending seminary. Local Pastors in Course of Study Schools may receive scholarship assistance from MEF, as can persons attending the Licensing School. MEF funds may also be used to provide scholarship assistance to local pastors and deacons, licensed by the Board of Ordained Ministry, who are enrolled in an ACPE-approved CPE program.

MEF continuing education grants will be made available to Diaconal Ministers to help finance their two annual continuing education units on the same basis as such funds are made available to ordained ministers.

Distribution of MEF receipts is 90% for students and 10% for continuing education.
Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) | 2014 | 2015 | 2016
--- | --- | --- | ---
Apportioned to local church | 1,180,279 | 1,158,898 | 1,126,572
Received from local churches | 972,613 | 955,926 | 920,933
75% of MEF monies received are sent to the General Church for Seminary students
Total sent to General Church | 729,460 | 716,944 | 690,700
25% of MEF monies received remain in the Florida Conference for student aid and continuing education | 243,153 | 238,982 | 230,233
Total FL Conference Funds available | | | |
For Student aid (90% of retained funds) | 218,838 | 215,084 | 207,210
For Continuing Ed (10% of retained funds) | 24,315 | 23,898 | 23,023
Student Aid
Amount available from prior years | 486,425 | 374,141 | 401,089

Received from other sources (non-Apportioned) | 69,741 | 15,181 | 48,910
Current Year Allocation | 218,838 | 215,084 | 207,210
Disbursed for students | (400,863) | (203,317) | (141,770)
Available for future use | 374,141 | 401,089 | 515,439

Continuing Education
Amount available from prior years | 103,965 | 96,962 | 92,179
Received from other sources (non-Apportioned) | 2,014 | 1,330 | 1,275
Current Year Allocation | 24,315 | 23,898 | 23,023
Disbursed for continuing education | (33,332) | (30,011) | (22,715)
Available for future use | 96,962 | 92,179 | 93,762
COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The Commission on Equitable Compensation exists to assist churches who are in need of financial support on a short term basis. It is our goal to see transformation come through the implementation of new vision by making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Commission’s purpose is to provide short-term grants that assist in this process of making disciples. These grants are designed to help chartered churches and missions continue in ministry as they revise their future, thus helping them to return to a self-supporting status. It is our prayer as a commission, that we can be both a facilitator and an encourager in the ministry of churches in need of short-term financial assistance.

Based on a recommendation by the Strategic Leadership Team, the scope of the Equitable Compensation Commission has expanded to include what was formerly support by New Church Development for missions and District support for missions.

GUIDELINES FOR 2018

Equitable Compensation funds will be granted in accordance with the following guidelines. Only the Equitable Compensation Commission at the request of a District Superintendent may grant exceptions.

Who is qualified to receive minimum salary funds?

- All full-time pastors who are not excluded in Section 2.
- Ministers serving full-time pastoral assignments with an average attendance of 100 in worship. If a congregation falls below 100 in average worship attendance, the first year the maximum support will be reduced by 10%. If the congregation continues to have less than 100 in worship for 3 years, consideration will be given to the church becoming part of a circuit or part-time if the church wants to remain eligible for Equitable Compensation Funding. The exceptions are student appointments and part-time pastors.

Who is not eligible for minimum salary support?

- All pastors who are retired.
- Part-time pastors are not eligible for minimum salary support except in those cases where ministry within the discretion of the District Superintendent and Cabinet warrant special support. The amount of support available will not exceed 50% of the amount available on a full-time basis.
- Full-time appointments with less than 100 in average worship attendance.
- Ministers on Leave of Absence.
- Associate Pastors.
- Any ordained conference member not under pastoral appointment.
- Those who are appointed from other Annual Conferences under Disciplinary appointment of ¶¶346.1 and 346.2.

The maximum allowable salary support is 20% of minimum salary. To be eligible, a pastor must live in the bounds of his/her parish and give full-time service to that charge. Studies pursued in an approved college or university is considered part of the work of the ministry if approved by the District Superintendent.
Applications for Equitable Compensation funds are submitted once a year and must be received by the Conference office on or before April 1\textsuperscript{st} for funding for the following year. Applications for new Equitable Compensation support may be submitted with a deadline of November 1\textsuperscript{st}.

The application must include:

- The signature of the Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.
- A Vision and Mission statement as envisioned by the whole body of the church.
- A Written Ministry Plan for implementing the Vision and Mission statement into the life of the church. A summary of the measurable goals accomplished to date as reflected in Evangelism, Worship, and Outreach.
- A Treasurers report, including all assets, for the current year to date status of the financial condition of the church.
- A request for funds by the Charge Conference and the signature of the District Superintendent.
- A copy of the congregations Stewardship Commitment Plan.
- Summary of the Measurable Goals accomplished to date as reflected in Evangelism, Worship, and Outreach.
- The Missional Vital Signs Yearly Report
- Any new request must include a cover letter by the District Superintendent naming the missional strategy involved in the request and the timeline during which this funding would be needed.

Additional support, up to $2,000, is available for “Missional Congregations.” “Chartered Churches” with documented outreach to the poor, through service and evangelism may also apply for “Missional” support, with the approval of the District Superintendent. The church must be receiving an Equitable Compensation grant in order to be eligible for this additional support.

Before a church is granted salary support, the church must conduct, or agree to conduct, a Stewardship Commitment plan.

Churches whose salary support is at “The Minimum” may apply for assistance with utilities, health insurance, or moving expenses. Churches/missions must submit a plan for ministry when making an initial application for equitable compensation funds. This plan must demonstrate the need for assistance and the manner in which the church/mission will be working to eliminate that need in a timely way.

Churches/missions may receive the requested assistance for up to five years. In year six (6) the original request will be reduced by 25%; in year seven (7) by 50%; in year eight (8) 75%. There will be no assistance granted after the eighth year.

Any funds granted to those churches approved, will first have to pay any outstanding balances owed to the Florida Conference. Those items that must be paid in full include:

- Church’s portion of the salary of the pastor
- Health Insurance premiums
- Property and Casualty premiums
- Pension premiums
- Workers Compensation premiums
- “The Clergy Support” line item from apportionments.
The approved funds from the grant will be used to pay the balances of any outstanding debt and the balance of the funds will come to the church.

Reimbursement Accounts:

Charges receiving Equitable Compensation Funds may establish a reimbursement account not to exceed $2,000. This will be paid for out of the budget of the charge.

Salary reduction for pension purposes:

Clergy receiving Equitable Compensation funds may designate a portion of their compensation to the “Before Tax” contribution for the pension program.

MINIMUM SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Connection</td>
<td>$43,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisional Members</td>
<td>$41,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Members</td>
<td>$39,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Pastor with M. Div. or 5 years Course of Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Pastor with less than 5 years of Course of Study</td>
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ADDITIONAL EQUITABLE COMPENSATION INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Missional Congregations:

Missional situations are those missions or organized churches in areas which demand an effective ministry but are not financially capable of providing such ministries without Conference assistance. There will be an annual review by the District Superintendent, to determine if each Missional situation in the district meets the guidelines.

The Equitable Compensation Commission may provide amounts up to $2,000 for Missional support, and an additional $2,000 may be granted for Haitian and Hispanic congregations in exceptional circumstances. Request for salary support from Equitable Compensation Commission for Missional situations shall be made by the deadline and shall accompany the Equitable Compensation Request form.

Eligibility for extended Missional support

A mission must meet the following criteria to receive extended support and will be annually reviewed to determine continued compliance until they are able to establish independence. Chartered congregations are not eligible.

- Provide evidence that the mission has a vision statement, rooted in the Great Commission, which actually functions to shape the decisions about deployment of people and financial resources in ministry.
• Provide evidence that the pastor exerts effective leadership in casting and realizing the vision.
• Provide evidence of the mission’s effectiveness in making and growing disciples.
• The mission makes a number of new disciples (first time professions of faith or “restorations”) at least equal to 10% of its average worship attendance.
• The mission has a system of nurturing discipleship for all persons, long time Christians and newly professed ones.
• The mission carries out a consistent program of teaching the stewardship dimension of discipleship including sacrificial proportionate giving by all disciples.
• The mission has a worship average attendance of at least 100, or grew in attendance in the past 12 months at a rate that would project reaching 100 in no more than 5 years.
• Provide evidence that the mission is taking responsibility for a greater and greater percentage of its total expenditures. The goal is financial independence in a reasonable time frame.

Transforming Congregations
Congregations which are in need of transformation, according to the Conference’s definition adopted in 2003, may receive a grant of no more than $10,000 per year for up to five years, if they cannot afford the salary of available pastors with the requisite transformational skills and leadership ability. The Cabinet will follow these guidelines in making appointments according to “fit” and will use funds from the Commission to supplement salaries if needed to achieve the “fit.”

• The congregation has a vision statement that actually functions to shape decisions about deployment of people and financial resources.
• The vision is rooted in the Great Commission.
• The projected pastor is committed to stay at the church for at least 6 years.
• The congregation wants “transformation” for Missional rather than for survival reasons. They understand the need they have for transformation and agree to cooperate in transforming with the pastor appointed to lead.
• The leaders of the congregation are committed to transforming. They have an understanding of what transformation is, what it is going to cost in terms of sacrifice and fundamental change in congregational life, and how long this will take.
• The church is willing to re-evaluate its leadership structures and put leaders in place who are willing to implement the changes transformation requires in the local church context.
• The church will enter a transformation process approved by the District Superintendent, the department of Congregational Vitality, and/or the District Committee.

A church in transformation, while experiencing fundamental and often painful change, is still a part of the UM connection. Some churches undergoing transformation may have difficulty fulfilling the following responsibilities: connectional giving, pension and health insurance contributions for pastor, property insurance, workers compensation premiums.

*In order to receive help from the Commission on Equitable Compensation the church will affirm these as responsibilities they intend to fulfill. If the church has been unable to fulfill these responsibilities they will develop a covenant, signed by the “Leadership Team” and carry out a plan to reach annual fulfillment within 5 years. The process of transformation may temporarily cause a reduction in the number of people participating in the life of the church and a reduction in financial strength. In this situation temporary accommodation can be arranged, without
lessening the church’s long term commitment to fulfill their connectional responsibilities. The Superintendent recommends the church for this program in partnership with the Office of Congregational Transformation.

Utilities, Health Insurance, Moving Expenses:
The Equitable Compensation Commission recommends that each local church pay the Pastor’s utilities and the group hospitalization premium. In hardship situations pastors may apply through their District Superintendent to the Equitable Compensation Commission for $720 in utility payments not covered by the local church. The Equitable Compensation Commission will pay up to $5000 of the base Health Insurance plan.

The Equitable Compensation Commission joins with the Cabinet in recommending that each receiving church pay actual moving expenses within the bounds of the Florida Conference. Pastors at minimum salary level may apply through their District Superintendent to the Equitable Compensation Commission for funds not to exceed $500 or 75% of the total cost if not paid by the local church.

Parsonage Fund:
This fund is intended for the purchase and upgrading of parsonages and not for rental property or pastors living in their own homes. Application can be made through the District Superintendent for grants not exceeding $3,600. The funds, if granted, will be paid upon the submission of receipts for the work completed to the parsonage, or the proof of a mortgage.

Ministry Support
Application for Ministry Support for missions or chartered churches may be received upon recommendation by the District Superintendent that meet the following criteria:
- Clear missional vision rooted in community outreach and evangelism by the congregation
- Clearly defined measurable outcomes
- Financial accountability
- Annual evaluation at the District level

Property Expenses
Requests for funds for property issues for missions will be first handled within the mission's local budget and then if additional funds are needed they could become a limited part of a request to the Cabinet Development Fund and will be sent through the District Superintendent to the Cabinet for consideration.

Required Training
All ministries that receive funding from Equitable Compensation will be required to participate in the English/Spanish/Creole Conference-organized training that will begin in 2017.

Arrearage Policy
Following the 2016 Book of Discipline’s ¶625.2d, we present the following policy: In cases where the church fails to pay its pastor, the pastor may appeal to his/her District Superintendent and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. This may mandate a meeting between the DS and the Staff Parish Relations Committee to move toward the earliest possible adjustment to the appointment status of the congregation, moving to a two point charge or a lesser-time
appointment as soon as is feasible. When the agreement between the DS and Staff Parish
commitee is finalized, a request may be made to Equitable Compensation to supplement the
salary until the adjustment can be made.

2018 Budget Request
The Council on Finance and Administration is requested to appropriate $1,300,000 for the
Equitable Compensation Commission for the fiscal year 2018. The Conference Treasurer shall
remit funds to the District Superintendents and or the church as certified by the Executive Director
of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary Support</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Salaries</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transformation Grants</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missional</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haitian/Hispanic</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities and Moving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsonage Fund</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers Compensation</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$623,000</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Initiated Request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training for Recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respectfully submitted by:
Brian Carr, Chairperson
Clarke Campbell-Evans, Director

**SHADE AND FRESH WATER**

**A SPACE FOR GRACE**

*shade-*“blocking intense heat of the sun”
*fresh water-*“surface water purified to be fresh”
*form of purification*
*Grace-*“the divine influence which operates in humans
to regenerate and sanctify, to inspire virtuous
impulses and impart strength”

Through 15 years of support to those individuals and families who are personally associated with
the Florida United Methodist Conference, Shade and Fresh Water has provided various
compassionate expressions of protection from the intensity of ministry, opportunities for confession and clearing, and space for the restful openness to receive God’s divine impulse for soul tending.

- Personal retreats with Spiritual Direction
- Covenant Group retreats with Spiritual Direction
- Retreats for reflection for those moving to a new appointment
- Spiritual Direction sessions provided for those who are newly commissioned and ordained
- Education on Self-Care

Circle of Leadership with Holder, Scribe and Guardian:

Lucy Wray, Lew Arnold, Mark Whittaker, Margarite Mathews, Dawn Carter, Esther Rodriguez, Martha Gay Duncan, Trudy Corry Rankin, Cynthia Morselli, Administrative Assistant

http://www.flumc.org/shadeandfreshwater

INSTITUTE OF PREACHING

The Institute of Preaching (IOP) is a nine-month program consisting of three retreats with the purpose to help clergy from the Florida and Western North Carolina Conferences of the United Methodist Church improve their preaching. Feedback through the years has shown positive improvement of effective preaching in Florida and Western North Carolina clergy as a result. The 2016-2017 IOP class recently finished the program with great success and fulfillment in honing their preaching skills.

The Institute of Preaching takes an all-inclusive approach to preaching, as pastors look at not only their sermon content and delivery, but also the contexts in which they preach and the integrity of their life and work. We have seen young clergy find their voices in the pulpit and develop confidence in their abilities. We have seen clergy who have been in the pulpit ten or twenty years unlearn habits that are no longer working and find new habits of effective preaching. We have seen clergy with five or ten years left to serve discover renewed passion for the work of preaching. The Institute of Preaching is open to Elders and Local Pastors.

Go to www.flumc.org/instituteofpreaching for more information.

Kent Crow, Chairperson

Marcy Preaching

The 2017 - 2108 Marcy Preaching Cohort is focused on the theme of Reconciliation with the special leadership of Candler School of Theology visiting professor, Dr. Gary Mason. The cohort is meeting in Orlando, Tampa and Atlanta to explore the witness of the church and the prophetic call of the pastor as we all seek to lead in our respective communities from a deeply theological position as we respond to the brokenness in our communities and across the world. The group will travel to Northern Ireland in the Fall of 2017 to meet with Methodist, other Protestant, Catholic and interfaith leaders as we explore the sectarianism that brought division and violence in that country and the quest for reconciliation and peace, led by a wide variety of people including strong participation by representatives from the faith community. The cohort will conclude with a week
Courage To Lead

Courage to Lead is a program developed through the Center for Courage and Renewal (www.couragerenewal.org) and based upon the principles outlined in the writings of Parker J. Palmer. It is program designed to help the participant to connect role and soul in a holistic manner.

Each year clergy are invited to apply to participate in a series of four retreats. Up to twenty-five persons make up a cohort that meets together for four retreats in the course of a calendar year. The first cohort in the Florida Conference began in the fall of 2009. We are currently in the midst of retreat series with our seventh cohort.

Over 150 Florida Conference clergy have experienced the uniqueness of being a part of a unique community that is centered on concepts of building mutual trust. The retreats provide the opportunity for the participants to explore four basic themes through the cycle:

- Beginning Again: The Journey to True Self
- Standing in the Gaps: Moving Between Here and There
- Leading with Abundant Courage
- Building Real Community

Each retreat has a flow that utilizes individual reflection and journaling, conversations in dyads and triads, group processing’s and a special experience called “Clearness Committees.” Clearness Committees are based on a Quaker principle that the answers we need are already within us, but we sometimes need the help of trustworthy community members to find those answers by asking us open and honest questions. This is a true example of what community can and should be about.

When the Courage to Lead program began in the Florida Conference, thanks to a grant from the Center for Courage and Renewal, the hope was that this would be one mechanism that would enable clergy of the Conference to build relationships that would sustain us all for the sometimes lonely journey of being a clergy person. That remains one of our main goals for the larger community.

The Florida Conference program is facilitated by Rev. Janice Virtue, an elder in the Western North Carolina Conference, and Rev. David Dodge a deacon in the Florida Conference. Both are trained facilitators of the Center for Courage and Renewal. For more information about this opportunity please see the website (http://www.flumc.org/couragetolead) and/or contact David Dodge at ddodge@flumc.org.

David Dodge
At the 2016 Annual Conference, the vote was passed that all local churches, Districts and Conference staff with appointed eligible full time clergy (including Deacons) were required to offer full time clergy either a health insurance plan or additional compensation to purchase other insurance. The plan, referred to as the 2017 Healthcare Initiative, became effective January 1, 2017 and does not apply to retired clergy serving a local church.

