

#### 400.01 - Historic Report – Annual Conference Shepherding Team

In June of 2019 the Annual Conference Shepherding Team presented three strategic goals to the session based on the work that was done throughout the previous conference year. The goals approved by the session were:

##### **Making Disciples: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ**

- by encouraging individuals in the life-long practice of developing and strengthening a personal relationship with God.
- by supporting congregations in fostering discipleship in all their ministries and
- by sharing the Good News with people who do not know Jesus.

##### **Working Against Racism: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching**

- by encouraging individuals to engage in ongoing self-reflection, cross-cultural sharing and growth.
- by challenging the structures, practices and policies of the NIC and instituting necessary changes to ensure equity; and
- by educating and equipping congregations, districts, and the NIC to be prophetic leaders pursuing equity in society.

##### **Creating Vital Congregations: To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations**

- by actively and intentionally practicing stewardship of the NIC's ministry resources.
- by conducting a comprehensive assessment of ministry resources and the future potential of every congregation; and
- by creating and executing a plan with each congregation in collaboration with the district.

During the summer of 2019 three Task Forces were formed to work on implementation and execution of the goals. The task forces have set goals and benchmarks for their work and meet frequently (in many cases every two weeks) as they dedicate their energy to bringing the goal alive in the midst of the conference.

Helen Chang continues to serve as consultant in this work bringing valuable skills to the planning. In addition, in the fall of 2019 Amania Drane was contracted as a Project Manager, shepherding the work of the Discipleship and Anti-Racism Teams, while the Director of Connectional Ministries Reverend Arlene Christopherson works with Vital Congregations as their Project Manager.

The Discipleship Task Force has launched a Meme context for youth and young adults called "What Jesus Memes to Me", created a daily prayer post for the conference and set a goal of 20% of NIC churches developing their own Discipleship System by the end of the calendar year.

The Anti-Racism Task Force has a goal of providing training and awareness opportunities for youth and young adults beginning with a focus on Anti-Racism for the upcoming high school Plumb Line Tour, engaging in training with at least 15% of our worshipping adults in our churches by the end of 2020 and providing clergy training across the conference.

The Vital Congregations Team has created a tool to measure financial sustainability and congregational vitality. They are organizing resources for churches according to their sustainability scores and will recruit Early Adaptor Churches to launch the initiative in the summer/fall of 2020.

As the co-chairs of the Annual Conference Shepherding Team we are excited about the creative, hard work being done to bring these goals into every church across the conference. We are planning a gathering for all the district Shepherding teams along with the Conference Shepherding Teams and the Task Force members to continue connecting the work of the taskforces with the role of the District Shepherding Teams.

Through God's guidance and the energy of many dedicated volunteers we are well on our way in the implementation of our three strategic goals.

In Christ Service,

Elizabeth Gracie and Rev. Myron McCoy, Co-Chairs, ACST

#### 400.02 - Historic Report - Board of Laity

We remind all that the purpose of the Board of Laity is to prepare and encourage all people in a life of Christian discipleship. To that end, we worked

- To provide support and direction for the ministry of the Laity on the Local, District and Conference levels
- To promote the observation of Laity Sunday
- To be a Connection between the Conference, District, and Local Church
- To focus on Building Relationship with District and Local Church Leaders
- To provide for the Training of Local Church Leaders, Local Church Lay Leaders, and Lay Members of the Annual Conference
- To develop and Promote Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Possessions

To that end, the Board of Laity, through our district lay leaders, were active in the planning and leadership training of the district level Leadership Training events 2019. These training events provided a wide variety of learning opportunities for the laity of our districts especially to equip and empower them to be leaders in their local churches.

Lay Servant Academies are active in each of our districts providing training to increase knowledge and understanding on the history and polity of the United Methodist Church, prayer, preaching, and conflict resolution to name a few. Peggy Hansen, NIC Lay Servant Director, has introduced the opportunity for lay people to become Certified Lay Ministers. There are a number of laity in training with three having become Certified Lay Ministers.

Presidents of United Methodist Men and Women, George Groves and Lois Moreland-Dean, are members of the Board of Laity and have actively led their groups in leadership development and spiritual formation.

Your Co-Conference Lay Leaders, Jessie Cunningham, Elisa Gatz, and Mark Manzi have represented the laity of the NIC by serving on the Episcopacy Committee, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Nominations Committee, Annual Conference

Committee, Annual Conference Shepherding Team, and Exploratory Team. Above and beyond, Jessie Cunningham represented the Northern Illinois Conference at the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders (AACLL) in 2019 which is a three-day conference of all Conference Lay Leaders.

The Board of Laity's signature event is Laity Convocation. We were pleased to present "Knowing Our Way: Turning the Tide" with Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, director of the Missional Church Consultation Initiative in the West Ohio Conference of the UMC. She is the author of *Floodgates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church* and has a passion for Breakthrough Prayer. Her focus is using the power of prayer as a way to shift a church's culture to ubiquitous discipleship and diagnosing and releasing "log jams" that have immobilized congregations. Rev. Sue also led a breakout session continuing her focus on "Breakthrough Prayer." Elisa Gatz also led a breakout session that gave us more information on the "Way Forward" and what might be happening at General Conference 2020.

Jessie Cunningham, Elisa Gatz, Mark Manzi  
Co-Conference Lay Leaders

#### 400.03 - Historic Report - Office of Connectional Ministry

The vision of the Northern Illinois Conference is "Making and supporting vital Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy." At the conference level we strive to do what the local church cannot do alone. As I write this report, during the COVID 19 pandemic, our annual conference is focused on supporting our pastors and resourcing our churches so the local church can be the ministry center in all our communities.

The work of the Director of Connectional Ministries is designed to integrate the vision of the conference into the work of all areas, supporting our programming, and connecting our conference administrative team and our ministries with one another. In doing this we link our conference to the work of the wider church through general church boards, agencies, commissions and committees. It is also through the connectional ministries office that we devote a significant amount of time and staff resources to supporting our Annual Conference Committee in coordinating the work of design and implementation for the Annual Conference Session.

With the consolidation of district support staff, we are now growing a team that can become more integrated into the overall work of the conference, her churches and the ministry. With goals of better branding and more comprehensive and strategic communication, we are forging forward. In March we launched the first ever coordinated effort to have bi-weekly newsletters distributed to district leadership. District Administrative Assistants and

communication staff as well as our event planner are working in tandem to maximize the quality of our programs and ministry.

I am also grateful that we were able to use staff funds from a previous unfilled position to engage a Project Manager to assist with the work of our strategic goals. Amania Drane came on board in the fall of 2019 and is working closely with the Discipleship and Anti-Racism Task Force while I continue to staff the Vital Congregations Task Force as their Project Manager.

The year has been intense as we lived with the fallout of the GC2019 Special Session and devised ways to inform, resource and support our clergy and congregations in this liminal time. 2020 has proven to be no less driven by the work of communication and preparation for the unknowns of the GC2020 this year.