Changes to the Standing Rules of the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits were made to accommodate the elimination of the former Conference-sponsored health plan and replace it with the 2017 Healthcare Initiative as well as the eligibility rules for the Conference-sponsored retiree health plan and retiree HRA. Please refer to the revised Standing Rules Par. 432.

The Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits determined that the amount of additional compensation, paid in lieu of health insurance, will be based on the pastor’s family size. This additional salary is taxable income, paid according to regular payroll practices and reflected on clergy members W-2 tax form.

The amount of the annual salary increase for 2017 was:

- Single  $ 9,000
- Clergy + One Dependent  $12,000
- Family  $15,000

Part of your vote in 2016 included approval of a mechanism to review and increase the supplement each year, as needed, based on the cost of a silver plan on the health exchange. Any potential increases to the 2018 supplement will be reviewed and voted on by the Conference Board of Pensions around August/September. The committee will consider this based on research and data collected from Aon Hewitt actuaries, consultants at Wespath, and public information concerning medical cost trends from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The rate structure for 2018 will be presented to the District Superintendents and published on the Charge Conference Compensation form.

The committee believes it is prudent to continue with our current model of health supplements and study this further while we continue to receive input from you. Although we are unable to foresee the full impact from Washington on new government health care options at this time, the healthcare sub-committee remains focused in our regular meetings to evaluate and discuss the best possible future plan for our Conference.

We value your concerns and insights as we navigate this together. Please share your additional feedback by emailing benefits@flumc.org.

Report 1 - Past Service Rate
The Conference Board recommends the Past Service Rate for 2018 remain at $771.

Report 2 – Special Grants
The CBOPHB recommends special grants and/or pension support continue for Elizabeth Hogan, Donald Rock and Rev. Charles Constant totaling $28,568.

Report 3 – Apportionment Recommendation for 2018
The CBOPHB has sufficient resources to fund current obligations for the Retiree Health Insurance Program and Special Grants for 2018 without requiring apportionment funds. The CBOPHB is not requesting apportioned funds in 2018.

Benefit Trust Statement
A comprehensive benefit funding plan document and complete audited financial statements are available upon request from the Conference Treasurer. *Final financial reports to be published as a supplement to the workbook and posted on the AC 2017 web page prior to the Annual Conference meeting.*

Report IV – Housing/Rental Allowance Resolution

Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances
For Retired or Disabled Clergypersons of the Florida Conference

The Florida Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits/Wespath, during the year 2018 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such
payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

Scott Davidson, Chairperson

JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY

The Florida Annual Conference provides disability benefits through participation in the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). For benefit year 2018 and beyond, the disability benefit will equal 70% of Plan Compensation capped at 200% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). The minimum incapacity benefit will be 40% of the DAC. These benefits are coordinated with Social Security benefits. Additionally, there is a 3% annual increase on the anniversary date of the approval of the CPP grant, provided the benefit was in effect by the previous December 31st.

The Joint Committee on Disability has approved continuing disability benefits for the Conference year 2017-2018 for the following persons: Michael Bozeman, David Harris, Albert Hicks, Rachel Hollingsworth, James Alan Jefferson, Susan Lewis, Roy Lowe, Drew Parsons, and Samuel Parvin.

We ask that these persons and their families be kept in our prayers.

Scott Davidson, Chairperson
The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide limited financial assistance to pastors when faced with unforeseen emergencies and to provide financial assistance for housing for clergy as well as surviving spouses of deceased clergy when they are unable to afford adequate housing within their own means.

The Preacher’s Relief Board was able to assist several families in the Conference Year 2016-2017. This support often involves networking with other agencies to provide appropriate assistance as necessary. In addition, the Preacher’s Relief Board also provides assistance with moving expenses for retiring clergy who are on minimum salary.

The Preacher’s Relief Board also supports the cost for the retirement luncheon for clergy who are retiring at this year’s Annual Conference.

Churches, clergy and others wishing to donate to the Preacher’s Relief Board can designate their funds through the Conference Treasurer’s office. Individuals wishing to donate homes or property should contact Tony Prestipino, Conference Treasurer or Marilynn Mollica, Staff Liaison for the Preacher’s Relief Board.

Those clergy who find themselves in difficulty can petition relief from the Preacher’s Relief Board by going online to www.flumc.org and entering Preacher’s Relief Board in the search box at the top of the page. You’ll see a link for “Application for Financial Assistance” for you to print, complete and return to the Conference Human Resource office.

Scott Davidson, Chairperson
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

FLORIDA CONFERENCE 2018 BUDGET SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference / District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectional Ministry</td>
<td>1,705,000</td>
<td>1,595,000</td>
<td>-6.45%</td>
<td>(110,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Ed</td>
<td>2,366,000</td>
<td>2,276,000</td>
<td>-3.80%</td>
<td>(90,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps &amp; Retreat</td>
<td>585,000</td>
<td>585,000</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregation Vitality</td>
<td>575,000</td>
<td>480,000</td>
<td>-16.52%</td>
<td>(95,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missional Engagement</td>
<td>1,414,300</td>
<td>1,314,300</td>
<td>-7.07%</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Services &amp; Admin</td>
<td>1,835,000</td>
<td>1,855,000</td>
<td>1.09%</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missional / Equitable Comp</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>-13.33%</td>
<td>(200,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Other</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy Support</td>
<td>2,430,000</td>
<td>2,289,000</td>
<td>-5.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,410,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,694,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>-2.64%</strong></td>
<td><strong>(716,000)</strong></td>
</tr>
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Connectional Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Service</td>
<td>3,356,916</td>
<td>3,541,303</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>184,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education</td>
<td>1,133,811</td>
<td>1,196,088</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>62,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black College</td>
<td>452,267</td>
<td>477,108</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>24,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa University</td>
<td>101,215</td>
<td>106,775</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>5,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td>994,120</td>
<td>1,048,724</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>54,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Admin</td>
<td>398,606</td>
<td>420,501</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>21,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdenominational</td>
<td>88,672</td>
<td>93,543</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
<td>4,871</td>
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<td>SEJ</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>70,667</td>
<td>-45.64%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,655,607</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,954,709</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.49%</strong></td>
<td><strong>299,102</strong></td>
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Grand Total

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,065,907</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,649,009</strong></td>
<td><strong>-2.19%</strong></td>
<td><strong>(416,898)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DWF (estimated) *</td>
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<td>2,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presented</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,065,907</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,649,009</strong></td>
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</table>

* DWF = District Work Fund and is calculated at 5.4% of Clergy Salaries across district.
## FLORIDA CONFERENCE 2018 BUDGET DETAIL RECOMMENDED BY CF&A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Proposed</th>
<th>2017-2018 Dollar Change</th>
<th>Percent of 2018 Total Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Connectional Church</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Service</td>
<td>3,356,916</td>
<td>3,541,303</td>
<td>184,387</td>
<td>17.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education Fund</td>
<td>1,133,811</td>
<td>1,196,088</td>
<td>62,277</td>
<td>5.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black College Fund</td>
<td>452,267</td>
<td>477,108</td>
<td>24,841</td>
<td>2.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African University Fund</td>
<td>101,215</td>
<td>106,775</td>
<td>5,560</td>
<td>0.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>994,120</td>
<td>1,048,724</td>
<td>54,604</td>
<td>5.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td>398,606</td>
<td>420,501</td>
<td>21,895</td>
<td>2.04%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interdenominational Cooperation</td>
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<td>93,543</td>
<td>4,871</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
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<td>Jurisdictional Conference</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>(66,000)</td>
<td>0.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Connectional Church</strong></td>
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<td>$6,948,042</td>
<td>292,435</td>
<td>33.66%</td>
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<td><strong>Connectional Ministry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Connectional Ministry Admin. &amp; Programs</td>
<td>690,000</td>
<td>575,000</td>
<td>(115,000)</td>
<td>2.79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fresh Expressions</td>
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<td>150,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge and Information Services</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>695,000</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td>(145,000)</td>
<td>2.66%</td>
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<td>Board of Lay Ministry</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>(5,000)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives &amp; History</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Connectional Ministry</strong></td>
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<td>$1,595,000</td>
<td>(110,000)</td>
<td>7.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Higher ED &amp; Campus Ministries</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges (FSC /BCU Grants)</td>
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<td>335,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Ministries</td>
<td>1,148,000</td>
<td>1,058,000</td>
<td>(90,000)</td>
<td>5.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Administrative</td>
<td>883,000</td>
<td>883,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Higher Ed and CM</strong></td>
<td>$2,366,000</td>
<td>$2,276,000</td>
<td>(90,000)</td>
<td>11.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Camps and Retreat Ministry</td>
<td>585,000</td>
<td>585,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[154]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Proposed</th>
<th>2017-2018 Dollar Change</th>
<th>Percent of 2018 Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congregational Vitality</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting New Ministries</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>(75,000)</td>
<td>1.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Existing Ministry</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>255,000</td>
<td>(20,000)</td>
<td>1.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Congregational Vitality</strong></td>
<td>575,000</td>
<td>480,000</td>
<td>(95,000)</td>
<td>2.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missional Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Salaries/Travel etc.</td>
<td>629,134</td>
<td>605,713</td>
<td>(23,421)</td>
<td>2.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Ministries</td>
<td>49,125</td>
<td>65,100</td>
<td>15,975</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Response</td>
<td>18,574</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>(4,174)</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers In Ministries</td>
<td>24,500</td>
<td>24,300</td>
<td>(200)</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Cultural / Justice Ministries</td>
<td>154,125</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>(69,125)</td>
<td>0.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Ministry Program</td>
<td>360,500</td>
<td>360,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Mission Interns</td>
<td>43,205</td>
<td>42,100</td>
<td>(1,105)</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Ministries</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>(8,000)</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin/Staff Expense</td>
<td>113,137</td>
<td>103,187</td>
<td>(9,950)</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Missional Engagement</strong></td>
<td>1,414,300</td>
<td>1,314,300</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
<td>6.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Benevolences</strong></td>
<td>6,645,300</td>
<td>6,250,300</td>
<td>(395,000)</td>
<td>31.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Services &amp; Administration</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference Session</td>
<td>235,000</td>
<td>235,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Building Services &amp; Operations</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>(25,000)</td>
<td>1.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>290,000</td>
<td>(60,000)</td>
<td>1.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Conference Reserve</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Staff, Audit, Net Bank Fees, etc.</td>
<td>710,000</td>
<td>820,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>3.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2017 Budget</td>
<td>2018 Proposed</td>
<td>2017-2018 Dollar Change</td>
<td>Percent of 2018 Total Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>(15,000)</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Services &amp; Administration</strong></td>
<td>1,835,000</td>
<td>1,855,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>8.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Compensation / Mission Support</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>(200,000)</td>
<td>7.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clergy Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Clergy Excellence</td>
<td>380,000</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOM</td>
<td>315,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>(15,000)</td>
<td>1.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Compensation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Matters/Effectiveness</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Administration/ FCC</td>
<td>265,000</td>
<td>265,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
<td>1,155,000</td>
<td>(95,000)</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet / Episcopal Travel Expense</td>
<td>185,000</td>
<td>179,000</td>
<td>(6,000)</td>
<td>0.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Clergy Support</strong></td>
<td>2,430,000</td>
<td>2,289,000</td>
<td>(141,000)</td>
<td>11.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Budget</strong></td>
<td>12,410,300</td>
<td>11,694,300</td>
<td>(716,000)</td>
<td>56.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Connectional Church/Conference Budget</strong></td>
<td>19,065,907</td>
<td>18,642,342</td>
<td>(423,565)</td>
<td>90.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated District Work Fund</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Connectional Church / Conference Budget / District Apportionments</strong></td>
<td>21,065,907</td>
<td>$20,642,342</td>
<td>(423,565)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018

Recommendation No. 1
It is recommended that the following conference-wide fund raising appeals be approved: General Conference Advance Specials, The Florida United Methodist Children's Home Fifth Sunday Appeal, and Camping Sunday.

Recommendation No. 2
It is recommended that the 2018 Conference budget and apportionments as described in the worksheet entitled “Florida Conference 2018 Budget Summary” be adopted.
GIFTS, SPECIAL OFFERINGS, AND APPORTIONMENTS RECEIVED
FROM FLORIDA CONFERENCE CHURCHES
THROUGH THE CONFERENCE TREASURER’S OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA OF GIVING</th>
<th>AMOUNT RECEIVED IN 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Relations Day</td>
<td>$8,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Great Hour of Sharing</td>
<td>38,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American Ministries Sunday</td>
<td>8,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Student Day</td>
<td>6,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Communion Sunday</td>
<td>15,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace with Justice Sunday</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Advance Specials (all)</td>
<td>11,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMCOR Advance Special (includes INM)</td>
<td>375,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Advance Specials (all)</td>
<td>81,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$550,488</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS** | |
| United Methodist Children’s Home | $528,953 |
| Annual Conference Offering | 81,205 |
| Conference Advance Specials (all) | 23,306 |
| Other special gifts (various) | 142,052 |
| **TOTAL** | **$775,516** |

| **FLORIDA CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS** | |
| Clergy Support | $2,754,248 |
| Conference Benevolences | 5,395,971 |
| Conference Services and Administration | 1,423,676 |
| **TOTAL** | **$9,573,895** |

| **DISTRICT APPORTIONMENTS** | |
| District Work Fund (all 9 combined) | $1,815,105 |
| District New Church Development (all 9 combined) | 1,174,563 |
| District Specific Apportionments (all 9 combined) | 340,310 |
| **TOTAL** | **$3,329,978** |

| **CONNECTIONAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENTS** | |
| World Service | $2,767,196 |
| General Administration | 336,235 |
| Episcopal Fund | 1,050,430 |
| Interdenominational Cooperation Fund | 73,140 |
| Ministerial Education Fund | 920,933 |
| Black College Fund | 370,275 |
| Africa University Fund | 87,498 |
| SEJ Jurisdictional Fund | 129,216 |
| **TOTAL** | **$5,734,923** |

GRAND TOTAL RECEIVED IN 2016 | $19,964,800
## PERCENTAGE OF 100% CHURCHES IN EACH DISTRICT 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Churches paying 100%</th>
<th>Total Amount Apportioned</th>
<th>Total Amount Paid</th>
<th>Total Percentage of Apportionments Paid by District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AC</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>$2,660,512</td>
<td>$2,403,879</td>
<td>90.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$3,201,211</td>
<td>$2,706,961</td>
<td>84.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>$2,732,953</td>
<td>$2,294,786</td>
<td>83.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>$1,910,897</td>
<td>$1,729,604</td>
<td>90.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>$2,469,845</td>
<td>$1,928,125</td>
<td>78.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>$1,241,520</td>
<td>$1,130,565</td>
<td>91.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$3,161,211</td>
<td>$2,626,405</td>
<td>83.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$1,930,896</td>
<td>$1,530,281</td>
<td>79.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$2,443,514</td>
<td>$2,288,112</td>
<td>93.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>$21,752,558</td>
<td>$18,638,719</td>
<td>85.69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2016 HIGHEST APPORTIONMENT DOLLARS PAID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCFA</th>
<th>CHURCH</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Highest $ Paid in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>359428</td>
<td>Bay Hope UMC - Tampa, Matthew Hartsfield</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>$399,567.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355784</td>
<td>St Luke's UMC - Orlando, Jennifer Stiles Williams</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>$393,468.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353067</td>
<td>First UMC - Lakeland, W. McEntire</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>$324,259.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359918</td>
<td>Christ UMC - Ft Lauderdale, Brett Opalinski</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>$297,249.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350576</td>
<td>Trinity UMC - Gainesville, Catherine Fluck Price</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>$262,714.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359224</td>
<td>Hyde Park UMC - Tampa, Magrey deVega</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>$256,636.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355740</td>
<td>First UMC - Winter Park, David Miller</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>$255,509.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>357395</td>
<td>North Naples UMC - Naples, Ted Sauter</td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>$227,677.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355990</td>
<td>New Covenant UMC - The Villages, Harold Hendren</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>$212,904.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356460</td>
<td>First UMC - St Petersburg, Craig Nelson</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>$208,473.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358457</td>
<td>Killearn UMC - Tallahassee, Michael Fordham</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>$184,440.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355341</td>
<td>First UMC - Orlando, Thomas McCloskey</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>$172,772.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355966</td>
<td>Anona UMC - Largo, John Stephenson</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>$165,567.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359805</td>
<td>First, East Campus UMC - Boca Raton, Marcus Zillman</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>$163,652.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356584</td>
<td>Pasadena Community UMC - St Petersburg, Charles Reeb</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>$153,291.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358481</td>
<td>Trinity UMC - Tallahassee, Wayne Wiatt</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>$151,474.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356015</td>
<td>Heritage UMC - Clearwater, Charles Engelhardt</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>$151,432.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355476</td>
<td>University Carillon UMC - Oviedo, Joseph MacLaren</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>$146,076.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350337</td>
<td>Lake Magdalene UMC - Tampa, Brent Byerman</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>$145,967.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>351866</td>
<td>Mandarin UMC - Jacksonville, Deborah McLeod</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>$144,561.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>352041</td>
<td>Southside UMC - Jacksonville, Bruce Jones</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>$142,705.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>360278</td>
<td>Suntree UMC - Melbourne, Annette Stiles Pendergrass</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>$140,466.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>356265</td>
<td>Palm Harbor UMC - Palm Harbor, David Baldridge</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>$138,650.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360564</td>
<td>Community of Hope UMC - Loxahatchee, E. Locke</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>$137,647.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356950</td>
<td>Harvest UMC - Lakewood Ranch, Michael Pestel</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>$135,245.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356298</td>
<td>St Paul UMC - Largo, Robert Martin</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>$130,789.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCFA</td>
<td>CHURCH</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Increase in % Paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358140</td>
<td>Grace UMC - Hosford, Daniel Wells</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>952390</td>
<td>Wesley Chapel UMC - Gainesville, Christopher Worlds</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350827</td>
<td>St Mark's UMC - Ocala, Susan Corley</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>90.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>357511</td>
<td>Trinity UMC - North Port, Daniel Chronister</td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>89.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354197</td>
<td>Wesley Hispanic UMC - Coral Gables, Cesar Villafana</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>83.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>355204</td>
<td>First UMC - New Smyrna Beach, Lawrence Wilson</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>83.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>952971</td>
<td>Ebenezer UMC - Jacksonville, Willie Bailey</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>82.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353887</td>
<td>St John's UMC - Miami Beach, T. Bosley-Mitchell</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>77.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356642</td>
<td>First UMC - Tarpon Springs, Herbert Lange</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>74.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>952207</td>
<td>Mt Zion UMC - Reddick, John Banks</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>72.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359202</td>
<td>Hillsborough UMC - Tampa, Debbie Daley Salinger</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>68.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354962</td>
<td>Community UMC - DeBary, Dora Thomas</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>351343</td>
<td>First UMC - Baldwin, Daniel Search</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>58.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353706</td>
<td>First UMC - Coral Gables, R. Short</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>56.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354153</td>
<td>New Horizon UMC - Southwest Ranches, Rafael Vigil</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>51.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354016</td>
<td>Palm Springs UMC - Hialeah, Stuart Bodin</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353160</td>
<td>First UMC - Lake Wales, Jeffrey Kantz</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPORTIONMENTS PAID BY PERCENT

Thanks to those churches identified in bold. Those churches are 100% connectional churches having paid 100% of apportionments, Health and Benefits and Ministry Protection for 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATLANTIC CENTRAL (AC)</th>
<th>GCFA</th>
<th>Percent Apport. Paid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asbury UMC, Vero Beach</td>
<td>360336</td>
<td>76.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal Point UMC, Canal Point</td>
<td>359840</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cason UMC, Delray Beach</td>
<td>359884</td>
<td>101.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ-By-The Sea UMC, Vero Beach</td>
<td>360074</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ UMC, Palm Bay</td>
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**EAST CENTRAL (EC)**

| Aloma UMC, Winter Park                       | 355738| 54.97%              |
| Asbury UMC, Maitland                         | 355135| 100.00%             |
| Azalea Park UMC, Orlando                     | 354780| 100.00%             |
| Barnett Memorial UMC, Enterprise             | 355066| 100.00%             |
| Bear Lake UMC, Apopka                         | 354778| 100.01%             |
| Broadway UMC, Orlando                         | 355261| 100.00%             |
| Christ Hispanic UMC, Orlando                  | 355283| 67.77%              |
| Christ UMC, Sanford                           | 355044| 0.00%               |
| College Park UMC, Orlando                     | 355306| 27.24%              |
| Community of Faith UMC, Davenport             | 353171| 100.00%             |
| Community UMC, Casselberry                    | 354825| 33.34%              |
| Community UMC, Daytona Beach                  | 354905| 100.00%             |
| Community UMC, DeBary                         | 354962| 100.00%             |
| Conway UMC, Orlando                           | 354860| 100.00%             |
| Coronado Community UMC, New Smyrna Beach      | 354882| 100.00%             |
| Covenant UMC, Port Orange                     | 355578| 100.00%             |
| DeLeon Springs UMC, DeLeon Springs           | 355022| 100.00%             |
| Edgewater UMC, Edgewater                      | 355011| 100.00%             |
| Faith UMC, Orlando                            | 355716| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Apopka                             | 354767| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Bunnell                            | 350304| 45.18%              |
| First UMC, Clermont                           | 352666| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Deland                            | 354984| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Geneva                             | 355501| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Kissimmee                          | 352963| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, New Smyrna Beach                   | 355204| 100.00%             |

**First UMC, Orlando**

| First UMC, Orlando                            | 355341| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Ormond Beach                       | 355465| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Oviedo                             | 355487| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Port Orange                        | 355580| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Sanford                            | 355603| 76.43%              |
| First UMC, Saint Cloud                        | 353262| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Winter Garden                      | 355727| 100.00%             |
| First UMC, Winter Park                        | 355740| 100.00%             |
| Flagler Beach UMC, Flagler Beach              | 350510| 100.00%             |
| Forest Hills UMC, DeLand                      | 354938| 50.00%              |
| Grace UMC, Lake Mary                          | 355591| 100.00%             |
| Lake Helen UMC, Lake Helen                    | 355102| 100.00%             |
| Lakeside Fellowship UMC, Sanford              | 355671| 100.00%             |
| LifeSong UMC, Orlando                         | 351638| 100.00%             |
| Montverde UMC, Montverde                      | 355168| 100.00%             |
| Ocoee Oaks UMC, Ocoee                         | 355226| 18.51%              |
| Orange City UMC, Orange City                  | 355248| 92.02%              |
| Osteen UMC, Osteen                            | 355668| 100.00%             |
| Palm Coast UMC, Palm Coast                    | 355512| 100.00%             |
| Peace UMC, Orlando                            | 355534| 27.31%              |
| Pierson UMC, Pierson                          | 355523| 100.00%             |
| Pine Castle UMC, Orlando                      | 355545| 8.54%               |
| Pine Ridge Fellowship UMC, Deltona            | 355636| 0.00%               |
| Reeves Memorial UMC, Orlando                  | 355408| 100.00%             |
| Riverview UMC, Orlando                        | 354916| 64.17%              |
| Sanlando UMC, Longwood                        | 354335| 100.00%             |
| Shingle Creek UMC, Kissimmee                  | 353284| 100.00%             |
| Solid Rock UMC, Orlando                       | 352132| 41.03%              |
| Spring of Life UMC, Orlando                   | 354712| 100.00%             |
| St Andrews UMC, Winter Park                   | 350873| 100.19%             |
| St Joseph UMC, DeLand                         | 951828| 100.00%             |
| St Luke's UMC, Orlando                        | 35784| 100.00%             |
| Stewart Memorial UMC, Daytona Beach           | 951817| 100.00%             |

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| NORTH CENTRAL (NC)                               |       |                      |
| Altona UMC, Altona                               | 354745| 100.00%              |
| Anthony UMC, Anthony                             | 350224| 100.00%              |
| Banks UMC, Archer                                | 952231| 100.00%              |
| Bartley Temple UMC, Gainesville                 | 952218| 100.00%              |
| Belleview UMC, Belleview                         | 350268| 100.00%              |
| Bronson UMC, Bronson                            | 350281| 100.00%              |
| Christ UMC, Leesburg                             | 353216| 59.12%               |
| Coleman UMC, Coleman                             | 352688| 100.00%              |
| Community UMC, Fruitland Park                    | 352848| 100.00%              |
| Debose Chapel UMC, Reddick                       | 952333| 100.00%              |
| Druid Hills UMC, Ocala                           | 350816| 100.00%              |
| Edge Memorial UMC, Groveland                     | 352861| 100.00%              |
| Evinson UMC, Evinson                             | 350771| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Alachua                               | 350202| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Archer                                | 350246| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Bushnell                              | 352644| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Citra                                 | 350383| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Dunnell                               | 350428| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Eustis                                | 355088| 42.66%               |
| First UMC, Gainesville                           | 350521| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Hawthorne                             | 350601| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Inverness                             | 356163| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Micanopy                              | 350760| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Mt Dora                               | 355181| 39.38%               |
| First UMC, Ocala                                 | 350805| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Reddick                               | 350907| 100.00%              |
| First UMC, Tavares                               | 355660| 100.00%              |

<p>| First UMC, Williston                            | 351081| 100.00%              |
| Floral City UMC, Floral City                     | 356196| 89.40%               |
| Forest UMC, Silver Springs                       | 350997| 65.31%               |
| Free Canaan UMC, Waldo                           | 953018| 100.00%              |
| Freedom UMC, Gainesville                         | 953007| 60.42%               |
| Ft McCoy UMC                                     | 350638| 0.00%                |
| Grace at Fort Clarke UMC, Gainesville            | 350953| 100.00%              |
| Greater Liberty Hill UMC, Gainesville            | 952787| 100.00%              |
| Hague UMC, Gainesville                           | 350931| 100.00%              |
| Hall Chapel UMC, Gainesville                     | 952845| 100.00%              |
| Hernando UMC, Hernando                           | 356128| 100.00%              |
| Lady Lake UMC, Lady Lake                         | 353001| 100.00%              |
| Lake Panasoffkee UMC, Lake Panasoffkee           | 352677| 23.12%               |
| Little Chapel UMC, Ocala                         | 952366| 90.90%               |
| Lochloosa UMC, Hawthorne                         | 350612| 100.00%              |
| McIntosh UMC, McIntosh                           | 350736| 101.56%              |
| Melrose UMC, Melrose                             | 350747| 100.02%              |
| Morrison UMC, Leesburg                           | 353182| 51.40%               |
| Mt Hermon UMC, Reddick                           | 952446| 100.00%              |
| Mt Nebo UMC, Gainesville                         | 952630| 100.00%              |
| Mt Pleasant UMC, Gainesville                     | 952275| 100.00%              |
| Mt Zion UMC, Reddick                             | 952207| 100.00%              |
| New Covenant UMC, The Villages                   | 355990| 100.00%              |
| New Hope UMC, Citra                              | 952242| 100.00%              |
| New Hope UMC, Hawthorne                          | 952297| 92.60%               |
| Newberry UMC, Newberry                           | 350782| 100.00%              |
| Ocala West UMC, Ocala                            | 350975| 100.00%              |
| Ocklawaha UMC, Ocklawaha                         | 350840| 35.00%               |
| Orange Creek/Campville UMC, Hawthorne            | 350862| 44.53%               |
| Oxford UMC, Oxford                               | 353240| 100.00%              |
| Paisley UMC, Paisley                             | 354814| 24.79%               |
| Pine UMC, Fort McCoy                             | 350964| 100.00%              |
| Pleasant Plain UMC, Newberry                     | 952413| 100.00%              |</p>
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COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY PROTECTION

2016 PROPERTY/CASUALTY & WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE

The Ministry Protection insurance program provides comprehensive property, casualty, and
workers’ compensation insurance to all churches in the Florida Annual Conference.

The years immediately following Hurricane Andrew in 1992 revealed the need for a
comprehensive, Conference-wide insurance program. The current insurance program, and
Ministry Protection Department (formerly known as Risk Management), was formed in 1995 when
the need was identified and analyzed, with the results used to leverage the most comprehensive
insurance coverage available in the market for all of our churches, schools, and affiliated
ministries.

Now, more than two decades later, the insurance program has been thoroughly tested through
multiple hurricanes, other catastrophic claims and national insurance market turmoil. Through it
all, the insurance program has remained steadfast in its ability to provide comprehensive and
cost-effective insurance coverage.

Below are some highlights of the current program:

PROPERTY INSURANCE: All risk replacement cost coverage for direct damage to buildings,
contents and property in the open.

Property Limits:

- Total Conference Property Limit: $50,000,000 per occurrence, except:
- Equipment Breakdown Limit: $25,000,000 per accident
- Flood Limit: $50,000,000 annual aggregate
- Earthquake Limit: $50,000,000 annual aggregate
- Terrorism Limit: $15,000,000 per occurrence

Church Deductibles:

- $5,000 per occurrence (except for Named Windstorms)
- Named Windstorm: 5% of values separately applied to each of the following items that
  sustain loss or damage: 1.) Each building or structure, including property in the open; 2.)
  contents.

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Coverage for claims or lawsuits from 3rd parties alleging injury or
damage resulting from bodily injury, personal injury, advertising injury or property damage,
including liability at your premises (slip and falls).

Liability Limits:

- General Liability Limit: $50,000,000 per occurrence / annual aggregate
- Premises Medical Payments Limit: $5,000 per person/$100,000 per occurrence
- Sexual Abuse/Molestation Liability Limit: $50,000,000 per occurrence / annual aggregate
- Damage to Premises Rented by You: $1,000,000 any one premises
- **Terrorism Limit:** $10,000,000 any one occurrence

**Church Deductible:** $0

**PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE:** Coverage for financial loss or injury resulting from alleged wrongful acts committed by directors, officers, employees, board members and pastors while acting within the scope of their duties. Coverage is provided for Errors and Omissions, Directors and Officers Liability, Pastoral Professional Liability and Employment Practices Liability.

**Professional Liability Limits:**
- Directors and Officers Liability Limit: $20,000,000 per claim / annual aggregate
- Employment Practices Liability Limit: $20,000,000 per claim / annual aggregate
- Educators Legal Liability Limit: $20,000,000 per claim / annual aggregate
- Pastoral Professional Liability Limit: $5,000,000 per claim / annual aggregate

**Church Deductible:** $0

**VEHICLE INSURANCE:** Covers property damage and/or bodily injury to 3rd parties resulting from the use of church owned, hired, rented or non-owned (borrowed) vehicles as well as physical damage to church vehicles from an accident.

**Vehicle Limits:**
- Automobile Liability (Combined Single Limit): $50,000,000 per accident
- Personal Injury Protection Limit: Limited to statutory benefits per person
- Medical Payments Limit: $5,000 per person/ $100,000 per accident
- Uninsured / Underinsured Motorist Limit: $1,000,000 per accident
- Comprehensive / Collision Limit: Vehicle actual cash value less church deductible
- Non-Owned Vehicles: Coverage is excess over vehicle owner’s insurance
- Rental Car Expense Limit - after an accident: $50 per day/30 days/$1,500 maximum
- Towing Reimbursement: Up to $1,000 per occurrence for towing and/or labor costs incurred to enable or tow a disabled church owned vehicle. The labor must be performed at the place of disablement.

**Church Deductibles:**
- Comprehensive / Collision: $750

**WORKERS’ COMPENSATION & EMPLOYERS LIABILITY INSURANCE:** Provides coverage for employees injured as a result of their employment. Coverage extends to other states and/or internationally when an employee is temporarily outside the State of Florida while acting in the scope of their duties.

**Workers’ Compensation / Employers Liability Limits:**
- Workers’ Compensation Limit: Florida Statutory Benefits
- Employers Liability Limits: $1,000,000

**Church Deductible:** $0
CRIME INSURANCE: Includes theft of money or securities by 3rd parties or employees, burglary, robbery, forgery and credit card fraud.

Crime Limit: $3,000,000 per occurrence

Church Deductible: $5,000 per occurrence

STUDENT ACCIDENT MEDICAL INSURANCE: Covers medical payments for accident injuries to students enrolled in K-12 church schools. This policy is excess over any amounts payable by any other health care plan.

Student Accident Medical Expense Benefit Limit: $25,000 each accident with 2 year max benefit period; Catastrophic Medical: $1,000,000 maximum benefit, $600,000 cash, 10 year max benefit period.

Church Deductible: $0

ACTIVITIES MEDICAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE: Covers medical payments for accident injuries to volunteers, youth group participants, children enrolled in nursery, daycare, pre-k and camps. This policy is excess over any amounts payable by any other health care plan.

Accident Medical Expense Benefit Limit: $250,000 each accident with 2 year max benefit period. AD&D benefit: $10,000 for loss of life & double dismemberment, $5,000 single dismemberment.

Church Deductible: $0

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE: Covers medical payments for accident injuries or sickness to volunteers while participating on scheduled or sponsored activities outside the United States of America. This policy is excess over any amounts payable by any other health care plan.

International Medical Accident Limits:

- Medical Expense Benefits Maximum: $50,000
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefits: $50,000
- Emergency Medical Benefits Maximum: $10,000
- Emergency Reunion Benefit: $2,000
- Lost Baggage Benefit: $250
- Personal Property Benefit: $250
- Security Evacuation Expense Benefit: $100,000
- Trip Interruption Benefit Maximum: $5,000

Church Deductible: $250 Per Accident or Sickness

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Arnold, Chair
Respectfully Submitted,
LaNita Battles, Director
Committee for Ministry Protection
Department for Ministry Protection
MINISTRY PROTECTION FINANCIAL RESULTS

This report will be posted online at www.acflorida.org. Click the “Supplemental Workbook Reports” link for the reports not found in this workbook.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees continues to oversee the property entrusted to all the Methodists in Florida.

The Trustees are responsible for the needs of the Conference Center, the Episcopal Residence, provide guidance to the Campus Ministries, and starting with Annual Conference 2015 the management of abandoned and closed local church property.

The trustees have spent time working with campus ministries to assess the current property conditions and assist with maintenance needs.

Four years ago, the Trustees obtained a line of credit in the amount of $2.5 MM in order to fund the renovation of the Barnett Lodge. As of December 31, 2016 the outstanding balance is less than $700,000 with pledges of $400,000 K expected to be received over 2017 and 2018. The Trustees are using excess reserves to finishing paying off the loan.

Your Board of Trustees executed a line of credit from the Florida Foundation in 2015 in the amount of $2.5MM to build a new facility on the campus of FSU. The cabinet and NCD agreed to provide 10% of the proceeds from sold churches to satisfy the LOC. Construction in progress and completion is expected in 2017.