Through all these challenges I am immensely grateful for a dedicated and talented staff. The connectional ministries staff is a small but essential part of the ongoing work of the conference.

Anne Marie Gerhardt serves as our Director of Communications. Now in her 9th year, Anne Marie continues to produce print media, weekly electronic communications, Facebook and tweets all while also managing our website and adapting to new ways of telling the story.

The support staff includes Laura Lopez, Events Manager who manages many of the events at the conference and district level, including the annual conference session. Diane Strzelecki serves as Communications Specialist and works with much of our print and other media, including the production of the Journal, Directory, District e-news, promotional materials and technology.

With the consolidation of Administrative Staff supporting the District Superintendents the role of the Director of Connectional Ministries has expanded to include coordination/supervision for these persons. We are excited about the work of Leola Tucker and Debbie Rogers who are filling these roles.

The conference also owns two camps; Wesley Woods located in Williams Bay, Wisconsin and Reynolds Woods in Dixon, Illinois. Jeff Casey is our Director of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries. He has worked diligently on upgrading, marketing and balancing the camping budgets so they can move toward self-sufficiency in their operations. The camps were hit by a number of storms and challenges in recent years and these aging properties have benefited from the dedication Jeff brings to his work.

Rev. Martin Lee (whose report appears elsewhere) also works closely with the office of connectional ministries on leadership development and shares the support of the office staff for his work.

A significant witness to our mission can be found in the work of our campus ministries. Two of our ministries are ecumenical: University Christian Ministry at Northwestern led by Rev. Julie Windsor-Mitchell and the Inclusive Collective at University of Illinois Circle, led by Rev. Rich Havard. We continue to support a campus ministry position with North Central College through Rev. Eric Doolittle and celebrate the work of Rev. Woo Min Park who has worked to reestablish the UM campus presence at the University of Chicago. We welcomed Kaitlyn Frantz who is now serving as the campus minister at Northern Illinois University in collaboration with the work of the Inclusive Collective as a new model for our work.

The 2020-2021 conference year will bring new challenges as we anticipate the work of general conference, welcome a new bishop and continue to live out our strategic goals. May God grant us grace in all that we face.

In Service,

Reverend Arlene W. Christopherson

Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministry

#### 400.04 - Historic Report - Program Ministries

Program Ministries is an overarching identity for the work of missions, social justice, faith formation and age level ministries, and camping and campus ministries in the Northern Illinois Conference. There are over 50 committees, boards, and task forces active in the NIC. Program Ministries also collaborates with the Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment on the work of resourcing, training and leadership development for laity and clergy.

Our current ministries are centered on three major areas designed in 2018 to comprise the program ministries focus.

#### **Age Level Ministries includes:**

Education Work Area, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Council on Older Adult Ministries, Council on Young Adult Ministries, Council on Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, and Board of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries.

#### **Church Development and Revitalization includes:**

Congregational Development and Redevelopment, Evangelism Work Area, Spiritual Formation Work Area, Worship Work Area, Committee on Accessibility Ministries, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SBC 21) and the Latino/Hispanic Ministry Team.

#### **Justice and Mercy Ministries includes:**

Board of Church and Society, Board of Global Ministries, Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations, Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Committee on Native American Ministries, and Committee on Restorative and Transformative Justice.

These ministries are represented at the Annual Conference Shepherding Team table by connectors: Meg Park (Age Level Ministries), Laura Wilson Underwood (Church Development and Revitalization) and Mary Rawlinson (Justice and Mercy Ministries). This winter Meg Park offered her resignation from this role in order to pursue a new career. The nominations committee will work through the process laid out in the standing rules to recruit a replacement for the age level ministries connection.

The Program Ministry team also administers several grant programs in cooperation with the various ministry areas. In 2019 the grants were aligned with a single deadline and grant form

for a friendlier approach to utilizing these funds. The response was positive, and this process will continue in 2020.

As we become more focused around our strategic goals: making disciples, working against racism and creating vital congregations, the program ministries of the conference have also worked on their alignment in these areas. This alignment includes both budgets and actions. During the budget process for 2020 committees were asked to reflect on how their areas would address the conference's three strategic goals. As we better form the goals in the 2020-year, committees will better able to claim their links to our overall focus.

In order to shift resources from existing ministries toward the strategic goals while also accounting for a decrease in funding of \$126,000 for 2020, 14 program ministries that had been inactive for more than a year were eliminated from the budget and almost every budget request - large or small was decreased.

We anticipate more work on program ministries alignment through the Annual Conference Shepherding Team in 2021.

With thanksgiving for our leaders,  
Reverend Arlene W. Christopherson

#### 400.05 - Cabinet Historical Report

The work of the Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet continues to move forward with our goal to continue to practice adaptive leadership while dealing with an ever-changing landscape. We have done this and are doing this under the leadership of Bishop Sally Dyck whose retirement in 2020 will leave a big hole within the Conference. The Cabinet wants to take this opportunity to share our gratitude for Bishop Dyck's consistency, her wisdom, her ability to see beyond the status quo, her adaptability, and her great love of the Church. We pray for the continual use of her gifts as she enjoys retirement.

This past year has been filled with many changes. Bishop Dyck, in her wisdom and insightfulness, brought to the Cabinet Table two dynamic leaders as District Superintendents: Rev. Brian Gilbert (DeKalb) and Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer (Rockford). These choices have rounded out the Table quite well as we face changes and challenges. Besides the two new DS's, the Table includes Rev. Jeffry Bross (Aurora), Rev. Jacques A. Conway (Chicago Southern), Rev. Brittany Isaac (Chicago Northwestern), Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath (Elgin), Rev. Arlene Christopherson (Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministries), and Rev. Martin Lee (Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment), and, of course, Bishop Sally Dyck. We said goodbye to Rev. Young-Mee Park who was appointed to the Hinsdale UMC and Rev. Lisa Kruse-Safford who was appointed to First UMC (Crystal Lake). Both of these beloved District Superintendents are owed our sincere gratitude for their service to the Northern Illinois Annual Conference and their respective Districts; they were true blessings to the Table.

The work and ministry of the Cabinet is serious business and we honor it as such through our diligence, our prayerfulness, our strategic planning, our challenging of one another, our encouraging of growth in one another, and our playfulness and joy of serving together. The work and ministry is done within our consistent and thought-provoking Cabinet meetings, a Summer Retreat where we do year-long strategic planning, study a book on leadership, and special events that might unfold. We operate under adaptive leadership because change is inevitable, yet ministry must continue as “we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

In this past year the Cabinet continued to work closely with the Annual Conference Shepherding Team in order to present the Three Strategic Goals of the Annual Conference which were voted and approved at Annual Conference 2019. They are as follows:

1. **To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ.**
2. **To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is incompatible with Christian Teaching.**
3. **To increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations.**

Three Task Force Teams were created in order to help champion these goals so that they can be fully realized. These strategic goals were the main focus of each Church Conference to show the importance of these goal for the future of the Northern Illinois Conference.