With the approval of the Annual Conference in 2015 the Trustees are now coordinating all property transactions dealing with closed or abandoned local church property. To aid with this process the Trustees hired a property management firm in late 2015 that will coordinate ongoing maintenance, appraisals, and helping decide future uses. Attached is a listing of known property under the care, custody and control of the Trustees. The Trustees will be reviewing each property for best use in consultation with the Cabinet which can include, but not limited to, transfer, sale, leasing, restarting. In 2016, the Conference closed on

Episcopal Residence: This property continues to require maintenance and repairs typical of a property of this age.

Conference Center: This property, of which we all should be extremely proud, has presented no issues to the board since we moved in.

Cemeteries: A special thanks to Dr. Ed Dinkins, an ex-officio member, for his fine work and his investigations, in locating and resolving ownership issues surrounding abandoned
cemeteries. More often than not, the UMC has no legal obligation but rather a moral
obligation.

Your Board of Trustees, as authorized in BOD Par. 2512.3 and 2512.4, created the
Trustee Investment Committee to work with various conference agencies, districts, local
churches and FUMF to help identify their investment objectives and recommend vehicles
to achieve these objectives. We are blessed that Vernon Swartsel, former President of
the FUMF, agreed to chair this committee comprised of experienced investment
professionals. The committee currently meets with our investment professionals on a
quarterly basis to evaluate performance and to makes changes (as needed) to the
investment policy.

Respectfully submitted,
Florida Conference Board of Trustees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Parsonage</td>
<td>Lake Worth</td>
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<td>Orlando</td>
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<td>Sanford</td>
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<td>Lowell Church</td>
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<th>2017 Properties Transferred / Sold</th>
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<td>Trilby UMC</td>
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COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

In July we were excited that Bishop Carter was reassigned to the Florida Annual Conference. We are grateful to have another four years with the Carters!

As we started a new quadrennium, we have followed the directive of the SE Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy in using the Episcopal Review and Evaluation instrument designed to engage the Bishop and Committee. This will continue to be our guide as we dialogue together.

Our first meeting was held September 29, 2016. We reviewed the role of the Committee on Episcopacy from The Book of Discipline Paragraph 637. By our Standing Rules, the co-chairs of the Florida Conference Committee on Episcopacy are the two Florida representatives (lay and clergy) to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy.

Molly McEntire led the group in the process of organization. Jorge Acevedo was elected as Vice-Chair and Sharon Luther elected as Secretary. The group reviewed the Episcopal Evaluation process and the Rationale of the Episcopal Assignment that the Florida Committee on Episcopacy previously developed. Bishop Carter shared comments on how he will lead during the next four years. His time outside of the Florida Conference will be focused on his role as one of the moderators for the Commission on a Way Forward. In 2018-2020 he will be serving as President of the Council of Bishops. Bishop Carter asked us to pray for the faithfulness, fruitfulness and unity of the Church.

At our January 30, 2017 meeting, Bishop Carter discussed his role in evaluating the mission and ministry of the Annual Conference. Bishop Carter explained his desire to be in situations where he is listening to a diverse group of people in settings throughout the Annual Conference. He reviewed his schedule since September. Molly McEntire led the Committee in further discussion of the Episcopal Review and Evaluation instrument. Jorge Acevedo explained that the SEJ College of Bishops previously asked for the evaluation process and was created in a collaborative approach between the College of Bishops and the SEJ COE. The committee reviewed the first three areas in Bishop’s Review and Evaluation: Ongoing Formation, Administrative Responsibilities in the Episcopal Area, and Leadership.

In February a review of the Episcopal residence took place with members of the Committee on Episcopacy, the Conference Board of Trustees, the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration, the Conference Treasurer and other staff in attendance.

On behalf of the Florida Annual Conference, we want to thank Bishop Carter and Pam for all they do in service to us as together we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Molly McEntire, Co-Chairperson
Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

It is a great joy to recognize and thank the Florida Conference for a 100 percent investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016. The commitment of local churches across all five jurisdictions enabled 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States — up from 32 in 2015 — to invest 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt appreciation, the many ways in which the churches of the Florida Conference has been active, faithful, and generous in helping Africa University to realize its mission. In addition to their investment in the AUF, Florida United Methodists have made ongoing contributions for scholarships and campus infrastructure. Thank you for all that you have contributed to realizing the dream.

Through Africa University, the Florida Conference helps young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. The disciple-making mission of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the university’s 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Young people who would otherwise be on the margins are actively helping others to experience God’s grace, peace and abundance.

Great things are on the horizon for Africa University in the next quarter century. Your Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by:
- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 26 African countries. *(Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represent more than half of the student body.)*
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

As part of the observance of AU’s 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members, congregations and districts of the Florida Conference to celebrate their journey with Africa University. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University’s honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special “AU@25” event or Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University’s ministry and invite attendees to each give at least $25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary.
Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to active faith, hope, and transformation in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who serve in ministry in the Florida Conference.

James H. Salley
Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office
P O Box 340007
Nashville, TN 37203-0007
Tel: (615) 340-7438
jsalley@gbhem.org
www.support-africauniversity.org

ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

This report was not available at press time. If submitted, it will be posted online at www.acflorida.org. Click the “Supplemental Workbook Reports” link for the reports not found in this workbook.

BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY

Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) is a Historically Black University founded in 1904 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune with five little girls, $1.50 and faith in God. This remarkable University has grown to be a formidable leader in higher education where more than 3,700 students representing thirty-two countries enroll annually to engage the vibrant academic enterprise. Under the leadership of 6th President, Dr. Edison O. Jackson and Board of Trustees Chairman, Dr. Joe Petrock, the University continues to live out its historic mission to “develop global leaders committed to service, life-long learning and diversity by providing a faith-based environment of academic excellence and transformative experiences.”

Faith is the first listed Core Value of the University, and B-CU welcomes diverse religious traditions from around the world. B-CU is unapologetically Christian and remains anchored in the Wesleyan practice of Scripture, reason, tradition and experience. As a Methodist endowed university, B-CU is living out its legacy of academic excellence and faith through the commitment and support of the United Methodist Church.

B-CU continues to achieve new milestones. Increased interest produced record high applicants for Academic Year 2016-17. The University opened two new living and learning residential facilities to support its growing student body, adding more than 1,200 beds to the residential community. Renovated dining and fitness facilities offer students
state-of-the-art amenities as new technology is improving operation effectiveness and efficiency to ensure the student body obtains a world-class experience.

B-CU has a diverse international faculty who support the University’s 36 undergraduate and 7 graduate degrees through 9 academic schools: College of Business and Entrepreneurship, College of Education, Petrock College of Health Sciences, Bob Billingslea School of Hospitality Management, College of Liberal Arts, School of Nursing, La-Doris McClaney School of Performing Arts and Communication, School of Religion and College of Science, Engineering and Mathematics.

The Office of Chaplaincy (OC), under the leadership of Dean of the Chapel, Rev. John Baldwin II and Director of Religious Life, Rev. Kenya Lovell, fosters a vibrant religious life community through more than 320 faith-based activities, programs and worship services each year. The Office is committed to serving all members of the community regardless of race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, gender or ability; and is intentional in providing compassionate care to those who desire spiritual counseling, encouragement and guidance. Additionally, the Office sponsors six auxiliary ministry groups and leads the University in cultivating faith as we honor our heritage, tradition and values through friendly service and theological engagement.

Highlights from Academic Year 2016-17 include the development of the B-CU Center for Faith and Worship, the establishment of a community garden to provide fresh produce to elderly citizens living in the 32114 food dessert, hosting world renown worship heritage preservation groups and establishing the University’s Prayer and Serenity Room. B-CU’s School of Religion hosted its annual seminary tour where students were offered opportunity to explore institutions of theological education and dialogue with presidents, deans, faculty members and student representatives. On May 10, 2017 we graduated nine pre-ministerial students who are committed to furthering their theological education by attending seminary.

The total giving target for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is $35,475,599. Total giving year-to-date for the University is $23,330,970. The annual fund giving target for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is $3,500,000. Annual fund giving year-to-date for the current year is $1,750,017. The restricted giving target for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is $31,975,599. Restricted year-to-date giving is $21,167,199.

B-CU maintains international award winning choral and instrumental groups and nationally recognized intercollegiate athletic programs.

Bethune-Cookman University is grateful for the enduring generosity and philanthropic support of The United Methodist Church. With your partnership, B-CU is radically transforming lives, developing global leaders committed to civic engagement and ministerial service in the world. As we lift up the accomplishments of this great University, I leave you with the words of our founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune: “If we continue in our trend, we will be able to rear increasing numbers of strong, purposeful men and women, equipped with vision, mental clarity, health and education.”
Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. John Baldwin II
Dean of the Chapel
Bethune-Cookman University

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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 thoughtful, principled, and courageous Christian leaders dedicated 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 offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a 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. 475 students are enrolled, with 51 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 83 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 2016-2017, we awarded nearly $5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.
In fall of 2016, Candler welcomed to the faculty Larry Goodpaster as Bishop-in-Residence, and Kendall Soulen as Professor of Systematic Theology. Also this fall, three Candler alumni began their terms as newly elected bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction: David Graves 90T in Alabama-West Florida, R. Lawson Bryan 75T 85T in South Georgia, and Sue Haupert-Johnson 95T in North Georgia.

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 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

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

In the academic year 2016–2017, we have been delighted to welcome our new dean of Duke Divinity School, Elaine A. Heath. Dean Heath also serves as professor of missional and pastoral theology, and her research interests focus on evangelism and spirituality, evangelism and gender, new monasticism, and emergence in church and theological education. Prior to coming to Duke, she was the McCreless Professor of Evangelism at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. Dean Heath is the co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, which provides opportunities for clergy and laity to learn how to live in intentional, missional communities in diverse social contexts, and she is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She has published books for scholars, churches, and laypeople; her most recent book is God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church (Upper Room). She is widely in demand as a speaker and teacher for Annual Conferences, retreats, and leadership training.

Since arriving at Duke in July, Dean Heath has begun work on a new strategic plan for the Divinity School. By the end of 2016, the initial listening and feedback phase had been completed and a task force convened to help guide the process of strategic goal-setting. With Dean Heath’s leadership, Duke Divinity School remains mindful of our mission to train, prepare, and form men and women committed to God and enthusiastic about ministry. We endeavor to prepare leaders for a changing church and world who will have the spiritual formation, theological foundation, and institutional flexibility to serve God in established churches, intentional communities, or missional organizations, as the Holy Spirit guides them.

This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2016, our total enrollment was 641 students: 418 are enrolled in
the M.Div. degree program; 52 in the M.T.S.; 45 in the Th.D.; 71 in the D.Min.; 16 in the M.A.C.P.; 23 in the M.A.C.S.; and 8 who are special students. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 48 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Eleven percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 3 percent are Roman Catholic, 11 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 24 other denominations or nondenominational churches.

On April 9, the Divinity School hosted the first annual Hispanic Preaching Festival to celebrate and explore Hispanic homiletics. The event drew 54 participants from 14 different Hispanic congregations across the region. Attendees included pastors, laypeople, and students. The festival featured sermons from local pastors, including Alma Ruiz M.Div.’13 and associate pastor of Fiesta Cristiana, which is affiliated with Apex UMC in Apex, N.C., and Raúl Colón, pastor of Centro Cristiano de Vida in Wake Forest, N.C. The festival was part of the Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative, a Spanish-language program that provides opportunities for Hispanic and Latino/a (H/L) pastors to receive homiletical training in a peer group format. Each year, 10 applicants serving as pastors in the H/L community are chosen to participate as preaching fellows. The peer group begins with a retreat and then meets monthly for 15 months to engage with homiletical, theological, and exegetical resources led by the program coordinator and other invited teachers.

The Clergy Health Initiative published a new report that illuminates how the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving United Methodist congregations in North Carolina are shifting. In an effort to better understand and describe the multiple demands and rewards of clergy life, the Duke Clergy Health Initiative has conducted a longitudinal survey of North Carolina’s United Methodist clergy every two years since 2008. For the report on appointments, the Clergy Health Initiative paired survey findings with publicly available data from the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences. The findings illuminate shifts in the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving congregations.

Our initiatives, centers, and programs are a vital resource for us in connecting the work of Duke Divinity School with other disciplines and constituents. The Center for Reconciliation celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, continuing its work of fostering reconciliation through the Summer Institute, the CFR Justice Fellows, and the Great Lakes Initiative in East Africa. The Office of Black Church Studies, in partnership with the Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, Duke Performances, Duke Dance, and the Duke Department of African and African-American Studies, presented a symposium on African-American Theology and the Arts, featuring the renowned dance company Ailey II. The Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative hosted the event “Practice & Presence: Gathering for Christians in Healthcare,” for healthcare professionals who want to deepen or reimagine the relationship of faith in vocation in community with likeminded practitioners. Faith & Leadership, the online magazine published by LEADD, continues to reach over 300,000 readers and provide a resource for theological reflection and “traditioned innovation” for all in ministry. Their continued excellent work was recognized
again this year with awards from the Associated Church Press “Best of the Christian
Press” contest.

In partnership with the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences, the
Thriving Rural Communities initiative sponsored the 2016 Convocation on the Rural
Church, “Apprenticeship with Jesus,” to discuss issues important for transforming rural
churches and communities. The Divinity School held a two-day conference titled “Tamar’s
Ashes: Pastoral Ministry Amidst Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence” for the school’s
students as part of the Mentoring for Ministry program. Duke Divinity School remains
committed to supporting local churches and local pastors, particularly in under-resourced
communities, and providing pastoral training for our students to allow them to minister to
people and in places that are often marginalized or forgotten.

We are delighted to announce the hiring of a new assistant professor of homiletics,
Jerusha Neal. She is currently serving as a missionary and lecturer in practical theology
at the Davuilevu Theological College of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma in the
South Pacific. Her particular interests are formational theological education, teaching
preaching in cross-cultural settings, and affirming women in their pastoral call. A native
of the U.S. Midwest, Neal has served as co-pastor of the Santee United Methodist Church
in Santee, Calif., and been the director of Christian education at the First Presbyterian
Church of Fullerton, Calif.

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

Respectfully submitted by the Office of Dean Elaine A. Heath

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

At Florida Southern College, we remain diligent in our effort to provide students a quality
education characterized by dynamic engaged learning experiences that prepares them
to make substantive professional and civic contributions to society. I am pleased to share
some of our notable achievements and highlights from the past year.

Florida Southern is proud of our highly active Campus Ministries and Church Relations
Program comprising nine major student-led ministries directed by Rev. Timothy Wright
’94. FSC students assembled 20 cleaning buckets during the fall Campus Ministries
Retreat for distribution through UMCOR to flood-devastated communities around Baton
Rouge, LA, and travelled there during Spring Break 2017 to help repair homes. Under the
auspices of our Sandwich Ministry, FSC students assembled and distributed 1,000
“Agape Bags” filled with basic essentials to homeless individuals in Lakeland. In May,
Associate Chaplain Bryant Manning ’09 led a group of students on a service learning trip
to Costa Rica to drill clean water wells through the ministry of Agua Viva Serves.
We began the 2016-2017 academic year with the largest undergraduate enrollment in Florida Southern’s history. Our 2,387 undergraduates include 648 first-year and 77 new transfer students. The Class of 2020 is one of our most academically qualified classes ever, with an average SAT score of 1138, an average ACT score of 26, and an average GPA of 3.7. They also bring remarkable records of extracurricular and community service activities. We have been very intentional about increasing our academic profile, and we are gratified that we have been able to accomplish this while simultaneously increasing enrollment.

Florida Southern faculty members are garnering important awards for their achievements as scholars and teachers. Dr. Carmen Gauthier, chair of our Chemistry Department, is conducting research this fall at the Catholic University of Peru with the support of a prestigious Fulbright Scholar grant awarded to her in February. Dr. Risdon Slate, chair of our Criminology Department, received the John Howard Award, the highest honor of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, at the organization’s 2016 annual meeting. Dr. James M. Denham, professor of history and director of our Lawton M. Chiles, Jr. Center for Florida History, received the Florida Historical Society’s highly coveted Rembert Patrick Award for his book, Fifty Years of Justice: A History of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Florida Southern was awarded a two-year grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund to strengthen advising, mentoring, and career guidance for students majoring in the sciences. Informed by national research, the Pathways to Student Success in the Sciences program is providing science majors with integrated advising and mentoring that connects their academic pathways to career aspirations. It is expected that this high level of support will encourage more students, particularly underrepresented students, including women, minorities, and first-generation college students, to persist in their science major and pursue careers in the sciences after graduation.

Florida Southern continues to earn recognition as one of the nation’s best small private colleges. FSC is included in The Princeton Review’s 381 Best Colleges, 2017 Edition and in the prestigious Fiske Guide to Colleges 2017. Forbes Magazine includes Florida Southern in its 2016 rankings of “America’s Top Colleges,” and the College is ranked among the best national Master’s universities in Washington Monthly’s 2016 college guide, which also includes Florida Southern in its list of the “Best Bangs for the Buck” in the Southeast. This year, FSC debuts as the #20 Regional University in U.S. News and World Report’s 2016-2017 rankings of "America’s Best Colleges."

The Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise also is enjoying a growing reputation for excellence. We are gratified that the Barnett School has been ranked among the top 20 most innovative small college business departments in the nation by the prestigious Business Research Guide and as one of the Best Undergraduate Business Schools by Bloomberg Businessweek. Additionally, the readers of Orlando Business Journal voted Florida Southern College the “Best Local School to get your MBA.”
This past summer we welcomed Dr. Antony Dnes as the new director of the Barnett School’s Center for Free Enterprise. A U.K. native and internationally renowned economics and law scholar with more than 35 years’ experience as a professor, researcher, and author, Dr. Dnes most recently served as professor and chair of graduate school dissertations for Northcentral University based in San Diego, CA. He is editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal Managerial & Decision Economics and a senior affiliated scholar at George Mason University Law School’s Mercatus Center. We are confident that Dr. Dnes will successfully continue the important work of building a premier academic center for free enterprise at Florida Southern.

Also last summer Dr. Linda Comer became the new dean of our School of Nursing and Health Sciences. With more than 30 years of experience as an administrator, educator, researcher, and health practitioner, Dr. Comer came to us from Western Carolina University where she was the executive associate director and associate professor in the School of Nursing. In addition to teaching, her experience also includes 23 years as an intensive care nurse, a cardiovascular clinical nurse specialist, and counselor. Under Dr. Comer’s leadership, this spring we welcomed the first cohort of students into the new Family Nurse Practitioner track of our Master of Science in Nursing program.

Our School of Education also has made significant advances this past year. To complement the Doctor of Educational Leadership program launched in summer 2014, we announced the addition of the general Doctor of Education to our degree offerings in December 2016 with classes to begin in summer 2017. We are also proud that Jessica Solano ’19M.Ed.L. was named Florida’s 2017 Teacher of the Year joining alumna Christie Bassett ’07 ’15M.Ed. who earned the accolade in 2015.

A program of our School of Education, the Roberts Academy, Florida’s only transitional school for children with dyslexia, has grown rapidly since its opening in 2010, and currently enrolls 120 children in grades 2 through 6. In response to the demand from parents and families, this spring we announced the addition of 7th and 8th grade classes, beginning in August 2017 and August 2018 respectively. We also celebrated the completion of four new Roberts Academy classrooms. The expanded instructional building will allow us to enroll up to 200 students with a full elementary and middle school curriculum incorporating the Orton-Gillingham Method specially designed to help children with dyslexia master the skills to be successful life-long learners.

Throughout the year, we were privileged to host many notable speakers on our campus. In May, former First Lady Laura Bush addressed a luncheon honoring mothers that was sponsored by the Roberts Academy, and internationally acclaimed leadership expert Dr. John C. Maxwell delivered the commencement address at our 2016 Commencement Ceremony. In October, Dr. Jürgen Moltmann, widely regarded as the world’s most influential living theologian, delivered this year’s Warren W. Willis Lecture in Religion, “On a Culture of Life in the Dangers of this Time.” In February, internationally renowned poet Niki Giovanni spoke in a presentation entitled “An Evening of Poetry, Love, and Enlightenment” as part of our Child of the Sun Distinguished Speakers Series. In March, we welcomed Glenn D. Lowry, director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, who was inducted as our 83rd Honorary Chancellor.
Florida Southern’s intercollegiate athletics program continues to earn its place among the nation’s top three NCAA Division II programs. Our Women’s Lacrosse Team won the 2016 NCAA Division II National Championship. Coach Kara Reber was named National Coach of the Year by the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association. Coach Betsey Harris guided our Women’s Basketball Team to its second-ever NCAA South Regional title and its first appearance in the Division II Elite Eight since 1995. Our Men’s Swimming Team won its fourth consecutive Sunshine State Conference Championship, and Coach Mike Blum ’08 was named National Men’s Coach-of-the-Year by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America.

To ensure that our athletics facilities are equal to the quality of our athletics program, we broke ground in November on the new Barnett Athletic Complex. The complex will include newly renovated spaces for athlete health services, a new Softball Field with grandstand seating and press box, a multi-purpose Soccer and Lacrosse Field, a patriot’s plaza entry feature that includes improved parking, and much more. Once completed this fall, we are confident the Barnett Athletic Complex will attract top student-athletes to Florida Southern, equip the College to host tournament and championship events, and hasten the Moccasin’s ascent to the #1 ranking among NCAA Division II athletic programs.

Preparing our annual campus update for the Florida United Methodist Conference is one of the opportunities that I most look forward to each year as it allows me to express once again my heartfelt gratitude for the vital role the Conference plays in our success. The Conference’s inspirational support is transforming Florida Southern and, most importantly, the future for our talented students, enabling them to obtain an education of the highest caliber that will prepare them to meet the challenges that await them after graduation.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Kerr, Ph.D.
President

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME

“The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

1 Cor. 3:8-9 (NRSV)

Since 1908, the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home has striven to bring about God’s peace and transformation in the lives of the oppressed. The mission statement of the Children’s Home is, “to empower children and families to experience God’s love and care as revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ.” This has guided the work and effort of all of the staff and volunteers in our 109 year history, and it continues to propel us forward as we seek to better meet the evolving needs of those we serve. These wonderful people
have been called by God to serve at-risk children and youth, and they play a vital role in helping to provide first-rate treatment and care in every aspect of our ministry. We are able to offer quality facilities that provide an atmosphere of healing on both of our campuses. Additionally, every child is offered effective and wide-ranging programs and ministries that all strive to strengthen both individual and family life. Undergirding every aspect of ministry at the Children’s Home is the transformative love and grace of Jesus Christ.

I am incredibly grateful for the tireless work, commitment, and leadership of our Board of Trustees. These individuals continue to set the vision of the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, and I am humbled by their guidance of the ministry’s trajectory. To every member of the Board, I say “Thank you” for all that you do.

In 2016, the organization entered into a time of transition. I am both humbled and honored to have been chosen by the search committee as the next President & CEO of this great ministry. Moving into this new role, I am excited to see the ways in which God will continue to expand the scope and effectiveness of the treatment we offer.

As a United Methodist Church institution here in Florida, the Children’s Home is a part of your connection within the Annual Conference. For 109 years, we have faithfully served as an extension of your local church to help meet the ever-changing needs of children and families. Throughout the course of our history, the Children’s Home has evolved into a diverse ministry that offers residential care, therapeutic group care, emergency shelter care, foster care services in four counties, transitional and independent living assistance, career development training, and a community Early Childhood Education and Development program. The Madison Youth Ranch, which is a second campus of the Children’s Home, also offers life-changing ministry in another context. On any given day, the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home easily touches the lives of over 400 children across the state.

2016 was also a wonderful year for the growth of the Madison Youth Ranch. We began the implementation of equine assisted therapy as a continuing aspect of the treatment we provide on location. In the short time we have been utilizing these services as a part of our treatment, we have seen wonderful results in the socialization and coping skills of our residents. In September, the Ranch opened its gates for the inaugural “Day at the Ranch.” This event, modeled after our annual “Day on Campus,” was a ministry-wide open house that showed off the various aspects of ministry happening at our Madison location. We offered Ranch tours, a program, and a picnic lunch on the grounds. It was a wonderful day to celebrate the ministry of the Madison Youth Ranch. During 2016, we also broke ground on a pool; at the time of this writing, we were set to open the Margaret R. Scully Aquatic Center in May of 2017. Additionally, plans are well underway for the construction of both a Chapel and a Counseling and Support Services Building on the Madison campus. As of this writing, we were set to break ground on both of these buildings in May of 2017.
Legacy Scholars Academy (LSA), our on-campus school, continues to bolster the learning opportunities afforded to our residents. An official Volusia County school, LSA provides on-campus schooling for residents, grades K-12th. The LSA principal and teachers are certified Volusia County teachers, and are also trained in Social and Emotional Learning Theory. In addition to meeting the educational needs of our residents, these instructors are also able to effectively address any emotional, behavioral, and social concerns that present themselves. LSA allows us another effective option to help ensure a successful back-to-school experience, and thus a successful future.

In 2016, Legacy Scholars Academy had its first graduating class of seniors. Five of our residents earned their high school diplomas, and all have gone on to some sort of post-secondary education or training! The achievements and growth under LSA has only continued. At the time of this writing, we had 31 students enrolled in LSA, 27 of which had earned at least a 2.75 GPA through the second quarter of school. Of those, 20 had earned at least a 3.0 GPA through the second quarter.

In As Much, our Early Childhood Education and Development program (ECED), continues to thrive in its service to children and families in the community. Children from infancy through Kindergarten learn and grow in a Montessori-style program, and the school continues to grow in its popularity. To help accommodate the expanding and wonderful work that our In As Much program is doing, we have been in discussion and planning to construct a new facility on site. We plan to break ground on the new ECED Center on our Enterprise campus in the fall of 2017.

Our Foster Care Services program celebrated the dedication of our Broward County office in February of this year. The office is located at New Horizon UMC in Southwest Ranches, Florida. At the time of this writing, our Broward office was serving ten (10) foster children, and was also working on the development of its respite care program.

Each year it is our privilege to recognize individuals, churches and groups that have gone above and beyond to support and promote the Children’s Home. For their exceptional efforts in 2016 we have awarded the following: “Pastor of the Year” – Reverend Jack Stephenson of Anona UMC; “Church of the Year” – Lake Magdalene UMC; “Local Church Representative of the Year” – Jennifer Davis of First UMC, Hawthorne; and “Mission Work Group of the Year” – Deer Lake UMC, Tallahassee. Please join me in lifting up these outstanding people who have made the ministry of the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home a priority.

The local church goal of giving for 2017 is set at $12.00 per member and will remain the same for 2018. We believe this is a reasonable goal that every church should strive to meet. The Children’s Home is an extension of your local church and a part of your family as United Methodists. We earnestly hope you are able to give beyond this minimum level of support. We request this historic plan be continued whereby on each Fifth Sunday and on Christmas Sunday, the church school offering and the undesignated offering (loose plate) received in Sunday worship services be remitted directly, along with special donations and gifts, to the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home.
Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you who support the work and ministry of the Children’s Home. Your Fifth Sunday offerings, individual gifts, honors and memorials, in-kind gifts, wills and bequests and other planned gifts all work together to change young lives. Through your financial generosity, volunteer support, prayers, and encouragement, the United Methodists of Florida and friends of the Children’s Home worked to guarantee that the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home was successful in 2016. Thank you for everything you have done to make a real and lasting impact on the life of each child that comes into the care of the Children’s Home. I am humbled to work alongside such compassionate people. By your continued support and partnership, you are working to ensure that the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home remains steadfast in its vision to reach more children, in more places, and in more ways.

Kitwana McTyer, President & CEO

**FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION**  
Nurturing faithful stewardship for the next 50 years

In 1966, Methodists in Florida had a vision: to start a foundation that would help churches, ministries and individuals do the most good with their financial resources. At the annual gathering of the conference that year, that dream became a reality and what is now the Florida United Methodist Foundation was born.

On June 15, 2016, nearly 50 years to the day the ministry was created, the foundation held its “Mad About the Future” 50th anniversary event at the Walt Disney World Swan Resort. Nearly 300 guests gathered to celebrate 50 years of stewardship and ministry and launch the Future Generations Fund as part of the foundation’s vision for the future.

Event attendees, sponsors and other donors raised and pledged more than $52,000 to launch the new fund, which will provide grants to support ministries that nurture children, youth and young adults.

The long-term fund will provide resources to empower and support the next generations of Christians by bolstering ministries for children and youth, such as summer camp, mission and outreach initiatives, and selected ministry projects. It will also focus on the conference’s campus ministries, helping relieve some of the financial burden campus ministries face so they can spend less energy on fundraising and more time affecting the lives of Florida’s college students.

Ministries may begin applying for the funds in September, with the first grants awarded at the end of the year.

Through this and other efforts, the foundation hopes to be a valuable partner in helping the church nurture the next generation of faithful Christians. The foundation is also actively considering new ways of serving conference churches and ministries and
affiliated agencies as the needs of our diverse state, population and annual conference change.

Fulfilling the mission in 2016

A healthy foundation for the future was further strengthened last year. By the end of 2016:

- The foundation was managing more than $325.9 million in assets — an increase of $9.4 million over 2015.
- Seventy-four percent, or 492, of the conference’s 665 churches were participating in the foundation’s ministry.
- Gifts to the foundation and interest earned on foundation accounts had generated $4.8 million in new income to support churches, ministries and other missions.
- Church and agency investments in foundation funds grew by $10.9 million to $130.8 million, generating earnings of $2.6 million.
- Development Fund accounts held by individuals, businesses, and churches and agencies totaled $64.3 million, $1.2 million and $82 million, respectively, bringing total investments to $147.5 million.
- The foundation provided 27 loans totaling more than $24.7 million to churches and agencies, bringing the total amount loaned to more than $124 million. One of those loan recipients was the Wesley Foundation at Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College. A $2.75 million loan from the Development Fund to the Florida Conference in 2015 and an additional $250,000 loan in 2016 enabled the campus ministry to build a multipurpose facility that can accommodate more than 600 in worship and nearly 300 in weekly activities, increasing the ability to reach more students. Worship services were held for the first time in the new space Jan. 22.

For more than 10 years, the foundation has been allocating a portion of its assets to grants. Since annual conference last year, the grant program provided:

- $32,500 to alleviate educational expenses for 13 clergy ordained at annual conference and $12,047 for clergy stewardship and financial education through the $1 million Passing the Torch fund, a five-year cooperative grant program between the foundation and Florida Conference Office of Clergy Excellence that launched in 2015;
- A $12,900 grant to Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church in Jacksonville to fund its summer mentoring program for at-risk area children;
- $10,000 in flood relief to the Methodist Foundation of Louisiana; and
- A $5,000 grant to Florida Southern College to help fund a joint flood relief mission project with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Action item: articles of incorporation

This year, the membership of the foundation must approve changes to the foundation’s articles of incorporation. They are included here, with changes indicated, for review in
preparation for that action, as well as a resolution on which the membership must vote.

AMENDED AND RESTATED
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF
THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.
(A Corporation Not For Profit)

The Articles of Incorporation of The Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. (the “Corporation” Foundation) are amended and restated as follows:

“ARTICLE I.

Name and Address

The name of this corporation is THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC. The location of this Foundation shall be at 4440 East McDonald Street 450 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in the City of Lakeland, County of Polk, State of Florida, or such other place as the Corporation Foundation may select.

ARTICLE II.

Purposes

This Corporation Foundation is formed exclusively for charitable and religious purposes and to promote and support the mission of The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church under the provisions of Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, and not for pecuniary profit or financial gain. Subject to any limitations or restrictions, if any, as may be imposed under applicable law, the specific purposes for which the Corporation Foundation is organized are as follows:

a. To act as Trustee, to administer trusts, to receive and administer funds for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, and to that end to take title to and hold, by contract, bequest, devise, gift, purchase or lease, either absolutely or in trust, any property, real, personal and mixed, without limitations as to amounts or value, except as to such limitations, if any, as may be imposed by law;

b. To receive, administer and participate in charitable remainder trusts, unitrusts and other like trusts, to the extent this Corporation Foundation is lawfully permitted to do so; to sell, convey and dispose of any such property and to invest and reinvest the principal and income thereof, and to deal with and expend the principal and income of this Corporation Foundation for any of the aforementioned objects and purposes, without limitation, except as to such limitations, if any, as may be contained in the instrument under which such property is received or other limitations imposed by law;
To receive deposits from local churches and other organizations and institutions
of The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church or Florida
residents, The United Methodist Church or individuals, as may be permitted, limited
or authorized by applicable law; to pay interest on such deposits; to offer debt
securities, the proceeds of which fund loans made to churches, individuals,
entities, agencies and other organizations the Foundation serves; to lend money
to local churches, organizations, institutions and district agencies related to The
Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church or agencies of the
Florida Conference, or The United Methodist Church, or to churches, agencies,
districts, schools, organizations and charities whose mission complements and
supports a Wesleyan focus on abundant grace and shared commitment to making
disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;

d. To receive any property, real, personal or mixed in trust, under the terms of any
will, trust or other instrument for the foregoing purposes or any of them, and in
administering same to carry out the directions and exercise the powers contained
in the trust instrument under which the property is received, including the
expenditure of the principal, as well as the income, for one or more of such
purposes, if authorized or directed in the trust instrument under which it is received;
to receive, take title to, hold, and use the proceeds and income of stocks, bonds,
obligations, or other securities of any corporations or corporation, domestic or
foreign, only for the foregoing powers, or any of them;

e. To acquire, receive and accept, by way of grant, gift, devise, bequest, purchase,
lease or otherwise, money and real and personal property of every kind, nature
and description, without limitation as to amount or value, including securities
(which term, for all purposes hereof, includes without limiting the generality thereof,
shares of stock, bonds debentures, notes, mortgages or other obligations, and any
certificates, receipt or other instruments, representing any rights or interest therein
or with respect thereto), created or issued by any person, firm, association,
corporation or government or subdivision thereof; to exercise as owner or holder
of any such property any and all rights, powers and privileges in respect thereof,
to hold, administer, sell, convey, dispose of, invest and reinvest such property and
the income and proceeds thereof; to use, apply or disburse any of its property or
the income or the proceeds thereof, exclusively for or toward any one or more of
its purposes as enumerated in this Article II;

f. To solicit the donation or investment of funds from boards, agencies, and
institutions affiliated with The Florida Annual Conference of or The United
Methodist Church and from individual residents of the State of Florida donors,
individuals, families and supporters of The United Methodist Church; to receive,
hold, invest, reinvest, and administer such funds and other property which may be
given, transferred, conveyed or entrusted to it in an investment fund or mortgage
pool; to issue receipts to such donors and holders of participation certificates,
notes or debentures for their gifts, or as the case may be, their interest in or their
loans to such investment in debt securities, an investment fund or mortgage pool;
to invest such funds in first mortgage loans to United Methodist Churches, and to
the extent determined by the Board of Directors, to invest in stocks, bonds, or other
securities, without being limited to so-called legal investments for fiduciaries; to
collect the interest or income therefore; to pay to investors such interest upon their
investments as may be determined by the certificates of participation, notes or
debentures or contracts with the Corporation Foundation; to purchase, sell,
exchange or otherwise dispose of, pledge, mortgage, or hypothecate, all kinds of
securities, and to exercise any and all of said powers, either on its own account,
or as agent or trustee for other persons, firms, corporations, or other organizations;
g. To provide, for a reasonable fee, consulting, financial, stewardship and
administrative services for local churches, organizations and institutions of The
Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, The United Methodist
Church, or other religious entities organized as a 501(c)(3) not for profit
organizations whose mission complements and supports a Wesleyan focus on
abundant grace and shared commitment to making disciples of Jesus Christ for
the transformation of the world; and
h. To exercise any, all and every power under which a non-profit corporation
organized under the provisions of the Florida Not-For-Profit Corporation Act, as
from time to time may be amended, for religious, charitable or educational
purposes, can be authorized to exercise.
No part of the activities of this Corporation Foundation shall be the carrying-on of
propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, or the participation in any
political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III.
Qualification of Members

The membership of this Corporation Foundation shall be the Lay and Clerical
Members of the Annual Conference of The Florida Annual Conference of The United
Methodist Church as constituted by the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

ARTICLE IV.
Term

This Corporation Foundation shall have perpetual existence.
ARTICLE V.