The District Trainings that were held in each district focused on these strategic goals in order to teach, train, and emphasize the seriousness of these goals for every congregation. District Shepherding Teams are working closely with the District Superintendents, and meeting, at times, with the Annual Conference Shepherding Team to make sure that everyone is on the same visionary and strategic page. With these goals in mind, it is our hope to continue to resource our churches, whether they are thriving, surviving or struggling. Financial difficulties have made this somewhat difficult, but with the Lord’s help, strategic planning, and financial diligence, we will move ahead. We will look at our resources, and allocate them with in ways that will make the Annual Conference stronger.

After the 2019 Annual Conference, the Bishop and Cabinet began the cycle of Summer Interviews with the Clergy in each District. This is the period of one-on-one conversations where Clergy meet with their District Superintendent, using evaluations that have been secured from clergy and SPRC teams, strategic planning, general conversations, and encouragement. This helps us to strengthen the Annual Conference by equipping clergy so that they can better equip their churches, as well as grow personally and professionally. We moved from Summer Interviews into our Fall Church Conferences where District Superintendents have the pleasure of meeting with Staff Parish Relations Committees to dialogue about Pastors and their ministry to the congregation. We understand that Clergy and Laity are important resources. Laity has the opportunity to share their ministries as well as engage in “Holy Conferencing” within the Church Conference.

January 2020 began the period of Appointment making, which is one of the most sacred components of our work together. We work as a team blessed through prayer, conversation, strategic analysis and discernment from the Holy Spirit to bring together Pastors and

Congregations for the work of making disciples. This process involves “Open to Move” interviews with clergy who have expressed the desire to be open to a different appointment. This involves these clergy meeting with two members of the Cabinet for strategic conversation about their desires, circumstances, and stories. It also involves clergy and church profiles to help match gifts, talents and graces. Appointment making is not an easy task due to a number of circumstances, but it is a fulfilling one.

With the closing of the Aurora/Elgin and DeKalb/Rockford Regional Offices, and the loss of the two Regional Administrative Assistants: Mrs. Betsy Smith and Pastor Natarsha Gardner, we ended an era. With the retaining of Administrative Assistant Debra Rogers and the hiring of Administrative Assistant Leola Tucker, the Downtown Office is centralized; the move to have District Superintendents fully mobile using more technology to do the work of Missional Strategists has been completed. Change is upon us, and we must use the tools of adaptive leadership that we have learned and continue to learn to be better in spite of all the change and challenges the Annual Conference and the Denomination faces.

Another one of those changes will be the restructuring of the Annual Conference from Six Districts to Five Districts, and the elimination of one District Superintendent as we continue to look for ways to become more financially responsible. This will involve having conversations around the Conference with the various partnering groups for their input. The Cabinet is partnering with the Annual Conference Shepherding Team and the Council on Finance and Administration to present this resolution to Annual Conference 2020.

An unexpected change with COVID-19 has pushed back a lot of decisions for us, like General Conference 2020 and the proposed plans for inclusion, and the direction of The United Methodist Church. COVID-19 has pushed us into a New Reality, where ZOOM has become a new tool for being the Church. Different technological tools are now being utilized for our Worship Experiences, yet in the midst of it all, we are still the Church being transformed and transforming. This pandemic has truly proved that “We Are (people) the Church,” and not the buildings. We will gather again as the body of Christ within our physical buildings, but our way of being the church should never be the same. We will be forever changed, and hopefully for the better!

It is my joy to serve as the Dean of this very fine Cabinet under the leadership of Bishop Sally Dyck. May we all continue to fulfill the call of God upon our lives!

Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath (2019-2020 Dean)

#### 400.06 - NIC Council on Finance and Administration Historical Report

2019 was a difficult year for our denomination as well as many of our local churches. The Special Session of General Conference in February 2019 resulted in many of our churches losing members and along with that significant financial contributions. This has been true regardless



of your personal or church's feelings about the Traditional Plan. Additionally, we are in a climate where many of our churches are struggling financially.

We too have struggled as a conference, and that struggle is not new, but has been more pronounced the last couple of years. We gone from \$7-7.5 million per year in apportionment receipts at the turn of the century, to \$6-6.5 million a decade later, and we were at just over \$5.5 million in 2018.

In 2019, we received conference apportionments of \$4,698,474 and general church apportionments of \$266,315, which results in total apportionments received of \$4,964,789. Although we once again had a record low of apportionment receipts, 165 of our 360+ churches paid 100% of their conference apportionment. In January 2020, CCFA also voted to send an additional approximately \$360,000 of conference receipts to pay general church apportionments. As a result, our total payment towards general church apportionments was \$624,441, which is only 37.4% of our total general church apportionments. It remains clear to CCFA that local churches are struggling with declining membership and giving, maintenance issues, and connectionism. In order to shore up apportionment receipts and support local churches in their challenges, CCFA has granted approximately \$500,000 in apportionment appeals to 35 local churches.

In March 2019, CCFA made changes to our apportionment billing statements and began itemizing the general church apportionment separately, in order to adapt to the difficult decisions resulting from the Special Session of General Conference. In an attempt to be more green and reduce costs in 2019, we also changed to emailing apportionment statements instead of mailing them, which resulted in some people not receiving their bills. As mentioned at our Special Session of the Annual Conference, we apologize that these changes were not communicated more clearly and for any confusion that they caused.

Last year at Annual Conference legislation was passed to suspend payments for 2019 to the General Administration Fund (one of the seven General Church apportionment funds) with a proposal for any continued suspension to be presented at the Special Session. At the Special Session in November, we reported that with the investigation into voter fraud and agreed upon changes to voting practices, that CCFA felt that we should in good faith resume contributions in 2020. The General Administration Fund was added to apportionment billing statements starting in 2020, and payments by local churches towards the General Administration Fund are being forwarded appropriately.

In light of our difficult financial reality this year, CCFA presented a 2020 budget at the Special Session which included a reduction in annual conference spending. We are also presenting along with the Cabinet, legislation that would reduce the number of districts in 2021, which will allow us to further reduce spending in 2021. The 2021 budget will be presented at a Special Session of Annual Conference after the legislation regarding the reduction in districts is decided. We hope this can help address the difficult financial circumstances that our churches and annual conference face.

With the reduction in the 2020 budget and change in our apportionment billing to itemizing separately conference and general church apportionments, CCFA felt it was important to also adjust our apportionment formula to reflect these changes. As a result, CCFA proposed a new apportionment formula that separated the calculation of conference and general church apportionments and reduced the expense percentage from 14% to 12%. Although this new formula reduced the total apportionment billed by \$300,000, there were local churches that experienced an increase in the total apportionment instead of a decrease. We apologize that our transition to the new formula was not as smooth as we anticipated for all local churches, and we were able to resolve the issue with many churches through our apportionment appeals process.