Board Of Directors

1. The powers of this Corporation Foundation shall be exercised, its properties controlled, and its affairs conducted by a Board of Directors, the precise number of which shall be set by the Bylaws of the Corporation, provided that there shall be a minimum of 15 directors and a maximum of 25 directors at all times. Each director shall hold office for the term for which elected and until a successor is elected and qualified.

a. Unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws, the members of the Board of Directors shall be divided into three classes of five members each (or one-third of the total number of members in each class) with the members of each class holding office for a term of three years, with one class of members having their term of office expire each year. At each annual election, directors shall be elected by the members for that respective class of directors a term of three years, to succeed the directors whose term then expires.

b. The Bishop of the Conference, the Annual Conference Treasurer and the Director of the Connectional Ministries, or their representatives, shall serve as ex-officio members of the Board of Directors, but without voting privileges.

c. A majority of the Board of Directors shall be members of The United Methodist Church, except for staff members who are officers of the Corporation Foundation, citizens of the United States, and residents of the State of Florida.

d. No full member of the Board shall serve more than nine consecutive years.

ARTICLE VI.

Bylaws

a. The Board of Directors of this Corporation Foundation may provide such Bylaws for the conduct of the business of the Corporation Foundation and the carrying out of its purposes as may be deemed necessary.

b. Upon proper notice as specified in the Bylaws, the Bylaws may be amended, altered, or rescinded by a majority vote of Board of Directors at any regular meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VII.

Amendments
Upon proper notice furnished at least 30 days prior to the date of the regular or special meeting by regular mail, electronic mail, facsimile or as otherwise permitted by the Bylaws, these Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the membership called for that purpose, by a majority vote by those present, unless a larger percentage shall be required by law.

ARTICLE VIII.

Periodic Distribution of Assets

All activities of the Corporation Foundation shall be carried on and all funds of the Corporation Foundation, whether income or principal and whether acquired by gift, contribution, as trustee, custodian, or by devise, purchase or lease, shall be used and applied exclusively for the religious, charitable or other purposes set forth in Article II, and so that no part of the net earnings of the Corporation Foundation will in any event inure to the personal benefit of any member of the Corporation Foundation or to any organization or individual; provided, however, that reasonable compensation may be paid to individuals or to any organization that renders services for the benefit of the Corporation Foundation in furtherance of one or more of its purposes stated above.

Notwithstanding any limitation upon distributions of designated or undesignated funds, if any will, trust or other instrument designating the recipient of principal and income names this Corporation Foundation as trustee for the benefit of any subsidiary organization to or agency of The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church or to a religious, charitable, scientific or educational organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, but not a subsidiary organization to or agency of The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, then this Corporation Foundation may accept the appointment as trustee or act in some other fiduciary capacity.

ARTICLE IX.

Distribution of Assets Upon Dissolution

In the event of a liquidation, dissolution, termination or winding up of the Corporation Foundation, whether voluntary, involuntary or by operation of law, all the property or assets of the Corporation Foundation remaining after the discharge of valid obligations shall revert to and vest in The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, or its successors and assigns, to be held subject to law and to the Discipline and usages of The United Methodist Church. The residual assets of the Corporation Foundation may be distributed in liquidation only to an organization which is exempt from federal taxes under Section 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding section of any future law."

The foregoing amendment to and restatement of the Corporation Foundation's Articles of Incorporation has been duly adopted by the members of the Corporation.
Foundation at a meeting duly called, properly noticed and held on the ___ day of
______________, 2017 in accordance with the provisions of Section 617.1002, Florida
Statutes, at which a quorum was present and approved the Resolution adopting said
amendment and restatement, a copy of which is duly recorded in the minutes of the
Corporation Foundation and is in full form and effect on this date.

These Articles of Amendment to and Restatement of the Corporation’s These
Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation shall become effective at the time of their
filing by the Florida Department of State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed these Articles of
Amendment to and restatement of the Corporation’s Amended and Restated Articles of
Incorporation on this ______ day of __________________, 2017.

By:__________________________________________
   Chairman

By:__________________________________________
   Secretary

Resolution

A change in the articles of incorporation of the Florida United Methodist Foundation

WHEREAS, The articles of incorporation of the Florida United Methodist Foundation are
on file with the Florida Department of State; and

WHEREAS, The Florida United Methodist Foundation has been a successful operating
entity since its inception by providing entities of the Florida Annual Conference of The
United Methodist Church with a means to both invest money and receive low-cost
mortgages; and

WHEREAS, The Florida United Methodist Foundation is seeking additional ways that it
can be of service to United Methodist churches, conferences outside the Florida Annual
Conference and religious entities that share a common Wesleyan focus on abundant
grace,

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the attached revised articles of incorporation be adopted
by the members of the Florida Annual Conference and submitted to the Florida secretary
of state.
GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

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

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

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support and educate pastors and leaders for the United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God’s church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Dr. Albert D. Mosley
President

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

This report was not available at press time. If submitted, it will be posted online at www.acflorida.org. Click the “Supplemental Workbook Reports” link for the reports not found in this workbook.
LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

We are happy to report that Lake Junaluska once again ended the year “in the black”, wrapping up 2016 with a balance of over $200,000. We continue to accomplish this without any operational apportionment support from the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and we remain committed to not only “living within our means” but also to ensure the long term sustainability of our mission to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. 2016 was also a great year for charitable giving. We received $908,571.20 from 1,285 individuals. We are so grateful to continue to receive the support of new and returning donors each year affirming the mission of Lake Junaluska through their charitable giving.

As we continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our facilities, grounds, and programs, we are also continuing to solidify our commitment to one of our most important assets, our staff. Of the $200,000 “profit” from 2016, $50,000 was distributed, in the form of profit sharing, back to all current staff who worked in 2016 along with an across the board 1% pay increase for all current staff in 2017. The remainder, along with the generous support of our donors, is being used for a wide array of ongoing capital improvements that we will be looking forward to reporting on next year. We are also proud to report that the Terrace has been consistently ranked among the top ten in Western North Carolina, alongside properties like the Inn on Biltmore Estate and Grove Park Inn on Trip Adviser. We are also working diligently to refine and improve our existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with our mission. The Lake Junaluska Singers will be back in 2017 under the direction of Mary Wannamaker Huff. Mary is the founding director of the New York City Children’s Chorus. We are also pleased to have Rev. Mitzi Johnson, an Elder in the North Carolina Conference of the UMC, as our new Director of Programming. 2017 is going to be a fabulous year for programming at Lake Junaluska.

As a member of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction we want you to know that “your” asset, Lake Junaluska, is doing very well. You can be very proud of this important organization within the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church. We are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which you have entrusted us.

To learn more about what is going on at Lake Junaluska, we encourage you to pick up a copy of our 2017 Discover Lake Junaluska magazine. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of our programs, to learn about new projects we are working on, and to familiarize yourself with our calendar of events. We do hope you can come and visit us this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

Submitted by Jack Ewing, Executive Director
Chairman’s Report

James Mitchell, Chairman
Your Board of Directors’ primary job is to set direction for and manage the credit union, making sure it is operated in a sound and prudent manner and that all decisions are guided by the best interests of the members. During 2016, we continued to implement those strategies necessary to maintain growth along with a strong financial picture while continuing to serve our members with inexpensive financial services, and outstanding member service. We believe in “Helping Our Members Afford Life.”

Our achievements include:
• Our major achievement this year was that we increased our asset size by almost $1.5 M to $29,086,895.58.
• At the same time, we also increased our membership to over 5,000 members.
• Our Church Loan lending also increased this year by 28.2% for a net growth of $377,950.00.
• Once again, we awarded four $1,000 college scholarships to members ages 17 – 35 located in our four conferences - Florida, North Georgia, South Georgia and Alabama-West Florida Conferences.
• We continue to update the technological enhancements for our products and services as they become available so that we can continue to provide members with safe and secure ways to do business with our Credit Union.

Of course, all of this could not have been achieved without our staff, my fellow board members, and other volunteers that helped make 2016 another great year for your Credit Union. Most importantly, however, I want to thank you, our members, for continuing to do business with your Credit Union.

Supervisory Committee Report

Maryanne McCurdy, Chairman

Committee Members:
Winnie Dean
Charles Houston
Shoune Lawton
Clarence Thrower

United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union’s Supervisory Committee independently evaluates the soundness of the credit union’s operations and activities. This committee is responsible for a series of internal and external audits that are performed to insure that the Credit Union complies with generally accepted accounting principles. This committee also makes certain that United Methodist Connectional FCU’s 
audited financial statements provide a fair and accurate representation of the financial
condition of the credit union and is compliant with state and federal regulations.

As a result of the audits held and in conjunction with the annual examination of the
National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), it is the opinion of the Supervisory
Committee that the financial condition of United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit
Union continues to remain strong and well managed, with sound policies and programs.
The Credit Union is also compliant with the Credit Union’s by-laws, Alabama, Georgia
and Florida state laws relating to credit unions, and applicable federal laws and
regulations.

The Supervisory Committee would like to commend the staff, management and
volunteers of the Credit Union for their efforts in maintaining the soundness and safety of
the credit union.

Treasurer’s Report

Michael McQueen, Treasurer

United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union ended 2016 with a strong balance
sheet and positive net income. We will maintain our strategy of continued, controlled
growth as we strengthen both our balance sheet and income statements in the years to
come.

2016 Highlights:

- Assets increased from $27,639,307.52 as of December 31, 2015 to
  $29,086,895.58 as of year-end 2016.
- Loans to members decreased slightly from $17,765,038.96 at year-end 2015 to
  $17,361,756.01 as of year-end 2016.
- Income on investments increased from $70,234.35 in 2015 to $83,960.01 as of
  year-end 2016.
- Operating expenses increased slightly from $1,182,764.69 in 2015 to
  $1,213,675.32 in 2016.
- Net income decreased from $57,800.76 as of year-end 2015 to $22,842.11 as of
  year-end 2016.

Your Board of Directors, Management and Staff are committed to ensuring the stability
and financial success of your Credit Union. 2017 will find us continuing on this course.
### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/15</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$344,865.70</td>
<td>$320,264.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans To Members</td>
<td>$17,765,038.96</td>
<td>$17,361,756.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Participation</td>
<td>$1,337,580.02</td>
<td>$1,715,530.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for Loan Losses</td>
<td>-$82,830.63</td>
<td>-$60,828.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$7,606,814.67</td>
<td>$9,110,076.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Income</td>
<td>$64,472.15</td>
<td>$65,624.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Exp &amp; Defer Charges</td>
<td>$39,676.38</td>
<td>$37,187.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$516,615.27</td>
<td>$490,209.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Assets</td>
<td>$47,075.00</td>
<td>$47,075.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$27,639,307.52</td>
<td>$29,086,895.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/15</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$7,369.53</td>
<td>$16,039.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends Payable</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes Payable</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes Payable</td>
<td>$669.81</td>
<td>$545.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$43,273.15</td>
<td>$26,954.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Credits</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>$4,385.58</td>
<td>$914.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$55,698.07</td>
<td>$44,453.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/15</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shares of Members</td>
<td>$24,968,184.56</td>
<td>$26,404,174.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$682,937.04</td>
<td>$682,937.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undivided Earnings</td>
<td>$1,874,687.09</td>
<td>$1,932,487.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$57,800.76</td>
<td>$22,842.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td>$27,583,609.45</td>
<td>$29,042,441.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities & Equity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/15</th>
<th>Summary as of 12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td>$27,639,307.52</td>
<td>$29,086,895.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Income Statement

Summary as of 12/31/15 | Summary as of 12/31/16
--- | ---
Interest on Loans | $1,022,256.59 | $1,023,293.62
Income on Investments | $70,234.35 | $83,960.01
Fees & Charges | $153,306.68 | $139,637.06
Other Operating Income | $102,702.11 | $85,156.20

### Operating Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/15</th>
<th>12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Income</td>
<td>$1,348,499.73</td>
<td>$1,332,046.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Operating Expenses

- Compensation | $496,058.71 | $531,265.94 |
- Employee Benefits | $153,605.76 | $163,597.52 |
- Travel & Conference | $59,014.73 | $54,614.67 |
- Association Dues | $18,309.00 | $17,533.00 |
- Office Occupancy | $45,846.90 | $47,091.20 |
- Office Operations | $105,961.19 | $96,358.68 |
- Education & Promotion | $54,093.91 | $37,586.83 |
- Loan Servicing | $28,957.77 | $52,507.37 |
- Prof & Outside | $195,088.98 | $198,370.52 |
- Provision for Loan Losses | $8,000.00 | $0.00 |
- Member Insurance | $0.00 | $0.00 |
- Federal Operating Fee | $4,948.86 | $5,029.80 |
- Interest on Borrowed | $118.08 | $0.00 |
- Cash Short/Over | $0.10 | $9.95 |
- Annual Meeting | $4,583.71 | $3,269.37 |
- Miscellaneous | $8,176.99 | $6,440.47 |

### Total Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/15</th>
<th>12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$1,182,764.69</td>
<td>$1,213,675.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income From Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/15</th>
<th>12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income From Operations</td>
<td>$165,735.04</td>
<td>$118,371.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Before Dividends</td>
<td>$165,735.04</td>
<td>$118,371.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>$107,934.28</td>
<td>$95,529.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain/(Loss) on Assets</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/15</th>
<th>12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$57,800.76</td>
<td>$22,842.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOLUTIONS

Drivers’ Licenses for All Florida Drivers

Financial Implications: None

Rationale: Biblical truth challenges us numerous times to welcome the stranger. “And when a stranger sojourns with you in your land, do not oppress him/her. Let the stranger ... be to you as the native-born, and you shall love him/her as yourself.” Lev. 19:33, 34

Our Social Principles say that “we recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God.” (United Methodist Book of Discipline, III. The Social Community ¶162 H Rights of Immigrants)

The state of Florida requires that immigration status be a determinant of a person’s eligibility to apply for a drivers’ license. As a result, almost one million unlicensed drivers—15% of Florida’s driving population—are on our roads. This means that thousands of drivers in Florida have never received proper training or certification. When people drive without proper training, they are more likely to get into an accident. Without a drivers’ license or insurance, they are more likely to flee the scene. By calling on the state of Florida to give all Florida drivers the opportunity to apply for a driver’s license, we 1) welcome our immigrant neighbors and 2) make our roads safer for all of God’s children.