Our 2018 financial audit was completed in July 2019, which occurred after our standard time due to several new accounting standards for non-profits that resulted in additional work and an additional schedule. We also requested credit card sampling to be included in our audit, and as a result received a management letter that outlines additional internal controls to be implemented. We have implemented many of the suggested controls and will continue working to ensure we have proper internal controls for conference credit cards. In late 2018 we disputed billing received from several subcontractors. We were able to resolve the issue with one subcontractor, but after several attempts were unable to resolve the remaining issues. In 2019 litigation was initiated against the Annual Conference and our Treasurer, and we have retained counsel through our insurance company and are continuing to represent the financial interests of the conference.

CCFA is responsible for supervising and evaluating the Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrator Services. CCFA is also responsible for nominating the Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services every quadrennium. After conducting a review that involved input from the leaders in the T/DAS's areas of responsibility, CCFA voted to nominate our current Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, Lonnie Chafin, as our Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services for the next quadrennium.

The Red Door Fund was created by the annual conference in 2012 to provide financing to local churches. We celebrate the first church to pay-off their loan is Clair Christian UMC of Chicago's west side. Red Door was able to extend additional credit to Clair Christian to help them replace their air conditioner when it needed to be replaced. Clair made an additional payment of \$60 every month and completed their retirement of mortgage debt early. We celebrate their success. Other churches have also fully repaid their loans with Red Door are Elgin: El Mesias, Ottawa: Epworth, Naperville: Wesley, and Mokena. All the remaining churches are current on their payments.

CCFA continues to be grateful for the support of local churches in carrying our vital ministry across Northern Illinois and seeks to be the best stewards possible of our resources.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*CCFA Executive Team*

Stephanie Uhl, President; Rev. Tammy Scott, Vice-President; Rev. Luis F. Reyes, Secretary;  
Lonnie Chafin, Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services

#### 400.07 - 2019 Historic Report - NIC Committee on Lay Servant Ministries

Traditionally, the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries is comprised of the director of Lay Servant Ministries from each district and the dean of the district lay academy from those districts that have one and chaired by the Conference Director. This year two at-large persons were added one representing the Certified Lay Minister community and another representing the Lay Missioner community, both significant new communities being served by this committee.

During 2019, 12 Lay Academies were conducted by the district committees. They offered a total of 60 courses with 359 laity participating including 40 "first timers"! The districts continue to offer Basic and Heritage, the required courses for persons to become Certified Lay Servants.

Advanced courses covering the following topics are offered to prepare persons to become Certified Lay Speakers: leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching and polity.

Advanced courses are periodically offered that can further the knowledge or faith journey of our laity, such as: "Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition", "Class Leaders: Recovering a Tradition", "Transforming Evangelism", "Justice in Everyday Life", "A Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers", "Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders", "Leading Missional Small Groups", "Lay Pastoral Care Giving", "Leading Bible Study", "Lay Servants Lead in Conflict Resolution", "Dancing with Words", "Aging and Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", "Afire with God, Lead in Stewardship", and "Teach Adults".

Beginning in 2020 new courses will be offered: "Connectional Living and Connectional Giving", "Campus Ministry: Empowering Congregations to Support Students at Colleges and Universities", "Opening Ourselves to Grace: Basic Christian Practices" and "Discipleship Begins with Relationship: Creating a Spiritual Growth Plan to See All the People".

During 2019 the Northern Illinois Conference fully implemented the Certified Lay Minister (CLM) program. Initially, five persons were certified by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries after completing the required coursework on-line through BeADisciple and obtaining the recommendations of their local pastors, district superintendent, and the district committee on ordained ministry (dcom). Three of these people served congregations during 2019 and two continue into 2020. One of the CLMs is currently attending college out-of-state and the other serves as a volunteer chaplain at a local hospital.

The initial Conference Academy for Certified Lay Ministers was held between June 22<sup>nd</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>. There were 11 full-day sessions covering the four modules with 16 participants. By December 31<sup>st</sup>, 8 of the participants had completed the process and were certified by the Conference Committee as Certified Lay Ministers. At least six of the remaining participants are nearing completion of the certification process. The new CLMs are being called to be in ministry in local congregations, in community outreach programs and throughout the districts and conference.

Plans are underway for the districts to begin hosting informational meetings to begin vetting additional candidates for the CLM program, including in Spanish for our Lay Missioners. Future Conference Lay Academies for CLMs will move a little slower and take longer so candidates aren't pushed and stressed to finish since the in-person approach is the preferred manner of completing the required coursework. 2019 was a learning year for

everyone involved in the process and the members of the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries wishes to thank everyone that contributed to the successful implementation of this critical program.

Submitted by Peggy Hansen, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries

#### 400.08 - 2019-2020 Historical Report - Congregational Development and Redevelopment Committee

The submission of this Historical Report is being completed on a world-wide pandemic reality that none of us were prepared for or have ever experienced. The deadline of April 1 comes on the heels of a mandate from our Governor to extend the *stay in place* directive for an additional month. With this in mind, we have not ceased from *doing all the good we can* to support laity and clergy in their work of *making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. We celebrate the fine leadership we have from Bishop Dyck and the Cabinet along with leadership across the denomination. Prior to this pandemic, we already were treading through uncharted waters with decisions that evolved out of the February Special Session of the General Conference. That event has had its impact upon our denomination as well as the work of the NIC Congregational Development and Redevelopment Committee. We have been trying to “Stay Calm, Stay Connected, and Stay the Course” (*Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger) in our work for congregational development. our purpose is to do our part to fulfill the Annual Conference Shepherding Team’s three strategic goals.

#### **Goal 1: To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ**

One of the most effective tools to reach more people, young people, and diverse people is planting new faith communities (NFC). This year we celebrated the chartering of two congregations. On Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 12, 2019, Itasca: **The Center United Methodist Church** was chartered. The process took two years, one of the fastest chartering processes in our annual conference. With the leadership of Rev. Robert Butler and his wife Diane, more than 120 people are actively involved in the life of the new congregation. In addition, on Pentecost, June 9, 2019, **Cristiana Emerge Mission United Methodist Church** in Belvidere was chartered. Church planter Cristobal Ramirez started this new faith community in 2013 with his wife Melissa and their baby. Today they average more than 140 people at worship each Sunday. More than half of the attendees are children and youth.

In the fall, 360 people participated in the **Intentional Discipleship System** events at six locations around the annual conference. Participants were greatly encouraged





and received practical tools to implement in their church settings. The follow-up event is planned for March 2020.

### **Goal 2: To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching**

ICD (Institute for Congregational Development) 2.0: The **Purple Cow group** has been intentionally visiting Southside African American churches as well as a small rural town (pop. 300) to experience a variety of cultural settings as they hold one another accountable. Participants are a covenant group of clergy with diverse racial backgrounds. The Purple Cow group is a safe place to talk about racial concerns as well as how to become a Christlike servant.



### **Goal 3: To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregations**

By God's help, the Purple Cow group member's churches were able to pay 100% apportionment in 2018. The group had a luncheon meeting with Bishop Sally Dyck to celebrate these and other wins.

On October 17, we hosted the **"Canoeing the Mountains"** seminar facilitated by Dr. Tod Bolsinger, with 120 people participating. All attendees received a practical tool to use in each different missional context. NIC also held the **Fresh Expressions: Dinner Church** event in September. This was the first event facilitated by the U.S. Fresh Expressions office that was conducted in Spanish. There were 86 people who participated, including eight people from the Michigan and Indiana Conferences.



May we continue to thrive in our mission as the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in a way that keeps the focus of effort on serving the **MISSION**, expressing our **CONVICTIONS**, and staying in **RELATIONSHIP**. Thanks be to God!

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. Cecelia Harris, Chairperson of the Congregational Development and Redevelopment Committee

Rev. J. Martin Lee, Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment

#### 400.09 - 2019 Historical Report - The Northern Illinois Conference Status and Role of Women

The purpose of the NIC Commission on the Status and Role of Women shall be to challenge The United Methodist Church, including its general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures, to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the church, sharing fully in the power and in the policy making at all levels of the church's life.

We will continue to raise awareness, preventing sexual misconduct, promoting healthy boundaries, and bringing about justice and healing. The United Methodist Church believes sexual misconduct within ministerial relationships represents an exploitation of power and is a betrayal of sacred trust. The United Methodist defines sexual misconduct as a continuum of behaviors that includes sexual harassment which is the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.

June 2-4, 2019 our Annual Conference celebrated its 180th Session at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. We had a display table in the display area with great resources on display and someone was always at the table to give out information or answer questions. Additionally, we attended the Conference United Methodist Women's dinner at annual conference. We attended Mission u School of Mission June 2019, and the Annual Celebration for the United Methodist Women October 26, 2019 at Olympia Fields First United Methodist Church October 26,2019. The guest speaker was Andris Y. Salter, Associate General Secretary National United Methodist Women, New York, NY.

We must make the church safer for women. Gender discrimination denies the church its chance to more fully know the Gospel of God. To whom did Jesus appear first on Easter? Mary. To whom did he first reveal himself as the Messiah? The women at the well. Women were key in sharing the good news about Jesus Christ, on whose name and life we base our church. Clergywomen are stalked, mocked, appraised, judged, demeaned, and paid less simply on the basis of being women.

I invite you to please read the "Response Magazine," United Methodist Women Magazine. You are also welcome to subscribe to this magazine. There is an excellent article in the January/February issue 2020 written by The Reverend Lynnett Cole, pastor of the Schroon Lake Community United Methodist Church in Schroon Lake, New York.

Irma Clark, Chair,  
NIC Status and Role of Women

#### 400.10 - 2019-2020 Historical Report - Conference Committee on Native American Ministries

We support our **Native American Ministry of Presence** on the north side of Chicago. Bill Buchholtz continues to coordinate this ministry. He works with many Native organizations, such as the Kateri Center, the American Indian Center and the Indian Health Service by being a board member and Chicago schools as a musician and mentor to children and youth. He is also present at powwows in the Midwest, dedications, worship services, special events and memorial services.

We continue collaborating with **The Kateri Center** by supporting the educational and cultural programs of their elders. We work with Jody Roy, The Director of the Center and collaborate with her and the center on many projects, such as their annual pow wow and senior luncheons. The Senior Luncheons have been well attended and the attendance has increased to over 40 participants. We also participate in the All Nations Prayer Circle, worship services and providing resources for the annual youth Pow Wow. Bill Buchholtz have been in regular attendance at the Leadership Circle meetings.

This year we again supported and sponsored one of the dancers, Laura Grizzly Paws at MidWest SOARRING 25<sup>th</sup> Pow Wow, which was held at Naper Settlement in the fall. The pow wow was well attended and what a beautiful and important cultural event it is each year.

**The members of CONAM** have spoken at and celebrated with churches observing Native American Ministries Sunday, attended powwows, participated in worship; provided pastoral care with Native Americans, and offered learning opportunities about Native culture within the local churches. Our dear friend and supporter Meg Bero retired emeritus as director of the Schingoethe Center at Aurora University with its mission of creating a lifelong interest in Native American culture and history.

As a representative of CONAM member Jim Rendel with his Faith UMC Lisle continued his 20-year relationship and support of Tree of Life Ministry (a UMC relief agency) 2X in 2019, serving several tribes of the Lakota Nation from the Rosebud Reservation in Mission, SD., with wonderful Pastor Linda Garriott as its director. After helping the Dakota Conference buy the land over an almost 10-year period, Jim Rendel, again with his Lisle Faith support, traveled to Spirit Lake Ministry Center in Sheyenne, ND to gift the mission and families of this Dakota reservation, led so ably by Pastor Mike and Libby Flowers.

This year Rev. Michelle Oberwise Lacock attended the NC Jurisdictional CONAM meeting was held in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. The event was paired with the return of land and their church to the Wynadotte nation from the General Board of Global Ministries. The land and church had been held in trust for 176 years when the Wynadotte were forcibly removed in 1843. It was a powerful and important event to happen, with over 700 people in attendance for the event.

With Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Michelle Oberwise Lacock, and Gene Green Co-Chairs  
Committee on Native American Ministries

## 400.11 - 2019 Historical Report - United Methodist Women

In 2019 United Methodist Women celebrated 150 years of mission service and advocacy to the world. All across the Northern Illinois Conference, our United Methodist Women events reflected upon our founders who answered God's call to action; our survival against church, societal and cultural challenges; and our hope for the future.

The best way to commemorate our history of women in mission is to make more history! Using our organizational initiatives and priorities to be a community of women; to know God; develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and expand mission concepts, The Northern Illinois United Methodist Women continued our history in some of the following ways:

1. Organized the annual Human Trafficking Vigil in downtown Chicago and lobbied in Springfield, in conjunction with the Chicago Community Renewal Society.
2. Convened district spring renewal meetings to hear inspiring faith and mission stories, and co-hosted the World Federation Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCM) event.
3. Hosted Summer Mission u at the Carmelite Retreat Center in Darien, IL, and South Suburban Korean UMC in Flossmoor, IL. Both sessions offered Bible study, subjective evaluations of beliefs and practices, and social action activities.
4. Sponsored a multi-generational Spiritual Growth Retreat: *Embracing the Next Generation: Millennial and Gen X*, to renew our spirit and body through worship and yoga at New Lenox UMC.
5. Joined our Korean sisters in presence and song at the 9th Annual Praise Night at the South Suburban Korean UMC.