Whereas, 10 other states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Maryland) and the District of Columbia have already passed similar legislation to give all of their drivers access to drivers’ licenses. And,

Whereas, the present law does not allow undocumented drivers to obtain licenses, leading many undocumented immigrants to drive to church, work, doctor’s appointments, school, etc. without proper training and certification. And,

Whereas, allowing all Florida drivers to apply for a driver’s license would create safer roads and likely increase the number of Florida drivers with car insurance. And,

Whereas, as persons of faith we recognize the human and civil rights of our immigrant brothers and sisters, and the mutual benefit in allowing them to come out of the shadows into a life of peace and safety, and

Whereas, this is a call to radical hospitality based on the recognition of essential relatedness acknowledging that one of the measurements of faithfulness in the church is how we treat and advocate for the most vulnerable in our societies.

http://drivesafeflorida.org/
Therefore be it resolved that we call on every United Methodist in the Florida Annual Conference to advocate for this and all changes that will welcome immigrants and create safer driving conditions for us all.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Florida Annual Conference support the “Drive Safe Sunshine State” campaign, which calls for drivers’ licenses for all Florida drivers, regardless of immigration status, likely resulting in the following benefits:

1) Safer roads and driving conditions because all drivers will be required to take a driving test
2) More drivers will be covered by car insurance
3) Lower insurance premiums for all Floridians
4) Increased revenue for the state of Florida because new drivers will be paying fees to register their car, take their driving test, and renew their tag

Implemented by: South Florida Justice For Our Neighbors

Financial Implications: None

Date: January 31, 2017

Respectfully submitted by,
Rev. Janet Horman

Respectfully supported by,
Emily R. Kvalheim
Rev. Michael G. Rivas
Caitlin Kastner
Rev. Dr. Martha Rutland
Heidi Aspinwall
Edith Zewadski-Bricker
Rev. Roy M. Terry IV
Lauren Graham Sullivan
Sarah Elizabeth Howell
Krystal Moore
Erica Kay Oliveira
Jane H. Cole
Dr. Barbara Koch
Rev. Dr. T. Glenn
Bosley-Mitchell
Roland Robinson
Sandy Paredes-Robinson
Santiago Garcia, Jr.
Alma Manney
Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans
Joan Mowery Barrow
C. Todd Willis
Rev. John A. Denmark
Rev. Jetro Jeune
Maria Sotolongo
Hillary Tully
David Mikesell
Suzanna Talada
Rev. Dr. Marta Burke
Andrew Kastner
Nancy Perez
Clara Knowles
Hyacinth Henry
Esther Thomas
Thelma McGeachy
Virginia Spear
Lorna Dyer
Sherlain Stevens
Winnifred DaCosta
Doloris Ellis
William Newton
Erin Frey
Ruth Berlus
Jessica Weseman
Rev. Beth Bostrom
Gabriella Moya
Sharika Reeves
Michael Anderson
Tresor Selenga
Nick Stanford
Sydney Stanberry
Rev. Sarah B. Miller
Molly Nelson
Victoria Stanford
Welcoming the Migrant in our Midst

Whereas, the state of Florida is made up of many immigrants who have migrated to our state seeking safety, security and prosperity; and

Whereas, immigrants and refugees sit in the pews and are behind the pulpits of Florida’s United Methodist Churches and provide much of the agricultural labor for produce and other goods that sustain us; and

Whereas, we know so well that we have benefitted by their leadership. They have added to our witness for Christ as we have all dedicated ourselves to the church’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

Whereas, the writer of Leviticus commands the love of the immigrant, who “shall be to you as the citizen among you.” (Leviticus 19:33-34); and

Whereas, early in Jesus’ life, he was a refugee to Africa fleeing persecution and violence in his homeland. (Matthew 2:13-15) and told us that nations would be judged on the basis of the way they fed the hungry, clothed the naked and cared for prisoners (Matthew 25:31-46); and

Whereas, careless rhetoric has ignited xenophobic and racist attitudes among some of our fellow citizens;

Therefore be it resolved that the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, as followers of Jesus, commit ourselves to work to eliminate racism and violence directed toward newly arriving migrants from all parts of the world and express our opposition to any immigration policy that excludes refugees solely on the basis of their religion or national origin;

Be it further resolved that we celebrate the recreation of a Justice for our Neighbors ministry now located in South Florida and the formation of an immigration task force by the Conference to help provide guidance to churches seeking to be in ministry to immigrants in Florida;

Be it further resolved that, to that end, the Conference encourages all churches to educate and equip its members to provide hospitality and welcome to migrants and refugees in their communities (the Resolution approved by General Conference “Welcoming the Migrant to the United States” would be an excellent resource); and to take further actions and advocacy for just policies through prayer and discernment;
Be it further resolved that the Conference calls upon our political leaders and policy makers to assure our laws affirm the worth, dignity, inherent values and rights of immigrants.

There is no financial impact to the Florida Conference by adopting this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Harnish Janet Horman Clarke Campbell-Evans

Respectfully supported,

Jorge Acevedo Arleith Byer II Ethel Ewing
Nathan Adams Arleigho Byer Betty Fair
Sharlene Adams Arleigha Byer Lynnette Fields
Rebecca Adkins Andrea Byer-Thomas Felicia Fina
Jennifer Allen Patricia Caines Beth Fogle-Miller
Don R. Athearn Mark Caldwell O'Shea Forrest
Shawkika Augustin Laurence Campbell Marva Franklin
Sharon Austin Monica Campbell Beth Gardner
Noella Bailey Sally Campbell-Evans Howardene Garrett
Justin Barfield Brian Carr Dale Golden
Adia Barnes Debbie Casanzio Nancy K. Gordon
Bill Barnes Mark Charles B.B. Gould
Desiree Barnes Alex Christian Kevin Griffin
Fitzroy Barnes Shirley Clayton Robin Hager
Francine Barnes Marilyn Clugston Craig Hammond
Sophia Barrett Christa L. Collins Steve Harper
Betty Batey James C. Cook Jeannie Harper
Tony Baurichter Linda D. Cook Edgar Harris
Josh Bell Paul Cook Adam Hartnett
Brenda Benitez Peta-Ann Coombs Rinaldo Hernandez
H Parker Bennett Peter Cottrell Montana Herron
Laura L. Berg Leonie Dacres John Hill
Janet Bernhard Angela Davis Terri Hill
Glenn Bosley-Mitchell Ann Davis Matt Horan
Beth Bostrom Francis Davis Zachary Hutchinson
Jonathan Brewster Rachel DeLaune Kevin James
Bob Brown Ryan DeLaune Dan Johnson
E. Marie Brown Jad Denmark Cory Jones
Jennifer Potter Buff Shelly Denmark LeAnne Jones
Donna Jo Buhi Luc Dessieux Susan Jones
William Buhi Augustin DeSuza Juana Jordan
Marta Burke Magrey deVega Jeffrey Kantz
Resolution to Support Equality of Love and Value for Both Born and Unborn Children

1. Whereas our Lord Jesus commands us, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another (John 13:34 NRSV)," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39 NRSV), and our Lord also declares “I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; (Mat 25:35 NAS) and, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40 NRSV); and

2. Whereas as United Methodists, we believe that Christ died for all persons, (John 3:16) and our Discipline states, that, "Primary for us is the Gospel understanding that all persons are important because they are human beings created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ and not because they have merited significance." (2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, Paragraph 161, page 108); and

3. Whereas, the Bible declares that all humans are distinctively created in the image of God, (Genesis 1:27); and

4. Whereas, according to the widely respected and politically pro-choice Guttmacher Institute, in 2014 (the latest year for which full statistics are available), 75,990 women obtained abortions in the state of Florida (Guttmacher Institute, "State Facts about Abortion: Florida", available from https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-florida; accessed 29 January 2017); and

5. Whereas, our Bishop Carter has proclaimed, “A consistent ethic of hospitality would call us to welcome the unborn as the stranger.” Consistent Ethic of Hospitality: Including the Unborn in Our Inclusiveness (http://wesleyanaccent.seedbed.com/2014/01/25/bishop-ken-carter-a-consistent-ethic-of-hospitality-including-the-unborn-in-our-inclusiveness/); and

6. Whereas, the first of the General Rules our United Methodist Church is that of “Doing no harm.” http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/general-rules-of-the-methodist-church; and
7. Whereas, as The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, page 112, paragraph 161.J.) states: Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. We particularly encourage the Church, the government, and social service agencies to support and facilitate the option of adoption.

8. Whereas, as The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, page 114, paragraph 161.L.) states: Children are a gift from God to be welcomed and received.

9. Therefore, we as members of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church,
a. Recognize unborn children as our “neighbors” ((Matthew 22:39 NRSV) whom we are to love, and as “strangers” (Mat 25:35 NAS) whom we are to welcome, as “the least of these.” (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)
b. In accordance with Scripture and our United Methodist Discipline, support the belief that both born and unborn children are equally loved by God and are of equal value to God and God’s church.
c. Encourage all pregnant mothers and fathers to love their unborn children and do them no harm.

10. Be it further resolved that Florida Lifewatch, as a representative in Florida of the National Lifewatch organization (www.lifewatch.org), does support the sanctity of life with this resolution to be presented to the Florida Methodist Annual Conference for a vote by its members and through encouraging the support of local Crisis Pregnancy Centers in accordance with our Discipline that states, "We affirm and encourage the Church to assist the ministry of crisis pregnancy centers and pregnancy resource centers that compassionately help women find feasible alternatives to abortion." 2012 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, Paragraph 161.J. page 113); and

11. Be it further resolved that in the implementation and distribution of this Resolution, we do not foresee any financial impact to the Conference for this Resolution.

This motion is presented by Supply Pastor Dusty Bailey, Florida Lifewatch state coordinator, the Reverend Gene Maddox, and Jan Knight, lay member of the Florida Annual Conference.
Resolution Calling For Death Penalty Reform in Florida

"Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." (John 8:7b)

WHEREAS, the 2016 *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* states in Social Principle 164G (p. 140) that “We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that the possibility of reconciliation with Christ comes through repentance. This gift of reconciliation is offered to all individuals without exception and gives all life new dignity and sacredness. For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes.” and

WHEREAS, Jesus made it clear with His statement above in John 8:7b that no one has the moral authority to condemn a fellow human to death; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, in the love of Christ, who preached nonviolence in all human interaction, calls for an end to the death penalty in Florida and recommend that our individual churches and members support advocacy efforts toward this goal.

THIS RESOLUTION will not require financial support from the conference and will have no financial impact.

Respectfully Submitted jointly by the Prison Ministry Task force and the Conference Social Justice Committee.

Rev. Sarah Miller, Chairperson, Social Justice Committee
Rev. Steve Hart, Grace UMC Merritt Island, presenter
Abolishing the Systems of Mass Incarceration

BIBLICAL and THEOLOGICAL PREMISE

Woe to you who issue unjust laws, who write oppressive statutes, to turn aside the needy from justice, and to rob the poor of my people of their rights. (Isaiah 10:1-2a)

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captive and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. (Luke 4:18)

WHEREAS, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, which represents an annual conference within the connectional body of the United Methodist Church, as well as, Christians professing the teachings of the Prophets and Gospels, we are responsible for speaking and acting prophetically when the laws of the land are not just or fair to all communities they are intended to serve and protect; and

WHEREAS, mass incarceration across the United States has reached levels unprecedented in history, akin to “A New Jim Crow or Slavery by Another Name”, in the words of Michelle Alexander author of The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. And, it is fiscally unsustainable, totally ineffective and morally indefensible; and

- With 5% of the world’s population the United States has 25% of the world’s prisoners; from approximately 300,000 in 1970 the number of the incarcerated in prisons and jails has grown to over 2.3 million.
- Incarceration rates in the United States are by far the highest in the world; five to nine times the rates in comparable industrialized democracies (e.g., Great Britain and Germany).
- The vast majority of prisoners are poor and undereducated.
- The large majority of offenders have committed non-violent, drug related crimes (possession of marijuana still accounts for vast majority of most drug arrests).
- There is great racial and ethnic disparity in the application of justice in the United States: more than 60% of the people in prison are racial and ethnic minorities. For Black males in their thirties, 1 in every 10 is in prison or jail on any given day. These trends have been intensified by the disproportionate impact of the “war on drugs,” in which two-thirds of all persons in prison for drug offenses are people of color
- Mass incarceration has been making severe strains on state and federal budgets; for example, one-third of the budget of the Department of Justice goes to incarceration.
- “The criminal justice system in America is bizarrely horrible and weirdly tolerated,” according to the founder of the Marshall Project, “the high recidivism rate, approaching 70% in many jurisdictions, is only one indicator that the system is indeed broken.”

WHEREAS, since the 1980s, non-violent drug offenses have led to substantial sentencing of people of all races; however, punishment lodged against African Americans has been extreme. For example, the rate of drug use among White and African Americans is the same, African American men comprise 66% of the people in prison for drug use; and

WHEREAS, African American men are currently more likely to be controlled by the criminal justice system, prosecuted more often, sentenced for longer terms, often prohibited from voting, and
disqualified from serving on a jury, all the while continuing to suffer discrimination in employment, housing, and federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, people of color bear the brunt of our “criminal justice” system, no one is exempt from the problems of prosecutorial overreach, a poor public defender system, uneven sentencing, unreasonable parole practices, lack of funding for re-entry programs, and the use of prisons to house people for whom treatment for mental illness is not available; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, the link between academic failure, delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading. Reliable data indicates that 85% of juveniles who interface with the court system are functionally illiterate and 70% of inmates in prison cannot read above fourth grade reading level. Inmates who receive no reading help have a 70% chance of returning to prison; this risk reduces to 16% for those who receive such assistance; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church identifies mass incarceration as a critical human and civil rights issue in the United States because of its disparate impact on and disenfranchisement of people of color, youth, and people with limited economic resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirms its commitment to speak and act prophetically to disrupt and abolish the growing prison industrial complex in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to turn this tide of institutionalized racism and economic injustice by mass incarceration in the United States, that the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, it’s Social Justice Ministry, and local congregations are encouraged to provide opportunities for education, mobilization, public witness, and advocate for public policies that will advocate against mass incarceration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and its constituents stand firmly on the Rights of Racial and Ethnic Groups as they pertain to the statement, “historical and institutional racism provide support for white privilege, and white people, as a result of the color of their skin, are granted privileges and benefits that are unfairly denied persons of color. We define racial discrimination as the disparate treatment and lack of full access to resources and opportunities in the church and in society based on race or ethnicity. Therefore, we recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons.” (The Book of Discipline of United Methodist 2012, Social Principles).

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED this resolution will have no financial impact on the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church’s budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Harold DeSantis Lewis, Sr.
Reverend Mary L. Mitchell, CCORR
Reverend Rini Hernandez, District Superintendent
Resolution for Protecting the Right to Peacefully Address Injustice through Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions

Whereas boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) are constitutionally protected forms of free speech and protest that have often been used by people of conscience to effect positive social and political change;

Whereas a wave of anti-BDS legislation that has been proposed in the U.S. Congress and in state legislatures and public institutions across the United States threatens to penalize the use of these time-honored nonviolent justice-seeking actions;

Whereas United Methodists and other religious communities have long used the nonviolent methods of boycotts, divestment and sanctions to stand in solidarity with oppressed people and to work for justice, and such advocacy measures by the United Methodist Church have proven to be useful tools in helping to bring about a wide range of constructive social change, including the strengthening of labor rights for farm workers in the United States and ending of apartheid in South Africa;

Whereas, in 2005, after studying the success of such efforts, a broad coalition of Palestinian civil society issued a call for a global movement of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to advance the Palestinians’ long-denied rights to self-determination, freedom, justice, and equality;

Whereas, in 2009, Palestinian Christians echoed the call for boycott and divestment in their landmark document, "Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth," ~ an ecumenical confession of faith
and urgent call to action often compared to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and other Christian manifestos written in times of crisis ~ that has been signed by thousands of Palestinian Christians and endorsed by the 13 Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem;

Whereas, in recent years, more than a dozen United Methodist Annual Conferences have called for their own conference and/or the denomination to divest from companies that support and profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land;

Whereas, in 2012, the United Methodist General Conference approved the resolution "Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land," (#6111) which calls on "all nations to prohibit...the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land," i.e. calls for an international boycott of the Israeli settlements;

Whereas, in 2016, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church announced that five Israeli banks would be excluded from their investment portfolios, explicitly because of those banks’ involvement in settlement construction in the occupied Palestinian territories;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church opposes any state or federal legislation that seeks to restrict the right to address injustice through boycotts, divestment and sanctions and joins the Rabbinical Council of Jewish Voice for Peace in calling on our elected officials “to resist efforts to stifle the movement toward justice for Palestinians through the current wave of ‘anti-BDS’ legislation;”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary write a letter to the President of the United States and to the Governor of Florida, the congressional representatives and the members of the legislature of Florida (a total of 191 letters), informing those elected officials of this resolution and attaching the full text of the resolution, said letter to include the approximate number of congregations – 650 – and church members – 245,000 – within the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Conference urges all United Methodist annual conferences, congregations, and church members to contact their local, regional and national elected officials, to communicate this resolution and to advocate against anti-BDS legislation appearing anywhere in their country.

THIS RESOLUTION will not require financial support from the conference and will have no financial impact.

Respectfully Submitted by the Conference Social Justice Committee.

Mrs. Alma Manney, Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator, presenter
Rev. Beth Bostrom, Conference Social Justice Committee, presenter
Rev. Sarah B. Miller, Chairperson, Social Justice Committee
Black Lives Matter: A Movement for All United Methodists

Whereas, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, which represents an annual conference within the connectional body of the United Methodist Church and a progressive movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, prioritizes becoming a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church body that recognizes the systemic and symptomatic pathologies present and ongoing in the United States since slavery, resulting in the fact that Black men are killed by police officers four (4) times more than any other race and represent a disproportionate portion of the prison population by mass incarceration in the United States; and

Whereas, during this past quadrennium (2012 -2016) the church has been reminded of this reality by police officers killings of unarmed Black men: Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri; Eric Garner in Staten Island, New York; Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio, Samuel DuBose in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Walter Scott in North Charleston, South Carolina; among others across the country; and

Whereas, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, acknowledges that this issue is not only domestic but has become a global concern which has precipitated protest marches and demonstrations in other countries such as, Paris, France; London, England; Tokyo, Japan and Toronto, Canada; and

Whereas, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, in its pursuit to embody the Christian unity, endowed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, believes that God has called us to be a faithful, growing body of believers that demonstrate authentic community, deep Christian values, and a passion for justice (Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8); and

Whereas, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church would be obedient to Jesus, who said, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12) by declaring that Black Lives Matter: A Movement for All Methodists seeks to give value to the lives of Black men while acknowledging and remembering the murders of so many more lives that are threatened by the xenophobic rhetoric, racial and religious profiling; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, will support Black Lives Matter: A Movement for All Methodists by sharing awareness; supporting and encouraging our congregations to be safe spaces and sanctuary for peaceful protesters, participate in and host sacred conversations and dialogue on race relations and inclusion, and be spiritual allies in prayer, for God to enable the pursuit of justice through those who take a stand and lift their voices for justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, immutably joined together in the woven cord of humanity, will not ignore this opportunity to embrace the new generation of peaceful protesters, non-violent demonstrators and young leaders who come from all races creating today’s cross-cultural movement, who are victimized, socially conscious and committed to change, enabling the world to become a better place for all to live; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church will live into our mission imperative to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by
proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God’s reign and realm in the world” (United Methodist Book of Discipline 2012, paragraph 121).