The Elgin district hosted our conference-wide celebratory gathering on March 23 at Cary UMC. All subsequent district and local celebrations were of equal excitement and fanfare. We were blessed to have Shannon Priddy, National President, to speak at Channahon UMC. The Northern Illinois Annual Conference highlighted our 150th anniversary observance when Harriet Jane Olson, General Secretary and CEO, led the Bible Study at the invitation of Bishop Sally Dyck. This allowed Harriet to give opening remarks at the UMW Dinner and witness the election of three United Methodist Women to serve as delegates on the General and Jurisdictional Conference levels. The year culminated with Andris Salter, Associate General Secretary for Administration, as guest speaker at our Annual Meeting, October 26, at Olympia Fields UMC.

The generous support and sacrificial giving of our members placed Northern Illinois among the twenty conferences that **exceeded their 2019 pledge**.

I'm so proud to be part of this legacy of women who for over 150 years have looked out at the world and caught God's vision of Faith, Hope and Love in Action.



To God Be the Glory!

Lois Moreland-Dean, President  
Northern Illinois Conference - UMW

#### 400.12 - Historic Report for 2019 - Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Men

During 2019 the NICUMM reached out in ministry and mission to help others to know and grow in Christ. The NICUMM men continue to develop Executive Committees in each District. Our Spiritual Congress, Upper Room Prayer Ministry and our mission efforts continue to be focal points for our men. Spiritual Congress 2019 again stressed younger men involvement with the theme - Changing the Game. Presenters included: Rev Norval I. Brown; Rev Richard Vance, Director of the Center of Men's Ministry GCUMM; Steve Nailor, National President of UMM; Mark Lubbock, Deployed Staff GCUMM and Mark Dehority. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung (Wis.) delivered a powerful message before officiating communion. Jim Loeppert, our NIC Conference Scouting Coordinator, presented encouraging words about Scouting Ministries, and pointing out that this is a great opportunity to put to work discipleship learning into transforming the world. Special music was supplied by the Alleluia Quartet. Younger men that receive special invitations to SC positively responded to the event

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries continues to be key mission for both Illinois Great River Conference and our Northern Illinois Conference UMM including support for the spin-off mission, Suits for Success. The Class Meetings book study and Amending Through Faith, an 8-week men's study to prevent domestic violence were also supported for the men in our conference.

At the GCUMM Board meeting on August 15-17, 2019, they agreed that no matter what the 2020 General Conference decides, the commission is going to continue its ministry to men and young people. The board unanimously finalized their statement to the church: ***"The General Commission on United Methodist Men is committed to expanding its ministry to men and youth within all Wesleyan communions, regardless of the outcome of the 2020 General Conference."*** This message has been presented to two district meetings and to the NICUMM Executive Committee. In the first annual UMM Give Day, the NICUMM had the most donors of any annual conference and contributed a significant portion of the total donations of about \$20,000.

The Conference is working on materials for our endowment fund with the foundation to generate more funding for mission work.

District Activities are reaching men for Christ. Some of our 2019 highlights for the conference and common in all districts are:

- Continued the 2018-2021 plan of work for the Conference UMM, and updated for including provisions for SMART goals.

- Held the 59<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Congress at Williams Bay Wisconsin in September
- Men's Ministry Specialist: NICUMM have four men certified as MMS. The newest, Mike McIntosh (St. Andrew UMC, Carol Stream) completed the training and certification and was commissioned at Spiritual Congress.
- EMS/Legacy Builders & Charters, were a major emphasis to invite men to become involved in Men's Ministry, especially past due memberships
- Meals for Millions/Society of St. Andrews, continues as a major Mission Program and the NIC was recognized as the 2018 Top Conference with donations of \$20,438 to SoSA.
- Prayer Ministry, the new Prayer Wall was hosted at Spiritual Congress; provided support to the Upper Room Prayer Ministry (\$1000)
- Scouting Ministries Programs and Reaching out to younger men and women. The United Methodist Men Supports, with National Memorandums of Understanding, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Campfire, USA. Our Conference Scouting Coordinator, is working hard to establish a Conference Scouting Committee as well as participating in the National training of Conference Scouting Coordinators. A strong emphasis on Scout Sunday, February 9, 2020 will be made with our national Director of Scouting Ministries, Steven Scheid working within our conference to promote use of all of the organizations in our local churches' Community Youth Outreach Ministries.
- John Wesley Fellow: George Groves was awarded/recognized as a Fellow in the Society of John Wesley at Spiritual Congress

#### Aurora District: President, Herb John

- Focused on what individual district men are doing in mission and spiritual growth
- Hosted Lenten and Advent Breakfast meetings and a Prayer breakfast. Raised \$426 for mission and ministry opportunities.
- In the District, one men's unit began 12 small groups based on THE CLASS MEETING study.
- One potato drop was help with over \$2200 paid to SoSA

#### Chicago Northwestern District: President, Leon DeLoney

- Hosted the NICUMM Annual Meeting at St Matthew UMC and 77 men from across the conference attended.
- Restarted the NWD Executive Committee.

#### Chicago Southern District: President, Ralph Jones, Sr

- Continued Monday night bible study for the 31<sup>th</sup> year
- Focused on mission support for MfM, HIV-Aids and Hunger Relief
- Hosted Annual Awards Banquet honoring CSD men, women, and youth
- Held the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual United Methodist Men's District Musical

#### Elgin District: President, Jim Nelson

- Continued to re-establish an Executive Committee
- Held District Lenten and Advent meetings with approx. 50 men attending each.
- Hosted Upper Room Prayer Line and developed Faith ministry thru bible studies

- Supported SoSA, through Potato drops and donations and collected vegetables for a food pantry. Produce from a church garden used to feed the hungry.
- UMM unit participates in the local community by donating time material and talents in the form of handy man jobs for the homeless shelter program for women and children. The men are also involved in mission work through the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) in Tennessee

De Kalb District: President, Scott Brooks

- Strengthen Leadership through establishing new Charters & EMS Members
- Held district strategy meetings and a District annual gathering.
- Distributed tons of potatoes through Society of St. Andrews
- Continued to provide hunger relief through various pantries and gleaned sweet corn, and countless garden vegetables.

Rockford District: President, Dave Hilton

- Hosted 11<sup>th</sup> annual Harmony for Hunger concert and raised \$19,000 for local food pantries and Meals for Millions, this event has raised more than \$150,000 in the ten (11) concerts to date.
- Hosted Amending Through Faith, an 8-week men's study to prevent domestic violence training session (with the UMW) at a district training event.
- Hosted the District Men and their families to a Rivets Baseball game June 22nd with 100 in attendance honoring the Local Food Pantries and promoting our Harmony for Hunger Concert next May 29th.
- Belvidere First UMC, Belvidere, IL hosted the Rockford District Spring Communion Breakfast, Rev. James Bell was the guest Speaker.
- Orangeville UMC, in Orangeville IL hosted the District Fall Communion Breakfast. The guest speaker was Paul Meyers. Our offering raised \$5,000 for Society of St Andrew Meals for Millions.
- The Rockford District sent a total of \$9,200 in 2019 to the Society of St. Andrews Meals for Millions program. The Society of St. Andrews noted that the Rockford District would have been second on the list of conferences for contributions to the Society in 2018.

In Memoriam: Bill Franz, the NICUMM Hunger Relief Advocate and Spiritual Congress Registrar passed in 2019. Bill was also the Elgin District Prayer Advocate, a previous Elgin District UMM President, and a man of many jobs at Calvary UMC, Villa Park. Bill's passion for Christ and feeding the hungry, get-it-done ability and his wit are sorely missed.

For the NICUMM,

George Groves  
Conference UMM President

The Northern Illinois Conference continues to support five campus ministries through apportionment contributions. Wesley Foundation at Northern Illinois University, University Christian Ministry at Northwestern University, Inclusive Collective at University of Illinois-Chicago, Korean-American Campus Ministry at University of Chicago, and the Chaplain's position for North Central College.

Budget for 2019

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Total</b>
University Christian Ministry		41,200	41,200
Inclusive Collective		34,000	34,000
Wesley Foundation	36,070		36,070
Korean-American Campus Ministry	39,500	*church rent, 14,000	53,500
North Central College	75,196		75,196
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$257,966</b>

Korean-American Campus Ministry welcomed Woo-Min Lee as new campus minister July 1, 2018. He has intentionally reconnected the ministry with other religious life organizations at University of Chicago. The KACM continues to meet in rented space together with Hyde Park Korean United Methodist Church. With Woo-Min Lee's arrival, financial support for him is provided by BHECM as has been previous pastors but rent for the space at Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL 60637 is budgeted through Hyde Park Korean UMC.

Wesley Foundation at Northern Illinois University is served by Rev. Rosa Lee. Most notably Wesley Foundation serves students through a program named Hungry Huskies during a Sunday evening meal. The meal is open to anyone at no cost to them. Rev. Lee created a network of local congregations to cook or provide food for this meal. Meals are in the Holmes Students Center at NIU. The Wesley Foundation pays \$90/week for this space on Sunday evenings only. Wesley Foundation continues to operate using borrowed spaces from various other campus organizations and has received no program funds from the Northern Illinois Conference since June 2018. NIU Wesley Foundation receives contributions through Rainbow funds totaling \$5,400 from January - September.

North Central College continues to be a thriving four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church through the Northern Illinois Conference. Chaplain since 2014, Eric Doolittle continues to receive his salary, pension, insurance, and housing allowance contributions through the NIC BHECM in accordance with clergy requirements of the Discipline. The college, itself, maintains The Office of Faith and Action with staff including Brian Rainville, director and Leslie Stopka, Catholic Campus Minister.

Inclusive Collective (IC) nurtured a foundation that will allow this campus ministry to thrive for years to come through fundraising and Board development. In terms of fiscal health, the IC is doing very well. When the IC relaunched in August 2015, we only had \$9,000 in reserves, but our organization ended 2017 with nearly \$42,000 in reserves. The substantial increase was partially due to a recommitment of financial support from the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. IC also increased its budget (and thus fundraising goals) by nearly \$40,000 since 2016 and has met its goals each year. Through a more focused fundraising strategy launched in 2018 and created by a development consultant on the IC Board, our donor base has greatly expanded and our monthly recurring donors have already doubled in 2018. The IC Board also now contains no racial/ethnic majority, is 40% LGBTQ, and contains members with a variety of vocations from a growth consultant to an accountant to a lawyer to a pastor and several others.

Each of the five ministries must receive support from its own board of directors or other means of financial sustainability in order to fully provide annual salary, benefits, reimbursable expenses compensation, and programing funds. The conference board of higher education and campus ministry continues looking for sustainable funding due to impending decreases in financial support from the Northern Illinois Conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Ostwald  
Chair, Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

#### 400.14 – Historic Report Summer 2020 - Northern Illinois Conference Commission on Archives and History

##### Report from Volunteer Archivists

The Northern Illinois Conference Commission on Archives and History (NIC CAH) held seven meetings during 2019 and to-date-2020. There are five active attendees and two others are inactive. NIC CAH receives excellent support from the staff at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary's Styberg Library, as they reserve meeting space and provide technical assistance and access to the archives.

One bright note is that (volunteer researcher) Marilyn Steenwyk was able to participate in a 4-hour, online course "Digitization for Small Institutions," presented by LYRASIS Professional Services in late May 2020. The Styberg Library's Director, Dr. Lucy Chung, extended this educational opportunity to NIC CAH. Furthermore, the sponsoring agency was The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, using grant monies for the 25 attendees. Multiple resources and methods were discussed and likely will be useful for NIC CAH's future endeavors.

Several NIC CAH members (past and present) attended the North Central Jurisdiction CAH event in September 2019 in St Louis, MO. NIC CAH members remain connected via a page within NIC's website, via Email, through the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church and the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH), and with the North Central Jurisdiction CAH. NCJ CAH will meet July 5-8, 2021, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, "replacing" the cancelled 2020 event.

The bulk of this report, pages 2 and 3, was prepared by Carol Noren, one of two volunteers who generally meet once monthly to (1) research requests; (2) receive and label incoming materials; and, (3) dream about having tools/time to digitize within NIC's archives.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Noren and Marilyn Steenwyk  
Volunteer Archivists/Researchers - July 20, 2020

Archival Research During  
2019-2020 Conference Year

April - July 2019 Marilyn did an enormous amount of research (even taking files home to study) for a Canadian trying to settle the estate of Henry Robert White, who was probably baptized at a Methodist Church in Joliet in 1864.

May - Marilyn and Carol searched for the record of baptism for Margaret Otten sometime between 1929-1931.

May - Carol followed up on a request for John E. Nordstrom's baptismal date at Washington Heights UMC. Request came from Holland Michigan.

July - Carol spent a ridiculous amount of time trying to find marriage records from Portland Avenue German Methodist Church. Request came from Utah.

August - Marilyn worked on a request to find the contract of the North Central College's chaplain from 1987. Request came from Illinois.

August - Carol provided a list of pastors at Berry Memorial UMC from 1909 to 2000. Request came from the church administrator.

September - Carol shelved Richard Tholin papers to be processed later.

September - Carol researched baptismal records from Hermosa UMC. Request came from Lisle.

October - The Styberg Library had a request to receive photographs of the Englewood Covenant Church, which eventually moved and became Beverly Covenant Church. Carol provided contact information for the archives of the Evangelical Covenant Church, which is where the photographs should reside.

October – Carol worked on a research request concerning a Methodist church that once existed outside Lake Zurich, Illinois. Request came from Ela Public Library.

October and November – Marilyn and Carol researched marriage and baptismal records for Emmanuel German Methodist Church at 19<sup>th</sup> and Laflin, Chicago. Request came from West Chester, PA.