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED this resolution will have no financial impact on the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church’s budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Reverend Harold DeSantis Lewis, Sr.
Reverend Mary L. Mitchell, CCORR
Reverend Rini Hernandez, District Superintendent
Reverend Sarah Miller, Social Justice Committee
Reverend Clarke-Campbell Evans, Director of the Office of Missional Engagement
Reverend Dr. Sharon Austin, Director of Conference Connectional Ministries
Reverend Dr. Geraldine McClellan, Chairperson of Florida Caucus of BMCR

Respectfully supported by,
Heidi Mareburger Aspinwall, Director, Young Adult Missional Movement
Emily R. Kvalheim, Global Mission Fellow US-2 Missionary, GBGM
Jessica Weseman, Missions Coordinator, Young Adult Missional Movement
Ruth Berlus, Young Adult Missional Movement
Combating the Erosion of Human Dignity

Whereas, a foundational tenet of Christian faith is that all people are created in the image of God, and a foundational Wesleyan belief is that prevenient grace reveals God’s love and mercy to all people; and

Whereas, the quality of human dignity is universal and inherent in all persons of every race, ethnicity, gender, religion, ability, age, status, orientation, nationality; and

Whereas, texts throughout the Old Testament impart the priority of justice through hospitality and mercy for vulnerable people. Rahab risked her life to harbor foreigners in danger.4 The prophet Zechariah conveys God’s command to “show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.”5 Inspired by God’s Spirit, this message is echoed by the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah, Zephaniah, and Malachi, who urge practices of mercy and hospitality, just as God has been merciful and hospitable to God’s people even in their wandering and transgressions; and

Whereas, in the New Testament Jesus lived as a refugee and sojourner aided by others, and in his teaching set love of neighbor and enemy6 alongside love of God. Jesus pointed the lawyer toward the Good Samaritan as an example of neighbor;7 declared the greatest commandment to be loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself;8 and proclaimed that in welcoming and offering aid to the least of these, Christ himself is welcomed, fed, clothed, sheltered, visited, and comforted;9 and

Whereas, people of faith have sought and offered refuge during times of struggle. In Matthew’s birth story of Jesus, the family facing danger flees to another country, Egypt. Throughout the Middle Ages, churches served as sanctuary for people in danger. Churches and people of faith were instrumental in protecting escaped slaves on the Underground Railroad, sheltering Jews during the Holocaust, and other efforts to give comfort and safety to those fleeing persecution and danger.

Whereas, John Wesley worked to improve the lives of people without resources: founding schools, establishing a printing press, starting a medical clinic,10 and publishing a medical primer for home use. Wesley urges the people called Methodist to balance their faith between acts of piety and acts of mercy.11 In talking about Christian perfection, Wesley cited “love governing the heart and the life, tempering our words and actions;”12 and

Whereas human dignity and societal compassion have been eroded in these and other instances:

4 Joshua 2; 6:17
5 Zechariah 7:9-10
6 Matthew 5:44
7 Luke 10:25-27
8 Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27
9 Matthew 25:44-45
10 Heitzenrater, Richard P. ‘The Poor and the People Called Methodists.’ p.34
11 Wesley’s Discourse 4
• **Rising incidence of hate crimes in the United States** (Hateful harassment increased drastically, with nearly 900 incidents across the United States in early November of 2016.\(^\text{13}\) In 2014-2015, single-incident hate crimes toward individuals and faith communities increased, with more than half motivated by race or ethnicity, over 20% by religious bias, almost 20% related to sexual orientation, and the rest linked to gender identity, disability, and gender bias.\(^\text{14}\))

• **Tense and escalating race relations** (While 60% of Blacks believe racial relations are bad, 60% of Whites believe racial relations are good.\(^\text{15}\) These opposing experiences and the greater implications affect persons of color throughout our society and systems.)

• **The normalcy of degrading language of women, their bodies and personhood** (which increases the risk for violence against women. Women’s human rights are directly tied to reduction in hunger and poverty.\(^\text{16}\)\(^\text{17}\))

• **Threat of defunding access to women’s health options** (exacerbated by additional funding restrictions limiting accessible and affordable healthcare through established organizations.)

• **Threat to quality, life-sustaining and life-saving healthcare** (directly affecting persons with disabilities, chronic illness, or the challenges of aging, as well as those with generally good health. Being aware and treating common conditions can improve quality of life and control long-term health costs.\(^\text{18}\))

• **Rising anti-immigrant sentiment** (Escalating rhetoric ignites xenophobic attitudes, and recent policy moves include potential bans of specific people groups, Federal defunding of Sanctuary Cities,\(^\text{19}\) and emphasis on deporting large numbers of undocumented immigrants. In 2014, we saw large numbers of unaccompanied children migrating to escape violence and persecution, many of whom were detained for months in ad hoc jails at the border and returned to the danger from which they sought refuge.\(^\text{20}\) The 2010 census found 38.5 million immigrants living in the U.S., or 12.5% of the population.\(^\text{21}\) Economic growth benefits from immigrant skill and labor.\(^\text{22}\)\(^\text{23}\))

Therefore, be it resolved that both individually and corporately the people and churches of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church should stand in the light of Wesleyan social holiness and historic Methodist praxis by valuing the dignity and worth of all humans through acts of hospitality, compassion, mercy and grace. Further, these acts can include speaking out about injustice and the erosion of human dignity, even calling upon those with power to act in the interest and respect of all persons created in the image of God, and being in a spirit of prayer, seeking God’s wisdom and strength to act courageously in love.

\(^\text{13}\) https://www.splcenter.org/20161129/ten-days-after-harassment-and-intimidation-aftermath-election
\(^\text{15}\) http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/06/27/key-takeaways-race-and-inequality/
\(^\text{16}\) See Bread for the World’s 2015 Hunger Report: *When Women Flourish, We Can End Hunger*.
\(^\text{17}\) ‘Violence Against Women’ World Health Organization
\(^\text{18}\) http://kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/key-medicaid-questions-post-election/
\(^\text{19}\) https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/sanctuary-cities/
\(^\text{22}\) http://www.maptheimpact.org/state/florida/
\(^\text{23}\) https://umc-gbcs.org/resolutions/welcoming-the-migrant-to-the-united-states
As followers of Christ, we will model “commitment to addressing the needs of the poor, marginalized and suffering through social and sometimes political engagement.” As such, we commit to do everything in our power to ensure that all persons are afforded their dignity and human rights.

There is no financial impact to the Florida Conference by adopting this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Mary Mitchell
Beth Potter, Social Justice Committee
Rev. Esther Rodriguez, Social Justice Committee
Rev. Beth Bostrom, Social Justice Committee
Rev. Sarah Miller, Social Justice Committee
Rev. Jad Denmark, Social Justice Committee
Rev. Lauren Dunkle Dancey
Rev. Nathan Adams
Rev. Glenn Bosley-Mitchell
Rev. Christy Holden
Rev. Matthew Williams

Rev. Janet Horman
Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans
Rev. Vicki Walker
Rev. Gary Marcelin
Rev. Audrey Warren
Rev. Sarah Campbell
Rev. Emily Knight
Rev. Dennis Lewis
Rev. Vidalis Lopez
Rev. Tracie Ashley
Rev. Michael Weaver
Rev. Latricia Scrivens
Rev. Mary Downey

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

This year we will be voting on five proposed constitutional amendments passed by the 2016 General Conference. Below is information that will help you with voting and includes when and how we will vote, who is eligible to vote, how results will be reported, and the rationale behind each of the amendments.

- **When and how will we vote on Constitutional Amendments?** Voting on the Constitutional Amendments will be Thursday afternoon – the exact time will be listed on your Pocket Agenda. A paper ballot will be given to each eligible voter. We will vote on all the amendments at one time. Ushers will collect and tally the ballots.

- **Who is eligible to vote on Constitutional Amendments?** Lay Members (yellow name badge) of the Florida Annual Conference and Florida Annual Conference Clergy Members in full connection (blue name badge): this includes deacons and elders, active and retired, as well as persons in all voluntary leave categories. After approval at the Clergy Session, persons who will be ordained at the 2017 Annual Conference are deemed in “full connection,” and are eligible to vote on the constitutional amendments. (For more information on individual voting rights please refer to pages 8-9 in this Workbook.)

- **Can we discuss and change the Constitutional Amendments?** The Constitutional Amendments may be debated, but may not be amended.

- **How will voting results on the Constitutional Amendments be announced?** Paragraph 59 (¶59) of the 2016 Book of Discipline gives responsibility for the canvass of votes and the announcement of the results to the Council of Bishops. A tally sheet will be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Council of Bishops from the Florida Annual Conference without announcing vote tallies. The vote of each annual conference is only a portion of the larger total and publicly reporting individual sections of the total vote prior to the balloting by other annual conferences could be seen as having influence or charting an early projection of the cumulative results. The official announcement will come from the Council of Bishops.

On the following page is the Rationale for each of the Proposed Constitutional Amendments that was provided by The United Methodist Church. The five Constitutional Amendments are on the pages following the rationale. Additional information is available online here: [http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/5-constitutional-amendments-head-to-vote](http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/5-constitutional-amendments-head-to-vote).
I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.

II. (¶ 4) Adding “gender” (meaning male and female) to the Constitution affirms and protects The United Methodist Church’s commitment to gender equity throughout our worldwide connection. “Gender” is the disciplinary term for fair treatment of women and men (e.g., ¶16). The addition of the proposed final clause allows gender-specific groups like United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.

III. (¶ 34) The provision in ¶ 13. Article I. 2, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences,” is unduly vague. The addition of this one sentence to paragraph 34 of The Book of Discipline helps clarify that General Conference delegates shall be elected by the body of annual conference instead of simply being appointed by the bishop. Bishops appointing delegates without delegates being properly elected has been a practice in some central conferences.

IV. (¶ 46) As is the case for the jurisdictions, episcopal elections in the central conferences should be held in the regular sessions of those conferences, except when unexpected vacancies occur because of the death or early retirement of one or more bishops.

V. (¶ 50) Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work, referencing ¶ 50 of the Constitution. This legislation follows Judicial Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from General Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide oversight of its members.
2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of women’s and girl’s equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 509 Yes, 242 No (Calendar Item 429, DCA p. 2212). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, ¶4, Article IV, amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “all persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition”. After “because of race, color, national origin,” delete “status,” and add “ability”. At the end of the paragraph, add “nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 would read:
The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 767 Yes, 22 No (Calendar Item 111, DCA pp. 2105). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III, (2016 Book of Discipline, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, Article III) amend by addition as follows:

After the first sentence, add, “Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 would read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

AND

[226]
Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

On May 20, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 621 Yes, 15 No (Calendar Item 468, DCA p. 2217). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division Three, ¶ 46, Article I, amend by addition, as follows:

To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 would read:

The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

AND

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V

On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes, 79 No (Calendar Item 446, DCA p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division Three, ¶ 50, Article VI, amend by addition, as follows:

After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 would read:

The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by
the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop
elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the
central conference electing him shall have determined.94

The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to
consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of
the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops,
pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional
conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its
constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the
bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference.

These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of
provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their
work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.
GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE

“Try on”
It’s okay to disagree
It is not okay to blame, shame, or attack, self or others
Practice “self-focus”
Practice “both/and” thinking
Notice both process and impact
Be aware of intent and impact
Confidentiality

Guías:

Mantenga la mente abierta a nuevas ideas
Está bien no estar de acuerdo…
…pero no está bien atacar o culpar a otros o a sí mismo
Practique el enfoque en sí mismo
Practique el pensamiento de “con/y”
Preste atención al proceso y al contenido
Esté consciente de la intención vs. el impacto de sus acciones
Mantenga la confidencialidad

다문화간 효과적인 대화 가이드라인

"시도해보기"
동의하지 않아도 괜찮습니다.
자신 또는 다른 사람들 비난하거나 부끄러워하거나 공격하지 마십시오.
"자기 먼저 보기" 실천하기
"둘다/그리고" 사고를 실천하기
과정과 영향 둘 다 알리기
의도와 영향을 알고 있기
비밀유지
Regleman pou youn bwasaj kiltirel efikas:

Esaye
Li ok pou’n pa dako
Li pa ok pouw blanmen, fe wont, oswa atake pwop tet ou zot
Toujou gade pwop tet ou
Pratike “tou le de/ ak” panse
Remake tou le de “pwosesis ak enpak”
Fe atansyon ak lentansyon e enpak
Konfidansyalite

Правила эффективного межнационального общения:

Будьте открыты новым идеям
Уважайте чужое мнение
Обвинения, унижения или оскорбления в свой или чужой адрес недопустимы
Учитесь самообладанию
Стремитесь согласовывать свое мнение с мнением других
Обращайте внимание на действия и их влияние
Следите за намерениями и их последствиями
Сохраняйте конфиденциальность

Mga pangpatnubay:

Subukin.
Ayos na hindi sumang ayon.
Hindi ayos ang sisihin, hiyain, o saktan ang loob ng ibang tao.
Mag sanay ng tumuon sa sarili.
Mag sanay ng “pareho/at” pagiisip.
Pansining pareho ang proseso at impakto.
Kamalayan ang layunin at impakto.
Pagka-kumpidensiyal
Religious Organization Services:

- Audit and Assurance
- Preparations and compilations of financial statements
- Tax Services for ministers and others
- Litigation Support

- Audits of Churches
- Cybersecurity and Forensics Services
- Managed IT Services
- Managed Communications

Let us do what we do best so you can do what you’re called to do!

Stop by our booth so we can get to know you.
STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN  
THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
AND  
THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME, INC.  

PREAMBLE  
The United Methodist Church has a history of Christian responsibility for service to people through the arm of its social welfare agencies, as evidenced in the ministry of this Home.  

Since its founding in 1908 by the Florida Methodist Conference, three central values have driven this ministry:  

1. God in Jesus Christ proclaims that every human being is of infinite value in God’s sight; and therefore, those who know God respect the value of every person.  

2. It is the plan of God’s creation that human life come forth and receive nurture in families.  

3. Children need an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and guidance that they may come to know God’s purpose and joy.  

Out of these values arise our mission and the cooperative ministry between this Home and the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.  

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME  
MISSION STATEMENT  
To empower children and families to experience God’s love and care as revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ.  

VALUES STATEMENT  
To be a place where children are safe and loved; where youth are given the opportunity to be healthy, self-sufficient adults; where families become strong; and where every person is treated as a unique creation of God.  

PROGRAM STATEMENT  
The Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, Inc., an agency of the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, provides Christian nurture to troubled and/or dependent children, youth, and their families through a variety of ministries. Such facilities and programs include family life education, counseling, child and family advocacy programs, spiritual life programs, music, health and physical fitness, education, vocational, foster family services, career development, an Early Childhood Education and Development Program designed to serve families, independent living, higher education, and other therapeutic activities, to the end
that the worth of the individual shall be affirmed, families shall be assured, and God shall be
worshipped and served in our time.

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

"Here we propose, by the help of God and the cooperation of all good people, to found a noble
institution for the relief, education and training of destitute, fatherless and motherless children,
who may look to us for help." (From 1908 Journal Florida Annual Conference). Thus began the
Florida United Methodist Children's Home. With the creation of The United Methodist Church, in
union with the Sarah Hunt Home, came the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.,
whose not-for-profit 501©(3) corporate office is located at 51 Children's Way, Enterprise,
(Volusia County) Florida.

With such a heritage blessed by God, and faithfully supported by God’s people, we now seek to
clarify and strengthen the relationship between the Florida United Methodist Children's Home,
Inc. and the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church agrees to:

1. receive nominations and elect members to the Board of Trustees of the Children’s Home,
in keeping with the charter and by-laws of the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home;
2. continue to provide benevolent support to the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home
through channels such as the Fifth Sunday and Christmas offerings, encouraging its
people to make special gifts, and be supportive of the Home’s programs of planned
giving;
3. make available opportunities and resources for financial support, in keeping with the
policies of the Council on Finance and Administration and in offering Florida United
Methodist Foundation, Inc. assistance with planned giving;
4. permit the Florida United Methodist Children's Home to use elements of the name and
logo of The United Methodist Church and/or the Annual Conference, including a
reference to the relationship;
5. cooperate with the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home in furthering the promotion
and interpretation of the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home’s mission and
programs;
6. communicate with the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home any changes in the rules
and actions of the Annual Conference and of the General Conference which may affect
the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home;
7. receive an annual audited financial report from the Florida United Methodist Children’s
Home;
8. maintain for its own benefit liability insurance against direct human service liability.

The Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, Inc., agrees to:

1. continue its tradition of offering quality services to children, youth, and families, to
develop innovative concepts to help with their changing needs with guidance from the
Social Principles of The United Methodist Church;
2. submit an annual audited financial report to the Annual Conference;
3. advise the Annual Conference of any major changes in program or direction;
4. follow guidelines as approved by the Annual Conference, in matters of funding;
5. maintain membership in the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries;
6. maintain EAGLE accreditation as an independent affirmation of a quality, faith-based ministry;
7. submit to the Annual Conference for approval any changes in the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home’s Articles of Incorporation;
8. furnish an annual report to the Annual Conference;
9. provide ex-officio membership on the Board of Trustees for the following: the Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference; the District Superintendents of the districts in which the campuses of the Home are located,
10. maintain for its own benefit liability insurance against direct human service liability.

Neither the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, Inc., nor the Annual Conference, accepts any legal or financial responsibility for the operations of the other. The Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, Inc. and the Annual Conference mutually agree to hold each other harmless for any liabilities arising out of their relationship.

This Statement of Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at least once during each quadrennium.

By action of the Board of Trustees of the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, Inc., meeting on March 7, 2017.

____________________  Signed_______________________________________
Date                  Charles Lever, Board Chair

By action of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in session in Orlando, Florida, June 8-10, 2017.

____________________  Signed_______________________________________
Date                  Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.