November 2019 -- Marilyn worked on a request for a program for a Centennial Celebration of the Rock River Conference. Request came from Dean Francis.

January 2020 – request for letters and articles by John Heyl Vincent in the Christian Advocate.

January – Carol worked on request for baptismal records from Auburn Park Methodist Church at 75<sup>th</sup> and Harvard, Chicago. Request came from Indianapolis.

January – request for baptismal certificate for Dylan Vance at Albany Park UMC in 1988.

January and February – Carol and Richard Wang worked on replevin for cornerstone artifacts from Bethel Norwegian-Danish Methodist Church.

February – Marilyn and Carol looked for quarterly conference records for several surnames at a bunch of NIC Methodist churches: Oregon, Chana, Payne's Point, Lighthouse, etc. request from Boyd Nielsen.

February – Carol looked for 1940 baptismal certificate for Owen Schaffner at Park Manor MEC. Request came from Aberdeen, WA.

February – Carol looked for photo of the Rev. David Fouts. Daniel Smith (Styberg staff) found a newspaper photo. Request came from Hinckley, IL.

February – Marilyn looked for more information on Salem M.E.C., which merged with Hermosa UMC. Request came from the Rev. Bob Burkhart.

February -- request for information on a baptism at Grace M.E.C. in 1865. Request came from Ginger at Info-Diggers.

February – Marilyn looked for documentation of baptism of Caroline Laura Brown between 1864-1870 at seven different north side churches. Request came from Ginger at Info-Diggers.

February – Carol looked for all records pertaining to Eaton Lufkin at Washington Blvd. M.E.C., Chicago. Request came from Wheaton, IL.

March – request for information on the Rev. Boze Milosevic, pastor of Lincoln Street M.E.C. in the 1920s and 1930s; thought to be the first Croatian to become a Methodist minister. This request came after the archives had closed due to the pandemic.

## 400.15 – Historic Report – Saint Paul School of Theology

Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with campuses in Kansas and Oklahoma. During the 2019-2020 academic year, the seminary enrollment in master and doctoral degree programs increased by 11%.

Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2019-2020 academic year with the addition of Dr. Casey Sigmon in her new role as Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship, and Director of Contextual Education. Saint Paul also welcomed Dr. Anne Walker as the new Executive Director of the Oklahoma Campus.

With the addition of Dr. Walker to Saint Paul came a new webinar offering titled, “Explore Calling: A Guide to Helping Others Answer the Call.” Offered complimentary, the webinar provides a resource for anyone looking to nurture a culture of call in their congregation; including meeting one-on-one with congregations looking to reach out to their community. Dr. Walker also launched the Vision OK Advisory Committee to serve the purpose of gaining support for and assisting in the development of the Oklahoma Campus. Similarly new this year, Dr. Melissa Pearce along with Dr. Walker hosted Listening Sessions to learn more about the challenges pastoral leaders face and dream together about how theological education might meet the changing demands of their ministry.

Honoring Saint Paul’s longstanding commitment to praxis learning and ministry, part of the 2019-2020 curriculum included practicums which are workshop-style seminars that teach ministry skills. For Spring 2020 FOCUS Week, Alumnus Rev. Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III, Senior Pastor of St. James UMC, taught the course Urban Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century which explores the Urban Church and its context in relation to ministerial practices and theological understandings.

For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 265 individual students with a total registration of 650 classes; offering a total of 53 courses located Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Saint Paul launched a part-time, accelerated pilot COS satellite program (PML) in Columbia, MO in 2018 and added a second track in 2019.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ and to help others respond to God’s call. We are a seminary that offers classes and experiences to folks from many denominations and faith walks. Our work as faculty and staff is to provide excellence in theological and practical education for ALL persons called and capable to attend. Remember: “Where two or more are gathered” Christ is there with us.

President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your interest, prayers, and support.



## 400.16 – Historic Report - Duke University Divinity School

Dean L. Gregory Jones had his term as dean extended for a full five years through 2023.

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

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

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

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

McCarty, Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, is a theological ethicist whose work centers on questions of faithful action within health care. He is associate director of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative.

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

The Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative is currently in its fifth year of providing high quality theological education to current and aspiring Hispanic-Latino/a ministers. 21 students from multiple denominations are taking courses with us this year. Tito Madrazo joined the administrative leadership of DDS as Senior Strategist for the Hispanic House of Studies and a consulting faculty member.

#### 400.17 - 2020 UMC Annual Conference Report - Candler School of Theology

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

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

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

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

Candler draws strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the

church's ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us in person or online at [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu).

–Jan Love

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

#### 400.18 - Africa University Report to the 2020 Northern Illinois Annual Conference

In 2019, Africa University's story was one of resourcefulness, steadfast investment and ministry growth.

Thank you to Bishop Sally Dyck, the Extended Cabinet and the faithful lay and clergy leaders who nurture vitality within the local congregations of the Northern Illinois Conference. Each of you, through your commitment, is a vital part of the Africa University story.

The gracious support of United Methodists in the Northern Illinois Conference resulted in a 28.23 percent investment in the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2019. Though appreciably lower than the 2018 level of 50 percent, Northern Illinois United Methodists are continuing to invest in our connection and mission. Thank you, Northern Illinois Conference, for your prayers and gifts.

Africa University educates and equips leaders who think for themselves, are contextually relevant and have a passion to serve. Since opening in 1992, Africa University has trained more than 9,000 graduates who lead and serve across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. These young people are nurtured to be ethical, responsible, and responsive leaders. They can discern their calling and determine how best to serve the needs of their communities.

#### **Institutional Update:**

- Africa University has an annual enrollment of more than 2,800 students. There are 25-30 African nations represented in the student body each year.
- The university's three colleges operate as centers for teaching, research, innovation, community engagement and enterprise development. Africa University is still the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degree programs.
- Students, faculty and alumni contribute ground-breaking responses to Africa's current challenges with interventions that include graduate programs in migrant and refugee protection, articulated by refugee students, as well as doctoral level training for military chaplains in Africa.
- Infrastructure developments on campus include increasing the use of solar energy with the help of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. A residence hall for women and a new wing of the student union building – gifted to the university by the Dallas, TX-based Highland Park United Methodist Church – will be the first solar-powered facilities on the campus.

Africa University affirms its commitment to The United Methodist Church, its Cross and Flame, and the denomination's global mission. The Africa University community is immensely grateful

to Northern Illinois United Methodists and to the general church for staying the course in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Through Africa University, Northern Illinois United Methodists touch countless lives. By giving freely, they walk alongside their neighbors and help to shape an abundant present and future for more of God's people.

Together with the Northern Illinois Conference, the Africa University community continues to celebrate God's amazing grace. Thanks to your stewardship of God's blessings, Africa University has gone beyond what some thought was possible. "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." Luke 18:27 NKJV

*Submitted by:*

*James H. Salley*

*Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*

*Africa University Development Office*